

# Guide

## to Greater Tampa Bay

*> Inside:*  
**NEWCOMER/  
RELOCATION  
GUIDE**

SUPERB SCHOOLS,  
BOOMING BUSINESS,  
ENDLESS  
ENTERTAINMENT  
AND MORE

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YOU BE OUR  
Neighbor?**

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TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE IN  
GREATER TAMPA BAY

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W elcome to Greater Tampa Bay! Whether you are relocating your business, moving your family or deepening your roots in the Suncoast, I invite you to explore what makes Greater Tampa Bay a great place to live, work, learn, connect or play.

For me, GTB is the best of all those things. I was born and raised in the bay area. I attended the very first Bucs, Lightning and Rays games. I may have even spent a day or two (hundred) playing volleyball at the beach. GTB has both a business-friendly climate and a great quality of life. The accolades run off the page. TIME Magazine voted Tampa Bay one of the greatest places in the world. USA Today voted Tampa as one of the top 10 cities to start a business in the country. Money Magazine named us one of the top 10 best places to live in the US. Slacker ranked Clearwater the No. 2 city in America to retire, WalletHub voted Tampa the 6th Best Foodie City in America and St. Petersburg jumped more than 50 spots into the top 50. Wallet Hub also voted both Tampa (No. 2) and St Petersburg (No. 10) Best Places to Start a Business. It is consistently voted best place to work from home, best place to live, with top rated beaches (Caladesi Island No. 4 by Dr. Beach), a strong job market and top-rated health care. No matter what stage of life you are in, GTB is the right region to call home.

Our vision for Guide to Greater Tampa Bay is to be a true community resource. Our mission is to capture the essence of our diverse, inclusive, vibrant community and share it with the world. We celebrate the culture that makes the Greater Tampa Bay area special and explore what makes this region's heartbeat. Through our comprehensive guide, we provide insight and local perspective into every facet of life in Greater Tampa Bay.

We cater to newcomers, visitors and residents alike, covering Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco and parts of Manatee and Polk counties. We have partnered with numerous Chambers, Alliances and EDCs in the region, such as Amplify Clearwater, the Westshore Alliance, North Tampa Bay Chamber, St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce, Tampa Bay LGBT Chamber, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay and Tampa International Airport. This is important to share as community building takes collaboration.

Through collaboration with our partners and the local community, our dynamic team delivers the most up-to-date information, trends and stories that highlight everything Greater Tampa Bay has to offer - neighborhood and city information, schools and zoning, sports, health and wellness, dining and shopping, business, local news and much more.

Boasting top-rated colleges and universities, major attractions like Busch Gardens, stunning Gulf Coast



beaches, three major professional sports teams, a thriving arts scene and phenomenal architecture like the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, it is no wonder that the Greater Tampa Bay area consistently ranks as one of the best places in the U.S. to live. Tampa Bay is growing, becoming a major hub in the country for FinTech, Logistics and Transportation, Life Sciences, Marine Sciences, Advanced Manufacturing, Defense and Information Technology. We rank as a top market in the country for startups, veterans, seniors and families with pets.

I invite you to take your time and read our resource Guide, whether in print or online.

Greater Tampa Bay is a great place to live and raise a family. It is a great place to work and start a business or develop your career. It is a great place to play. There is nowhere else in the world quite like it.

SCOTT COSTELLO  
PUBLISHER

# Get the Skinny

## ENGAGING GREATER TAMPA BAY ACROSS ALL PLATFORMS

### SITE

Guide to Greater Tampa Bay is our versatile digital platform, packed with original content.



### SOCIAL

Our digital reach propels from our website.



### ANNUAL PRINT MAGAZINE

The Guide to Greater Tampa Bay is the most comprehensive multi-platform resource connecting 49 cities and towns in Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco and Pinellas counties, attracting audiences from within the region, and around the nation.

## Connect With Us Socially

Through regular posts on all of the major social media channels, we round out the story of the Greater Tampa Bay region. We point you to our favorite local resources for timely entertainment options, housing pulse, job opportunities, neighborhood happenings and moving tips.



## On The Cover

The Cuban Sandwich is quintessential Greater Tampa Bay fare. From perfectly pressed sandwiches to Michelin-starred Italian inspirations, the cuisine and dining here is unparalleled. Read more about the great food scene in GTB on page 94.



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TAMPA BAY, FL

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**T**his past year, I celebrated 20 years of living in the great city of Tampa. As a kid, I moved around a lot. As a teenager, I dreamed of a nomadic life. I never imagined I would stay put in one place for so long. That's

because I didn't know Greater Tampa Bay.

Like so many, I landed here as a wide-eyed college freshman. I knew nothing about the bay area, except that it was home to the University of South Florida, where I was set to begin my adult life. I learned quickly that GTB was not only an excellent choice for my education, but it was also a fantastic place to live. The more time I spent here, the more I could envision myself putting down roots.

And put down roots I did. After graduating from USF, I started my career here. I can think of no better place to do it than GTB. The ever-evolving business climate made it so that I was able to hone my skills as an entry-level editor, while providing endless opportunities for advancement as I grew in the profession. I hear similar experiences from many friends and professionals in vastly different fields. From tradesman to C-suite executives, GTB is a place of possibility.

It is also a place where business is perfectly balanced with pleasure. It is FUN to live here. Whether it's catching a Broadway show at the Straz Center or lounging with a great book on St. Pete Beach, there is no shortage of places to go and things to do. There is also a jam-packed calendar of events and happenings in GTB, one of my favorites being the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion— arrgh!!

As a mom of teenager and a tweenager, I can attest that GTB is also a pretty great place to raise a family. The schools are top-notch, the neighborhoods are inviting and the incredible weather means spending lots of time outside. Most of my peers and I are in what seems like the busiest seasons of our lives, but it is so reassuring to know that when the days eventually slow down, I'm still going to love living here.



I hope you find this year's edition of Guide to Greater Tampa Bay to be a clear and effective resource for everything you need to know about the area. Nothing could truly do GTB justice, but I like to think of this guide as a love letter to the place I never expected— and the place I can't imagine my life without. Forever home. Greater Tampa Bay.

*Laureen Young*

LAUREEN YOUNG, EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

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<sup>1</sup> T3/Inside Information Survey, Joel Bruckenstein and Bob Veres, May 2022, sponsored by AssetBook, Holistiplan, Advyzon, Addepar, and Fidelity Investments, T3/Inside Information Advisor Software Survey, Joel Bruckenstein and Bob Veres, March 2021, sponsored by Salesforce, and 2019 Software Survey, Joel Bruckenstein and Bob Veres, January 2019, sponsored by Orion Advisor Services and Morningstar, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Best Places to Work in Financial Technology, SourceMedia and Best Companies Group, February 2020, and Best Places to Work in Financial Technology, SourceMedia and Best Companies Group, March 2019. The Best Companies To Work For In Florida 2022 program is managed by Florida Trend and Workforce Research Group and is endorsed by the HR Florida State Council. Workforce Research Group managed the registration, survey and analysis and determined the final rankings.

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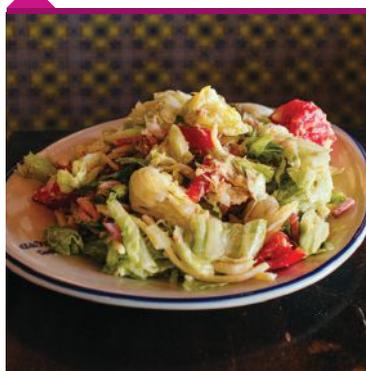


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# Why GREATER TAMPA BAY

BY FILIPPA MALMSTRÖM

**G**reater Tampa Bay is a place where dreams become reality. Those new to the area might wonder, “Why Greater Tampa Bay?” Beyond its famous beaches, energetic downtowns and incredible nature, Greater Tampa Bay offers spectacular opportunities for success like no other.

Whether one is seeking education, business opportunities or just a good time, GTB has it all. People from across the country come to this region for its quality education, vibrant business environment and career opportunities. The community is known for its strong connections and supportive neighbors. Whether one needs assistance with medical advancements or life-changing technologies, help can be found just down the street.

Strolling through downtown, the twinkling lights and buzzing

streets at night create a fairytale atmosphere. Students walk confidently into universities, knowing this is where their future begins. Warmth, a homey feel and happiness follow individuals wherever they go in GTB.

The Greater Tampa Bay region includes three counties and nearly 100 municipalities, each with its unique strengths and advantages. Pasco County, to the north, offers many bars, restaurants, coffee shops and parks. Pinellas County is to the west, and Hillsborough County is to the east. The big three

cities—Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Clearwater—are connected to make up the famous Tampa-St. Pete-Clearwater metro, the 18th-largest metropolitan area in the country. Residents take pride in being part of such a thriving community.

Greater Tampa Bay is conveniently located on Florida’s Gulf Coast. Newcomers will find connected cities in neighboring counties, including Bradenton in Manatee County, Spring Hill in Hernando County and Lakeland in Polk County.

## » A Happy, Healthy and Active Lifestyle

Greater Tampa Bay attracts millions of visitors each year, and 3 million people call it home. Thousands more move here annually to start new lives and create lasting memories. The community offers housing options to fit every lifestyle and budget, from luxurious waterfront condos to quaint countryside cottages.

The region's focus on health and wellness is evident in its outdoor and indoor activities. With multiple trails, residents can run, cycle and explore to their hearts' content. For those who need a bit of extra motivation, GTB offers kickboxing, CrossFit, cycling, Zumba and even goat yoga. There is something for everyone, from top athletes to beginners.

In case of emergencies, GTB's nationally ranked hospitals and healthcare systems provide top-notch care. The area's hospitals have a legacy of success and patient care, and they continue to advance in modern medicine.

## » Opportunities Abound

Greater Tampa Bay is an excellent place to start, run or relocate a business. The region is one of the best places for business growth, benefiting from its fast-growing metropolitan area and diverse industry sectors. Large corporations and entrepreneurs alike find inspiration here, thanks to the supportive business

community and opportunities for innovation.

The region's strategic location offers a significant advantage for businesses, with access to Florida's largest port, the Interstate 4 corridor and top-ranked international airports. Public-private partnerships, incentives, and tax advantages further support business development.

Greater Tampa Bay's educational system is dedicated to lifelong learning and personal success. With numerous top-ranked public and private institutions offering programs from pre-K to Ph.D., students have access to the tools they need to achieve their goals. The region's schools offer Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate curriculums, as well as opportunities in culinary arts, information technology and medical research.



## » An Unbeatable Area

Why do residents choose to stay in Greater Tampa Bay? Most would point to the natural beauty, attractions and entertainment. GTB offers access to unparalleled destinations with exciting nightlife, champion sports teams, delicious restaurants and unique experiences. For those seeking relaxation, the world-famous beaches provide a perfect escape.

The region's culture is colorful and vibrant, evident in its art, food, music and overall atmosphere. Greater Tampa Bay is a place of diversity and acceptance, where residents from all over the world share their cultures and learn from one another.

The team at Guide is here to provide all the answers to the question of what Greater Tampa Bay can provide, but the true essence of "Why Greater Tampa Bay?" is something one must experience for themselves. ■

# 1000

## THINGS TO DO

IN GREATER  
TAMPA BAY

**1**

Catch a live show at the **Central Park Performing Arts Center**

**2**

Enjoy snorkeling around **Egmont Key** and explore the underwater remains of **Fort Dade**, where fish gather on the sandy sea bottom and grass flats

**3**

Get in touch with nature and meet the birds of prey at the **Nature Center**

**4**

Take your friends to open mic night and sing your heart out at **Molly Malone's**

**5**

Treat yourself to everything kumquat and explore unique boutiques and delicious restaurants in **Dade City**



6

Watch a Broadway show at **Ruth Eckerd Hall** or the **Straz Center for the Performing Arts**

7

Visit **Largo Central Park** and take a free ride on the miniature train.

