

GULF TO BAY



ST. PETE
CLEARWATER
FLORIDA

the
Best
of St. Pete/Clearwater

Beaches, Brews,
Dining, Hotels,
Music & More

VOTED
BY YOU **52**

art & soul

Dalí, Chihuly, Western, Glass,
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bon appétit

Guide to Gourmet on the Gulf,
Outdoor Dining & Foodie Faves **56**

escapism
Explore Coastal Beaches & Vibrant Communities **10**
★ St. Pete Beach, Tripadvisor's #1 Beach in the U.S.A. ★



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Be inspired with live broadcasts from America's Best Beaches, brilliant sunsets and the area's biggest events.

t Twitter.com/VSPC
Follow @VSPC to stay in the loop on the area's latest happenings and fun giveaways to sporting events, concerts and more.

YouTube YouTube.com/VisitStPeteClearwater
Get a taste of all that St. Pete/Clearwater has to offer with our bold and vibrant video series highlighting the area's best restaurants and chefs, upcoming events, and can't-miss attractions!

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2 AMERICA'S BEST BEACHES



HOME OF AMERICA'S BEST BEACHES.
VisitStPeteClearwater.com

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U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION | DESTINATIONS INTERNATIONAL



Tampa Bay Times

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ON THE COVER: It's never been more important to escape to your own private cabana and slice of sugar white sand. Here, beachgoers are soaking in St. Pete/Clearwater's Gulf Coast. We'll have one waiting for you!

ORDER ONLINE: To explore this magazine online or to order a free print copy, go to VisitSPC.com/GulfToBay.

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Explore our award-winning Florida vacation destination made up of 26 charming small towns, vibrant cities, and America's Best Beaches. Find solitude among wide expanses of white sand and the gentle waves of the Gulf. And when your mood changes, just hop on a bike, a trolley or go for a stroll to discover more culture and adventure.



ARTS 42

Tour dozens of murals that add color to our cities, or step inside to enjoy performing or visual arts.



THINGS TO DO 68

With endless ways to enjoy your time here, we've highlighted the best in family-friendly fun, bars (day or night), shopping and more.



KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLOR

Tear out your own poster of St. Pete/Clearwater's vibrant colors, or flip it over and enjoy an old-school map with all the must-visit stops for an unforgettable getaway.



DINING 56

Our local dining critic gives you a taste of dining options you can trust. From boat-to-table seafood to upscale American cuisine, explore choices for every craving.



OUTDOORS 35

There's nothing like fresh air and outdoor adventure to clear your mind. Hike our parks or paddle our waterways to recharge.



escape

Listen closely. The sound of America's Best Beaches is calling. Not in an annoying, buzzing, chiming, always-on notification sort of way, but in the only peaceful, tranquil way it knows how. A way that entralls and excites all your senses.

Blue skies, powder-white sand beaches, and emerald green waves washes away your stress. The smell of fresh sizzling seafood floats through the Gulf breeze and awakens your tastebuds. A vibrant arts scene enlivens your imagination. At dusk, a magical sunset lights the sky on fire as you meander along the beach. Every step and breath you take, life eases.

Discover the sights, the sounds, the beauty of a trip to St. Pete/Clearwater. Where all things vibrant and vivid come together to heighten all your senses. Now, the only question is - where will you start?



81°

Average year-round temperature



Dolphins on Clearwater Dolphin Trail

200+

47

Craft breweries

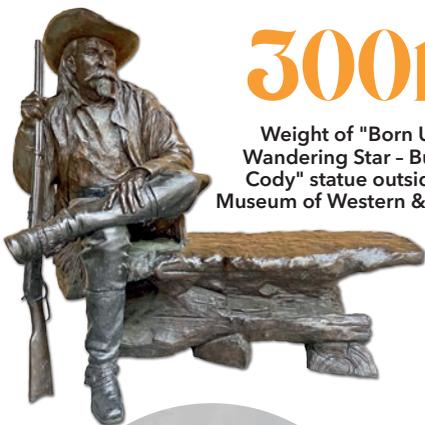


169

Movies filmed in St. Pete/Clearwater

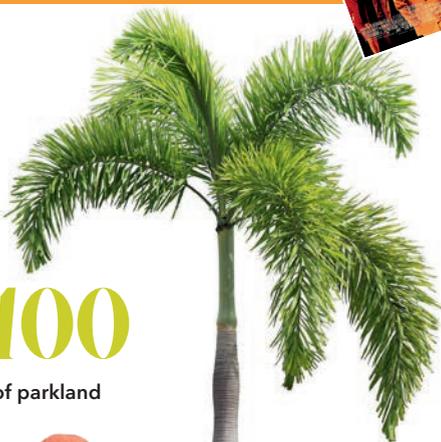


ST. PETE/CLEARWATER BY THE NUMBERS



300lbs

Weight of "Born Under a Wandering Star - Buffalo Bill Cody" statue outside James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art



2,400

Acres of parkland



442

Solar panels at St. Pete Pier



10K

Sea turtles hatched on our beaches each year

22

Flamingos at St. Pete's Sunken Gardens



115

Tarpon Springs Epiphany Celebrations



19

Stops in St. Pete along Florida's African-American Heritage Trail



99



Steps from your car to the water's edge at Pass-A-Grille Beach



1.5M

Gallons of water in new dolphin habitat at Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Miles of beaches

35/0

Inches of snow in the past decade

THIS IS TAMPA BAY

The Tampa Bay Region, which derives its name from the bay - the largest open-water estuary in Florida, can be defined by a trio of major cities: St. Pete to the south, Clearwater to the west and Tampa to the east. Though each has its own distinct vibe, collectively they form a growing and attractive region, with two international airports, a dynamic and diverse local economy, multiple pro sports teams, a subtropical coastal climate and an enviable Central Gulf Coast location just 90 miles from Orlando-area theme parks. Millions of visitors arrive each year, a growing number of them adding to the area's 3 million residents that place Tampa Bay among the Top 20 metro areas in the U.S.

As the most popular tourism destination on the American Gulf Coast, the St. Pete/Clearwater area is situated on a sun-soaked peninsula, bound on one side by the Gulf of Mexico and the other by Tampa Bay. The area is home to world-class beaches and 26 distinct communities, from the Greek sponge-fishing enclave Tarpon Springs in the north all the way down to Fort De Soto Park at the southern tip. Packed with arts, culture and adventure, visitors will discover a rhythm of life at whatever their speed.





PLAN YOUR VISIT

VisitStPeteClearwater.com

For your vacation planning, all the information you need is just a few clicks away. Check out our website for hotel rates and availability, maps, events, videos, listings for restaurants and tons of ideas for things to do on your next trip to the St. Pete/Clearwater area. And don't forget to sign-up for our free monthly email newsletter to stay current on events, special deals and trip ideas.

Find up-to-date information on local health guidelines and tips for how to visit responsibly at VSPC.info



GETTING HERE

ST. PETE-CLEARWATER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (PIE) • Offering low fares, small crowds and connection from 55 non-stop destinations, the airport puts you close to area beaches. 14700 Terminal Blvd., Clearwater, 727-453-7800, fly2pie.com

TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (TPA) • Just 30-45 minutes from beachfront accommodations, Tampa International provides numerous airlines and flights in an award-winning terminal complex that's easy to navigate. 4100 George J. Bean Parkway, Tampa, 813-870-8700, tampaairport.com

GETTING AROUND

CLEARWATER FERRY • Visit Clearwater Beach using this water taxi. Free parking is available and there are stops at North Beach and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. clearwaterferry.com

COAST BIKE SHARE • Borrow a bicycle from Coast Bike Share (including a new fleet of electric bikes) to explore downtown St. Pete. There are hundreds of bicycles at dozens of stations. You can rent from one station and return to any other. coastbikeshare.com

DOWNTOWN LOOPER • The Downtown Looper and eLooper electric bus connect major attractions within downtown St. Pete. The service runs seven days a week and is free to ride. psta.net

JOLLEY TROLLEY • The Jolley Trolley operates daily on Clearwater Beach, and its Coastal Route also operates daily between the beach and downtown Clearwater, Dunedin, Palm Harbor and Tarpon Springs. clearwaterjolleytrolley.com

PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY • PSTA is the public transit provider for the



St. Pete/Clearwater area, including the beaches and Route 300X Airport Express from Tampa International Airport. psta.net

SUNCOAST BEACH TROLLEY • You can explore all the beach towns along Gulf Boulevard from Clearwater Beach to St. Pete Beach with this connector that also has routes that run to downtown St. Pete. Exact fare is required. psta.net

THE CROSS-BAY FERRY • The high-speed ferry connects downtown St. Pete to downtown Tampa for a 50-minute scenic cruise across the calm waters of Tampa Bay. Operates seasonally from November until April. thecrossbayferry.com

ELECTRIC SCOOTERS • Like many cities across the country, St. Pete has added the popular electric scooter rental option, with hundreds of corrals around the city. Using the companies' respective phone apps, Razor offers scooters with a seat, and Veo offers standing models, and they charge by the minute to use the scooters. Just be sure to not ride on sidewalks; stick to bike lanes. razor.com and veoide.com

RIDE SHARING • Travel locally with popular ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft. Download the app and connect with a ride in minutes. uber.com and lyft.com

BRING YOUR OWN BOAT • Come with your own boat or rent one to tour the shoreline along the Gulf of Mexico and Intracoastal Waterway. VisitSPC.com/Boating

HOME AWAY FROM HOME



For some folks, a hotel is just a place to crash. For others, it's what makes the whole vacation. The St. Pete/Clearwater area offers a wide variety of lodging options to match your personality and fill your need for taking a vacation in the first place. Consider the benefits of the area's many choices.

CLASSIC BEACH INNS offer a bit of nostalgia to go along with the great scenery. They can also be a more affordable option when you just want to put your toes in the sand. Many of the classic beach hotels have been completely updated while still retaining their *Mad Men*-era charm. You can also find many that have been revived as outstanding boutique hotels just steps from the beach.



DOWNTOWN HOTELS put you within walking distance of some of the finest restaurants, breweries, museums and sports teams the area has to offer. And many of the downtown hotels and nearby restaurants are pet friendly so you can bring along four-legged family members.



COZY B&BS give you lots of flexibility to find a place that matches your needs while also giving you a homey getaway to live like a local. Opt for an entire house or a private room with all of the conveniences, including a host who can let you in on the must-see sites locals love.

SPACIOUS VACATION RENTALS are a great way to make a home away from home. They make a longer stay more comfortable with extra space, extra bedrooms, and extra amenities like a pool or boat dock.



BEACHFRONT RESORTS give you ready access to award-winning beaches and their signature soft powder-white sand. These full-service luxury hotels offer stellar service, highly rated dining options and a multitude of in-room amenities. Best of all, you'll have a front-row view to stunning sunsets.



CAMPING EXPERIENCES also run the gamut because St. Pete/Clearwater has plenty of options for campers. It is one of the few places in the country where you can pitch a tent in a waterfront campground, not far from a boat launch. You can also find posh RV resorts with loads of amenities.

WEATHER

St. Pete holds a Guinness World Records title for the longest run of sunshine (768 days, from February 1967 to March 1969), so no matter what time of year you come here, do pack sunscreen, a wide-brimmed hat and UV-protective sunglasses. Remember to always drink plenty of water. In late spring and summer, light, casual clothes work best. Fall and winter temperatures vary from mild to cool, so determine if it's time to pack a light jacket and pants.

	AVERAGE TEMPS	WINTER (DEC-FEB)	SPRING (MARCH-MAY)	SUMMER (JUNE-AUG)	FALL (SEPT-NOV)	
AIR		70°F/21°C	80°F/27°C	90°F/32°C	83°F/28°C	HIGH
		55°F/13°C	65°F/18°C	76°F/24°C	70°F/21°C	LOW
WATER		63°F (17°C)	74°F (23°C)	85°F (29°C)	77°F (25°C)	



explore

COASTAL BEACHES
INLAND COMMUNITIES

TARPON SPRINGS

HONEYMOON | SAFETY
ISLAND STATE PARK | HARBOR

CALADESI | DUNEDIN
ISLAND STATE PARK

CLEAR
WATER
BEACH
SAND KEY

CLEAR
WATER

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
& INDIAN SHORES

REDINGTON BEACHES

MADEIRA BEACH

TREASURE ISLAND

ST. PETE
BEACH

PASS-A-GRILLE | GULFPORT

FORT DE SOTO PARK

ST. PETE



DUNEDIN



CHALK ART FESTIVAL



CAPTAIN MEMO'S PIRATE CRUISE



CLEARWATER BAY

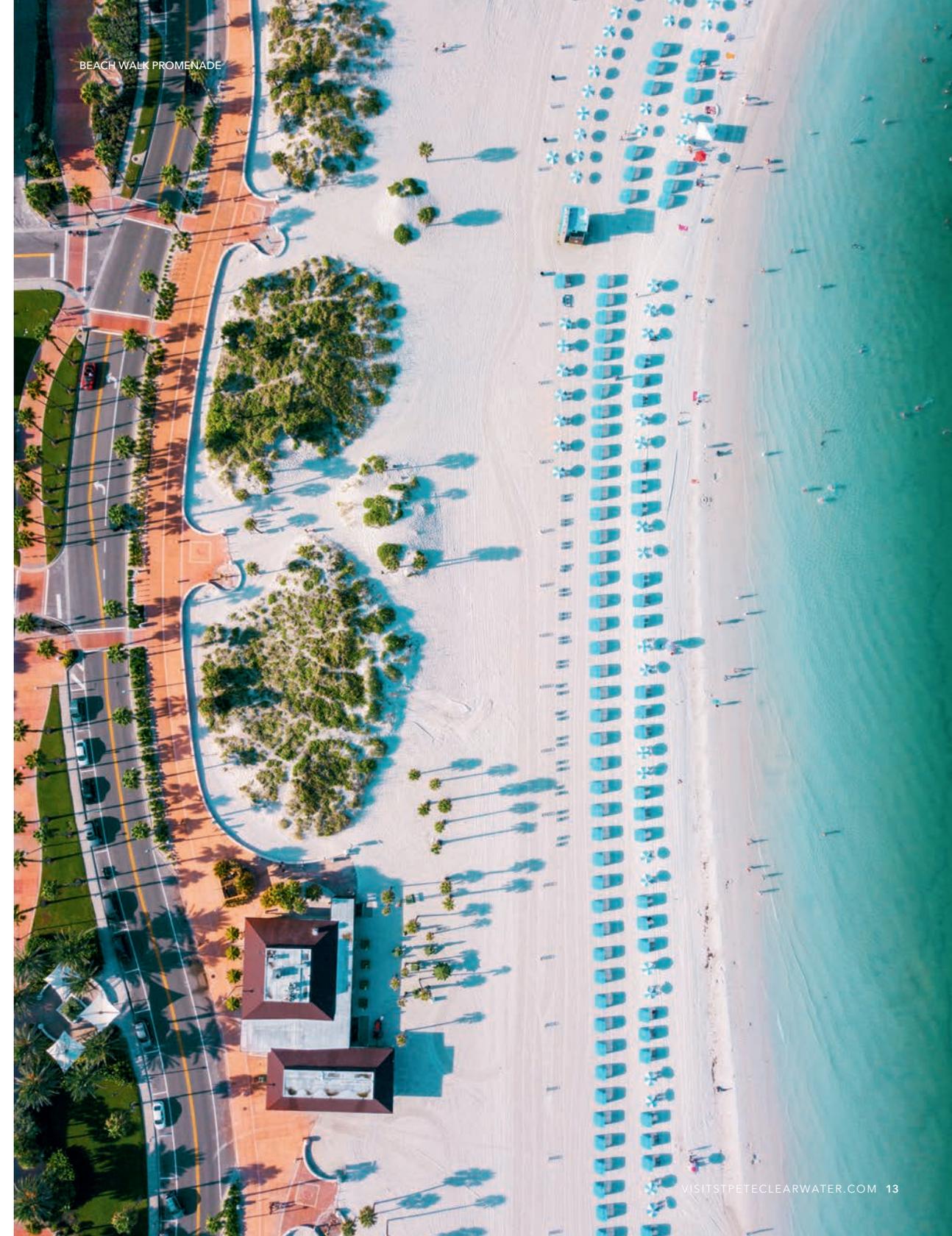


PIER 60

Clearwater Beach

VisitSPC.com/ClearwaterBeach • Though there are hundreds of things to experience on Clearwater Beach, the glorious beach itself remains its most famous attraction. Year after year, it is consistently ranked among the finest beaches in the U.S. and even the world, including its No. 1 ranking in the U.S. on Tripadvisor's list of Top Beaches for 2019, 2018 and 2016. You'll realize these accolades are richly deserved when you've first set foot on its gorgeous white sands and taken a splash in its warm, shallow, emerald green waters. There are plenty of fabulous hotels to choose from, many offering gorgeous waterfront views and beachside dining, including the Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach, the Opal Sands Resort and the Sandpearl Resort. Take a leisurely stroll

or bike ride down the Beach Walk Promenade where you can enjoy the lush landscaping and beach views, or hang out at the bustling Pier 60, where you can shop, play, catch a picture-perfect sunset, live music and even an outdoor movie in the evening. Be sure to take advantage of free parking in downtown Clearwater, then take the scenic route on the Clearwater Ferry to the beach or the nearby Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Once you've worked up an appetite, you'll have plenty of dining options on the beachfront, including Frenchy's Rockaway Grill, Marina Cantina, Pearly's Beach Eats and the laid-back Palm Pavilion Beachside Grill & Bar. After dinner, enjoy tasty tropical drinks and live music at a variety of lively nightlife spots, including Shephard's Tiki Beach Bar & Grill.



BEACH WALK PROMENADE



RUMFISH BEACH RESORT BY TRADEWINDS

St. Pete Beach

VisitSPC.com/StPeteBeach • Gorgeous. Laid-back. Magical. All three adjectives (among many others) only begin to describe this exceptional beach town, which is famous for its nearly unparalleled sand and sunsets. Named the No. 1 Beach in the U.S. for 2021 by Tripadvisor (up from No. 2 in 2020), St. Pete Beach offers a variety of water-sports, shopping, restaurants, galleries and more - plenty of options that please families, partygoers, solo travelers and retirees alike. It also offers a variety of places to stretch out for the night, from old-school Florida motels and inns to much posher hotels, including the iconic Pink Palace - The Don CeSar, the TradeWinds Island Resorts or the trendy retro-modern Postcard Inn. If you want to break away from the shore for a few hours, the lively Corey Avenue Shopping District - a staple of St. Pete Beach for over six decades - features a variety of funky shops, dining spots and galleries to explore and enjoy. In the evening, check out The Drunken Clam, a local favorite that serves up cocktails and fresh wings 'til the early morning hours, or sip on martinis at RumFish Grill as you lounge in the glow of an aquarium.



