

Florida InfoGuide™

Tampa Bay

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FREE
April 2024 - July 2024

7
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MAPS



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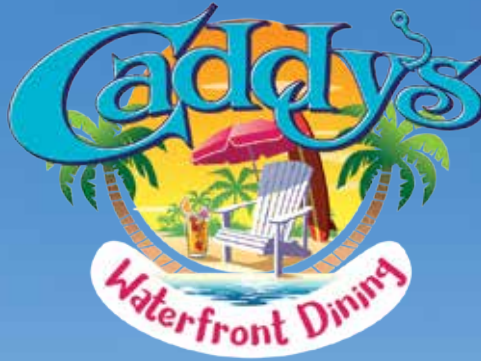


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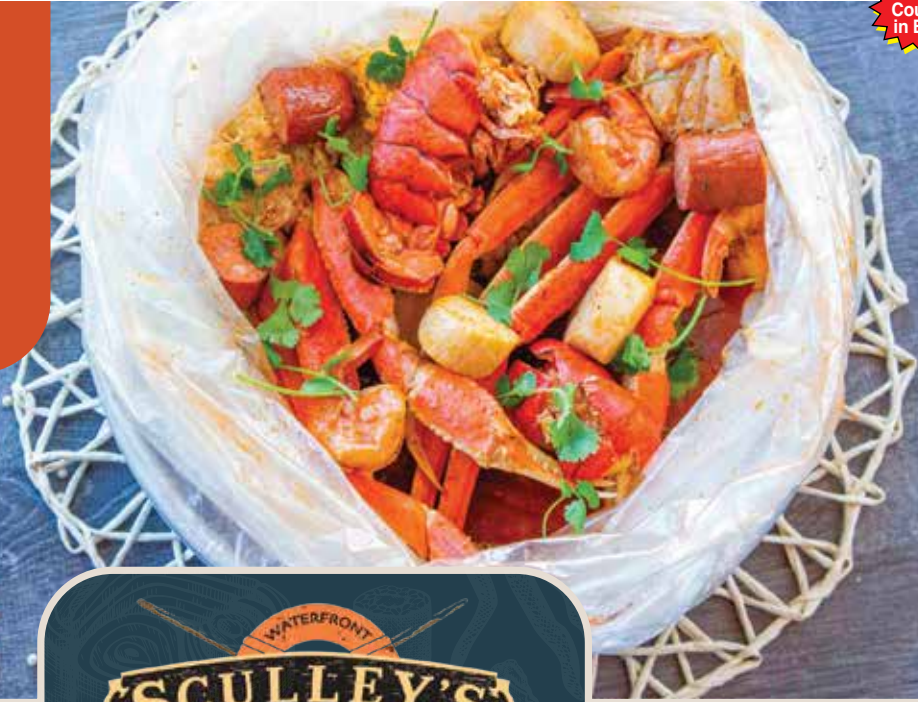
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LOCATOR GUIDE

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

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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:

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TYPE	BUSINESS	LOCATION	WEBSITE	PAGE
American	Flute & Dram	Downtown St. Petersburg	flutendram.com	15
	Hangar Restaurant & Flight Lounge	Downtown St. Petersburg	thehangarstpete.com	23
	Hooters Restaurant	John's Pass Village / Clearwater & Clearwater Beach	originalhooters.com	10
	Jimmy's on the Edge	Edge Hotel, Clearwater Beach	jimmymsontheedge.com	13
	The Tap Room at Hollander Hotel	Downtown St. Petersburg	hollanderhotel.com	23
British	Three Birds Tavern	St. Pete	threebirdstavern.com	23
Beach Bars & Grills	Caddy's on the Beach	Treasure Island	caddysotb.com	1
	Daiquiri Shak Raw Bar & Grille	Madeira Beach	daiquirishak.com	17
	The Drunken Clam	St. Pete Beach	drunkenclambar.com	21
	Island Grille & Raw Bar	Tierra Verde	islandrawbar.com	37
	Jimmy Guana's Waterfront Restaurant	Holiday Inn, Indian Rocks Beach	jimmyguanas.com	14
	Jimmy's Crow's Nest	Pier House 60 Marina Hotel, Clearwater Beach	jimmyscrowsnest.com	13
	Ricky T's Bar & Grill	Treasure Island	rickytsbarandgrille.com	18
Crepes	Holy Crepe!	Clearwater Beach	holycrepesclearwater.com	13
Cruises	Calypso Tropical Cruises / StarLite Yachts	Clearwater Beach/Madeira Beach/St. Pete Beach area	starlitecruises.com	31
Deli / Candy / Ice Cream	Annex	Downtown St. Petersburg	annex400beach.com	23
	Kilwin's Candy	Clearwater Beach	kilwins.com	10
Fine Dining	82 Degrass	St. Pete Beach	eat@82.com	Inside Front Cover
	Bascoms Chop House	Clearwater	bascoms.com	Inside Back Cover
	Middle Grounds Grill	Treasure Island	middlegroundsgrill.com	18
	ParkShore Grill	Downtown St. Petersburg	parkshoregrill.com	23
Italian / Pizza	Frabottas Beach Kitchen	John's Pass/Madeira Beach	frabottas.com	17
	Gigi's Italian Restaurants	St. Pete Beach / Treasure Island / St. Petersburg	gigisstpete.com	18/30
	Hungry Howie's	St. Pete Beach	hungryhowies.com	21/30
	Slyce Pizza Bar	Indian Rocks Beach / Madeira Beach / St. Pete Beach	slycepizzabar.com	14
Mexican	Mad Beach Cantina	Madeira Beach	madbeachcantina.com	47
Seafood	Caddy's - Waterfront Restaurant	Indian Shores	caddys.com	1
	I.C.Sharks	St. Petersburg	icsharks.com	9
	Jimmy's Fish House & Iguana Bar	Holiday Inn, Clearwater Beach	jimmysfishhouse.net	13
	Red, White and Booze	St. Pete Beach	redwhiteboozepag.com	5
	The Wharf Restaurant	St. Pete Beach	WharfPAG.com	34
	Sculley's Restaurant	John's Pass Village Maderia Beach	sculleysrestaurant.com	3