8

Walk through art from various centuries at the **Tampa Museum of Arts**

9

Visit **Curtis Hixon Park** for the free monthly **Rock the Park** music series

10

Animal lovers will love pony rides and trail rides at **HorsePower** for kids

11

Visit the **Clearwater Marine Aquarium** with rehabilitated native wildlife, including dolphins and sea turtles

12

A must-see is the “bending arc” sculpture by **Janet Echelman** at **St. Pete Pier**

13

Watch magical shows at **South Tampa’s Stageworks Theater** and **Powerstories Theater**



14

Enjoy fresh, self-picked strawberries at **3 Sons Farm**, **Spivey Farm** and **Blues Berry Farm**

15

Embrace all the emotions while axe-throwing at **Clearwater’s Hatchet Hangout**

16

Spend the day tree climbing at **Treehoppers Aerial Adventure Park**

17

Take a guided run or jog a half marathon with **Go! Running Tours Tampa**

18

Cheer on the Stanley Cup-winning **Tampa Bay Lightning** at **Amalie Arena**

19

Share support, love and acceptance at the annual **St. Pete Pride Festival**

20

Bring the kids to **Water Works** to enjoy the splash pad or playground

21

If you are looking an adrenaline rush, take a thrilling free-fall at **Skydive City in Zephyrhills**

22

Kayak or paddleboard through **Hillsborough River**, **Alafia River** or **Little Manatee River**

23

At **Giraffe Ranch**, choose from the **Segway Safari** or the **Camelback Expedition**

24

Fly through the sky on a helicopter tour and see **GTB** from above

25

Take the **Black Business Bus Tour** and support Black-owned jewelry stores, Realtors and more

26

At **Two Shepherds Taproom**, enjoy a beer or seltzer while the dog plays off-leash



27

Catch a tour of the wine cellar at **Bern’s Steak House**





**28**

Head to **Jackson's Bistro Bar & Sushi** for a Sunday Brunch on the waterfront

**32**

Discover some unique finds at **Mezzo Market**, a monthly street market in St. Pete

**36**

Tour **Sweet Blossom Alpaca Farm** and be surrounded by cute alpacas

**40**

Fill up on vegan fare with a pizza at **Florish** in South Tampa

**43**

Grab a bite at **Sponge Docks** in Tarpon Springs and enjoy authentic Greek fare



**37**

Walk among giants, dig for fossils or interact with other exhibits at **Dinosaur World**

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Explore the beautiful paths of **Florida's Botanical Gardens'** 150 acres, filled with stunning gardens

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Try a new kombucha flavor at **Flower Crown**, like Mexican hippie

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Ladies, come together for a friendly golf game at the **Ladies Executive Golf Society**

**52**

Share a kiss with a gator at the **Alligator & Wildlife Discovery Center**

**53**

Race against friends and family in indoor go-kart racing at **K1 Speed**

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Head down to **Whiskey Joe's Bar and Grill** for a relaxing waterfront cocktail

**55**

Learn circus arts, including silks, trapeze, aerial hammock and dance at **Aerial Dragons Studios**

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Create your own candle scent at **The Candle Pour**

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Watch paddle racing at the Tampa Bay International **Dragon Boat Festival** in Garrison Channel

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Take a ride on the newest coaster, **Phoenix Rising** at **Busch Gardens**



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Sip through any of the numerous craft beer tours in downtown St. Pete

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Soccer Fans: Catch a **Tampa Bay Rowdies** game at St. Petersburg's historic **Al Lang Field**



**64**

Take an adventure with **Crystal River Watersports** through catboat tours

**65**

See a movie screening, live theatre, comedy or music performance at **Tampa Theatre**



**66**

Enjoy intense music and rock out at the outdoor concert venue **MidFlorida Credit Union Amphitheatre**

**67**

Go on a two-hour zipline experience over **Mobbly Bayou Wilderness Preserve** at **Empower Adventures**

**68**

Spend the day fishing at **Bag 'em fishing charters** in Tampa Bay

**69**

Visit 135 years of bat-swinging history at the **Tampa Baseball Museum**

**70**

Attend one of Zephyrhills many fun events, like the **Main Street Market** or the **Sip & Stroll Art Walk**

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Feel the rush of **The Bay Rocket**, the newest jet boat thrill ride

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Go gator-watching and see incredible wildlife at **Sawgrass Lake Park** or **Chestnut Park**

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Have a bite, enjoy a cocktail and play a round of mini golf at **Pop Stroke** in Wesley Chapel

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Find cute pieces or enjoy fun events at **Sunshine Market** and **Sunset Market**



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Spot roosters strolling along the streets in **Ybor City**

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Play the part of a pirate and parade down Bayshore for the annual **Gasparilla Pirate Festival**

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Try some of the Bay's best foods at the **Taste of South Tampa Festival**

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Experience the real deal in **Ybor City** and puff on a Cuban Cigar

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Find a new favorite coffee spot. Try a latte at **Bay Coffee and Tea Company**

**80**

Taste the yummy Greek staple ouzo at **Tarpon Springs Distillery**



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Touch stingrays in the 1,000-gallon tank through the Rays Touch Experience at **Tropicana Field**

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Bring the family to the **Museum of Science and Industry** to see awe-inspiring exhibits

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Breathe easy at **Coastline Salt Room** in New Port Richey



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Celebrate one of the state's best events at the Florida **Strawberry Festival** in Plant City.

94

Attend a workshop, host an event or satisfy that plant fix at **Wild Roots**

99

Visit **Aspirations Winery** and taste one of the 30-plus hand-crafted, low-sulfite wines

95

Try a variety of food and play life size chess at **Armature Works**

86

Explore **Meacham Urban Farm** and learn about the farm's modern technological innovations



91

Walk through 100-year-old **Sunken Gardens** with the oldest tropical plants in St. Pete

96

On a hot day, head to **Zephyr Park & Waterplay**

100

Learn and admire the architecture and artwork of multiple creators at the **Dali Museum**



83

Bike or run the 45-mile **Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail** or the **Upper Tampa Bay Trail**

87

Take the kids to the Peppa Pig theme park at **LEGOLAND® Florida**

92

Enjoy seafood at **Frenchy's, Paradise Grille** or **400 Beach Seafood & Tap House**

97

Take a jog down the 4 ½-mile-long sidewalk on **Bayshore Boulevard**

# — WON'T YOU BE OUR NEIGHBOR

INTRO TO COMMUNITIES IN GREATER TAMPA BAY

BY BREANNA GALLO

**F**or the residents of Greater Tampa Bay, the enchanting sight of a shimmering skyline reflecting off the bay during sunset serves as a breathtaking reminder of why they love to live in the Gulf Coast's most brilliant gem. The perfect place to call home, Greater Tampa Bay encompasses a collection of vibrant, unique cities and communities nestled around the bay and beyond.

Access to fine dining, luxurious living spaces and a bustling business scene has never been easier. The nightlife in this region is also bursting with energy.

The increasingly popular “live, work, play” model can be found in many GTB communities,

catering to modern professionals seeking convenience and quality in every aspect of their lives. In recent years, the GTB area has witnessed the emergence of numerous luxury apartments and condos, offering upscale amenities and convenient living. The Tampa-Clearwater-St. Petersburg metropolitan areas

present a growing array of these all-in-one neighborhoods that combine proximity to the city with a warm and neighborly atmosphere.

Greater Tampa Bay is home to a diverse mix of residents. While it attracts record numbers of energetic, young professionals each year, the region is also





the perfect destination for those in their golden years who are keen to enjoy the peaceful beauty of the bay. As cliché as it may sound, there truly is something for everyone here. Whether it is picturesque beaches or manicured golf courses, top-ranked universities, a thriving economy for pursuing success or tranquil neighborhoods with highly regarded school districts for raising a family, GTB has it all.

Countless attractions await around every corner, including festivals, concerts, outdoor activities and cultural events. Professional sports teams, world-class museums and state parks contribute to the exceptional quality of life, offering more than just a place to call home but a place to embrace life to the fullest. ■

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Downtown Living

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Live. Work. Play.



# COUNTIES

## AT A GLANCE

BY SIMONE FLANIGAN

### » Hillsborough County

**Population:** 1.5+ million

**Area:** 1,020 sq. mi.

Hillsborough County, the largest county in both population and land area, offers a mix of urban, suburban and rural communities, stunning natural landscapes and renowned attractions. It is also home to the thriving city of Tampa, which serves as the county seat and houses the majority of its residents.

One of Hillsborough County's standout qualities is its cultural richness, manifested through a combination of historical significance and modern influences. The region's vibrant arts scene coexists with successful sports teams, creating a diverse and engaging environment. The county's highly regarded school district and prestigious institutions, like the University of South Florida and the University of Tampa, provide excellent education to all students.

The emergence of live, work, play communities like Water Street near downtown and Midtown in the Westshore District has redefined urban living, while a mixture of beautification efforts



Clearwater Beach

and planned neighborhoods dominate the suburban living experience in Hillsborough County.

### » Pinellas County

**Population:** 960,000+

**Area:** 608 sq. mi.

Within Pinellas County's boundaries lie two renowned cities, Clearwater and St. Petersburg, each with its own vibrant and unique personality. For a laid-back lifestyle, Pinellas is also home to charming towns like Safety

Harbor, Dunedin and Tarpon Springs. Natural wonders like Egmont Key, Honeymoon Island and Philippe Park showcase awe-inspiring beauty.

Widely celebrated for its world-class beaches, exceptional dining options, vibrant nightlife, thriving arts districts and captivating attractions, Pinellas County epitomizes the notion of living where others choose to vacation. Additionally, the county has fostered a business-friendly environment, attracting companies in the financial

Downtown Tampa





Bradenton Beach

technology and manufacturing sectors.

While new apartment complexes have emerged in the major cities, single-family houses remain the prevalent style of living. The community benefits from low crime rates, highly ranked schools and affordable housing options.

St. Petersburg has undergone a remarkable downtown revitalization in recent years. Initiatives like the Grow Smarter Initiative demonstrate the city's commitment to equitable economic growth. Noteworthy developments, such as the St. Pete Pier revitalization, have further enhanced the city's appeal.

Clearwater, the county seat, has also experienced a renaissance. Thanks to Imagine Clearwater, Coachman Park, located along the downtown waterfront, has been updated to a pristine outdoor recreation space. In the summer of 2023, magnificent outdoor music venue The Sound was unveiled. Clearwater is also home to Clearwater Aquarium and spring training for the Philadelphia Phillies.

## » Pasco County

**Population:** 580,000+

**Area:** 868 sq. mi.

Pasco County has experienced remarkable growth in recent years. It boasts a distinctive blend of rural and developed areas, perfectly embodying its county motto: "Open Spaces. Vibrant Places."

Pasco County is renowned for

its excellent schools, friendly and community-oriented environment, as well as its abundance of nature preserves. It offers an ideal balance for those seeking a small-town lifestyle without sacrificing access to big-city amenities.

For outdoor enthusiasts and active individuals, Pasco County is a haven of adventure. Lush wildlife preserves like the Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park provide nature lovers with ample opportunities for biking, hiking and various sports activities. Waterfront relaxation and engaging activities are integral to Pasco County. Attractions Durney Key and Anclote River Park solidify the county's reputation as a cherished part of the Nature Coast.

## SURROUNDING COUNTIES:

### » Manatee County

**Population:** 413,000+

**Area:** 893 sq. mi.

The relaxed Florida lifestyle is embodied in Manatee County. The warm climate, palm-lined streets and slower pace of life create a tranquil environment for those seeking a more relaxed way of living. Renowned for its beautiful Gulf Coast beaches, residents have ample opportunities to experience sun-soaked days, water sports and breathtaking sunsets. Outdoor enthusiasts will appreciate the many parks, nature reserves, and waterways for activities like boating, fishing, hiking

and birdwatching. With a year-round mild climate, residents can enjoy the outdoors any time of the year.

Notable spots in Manatee County include the beautiful beachy hideaway, Anna Maria Island, as well as the City of Bradenton, where the annual Bradenton Blues Festival and popular weekly farmer's market take place.

### » Polk County

**Population:** 753,000+

**Area:** 2011 sq. mi.

Polk County's central location in Florida offers convenient access to major cities like Orlando and Tampa, making it a hub for entertainment, employment and travel opportunities.

With its diverse array of outdoor activities, Polk County ensures that nature enthusiasts can fully embrace the beauty of the great outdoors. Residents can explore the scenic trails of Circle B Bar Reserve in Lakeland, anglers enjoy the Chain of Lakes in Winter Haven and for equestrian lovers, there is Lake Wales Ridge State Forest.

The Florida Strawberry Festival in Plant City is a well-known celebration of the region's strawberry harvest, while the Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo in Lakeland caters to aviation enthusiasts.

With a strong sense of community, rich cultural heritage and proximity to major cities and attractions, Polk County encapsulates the perfect blend of charm, convenience and a captivating ambiance. ■

# COMMUNITY CITIES: **THE HEARTBEAT** OF GREATER TAMPA BAY

BY JENNIFER KENNEDY

**T**he Greater Tampa Bay area is going through an impressive growth spurt, becoming one of the fastest-growing regions in the United States. It includes a mix of lively city centers, bustling downtown areas, beautiful coastal towns, friendly suburbs, charming small towns and

peaceful rural neighborhoods, catering to an unending variety of lifestyles.

Each unique locale adds to the vibrant personality of Greater Tampa Bay. Read on for a look at some of the area's many diverse communities.

## » Bradenton

Situated in Manatee County, just beyond the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, Bradenton is known as the Friendly City. Remarkably, despite substantial population growth in recent decades, Bradenton has successfully preserved its small-town ambiance.

Noteworthy attractions within Bradenton include **Anna Maria Island**, the **South Florida Museum** and the captivating **Village of the Arts**, a collection of refurbished historic houses transformed into art studios and small businesses. The suburban areas of Bradenton are particularly popular among families due to their schools and affordable housing options. Ascending as a flourishing city, Bradenton offers convenient access to the Tampa Bay area while maintaining its distinct charm.

## » Brandon

Known for its excellent schools, pleasant neighborhoods and strategic location, Brandon is



**De Soto National Park, Bradenton**

a rapidly growing community situated 13 miles southeast of downtown Tampa. Thanks to its location along the Interstate 4 corridor, Brandon offers easy access to both Tampa and Orlando, making commutes to these cities convenient for its 100,000 residents.

With a family-friendly atmosphere and a mix of popular chain stores and local businesses, Brandon has become an impressive city within the Greater Tampa Bay area. It caters to the diverse needs and preferences of its residents and is one of the largest cities in Greater Tampa Bay. ➤



## » Clearwater

Stretching from Tampa Bay to the Gulf Coast, Clearwater is one of the biggest cities in Greater Tampa Bay. It is located to the west of Tampa and to the north of St. Petersburg, making it a perfect middle ground between the two cities. Clearwater embodies the beach town spirit, known for its lively and relaxed lifestyle, offering a variety of tempting restaurants, nightlife options and exciting water activities.

Clearwater is attractive to a diverse range of people, including both young individuals and retirees. The city features a mix of single-family homes, condos and apartments, creating a dynamic blend of urban and suburban living. Additionally, Clearwater is conveniently located near the Tampa International and St. Pete-Clearwater International airports, with easy access to major highways like I-4 and I-75.

Tourism is a thriving industry in Clearwater, drawing young workers from across the country during its busy months. Notable attractions in Clearwater include the famous **Clearwater Marine Aquarium**, **BayCare Ballpark** where the Philadelphia Phillies hold spring training games, and activities like deep-sea fishing, shell hunting and dolphin watching.