COREY AVENUE SUNDAY MARKET



THE DON CESAR



Honeymoon Island State Park

VisitSPC.com/Honeymoon • A natural barrier island and the most visited state park in Florida, **Honeymoon Island State Park** features four miles of sandy beaches, nature trails and a plethora of wildlife (keep an eye out for wandering gopher tortoises!) The name dates back to a 1939 *Life Magazine* contest where a newlywed couple won a two-week honeymoon stay on the island (photos of the lovebirds are on display at **The Rotary Club Centennial Nature Center**). There's a wide beach for dogs where your furry friend can swim and play, and an extensive nature trail network. While there are places for food and drinks, the island mostly has a secluded vibe that's well-suited for long walks, birdwatching, cookouts at a picnic pavilion, and sunset viewing. In addition to being a great destination, it's also the launching point to **Caladesi Island State Park**.

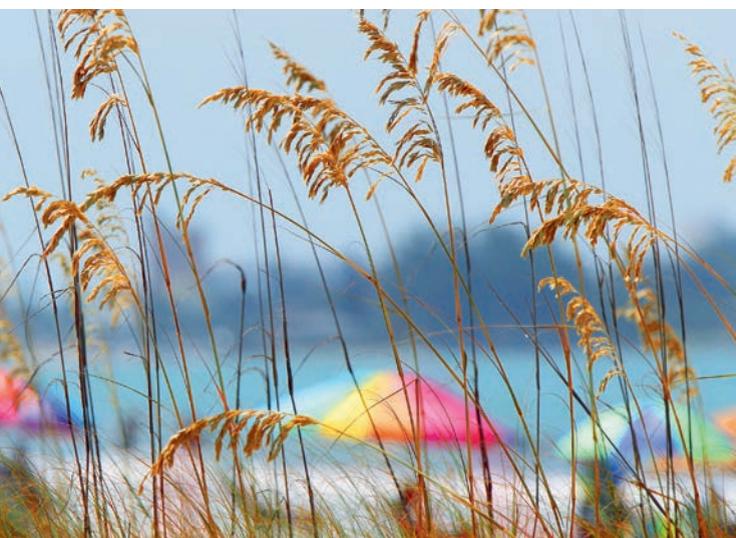
Caladesi Island State Park

VisitSPC.com/Caladesi • If you're in the mood for true seclusion, look no further than this immaculate barrier island. Despite its proximity to Clearwater Beach and downtown Dunedin, **Caladesi Island State Park** cannot be accessed by any road - you must take a boat before wandering its shores. To get here, you can either cruise over in your own vessel or hop aboard the **Caladesi Ferry from Honeymoon Island State Park** and cross Hurricane Pass. Once on the island, you'll see sugar-white sand and plenty of mangroves; what you won't see is much commercial development. In fact, outside of boat docks, a ranger station, some picnic shelters, a well-stocked concession stand (including beer and wine), a few outbuildings and a network of boardwalks, it's just you and Mother Nature. Caladesi's wildlife includes everything from ospreys to dolphins, and you can rent a kayak to explore the mangrove trails. Speaking of trails, there are three miles of them on the island, giving you clear views of animals from air, land and sea.



Sand Key

VisitSPC.com/SandKey • A tranquil paradise amid the bustle of its larger sibling, Clearwater Beach, Sand Key Park provides the perfect getaway without having to venture too far. Ideal for family outings, this amenity-rich park features a beautiful white-sand beach, umbrella and cabana rentals, large bathhouses, a dog park, a playground, picnic shelters and more. Just across the road, you'll find the Clearwater Community Sailing Center, which offers sailing classes and boat rentals. Within steps of the park, two full-service resorts – the Sheraton Sand Key Resort and Clearwater Beach Marriott Suites – offer numerous amenities and spectacular views, while a nearby shopping center features a trio of popular waterfront restaurants – Backwaters, Basimo Beach Cafe and the Columbia Restaurant, which is a sister location of the original Columbia (Florida's oldest restaurant) in Tampa's Ybor City district.



Indian Shores Indian Rocks Beach

VisitSPC.com/IRB • Bordered by the Intracoastal Waterway and the Gulf of Mexico, these two small communities are celebrated for their mellow family-friendly ambience, powdery white beaches, locally owned eateries and shops, and charming old-school fun. Play a round or two of classic mini-golf at the locally famous Smuggler's Cove Adventure Golf, which features a live alligator exhibit, or rent a boat for a few hours at Island Marine Rentals. And, thanks to the district's particularly narrow barrier island, there's never a far walk to the shoreline or attractions from the many public-access points. Spend a fun-filled day in the sun with your loved ones at Splash Harbour Water Park (connected to the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Harbourside), where you can speed down two 42-foot tall waterslides, float down a lazy river or swim in a zero-entry pool. Take a trip back in time at the Indian Rocks Historical Museum, or meet the local wildlife at the Seaside Seabird Sanctuary or the Indian Rocks Beach Nature Preserve.



SPLASH HARBOUR WATER PARK



PAINTINGS BY PLEIN AIRE COTTAGE ARTISTS

The Redingtons

[VisitSPC.com/TheRedingtons](https://www.visitpc.com/TheRedingtons) • REDINGTON BEACH, NORTH REDINGTON BEACH, REDINGTON SHORES: Stretching three miles and situated about halfway between St. Pete Beach and Clearwater Beach, these three beach towns are indeed compact compared to the more-popular neighboring communities, but they're also vibrant with character. Redington Shores caters a bit more to tourists, offering additional places to stay, including the quintessential beach motel **Hotel Sol**, as well as tennis courts and two playground areas for the little ones. There are also more places to eat, including the mega-popular **Seabreeze Island Grill**, "Florida Fresh" seafood restaurant **Broke 'n' Bored Grill** and the aptly named **Friendly Tavern**. Redington Beach, meanwhile, has no commercial businesses and very little parking; instead, it offers plenty of privacy, especially for locals and retirees. In North Redington Beach, you can book a private furnished balcony with stunning Gulf views at Hilton's **DoubleTree Beach Resort** or grab a bite at the family-owned **Frog Pond restaurant** and **Conch Republic Grill**, both local favorites. There's also some notable local history here: once upon a time, Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio used to hang out at what's now known as **The Tides Beach Club**. Combined, the Redingtons offer wide, white-sand beaches, as well as plenty of fishing, boating, parks and more, while remaining close to all of the surrounding area's attractions.



JOHN'S PASS VILLAGE & BOARDWALK

Madeira Beach

[VisitSPC.com/MadeiraBeach](https://www.visitpc.com/MadeiraBeach) • Beaming with good vibes and positive energy, Madeira Beach (aka Mad Beach) is an ideal spot for the classic Florida beach vacation. A place where hitting the glowing white beaches, named the **No. 9 Beach in the U.S. for 2021 by Tripadvisor**, taking a swim in the emerald-turquoise waters and shading underneath a beach umbrella isn't so much an option as it is an essential daily routine. But Mad Beach offers much more than obligatory beachcombing. The waterfront features **John's Pass Village & Boardwalk**, a massive outdoor shopping and dining complex with more than 100 stores and eateries; it also has quite the nightlife scene, with bars like **The Hut Bar & Grill** and the **Bamboo Bar** offering tropical cocktails, live music and bites to keep the party going. Nearby at **Hubbard's Marina**, you can book a deep-sea fishing charter, rent a **WaveRunner** or take a dolphin-watching cruise. There are myriad lodging options, like the new **Madeira Bay Resort & Marina**, only steps away from the pristine white sand. Seafood lovers take note: Mad Beach is often considered the "Grouper Capital of the World," and for good reason - this town knows its seafood. In fact, every year it hosts the **John's Pass Seafood Festival** for a full weekend of fresh grouper and other seafood, arts, crafts and entertainment.



Treasure Island

VisitSPC.com/TreasureIsland • Treasure Island is like an alluring seaside town ripped from the pages of some escapist novel, with its 3-mile stretch of beautiful sandy beaches and the promise of excitement emanating from its shores. Is it an easygoing beach town or a happening tourist destination? The answer is *both*, much to the delight of locals and visitors who frequently return to swim, snorkel, sun, parasail, stroll or take in a postcard-ready sunset. The town's annual events, such as the Sanding Ovations Sand Sculpture Competition, are also a big draw. There are plenty of accommodations to consider, from retro hotels like the Thunderbird Beach Resort and the Tahitian Resort to more upscale options like the Treasure Island Beach Resort and the FUSION Resort. There's also a busy commercial strip brimming with restaurants, shopping and well-known watering holes, including Ricky T's and Caddy's Treasure Island. Be sure to check out the bohemian Sunset Beach, a popular spot among the local LGBTQ community.



Pass-A-Grille

VisitSPC.com/PassAGrille • When you pass The Don CeSar heading south on Gulf Boulevard, you'll notice that the vibe almost immediately changes as the shopping plazas, high-rises and crowds of beachgoers quickly fade into the rearview. You're in Pass-a-Grille now, a distinctly laid-back district on the National Register of Historic Places and the southernmost point of St. Pete Beach. Formerly a sleepy fishing village that's been welcoming visitors since 1857, this refreshing slice of Old Florida features four miles of undeveloped, public Gulf Coast beaches and gorgeous views of Boca Ciega Bay on the harbor side. Though predominantly residential, the neighborhood offers plenty of cozy places to stay, including old-school charmers like the Keystone Motel and the Coconut Inn. Eighth Avenue features a variety of boutiques, small galleries and restaurants, including upscale dining options like Grace and The Dewey, which is part of the Berkeley Beach Club and includes a rooftop bar. Speaking of places to catch a glorious sunset, you'll find The Hurricane around the corner. Breakfast is essential at The Seahorse, and the ice cream at Paradise Sweets can't be missed. Merry Pier on the eastern side of the island offers fishing and charter boats, as well as ferries and shuttles that will take you to Egmont Key or Shell Key. Pass-a-Grille also offers plenty of street parking that's only a few steps away from the water, which is especially convenient if you have beach gear.



HISTORIC 8TH AVENUE



PARADISE GRILLE



SANDING OVATIONS SAND SCULPTURE COMPETITION

Fort De Soto Park

[VisitSPC.com/FortDeSoto](https://www.visitstpeteclearwater.com/FortDeSoto) • Covering five islands and over 1,100 acres on the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay, Fort De Soto Park is much more than award-winning beaches. Located at the southern end of St. Pete/Clearwater, Fort De Soto is the largest park in the Pinellas County parks system and packed to the gills with activities and amenities. Families could easily spend more than a day here, with its kayaking trails, dog beach, hiking and biking trails, fishing piers, boat ramp and expansive campground for longer stays. Its North Beach earned *Parents* magazine's top honors, thanks in part to the wide tidal pool that's perfect for playful splashing; it was also named "Best Beach for Families" by *USA Today* in 2014. There's rich history here too: Fort De Soto was named after Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto in 1900, when its namesake military post was constructed to alleviate concerns about the Spanish-American War. You can explore this historic fort and **Fort De Soto Batteries** on its largest island, Mullet Key, where you can also visit the **Quartermaster Storehouse Museum**. Be sure to grab a snack at the concession stand before taking the ferry to Egmont Key and its lighthouse.



St. Pete

[VisitSPC.com/StPete](https://www.visitstpeteclearwater.com/StPete) • Imagine, if you will, a city that radiates culture, sophistication and outright coolness in nearly every square inch of its urban landscape. This may sound like the premise of an obscure fantasy novel, but St. Pete (or, "The Burg," as many locals affectionately call it) is definitely not a work of fiction. Incredibly vibrant and artsy, St. Pete is brimming with hip restaurants, neighborhood bars and breweries, independently owned boutique shops, galleries, street murals and museums practically everywhere you look (*pro tip*: start on Central Avenue), which has earned the waterfront city a heap of accolades and awards, including being named one of *Condé Nast Traveler's* Top Big Cities in the U.S. in 2020 and one of "52 Places to Go in the World" by *The New York Times*.





St. Pete Pier District

This exciting new district is already being touted as the Southeast's largest waterfront playground and truly offers something for everyone. Spread out along 26 acres of dazzling Tampa Bay coastline, the Pier District features plenty of public green space to explore, a beach, enticing restaurants (Fresco's Waterfront Bistro, Teak, Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille), an interactive family playground and splash pad, a marketplace of local artisans and vendors, world-renowned artist Janet Echelman's remarkable (and massive) "Bending Arc" net sculpture, a fishing deck and much more. It's the perfect getaway for strolling, relaxing, playing, walking, biking, entertainment and dining.





Waterfront Museum District

Anchored by the Dalí Museum and the Mahaffey Theater, this dazzling district is bordered by the city's beautiful waterfront park system. Though there are plenty of amazing restaurants and boutiques along the bustling sidewalks of Beach Drive (the Eurocentric Cassis, The Birchwood and its Canopy rooftop lounge), as well as posh lodgings at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort, the district is true to its name with an impeccable roster of museums, including the Museum of Fine Arts, The James Museum and several others.

Central Arts District

Comprising the 300-700 blocks of Central Avenue, this district's unique mix of historic buildings and urban construction is home to a number of independent artists, galleries and studios (Chihuly Collection, Morean Arts Center, Studio@620, Art Lofts and many more). The 600 block alone, which is arguably one of the coolest blocks in St. Pete, has some of the highest concentration of murals in the city (be sure to take Florida CraftArt's mural tour during your visit). Aside from the thriving art scene, this is also an ideal area to catch some live music and dine on some savory local cuisine (Pacif Counter, Brick & Mortar).



CENTRAL AVENUE

The Edge District

Vibrant, artsy, eclectic and rapidly growing, this historic, award-winning and highly walkable district (located between Dr. M.L. King Jr. and 16th Streets, and First Avenues North and South) features a wide variety of locally owned, independent businesses situated among numerous murals and classic architecture. Catch a Tampa Bay Rays baseball game at The Trop and enjoy some wings at Ferg's Sports Bar afterward. The Edge includes well over a dozen restaurants (including Pinoy, Hawkers Asian Street Food, Dr. BBQ and Bodega), a micro-brewery (Green Bench Brewing Co.), myriad bars and pubs (No Vacancy, Intermezzo Coffee & Cocktails), and an abundance of shopping options (Ashe Couture Boutique).

Grand Central District

The Grand Central District is surrounded by historic neighborhoods for people who live, work and play in St. Pete. It's also home to Metro's LGBTQ+ Welcome Center and the new Tru By Hilton hotel, as well as numerous antique and specialty shops, including the Imagine Museum, Haslam's (Florida's largest new and used bookstore) and more. Like most of St. Pete's charming districts, there are plenty of great eateries and bars, too: Trophy Fish, Wild Child Restaurant & Cocktail Bar, Hawthorne Bottle Shoppe, Casita Taqueria and more. Beer lovers won't want to miss the Grand Central Brewhouse, which is located next to the dog-friendly DogBar.

Warehouse Arts District

This district, which was formerly an industrial area, is one of the best places in St. Pete to witness talented local artists fully in their element. Located along 22nd Street South, the district's resurgence stems from artists needing much larger spaces to accommodate larger pieces and heavy-duty equipment. Gallery spaces include the Duncan McClellan Gallery, The Factory, Creative Clay and more. Studios are open to visitors and stay open later during the Second Saturday Art Walk. For fine dining and spirits, be sure to visit Urban Stillhouse. Craft beer fans will also want to check out the breweries on this side of town, including 3 Daughters Brewing.

Deuces Live District

Celebrating St. Pete's rich African American heritage, the Deuces Live District includes a mix of locally owned art galleries (Uniquely Original Art Gallery), restaurants (Chief's Creole Café, Callaloo) and other specialty businesses. Adjacent to the Warehouse Arts District, Deuces Live also features a 19-marker African American Heritage Trail, which honors St. Pete's notable African American residents, and the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum.



Gulfport

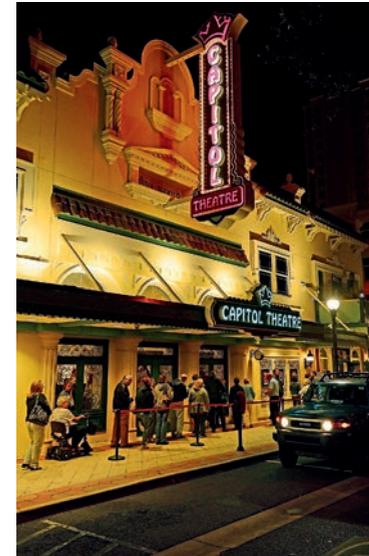
VisitSPC.com/Gulfport • Artsy, quirky and funky, Gulfport could possibly be the St. Pete/Clearwater area's most underrated gem. The community's downtown waterfront plays host to numerous unforgettable events throughout the year, including its annual Fine Arts Festival and the lizard-themed GeckoFest, a truly circus-like event held at the end of every summer that features street performers, live music and lots of people dressed in bizarre costumes. If you're not in town for that particular event, you can still check out other events like First Friday Art Walk and Third Saturday IndieFaire Night Market, or the open-air Gulfport Fresh Market every Tuesday. Gulfport features plenty of dining options, with a free trolley taking hungry customers from Fortunato's to the Neptune Grill, and some great laid-back waterfront bars, such as Salty's Gulfport. There's also a beach, with a playground and sand volleyball courts, anchored by the Gulfport Recreation Center, and the Gulfport Casino Ballroom, a historic event space located just steps away from Boca Ciega Bay.



GULFPORT CASINO BALLROOM



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM



Clearwater

VisitSPC.com/Clearwater • Though it does have one of the best beaches in the entire U.S. (Clearwater Beach), this gulf-side city is much more than a beach town. As one of the Tampa Bay region's three major cities, Clearwater has it all - from the shore to the stage. After some essential fun in the sun on the gorgeous powdery sand and in the crystal-clear waters of its world-famous beach, be sure to head over to Pier 60 for its nightly sunset celebration (Sunsets at Pier 60), a free event that includes lively street performers, local vendors and an awe-inspiring view of the sun's descent. Head downtown to the city's reinvigorated Cleveland Street District and take your pick among the array of restaurants, bars and boutiques that line its sidewalks, or catch an intimate live performance at the Bilheimer Capitol Theatre. You can also climb aboard the vintage-style Jolley Trolley for a fun and unique view of the city. Clearwater is a great place for sports fans - Major League Baseball's Philadelphia Phillies hold their spring training here and the women's St. Pete/Clearwater Elite Invitational (hosted by ESPN) is held each winter. People from around the country flock to the city's many special events every year, including the powerboat extravaganza Hooters Clearwater Offshore Nationals and the annual Clearwater Jazz Holiday, a weekend jazz festival that draws huge crowds to the waterfront Coachman Park every October.

Just across from the Clearwater Memorial Causeway, you'll find the recently expanded Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA), home of *Dolphin Tale* star, Winter the dolphin. Both an aquarium and a marine rescue facility, CMA now includes the beautiful Ruth and J.O. Stone Dolphin Complex, where Winter, Hope and their fellow dolphin pals now dwell. The new habitat includes a massive 16-foot window that gives you an amazing view of the dolphins. The aquarium is also home to a variety of other marine life, including sharks, stingrays, otters, pelicans and Kemp's Ridley sea turtles, the rarest and smallest sea turtle species in the world.





