Florida Info Guide Tampa Bay

COUPONS RESTAURANTS ATTRACTIONS

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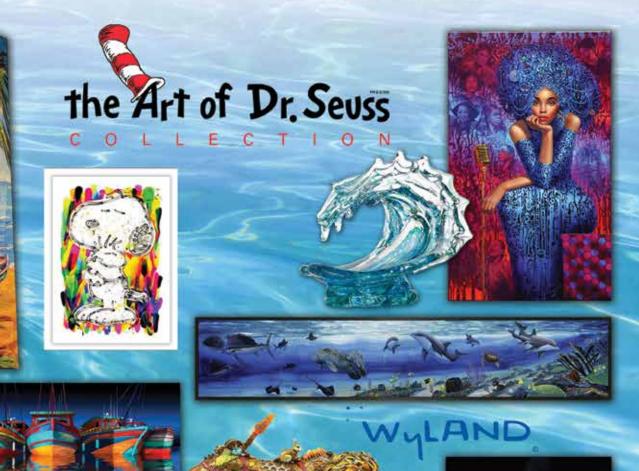
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meagan peacock somers

WELCOME TO TAMPA BAY HOME OF THE BUCCANEERS, LIGHTNING, RAYS! RUCCANEER

Welcome to the Suncoast! With 25 miles of beautiful beaches, we are happy you chose our area as your vacation destination. The Tampa Bay area is also a cultural hub that includes museums, theaters, music venues, The Florida Orchestra, and some historical locations.

North of Clearwater is a Greek community called Tarpon Springs. Stroll the historic 'Sponge Docks' on Dodecanese Blvd. You'll find boat rides, plenty of shops, buy 'sponges' and choose from the many restaurants serving authentic Greek food.

Travel to Ybor City near Downtown Tampa where the 7th Avenue area has shops and restaurants. Take a historical walking tour of Ybor to discover the rich history of the first Cuban settlers of Tampa including the cigar industry.

Downtown St. Petersburg has transformed into a cultural area by day with diverse museums, shops and restaurants! It has become a great nightlife spot with music venues, bars, sports bars and a movie complex. Special events occur throughout the year.

If fishing is your interest, plan to charter one of our fine fishing boats advertised on page 43. The Captains will show you all the hot spots in the Tampa Bay area.

For a variety of water sports and outdoor activities,

check out the 'Outdoor Fun' section on page 38. 'Duffers', turn to pages 48 and 49. You can choose from the great semi-private & public golf courses our area has to offer!

Once you've worked up an appetite, don't cook for yourself. Choose from over 40 restaurants advertised in this publication; they won't disappoint! From fine dining to casual family eating, our delicious eateries will satisfy everyone....see our Dining Guide on page 6.

As you read the InfoGuide, you will see it is basically sectioned off by location ... starting from the South and heading North with a little deviation for Downtown St. Petersburg.

The Florida InfoGuide is yours to keep to use time and again. We hope you find that there are plenty of things to do indoors AND outdoors! Please notice the coupon starburst in many ads. 😂 This indicates a coupon on pages 46 or 47.

This valuable publication is brought to you FREE of charge by the participating merchants. Please let them know you saw their ad in The Florida InfoGuide!

Bob Marcus - Publisher



The Florida InfoGuide



Private tours of Pinellas County in a new luxury mini-van!



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OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Directions to the Shell Store: 8211 Ulmerton Road

From the beaches: Take Walsingham/Ulmerton Road (Rt. 688) east past Starkey Road and before Belcher Road, make a U-turn.

Directions to the C Ponies:

8400 Manatee Ave West, Bradenton Take 275 South across Sunshine Skyway Bridge. Exit US 41. Turn right on 64, 5 miles on right.



And the second s

LOCATOR GUIDE

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RESTAURANT GUIDE To see menus, specials or hours, visit their websites listed here!

American	The Brown Boxer Pub & Grille (2)			
		Clearwater Beach	thebrownboxer.com	Inside Back Cover
	Flute & Dram	Downtown St. Petersburg	flutendram.com	41
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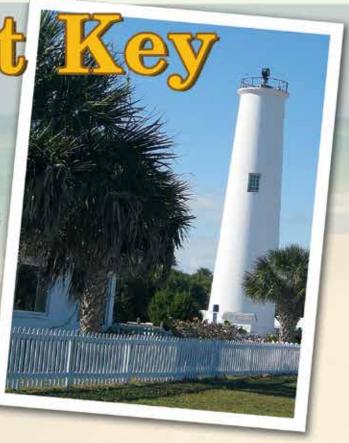
The Flørida InfoGuide

ocated in the mouth of Tampa Bay, Egmont Key has had a long military presence, beginning with the Spanish several centuries ago. In April of 1757, Francisco Maria Celi, a pilot of the Royal Spanish Fleet, surveyed all of Tampa Bay, beginning with Isla de San Blas y Barreda (Egmont Key). In 1763, British surveyor George Gauld renamed the island Egmont Key. Both British and Spanish explorers visited Tampa Bay throughout the 18th Century, encountering the Key. Even Cuban fishermen settled in the area, catching fish in and around the bay and selling the catch in Cuba.

The United States took over Florida in the 19th Century and saw the area in a different light. Once the military obtained a foothold in Tampa Bay, Egmont Key's importance grew. A lighthouse, constructed on the island in 1848, was severely damaged by a devastating hurricane shortly afterward. Congress appropriated funds for reconstruction. Brevet Colonel Robert E. Lee visited the island in March of 1849 with a group of U.S. Army Engineers. They surveyed the island and Mullet Key, suggesting the continued use of Egmont for military purposes. Egmont Key served as a prison camp for Seminole Indians being transferred west to "Indian Territory" and before the last prisoners were sent west in 1858, nearly 300 had been detained on the island.

The U.S.S. James L. Davis was stationed on the island in January, 1864. The ship participated in Union assaults on Tampa and the surrounding countryside. Members of the Second Florida Cavalry (Union) and the Second United States Colored Infantry, along with 54 sailors, sacked the town, killing or wounding several Confederates, capturing artillery pieces, mail and money. The invasion party was not aware that the Egmont lighthouse lens was hidden in downtown Tampa.





The Egmont Key Lighthouse was not back in operation until June 2, 1866.

In 1917 while local families bought victory bonds, men joined the military to fight in Europe. Tampa's shipbuilding industry boomed. Egmont Key became a training center for National Guard Coast Artillery units.

After the first World War, the military considered Fort Dade and Fort DeSoto on Mullet Key, obsolete. On August 31, 1921, the fort was deactivated. Eventually, all of the personnel were transferred to Key West, except an 18 person caretaking unit. On May 25, 1923, the crew was removed and a sole caretaker remained to care for the lighthouse.

On July 10, 1974, Egmont Key was designated a National Wildlife Refuge, with most of the island – except the Coast Guard's holdings and the pilots association land – transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 1978, it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

On September 30, 1989, the lighthouse became fully automated, and the State of Florida took over management of the Key, making it a state park.

Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge (located in Hillsborough County) is accessible only by boat, about a 15 minute boat ride from Fort DeSoto Park (south of St. Petersburg). See map on page 30-31 for location.

