

# CORAL GABLES



## Coral Gables: An International City from the Start

As Coral Gables City Founder George Merrick formulated the initial elements of his dream city in the 1920's, he identified spacious park and open space locations, selected the public landscaping, established the zoning and regulatory codes, approved all public and private buildings planned, and created the social organizations necessary for a city of lasting importance. Merrick wanted his city to be not only attractive to the eye but also to the intellect, so he convinced university planners to locate the main campus of the University of Miami in Coral Gables. In 1926, Merrick wrote "the university will have far reaching influence on our whole nation and even upon the Latin countries with whom our business and intellectual destinies by wise Providence are plainly linked."

Merrick knew the university and his City were destined to serve as International Gateways by virtue of geography and strategy, and he fostered that concept through architecture (although 14 were planned, he constructed 7 international thematic villages), cultural exchanges, foreign government presence, and international outreach.

Merrick's legacy of a great international city, small in size but boundless in enterprise, continues today through corporate investment, university programs, and cultural exchanges. Today, the University of Miami and Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management's Executive MBA program attracts students from more than 100 countries. Through corporate enterprise, the city is home to more than 175 multinational companies that have selected Coral Gables as their gateway to either the U.S., Latin America, or the world. In addition to U.S.-based companies, the City has regional offices of international companies, from Italy, England, Australia, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, France, Canada, Spain, Bermuda, and The Netherlands. The popular "Flags on Ponce" program, a boulevard of international flags, proudly announces the more than 90 different countries that do business with Coral Gables companies. International cuisine is also a signature of Coral Gables with award-winning cuisine from around the world including Vietnam, India, Thailand, France, Italy, Spain, and the Caribbean. As for foreign government presence, Coral Gables continues to be the location of choice for official consular offices and residences.

Coral Gables is proud to be the office address for more than 25 consulates and cultural or trade offices. In recognition of this international presence, the U.S. Department of State has located its Office of Foreign Missions in Coral Gables and the World Olympians Association has selected Coral Gables as one of only three worldwide offices.

One important aspect of international outreach is the Sister City program. Started almost fifty years ago, through a twinning with Cartagena, Colombia in 1957, Coral Gables currently has six Sister Cities. These cities are Cartagena, Colombia (1957); Quito, Ecuador (1975); Granada, Spain (1989); La Antigua, Guatemala (1993); Aix-en-Provence, France (1997); and the Province of Pisa, Italy (2003). Assisted by the Commission-appointed International Affairs Coordinating Council, the City recently hosted delegations from Pisa, Aix, and Cartagena. The City, in turn, has sent delegations to Aix, Pisa, La Antigua, and Granada. In addition to its Sister City responsibilities, the Council, which was created in 1995, also advises the City Commission on other international outreach efforts, including coordinating the visits of international dignitaries, fostering mutually beneficial relationships with the Consular Corps community, and facilitating international cultural exchanges.

## Foreign Government Offices

ARUBA TOURISM AUTHORITY  
2631 Ponce de Leon Boulevard  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-445-9619; fax 305-445-2801

CENTRO CULTURAL DE ESPAÑA  
800 Douglas Road, Suite 170  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-448-9677; fax 305-448-9676

CONSORTIUM FOR COMMERCIAL PROMOTION OF  
CATALONIA (COPCA)  
2655 Le Jeune Road, Suite 810  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-442-4018

CONSULATE GENERAL OF BARBADOS  
150 Alhambra Circle, Suite 1000  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-442-1994/442-7471; fax 305-567-2844

CONSULATE GENERAL OF COLOMBIA  
280 Aragon Avenue  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-448-5558; fax 305-448-9537

CONSULATE GENERAL OF EL SALVADOR  
2600 Douglas Road, Suite 104  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-774-0840 & 888-301-1130; fax 305-774-0850

CONSULATE GENERAL OF ITALY  
4000 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 590  
Coral Gables, FL 33146  
305-374-6322; fax 305-374-7945

CONSULATE OF THE PRINCIPALITY  
OF MONACO  
2000 Ponce de Leon Boulevard  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
786-546-2175; fax 786-513-3241

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SPAIN  
2655 Le Jeune Road, Suite 203  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-446-5511; fax 305-446-0585

CONSULATE GENERAL OF URUGUAY  
1077 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite B  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-443-9764; fax 305-443-7802

EXTENDA - AGENCIA ANDALUZA DE  
PROMOCIÓN EXTERIOR (SPAIN)  
1500 S. Douglas Road, Suite 230, 670  
Coral Gables, Florida 33134  
305-444-4647; fax 305-856-7474

HONORARY CONSULATE OF BELIZE  
370 Minorca Avenue  
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

HONORARY CONSULATE OF FINLAND  
3399 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Suite 200  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-444-0444; Fax 305-444-9057

\*HONORARY CONSULATE OF HUNGARY  
1550 Madruga Avenue, Suite 201  
Coral Gables, FL 33146  
305-448-2131; fax 305-448-3184

\*HONORARY CONSULATE OF SENEGAL  
4000 Ponce De Leon Boulevard, Suite 700  
Coral Gables, Florida 33146  
305-371-4286; fax 305-371-4288

\*HONORARY CONSULATE OF TOGO  
4000 Ponce De Leon Boulevard, Suite 700  
Coral Gables, Florida 33146  
305-371-4286; fax 305-371-4288

\*HONORARY CONSULATE GENERAL OF  
PORTUGAL  
1901 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-444-6311; fax 305-444-7641

\*HONORARY CONSULATE GENERAL OF ST. KITTS  
& NEVIS  
6855 Red Road, Suite 600  
Coral Gables, Florida 33143  
305-273-2333

**\*HONORARY CONSULATE GENERAL OF THAILAND**

2199 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 301  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-444-7577; fax 305-444-0487

**\*HONORARY CONSULATE OF EL SALVADOR**

806 Douglas Road, Suite 580  
Coral Gables, Florida  
305-445-1110; fax 305-445-2450

**ITALIAN TRADE COMMISSION**

4000 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 590  
Coral Gables, Florida 33146  
305-461-3896; fax 305-374-7945

**OFFICE OF EDUCATION OF SPAIN**

2655 Le Jeune Road, Suite 1000  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-448-2146; fax 305-445-0508

**OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS**

Regional Office  
95 Merrick Way, Suite 505  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-442-4943; fax 305-442-4973

**TAIPEI ECONOMIC & CULTURAL OFFICE IN MIAMI**

2333 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 610  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-461-3420; fax 305-461-3221

**TRADE COMMISSION OF SPAIN**

2655 Le Jeune Road, Suite 1114  
Coral Gables, FL 33134

**WORLD OLYMPIANS ASSOCIATION**

The Biltmore Hotel – Executive Center  
1200 Anastasia Avenue, Suite 140  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
305-446-6440; fax 305-446-4523