FRED HOWARD PARK



TARPON SPRINGS EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

Tarpon Springs

VisitSPC.com/TarponSprings • Is there an American city more synonymous with its Greek heritage than Tarpon Springs? With the highest number of Greek-American residents in the U.S., this beautiful coastal city's Greek culture and heritage are evident in its architecture, cuisine, customs and much more. World-renowned for its sponge industry, Tarpon Springs still draws visitors from around the globe for its famous **Sponge Docks** alone, though there's plenty more to discover in this historic community. Start on the riverfront at **Dodecanese Boulevard**, where you'll find a plethora of gift shops that sell everything from **Sponge Dock** souvenirs to home goods (plus, you can grab a bite of fresh seafood at **Rusty Bellies** if you get hungry). Head a few blocks south to explore the antique shops on **Tarpon Avenue**, which is home to several restaurants that serve up delectable (and authentic) Greek fare, including **Hellas**, **Mykonos** and **Mama's Greek Cuisine**. The **Tarpon Springs Historic District** is the perfect place for a sightseeing stroll of old-Florida buildings; while you're at it, be sure to visit the iconic, ornate **St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral** (a local landmark) on **Pinellas Avenue**. When your day winds down, stick your toes in the white sandy beach at **Fred Howard Park** and enjoy a spectacular sunset alongside nesting ospreys and eagles.



SPONGE DOCKS



PINELLAS TRAIL



DUNEDIN MARINA

Dunedin

VisitSPC.com/Dunedin • With a walkable downtown, pocket parks, a strong arts scene, close proximity to two of the world's best beaches (**Honeymoon Island State Park**, **Caladesi Island State Park**) and unique Celtic heritage, Dunedin is a community that will definitely delight. For outdoor fun, check out the **Dunedin Highland Games & Festival** each spring. You can party with a pipe band and witness muscular men and women compete in traditional **Scottish Heavy Athletics**. For a quieter experience, visit locally owned stores **Back in the Day Books** and the **Celtic Shop of Dunedin**. Grab a drink and enjoy the sunset at the rooftop bar of the historic **Fenway Hotel**, or catch a **Toronto Blue Jays** game if you're here during the spring training months. Winding its way from St. Pete to Tarpon Springs, the **Pinellas Trail** runs through the heart of Dunedin, making it an ideal stop for cyclists and pedestrians; the nearby **Hammock Park** trail is also worthy of exploration, and the views at **Dunedin Marina** shouldn't be missed. Dunedin is also a trendy destination for dining and nightlife. **Black Pearl of Dunedin** offers fine French cuisine in a romantic setting, while **Waterfront Bar at Bon Appétit** serves up cocktails and bar eats overlooking the water.



DUNEDIN HIGHLAND GAMES & FESTIVAL



MAIN STREET

Safety Harbor

VisitSPC.com/SafetyHarbor • If you need a break from the brisk pace of daily life, this quaint town offers classic Old Florida escapism with charm to spare. According to local legend, Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto thought he'd discovered the Fountain of Youth here. The site of these enchanted springs is now home to the 50,000-square-foot Safety Harbor Resort and Spa, a U.S. Historic Landmark and the perfect site to visit or stay in if you need to rejuvenate. Exploring the boutique stores and restaurants along Main Street may be your best place to start, so plan on parking the car and taking a walk down the brick-lined streets to map out your day. Enjoy a picnic lunch among the acres of hardwood trees and ancient Native American ceremonial mound at Philippe Park, then take a leisurely stroll along Bayshore Linear Park. Music lovers should head downtown for its long-standing and highly entertaining Third Friday Music Series.



SAFETY HARBOR ART AND MUSIC CENTER



Take it outside

EXPLORE NATURE BY LAND AND WATER

The Gulf Coast offers plenty of opportunities to soak up the area's beautiful wildlife and nature, try your hand at sport fishing, or take a hike through the area's many preserves.





MANATEES IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE

More than just a scenic boardwalk, the Weedon Island Preserve in St. Petersburg has a fascinating historical significance with ancient Indian artifacts that are on display at its history center. The park includes a 4-mile paddling trail that winds through mangroves, and Sweetwater Kayaks offers daily rentals. There's also a three-mile hiking trail along with a fishing pier, waterfront picnic sites and look-out tower.

FORT DE SOTO PARK

Check out the wilds of Fort De Soto Park, St. Pete/Clearwater's largest park, where you can rent kayaks and stand-up paddleboards at Topwater Kayak Outpost. And Liberty Outdoors offers tours, rentals, and guided kayak fishing charters from its outpost just outside the park. There are two fishing piers, each with food and a bait concession. Besides the park's award-winning beaches, it has a historic fort that's free to explore and a 7-mile multipurpose trail for biking, jogging, walking and skating. There is also a ferry service operated by Hubbard's Marina in the park shuttling passengers to Egmont Key and Shell Key, some of the best places in the area for snorkeling and shell collecting.

ST. PETE BEACH

On the southern end of St. Pete Beach, the historic Merry Pier in Pass-A-Grille provides a fishing and boating destination that meets a variety of needs. Inside the friendly store and fish market, you can sign up for boat excursions,



BROOKER CREEK NATURE PRESERVE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

buy live or frozen bait and find rod and tackle supplies. You can even rent a bicycle to tool around Pass-A-Grille for the day.

You can charter a boat on St. Pete Beach, allowing you to enjoy a trip to snorkel off Egmont Key, watch dolphins on a sunset cruise or go sport fishing. Dolphin Landings Charter Boat Center and Island Boat Adventures depart

from St. Pete Beach locations and know the best spots to find dolphins or catch some fish. Island Action Sports, on the north end of St. Pete Beach, offers a wide variety of rentals, from kayaks and skimboards to surfboards and bikes. Lessons are available as well. You can rent stand-up paddleboards, water scooters and parasail gear from vendors on St. Pete Beach, particularly at the Paradise Grille concession



FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

stand at Pass-A-Grille, where they offer lessons on paddleboarding. Further north on St. Pete Beach, Suncoast Water Sports rents parasailing gear and WaveRunners on the beach behind the Sirata Beach Resort, the Alden Suites and also on Blind Pass Road.

JOHN'S PASS VILLAGE AND BOARDWALK, MADEIRA BEACH

For sport fishing, Hubbard's Marina offers multiple trips to catch your dinner. Located in John's Pass on Madeira Beach, they offer fishing trips, private charters, dolphin cruises, snorkeling expeditions and kayak and paddleboard rentals. John's Pass Charters also offers private offshore fishing charters, or if you are just looking for a nice day out on the water sightseeing, they offer near shore or Intracoastal Waterway trips. Check among the many vendors at John's Pass to find several jet ski and other water scooter rental opportunities, such as Woody's Watersports, to zip around the shoreline.

LAKE TARPON

Rated one of the Top 10 bass lakes in the state of Florida, Lake Tarpon is renowned as a 2,500-acre freshwater lake on the shores of Tarpon Springs. It stretches a little over 9 miles between its northern and southernmost points with a bit more variety than other lakes of similar size. The lake is sandwiched between John Chesnut Sr. Park in Palm Harbor to the southeast and A.L. Anderson Park to the northwest.



PHILIPPE PARK

Chesnut Park has boating, fishing and water skiing and plenty of shady spots under the trees to relax in its 255 acres. Anderson offers boating, scenic views, nature trails and easy access to Lake Tarpon.

BOCA CIEGA MILLENNIUM PARK

With a canoe and kayak launch, boardwalk and 35-foot wooden observation tower, the scenic Boca Ciega Millennium Park in Seminole is noted for its excellent birding. It earned a stop on the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission's "Great Florida Birding Trail." More than 175 species of birds have been identified there, including such rare species as the olive-sided flycatcher and Connecticut warbler.

GULF OF MEXICO

For divers, there are 42 reef sites along the Gulf Coast of St. Pete/Clearwater from Tarpon Springs to St. Pete Beach, located from 200 yards to 38 miles offshore. In 2019, a 100-foot wide ring of concrete statues called the Circle of Heroes was placed nine miles off the coast of Clearwater, adjacent to the popular Veterans Reef dive location. The life-sized statues of soldiers from all branches of the military sit in 47 feet of water. The Tampa Bay area has several dive shops, including Mac's Sports in Clearwater and Sunshine Scuba in Largo to rent or buy equipment. And Queen Fleet, operating out of Clearwater Marina, offers the largest fleet of deep-sea fishing and charter boat excursions.



BOYD HILL NATURE PRESERVE



SUNKEN GARDENS

HONEYMOON ISLAND AND CALADESI ISLAND STATE PARKS

Drive over the Dunedin Causeway just north of Clearwater and head west to Honeymoon Island, a development-free beach scene with multiple hiking trails and mangroves for paddling. Sail Honeymoon has kayaks, sailboats and standup paddle boards available for rent right off the Causeway before you get to the park. There's also a ferry from there to Caladesi Island State Park, which is famed for its unspoiled beach. Quiet paths lead along the dunes, home to shore birds, sea turtles and gopher tortoises that burrow behind the dunes. It's a great place for fishing, picnicking, shelling, nature studies and marked kayak trails among the mangrove trees in the park.



CIRCLE OF HEROES VETERANS' MEMORIAL



LAKE SEMINOLE PARK

PINELLAS TRAIL

The Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail is a biking and walking trail that extends for 54 miles across the length of St. Pete/Clearwater, from St. Pete to Tarpon Springs, with scenic spots along the way. Cyclists looking to cover a distance sometimes bike the whole trail in one direction, stay overnight in Tarpon Springs, and pedal back the next day. The trail was created in 1990 along a portion of an abandoned railroad corridor and provides a unique greenspace. Dunedin, where the downtown grew up around the old railroad tracks, has embraced the trail with local merchants catering to the steady stream of visitors it brings. You can rent bikes at Kafe Racer, a bike and coffee shop on Douglas Avenue or Wheel Fun Rentals at the Best Western Plus Yacht Harbor Inn at Marina Plaza,

where you can even rent a four-passenger surrey bike. In St. Petersburg, the Coast Bike Share program of grab-and-go rental bikes has many hubs to grab a bike and recently added a fleet of electric bikes to its lineup to let riders explore a wider range.

BOYD HILL NATURE PRESERVE

The 245 acres of pristine Florida wilderness at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve in St. Pete is one of the region's most remarkable natural habitats situated in the middle of a bustling city. Miles of trails make it a haven for the most seasoned birdwatchers. You'll find lots of other Florida natives along the way, from alligators to crabs and gopher tortoises. There's also an environmental center that displays native Florida; you can see some injured birds of prey being taken care of there.



WEEDON ISLAND PRESERVE



EGMONT KEY



HISTORIC MERRY PIER



SUNKEN GARDENS

At more than 100 years old, Sunken Gardens is St. Petersburg's oldest living museum. The former roadside attraction was saved from development by a citizen vote in 1999 to preserve this historic botanical garden. It is home to some of the oldest tropical plants in the region and a flock of flamingos the community has adopted. As you stroll through meandering paths, you'll find demonstration gardens to inspire your own yard, including an orchid arbor, Japanese garden, wishing well and wedding lawn.

EMPOWER ADVENTURES TAMPA BAY

For a dash of adrenaline with a great view, Empower Adventures Tampa Bay in Oldsmar offers five ziplines of varying length to sail over the treetops for a breathtaking view of the surrounding water and wilderness. The guided tours begin from a 60-foot start tower and feature a 200-foot suspension bridge, providing adventure that's great for all ages.

PHILIPPE PARK

A historical site that overlooks Old Tampa Bay, Philippe Park is also one of the best places for picnicking in a lush moss-draped park. There are great playgrounds, nature trails and bike lanes in this Safety Harbor park. But its history is also worthy of note. Named for Odet Philippe, who claimed to be a surgeon for Napoleon, Philippe



SEASIDE SEABIRD SANCTUARY

settled here in the 1830s and introduced the New World's first successful grapefruit trees. The site was also a significant Native American settlement and is listed as a National Historic Landmark, where a sizable ancient ceremonial mound exists today.

BROOKER CREEK NATURE PRESERVE

The largest preserve in St. Pete/Clearwater, Brooker Creek Nature Preserve in Tarpon Springs protects a mosaic of vanishing habitats along more than 4 miles of educational trails. The preserve has a series of boardwalks, hiking trails and a scenic 6-mile horseback trail to see the many animals, birds, plants and wildflowers that call it home.

LAKE SEMINOLE PARK

At Lake Seminole Park, a paved trail offers the option of a one- or two-mile loop, with benches situated at scenic spots along the way. Winding through a pine flatwoods area, the trail is popular for jogging, hiking, biking and rollerblading. The vast lake is popular for boating, water skiing and freshwater fishing. A public boat ramp and piers provide lots of opportunities for fishing during park hours.

FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS

Nestled off busy Ulmerton Road in Largo is Florida Botanical Gardens, a serene 120-acre spot highlighting the flora and fauna of Florida. At Christmastime it gets even more magical with Holiday Lights in the Gardens, a stunning light display that makes use of the natural landscape. Master gardeners inform and inspire with more than a dozen demonstration gardens cultivated across 30 acres. See fine examples of butterfly gardens, a beach garden, topiaries and succulents among many others, with extensive educational information on each plant. The Botanical Bounty Gift Shop is a fun stop for



EMPOWER ADVENTURES TAMPA BAY



LAKE TARPON

gardening gifts, from decorative dishware and jewelry to gardening and art books.

SEASIDE SEABIRD SANCTUARY

The Seaside Seabird Sanctuary, a bird rescue center, on the north end of Redington Shores, is an avian hospital that occupies 3 acres of

beachfront property and invites visitors to stroll its 1.5-mile trail to see the more than 100 birds treated here. Most of them will be released back into the wild once they have recovered, but some are permanent residents. The grounds offer plenty of chances to see and interact with shorebirds like pelicans, cormorants, cranes, herons and more.



ST. PETE/CLEARWATER IS RICH WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCOVER ART IN WORLD-CLASS MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND STUDIOS; HUNDREDS OF VIBRANT MURALS; AND ENOUGH GLASS ART TO EARN THE NICKNAME "THE GLASS COAST."



THE DALÍ MUSEUM

THE DALÍ MUSEUM

Boasting one of the world's most comprehensive collections of work and artifacts of the Spanish surrealist Salvador Dalí, this tech-forward museum increasingly offers exhibits that incorporate virtual and augmented reality and Artificial Intelligence. The museum rotates special exhibitions featuring giants of art history. Virtual exhibitions let aficionados enjoy from home. Download the Dalí app on your phone to take self-guided tours in multiple languages, including scavenger hunts aimed at kids and another just for teens. The app also helps you discover facts about Dalí's masterworks like *The Hallucinogenic Toreador* and *The Discovery of America by Christopher Columbus* while viewing them. Enjoy wine, coffee and tapas from Café Gala in the outdoor Avant-garden amid Dalí's sculptures. The striking building is itself a surreal work of art; a double-helix staircase in the center of the museum was inspired by Dalí's fascination with DNA, and a large geodesic bubble made of 1,062 triangular pieces of glass known as *The Enigma* erupts from the outside.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Perched on the downtown waterfront amid the bustling shops and restaurants on Beach Drive, and within walking distance of the new St. Pete Pier and The Vinoy Renaissance Hotel, this museum holds the only encyclopedic collection of works in Florida. Spanning nearly 5,000 years,



MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS



IMAGINE MUSEUM

from antiquity to modern day, art appreciators of any era will find their niche. Traveling exhibitions showcase the same range of artwork, from old masters to contemporary artists. Works by Monet, Rauschenberg and O'Keeffe are found in the recently renovated permanent collection galleries, where families can take themed self-guided tours mapped out in brochures. The MFA From Home program provides virtual activities, videos and exhibitions.

THE JAMES MUSEUM OF WESTERN AND WILDLIFE ART

Featuring an impressive private collection, the museum is situated on buzzy Central Avenue within walking distance of the waterfront. A stunning sandstone façade on the exterior of the building evokes imagery of the landscape of the American West. Inside, find "26,000 square feet of calm"



THE JAMES MUSEUM OF WESTERN AND WILDLIFE ART

in the collection of bronze sculptures and paintings of cowboys, Native Americans, landscapes and animals, and contemporary art created by living Western and Native American artists. View an incredible selection of Native American jewelry. Explore art, movies, books, music and children's activities virtually with the James Museum From Home program. An attached garage makes parking a breeze.

IMAGINE MUSEUM

Discover the history of the American studio glass movement through this museum's comprehensive collection. The fantastic array of breathtaking glass creations includes works by the founders of the movement as well as contemporary, emerging and local artists. Get lost in Anthony James' *Icosahedron*, a mind-boggling sculpture made of glass, titanium lights and



ST. PETERSBURG MUSEUM OF HISTORY

mirrors. Marvel at Brent Kee Young's delicate flamework chair and his laws-of-physics-defying sphere encapsulated in a square. Located in the Grand Central District near restaurants, shops and murals, it's a short ride from downtown on the Central Avenue Trolley, or an easy jaunt on a rented scooter or bike.

CHIHULY COLLECTION

Featuring the glass artwork of living legend Dale Chihuly, it's one of only two museums in the country entirely dedicated to the artist. Roam through the galleries to see dramatic glass installations, including *Ikebana*, a luminous glass garden installation, as well as the spectacular *Ruby Red Icicle Chandelier*, which was created for the collection. Unlock the magic of glass art with a glass-blowing demonstration across the street at the Morean Glass Studio.

MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT

Progress continues on this yet-to-open museum, which will feature pottery, furniture, metalwork, lighting and photography from one of the most comprehensive private collections in the world. The collection represents the late 19th and early 20th centuries and features architectural details that recall the movement, including a Charles Rennie Mackintosh-inspired floating spiral staircase and Frank Lloyd Wright-influenced stained-glass skylights. The museum's modern exterior is clad in granite and bronze and at 137,000 sq. ft., it's the largest museum in the city. Located slightly north of the heart of downtown, it has a dedicated garage to make parking easy.

ST. PETERSBURG MUSEUM OF HISTORY

This newly renovated museum has a prime location on the base of the new St. Pete Pier and offers interesting facts about the birth of "Sunshine City" including the history of aviation here. The wacky Odditorium exhibit includes a two-headed calf and an Egyptian mummy. Baseball fans will enjoy the Guinness-certified largest collection of baseballs called Schrader's Little Cooperstown.

THE FLORIDA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

This museum honors the millions of men, women and children who died or suffered in the Holocaust with artifacts, including a box car and stories about the victims and survivors. It is one of the largest Holocaust museums in the world and is one of only three accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Educational and traveling historical and art exhibits connect the past to the present with a mission to prevent future genocides. The museum offers multiple virtual experiences, including a virtual tour of the collection and educational resources for schools.