Article courtesy of: The Tampa Bay History Center, Tampa, FL • 813-228-0097 • www.tampabayhistorycenter.org

VISITOR GUIDE

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency (Fire, Police, Ambulance)	
Foreign Currency Exchange	1-888-998-3948
Roadside Assistance	
(AAA, The Auto Club Group)	1-800-AAA-HELP
U.S. Customs	727-536-7311

MEDICAL CARE

Clearwater, SandBay Urgent Care Walk-in Clinic 727-462-0100
Largo, Bayfront Walk-In Clinic
Pasadena, Bayfront Walk-In Clinic
St. Pete Beach, BayCare Urgent Care
St. Petersburg, Bayfront Medical (Hospital) 727-823-1234
Signature Urgent Care, Downtown St. Pete 727-851-9993
Tyrone, BayCare Urgent Care 727-317-3388

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

Clearwater Beach Visitor Info Center	727-442-3604
Indian Rocks Beach Welcome Center	727-595-4575
John's Pass Village & Boardwalk	727-394-0756
Tarpon Springs Information Center	727-937-8028
Visit St. Pete-Clearwater	727-464-7200
Ybor City Information Center	813-241-8838

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

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Clearwater Beach
Dunedin
Greater Tampa
Gulfport
Pinellas Park Gateway
Safety Harbor
St. Petersburg
Seminole
Tampa Bay Beaches, St. Pete Beach
Tarpon Springs
Treasure Island & Madeira Beach

AIRPORTS

St. Pete-Clearwater Int'l Airport	727-453-7850
Tampa International Airport.	. 1-800-767-8882

AAA, THE AUTO CLUB GROUP (aaa.com)

Belleair, 100 N. Indian Rocks Road	727-584-7678
Clearwater, 2170 Rainbow Drive	727-448-2600
Palm Harbor, 32050 U.S. 19 N	727-789-7850
St. Petersburg, 1518 66th Street North	727-344-6850
Seminole, 9200 Seminole Blvd. (Alt. 19)	727-398-3120
Tampa, 1515 N. Westshore Blvd	. 813-289-5800

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

American Limo & Transportation	727-688-9975
Jolley Trolley, Clearwater Beach & area	727-445-1200
PSTA, Bus & Suncoast Beach Trolley	727-540-1900
SuperShuttle (Airports)	727-572-1111

GIANT OCEAN CREATURES FUN FACTS

The famous 'Great White Shark' is really a 'White Shark'; we just like to add 'Great' in front!

- Whale sharks can weigh around 20.6 tons.
- Mantas give birth every other year to a single ray, called a pup.
- The life expectancy of giant mantas is unknown, but scientists estimate around 40 years.

Sources: nationalgeographic.com tampabaywatch.org

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Tampa Bay's Official Guide for Vacationers

Tampa Bay Area Volume 22 No. 3 January 2023 - April 2023

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Bob Marcus

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AQUARIUMS

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HISTORICAL TOURS

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Sundial Shops, 151 2nd Ave. N., Downtown St.	Petersburg

MUSEUMS

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The Dali Museum	. 727-823-3767
Great Explorations Children's Museum 1925 4th Street North, St. Petersburg greatex.org	. 727-821-8992
Imagine Museum	. 727-300-1700
Holocaust Museum 55 5th Street South, Downtown St. Petersburg	. 727-820-0100
Museum of Fine Arts 255 Beach Drive NE, Downtown St. Petersburg	. 727-896-2667
PERFORMING ARTS	

American Stage
The Capitol Theatre
Mahaffey Theater
Spitfire Comedy House
Ruth Eckerd Hall 727-791-7400 1111 McMullen Booth Road, Route 611, Clearwater
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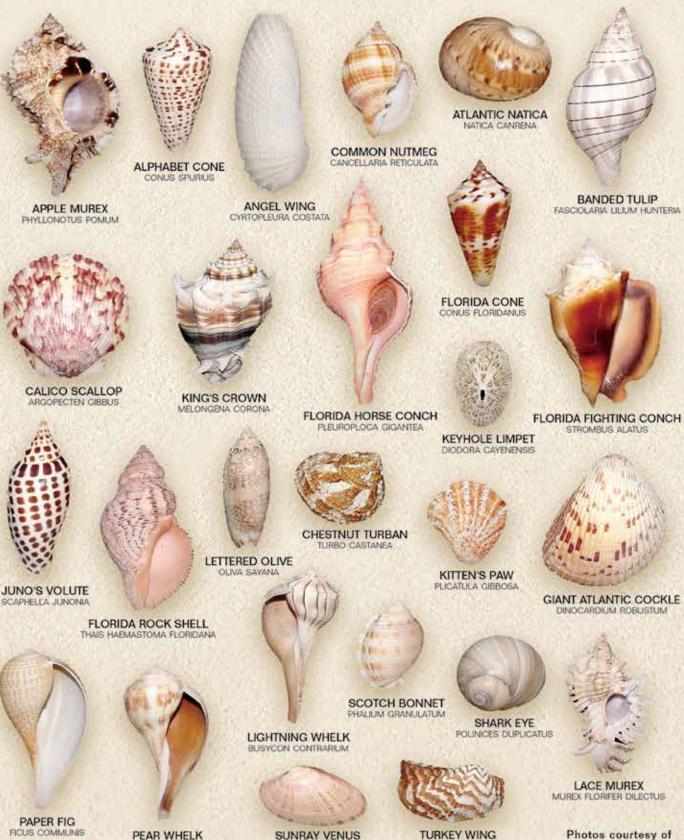
BUSINESS GUIDE

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PHARMACIES Walgreens 401 Poinsettia Ave., Clearwater Beach Pharmacy, beer, wine, liquor and food mart.	727-443-2393
CVS 353 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach Pharmacy, beer, wine, liquor and food mart.	727-596-7500
REALTOR Coldwell Banker 280 Beach Drive NE. St. Petersburg	727-821-3322
TOURS Bay Area Info Tour Historic Customized Tours of Pinellas County	727-215-0025

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SUNRAY VENUS MACROCALLISTA NIMBOSA

ARCA ZEBRA

Robert Lipe ©2009

The Florida InfoGuide

TIERRA VERDE

 Image: Strand Strand



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SEAFOOD...Did you know

The Gulf region produces two-thirds of the nation's domestic shrimp & oysters while also being a leading producer of domestic blue crabs.

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Gulf fishermen catch more than 84% of the nation's supply of grouper, pompano, mullet, pink shrimp & Spanish mackerel.

Sources: gulffishinfo.org & tampabaywatch.org

MUST DO - Tampa Bay

Coming to Florida there are a few things you must try: jet skis, parasailing and now a Segway. I joined Remi at a parking lot in Fort De Soto Park which is at the far south end of Pinellas County. Remi can pick you up at your hotel, or you can meet him at his Tiki Hut operation in Dolphin Village on St. Pete Beach. After just a few minutes of instructions from the Lithuanian born owner, we were off and running, or should I say rolling. At first, I was very tentative feeling



out the controls like a new car. But within minutes, you feel like a pro. Remi told me a 72 year old woman from Ohio said she wanted to go only 3 miles per hour. After 10 minutes, she was revving it up to 13! The Segway tour lasts 90 minutes as you wind through the lush nature trail of Fort De Soto. Along the way, we spotted a baby raccoon, turkey vultures, turtles and dolphins. The vegetation is so thick, Remi calls it a jungle. From there, we headed over to the fort which was built in the late 1800's for the Spanish American war. This is a great historical and nature tour for ages 8-85, and truly a "**Must Do**" on your vacation!

> Remi's Segway Tours stpetebeachsegway.com 727-637-2211 Please call ahead

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- Great Dining
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MISCELLANEOUS SITES

Birds: allaboutbirds.org Dolphin Statues (6' fiberglass dolphins): visitspc.com/dolphintrail Driver & Pedestrian Tips: dot.state.fl.us Fish & Wildlife Information: myfwc.com Fishing Licenses: myfwc.com/license Pier 60 (Clearwater Beach) family entertainment: sunsetsatpier60.com Pinellas Bicycle Trail: pinellascounty.org/trailgd State Symbols: statesymbolsusa.org Sunset Times: timeanddate.com 'Things To Do', in the Tampa Bay Area: tampabay.com/do Tide Charts: localtides.net Visitor Information: visitstpeteclearwater.com tampabayisawesome.com

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Treasure Island

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The largest threat to manta rays is humans. Mantas are either purposefully hunted, or they die from being accidentally hooked on fishing lines, caught in fishing nets, struck by ships while on the surface of the water or even from eating ocean plastic. Giant manta rays are often hunted for their large gill rakers, large pieces of cartilage that help them filter-feed. Manta ray gill rakers are popular in Chinese medicine. They are thought to have a variety of medicinal qualities, but there is no actual medical science backing up these claims.

The demand for ray meat and gills in some countries has risen. In these same areas, manta ray sightings have decreased up to 95 percent. Giant manta ray populations have a low chance of recovery because they reproduce slowly. Mature females produce only one baby every two years!

Manta rays are protected in Florida waters and have been recently listed as a federally protected species. Recycling and keeping plastics out of our oceans can help. New protections worldwide are being put in place, too.