## » Dade City

Nestled within the picturesque rolling hills of northeast Pasco County lies a hidden treasure awaiting discovery. Prepare for extraordinary experiences found nowhere else, whether it's embarking on a camel ride alongside giraffes, soaring through a forest canopy on a thrilling zipline adventure, participating in a captivating haunted-history tour or relishing a leisurely bike ride through scenic hills and trails.

Dade City boasts an array of exclusive dining establishments, captivating museums and charming



Downtown  
Dunedin

boutiques, all set amidst the vibrant backdrop of a historic downtown that exudes the authentic essence of Old Florida.

## » Dunedin

Located just north of Clearwater, Dunedin is a captivating coastal town with proud Scottish roots. Established in 1899 and named Dùn Èideann, the Gaelic term for Edinburgh, the city embraces its heritage by hosting the annual **Scottish Highland Games** and through Dunedin Middle and Dunedin High schools' enchanting pipe and drum bands.

Nearby, expansive bay waters provide a serene backdrop, while **Caladesi Island State Park** on the neighboring barrier island preserves much of the pristine coastline, offering awe-inspiring views, particularly during sunset.

Dunedin is known for its welcoming atmosphere, tranquil single-family home neighborhoods, proximity to **Honeymoon Island State Park** and a captivating array of local attractions.



## » Indian Shores & Indian Rocks Beach

Experience a nostalgic journey through time in the enchanting communities of Indian Rocks Beach and Indian Shores, where the essence of Old Florida thrives. Spanning nearly three miles of pristine coastline along the sparkling Gulf of Mexico, these coastal communities boast breathtaking beaches and mesmerizing sunsets to visitors from across the globe.

These under-the-radar beaches hold the distinction of being ranked among the top 10 in the Greater Tampa Bay area. With 27 beach access points along **Gulf Boulevard**,

leisurely strolls along the tranquil shoreline are the perfect way to enjoy the hidden gems of Indian Rocks Beach and Indian Shores.

## » Lakeland

Lakeland offers a captivating blend of charm and modern appeal. Historically a hub for the citrus, cattle and phosphate industries, this city is now a burgeoning metropolitan area, boasting a vibrant culinary scene and exciting nightlife.

Remnants of its early years are preserved in the city's historic quarters, such as the **Munn Park Historic District** and the **Beacon Hill-Alta Vista Residential District**. Today, the city offers an attractive combination of affordable single-

family homes, excellent schools, serene lakes, picturesque parks and tranquil neighborhoods. This makes it an ideal destination for young families starting their journey and retirees seeking a peaceful and fulfilling lifestyle.

## » Land O'Lakes

The desirable lake community north of Tampa attracts families looking for low crime and top-rated schools. Located in Pasco County, Land O'Lakes boasts an abundance of natural habitats, lakes, ponds, forests, parks and wetland conservation areas.

Residents can enjoy outdoor recreational opportunities, such as biking, jogging and fishing while surrounded by beautiful scenery. ▶



John's Pass  
Seafood  
Festival,  
Madiera Beach

The **Conner Preserve** has over 15 miles of trails for hiking or mountain biking.

Land O'Lakes offers a small-town atmosphere with many luxurious housing options. Tampa commuters appreciate the proximity to the city with the benefits of suburban living.

Upper-class neighborhoods have golf courses and master-planned resort-style communities feature special amenities. Stop in the **Land of Lakes Winery** for a toast with friends or the **Thirsty Buffalo Brewing Company** for a high-quality craft beer.

## » Largo

Largo, the fourth-largest city in Greater Tampa Bay, experienced a significant surge in population and development after World War II, solidifying its place on the map. Presently known as the City of Progress, Largo embraces its historical roots while constantly forging ahead.

With a blend of urban and suburban living, Largo caters to young professionals through its thriving businesses and the presence of a **St. Petersburg College** campus. Housing options are affordable, and the community has witnessed substantial growth in recent years. Largo provides excellent access to the **Pinellas Trail**, making it a favored destination for walking, hiking and biking enthusiasts.

## » Lutz

Located fifteen miles north of Tampa, Lutz falls in Hillsborough County with a small portion of the town in Pasco County.

This family friendly community hosts a free annual **Fourth of July Celebration** with a parade of floats, baking contests, a kids' zone and vendor market. Community leaders compete for the title of Lutz Guv'na, a philanthropic tradition dating back to the 1950s. The goodwill campaigns raise thousands of dollars for local nonprofits each year.

Lutz is home to the scenic **Brooker Creek Headwaters Nature Preserve**, one of the largest areas of

contiguous natural wildlife habitat and wetlands in Hillsborough County.

## » Madeira Beach

Madeira Beach captivates with its pristine white sand beaches and crystal-clear waters on the Gulf of Mexico. Located just west of St. Petersburg, this beach city is renowned for its charming **John's Pass Village and Boardwalk**. The village offers a delightful assortment of shops, eateries and a 1,100-foot boardwalk along the Intracoastal waterway.

Stretching over two miles, Madeira Beach lures sun lovers and sea enthusiasts alike. A highlight of the city is the **Seafood Festival** at John's Pass, held annually in October, drawing thousands of visitors to revel in the festive celebration of delectable food, live music and vibrant arts and crafts.

## » New Port Richey

New Port Richey has experienced a remarkable transformation from its retirement-centric past to embrace a more youthful demographic. The city's Main Street has undergone a vibrant revival, featuring trendy bars, cafes and restaurants that exemplify its modernization.

New Port Richey still maintains its small-town charm, offering delightful parks, nature preserves, excellent schools and affordable

Plant  
City



Grand Prix,  
St. Pete

housing options. These factors create an idyllic environment for families and individuals seeking the warmth of a close-knit community. New Port Richey has found a harmonious balance between progress and preserving its welcoming, family-oriented atmosphere, making it a dynamic and inviting place to call home.

## » Oldsmar

Located between vibrant metropolitan Tampa and the renowned white sand beaches of the Gulf Coast, Oldsmar boasts a distinct and vibrant identity, with range of local attractions, such as **Tampa Bay Downs**, the **Oldsmar BMX track** and the **Tampa Bay Skating Academy**.

The City of Oldsmar features beautifully landscaped streets, one-of-a-kind restaurants, shopping opportunities and a calendar filled with special events. Oldsmar embraces the quintessential ambiance of GTB, offering its residents and visitors the very best of the region's charm throughout the year.

## » Palm Harbor

North of Dunedin lies Palm Harbor, a Pinellas County

community renowned for its hilly landscapes, a rarity in Florida. Palm Harbor provides a serene escape from the bustling city life of nearby Tampa and St. Petersburg. The area boasts lovely parks, picturesque trails and scenic countryside, allowing residents to immerse themselves in the natural beauty at their leisure.

The **Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club** hosts the renowned **Valspar Championship**, a highly anticipated annual event that attracts visitors from all around the globe. Additionally, Palm Harbor celebrates local cuisine through the popular **Taste of Palm Harbor** festival, which offers a delightful culinary experience for attendees.

## » Plant City

Once known primarily as an agricultural center, Plant City has evolved into a thriving manufacturing hub in recent years, mirroring the entrepreneurial spirit of its namesake.

Nestled along the I-4 corridor between Tampa and Lakeland, this community fully embraces its rustic charm. The annual **Florida Strawberry Festival** stands out as a popular event, drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors. The city

also boasts numerous farm stands and markets, showcasing delectable homemade foods and locally grown produce. Additionally, the excitement of **Plant High School Football** games fills the air, as triumphant wins are joyously celebrated by the community.

## » Pinellas Park

With a population of just over 55,000 residents, Pinellas Park boasts a diverse range of neighborhood parks and recreational facilities. Among them is an equestrian park with extensive trails, catering to the vibrant equestrian community here. Adding to the community's vibrancy is the **Pinellas Arts Village**, where artists come together to showcase their talents.

Pinellas Park's economy thrives on educational services, healthcare, retail, manufacturing and a variety of small businesses. It has become a favored destination for young professionals and new families seeking a place to call home. The community's highly rated schools and housing options further contribute to its appeal.

## » Riverview

Riverview is one of the fastest-growing areas in Greater Tampa Bay. Amidst this growth, this suburb of Tampa offers beautiful natural spaces like the **Bell Creek Nature Preserve** and the manatee sanctuary at the **Big Bend Power Station**, visible from **Tampa Electric's Manatee Viewing Center**.

Riverview is family-friendly with excellent schools, affordable housing and suburban developments. Its proximity to Tampa makes it even more appealing. Alongside Brandon, Riverview is the newest addition to Greater Tampa Bay and is increasingly becoming a sought-after place to live.

## » Safety Harbor

The upscale community of Safety Harbor is located in Pinellas County on the northwest shore of Tampa Bay. The walkable, bicycle-friendly and ▶

quaint downtown is full of shops and restaurants.

The St. Petersburg suburb has a new 13-acre waterfront park along picturesque Tampa Bay. Residents enjoy visiting the beautiful marina and fishing pier or relaxing at the nearby world-class **Safety Harbor Resort and Spa**.

## » Spring Hill

Spring Hill is an enchanting destination brimming with adventure. Nestled on Florida's Adventure Coast, it offers a plethora of activities for outdoor enthusiasts. Residents can indulge in scalloping, kayaking, diving, paddleboarding, biking, hiking nature trails and even catch a glimpse of manatees or mermaids at **Weeki Wachee Springs State Park**.

This hidden gem is a haven for those seeking family fun, rich history, warm Southern hospitality and vibrant local culture. Thanks to the Suncoast Parkway, Spring Hill enjoys easy access to Tampa, enabling both tourists and residents to plan exciting day trips along Florida's picturesque west coast.

## » St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg captures the hearts of newcomers and lifers alike with its vibrant atmosphere. Consistently ranked as one of the best places for work, fun and business, this city has become a magnet for those seeking a fulfilling lifestyle.

As the Sunshine City, St. Pete boasts a remarkable record of 768 consecutive days of sunshine, earning its well-deserved nickname. The city has garnered numerous accolades, including being recognized as one of the best weekend getaways, the most dog-friendly city in America, the best-run city in Florida and one of the most inclusive coastal destinations.

With over 100 neighborhoods, St. Petersburg stands as one of the largest urban centers in the GTB region. The downtown area serves as the city's business district, with a vibrant mix of apartments and condos. It's bustling



Gasparilla,  
Tampa

with shops, bars, restaurants, walkable breweries and a thriving nightlife scene. The newly designed **St. Pete Pier** offers breathtaking views and serves as a testament to the area's natural beauty.

Art and culture thrive in St. Petersburg. The world-renowned **Salvador Dalí Museum** showcases the masterpieces of the surrealist painter, attracting art enthusiasts from around the globe. The annual **Grand Prix of St. Petersburg** transforms the streets into a thrilling IndyCar racetrack. The city hosts an array of art festivals, sporting events and celebrations throughout the year, ensuring that residents and visitors are constantly engaged and entertained.

St. Pete's diverse neighborhoods offer a variety of single-family homes and highly rated schools, making it an attractive place to raise a family. Young professionals will find this progressive and inclusive city to be a welcoming environment for launching their careers. With its unique blend of urban and suburban areas, St. Petersburg appeals to individuals at all stages of life and from various backgrounds.

## » Tampa

Tampa, known by various nicknames like Cigar City, The Big Guava and the City on the Bay, embodies the essence of the Florida lifestyle. This rapidly growing metropolitan area captivates locals

and tourists with its renowned restaurants, world-class museums, picturesque parks, esteemed universities, lively nightlife and stunning scenery.

Downtown Tampa, with its thriving business district, offers a plethora of activities for young professionals and students. The **Channel District** and upscale **Davis Islands** neighborhoods buzz with culture and vibrancy. **SoHo/Hyde Park** exudes a charming village atmosphere during the day and transforms into a lively party hub at night.

The unparalleled **Water Street** development, situated along the expansive downtown waterfront near the **Amalie Arena** and **Tampa Riverwalk**, is gaining national attention. This walkable neighborhood promotes wellness and productivity, boasting unique and sustainable community concepts. With high-rise residential buildings, office spaces catering to various industries and a wealth of dining, shopping and entertainment options, Water Street provides an exciting environment to live, work, play and indulge in culinary delights.

Historic South Tampa delights with its charming restaurants, boutique shops and residential areas nestled amidst beautiful green

spaces like **Ballast Point Park** and **Cypress Point Park**. **Ybor City**, a cultural and historical gem, reflects its Cuban influence through its architecture, cuisine and vibrant nightlife. The **Westshore District**, surrounding the Tampa International Airport, thrives as a business center and is home to the **International Plaza**, a shopping and dining destination showcasing Tampa's signature culinary experiences.

Education is paramount in Tampa, with esteemed institutions like the **University of South Florida** and the **University of Tampa** shaping the city's intellectual landscape. Surrounding Tampa, suburban neighborhoods predominantly consist of single-family housing developments, townhomes and condos. The presence of highly rated schools further establishes Tampa as an ideal place for families to grow.

With all the amenities expected of a major city, coupled with its unique diversity and vibrant energy, Tampa embodies the spirit of a forward-looking metropolis that embraces the best of tomorrow.

## » Tarpon Springs

Located on the Gulf Coast, the charming city of Tarpon Springs,

known as the “sponge capital of the world,” is rich in history. The city was named for the fish found by the sponge divers that settled on the waterfront community in the 1900s.

Today, Greek eateries and the iconic sponge docks surrounded by beautiful landscapes pay tribute to the city's Greek heritage.

The downtown center is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Art galleries, antique stores and specialty shops adorn the brick streets giving the area a small-town feel.

Residents enjoy 51 miles of beautiful waterfront with many beaches and parks ideal for fishing, boating and kayaking. The **Tarpon Springs Performing Arts and Cultural Center** provides residents with theater, art exhibits, historical programs and concerts.

## » Trinity

The up-and-coming Trinity area is considered part of New Port Richey in Pasco County. Located just north of the Pinellas and Hillsborough County borders, the fast-growing community is ideal for Tampa commuters.