THE CARTER G. WOODSON AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

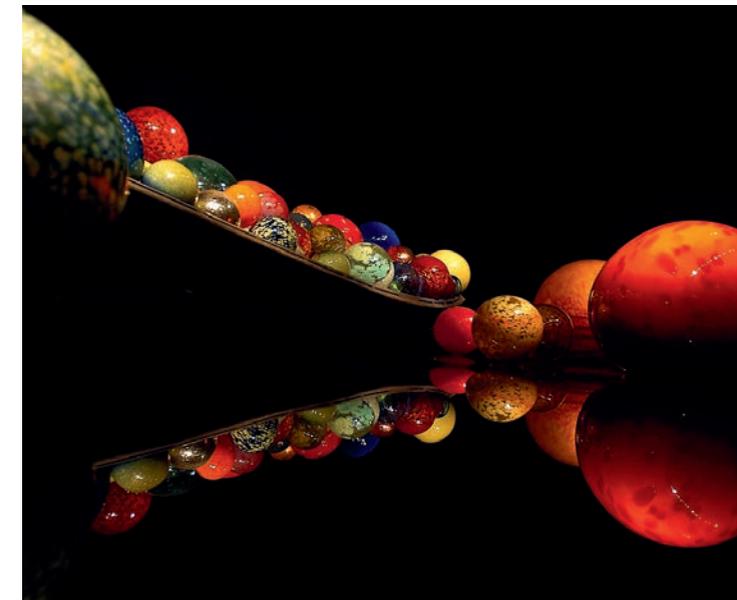
This museum is named for the scholar who initiated Black History Month and seeks to preserve and present African American history. In addition to educational programs, it showcases historical and art exhibits, including the Black Lives Matter mural painted on the street in front of the museum. It's located in the Deuces Live District, a hub of Black-owned businesses, homes and entertainment. The museum is the starting point of the African American Heritage Trail, a walking tour of of African American neighborhoods marked by 19 placards that give an overview of the impact of African Americans on St. Petersburg.

GREAT EXPLORATIONS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Kids have a blast exploring, playing and learning at this interactive museum that's just a short car ride from downtown. It's connected to the family-friendly, 100-year-old attraction, *Sunken Gardens*, a botanical paradise consisting of 50,000 tropical plants, with its very own flock of flamingoes and other exotic birds.



THE FLORIDA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM



CHIHULY COLLECTION

GALLERIES STUDIOS FESTIVALS MURALS



VISUAL ART GALLERIES

Discover local fine art painters and sculptors in St. Petersburg at **Articles Art Gallery**. **Mize Gallery** is the go-to for pop art and creative St. Pete-centric souvenirs. Gulfport's **Brenda McMahon Gallery** shows contemporary craft and fine art. A well-rounded experience awaits at **Syd Entel Galleries** and **Susan Benjamin Glass** in Safety Harbor, with fine art, glass and jewelry. Tarpon Springs' **Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art** has an impressive 6,000-piece permanent collection containing works by 20th-century artists Alan Leepa and Abraham Rattner.

FINE CRAFT GALLERIES

Handmade works in clay, wood, metal, glass, fiber and jewelry are showcased in St. Petersburg at **Shapiro's Gallery** and **Red Cloud Indian Arts**, staples on Beach Drive; while **Florida CraftArt** and **Craftsman House** are longstanding Central Avenue go-tos.

ART CENTERS AND STUDIOS

Home to hundreds of artists, St. Pete/Clearwater is a hub of creativity. St. Petersburg's **Morean Arts Center**, **The Dunedin Fine Art Center** and **The Safety Harbor Art and Music Center** offer classes and present exhibitions of work by local, regional and national artists. Visit artists in their studios at the **ArtsXChange**, 28 studios in St. Petersburg's **Warehouse Arts District**, or in a historic downtown building at **ArtLofts**. **The Factory St. Pete**, is a 90,000 sq. ft. arts compound that houses studios and is the site of the immersive art experience **Fairgrounds**.

MURAL ARTIST BIANCA BURROWS

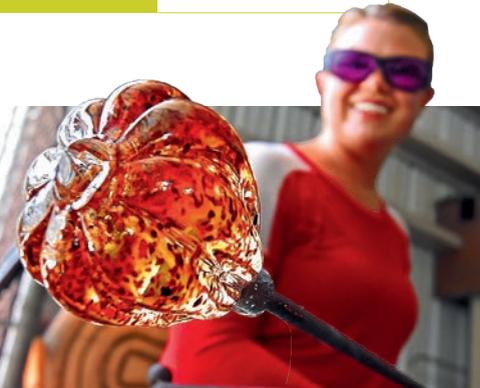


SYD ENTEL GALLERIES

The artists of funky beach town **Gulfport's Historical Waterfront Art District** bring their creations outdoors twice a month for art walks. The **Pinellas Arts Village** in **Pinellas Park** is full of galleries and studios.

GLASS

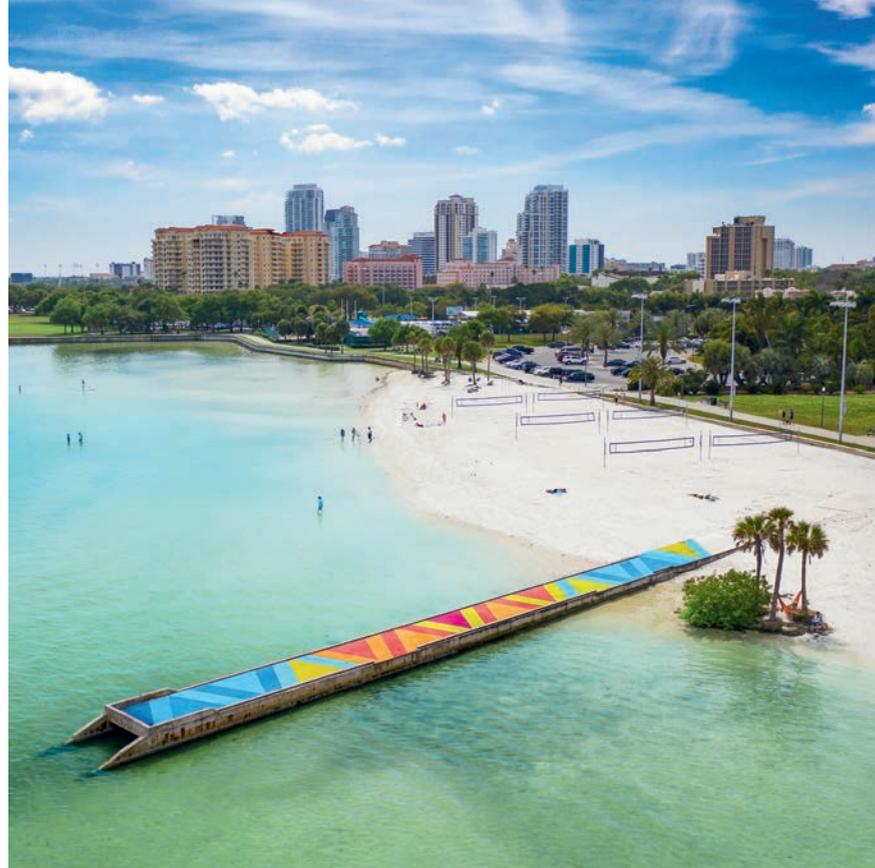
Nicknamed the "Glass Coast," St. Pete/Clearwater is home to top-tier glass galleries and hot shops that offer wondrous glass-blowing demonstrations and fun workshops. Make a day of it in St. Pete, where the **Duncan McClellan Gallery** showcases internationally recognized glass artists and features a lush sculpture garden in a 5,000 sq. ft. courtyard in the **Warehouse Arts District**. Nearby, **Zen Glass Studio** lets you try your hand at making glass art. Downtown, a demonstration at



MOREAN ARTS CENTER GLASS STUDIO AND HOT SHOP



FREEFALL THEATRE



THE SKY IS THE LIMIT BY CECILIA LUEZA



WHERE THE BLOOM BEGINS BY JABARI REED-DIOP, AKA IBOMS

the Morean Arts Center Glass Studio and Hot Shop is a good follow-up to the Chihuly Collection. A few blocks away in the Grand Central District, discover contemporary and emerging glass artists at Imagine Museum. In Clearwater, visit the downtown gallery of award-winning glass artist Marlene Rose.

CLAY

From functional to sculptural ceramics, there's a heavy concentration of clay in St. Pete/Clearwater. Housed in a historic train station in St. Pete, the Morean Center for Clay is home to studios, galleries and an artist-in-residence program. Spin your own bowl on a wheel at Charlie Parker Pottery. Visit Dunedin's Clay and Paper Gallery for unique clay creations.

PERFORMING ARTS

From Broadway to dance to local professional theater, St. Pete/Clearwater is rich in cultural experiences. Take in a concert from St. Petersburg-based The Florida Orchestra at the Mahaffey Theater on the downtown waterfront. Catch jazz acts and other live music offerings at The Palladium in downtown St. Pete.



DUNCAN MCCLELLAN GALLERY



WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS MURAL BY LEO GOMEZ

Experience thought-provoking theater from St. Petersburg companies Freefall Theatre and American Stage. Clearwater's Ruth Eckerd Hall and historical Bilheimer Capitol Theatre present Broadway series, concerts and comedians. The St. Petersburg Opera Company has both virtual and outdoor performances.

MURALS

St. Petersburg's streets and walls are an outdoor gallery of hundreds of vibrant murals. In addition to paintings by local artists, the annual SHINE Mural Festival brings national and international talent together to make their mark on the city every fall. World-renowned artists

including Ricky Watts, Shark Toof and Joram Roukes are among the many who have participated. Download the PixelStix app on your phone and take your own narrated driving, biking or walking tour of the murals. Or take a guided walking or biking tour through Florida CraftArt and Coast Bike Share. Find the ultimate list of St. Pete's street art at VisitSPC.com/Murals.

FESTIVALS

Beautiful weather also brings art outdoors with large art festivals happening several times throughout the year. Started in 1976, the Mainsail Art Festival brings top-notch artists from around the world to exhibit side-by-side



MAINSAIL ART FESTIVAL



MOREAN CENTER FOR CLAY

with the area's best along St. Petersburg's waterfront each April. Fine craft artists from around the country exhibit at the annual CraftArt Festival, presented by Florida CraftArt, in November in the heart of downtown St. Petersburg. Dunedin's Art Harvest is a highly anticipated annual event in November featuring more than 200 artists working in a variety of media. The Tarpon Springs Fine Arts Festival has been bringing national artists to an idyllic location on Spring Bayou every March for more than 40 years. At the Clearwater Beach Chalk Art Festival in October, local and regional artists, students and artists' groups transform the sidewalks into mind-bending works of trompe l'oeil – aka 3D art.

CELEBRATING A DIVERSITY OF CULTURE

St. Pete/Clearwater has a long and triumphant history of celebrating rich and diverse cultures throughout its treasured history. For years it's consistently ranked among the top U.S. cities to celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride, including Florida's largest Pride celebration, St Pete Pride; and recently, it has become more widely known for celebrating the unique culture, spirit, and determination of the African American community.

Rated as one of America's most LGBTQ+ friendly destinations, the welcome mat is out and the rainbow flag flies for all. From St. Pete's 15-block Grand Central District - aka the "gay-borhood" - to the Pro Shop Pub in Clearwater, there are dozens of LGBTQ+ hot spots throughout the area to enjoy.

Start your day by grabbing a cup of St. Pete's own Kahwa Coffee at the METRO LGBTQ+ Welcome Center in St. Pete. You'll find friendly people and timely resources to help you make the most of your stay. Not far down the road are two popular spots for bites and beverages. For dinner, drinks and - oh, yeah! - a drag show, try Punky's Bar & Grill on Central Ave. For outdoor dining, enjoy a salmon bowl at Swingers Patio Bar & Grill (formerly The Queens Head) where your chair can be a swing!

In Clearwater, stop by Hamburger Mary's for bar food and drag queen-hosted trivia, bingo and shows. Nearby, in Largo, have cocktails at Quench Lounge or drinks at Blur Nightclub in Dunedin.

Looking for sun and fun? Spend the afternoon basking in rays along the white sands of Sunset Beach, the "unofficial" beach of the LGBTQ+ community. It's located at the southern tip of Treasure Island and is more secluded than other beaches in the area.

Once the sun goes down, kick up your heels in St. Pete at Enigma Bar & Lounge or Garage on Central or make new friends at the low-key neighborhood bar Lucky Star Lounge.



LOUIS ARMSTRONG PERFORMED AT THE MANHATTAN CASINO



BLACK LIVES MATTER STREET MURAL IN ST. PETE'S DEUCES LIVE DISTRICT



MURAL OF ELLA FITZGERALD BY LOCAL ARTIST, ZULU PAINTER, IN ST. PETE'S DEUCES LIVE DISTRICT



HOGG BATCH



DR. CARTER G. WOODSON AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM



LORENE'S FISH HOUSE

In the 1960s, 22nd Street in St. Pete - nicknamed The Deuces - was home to more than 100 businesses, retail stores, professional offices, and entertainment venues that were predominately Black owned and operated. It was a refuge for the African American community to find solace, courage, faith, and hope during a time of segregation and Jim Crow laws. Today, the Deuces Live District celebrates and honors that rich history and culture by bringing it back to life with new shops, murals, restaurants and an African American Heritage Trail, which has 19 markers covering a dozen city blocks and educating on the people and places of the Black community.

No visit to the Deuces is complete without stopping into the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum. You'll discover even more rich history of the local, regional and national Black communities, including where greats

including Duke Ellington, Ray Charles and Louis Armstrong all performed. Near "The Woodson" is a new Black Lives Matter street mural that draws you in to each letter with scenes created by 16 local artists.

After working up an appetite, enjoy some of the local favorites. For breakfast or brunch there's Rush Hour Chicken and Waffles. Give your taste buds a spicy kick with a Louisiana-inspired lunch at Chief's Creole Café or grab a fish platter that's to die for from Lorene's Fish House.

For an afternoon coffee break head a few blocks over to Central Ave. for a cup of liquor-infused coffee from Hogg Batch, a local brew with a kick from twins David and Duane Hogg. As the day winds down, top the night off with some late-night wine and tapas at the Black-owned Copa, located a short-scooter ride from Hogg Batch in St. Pete.

The Best of St. Pete/Clearwater

VOTED ON BY THOUSANDS OF LOCALS, VISITORS AND AREA INSIDERS.



Best BEACH

- 1 Clearwater Beach/Sand Key
- 2 St. Pete Beach/Pass-a-Grille
- 3 Caladesi Island/Honeymoon Island State Park
- 4 Treasure Island
- 5 Indian Rocks Beach



Best BREWERY

- 1 3 Daughters Brewing, St. Pete
- 2 Dunedin Brewery
- 3 Mad Beach Brewing, Madeira Beach
- 4 Clearwater Brewing Company
- 5 Big Storm Brewing Co., Clearwater



Best MURAL

- 1 Boom, Tes One/Vitale Bros.
- 2 Hello Sunshine, Leo Gomez
- 3 BLM Mural, 16 local artists
- 4 SHINE 2020, Kenny Coil & Marc Berenguer
- 5 SHINE 2020, iboms



Best COCKTAILS

- 1 Bob Heilman's Beachcomber, Clearwater Beach
- 2 Trophy Fish, St. Pete
- 3 Urban Stillhouse, St. Pete
- 4 Mandarin Hide, St. Pete
- 5 Gigglegaters, Safety Harbor



Best RESTAURANT (\$)

- 1 Clear Sky Cafe, Clearwater Beach
- 2 Mazzaro's Italian Market, St. Pete
- 3 Ted Peters Famous Smoked Fish, St. Pete
- 4 Rusty Bellies, Tarpon Springs
- 5 Mykonos Restaurant, Tarpon Springs



Best RESTAURANT (\$\$)

- 1 Lucky Lobster Co., Dunedin
- 2 Doc Ford's Rum Bar and Grille, St. Pete
- 3 Red Mesa Cantina, St. Pete
- 4 Casa Tina, Dunedin
- 5 Noble Crust, St. Pete



Best RESTAURANT (\$\$\$)

- 1 Salt Rock Grill, Indian Rocks Beach
- 2 400 Beach Seafood & Taphouse, St. Pete
- 3 1200 Chophouse, St. Pete Beach
- 4 The Black Pearl, Dunedin
- 5 Il Ritorno, St. Pete



Best CHARTER BOAT

- 1 StarLite Cruises (dining)
- 2 Captain Memo's Pirate Cruise (daytime)
- 3 Hubbard's Marina (fishing)
- 4 Dolphin Landings (dolphin)
- 5 The Tropics Boat Tours (sunset)



Best BOUTIQUE HOTEL

- 1 Postcard Inn on the Beach, St. Pete Beach
- 2 Fenway Hotel, Dunedin
- 3 Treasure Island Beach Resort
- 4 The Birchwood, St. Pete
- 5 The Hotel Zamora, St. Pete Beach



Best WATER EXCURSION

- 1 Snorkeling, Egmont Key
- 2 Topwater Kayak Outpost, Fort De Soto Park
- 3 Parasailing
- 4 Speed Boat Adventures, St. Pete Beach
- 5 Diving the Circle of Heroes Veterans' Memorial, Gulf of Mexico



Best FESTIVAL

- 1 Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival, Clearwater Beach
- 2 John's Pass Seafood & Music Festival, Madeira Beach
- 3 Clearwater Jazz Holiday
- 4 St. Pete Pride
- 5 Localtopia, St. Pete



Best WAY TO GET AROUND

- 1 Jolley Trolley
- 2 Clearwater Ferry
- 3 Suncoast Beach Trolley (PSTA)
- 4 St. Pete Electric Scooters
- 5 Coast Bike Share, St. Pete



Best HOTEL

- 1 The Don CeSar, St. Pete Beach
- 2 Sandpearl Resort, Clearwater Beach
- 3 TradeWinds Island Resorts, St. Pete Beach
- 4 Opal Sands Resort, Clearwater Beach
- 5 Wyndham Grand, Clearwater Beach



Most EXCITING SPORTING EVENT

- 1 Tampa Bay Rays, St. Pete
- 2 Spring Training, Clearwater & Dunedin
- 3 Firestone Grand Prix, St. Pete
- 4 Valspar Championship, Palm Harbor
- 5 Tampa Bay Rowdies, St. Pete



Best SHOPPING

- 1 John's Pass Village & Boardwalk, Madeira Beach
- 2 Saturday Morning Market, St. Pete
- 3 Main Street, Dunedin
- 4 Central Ave., St. Pete
- 5 Dodecanese Boulevard, Tarpon Springs



Best WEDDING VENUE

- 1 The Don CeSar, St. Pete Beach
- 2 TradeWinds Island Resorts, St. Pete Beach
- 3 Sandpearl Resort, Clearwater Beach
- 4 Sunken Gardens, St. Pete
- 5 The Vinoy Renaissance, St. Pete



Best FAMILY ACTIVITY

- 1 Clearwater Marine Aquarium
- 2 St. Pete Pier
- 3 Splash Harbour Water Park, Indian Rocks Beach
- 4 Great Explorations Children's Museum, St. Pete
- 5 St. Nicholas Boat Lines, Tarpon Springs



