

FLORIDA

Even its shape is suggestive! The Sunshine State beckons gay travelers with balmy breezes, sandy beaches and barely-clad men.

Matt Mathrani

florida thrives as a magnet for gay travelers. Airfares are low, accommodations first-rate and nightlife compelling. Each of the state's destination cities has its unique charms and lures. So don those sunnies, doff the winter woollies, and let's Flo-ri-da!

Jacksonville

Jacksonville is the bustling commercial hub of northeastern Florida, named by CNN as "a best place for gay men to retire." The many servicemen stationed here — together with young, ambitious folk who flock here from many points — keep things energized. Memorial Park offers peaceful walking paths and there are long expanses of nearby beachfront. Museums, galleries, shopping and monthly art fairs (first Wednesdays) are other local attractions. The city sprawls over a vast area, but the downtown's commercial district of high-rise towers is compact. The business district is just to the northeast of the Riverside area, home to most of the city's gay hot spots. For local gay news and bar events, pick up *Out in the City* (Myoitc.com).

A good place to begin your night on the town, **Park Place Lounge** (931 King Street) is a neighborhood bar with a full-liquor license and hot bartenders. Sports enthusiasts will enjoy the televised games, and there are pool tables and video machines. Open noon through 2 am, they have the longest happy hours in all of Jax, plus Thurs-

day nights All You Can Drink specials. It's a great place to meet folks and get oriented. There's a package liquor store (with a drive-up window!) tucked within this successful enterprise.

Metro (2929 Plum Street, at College and Willowbranch), voted Folio Weekly's favorite gay bar, is the largest gay entertainment complex between Atlanta and Orlando. Proprietors Jerry and Mike have taken this local favorite of 15 years to new heights. Busiest late-nights, the club's happy-hour crowd is building, too. Metro boasts seven service areas, each with its own atmosphere. Their Boom Boom Room is a state-of-the-art disco dance club, and the Rainbow Room piano bar features live vocalists. All the Jaguars' and college football games are on the screens here, and they have pool tables, video games and pinball, too. Downstairs in the Boiler Room men's bar the sexy male dancers add to the testosterone. A renowned house cast performs at Metro, with visiting celebrities, drag shows, amateur nights and more. The crowd is mostly young and gay, but all are welcome. Sappho's, a women's bar with female dancers, and a full-service patio complete the roster. The club also offers an on-site package store for snacks, cigarettes and bottled liquor plus two gift shops.

In Cahoots (711 Edison Avenue) is open Wednesday through Sundays. Thursday and Saturday are Urban Nights with hip-hop, R&B and house music. Thursday and Sunday nights

bring drag shows, and on Friday nights there's male and female go-go dancers and no cover. It's a late, last-stop crowd coming here and they have popular monthly special parties such as the recent Pimps and Whores. Stacy and the gang celebrate their fourth anniversary December 4.

616 (616 Park Street) is a neighborhood bar, popular with Gator and Jaguar sports fans. There's Wednesday karaoke, and a big daily happy-hour crowd drawn by the great drink prices, from 4 pm and after midnight on week-ends. Theme parties and a monthly t-dance with strippers on last Sundays are big draws.

AJ's Bar & Grill (10244 Atlantic Boulevard) has pulled in a broad mix of folk for 11 years. They're open from 4 pm daily, with friendly nights of darts tournaments Wednesdays and karaoke Thursdays. Food here includes Angus burgers, wings, Philly cheese steaks, sandwiches and salads — all served till 1:30 am.

Boot Rack (4751 Lenox Avenue) is a men's cruise bar with a country-western theme, outdoor patio games and pool table. **Norm** (2952 Roosevelt Boulevard) is a women's beer and wine bar.

Duval County's first gay bar, **Bo's Coral Reef** (201 North 5th Avenue), is the only gay bar on Jacksonville Beach. They're open daily 2 pm to 2 am, with evening entertainment from Thursdays through Sundays (on Sunday and Thursday nights it's Bubbles and Le Roux) and dancing. On Wednesdays there's karaoke and free pool. Wings,

burgers and fries are available until closing. It's but a block to the wide sand beach and Atlantic ocean waves, where local surfers do their thing just north of the pier.

North a bit on Main, **Pearl** (1101 North Main) has a young, high-energy gay-friendly crowd for Thursday night dancing.

Dining and shopping

A new restaurant and art gallery in Riverside, **Bungalow on Park** (2782 Park Street) is a great for lunch and week-

end brunch, with dinner on Tuesdays.

At gay-friendly **Kickbacks** (910 King Street), wings, burgers and a Jax cheese-steak sandwich are among the favorite fare at this funky sports bar. Serving from 7 am to 3 am, this "gastro-pub" offers breakfast at both ends of their day, with outdoor seating and live bands.

European Street Cafe (2753 Park) is a popular lunch spot for sandwiches, gourmet soups, wine and beer. They offer custom-built gift baskets of fine cheeses, cookies and chocolates.

Fuel (1037 Park) and **Raglands**

(1023 Park) are part of a gay-owned and straight-friendly multi-room entertainment complex. There are live bands, hip-hop shows, a full-service restaurant and tap room. At their coffee joint, there's free wi-fi, with computer terminals for rent.

Several interesting restaurants and stores are clustered around San Marco Square, near the statue of the lions. Among these is a new gay-owned shop **Potes Design** (1670 Atlantic Boulevard), with unusual home-décor items, art and gifts.

The Five Points district has an cluster of stylish restaurants, stores and cafes to check out. Here you'll also find **Rainbows and Stars** (1046 Park Street; Rainbowsandstars.com), a pride store going strong for eight years with gifts, jewelry, posters, cards, magazines, t-shirts (made locally) and other accessories you won't find the likes of anywhere else between Orlando and Atlanta. The friendly guys here have great tips about the area, and you can shop online for their many items, including official IGRA and NGRA rodeo wear.

Steamy offerings

Just off Atlantic Avenue you'll find **Club Jacksonville** (1939 Hendricks Avenue; Clubjax.com), behind the big Baptist church. This superlatively clean bathhouse has a whirlpool, steam room, and large heated indoor pool, complete exercise facility, snacks, a TV lounge and private sun deck. The Club is open 24 hours every day. Check their website for their online community resources and bar guide, plus upcoming events in Jacksonville and beyond.

Accommodations

Riverdale Inn (1521 Riverside Avenue; Riverdaleinn.com) is a gay-friendly establishment in Riverside that comes highly recommended. This beautiful, Victorian-style house boasts comfortable rooms, friendly staff, gourmet breakfast from 7:30 to 9 am, and is handy to the local bar scene and Five Points shopping area. The Row, on premises, serves award-winning cui-

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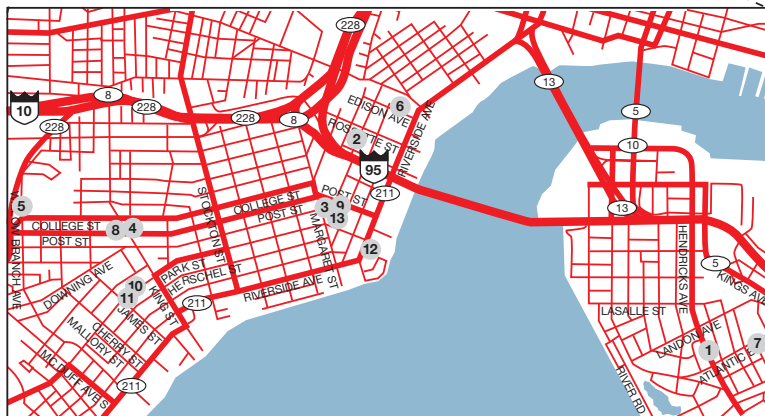
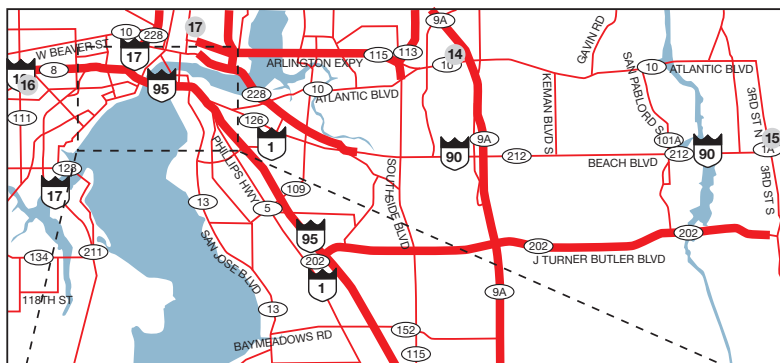
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JACKSONVILLE

- 2) **616**
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(904) 358-6969
- 14) **AJ's Bar & Grill**
10244 Atlantic Blvd.
(904) 805-9060
- 15) **Bo's Coral Reef**
201 North 5th Avenue
(904) 246-9874
- 11) **Bungalow on Park**
2782 Park Street
(904) 374-1066
- 1) **Club Jacksonville**
1939 Hendricks Avenue
(904) 398-7451
- 10) **European Street Cafe**
2753 Park
(904) 384-9999
- 9) **Fuel**
1037 Park Street
(904) 425-3835
- 6) **In Cahoots**
711 Edison Avenue
(904) 353-6316
- 8) **Kickbacks**
910 King Street
(904) 388-9551
- 5) **Metro**
2929 Plum Street
(904) 388-8719
- 4) **Park Place**
931 King Street
(904) 389-6616
- 17) **Pearl**
1101 N Main Street
(904) 791-4499
- 7) **Potes Design**
1670 Atlantic Blvd.
(904) 854-4931
- 13) **Raglands**
1023 Park Street
(904) 598-5271
- 3) **Rainbows & Stars**
1046 Park Street
(904) 356-7702
- 12) **Riverdale Inn / Row Restaurant**
1521 Riverside Avenue
Riverdaleinn.com
866-808-3400
- 16) **The Boot Rack**
4751 Lenox Avenue
(904) 384-7090



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sine, with dinner Tuesdays through Saturdays from 5 pm and afternoon tea (with reservation) Fridays and Saturdays, 1 to 3 pm. Gum Bunch Pub offers fine spirits and Southern hospitality.