Sources: fisheries.noaa.gov tampabaywatch.org



THE TAMPA TRIANGLE

That's what commercial fishermen and people who work on the waterfront call the waters of Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. Fishermen are a hardy bunch of people. They work long, hot hours in the sun and go out on the darkest, coldest nights of the year to bring you a fresh harvest of fish. Not your typical group of guys to be hysterical about the unexplained or paranormal.

When waterfront scuttlebutt turns to: UFOs, ghosts, shipwrecks, and missing persons...and someone mentions the words, Tampa Triangle, all the fishermen nod their heads in agreement. The Tampa Triangle sums up the on-going series of extraordinary events in Tampa Bay.

THE DEAD ZONE

On Tampa Bay's 48 mile long shipping channel, another group

of men and women earn their living in the fellowship of the merchant marine. They fearlessly sail the world aboard tugs and ships, providing transportation for international commerce. But there is one small stretch of the 48 mile shipping channel that strikes fear into the most seasoned professional. This is an area where some of the worst maritime shipping disasters in history have occurred. Mariners call the area of water between the Sunshine Skyway Bridge and the Sea Buoy in the Gulf of Mexico, the Dead Zone.

Dependable engines that have propelled vessels across vast oceans abruptly stop. Electric motors suddenly fail, hydraulic systems go bad, radar screens cloud up with false echoes and freak, ferocious rain squalls develop. Skilled professional mariners make bad decisions. Bad things happen in the Dead Zone.

The greatest incidence of paranormal activity in the Dead Zone occurs between the Skyway Bridge and the Egmont Key Lighthouse. In one thirteen year period, 58 people have died in three major shipwrecks. Countless innocent people have disappeared.

Compare the record of the Dead Zone with New York Harbor, one of the busiest ports in the world. Every hour of the day, New York harbor is jammed with ship traffic. You'd expect New York to have tons of shipwrecks. Not so; most of the harbor's shipping collisions are confined to bumps and dents. These are mere fender benders compared to the tragic shipwrecks of the Tampa Triangle Dead Zone.

ARE YOU NEXT?

Do you believe that bad things only happen to other people? Or, will you be the next victim of paranormal activity in the Tampa Triangle Dead Zone? You need to know!

Taken from *Tampa Triangle Dead Zone* by Capt. Bill Miller with Mary Fallon Miller. Available at Haslam's Bookstore, 2025 Central Ave., St. Petersburg.

JOHN'S PASS VILLAGE / MADEIRA BEACH



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John's Pass

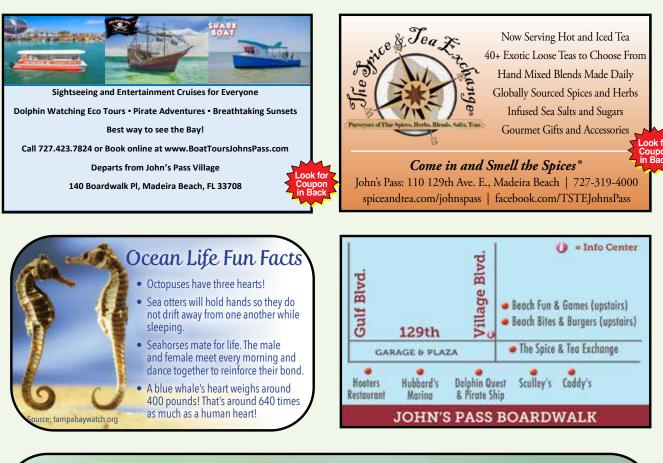


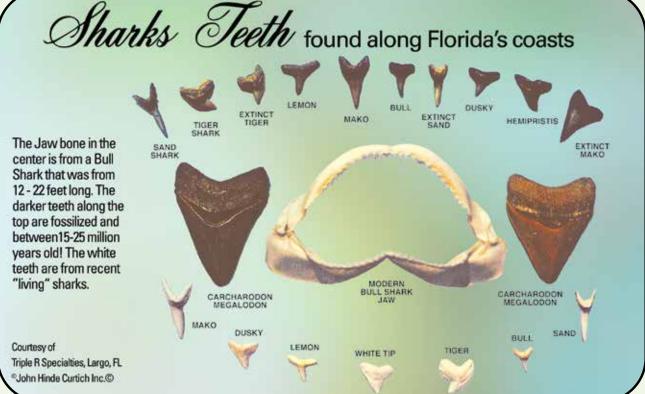
John Levick, aka Juan Levique, & Joe Silva were Spanish fisherman & local squatters. They were fortunate enough to be en route to New Orleans when, on Sept. 25, 1848, a hurricane roared through Pinellas County. Returning a month later, the friends navigated Boca Ciega Bay through a new pass cut by the storm — now called John's Pass in honor of this discovery.

A bridge was built across the pass in 1875 & soon small shops catering to the local commercial fishermen were built nearby. The barrier islands, by the turn of the century, were nearly devoid of wildlife and ready for development. The bridge built in 1927 was replaced by a new bridge in 1971, moving the structure about a block west & re-routing the road. Wilson Hubbard helped convince the city to permit building of a public waterfront boardwalk along John's Pass in 1980. The shops adjusted with the development of John's Pass Village. In 2011, a twin span of new drawbridges was completed at a higher elevation to the delight of motorists!

The Flerida InfoGuide

JOHN'S PASS VILLAGE / MADEIRA BEACH





SOUTH PASADENA



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CLEARWATER BEACH MAP



SAND KEY TO JOHN'S PASS MAP



TREASURE ISLAND / ST. PETE BEACH



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Treasure Map of Tampa Bay



Gulf of Mexico

CLEARWATER

BEACH

BELLEAIR

BEACH

BELLEAIR

SHORE

REDINGTON

SHORES

NORTH REDINGTON

BEACH

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

> INDIAN SHORES

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- Congo River Golf (Mini Golf)
- Florida Orange Groves Winery
- **5** In The Breeze Horse Ranch
- 6 **Robert's Christmas Wonderland**
- Sawgrass Trails at Lowe's City
- 8 The Shell Store

GOLF COURSES

- East Bay Golf Club Mainlands Golf Club
- 12 Moccasin Wallow Golf Club
- Seminole Lake Country Club

ATTRACTIONS / SHOPPING

Attractions / Places Amalie Arena

- Big Cat Rescue
- Busch Gardens/Adventure Island
- **D** Caladesi Island State Park
- Central Park Performing Arts Ctr
- **G** Clearwater Marine Aquarium
- C Dunedin Stadium
- Florida Aquarium
- Florida Botanical Gardens
- Florida State Fairgrounds

- Hard Rock Casino Heritage Village
- 0 MOSI (Science Museum)
- 0 **Raymond James Stadium**
- Ø **Ruth Eckerd Hall**

O

- 0 Seaside Seabird Sanctuary
- Ø Spectrum Field
- 0 **Tampa Bay History Center**
- Ø **Tropicana Field**
- Θ Weedon Island Preserve
- O. ZooTampa

Shopping / Movie Cinemas AMC Cinemas Palm Harbor **V** Citrus Park Mall & Cinemas