SNOOK

(centropomus undecimalis)



- * Large mouth with a protruding lower jaw
- * Black lateral line extends onto tail
- * Begin life as males, but between 18 & 22 inches long, some become females
- * Habitat - inshore in coastal waters, including mangrove shorelines, seagrass beds & beaches
- * Saltwater fish & can tolerate freshwater
- * Cannot tolerate water temperature below 60 degrees Fahrenheit
- * Size: Up to 48" and 50 lbs.

Source: myfwc.com

The Florida InfoGuide

thefloridainfoguide.com

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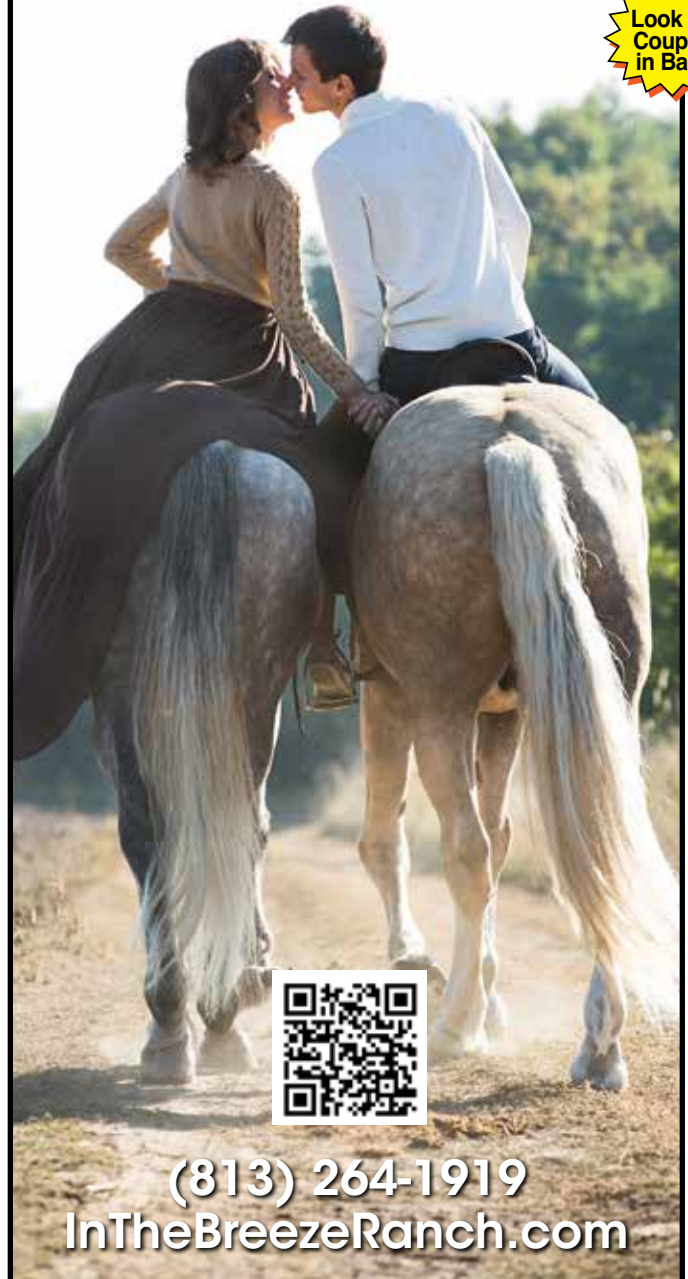
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VISITOR GUIDE

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PERFORMING ARTS

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- The Capitol Theatre 727-791-7400
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- Spitfire Comedy House 727-329-6290
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1111 McMullen Booth Road, Route 611, Clearwater
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VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

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- Indian Rocks Beach Welcome Center 727-595-4575
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- Visit St. Pete-Clearwater 727-464-7200
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- Dunedin 727-733-3197
- Greater Tampa 813-228-7777
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- Tarpon Springs 727-937-6109
- Treasure Island & Madeira Beach 727-360-4121

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- Tampa International Airport 1-800-767-8882

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- 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

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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 38 and 39. The Captains will show you all the hot spots in the Tampa Bay area.

