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# INSIDE

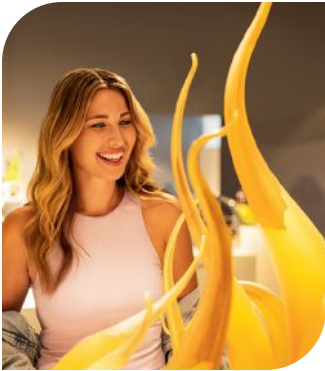
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## 50 OUTDOORS

There's nothing like fresh air and outdoor adventure. Hike our parks or paddle our waters to recharge.



## 56 ARTS

Experience artistic expression with hundreds of murals, world-class museums, dozens of galleries and striking performing arts venues.



## 74 DINING

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.

## 20 BEACHES & COMMUNITIES

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 adventure.



## 18 TEAR-OUT POSTER AND MAP

Remember your trip to St. Pete/Clearwater with a tear-out poster comprised of over 7,900 pictures that make one large image when viewed from a distance or flip it over and enjoy an old-school map with all the must-visit stops for an unforgettable getaway.

## THINGS TO DO



## 94 FAMILY FUN



## 98 SPORTS



## 102 BARS

## 108 BREWERIES



## 110 MARKETS

## 112 SHOPPING





SHERATON

Sand Key Resort  
Clearwater Beach

## Enjoy The Quieter Side of Clearwater Beach

Find your tropical oasis away from the crowds at our family-friendly resort, which boasts 13 acres of private white sand beach and sparkling gulf waters. Savor your dining experience at our four on-site restaurants and bars and award-winning cuisine. Relax and recharge in one of our 390 stylishly designed hotel rooms with exclusive amenities, like our spacious pool deck and pool-side refreshments. Our destination resort also offers complimentary access to the Jolley Trolley to explore all that Clearwater Beach has to offer!



*Book Now*

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RESERVATION  
727-595-1611





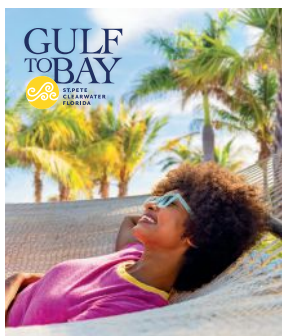
# BEST

The of  
ST. PETE/CLEARWATER

**1** We asked;  
you weighed in.  
Throughout this  
magazine,  
we've highlighted the best  
experiences in St. Pete/  
Clearwater, as ranked by  
the destination's (many) fans  
during our annual Best Of  
survey. See St. Pete/  
Clearwater's most-loved  
beaches, restaurants,  
hidden gems and things to do  
– and, perhaps, discover  
something new.

To see the complete list,  
go to [VisitSPC.com/Best](http://VisitSPC.com/Best)

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## ON THE COVER

The 35 miles of sugar-white sand, warm Gulf waters and rejuvenating sunshine of St. Pete/Clearwater await. So, consider this your official invitation to come kick back, relax and mix things up on America's Best Beaches.

## ORDER ONLINE

To explore this magazine online or to order a free print copy, go to [VisitSPC.com/GulfToBay](http://VisitSPC.com/GulfToBay).



## HOME OF AMERICA'S BEST BEACHES

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VISIT FLORIDA

## Tampa Bay Times

This issue of the St. Pete/Clearwater destination magazine is published by Visit St. Pete/Clearwater in partnership with the Tampa Bay Times, 490 First Ave. S., St. Petersburg, FL 33701 USA, 727-893-8535. Gulf To Bay magazine is printed and distributed by Marketing.com located in Tampa, Florida.

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CLEARWATER BEACH



**P**alm trees sway rhythmically back and forth in the warm breeze. Emerald-green waters gently lap the shoreline. The sun sets over the Gulf, painting a magnificent orange and red sky. And the incredible aroma of outdoor dining under a moonlit night calls to you. This is St. Pete/Clearwater, on Florida's Gulf Coast. Here you will encounter vibrant and vivid experiences around every corner, that will make you wonder why you'd vacation anywhere else. From America's Best Beaches to innovative eateries to a growing arts community, paradise is waiting for you. What are you waiting for?

# WELCOME











2,400

Number of works by Salvador Dalí at the Dalí Museum in St. Pete, which houses one of the most acclaimed collections of a single modern artist in the world

2,400°F

How hot glass must be to shape it at the Morean Glass Studio



ST. PETE/CLEARWATER

# BY THE NUMBERS

1,190

Weight in pounds of the average manatee



500+

Vibrant murals throughout St. Pete



81°

Average year-round high temperature



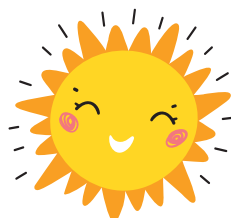
4.96M

Pounds of grouper caught annually off the shores of St. Pete/Clearwater



170MPH

Maximum speed of an IndyCar racing at the Firestone Grand Prix in St. Petersburg



768

Number of consecutive sunny days that gives St. Pete its Guinness World Record

35

Miles of white-sand beaches



50+

Craft breweries

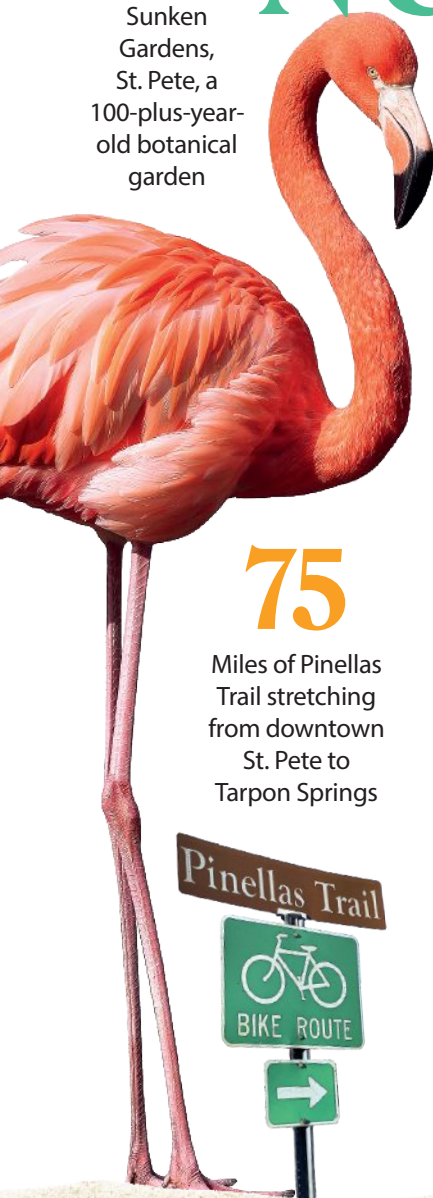
36

Public golf courses in St. Pete/Clearwater



21

Number of Chilean flamingos at Sunken Gardens, St. Pete, a 100-plus-year-old botanical garden



75

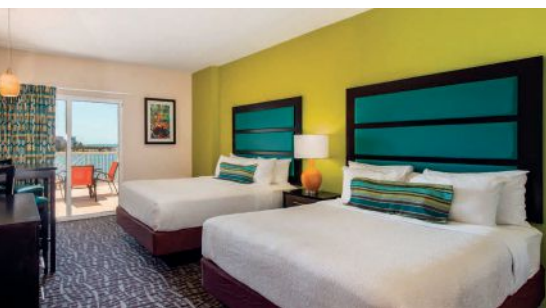
Miles of Pinellas Trail stretching from downtown St. Pete to Tarpon Springs



200+

Movies filmed in St. Pete/Clearwater





## Experience Premier Dining & Entertainment

Hip luxury rooms with modern amenities and stunning views. A beautiful pool with 7000 sq. ft. tropical deck featuring Soak Bar and VIP cabanas. Relax and enjoy delicious food and cold drinks at the waterfront Tiki Beach Grill. Popular with locals and tourists alike, the Tiki Beach Bar and Wave Nightclub are known worldwide for bringing some of the best entertainment to Clearwater Beach.

It's all at Shephard's Beach Resort.



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**[www.SHEPHARDS.com](http://www.SHEPHARDS.com)**



# 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, whatever their speed.





# BAYSTAR ★ RESTAURANT GROUP



*From our boats, to your plates.*



Visit [BaystarRestaurantGroup.com](http://BaystarRestaurantGroup.com) for locations & details



# FIND YOUR HOME BASE

**L**odging options around St. Pete/Clearwater are as charming and diverse as the area itself. You can stay in style at a swanky resort, bum around the beach like a local or lounge in a dreamy waterfront bed-and-breakfast. No matter which style of accommodations calls to you, you'll be sure to find the perfect home away from home here.

## BEST HOTEL

- 1 THE DON CESAR, ST. PETE BEACH
- 2 Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach
- 3 TradeWinds Island Grand Beach Resort, St. Pete Beach
- 4 The Vinoy Resort & Golf Club, St. Pete
- 5 Sandpearl Resort, Clearwater Beach



SANDPEARL RESORT

## BEACHFRONT

There's nothing like waking up and immediately walking out onto the sugar-soft sand that hugs the Gulf of Mexico. **The Don CeSar**, a pink art deco palace once frequented by Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio, is one of St. Pete Beach's most famous resorts. Clearwater Beach boasts the luxe **Sandpearl Resort**, an elegant hotel with amenities like furnished balconies and a zero-entry pool. Over in North Redington Beach, the **DoubleTree Beach Resort** by Hilton offers cabanas, a Tiki bar and close proximity to the shopping and dining options at John's Pass Village.

## DOWNTOWN

Stay steps (or a short scooter ride) away from the fun. For a historic dash of luxury near St. Pete's waterfront area, check out the pink-walled **Vinoy Resort & Golf Club**, which dates back to 1925. Nearby is the **The Birchwood Inn**, home to a rooftop bar that provides breathtaking views of the St. Pete Pier and beyond. Unwind in the healing waters of the **Safety Harbor Resort & Spa**, which offers massages, mineral baths and facials.

## RENTALS

Big enough for the family to spread out, vacation rentals make it easy to feel at home while traveling with your whole crew. Amenities like full kitchens







and spacious living rooms make these an appealing option for families with children or groups planning a special getaway. The **Vacation Rental Alliance of the Tampa Bay Beaches** is a great resource to start exploring available condos, suites and beachfront properties.

## HISTORIC

St. Pete/Clearwater has a plethora of properties that remain steeped in the area's lively history while boasting modern amenities. One of the first hotels on St. Pete Beach, the **Postcard Inn** maintains a colorful vintage charm that nods to its past as a haven for surfers and travelers. You'll find unique rooms, an eclectic boutique and cabanas. Dunedin's **Fenway Hotel** dates back to the Jazz Age, when the stunning building was home to St. Pete/Clearwater's first radio station. Today the swanky building is home to live music throughout the week, plus a rooftop bar and a decadent chophouse.

## BED-&-BREAKFASTS

From private waterfront resorts to quaint inns, there are many bed-and-breakfasts where you'll feel at peace. At Tarpon Springs' cozy and historic **1910 Inn**, comfort can be found just a short walk from attractions like the Sponge Docks and the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Indian



Rocks Beach is home to the tin-roofed **Laughing Lizard Bed and Breakfast**, where the spirit of Key West mingles with traditions like afternoon wine tastings and a full breakfast served daily.

## CAMPING

Whether you're into roughing it or looking for a more luxurious "glamping" vibe, there's an outdoor experience for you. **Anclote Key** and **Shell Key Preserve**, both accessible by boat, offer primitive beach camping with lots of privacy as well as natural beauty. **Fort De Soto Park** boasts over 200 pet-friendly campsites as well as comforts like showers, restrooms, laundry areas and grills. And for families, **Madeira Beach KOA** offers amenities including canoe rentals, shuffleboard, mini golf, a pool and volleyball, plus access to the Pinellas Trail.



## BEST WEDDING VENUE

- 1 THE DON CESAR, ST. PETE BEACH
- 2 Sunken Gardens, St. Pete
- 3 Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach
- 4 The Vinoy Resort & Golf Club, St. Pete
- 5 Sandpearl Resort, Clearwater Beach



## BEST BOUTIQUE LODGING

- 1 PALM PAVILION INN, CLEARWATER BEACH
- 2 The Birchwood Inn, St. Pete
- 3 Fenway Hotel, Dunedin
- 4 Postcard Inn on the Beach, St. Pete Beach
- 5 Hollander Hotel, St. Pete



## BEST SPA

- 1 SAFETY HARBOR RESORT & SPA
- 2 Spa Oceana, The Don CeSar, St. Pete Beach
- 3 Pallavi Spa, Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach
- 4 The Spa at Sandpearl, Sandpearl Resort, Clearwater Beach
- 5 Vinoy Spa, The Vinoy Resort & Golf Club, St. Pete



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# LET'S BE SOCIAL!

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[Facebook.com/VisitStPeteClearwater](https://www.facebook.com/VisitStPeteClearwater)

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



[Instagram.com/VSPC](https://www.instagram.com/VSPC)

Get inspired for your next trip to St. Pete/Clearwater with the stunning photos and videos shared daily on our Instagram page.



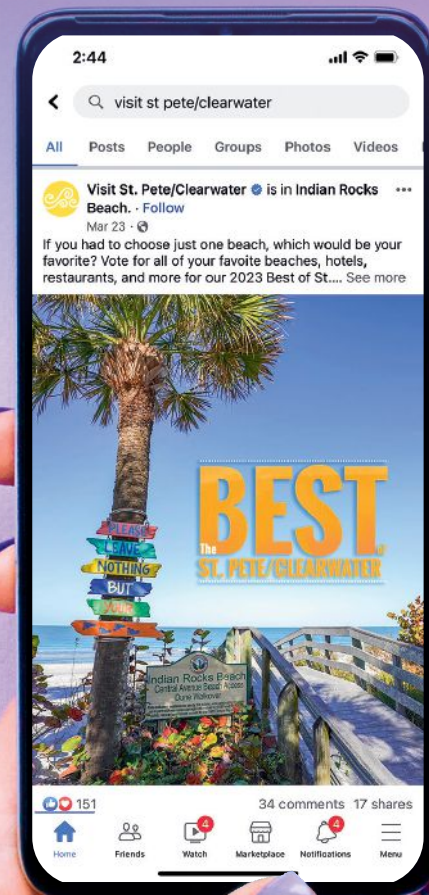
[Twitter.com/VSPC](https://twitter.com/VSPC)

Follow @VSPC to stay in the loop on the area's latest happenings and fun giveaways to sporting events, concerts and more.



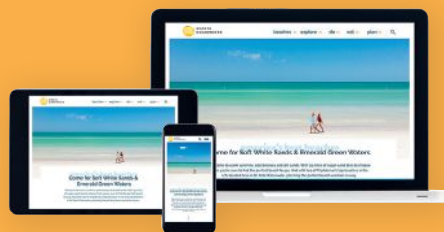
[YouTube.com/VisitStPeteClearwater](https://www.youtube.com/VisitStPeteClearwater)

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!





## PLANNING YOUR VISIT



# FYI!

VisitStPeteClearwater.com

For your vacation planning, all the information you need is just a few clicks away. Check out our website for hotel recommendations, 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 monthly e-newsletter to stay current on St. Pete/Clearwater events, local attractions, hotel deals and travel news.



## BEST WAY TO GET AROUND

- 1 CLEARWATER JOLLEY TROLLEY
- 2 SunRunner St. Pete
- 3 Cross Bay Ferry
- 4 Free Rides USA
- 5 Clearwater Ferry



## GETTING HERE

**St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE):** Offering low fares, small crowds and connections from 60 nonstop destinations in the United States and Canada, this conveniently located airport lands passengers close to area beaches. Parking and transportation are easy to access. 14700 Terminal Blvd., Clearwater, (727) 453-7800, fly2pie.com.

**Tampa International Airport (TPA):** Less than an hour from award-winning beaches and waterfront resorts, Tampa International Airport is repeatedly rated by passengers as one of the best airports in the country. 4100 George J. Bean Parkway, Tampa, (813) 870-8700, tampairport.com.

## GETTING PACKED

Sunscreen is a must no matter what time of year you visit. UV-protective sunglasses and wide-brimmed hats are also good ideas. Shorts and sandals, or resort-casual clothing, are the standard dress codes. Cooler breezes in the winter might require a light sweater or jacket and long pants.

## AVERAGE AIR & WATER TEMPS

St. Pete/Clearwater temperatures are moderated by the surrounding waters, keeping summer averages in the high 80s and winters rarely below 60 degrees.

WINTER (DEC-FEB)	SPRING (MAR-MAY)	SUMMER (JUN-AUG)	FALL (SEP-NOV)
▲70°F/21°C	▲80°F/27°C	▲90°F/32°C	▲83°F/28°C
▼55°F/13°C	▼65°F/18°C	▼76°F/24°C	▼70°F/21°C
63°F (17°C)	74°F (23°C)	85°F (29°C)	77°F (25°C)

## GETTING AROUND ON LAND

**SunRunner:** The new SunRunner bus is the first of its kind in Tampa Bay – it even has its own lane. The 10-mile, 30-stop route is a great way to get from the beach to the Burg and connects riders to some of the area's most-visited destinations. SunRunner offers free Wi-Fi and has charging stations at each seat. The bus runs every 15 minutes from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and every 30 minutes from 8 p.m. to midnight. Download Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority's Transit App to get started. psta.net.

**Jolley Trolley:** The vintage-style Clearwater Jolley Trolley's beach and coastal routes operate daily around Clearwater Beach and neighboring coastal towns, including The District in Downtown Clearwater, Dunedin, Palm Harbor and the Tarpon Springs Sponge Docks. clearwaterjolleytrolley.com.

**Suncoast Beach Trolley:** Visitors can explore all the beach towns along Gulf Boulevard from Clearwater Beach to St. Pete Beach. Exact fare is required. psta.net.

**Trolley Pub St. Petersburg:** Want to make a party out of getting around? The Trolley Pub is a BYOB, pedal-powered, pub-crawling trolley for up to 15 people. It's not only a fun mode of transportation, but a great way to experience many of the craft beer breweries throughout downtown St. Pete. trolleypub.com/stpetersburg/.

**Downtown Looper:** The Downtown Looper electric bus connects major attractions within downtown St. Pete, including the Dalí Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, Beach Drive and more. The free service operates seven days a week. psta.net.





ELECTRIC SCOOTERS



CROSS BAY FERRY

**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](http://psta.net).

**Ride Sharing:** Uber and Lyft are offered throughout the region. Get the apps and connect with a ride in minutes. [uber.com](http://uber.com) and [lyft.com](http://lyft.com).

**Coast Bike Share (Powered by HOPR):** Explore downtown St. Pete on a bike (including a new fleet of electric bikes) from one of Coast Bike Share's many stations. You can rent from one station and return to another. It's a great way to cruise along the city's waterfront or view the vast display of murals throughout downtown. [gohopr.com/coast/](http://gohopr.com/coast/).

**Electric Scooters:** St. Pete has added popular electric scooter rentals to its transportation options. Visitors can download phone apps to find Razor scooters with a seat or standing models from Veo from a myriad of corrals around the city. Riders are charged \$1 to unlock the scooters, then once

they're unlocked, they're charged by the minute. [razor.com](http://razor.com) and [veoride.com](http://veoride.com).

**Bicycles for One or More:** Bike rentals are available in Dunedin, Safety Harbor, St. Pete Beach, St. Pete and Tarpon Springs. Visitors can rent cruiser bikes, double surreys for up to six riders plus two children and more. The types of bikes available for rent vary by location. [wheelfunrentals.com](http://wheelfunrentals.com).

## GETTING AROUND ON THE WATER

**Boat Tours and Rentals:** If you love the water, you're sure to enjoy guided nature tours by boat, or try out a sunset cruise, paddling trails or a ride on a pirate ship. There's also the option to rent a small powerboat for an independent voyage out into the water. Choose your own adventure in the St. Pete/Clearwater area at [VisitSPC.com/Boating](http://VisitSPC.com/Boating).

**Clearwater Ferry:** Visit Clearwater Beach using this water taxi and avoid traffic and parking hassles. Free parking is available at downtown Clearwater and Dunedin stops, with taxi stops at the Clearwater Beach Marina, North Beach (Rec Center), downtown Dunedin and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium/Island Estates. Reservations are required. [clearwaterferry.com](http://clearwaterferry.com).

**Cross Bay Ferry:** This ferry connects downtown St. Pete to downtown Tampa by way of an approximately 50-minute scenic cruise across the calm waters of Tampa Bay. The ferry operates Wednesdays through Sundays (plus during NHL Tampa Bay Lightning home games) from October until May. [thecrossbayferry.com](http://thecrossbayferry.com).



## ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

The award-winning beaches, parks and museums of St. Pete/Clearwater are places that every visitor will want to enjoy. Local resident Beth Stombaugh (above), who has been a manual wheelchair user all her life, provides firsthand, expert insight on accessibility in the destination.

### CLEARWATER BEACH

Besides its gorgeous white sands and emerald-green waters, Clearwater Beach is one of Beth's top picks for beach accessibility because it offers motorized beach wheelchairs at no charge, which can make exploring a lot easier. Three powered and four manual beach wheelchairs are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Clearwater Lifeguard Tower 0.

### BOCA CIEGA MILLENNIUM PARK, SEMINOLE

Boca Ciega Millennium Park, just 2.5 miles west of Indian Shores, is part of the "Great Florida Birding Trail" and offers two wheelchair-accessible trails to explore. Its ADA accessible playground features a poured rubber surface for easier mobility and offers barrier-free interaction for children of all abilities from ages 2-12.

Read more about Beth's firsthand experience at [VisitSPC.com/Accessibility](http://VisitSPC.com/Accessibility)



# LET'S EXPLORE







## OUR GULF BEACHES & INLAND COMMUNITIES

**B**ask in emerald-green, warm waters along 35 miles of white-sand beaches recognized as some of the best in the world. After you've soaked up enough of our Gulf Coast breezes and sunshine, explore savory dining and endless entertainment options. Like the beaches, our inland communities sport their own distinctive vibe, from enriching cultural landmarks to quaint neighborhoods where you can dine, shop and take a leisurely moonlit stroll. This is St. Pete/Clearwater. There's nothing quite like it.





## BEST BEACH

### 1 CLEARWATER BEACH/ SAND KEY

- 2 St. Pete Beach/Pass-a-Grille Beach
- 3 Treasure Island/Sunset Beach
- 4 Fort De Soto Park
- 5 Caladesi Island/Honeymoon Island

# CLEARWATER BEACH

**The vibe:** A yin and yang of natural beauty and nonstop fun, Clearwater Beach has been named TripAdvisor's No. 1 beach for back-to-back years — consecutive honors that have yet to be achieved by another beach community. Clearwater Beach also earned a spot on Travel + Leisure's 2021 list of Florida's best beaches.

