

CORAL GABLES



Community Profile

The City of Coral Gables, known for top-rated municipal services, fine residential areas, historic landmarks, and high quality of life, has also emerged as the Corporate Capital of the Americas, with more than 175 multinational corporations positioning Coral Gables as their Latin American headquarters.

GOVERNMENT

The City of Coral Gables is a Municipality located within Miami-Dade County.

Type of Government: City Commission/Manager

Mayor: Don Slesnick, II

Vice-Mayor: William H. Kerdyk, Jr.

Commissioners: Maria Anderson
Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera, Jr.
Wayne E. "Chip" Withers

City Manager: Patrick G. Salerno

City Attorney: Elizabeth M. Hernandez

City Clerk: Walter J. Foeman

Year Incorporated: 1925

2009-2010 Fiscal City Budget: \$147,762,101

- **Comments Regarding Local Government:** Coral Gables provides excellent municipal services, having achieved the highest national standards in almost every field. Less than five percent of the land area contributes 46 percent of the tax base. Coral Gables also boasts an accredited police department, a distinction shared by very few local and state police departments in the United States, and is one of even fewer cities to have both a Class 1 and an accredited Fire Department. In addition, Coral Gables has been named a Tree City USA for 24 consecutive years by the National Arbor Foundation. It was also the first municipality ever to receive the National Emergency Management Award, in 1993.
- **Consulates, Foreign Trade and Tourism Offices located in Coral Gables:** 20+
The following sample of countries have official representation in Coral Gables: Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, El Salvador, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Lebanon, Monaco, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, St. Kitts & Nevis, Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, and Uruguay.
- **2009 Local Property Taxes:**
 - Municipal Millage Rate: 5.8950
 - Total Millage Rate: 20.5536 (twenty-seventh lowest combined tax rate in Miami-Dade County)
 - Total assessed value for all commercial and residential property within Coral Gables: \$12.609 billion

EDUCATION

- **Attainment Level:** Over 55% of Coral Gables' residents 25 and older have a Bachelor's degree; over 30% have a graduate or professional degree.
- **University of Miami:** U.M. is the largest private research university in the southeastern U.S. The Coral Gables Campus is the main, and largest campus at 230 acres, of the University's five campuses totaling 528 acres. The University welcomes approximately 15,000 students annually through 113 undergraduate, 106 masters, and 53 doctoral programs. On the Coral Gables Campus alone, student life and the surrounding community are enriched with first-class amenities such as the Lowe Art Museum, Cosford Cinema, Jerry Herman Ring Theatre, Gusman Concert Hall, and BankUnited and Wellness Centers. University-wide, U.M. is continually growing. Researchers of the Hussman Institute for Human Genomics and the Interdisciplinary Stem Cell Institute have recently moved into their new 188,000 square-foot state-of-the-art Biomedical Research Building, progress continues on the 65,000 square-foot Robert and Judi Prokop Newman Alumni Center, and plans are progressing with the 400,000 square-foot, first phase of the U.M. Life Science Park. A 2008 Economic Impact Study put out by the University showed U.M. as having an economic impact of more than \$1 billion on the local economy, and despite the recent economic downturn, U.M. continues to be a fundraising powerhouse with cash donations for the 2009 fiscal year alone surpassing \$153 million. In terms of rankings, U.M. was listed within the top fifty National Universities according to *U.S. News & World Report's 2010* ranking of "America's Best Colleges." Furthermore, in its "America's Best Graduate Schools" issue, U.M.'s Miller

School of Medicine was ranked within the top 55 nationally, the School of Education was ranked within the top 45 nationally, the Department of Psychology's Clinical Psychology Program was ranked 25th out of 206 programs nationally, and the School of Law's Graduate Program in Tax Law was ranked sixth nationally. U.M.'s School of Medicine, which utilizes a public hospital as its primary teaching facility, is the State's oldest and largest medical school. In terms of new programs, U.M. has recently launched the Bachelor of Architecture/M.B.A. Program through the School of Architecture, the joint M.D./M.B.A. program in partnership with the Miller School of Medicine through the School of Business, a Master of Real Estate Development and Urbanism Program through the Schools of Architecture and Law, and added the opportunity to obtain a Certificate in Historic Preservation.

- Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management Executive MBA Program's Miami Campus: A prestigious two-year program that brings executives from throughout Latin America and around the world to Coral Gables one weekend a month.
- Special Programs (i.e., International, High Tech, Bio-Tech): International Baccalaureate Program at Coral Gables Senior High (a 3-time Top Merit School) and also at Gulliver Preparatory School. Coral Gables Elementary School was awarded the Elementary Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award by the US Department of Education. It has a home-based gifted program and was the recipient of the Little Red Schoolhouse Award sponsored by the Florida Elementary School Principals Association (it is on the National Register of Historic Places).