'Duffers', turn to pages 44 and 45. 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 many restaurants advertised in this publication; they won't disappoint! From fine dining to casual family eating, our delicious eateries will satisfy everyone....see our Restaurant Guide on page 6.

As you read the InfoGuide, you will see it is sectioned off by location ... starting from the North heading to South 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 42 or 43.


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Source: tampabaywatch.org

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The SAND DOLLAR or Holy Ghost SHELL



Photo by: The Shell Store, Largo
theshellstore.com

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!

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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

Rays of Tampa Bay

Giant Manta Ray *Manta birostris*
The World's largest species of ray. The Giant Manta Ray can weigh up to 4,000 lbs and has an average wingspan of 22 feet.

Cownose Ray *Rhinoptera bonasus*
Cownose rays are strong swimmers, and known for migrating in large schools of up to 10,000 rays. They migrate clockwise from Florida to Mexico.

Atlantic Devil Ray *Mobula hypostoma*
In addition to the Tampa Bay area, the Atlantic Devil Ray can also be found in open ocean waters. Its name comes from its distinctive horns.

Spotted Eagle Ray *Aetobatus narinari*
Due to its spots, the spotted eagle ray is the easiest to identify. They can be found in shallow inshore waters and often swim near the water's surface.

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SHUFFLEBOARD

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! \$10.
Location: 559 Mirror Lake Drive North, Downtown St. Petersburg. 727-822-2083. stpeteshuffle.com

Cuban Sandwich

The Cuban Sandwich is a Tampa treasure. Known in the beginning as the 'Mixto', it was created in the late 1890's for the cigar workers. The sandwiches underwent changes as immigrants from different countries came to Ybor City.

The Spanish brought the fine ham, the Sicilians the Genoa salami, the Cubans the Mojo marinated Roast Pork, the Germans and Jews the Swiss Cheese, pickle and mustard. Put each ingredient layered on top of one another, in between sliced Cuban bread, usually brushed with butter on top and pressed to a crispy finish.

In 2012, the "Historic Tampa Cuban Sandwich" was designated as the "signature sandwich of the city of Tampa" by the Tampa City Council.

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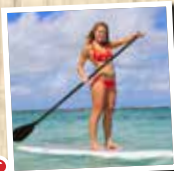
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Ocean Life Fun Facts

- 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!

Source: tampabaywatch.org

JOHN'S PASS VILLAGE / MADEIRA BEACH



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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!



Also, check out:

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
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WEBSITES

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Clearwater Jolley Trolley (and other routes): clearwaterjolleytrolley.com
Pinellas Suncoast Transit (busses & Suncoast Beach trolley): psta.net
St. Petersburg Downtown Trolley: loopertrolley.com

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: sunsetspier60.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
thebeachesvisitorsguide.com

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Oysters at Work

Oysters are a type of shellfish called **bivalves** because their shells have two halves. They live in one place their entire lives and their shells form **oyster bars or reefs**. Their strong muscles pump sea water through their gills which filter out the food they need.

At the same time, oysters are a food source for birds and the many small marine creatures that live among them. Those animals, in turn, provide food for larger fish and wildlife. So oysters are a key component in the food chain.

AMAZING FACT:

A single oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of seawater per day, removing sediment and algae.



CLEARWATER BEACH MAP



SAND KEY TO JOHN'S PASS MAP



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Gulf of Mexico



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- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Bamboozle | 10 Ricky T's Bar and Grill |
| 2 Caddy's on the Beach (2) | 11 Red White & Booze |
| 3 Dolphin Racer Speedboat | 12 Sculley's Restaurant |
| 4 The Drunken Clam | 13 Slyce Pizza |
| 5 Florida Orange Groves Winery | 14 StarLite Sapphire Cruises |
| 6 Gigi's Italian Restaurants (2) | 15 Swim City |
| 7 Hungry Howies | 16 Wharf Seafood Restaurant and Bar |
| 8 Island Grille & Raw Bar | 17 82 Degrees |
| 9 Middle Grounds Grill | |

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ST. PETERSBURG MAP

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- 8 Ocean Blue Galleries
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Treasure Map of Tampa Bay