Fort Myers

Set along the Caloosahatchee River, Fort Myers is a gateway to the Gulf of Mexico. The sugary sands of Fort Myers' beaches crawl with handsome, curious men on cruise control. You'll want to have an abundance of sunscreen to slather on at Bunche Beach and Bowman's Beach (a.k.a. "the Nude Beach"), while Jaycee Park in nearby Cape Coral is jammed with hot guys exploring nature's gifts.

There are direct flights into town from both Germany and Canada, giving Fort Myers an international flavor and enriching the pool of potential amorous adventures.

Summer homes of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford have been preserved and enshrined as museums here. Stories of this inventive duo's "close friend-



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Sun.
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\$ 2.75... Beer
\$ 1.00... Draft

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ship” still permeate the town’s lore. Famous photographs of these two icons of American history nuzzling each other look as though they are straight from the pages of *The Guide*!

Paradise beckons less than two hours’ drive from both Tampa and Fort Lauderdale, and a magical three-hour ferry ride from Key West. Fort Myers is no problem to get to, but you may find it difficult to leave.

Going out

Tubby’s (4350 Fowler Street; Tubbysbar.com) is as laid-back and neighborly as bars get, but when it’s party-time, owners Rick and Rick and their adorable, capable crew know how to let their tresses down. Tubby’s maintains the loyalty of the locals and creates new devotees out of casual visitors every day. Happy hour is “2-4-1” from 2 to 8 pm. Get loose on the dance floor with DJ Kenny on Friday. Fierce karaoke is in full effect on Saturdays and after the t-dance on Sunday. Pool tournaments put a stick in your hand and a smile on your face. Check out their website for a calendar of special events. Or better yet, just come on in.

Office Pub (3704 Cleveland Avenue; Officepub.com) is another exceedingly friendly bar that shares and fosters the good vibes that power Fort Myers’ gay scene. Bears and cubs have the first Sunday of every month designated as their own, but can be found there at any time. Uniform, leather, strip-pool and underwear parties energize the slightly sleazy and totally sexy buzz at The Office. Happy hours and drink specials are offered throughout the week. Their website offers a schedule of events, including the famed Blackout Parties.

Bottom Line (3090 Evans Avenue) boasts the largest gay entertainment complex in southwest Florida. Over 20 years in business, they are doing everything right with wild drag shows, live music, hot mixed crowds and major involvement in the gay community.

Tampa / St. Pete

Midpoint on Florida’s Gulf Coast, the majestic expanse of Tampa Bay

At Parliament House

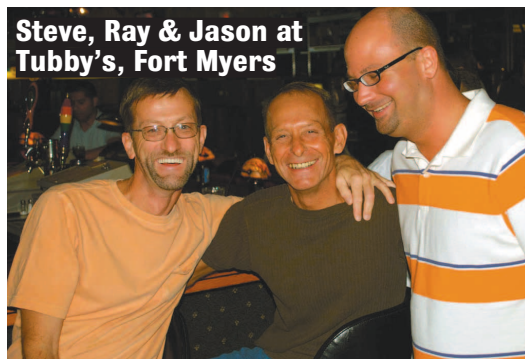


Carlos, Milan, Charlie & Daniel at Streetcar Charlies



Manager Michael at Tubby's, Fort Myers

Steve, Ray & Jason at Tubby's, Fort Myers



Bartenders David & Sean at Tubby's, Fort Myers

stretches for miles from the pristine white sand beaches of St. Petersburg to Tampa, the urban commercial hub. Tampa is known for cigars, Buccaneers, and now, strip clubs. Each city along the way has a bustling gay scene. Fort DeSoto Park (St. Pete) and Bedrocks Beach (at Sunset Beach, at the southern tip of Treasure Island) are local gay sunning spots. The Tampa Bay Business Guild (Tbbg.org) has directions to the above beaches and other information for gay visitors.

Look for copies of 411 (The411-mag.com) and Watermark (Watermarkonline.com) for updates on the local scene. Clip (Clipfilmfestival.com), Tampa's gay film festival, takes place in October.


Bars and clubs

If you like to go where getting some is a good bet, then **2606 Club** (2606 North Armenia) is your kind of place. Tampa's favorite Levi-leather bar has two floors (dimly lit), with the upstairs the more cruisy. There's Hog House leather shop on-premises, and the 2606

is home to the Tampa Leather Club. Mondays get very touchy-feely for Underwear Night, and participants get special drink prices. Tuesdays feature \$1 well drinks. On Fridays and Saturdays pay just \$3 for well drinks till 11 pm.

A longtime favorite local bar, **City Side Lounge** (3703 Henderson Boulevard) continues to thrive as Tampa's

friendliest place, with a video bar, outdoor patio bar, sports lounge, dance floor and lots of drinks deals and special events. The weekly lineup includes Thursday karaoke with Bob R, Martini Madness Wednesdays, and Saturday afternoons dominated by sports events with free pizza or hot dogs. Bucs games, barbecues on the patio with dollar



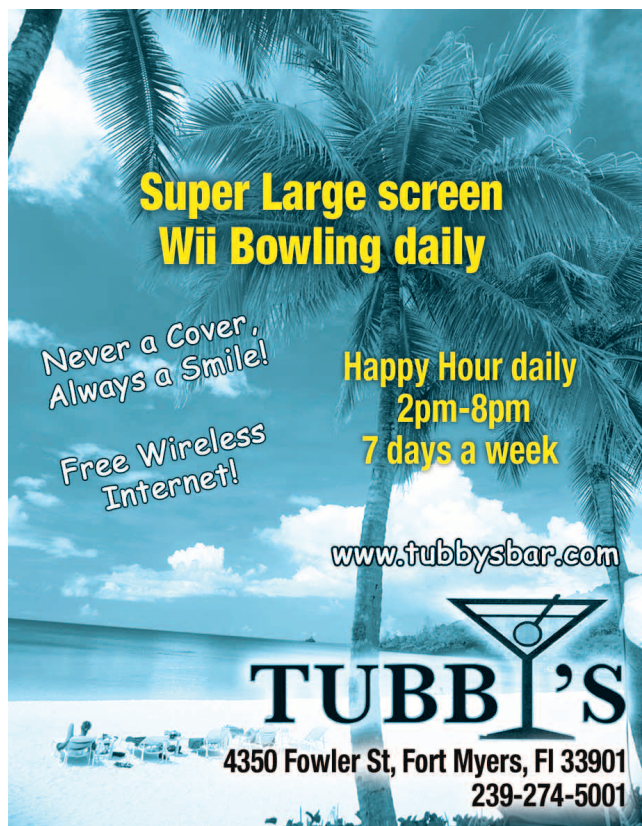
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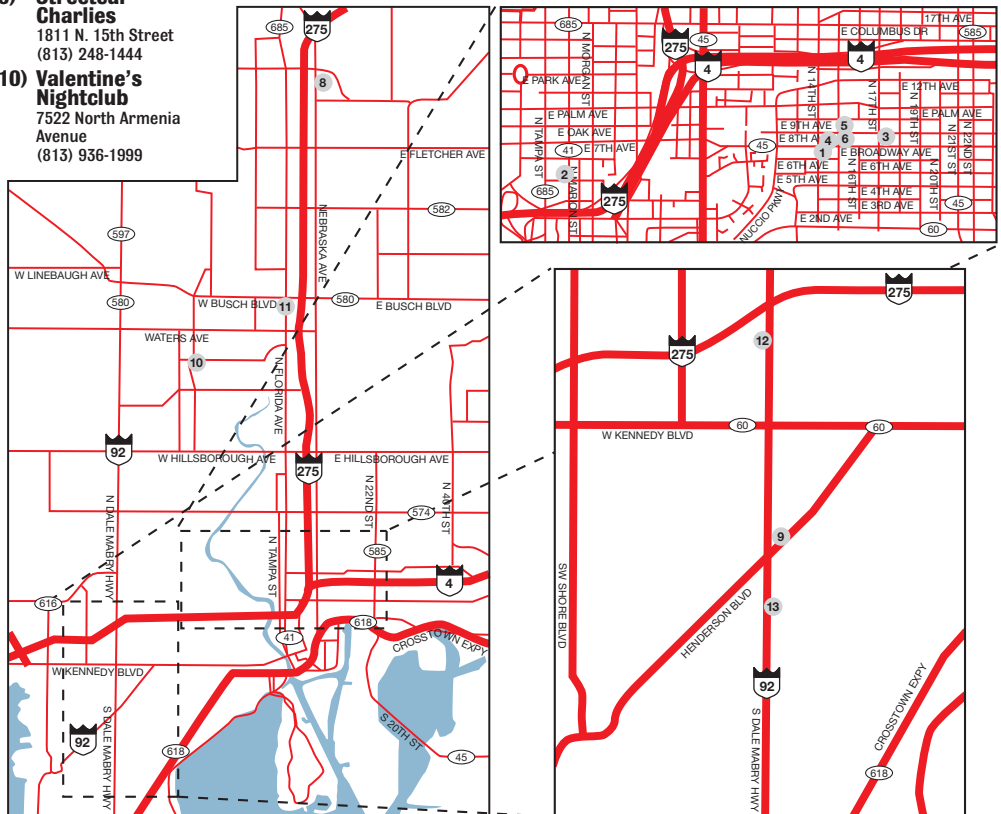