**Where to stay:** Families and young singles alike enjoy the daytime amenities and nightlife at Shephard's Beach Resort. Do it up in style at the four-star Opal Sands or treat yourself to a uniquely boutique-y stay at the Hotel Cabana.

**Where to go:** Head to Clearwater's South Beach for beach volleyball, outdoor seafood dining and nightlife. Take the

kids to the playground at Pier 60, and stroll the eclectic and revamped shops, bars and eateries of Mandalay Avenue. For solitude, seek out the northernmost shores bordered by peaceful neighborhoods.

**A must-see:** Sunsets at Pier 60 is a daily twilight festival with jugglers, stiltwalkers and other entertainers and artisans wowing crowds amid a swirly dusk backdrop.

**Where to play:** Boats for dolphin sightseeing tours and a mock pirate-ship line the marina. Tampa Bay Aviation can take you on a helicopter ride over the beach. Or get high-tech at SimCenter. Ride some indoor waves at Surf Style FlowRider. After the sun comes out, tread the Gulf with WaveRunners and other watercrafts from Clearwater Watersports.

**A local institution:** Frenchy's Original Café, home of the grouper sandwich.











# SAND KEY PARK

**What to expect:** Sand Key Park stands out like an emerald and blue sapphire on concrete amid its neighboring highrises. Sweeping panoramas of the Clearwater Pass and the Clearwater Pass Bridge are accentuated by boulders and Australian pines.

**Offshore:** Picnic areas, a playground and a dog park round out a full day of family fun. If you forget your picnic basket, The Sand Key Grill food truck serves up cheap eats right on the beach. Just a six-minute walk away, the Shoppes on Sand Key offers dozens of stores and eateries.

**Where to stay:** The Sheraton Sand Key Resort and Clearwater Beach Marriott Suites are a walk or quick car or golf cart ride away.

**Where to play:** Sand Key Power Sports rents paddleboards, kayaks and more. Go boating with the professional guidance of the Clearwater Community Sailing Center, located just outside the park.







## TRADEWINDS ISLAND RESORTS

**Just Let Go** on St. Pete Beach's award-winning shoreline with loads of sun and a mountain of adventure. A tropical paradise on over 40 acres awaits you and your crew, with soft white sands and endless memories. Palm trees, warm gulf breezes, and pink sunsets make TradeWinds the perfect destination with more fun and more sun!

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# ST. PETE BEACH

**Among the best:** St. Pete Beach won Tripadvisor's No. 1 Beach in the U.S. award in 2021.

**Something new, something old:** Enjoy the singularly cool experience of aquarium dining at RumFish Grill. Take the fam for a round of mini golf at the classically retro Polynesian Putter. Cruise past 1960s hotels you'd swear the Rat Pack stayed in. Chill out at the chic contemporary rooftop lounges of Hotel Zamora and Bellwether Beach Resort.

**Insta-worthy backdrops:** Head north to Upham Beach Park, where a boardwalk nestled in the sea grapes leads to a picture-perfect lagoon with dramatic boulders. For a truly iconic photo-op, head south to the pink palatial Don CeSar, aka "The Don."

**Beach bars on the beach:** St. Pete Beach has held on to some of its most cherished watering holes, many still right on the beach. For live music by the shore, head to Jimmy B's or enjoy a piña colada and some volleyball at the Postcard Inn. Sway to reggae at Undertow.

**A cute little downtown:** Cafés and shops line St. Pete Beach's Corey Avenue. The Corey Avenue Sunday Market features the best of the fresh, gourmet and artisanal as well as live entertainment.







# HONEYMOON ISLAND



**A marriage made in heaven:** Outdoor recreation and natural beauty make beautiful music together at Honeymoon Island State Park.

**Hike or bike:** Navigate lush nature trails and marvel at one of the last remaining virgin slash pine forests. Unspoiled beaches, mangroves and a bevy of critters, from great horned owls to gopher turtles, call this peaceful park home.

**Where birdwatchers flock:** On the north shore, Pelican Cove provides a hangout for hundreds of shorebirds.

**How to pass the time:** Recline with a riveting novel on Oasis Beach. Play with the kids at a playground nestled in a palm tree grove. Fish for flounder, snook, trout and redfish. Grab lunch at Café Honeymoon and the South Beach Pavilion Café. Shower off near the boardwalks leading out to the main beach areas.

**A doggy oasis:** Take a brief hike with the pups to swim at the island's Pet Beach.







# CALADESI ISLAND



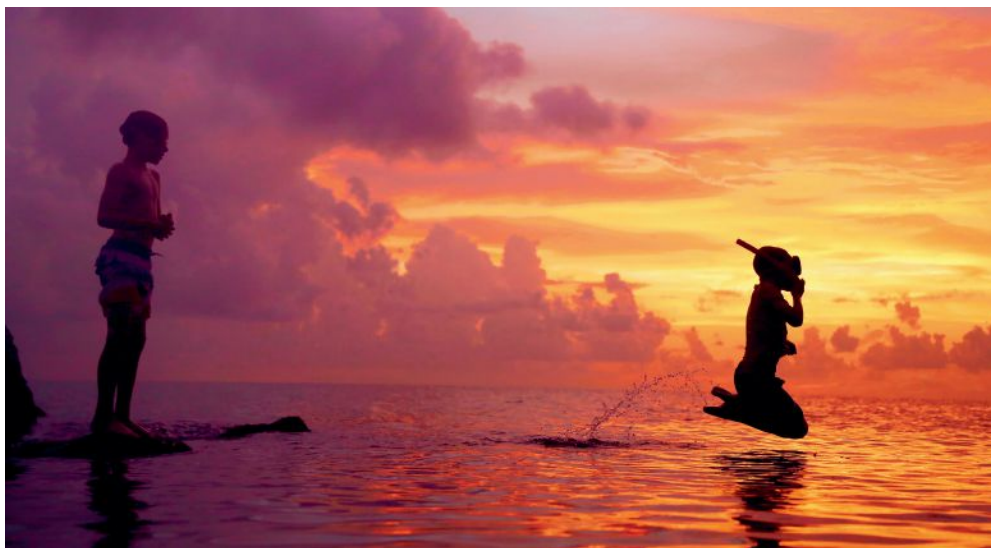
**One of Dr. Beach's top picks:** Caladesi Island was named Dr. Beach's No. 2 spot in the U.S. in 2022, besting beaches in Hawaii and California. While there, spend ample time on Caladesi's immaculate beach, collecting shells and relaxing by the shimmering shoreline.

**How to get there:** Head to Honeymoon Island, where the Caladesi Island ferry docks. Or, rent a kayak from Sail Honeymoon on the Dunedin Causeway. Locals' tip: You can get there by foot across a remote land bridge at the uppermost reaches of North Clearwater Beach. Pay the park's admission fee upon arrival.

**Rent a kayak:** Row through a wondrous tunnel of interlocking mangrove branches.

**Lay of the land:** A 3-mile nature trail takes you to the early 19th-century Scharrer Homestead Ruins. Saw palmettos and sabal palms co-mingle with majestic oaks along the route. Gather the gang for lunch at one of the picnic pavilions. Café Caladesi has reopened post-pandemic shutdown and serves food from 10:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

**A floating campsite?** Camping is not allowed on the island, but boaters can dock overnight; a reservation with the Florida State Parks office is required.





# INDIAN SHORES & INDIAN ROCKS BEACH



**Sweet tranquility:** Indian Shores glimmers and charms; a less boisterous family favorite. If you enjoy the homey charm and the easygoing bohemian vibe of locales like Key West, opt for Indian Rocks Beach, a thriving, tight-knit, festive town that's beloved by visitors and locals alike.

**Local faves:** For a date night, head to Salt Rock Grill. If you brought the pup, head to the scenic, dog-friendly waterfront eatery Caddy's Indian Shores. For liquid refreshment, try the top-notch java of Indian Shores Coffee Co. Distinctive, critically raved-about eateries attract diners from through-

out Central Florida to IRB such as Guppy's on the Beach and the Original Crabby Bill's. Enjoy a heavenly Euro-style pastry and espresso at Café de Paris.

**Walk it off:** Indian Shores' long stretch of shore is contiguous with the shores of other beach towns, so you can stroll for miles, hunting for shells, exploring offshore establishments and spotting dolphins bobbing from the surf.

**Known for the quick dip:** With a 3-mile stretch of beach access points and a narrower shore than



other Gulf beaches, IRB is a favorite for locals seeking a quick and no-hassle escapade, and mobility-challenged beachgoers who need to avoid a sandy slog.

**Stay and Play:** The Holiday Inn & Suites Harbourside lures fun lovers of all ages to its Splash Harbour Water Park. Whoosh down a 42-foot-high waterslide or float on the lazy river. Little ones can scamper safely in their own splash zone. Hungry? Jimmy Guana's offers a variety of eats right by the Cruzan Rum Shack for adult bevies. On rainy days, opt for mini golf and an indoor game room.





# THE REDINGTONS



**Mellow beaches:** Because their beach accesses cater mostly to residents and pedestrians, the shores of North Redington Beach, Redington Beach and Redington Shores tend to be more peaceful — ideal for a family vacation or romantic getaway.

**Wake-up calls:** Sweet Sage Café & Boutique, in North Redington, is a locals' favorite for breakfast, teas and coffee. In Redington Shores, Gypsy Souls Coffeehouse serves espresso drinks and baked treats.

**Where to stay:** Hotel Sol offers beachfront stays at a surprisingly affordable rate. For more deluxe amenities, opt for the Grand Shores West and the Hilton DoubleTree, both in North Redington Beach.

**Where to park:** Arrive early in the late afternoon or on non-holiday weekdays. Look for public parking along Gulf Boulevard or at Redington Beach Town Park. Also, a Redington Shores municipal parking



TIKTOK STAR @TRASHCAULIN

lot can be found at 18200 Sunset Blvd.

**Where to eat and drink:** Enjoy a meal or relaxing cocktails on an outside patio at the Friendly Tavern. Or sip a piña colada right offshore at Mangos Restaurant and Tiki Bar.



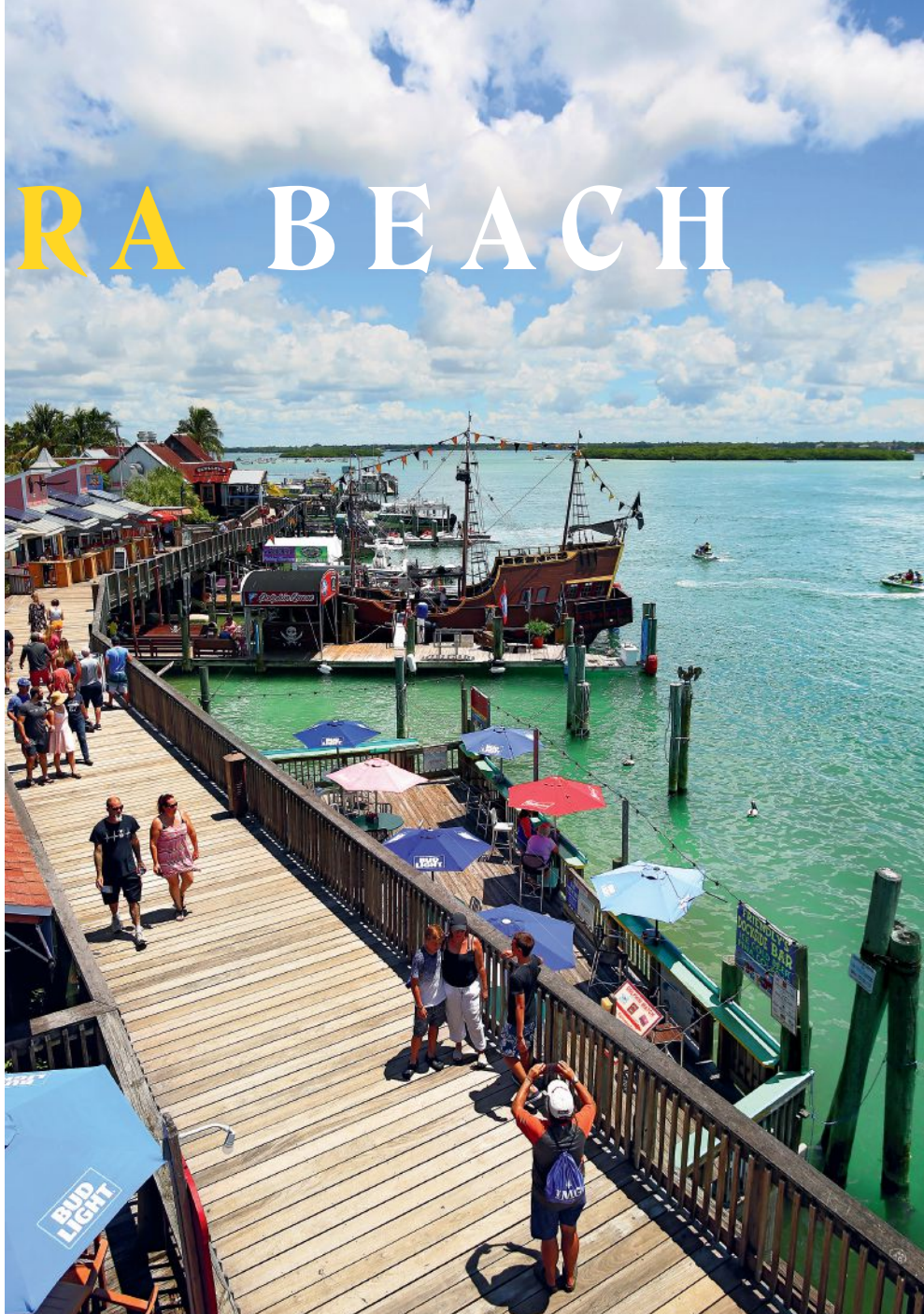
# MADEIRA BEACH

**Best place to 'Pass' the time:** John's Pass Village and Boardwalk looks like a sea village renovated by Walt Disney's animation team with wooden boardwalks with killer views, 100 shops and restaurants, and a slew of tours and boat rentals.

**Family-friendliness abounds:** The Alligator & Wildlife Discovery Center shelters more than 60 rescued and surrendered American alligators. From its beloved mom and pop businesses to its glimmering shores, Madeira is all about casual fun. Perhaps, that's why Tampa Bay Parenting Magazine selected the community among their favorite family-friendly beaches in 2021.

**Avast ye, kiddies!** A pirate ship swashbuckling cruise keeps you and the kids busy with water gun battles, treasure hunts, limbo dancing and tall tales of legendary pirates.

**Where to 'wine' down:** The Florida Winery features award-winning wines made on the premises along with hand-rolled cigars, jellies, jams and other giftable items.







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# TREASURE ISLAND



**A casual classic:** Treasure Island harbors a classic family vacation vibe with colorful mom and pop shops and motels, and a non-skyscraper skyline. Its clear waters and expansive beachfront add jaw-dropping beauty to its kitschy charm.

**A massive shore:** Lest you be confused by its name, St. Petersburg Municipal Beach is in Treasure Island. It offers one of the widest stretches of shore with 800 feet(!) of sugary sand on the Gulf coast. Add the winding, paved, 1.9-mile Treasure Island Beach Trail, and you have amazing, scenic ways



to log your steps.

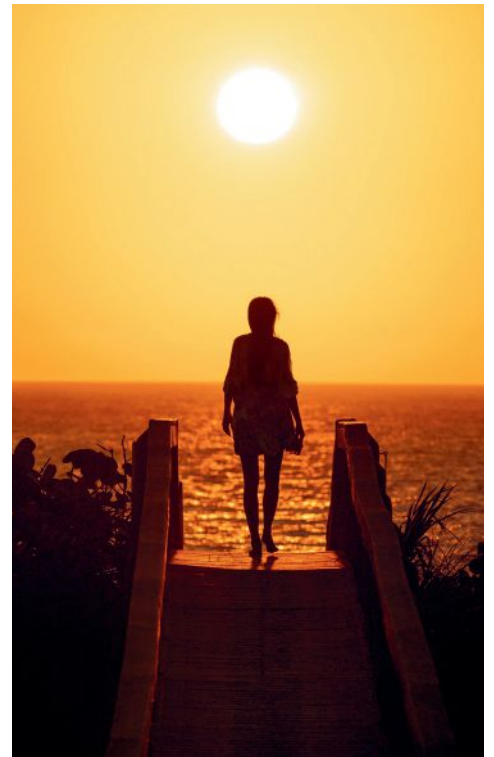
**Where to stay:** Sleep in sleek style with ample amenities at the FUSION Resort. Or, stay right on the beach at the Treasure Island Beach Resort, where you can indulge yourself with the newest accommodations on the Gulf. The luxury property includes 77 one-and two-bedroom suites, all offering a view of the Gulf, with kitchens and a porch or balcony.

**Where to play:** Catch some air and glide over the

Gulf with the help of Parasailing the Pass, located at Crabby's On The Pass. Find out your net worth at the Treasure Bay Golf & Tennis Recreation Facility, home to waterfront golf, FootGolf, tennis and pickleball.

**Fresh-air fun:** Sanding Ovarions, a premier annual sandcastle competition, takes over the beach each November, and the Treasure Island Kite Festival takes flight in January. Browse the Treasure Island Friday Morning Market every Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. September through April.





# PASS-A-GRILLE

**Step back in time:** Turn of the 20th-century cottages and Victorian homes join swaying palm trees and sea oats to hearken back to scenes from old Florida postcards.

**Head 'downtown':** The Eighth Avenue quarter resembles Main Street USA with a contemporary twist. Decorated with string lights and a colorful flourish, the district features the Berkeley Beach

Club, a chic Key West-style boutique hotel with a rooftop bar, the cigars and couture of Paradiso, and the espresso or frozen treats of Paradise Sweets.

**Locally recommended:** The Seahorse has been a local favorite for 80 years. For waterfront ambience in another enduring locale, head to Red, White & Booze. Get cheap eats at Paradise Grille, right on the beach.

**Walk the walk:** Pass-a-Grille features boutiques, a dog beach, cafés, bars, tennis courts, ice cream and fishing piers all within walking distance.

**A breezy institution:** Take in the sunset with a margarita and Mom's 1945 Crab Cake on the rooftop terrace of the enduring Hurricane Seafood Restaurant, built out of a 1912 bathhouse in 1977.



# FORT DE SOTO PARK



**A beachy bastion:** Lucky for us, the county purchased the erstwhile military fortress of Fort De Soto Park after World War II, and now we get to enjoy its 7-mile-long keychain of estuaries, pine-shaded recreation areas and undeveloped beaches. Snap a pic of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge at the park's East Beach. Catch leaping dolphins at the end of the Gulf Pier.

**Go fly a kite:** Because it's at the confluence of Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, the area's crosscurrents make this sandy apex a popular spot for kiteboarders.

**Bark if you love a dog beach:** A few paw prints from the Bay Pier, Fort De Soto's Dog Beach allows dogs and their humans to play together in the water and onshore.

**Secluded picnic spots:** Take a shady stroll at the Arrowhead Picnic & Fishing Area. At North Beach, pine-shaded picnic areas skirt white, sandy beaches with glistening tide pools. Mangroves and jagged, giant driftwood limbs enhance the area's natural beauty.





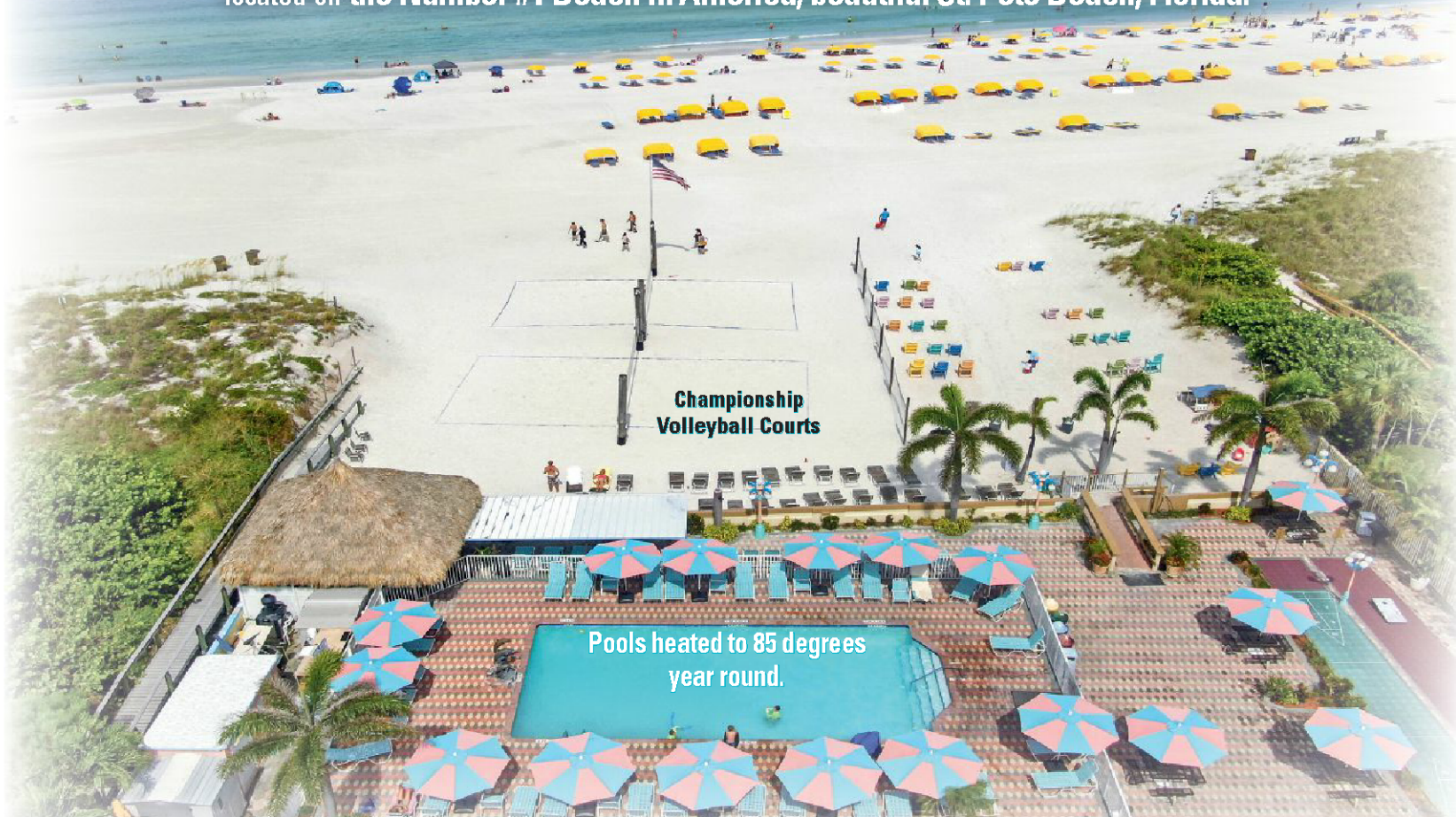


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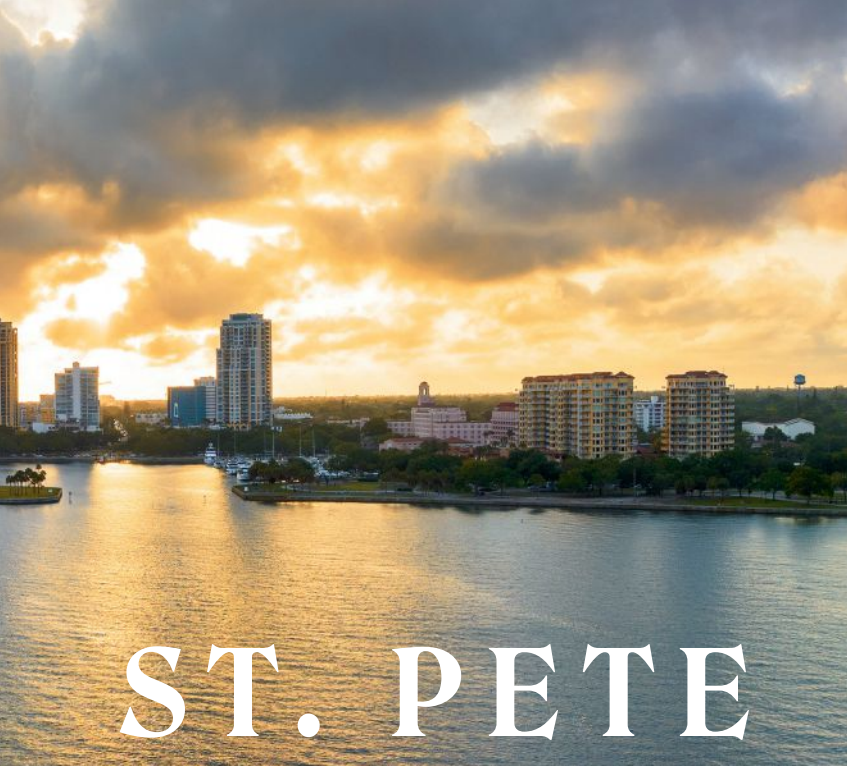
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# ST. PETE

**I**nnovative, protective of its natural beauty and surroundings, ever-mindful of the quality of life of its visitors and residents alike, St. Pete is a city perpetually on the rise, topping national lists every year. In 2022, “the Burg,” as locals call it, was named the Most Dog-Friendly City in America by Modern Globe, An Inclusive Coastal Destination by National Geographic and Best-Run City by WalletHub.