Best MOM & POP PLACE TO STAY

- 1 Palm Pavilion Inn, Clearwater Beach
- 2 Thunderbird Beach Resort, Treasure Island
- 3 The Avalon Hotel, St. Pete
- 4 Frenchy's Oasis Hotel, Clearwater Beach
- 5 Hotel Cabana, Clearwater Beach



Best GROUPER

- 1 Frenchy's Rockaway Grill, Clearwater Beach
- 2 Palm Pavilion, Clearwater Beach
- 3 Original Crabby Bill's, Indian Rocks Beach
- 4 Dockside Dave's, Madeira Beach
- 5 RumFish Grill, St. Pete Beach



Best BRUNCH

- 1 Island Way Grill, Clearwater Beach
- 2 Clear Sky Cafe, Clearwater Beach
- 3 The Library, St. Pete
- 4 Datz, St. Pete
- 5 Sweet Sage Café, North Redington Beach



Best MUSEUM

- 1 The Dalí Museum, St. Pete
- 2 Chihuly Collection, St. Pete
- 3 Museum of Fine Arts, St. Pete
- 4 Florida Holocaust Museum, St. Pete
- 5 Dunedin Fine Art Center & Children's Art Museum



Best BEACH BAR

- 1 Palm Pavilion, Clearwater Beach
- 2 Frenchy's Rockaway Grill, Clearwater Beach
- 3 Caddy's Treasure Island, Sunset Beach
- 4 The Toasted Monkey, St. Pete Beach
- 5 Jimmy B's Beach Bar, St. Pete Beach



Best COFFEE SHOP

- 1 Indian Shores Coffee Co., Indian Shores
- 2 Sweet Brewnette, Madeira Beach
- 3 Kahwa, St. Pete
- 4 Black Crow Coffee Co., St. Pete
- 5 Bandit Coffee Co., St. Pete



Best LIVE MUSIC VENUE

- 1 Vinoy Park, St. Pete
- 2 Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater
- 3 Jannus Live, St. Pete
- 4 Capitol Theatre, Clearwater
- 5 Mahaffey Theater, St. Pete



Best SPA

- 1 Spa Oceana, The Don CeSar, St. Pete Beach
- 2 The Spa at Sandpearl, Sandpearl Resort, Clearwater Beach
- 3 Safety Harbor Resort & Spa, Safety Harbor
- 4 Vinoy Salon & Day Spa, The Vinoy Renaissance, St. Pete
- 5 Opal Spa, Opal Sands Resort, Clearwater Beach



Best WALK IN THE PARK

- 1 Sunken Gardens, St. Pete
- 2 Florida Botanical Gardens, Largo
- 3 Philippe Park, Safety Harbor
- 4 Sawgrass Lake Park, St. Pete
- 5 Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, St. Pete



Best ROOFTOP BAR

- 1 Jimmy's Crow's Nest, Pier House 60, Clearwater Beach
- 2 The Hurricane Seafood Restaurant, Pass-a-Grille Beach
- 3 Canopy, The Birchwood, St. Pete
- 4 Level 11 Elevated Bar & Lounge, Bellwether Beach Resort, St. Pete Beach
- 5 Hi-Fi Rooftop Bar, Fenway Hotel, Dunedin



Best WINE BAR

- 1 Bella Vino Wine & Cheese Market, Belleair Bluffs
- 2 Lolita's Wine Market, St. Pete
- 3 Wine Knot, Redington Shores
- 4 Book + Bottle, St. Pete
- 5 Hawthorne Bottle Shoppe, St. Pete



Best DOG HANGOUT

- 1 Honeymoon Island Dog Beach, Dunedin
- 2 The Dog Bar, St. Pete
- 3 Fort De Soto Dog Beach
- 4 Pinellas Ale Works (PAW), St. Pete
- 5 Troubled Waters Brewing, Safety Harbor



Best DOWNTOWN

- 1 St. Pete
- 2 Dunedin
- 3 Clearwater
- 4 Tarpon Springs
- 5 Safety Harbor



bon appétit

Looking for a place to grab a bite?

We've got you covered. On the following pages, the *Tampa Bay Times'* food critic Helen Freund recommends top restaurants in the area, everything from date-night spots with a water view to the best seafood in St. Pete/Clearwater.

\$ Most dishes under \$15
 \$\$ Most entrees under \$25
 \$\$\$ Most entrees more than \$25

WATERFRONT

● **CADDY'S** • Treasure Island; \$ • Not many places carry the same toes-in-the-sand allure as this Caddy's location, which overlooks the Gulf of Mexico on Treasure Island's Sunset Beach. The local mini-chain has made casual, waterside, beachy eats its calling card, from smoked fish spread to fried grouper nuggets, crab cake dinners and shrimp baskets. It's also a popular party spot with frequent live music and the rooftop bar, which can get lively at all times of the day, has the best seats in the house come sunset.

● **FRENCHY'S ROCKAWAY GRILL** • Clearwater Beach; \$\$ • The largest and liveliest of the five Frenchy's restaurants in Clearwater and Dunedin, this is beachfront dining at its best, right on the Gulf of Mexico and the sugar white sands of Clearwater Beach. Favorites include the grouper sandwiches, which feature meaty grouper fillets, served on an onion roll dressed with cheese, lettuce, tomatoes and tartar sauce. It's a matter of personal choice whether you want your fish golden-fried in a thick and crunchy crust, lightly seasoned and grilled, or coated in Cajun seasoning for an extra kick. If stone crabs are in season, there's really no better way to wind down from a day on the beach than with a pound of cold claws and some sweet mustard dipping sauce.

● **PALM PAVILION** • Clearwater Beach; \$\$ • A great option for beachside eats and killer sunset watching, this Clearwater Beach institution (since 1926) sits directly on the beach overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. Frequent live music performances, a full bar where cocktails receive heavy-handed pours and a wooden wraparound deck lend the space a casual, seaside vibe that's just as nice to pop in for a few drinks as it is to while away a lunch or dinner for several hours. The kitchen delivers a consistent spread of both seafood dishes – fried grouper cheeks, wasabi scallops – as well as a large selection of entrees ranging from smoked barbecue ribs to skirt steak tacos and Angus beef burgers.

● **RUSTY BELLIES WATERFRONT GRILL** • Tarpon Springs; \$\$ • While checking out the historic Tarpon Springs Sponge Docks, take a stroll down the busy Dodecanese Boulevard until you hit this waterfront spot, which sports a large outdoor patio with views of Tarpon Bayou and Anclote River. A tiki bar features rum-heavy spins on Trader Vic tiki classics while the restaurant's proximity to the docks is a nod to



WOODY'S WATERFRONT CAFE AND BEACH BAR



PACIFIC COUNTER

the owners' focus on fresh, Florida seafood. Steamed Cedar Key clams, peel-and-eat shrimp including grouper, American snapper and fried and breaded mullet fillets highlight the local seafood menu.

● **SALT ROCK GRILL** • Indian Shores; \$\$\$ • At this long-running Indian Shores spot, the dock-to-restaurant line is literal: Peek outside to the dock below and you'll probably catch one of the owners' fishing boats hauling in the day's fresh catch. The kitchen also boasts a large selection of hand-cut steaks, all USDA prime or choice grade beef, which are aged for weeks before grilling to order over natural oak and citrus wood. The wine list is impressive and the restaurant's cellar features an extensive collection. The space recently underwent a full renovation inside, but the outside patio deck overlooking the Intracoastal waterway is still the best spot to close out an evening.



TIKI DOCKS SKYWAY BAR & GRILL

● **TEAK/PIER TEAKI** • St. Petersburg; \$\$ • Encompassing an expansive 26-acre entertainment district, the new St. Pete Pier includes several waterside restaurants with fantastic views, but nothing beats the rooftop scene at Pier Teaki, which offers an unparalleled 360-degree vista of the downtown St. Pete skyline and Tampa Bay. While the upstairs tiki-themed lounge features bar snacks like tuna bowls and pretzel bites, more elevated options can be found one floor below, at the nautical-themed restaurant Teak, where composed plates include a lobster-topped surf and turf burger and short ribs with a ginger guava sauce.



FRENCHY'S ROCKAWAY GRILL



SEA SALT

● **TIKI DOCKS SKYWAY BAR & GRILL** • St. Petersburg; \$ • The Polynesian-themed bar and grill in St. Pete's Skyway Marina District sits inside the Maximo Marina and sports a sprawling waterfront setting with plenty of outdoor seating. The food menu is focused on seaside-eats like raw oysters and smoked fish spread, peel-and-eat shrimp, sandwiches and seafood platters while a tropical-leaning drink menu includes potent margaritas, rum punch cocktails and tiki classics like mai tais and painkillers.

● **WOODY'S WATERFRONT CAFE AND BEACH BAR** • St. Pete Beach; \$\$ • With views of the Gulf of Mexico and Blind Pass, this St. Pete Beach mainstay has earned a well-deserved spot on the local's circuit. Fans come for the

laid-back scene, Florida beach bar food and potent happy hour cocktails. Fried clam strips, served with a lemon wedge, are a popular starter, as are the tangy, smoky Buffalo wings and the fried shrimp baskets with spicy fries. Most of the seating is outside, at covered picnic tables right on the seawall. If you're lucky, you'll catch a pod of dolphins frolicking right in front of you, while waiting on your dinner.

SEAFOOD

● **ALTO MARE** • St. Petersburg; \$\$ • One of the best bets on St. Pete's tony Beach Drive NE for fresh seafood and a raw bar bonanza, this restaurant sports a nice amount of sidewalk seating perfect for people watching and soaking up the sights and sounds of a lively evening. Lavish seafood towers toppling with oysters and shrimp are perfect for a special occasion splurge while a selection of creative salads, pastas and entrees – including a generously portioned lobster roll – mean there's plenty to be found for all appetites. In-the-know diners will ask for raw 'LoCos' as the restaurant is one of the only spots in the Tampa Bay area selling the locally farmed bivalves from Lost Coast Oyster Company.

● **HOG ISLAND FISH CAMP** • Dunedin; \$\$ • With lots of reclaimed wood and turquoise accents, a seafood-focused menu heavy on locally caught favorites like grouper and hogfish and a breezy indoor-outdoor setup, this

downtown Dunedin restaurant imbues a worn-in and welcoming atmosphere with plenty of fishing camp charm. The menu includes dishes like the Captain's Plate, a hearty combo platter of fried grouper nuggets, shrimp and oysters with sides like grit cakes and collard greens, while the fresh catch of the day is available grilled, blackened or broiled under a cheesy panko Parmesan crust.

● **THE LITTLE LAMB** • Clearwater; \$\$ • Tucked into a strip mall off McMullen Booth Road, this unassuming Clearwater gastropub delivers big flavors with an ambitious, globe-trotting menu, a newly renovated spacious yet cozy dining room and an elevated cocktail program that offers creative spins on the classics. A dinner menu designed with snacking and sharing in mind starts with dishes like pork belly and mint salad lettuce wraps and crispy-fried cauliflower in coconut caramel before moving on to larger plates like seared scallops with crab fried rice, butternut squash pasta with walnuts and broccoli rabe, and a braised lamb shank served with celeriac and Brussels sprouts.

● **PACIFIC COUNTER** • St. Petersburg; \$ • Guests are greeted with a friendly "Aloha!" upon entering this casual, counter service restaurant in downtown St. Pete. Fresh poke – the trendy Hawaiian raw fish specialty – in bowl or burrito form, is the highlight and diners order in an assembly-line format, mixing and matching ingredients like silky hunks of raw salmon or



WATER OAK GRILL



SEA WORTHY FISH + BAR



PIA'S TRATTORIA

spicy tuna with bases including brown rice or noodles and toppings that run the gamut from radishes and cucumbers to blistered green peppers, sauteed mushrooms and chia seeds (basically, the sky's the limit). For a refreshing sweet treat, the spot's light and airy Dole Whip packs a zingy pineapple punch that's perfect for a midday pick-me-up.

● **SEA SALT** • St. Petersburg; \$\$\$ • Perched on the second floor of downtown St. Pete's Sundial shopping complex, the upscale restaurant features eye-catching displays like a 22-foot glass-encased wine cellar and an 80-foot-long raw bar, where oysters from all over the United States are served. A large, shaded patio includes plenty of outdoor seating and come happy hour, it's one of the area's best-kept secrets for high-end seafood steals, \$1 oysters, and discounted snacks like arancini, tuna nachos and truffled deviled eggs.

● **SEA WORTHY FISH + BAR** • Tierra Verde; \$\$ • In 2015, Hope Montgomery and Jason Ruhe opened Brick & Mortar in downtown St. Pete to great acclaim. It should come as no surprise that

five years later, their sophomore effort is just as delicious, with a seafaring twist. The new restaurant is inspired by the couple's love for the open water with a menu that leans heavily on local seafood. Don't skip out on the scallops with bucatini carbonara or the whole fried catch, which arrives plated atop coconut rice and a bright papaya slaw. The restaurant inside imbues cozy nautical vibes but the best seat in the house is on the outdoor deck when, if you time it just right, you will net spectacular views of the sunset.

● **WATER OAK GRILL** • Safety Harbor; \$\$ • This upscale-casual steak and seafood restaurant sits in the heart of downtown Safety Harbor with ample sidewalk seating right on Main Street. Owner Walt Wickman has made fresh, locally caught seafood his calling card, and though the premise here is on high-quality steaks and seafood dinners, the price tag speaks to a more casual, neighborhood spot. A raw bar and seafood section highlights local catch like grouper and hogfish, while a selection of steak dinners and shareable snacks like sliders and steamed buns round out the menu.

ITALIAN

● **IL RITORNO** • St. Petersburg; \$\$\$ • This fine dining Italian restaurant in downtown St. Pete has been around for several years but still feels modern and of-the-moment with a constantly evolving menu that hinges on the freshest ingredients and impressive kitchen techniques. Led by a small team of tenured culinary players and a polished and knowledgeable waitstaff, dinners here feel both intimate and well-suited for special occasions. A daily five-course chef's tasting menu can include the optional wine and white or black truffle pairings, offering the best of what the chef has in store that day, from a lardo-wrapped octopus with brown butter poached carrots to handmade tagliatelle with roasted bone marrow.

● **JACK PALLINO'S** • Dunedin; \$ • This downtown Dunedin pizzeria and sports bar provides a little bit of everything for everyone. For the sports fans, a long indoor bar offers a great spot to spend a Sunday afternoon watching the game while the cozy indoor dining room and large outdoor patio are great for



CASA TINA

larger groups and pizza sharing. The highlight here are Neapolitan-style pies, which emerge from the restaurant's brick oven perfectly pockmarked with charred bubbles of dough and crispy, chewy crusts. The menu also includes creative touches to Italian antipasti like soppressata with braised fennel and olives and white anchovies served with goat cheese and truffle oil.

● MAZZARO'S ITALIAN MARKET •

St. Petersburg; \$ • The popular market in St. Pete has achieved something akin to cult status, and both the one-of-a-kind shopping experience and the gourmet food products are worth every bit of the hype. Come here and spend hours browsing the massive cheese selection, fine wine assortment, super fresh seafood and sprawling butcher case. Or pop in for a lunchtime treat and peruse the deli counter, stocked high with prepared treats like lasagna, roasted pork loin, chicken piccata and homemade pastas and sauces to-go. The huge sandwiches and weekly specials are always a safe bet.

● NONA SLICE HOUSE • Safety Harbor; \$\$ •

You're not just getting pizza at this downtown Safety Harbor restaurant – you're getting a show. At some point on most evenings, the owner (a self-proclaimed "pizzaiolo" who has won international awards for his pie-tossing acrobatics) will come out and do a little performance, spinning and swirling the pizza dough high in the air, often to the musical styles of a live performer. Several different types of pizza are served here, but the best bet are the Detroit-style pies – thick, square pizzas baked with Wisconsin brick cheese, which oozes and



SOUL SICILIAN FUSION

gets extra crispy at the edges.

● PIA'S TRATTORIA • Gulfport; \$\$ •

With bright fuchsia bougainvillea creeping up the canary yellow walls and candelabras covered in dripping wax, Pia's in Gulfport knows how to turn up the romance factor big time. The spot features all the hallmark characteristics of a rustic and cozy neighborhood trattoria, with a menu featuring creative spins on Italian classics like capellini pomodoro and buttery shrimp scampi over homemade linguine, eggplant Parmesan, and plump blue crab ravioli with a brown butter sauce. The restaurant also has plenty of vegan dishes and gluten-free pastas on their evolving menu.

● SOUL SICILIAN FUSION • Clearwater; \$\$ •

This charming Sicilian restaurant hews closely to southern Italian classics in a downtown Clearwater setting. A selection of antipasti includes silky slices of prosciutto paired with



BODEGA

pillow-like orbs of burrata and pan-fried octopus coupled with crispy nuggets of fried potatoes and asparagus. Don't skip out on the excellent pasta dishes, which rely on simple, fresh ingredients that shine (in particular, the spaghetti all 'Amatriciana is a sleeper hit). An all-Italian wine list includes a few Sicilian dessert selections, which pair great with the restaurant's best-selling dessert, tiramisu.

LATIN/CARIBBEAN

● **BODEGA** • St. Petersburg; \$ • What was once just a tiny Cuban walk-up spot in St. Pete's EDGE District is now a fully expanded sit-down restaurant, but the popularity of the grab-and-go window hasn't waned one bit. Around lunchtime, a line still stretches down the street with fans who come from all over for the refreshing and spritzty aguas frescas, hearty lechon platters topped with juicy, flavorful roasted pork, cafes con leche and fresh fruit smoothies, and one of the best Cuban sandwiches in town.

● **CASA TINA** • Dunedin; \$\$ • Dining at this festive downtown Dunedin Mexican restaurant is like stepping into a multi-sensory Oaxacan wonderland, outfitted with colorful artwork, dangling star lanterns and the occasional aerial performance artist. Here you'll find big plates of regional Mexican dishes, like the pescado a la Veracruzana, topped with a bright and juicy sauce of tomatoes, onions, capers and olives. Roasted chile rellenos are charred and stuffed with melting cheese, while the showstopper plate of chiles en nogada features a traditional dish from the Puebla region in Mexico and comes draped under a creamy brandy walnut sauce and a shower of pomegranate seeds.

● **THE FLORIBBEAN** • St. Petersburg; \$ • Billing itself as a Caribbean fusion restaurant, the casual counter spot in St. Pete's Grand Central District features a build-your-own-bowl concept combining Florida and Caribbean cooking techniques. The assembly-line ordering format means guests can mix and match proteins with starches, sides and sauces. The restaurant also lists a number of signature bowls, including the Yardbird, a savory combo of smoked paprika chicken, sweet plantains, coconut rice, ginger black beans and a jerk aioli. Tropical thirst quenchers include acai juice, fresh coconut, lime and ginger juice, and mango mimosas.

