

Martin County in the Rankings

- **America's Happiest Seaside Town:** Stuart beat out popular coastal towns such as Portland, Maine and Hermosa Beach, Calif. to take the crown as the nation's Happiest Seaside Town in 2016. Stuart is a hidden gem and an Old Florida-style treasure. The town shares its waters with sea turtles, dolphins and sailfish. (Source: Coastal Living — 2016)
- **Best Beach Town Housing Market in the U.S.:** Hobe Sound, which is technically not a town but an unincorporated part of south Martin County, was named the nation's top beach town housing market for its warm weather, low crime rate and affordable housing. Hobe Sound sits between Jonathan Dickinson State Park and the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge. (Source: Realty Trac — 2014)
- **America's Most Beautiful City:** Stuart was named the most beautiful city for its size in a national competition. Its small-town vibe, historic downtown and boating lifestyle make Stuart unique. (Source: American in Bloom competition — 2008)
- **Best School District in Florida:** The Martin County School District ranked as the top-ranked K-12 school district in the entire state of Florida. (Source: Niche — 2015)
- **9th-Most Beautiful Small Town in America:** Stuart earned this distinction because it neighbors the most bio-diverse lagoon in the Northern hemisphere and is also home to the Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center. (Source: House Beautiful — 2015)
- **12th Toughest Golf Course in America:** Medalist Golf Club in Hobe Sound is known around the nation for its difficulty. Overlaid by Greg Norman's architecture, Medalist Golf Club has no rough, only scrub pines and swamp. (Source: Golf Digest — 2010)
- **Best Place to retire in the United States:** Martin County's healthcare, sunshine, beaches, entertainment and community events make it the best place in the nation to retire. (Source: Find the Home — 2015)
- **Third-best Small Town to Visit:** Stuart in Martin County offers a wealth of boating and fishing opportunities on the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon. It also has 35 world-class golf courses and a top-rated public school system. (Source: Smithsonian — 2015)
- **12th-best Golf Course in Florida:** The 18-hole McArthur Golf Club in Hobe Sound is a private golf course designed by Nick Price and Tom Fazio. (Source: Golf Digest — 2015)
- **Sailfish Capital of the World:** Stuart is the Sailfish Capital of the World because giant, trophy-size sailfish congregate in the Gulf Stream off St. Lucie Inlet. Dolphins, wahoo, kingfish, tarpon, snook, redfish, sea trout and more swim in the waters off Stuart. (Source: Stuart Chamber of Commerce — 1957)
- **Top 100 Hospital in the Nation:** Martin Health System is an eight-time winner of the Top 100 Hospitals award. (Source: Truven Health Analytics — 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013)
- **Top-10 Family Friendly Beach:** Bathtub Beach in Martin County is perfect for families. It is protected by a reef that creates a lagoon effect, with calm, warm water, lifeguards, picnic tables and restrooms. (Source: TripAdvisor — 2007)
- **20th-best Small Town in America:** Stuart's 16,000 residents enjoy vacation-like living in one of the nation's best small towns. (Source: Mom.me — 2015)
- **Fifth-best Hospital in the Nation for Heart Attack Care:** Martin Medical Center in Stuart placed among the top five hospitals in the nation for heart attack care. (Source: BetterDoctor.com — 2015)
- **Seventh-Most Happiest Town in Florida:** Martin County's Palm City finished as the seventh-most happiest town in Florida because of its education, employment and cost of living. (Source: Zippia — 2014)

TOP MARTIN COUNTY FACTS

Paddleboard/Kayak/Canoe: Martin County has more than 20 marinas to launch water adventures. Off shore, there are many dive site opportunities.

The Arts: Downtown Stuart features a contemporary performing arts center called The Lyric. The theatre, which was once a silent movie house in the 1920s, was completely renovated in 2014 with all new seating, new walls, and lobby.

World-Class Fishing: Martin County residents and visitors can fish in freshwater, inshore saltwater and offshore saltwater. Martin County not only fronts the Atlantic, but also incorporates parts of the St. Lucie and Indian Rivers and extends all the way west to Lake Okeechobee, the largest freshwater lake in the South. Sport fishermen love the county, which is commonly referred to as the "Sailfish Capital of the World."