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TAMPA

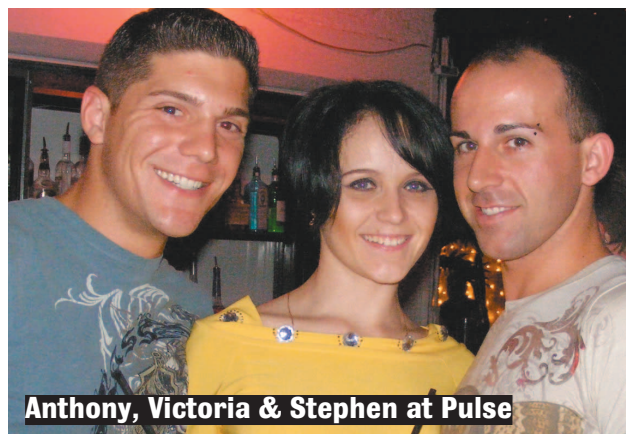
- 7) **2606 Club**
2606 North Armenia
Armenia
(813) 875-6993
- 13) **Baxter's**
1519 South Dale Mabry
Highway
(813) 258-8830
- 2) **Chelsea**
1502 North Florida
Avenue
(813) 228-0139
- 9) **City Side Lounge**
3703 Henderson
Boulevard
(813) 350-0600
- 11) **Connections**
9002 North Florida
(813) 915-0819
- 4) **Czar Ybor**
1420 E. 7th Avenue
(813) 247-8838
- 5) **Flirt**
1909 N. 15th Street
- 1) **G-Bar**
1401 East 7th Avenue
(813) 247-1016
- 8) **Keith's Bar**
14905 N. Nebraska
Avenue
(813) 971-3576
- 12) **Metro Station**
900 N. Dale Mabry
(813) 875-0262
- 3) **Spurs**
1701 E. 8th Avenue
(813) 247-7877

- 6) **Streetcar
Charles**
1811 N. 15th Street
(813) 248-1444
- 10) **Valentine's
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drafts, Kevin on the piano, t-dances, special parties and free wi-fi access are some of the other attractions here.

Other bars include **Chelsea** (1502 North Florida Avenue), with seven nights of dancing, strippers and drag shows; **Connections** (9002 North Florida); **Baxter's** (1519 South Dale Mabry Highway); **Keith's Bar** (14905 North Nebraska

Avenue); **Metro Station** (900 North Dale Mabry); and **Valentine's Nightclub** (7522 North Armenia Avenue).

In Ybor City (known here as GaYbor!) **G-Bar** (1401 East 7th Avenue) has amateur strip contests, CD release parties, all-gay male revues on Sundays and other special theme events throughout their seven-night-a-week schedule. Also

here are **Spurs** (1701 East 8th Avenue) the area's only country-western bar; **Czar Ybor** (1420 East 7th Avenue), a mixed, energetic dance club; and **Flirt** (1909 North 15th Street), a dance club and show bar. **Streetcar Charlies** (1811 North 15th Street) restaurant has a small dance area and friendly staff who welcome all. Tapas, fresh food and daily-made sauces with Latin, Thai and Jamaican influences are lovingly prepared here, and they feature a dozen different gourmet hamburgers.

It's a half-hour drive (on I-275) from Tampa to downtown St. Petersburg, home of the Dali Museum. In the historic Kenwood section you'll find **Georgie's Alibi** (3100 3rd Avenue North; Georgiesalibi.com), the local outpost of a string of clubs from Palm Springs to Wilton Manors / Fort Lauderdale. This video/sports bar and cafe has happy hour from 11 am till 9 pm, and food is served daily. Ongoing weekly specials include drag bingo Mondays, two-for-one Tuesday dinners, Thursday night Long Island iced teas and Sunday brunch



St. Petersburg, Florida!

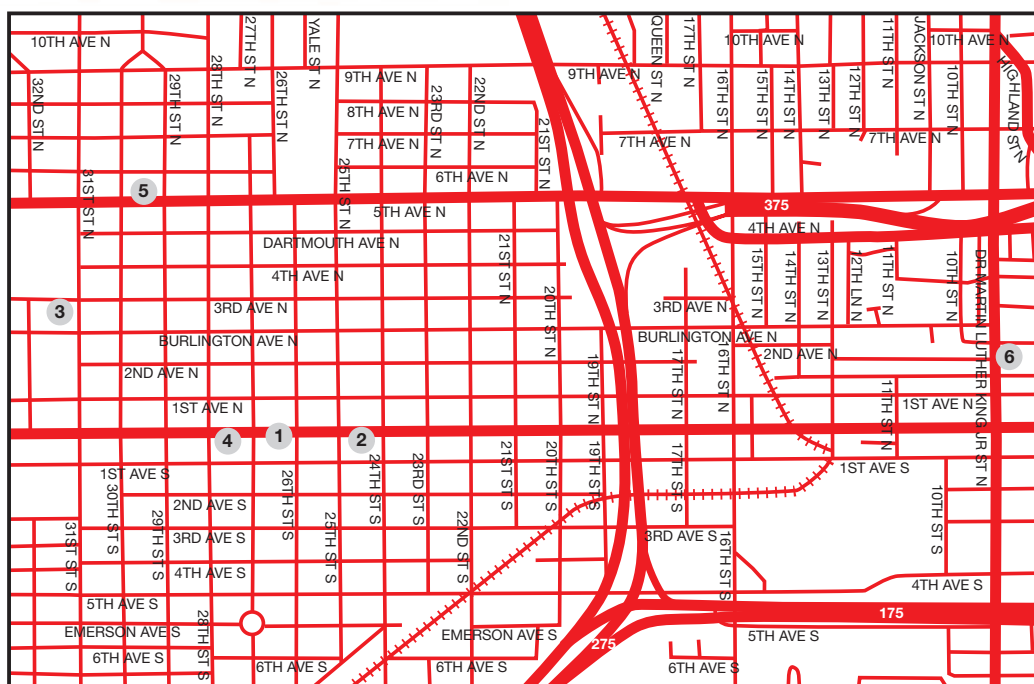


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- 2) **Gay St. Pete Guesthouse**
2440 Central Avenue
(727) 365-0544
Gaystpetehouse.com
- 3) **Georgie's Alibi**
3100 3rd Avenue
(727) 321-2112
- 4) **Lucky Star Lounge**
2760 Central Avenue
(727) 327-7359
- 5) **Partners Sports Café**
2924 5th Avenue N.
(727) 321-0088
- 6) **Sporters**
187 Martin Luther King Street, N.
(727) 418-1111



followed by an evening beer bust. A video system upgrade has brought HD satellite and 60 HD flat screens, including 29 in their sports bar alone; viewing major league and college sporting events is a treat. Their patio has seen improvements, too, with new chairs, gliders and misters for increased comfort. See their website for upcoming events and make sure to stop in to see why they moniker themselves "The right place, at the right time."

While in town, also check out **Sporters** (187 Martin Luther King Street and 2nd Avenue), a bear bar; and **Detour** (2612 Central) with live music and shows, dancing and free wi-fi.

Lucky Star Lounge (2760 Central Avenue) in the heart of St. Pete's Grand Central District, is the newest gay club in town, offering a full line up of weekly specials and events. It's an intimate, stylish place with inexpensive drinks and friendly service. Owners Dale and Leslie also run a liquor store next door that's open daily 10 am to Midnight and Sundays 11 am to 9 pm. The club is open from 2 pm to 2 am with a sociable happy hour from 2 pm to 9 pm.

Partners Sports Café (2924 5th

Avenue North) is an alternative spot with take-out. Created by former Velvet Underground group members Alain ("Who the hell is straight after midnight?") and Emerson, they have great fish and chips, Friday karaoke and Saturday drag shows.

Accommodations

St. Pete Gay Guesthouse (2440 Central Avenue) has inexpensive but full-service facilities with a large, lavish pool and a hot tub that's a fun late-night hangout for getting to know the other guests better. Poolside rooms include private entrances, bath, DVD players, refrigerators and microwave.

In the vicinity

In Clearwater, on the coast to the west of Tampa, there's the **Pro Shop Pub** (840 Cleveland). In Largo, the **Christopher Street Bar Room** (13344 66th North) has dancing, drag shows, male strippers and amateur strippers Fridays and Saturdays.

On the way to Orlando from Tampa on I-4, passing through Lakeland, check out **Pulse** (1030 East Main Street), or **Twisters** (404 Eaker Street),

a new club in Auburndale.

Just off I-75, an hour north of Tampa, **Sawmill Camping Resort** (21710 US Highway 98 in Dade City) has clothing-optional camping and swimming in tranquil and spacious grounds for tents, cabins or your RV. They also have a nightclub and dining onsite.

Shopping – steamy and otherwise

MC Film Festival (1901 North 15th Street) is Mark and Kerry's great gift and gay video store, with both adult and general titles. A wealth of other stock fills the place — from calendars, t-shirts, jewelry and sexual accessories to pet supplies.

Urban Body (715 South Howard Avenue) is the area's premier clothing and accessory boutique.

For warmer, wetter entertainment and relaxation, **Club Tampa** (215 North 11th Street) offers sauna, whirlpool and sun court, with daily \$5 locker specials.

Rainbow Cabaret (4421 North Hubert Avenue) offers a sauna, jacuzzi, TV lounges, internet access and a patio with an outdoor maze.

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of Alibi, St Pete**



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& manager DJ of Alibi, St Pete**



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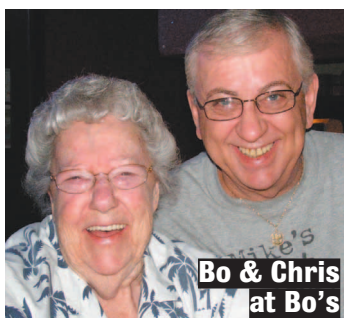
Brion at In Cahoots



Jeff at
Parliament House



Carlos, Daniel & Charlie,
at Streetcar Charlies



Bo & Chris
at Bo's



Dancer & Carlos,
Streetcar Charlies



Macavity & Shawn, MC Filmfest



Ian at
Lucky Star



Chris at Metro



At Parliament House



Joey & Bruce at Park Place

Fort Lauderdale

Gay people have not only been visiting, they've been moving here for years to be where the action is. The city's Wilton Manors subdivision is Florida's West Hollywood, with a larger-than-life gay concentration.