Gulf of Mexico

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- 1 C Ponies Beach Horse Tours
- 2 Clearwater Bait & Tackle
- 3 Congo River Golf (Mini Golf)
- 4 Florida Orange Groves Winery
- 5 In The Breeze Horse Ranch
- 6 Robert's Christmas Wonderland
- 7 Sawgrass Trails at Lowe's City
- 8 The Shell Store

GOLF COURSES

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

ATTRACTIONS / SHOPPING

Attractions / Places

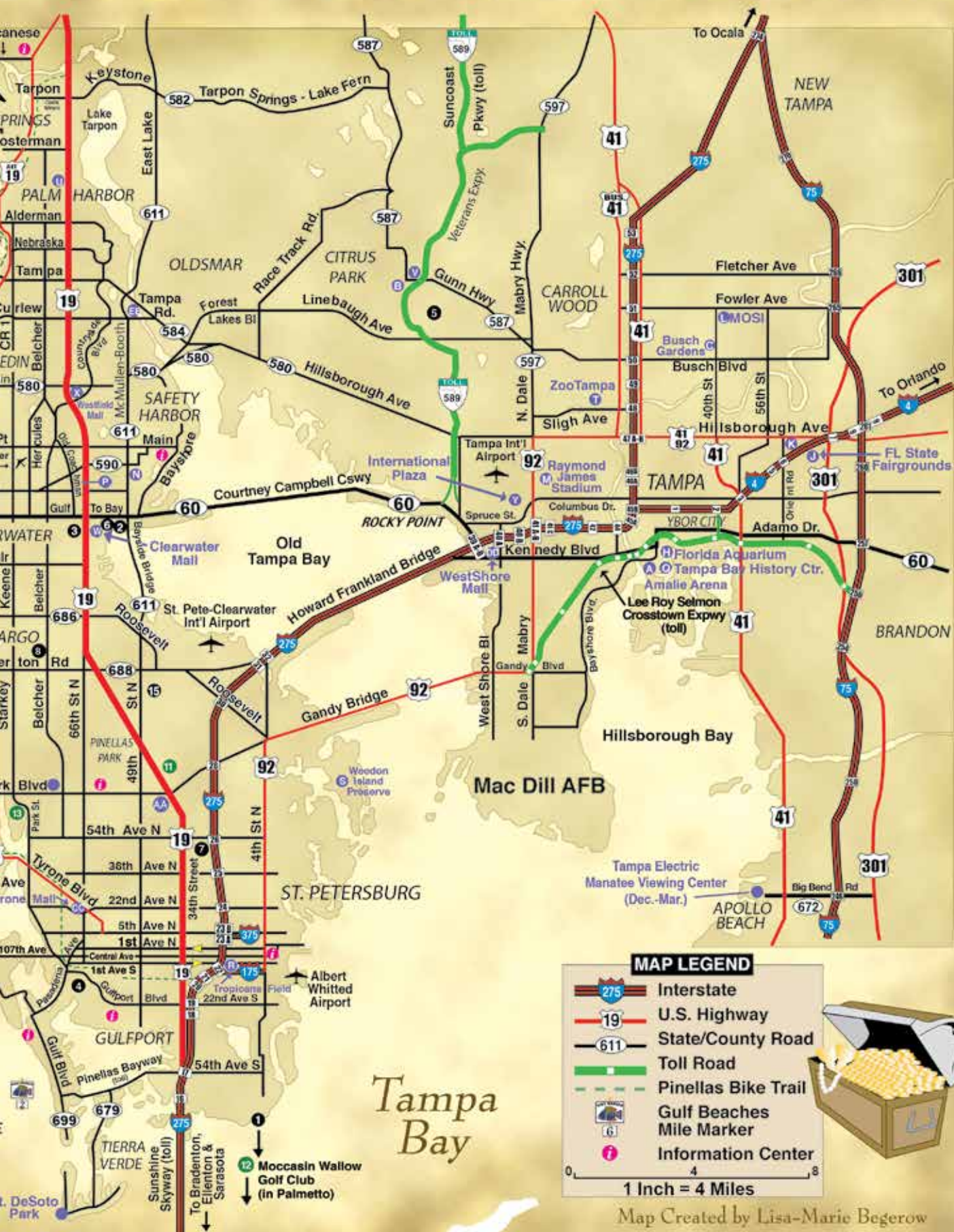
- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| A Amalie Arena | K Hard Rock Casino |
| B Big Cat Rescue - Closed | L Heritage Village |
| C Busch Gardens/Adventure Island | M MOSI (Science Museum) |
| D Caladesi Island State Park | N Raymond James Stadium |
| E Central Park Performing Arts Ctr | O Ruth Eckerd Hall |
| F Clearwater Marine Aquarium | P Seaside Seabird Sanctuary |
| G Dunedin Stadium | Q Spectrum Field |
| H Florida Aquarium | R Tampa Bay History Center |
| I Florida Botanical Gardens | S Tropicana Field |
| J Florida State Fairgrounds | T Weedon Island Preserve |
| | U ZooTampa |