- Clearwater Mall
- Countryside Westfield Mall/Cinemas
- **M** International Plaza
- Largo Mall & Cinemas
- Park Place Shops & Cinemas
- Discrete Seminole City Center & Cinemas
- Tyrone Mall & Cinemas D
- WestShore Mall & Cinemas • **Woodlands Square Cinemas**
 - **CINEMA PHONE #'S ON PAGE 7**

ed Howard PKY

Honeymoon Island State Park

Caladesi Island State Park

60

BELLEAIR

West

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Addeira

686

Wals

694

TREASURE

ISLAND

SEMINOLE

PIER 60

Sand Key

Blvo

Gulf

REDINGTON

BEACH MADEIRA

BEACH

TARPO

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CLEAF

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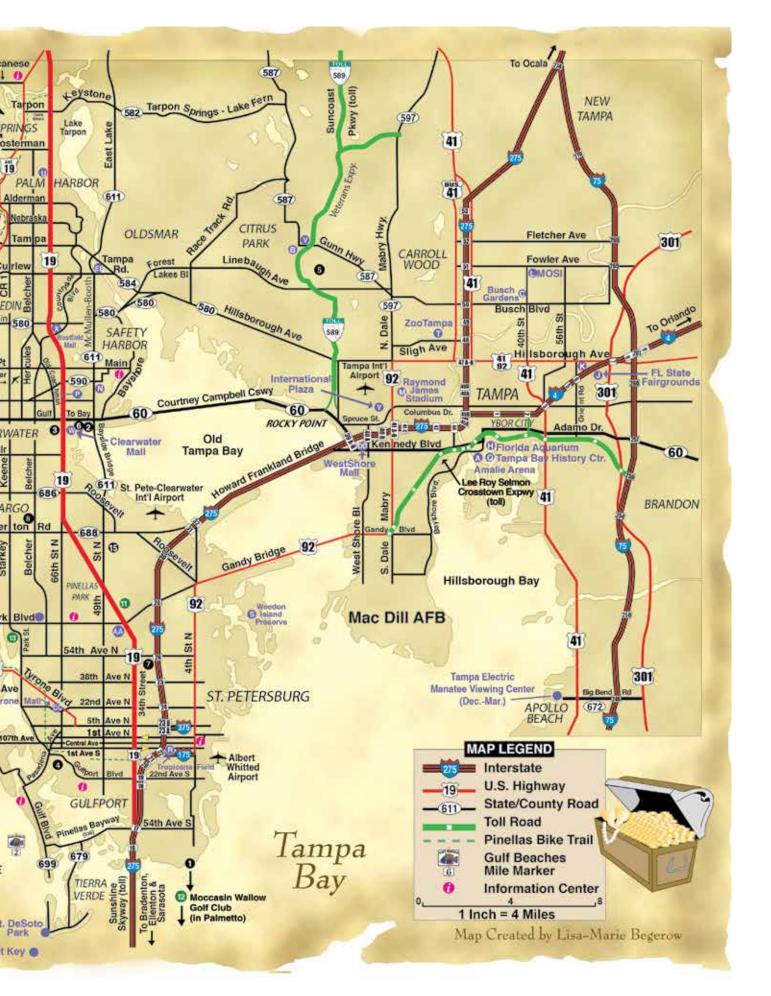
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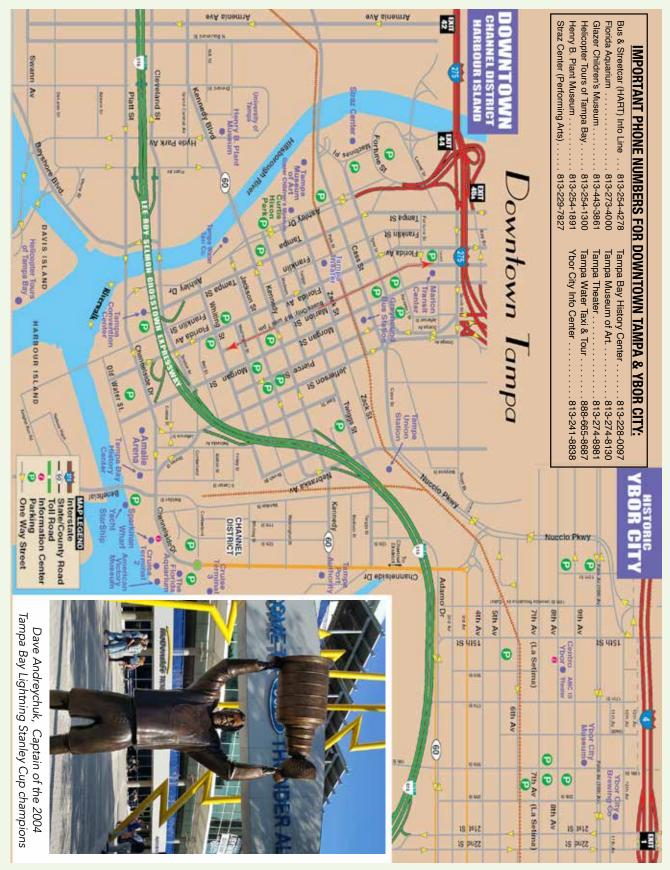
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DOWNTOWN TAMPA / YBOR CITY MAP



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FLORIDA STATE MAP



INDIAN ROCKS BEACH





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INDIAN ROCKS BEACH / REDINGTON SHORES







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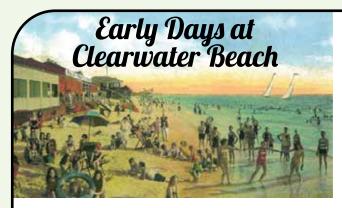
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By Wayne Ayers, Author - Tampa Bay Gulf Beaches

The magnificent wide sandy beach at Clearwater began attracting tourists in the late 1800's, making Clearwater Beach one of the earliest settlements along the barrier islands. Vacationers would arrive by boat before the building of a rickety wooden bridge to the island in 1916. By 1927, the rickety bridge was replaced by the fourlane "Million Dollar Causeway".

One of the earliest landmarks on the beach was the Clearwater Beach Hotel, constructed in 1917. The hostelry quickly became a popular tourist attraction. Reconstructed in 1988, the hotel maintained its classic style and appearance through its later years, but has now given way to a new luxury resort called the SandPearl.

The opening of the Clearwater Beach Pavilion in 1917 brought crowds of

tourists over the bridge in their Model T Fords. Most of the early roads on the barrier island were little more than primitive sand traps, but they made the beaches accessible to the masses.

Beachwear evolved in the 1920's from formal Victorian attire to one-piece outfits better suited to "surf bathing" and frolicking in the water. Beach pavilions, where bathers could change from formal street attire to their beach outfits, were popular attractions all along the shore. The Palm Pavilion served many beach-goers during its heyday as a bathhouse in the 1930's and '40s. Today, the original Palm Pavilion is a popular bar/restaurant.

Clearwater City Pier was originally constructed in 1922 and became a center of beach activity, offering opportunities for fishing and sightseeing. The pier was extended in the 1960's with the development of the Pier 60 attraction.



Tampa Bay's Gulf Beaches, by R. Wayne Ayers contains over 200 vintage photographic images along with text presenting life along the barrier island beaches before the condos. Available at Haslam's Bookstore in St. Petersburg, chain bookstores and select gift shops.

The Flérida InfoGuide

CLEARWATER



A Brief History of Ft. De Soto - America's #1 Beach

On May 30, 1539, a well-known Spanish explorer came to the Tampa Bay area and began a conquest which would change the world. Hernando De Soto came ashore on or near the south shores of Tampa Bay. He began his expedition of the southeastern region of what is now the United States, encountering Indians and hard times as he passed through this beautiful territory. He died on May 21, 1542, and was buried in the Mississippi River to prevent his body from being taken by the Indians.

The recorded history of the island known as Mullet Key began in February, 1849 when a group of U.S. Army Engineers, aboard the schooner Phoenix, anchored offshore to survey the coastline for possible use as a coastal defense area. The Civil War broke out in 1861, with no fortification on either Mullet or Egmont Keys. The two islands played a minor role during the Civil War. Union troops set up a blockade using the two islands. Any confederates attempting to run the blockade could be seen by troops perched atop the Egmont Key lighthouse.

The first signs of construction on the Mullet Key military post began in November, 1898. On April 4, 1900, the military reservation was named Fort De Soto after the Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto. Fort De Soto was officially named a sub-post of Fort Dade on Egmont Key at that time.

Post buildings were constructed between early 1900 and 1906. There were 29 buildings including a 100 foot long barracks, a hospital, a stable, a guardhouse, a shop for blacksmiths and carpenters,



an administration office, a mess hall and kitchen, a bake house and a storehouse. If you go there, you will see some of the concrete pillars that still exist. Take the walking tour along the cobblestone walkway and see photos of the actual buildings. Through its long history as a protector of Tampa Bay waters, never once had a shell been fired at an enemy.

During WWII, Fort De Soto was used for bombing practice. Around 1989, a county worker using a backhoe came across an undetonated bomb. A few days later, the bomb was detonated and the explosion could be heard 10 miles away.