Accommodations

The city's many gay establishments cater to a broad cross-section of the gay world. There's a fine selection of gay resorts at Fort Lauderdale Beach. They're actually situated two blocks off the ocean, but within easy walking distance of the sand and surf. As anyone can tell you, the gay beach is opposite Saint Sebastian Street.

After 17 years Richard Gray recently sold **The Royal Palms Resort** (2901 Terramar; 954-564-6444) and passed the torch to two charming men from France, Christophe and Nicolas. (Richard will still be involved in promoting gay tourism as gay liaison to the Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau.) As with many Fort Lauderdale accommodations, this is a gated compound and clothing is optional. There's a hot tub next to the pool, and the large, sunny rooms here are immaculate. Staff is attentive but not intrusive, and Royal Palms has been graced with a slew of distinguished awards.

There's a sexy vibe at **Worthington Guesthouse** (543 North Birch Road; 954-563-6819), where Californians Jim and Jason host. The pool and deck get tons of sun throughout the day, and the ambiance is all about having a good time. **Alcazar Resort** (555 North Birch Road; 954-567-2525), an economy accommodation, is owned and operated by the Worthington.

Just opposite is the **Dunes Guesthouse** (2835 Terramar; 954-568-6161), with its beautiful gardens and spacious rooms replete with king beds, deluxe linens and other comfortable furnishings. The Dunes offers unobstructed poolside sunning, a sociable continental breakfast and delicious quietude.

The longstanding **Orton Terrace**



It's a party at Coconut Cove, Fort Lauderdale



Jackson and Mark of Bill's & Alibi, Fort Lauderdale



Christopher with owner Nate at Tropics Restaurant, Fort Lauderdale



A fierce pride of performers at Johnny's Bar, Fort Lauderdale

(606 Orton Avenue; 954-566-5068) sees plenty of action. Host Roger offers hotel rooms and several huge one- and two-bedroom apartments with full kitchens at truly budget rates. There's a pool in the back with a deck, and tiled walkways sweep through lush gardens. The office is outside the front gate, giving the place a protected feeling. Roger and the boys present a copious serve-yourself breakfast in the common room, where there's also a computer terminal for guest use.

Quite stunning, **Grand Resort and Spa** (539 North Birch Road; 954-630-3000) offers deluxe rooms, one- and two-bed suites, plus penthouse suites. Amenities are aplenty, including an oversized heated pool in the front, computers for guest use and a fabulous spa and fitness center. In the rear of the property a clothing-optional courtyard and a ten-man jacuzzi add to the treat. The Grand offers day-spa services to all with customized and specialty facials, body wraps, body scrubs, massages, manicures and pedicures, waxing, der-

mabrasion and hair styling services.

Elysium Resort (552 North Birch Road; 800-533-4744) is huge and magnificent. They've connected adjacent properties here so guests have access to two pools, a hot tub, tons of deck, intriguing garden paths and an on-site gym. The south-facing pool has a large, open deck and unobstructed sun throughout the day.

Flamingo Inn Amongst the Flowers (2727 Terramar; 954-561-4658) is quite the five-star place. Uncommon furnishings, a lush tropical landscape and an attentive staff make it "an adventure in indulgence."

Coconut Cove (3012 Granada Street; 954-523-3226) is a Key-West style, three-story resort arranged around a central patio and garden. The stairways and porches, with their fancy grillwork, are a delight to behold. This guesthouse has a huge bear and bear-lover following and they pride themselves on being the closest gay male guesthouse to the gay Sebastian beach.

La Casa Del Mar / Soberano

Resort (3003 Granada Street; 954-467-2037) offers comfortable accommodations and a pool, and like its neighbor, the Coconut Cove, proximity to the gay beach. Ohad is the compelling host. La Casa del Mar sports an in-house restaurant, Mediterraneo, during the tourist season.

Windamar Beach Resort (543 Breakers Avenue; 954-561-0039) is recognized for the huge sun it gets throughout the day. It has a large New York following — understandable given that the owners have several businesses there, as well!

There are other accommodations situated away from the beach. One of these is the absolutely beautiful **Coral Reef Guesthouse** (2609 NE 13th Court; 954-568-0292) — upscale, quiet and inviting. You'll find eight modern, sunny, spacious rooms and a gleaming white pool with a built-in whirlpool. Their elite suite with a private four-man jacuzzi and sun area is a sybarite's delight.

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- 3) **Bill's**
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- 15) **Boardwalk**
(954) 463-6969
1721 N Andrews Ave
- 18) **Boom**
(954) 630-3556
2232 Wilton Dr
- 27) **The Cubby Hole**
823 N. Federal Hwy. (US1)
(954) 728-9001
- 42) **Depot**
(954) 524-3990
1243 NE 11th Ave
- 14) **Johnny's Stripped Bar**
(954) 522-5931
1116 W. Boulevard Blvd
- 25) **Ramrod**
(954) 763-8219
1508 NE 4th Ave
- 4) **Matty's On The Drive**
(954) 564-1799
2426 Wilton Drive
- 21) **Mona's Bar**
(954) 525-6662
502 E. Sunrise Blvd.

CAFES/ RESTAURANTS

- 33) **Tropics**
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(954) 763-8219
2000 Wilton Dr

RETAIL

- 7) **Audace**
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2031 B Wilton Dr
- 34) **Ruff Rider @Symbology**
(954) 828-1401
2205-A Wilton Dr

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 5) **Alcazar Resort**
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- 40) **Aragon Inn Guest house**
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2520 NE 6th Avenue
- 10) **The Bamboo Resort**
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2733 Middle River Drive
- 9) **The Cabanas**
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2209 NE 26th St
- 16) **Coconut Cove**
(954) 523-3226
3012 Granada St
- 12) **Coral Reef Guesthouse**
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2609 NE 13th Ct
- 30) **Elysium Resort**
(954) 564-9801
552 N Birch Rd

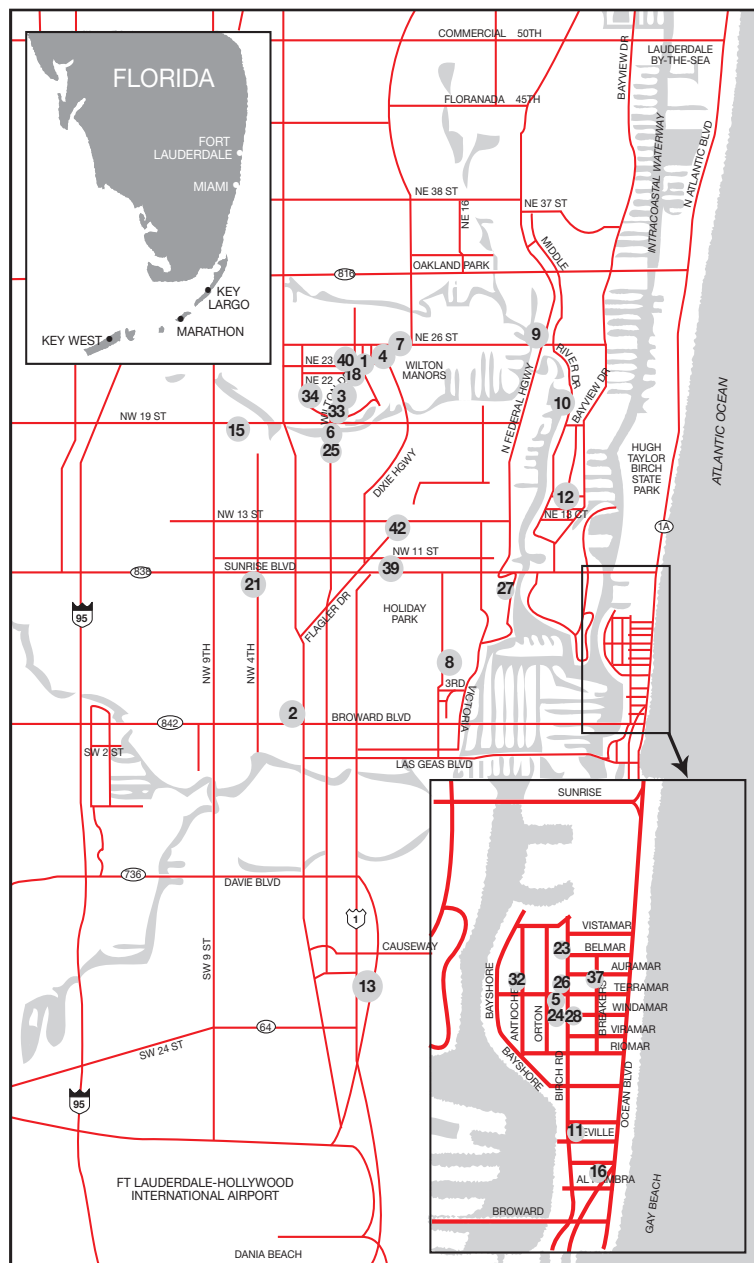
- 32) **Flamingo**
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2727 Terramar St
- 28) **The Grand Resort & Spa**
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539 North Birch Road
- 13) **Inn Leather**
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610 SE 19th St
- 11) **La Casa del Mar**
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606 Orton Ave
- 8) **Pineapple Point Guest House**
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- 26) **Royal Palms**
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- 19) **Schubert Resort**
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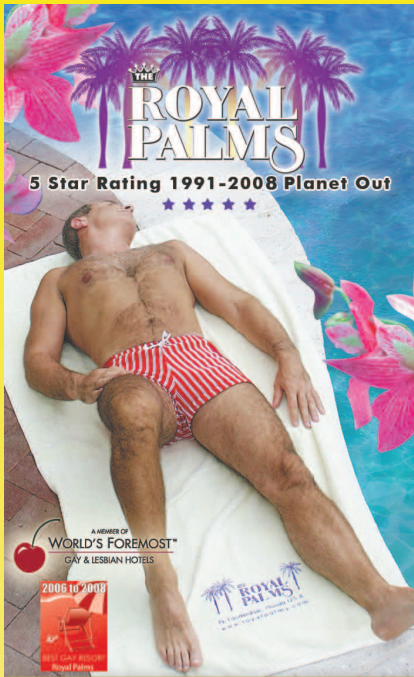
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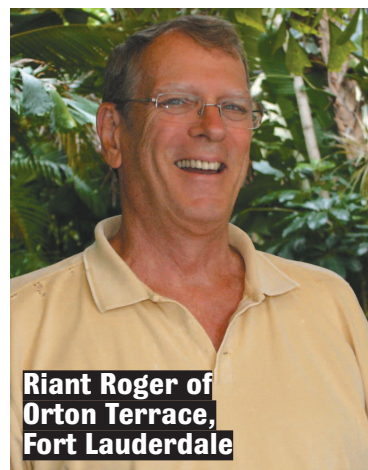
**Wet underwear
contestant
John at Depot,
Fort Lauderdale**