## ST. PETE PIER/WATERFRONT

**Not just for fishermen:** The award-winning St. Pete Pier spans 26 acres of thoughtfully designed trails, public art, restaurants, shops, relaxation areas and recreation spots. The marine-themed Glazer Family Playground encourages young ones to romp on colorful equipment and a wet zone spread out across 3,000 square feet. Or, get up close to marine life at the Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center and Wet Classroom.

**Where to shop:** The Marketplace, typically open Friday-Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., convenes under a distinctive latticed, metallic canopy.

**Culture, culture everywhere!** Cultural institutions dominate the rest of St. Pete’s waterfront. For a concert, check out the Mahaffey Theater. To see world-class fine art, the renowned Salvador Dalí Museum can be found to the south and the Museum of Fine Arts presides north of the pier.

**Night-time fun:** Singles and lovebirds flock to the Pier’s outermost point for fusion fare and stylish digs at venues such as Spa Beach Bistro and Teak. Pier Teaki, a festive Polynesian-themed spot, stakes out the scenic rooftop.

**Locals' tip:** After dark is the best time to see the St. Pete Pier’s “Bending Arc,” an illuminated, netted public art installation that billows 76 feet high.



DOWNTOWN ST. PETE WATERFRONT



DALÍ MUSEUM



DOG-FRIENDLY ST. PETE





## BEST STREET STROLL

1 CENTRAL AVENUE,  
ST. PETE

- 2 Main Street, Dunedin
- 3 Dodecanese Boulevard, Tarpon Springs
- 4 Beach Boulevard, Gulfport
- 5 Main Street, Safety Harbor

CENTRAL AVENUE

## CENTRAL ARTS DISTRICT

**Where is it?** Along the 300-700 blocks of Central Avenue, a lively district overflows with first-rate visual and performing arts spots, including Florida CraftArt, the James Museum of Western and



Wildlife Art, the Chihuly Collection, the Morean Arts Center, Imagine Museum and Studio@620, plus local dining favorites, couture and more.

**Where to go:** Take in a play at American Stage. Meet an up-and-coming author at Tombolo Books, browse the stylish threads of MISRED Outfitters, or dine in some of the Burg's best-reviewed restaurants, including Il Ritorno and Brick & Mortar.

**For something different:** Get animated amid the illustrated walls of the 2D Café.

**A mecca for live music:** The Floridian Social Club is a swanky venue and craft cocktail lounge.

## WAREHOUSE ARTS DISTRICT

**Art in a warehouse?** Well, sort of, but not really. Built from the rubble of an abandoned industrial district, the Warehouse Arts District features shared artist spaces and galleries, and pulsates with fresh creative vibes. It keeps getting bigger and better every year.





GREEN BENCH BREWING



IMAGINE MUSEUM

**New kids on the block:** The Factory, a co-op of sorts, includes The Fairgrounds St. Pete, an immersive art experience; Daddy Kool Records; and a space for rotating art shows.

**Not in a warehouse:** The Morean Center for Clay occupies a historic train depot and features art classes as well as wares from more than 50 artists.

## THE DEUCES LIVE DISTRICT

**Vibrant and victorious:** A persistently evolving community of predominantly Black-owned businesses clusters around historic 22nd Street South, an area known as the Deuces.

**Engaging the community:** Deuces Live events engage the community and visitors with a wide range of entertainment and local

shopping opportunities.

**Cultural landmarks:** The starting point of the African American Heritage Trail, the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum delves into works created from pride and heritage. Iconic murals include “Jazz,” a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald by Zulu Painter, Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong by Herbert Davis and the Black Lives Matter street mural.

## GRAND CENTRAL DISTRICT

**An inclusive vibe:** Grand Central reps its LGBTQ+ business community with pride and is home to the Pride Street Carnival every June.

**Culture and cuisine:** Imagine Museum displays some of the highest-profile glass art in the region. Grab a bite at the colorful Casita Taqueria or enjoy



THE FAIRGROUNDS ST. PETE

the innovative dishes and cocktails of Wild Child. For craft brews, head to Hawthorne’s Bottle Shoppe.

**Fur-friendly:** The Dog Bar and Sunshine City Catfé provide fun with our favorite nonhuman companions. The Dog Bar invites patrons to bring their best friends, and the Catfé supplies young felines of their own for your enjoyment.

## EDGE DISTRICT

**‘Florida’s Best Neighborhood’?** The award-winning, strollable, art-filled downtown EDGE District has won 15 Florida Secretary of State Awards for Outstanding Main Street programs, businesses and volunteers.

**A cherished hangout:** Green Bench Brewing keeps families entertained with lawn amusements and ample space to play. Rent bikes from Coast Bike Share or scooters at Veo Ride Share, or hop on the Central Avenue Trolley.

**A mural mecca:** Vibrant murals cover the district.



# CLEARWATER

**N**ot to be overshadowed by its beaches, the city of Clearwater and its neighboring communities overflow with cultural charm and exquisite palms and greenery. The city's downtown, a site of ambitious redevelopment, beautification and public art, has become a go-to for local commerce, dining, retail and entertainment.







CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM



CONGO RIVER GOLF



DOWNTOWN CLEARWATER

**What's new:** The scenic waterfront will get a major face-lift with a new outdoor waterfront concert venue called The Sound, operated by Ruth Eckerd Hall in partnership with the City of Clearwater. The event space accommodates a year-round performance schedule with 4,000 covered seats and 5,000 lawn seats.

**Where to catch a star or stand-up comic:** Famous acts of today and yesteryear headline the Bilheimer Capitol Theatre in downtown Clearwater. For big nights out and impromptu matinees, Ruth Eckerd Hall features A-list headliners and Broadway shows in its 2,180-seat auditorium.

**Where to gawk at dolphins and sea otters:** The world-renowned Clearwater Marine Aquarium homes and re-homes dolphins and other sea life.

**Where Indiana Jones plays:** Enjoy mini golf and other amusements in an explorer-themed atmosphere at Congo River Golf.

**Where to eat:** Local favorites include the authentic Southern Italian pie of Cristino's Coal Oven Pizza as well as their homemade gelato.

**Where to play indoors:** The Escape Room Clearwater unlocks loads of fun, and the Tampa Bay Grand Prix takes you for a spin on its climate-controlled go-kart track.



RENDERING OF PLAYGROUND AT COACHMAN PARK





# TARPON SPRINGS

**Its claim to fame:** United States' highest per capita representation of Greek Americans. Their forebears brought commerce to the once-sleepy fishing village.

**Where you must go:** The Historic Sponge Docks District, where Old World-style shops entice shoppers, and Greek eateries lure hungry passersby with tantalizing aromas. Feeling romantic? Reserve a sunset dinner at Dimitri's on the Water.

**A splashy annual tradition:** Crowds flock to the city's Spring Bayou every Jan. 6 for the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral's Epiphany celebration, which challenges local teenagers to be the first to retrieve a white cross from the chilly waters of Spring Bayou.

**What else to check out:** Downtown Tarpon Springs, a quaint district lined with street lamps and independent businesses; St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral; Brooker Creek Preserve; the Leepa-Rattner Museum; and the Replay Museum, a mecca for retro arcade games.





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# DUNEDIN

**Pretty as a postcard:** Sky-high palm trees line Dunedin's scenic corridor, Edgewater Drive. The watercolor-worthy Dunedin Marina entices you with a stroll on a wooden pier, where you can spot wintering manatees during cooler months.

**Scottish ties:** The Sister City to Sterling, Scotland, Dunedin puts on the annual kilt-wearing, haggis-eatin', bagpipe-blaring Highland Games every April.

**A locals' favorite:** Check out the Main Street Historic District, a district that intersects the Pinellas Trail and bustles with popular restaurants, shops and drinking establishments.

**Go-to places:** Public beaches line the Dunedin Causeway, which leads to the beach and nature paradise of Honeymoon Island State Park. Cheer the Canucks at the TD Ballpark's Toronto Blue Jays spring training games, and check out the arts events at the Dunedin Fine Art Center.







# SAFETY HARBOR

**A different vibe:** Shaded by giant old mossy oaks, Safety Harbor has a distinctly unique landscape with hilly, shaded streets and a slew of mom and pop businesses in restored bungalows.

**Lose yourself:** The scenic and historic Safety Harbor Resort & Spa, located on the banks of Upper Tampa Bay, is renowned for its mineral springs, world-class pampering, nutritious café and bayfront weddings.

**Bohemian arts and fun:** Check out national acts performing live music plus poetry and art events at the mirrored, mosaic-walled Safety Harbor Art & Music Center, or experience the comical decor of Whimzeyland, aka the “bowling ball house.” Locals gather monthly for the Third Friday evening street fest.

**Shop till you drop:** Check out eclectic gift shops such as Tupelo on 4th and the Safety Harbor Galleria, along with the Safety Harbor farmers market that pops up every Sunday.







# GULFPORT

**A true sense of community:** Locally supported, locally owned businesses line Gulfport's main drag, Beach Boulevard, adjacent to oak-shaded residential streets with charmingly colorful bungalows.

**Festive gatherings:** The townsfolk commune for the First Friday Art Walk, which draws locals and visitors alike in search of one-of-a-kind decor and accessories. The Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market hawks local produce and handmade goods. GeckoFest is an annual Mardi Gras-meets-family-fun festival.

**A breath of fresh air:** Gulfport not only brims in lush, colorful subtropical flora and waterfront views, but you can take it all in a pedestrian-friendly setting. Browse shops, and dine or drink outdoors to bask in the city's charm.

**Options galore:** Gulfport Beach Bazaar features 20-plus vendors, coastal and vintage furniture, home décor and collectibles. For something to wear, check out Botiki, and top it off with lunch at Pia's Trattoria, cocktails or brews at Sea Dog Cantina and a frozen treat at Let it Be Ice Cream.



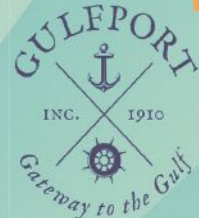


# Greetings from GULFPORT



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# LET'S TAKE IT OUTSIDE

**M**ajestic Gulf Coast panoramas, immaculate emerald-green waterways, lush trails, scenic parks, unbridled nature and wilderness – it's all here. Whether you're excited to spend the day paddling or biking, or you plan to unplug and birdwatch on a refreshing nature hike, there is plenty to experience in our great outdoors.

PADDLEBOARDING



ROSEATE SPOONBILLS

## PADDLE

Warm sunshine, calm winds and protected nature are a winning combination for a paddlecraft adventure. Located at the southern end of St. Pete/Clearwater, **Fort De Soto Park** has become a go-to destination for kayakers over the years. Spanning five islands/keys, the 1,110-acre park is home to a 2-mile self-guided paddle trail that winds you through mangrove communities and seagrass beds. There's also a 10-mile, three-to-four hour paddle trip around **Mullet Key** for the more ambitious paddlers.

The expansive 1,046-acre **Weedon Island Preserve** in north St. Pete is also a paddler's delight. Its 4-mile **South Paddling Trail** winds through labyrinthine mangrove canopies, into open saltwater ponds, and past wading birds and other wildlife.

For an even more secluded excursion, paddle down the trails at **Caladesi Island State Park** in Dunedin. Only accessible by public ferry or private boat, this barrier island features jaw-dropping scenery and 3.5 miles of kayak trails, leading paddlers through mangrove canals and seagrass flats along the bay side of the island. Consider dedicating at least half a day to the experience.





ST. PETE PIER

**Fred Howard Park** in Tarpon Springs, which is located across the water from Anclote Key (more on that spot later), has two main routes for canoeing and kayaking. The first trail is a serene, mile-long paddle through the mangroves that is suitable for beginners; the second is a 2-mile journey around the beautiful **Lake Avoca**. Though this park isn't as well known as the others, it offers plenty of serenity. It's a truly hidden gem.

If you're not planning on bringing your own paddling gear, don't sweat it: There are many outfitters throughout the area that will provide you with everything you need. You can rent kayaks on-site without reservations at **Fort De Soto Park**, the **Dunedin Causeway** and **Honeymoon Island State Park** (you can also take the ferry and rent one at **Caladesi Island State Park**). Elsewhere, **ECOmersion** offers kayak rentals in **Weedon Island Preserve**, and **Kayak Nature Adventures** in Gulfport offers eco-tours around **Clam Bayou Nature Preserve** to groups of four or more (reservations are required).

## RIDE A BIKE

While we love our water-based activities down here (and so will you), we're also avid about biking along the numerous wonderful trails our area has to offer.

Stretching from St. Pete to Tarpon Springs, the **Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail** has long been a favorite of locals and visitors alike. Cleverly created along an abandoned railroad corridor, the continuous, protected, 75-mile multi-use pathway has connections to many cities worth exploring throughout the area – including Dunedin, Palm Harbor and Tarpon Springs, whose colorful shops, cafés and brewpubs may inspire a brief detour.

The **Skyway Trail Extension** begins at **Maximo Park** in St. Pete and ends when it eventually connects to the Pinellas Trail. You'll pass through a variety of landscapes on the journey, but this trail's main attraction is the resplendent **Clam Bayou** waterfront in Gulfport, which it passes through via



## BEST CHARTER BOAT

- 1 FLORIDA TIKI TOURS
- 2 Little Toot Dolphin Adventure
- 3 StarLite Cruises - Dining
- 4 Hubbard's Marina - Fishing
- 5 Captain Memo's Pirate Cruise



## BEST WATER EXCURSION

- 1 SNORKELING, EGMONT KEY
- 2 Get Up and Go Kayaking
- 3 Diving the Circle of Heroes Veterans' Memorial
- 4 Topwater Kayak Outpost, Fort De Soto Park
- 5 Bada Bing Water Sports, St. Pete



## BEST WALK IN THE PARK

- 1 SUNKEN GARDENS, ST. PETE
- 2 Florida Botanical Gardens, Largo
- 3 Philippe Park, Safety Harbor
- 4 Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, St. Pete
- 5 Boca Ciega Millennium Park, Seminole





## STARLITE CRUISES

What started in 1986 as a single vessel operation has grown into Florida's largest daily excursion fleet. **StarLite Cruises** is all about variety: Nature cruises. Fine dining yacht cruises. Casual tropical party cruises. Dolphin tours. Luncheon cruises. Full-day group tour cruises. Each cruise is unforgettable. Regular departures make it easy to fit a StarLite cruise into your schedule.

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bridges and beautifully landscaped trailways.

Pedal through the paved multi-use trail in **Fort De Soto Park** and you'll be treated to stunning water views, glimpses of the historic fort (built in 1898 during the Spanish-American War), plenty of shade and the gentle embrace of old Florida seclusion. The 7-mile trail starts from the boat ramp near the park's entrance, then runs south to connect beaches, a campground, picnicking, the pier and fort.

You can traverse through the site of a scenic former Native American settlement at **Philippe Park** in Safety Harbor. The park spans 160 acres of land purchased in 1842, and is home to an ancient Tocobaga temple mound (a national historic site). The trail offers picturesque views of Old Tampa Bay, mangroves, trails, playgrounds and a tiny beach.

Palm Harbor's spacious and shaded **John Chesnut Sr. Park** offers a 2.7-mile multi-use nature trail that winds through lush canopies, marshes and over boardwalks.

If you want to take in some spectacular views of downtown St. Pete's waterfront, ride the paved 6.5-mile **North Bay Trail**, which passes by the

amazing **St. Pete Pier**, **Vinoy Park**, **North Shore Park** and **Coffee Pot Bayou Park**.

## TAKE A HIKE

There's nothing quite like a good hike to help reset the senses and absorb some natural beauty. Fortunately, you don't have to wander far from the St. Pete/Clearwater cityscapes to fully immerse yourself in nature.

Located on the shores of **Lake Maggiore** in St. Pete, **Boyd Hill Nature Preserve** has become a favorite getaway for trail runners and day hikers. This 245-acre preserve has 6 miles of nature trails and boardwalks that feel far removed from the otherwise densely populated area just outside its borders. Start your hike in a hardwood hammock, then trek through the sand pine scrub and pine flatwoods. The exhibits within the **Lake Maggiore Environmental Education Center** can give you additional context and insight about the environment you're hiking through.

Also in St. Pete, the 400-acre **Sawgrass Lake Park** offers a mile of elevated boardwalk and trail loops





EGMONT KEY

## ECO TIPS



### PICK UP TRASH

On any given beach day, the Baskets for Beaches program encourages trash pickup with bright yellow baskets. Or join Keep Pinellas Beautiful, Ocean Allies and other community organizations for a morning of service on Clearwater Beach. The cleanups gather from 9 to 11 a.m. on the second Friday of every month, from January through October, at Bob Heilman's Beachcomber. Cleanup supplies are provided.



### SAVE THE SEA TURTLES

During sea turtle nesting season, from May 1 through Oct. 31, make it easier for baby sea turtles to find their way to the Gulf by knocking down sandcastles and filling in sand pits at the end of your beach day. Clear the way; you might even have fun while you're at it!



BROOKER CREEK NATURE PRESERVE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER





that wind through one of the largest maple swamps on Florida's Gulf Coast. You'll need to leave the pups at home, though – dogs aren't allowed.

Hiking the **Osprey Trail** empowers you to explore the gorgeous barrier island that **Honeymoon Island State Park** calls home. The 3-mile trail twists and turns through one of the last remaining virgin pine forests in the U.S. – and, as you likely guessed, it's an ideal place to encounter nesting ospreys. The park's **Pelican Trail** works its way around the edge of the peninsula along the Gulf of Mexico, offering glimpses of shorebirds and unforgettable water views.

The vast **Lake Seminole Park** features a paved trail that snakes through pine flatwoods in 1- or 2-mile-loop options. Benches are situated at scenic spots along the way if you need a quick moment of zen. Aside from its hiking trail, the park is also ideal for picnicking, biking and freshwater fishing.

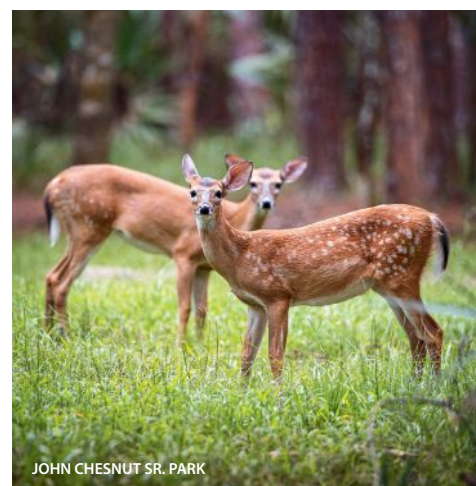
## GO CAMPING

Ready to set up camp and enjoy killer sunset views?

Pack your gear and head over to the campgrounds in **Fort De Soto Park** (yes, this gargantuan park has shown up a couple times in this section – and for very good reason). Fort De Soto has nearly become world famous among camping aficionados for its fantastically beautiful waterfront views, easy access to the park's stunning beach and plenty of amenities (on-site restrooms, showers, laundry and store). Just make sure to reserve your spot early.

For more primitive beachfront camping, **Anclote Key Preserve State Park** is a perfect island retreat. Named a "Best Hidden-Gem Beach" by USA Today, Anclote Key spreads over 400 acres, with miles of striking white-sand beaches and an 1887 lighthouse that guards the southern end of the island. Fire up the grill for a cookout near the beach, leave your cares on the mainland (the park is only accessible by ferry from the Tarpon Springs Sponge Docks) and drift away to sleep with the sound of waves. This is the life.

The uninhabited **Shell Key Preserve** offers a rare opportunity for primitive camping near the beach. Accessible only by ferry from Pass-a-Grille or Fort De Soto Park, Shell Key is one of the best places in the area for snorkeling and shell collecting.



## SEE WILDLIFE

It's wild out there: Gators, ospreys, dolphins, white-tailed deer, hot pink roseate spoonbills, gopher tortoises and armadillos are only a few of the interesting creatures you may see while exploring our parks and nature preserves. The best way to see them? Go early or late, move slowly and quietly, and, occasionally, be still.

With nearly 9,000 acres of forested wetlands and pine flatwoods, the **Brooker Creek Nature Preserve** is the largest of its kind in the county. Located in Tarpon Springs, Brooker Creek is home to nearly 5 miles of wildflower-adorned trails, stellar birdwatching and the award-winning, state-of-the-art **Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center** (a school field trip favorite). The preserve protects a mosaic of fragile habitats, and is a great place to see white-tailed deer, bobcats, wild turkeys and even otters.