The vibrant town is full of private gated communities, named neighborhoods, shopping and restaurants. Trinity has excellent schools, beautiful parks, affordable

homes and world-class golf courses.

The popular **Trinity Farmer's Market** allows local farmers, artisans, businesses and nonprofits to share their products and services on the first Saturday of each month. Residents also enjoy **Starkey's**, a boutique produce market and blueberry farm offering groceries, ice cream, beer and wine.

## » Wesley Chapel

Wesley Chapel is a thriving community north of Tampa, conveniently located near Interstate 75. This area has experienced remarkable growth, with numerous new housing developments springing up in recent years, bringing vitality to what was once a sparsely populated suburb.

In 2022, **Tampa Premium Outlets** opened and now stands as a beloved outdoor shopping center, offering a wide selection of shopping options. The **Center of the Arts** is a cultural highlight, showcasing local theater productions, art exhibitions and educational classes. Wesley Chapel embraces diversity, fosters a strong sense of community and embodies a growth-oriented mindset, making it an ideal destination for individuals of all ages. ■

Cuban Sandwich Festival, Tampa



Downtown  
St. Petersburg

# COME ON BABY, LET'S GO DOWNTOWN

BY RYAN WALSH

## The Downtown Districts of Greater Tampa Bay

**D**owntown living is irresistible in Greater Tampa Bay. Picture a world of apartments, condos and townhomes that bring a touch of VIP to the bustling city scenes found here. Fantastic dining, shopping sprees and hopping nightlife are just steps from home. Luxurious swimming pools, rooftop lounges and friendly concierge teams are available round the clock. No need for tedious gym commutes – fitness centers are just an

elevator ride away. Remote workers? Shared workspaces cooler than any favorite hangout make even the daily grind a pleasure.

Greater Tampa Bay has it all – beachfront condos in Clearwater and high-rise luxury in downtown St. Petersburg. Downtown Tampa offers everything from upscale studios to sprawling condos. Live the high life with boat slips, dog parks and rooftop pools that are swankier than a red-carpet event. Wake up to views that will leave you breathless and dive into city living like a pro.

## » Downtown Tampa

Living in downtown Tampa means living in the heart of a lively city with a mix of modern and historic vibes. The skyline along the Hillsborough River is a blend of sleek high-rises and charming landmarks. Residents can explore diverse food spots, from cool new places to time-tested favorites. **The Riverwalk** is a scenic path connecting parks, museums and entertainment spots. With a vibrant arts scene and frequent events, there is always something going on at **Curtis Hixon Park**. Whether it is catching a movie at **Tampa Theatre** or hanging out at **Armature Works**, downtown Tampa is the place to be.

### DOWNTOWN TAMPA DISTRICTS:

#### CHANNEL DISTRICT

– Few places in Greater Tampa Bay have seen development quite like the Channel District. **Sparkman Wharf**, with its culinary selections, outdoor lawn and seating, bars, bowling alley and much more, is the place of all places to hang out with friends on a warm weekend afternoon. **Amalie Arena** is within walking distance, as are the **Florida Aquarium** and **Tampa Bay History Center**. It is perfect for date nights, family outings and **Tampa Bay Lightning** tailgates.

#### DOWNTOWN RIVER ARTS

– This is the

epicenter of Tampa's cultural scene. Catch a show at the **Straz Center** or **Tampa Theater**, fall in love with modern masterpieces at the **Tampa Museum of Art** or take in the scenic waterfront at the entrance to Tampa's famed **Riverwalk**. Other attractions include the **Glazer Children's Museum** and the **Florida Museum of Photographic Arts**.

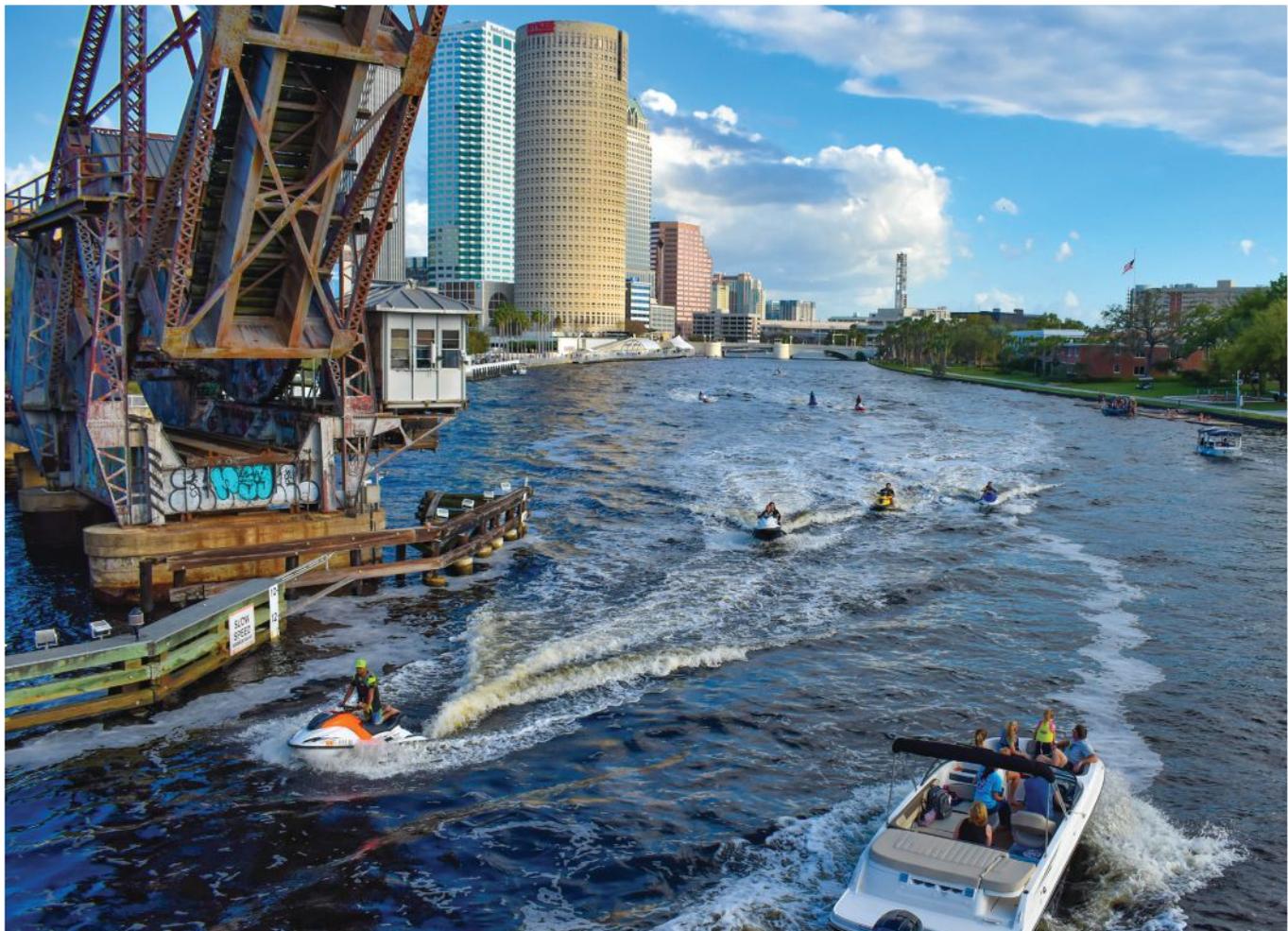
#### WATER STREET

– Sleek, modern and green, Water Street was built to be explored on foot. Public art installations grace the district, adding to the contemporary feel. Fine dining can be

experienced at over a dozen restaurants, while new luxury apartments, condos and hotels help elevate the growing district.

#### UNIVERSITY

– Retaining the classic collegiate feel, this area is home to the **University of Tampa** campus. Converted from **Henry Plant's Tampa Bay Hotel**, the distinctive architecture of UT's campus buildings melds old Florida with new. The area offers restaurants, bars and retail shops within walking distance of the school, including the iconic social media favorite **Oxford Exchange**.



## St. Pete Pier



## » Downtown St. Petersburg

Those who call downtown St. Petersburg home know what it is like to be immersed in a vibrant mix of arts, history and coastal charm. With its scenic waterfront along Tampa Bay, the area seamlessly combines modern architecture with well-preserved landmarks. Residents enjoy a variety of dining choices, from hip eateries to cozy cafes. The famous St. Pete Pier is a go-to spot for relaxation and fun, and Central Avenue buzzes with boutique shops and galleries. Whether it is cultural events, museums or a lively nightlife, downtown St. Petersburg has something for everyone.

## DOWNTOWN ST. PETERSBURG DISTRICTS:

### WATERFRONT ARTS

– The name says it all. Sitting along the edge of the bay is the celebrated **Salvador Dalí Museum**, a St. Petersburg staple since 1982. Other galleries include the **Museum of Fine Arts**, the **St. Petersburg Museum of History** and the **American Stage Theater Company**.

### CENTRAL ARTS

– Considered the birth of St. Pete’s arts scene, the Central Arts district is famous for its many captivating public murals. The work of local artists is displayed at the **Morean Arts Center**, the **Chihuly Collection** and **Florida CraftArt**. Also of note is the powerful and somber **Florida Holocaust Museum**.

**EDGE** – A fascinating reinvention of historical downtown St. Petersburg, **EDGE** is known for locally owned businesses and restaurants. The name itself is an acronym of what it has to offer – Entertainment, Dining, Galleries/Shops, Etcetera.

**GRAND CENTRAL** – The Grand Central District is renowned for its collection of restaurants and hotspots, as well as its open and welcoming atmosphere. Declaring itself the birthplace of St. Pete Pride, this district is a haven for the LGBTQ+ community.

**WAREHOUSE ARTS** – An industrial park turned artistic wonderland, the Warehouse

Arts District is home to large galleries, studios and workshops. Breweries abound here, with **3 Daughters**, **Bayboro** and **Kozuba & Sons** among the most prominent.

**PIER** – One of the newest downtown locales, the **St. Pete Pier** is always a hub of activity. Featuring parks, artwork and fantastic restaurants and bars, the Pier offers more than a literal view of what St. Pete has to offer.

**MLK BUSINESS** – With a focus on supporting local neighborhoods and businesses, this district is well-known for its community involvement. Iconic spots include **Gypsy Soul Coffeehouse**, the **Mize Gallery** and **Sun State Yoga**.

## » Downtown Clearwater

Downtown Clearwater offers a laid-back coastal lifestyle with a blend of small-town charm and seaside allure. Nestled along the Gulf of Mexico, the cityscape combines historic architecture with modern developments. Residents enjoy a relaxed atmosphere, strolling along Cleveland Street's boutiques and cafes. The waterfront, featuring Coachman Park and the Clearwater Marina, provides scenic spots for recreation. With a mix of cultural events, outdoor activities and a close-knit community, downtown Clearwater attracts those seeking a serene yet engaging living experience. The city's coastal beauty, friendly vibe and range of amenities make it an appealing destination for those looking to call it home.

### DOWNTOWN CLEARWATER DISTRICTS:

**CLEVELAND STREET** – Clearwater has seen a great revitalization in recent years, most notably in its Cleveland Street District. Shops, bars, restaurants and more line the walkable streets, while weekends see the roads shut down for live music and farmers markets. The redevelopment of **Coachman Park**, with the addition of **The Sound**, provides a gorgeous, seaside venue for world-famous acts to perform. **The Capitol Theater**, a century-old landmark and one of the state's oldest continuously operated theaters, underwent a massive renovation project in 2013. Several prominent establishments include **Roxy's Coastal Bistro**, **Kara Lynn's Kitchen** and **Clear Sky on Cleveland**. A stone's throw away from the pristine Clearwater Beach, the Cleveland Street District is ideal for a quaint, romantic date night or a fun, family outing.

## What's New in Zero Lot Line Living in GTB

### DOWNTOWN TAMPA

- **One Tampa:** A luxury condominium tower in downtown Tampa, offering upscale residences with panoramic views, amenities and sophisticated design.
- **Riverwalk Place:** A luxury high-rise offering residential units with views of the Hillsborough River.
- **Eleve61:** Located in the Channel District, this condominium complex features modern design and amenities.
- **Virage Bayshore:** Situated along Bayshore Boulevard, Virage Bayshore offers upscale condominium living.
- **Jewel Condominiums:** A new development in the heart of downtown Tampa, providing a mix of residential and retail spaces.

### DOWNTOWN ST. PETERSBURG

- **Art House:** Art House is a contemporary condominium project, blending artful design, cultural influence and downtown living in style.
- **400 Central:** 400 Central is a contemporary residential building, combining modern aesthetics with urban convenience. Located in the heart of downtown, it provides a sophisticated living experience with cultural attractions nearby.
- **Reflection:** Overlooking Mirror Lake and close to Central Avenue's vibrant scene, this contemporary building offers 88 high-end residences, setting new standards for modern-urban living.
- **Saltaire:** a premier condominium tower, featuring waterfront living, modern design, high-end amenities and luxury residences.



Coachman Park,  
Downtown Clearwater



# WHAT MORE COULD YOU ASK FOR?

LIVE, WORK, PLAY IN GREATER TAMPA BAY

BY JENNIFER KENNEDY

**L**ive, work, play is more than a trend; it is a lifestyle. These vibrant neighborhoods offer a variety of amenities, such as restaurants, shops, homes, offices and cultural attractions, all just a short walk from home. Everything is within easy reach, so say goodbye to traffic and car commutes for work, dining, shopping, dog walks,

farmers' markets and events— and say hello to live, work, play.

These convenient communities focus on enhancing the quality of life. They are adorned with art and inviting outdoor spaces that create a welcoming atmosphere. Events and communal areas are thoughtfully integrated to bring residents together and enrich the cultural scene. With plenty of dining choices, proximity to urban attractions and opportunities for an active lifestyle,

residents will always have engaging activities to enjoy.