**Bartender Sean and owner Matt, with
bartender Russell at Matty's on the Drive**



**Bartenders Fabricio
and Mark at Alibi,
Fort Lauderdale**



**Riant Roger of
Orton Terrace,
Fort Lauderdale**

NE 16th Terrace; 954-527-0094) is located not far from Las Olas Boulevard in upscale Victoria Park. The vast yet intimate grounds of the guesthouse are verdant with lush and tropical foliage. The property has been restored to maintain the original splendor of the 1930s architecture, yet boasts all of the amenities that today's sophisticated gay traveler has come to appreciate and expect — gym included!

On the Sunrise Boulevard side of Victoria Park, **Schubert Resort** (855 NE 20th Avenue; 954-763-7434) is an all-male, clothing-optional private men's resort. Built in 1953, it has recently experienced a \$2.5 million renovation, highlighting its retro look, charm and style. The tropical grounds are totally enclosed, making sunning *au natural* by the pool or the ten-man jacuzzi a delight.

Offering six comfortable and distinct suites, each with a king- or queen-sized bed, **Aragon Inn Guesthouse** (2520 NE 6th Avenue; 954-566-2900) touts its proximity to gay bars. Poolside

casitas offer solar respite and have romantic potential.

Also within walking distance of the bars, **Ed Lugo Resort** (2404 NE 8th Avenue; 954-275-8299) has luxury one- or two-bedroom suites available. A heated pool, waterfalls and beautiful landscaping are in store.

The well established **Cabanas** (2209 NE 26th Street; 954-564-7764) is a gated complex of smartly remodeled cabanas with kitchens and big windows overlooking Fort Lauderdale's Middle River canal (where guests can kayak!). Other amenities include a clothing-optional pool, a whirlpool with a waterfall and a steam room. Spa services are soon to be offered here.

The nearby **Bamboo Resort** (2733 Middle River Drive; 954-537-1522) is a clothing-optional guesthouse offering varied accommodations, including a one-bedroom apartment, a "superior hotel room" and a poolside studio. Most of these are adjacent to the pool and have semi-private sundecks.

Having just changed hands, new owners Marc and Alden have put a lot of sweat into making this place special.

On the south side of downtown Fort Lauderdale, **Inn Leather** (610 SE 19th Street; 954-467-1444) hangs a sling in every room. They also feature a jacuzzi, heated pool and an active day-pass program. Clothing is optional, of course.

Nightlife

Now serving the tastiest burgers in town at an amazing price, **Bill's** (2209 Wilton Drive) has grown up, becoming more than an average neighborhood bar. They feature four bars, including the upscale Mustang Lounge, and provide free parking, a VJ, dance floor, games and a special events stage. You're sure to find something happening at Bill's.

The muscle behind the bar scene in Fort Lauderdale, **Alibi** (2266 Wilton Drive), a.k.a Georgie's Alibi, helped turn Wilton Manors into the destination it's become for locals and visitors to South Florida. Partly it's their events, partly

their killer drink specials and great food. The restaurant is open from 11 am to just before closing everyday and has a delightful outdoor patio. Alibi packs in a lot of frolic.

Across from Alibi, **Boom** (2234 Wilton Drive) serves a cocktail crowd in the evening and then a dance crowd later when folks come to play at this multi-level, high-energy dance club.

There are several highly-rated restaurant-bars nearby. **Tropics** (2000 Wilton Drive) is celebrating its 13th birthday. It's a piano lounge with nightly entertainment and a top-rate staff. Its Sidecar features a bar, cafe, terrace and even a pool table.

The pink building across from Home Depot houses **Mona's Cocktail Lounge** (502 East Sunrise Boulevard), an unassuming neighborhood venue where you'll feel right at home. Play pool here or the "train game" or just hang in the outdoors area in what is called Lisa's Background, with affable bartenders playing host. Drink specials all through the week (especially all day Monday) draw both the "arounders" and the out-of-towners. Customer appreciation is a matter of course (even pets have an annual pageant here!). But come December 26 things get truly special: at the annual hosted "Grab-bag," almost 400 ribboned presents, plus over \$4000 in cash, is handed out to celebrants.

Sidelines Sport Bar (2031a Wilton Drive), in the thick of Wilton Manors, is a state-of-the-art sports-themed gay bar offering friendly service and quality entertainment. Gay owned and operated, this venue has rapidly become Fort Lauderdale's premier gay sports bar. There are 16 flat-screen HDTVs on which to catch the season's most exciting games, as well as pool tables, dart boards and even a free football table. Along with the many accolades and positive feedback from patrons and the media, Sidelines was recently honored with two "Best of Gay South Florida 2008" awards from South Florida Blade's annual readership's survey.

The Cubby Hole (823 North Federal Highway; Thecubbyhole.com) is Fort

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A friendly neighborhood bar, **Depot** (1243 NE 11th Avenue) features 13 flat-screen TVs to watch sporting events, hosts a wet underwear contest every Friday, plus has karaoke every Wednesday with recording star Gioia Bruno of Expose fame. There's a two-for-one happy hour every weekday until 9 pm (all day Monday) plus the \$10 beer buckets Saturday and Sunday. An outdoor patio bar makes for smoke free cruising.

A smoke-free venue, **Matty's on the Drive** (2426 Wilton Drive) is spanking new in Wilton Manors. They offer

something for everyone, including diverse music, pool table, darts, a stage for celebrity shows and meet-and-greets. There's a half-price happy hour 11 am through 9 pm Monday through Saturday. A huge screen for Wii games are part of the scenery. Unique current specials include Dog's Night Out Tuesdays, with refreshments for the pooches at hand, and vodka drink specials for the humans they bring in!

Scandals (1509 NE 4th Avenue) is the only country-western bar in Wilton Manors. Line dancing lessons, karaoke and lots of pool are its highlights. Sister bar **The Stable** (205 East Oakland Park Boulevard) is a leather-Levi hangout.

The intimate **Ramrod** (1508 NE 4th Avenue) is another favorite, with a regular clientele and heavy cruising. This "man's bar" offers an in-house leather shop and patrolled parking.

Steel (1951 Powerline Road) sports innovative lighting and an inviting dance bar in the back — super popular on Saturdays.

Sean David's **Johnny's** (1116 West

Broward Boulevard; JohnnysBarFL.com) is a premier gay male stripper bar where 18-plus go-go boys work two busy bars, one with a stage. A VIP champagne lounge plus a restaurant offering casual fare (burgers, sandwiches and salads) are on premises. Their amateur strip contest on Sundays is well received but not quite outdone by a Return of the Twinks on Tuesdays or a Latin Obsession on Fridays.

Strip action can also be found at **Boardwalk** (1721 North Andrews Avenue), with a game room and an outdoor patio with a hot tub. Visits by porn stars here are often well highlighted in their promotions. **Dudes** (3270 NE 33rd Street) is a cocktail piano bar with a separate room for go-go strippers. Steamy shower shows at Dudes are a staple.

Calling itself a dance destination, **Torpedo** (2829 West Broward Boulevard, seven blocks west of I95) is gay seven nights a week and open till 4 am. In downtown Fort Lauderdale, the new **Living Room Nightclub** (300 SW 1st Avenue) professes to offer 11,000

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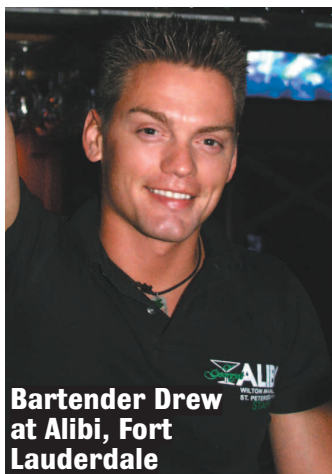
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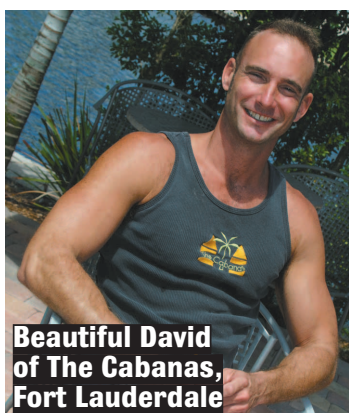
**Fabricio, Steve and Gary of
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**George and owner Pierre of
Audace, Fort Lauderdale**



**The merry staff at Tropics
Restaurant, Fort Lauderdale**



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square feet of interactive and sensory pleasure in its three distinct areas, catering to partiers of all persuasions but with a definite gay bent on Fridays. Nearby, **Jet Set** (109 SW 2nd Avenue) the all gay and lesbian nightclub continues to draw more than its share of gays Wednesdays through Sundays. Next door, **Voodoo Lounge** (111 SW 2nd Avenue) dons the gay flag for their Sunday t-dance. And there is talk that **Sea Monster** (2 South New River Drive West), an erstwhile gay nightclub, is about to rear its head once again soon.