See the Economic Sustainability Department's "Coral Gables Public and Private Schools" for full listing of schools and curricula.

TRANSPORTATION

Air

- Miami International Airport (MIA): Only 4 miles from downtown Coral Gables, and recognized in 2008 as the third busiest U.S. airport for international passengers and the first for international freight. MIA welcomes over 90 airlines that serve over 120 destinations throughout the world. In 2008, for both domestic and international figures, MIA handled over 34.1 million passengers and over 1.9 million tons of cargo. For additional information, go to www.miami-airport.com or call (305) 876-7000.

Ocean

- Port of Miami: Only six miles from downtown Coral Gables and recognized as the "Cruise Capital of the World" and the "Cargo Gateway of the Americas" the Port of Miami serves approximately 20 cruise lines and, in 2008, handled over 4.1 million cruise

passengers and over 7.4 million tons of cargo. For additional information, go to www.miamidade.gov/portofmiami or call (305) 371-7678.

Public Transportation Services

- Coral Gables Trolley: Free, vintage-style trolleys run weekdays as an internal circulator through downtown Coral Gables. The trolleys travel along Ponce de Leon Boulevard from the Douglas Road Metrorail Station to S.W. 8th Street. For additional information, go to www.coralgables.com/CGWeb/trolley.aspx or call (305) 460-5070.
- Metrobus: Buses are all wheelchair accessible, serve countywide, including throughout Coral Gables, and offer direct access to the Metrorail. For additional information, go to www.miamidade.gov/transit/metrobus.asp or call (305) 770-3131.
- Metrorail: This 22-mile elevated rapid transit system runs through the County, with stops in Coral Gables at the Douglas and at the University Stations. Running north from Coral Gables, it connects with the Tri-Rail Commuter Train. For additional information, go to www.miamidade.gov/transit/metrorail.asp or call (305) 770-3131.
- Special Transportation Services (STS): Individuals with a disability that prevents them from riding public transit can apply to be certified for the STS program through the County's Paratransit Operations Office. STS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For additional information, go to www.miamidade.gov/transit/stsapp.asp or call (305) 630-5300 and (305) 263-5459 for TTY Users.
- Tri-Rail Commuter Train: This train runs along a 67-mile track from and throughout Miami-Dade County, with a stop at Miami International Airport, north to Broward and Palm Beach Counties. It is accessible from Coral Gables through the Metrorail system. For additional information, go to www.tri-rail.com or call 1 (800) 874-7245.

Highways Serving City

- South Dixie Highway (US-1): Runs through Coral Gables and provides direct access north to I-95 and south to the Florida Keys.
- Interstate-95 (I-95): Runs from US-1 in Miami north to Maine. Closest access point: 2.5 miles east of Coral Gables.
- State Roads:
 - SR-826 (Palmetto Expressway): Runs north-south to the west of Coral Gables. Access via Coral Way (S.W. 24 St.) or Bird Road (S.W. 40th St.) Closest access point: 2.1 miles west of Coral Gables.
 - SR-836 (Dolphin Expressway): Runs east-west to the north of Coral Gables. Access via Red Road (S.W. 57 Ave.) or Le Jeune Road (S.W. 42 Ave.) Closest access point: 1.4 miles north of Coral Gables.
- Florida Turnpike: Access via SR-836. Closest access point: 7.4 miles west Coral Gables. For additional information, go to www.floridasturnpike.com or call 1 (800) 749-7453.

MEDICAL/HEALTH SERVICES

	No. within City	No. of Beds
Hospitals	3	Approx. 773
Doctors	581	
Dentists	122	

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE

Coral Gables offers a wide range of housing choices including rental units, condominiums, and single-family homes in a stable residential real estate market. Over the years, homes in the City have appreciated at a rate significantly greater than many of the surrounding areas. The median house value, estimated at \$733,000, is nearly five times greater than in 1980. Strict zoning laws, a favorable property tax rate and responsive municipal services, together with beautiful residential areas, make Coral Gables a highly sought-after address.