With numerous live, work, play neighborhoods to choose from and more on the horizon, newcomers can find their dream home, their ideal workplace and the perfect community all in one place. Read on for a few of Greater Tampa Bay's most comfortable and convenient communities that embody the essence of the live, work, play lifestyle.

## » Starkey Ranch

### ODESSA

The developers of Starkey Ranch created a new type of community, designed to allow residents to fully embrace nature. Just north of Tampa, picturesque neighborhoods across 2,400 acres border the J.B. Starkey Wilderness Preserve. Homeowners have access to 150 acres of lush parks and 20 miles of scenic trails.

Starkey Ranch is one of the best-selling master planned communities in the country. A wide array of amenities in each neighborhood provides a resort atmosphere. Year-round special events bring neighbors together and build a sense of community.

### » Live

There is something for everyone here, from small townhouses to custom pool homes with designer kitchens.

Residents can choose a neighborhood with their desired amenities. Some offer community pools, playgrounds and sports fields while others have spas, social events and fitness centers.

### POPULAR RESIDENCES INCLUDE:

- Whitfield Preserve
- Esplanade at Starkey Ranch
- Anclote Preserve
- Hutcheson Preserve

### » Work

According to current proposals, the Starkey Ranch Business Park will feature a total of 325,000 square feet, designated for both commercial and industrial purposes. Among the planned structures is a four-story hotel, boasting 125 rooms.

Additionally, the proposed buildings encompass a seven-story parking garage, an industrial facility, two medical buildings spanning four stories each, and an aircraft simulation training building. This initiative is poised to introduce advanced technology and high-paying job opportunities to Starkey Ranch, Odessa, and the surrounding Trinity communities.

### » Play

The Starkey Ranch Lifestyle Team plans a wide range of fun activities for residents including:

- Day at the lake featuring kayaking and canoeing
- Back to School Bash pool party with cornhole and food trucks
- Children's Sports & Fitness Camps
- Holiday Pool Parties
- Food Truck Fridays
- Kona Water Ice Saturdays

### RETAIL AND DINING

The Starkey Ranch Town Square located at the intersection of SR 54 and Gunn Highway offers a mix of retail stores. Residents can shop at Publix supermarket, pamper themselves at beauty or nail salons or meet friends for sushi, pizza or pasta. An added convenience is onsite dental care, dry cleaners and UPS.

The Starkey Ranch Business Park retail center offers a bank, women's clothing store, veterinarian and yoga studio. More dining options include:

- The Wicked Pour Brewery
- Hungry Greek Restaurant
- Capriottis Sandwich Shop
- Tropical Smoothie Cafe



## » Angeline

### LAND O'LAKES

Angeline is a groundbreaking new 6,200 acre mixed-use, master-planned community designed to create a one-of-a-kind experience for homeowners. Residents can enjoy outdoor adventures and a next-generation health and wellness campus. Located in central Pasco County, Angeline offers a lifestyle that combines innovation, nature and health.

The developer's vision is to create an environment for lifelong learning with smart technologies, luxurious amenities and open spaces that enhance the quality of life.

Proprietary technology like 2GB of fiber allows residents to utilize the fastest Internet and WiFi speeds in the nation. Streetleaf streetlights use solar power to optimize brightness, reduce excess light and protect wildlife from light pollution.

The new Angeline Academy of Innovation introduces students to a unique educational environment that empowers them to take charge of their learning with active, technology-



infused experiences. The new science, technology, engineering and math based middle and high school, opened in 2023, centers around problem-based learning.

### » Live

As many as 7,500 high-tech, energy efficient homes are planned from leading homebuilders. Angeline offers villas, townhomes and multi-family options as well as active adult and single-family homes.

Amenities include a clubhouse with food and beverage options, resort-style swimming pool, tennis, pickleball and bocce ball courts. An impressive events calendar keeps neighbors connected.

#### CURRENT RESIDENCES:

- Lennar
- D.R. Horton
- Lennar Active Adult Collection

### » Work

Moffitt Global Innovation Center's 775-acre expansion development provides 16-million square foot of lab, office, manufacturing and clinical spaces ideal for biotech companies and medical professionals. An additional 24 million square feet of commercial space could also be utilized.

### » Play

The 130-acre Pasco County regional park, a community farm and miles of acres for outdoor recreation are woven throughout Angeline. Trail networks span up to 100 miles and connect with the area's regional trail system. Residents can also enjoy sports fields, boardwalks, campsites, picnic areas and forest overlooks.

### RETAIL AND DINING

Plans for a variety of transit options and convenient access to shopping, dining and entertainment are underway. The Town Center offers 4 million square feet of office, dining and entertainment space.



## » Water Street Tampa

### DOWNTOWN TAMPA

Water Street Tampa is an ambitious, multi-phased development project that aims to transform 56 acres of waterfront land into a vibrant and cohesive neighborhood. The vision for Water Street Tampa goes beyond creating mere buildings; it seeks to shape a city of the future that prioritizes people and their experiences.

The development encompasses

a wide array of commercial, residential, hospitality, entertainment, cultural, retail and educational spaces. These components are connected through pedestrian-focused streets and public green spaces, fostering a sense of community and walkability. Water Street Tampa effectively bridges Tampa's central business district with its waterfront, seamlessly linking residential neighborhoods with retail and business districts. It aims to create a balanced and dynamic urban experience that aligns with the desires of modern city dwellers.

## » Live

Health and wellness are key considerations in the design of Water Street Tampa. The community places a strong emphasis on outdoor common areas, including waterfront spaces and pedestrian trails, which promote an active and healthy lifestyle. Additionally, sustainable buildings and technology are incorporated to benefit both the well-being of residents and the environment. Water Street Tampa also provides a range of residential options, from rental apartments to for-sale condominiums. These residences feature exquisite designs by renowned architects and interior designers, ensuring a high standard of living.

## » Work

The first phase of the development introduces impressive offerings across various sectors. The 600,000 square feet of office space includes the city's first trophy office tower in over three decades, Thousand & One. This tower represents a modern, state-of-the-art work environment for companies, catering to the growing STEM and start-up sectors.

## » Play

With a total of three hotels, Water Street Tampa aims to provide an exceptional hospitality experience, which will serve as a cornerstone for the new neighborhood and evolving business district.

Entertainment and leisure activities are abundant in and around Water Street Tampa. **Sparkman Wharf**, a mixed-use waterfront destination, hosts a variety of community events in its one-acre park and recreation lawn. **Amalie Arena**, the **Tampa Bay History Center**, and **The Florida Aquarium** are all within close proximity, ensuring a wide range of entertainment options for everyone.

Water Street Tampa is set to become a retail and dining destination, with an impressive lineup of curated concepts. From local boutiques to full-service grocery stores, the neighborhood will cater to a variety of needs. With over 50 unique retailers and dining options throughout Water Street Tampa, there is something to satisfy every taste and preference.

## » Midtown WESTSHORE DISTRICT, TAMPA

Located in the Westshore District, just west of downtown Tampa, Midtown Tampa is a vibrant and self-contained community that prides itself on being a city within a city. It offers a wide range of amenities, including apartments, office spaces, celebrated restaurants, stores, hotels, common areas and scenic walking trails. This contemporary and sleek community is the epitome of city-living, with a local touch.

The convenience of Midtown Tampa is unparalleled. Situated right off Interstate 275 and adjacent to Dale Mabry Highway, navigating the area is a breeze. Whether for residents, businesses or visitors, accessibility and connectivity make Midtown a highly desirable location.



## » Live

For those looking to live in Midtown, NOVEL is the primary apartment complex offering studio through three-bedroom units. Located above the Retail Plaza and Midtown Commons areas, NOVEL provides residents with top-notch amenities, including a resort-style pool, dry cleaning lockers, co-working office spaces and a parking garage.

Midtown welcomes visitors with the Element Midtown Tampa Hotel, a contemporary and modern addition offering 230 rooms. With its strategic location, guests have easy access to nearby attractions, such as **Raymond James Stadium**, the Westshore Business District and downtown Tampa.

## » Work

When it comes to work, Midtown Tampa offers an attractive environment for professionals. The community boasts Class A office spaces across three office buildings, attracting major companies. Additionally, Midtown's location provides easy access to top employers in the Westshore District, including the Tampa International Airport. Current office spaces include Midtown

West, a 152,000-square-foot, eight-story building, The Loft, a three-story, 72,000-square-foot boutique office building, and Midtown East, a 16- to 18-story, 400,000-square-foot Class A office building.

## » Play

Midtown Tampa is not just about work; it is a place where residents and visitors can truly indulge in retail and dining experiences. The community offers an unmatched selection of restaurants, including **Joffrey's Coffee, Shake Shack, BellaBrava, Ponte Tampa** by renowned chef Chris Ponte and **True Food Kitchen**, backed by Oprah. The presence of a **Whole Foods Market** further enhances the convenience and quality of the culinary options available. Additionally, Midtown promotes an active and healthy lifestyle, with amenities such as Midtown Lake and Watercourse trail, outdoor common areas, GTB's first REI Co-Op store, health and wellness facilities and fitness centers. Grassy common spaces, live music venues, bars and eateries contribute to the vibrant atmosphere of Midtown, with regular events and farmers markets fostering a strong sense of community. ➤



## » Orange Station at the EDGE

### EDGE DISTRICT, ST. PETERSBURG

Orange Station at the EDGE is set to be a monumental project in St. Petersburg's Central Avenue. Rising 16 stories within the culturally and historically rich EDGE District, just west of downtown, Orange Station adds to the exciting development and growth in this unique part of St. Petersburg. Opening is planned for the first quarter of 2025.

#### » Live

Orange Station offers a variety of residential options for those looking to live in the community. With a total residential space of 130,000 square feet, there will be 42 workforce apartments called The WYE, as well as 61 luxury condominiums known as The Residences. Additionally, a 160-room full-service hotel will cater to guests. A 590-space parking garage ensures convenient parking for residents and visitors.

#### » Work

For professionals seeking workspace, Orange Station provides four floors of Class A office space totaling 52,000 square feet. Located in the Edge District, it offers proximity to various dining and coffee options and easy access to interstates. The development also includes 21,400 square feet of street-facing retail space, adding to the vibrant atmosphere.

#### » Play

Orange Station aims to create a vibrant and inviting environment for leisure and socializing. A European-style plaza will feature outdoor cafes and art installations, attracting working professionals, residents and the public. The parking garage, with both public and private spaces, not only benefits the community by providing convenient parking but also improves public access to this buzzing urban area.

Situated on 1st Avenue in the downtown area of St. Pete, Orange Station is surrounded by a vibrant urban center. The neighborhood offers an array of new places to explore, from museums and sports stadiums to parks and the iconic St. Pete Pier. With something exciting around every corner, Orange Station's location ensures residents and visitors have endless options for entertainment and recreation.

## » Wiregrass Ranch

### WESLEY CHAPEL

Wiregrass Ranch, located in Wesley Chapel, is a 5,000-acre live, work, play community that seamlessly combines city convenience with country comfort. This remarkable community embodies the essence of living in harmony with the land and is the result of the visionary Porter family, who transformed their cattle ranch and citrus grove into a family-oriented development. With a deep-rooted connection to the land, the Porter family continues to be caretakers, ensuring that residents can enjoy the natural beauty of their home.

Wiregrass Ranch is more than just a residential community; it is a thriving and interconnected neighborhood that offers a fulfilling and enriching lifestyle.

#### » Live

Wiregrass Ranch's design incorporates a unique multi-generational approach, with various distinct neighborhoods catering to different demographics. Apartments and townhomes with resort-like amenities are ideal for young professionals and families starting their journey. Single-family homes provide ample space for families to grow and flourish. Moreover, Wiregrass Ranch offers 55-and-older and assisted living communities, enabling older generations to remain close to their families within the community.

The community's emphasis on healthy and active lifestyles is evident throughout Wiregrass Ranch. The **RADD Wiregrass Ranch** sports campus serves as a sports tourism destination, hosting numerous championship tournaments and sporting events. The vast facility features eight basketball courts, a cheer area, an athletic training and conditioning space and a VIP Sky Deck viewing area. Additionally, Wiregrass Ranch provides several community centers and resort-style pools that foster an outdoor, active lifestyle.

#### » Work

One of the standout features of Wiregrass Ranch is the exceptional healthcare options available to its residents. Advent Health, a 148-bed hospital, provides quality care close to home, while Florida Medical Clinic, North Tampa Behavioral Health, and Farina Medical Plaza cater to a wide range of medical needs. Farina Medical Plaza, a Class A medical office building, contributes to the "work" element of the live, work, play concept, offering 16,000 square feet of advanced healthcare facilities.

In addition to the comprehensive healthcare options, Wiregrass Ranch boasts several schools within walking distance of the community, including the Porter Campus of Pasco-Hernando State College.

#### » Play

The **Shops at Wiregrass** serves as the ultimate shopping destination for residents, catering to all their needs. With department stores like Dillard's, Macy's, and JCPenney, along with specialty shops, clothing stores, eclectic boutiques and numerous dining options, residents have a diverse range of choices within the 67-acre retail and entertainment complex.



## » Hyde Park Village

HYDE PARK, TAMPA

Hyde Park, a historic Tampa neighborhood that traces back to 1886, blends preservation with progress. Its Hyde Park Village epitomizes a thriving live, work, play model. The community's dedication to preserving history, fostering community connections and providing diverse amenities ensures residents can enjoy a vibrant and fulfilling lifestyle.

### » Live

Situated conveniently west of downtown along the Selmon Expressway, its beautifully landscaped streets offer a mix of housing options. The neighborhood seamlessly integrates 19th-century architectural homes with newer apartment buildings and condos, maintaining its historic charm. Residents are drawn to the captivating parks and Bayshore fitness trail, encouraging an active outdoor lifestyle.

