

Stay cool: These 15 South Florida hotel pools are keeping your summer vacation afloat



The Hilton West Palm Beach's ground-floor swimming pool is free to locals and non guests. (Jim Rassol / Sun Sentinel)

Just in time for summer staycations, the public can now cool down at some of South Florida's swankiest hotel and boutique resort pools.

During South Florida's October-April high season – telltale signs include snowbirds and Spring Breakers storming the beaches – beachfront hotels reserve pool access strictly for paying guests. Not so anymore.

During the low season for tourism from May to September, the oceanfront W Fort Lauderdale and other luxe hotels offer pool access to anyone with a day pass, which ranges from free to \$40.

Yes, you can swim for free at Hilton West Palm Beach, says Hilton spokeswoman Katie Cherubin. The downtown hotel's best-kept secret is its ground-floor pool, featuring live music, food and yoga on the weekend. The Hilton's website doesn't advertise this freebie on purpose, but locals have caught wind of the deal through word-of-mouth, Cherubin says.



The ground-floor pool at the retro-themed resort Plunge Beach Hotel. (Plunge Beach Hotel / Courtesy)

## The Plunge Beach Hotel

**4660 El Mar Drive, Lauderdale-By-The-Sea; 754-312-5775 or [PlungeBeachHotel.com](http://PlungeBeachHotel.com)**

Midcentury motels and beach lodges are plentiful in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, and three of those 1950s-era buildings make up this retro-themed resort. The buildings, now upgraded and modernized, overlook the hideaway's ground-floor pool, and day passholders (\$35 for adults, \$25 for kids) get access to complimentary lounge chairs and umbrellas. Hotel WiFi and valet parking also are free, and poolside eats are 20 percent off at the Backflip Beach Bar. The pool is open 7 a.m.-7 p.m. daily.