Shopping / Movie Cinemas

- | |
|---|
| U AMC Cinemas Palm Harbor |
| V Citrus Park Mall & Cinemas |
| W Clearwater Mall |
| X Countryside Westfield Mall/Cinemas |
| Y International Plaza |
| Z Largo Mall & Cinemas |
| AA Park Place Shops & Cinemas |
| BB Seminole City Center & Cinemas |
| CC Tyrone Mall & Cinemas |
| DD WestShore Mall & Cinemas |
| EE Woodlands Square Cinemas |

CINEMA PHONE #'S ON PAGE 7





MAP LEGEND

- Interstate
- U.S. Highway
- State/County Road
- Toll Road
- Pinellas Bike Trail
- Gulf Beaches Mile Marker
- Information Center

0 4 8
1 Inch = 4 Miles



Tampa Bay

Map Created by Lisa-Marie Begerow

DOWNTOWN TAMPA / YBOR CITY MAP

DOWNTOWN CHANNEL DISTRICT HARBOUR ISLAND

Downtown Tampa

MAP LEGEND

- Interstate
- State/County Road
- Toll Road
- Information Center
- Parking
- One Way Street

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS FOR DOWNTOWN TAMPA & YBOR CITY:

Bus & Streetcar (HART) Info Line	813-254-4278	Tampa Bay History Center	813-228-0097
Florida Aquarium	813-273-4000	Tampa Museum of Art	813-274-8130
Glazer Children's Museum	813-443-3861	Tampa Theatre	813-274-8981
Helicopter Tours of Tampa Bay	813-254-1300	Tampa Water Taxi & Tour	888-665-8687
Henry B. Plant Museum	813-254-1891	Ybor City Info Center	813-241-8838
Straz Center (Performing Arts)	813-229-7827		




HISTORIC YBOR CITY

Dave Andreychuk, Captain of the 2004 Tampa Bay Lightning Stanley Cup champions

FLORIDA STATE MAP

← Florida Panhandle
Destin & Pensacola

MAP LEGEND

-  Interstate
-  U.S. Highway
-  State/County Road
-  Toll Roads
-  Florida Welcome Center

0 1 60
1 Inch = 60 Miles



GULF OF MEXICO

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Gulf Of Mexico

FLORIDA MILEAGE CHART
Approximate Distance From Gulf Beaches To:

Daytona Beach	150 miles
Ft. Lauderdale	235 miles
Ft. Myers	135 miles
Kennedy Space Ctr.	160 miles
Key West	440 miles
Miami	284 miles
Naples	175 miles
Ocala	120 miles
Orlando	106 miles
St. Augustine	210 miles
Sarasota	43 miles
Tallahassee	270 miles
Tampa	28 miles

ATTRACTIONS MILEAGE
Approximate Distance From Gulf Beaches To:

Busch Gardens, Tampa	30 miles
Disney World, Orlando	100 miles
Kennedy Space Ctr., Cape Canaveral	160 miles
Sea World, Orlando	106 miles
Universal Studios, Orlando	110 miles

Nesting Habits of Sea Turtles



Each year from April 1st to October 31st, sea turtles migrate to Florida for mating and nesting purposes.

The most common species of sea turtle nesting in Florida is the Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*). Currently, Florida is home to the largest population of loggerheads nesting in the world. Each year thousands of hatchlings make it safely to the water to begin their journey to maturity, due to our conservation efforts. During their journey, they face many obstacles. The following is a brief history of the life cycle of loggerhead sea turtles:

Under the cover of darkness, the female loggerheads come ashore to find suitable habitat to deposit their eggs. The eggs then incubate underground for 50 days, at which time the hatchlings will emerge. Loggerheads are the only species in which the hatchlings emerge completely at night. Sea turtle hatchlings use light as a visual cue that leads them to the water. However, artificial lighting from beach development results in hatchling death and disorientation by leading the hatchlings in the wrong direction. During the hatching season, from June to October, staff and volunteers from the Clearwater Marine Aquarium monitor caged nests to ensure that all emerged hatchlings have the opportunity to get to the water.

Once the hatchlings have made it to the water, they must swim frantically in order to make it to the shelter of sargassum (seaweed) rafts offshore. During this journey, the hatchlings are vulnerable to prey by anything larger in size; this includes fish, birds and crabs. The turtles will stay in this environment until they reach a size roughly equal to 42 centimeters of their upper shell. At this size, the turtles are less vulnerable to prey and will begin to move from the 'open ocean' environment to the 'near shore' environment, such as that offered by the Indian River on Florida's East Coast.