### » Work

Hyde Park Village addresses the "work" aspect with **Hyde House**, a successful coworking facility. Combining stylish socializing amenities, coworking offices and event spaces, it accommodates diverse professional needs. With 65

private offices, ample coworking areas, a creative workspace called Public Studio, five event spaces, an auditorium and a members-only bar and kitchen, Hyde House caters to the community's professionals.

### » Play

At the heart of Hyde Park lies Hyde Park Village, a vibrant destination boasting an impressive assortment of restaurants, cafés and retail shops. Recent additions include renowned brands like Zimmermann and Warby Parker, with Rag & Bone, Barry's fitness and Gorjana jewelry joining to enhancing the shopping experience.

Village Circle, centered around an iconic fountain, serves as the bustling hub of Hyde Park Village. It offers a mix of upscale and casual eateries such as Meat Market, Bartaco, Irish

31, On Swann, Sorrento Sweets, Sprinkles, The Candle Pour and Wine Exchange. Fashion enthusiasts can explore stores like Vineyard Vines, Lululemon, Social Status, Kittenish and Nike, while health and beauty needs are met by Bluemercury and Clean Juice. These diverse tenants contribute to the well-rounded and self-sustaining community of Hyde Park Village.

Hyde Park Village embraces community spirit by organizing an extensive events calendar. Residents can enjoy complimentary fitness classes through Hyde Park Sweat and visit the Fresh Market, a monthly farmer's market showcasing over 90 farmers and artisans. These events foster a sense of togetherness and provide opportunities for neighbors to connect. ■

# BEST IN CLASS

INTRO TO EDUCATION IN GREATER TAMPA BAY

BY BREANNA GALLO

**G**reater Tampa Bay is renowned for its robust educational system, spanning from pre-schools to Ph.D. programs. The region boasts many impressive public schools and esteemed private learning institutions that foster learning, growth and individual triumph. With a vibrant community of lifelong learners, it comes as no surprise that dedicated educators abound, committed to providing a positive and enriching educational journey for every student.



## » Public Schools

Pinellas, Hillsborough and Pasco school districts provide more than basic academics. GTB's public schools are distinguished by their innovative STEM initiatives, Advanced Placement programs and robust arts and athletic offerings. With

committed teachers and state-of-the-art facilities, students are prepared for college, career and beyond.

Each district is committed to excellence, with unique mission statements focused on the success of every student in their competitive educational



environments. High graduation rates, impressive standardized test scores and a plethora of National Merit Scholars showcase the academic excellence of the area's public schools. Additionally, numerous students from these districts gain admission to top universities, reflecting the quality of education and preparation they receive.

GTB's school districts also offer a wide variety of specialized schools tailored to students' unique interests and talents. Magnet schools concentrate on specific areas like performing arts, world languages, leadership and STEM/STEAM programs that focus on science, technology, engineering and math. Additionally, Career and Technical Education (CTE) schools are designed to equip students with certifications and practical training, preparing them for future workforce opportunities.

## » Private Schools

In GTB, families are presented with an extensive selection of private schools. The region boasts numerous highly ranked institutions, and this abundance of options ensures that students are

equipped with ample opportunities to achieve success.

Shorecrest Preparatory School is one such example. Their dedicated faculty focuses on fostering critical thinking, creativity and leadership skills. Offering rigorous academics and diverse extracurriculars, Shorecrest is an excellent choice for parents seeking a top-tier educational experience and a nurturing community for their children.

## » Higher Education

GTB offers abundant educational opportunities beyond high school, ranging from technical colleges to four-year universities. Renowned for its exceptional higher education institutions, GTB has witnessed remarkable growth in excellence and expanded access, providing a broader range of opportunities for students seeking further education.

Students pursuing a technical education can access expedited and cost-effective certification and training pathways. With a wealth of programs and options available, aspiring professionals can specialize in specific trades that offer lucrative employment prospects within thriving and sustainable industries, ensuring immediate integration into the workforce.

GTB's educational establishments embrace innovative learning techniques, tailored to accommodate each individual's distinct mindset, learning style, abilities and aspirations. When it comes to Greater Tampa Bay's schools, there is so much to learn. ■

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# FIRST CLASS EDUCATION

BY BREANNA GALLO

THE PUBLIC  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICTS  
OF GREATER  
TAMPA BAY

## » Hillsborough County Public Schools

Nestled in the heart of Greater Tampa Bay, the Hillsborough County Public School District is a big deal. In fact, as the third-largest school district in the state it is home to over 200,000 students spread across 250 schools. In Hillsborough County, there is a whole lot of learning going on.

What really sets this school district apart is its dedication to making sure every student feels welcome and included. The commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive learning environment is evident in its multifaceted approach to education, giving every student a chance to shine.

And shine they do. The graduation rate here is impressive, consistently beating the state average at 88.6%. Additionally, HCPS places a strong emphasis on college readiness. In fact, a whopping 72% of graduates go on to pursue higher education. Talk about aiming high.

Hitting the books is no longer the only way to succeed in school. Hillsborough County embraces new ways of teaching and learning. Embracing modern teaching methods and technological integration, the district equips its educators and students with the tools needed to thrive in the digital age. With a focus on STEAM education and robust extracurricular programs, students are encouraged to explore their interests beyond the conventional classroom setting, fostering growth and development in as many ways as a child can be different.

The strong correlation between the Hillsborough County Public Schools and the local community is palpable. Collaborations with local businesses, universities and community organizations give students real-world experiences that serve them far beyond graduation. Noteworthy programs include mentorship initiatives, internships and vocational training, all aimed at preparing students for the dynamic demands of the workforce.

The Hillsborough County Public School District is not just about education – it is about shaping future leaders. As HCPS grows and changes with the times, one thing remains the same: their commitment to helping students become the best they can be.

A-RATED SCHOOLS  
IN HILLSBOROUGH  
COUNTY PUBLIC  
SCHOOL DISTRICT:

**73**

HCPS VISION:  
**Preparing  
Students  
for Life**

HCPS MISSION:  
**To provide an  
education and  
the supports  
that enable  
each student  
to excel as a  
successful and  
responsible  
citizen.**



## » Pinellas County Public Schools

The Pinellas County Public School District, which serves just under 100,000 students, is another shining star of the educational scene in Greater Tampa Bay.

This district takes pride in its strong educational programs, which have earned recognition from Magnet Schools of America and the Brookings Institute. With the highest graduation rate of 91.5% among Florida's largest districts, plus a focus on challenging coursework and 80 magnet programs, they are all about pushing students to reach their full potential. Pinellas County is serious about making sure each student is given the chance to excel. When it comes to music education, the National Association of Music Merchants gave PCPS a big thumbs up, naming it the Best Community for Music Education, showing just how committed they are to giving students a well-rounded education.

One thing that stands out about Pinellas County public schools is their diversity and their dedication to preparing students for college. With a student-to-teacher ratio of 13:1 across all grade levels, students get plenty of one-on-one attention from their teachers, giving them a leg up for success. Plus, the district works hard to make sure all students – no matter their background – stay focused on learning, even during school breaks. That's how committed they are to helping every student succeed.

A-RATED SCHOOLS  
IN PINELLAS COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOL  
DISTRICT:

**42**

PCPS VISION  
**100% student  
success**

PCPS MISSION:  
**Educate and  
prepare each  
student for  
college, career  
and life.**

## » Pasco County Public Schools

Pasco County Public Schools stand out for their diverse educational opportunities, dedicated faculty and focus on student well-being. The district serves 81,157 students across 103 schools, offering a wide range of programs tailored to students' passions, supported by committed and highly qualified staff.

Emphasizing safety, they provide a secure learning environment and support services. Pasco County Schools also prioritize community involvement and parent engagement, encouraging active participation in students' education. This holistic approach ensures students receive a well-rounded education and the support they need to thrive academically and

personally.

When it comes to diversity, excellent teachers and college prep, Pasco County School District is top-notch, helping to solidify their place as one of the best counties for education in GTB. This district boasts a high school graduation rate of 91.9% and has schools recognized for college success.

What truly sets PCPS apart is their dedication to making sure education is fun, engaging and meaningful for every student. Pasco County Schools are not just teaching facts – they are inspiring growth. And with their strong ties to the community, this district is showing the world what 21st-century learning is all about.

A-RATED SCHOOLS IN PASCO COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT:

# 18

PCPS VISION:

**The vision of the District School Board of Pasco County is that all our students achieve success in college, career and life.**

PCPS MISSION:

**The mission of the District School Board of Pasco County is to provide a world class education for all students.**

# TOP PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN GREATER TAMPA BAY



## » Hillsborough

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

1. Bevis Elementary School
2. Grady Elementary School
3. Roosevelt Elementary School
4. Mitchell Elementary School
5. Mckitrick Elementary School

### MIDDLE SCHOOLS

1. Horizon Charter School of Tampa (K-8)
2. Terrace Community Middle School
3. Lutz Preparatory School (K-8)
4. Coleman Middle School
5. Walker Middle Magnet School

### HIGH SCHOOLS

1. Plant High School
2. Newsome High School
3. Brooks DeBartolo Collegiate High School
4. Steinbrenner High School
5. Robinson High School

## » Pasco

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

1. Countryside Montessori Academy
2. Trinity Elementary School
3. Dayspring Academy
4. Oakstead Elementary School
5. Sanders Memorial Elementary School

### MIDDLE SCHOOLS

1. Countryside Montessori Academy (1-8)
2. Dayspring Academy (K-12)
3. Academy at the Farm (K-8)
4. Seven Springs Middle School
5. Imagine School at Land O' Lakes

### HIGH SCHOOLS

1. Classical Preparatory School
2. Wiregrass Ranch High School
3. James W. Mitchell High School
4. Land O' Lakes High School
5. Sunlake High School

## » Pinellas

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

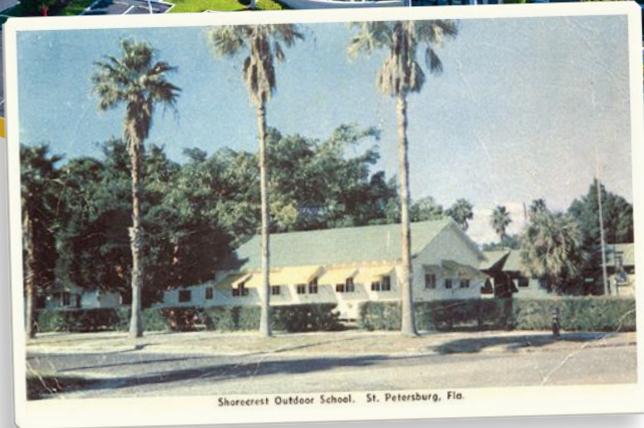
1. Tarpon Springs Fundamental Elementary
2. Cypress Woods Elementary School
3. Curtis Fundamental Elementary
4. Elisa Nelson Elementary
5. Academie Da Vinci Charter School

### MIDDLE SCHOOLS

1. East Lake Middle School Academy of Engineering
2. Clearwater Fundamental Middle School
3. Discovery Academy of Science (K-8)
4. Madeira Beach Fundamental K-8
5. Plato Academy of St. Petersburg (K-8)

### HIGH SCHOOLS

1. St. Petersburg High School
2. Palm Harbor University High School
3. Osceola Fundamental High School
4. St. Petersburg Collegiate High School
5. East Lake High School



Shorecrest Outdoor School. St. Petersburg, Fla.

## Get to Know Shorecrest

Since its founding in 1923, Shorecrest Preparatory School has been a vital part of the fabric of St. Petersburg and the Tampa Bay Area. What began as a modest outdoor school for seasonal visitors is now one of the top schools in the State of Florida, educating a diverse community of more than 1,000 students from 3 years old through 12th grade.



### Student Body

8:1 student to faculty ratio  
14 average class size\*



### Accreditation

Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS)  
Apple Distinguished School (2016-2024)



### Signature Programs

Financial Literacy & Economics,  
Medical Sciences, Computer Science,  
Engineering, Entrepreneurship & Design,  
Global Studies, and more.



### Robust Co-curriculars

Athletics, Visual and Performing Arts,  
STEM/Robotics, Service Learning,  
and more.



# Shorecrest

Preparatory School

5101 1st St. NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33703

727-522-2111 | shorecrest.org

Serving a diverse community of students from 3 years old through 12th grade

\*Ratios and class sizes are calculated based on the total number of teachers and students, overall. Some ratios may be higher or lower, and classes may be larger or smaller, by class, grade, or division.



# PREP SCHOOLS RULE

PRIVATE SCHOOLS  
IN GREATER  
TAMPA BAY  
BY ALEXANDRA INGRAM

## » The Advantage of Excellence

Greater Tampa Bay may be best known for its sun and fun, but the area also boasts a rich tapestry of educational opportunities, including an outstanding selection of private schools. From nurturing environments and specialized academic programs to community partnerships and a plethora of extracurricular activities, these institutions stand out as pillars of educational excellence—and they are all right here in GTB.

Private schools in Greater Tampa Bay are renowned for their balance of academic excellence and personalized attention. With smaller class sizes, these schools provide an intimate learning environment where students can thrive both academically and socially. Moreover, they often offer unique educational approaches tailored to meet the individual needs of each student, whether through specialized curriculum tracks, innovative teaching methods or hands-on learning experiences.

One of the key advantages of private education is the emphasis on holistic

development. Beyond academics, private schools in the region prioritize character building, leadership skills and community engagement, instilling values that extend far beyond the classroom.

## » Program Perfection

Private schools in Greater Tampa Bay offer a diverse range of academic programs designed to cater to the individual interests and talents of students. From STEM-focused initiatives to humanities-based curricula, these institutions provide a well-rounded education that prepares students for the challenges of the 21st century.