Meanwhile, **Boca Ciega Millennium Park** is for the birds. In fact, the park regularly wins high praise from birdwatchers and has earned a **Great Florida Birding Trail** designation. This is due to more than





HONEYMOON ISLAND STATE PARK

175 species of our feathered friends descending on its shores and branches. The park is filled to the brim with nature-canopied boardwalks and other amenities, including a dog park, a covered children's playground and a 35-foot wooden observation tower, which offers incredible panoramic views of **Boca Ciega Bay**.

**George C. McGough Nature Park**, known as "the turtle park," has plenty of mangroves, shady oak hammocks and a turtle-watching boardwalk lining the **Intracoastal Waterway**. McGough's

nature center has hands-on activities for the kids and live animal exhibits, including a variety of rescued, non-releasable birds (owls, hawks and an eagle).

Though it's more widely known for containing 500-plus species of some 50,000 tropical plants, the over-a-century-old **Sunken Gardens** also specializes in exotic bird rehabilitation. Stroll past vibrant macaws, cockatoos, kookaburras and flamingos as you enjoy the tranquility of one of Florida's original roadside attractions.

## ECO TIPS



### BE A GOOD BOATER

When you're boating outside of a designated no-wake zone, you should still watch your speed in case a manatee wanders into your path. Trust us when we say that they are not built for speed.



### WHAT'S OFF-LIMITS

We get it, sand dunes and bird sanctuaries can be super-photogenic and sometimes a tempting shortcut. But they're also there for a reason – to protect the beach from wind erosion and offer birds a peaceful place to live and nest.



### PACK IN, PACK OUT

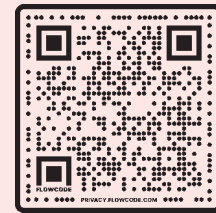
Leave nothing but your footprints! Whatever you bring to the beach with you, be sure to take it when you leave. Needless to say, the sea turtles aren't there to clean up your mess.



# LET'S GET ALL ARTSY

**I**n 2022, Condé Nast Traveler named St. Pete as one the top U.S. cities with “big-time art scenes.” Rich with prestigious museums, an abundance of galleries and studios, hundreds of colorful murals and a thriving performing arts scene, St. Pete/Clearwater is a cultural mecca.





## ARTS COAST Arts Navigator

Check out this new interactive tool at [ArtsNavigator.com](https://ArtsNavigator.com) to guide you through the abundant arts offerings in St. Pete/Clearwater.

# MUSEUMS

From ancient art and history to the most cutting-edge technology, St. Pete/Clearwater's museums offer something for everyone to discover. In St. Pete, eight museums are clustered downtown, while others are a short drive away.

## THE DALÍ MUSEUM

Visitors from across the world are drawn to the museum dedicated to Spanish surrealist Salvador Dalí. Holding more than 2,400 works and artifacts, the permanent collection is one of the most comprehensive in the world. Rotating special exhibitions feature giants of art history and an emphasis on surrealism.

### THREE TO SEE

**The building:** A work of art unto itself, featuring a helical staircase in the center of the museum that 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" that erupts from the outside. *Dalí Lives (via Artificial Intelligence)* brings the talking likeness of the artist to life on screens throughout the museum. *The Hallucinogenic Toreador:* Among many masterworks, guests can learn about Dalí's process while viewing the work with the Dalí app, thanks to augmented reality.

## MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG

Perched on St. Petersburg's waterfront among

parks and bustling Beach Drive is the city's first art museum. The permanent collection features artworks from across the world spanning 5,000 years, enhanced by rotating exhibitions and a robust photography collection.

### THREE TO SEE

Kehinde Wiley's painting *Leviathan Zodiac (The World Stage: Israel)*, 2011. *Portrait of Augustus, First Emperor of Rome*, sculpture by unknown artist from the late first century B.C. Georgia O'Keeffe's painting *Poppy*, 1927.

## THE JAMES MUSEUM OF WESTERN AND WILDLIFE ART

With a stunning imported sandstone façade, the museum beckons visitors from downtown's lively Central Avenue, just blocks from the waterfront. It features an impressive private collection of bronze sculptures and paintings of cowboys, Native Americans, landscapes and animals, and contemporary art created by living Western and Native American artists, as well as superstars like Andy Warhol.

### THREE TO SEE

**The Jewel Box**, an intimate gallery showcasing



## BEST MUSEUM

- 1 THE DALÍ MUSEUM, ST. PETE
- 2 Chihuly Collection, St. Pete
- 3 Imagine Museum, St. Pete
- 4 Fairgrounds, St. Pete
- 5 The James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art, St. Pete



## BEST LIVE MUSIC VENUE

- 1 RUTH ECKERD HALL, CLEARWATER
- 2 Jannus Live, St. Pete
- 3 Vinoy Park, St. Pete
- 4 Floridian Social Club, St. Pete
- 5 Mahaffey Theater, St. Pete





IMAGINE MUSEUM



dazzling Native American jewelry. **The Frontier Gallery** includes many artworks featuring cowboy life and chronicles the history of the American West. **Native Artists Gallery:** Discover 20th and 21st century Native American artists working in a variety of media and styles.

## IMAGINE MUSEUM

Contemporary glass art from American and international artists is on full, dazzling display at the

museum in St. Pete's Grand Central District. With more than 500 works, the 34,000-square-foot museum showcases founding and leading artists from the studio glass movement.

### THREE TO SEE

Anthony James' *Portal Icosahedron*, a mind-boggling sculpture made of glass, titanium, LED lights and mirrors. Martin Blank's "tour de force" installation, *If a River Could Tell a Story*, created specifically for the Imagine Museum. Museum benefactor Trish Duggan's *Nirvana (1000 Buddhas)*, glass Buddha heads displayed together in a dark, intimate gallery.

## CHIHULY COLLECTION

One of only two museums in the world entirely dedicated to living legend glass artist Dale Chihuly, it's unique in that it is the only installation in a building designed specifically for his colorful artwork. A 20-foot site-specific sculpture on downtown's bustling Central Avenue makes a statement. Bonus: Admission includes a glassblowing demonstration at the Morean Glass Studio and Hot Shop, located across the street.

### THREE TO SEE

Check out the installations *Ruby Red Chandelier*,

*Mille Fiori* and *Ikebana* as they shine vibrant hues in dramatically lit galleries.

## MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT

Featuring work from an important private collection, it is the first museum in the world dedicated to the Arts and Crafts movement. The stunning modern architecture and well-presented collection of the 137,000-square-foot, five-story museum showcases the handcrafted furniture, pottery, lighting, photography and paintings of the period from 1890 to 1930.

### THREE TO SEE

**The building:** An architectural marvel, it includes an egg-shaped ovoid structure and spiral staircase wrapped in Venetian plaster. **Architects Gallery:** See works from members of the Prairie School, including Frank Lloyd Wright, George Grant Elmslie and George Washington Maher. **Incredible installations:** Entire rooms from the movement have been painstakingly restored and installed at the museum, including the Culbertson House Entry Hall from Pasadena, California.

## FAIRGROUNDS ST. PETE

A magical, art-meets-technology immersive experience awaits in a 15,000-square-foot space in the Warehouse Arts District. Celebrating "weird, wacky and wonderful Florida," the attraction is centered around the Mermaid Star Motel, where there is a mystery to solve through a choose-your-own-adventure journey through environments entirely created by artists.

### THREE TO SEE

**CENTCOM**, a Twistee Treat-shaped spaceship filled with interactive gaming elements that respond to motion created by the Fairgrounds team, and glitch art. One of the artist-created motel "rooms," Palehorse's *Temple of Cosmic Balance* features murals and infinity mirrors in which you can find your third eye. *Flora-Da-Scope*, a large kaleidoscope, takes you into a neon universe.

## ST. PETERSBURG MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Located on the entrance to the spectacular Pier District, the more than 100-year-old museum delivers interesting history about the Sunshine City, including its pioneering role in aviation. It





FAIRGROUNDS ST. PETE



THE JEWEL BOX AT THE JAMES MUSEUM OF WESTERN AND WILDLIFE ART

continues to evolve to reflect the growing city; there are plans for a 10,000-square-foot addition featuring a metal sculpture by artist Ya La'ford.

### THREE TO SEE

See the world's first airliner in the panoramic **Flight One Gallery** located just steps from where aviation history was made. Baseball fans will delight in **Schrader's Little Cooperstown**, the Guinness-certified largest collection of baseballs signed by a staggering number of athletes and celebrities. Find out how an approximately 3,000-year-old Egyptian

mummy made its way to the city in the museum's **Odditorium**.

### LEEPA-RATTNER MUSEUM OF ART

This small but mighty museum is part of St. Petersburg College and sits on its Tarpon Springs campus. The modern and contemporary museum boasts a sizable collection containing works by 20<sup>th</sup> century artists Allen Leepa and Abraham Rattner. Exhibitions showcase their contemporaries,



## Q&A WITH CELESTE E. DAVIS

DIRECTOR OF ARTS, CULTURE & TOURISM,  
CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

### What makes our arts scene exceptional?

The arts scene in St. Petersburg is exceptional in its depth and breadth. With over 500 murals, 50 public art studios, 10 museums, five arts districts, two emerging arts districts and a thriving music scene, we are well positioned to be called the "City of the Arts."

### International mural festival: The SHINE

St. Petersburg Mural Festival attracts muralists from the local area and beyond. Through the PixelStix app, one can explore 150 SHINE murals on a map and enjoy unique, accessible and descriptive audio clips of these one-of-a-kind pieces of art. It is an ideal connection between the visual arts and technology.

**What might surprise you about the arts in St. Pete?** The diverse arts offerings that are available in the city is probably most surprising. Theater, all genres of music and dance, and our museums and galleries are all a part of the arts experiences that attract both residents and visitors alike.

**What do you enjoy most about the arts in our area?** I love that the variety of arts experiences across the city provide me with the opportunity to learn and grow. Artists are storytellers and I can be engaged in the stories of our diverse artists' communities, from the Latinx to the African American communities to the stories of the LGBTQ community.





LEEPA-RATTNER MUSEUM OF ART

DR. CARTER G. WOODSON  
AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

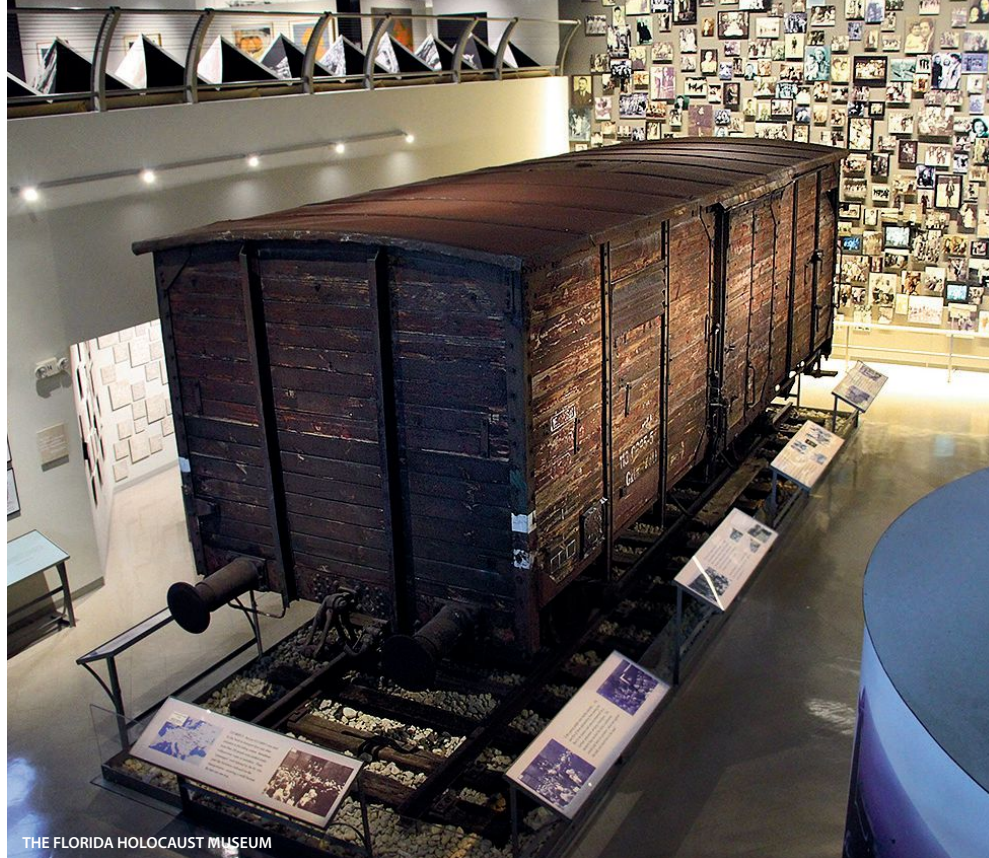
including Picasso, Renoir and Chihuly, as well as national, regional and local artists and incorporate interactive elements.

### THREE TO SEE

Pablo Picasso's *Guernica* (1937) mural reproduction is the only authorized full-scale reproduction known in the world. The sculpture *Watchdog* by Mary Engle depicts her favorite studio companion covered in found watch parts. **Abraham Rattner's Studio:** Two permanent collection galleries are dedicated to the museum's namesake and include extensive archives from his time spent in Paris and New York throughout the 1920s-1970s.

## DR. CARTER G. WOODSON AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

The museum named for Carter G. Woodson, the scholar who initiated Black History Month, has a



THE FLORIDA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

mission to preserve and protect African American history. Last year the museum received a promise of thousands of Black history artifacts from a collector to be displayed there in the coming years. It's located in the Deuces Live District, the hub of Black-owned businesses and entertainment.

### THREE TO SEE

Visit the historical **Black Lives Matter** mural painted by local artists on the street in front of the museum. **African American Heritage Trails:** The museum is the starting point of the walking tours of African American neighborhoods marked by 19 placards that give an overview of the impact of African Americans on St. Petersburg. **Legacy Garden:** The picture-perfect grounds area is a must-see.

## THE FLORIDA HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

The museum honoring the millions of people who died or suffered in the Holocaust is one of the largest in the world and one of only three accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The museum tells the stories of victims and survivors through educational and art exhibits, with a mission to prevent future genocide.

### THREE TO SEE

The museum has one of the few remaining **railroad box cars** the Nazis used to transport Jews and

other prisoners to concentration camps. **History, Heritage and Hope** includes original artifacts, videos and photos that present the history of the Holocaust, including the beginnings of antisemitism and life before World War II, followed by the rise of Hitler and the Nazis. **Kaddish in Wood** showcases the handmade woodcarvings made by Dr. Herbert Savel, depicting Nazi victims, taken from Holocaust-era photographs.

## GREAT EXPLORATIONS CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Kids can go wild exploring, playing and learning at this hands-on museum, just a short car ride to downtown and the beaches. The museum is listed as autism-friendly in the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) Autism-Friendly Business Directory. It's on the grounds of **Sunken Gardens**, one of the oldest roadside attractions in the country. The lush, botanical paradise features more than 50,000 tropical and subtropical plants, amid pools and waterfalls. It has its own flock of flamingos, as well as other exotic birds.

### THREE TO SEE

Kids use their imaginations to build on a Lego wall with *I Dream in Lego*. Little ones get to see themselves on TV with *Live on Air*. **Longo's Cove** is an interactive exhibition kids can explore and is the museum's central focus.



# MUSEUM CAFÉS

## ARTS CAFÉ

### MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT

Take in the majesty of the museum's grand atrium while enjoying hearty sandwiches, burgers, flatbreads and soups. Baked goods run the gamut of sweet to savory. Cocktails are a unique addition to the robust beer and wine offerings.

## CAFÉ GALA

### THE DALÍ MUSEUM

Named for Salvador Dalí's wife Gala, the café offers light Spanish-themed fare. Enjoy tapas, pastries, soups, salads and sandwiches, coffee and espresso and beer and wine. Guests can dine inside in the museum's lobby or outside on the scenic Avant-Garden patio.

## CAFE CLEMENTINE

### THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG

The locally owned artisanal bakery and eatery serves dishes and pastries inspired by the seasons,



CAFÉ GALA

made with many organic and locally sourced ingredients. Dishes include sandwiches, soups and salads and coffee, cold brew and organic teas are served. Eat inside or outside overlooking Tampa Bay, or take a picnic prepared by the café to enjoy in one of the surrounding parks.

## THE CANYON CAFE

### THE JAMES MUSEUM OF WESTERN AND WILDLIFE ART

Anchored by a historical wooden bar, the café offers Southwestern fare like nachos and tacos or

salads, soups and handhelds. A full espresso bar serves specialty drinks and cold brew, while a daily happy hour includes \$5 beer and wine options.

## PERRY'S PORCH

### ST. PETERSBURG MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Coming in summer of 2023, the café is named after early St. Petersburg developer Perry Snell, who envisioned the waterfront full of parks. The menu will focus on fresh and local flavors and historical local craft cocktails. A picnic basket will be available for guests to nosh on while enjoying the St. Pete Pier.



## THE JAMES MUSEUM OF WESTERN & WILDLIFE ART

**Celebrate the museum's 5th Anniversary and journey into the wide world of western art!**

Located in the heart of downtown St. Petersburg, **The James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art** features works made primarily by living artists. From cowboys to pioneers to Native Americans and wildlife of the world, you'll immerse yourself in seven galleries of paintings, sculptures, jewelry and objects that tell the often untold stories of the peoples and cultures of the American West.

Bring the whole family to explore and spark the imagination! Docent tours and rotating special exhibitions offer new adventures every time you visit. Private tours are available, with discounts for groups of 10 or more. It's time to **Find Your West!**

727-892-4200 [thejamesmuseum.org](http://thejamesmuseum.org) [f](#) [i](#) [t](#) [@jamesmuseum](#)



# ARTS ETC.

CREATIVE PINELLAS



CHARLIE PARKER POTTERY



MOREAN GLASS STUDIO AND HOT SHOP



PINELLAS ARTS VILLAGE

## VISUAL ART GALLERIES

Paintings, sculptures and photography are on the roster at **ARTicles Art Gallery** in St. Pete's Uptown Arts District. Find more contemporary works right next door at **D-Gallerie**. In Gulfport, fine craft and fine art are on display at the **Brenda McMahon Gallery**. Glass art, paintings and jewelry shine at **Syd Entel Galleries** and **Susan Benjamin Glass** in **Safety Harbor**. **Creative Pinellas** offers exhibitions showcasing the arts at its gallery in Largo.

## ART CENTERS/STUDIOS

The **Morean Arts Center** in St. Pete, the **Dunedin Fine Art Center** and the **Safety Harbor Art and Music Center** offer classes and showcase exhibitions. Hundreds of artists call St. Pete/Clearwater home and open their studios to the public. In St. Pete's Warehouse Arts District, visit studios at the **ArtsXChange** and **The Factory St. Pete**, a compound that's also home to **Fairgrounds St. Pete**. The artists at downtown

**ArtLofts** open to the public every month, as do the artists in the **Pinellas Arts Village** in Pinellas Park.

## GLASS

The amount of glass art found in St. Pete/Clearwater has earned the area the nickname, "The Glass Coast." In St. Pete, see glassblowing demonstrations, amazing works in glass and try your own hand with classes at the **Duncan McClellan Gallery**, **Zen Glass Studio** and the **Morean Glass**





Studio and Hot Shop. Imagine Museum and the Chihuly Collection showcase contemporary glass in St. Pete. In downtown Clearwater, see the stunning creations of **Marlene Rose** at her eponymous gallery.

## CLAY

In St. Pete, view functional and sculptural ceramics, visit artists' studios and give the wheel a spin at the **Morean Center for Clay**, the **Clay Center of**



St. Petersburg and Charlie Parker Pottery.

## FINE CRAFT GALLERIES

Handcrafted works in metal, glass, clay, fiber and jewelry are found in several galleries in St. Pete, at **Florida CraftArt** and **Craftsman House** on Central Avenue, and **Shapiro's Gallery** and **Red Cloud Indian Arts** on Beach Drive.

## PERFORMING ARTS

St. Pete/Clearwater has a wealth of performing arts experiences, from Broadway to live music. Take in a concert from **The Florida Orchestra** at St. Pete waterfront venue **The Mahaffey Theater** or Clearwater's **Ruth Eckerd Hall**, which along with the **Bilheimer Capitol Theatre** also presents Broadway, dance and concerts by popular acts and comedians. Ruth Eckerd Hall also operates **The Sound**, the new outdoor waterfront venue at the recently reimagined Coachman Park in downtown Clearwater. **The St. Petersburg Opera Company** brings works by all the great composers to **The Palladium Theater**, the downtown St. Pete venue that also offers jazz concerts and more.

## ART WALKS

Dozens of galleries and artist studios, as well as world-class performance venues, add to the vibrance of St. Pete/Clearwater's art scene. The monthly **Second Saturday Artwalk** in St. Pete is the area's largest and the ideal way to visit a multitude of galleries and visit award-winning artists in their studios. View works of public art with a monthly tour guided by the **Clearwater Arts Alliance**. Bimonthly artwalks happen in the **Gulfport Historical Waterfront Art District**.

## ART FESTIVALS

St. Pete/Clearwater's beautiful weather is the perfect backdrop for outdoor art festivals. For more on festivals, go to **VisitSPC.com/Events**.

### ST. PETERSBURG FINE ART FESTIVAL

ST. PETE, STRAUB PARK, LATE WINTER

Showcases works in paintings, photography, sculpture and more.

### TARPON SPRINGS FINE ARTS FESTIVAL ON THE BAYOU

TARPON SPRINGS, SPRING

One of Florida's largest art festivals features award-winning artists.

### BLOOM N CHALKFEST

SAFETY HARBOR, SPRING

The sidewalks come to life with artists' colorful creations.

### MAINSAIL ART FESTIVAL

ST. PETE, SPRING

For more than 47 years, award-winning fine art and fine craft artists show along the waterfront.

### ART HARVEST

DUNEDIN, FALL

Features hundreds of artists in multiple mediums and a Children's Pavilion.

### CRAFT ART FESTIVAL

ST. PETE, FALL

Focuses on fine craft artists and artist demonstrations.



# MURALS

Since 2015, the annual SHINE Mural Festival has ushered in hundreds of vibrant murals to St. Pete every October by locals and renowned street artists like Shark Toof, I23 Klan and Marina Capdevilla. Download the PixelStix app to get the stories behind the murals during a self-guided tour by car, foot or bike, or take a tour led by a guide from Florida CraftArt.