Fort De Soto Park is located at the southern tip of Pinellas County (see map pages 26/27). It has lush vegetation, two fishing piers, beaches, a camp site and bicycle trails. It is considered one of Florida's true natural and historical treasures!



Ft. DeSoto Ferry to Egmont Key & Shell Key – hubbardsmarina.com 727-513-8920 Remi's Segway Tours at Ft. DeSoto – stpetebeachsegway.com 727-637-2211 Ft. DeSoto snack bar and gift shop 10am - 4pm daily

SOUTH CLEARWATER BEACH



The Flerida InfoGuide

CLEARWATER BEACH/PELICAN WALK



Florida State ANIMALS & MAMMALS



MANATEE (trichechus manatus latirostris) *Florida's State Marine Mammal*

Manatees, known as 'sea cows', are gray in color with a rounded, flattened tail for swimming. Their eye muscles close in a circular motion, and has a lid-like membrane that closes over their eyes for protection while under water.

Manatees are agile in the water swimming upside down, rolling, doing somersaults or moving vertically in the water.



AMERICAN ALLIGATOR (alligator mississippiensis) Florida's State Reptile

Alligators have a broad, rounded snout with no lower teeth visible when their jaw is closed. Its powerful tail, helps propel it through the water.

They regulate their body temperature by basking in the sun or moving to areas with warmer or cooler air or water temperatures. Alligators prefer fresh water lakes and slow-moving rivers (including in Florida), but are also found in brackish water habitats.



GOPHER TORTOISE (gopherus polyphemus) *Florida's State Tortoise*

A moderate-sized, terrestrial turtle averaging 9-11 inches in length, the gopher has a stumpy, elephantine hind feet and flattened, shovel-like forelimbs covered in thick scales. The adult's shell, is generally tan, brown or gray.

Breeding season occurs between March and October. Tortoises exhibit no maternal care of their eggs or young. They can live 40 to 60 years in the wild; captive ones may live 90+ years.



BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN (tursiops truncatus) *Florida's State Saltwater Mammal*

The most common dolphin species is the bottlenosed dolphin, mistakenly called porpoises. They show a high degree of intelligence with a wide range of vocalizations. Dolphins are heard clicking which is not likely communication, but rather the sonar system used for navigation, food-finding and avoidance of predators. They live both inshore and offshore. Adults are typically 6 to 12 feet long and live into their 50's.



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OUTDOOR FUN GUIDE (Look for these advertisers throughout this publication)

ATTRACTIONS (Free Admission)

- Sunset Celebrations at Pier 60 Clearwater Beach – sunsetsatpier60.com (Outdoors, two hours before 'til two hours AFTER sunset. Weather permitting.)
- Weedon Island Preserve weedonislandpreserve.org 727-453-6500 St. Petersburg – Trails, boardwalks, 45' observation tower & education center

BEACHES (County & State Parks)

- Fort DeSoto Park pinellascounty.org/park Southern tip of Pinellas County 727-582-2267

BICYCLING

• Pinellas Bike Trail - pinellascounty.org/trailgd Downtown St. Petersburg to Tarpon Springs

BOAT RENTALS

• IRB Boat Rentals - irbboatrentals.com Indian Rocks Beach.....727-517-1122

BOATING

- Dolphin Quest boattoursjohnspass.com John's Pass Village, Madeira Beach 727-392-7090
- Dolphin Racer (Speedboat) dolphinracer.com Corey Cswy, St. Pete Beach Area 727-462-2628
- The Pirate Ship boattoursjohnspass.com John's Pass Village, Madeira Beach 727-423-7824

FERRY

- Cross-Bay Ferry thecrossbayferry.com Downtown St. Petersburg(727) 273-6877

FISHING (Pages 42 and 43)

- Fishing Piers (see page 43 for locations)

GOLF

- East Bay Golf Club eastbaygolfclub.com, Largo 727-581-3333
 Mainlands Golf Club mainlandsgolf.com Pinellas Park 727-577-4847
 Moccasin Wallow Golf Club golfthemoc.com, Palmetto 941-723-0500
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- seminolelake.net, Seminole...... 727-391-6255

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- Preserve the Burg Walking & Bicycle Tours preserve the burg.org

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• Splash Harbour Water Park - Indian Rocks Beach splashharbourwaterpark.com 727-754-6492

ZOO

• ZooTampa at Lowry Park zootampa.org (813) 935-8552

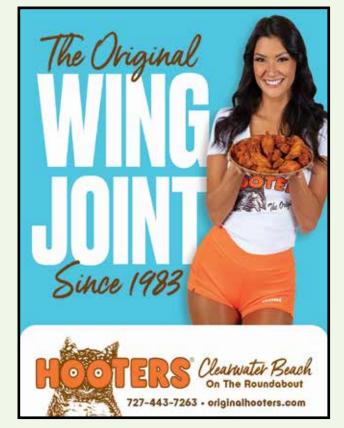
NORTH CLEARWATER BEACH



Algae!

Algae are plant-like organisms that create their food using sunlight through a process called photosynthesis. During photosynthesis, oxygen is also produced. Believe it or not, algae produce more oxygen than all plants combined! So, even if you don't eat or use things with algae in it, you breathe oxygen every day that was created by algae!

Source: tampabaywatch.org



BOOM TIMES ALONG THE BEACHES By Wayne Ayers, Author, Tampa Bay's Gulf Beaches: The Fabulous 1950s and 1960s

The era following World War II was a time of awakening along our Gulf beach strip. During the 1950s and 1960s, the shoreline was transformed from a collection of sleepy hamlets into a booming tourist destination loaded with attractions, snazzy art-deco accommodations, and homesites created from land, dredged from the sea.

The Aquatarium, located at St. Pete Beach from 1964 to 1977, was billed as the world's largest marine attraction. The 18-acre site featured dolphin and sea lion acts held under a futuristic geo-desic dome and a main exhibit tank over 3 stories high that held 1.24 million gallons of water.

Famous celebrities of the day, such as Marilyn Monroe, Joe DeMaggio, Tyrone Power and Ronald Reagan took refuge at the Tides Hotel and Bath Club on Redington Beach.

The beaches also touted nationally famed Tiki Gardens, a South Seas paradise located in Indian Rocks Beach South Shore, across from a beach access today, on Indian Shores. The gardens'





The Tides Hotel and Bath Club, Red. Bch





Big Indian Rocks Fishing Pier, Ind. Rocks Bch.

trademark was the giant tiki's which towered over grounds that featured jungle trails, lagoons, torch lighting ceremonies and ten themed gift shops.

Florida's longest fishing pier was built in 1959, in Indian Rocks Beach. The structure attracted thousands of anglers and sightseers until it was destroyed by Hurricane Elena in 1985.

Millions of acres of land were literally created from the sea in dredging operations which took place all along the bay side of the barrier islands during the postwar years. The land became the site of new sub-divisions that accommodated scores of new residents who arrived to call our beaches home.

Tampa Bay's Gulf Beaches: The Fabulous 1950s and 1960s, by R. Wayne Ayers contains over 200 vintage photographic images picturing the sites and attractions that transformed the barrier islands into a major tourist destination.

DOWNTOWN ST. PETERSBURG



DOWNTOWN ST. PETERSBURG

Today, Tropicana Field is home to the Tampa Bay Rays Major League Baseball Team. However, Tropicana Field opened in 1990 *before* The Rays were even a team, in an effort to attract a Major League Baseball (MLB) team. In the 1980's and 1990's, local leaders tried to acquire an existing team. The Minnesota Twins, San Francisco Giants, Chicago White Sox, Texas Rangers, and Seattle Mariners all considered moving to the Tampa Bay area before deciding to stay where they were.

In 1990, it was called the Florida Suncoast Dome. Many sports and events had been held here including Arena Football from 1991 to 1996. In 1993, the name was changed to the Thunderdome and was home to the Tampa Bay Lightning Hockey team. In 1996, when the hockey team left for their new stadium in Downtown Tampa, the name was changed to Tropicana Field.

In 1998, a new American League baseball team, The Tampa Bay 'Devil' Rays, called 'The Trop' their home. In 2007, the baseball team changed their name from the 'Devil' Rays to just 'Rays', changing the meaning of the term 'Ray' to mean a burst of sunshine rather than a manta ray.