For example, **Academy at the Lakes** in Land O' Lakes offers a specialized STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) curriculum that integrates hands-on learning experiences with cutting-edge technology. This innovative approach not only fosters a passion for inquiry and discovery but also equips students with the skills they need to excel in

an increasingly complex world.

Similarly, **Shorecrest Preparatory School** in St. Petersburg offers an International Baccalaureate (IB) program that emphasizes global perspectives, interdisciplinary learning and community service. The IB program offers a challenging and rigorous college-preparatory liberal arts curriculum and helps to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young individuals. The program also encourages intercultural understanding and respect. IB at Shorecrest prepares students for a better and more peaceful world through active, compassionate and lifelong learning, making it a standout feature of the school.

In addition to its IB program, this independent PK3-12th grade school offers a comprehensive academic curriculum, including The Experiential School for ages 3-5 and outstanding programs in the Lower, Middle and Upper School divisions. Shorecrest has also been recognized as an Apple Distinguished School and has developed exceptional student-athletes through the Shorecrest Chargers Athletics program. Unique features such as the Center for Academic Excellence and a thoughtful integration of technology set Shorecrest apart as a distinguished educational institution in GTB.

## » A Unique Approach

The Greater Tampa Bay area is home to many prestigious private schools, each distinguished by their unique offerings and commitment to excellence. One notable institution is **Apollo Academy** in Tampa. Not only does Apollo foster intellectual growth, but it also nurtures the leaders of tomorrow. Renowned for its innovative curriculum and dedicated faculty, Apollo »



offers instruction ranging from STEM disciplines to arts and athletics.

Nestled in Hyde Park, the academy provides a dynamic learning environment and prides itself in its non-traditional learning approach, with educators taking on the title of “guides,” instead of being called teachers. With a commitment to helping each child find and excel at their own passion, Apollo cultivates a culture of leadership and a passion for lifelong learning among its students. Recognized for its unique pursuit of education, Apollo Academy continues to empower learners to reach their fullest potential.

## » Activities of All Kinds

In addition to rigorous academics, private schools in GTB offer a wide range of extracurricular activities to enrich the educational experience. From athletics and performing arts to community service and leadership opportunities, these programs provide students with a well-rounded education that extends beyond the classroom. Whether performing in a musical production or competing in a state championship, the bay area’s private school students are encouraged to pursue their interests and embrace new challenges.

At GTB’s private schools, students can participate in a variety of clubs and organizations, including robotics, debate and environmental conservation. These extracurricular activities not only foster a sense of camaraderie and teamwork but also help students develop essential life skills such as time management, communication and leadership.

## » Admission Criteria

Admission to higher level private schools in GTB typically involves a competitive application process that evaluates academic performance, extracurricular involvement, letters of



recommendation and standardized test scores. Additionally, many private high schools require prospective students to undergo interviews or admissions testing to assess their readiness for the program.

While admission criteria may vary from school to school, the overarching goal is a student body who demonstrates the potential to thrive in the school’s academic and extracurricular offerings. Moreover, private schools in the region often prioritize diversity and inclusivity, seeking students from a variety of backgrounds and experiences to enrich the educational community.

## » Unique Features and Achievements

Beyond their academic and extracurricular offerings, private schools in Greater Tampa Bay are known for their unique features and achievements. From state-of-the-art facilities to innovative partnerships with local businesses and organizations, these institutions continually strive to enhance the educational experience for their students.

Some schools boast waterfront

campuses that offer unique opportunities for hands-on learning in marine science and maritime studies. Through partnerships with local research institutions and industry leaders, students have the chance to engage in real-world projects and internships that prepare them for careers in fields such as oceanography, marine engineering, and maritime law.

Similarly, others have gained recognition for their commitment to integrating faith-based values into every aspect of the educational experience. From daily chapel services to service-learning projects, these parochial and independent institutions instill a sense of purpose and moral responsibility in their students, empowering them to make a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

Private schools in Greater Tampa Bay offer a wealth of educational opportunities that cater to the diverse needs and interests of students. From rigorous academics to enriching extracurricular activities and unique features, these schools provide a nurturing environment where students can thrive and succeed. Whether pursuing a passion or preparing for the future, private education in Greater Tampa Bay remains a beacon of excellence and innovation. ■

SPOTLIGHT:

# SHORECREST PREPARATORY SCHOOL

## GOING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

BY RYAN WALSH

When it comes to their child's education, every parent wants the best. Advanced Placement (AP) classes, extracurricular activities, clubs and leadership opportunities are all part of the decision-making process parents consider when deciding on a school for their children. Also, increased competition for top universities means that college prep often begins before students even attend high school.

Thankfully, parents have a wealth of options in the Greater Tampa Bay area. Highly rated public, private and charter schools allow families to choose exactly what they feel is best for them.

Many choose Shorecrest Preparatory School.

This St. Petersburg-based private school, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2023, has about 1,000 students ranging from pre-school to twelfth grade. Beyond academic education, Shorecrest develops its students to help them unlock their potential.

"Shorecrest does an exceptional job balancing academic excellence and robust co-curricular opportunities in the context of a



connected, caring community," said Director of Marketing & Communications Rachel Barrett. "Exceptional faculty, dedication to academic excellence and a close-knit community remain hallmarks of the Shorecrest experience."

The school is divided into four divisions: the Experiential (ages 3-5), Lower (grades K-4), Middle (grades 5-8) and Upper (grades 9-12) schools, each offering a unique and tailored experience for students' educational development. While the curriculum is guided in the early years, once students hit the Middle school, they have more opportunities to choose what activities and co-curriculars they take.

"Students have more agency over

their choices," Barrett said. "From a robust visual and performing arts program, competitive athletics, compassionate service-learning opportunities, robotics, clubs and leadership opportunities and so much more."

Providing students with real-world experiences is part and parcel with traditional classroom instruction. Shorecrest students have shadowed surgeons at the Peck Center for Medical Sciences, interviewed business leaders at the Ross Roeder Institute for Financial Literacy, Entrepreneurship and Economics, and have been able to network with professionals across many industries and fields.

The Shorecrest experience pays off. In years past, graduating senior classes have boasted a 100% college acceptance rate. In 2023, Niche.com recognized Shorecrest as the Best Private High School in Pinellas County. Those leaving with a Shorecrest education also tout its benefits.

"We repeatedly hear from our graduates that they arrive in college with superior reading and writing skills, study skills and problem-solving skills," Barrett said.

It is easy to see why so many parents, teachers and students choose Shorecrest Preparatory School. ■

**"Shorecrest does an exceptional job balancing academic excellence and robust co-curricular opportunities in the context of a connected, caring community."** — RACHEL BARRETT, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

# COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

TRADE SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN GREATER TAMPA BAY

BY ALEXANDRA INGRAM



**G**reater Tampa Bay is home to some of the nation's brightest

higher education institutions, including trade schools, community colleges, public and private universities. These schools play a crucial role in shaping the academic, professional and personal growth of students. They are also an integral part of the landscape of GTB. There are rich and vibrant educational opportunities for learners of all kinds here, including technical skills training, associate degrees and advanced academic programs.



## » Find a Trade, Have it Made

Greater Tampa Bay's trade schools cater to those seeking hands-on training and specialized instruction in high-demand industries. These institutions equip students with the practical knowledge and expertise required for specific trades, such as automotive technology, cosmetology, culinary arts and more.

Notable trade schools in the region include:

### Pinellas Technical College

PTC boasts two award-winning campuses in Clearwater and St. Petersburg, offering a wide selection of vocational programs. PTC exemplifies excellence in technical education, offering courses of study that are tailored to meet the evolving needs of today's workforce. Most PTC programs start five times per school year and can be completed in a year or less. Dual enrollment is also offered to local high school students. Certificates, licenses and college credits can be earned in:

- Arts & Audio/Visual
- Automotive & Transportation
- Beauty
- Business & Information Technology
- Childcare
- Construction & Design
- Health Science
- Hospitality
- Manufacturing
- Public Works

### National Aviation Academy

Renowned for its top-tier aviation maintenance and avionics programs, the NAA provides practical instruction for those aspiring to careers as certified Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) mechanics. With state-of-the-art facilities and experienced instructors, students receive hands-on training, preparing them for rewarding careers in the dynamic aviation industry.

### Concorde Career Institute

Concorde Career Institute's Tampa campus offers programs in dental assisting, medical assisting, pharmacy technician, surgical technology, dental hygiene and sonography. With a student-centered approach, this healthcare school provides hands-on training, personalized support and community-based opportunities. At Concorde, students can earn the credentials, knowledge and skills needed to succeed as healthcare professionals. ▶

## » College, Right Here in the Community

Community colleges can be the perfect option for students seeking affordable and accessible higher education options. These institutions offer associate degrees, certificate programs and pathways for seamless transfer to four-year universities. In Greater Tampa Bay, community colleges are known for their vast course offerings and exceptional instruction.

### St. Petersburg College

Established in 1927 as Florida's first two-year college, St. Petersburg College offers over 200 degree, certificate and transfer programs, including high-demand workforce certifications. Home to specialized centers like the St. Petersburg College Veterinary Technology Center, SPC has been recognized for its commitment to advancing outcomes for first-generation college students. Notably, SPC's alumni rank first in Florida for earning the highest entry wages among state community college graduates. The college's achievements include being ranked among the best in U.S. News & World Report's online programs and receiving accolades for its nursing and medical assistant programs.

### Pasco-Hernando State College

Pasco-Hernando State College combines cutting-edge educational facilities and advanced programs while prioritizing student success. Students can expect individualized attention, intimate class sizes, esteemed faculty and affordable tuition rates, ranking among Florida's most economical. PHSC provides training in more than 90 career program options and has offerings that include Bachelor of Applied Science, Bachelor of Science, Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, College Credit Certificate, Career Certificate, Applied Technology Diploma and Apprenticeships. PHCC has six accessible locations in Brooksville, Dade City, New Port Richey, Spring Hill and Wesley Chapel.

### Hillsborough Community College

Hillsborough Community College is the fifth largest in Florida's State College System, serving over 43,000 students annually across five campuses, three centers and an online platform. HCC offers a diverse range of academic options, including associate in arts and associate in science degrees, college credit certificates, postsecondary adult vocational certificates and advanced technical diplomas.

HCC's five campuses, each with a unique identity, offer specialized programs reflecting the communities they serve. From the Brandon Campus housing Engineering Technology, Aquaculture and Biotechnology programs to the Dale Mabry Campus specializing in Health Sciences, Computer Science and Culinary Arts, HCC provides students with engaging academic and campus life. Additionally, the college offers online and hybrid courses, providing flexibility to students with busy schedules.

HCC has a longstanding tradition of meeting the needs of business and industry through its workforce degree and certificate programs. The college's Institute for Corporate and Continuing Education provides customized training solutions, strengthening the competitiveness of the local workforce.

HCC provides a well-rounded college experience, including a wide array of support services, clubs, activities and competitive athletic teams.

Hillsborough  
Community  
College





## » University for All

A major public university does not only offer undergraduate, graduate and professional programs, but it also contributes significantly to the region's intellectual and cultural vibrancy. These institutions are known for their research initiatives, faculty expertise and robust academic resources. They can also be home to popular sports teams for fans.

### University of South Florida

The University of South Florida is a preeminent research university and AAU member with campuses across Greater Tampa Bay. Dedicated to empowering students to maximize their potential for lifelong success, USF is home to a rich tapestry of programs and an unparalleled educational experience.

From cutting-edge research in health sciences to pioneering initiatives in technology and the arts, USF's robust programs cater to a spectrum of academic interests. Notable among these is USF's esteemed College of Engineering, renowned for its groundbreaking research and hands-on learning opportunities. Additionally, the Muma College of Business equips future business leaders with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in

today's competitive landscape.

USF's commitment to academic excellence is reflected in its myriad achievements and accolades. Consistently ranked among the nation's top research institutions, USF boasts a faculty of distinguished scholars and innovators who are at the forefront of their fields. The university's research endeavors span a wide range of disciplines, from biomedical engineering to environmental sustainability, driving forward progress and innovation on a global scale.

Beyond the classroom, USF cultivates a vibrant campus community brimming with opportunities for personal and professional growth. With over 600 student organizations, cultural events and community service

initiatives, students are empowered to engage deeply with their passions and interests while forging lifelong connections.

In the realm of athletics, the USF Bulls proudly represent their university with determination and spirit. Competing in the NCAA Division I American Athletic Conference, USF's athletic teams showcase their prowess on the field, court and track. From football to basketball, baseball to soccer, USF athletes exhibit a commitment to excellence that mirrors the university's overarching ethos of perseverance and achievement.

The University of South Florida is a vibrant community united by a shared dedication to academic excellence, research innovation and student success. ▶

## » Private Universities, Perfect Fit

Private universities in Greater Tampa Bay offer personalized and rigorous academic experiences, often emphasizing smaller class sizes, faculty mentorship and specialized programs. These institutions are renowned for their distinctive campus cultures and emphasis on student development.

### University of Tampa

This esteemed University of Tampa is a globally connected university with a vibrant campus that attracts approximately 11,047 students from across 50 states and numerous countries, creating a richly diverse and dynamic learning community. UT offers over 200 academic programs across four colleges, emphasizing academic excellence, personal attention and real-life experiences. Notably, the university boasts an exceptional 17:1 student-to-faculty ratio.

UT is situated along the beautiful Hillsborough River and is home to a National Historic Landmark, The Tampa Bay Hotel, which now serves as the Henry B. Plant Museum. The campus spans 110 landscaped acres with 71 buildings, including 12 residence halls and state-of-the-art facilities such as the Health Science and Human Performance Building, Martinez Athletics Center, and Sykes Chapel and Center for Faith and Values, making it a conducive environment for learning and personal development.

With an emphasis on educational enrichment, UT offers numerous worldwide study-abroad opportunities, undergraduate research and internship programs, and a robust academic support system, including an Honors Program and various experiential learning opportunities. Additionally, the university is dedicated to student success, as evidenced by its 92% student aid rate and \$106 million in institutional aid, providing financial support to the majority of its students.