## BEST MURAL

- 1 JEFF OF SUN SIGNS ST. PETE, OLD FLORIDA MURAL, SHINE 2022
- 2 LeoGomezStudio & Miss Crit, GO EASY, St. Pete/Clearwater International Airport
- 3 Joshua the Lawyer/MJ Lindo, Alligator and Native American Woman, Clearwater Mural Project
- 4 Reginald O'Neal, Tribute to John Henrik Clarke, an African American Historian, SHINE 2022
- 5 Marina Capdevilla, SHINE 2022



REGINALD O'NEAL, TRIBUTE TO JOHN HENRIK CLARKE, AN AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIAN



MARINA CAPDEVILLA



LEOGOMEZSTUDIO & MISS CRIT, GO EASY



JOSHUA THE LAWYER/MJ LINDO, ALLIGATOR AND NATIVE AMERICAN WOMAN





# EXPLORE 5,000 YEARS OF ART AND GLOBAL CULTURE

From antiquities to contemporary art and so much in between, there is something for everyone to experience at the Museum of Fine Arts. See works by Georgia O'Keeffe, Claude Monet, Berthe Morisot, Auguste Rodin, Kehinde Wiley, Elisabeth Vigée-Lebrun, and more. Visit us in person or on social @MFAStPete.

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**MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST.PETE**

**ST. PETE OPERA**  
MARK SFORZINI, Artistic Director

**ALCINA**  
October 2023

**TURANDOT**  
March 2024

**LUCIA**  
DI LAMMERMOOR  
June 2024

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# LET'S PEEK INTO THE PAST

**I**f we were to time travel to Florida's past, we'd no doubt see the villages of the Calusa, Tocobaga and other Native American tribes who laid their claims to St. Pete/Clearwater's waterfront millennia before European settlers. They flourished for centuries, and you can visit their ceremonial mounds at Maximo Park and Jungle Prada in St. Pete and Phillippe Park in Safety Harbor. While Native Americans had the Florida life down, others were reluctant to brave the heat and mosquitoes. Some intrepid settlers, however, powered through to live and thrive here pre-air-conditioning and pre-medical breakthroughs against malaria and other diseases. They preceded the throngs who moved here after World War II by several decades.

## GULFPORT

Smugglers and homesteaders were the first to settle on the shores of this hamlet southwest of St. Pete. And if you ask some longtime residents, there are some old ghosts too. The Gulfport Casino, a minty green dance hall that had its heyday in the

1940s, can be found right on the town's lovely little beach. It's where you can get gussied up and enjoy ballroom, salsa and swing dances and lessons. Venture to the back to see the tomb of Morris the Cat, the famous TV feline who became the city's unofficial mascot (and whose spirit is said to wander near the casino). Walking tours of the

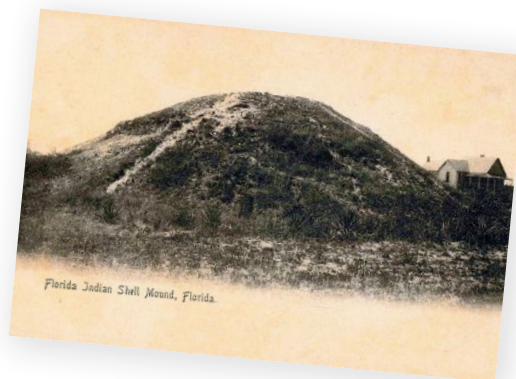
downtown area are offered by the Gulfport Historical Society. The Historic Peninsula Inn, a dog-friendly boutique hotel built in 1905, houses a restaurant, Isabelle's, named after the inn's friendly ghost.

## FORT DE SOTO

This sprawling county park beloved for its unspoiled beaches held a fortified battle station in its first incarnation. The Historic Fort, which can be found by the Gulf Pier, got its name from Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto and was erected in 1900 during the Spanish-American War. No shots were fired from the fort, but it provided a safe haven and place to store munitions for wars to come before the government donated it to the county. See some of Fort De Soto's artillery and learn about the fort's history at the Quartermaster Museum.

## ST. PETE

What's old is new again at the St. Pete Shuffleboard Club, where families and couples take part in a time-honored Florida tradition. Neglected for several decades, the world's oldest and largest shuffleboard club was founded in 1924. Now it's a



Florida Indian Shell Mound, Florida.





hotbed of activity just like the olden days. The best time to visit is during its St. Pete Shuffle nights from 7 to 10 p.m. every Friday.

## PASS-A-GRILLE

Pass-a-Grille, an old Tocobaga community and later an early settler fish camp, gets its name from the French “Passe aux Grilleurs,” literally translated, “passageway of the grillers,” according to historian W. H. Straub. You can learn more by picking up a

self-guided walking tour that details the backstories of the historic homes and buildings you’ll pass by in a free brochure available at the fascinating Gulf Beaches Historical Museum, formerly a 1917 church.

## ST. PETE BEACH

Amid the chic and contemporary new haunts in St. Pete Beach, the town’s vintage landmarks give it a distinctive personality that harkens back to the



## MARVELOUS MILESTONES

**2,000+ years ago:** The Calusa tribe settled the shores of St. Pete/Clearwater.

**1528-1539:** The Spanish explorers Pánfilo de Narváez (1528) and Hernando de Soto (1539) are the first Europeans to visit the region. Local lore says they landed at Jungle Prada in west-central St. Pete.

**1875:** Detroit investor John C. Williams purchases land in what is now St. Pete.

**1888:** Peter Demens, who built a railroad that reached the area in 1888, inaugurates the city with Williams. Demens names it after his Russian birthplace.

**1892:** Henry Scharrer completes construction on his landmark Caladesi homestead on the island formerly known as Hog Island. He and his family live there until 1934.

**1902:** Sunken Gardens opens after George Turner, a plumber with a green thumb, purchases a 6-acre sinkhole and pond at 1825 Fourth St. N., and transforms it into a botanical paradise.

**1906:** Once named Clear Water Harbor for the springs by its bluffs, Clearwater is officially named.

**1914:** Pilot Tony Jannus makes the world’s first scheduled commercial flight, flying from St. Pete to Tampa, across Tampa Bay.

**1921:** Clearwater’s Capitol Theatre opens.

**1924:** The Gandy Bridge opens and is the first bridge to connect St. Pete/Clearwater to Tampa across Old Tampa Bay.

**1925:** Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig go to bat in New York Yankees spring training games in St. Pete’s Waterfront Park. The two are rumored to have played catch across the courtyard of their Flori-de-Leon penthouse apartments.

**1926:** Clearwater Beach’s Palm Pavilion opens.

**1928:** Real estate scion Thomas Rowe opens the Don CeSar Hotel on St. Pete Beach.





1950s boom time of the great American road trip. Drive by condos with breezblocks and motor hotels of yesteryear, such as the Bon-Aire Resort, and you can just picture horn-rim-wearing dads in station wagons pulling out their AAA maps to make sure they had the right place.

No doubt those mid-century American families stopped at the Polynesian Putter, one of the area's kitschiest landmarks, to play a round of mini golf, putting through giant Tiki-style moguls.

Locals and tourists alike would gather for movie matinees at the Beach Theatre on Corey Avenue, which still has that Main Street USA vibe.

## HONEYMOON ISLAND

With a name inspired by a 1939 Life magazine contest for newlyweds, Honeymoon Island details its storied past and wildlife at the park's Rotary Centennial Nature Center, where you can learn about the couples who won a honeymoon on what was once Hog Island (once connected to what is now Caladesi Island).

## TREASURE ISLAND & MADEIRA BEACH

In 1957 when Westerns about cowboys going to battle with Apaches galloped across TV screens, the Thunderbird Beach Resort began beckoning families with its iconic neon sign in the shape of a Native American totem-style thunderbird forming the letter T. Even today, the town of Treasure Island still has that air of wholesome 20th-century fun,



boasting a smattering of colorful vintage motels and residences still dotting the landscape.

Drive a little north to Madeira Beach, and the peppermint-striped Candy Kitchen, built in 1950, is still bustling, catering to beachgoers with lollipops and other confections, as well as ice cream.

## DUNEDIN

Amid the towering palms lining Edgewater Drive, the Fenway Hotel, built in 1924, became a hot spot for flappers and their beaus during the Jazz Age. Home to "Live from the Fenway," the Mediterranean Revival resort was home to the county's first radio station. Reopened in 2018, the hotel has entered the 21st century with style, offering rooms with Amazon Alexa-powered amenities.

## TARPON SPRINGS

Greek immigrants settled and pioneered the sponge industry at the turn of the 20th century. The fishing village became a tourist attraction in the mid-20th century, and a remnant of that time still piles on the local lore and quirkiness heavier than the scent of garlic in a gyro restaurant. Spongeorama is a veritable slice of roadside America. Since 1968, the museum has used dioramas to educate visitors about the local Greek tradition of sponge diving.

## MARVELOUS MILESTONES

**1935:** Dunedin magnate B.C. Skinner develops the first frozen orange juice concentrate for consumer use.

**1940:** The Beach Theatre opens in St. Pete Beach.

**1956:** Elvis Presley sells out three shows in one day in downtown St. Pete, drawing mobs to Central Avenue.

**1957:** The U.S. government donates a WWII airfield to operate as a commercial airport. Today it's known as the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport.

**1961:** Doors frontman Jim Morrison began his college education at St. Petersburg Junior College (now St. Petersburg College) and recited poetry at the Beaux Arts Coffeehouse in Pinellas Park.

**1965:** Mick Jagger wrote the lyrics "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" by the pool of the Fort Harrison Hotel in Clearwater four days before they went into the studio.

**1972:** Clearwater Marine Science Center (now Clearwater Marine Aquarium) is incorporated as a nonprofit organization by a group of dedicated volunteers who want to establish a permanent marine biology learning center in the area.

**1983:** The first Hooters restaurant opens in Clearwater on State Road 60.

**1995:** Dunedin Brewery, Florida's first craft beer and ale brewery, opens in downtown Dunedin.

**1998:** The first-ever Tampa Bay Devil Rays Major League Baseball game is played at St. Pete's Tropicana Field.

**2011:** The new Dalí Museum designed by architect Yann Weymouth reopened in what Forbes magazine called an "architectural fantasy that would become one of the highest-rated museum attractions globally."

**2003:** St. Pete Pride hosts the first Pride Promenade. Today, St. Pete Pride is the largest Pride celebration in the state of Florida.

**2020:** The improved and expanded St. Pete Pier opens.

**2022:** St. Petersburg Council designates Jack Kerouac's house in Disston Heights as a historic site.



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# LET'S GET OUT & ABOUT

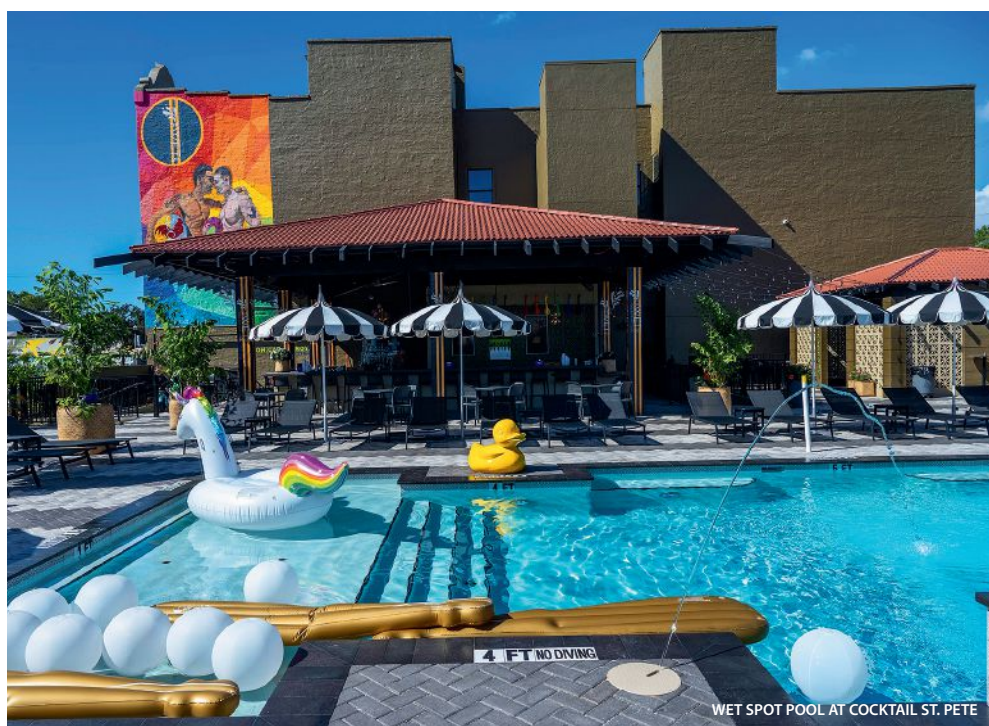
**S**t. Pete/Clearwater is a destination where diversity and inclusion are embraced. Receiving a perfect score in the Human Rights Campaign's annual Municipal Equality Index for nine years in a row, we welcome all visitors with open arms.



## CENTRAL AVENUE

Any time of day, St. Pete's Central Avenue hums with activity and boasts a growing number of LGBTQ+-owned businesses and visitors, especially in June during St. Pete Pride, Florida's largest pride festival. While Central Avenue is welcoming to all who shop, dine and explore, the **Grand Central District** (roughly between 16th and 31st Street) is known as the "gayborhood" of the city. Here you will find several LGBTQ+-owned bars and businesses with new ones "coming out" weekly and Metro's LGBTQ Welcome Center.

Start your queer night out at **Lucky Star Lounge**, the oldest gay watering hole in the region. Across the street, test your karaoke skills at **The Garage on Central** while enjoying a laid-back experience. Travel two blocks down the road to the **Salty Nun** for delicious food and nightly entertainment with local ladies. Next door at **Mixers at Old Key West Bar & Grill**, attend a Sunday drag brunch or imbibe with hump day BOGO drinks and a burger.







ST. PETE PRIDE PARADE

If you have Fido in tow, pop over to **The Dog Bar** where the vibe is welcoming and inclusive for people and pups of all breeds. Leave Fido at home to party with the pups while you head to **Cocktail St. Pete**, where theme nights make for some of the hottest parties in the city. Then cool off at their new **Wet Spot Pool Bar**. Feed your hunger at **Zoie's**, a Southern comfort food restaurant and entertainment venue branded as a “place for everyone.” And grab a tasty treat at **Daddies Donuts and Delites**. Then wrap up your night at **Enigma Bar & Lounge** for dancing, drag and drinks.

For an alcohol-free experience, fly south a block to the **Black Crow Coffee Co.**, or pop into **Valhalla Bakery** for the most delicious pastries on Central.

LGBTQ-owned gift shops are also plentiful. Pick out home décor treasures at **ZaZoo'd**, buy Mexican metal wall art at **Graphi-ko**, grab swim trunks at **Atlas Body + Home** and book a massage with **St. Pete Massage Therapy**.

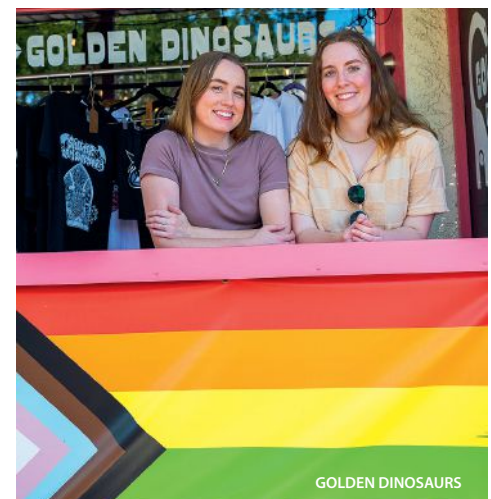
## OUTLIER AREAS

St. Pete/Clearwater's LGBTQ+ community expands well beyond Central Avenue. Nearby inclusive accommodations include the **GayStPete House**, the **Hollander Hotel** and the **Avalon**. On Fifth Avenue North, you'll find **Page Boy**, an LGBTQ+-owned vintage market apothecary and hair studio. Freshen up your look while treasure hunting for unique gifts, body care products and curated art.

Just outside of St. Pete you'll find **Gulfport**, an artsy town that draws a large number of LGBTQ+ residents and tourists. Enjoy vegan bites at **Golden Dinosaurs** where rainbow and transgender flags



PAGE BOY



GOLDEN DINOSAURS



FORT DE SOTO PARK

fly proudly. Attend a Sunday drag brunch at the **Neptune Grill** or enjoy comfort food at the lesbian-owned **Stella's**. Find souvenirs at **Stella's Sundries**, **Paw Paw's** and **Qi Crystal Energy**, all LGBTQ+-owned.

If you're staying closer to Clearwater, venture into the adorable town of **Dunedin** and grab a bite at

**The Honu Restaurant and Tiki Bar**. It's lesbian-owned and a local favorite. Then dance the night away at the town's only gay bar, **Blur Nightclub**.

Travel further south to Largo for a fun night with the ladies at **The Lady's Room**, the only official lesbian bar in Florida.





Pictured above clockwise:

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# Tampa Airport treasures

TPA completed an historic expansion bringing together 70 restaurants and shops designed to reflect the region's natural beauty while spotlighting its treasures. This includes fresh seafood at Ulele, popular craft beer at Cigar City Brewing, creative artistry from local jeweler Bourbon and Boweties, Latin fusion at Columbia Restaurant and fun logo merchandise supporting the area's beloved sports teams. We hope you'll plan to arrive early so you can explore America's favorite airport and have one last taste of Tampa Bay before boarding your flight.

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# LET'S SAVOR EVERY BITE

**L**ooking for your next great meal? You've come to the right spot. Over the following pages, Tampa Bay Times food critic Helen Freund reveals her favorite local spots. From date night favorites to splashy seafood joints and waterside restaurants, it's all right here in St. Pete/Clearwater.







## BEST RESTAURANT (\$)

- 1 MAZZARO'S ITALIAN MARKET, ST. PETE
- 2 Clear Sky Beachside Café, Clearwater Beach
- 3 Casita Taqueria, St. Pete
- 4 El Cap, St. Pete
- 5 Mykonos Restaurant, Tarpon Springs



## BEST RESTAURANT (\$\$)

- 1 DOC FORD'S RUM BAR & GRILLE, ST. PETE
- 2 Red Mesa Cantina, St. Pete
- 3 Wild Child, St. Pete
- 4 Rusty Bellies, Tarpon Springs
- 5 Casa Tina, Dunedin



## BEST RESTAURANT (\$\$\$)

- 1 SALT ROCK GRILL, INDIAN ROCKS BEACH
- 2 Ocean Hai, Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach
- 3 1200° Chophouse, St. Pete Beach
- 4 Il Ritorno, St. Pete
- 5 The Black Pearl, Dunedin





DOC FORD'S RUM BAR AND GRILLE

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

## WATERFRONT

**CADDY'S ON THE BEACH** • Treasure Island; \$ • You can't beat the toes-in-the-sand allure at this spot, which overlooks the Gulf of Mexico on Treasure Island's Sunset Beach. The local mini-chain is known for its waterside beachy eats, 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. Come sunset, the rooftop bar has the best seats in the house.

**DOC FORD'S RUM BAR AND GRILLE** • St. Petersburg and Jungle Terrace; \$\$ • With locations at the St. Pete Pier and in Jungle Terrace, this casual Caribbean-themed sports bar and restaurant from author Randy Wayne White is always a good time. Potent mojitos are paired with signature dishes like the Yucatan Shrimp, which arrives swimming in a buttery sauce heavy with garlic and a touch of heat from Colombian chiles. Grab a seat outdoors to catch the best waterside views.



RUSTY BELLIES WATERFRONT GRILL

**FRENCHY'S ROCKAWAY GRILL** • Clearwater Beach; \$\$ • The largest and liveliest restaurants of the Frenchy's empire, the casual beachside spot overlooks the Gulf of Mexico and is just steps away from the sugar-white sands of Clearwater Beach. Favorites include the grouper sandwiches, served on onion rolls. 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 claws and some sweet mustard dipping sauce.

**PALM PAVILION** • Clearwater Beach; \$\$ • A great option for sunset watching, this Clearwater Beach institution sits directly on the Clearwater Beach overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. Frequent

live music performances, cocktails with heavy-handed pours and a wooden wraparound deck lend the space a casual 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.

**RUSTY BELLIES WATERFRONT GRILL** • Tarpon Springs; \$\$ • This waterfront spot sits right off busy Dodecanese Boulevard and sports a large outdoor patio with views of the Tarpon Bayou and Anclote River. A Tiki bar features rum-heavy spins on Tiki classics while the restaurant's proximity to the docks is a nod to the owners' focus on fresh Florida seafood. Steamed Cedar Key clams, peel-and-eat shrimp and a fresh catch selection





FRENCHY'S ROCKAWAY GRILL



PALM PAVILION



TIKI DOCKS SKYWAY BAR & GRILL

including grouper, American snapper and fried mullet filets highlight the local seafood selection.

**SALT ROCK GRILL • Indian Shores; \$\$ •** At this iconic 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, which are aged for several weeks before getting grilled over natural oak and citrus wood. The restaurant's impressive wine list features an extensive collection of bottles to choose from.

**TEAK/PIER TEAKI • St. Petersburg; \$\$ •** The 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 lounge features bar snacks like tuna bowls and pretzel bites, more elevated options can be found downstairs at the restaurant Teak, where dishes include a pan-seared salmon with mustard-bal-

samic glaze and short ribs with a guava sauce.

**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 features raw oysters and a 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 CAFÉ AND BEACH BAR • St. Pete Beach; \$\$ •** With views of the Gulf of Mexico, this St. Pete Beach mainstay is a local favorite. Fans come for the laid-back scene, beach bar food and potent happy hour cocktails. Fried clam strips, served with a lemon wedge, are a popular dish, as are the tangy, smoky Buffalo wings. Most of the seating is outside, overlooking the sea wall. If you're lucky, you'll catch a pod of dolphins frolicking right in front of you.



## BEST GROUPEr

- 1 FRENCHY'S ROCKAWAY GRILL, CLEARWATER BEACH
- 2 Palm Pavilion, Clearwater Beach
- 3 Dockside Dave's, Madeira Beach
- 4 RumFish Grill, St. Pete Beach
- 5 Original Crabby Bill's, Indian Rocks Beach



## BEST BRUNCH

- 1 ISLAND WAY GRILL, CLEARWATER BEACH
- 2 The Library, St. Pete
- 3 Clear Sky Beachside Café, Clearwater Beach
- 4 The Left Bank Bistro, St. Pete
- 5 Crown & Bull, Dunedin





VILLA GALLACE

## ITALIAN

**BONU' TAVERNA** • St. Petersburg; \$\$ • This Central Avenue restaurant offers casual Italian fare in a lively setting (which gets livelier as the evening wears on). The speciality of the house is pinsas, oblong Roman-style pizzas topped with everything from mortadella with pistachios to spicy calabrese salami and mozzarella. It can also be tempting to cobble together a meal with cured meats and cheeses and tasty “piccoli piatti” — small, shared plates of snacks like marinated anchovies, mixed olives and crispy-fried artichoke hearts.