FACILITIES/CULTURAL AMENITIES

- Hotels/Motels: 10 (total rooms: 1,300+)
- Shopping: Downtown street setting. Over \$1 billion in downtown retail sales yearly.
- In Coral Gables: One public library, five museums, and numerous private art galleries.
- Restaurant capital of South Florida, with more than 125 restaurants. Over \$190 million dollars was spent in food and beverage sales in 2008. Coral Gables restaurants have consistently garnered national acclaim from Gourmet, Travel & Leisure, New York Times, DIRONA, and others.
- Theaters: Actors' Playhouse Productions opened its initial season in November 1995 at the company's new home in the Miracle Theatre performing arts center on Miracle Mile. In addition, the City is home to New Theatre, GableStage, and the Jerry Herman Ring Theatre on the University of Miami campus. Coral Gables has the highest concentration of live theater in Miami-Dade County.
- Art Cinemas: 1 A second one set to open in downtown Coral Gables in 2010.
- Additional Cultural Amenities: The University of Miami offers outstanding cultural programs such as live performances at Gusman Concert Hall, international exhibits at the Lowe Art Museum, and an annual music festival. The Tropical Baroque Festival and the Beaux Arts Festival are also annual events of national acclaim. Others include the Chopin Festival, concerts at Coral Gables Congregational Church, the Miami Jewish Film Festival, and abundant programs at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

RECREATION

- Number of Parks: 22 (7 active playgrounds, 10 passive parks, 5 open space green areas)
- Number of Tennis Courts: 33 (public)

- Number of Golf Courses: 2 public; 2 private. (The Biltmore Golf Course is a Donald Ross, 18 hole, par 71 public course and the Granada is a 9 hole public course, which is the oldest operating course in Florida.)
- Other Recreational Amenities: Bike paths, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden (largest tropical botanical garden in the continental US), Matheson Hammock Park and Marina (walking trails, bike paths, beach, and picnic shelters), and the treasured Venetian Pool.

HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

The City's Historical Resources Department administers the historic preservation program to preserve structures, sites, objects and districts within the City which reflect architectural, historical and/or cultural significance. A Historic Preservation Ordinance was adopted in 1973 in response to the community's growing concern for protecting its irreplaceable historic resources. Recently the Biltmore Hotel became a National Historic Landmark, joining only two others in Dade County—Vizcaya and the Magellan Railroad Car used by F.D.R. The following is a partial listing of properties which are included on the National Register of Historic Places; 600 properties are also on the Coral Gables Register of Historic Places, receiving important local designation and benefits:

- Coral Gables City Hall, 1928 (405 Biltmore Way)
- Coral Gables Congregational Church, 1923 — First church to be built in Coral Gables (3010 De Soto Boulevard)
- Venetian Pool, 1923 — Originally a rock quarry, later converted into a pool which conveys the old world charm of Venice (2701 De Soto Boulevard)
- Miami-Biltmore Hotel and Country Club, 1925-26 — Premier hotel resort in Miami during late 1920s, recently renovated (1200 Anastasia Avenue)
- Seven thematic residential villages, built 1925-27, designed to add diversity to the City's predominantly Mediterranean character
- Coral Gables/Merrick House, 1906 — Boyhood home of Coral Gables founder George Merrick (907 Coral Way)
- Coral Gables Elementary School, 1923-26 — First grammar school to be built in Coral Gables (105 Minorca Ave)
- Coral Gables Woman's Club, 1936-37 — The first WPA project in Coral Gables (1001 E. Ponce de Leon Boulevard)

- Douglas Entrance, 1925-27 – The first main entrance into Coral Gables (Douglas Road and Tamiami Trail)

MEDITERRANEAN DESIGN

A Mediterranean Architectural Ordinance adopted in 1986 and updated in 2005, provides incentives to developers building or renovating in Mediterranean style. To offset the higher costs of building in Mediterranean style, the City grants development bonuses and special allowances with reference to maximum building height, parking, square footage, etc. Most commercial buildings constructed in the City since the adoption of the ordinance have taken advantage of the ordinance, resulting in several Mediterranean-style projects.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

In 1989, the City Commission formed the Development Department and in 2009 renamed it to the Economic Sustainability Department to foster and enhance sound economic growth compatible with the adopted policies and quality of life in the City of Coral Gables. The department assists realtors, building owners, and organizations in attracting domestic and international prospects by utilizing direct contacts, follow-up visits, brochures, and audiovisual material. A special focus is placed on multinational recruitment and retail development. The department also emphasizes the need for developing a better relationship with the existing business community to help improve the retention and expansion of these businesses. In addition, the department is responsible for providing specialized economic development data, including demographics, property availability and development trends.

The Economic Sustainability Department also distributes informational material such as City maps, cultural information, visitor's guides, etc. upon request. Call (305) 460-5311, or write to the City of Coral Gables, Economic Sustainability Department, P.O. Box 141549, Coral Gables, FL 33114-1549. You can also visit our web site at www.coralgables.com

0210