Dining

One of the classics has already been mentioned: **Tropics** (2000 Wilton Drive), with the "best brunch in south Florida" and voted "best restaurant" seven years in a row.

Flowers (23454 Wilton Drive) is another truly gay option. There's a nice ambiance at the uplifting **Hi-Life Cafe** (3000 Federal Highway), where the cute young team greets Fort Lauderdale regulars with warm regard.

On East Las Olas Boulevard, the

casual **Boulevard Cafe** (1301 East Las Olas Boulevard) opens for lunch and dinner every day, while **La Bonne Crepe** (815 East Las Olas Boulevard) highlights salads and crepes on its sidewalk terrace.

Back in Wilton Manors, don't forget **Rosie's Bar & Grill** (2449 Wilton Drive), offering casual dining indoors or on their large covered outdoor patio.

Galanga Kitchen and Sushi Bar (2389 Wilton Drive) offers stellar Thai fare as well as sushi and has been esteemed as one of the best Thai restaurants in Broward County.

Herban Kitchen Restaurant (2823 East Oakland Park Boulevard) is "Home of the complete dinner," which translates into fresh bread, soup, salad and more. You'll think your mother was lurking in the kitchen.

And there's always a crowd at **Java Boys** (2230 Wilton Drive), where they serve all kinds of coffees and other hot and cold libations, as well as dentist-inviting treats.

Stork's Bakery Coffee Cafe (2505 NE 15 Avenue and 1109 East Las Olas) aims to offer a bit of stylish Viennese coffeehouse in your own backyard. There are snacks, salads, cakes, tarts, tortes, mousses and more.

Shopping

For sexy underwear and *à la mode* beach- and swimwear **Audace** (2031b Wilton Drive; Audace.com) continues to shine at this new location in Wilton Manors. The dazzle is not just below the crotch — t-shirts, jeans, belts, shirts and accessories are also vended here and online.

Budget conscious **GayMartUSA.com** (2240 Wilton Drive) features bathing suits, club-wear, accessories and lots of other fun accouterments. **Bottoms & Tops** (2244 Wilton Drive) sells designer men's apparel "without designer prices," in addition to accessories that scream gay. **Tropixxx Video** (1514 NE 4th Avenue) purveys adult toys and clothing, and a great selection of videos. The team is smart and helpful. **ZooTwo** (2151 Wilton Drive) offers a large selection of *au courant* party

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**Bartender Randy and Manager Craig
at Scandals Saloon, Fort Lauderdale**



**Bar manager
Shannon with
owner John of
The Cubby Hole,
Fort Lauderdale**



**Tim of Alibi,
Fort Lauderdale**



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wear. **Pride Factory** (850 NE 13th Street) is a giant book, video, clothing and gift store, as well as a coffee shop and internet cafe. **M4M Leather** (839 North Federal Highway) offers leather and pride items to a backdrop of porn on their flat-screen monitors.

Leather Werks (501 NE 13th Street) continues to serve the leather community offering garments, accessories and play equipment. **Ruff Riders** (2205a Wilton Drive; Theruffrider.com) features active and fashion wear with t-shirts, gym wear, jackets, vests, hats and accessories — including leather.

Working out, steaming up

Island City Health & Fitness (2270 Wilton Drive) is opening as of mid-November in the same location previously occupied by Main Street Gym. The new gym will sport the latest equipment, a cafe, lounge area, men's sauna, and opening in early 2009, a health and wellness spa.

Slammer (321 West Sunrise Boule-

vard; Slammerclub.com) prides itself on being a sex club, and on their website they enumerate the reasons why. Unique to Slammer is the "You bring the booze, we got the bar" concept. The 7,500-square-foot membership club has lots of pleasure tucked within a dark green building, with a yellow and black sign that reads "321." Slammer is the second in the chain of such clubs, the original being the one in the Silverlake area of Los Angeles.

Club Fort Lauderdale (110 NW 5th Avenue) is the largest private men's club in Florida and one of the largest in the US. With 12,000 square feet of space, they are replete with a lush tropical outdoor pool and clothing-optional spa, custom-designed steam room, and a sauna overlooking the pool. Multiple TV rooms showing regular television and adult entertainment are throughout the club. Large state-of-the-art gym facilities offer all the latest equipment — and guests are free to work out in their undies!


Clubhouse II (2650 East Oakland Park), a private membership club with leather leanings, is a cozy facility with many small changing rooms and oodles of lockers.

For people-watching, the gay beach is in front of Beach Place, just opposite Sebastian Street. People also gather for jogging, tennis, and "whatever" at **Holiday Park** (Sunrise Boulevard, on the south side, at NE 12th Avenue).

Key West

Fabled Key West enjoys America's southernmost sun. Its Caribbean climate (warm day and night) reminds visitors they're at the edge of America. The gay attitude is woven into the fabric of Key West, and though it's an undeniable part of the draw, people of every sort visit here to experience the town's carefree attitude.

Originally conceived as a fundraiser for charity, **Fantasy Fest** (Fantasyfest.net) is Key West's annual bacchanal, usually hosted late October, kicking




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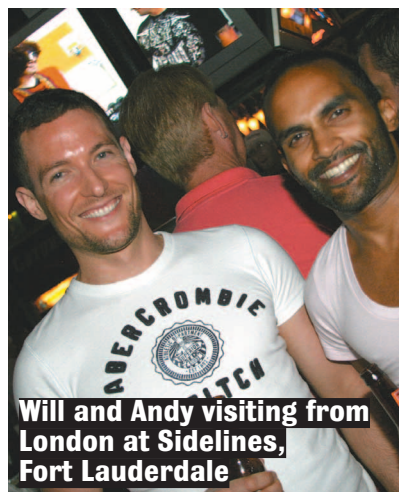
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KEYWEST

BARS & RESTAURANTS

- 1) **1 Saloon**
(305) 294-4737
514 Petronia St
- 1) **801 Bourbon Bar**
(305) 294-4737
801 Duval St
- 18) **Bobby's Monkey Bar**
(305) 294-2655
900 Simonton St
- 2) **Bourbon Street Pub**
(305) 296-1992
724 Duval St
- 21) **Diner Shores**
(305) 295-2491
510 South St
- 9) **Duval Beach Club**
(305) 295-6550
1405 Duval St
- 6) **KWest Men**
(305) 292-8500
705 Duval St
- 2) **Pizza Joe's**
724 Duval St

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 5) **Alexander's Guesthouse**
(800) 654-9919
1118 Fleming St
- 20) **Big Ruby's Guesthouse**
(800) 477-7829

- 409 Appelrouth Ln
- 11) **Caribbean House**
(305) 296 0999
(877) 296 0999
226 Petronia St
- 23) **Coconut Grove Guesthouse**
(305) 296-5107
(800) 262-6055
817 Fleming St
- 7) **Coral Tree Inn & Oasis Guesthouse**
(800) 362-7477
822/823 Fleming St
- 25) **Curry House**
(800) 633-7439
806 Fleming St
- 8) **Equator Resort**
(800) 278-4552
818 Fleming St
- 10) **Island House**
(305) 294-6284
1129 Fleming St
- 2) **New Orleans House**
(305) 293-9800
724 Duval St

RETAIL & OTHER

- 2) **Key West Business Guild**
(800) 535-7797
728 Duval St
- 19) **Leather Master**
(305) 292-5051
418 Appelrouth Ln
- 13) **Moped Hospital**
(305) 296-3344
601 Truman



- 21) **Shores Spirits**
(305) 295-2491
510 South St
- *) **Skinny Dipper Cruises**
305-240-0517

- 17) **Towels of Key West**
(800) 927-0316
806 Duval St

* Not pictured on this map

off what is the start of the tourist season in the Keys.

Accommodations

You'll stay in one of Key West's historic mansions when you visit the **Coral Tree Inn / Oasis Guesthouse / Coconut Grove Guesthouse** complex (822/823 Fleming Street; 800-362-7477). It's Key West's largest gay resort, and its clientele is sophisticated and international. The interconnecting Oasis and Coconut Grove guesthouses — with manicured garden pathways and their famed balconies and sun decks — are all about luxurious, secluded relaxation. Guests mingle around the hot tubs and pools, and there's an afternoon "social." Across the street, the Coral Tree Inn is even quieter. Its marbled floors and a quiet pool area in back add to the ambiance. And it's getting more beautiful: Coconut Grove has embarked on a \$1.5 million renovation project.

Right across the street, **Equator Resort** (818 Fleming; 800-278-4552)

provides all-male, all-postmodern digs. Being clothing-optional, there's plenty of eye fest for the worldly crowd at hand. Think designer fabrics, feather pillows, Italian-tile whirlpool baths, phones with voicemail, free wi-fi, and you'll never want to leave the spacious rooms. A full continental breakfast may be savored by the pool. Equator proudly hosts themed parties during the season to keep guests entertained. G.I.R.L. (Gayinternetradiolive.com) keeps the energy coursing through the resort.

Parisian-owned **Caribbean House** (226 Petronia Street; 877-296-0999), located a five-minute walk from Duval Street, is on a block that's gentrifying by leaps. This gay-friendly budget choice has ten no-frills rooms in store with all the amenities you'd want.