**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. A daily five-course chef’s tasting menu offers the best of what the chef has in store that day, from a hamachi crudo with yuzu and grilled pineapple to a foie gras carbonara with crispy duck skin.

**MAZZARO’S ITALIAN MARKET** • St. Petersburg; \$ • The popular St. Pete market offers a one-of-a-kind shopping experience with gourmet grocery aisles that are every bit worth the hype. Come here and spend hours browsing the massive



cheese selection, fine wine assortment, 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.

**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 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 is the Detroit-style pies — thick, square pizzas baked with Wisconsin brick cheese.

**PIA’S TRATTORIA** • Gulfport; \$\$ • Pia’s features all the hallmark characteristics of a rustic and cozy neighborhood trattoria and the space just oozes romance. An evolving menu features 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.





shrimp and oysters with sides like grit cakes and collard greens. The fresh catch of the day comes grilled, blackened or broiled under a panko Parmesan crust.

#### THE HELM PROVISIONS & COASTAL FARE •

**St. Pete Beach; \$\$ •** Part-seafood market, part-bistro, fresh seafood is the highlight at this St. Pete Beach restaurant, whether you're popping in for a glass of bubbly and a dozen raw oysters or picking up some grouper or mahi-mahi to cook later at home. And if you'd rather take your meal to the beach? The market sells picnic kits and a selection of ready-to-eat treats, plus beer and wine to-go.

**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. Come happy hour, it's one of the area's best-kept secrets for high-end seafood steals and discounted snacks like ahi tuna nachos, fish dip and truffled Parmesan fries.

#### SEA WORTHY FISH + BAR • Tierra Verde; \$\$ •

Inspired by a love for the open water, this Tierra Verde restaurant 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, which features spectacular views of the sunset.

**TROPHY FISH • St. Petersburg; \$ •** Chow down on the freshest catch and some tasty "boat drinks" at this St. Petersburg cocktail bar and seafood hub. The entirely al fresco spot features a daily rotating list of local fish and a choose-your-own adventure style setup where diners can pick cooking styles, formats and sides (the yucca fries are excellent). Don't skip the smoked fish spread, which comes served with a bevy of bright and colorful pickled cauliflower, red onions, jalapenos and Fresno chiles.

**WATER OAK GRILL • Safety Harbor; \$\$ •** This contemporary steak and seafood restaurant sits in the heart of downtown Safety Harbor with ample sidewalk seating right on Main Street. A raw bar and seafood section highlights local catches like grouper and hogfish, while a selection of steak dinners and shareable snacks like sliders and steamed buns round out the menu.



Indian Rocks Beach restaurant. Start with the calamari fritti and move on to one of the pastas, like the eggplant rollatini or the rigatoni bolognese. Heavier entrees include a veal saltimbocca, made with sage, prosciutto and provolone, and seafood lovers will fall hard for the zuppe di pesce, which features a medley of fresh seafood in a light and tangy tomato broth.

## SEAFOOD

#### HOG ISLAND FISH CAMP • Dunedin; \$\$ •

Boasting reclaimed wood and turquoise accents, a seafood-focused menu 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 of fried grouper nuggets and

**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 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 and nothing more (the spaghetti all'Amatriciana is fantastic).

**VILLA GALLACE • Indian Rocks Beach; \$\$ •** Italian classics shine at this elegant yet casual





BODEGA



CEVICHE



LEFT BANK BISTRO

## 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 agua frescas, fruit smoothies, hearty lechon platters topling with juicy roasted pork and one of the best Cuban sandwiches around.

**CASA TINA** • Dunedin; \$\$ • Dining at this 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. Popular dishes include the pescado a la Veracruzana, topped with a juicy sauce of

tomatoes, onions, capers and olives and the chiles en nogada, a traditional dish from the Puebla region in Mexico that comes draped under a creamy brandy walnut sauce and a shower of pomegranate seeds.

**CEVICHE** • St. Petersburg; \$\$ • Take a trip to Spain without ever leaving the country at this popular tapas restaurant. The creative menu includes everything from Spanish pork ribs in a sherry glaze to crispy patatas bravas drizzled in spicy aioli and creamy manchego croquetas





CASA TINA



COPA



PARTS OF PARIS



WILD CHILD

served with quince jam. The swanky bar and dining room inside is lovely but it's also great to grab a seat outside, where the patio overlooking Beach Drive Northeast offers a great view of all the nightlife in action.

**COPA • St. Petersburg; \$ •** This popular Central Avenue cocktail bar and restaurant in St. Petersburg's EDGE District is always buzzing, playing the part of a Latin American and Caribbean tapas restaurant earlier in the evening and a lively cocktail lounge later at night. Fusion flavors highlight the menu, from the jerk tofu spring rolls to the mojo pork-topped tostones, served with a fiery Haitian pikliz. The cocktail menu is a big draw here and combines classics like Moscow mules and margaritas with creative original takes as well as a sizable beer and wine selection.

**RED MESA • St. Petersburg; \$\$ •** The flagship location on Fourth Street opened in 1995 and has expanded with several more casual offshoots: Red Mesa Cantina, in downtown St. Pete, and Red Mesa Mercado, in St. Pete's EDGE District. At the original, you'll find polished takes on regional Mexican cuisine. The Mercado location is great for

a quick lunch or a late-night bite and the buzzy downtown Cantina is the place to turn it up over a round of margaritas.

**WILD CHILD • St. Petersburg; \$\$ •** With a spacious and covered outdoor dining setup, a creative menu that touches on bright Caribbean flavors and a cocktail menu heavy on rum and mezcal, the popular Grand Central District restaurant feels a lot like the Burg's very own tropical oasis. Weekend brunch offers a nice excuse to linger over dishes like tres leches French toast and eye-openers like the Lost Weekend, a refreshing mix of watermelon, agave, mint and your spirit of choice.

## FRENCH

**CASSIS • St. Petersburg; \$\$ •** The French-leaning menu at this Beach Drive Northeast restaurant includes dishes like escargot and moules frites — plenty to satisfy any Francophile. But the wide-reaching menu covers plenty of New American territory, too: Burgers are topped with caramelized onions and gruyere and a fried

chicken dish is served with macaroni and cheese and a honey-butter biscuit. The airy outdoor patio is 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. The French bistro menu includes all the 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 cocktails, ranging from cucumber basil martinis to fizzy French 75s. Don't skip on the daily specials, which include half-off appetizers on Mondays and a tasty bouillabaisse on Fridays.





HAWKERS ASIAN STREET FOOD



PATTI'S KITCHEN



WOODEN LADLE



LINGR

## ASIAN

**BUYA RAMEN** • St. Petersburg; \$ • This Japanese gastropub offers a short but standout selection of izakaya-style small plates, from bao stuffed with crispy pork belly to chargrilled edamame. The ramen is excellent, especially the tonkotsu versions, where a 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 there's also a decent shochu and sake collection.

**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. Don't skip the Malaysian roti canai, which gets dipped and

dragged through a warm curry sauce, or the Korean fried chicken wings, which come coated in a garlicky gochujang sauce and are topped with crushed peanuts and sesame seeds.

**LINGR** • St. Petersburg; \$\$\$ • This modern restaurant features a unique concept that hinges on Nordic-inspired dishes with Asian influence. Some dishes skew more Scandinavian while others feature a heavier hand with Chinese ingredients. The flavors emblematic of both





cuisines — star anise, fennel, cardamon, ginger — work remarkably well together. The dish not to miss: puffy rounds of Sami bread, topped with smoked lion's mane mushrooms, brunost cheese and chili oil.

**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. Starters like the buttery, flaky Thai curry puffs and the restaurant's signature boat noodle dish are more than enough reason to visit.

**SAP SAP LAO CAFÉ** • Pinellas Park; \$ • The bright and fiery flavors emblematic of Laotian cuisine come alive at this Pinellas Park restaurant, where the kitchen doesn't shy away from spice. There are plenty of Thai dishes that will ring familiar to milder palates, like drunken noodles

and tom yum soup. But some of the uniquely Lao plates are bolder in flavor and more pronounced when it comes to the combo of chiles, fresh herbs and the delightful funk of fermented seafood and pork.

**TWISTED INDIAN** • St. Petersburg; \$ • This fast-casual Indian restaurant in St. Petersburg's Grand Central District has attracted somewhat of a cult-like following, and for good reason. Creative spins on classic Indian dishes like tikka masala and lamb korma find their way into bowls, tacos, "curritos" and "naanwiches," all which pack a powerhouse of tangy, spicy and bright flavors. For a cooling antidote to some of the heat, the creamy mango lassis can't be beat.

**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 modern setting. 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.

## BBQ

**URBAN BREW & BBQ** • St. Petersburg; \$ • Meals here might be anchored around plates of pulled pork, brisket, St. Louis-style ribs and smoky pulled chicken, but don't overlook the sides at this popular Grand Central District spot. The signature Urban Mac 'n' Cheese is a must and features a combination of smoked gouda, cheddar and Parmesan cheese. The large, industrial-chic design includes an expansive outdoor dining area overlooking Central Avenue — a great spot to hang on cooler summer days and warmer winter evenings.

**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 toppling with stick-to-your-ribs sides like baked beans, slaw and deviled eggs. 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.





THE LITTLE LAMB



THE DEWEY AT BERKELEY BEACH CLUB



ROAM

## AMERICAN UPSCALE

**ALLELO** • St. Petersburg; \$\$\$ • Shared plates with a Mediterranean-leaning edge are the highlight at this upscale Beach Drive restaurant, where dishes like a tableside steak tartare with khobz bread or a fennel and ricotta agnolotti are complemented by a sizable raw bar selection. It's also a lovely spot to just pop in for a drink: The restaurant boasts an excellent cocktail program and an ambitious wine list with 25 different selections by the glass.

**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 features plenty of decadent dishes, from a white truffle-laced lobster risotto to a crispy, seared duck breast served with duck confit ravioli. 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 ambience and ambitious, creative menu. Don't skip out on the braised short ribs with homemade 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. The kitchen's upscale take on modern beach cuisine is elevated and innovative yet still deeply evocative

of the seaside culture it seeks to recreate. Dishes run the gamut from a creamy smoked fish dip to Creole-style barbecue shrimp and a Durham Ranch wagyu burger.

**THE LITTLE LAMB** • Clearwater; \$\$ • This unassuming Clearwater gastropub off McMullen Booth Road delivers big flavors with an ambitious, globe-trotting menu and an elevated cocktail program that offers creative spins on the classics. The dinner menu includes dishes like shrimp toast with spicy tomato broth and fried cauliflower with coconut caramel. Larger plates include a roasted chicken with potato gnocchi and butternut squash while bucatini is paired with Cedar Key clams and a nduja cream sauce.





THE URBAN STILLHOUSE



ALLELO



SAUVIGNON WINE LOCKER & AMERICAN TRATTORIA



THE BLACK PEARL

**THE RESTORATIVE** • Dunedin; \$\$ • An always changing menu keeps it fresh at this charming New American restaurant in Dunedin. 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 halibut rillettes with Wonder toast, a soft egg and dill, and for dessert, blue cheese panna cotta with pickled strawberries and pistachio.

**ROAM** • St. Petersburg; \$\$ • This globally inspired steak restaurant from brothers Christian and Joshua Jackson features a slightly more casual setup than some other steakhouses but doesn't shy away from big and bold flavors. Start with the Louisiana-style chargrilled oysters and move on to the decadent truffle-laced lobster macaroni and cheese. For an entree, look no further than the New York strip, which comes

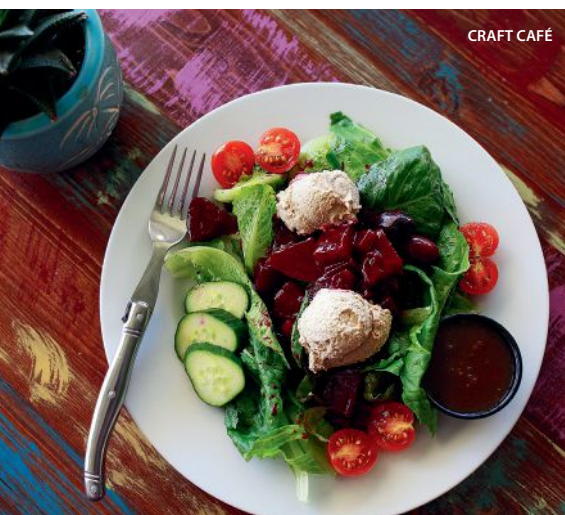
tucked beneath a blanket of creamy Gorgonzola fondue, topped with crispy-fried onions and served with thick-cut French fries.

**SAUVIGNON WINE LOCKER & AMERICAN TRATTORIA** • St. Petersburg; \$\$ • Tucked between two bars off a busy strip of Central Avenue, this elegant restaurant offers a fresh breath of air from the bustle down below. There's a heavy focus on charcuterie boards and fine wines and the spot has garnered a strong following of local oenophiles and curious imbibers looking to expand their palates. The rest of the menu is equally exciting, from a creamy burrata paired with tomato confit to the papardelle with lamb sugo.

**THE URBAN STILLHOUSE** • St. Petersburg; \$\$\$ • St. Pete's Warehouse Arts District is home to this sprawling cocktail bar, restaurant and bourbon lounge. Designed with distilleries in Scotland and Kentucky in mind, the 16,000-square-foot space

features industrial touches and sleek modern decor. Guests can sip cocktails at the lounge or sample whiskey flights inside the private tasting room. Meanwhile, diners can nosh on shareable plates of deviled eggs with white sturgeon caviar or smoked venison tartare, topped with a quail egg.





## VEGETARIAN/ GLUTEN FREE/ VEGAN

**CRAFT KAFÉ** • St. Petersburg; \$ • A favorite with the gluten-free crowd, the menu at this St. Petersburg spot sports a large selection of gluten-free pastries including muffins, turnovers and cookies (they also have a great espresso program). For those looking to linger a little longer, a solid breakfast and lunch offering includes a daily vegan soup, several sandwiches



and a build-your-own omelet deal that comes with home fries and toast.

**GOLDEN DINOSAURS** • Gulfport; \$ • This casual café'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 with ingredients all made in-house, from sausages to cutlets and seitan. If it's not made from scratch, there's a good chance it's sourced locally, from the pastrami Reubens,

piled high with locally fermented sauerkraut, to the local beer and kombucha on draught.

**GOOD INTENTIONS** • St. Petersburg; \$\$ • This cozy, mid-century modern restaurant presents something upscale for the vegan set, but the creative menu will appeal to all types of diners. The fantastic grazing board gives other charcuterie programs a run for their money, while creative spins on classic crowd-pleasers include fried "crab" balls nestled in kimchi fried rice and a killer lemon





TED PETERS FAMOUS SMOKED FISH



LOVE FOOD CENTRAL

## 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 and move on to Clams Casino, escargot in a buttery Madeira sauce, and a jumbo shrimp cocktail. The place is beloved for their fresh seafood, quality steaks and the "Back to the Farm" fried chicken — 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-ounce cheeseburgers and the crispy-battered fish and chips.

**TED PETERS FAMOUS SMOKED FISH** • St. Petersburg; \$ • The smell of smoked fish, sultan oil and saltwater has become synonymous with this beloved Pasadena Avenue restaurant. The mostly outdoor spot sports a sun-kissed crowd: weekend beach trippers, families with kids in tow and longtime regulars. 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.



BOB HEILMAN'S BEACHCOMBER

garlic gnocchi. Don't skip the creative all-vegan cocktail list, which is reason enough to visit.

**LOVE FOOD CENTRAL** • St. Petersburg; \$ • You'll find quality vegan and gluten-free cooking that extends beyond your basic veggie joint at this breezy Central Avenue café. Start with the kale

Caesar salad and move on to something heartier, like the Buffalo tempeh sandwich. Better yet, hang out a while and linger over the impressive (and huge) cheese board, made with a selection of macadamia- and almond-based cheeses that are paired with pickled veggies, jams and flaxseed crackers.





SWEET BREWNETTE



JOSEPH'S TEA ROOM

## COFFEE, TEA & CAFÉS

### **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 while those in the know line up early for the popular spot’s breakfast fare. Their single-origin coffees are sourced from all over the world and roasted locally. 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 an array of edible goodies like chocolates, seasonings, cookies, jams and fudge as well as a collection of candles, tea towels and greeting cards.

### **INDIAN SHORES COFFEE CO.** • Indian Shores; \$

• The owners of this Indian Shores café also run St. Pete’s Black Crow Coffee Co., and the two spots carry a similarly cozy and funky aesthetic. The café inside is dark and intimate while the outdoor, shady patio is surrounded by lush plants and feels downright tropical. Baked goodies include homemade chocolate and banana walnut muffins, coffee cake and donuts, and there are usually several gluten-free and vegan options available.

**INTERMEZZO** • St. Petersburg; \$ • During the daytime, people cozy up over lattes and laptops but as soon as the sun sets, the coffee drinks are swapped out for something stronger. That’s because Intermezzo is really two different businesses: a craft coffee shop by day and a swanky cocktail lounge by night. Inspired by the European cafés of the 1950s and ’60s, the minimalist decor includes tall ceilings, plenty of natural light and several tables for smaller groups or solo visitors.

**JOSEPH’S TEA ROOM** • Clearwater; \$ • Sweet and savory snacks are paired with an impressive selection of green, black, white and herbal teas at this charming Clearwater teahouse, owned by a husband-and-wife duo (pictured at bottom left).





While Joseph's Tea Room is a popular choice for private bridal showers and birthday parties, smaller groups and walk-ins are just as welcome, and the Afternoon Tea Experience is customizable based on group size. The deluxe version of the package features champagne and strawberries in addition to tea, croissants and tea sandwiches, scones and biscuits served with clotted cream,



jam and assorted desserts.

#### **SWEET BREWNETTE • Madeira Beach; \$ •**

This laid-back café 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, with whimsical creations like the Funky Munk, a blend of espresso with peanut butter, banana and chocolate flavors. A lively breakfast scene draws locals and beachgoers in for the Belgian waffles, veggie-packed frittatas and — for the grown-ups — mimosas made with freshly squeezed orange juice.



### **BEST COFFEE SHOP**

- 1 BLACK CROW COFFEE CO., ST. PETE
- 2 Sweet Brewnette, Madeira Beach
- 3 Café Vino Tinto, Safety Harbor
- 4 Paradeco Coffee Roasters, St. Pete
- 5 Grove Surf + Grove, St. Pete Beach



### **BEST FOOD TRUCK**

- 1 ST. PETE TACO LADY
- 2 Pop Goes the Waffle
- 3 Maggie on the Move
- 4 Te Invito
- 5 Heavy's





BEANS & BARLOUR



VALHALLA BAKERY

## SWEETS

**BEANS & BARLOUR** • St. Petersburg; \$ • Part-ice cream parlor 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 Mangonadas. 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) in pint-size containers to-go.



WILLIAM DEAN CHOCOLATES

**STRACHAN'S ICE CREAM AND DESSERTS** • Dunedin; \$ • With locations in Dunedin, Clearwater and Palm Harbor, this ice cream parlor 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.

**VALHALLA BAKERY** • St. Petersburg; \$ • It's hard to believe everything in this gem of a bakery is vegan (but trust us, it is). It's impossible to go wrong with the Nanaimo bars, made with a base

of dark chocolate coconut crust filled with custard. The peach and strawberry lemon bars are like lemon squares crossed with a peach crisp, while cake slices all feature a dreamy vegan buttercream frosting.

**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.



# RELAX *BOLDLY*



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# LET'S FIND THE FUN

**T**here are so many fun things to do in St. Pete/Clearwater that you can't go wrong. Want to 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.



## FAMILY FUN



## SPORTS





## EVENTS

[VisitSPC.com/Events](http://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 sands, you can plan trip after trip around special events.

Check out the full up-to-date list of diverse celebrations at [VisitSPC.com/Events](http://VisitSPC.com/Events).



## BARS & BREWERIES



# FAMILY FUN

**F**rom fun in the sun to jaw-dropping magic tricks, St. Pete/Clearwater is the place to create your most memorable family moments. Luckily, they're all in play for your vacation.

## ST. PETERSBURG

In this city, it's all about the **St. Pete Pier**, and the glorious adjacent waterfront. Stroll along the downtown area's Beach Drive, then make your way to the pier. Stop at the colorful and cleverly designed **Glazer Family Playground**, which has tube slides, swings, climbing structures and kiddie obstacle courses. Nearby is the **Majeed Foundation Splash Pad**, where lounge chairs surround the shooting fountains so parents can relax while the little ones get wet. Once you've dried off, keep walking to the main pier building and dine at one of their five restaurants.

Take in a family-friendly magic show at the **Zubrick Magic Theatre**, where illusionists Chris and Ryan Zubrick engage in everything from sleight-of-hand to comedy to grand-scale illusions in a 70-minute show.

Just outside of downtown St. Petersburg on bustling Fourth Street, the **Great Explorations Children's Museum** is a quaint hands-on museum for kids. And right next door is **Sunken Gardens**, a lush botanical garden oasis in the middle of the city. A stroll through the shaded paths lined with flowers and trees is the perfect way to cap a day.

## CLEARWATER

The **Clearwater Marine Aquarium** was made popular by Winter the dolphin and her story that became the hit movie "**Dolphin Tale**." But even after Winter's death in 2021, this aquarium remains worth a visit. It has a new dolphin habitat that allows the facility to care for more rescued dolphins like Winter. And an immersive virtual reality



ST. PETE PIER





experience in the aquarium's theater allows Winter's spirit to live on. You'll be able to interact with other dolphins here, plus nurse sharks, otters, turtles and stingrays.

Clearwater's downtown waterfront **Coachman Park** recently went through an \$84 million redevelopment to add a 4,000-seat covered amphitheater called **The Sound** that will host live performances, plus a garden, a pirate-themed playground, a splash pad, a bluff walk and green space.

Aboard the **Little Toot Dolphin Adventure** on

Clearwater Beach, adults and kids alike can spot dolphins. The attraction explores the Clearwater Harbor and the Gulf of Mexico, taking guests on tours that range from 60 to 90 minutes and allow for up-close dolphin sightings.

## ST. PETE BEACH

At St. Pete Beach's **TradeWinds Island Resorts**, check out the **High Tide Slide**, a three-story-high, 200-foot-long inflatable water slide right on the beach. Resort guests can enjoy unlimited rides on the slide, or non-guests can buy a day pass for \$40.