● **RED MESA** • St. Petersburg; \$\$ • The flagship location on Fourth Street opened in 1995 and the local Mexican mini empire has since expanded with the more casual offshoots: Red Mesa Cantina, in downtown St. Pete, and Red Mesa Mercado, in St. Pete's EDGE District. At the original spot, you'll find a polished and warm atmosphere to accompany the creative takes on regional Mexican, Central American and Southwestern cuisines. The EDGE District's Mercado location is where you might head on a sunny weekend afternoon or for a quick lunch break and the buzzy downtown Red Mesa Cantina is a great place to turn it up over a round of fish tacos and potent margaritas on the shady outdoor patio.



HAWKERS ASIAN STREET FOOD



THE BLACK PEARL

● **WILD CHILD** • St. Petersburg; \$\$ • This buzzy, tropical-themed restaurant has quickly become one of the most popular hot spots on St. Pete's dining scene. With a spacious – and covered – outdoor dining setup, a creative menu that touches on bright Caribbean flavors (snapper ceviche with watermelon and plantain chips; jerk octopus with Meyer lemon jam) and a cocktail menu heavy on the tequila and mezcal, the restaurant feels a lot like the 'Burg's very own tropical oasis. Weekend brunch offers a nice excuse to soak up some sunshine at the sidewalk tables over dishes like tres leches French toast, and eye-openers that include pineapple, watermelon and grapefruit mimosas.



PATTI'S KITCHEN

FRENCH

● **CAFE LARGO** • Largo; \$\$\$ • Take a culinary trip to France without leaving the country at this long-running Largo restaurant where regional dishes offer a taste of the country that extends beyond the standard bistro classics. Romantic and intimate, this is the place to cozy up and linger for hours over plates of foie gras with cognac-tinged apples, roasted duck breast with tarragon sauce and dark and creamy Belgian chocolate mousse. A three-course prix-fixe menu includes a choice of pâté or soup to start, several entrees and a fruit tart or house sorbet for dessert.

● **CASSIS** • St. Petersburg; \$\$ • This French-American hybrid feels in many ways like the anchor of Beach Drive; and with escargot, moules frites and a classic croque monsieur, there is plenty to satisfy any francophile. But the wide-reaching menu covers plenty of New American ground, too: burgers are topped with caramelized onions and gruyere, sea scallops are served with a braised short rib hash, and a



THE LIBRARY

blackened grouper sandwich is paired with remoulade and pineapple. The upscale casual bistro vibe inside the restaurant extends to the airy outdoor patio – the best spot to be on a sunny weekend afternoon.

● **LEFT BANK BISTRO** • St. Petersburg; \$\$ • This charming French restaurant, inside a renovated home, seeks to evoke the jazz and splendor of Paris' left bank in the 1920s and pays homage to both the literary and artistic accomplishments of the era. Outside, the spacious patio provides plenty of options for a breezy al fresco meal. Inside, the dining room is outfitted with cozy nooks where it's easy to feel as if you're dining inside someone's home. The French bistro menu includes all classics: silky chicken liver pâté, served with pickled fennel and caper berries; caramelized onion tarts; steak frites; boeuf bourguignon and a beautiful bouillabaisse, chock full of local seafood bobbing in a saffron-tinged lobster broth.

● **PARTS OF PARIS** • Safety Harbor; \$\$ • Set in a restored 1936 bungalow in the heart of downtown Safety Harbor, this modern French bistro imbues plenty of neighborhood charm. It's a popular spot for date nights and the bar scene can often get lively, fueled by a creative list of libations ranging from cucumber basil martinis to fizzy French 75s. Don't skip on the daily specials, which include a classic boeuf bourguignon on Tuesdays and tasty bouillabaisse on Fridays.

ASIAN

● **BUYA RAMEN** • St. Petersburg; \$ • This modern, dimly-lit Japanese gastropub offers a

short but standout selection of izakaya-style small plates, from fluffy bao, stuffed with crispy pork belly to char-grilled edamame and savory mushroom buns. The ramen is excellent, too, especially the tonkotsu versions, where a cloudy, flavorful chicken and pork bone broth is paired with anything from crispy duck to braised short rib, pork belly and shiitake mushrooms. An extensive Japanese whiskey selection provides the backbone for many cocktails and the shochu and sake collection offer plenty of variety for curious imbibers looking to explore something new.

● **DOORIBAN** • St. Petersburg; \$ • St. Pete's best bet for traditional Korean fare sits inside a former drive-through fast food restaurant, but the casual, no-frills setting belies the fantastic, firecracker flavors exiting the kitchen here. To start the meal, a hodgepodge of banchan appears – a collection of side dishes that include spicy cucumbers, marinated radish spears and flavorful fish cakes. Then, platters of marinated beef bulgogi arrive, piled high with white rice and sauteed vegetables while hunks of tofu bob in a fiery kimchi soup and thick rice cakes come swimming in a hot and spicy red sauce topped with a hard-boiled egg.

● **HAWKERS ASIAN STREET FOOD** • St. Petersburg; \$\$ • An homage to Asian street food stalls, this lively restaurant in St. Pete's EDGE District provides a fun excuse to sample and share from a variety of appetizer-style plates that draw inspiration from Bangkok to Singapore. Malaysian roti canai – a flaky, warm flatbread – gets dipped and dragged through a thick and warming curry sauce. Sichuan-style wontons are filled with chicken and nestled in an umami-rich peanut sauce. Korean fried chicken



WILD CHILD

wings are coated in a garlicky gochujang elixir and topped with crushed peanuts, sesame seeds and cilantro. The restaurant's edgy, industrial chic design includes a large outdoor patio and airy bar space, perfect for taking in the sights and sounds of Central Avenue.

● **PATTI'S KITCHEN** • Pinellas Park; \$ • This off-the-beaten-path foodie destination in Pinellas Park delivers big rewards for anyone in search of some seriously spicy noodle soups and Thai specialties. The tiny, nook-of-a-restaurant serves as an homage to the street noodles of Bangkok. What might seem like a uniform genre at first delivers a unique selection of dishes, each one carrying a powerhouse of flavors. Starters like the impossibly flaky Thai curry puffs and the signature boat noodle dish are more than enough reason to visit.

AMERICAN UPSCALE

● **THE BLACK PEARL** • Dunedin; \$\$\$ • Always a strong contender when it comes to celebrating special occasions, this elegant and upscale restaurant sits tucked away on downtown Dunedin's Main Street. The elevated New American and French menu includes plenty of exercises in decadence from a white truffle-laced lobster risotto to foie gras-topped filet mignon. Food this good doesn't come cheap, but for anniversaries and special dates, this is the place to splurge.

● **BRICK & MORTAR** • St. Petersburg; \$\$ • Since 2015, this restaurant has wooed locals with its charming, cozy ambiance, ambitious and often envelope-pushing menu and creative wine list that frequently features smaller and



TED PETERS FAMOUS SMOKED FISH

lesser-known producers. A popular spot for date nights, the small restaurant can fill up quickly, so reservations are always a good idea. Don't skip out on the braised short ribs with house made "fat" noodles, the tuna tartare served with crispy shrimp chips or the B&M burger, a strong contender in the genre, served on a pretzel bun and topped with bacon jam, sharp white cheddar, arugula and aioli.

● **THE DEWEY AT BERKELEY BEACH CLUB • Pass-A-Grille; \$\$** • Part of the boutique Berkeley Beach Club, the restaurant is a joint effort from a pair of seasoned Tampa restaurateurs and the kitchen's upscale take on modern beach cuisine is spot-on – elevated and innovative yet still deeply evocative of the seaside culture it seeks to re-create. A few blocks from Pass-A-Grille Beach, this isn't a toes-in-the-sand kind of joint, though many of the dishes feel light enough for a swimsuit-wearing snack, from the creamy smoked mahi dip to the barbecue-grilled shrimp and a grilled stone fruit salad. Don't skip the sunsets on the rooftop deck, where a beautiful view of the Gulf of Mexico unfolds to the west while parts of the Pass-a-Grille Channel are visible to the east.

● **THE LIBRARY • St. Petersburg; \$\$** • With dark and light wood paneling, bookshelves that stretch almost as high as the tall ceilings and plush royal blue banquettes to cozy up in, it's easy to see where the place gets its name. But The Library is also home to an excellent restaurant sporting a creative New American menu. The spot gets lively during brunch, when light fills the sprawling dining room space and guests linger over plates of crispy-fried Brussels sprouts with ricotta salata, cinnamon-spiced sourdough French toast and the not-to-be-missed fried green tomato BLTs.



BOB HEILMAN'S BEACHCOMBER



DR. BBQ

● **THE RESTORATIVE • Dunedin; \$\$** • A constantly changing menu keeps it fresh at this creative and charming New American restaurant in Dunedin. Reservations for the petite dining room can be made through Tock, an online ticketing system, but there's usually some room for walk-ins at the bar. A husband-and-wife team run the show here and the duo has won over locals and critics alike for their ambitious menu and welcoming, cozy atmosphere. The kitchen's creativity never ceases to impress with dishes like seared scallops with fennel, burnt orange and lobster sauce; halibut with smoked potatoes, miso and seaweed butter; and for dessert, blue cheese ice cream with cranberry compote and cinnamon.

● **THE URBAN STILLHOUSE • St. Petersburg; \$\$\$** • St. Pete's Warehouse Arts District is home to this new sprawling cocktail bar, restaurant



WOODEN LADLE

and bourbon lounge. Designed with distilleries in Scotland and Kentucky in mind, the 16,000-square-foot, bi-level building features industrial touches and a sleek modern decor. Guests can sip cocktails at the downstairs lounge or sample whiskey flights inside the private tasting room. Meanwhile, diners can nosh on shareable plates of crispy artichoke hearts with mint, parmesan and lemon aioli and larger dishes like a grilled Niman Ranch pork chop served with caramelized peaches, wild mushrooms and marcona almonds.

● **WOODEN LADLE • Oldsmar; \$** • Drawing on culinary influences from Japan and Vietnam, this ramen and pho spot in Oldsmar offers a selection of noodle soups and izakaya-style snacks and small plates in a contemporary setting. For a fast-casual spin, guests order from touch-screen iPads before seating themselves in the modern dining room, outfitted with tall wooden tables and walls papered with black-and-white anime prints. Ramen is the highlight, from the traditional tonkotsu-style bowls to spicy chicken and vegetarian versions. A long list of beers feel well-suited to some of the snackier items like the Japanese-style karaage chicken, which arrive deep-fried, seasoned with ginger and paired with a spicy aioli for dipping.



THE CIDER PRESS CAFE

BARBECUE

● **DR. BBQ • St. Petersburg; \$\$** • Barbecue pitmaster and television personality Ray Lampe (aka Dr. BBQ) is a part-owner of this operation, a sprawling bi-level restaurant in St. Pete's EDGE District. The menu is billed as "new American barbecue," which includes a creative and wide-reaching menu of smoked meat and seafood, from brisket and pastrami to pork belly and salmon. But this is not carnivore exclusive territory: The kitchen churns out a large number of vegetarian and vegan dishes that have spent time over fire, from the harissa-grilled carrots to roasted pineapple in a brown sugar and rum glaze.

● **THE OZONA PIG • Palm Harbor; \$** • Right in the center of historic Ozona, this homage to Memphis-style southern barbecue is a casual and family-friendly spot with a robust local following. Folks come for the low-and-slow pulled pork and brisket plates topling with stick-to-your-ribs sides like baked beans, slaw and deviled eggs (most plates are big enough for two to share, and then some). The house special banana pudding (or, as they call it here, the "southern creme brulee") is a favorite for dessert, as are the coconut creme and peanut butter pies.

LOCAL CLASSICS

● **BOB HEILMAN'S BEACHCOMBER • Clearwater Beach; \$\$\$** • Take a step back in time at this Clearwater Beach mainstay, which offers a taste of a glamorous and bygone era. Start with a Beachcomber Classic martini or a Harvey Wallbanger and move on to Clams Casino, escargot in a buttery Madeira sauce and jumbo shrimp cocktail. The restaurant features several different dining areas, including the intimate main room, which often features live piano performances. Diners come for the fresh seafood, quality steaks and the "Back to the Farm" fried chicken, which comes served with whipped potatoes, a vegetable side, pan gravy and old-fashioned cream slaw.

● **THE CHATTAWAY • St. Petersburg; \$** • A high tea service features a proper English setup in the back dining room, decorated with intricate chinaware, replicas of London telephone booths and photographs of the Queen. Step out onto the shaded patio, and you're right back in Florida: A collection of picnic tables sits surrounded by a lush canopy of tropical plants and pink bathtubs double as flower beds. Regulars come for the hefty 7-oz. cheeseburgers and the crispy-battered fish and chips, made with cod. Grouper platters are another favorite

and feature thick fillets of the local fish blackened, fried or grilled with coleslaw and mixed vegetables.

● **TED PETERS FAMOUS SMOKED FISH • St. Petersburg; \$** • For nearly 70 years, the smell of smoked fish, sultan oil and saltwater has been synonymous with this beloved Pasadena Avenue restaurant. The mostly outdoor spot sports a sun-kissed crowd: weekend beach trippers, families with kids and longtime regulars, many of whom have been frequenting the restaurant for several decades. Everyone comes for the smoked fish – mahi, salmon, mackerel and mullet. But they're also here for the German-style potato salad, vinegary and studded with bacon; frosty mugs filled with light beer; and one of the area's best cheeseburgers.

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN/ GLUTEN FREE

● **THE CIDER PRESS CAFE • St. Petersburg; \$** • In many ways, this bustling cafe feels like the vegan and raw anchor of St. Pete's downtown dining scene. In the heart of the boutique and restaurant-packed 600 block of Central Avenue, the owners have taken full advantage of the

prime real estate with lots of outdoor seating that stretches around both sides of the corner building. The wide-reaching menu is full of global and eclectic twists, from grilled seitan banh mi sandwiches to black bean burgers and hummus fries with sriracha. The restaurant also features a good selection of beer, wine, ciders and spiked seltzers.

● **CORE** • Safety Harbor; \$ • This cozy vegan market and bistro in downtown Safety Harbor specializes in upscale and gourmet vegan dishes, several of which feature international influences. Rice cakes are served with a coconut chutney, seared chive and cabbage dumplings feature spicy Korean gochujang paste, and bacon tempeh sliders are paired with leafy greens and sundried tomato pesto on toasted buns. The space doubles as a small market so be sure to stock up on some vegan goodies to-go before you hit the road.

● **CRAFT KAFE** • St. Petersburg; \$ • The trendy cafe has built a name for itself as one of the most beloved local spots catering to the gluten-free crowd. A large selection of tasty, gluten-free pastries includes muffins, turnovers and cookies, while the breakfast and lunch menus include a daily vegan soup, several sandwiches and a build-your-own omelet deal that comes with homefries and toast. A large awning provides plenty of shaded space at the downtown St. Pete location while the 66th Street N spot is a great place to grab an iced coffee and an avocado toast on your way to the beach.

● **GOLDEN DINOSAURS** • Gulfport; \$ • This casual cafe's eclectic, funky and laid-back vibe on Beach Boulevard have made it a Gulfport neighborhood mainstay. The all-vegan menu hinges on quality meat alternatives all made in-house, from sausages to cutlets and seitan. And if it's not made from scratch, there's a good chance it's sourced locally, from the pastrami reubens, piled high with St. Pete Ferments sauerkraut to the local beer and kombucha on draught. A recent remodel allows guests to order online or through a contactless walk-up window and there's plenty of patio seating.

● **LOVE FOOD CENTRAL** • St. Petersburg; \$ • You'll find quality vegan and gluten-free cooking that extends beyond your basic veggie burger joint at this breezy Central Avenue cafe. Start with the kale Caesar salad and move on to something heartier, like the buffalo tempeh sandwich. Or instead, why not linger over the impressive cheese board, which is made with a selection of macadamia and almond-based cheeses and paired with pickled veggies, jams and flaxseed crackers. Whatever you do, don't skip the Carmelita dessert bars, which are a salty and sweet caramel coconut treat.



CRAFT KAFE

SWEETS

● **BEANS & BARLOUR** • St. Petersburg; \$ • Part cocktail lounge, part ice cream parlour and part craft coffee bar, this unique St. Pete hybrid features sweet treats and boozy concoctions like piña colada Dole whip floats and White Claw manganadas. The outdoor sidewalk seating provides a nice place to sit and people watch but if you're looking to take your ice cream on the road, the spot also serves a number of their most popular flavors (Whiskey Bacon Pecan, anyone?) in pint size containers to-go.

● **STRACHAN'S ICE CREAM AND DESSERTS** • Dunedin; \$ • With locations in Dunedin, Clearwater and Palm Harbor, this ice cream parlor and dessert hub has become a must-go for locals looking for a sweet fix. With flavors like Birthday Cake Batter, Almond Joy and Red Velvet Cake, there is no shortage of creativity. People rave about the carrot cake, and for good reason: Chock-full of pecans, shredded carrots and thick cream cheese frosting, it's the buttery "special sauce" that keeps the layers so incredibly moist and delicious. Guess what? There's a carrot cake ice cream flavor, too.

● **(SWAH-REY)** • St. Petersburg; \$ • With two locations in St. Pete, this popular dessert bar (yep, there is beer and wine served for the grown-ups) is a local favorite for sweet tooths. From-scratch cakes come in mini and full-size versions, and the creative flavors run the gamut from blueberry cobbler to coconut lime, pancakes and bacon, and chocolate salted caramel. The menu, like the decor, is fun and full of whimsy. Order the "hookup" and get your choice of beverage with a miniature cake



STRACHAN'S ICE CREAM AND DESSERTS

balancing on the rim of the cup.

● **VALHALLA BAKERY** • St. Petersburg; \$ • It's hard to believe everything in this gem of a bakery is vegan (but trust us, it is). The Central Avenue shop shares a storefront with Lucy's, a vegan sandwich and lunch spot, so it's simple to get both your sweet and savory fix in one stop. For the sweet tooth, it's impossible to go wrong with the nanaimo bars, made with a dark chocolate coconut crust filled with custard. The peach and strawberry lemon bars are like lemon



BANDIT COFFEE CO

squares crossed with a peach crisp, and any number of cake selections are worth it if only to marvel at the dreamy vegan buttercream frosting. For more of a savory fix, the vegan sausage rolls and spinach and artichoke hand pies can't be beat.

● **WILLIAM DEAN CHOCOLATES** • Belleair; \$ • Since 2007, this Belleair Bluffs chocolatier has racked up international acclaim, garnering widespread accolades and multiple awards along the way. The proof isn't in the pudding – it's in the tiny, intricately hand-painted and airbrushed chocolate truffles. From the white chocolate key lime ganache-filled treats to the rum-tinged bananas foster versions shaped like a little fleur-de-lis, these aren't your everyday chocolates – these are miniature works of art. A bonus: you can get a box of the chocolates shipped anywhere in the U.S.

COFFEE BARS & CAFES

● **BANDIT COFFEE CO** • St. Petersburg; \$ • A bright black-and-white mural reading, "Hello, Saint Petersburg," beckons to passersby on Central Avenue. Outside, people clutching iced lattes chat with friends. Those in-the-know will show up extra early on certain weekend mornings to take advantage of pop-up specials, which often sell out in minutes. Their single-origin coffees are sourced from all over the world and roasted locally and the shop also stocks a decent selection of natural wines by the bottle. Don't skip out on the breakfast sandwich, one of the 'Burg's best contenders in the genre.

