

# Miami the Gateway of the Americas

**N**orthern Biscayne Bay's most prominent resident is the Port of Miami. As you pass by the Port by boat or by car, you can't help but notice the large cruise ships and gantry cranes all in a row. The Port of Miami is ranked eighth in the nation's leading seaports and is known as the "Cruise Capital of the World." The port offers the largest number of shipping lanes, calling to 132 countries and 362 ports around the world, with 63 percent of volume heading to and from the Caribbean and Latin America.

Did you know the port is actually built on land that did not exist 100 years ago! The islands under the port (Dodge, Lummus and Sams) are made from dredge spoil, the sand and soil that are carved out when shipping channels are deepened and widened. In shallow waters like Biscayne Bay, the spoil piles up and eventually extends above the water forming "islands". These spoil islands can then be developed and built upon. The result is a port that has contributed \$8 billion annually to the economy and 45,000 jobs to the community.