## BEST FAMILY ACTIVITY

- 1 CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM/  
SEA LIFE SAFARI TOUR
- 2 St. Pete Pier
- 3 Great Explorations Children's Museum,  
St. Pete
- 4 Captain Memo's Pirate Cruise,  
Clearwater Beach
- 5 Empower Adventures, Oldsmar



## BEST FESTIVAL

- 1 PIER 60 SUGAR SAND FESTIVAL,  
CLEARWATER BEACH
- 2 Sanding Ovations, Treasure Island
- 3 John's Pass Seafood & Music Festival,  
Madeira Beach
- 4 Localtopia, St. Pete
- 5 Dunedin Highland Games



## LARGO

The **Largo Central Park** boasts picnic pavilions, a playground and a lovely array of plants and fountains. On the first weekend of every month, the **Largo Central Railroad** is a fun toddler activity. And during the holidays, the park is set aglow with twinkling lights and a giant Christmas tree. Don't miss the **Largo Library** right next door, which contains a fun and welcoming kids' book section. Admission to both spots is free. Train rides are free, too. The park is open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day. We recommend going early in the morning before the sun is fully out, then hitting the library. Or going to the library in the late afternoon, and hitting the park just before sunset.

If you're looking to burn off some energy, hit up the **Sky Zone Trampoline Park**, where the whole family can bounce on giant trampolines, swing from a zip line and more at this all-indoor entertainment center. An all-day pass is \$35.99.

There's also the **George McGough Nature Park**, nestled along the Intracoastal Waterway in Largo. It boasts a large aquatic turtle population, plenty of



mangroves and a nature center with live animal exhibits and hands-on activities for kids.

## DUNEDIN

Take a stroll down Main Street in this quirky town right on the water. Duck into some of the shops, and grab a bite at one of several family-friendly restaurants and breweries. For an activity the whole family will enjoy, stop by the **Dunedin Fine Art**

**Center**. The large arts center has a variety of exhibits, plus a gallery and activity center for kids. They even host cooking classes. The **David L. Mason Children's Art Museum** is a fun interactive gallery space for kids ages 4 to 12.

If you're looking to cool off after a day of exploring, stop by the **Highlander Pool** or the adjacent **Kiwanis Sprayground**. Families can enjoy the pool for just \$3 per person or get free admission to the



## TROPICAL TREASURE HUNT

Go on the adventure of a lifetime with **Tropical Treasure Hunt!** Explore fun spots around the beautiful Pinellas Beaches as you collect and solve 'escape room'-type clues that lead you to buried treasure! Also become immersed in a one-of-a-kind augmented reality treasure hunt! A truly memorable experience for ALL ages!

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St. Pete Beach

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## CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM

**Clearwater Marine Aquarium** is committed to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of marine life and inspiring the human spirit, well known for their rescued resident bottlenose dolphins.

Hollywood blockbuster films *Dolphin Tale* and *Dolphin Tale 2* were filmed on site and you can find Hope the dolphin and other marine life featured in the films residing here in their forever home at CMA. During your visit, enjoy a complimentary audio tour (there is one for adults and one for kids), sponsored by Baycare.

Always growing, CMA plans to build a care center on site for injured manatees in 2023.

727-441-1790

cmaquarium.org

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 **UNDER \$5**



## TRY ONE OF OUR PUBLIC POOLS

St. Pete/Clearwater has a number of affordable public pools. For \$5 or less per person, anyone can get all-day admission to Skyview Pool in Pinellas Park. The facility has diving boards, a deep-end corkscrew slide and a kiddie play area with squirting interactive bicycles and a squirting rocking whale.

sprayground, where kids can play among water cannons, floor jets, a slide and a big yellow bucket that fills up and tips over.

## INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

Escape the heat in the **Blue Lagoon at the Splash Harbour Water Park** where you can find a lazy river, water slides, a splash zone and sun deck. There is even plenty of fun on land, including a mini golf course and a game room.



## PALM HARBOR

In north Pinellas County, the **Suncoast Primate Sanctuary** features chimpanzees, macaques, capuchins and lemurs. The volunteer-run organization has been around for more than 20 years and is home to more than 130 animal residents.

## TARPON SPRINGS

The **Tarpon Springs Sponge Docks** is the main attraction in this north Pinellas County city, with its rich history as the sponge capital of the world. You can learn about its past at the **Spongeorama**, **Sponge Factory and Museum**, and browse kitschy gift shops offering real sponges to take home. And don't skip out on the many authentic Greek restaurants and bakeries nearby.

If you're looking for a different way to entertain the family, take them to the **Replay Amusement**

**Museum**. It's a fun spot for video game lovers of all ages, with a collection of vintage and new games like pinball machines and a rotating selection of arcade machines. There are more than 100 machines total. You pay one price for unlimited games all day: \$14 for adults and \$8 for children.

## MADEIRA BEACH

John's Pass Village is home to the **Alligator & Wildlife Discovery Center**, which houses more than 250 animals including lizards, small mammals, amphibians, turtles, tortoises and alligators. The family-friendly attraction has hands-on and educational experiences.



## SUNSET SPECTACULAR

Each night in Clearwater, **Sunsets at Pier 60** celebrates the sun setting over one of Tampa Bay's most picturesque beaches. The free event features performers, artisans and more. It starts two hours before sunset and ends two hours after. And for just \$1, you can walk to the end of the pier for an even more majestic view.



## HANDS-ON ART

Take in some art: The **Morean Arts Center** on St. Petersburg's Central Avenue offers free art activities on Saturdays. Geared toward families and kids ages 5-10, each week offers a different art project, hourly from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Preregistration is required.



# SPORTS



**W**ith near-perfect weather year-round, St. Pete/Clearwater is a haven for pro sports, recreation and some of the biggest events in the country.



Let's start with America's pastime. Check out some of the game's biggest stars and dazzling newcomers during spring training, when the **Philadelphia Phillies** prepare for the new season at **BayCare Ballpark** in Clearwater and the **Toronto Blue Jays** play at **TD Ballpark** in Dunedin, their southern home. You can also catch their local minor-league affiliates, the **Clearwater Threshers** and **Dunedin Blue Jays**. The spring training headquarters of the **New York Yankees**, **Pittsburgh Pirates** and **Baltimore Orioles** – in Tampa, Bradenton and Sarasota, respectively – are all easy to locate and great for catching afternoon or evening games.

The Tampa Bay area has earned the affectionate nickname "**Champa Bay**" since its pro sports teams

have mostly dominated the fields of baseball, soccer, football and hockey for the past several years. St. Pete is home to Major League Baseball's exciting **Tampa Bay Rays**, who clinched their fourth American League East championship in the 2021 postseason and advanced to the playoffs again in 2022. Catch a Rays game at the gloriously air-conditioned **Tropicana Field** (aka "The Trop") to escape the heat, avoid the storms and have a (base)ball.

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. The USL Championship pro soccer team recently advanced to the finals in the 2022 season, adding to the Champa Bay winner's circle.





SKYWAY 10K



FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX

Hockey lovers can witness the fast-paced action of the **Tampa Bay Lightning**, two-time National Hockey League Stanley Cup winners since 2020, at **Amalie Arena** in Tampa. If American football is more your speed, take a brief drive over to **Raymond James Stadium** in Tampa to watch the National Football League's **Tampa Bay Buccaneers** play. The stadium also hosts two college bowl games each year (the **Gasparilla Bowl** in December and the **ReliaQuest Bowl** on New Year's Day).

In February, join top-ranked collegiate softball teams as they start the season at the ESPN-produced **TaxAct Clearwater Invitational** in Clearwater.

Changing speed (literally), the annual **Firestone Grand Prix** brings powerful IndyCars roaring through closed streets along the St. Pete waterfront every March. Keep that need-for-speed appetite satiated at the **Baystar Clearwater Offshore**

## MOST EXCITING SPORTING EVENT

- 1 TAMPA BAY RAYS, ST. PETE
- 2 Firestone Grand Prix, St. Pete
- 3 MLB Spring Training, Clearwater & Dunedin
- 4 Tampa Bay Rowdies, St. Pete
- 5 Valspar Championship, Palm Harbor







ST. ANTHONY'S TRIATHLON



SPRING TRAINING



TAXACT CLEARWATER INVITATIONAL

**Nationals** in the fall, one of the top boat races in Florida. Speaking of fast boats, the **P1 Offshore Grand Prix** powerboat races return to St. Pete throughout Labor Day weekend.

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



VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP



TOCOBAGA DISC GOLF COURSE

with it some of the world's top golfers and thousands of spectators. Quickly growing into another major golf tournament is the **LPGA's The Annika at Pelican Presented by Gainbridge** held in Belleair in November.

One of the premiere multi-sport events in the U.S., the **St. Anthony's Triathlon** celebrates its 41st year in April 2024 with great fan support, tremendous competition and a course winding in and out of beautiful downtown St. Pete.

If you're in the mood to get out of the stands and into the action, St. Pete/Clearwater is a veritable athlete's paradise, offering everything from golfing and hiking trails to paddleboarding and volleyball. Every spring, thousands of locals and runners from across the nation enjoy the most scenic run of the year at the **Skyway 10K**, which sends attendees

racing over the iconic Sunshine Skyway Bridge. In the fall, the **St. Pete Run Fest** features three days of family-friendly festival fun that include running events, live music, craft beer and more.

Hop on a bike to cycle down the **Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail**, a linear 75-mile pathway for cyclists, runners and rollerbladers that stretches from St. Pete to Tarpon Springs. For an aerial view, **Empower Adventures** will send you zip lining over the **Mobbly Bayou Wilderness Preserve** in Oldsmar. 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 50 public and private courses itself, the Tampa Bay region 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 green and a straightforward design. Also in St. Pete, the par-72 course at **The Vinoy Resort & Golf Club** has lots of water and gorgeous natural scenery. Disc golf is offered on wooded courses like the **Tocobaga Disc Golf Course** in St. Pete's Maximo and Azalea parks, the **Taylor Park Disc Course** in Largo and at **Clearwater Disc Golf in the Ballpark** at BayCare Ballpark.



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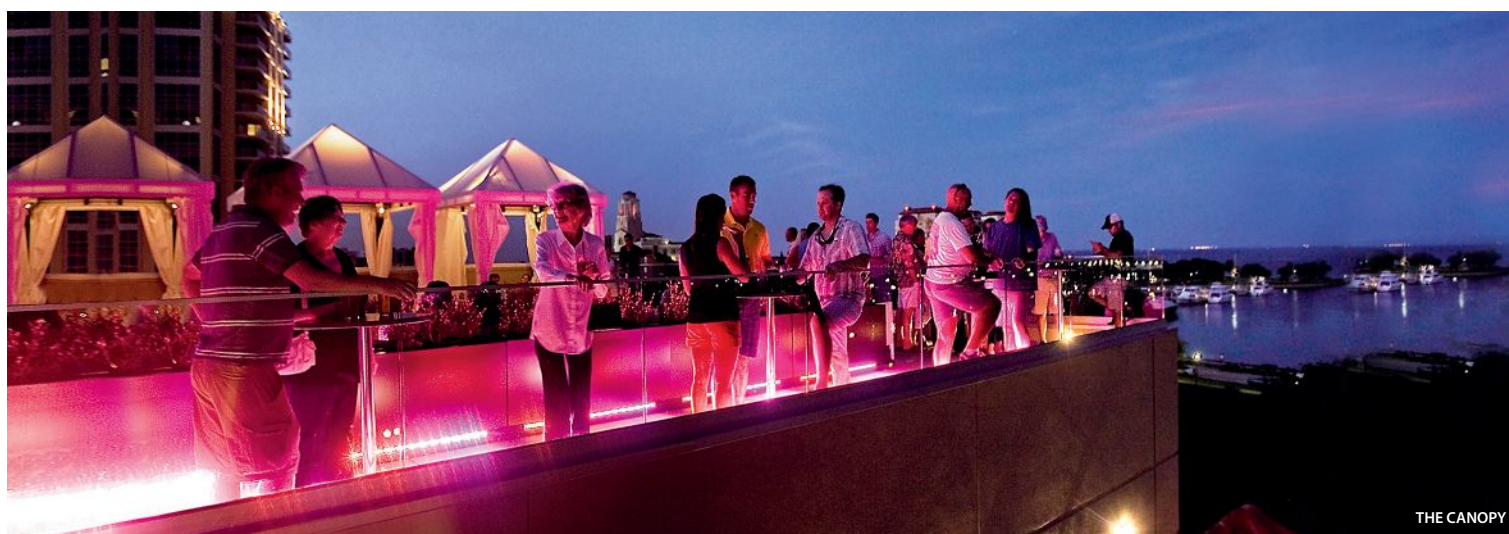
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**RAYSBASEBALL.COM**



# BARS



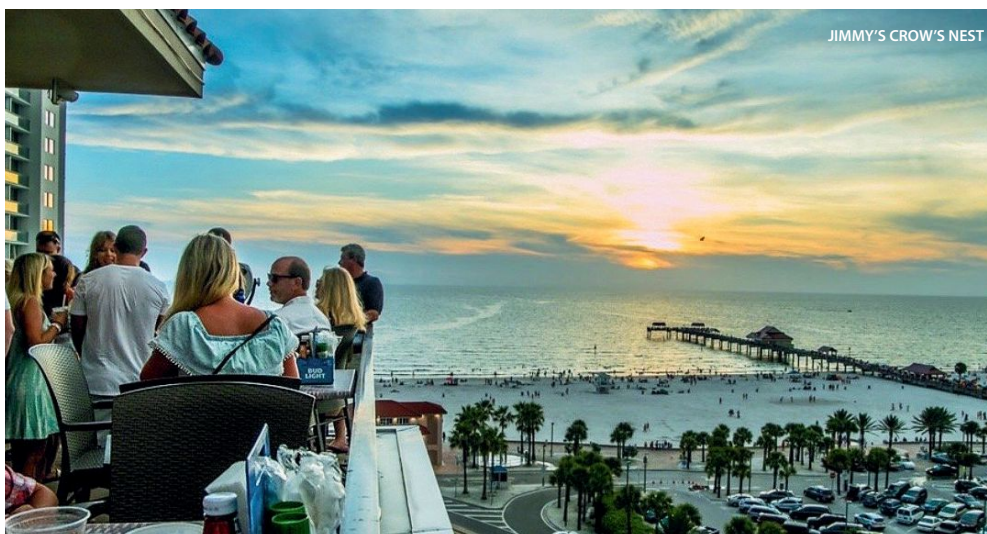
THE CANOPY

**T**he overall vibe of **WHERE** you drink is often as important as **WHAT** you drink. Would you prefer to stretch out beachside with a daytime margarita in hand, or are craft cocktails and nightlife more your speed? (The good news is: you can choose both.)

## ROOFTOP BARS

**360° Rooftop Lounge**, St. Pete Beach • Posh Mediterranean-inspired lounge furniture helps set the stage for spectacular sunset views at this aptly named bar located at the top of **Hotel Zamora** (just north of The Don CeSar hotel). Be sure to order some delectable tapas from the hotel's Castile Restaurant downstairs – they pair well with panoramic views.

**Cane & Barrel**, St. Pete • There's a lot of buzz about this brand-new, Cuban-inspired rooftop bar and lounge in the heart of downtown St. Pete. Located atop the **AC Hotel by Marriott**, Cane & Barrel features an exterior lounge and interior bar that were influenced by vintage wood cigar boxes and the lushness of a Caribbean courtyard. The



JIMMY'S CROW'S NEST

signature spirit here is rum, which the bar's menu explores "from the cane to the barrel."

**The Canopy**, St. Pete • Treat yourself and your guests like true VIPs on the top floor of **The Birchwood Inn**. Order a martini if you're feeling fancy; some bar bites if you're feeling peckish – but you can't miss the incredible views of Tampa Bay and the downtown St. Pete waterfront from this venue's glass railings. The Canopy also features living room-style seating, with private cabanas

available for rent.

**The Rooftop Bar at the Berkeley Beach Club**, Pass-a-Grille • Some of the most memorable sunsets can be experienced at this modern bar on Pass-a-Grille's captivating Eighth Avenue strip. Elevated "beach cuisine," including seafood-focused plates and a raw bar, are also on the menu. Seating is limited, so plan on arriving before sunset begins.

**Hi-Fi Rooftop Bar**, Dunedin • Featuring an array of





CADDY'S WATERFRONT

creative cocktails, wines and local craft beers, the Hi-Fi is nestled atop the historic **Fenway Hotel**, offering jaw-dropping views across the Intracoastal Waterway to Caladesi Island. The bar's name pays homage to the Fenway being the site of Pinellas County's first radio station back in the day.

**Vantage**, Feather Sound • Perched on the 12th floor of the **Karol Hotel**, this mostly indoor bar offers floor-to-ceiling windows and a small terrace. Guests can see Tampa Bay and the St. Pete skyline as they sip artisan cocktails and nosh on seafood-inspired bites.

**Jimmy's Crow's Nest**, Clearwater Beach • This local favorite at the **Pier House 60** hotel on the waterfront is an ideal spot to overlook all the Clearwater Beach and Clearwater Marina action. They'll even throw in a free shot during their nightly sunset celebration.

**Level 11**, St. Pete Beach • Open daily every evening, this vibrant rooftop venue at the **Bellwether Beach Resort** serves up shareable plates, refreshing cocktails and glorious views of the beach and Gulf of Mexico. A classy kickoff for any vacation.

**Pier Teaki**, St. Pete • Don your finest Polynesian-inspired threads and head over to this Tiki-themed lounge overlooking the new St. Pete Pier. The drink menu includes a solid selection of wine and craft beer, but the real draw are the frozen drinks and signature cocktails, which can be enjoyed in souvenir Teaki mugs.

**Vista at the Top**, Tierra Verde • Possibly Tierra

Verde's best kept secret, this chic open-air lounge is tucked away on the rooftop of a **Residence Inn** (directly next to a marina). The menu includes tapas-style cuisine, signature cocktails, wine, craft beers and desserts. After a day on the water, this Vista can really hit the spot.

**Vue360**, Clearwater Beach • The newest rooftop bar on this list, Vue360 at the **Courtyard Clearwater Beach Marina** features a modern yet laid back tropical vibe. Kick back on a comfy couch and sip on a salt-and-chile-rimmed margarita or smoke-infused old fashioned as you savor the gorgeous sunset on the beach.

## BEACH BARS

Though the staggering number of beach bars in the St. Pete/Clearwater area could fill another magazine issue, let's dive into a handful of spots that are worth the visit.

Starting on Clearwater Beach, the locals have been hanging out at the **Palm Pavilion Beachside Grill & Bar** since 1926 for its sunset celebrations and extensive menu. If you're in the mood for an absolutely killer grouper sandwich, head over to **Frenchy's Rockaway Grill**, the largest of Frenchy's four establishments in the area. Kick it up a notch or two at **Shephard's Tiki Beach Bar & Grill**, with its outdoor Tiki-inspired bar and nightclub **WAVE** for an evening of busting moves.

Head a few miles further south to **Jimmy Guana's** in Indian Rocks Beach, where you can dine inside or out on the deck. If you're in the mood for a classic



## BEST COCKTAILS

- 1 GIGGLEWATERS SOCIAL CLUB, SAFETY HARBOR
- 2 Trophy Fish, St. Pete
- 3 The Urban Stillhouse, St. Pete
- 4 Heilman's Beachcomber Restaurant, Clearwater Beach
- 5 The Mandarin Hide, St. Pete



## BEST BEACH BAR

- 1 PALM PAVILION, CLEARWATER BEACH
- 2 Frenchy's Rockaway Grill, Clearwater Beach
- 3 Coconut Charlie's at Hilton Garden Inn, St. Pete Beach
- 4 Caddy's Treasure Island
- 5 Jimmy B's Beach Bar, St. Pete Beach



## BEST ROOFTOP BAR

- 1 JIMMY'S CROW'S NEST, PIER HOUSE 60, CLEARWATER BEACH
- 2 Canopy, The Birchwood, St. Pete
- 3 Hi-Fi Rooftop Bar, Fenway Hotel, Dunedin
- 4 Pier Teaki, St. Pete Pier
- 5 The Hurricane Seafood Restaurant, Pass-a-Grille





RUBY'S ELIXIR



ENIGMA

beach dive bar (and who isn't?), **Mahuffer's** in Indian Shores is filled with character, dollar bills and plenty of laughs.

For some island music and a taste of the tropics, check out **Mangos Restaurant & Tiki Bar** in the DoubleTree Beach Resort on North Redington Beach. Order a Bahama Mama, a seafood entrée or scrumptious dessert from the sunset menu at **Conch Republic**.

A couple of miles south in Madeira Beach, **Bamboo Beach Bar** in John's Pass is a great place for fish tacos and piña colodas. If you're in the mood to sip something nonalcoholic in a friendly patio setting, **Bula on the Beach** serves up kava, kombucha (on draft), coffee and espresso.



MAHUFFER'S

Want to dip your toes into the Gulf while enjoying your beverage of choice? **Caddy's Waterfront** in Treasure Island is one of the few beachfront bars where it's actually legal. (*Freedom!*) You'll find this local institution a few feet from the shore of Sunset Beach, an easygoing neighborhood just south of Gulf Boulevard. Treasure Island is also home to **Crabby's On the Pass**, which is sometimes touted as having the "world's longest waterfront bar." We haven't done the math on that yet, but it's a great spot to dock a boat, sip on rum runners and enjoy some fish filets.

St. Pete Beach offers a myriad of beach bar options as well, including the casual and colorful **Woody's Waterfront** right on the water. Music, mai tais, and sunsets are all the rage at **Jimmy B's Beach Bar**, while the retro **PCI Beach Bar & Snack Shack** is the place to be on the weekends. Meanwhile, **Undertow** has built up a cult following for decades with its spacious rooftop deck, oversized wooden chairs and wide selection of import and craft beers.

Don't forget to explore the charms Pass-a-Grille Beach has to offer. Head to Eighth Avenue, where





you'll find the **Brass Monkey** and **Shadrack's**, one of the all-time classic beach bar dives that serves up a wicked bloody mary bar on Sundays. Take in some breathtaking views with your drinks and food at the iconic **Hurricane Seafood Restaurant**.

## WINERIES/DISTILLERIES

The St. Pete/Clearwater area has been known for its craft beer scene for a minute now, but its new wave of wineries and distilleries should not be overlooked.

Award-winning, high-quality spirits are on the menu at **St. Petersburg Distillery**. Opened in 2014, the distillery focuses on supporting local agriculture and using locally sourced ingredients in their offerings. Their old Florida-inspired bottles and labels are a cool bonus.

Clearwater's **Murielle Winery** dates back to a couple decades ago, when its owner broke free from the corporate business world and launched the operation with his wife. Though Florida isn't exactly known for its grape-friendly climate, Murielle has overcome the challenge with an effective (and time-consuming) fermentation process.

Spirits are slowly and carefully handcrafted and distilled at **Cotherman Distilling Co.** in Dunedin. Schedule a tour of the distillery, or try their popular,

small-batch single malt 727 Vodka in the tasting room.

Eschew the eternal wine-vs.-beer debate by choosing *both* at **Two Lions Winery & Palm Harbor Brewery**. Featuring a range of local craft beers and varietals, this winery/brewery/tasting house has something to please every guest. Just don't knock the Best of the Bay-winning wine slushie if you haven't tried it.

