



St. Lucie County International Airport

St. Lucie County's Gateway to the World

By Elizabeth Partridge

One of the best ways to visit St. Lucie County, Florida is to fly into St. Lucie County International Airport (FPR) and rent a car from one of the FBOs to explore the area. St. Lucie County is located on the eastern coast of the state, adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean and is renowned for its relaxed, laid-back atmosphere.

The airport originally opened in 1941 and was used by the US Navy for pilot training during World War II. Today, after significant growth economically and in the general population, FPR consists of over 3,600 acres of property and is an identified Port of Entry into the United States with a Customs and Border Protection building located on the airfield. The airport also boasts an operating Air Traffic Control Tower.

Because the airport is committed to maintaining a positive relationship with its neighbors, FPR has recently revised its voluntary noise abatement program. The Airport's Voluntary Noise Abatement Program procedures only allow touch and go, stop and go, and taxiback operations from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Saturdays. They are not allowed anytime on Sundays and holidays, but these operations may occur if the pilot stays west of US1.

FPR has two runways. Runway 9/27 is 6,492 feet long and has 4-box VASI, ILS to Runway 9 only, GPS and NDB approaches to both Runway 9 and 27. Runway 14/32 is 4,756 feet long and has GPS and NDB approaches.

Recent upgrades to FPR include a new ARFF facility, the design and groundbreaking of the new parallel, 4,000 feet long Runway 9L/27R, airfield lighting upgrades and the Airport West Commerce Park infrastructure project.

Fort Pierce Jet Center and Jet Service Center are the FBOs on field offering 100LL and Jet A fuels, maintenance, avionics, charts, car rentals and more. Three flight schools and

programs, including Regional Airline Academy, Tradewinds and Ari Ben Aviator Flight Schools, are located at FPR. Aviation-related operations include Missionary Flight International, American Jets air ambulance and charters, Treasure Coast Jets, Turbine Works, Mobarak Aircraft Painting and Interiors, local EAA Chapter 908, Civil Air Patrol, the St. Lucie County Airport Rescue Fire Fighters Facility and the St. Lucie County Sheriffs Aviation Unit.

Of course, those flying into FPR are welcome to visit the Tiki Restaurant or the Fairwinds Golf Course during their visit. Taxi straight to the golf course upon landing with your golf clubs in tow and the course will have a golf cart waiting for your arrival!

With constant upgrades and expansions to allow for growth in the St. Lucie County area, FPR is expected to continue expanding. Future additions to the airport include a possible DayJet DayPort and a new customs facility. Rehabilitation of Runway 9/27 is scheduled and a new airport terminal has been proposed in order to make the travel experience to St. Lucie County even smoother for those wishing to visit the ever-growing area.

St. Lucie County offers many amenities, including many fine attractions, area beaches and waterways, marinas and fishing, golf and tennis, as well as many parks, annual festivals, and street parties. The area is also an educational center, home to the top-ranked Indian River Community College, Florida Atlantic University, University of Florida, Smithsonian Institution Research Center, the Manatee Observation and Education Center, Oxbow Eco Center and Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. Sports enthusiasts make their way to the area for the New York Mets spring training, Tradition Field and Ginn Sur Mer Fall PGA tour. ■

For more information, visit <http://stlucieco.gov/airport> or call 772-462-1732.