Farther out on Fleming Street you'll find **Alexander's Guesthouse** (1118 Fleming; 800-654-9919), with upscale rooms filled with gay men and women. At the all-male, green-in-every-which-way **Island House** (1129 Fleming; 800-890-6284), the sexual heat scorches as

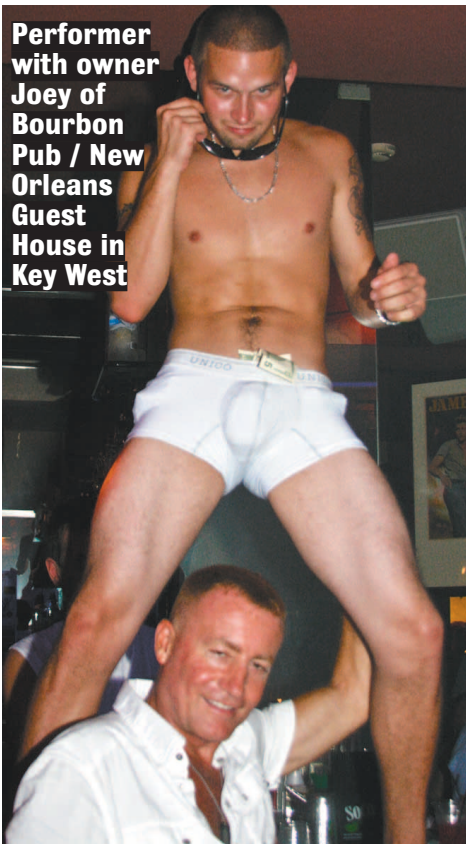
much as the Key West sun. Guests here enjoy access to the Island House gym, steam room and sauna and to the multitude of day-pass visitors. (Don't forget your ID if you plan to day-pass.)

The deluxe rooms of **New Orleans House** (724 Duval; 888-293-9893) overlook Old Town's Duval Street, but the real action is in the expanded back court, where you'll find the Garden Bar, two pools, a large hot tub, what seems like an acre of sun deck and several stand-alone cottages. It's part of the Bourbon Street Pub Complex, where gay Key West parties.

Big Ruby's (409 Appelrouth Lane; 800-477-7829), with super deluxe accommodations, draws some well-heeled gays and lesbians, too.

Nightlife

Duval Street is the city's main drag in more ways than one. Don't miss the Bourbon Street Pub complex, where the raucous **Bourbon Street Pub** (724 Duval Street) anchors the scene. New Orleans House (mentioned ear-



Performer with owner Joey of Bourbon Pub / New Orleans Guest House in Key West



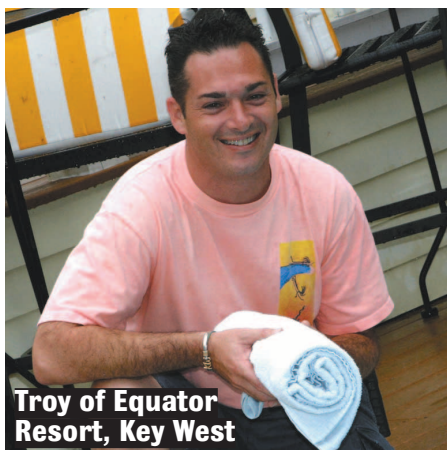
Bartender Aaron of Bourbon Pub, Key West



Bartender Ryan of Bourbon Pub, Key West



Visitors from Lausanne, Switzerland in Key West



Troy of Equator Resort, Key West

lier) is located upstairs. **801-Bourbon Bar** (801 Duval), with nightly drag shows, is kitty-corner to the Bourbon Street Pub, and **One Saloon** (514 Petronia), with leather-Levi cruising, is next door to the 801.

Aqua (711 Duval Street) is a dance club with frequent special entertainment. There's a mixed crowd of men and women, gay and straight, and this club's doors open directly onto Duval Street.

KWest (705 Duval Street) is the city's go-go bar. In the early part of the evening folks come by for cocktails and a chat; then, at 9 pm the curtain is discreetly drawn and dancers tease.

Locals crowd **Bobby's Monkey Bar** (900 Simonton Street). There's a friendly group of boys and girls, gay and straight, and frequent special events. Happy hour runs noon to 7 pm.

Mangoes (700 Duval Street) claims they're not just a fruit, but a lifestyle! This superb restaurant offers delicious meal choices. Upstairs at Mangoes, there's a nightclub open to people of all persuasions.

Shopping and more

Leather Master (418 Appelrouth Lane), an edgy toy store for the adventurous, offers merchandise for adults of all sexual bents. Be it harnesses or vibrators, cock-and-ball toys, or masks, you'll find it all here. A sizable porn collection is at hand, too.

At **Towels of Key West** (806 Duval Street) you'll find towels and robes to treasure all your life.

For wheels, get to gay-friendly **Moped Hospital** (601 Truman Avenue). There's no better way to get around town than on a scooter!

Skinny Dipper Cruises (Skinnydippercruises.com) offers "alternative pampered charters" that are clothing-optional. Up to six people are accommodated on their 27-foot yacht that is all gourmet food, libations and men.

Gay and Lesbian Trolley Tour (305-294-4603) is an insight into the town's lay of the land, architecture, rich gay history and the official and unofficial hot spots. It's all packed into a fun-filled 70-minutes.

Pistol and Enema (Pistolandenema.com) features daily Key West gossip and essential insight. Their sister site Keywestcocks.com is not about roosters.

Orlando

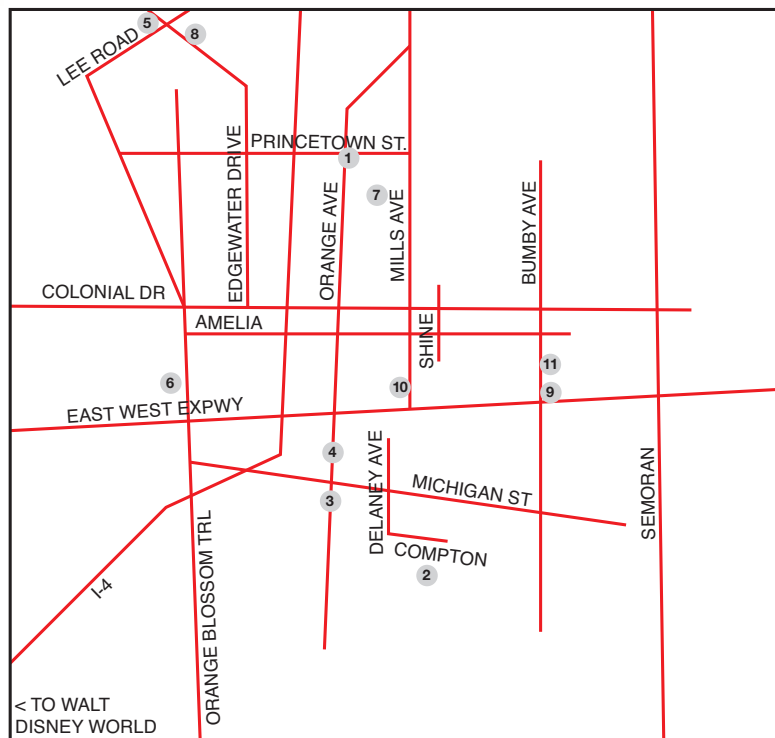
Some 50 million people come to Orlando each year. Most tourists come for the theme parks, thrill rides and family-fun that have made this city famous. Plenty of gay tourists join them, but Orlando's gay scene offers other kinds of thrills: the chance of Mickey and Donald (the men) coming home with you!

Homosexuality and theme parks go together hand-in-glove during Orlando's annual **Gay Days**. This "lesbi-gay" vacation, expo, and entertainment event takes place at world-famous attractions, gay clubs and other venues with exclusive parties. It's set for June 2 to 8, 2009. Visit Gaydays.com for specifics.

For local listings and updates for Central Florida, pick up a copy of What's Happening (Whatshappening-

ORLANDO

- 10) **Beacon**
100 S. Eola Drive
(407) 841-5444
- 8) **Bear Bar**
4453 Edgewater Drive
(407) 532-3627
- 2) **Club Orlando**
(407) 425-5005
450 E. Compton St
- 5) **Hanks Bar**
5026 Edgewater Drive
(407) 291-2399
- 6) **Paliamment House**
(407) 425-7571
710 N. Orange Blossom Trail
- 11) **Pom Pom's Teahouse**
67 N. Bumby Avenue
(407) 894-0865
- 4) **Pulse Orlando**
(407) 649-3888
1912 S. Orange Ave
(at Kaley St)
- 9) **Revolution Club**
375 S. Bumby Avenue
(407) 228-9900
- 1) **Savoy Orlando**
(407) 898-6766
1913 N. Orange Ave
(at Princeton)
- 7) **The Center/GLBCC**
(407) 228-8272
946 N. Mills Avenue
- 3) **Wylde's**
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mag.com). For information about Central Florida's Gay Pride parade and festival see Comeoutwithpride.org.

Lodgings, bars and restaurants

Parliament House Hotel (400 North Orange Blossom Trail; 407-425-7571), a local favorite since 1975, has new owners and a new energy, packing all you need for a great time into one destination. This motel and entertainment resort at the heart of Orlando's gay nightlife has 130 rooms with cable TV and phones, a big pool area with daily happy hour drinks, disco, a lakefront beach and a cluster of six bars, stores and a restaurant. Everything stays open till 3 am. Among many attractions here there are drag and cabaret shows from the Footlight Players, the area's hottest male dancers, headliner guest performers, Latin nights, pool parties and happy-hour buffets. On Sundays make a day of it — from poolside, to no-cover t-dance until 3 am interspersed by a free

buffet at 8 pm and three showtimes. Other weekly events include Monday Karaoke, Tuesday Talent Nights, and Latin Thursdays. You may never want to leave, nor will you really need to!

Pulse (1912 South Orange Avenue), in downtown Orlando, is sleek and state-of-the-art, with great sound, lighting and special effects. Orlando's young, mixed-sex and multi-preferred clubbers flock here. There are three distinct nightclubs: a color-changing Ultralounge; the Jewel Box, with a complete-surround digital audiovisual experience; and Adonis, where a variety of young, nearly-nude dancing guys, the Men of Pulse, perform on-stage and atop the bar. Let's just say these dancers have more-than-the-usual enthusiasm and imaginative flair. Drag and other performers also grace the stage, and the crowd is exuberantly responsive.