● **THE COFFEE MILL** • Largo; \$ • This quaint and cozy Largo coffee shop and roaster features more than 60 different types of coffees and a dozen different teas, as well as daily assortments of blended shakes, pastries, toasts and waffles. While you're waiting for your coffee, browse the gift and kitchen gadget selection, which features



INDIAN SHORES COFFEE



VALHALLA BAKERY

an array of edible goodies as a collection of candles, tea towels and greeting cards.

● **INDIAN SHORES COFFEE** • Indian Shores; \$ • The owners of this Indian Shores cafe also run St. Pete's Black Crow Coffee Co., and the two spots carry a similarly cozy and funky aesthetic, with artwork adorning the walls and a piano tucked away in a corner. The cafe inside is dark and intimate while the shady patio is surrounded by lush plants. Baked goodies include homemade chocolate and banana walnut muffins, coffee cake and donuts, and there are usually gluten-free and vegan options available. The cafe also boasts some of the best croissants in the area and the breakfast sandwiches make for an excellent start to any day.

● **INTERMEZZO** • St. Petersburg; \$ • During the daytime, people cozy up over lattes and laptops. As soon as the sun sets, this spot gets amped up a few notches and the coffee drinks are swapped out for something stronger. That's because Intermezzo is really two different businesses: A craft coffee shop and cafe by day, and a swanky cocktail lounge by night. Inspired by the European cafes of the 1950s and '60s, the minimalist decor includes tall ceilings, plenty of natural light and several tables for smaller groups or solo visitors. A side patio features several picnic tables for outdoor seating and

WILLIAM DEAN CHOCOLATES



offers a prime spot to take in the lively downtown scene.

● **SWEET BREWNETTE** • Madeira Beach; \$ • This laid-back cafe right off Madeira Beach oozes casual seaside charm. The focus is on organic and fair trade coffees and the menu breathes some excitement into the standard espresso drink setup. Some of the more whimsical creations clearly have the sugar aficionado in mind with drinks like the Funky Munky, a blend of espresso with peanut butter, banana and chocolate flavors or the Bunny Love, which combines espresso with raspberry and white chocolate. A lively breakfast scene draws locals and beachgoers in for the Belgian waffles, veggie-packed frittatas and – for the grownups – mimosas made with freshly squeezed orange juice.

DIGITAL DINING GUIDE
VisitSPC.com/Dining

Go on a journey with some of the best chefs and restaurant hot spots around St. Pete/Clearwater with our culinary video series.

THINGS TO DO

THINGS TO DO VisitSPC.com/Things-to-do



PASSPORT TO FUN ACTIVITIES IN ST. PETE/CLEARWATER

There are so many fun things to do in St. Pete/Clearwater that you can't go wrong. Immerse yourself in one of nature's escapes? Pick the perfect pint at our local breweries? Keep the kids entertained for hours? Luckily, they're all in play for your vacation. Follow along as we suggest some of the best attractions we have to offer.



SPORTS

THINGS TO DO VisitSPC.com/Sports



FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX



With near-perfect weather year-round, St. Pete/Clearwater is a haven for professional sports, recreation and some of the biggest events in the entire country. What are you in the mood for today?

Let's start with America's Pastime. The Tampa Bay area has a particularly rich baseball history that dates back to St. Pete's first spring-training games a century ago, including many played by the legendary Babe Ruth (who once walloped a 600-plus-foot homer into a local hotel) and the New York Yankees. Today, the Philadelphia Phillies call BayCare Ballpark in Clearwater home during spring training, while the Toronto Blue Jays prepare for the new season at TD Ballpark in Dunedin. You can also catch their local minor-league affiliates, the Clearwater Threshers and Dunedin Blue Jays. The spring-training headquarters of the Yankees, Pittsburgh Pirates and Baltimore Orioles - in Tampa, Bradenton and Sarasota, respectively - are all easy drives over Tampa Bay. St. Pete is home to Major League Baseball's exciting Tampa Bay Rays, who clinched their third American League East (AL East) championship in the 2020 postseason and made it all the way to Game 6 of the World

SPORTS

THINGS TO DO VisitSPC.com/Sports



TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING, 2020 STANLEY CUP WINNERS



TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS, 2021 SUPER BOWL WINNERS

Series. Catch a Rays game at the gloriously air-conditioned Tropicana Field (aka “The Trop”), where notable AL East teams like the Yankees and Boston Red Sox regularly visit during the season.

If you’re a soccer fan, you can’t miss a Tampa Bay Rowdies game at the picturesque Al Lang Stadium on the downtown St. Pete waterfront. Join the Rowdies’ exuberant fanbase, including their official Ralph’s Mob fan club, to cheer on the USL Championship pro soccer team, who recently advanced all the way to the Championship Final in the 2020 season. If American football is more your speed, take a brief jaunt over to Raymond James Stadium in Tampa to watch the National Football League’s Tampa Bay Buccaneers play. Hockey lovers can witness the fast-paced action of the Tampa Bay Lightning, two-time National Hockey League Stanley Cup winners (including their most-recent Cup victory in 2020), at Amalie Arena in downtown Tampa.



TAMPA BAY RAYS, 2020 AMERICAN LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Changing speed (literally), the annual Firestone Grand Prix brings powerful IndyCars roaring through closed streets along the normally peaceful St. Pete waterfront every March. Keep that need-for-speed appetite satiated at the Hooters Clearwater Offshore Nationals in the fall, one of the top boat races in Florida.

The PGA TOUR’s Valspar Championship is held at the renowned Copperhead Course at Innisbrook Resort & Golf Club in Palm Harbor for a week of great golf in the sunshine each spring, bringing with it some of the world’s top golfers and thousands of spectators. Speaking of major golf tournaments, the LPGA’s Pelican Women’s Championship returns to Belleair in November. One of the premiere multi-sport

events in the U.S., the St. Anthony’s Triathlon celebrates its 38th year this spring with great fan support, tremendous competition and a course winding in and out of downtown St. Pete.

In addition to hosting two college bowl games each year (the Gasparilla Bowl in December and the Outback Bowl on New Year’s Day), Raymond James Stadium hosted what’s arguably the

largest, most-significant game in the world of sports in 2021: Super Bowl LV, the Tampa Bay area’s fifth Super Bowl.

GET OUT THERE

If you’re in the mood to get out of the stands and into the action, St. Pete/Clearwater is a



ST. ANTHONY’S TRIATHLON



PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES SPRING TRAINING



ST. PETE SHUFFLEBOARD CLUB



FOOTGOLF

veritable athlete’s paradise, offering everything from golfing and hiking trails to paddleboarding and volleyball. Stretching from St. Petersburg north to Tarpon Springs, the Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail is an urban pathway perfect for a casual bike ride or a long jog. St. Pete Run Fest features three days of family-friendly festival fun that include running events, live music, craft beer and more. For a leisurely evening of classic Old Florida fun, head over to the St. Pete Shuffleboard Club (founded in 1924) and enjoy some “open shuffle” at its popular weekly Friday Night Shuffle event.

Golfers rejoice: Florida offers more golf courses than any other state in the U.S. and, with nearly 40 courses itself, St. Pete/Clearwater is certainly no exception. Play a round at the Donald Ross-designed Dunedin Golf Club, a true hidden gem on the National Register of Historic Places; or hit the links at the Mangrove Bay municipal course in St. Pete, which features well-maintained greens and straightforward design. Also in St. Pete, the par 72-course at the Vinoy Renaissance Golf Club has lots of water and gorgeous scenery for guests staying at its nearby resort.



PINELLAS TRAIL

If you want to switch things up a bit, try FootGolf, a combination of golf and soccer, at Largo Golf Course, Dunedin Stirling Links or Treasure Bay Golf and Tennis in Treasure Island. You can play disc golf on wooded courses like the Tocobaga Disc Golf Course in St. Pete’s Maximo Park and Taylor Park Disc Course in Largo.

FAMILY FUN

THINGS TO DO

VisitSPC.com/Family



ST. PETE PIER

There is limitless fun to explore in St. Pete/Clearwater, both indoors and out – the amazing beaches aren't even the half of it.

ST. PETERSBURG

The new **St. Pete Pier** has been an instant success with restaurants, shops and lots of spaces for people watching or a casual stroll with waterfront views of both downtown St. Petersburg and Tampa. And kids and families are a big part of the equation. The **Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center** offers an air-conditioned respite devoted to telling the story of Tampa Bay and its unique ecosystem. There are educational displays, an aquarium that showcases many of the species found in local waters and a giant sand box with projected images of turtles, sea urchins and other marine life. There's also a fun marine-themed **Glazer Family Playground** in the center of the Pier District. One section is meant for ages 2 to 5 and a larger section has climbing features and a lighthouse with tall slides. It has a spongy artificial ground covering and the structures are

made of a compact wood that is resistant to decay. The whole family can cool off in the free **Splash Pad**, a water play area of dancing fountains located next to the grab-and-go **Spa Beach Bistro** where you can design your own pizza and get a cold drink before taking up a spot under an umbrella to watch the kids play. Make sure to check out the **Splash Pad** at night, when there are lights and music to go along with the dancing water.

Kids get hands-on learning while playing at the **Great Explorations Children's Museum**. At "Great-Ex" there are places to climb, experiments to try and tables of building materials to channel their inner architect.

PALM HARBOR

More than 100 animals - including chimpanzees, orangutans, monkeys, reptiles and tropical birds



SUNCOAST PRIMATE SANCTUARY



CAPTAIN MEMO'S PIRATE CRUISE

– call the **Suncoast Primate Sanctuary** home. The sanctuary has served as a peaceful safe haven for these magnificent creatures who are former pets or now retired from the film industry. There are picnic tables to bring your own lunch, and leashed dogs are welcome.

TARPON SPRINGS

The **Replay Amusement Museum** is the kind of museum the whole family can look forward to as a hands-on experience. Like a greatest hits of arcade games, it has more than 120 playable games and unique amusement devices that you can play all day for one set price. Bridge the gap between the sweet memories of games of your youth with the latest fascinations of the younger generation.

DUNEDIN

Kids can be the artist and appreciate the work on display at the **David L. Mason Children's Art Museum at the Dunedin Fine Art Center**. It features both a gallery and a kids' activity center. Kids can take a painting or pottery class or explore artistic topics in art displays.

CLEARWATER

Kids can play swashbuckler at **Captain Memo's Pirate Cruise** while their parents help themselves to free grog (and beer and wine) on the adults-only deck. You can take in the expanse of ocean seafaring scenery while the kids enjoy a



TAMPA BAY WATCH DISCOVERY CENTER



CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

treasure hunt, face painting, water gun games, stories and dancing for all ages on the two-hour cruise.

Made famous by the hit movie **Dolphin Tale**, the **Clearwater Marine Aquarium** continues to expand its offerings. A new 1.5-million-gallon dolphin habitat allows visitors to see five new connecting pools and their nine viewing windows. In addition to the nose-to-nose encounters with its famous dolphins, you can see the working animal hospital that takes care of wounded marine life. There are also resident otters, sea turtles, and a couple of nurse sharks named **Thelma and Louise** that guests can feed by hand. But the aquarium is, first and foremost, a center for animal rescue, rehabilitation, and release. It has also become a leader in marine conservation, patrolling the beaches for sea turtle nests and famously rescuing and rehabilitating tiny seahorses that were then released back into the wild. And because the story of **Winter**, the Atlantic bottlenose dolphin

that was rescued in 2005 with her tail caught in a crab trap, has resonated with children and disability educators worldwide, she continues to inspire. The loss of her tail prompted the aquarium to fit her with a prosthetic and she has become a symbol of hope. She is also a partner with local hospitals that works with wounded soldiers, many of whom visit for special meet and greets with **Winter**.

The nightly **Sunsets at Pier 60** is a good way to end the day on Clearwater Beach with a festive send-off for the sunset, and a lineup of artisans selling wares, and performers including jugglers and fire eaters. On Fridays and Saturdays, lay out a blanket on the beach for free movies played on a jumbo screen just after sunset.

LARGO

One of the jewels of the local park system, **Largo Central Park** not only has inviting shaded playgrounds, but the **Largo Central Park**



LARGO CENTRAL PARK



REPLAY AMUSEMENT MUSEUM

Railroad has accurately modeled scale locomotives that families can ride on in a mile-long look through great scenery around the park including a tunnel and waterfall pond. There is no charge to ride the train that runs there on the first weekend of each month.

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Cool off and find some family fun at the **Splash Harbour Water Park** where you can find water slides, a lazy river and a sun deck. There's even some fun on land including a mini golf course and a game room, and you can mine for treasure and keep the booty you uncover.

MADEIRA BEACH

At **John's Pass**, the **Alligator & Wildlife Discovery Center** is home to more than 180 orphaned and rescued wildlife, providing care for a variety of animals that cannot be safely returned to the wild. Its menagerie includes alligators, lizards, pigs, skunks, guinea pigs, rabbits, snakes and sloths. The animals arrive from wildlife rescues, reptile rescues and individual owners who can no longer care for their pet.

ST. PETE BEACH

Behind the **TradeWinds Island Resorts** (essentially two hotels: **Island Grand** and **RumFish Beach Resort**) on **St. Pete Beach**, you'll find the **High Tide Water Slide**, a can't-miss attraction. At three stories tall and 200 feet long, the kiddos are going to see it from anywhere on the island and clamor for a turn. The resorts also offer floating cabanas, paddleboats, mini golf, dive-in movies and more.

BREWERIES

THINGS TO DO GulpCoast.com



CROOKED THUMB BREWERY



OVERFLOW BREWING COMPANY



ST. PETE BREWING CO.



DUNEDIN BREWERY



TWO FROGS BREWING COMPANY



GRAND CENTRAL BREWHOUSE

Welcome to the epicenter of Florida's craft beer movement! With dozens of breweries dotting St. Pete/Clearwater, you're only a beer flight away from some of the country's best craft beer and offbeat breweries. While you could always make a pilgrimage to Dunedin Brewery, which lays claim to being the oldest microbrewery in the state, there are scads of excellent options to down some quality suds, from wheats to stouts to IPAs and everything in between. Here's a sampling of the 40+ breweries that call the "Gulp Coast" home. **Be sure to check out GulpCoast.com for a complete list and how you can win beer-inspired swag just for visiting.**

ST. PETERSBURG

St. Pete anchors the southern end of the destination with a grand concentration of breweries downtown and in the Grand Central District. They're close enough you can work on your daily step goal and check several out in a single day. **St. Pete Brewing Co.** boasts a special St. Pete Orange Wheat, a citrusy selection named in honor of the town. **Overflow Brewing Company** is a great stop for sours and fruit-based beers. The walls are covered in murals and artwork from local artists available for purchase. You can play some bar games or just noodle around with some Lego bricks while you relax, too. And **Green Bench Brewing Co.** has wide-open grounds and is the base for a widespread canning operation.

Head west to Grand Central District and you have more choices, including **Cage Brewing**, with a huge property filled with yard games and pinball machines. Across the street is **Pinellas Ale Works**, which is especially welcoming to dogs (note their initials). **Grand Central**

Brewhouse is a new restaurant in the neighborhood with a bar serving up beer brewed in house that complements the food and the community. Not too far away is **3 Daughters Brewing**, which is the perfect family gathering spot with its spacious warehouse full of plenty of seating, games and a stage for live music.

BEACHES

You can enjoy local craft beer along our beaches, too. **Mad Beach Craft Brewing Company** offers a large space with an industrial vibe in John's Pass Village in Madeira Beach, while **Mastry's Brewing Co.**, just down the road in St. Pete Beach, is a smaller operation housed in a repurposed gas station.

SEMINOLE

Rapp Brewing Company is a longtime craft brewery with legendary status, operating out of an industrial park in the middle of

border with Dunedin, across the street from a fabulous barbecue joint

DUNEDIN

Speaking of Dunedin, this town should certainly be on your list. Beyond the aforementioned **Dunedin Brewery** (known locally simply as "the brewery") you can take your choice of more than a half-dozen other options in the quaint downtown. Among them is **Caledonia Brewing**, which is housed in the old *Dunedin Times* newspaper office – a publication once operated by a teetotaler. **House of Beer** recently opened a covered pavilion in their already sizable beer garden. Just down the Pinellas Trail is **Cueni Brewing Co.**, which can make a mean Belgian-style Ale. And of course, the original **7venth Sun Brewery** still operates out of its strip mall on Bayshore Boulevard (Graffiti Orange Wheat is a must).

PALM HARBOR

Within Palm Harbor's historic downtown, **de Bine Brewing Co.** features several high-ABV choices. **Stilt House Brewery** is located directly off the Pinellas Trail and is a great spot for cyclists looking for a tasty rest stop.

TARPON SPRINGS

Recently this Greek-American enclave is looking to rival its southern neighbors in the number of breweries per capita. Tarpon Springs boasts a renewed downtown and some new locations joining **Silverking Brewing Co.**, which operates out of the old city jail just off Tarpon Avenue. **Two Frogs Brewing Company** is a father and son business in a refurbished storefront that specializes in American Beers. **Brighter Days Brewing Company** and **Unrefined Brewing** are both nearby, with large decks for outdoor quaffing. Down at the famous Sponge Docks, **5 Branches Brewing** offers a brand-new option for people looking to cool off out of the sun.

breweries in town, thriving in a converted auto repair shop. Their trivia nights and annual Girl Scout Cookies-inspired beer event are outrageously popular. The father-son brewing team of **Troubled Waters Brewing** transformed a Main Street fixture into a colorful space with a Florida-style vibe.

CLEARWATER

Clearwater's Grindhaus Brew Lab is a favorite, with beakers of beer available during movie nights and a homebrew store selling the wares for you to make your own. **Southern Lights Brewing Company** specializes in handcrafted small-batch ales and lagers. **Clearwater Brewing Company** is a new-ish spot, opening up near the

St. Pete/Clearwater. Their master brewers continue the late Greg Rapp's mission of experimentation and reviving forgotten styles, so expect a long and varied tap list, including the award-winning Gose, which is a must.

LARGO

Arkane Aleworks occupies a large spot complete with food trucks on hand at regular intervals. They specialize in sours, with close to a dozen on tap at any one time and featuring names like Nuclear Dessert and Woo-Tang Cran.

SAFETY HARBOR

Crooked Thumb Brewery is the first of two

BARs

THINGS TO DO VisitSPC.com/Bars

Whether you're an early bird or a night owl, there are plenty of bars, canteens and lounges ready to serve you what you need.