Once in the 'near shore' environment, the turtles will continue to grow until they reach a size approximately greater than 80 centimeters of their upper shell. Adult loggerheads can continue to spend much of the year in sheltered areas, moving into the 'open ocean' environment during reproductive migrations. Loggerheads typically nest in sub-tropical climates, north of the equator.

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.

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Florida's History to Statehood

1513 Juan Ponce de Leon lands on east coast of Florida, near present-day St. Augustine & names the peninsula 'Florida' as the season was 'Pascua Florida' (Flowery Easter).

1521 After serving time as governor of Puerto Rico, Ponce de Leon returns to Florida in search of gold. Contracted by the Spanish crown to colonize & Christianize the native peoples, Ponce de Leon was killed in South Florida.

1528 Spanish explorer Panfilo de Narvaez led a second expedition into Florida which was a failure. Tales of mythical cities of gold inspired future expeditions to North America.

1539-1543 Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto, invades the Incas in Peru then lands in Florida. After De Soto was killed in 1542, the 300 remaining in his expedition left for Cuba.

1559 Tristan de Luna attempted Florida's first settlement, Puerto de Santa Maria (today's Pensacola Naval Air Station).

1562 The French, under Jean Ribault, first explore Florida.

1565 Under Pedro Menendez de Aviles, Spain established St. Augustine, first permanent European settlement in North America. The Spanish expelled the French.

1763 At the end of French & Indian Seven Years War, Florida was transferred from Spain to England.

1776 The American Revolution begins. Florida did not join the thirteen English colonies in the revolution & remained loyal to England.

1783 The Spanish take control of Florida.

1817-1818 First Seminole War – Conflict between the United States territory & the Seminole Indians of Florida. It was fought to defend those individuals of African descent, living among the Indians, from capture & returning them for enslavement.

1821 Florida becomes a United States territory & Andrew Jackson its first governor. Hand-colored Spanish land grant maps were among the documents used to establish ownership of land in Florida.

1835-1842 All Indians in Florida were supposed to migrate to the Indian Territory west of the Mississippi (later known as Oklahoma). Many migrated; the leader of the Seminole Indians, Osceola, refused. After brief imprisonment, Osceola commenced attacks on Americans. The Second Seminole War began. Osceola was arrested & died in prison in 1838. By 1842, many followers died or were sent to the western Indian Territory.

1845 Florida becomes a state on March 3, 1845, by the 28th Congress. Florida continued expansion of the plantation system.

Source: floridamemory.com

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AMERICAN ALLIGATOR

Alligator Mississippiensis
Florida's State Reptile

Alligators have a broad, rounded snout with no lower teeth visible when their jaw is closed. Adult alligators are primarily dark gray in color with a lighter color underside. Its powerful tail which is half the gators length, helps propel it through the water. While alligators move quickly in the water, they are generally slow-moving on land.

The alligator (and other nocturnal vertebrates) possesses an eye-shine caused by a layer of cells called the tapetum ludicum, meaning 'bright carpet' in Latin. This structure beneath the cells in the retina, reflects light back into the cells to increase the amount of light detected, improving an alligator's vision in low light conditions. In alligators, this eye-shine is red, but different colors in other species.

Courtship begins in early April, and mating occurs in May or June. Females build a mound nest of soil, vegetation or debris and deposit an average of 32 to 46 eggs in late June or early July. Incubation requires approximately 63 to 68 days, and hatching occurs from mid-August through early September. Although gators have no vocal cords, males bellow loudly to attract mates and warn off other males by sucking air into their lungs and blowing it out in intermittent, deep-toned roars.

Alligators were depleted from many parts of their range as a result of

market hunting and loss of habitat. In 1967, the alligator was listed as an endangered species (under a law that preceded the Endangered Species Act of 1973), meaning it was considered in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Today, gators are no longer on the endangered list and are thriving more than ever.

Alligators are found from southeast Oklahoma and east Texas to North Carolina and Florida in the east. They prefer fresh water lakes and slow-moving rivers and their associated wetlands, but they also can be found in brackish water habitats.

What is the state record length for a gator in Florida? Female alligators rarely exceed 10 feet in length. Males grow much larger. The Florida state record for length is a 14 feet 3 1/2 inch male from Lake Washington in Brevard County.

What is the state record for weight? The Florida record for weight is a 1,043 pound (13 feet 10 1/2 inches long) male from Orange Lake in Alachua County.

Diet: Includes prey species that are abundant and easily accessible. Juvenile alligators eat primarily insects, amphibians, small fish and other invertebrates. Adult alligators eat fish, snakes, turtles, small mammals and birds.

Have many gators are in Florida? In 2017, about 1.25 million

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 bottle-nosed 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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Sharks Teeth found along Florida's coasts



The Jaw bone in the center is from a Bull Shark that was from 12 - 22 feet long. The darker teeth along the top are fossilized and between 15-25 million years old! The white teeth are from recent "living" sharks.

