THE ANNUAL FORT LAUDERDALE INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW

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The 58th Annual FORT LAUDERDALE BOAT SHOW

By Kate Lardy

Get ready for the world's largest in-water boat show, November 1-5. Now in its 58th year, the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show—FLIBS for short—takes over the "Venice of the Americas" with seven locations and more than 1,000 boats on display in the water and on land. Traditionally running Thursday through Monday, this year's show represents a date change. It now begins on a Wednesday and finishes on Sunday.

Six on-the-water locations span from the Sails Marina just outside the 17th Street Causeway to the Las Olas Marina a few miles north on the Intracoastal Waterway. The Broward County Convention Center on land augments this with smaller boats as well as events such as the Bluewild Ocean Adventure Expo and the Kids' Fishing Clinics, presented by Hook the Future.

The Bahia Mar Yachting Center is still the center of the action and will remain so for another 50 years, thanks to a new lease signed with the hotel and marina. Consequently, the Fort Lauderdale City Commission voted to allow the Bahia Mar operators to submit plans for redeveloping the 39-acre site into an upscale community and the permanent home of the boat show.

Those looking for an upscale boat show experience can buy VIP tickets to the Windward Club again this year. The exclusive package costs $225 per day and includes show access, water taxi transport and, most importantly, entry to the air-conditioned club room at the Hall of Fame Marina. Offering cool respite, it features gourmet food, an open bar and a concierge, who can also assist with booking yacht appointments.

Purchase show tickets, VIP packages, water taxi tickets and parking at *flibs.com*, where there is also a link to *boatshowhotels.com* for accommodations.

No matter what you are looking for—from bay boats and ski boats to sportfishers and megayachts—everything is on hand in Fort Lauderdale. Begin your search with these just-launched or updated models from 40 builders.

Prestige

It's hard to believe the new Prestige 520 (52' 9" LOA, 14' 9" beam) is only 52 feet. A full flybridge, pop-up lounge chairs on the foredeck, oversized swim platform, integrated passerelle, tender garage, and private entrance to a large owner's cabin are a few of the features that belie her size. Prestige's other debut is the sporty 460 S (46' 10" LOA, 13' 11" beam), which shows the builder's emphasis on flexible spaces: The main deck can be a protected living area, or by opening the large sunroof and vast aft sliding glass door, it can be part of the outdoors. Volvo IPS drives offer easy maneuverability and a 33-knot top speed. *prestige-yachts.com*

Nordhavn

The "CP" in Nordhavn's new N59CP (58' 9.5" LOA, 17' beam) stands for Coastal Pilot, yet the ocean-going enthusiasts at Nordhavn interpret a coastal cruise as a jaunt from Alaska to Mexico. The semi-displacement hull has a 1,000-nautical mile range but when needed, can be pushed to 20 knots. The main deck combines the lower helm, galley and salon into one social space. Below-decks, two or three staterooms are possible. Outdoors, the cockpit configuration with integral swim step is conducive to fishing and diving, and the flybridge seats up to 12 for alfresco dining. Standard power is courtesy of twin 715-hp Cummins QSM 11 engines. *nordhavn.com*