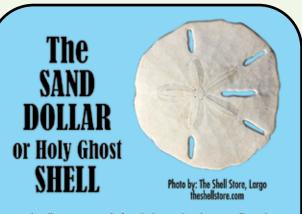




STADIUM FUN FACTS:

- The stadium is air-conditioned, with a non-retractable dome roof. A dome was deemed necessary for a prospective major league team to be viable in the area, due to hot, humid summers and thunderstorms.
- The fixed dome roof was designed with a slant toward the northeast. This slant would: better protect the Teflon-coated roof during a hurricane; and save on air conditioning costs, having less space to cool in the lower end.
- The main rotunda, on the east end of the stadium, resembles former Brooklyn Dodgers' Ebbets Field on the interior.
- A 10,000 gallon 'touch tank' in right-center field is filled with live cownose stingrays maintained by The Florida Aquarium and free to fans attending home games.
- The Ted Williams Museum and Hitters Hall of Fame are located inside The Trop and free during home games.
- In 2014, a walkway was built in centerfield at the top of the lower bowl seats providing views of the playing field and creating a 360 degree pathway around the entire field. In centerfield, 'The Porch' serves food and drink in an open-air gathering spot. These two changes allowed fans new places to gather to stand and watch the game!

Tropicana Field, 1 Tropicana Drive, Downtown St. Petersburg Tampa Bay Rays Baseball raysbaseball.com 1-888-FAN-RAYS



Sand Dollars are animals found along a beach, generally at low tide. Most found on a beach are already dead. In actuality, Sand Dollars are marine invertebrates called Echinoids, meaning "spiny skinned creature".

Sand Dollars look like round white coins, thus their name. Some adults have superstitions about them. Some think finding a whole one is rare and lucky while others believe they're gifts from God, or a sign from Heaven. One legend says the five marks on a Sand Dollar are actually five white doves and when broken open releases them to spread peace & happiness. The legend of the Sand Dollar has become a Christmas & Easter staple!

MUST DO - Tampa Bay

Experience riding and swimming, on a Drum or Gypsy Vanner horse along the beach then out into the bay. Collect seashells, bask in the beauty of the sea life, and end your ride with an invigorating swim on horseback. Yes, the horses actually swim while you ride. It's not just a ride, but an equestrian aquatic adventure that you will never forget!



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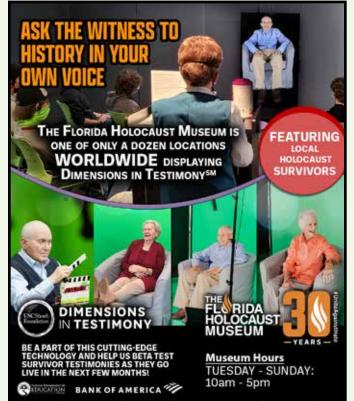
The ride is an hour in the saddle but plan to be there longer while your guide matches you with your mount and gives all riders a safety meeting.

Simply use our online booking system or call to schedule your ride today!



The Flerida InfoGuide

DOWNTOWN ST. PETERSBURG



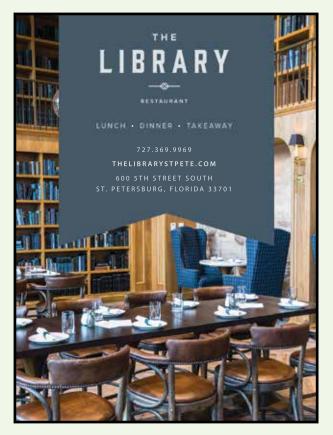
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Shuffleboard celebrated its 100th year anniversary in Florida in 2013. It started in St. Petersburg in 1923. In 1924, the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club opened & soon 8,000 members were playing on more than 100 courts! This club established the rules that would become the standards of the game. Shuffleboard courts spread across the country during the 1930's & 1940's. The Works Projects Administration (WPA) even built shuffleboard courts on playgrounds!

Each player uses a cue (long stick) & takes turns pushing weighted discs to a scoring diagram on the opposite end of the court. Score more points than your opponent by either knocking his discs off, or, by sliding your discs past his into a higher score zone!

Play outdoors, 7pm every Friday night at the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Courts. It's a hip twist with music & art! ALL ages welcome! Suggested donation, \$2. Location: 559 Mirror Lake Drive North, Downtown St. Petersburg. 727-822-2083. stpeteshuffle.com





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BAY AREA INFO TOURS

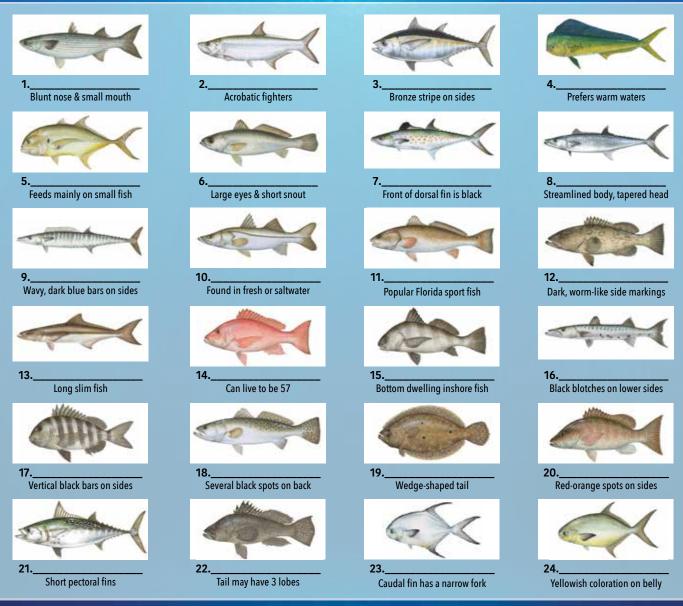
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Can You Guess the Common Suncoast Fish?



ANSWERS BELOW:

1. Striped Mullet 2. Tarpon 3. Blackfin Tuna 4. Dolphin 5. Crevalle Jack 6. Silver Trout 7. Spanish Mackerel 8. King Mackerel 9. Wahoo 10. Snook 11. Red Drum 12. Gag Grouper 13. Cobia 14. Red Snapper 15. Black Drum 16. Barracuda 17. Sheepshead 18. Spotted Seatrout 19. Flounder 20. Mangrove Snapper 21. Bonito 22. Black Sea Bass 23. Permit 24. Florida Pompano

INFORMATION ON SALTWATER FISHING IN FLORIDA

Saltwater fishing licenses are sold at all county tax collectors' offices and many bait and tackle shops, including Clearwater Bait and Tackle in Clearwater (listed below). Licenses may also be obtained by calling 1-888-347-4356. Licenses are available on-line at: myfwc.com/license. An additional fee is charged for these services. You do NOT need a license if you are:

- Any child under 16 years of age.
- Fishing from a for-hire vessel guide, charter, party boat that has a valid vessel license.
- A nonresident fishing for recreational purposes from a pier that has a valid pier saltwater fishing license.
- Fishing from a boat that has a valid recreational vessel fishing license.
- Any resident 65 years of age or older with proof of age & residency.

This page is sponsored by: Clearwater Bait and Tackle. For your fishing needs: 2999 Gulf to Bay Blvd. (Rt.60), Clearwater 727-669-5455

The Florida InfoGuide

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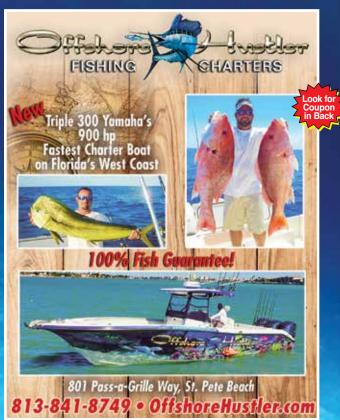
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Captain Rich is a USCG certified boat Captain and a retired Police Officer who has spent years boating the waters of Tampa Bay. An Air Force veteran who loves to share his experiences of Tampa Bay with his clients.