Beaches: Martin County has myriad Atlantic beaches spanning nearly 22 miles of white-sand coastline. There's individual access strips that allow for more private spots to enjoy the surf.

The St. Lucie Inlet: The St. Lucie Inlet is the most bio-diverse lagoon ecosystem in the Northern hemisphere. The Inlet, which provides habitat for over 4,300 species of plants and animals, is important to Martin County because it provides critical access between inland waterways, centers of commerce and private and commercial docks and the Atlantic Ocean.

Four Major Airports in Close Proximity: Martin County is 45 minutes from Palm Beach International Airport, 90 minutes from Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, almost two hours from Miami International Airport, and two hours from Orlando International Airport. Stuart's Witham Field Airport offers a closer option. Witham Field Airport is home to the Stuart Jet Center, which accommodates aircraft as large as a Gulfstream V.

Shopping: Martin County offers a slew of top-notch retail centers. The Treasure Coast Square Mall, the Harbour Bay Plaza, and the shops in the downtowns of Stuart and Jensen Beach are just a few.

Golf: Martin County is home to more than 35 world-class golf courses. Legendary golf pros such as Jack Nicklaus and Chi Chi Rodriguez have designed golf courses here. Tiger Woods recently purchased a 10-acre estate, with a private golf course, on Jupiter Island.

Ecotourism: Martin County has more than 93,000 acres of conservation land to explore. Martin County's beautiful outdoors offers everything from horseback riding to hiking, particularly at local preserves and state parks such as Jonathan Dickinson State Park.

Worldwide cuisine: Martin's top-notch waterfront and indoor restaurants offer an array of cuisine to whet your appetite. Restaurants serving international, Caribbean, New World, Latin, and more are offered in Martin County.

Schools: Martin County public school district is one of Florida's highest-performing school districts in Florida. The Martin County School District's new Federal Graduation Rate is among the highest in the state at 88.8 percent. Jensen Beach High, Martin County High, and South Fork High schools are ranked among Newsweek Magazine's 2014 list of America's Best High Schools

Hospitals: Martin County Health System ranks among the top 10 percent of hospitals nationwide, according to The Joint Commission, one of the most respected accreditation agencies in the U.S. Martin Health System and Martin Health System South are four-time national winners of the Top 100 Hospitals in the U.S.

All-Year, Sunny Weather: Martin County boasts an average annual temperature of 74 degrees.

"The Panama Canal of Florida": Stuart, the county seat of Martin County, sits on the eastern point of the Okeechobee Waterway, a 54-mile long waterway and Florida's only cross-state canal. Stuart is nicknamed the "The Panama Canal of Florida" because the waterway extends from the Atlantic Ocean in Stuart to the Gulf of Mexico in Fort Myers.

Close Proximity to World-Famous Attractions: You can access all of Florida's major attractions and cities from Martin County. Orlando's Disney World and Miami Beach are within 100 miles radius of Martin. A day trip will get you to Key West, Tampa, Jacksonville or Tallahassee.

Tourism: Martin County is led by a tourist-oriented economy, and hotel occupancy is on the rise here. About 91.1 percent of all Martin County hotels were occupied in March 2015, the highest occupancy rate recorded in a decade, according to research firm STR Inc.

The Reefs: Martin County has numerous thriving natural and artificial reefs. Each reef offers rich aquatic life, which is perfect for recreational divers.

Historic downtowns: History is preserved here in Martin County as the area boasts more than 20 galleries in the historic downtowns of Stuart, Jensen Beach, Port Salerno and Hobe Sound.

Emerging Business Center: Martin County has more than 400 manufacturers making everything from medical devices to solar and alternative energy products. Local aviation manufacturer companies like Triumph Aerostructures-Vought Aircraft Division and Paradigm Precision are thriving in global markets. Martin is also located near life science institutions Scripps Research Institute and Torrey Pines Molecular Research Institute.