Revolution (375 South Bumby Avenue) — along with Hydrate video bar and Majestic Theater and Lounge

— are a seven-day-a-week mixed but mostly gay nightclub complex pulling a young crowd. Their nightly events include Monday's Noche Latina, Tuesday shows and midnight strip contests, Wednesdays all-male revues, Friday "Go-go Gods" and Saturday Burlesque shows and dance party for men and women both. There's nightly dancing and a Sunday beer bust and free barbecue, too.

Savoy Orlando (1913 North Orange Avenue), with two bars and a patio garden, serves many kinds of beer, with full liquor offerings, too. Their hot, shirtless bartenders are joined by shirtless customers. Happy hour here runs 5 to 9 pm. They also feature the hot dancers Men of Savoy, Tuesdays through Sundays.

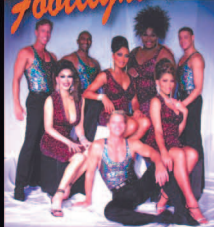
Bear Bar (4453 Edgewater Drive) is Orlando's only bear and leather bar, with a popular Thursday underwear night and dress code-enforced Saturday nights.

Other bars include **Hanks** (5026




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Valentino of Twist, South Beach



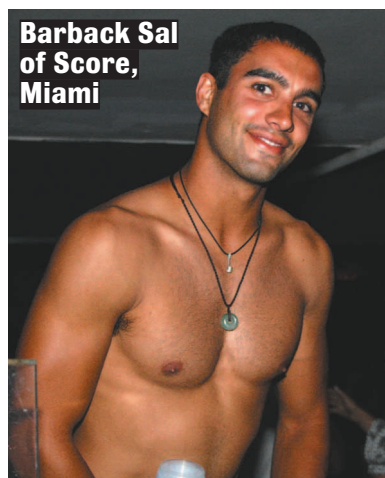
Sayra of Twist, South Beach



Bartender Darius of Halo Lounge, South Beach



Cliff and Avi of Twist, South Beach



Barback Sal of Score, Miami



Bartenders Alex & Javier of Score, Miami



Tiffany Fantasia with Alberto at Palace Bar, South Beach

Edgewater Drive), **New Phoenix** (7124 Aloma Avenue); **Paradise Orlando** (1300 North Mills Avenue), and **Wylde's** (3557 South Orange Avenue). **Club at Firestone** (578 North Orange Avenue) is a mixed concert and entertainment venue with a gay following. **Stardust Lounge** (431 East Central Boulevard) is a women's club with a nearby sister restaurant, **Beacon** (100 South Eola) that's the Sunday brunch spot for downtown sophisticates.

Stonewall Bistro (741 West Church), **Blue Bistro and Grill** (815 North Mills Avenue) and **Little Fish Big Pond** (512 South Sandord Avenue) are other gay-favorite dining spots. **Pom Pom's** (67 Bumby Avenue) is a "tea-house and sandwicheria" of note, with a gallery showcasing local gay artists.

Funky Monkey Wine Company (912 North Mills Avenue) is a downtown restaurant and wine bar for lunch, brunch and dinner, owned and operated by Tasters Guild Orlando. **Ham-**

burger Mary's (110 West Church) has a menu that's familiar to most, and a fabulous Wednesday night of Miss Mary'oke with Dame Edna. For great take-out food or outdoor seating, **903 Mills Market** (903 South Mills) has nice breakfast and sandwiches.

Fifi's (100 South Eola Drive, suite 104) is a bistro and wine bar in downtown Thornton Park, with stylish pink and white décor. Known for gelato, Dina's berry shots and great Sunday brunches, they also have special drag shows every third Monday.

Sauna and shopping

Club Orlando (450 East Compton Street; The-clubs.com), part of the national chain of private men's clubs, is one of the nicest bathhouses to be found — anywhere. The club has an outdoor Olympic-size pool with wrap-around deck and jacuzzi, steam room, dry sauna, a tropical garden, patio, satellite-TV lounge, plus 43 cubicles for

your pleasure and relaxation. At their full-range gym a hunky certified instructor is on hand to help you with your workout, and all the courteous staff are helpful when you need them, but never intrusive. Doing your thing is the name of the game here. There are free Sunday cookouts and pool parties from 1 pm, plus free feature movies and popcorn Thursdays from 7 pm. See their website for more details, directions and updates for this and the other clubs around the country.

Urban Body (12 Summerlin Avenue) is a fashion boutique, and **Ritzy Rags** (928 North Mills Avenue) features baubles, wigs and many a cross-dressing staple. **Naked Gun Video** (476 North Orange Blossom Trail) has a good selection of video DVDs, both Hollywood fare and adult themed, plus lubes. **Back Room Store** (5026 Edgewater Drive) carries accessories such as lubes, toys and rings. For fine-tuning the perfect Florida tan, **Manhattan Tanning** (653

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727 Lincoln Rd
- 3) **Twist**
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RESTAURANTS

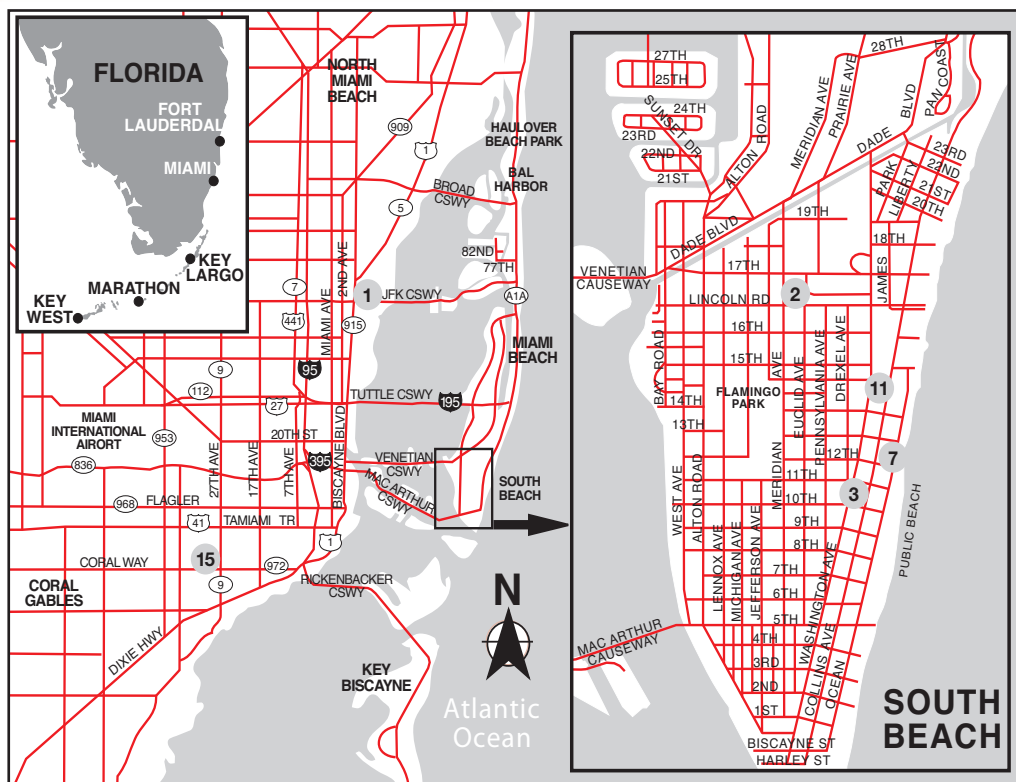
- 1) **Royal Bavarian Schnitzel Haus**
(305) 754-8002
1085 NE 79th St

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 11) **Island House**
(305) 864-2422
1428 Collins Ave
715 82nd St

RETAIL & OTHER

- 15) **Club Body Center**
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2991 Coral Way



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Miami / South Beach

The restored Art Deco-style blocks of South Beach (the part of Miami Beach south of 22nd Street) attract gay and straight alike from the globe over.

Accommodations

The enduring **Island House** (1428 Collins Avenue; 305-864-2422) rents studios and apartments at several Miami Beach locations. Their 21-unit accommodation on Collins Avenue is but a block from the beach. It features large, modern, unfussy rooms with king beds and small kitchens, as well as several smaller economy rooms. The location is also within easy walking distance of Washington Avenue hot spots. Island House guests enjoy a complimentary breakfast buffet.

Nightlife

Nightlife in South Beach goes late, so an afternoon siesta will be in order.

Many typically do that on the beach.

Twist (1057 Washington Avenue) is a must for any gay South Beach visitor. Late-night intrigue and a packed dance floor are what make this cocktail and dance bar such a kick. It's fun to wander the maze, where an international crowd shows up nightly, and it's surprisingly easy to find a private space to chat. The atmosphere here is friendly and relaxed, and the bar team exceptional.

The stylish **Score** (727 Lincoln Road) is a cocktail bar and dance club, with terrace seating in front, on the cruisy Lincoln Road Mall. Their Sunday t-dance is well-attended. Their Crème lounge upstairs is home to the official weekend kickoff party called "Crème and Sugar" come Thursday.

Halo Lounge (1625 Michigan Avenue), a contemporary boutique smoke-free venue, offers plush seating and lounge music.

The Palace (1200 Ocean Drive) is another must visit. This is famed Ocean Drive's only gay bar and restaurant, situated right across from the gay beach

(look for the flags). The Palace is open from 10 am till 11 pm (till midnight for drinks), slightly later on weekends. High-energy drag shows that spill on to the sidewalk are a hoot here.

Edison Farrow's site **Sobesocial club.com** offers a peek into South Beach's gay nightlife schedule, including special events hosted by him ever and anon.

Bathhouses

Plan a visit, too, to one of the premier bathhouses in the country, **Club Body Center Miami** (2991 Coral Way; Cbcresorts.com), where they've been in the game for decades. Current events here include Buddy Night and Black Out Party (bring a friend to help you work your way through the halls in darkness!), happy hour, and a free poolside lunch every Saturday and Saturday afternoon. Visit them online for more info.

Coming 2009 in midtown, **Flex Miami**, a full service sauna with a super gym is expected to inject much gayness into the Miami scene. ▼