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Chapel By The Sea (Community) 54 Bay Esplanade, Clearwater Beach	727-446-0430
Church By The Sea 495 Gulf Blvd. & 137th Ave., Madeira Bead	727-391-7706 ^{ch}
Church of the Good Shepherd (Episcopal) 639 Edgewater Dr., Dunedin	727-733-4125
Church of the Isles, U.C.C. 200 24th Ave., off Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks	727-595-1038 Beach
Congregation Beth Shalom (Conservative Synagogue) 1325 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater	727-531-1418
Congregation B'Nai Israel (Conservative Synagogue) 300 58th St. N., St. Petersburg	727-381-4900
Congregation Ohr Chadash (Synagogue) 3190 Gulf to Bay Blvd. (Rt. 60), Clearwater	727-726-1472
CrossBridge Church 50 153rd Ave., Madeira Beach	727-397-8614
First Presbyterian Church 701 Beach Dr. NE, Downtown St. Petersburg	727-822-2031
Friendship Community Church (Non-Denominational Church) 4321 Duhme Rd., Madeira Beach	908-763-0404
Hope Presbyterian Church 1698 South Belcher Road Clearwater, FL 33764	727-531-3200
Indian Rocks Baptist Church 12685 Ulmerton Rd, Largo FL 33774	727-595-3421
Kirk of Dunedin (Community) 2686 Bayshore Blvd., Dunedin	727-733-9305
Lakewood United Methodist Church 5995 Dr. MLK Jr. St. S., St. Petersburg	727-867-1744
McCabe United Methodist Church 2800 26th Ave. S., St. Petersburg	727-867-5287
Northwood Community Church 2295 McMullen-Booth Rd. (Route 611), Cle	727-791-4171 earwater
Northside Baptist Church 6000 38th Ave. N., St. Petersburg	727-381-3642
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church 750 San Salvador Dr., Dunedin	727-733-3606

727-360-5739
727-381-2499
727-360-5508
727-527-6466
727-360-8406
727-392-5583
727-443-5485 er
727-937-4050
727-595-4610 cks Beach)
727-360-1147
727-786-3648
727-896-2191
727-797-2375
727-541-1552
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727-545-3797 727-446-7718
727-545-3797 727-446-7718 Parwater
727-545-3797 727-446-7718 earwater 727-345-8235

тhe Fl**iérida** *Info***Guide**

COMMON SUNCOAST PALM TREES



TEXAS PALMETTO Slow growth & produces creamy white flowers in spring



PINEAPPLE PALM So-called nut, like a pineapple, at bottom of crown



CABBAGE SABAL PALM Florida State tree & grows up to 65 feet



JAMAICAN COCONUT Rapid growing palm with a crooked trunk



RIBBON FAN PALM Tall, slender & grows to 30 feet



CUBAN ROYAL PALM White, marble column-like trunk & thick crown of leaves



FOXTAIL PALM Very durable & tolerates variety of soil conditions



BOTTLE PALM Slow growing & can grow 10 to 20 feet tall

The Gizella Kopsic Palm Arboretum is north of the Vinoy Resort at 901 North Shore Drive & 11th Avenue, Downtown St. Petersburg. There are more than 500 palms and cycads representing 150 species from around the world. Parks Department: 727-893-7441 stpeteparksrec.org



The Florida InfoGuide





Florida Manatees spend up to 8 hours a day grazing on seagrasses and other aquatic plants.

GOLFING







727-391-6255 ~ WWW.SEMINOLELAKE.NET

Last Bay Golf Club The Most Popular Public Layout in the area!

- Just minutes from the Gulf Beaches
- Traditional 18 hole par 71
- Fairways tees and green slopes are overseeded with ryegrass for the winter months

Entire fleet of brand new EZ Go Carts equipped with ProShot GPS yardage system

Call for Tee Times - 727-581-3333 Tee Times 24/7 Online eastbaygolfclub.com

Located in Largo off East Bay Dr. (SR 686 W) 2.5 miles west of US19, between Starkey Rd. & Highland Ave. Entrance at Country Club Drive traffic light

Golf – Did You Know...

The term birdie comes from an American named Ab Smith. While playing at the Atlantic City Golf Club in 1899, he played what he described as a "bird of a shot", which became "birdie" over time.

125,000 Golf balls a year are hit into the water at the famous 17th hole of the Stadium Course at Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra, Florida.

In a golf tournament, a golfer has 5 minutes to find a lost ball. If not found, the Pros place a new ball at the spot where the original ball was last played.

A regulation golf ball has 336 dimples.

The first golf balls were made of thin leather stuffed with feathers. Tightly packed feathers made balls that flew the farthest. Feather balls were used until 1848.

The chances of making two holes-in-one in a round of golf are one in 67 million.

Balls travel much further on hot days. A golfer swinging a club at about 100 mph will carry the driver up to eight yards longer for each increase in air temperature of 25° F.

The Flerida InfoGuide

GOLF COURSE GUIDE

Municipal, Public & Semi-Private Courses 🗰 Indicates an InfoGuide Recommended Course

CLEARWATER

Chi Chi Rodriguez Golf Club 18 Holes, par 69 3030 McMullen-Booth Road, Clearwater

Clearwater Country Club 18 Holes, par 72, driving range

525 N. Betty Lane, Clearwater Cove Cay Golf Club 18 Holes, par 70, driving range 2612 Cove Cay Drive, Clearwater

The Landings Golf Club 18 Holes, par 63, driving range 1875 Airport Drive, Clearwater

chichi.org

727-726-4673

727-446-9501 clearwatercountryclub.com

> 727-535-1406 covecaygolf.com

727-447-5272 thelandingsgc.com

DUNEDIN

Dunedin Golf Club 18 Holes, par 72, driving range 1050 Palm Boulevard, Dunedin

727-733-2134 dunedingolfclub.com

Dunedin Stirling Links Golf Club 727-733-6728 18 Holes, par 54, driving range dunedingolf.com 620 Palm Boulevard, Dunedin

LARGO

East Bay Golf Club	727-581-3333
18 Holes, par 71, driving range	eastbaygolfclub.com
702 Country Club Drive, Largo	
Largo Golf Course	727-518-3024
Municipal Course: 18 Holes, par 62	largogolf.com
12500 131st Street North (Vonn Road), Larg	0
Pinecrest Golf Club	727-584-6497

18 Holes, par 55 1200 8th Avenue Southwest, Largo

ODESSA

The Eagles Golf Club 18 holes, par 72, aqua driving range 16101 Nine Eagles Drive, Odessa

813-920-6681 eaglesgolf.com

pinecrestgclargo.com

PALM HARBOR

Lansbrook Golf Club 18 Holes, par 72, driving range 4605 Village Center Drive, Palm Harbor

727-784-7333 lansbrook-golf.com

Tarpon Woods Golf Club 727-784-7606 tarponwoodsgc.com

18 Holes, par 72, driving range 1100 Tarpon Woods Boulevard, Palm Harbor

PALMETTO

Moccasin Wallow Golf Club 18 holes, par 72, agua driving range 9680 Buffalo Road, Palmetto 34221

941-723-0500 golfthemoc.com

PINELLAS PARK

Mainlands Golf Club 18 Holes, par 67 9445 Mainlands Boulevard West, Pinellas Park

727-577-4847 mainlandsgolf.com

ST. PETERSBURG

Cypress Links	727-551-3333		
9 Holes, par 27	golfstpete.com/cypresslinks		
875 62nd Avenue Northeast, St. Petersburg			
Mangrove Bay Golf Cours	e 727-893-7800		
18 Holes, par 72, driving range	golfstpete.com/mangrovebay		
875 62nd Avenue Northeast, St. Petersburg			
Twin Brooks Golf Course	727-893-7445		
9 Holes, par 27, driving range	golfstpete.com/twinbrooks		
3800 22nd Avenue South, St. Petersburg			
SEMINOLE			

Bardmoor Golf & Tennis Club	727-392-1234
18 Holes, par 72	bardmoorgolf.com
8001 Cumberland Road, Seminole	
Seminole Lake Country Club	727-391-6255
18 Holes, par 72, driving range	seminolelake.net
6100 Augusta Boulevard, Seminole	