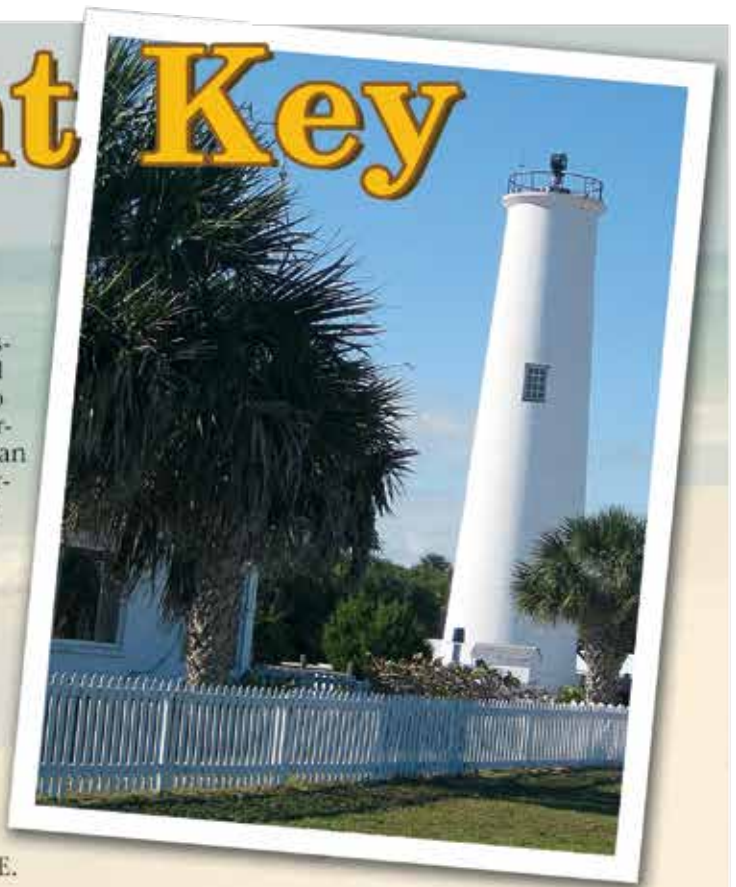
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Egmont Key

Located 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



COMMON SUNCOAST SEA SHELLS

You can find these and other shells at The Shell Store at 8211 Ulmerton Road, Largo. See Page 4.



APPLE MUREX
PHYLLONOTUS POMUM



ALPHABET CONE
CONUS SPURIUS



ANGEL WING
CYRTOPLEURA COSTATA



COMMON NUTMEG
CANCELLARIA RETICULATA



ATLANTIC NATICA
NATICA CANRENA



BANDED TULIP
FASCIOLARIA LILIUM HUNTERIA



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ARGOPECTEN GIBBUS



KING'S CROWN
MELONGENA CORONA



FLORIDA HORSE CONCH
PLEUROPLOCA GIGANTEA



FLORIDA CONE
CONUS FLORIDANUS



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DIODORA CAYENENSIS



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OLIVA SAYANA



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TURKEY WING
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Can You Guess the Common Suncoast Fish?



1. _____
Blunt nose & small mouth



2. _____
Acrobatic fighters



3. _____
Bronze stripe on sides



4. _____
Prefers warm waters



5. _____
Feeds mainly on small fish



6. _____
Large eyes & short snout



7. _____
Front of dorsal fin is black



8. _____
Streamlined body, tapered head



9. _____
Wavy, dark blue bars on sides



10. _____
Found in fresh or saltwater



11. _____
Popular Florida sport fish



12. _____
Dark, worm-like side markings



13. _____
Long slim fish



14. _____
Can live to be 57



15. _____
Bottom dwelling inshore fish



16. _____
Black blotches on lower sides



17. _____
Vertical black bars on sides



18. _____
Several black spots on back



19. _____
Wedge-shaped tail



20. _____
Red-orange spots on sides



21. _____
Short pectoral fins



22. _____
Tail may have 3 lobes



23. _____
Caudal fin has a narrow fork



24. _____
Yellowish coloration on belly

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.

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SHEEPSHEAD
 (archosargus probatocephalus)

- Body has lightly colored background with vertical black bars on the sides
- Known as convict fish due to their stripes and ability to steal bait
- Large protruding teeth used for cracking and crushing shellfish
- Size 13 to 36 inches
- Fractional spawners only laying a portion of their eggs at a time
- Found in coastal waters near structures such as seawalls and jetties

Source: myfwc.com

WORSHIP GUIDE

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Calvary Church 110 McMullen Booth Road	727-441-1581	Pass-A-Grille Beach Community Church 107 16th Ave., St. Pete Beach	727-360-5508
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SUNSET TIMES for the Tampa Bay Area

April 2024 - July 2024

(Timeframes for sunset are within 5 to 7 minutes)

April 1 - 10	7:48pm - 7:53pm
April 11 - 21	7:54pm - 7:59pm
April 22 - 30	8:00pm - 8:04pm
May 1 - 10	8:05pm - 8:10pm
May 11 - 20	8:11pm - 8:16pm
May 21 - 31	8:17pm - 8:22pm
June 1 - 9	8:23pm - 8:26pm
June 10 - 30	8:27pm - 8:31pm

Descending times start, this time of year....

