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South Florida: The property hotspot of the world for superyacht owners

With year-round sunshine, extensive waterways, numerous marinas, and no state income tax, South Florida has become a top destination for superyacht owners. The area's appeal attracts boating enthusiasts and high-end homebuyers from across the globe, particularly to Palm Beach County.

South Florida hosts three major boat shows annually, drawing thousands of boats and over 200,000 attendees. These shows—Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, the Miami International Boat Show and Palm Beach International Boat Show—showcase the region's prominent boating lifestyle.

South Florida's Top Boat Shows

The Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, now-Nov. 3, marking the season kickoff, is projected to bring in 100,000 visitors and showcase 1,300 boats, contributing \$1.79 billion to the economy. While held outside Palm Beach County, the impact of Fort Lauderdale's expansive 300 miles of waterways and 100 marinas extends regionally, boosting interest in nearby boating communities.

The Palm Beach International Boat Show, scheduled for March 20-23, 2025, in West Palm Beach along Flagler Drive, will feature more than \$1.2 billion in yachts and marine accessories, with 475 exhibitors and more than 800 boats from 600 brands. Drawing more than 55,000 visitors each year, this all-in-one venue appeals to high-net-worth individuals seeking convenience and exclusivity, avoiding the multilocation setup of other major boat shows.

The Miami International Boat Show, Feb. 12-16, 2025, across six Miami and Miami Beach venues, is set to attract more than 100,000 visitors and 1,000 exhibitors showcasing more than 1,000 boats. Expected to generate a \$1.3 billion economic impact, this year's show will also feature luxury superyachts at Watson Island through its partnership with SuperYacht Miami.

Demand for boating lifestyle

The high demand for South Florida's boating lifestyle fuels the local property market, attracting international and domestic buyers seeking waterfront homes and year-round boating access. Palm Beach County residents enjoy easy access to this boating culture, supported by a pro-business environment, favorable tax laws and ample opportunities for waterfront living. South Florida remains a leading choice for superyacht owners worldwide, and for many in Palm Beach County, living near the water is an integral part of the lifestyle.



Smitheman

Courtney Smitheman
2024 JTHS-MIAMI President
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