TAMPA

Northdale Golf & Tennis Club	813-962-0428
18 holes, par 72	northdalegolf.com
4417 Northdale Boulevard, Tampa	
Pebble Creek Golf Club	813-973-3870
18 holes, par 71	pebblecreekclub.com
10550 Regents Park Drive, Tampa	
Rocky Point Golf Course	813-673-4316
18 Holes, par 71, driving range	rockypointgolf.net
4151 Dana Shores Drive, Tampa	
Westchase Golf Club	813-854-2331
18 holes, par 72, aqua driving range	westchasegc.com
11602 Westchase Golf Drive, Tampa	

TARPON SPRINGS

Crescent Oaks Golf Club 727-937-4653 18 holes, par 72, driving range crescentoaksgolf.com 3300 Crescent Oaks Blvd., Tarpon Springs Tarpon Springs Golf Course 727-934-5191 18 Holes, par 72, driving range tarponspringsgc.com 1310 South Pinellas Avenue (Alt. 19), Tarpon Springs Wentworth Golf Club 727-942-4760 18 holes, par 71, driving range wentworthgolfclub.org 2990 Wentworth Way, Tarpon Springs

TREASURE ISLAND

Treasure Bay Golf & Tennis 727-360-6062 9 Holes, par 3 treasurebaygolfandtennis.com 10315 Paradise Boulevard, Treasure Island

COMMON SUNCOAST BIRDS



Eastern Brown Pelican Scoop fish in expandable throat pouches



Sandhill Crane Tall bird with a long neck; can live to the age of 20



Great White Egret Strikes prey with a jab of their bill



Laughing Gull At beaches & parking lots waiting for food



Black Crown Night Heron Nests colonially, often a dozen nests in a single tree

Ibis

Probes for large insects

on lawns

Herring Gull

Special glands allow them

to excrete salt

Osprey



Roseate Spoonbill Long, flat spoonshaped bill



Sandpiper Smallest Sandpiper known as "peeps"



Cattle Egret Head erect, walks behind cattle & tractors for food



Black Skimmers Drags lower bill through water for fish



Least Terns Plunges in water from flight; nests on sandy beaches



Double-Crested Cormorant Experts at diving to catch fish



Great Blue Heron Curls their neck to S shape to catch prey

Seaside Seabird Sanctuary

18328 Gulf Blvd. Indian Shores

727-391-6211

seasideseabirdsanctuary.org Admission & parking are FREE Open Every Day 8 am - 4pm



The Florida InfoGuide

The Beaches before the Condos

Lore and Legends, by Wayne Ayers, Author, Tampa Bay's Gulf Beaches



• Pass-a-Grille, at the southern end of the barrier islands, was first settled by Capt. Zephaniah Phillips from Ohio, a union veteran of the Civil War. The name is believed to be of French origin, 'La Passeaux-Grillards' or Pass of the

Grillers, derived from the fact that the area was frequented by pirates, fishermen, smugglers and other adventurers who often came ashore to cook (or grill) their meats.

- The legend of Chief Chic-a-Si explains how Indian Rocks got its name. The chief was purportedly cured of a mysterious ailment after drinking at one of the springs in the area, famed for their medicinal qualities. Members of Chic-a-Si's tribe returned to the spot every year to drink the spring waters and fish, camping on the rocks. White settlers witnessed this event, referring to the area as 'Indian Rocks.'
- Pioneer homesteader and turtle fisherman John Levach was returning home to St. Petersburg after selling a load of turtles in New Orleans when he spotted a broad inlet from the Gulf to Boca



Ciega Bay where none had existed before. Levach's partner Joe Silva called the newly formed inlet 'John's Pass' because Levach had discovered it. And, the name stuck.

• A mystery shipwreck off our shores? Based upon artifacts uncovered

beneath the sand following storms, local treasure hunter Jim Leatherwood believes the remains of a long lost vessel lie just off the coast. Leatherwood's collection is displayed at the Indian Rocks Historical Museum.

- Cigar making was an early industry on the beaches. Cuban immigrants from Ybor City arrived in the Indian Shores area during the early 1900's and set up a small cigar rolling operation on Gulf Blvd. The cigars were marketed under the Island Queen label.
- Tampa Bay's Gulf Beaches, by R. Wayne Ayers contains over 200 vintage photographic images along with text presenting life along the barrier island beaches before the condos. The Clearwater Marine Aquarium, located at 249 Windward Passage just off Clearwater Beach, is dedicated to the continued protection and conservation of sea turtles, their nests, and their habitat.

Ocean Life Fun Facts

- Octopuses have three hearts!
- Sea otters will hold hands so they do not drift away from one another while sleeping.
- Seahorses mate for life. The male and female meet every morning and dance together to reinforce their bond.
- A blue whale's heart weighs around 400 pounds! That's around 640 times as much as a human heart!

HORSESHOE CRAB (Limulus Polyphemus)

 Adults shed their shell annually & is often found washed up on the beaches.

ource: tampabaywatch.org

- They have been around for over 450 million years & their body form has changed very little.
- These crabs do NOT bite or sting!



DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT



This gangly prehistoric-looking, brownblack fishing bird has yellow-orange facial skin. These waterbirds have small heads on long, kinked necks, and thin, strongly hooked bills. Their large, heavy bodies sit low in the water.

Cormorants stand on docks, rocky islands, and channel markers around fresh and salt water, their wings spread out to dry. They are experts at diving to catch small fish!

Source: allaboutbirds.org



BLACK SKIMMER (Rynchops niger)

These birds skim their long, uneven bills across the water to catch fish and small crustaceans living in the shallow waters.

They feed by touch; as soon as they feel a small fish in their beak, they quickly snap it shut.

Their eyes have vertical pupils that reduce the glare from the water and white sand. They stay in colonies and live along coastal beaches, nesting in June and July.

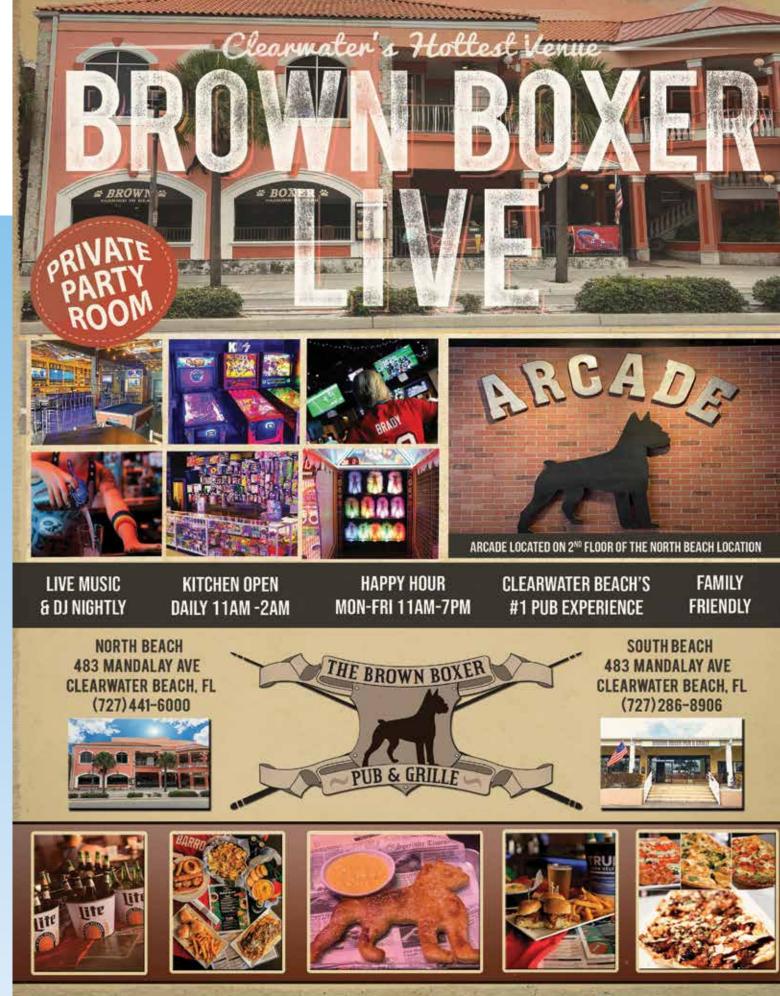
tampabaywatch.org

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