July 1 - 21	8:30pm - 8:25pm
July 22 - 31	8:25pm - 8:20pm
August 1 - 8	8:19pm - 8:14pm
August 9 - 15	8:13pm - 8:08pm
August 16 - 21	8:07pm - 8:02pm
August 22 - 26	8:01pm - 7:57pm
August 27 - 31	7:56pm - 7:52pm
September 1 - 6	7:51pm - 7:45pm
September 7 - 12	7:44pm - 7:38pm
September 13 - 18	7:37pm - 7:31pm
September 19 - 24	7:30pm - 7:24pm
September 25 - 30	7:23pm - 7:17pm
October 1 - 6	7:16pm - 7:10pm
October 7 - 13	7:09pm - 7:03pm



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Call for Tee Times (941) 723-0500 or book online at GolfTheMoc.com

THREAT TO MANTA RAYS



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

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.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN

(*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)



- One of the largest birds in North America.
- White pelicans have stark white plumage, a wing span of 9 feet and can weigh up to 30 pounds.
- Breeds on lakes throughout North America; strictly visitors to Florida in the winter...the original 'snowbird'!
- Tends to travel in large flocks.
- Does not dive for food, but floats on the surface of water, submerges their head and scoops up fish.
- Builds nests on the ground and rim it with dirt, sticks and debris.
- They still die after becoming tangled in discarded fishing lines.
- Tarpon Key near Ft. DeSoto is one of the most important protected bird habitats in Florida.
- A sea of white can be seen as the white pelicans roost along the shoreline.

Sources: allaboutbirds.org , tampabaywatch.org

GOLF COURSE GUIDE

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

CLEARWATER

Chi Chi Rodriguez Golf Club 727-726-4673
18 Holes, par 69 chichi.org
3030 McMullen-Booth Road, Clearwater

Clearwater Country Club 727-446-9501
18 Holes, par 72, driving range clearwatercountryclub.com
525 N. Betty Lane, Clearwater

Cove Cay Golf Club 727-535-1406
18 Holes, par 70, driving range covecaygolf.com
2612 Cove Cay Drive, Clearwater

The Landings Golf Club 727-447-5272
18 Holes, par 63, driving range thelandingsgc.com
1875 Airport Drive, Clearwater

DUNEDIN

Dunedin Golf Club 727-733-2134
18 Holes, par 72, driving range dunedingolfclub.com
1050 Palm Boulevard, Dunedin

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), Largo

Pinecrest Golf Club 727-584-6497
18 Holes, par 55 pinecrestgclargo.com
1200 8th Avenue Southwest, Largo

ODESSA

The Eagles Golf Club 813-920-6681
18 holes, par 72, aqua driving range eaglesgolf.com
16101 Nine Eagles Drive, Odessa

PALM HARBOR

Lansbrook Golf Club 727-784-7333
18 Holes, par 72, driving range lansbrook-golf.com
4605 Village Center Drive, Palm Harbor

Tarpon Woods Golf Club 727-784-7606
18 Holes, par 72, driving range tarponwoodsgc.com
1100 Tarpon Woods Boulevard, Palm Harbor

PALMETTO

★ **Moccasin Wallow Golf Club** 941-723-0500
18 holes, par 72, aqua driving range golfthemoc.com
9680 Buffalo Road, Palmetto 34221

PINELLAS PARK

★ **Mainlands Golf Club** 727-577-4847
18 Holes, par 67 mainlandsgolf.com
9445 Mainlands Boulevard West, Pinellas Park

ST. PETERSBURG

Cypress Links 727-551-3333
9 Holes, par 27 golfstpete.com/cypresslinks
875 62nd Avenue Northeast, St. Petersburg

Mangrove Bay Golf Course 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



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



Roseate Spoonbill
Long, flat spoon-shaped bill



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



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



Ibis
Probes for large insects on lawns



Sandpiper
Smallest Sandpiper known as "peeps"



Double-Crested Cormorant
Experts at diving to catch fish



Great White Egret
Strikes prey with a jab of their bill



Herring Gull
Special glands allow them to excrete salt



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



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



Laughing Gull
At beaches & parking lots waiting for food



Osprey
Nests on Poles, dead trees & channel markers



Black Skimmers
Drags lower bill through water for fish

Seaside Seabird Sanctuary
18328 Gulf Blvd.
Indian Shores
727-391-6211
seasidebirdsantuary.org
Admission & parking are FREE
Open Every Day 8 am - 4pm

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