ST. PETERSBURG

Expansive views of Tampa Bay are on tap in DTSP (local lingo for downtown St. Pete), where the city's new pier features **Pier Teaki**, a rooftop bar that offers a new take on old-fashioned Tiki bar classics. The owners also run **The Canopy**, the breathtaking lounge atop **The Birchwood** boutique hotel on Beach Drive. The fun continues in the Edge District. Wine bar and bottle shop **Cellar Masters** takes its vino seriously, if you want some true viticulture. And if there's a game on anywhere that you want to watch, **Ferg's Sports Bar** will find you a TV playing it somewhere in its sprawling campus. Pro tip: Order the wings. A 1930s-era gas station has been transformed into **Swingers**, a brunchy patio bar. The new **Grand Central Brewhouse** offers beers and bites in a suds-crazy town, with a splash of wine thrown in. If Fido made the trip with you, head next door to **The Dog Bar**, a unique full-service bar that is also an off-leash dog park.

CLEARWATER BEACH

There's no shortage of bars along the Gulf. But if you're looking for a bite to eat, **Frenchy's Rockaway Grill** opens right onto the beach, sharing a parking lot with **Palm Pavilion**, another choice spot.

INDIAN SHORES

The **Dog & Parrot** is a classic pub with live music and a Ping Pong table. Also on Gulf Boulevard is **Mahuffers**, an institution with a million stories to tell and walls covered in dollars from patrons.

REDINGTON SHORES

This tiny town features **The Friendly Tavern**, a lived-in and lively spot to grab a beer and listen to local musical talent.

MADEIRA BEACH

There are plenty of places to go if you're coming



THE DOG BAR



CADDY'S TREASURE ISLAND

in off the sand. **Bamboo Beach Bar** plays its live music from its patio. **Mad Pub**, just a couple of doors down, specializes in craft beer.

TREASURE ISLAND

Treasure Island has plenty of restaurants with bars, but LGBTQ+-friendly **Caddy's Treasure Island** is perhaps the most well-known of them all, with a winning combination of DJs and sunsets just feet from the shoreline.

ST. PETE BEACH

Among the resorts on St. Pete Beach, the **Undertow Beach Bar** is a distinguished beachfront tavern with plenty of deck space, while **PCI Beach Bar** at the edge of the pool area in the retro Postcard Inn draws people from both the street and the sand. Just next door is **Jimmy B's Beach Bar**, where you can pop over and listen to live bands. Down in Pass-a-Grille, you can end your day with a bite to eat and watch the sunset from the rooftop decks at either **The Hurricane** or **The Brass Monkey**. The boutiquey **Berkeley Beach Club** also offers sunset views (as well as a killer brunch) at its rooftop bar featuring a collection of craft cocktails.

DUNEDIN

This town is a popular destination for visitors from near and far. Among the many cozy pubs is **Reboot Arcade & Bar**, which offers dozens of electronic diversions, should you want to get in out of the heat. The dog-friendly dive **Skip's Bar** is right on Main Street, offering you and your pooch plenty of people-watching in the heart of the action.

OZONA

Adventure-seekers should try locating **Molly Goodhead's**, a true locals spot in tiny Ozona. The walls are dotted with moose heads and beer signs, and several selections are stored in an ancient, ice-filled bathtub behind the bar.

PALM HARBOR

Bar Fly is a prime outdoor Florida eatery with a good bar menu, with live music on the weekends. If the sun is starting to head to the horizon, head across the street to **Smugglers Island Pub** to keep your ice cubes from getting too dry.



NO VACANCY



ST. PETERSBURG

Beach Drive gets plenty busy when the sun goes down. Start with some vino at **Annata**, home of a huge wine list and even bigger charcuterie boards. Champagne and sparkling wine fans will want to stop in at **Flute and Dram**, and those looking for a clubby vibe will want to check in at **Tryst Gastro Lounge**.

Central Avenue is home to a long line of hot spots. On the 200 block you can pay homage to St. Pete's longtime resident **Mastry's**, a lived-in dive bar that's been in business for more than 80 years. Nearby is the more upscale **Mandarin Hide**, a mixed-drink favorite with the dress-to-impress crowd. For another vintage cocktail option, **Saigon Blonde** works overtime to bring a 1960s Technicolor version of a Vietnamese nightclub to life. Up the street is **Whiskey Exchange**, a stock market-themed bar that boasts a long ticker-tape of its namesake liquor and other drinks.

You can grab a can of PBR and play a round of pool at **The Blue Goose**, on the edge of the Edge District. Down the street is **Enigma**, a dazzling and colorful gay-friendly bar featuring drink specials served throughout several rooms, a patio and dance floor. **No Vacancy** offers guests at its kitschy hotel-themed bar a wide range of punch bowls, cocktails and shots, plus frozen drinks for those hot days.

The Grand Central District offers some unique options, too. **The Saint** is a new speakeasy-style



ENIGMA

cocktail bar that's just off the main drag. Be aware that this classy joint has a dress code! **Trophy Fish** is another outdoor oasis that specializes in Florida cocktails and amazing fresh seafood.

CLEARWATER BEACH

The waterfront establishments really get rockin' when the sun goes down. **Shepherd's Tiki Beach Bar and Grill** is a prime party spot with bottle service and DJs, while the **Sandbar** at the Opal Sands Resort features tasty frozen treats of the alcoholic variety.

DUNEDIN

The restored Fenway Hotel gave a nod to its history as the former home to a radio station with its **HiFi Rooftop Bar**, offering breezy views of St. Joseph Sound and Caladesi Island.

There are several more options on Main Street, where **Blur Nightclub** recently opened up the front



MANDARIN HIDE

of its building to show off its expansive bar, live DJs and drag shows. Next door is **Crown & Bull**, with an expansive patio space and room for both dining and drinking.

Sonder Social Club is a popular spot to enjoy a creative and well-crafted cocktail among the town's many breweries.

TARPON SPRINGS

Wine Society is a new wine bar with a progressive wine menu and small plates in the revitalized Tarpon Springs downtown. If you're looking for more of a neighborhood bar feel, try the **Eagle's Nest Lounge** across the Anclote River from the Sponge Docks.

SAFETY HARBOR

Safety Harbor's growing downtown has its own signature spot with **Gigglegwaters**, billed as a "social club and screening room." Sure, you can get a good brunch there, but you can also plan a dinner with craft cocktails and a meal in the 32-seat private mini-theater in the back.

GULFPORT

Gulfport, south of St. Pete, has a lively downtown area on Boca Ciega Bay. Try your karaoke skills at **O'Maddys Bar & Grille** or head next door to play games like darts and skee-ball at the open-air bar at **Salty's**.

SHOPPING

THINGS TO DO VisitSPC.com/Shopping



MARK LIFE'S JOURNEY

Carefully created with wood, paint and poly rope, the double-sided Hanging Style JourneyMarker is personalized to include mileage to your favorite destinations. Handmade by the St. Pete-based crafters at JourneyMarkers. \$139 (comes with five mile markers). journeymarkers.com



WELL SUITED

Catch some rays on the sugar-white sands of the Gulf beaches with this vibrant Tropical Stretch Boardshort with elastic waistband. Available at Atlas Body + Home in St. Pete's Edge District. \$70. atlasbodyandhome.com



JOIN THE RESCUE TEAM

Winter and Hope, stars of the *Dolphin Tale* films, are part of this six-piece Marine Life Rescue Moveable Action Figure Playset, available at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. \$29.99. All net proceeds directly support the aquarium's mission. cmastore.seewinter.com



NOSTALGIA FOR THE HOME

Utilizing photos and wood, local artist Darren Crew creates pint-sized versions of the St. Pete/Clearwater area's most iconic signs and scenes. Available at Gulf Planks kiosk at the St. Pete Pier Marketplace. \$25. gulfplanks.com



LOVE YOUR SKIN

From Lori's Soap and Sponge Market in Tarpon Springs – the home of sponge divers – a luxuriously creamy, skin-loving goat milk soap with natural yellow sea sponge. Firm in texture and hypoallergenic, these sponges are ideal for those who prefer a bit more exfoliating ability. \$6.25. lorisoaps.com



STAY CAFFEINATED

The largest independent coffee roaster in Florida and a local favorite, Kahwa Coffee Roasting Company offers this nifty Cold Brew Bundle for \$29.99. Includes a pitcher, two boxes of cold brew pods and a reusable silicone straw. \$29.99. kahwacoffee.com

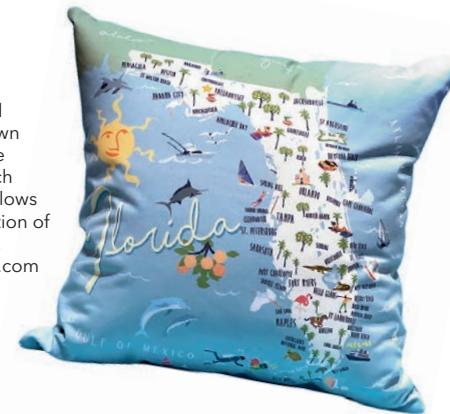


SIPS IN THE SUN

Stay hydrated on the beach, boat or at home with an indestructible, BPA-free/silicone-based Silipint Tumbler. Available in five unique colors at The St. Pete Store for \$13. thestpetestore.com

FLORIDA COMFORT

ZaZoo'd on Central Avenue in downtown St. Pete offers these whimsical eight-inch indoor/outdoor pillows with a retro illustration of the Sunshine State. \$69.99. getzazood.com



HIGH FIDELITY

Music lovers must pay a visit to Bananas Records in St. Pete; not only to peruse the largest collection of vinyl in the world, but to pick up these hip Bananas Buttons as well. \$3-\$10. bananasrecords.com



COOK LIKE A LOCAL

St. Pete Eats: A Cookbook is stocked with healthy recipes from over 30 eateries around the "Burg." Limited copies available for \$20 at Pier Gear & Gifts, The St. Pete Store and Sunken Gardens. stpeteats.org

MISMATCHED WITH LOVE

American-made and eco-friendly, Solmate socks are bursting with bright colors, incredibly cozy and comfy, and playfully mismatched. Buy a pair at the Dunedin Fine Art Center. Prices start at \$17. dfac.org



THREADS FOR A CAUSE

Every long or short sleeve shirt purchase you make from Able Threads supports the nonprofit organization, The Arc of Tampa Bay, and directly benefits people with intellectual and development disabilities. Prices range from \$20-\$46. able-threads.com



MARKETS

THINGS TO DO

VisitSPC.com/Markets



ST. PETE SATURDAY MORNING MARKET

The St. Pete/Clearwater area has a number of charming outdoor markets brimming with goods sold by local artisans, crafters and chefs. It's a fun outing to fill your tote bag with fresh produce, pick up some souvenirs or find unusual decor to dress up your home. They are all pet-friendly and have a great small-town vibe where people regularly chat up the sellers. Or just sit for awhile to have a snack and people-watch, take in live music, enjoy the weather and smile at the tiny dogs in strollers passing by.

ST. PETE SATURDAY MORNING MARKET

The granddaddy of the area's open-air markets, this is the longest-running and most popular market, drawing roughly 10,000 visitors each Saturday. Since it launched in 2002, it has become a weekend favorite for residents and visitors alike, and also the largest farmers market in the Southeast. They come to the giant market for live music, arts and crafts vendors, farm-fresh fruits, flowers and veggies. Come hungry, because the ready-to-eat food stands sell everything from pastries and coffee to empanadas, Thai noodle bowls and barbecue.

GULFPORT TUESDAY FRESH MARKET

This funky, artsy town has a weekly market to match its quirky personality. Set in a charming historic waterfront district, it is a great place to find locally produced honey, hot sauces, produce, meats, skin care products and candles. Local artists and crafters are even there creating works as you watch, while area musicians keep the tempo hopping. Look for the "Keep Gulfport Weird" bumper stickers on cars. They mean it, so just go with the eclectic and welcoming vibe, and take a stroll.

VINTAGE MARCHÉ

The area's largest monthly vintage market is located in the heart of the Warehouse Arts District in St. Pete. If you are looking for that unique find, the market has more than 15,000 square feet of space to hunt for unexpected treasures and curiosities. From Victorian dolls and dainty teacups, to midcentury furniture and funky collectibles from the past, they pride themselves on having the most experienced pickers on hand to salvage retro treasures.

BRICK STREET FARMS

This St. Pete urban farm offers an on-site farmers market where you can buy leafy greens and herbs that are grown in a hydroponic, high-technology-based environment that's so sophisticated you don't even have to wash the leaves. They sell their insanely delicious greens to local restaurants and grocery stores, but you can buy them in their market.

OPEN AIR CRAFT MARKET

This weekend market at Oldsmar Flea Market draws dozens of vendors selling furniture, local produce, gourmet food, antiques, household items, clothing, electronics, jewelry, and much more. And that's just the crafter section. The rest of the sprawling Oldsmar Flea Market, which has been around for more than 40 years, covers 28 acres and is one of the biggest markets on Florida's west coast.



VINTAGE MARCHÉ



GULFPORT TUESDAY FRESH MARKET



DUNEDIN DOWNTOWN MARKET

SAFETY HARBOR MARKET ON MAIN

Every Sunday, the Gazebo at John Wilson Park brings a farmers market that's also stocked with local hand-crafted items, food vendors, produce, fresh orange juice and a changing variety of items each week. Go early for breakfast or stay through the afternoon and enjoy lunch on the gazebo lawn while listening to live music. Enjoy a walk through quaint downtown Safety Harbor after your visit to the market.

DUNEDIN DOWNTOWN MARKET

This open-air fresh market in scenic Pioneer Park supports more than 60 local vendors selling a mixture of produce, plants, eggs, meats, cheeses, fresh baked goods, take-home foods, fresh flowers and locally made handicrafts.

There's live music, and the beautiful park and downtown invite strolling, perhaps to one of the many craft breweries nearby.

TREASURE ISLAND FRIDAY MORNING MARKET

Head to the beach on a Friday morning, where, for more than a dozen years, this market has offered a variety of crafts, produce, art, collectibles, foods, jewelry, and live music at the Treasure Island Community Center Park.

INDIAN SHORES SUNDAY MARKET

This community-minded market offers free space to local nonprofits and a place for local artists and farmers to show off their wares, including hydroponic and organic produce,

local raw (and delicious!) honey, Florida-grown plants and herbs, and gourmet and ethnic foods that are offered on a rotating basis - so you never know what you'll find. Family and pet friendly, and the beach is right across the street.

COREY AVENUE SUNDAY MARKET

Held along the blocked-off streets of the main shopping district of St. Pete Beach, it feels more like a street festival than a market, with the smells of kettle corn, barbecued meats and the thump of live music. You can make a day of it by starting your morning with shopping, checking out the galleries and boutiques along Corey Avenue, and it's within walking distance of nearby restaurants for breakfast or lunch.

SUNTAN ART MART

A bit farther south on the skinny southern end in Pass-A-Grille, a block-wide beach hamlet, the weekly Art Mart is set up on the patio next to the Paradise Grille concession stand on the beach. Curated by the Suntan Art Center, it aims for an eclectic experience of original work of all media from artists, crafters and designers. You'll find paintings of varying techniques, jewelry, photography and even bejeweled kitchenware.

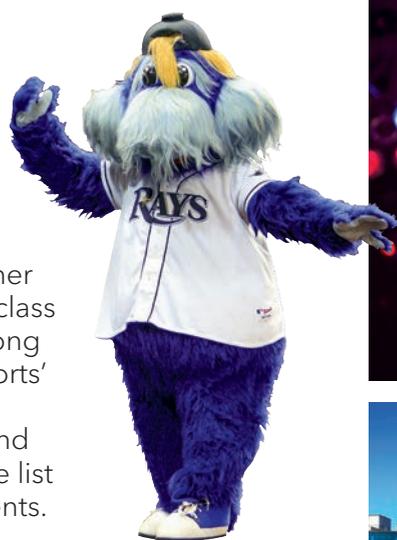
FIRST FRIDAY ART MARKET

St. Pete's Creative Clay, which helps people with disabilities achieve independence through art, conducts an outdoor art market on the first Friday of the month. It is presented by their Transition students, a group of all ages and abilities who are mentored, taught and empowered to become working artists who learn to create, market and sell their work. There are also food trucks and live music on site.

EVENTS

THINGS TO DO VisitSPC.com/Events

Being an outdoor paradise with ideal weather lends St. Pete/Clearwater to hosting world-class events year-round. From enjoying music along the waters of Tampa Bay to cheering on sports' biggest names to fun on the famous sugar-white sand, you can plan trip after trip around special events. Check out the full up-to-date list of diverse celebrations at VisitSPC.com/Events.



The sun sets on your visit,
but the love affair has just begun.

The sugar-white sand, the welcoming waters, the friendly locals,
the flavorful food, the lively culture - they will always beckon.

So as you close the book on your visit here, remember:
this is not "Goodbye." It's only "See you again soon."



Like what you see?
Discover more brilliant
sunset photos like this at
VisitSPC.com/Sunsets.

VISITOR CENTERS

Just about anywhere in the St. Pete/Clearwater area, you can find helpful Visitor Information Centers. They can help you find the best restaurants, get discount tickets and most even have local merch to take home with you.

- AMPLIFY Clearwater Downtown Visitor Information Center (600 Cleveland St., Suite 100, Clearwater)
- AMPLIFY Clearwater Visitor Information Center (429 Poinsettia Ave., Clearwater)
- AMPLIFY Clearwater Visitor Information Center at Pier 60 (1 Causeway Blvd., Clearwater)
- Central Pinellas Chamber of Commerce (801 W Bay Drive #602, Largo)
- Dunedin Chamber of Commerce (301 Main St., Dunedin)
- Greater Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce (1151 Nebraska Ave., Palm Harbor)
- Gulfport Chamber of Commerce (3101 Beach Blvd. Suite #1, Gulfport)
- Metro's LGBTQ Welcome Center in the Grand Central District (2227 Central Ave., St. Petersburg)
- Pinellas Park Chamber of Commerce (5851 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park)
- Safety Harbor Chamber of Commerce (200 Main St., Safety Harbor)
- Seminole Chamber of Commerce (7777 131st St. N #1, Seminole)
- St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport Baggage Claim (14700 Terminal Blvd., Clearwater)
- St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce (100 2nd Ave. N, Suite 150, St. Petersburg)
- Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce (6990 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach)
- Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce Kiosk at John's Pass Village (12902 Village Blvd., Madeira Beach)
- Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce (1 Pinellas Ave., Suite #A, Tarpon Springs)
- Tarpon Springs Sponge Docks Visitor's Center (100 Dodecanese Blvd., Tarpon Springs)
- Treasure Island Chamber of Commerce (12601 Gulf Blvd., Treasure Island)
- Treasure Island Kiosk Information Center (113½ 107th Ave., Treasure Island)
- Upper Tampa Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce (101 State St., Oldsmar)
- Visit St. Pete/Clearwater (8200 Bryan Dairy Road, Suite 200, Largo)



Artist: George Rose



ST.PETE
CLEARWATER
FLORIDA

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Experience the most colorful and vivid vacation imaginable. Where America's Best Beaches meet a world-renowned arts and museum scene. And murals surround you with a stunning color palette you thought only the wonders of nature could produce. Discover the awe-inspiring sights, sounds and the beauty of a trip to St. Pete/Clearwater.

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Immerse Your Senses

A vacation in St. Pete/Clearwater is packed with details that last forever, where every moment is heightened and every color more vibrant.