Originally founded in Poland nearly 20 years ago, St. Pete's family-operated **Kozuba & Sons** distillery specializes in handmade small-batch whiskeys, bourbons, vodkas and more. Try something new and distinctly Polish, like their traditional cranberry cordial.

There's also no shortage of hip wine bars throughout the area. Want to sip pinot noir while nodding your head to the Wu-Tang Clan? **Hawthorne Bottle Shoppe** in St. Pete is the place. Take your wine to go or sit and relax for a while at local favorite **Lolita's Wine Market**, a hybrid wine-and-coffee shop/bar. Head over to Safety Harbor's cozy Main Street and visit **Sips Wine Bar**, which offers over 70 wines in a pleasantly low-key atmosphere.

## LGBTQ+-FRIENDLY BARS

St. Pete/Clearwater is renowned for being home to an incredibly vibrant and friendly LGBTQ+



## BEST BREWERY

- 1 **3 DAUGHTERS BREWING, ST. PETE**
- 2 **Green Bench Brewing Co., St. Pete**
- 3 **Crooked Thumb Brewery, Safety Harbor**
- 4 **HOB Brewing Co., Dunedin**
- 5 **Pinellas Ale Works, St. Pete**



## BEST WINE BAR

- 1 **BOOK + BOTTLE, ST. PETE**
- 2 **Sips Wine Bar, Safety Harbor**
- 3 **CellarMasters Wine Bar and Bottle Shop, St. Pete**
- 4 **Wine Society, Tarpon Springs**
- 5 **Bella Vino Wine & Cheese Market, Belleair Bluffs**



## BEST DOG HANGOUT

- 1 **DOG BAR, ST. PETE**
- 2 **Honeymoon Island Dog Beach**
- 3 **Fort De Soto Dog Beach**
- 4 **OCC Road House & Museum, Clearwater**
- 5 **Troubled Waters Brewing, Safety Harbor**





community. With one of the largest pride events in the U.S. (**St Pete Pride**), it should come as no surprise that the area is also brimming with gay-friendly bars and nightlife.

St. Pete has the highest concentration of lively spots to visit. Dance club **Enigma** brings high energy to the EDGE District, with all-day drink specials, live DJs, an insane sound and lighting system, and the “the best drag shows in the universe.” Hit the dance floor inside, or lounge on the patio and catch up with friends. Speaking of dancing, locals also like to cut a rug at the upbeat **Cocktail St. Pete**. The bar/club won numerous Best of the Bay awards in 2022, including Best LGBTQ+ Bar, Best Happy Hour and Best Drag Event.

If you’re getting the party started at Cocktail, head to its sister speak-easy, **The Saint**, for the after-party. Dark, sexy and equipped with an arsenal of killer cocktails, this authentic speak-easy can be found behind a red door on a side street in the Grand Central District. Want to hang out in this neighborhood a bit longer? Check out **The Garage on Central** for exotic drinks, drag shows, dance music nights and, on Thursday evenings, karaoke.

In downtown Clearwater, the low-key **Pro Shop Pub**, which is touted as “the oldest gay bar in Tampa Bay,” has become a popular hangout due to its warm atmosphere and laid-back regulars. Head north to Dunedin, where **Blur Nightclub** is the place to keep the vibes high. The club has a fully stocked bar, regular live DJ nights and drag shows every Friday. And if you happen to be in town on the first Tuesday of the month, don’t miss Drag Queen Bingo.

## LIVE MUSIC

Jazz, rock, blues, funk, hip-hop – what are you in the mood for? Whether you’re a casual listener or a



true music head, there’s always thrilling live music radiating good vibes somewhere throughout St. Pete/Clearwater.

There’s never a cover charge at **Ruby’s Elixir**, a swank retro speak-easy in downtown St. Pete where you can catch a local blues, rock, jazz or funk band on an intimate stage every night. The cocktails are decidedly premium and sophisticated, and the decor features ruby red lighting and pinup art from the 1940s and ‘50s.

The classic **Ringside Café** got its name from its previous location, which originally operated as a boxing center. The boxers are long gone, but the many talented national and local rock and blues musicians that play the venue are here to stay. Ringside also has a full liquor bar and many favorite beers on tap.

Though the craft beers served at **The Ale & the Witch** are mostly American, the overall feel of this taphouse leans more European. This is mostly due to its large outdoor courtyard, where you can catch local live acts regularly. You can even bring your pooch.

Catch a live set on the lively patio at **Smuggler’s Island Pub**, which rests in the heart of the Palm Harbor Historic District. Shaded by great mossy oak trees, Smuggler’s serves up burgers and pub grub, with a small selection of beers to wash it all down.

If you prefer your music near the water, reggae, rock, acoustic and blues are usually on deck at

**Ka’Tiki** in Treasure Island/Sunset Beach, while **Jimmy B’s Beach Bar** in St. Pete Beach has a huge open-air patio and two stages for live local bands.

## BARCADES

As you can tell, St. Pete/Clearwater is practically overflowing with interesting places to grab a refreshing drink and soak in some pleasant ambience. But what about bars that also tap into and nourish your inner child? We’re talking pure, unadulterated, analog and/or digital, new-and-old-school fun. Game on.

Downtown St. Pete’s indoor-outdoor **Park & Rec** taps into the competitive spirit with life-size beer pong played with garbage cans, as well as some old-school classics like Skee-Ball, Frogger and arcade basketball. The vivacious bar also offers a concession stand with a snacks menu, wine and beers on draft, and creative cocktails.

Nintendo enthusiasts rejoice: **Right Around the Corner** in the Grand Central District has Nintendo systems from every era and locally brewed beer poured from game controller taps. In addition to its video game options, the bar also has some classic pinball machines, darts and more.

In addition to brewing its own broad selection of tasty craft beers, **3 Daughters Brewing** is also a warehouse full of family-friendly fun. Indoor games include tabletop shuffleboard, pingpong, darts, pinball and foosball, while the outdoor area has cornhole, Connect Four and Jenga.



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# BREWERIES



**B**elieve it or not, there was a time when even the most discerning beer connoisseur had to work hard to seek out local craft breweries in St. Pete/Clearwater. Fast forward to the present day, and everyone from beer nerds to casual fans won't have any trouble discovering future favorite craft breweries and brewpubs throughout the area. In fact, there are currently over 50-plus locally owned and community-focused breweries in the "Gulp Coast," including many pet- and family-friendly options.

## NORTH REGION

### TARPON SPRINGS, PALM HARBOR & DUNEDIN

**DUNEDIN BREWERY, DUNEDIN** • Our local craft beer scene started here. Florida's oldest microbrewery handcrafts their beers in small batches (15 barrels at a time) and also brews an extensive seasonal selection. Must-try: Apricot Peach Ale.

**FIVE BRANCHES BREWING, TARPON SPRINGS** • Located in the Historic Sponge Docks District, this veteran-owned brewery recently took home the gold award in the 2022 World Beer Cup. Must-try: Doggin Wrench Imperial Stout.

**STILT HOUSE BREWERY, PALM HARBOR** • This bike-accessible spot along the Pinellas Trail offers over 30 unique beers, plus wine and cider. Must-try: Montagne Noir (Black Lager).

**7VENTH SUN BREWERY, DUNEDIN** • What's on the menu? Damn good small-batch India pale ales,



WOODWRIGHT BREWING

oak-aged sours, barrel-aged ales, saisons and more. Must-try: Scientist IPA.

**CALEDONIA BREWING, DUNEDIN** • Housed in an old newspaper building, Caledonia pays homage to Dunedin's Celtic heritage in an atmospheric tasting room. Must-try: QuadDrePhenia (Belgian-style Quadrupel).

**TWO FROGS BREWING COMPANY, TARPON SPRINGS** • This father/son nanobrewery radiates charm in an old pharmacy building that dates back to 1895. Must-try: Dream Pop (Tangerine Vanilla Wheat).

**WOODWRIGHT BREWING, DUNEDIN** • Grab a seat at the bar, upstairs in the loft or outside in the beer garden during a bluegrass jam at this craft brewery-meets-wood-shop hybrid. Must-try: Dunkelweizen.

## CENTRAL REGION

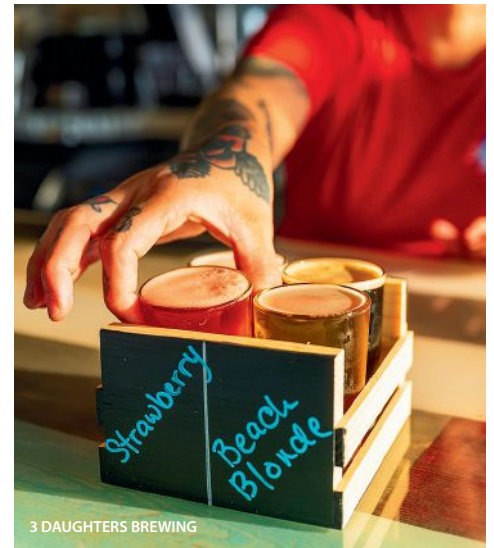
### SAFETY HARBOR, CLEARWATER, LARGO & SEMINOLE

**SOUTHERN LIGHTS BREWING CO., CLEARWATER** • Savor carefully crafted small-batch ales and lagers at this easygoing brewery. Must-try: Happy Accidents (Berliner Weisse).

**RAPP BREWING COMPANY, SEMINOLE** • This brewery has an array of artisanal, German-centric lagers and ales, plus a pet-friendly annex game room. Must-try: Mandarina Pale Ale.

**ANECDOTE BREWING CO., INDIAN ROCKS BEACH** • Like any enjoyable anecdote, this shoreside spot is unique and memorable, with flavor-forward beers





and live music. Must-try: Passion Paradox (Passion-fruit Gose).

**CLEARWATER BREWING CO., CLEARWATER BEACH** • Four beer-enthusiast friends operate this brewery out of a renovated gas station. Fill'er up. Must-try: Gator Guava Kölsch.

**CROOKED THUMB BREWERY, SAFETY HARBOR** • Named after the shape of the Pinellas peninsula, Crooked Thumb is both pet- and family-friendly, with a beer garden, picnic tables and live music. Must-try: Shade Tree IPA.

## SOUTH REGION

### ST. PETERSBURG & GULF BEACHES

**THE BRUTALIST, ST. PETE** • Head into this new brewery's Temple of Beer taproom for some impressively creative – and hop-forward – beers. Must-try: Holdup IPA.

**DISSENT CRAFT BREWING COMPANY, ST. PETE** • Feeling rebellious? Sample some of this nanobrewery's bold "outspoken" ales. Must-try: Hazy Mangover (Mango & Habanero IPA).

**MAD BEACH CRAFT BREWING CO., MADEIRA BEACH** • Wash down some tasty tapas-style pub food with award-winning craft beer that's literally brewed on an island. You'll find this special brewpub in John's Pass Village. Must-try: Life's a Beach (Orange Wheat Ale).

**GREEN BENCH BREWING CO., ST. PETE** • If Green Bench is Classic Craft Beer 101, then consider its



Webb's City Cellars expansion next door Advanced Studies. Both atmospheric spots warrant exploration. Must-try: Vintage Vert (French-style Saison).

**IF I BREWED THE WORLD, ST. PETE** • Any brewery with a classic hip-hop pun baked into its name is after our hearts, but this World's mixtape spirit – found in its eclectic selection of globally inspired craft beers – should be celebrated. Must-try: Butterbeer (Brown Ale).

**3 DAUGHTERS BREWING, ST. PETE** • Award-winning lagers and IPAs are the norm here. Another big draw: the incredibly spacious warehouse area with a plethora of family-friendly games. Must-try: A Wake Coffee Blonde (Blonde Ale).

**MASTRY'S BREWING CO., ST. PETE BEACH** • Head over to the beach and unwind with Gulf breezes

and killer brews. Must-try: Hefe (Hefeweizen).

**AVID BREW COMPANY, ST. PETE** • Avid is continuously experimenting and crafting inventive new beers. Taste the fruits of their creativity in their speak-easy-esque taproom. Must-try: 1830 Golden (Belgian-style Strong Ale).

**PINELLAS ALE WORKS, ST. PETE** • Dog-friendly is an understatement: This cozy spot, often referred to as "PAW" (get it?), is a perfect place to bring your four-legged friend when you're thirsty. Must-try: Milk Bone Stout.

**GULFPORT BREWERY + EATERY, GULFPORT** • Kick back Florida-style in this beachy beer bungalow that also offers a variety of savory food options. Must-try: Try the Orange Stuff It's Delicious (Sour Ale).



# MARKETS



SATURDAY MORNING MARKET



VINTAGE MARCHÉ

**Whether you're a serious shopper or just looking for a fun place to people-watch, there's no better way to kick off a sunny day in St. Pete/Clearwater than strolling through a local market. You'll find stunning original art pieces, fresh kettle corn, live music and plenty of dogs to pet!**



## FOR THE BEACH LOVER

Stock up on treats for your beach picnic basket before hitting the sand. The **Treasure Island Friday Morning Market**, hosted weekly at the Treasure Island Community Center Park, is known for its locally produced salsas, jellies and pastries.

The **Indian Shores Sunday Market** is also a solid bet, nestled right across the street from the sand. A rotating cast of vendors slings everything from hydroponic produce to local honey.

From January to April, swing by the **Suntan Art Mart** on Pass-a-Grille Beach to find creative gifts like jewelry, tchotchkes, pottery and more.

## FOR THE ARTSY

St. Pete's monthly **Friday Outdoor Art Market** also embodies the city's creative energy. Creative Clay, a local nonprofit that provides artistic opportunities for people with disabilities, puts on the event. The original artwork, from home decor to ceramics, is created by Creative Clay's Transition students.

The **Indie Flea** is where the area's coolest makers come to sell creations with a hyperlocal spin. You'll find funky clay earrings, screenprinted T-shirts and art prints of local landmarks. Hosted in St. Pete on





COREY AVENUE SUNDAY MARKET

the first Sunday of the month during the cooler winter and spring months, this market is incredibly popular for a reason. Food trucks, plus pastries and drinks from local coffee shops are on-site for much-needed shopping fuel. **Pro tip:** Many Indie Flea vendors rotate throughout the season. To get a sneak peek at the upcoming items for sale, follow along on Instagram at [instagram.com/indieflea](https://www.instagram.com/indieflea).

## FOR THE VINTAGE LOVER

**Vintage Marché**, hosted on the first weekend of each month, is the spot to find funky, one-of-a-kind secondhand pieces in town, from old Florida postcards to comic books and records to stunning mid-century modern pieces. The team of over 30 local vendors spends weeks hunting down unique furniture, clothing and decor, and the inventory changes every month. **Pro tip:** The market is free on Saturdays and Sundays and for a small fee, you can buy tickets at [vintagemarche727.com](https://www.vintagemarche727.com) to shop early during First Dibs Friday.

## FOR THE FOODIE

**The Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a great way to satisfy any craving while soaking in the city's charming old Florida vibes. From candy and sauces to cheeses and baked goods, the focus is on local, wholesome products. There are plenty of flowers, pet-themed items and bath products on sale as well. **Pro tip:** Bring your kitchen tools — an on-site master knife sharpener will bring your blades back

to life while you wander the market.

**Brick Street Farms** is an urban farm and market nestled in the heart of St. Pete where you'll find fresh veggies, herbs and more. Thanks to hydroponic technology, area farmers were able to transform a parking lot into a green oasis, packing 48 acres of farmland into climate-controlled shipping containers. Stop by the on-site market Wednesday through Sunday to shop seasonal produce, plus home goods and pantry essentials. **Pro tip:** Brick Street Farms periodically offers tours of their facility. Follow their Instagram, [@brickstreetfarms](https://www.instagram.com/brickstreetfarms), for upcoming dates.

## FOR THE WEEKENDER

Start your day at St. Pete's **Saturday Morning Market**, a tradition over 20 years in the making. Grab a freshly brewed kombucha or coffee and stroll through a tented wonderland of handmade crafts, locally baked treats and a hearty selection of just-picked fruit and veggies.

On Sunday, St. Pete Beach blocks off its downtown streets for the **Corey Avenue Sunday Market**. From cupcakes and canned provisions to smoked fish dip, there's plenty to peruse. Shoppers can also pop into the nearby boutiques and galleries, which stay open during market hours. **Pro tip:** Parking can be tricky for these markets, so consider taking the SunRunner bus, which runs between downtown St. Pete and the beaches.

## MORE ON MARKETS

Check out the full up-to-date list of diverse celebrations at [VisitSPC.com/Events](https://www.VisitSPC.com/Events).



## BEST SHOPPING

- 1 PAW PAWS, GULFPORT AND MADEIRA BEACH
- 2 The Merchant, St. Pete
- 3 Spice of the Harbor, Safety Harbor
- 4 Back in the Day Books, Dunedin
- 5 Dody Beach Boutique, Pass-a-Grille



## BEST LOCAL MAKER

- 1 ST. PETERSBURG DISTILLERY
- 2 William Dean Chocolates, Belleair Bluffs
- 3 Hogg Batch Coffee, St. Pete
- 4 REJuled Eco-Chic Jewelry, St. Pete
- 5 Bohemian Rêves Candles, St. Pete



# SHOPPING



## SHADES OF FLORIDA

St. Pete men's retailer, Matter of Fact, has found a way to keep us well-shielded from the sun with wood sunglass frames. They offer styles that will look good on him or her. Enbois sunglasses, \$65. [shopmatteroffact.com](http://shopmatteroffact.com).



## MONKEY BUSINESS

Tarpon Springs artist and beloved school bus driver, Barbara Gray, handmakes her stuffed monkeys for One Amazing Find. Buy two if you are getting a gift. You will want to keep one. Crocheted sock monkey, \$48. [oneamazingfind.com](http://oneamazingfind.com).



## ART MOVEMENT

When David Spathelf started painting murals in the theme of orange crate labels in Dunedin, he saw it as a way to bring art to the downtown area. His vision has put this town on the art tour map. Orange painted on wood by David Spathelf, \$150. [dunedinmuseum.org](http://dunedinmuseum.org).



## THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

Citrus Blossom soy candles are available in exclusive scents at the Happy Flamingo Gift Shop. Sunshine and Tanlines, \$15; Florida Sunshine, \$15. [happyflamingogifts.com](http://happyflamingogifts.com).

## RAD RECYCLE

Mavrans brings fashion to the forefront of sustainability with fabric made from recycled water bottles. Atlas Body + Home, in St. Pete, is the exclusive retailer. Flamingo Weekend Shirt, \$99; Flamingo Swim Short, \$99.



## ARTIST-CREATED OR CREATE ONE YOURSELF

St. Pete artist, Tim Soluna, is represented in the gallery at the Morean Arts Center and he can also work with you to create your own work of art. Vase, \$350. [moreanartscenter.org](http://moreanartscenter.org).







## POPCORN FOR ALL PALETTES

Salty Sisters Gourmet Popcorn, with two locations on Treasure Island and Madeira Beach, will have everyone waiting to try more flavors. "Cones" start at \$3.25. [saltysisterspopcorn.com](http://saltysisterspopcorn.com).

## GRAB A BREW

St. Pete brewery, The Brewtalist, brings you award-winning IPAs to enjoy on-site or take home. Four-packs from \$15. [templeofbeer.com](http://templeofbeer.com).



## WARDROBE ESSENTIAL

Getting ready for the day with a great nod to local makers is made easy by The Merchant Purveyor of Local Goods in St. Pete. Dark Cycle tee, \$32.



## 'SAIL' AWAY

Nancy's Fancy, in Dunedin, showcases the art of a mother/daughter team who produce sustainable bags made by upcycling sail and marine canvases that are then painted to reflect life on the water. Tote, \$125. [nancys-fancy.com](http://nancys-fancy.com).

## RAISE A GLASS

Syd Entel and Susan Benjamin are celebrating 42 years in the art and glass business in downtown Safety Harbor. Nathan Macomber mouth-blown drinking glasses, \$48 each. [sydentelgalleries.com](http://sydentelgalleries.com).



## SEA SPONGE

Sponge Diver Supply in Tarpon Springs has been selling Gulf sponges — from tiny to giant, for use in bathing or display — for over 50 years. Sponge, \$85. [spongediversupply.com](http://spongediversupply.com).





# VISITOR CENTERS



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

**AMPLIFY Clearwater Chamber of Commerce**  
429 Poinsettia Ave., Clearwater Beach  
Pier 60: 1 Causeway Blvd., Clearwater Beach  
Surf Style: 311 S. Gulfview Blvd., Clearwater Beach

**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., #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 Second Ave. N., #150, St. Petersburg

**Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce**  
6990 Gulf Blvd., St. Pete Beach  
Kiosk at John's Pass Village: 12902 Village Blvd., Madeira Beach

**Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce**  
1 Pinellas Ave., Tarpon Springs  
Sponge Docks: 100 Dodecanese Blvd., Tarpon Springs

**Treasure Island & Madeira Beach Chamber of Commerce**  
12601 Gulf Blvd., Treasure Island

**Upper Tampa Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce**  
101 State St., Oldsmar

**Visit St. Pete/Clearwater**  
8200 Bryan Dairy Road, #200, Largo



**Holiday Inn**  
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# AREA MAP

For a deeper look at our communities, go to  
[VisitSPC.com/Communities](http://VisitSPC.com/Communities)



**ST. PETE  
CLEARWATER**



## DRIVING TIMES

- ▶ **TAMPA** - 24 mi/39 km  
Approx. 30 mins.
- ▶ **ORLANDO** - 107 mi/172 km  
Approx. 90 mins.
- ▶ **FORT MYERS** - 118 mi/190 km  
Approx. 1 hr., 50 mins.
- ▶ **JACKSONVILLE** - 220 mi/354 km  
Approx. 3 hr., 45 mins.
- ▶ **FT. LAUDERDALE** - 249 mi/401 km  
Approx. 3 hr., 45 mins.
- ▶ **MIAMI** - 269 mi/433 km  
Approx. 4 hr., 10 mins.
- ▶ **PENSACOLA** - 454 mi/730 km  
Approx. 7 hr.



# DIVE IN

Situated on a sun-drenched peninsula separating the Gulf of Mexico from Tampa Bay, the St. Pete/Clearwater area is the jewel of Florida's west coast, home to 35 miles of world-class beaches and 26 dynamic communities packed with culture and adventure.



A person is lying in a hammock, silhouetted against a bright sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange glow. The person is positioned in the center of the frame, with their legs and arms visible. The hammock is strung between two palm trees, whose fronds are visible at the top and sides of the image. The background shows a calm sea and a sandy beach in the foreground.

## UNTIL NEXT TIME ...

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.”



# LET'S SHINE.



Dive into endless activities in the warm Gulf waters of St. Pete/Clearwater. From kayaking to kitesurfing and paddleboarding to snorkeling, the emerald stage is set for unforgettable memories. Let's shine—start your adventure at [VisitStPeteClearwater.com](https://www.VisitStPeteClearwater.com)



**ST.PETE  
CLEARWATER  
FLORIDA**