### St. Leo University

Saint Leo University, a private university rooted in Catholic Benedictine values, offers a transformative educational experience, inspiring students to reach their full potential. With rigorous academic programs, including over 40 degrees and certificate programs, and a commitment to fostering holistic growth, Saint Leo University has created a place of belonging for students pursuing a greater purpose. The university's dedication to student success is evident through its active student associations, clubs and societies, creating a vibrant campus life. Saint Leo's commitment to excellence is reflected in its national rankings, including recognition for social mobility and value. With a rich history and a focus on student-centered education, Saint Leo University continues to provide a nurturing environment for academic and personal development.

Greater Tampa Bay's higher education landscape is characterized by diversity, academic excellence and a commitment to success. From trade schools to private universities, GTB offers a wealth of educational opportunities that cater to the unique needs and aspirations of learners. As the educational hub continues to thrive, it remains an attractive destination for those seeking a well-rounded and enriching higher education experience. ■

University  
of Tampa

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**“DIFFERENT”**

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& MARKETING



# — ALIVE AND WELL

INTRO TO HEALTHCARE IN GREATER TAMPA BAY

BY JOSEPH DUNN

**F**rom hospitals and healthcare systems to the latest in exercise and fitness trends, there is much to explore when it comes to health and wellness in Greater Tampa Bay. Delve into the diverse and dynamic landscape of the healthcare scene that impacts

this vibrant community.

In Greater Tampa Bay, world-class hospitals and healthcare systems stand as pillars of care and compassion for the community. From the renowned **Tampa General Hospital**, consistently ranked among the nation's best, to the cutting-edge **Moffitt Cancer Center**, dedicated to pioneering cancer research and treatment, the region boasts an array of top-tier

medical facilities. Additionally, **BayCare Health System**, with its network of hospitals and outpatient centers, ensures comprehensive healthcare access across the GTB area. With a commitment to excellence and innovation, these healthcare institutions embody the spirit of healing and wellness, serving as beacons of hope for residents throughout the bay.

One of the most exciting

developments in healthcare is the expansion of **Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital** into Pasco County. As a leading pediatric healthcare institution, Johns Hopkins All Children's is renowned for its compassionate care and groundbreaking research. With the acquisition of 114 acres off I-75 and Overpass Road, the hospital is poised to bring specialized pediatric services closer to families in Pasco County and beyond. This expansion reflects the hospital's commitment to meeting the evolving needs of our community and ensuring that high-quality healthcare is accessible to all.

But healthcare is not just about hospitals and medical facilities—it is

also about prevention and wellness. There are endless opportunities to explore the exercise and fitness scene in the Greater Tampa Bay area. From yoga studios to gyms, there is no shortage of options for staying active and healthy in GTB. Whether training as a seasoned athlete or just starting a fitness journey, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

In addition to traditional exercise, in GTB, outdoor exercise is not just a pastime—it is a way of life. With its year-round sunshine and stunning natural landscapes, the region offers endless opportunities for outdoor recreation. From jogging along the scenic **Bayshore Boulevard** to cycling through the lush trails of

**Upper Tampa Bay Trail**, there is a workout for every fitness enthusiast. Whether it is paddleboarding along the tranquil waters of the Gulf Coast or practicing yoga in one of the many picturesque parks, the great outdoors beckons to those seeking to stay active and invigorated amidst the beauty of GTB.

Embark on this journey through the world of healthcare in Greater Tampa Bay and explore the many facets of health and wellness that shape this bright community. Whether the main goal is staying active, gaining insights into the latest medical breakthroughs or learning about the best places for treatment, it can all be found here in GTB. ■



## AMERICA'S HEALTHIEST CITIES

The Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater metropolitan area frequently makes an appearance on Mindbody's annual Wellness Index, which recognizes the 50 healthiest cities in America. Tampa, specifically, has been in the top 20 on this index for the past four years in a row, peaking at No. 8 in 2020. It took the No. 10 spot for 2023.

Mindbody surveys approximately 20,000 residents in each major city about several aspects of wellness, including connection to community, stress levels, workout habits, alcohol consumption, spirituality, self-care practices and more, to determine rankings in the index.

**Healthiest Places to Live in the U.S.**

**No. 27**  
TAMPA

**No. 63**  
ST. PETERSBURG

— WalletHub, 2024

## INSIDE



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# NAVIGATING THE HEALTHCARE LANDSCAPE

EVERYTHING TO KNOW ABOUT GREATER TAMPA BAY'S  
HOSPITALS AND HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

BY JOSEPH DUNN

**G**reater Tampa Bay's healthcare landscape shines, boasting an array of world-class hospitals and healthcare systems. This advantage positions GTB as an attractive hub for quality care, drawing both families and professionals to its thriving medical scene. As the region continues to expand, understanding the intricacies of health and wellness in the bay area, from local hospitals to specialty care and research institutions, becomes crucial. There is so much to know about the offerings here. Read on for key insights and future projections.

## » Leading Hospitals in Greater Tampa Bay

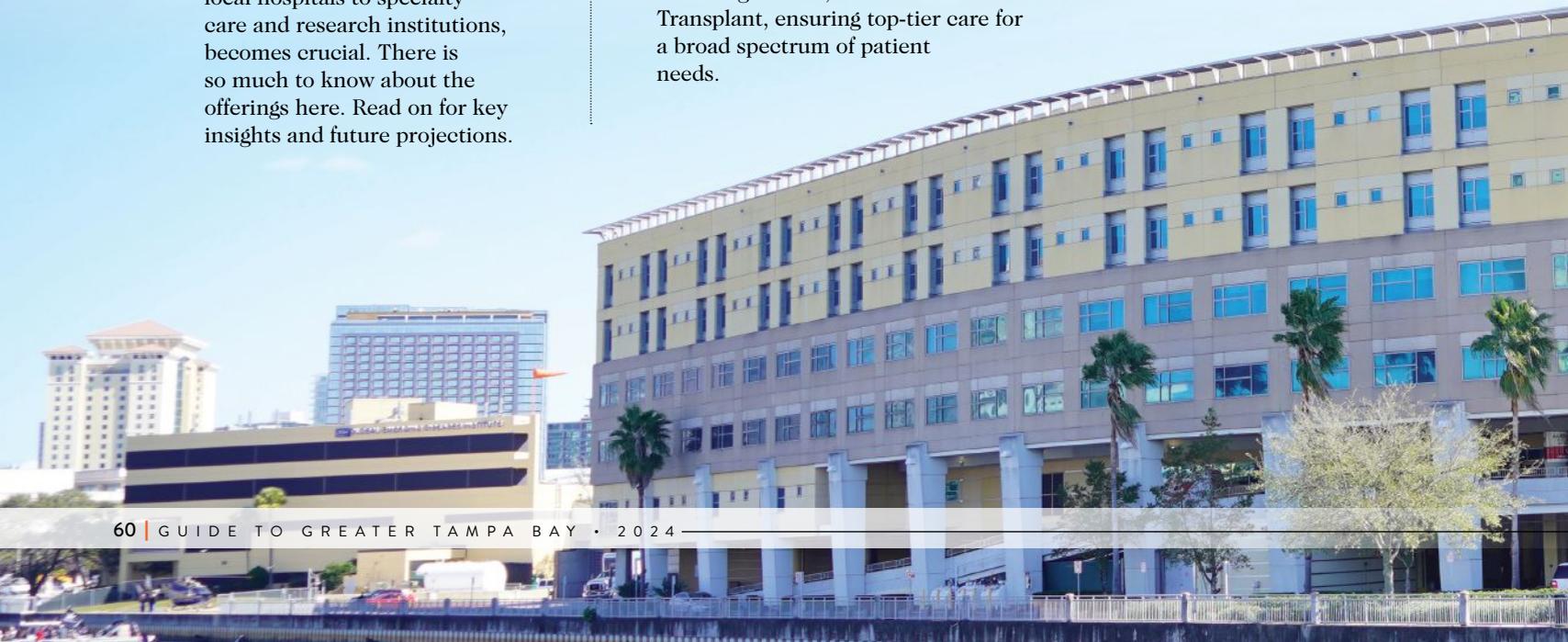
In the heart of Greater Tampa Bay, a diverse range of healthcare facilities stand out for their exceptional services and medical offerings.

### » Tampa General Hospital

Among them, Tampa General Hospital takes the lead. Not only is it the #1 hospital in Tampa Bay, but it is also renowned for its national rankings in six specialties and high performance in five specialties and 13 procedures/conditions. Its comprehensive services span across various institutes, including Cancer, Heart & Vascular and Transplant, ensuring top-tier care for a broad spectrum of patient needs.

#### NATIONALLY RANKED IN THE FOLLOWING:

- **Diabetes & Endocrinology** #18 in the Nation
- **Ear, Nose & Throat** #39 in the Nation
- **Gastroenterology & GI Surgery** #19 in the Nation
- **Obstetrics & Gynecology** #9 in the Nation
- **Orthopedics** #30 in the Nation
- **Urology** #49 in the Nation



Morton Plant Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital-Tampa follow closely, ranking #2 and #3 in Greater Tampa Bay, respectively. Their high-performing ratings in multiple procedures/conditions reflect the quality healthcare available across the bay area.

### » Morton Plant Hospital

Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater is known for its commitment to providing high-quality medical services to the community. With a history spanning over a century, Morton Plant Hospital combines tradition with innovation to deliver comprehensive care across a spectrum of specialties, including cardiology, orthopedics, neurology and oncology. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and staffed by skilled healthcare professionals, the hospital prides itself on its patient-centered approach, fostering healing environments and personalized treatment plans. As a cornerstone of Clearwater's healthcare landscape, Morton Plant Hospital continues to uphold its legacy of excellence, ensuring that residents receive compassionate care and access to advanced medical treatments close to home.

#### HIGH PERFORMING IN THE FOLLOWING:

- Leukemia, Lymphoma, Myeloma • Colon Cancer Surgery • Lung Cancer Surgery • Prostate Cancer Surgery • Heart Attack • Aortic Valve Surgery • Heart Bypass Surgery • Heart Failure • Transcatheter Aortic Valve

Replacement (TAVR) • Back Surgery (Spinal Fusion) • Stroke • Hip Replacement • Knee Replacement

### » St. Joseph's Hospital

St. Joseph's Hospital, serving the community since 1934, is a standout when it comes to specialized care. With medical teams in more than 70 specialties, even the most complex diagnoses and treatments are handled with expertise here. Also well known for its affiliated specialty hospitals, including St. Joseph's Children's Hospital and St. Joseph's Women's Hospital, SJH provides far more than the typical general community hospital.

#### HIGH PERFORMING IN THE FOLLOWING:

- Colon Cancer Surgery • Lung Cancer Surgery • Prostate Cancer Surgery • Heart Attack • Heart Bypass Surgery • Heart Failure • Diabetes • Kidney Failure • Stroke • Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

### » H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute

H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute ranks nationally in one specialty, showcasing its prowess in cancer care. Additionally, it excels in six procedures/conditions, affirming its status as a beacon of hope for cancer patients.

### » Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital

Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, well regarded for its excellence in pediatric medical care and research, brings world-class healthcare to GTB's children and youth. Situated in the heart of St. Petersburg, this extension of Johns Hopkins continues the institution's legacy of innovative treatments, cutting-edge research and compassionate patient care. With a team of highly skilled physicians, advanced medical technologies and a commitment to community health, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in GTB is dedicated to providing exceptional healthcare services to residents and visitors alike. »

### US NEWS & WORLD REPORT BEST HOSPITALS IN TAMPA – ST. PETERSBURG

- 1. Tampa General Hospital, Tampa
- 2. Morton Plant Hospital, Clearwater
- 3. St. Joseph's Hospital-Tampa, Tampa



## » Healthcare Systems in GTB

HCA Healthcare, one of the nation's leading providers of healthcare services, plays a vital role in Greater Tampa Bay's medical landscape. With a network of hospitals, outpatient centers and clinics, HCA Healthcare offers comprehensive healthcare solutions to the community. Known for its commitment to quality care, innovation and patient-centered approach, HCA Healthcare facilities in Greater Tampa Bay provide a wide range of medical specialties, advanced treatments and personalized care plans. Through their dedicated healthcare professionals and state-

of-the-art facilities, HCA Healthcare continues to serve the diverse healthcare needs of the region, ensuring access to high-quality healthcare services for all residents.

**AdventHealth** facilities, including Carrollwood, Connerton, Dade City, North Pinellas, Tampa, Wesley Chapel and Zephyrhills, further enrich the local healthcare landscape. While not all have specific rankings, their high performance in various procedures/conditions contributes significantly to GTB's healthcare excellence. The addition of this healthcare system underscores GTB's robust health landscape, promising quality care for its residents.

The **BayCare Healthcare System** stands as a cornerstone of

healthcare excellence in the area, offering comprehensive medical services and compassionate care to the community. With a network of hospitals, outpatient facilities and specialty centers, BayCare is committed to delivering top-tier healthcare tailored to individual needs. Known for its focus on innovation, research and community outreach, BayCare ensures access to advanced treatments and cutting-edge technologies. Through collaboration among skilled healthcare professionals, BayCare remains dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of residents throughout GTB, emphasizing a patient-centered approach that prioritizes both quality and compassion.



## » Specialized Hospitals

In the Tampa health landscape, hospitals stand out not just for their comprehensive care but also for their specialized services, making them leaders in healthcare excellence.

### H. LEE MOFFITT CANCER CENTER AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE:

#### SPECIALIZATION:

- Cancer Care

#### NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Ranked #11 nationally for cancer care (2020)
- Equipped with cutting-edge technology including six helical CT scanners and three 3-Tesla MRI units

### TAMPA GENERAL HOSPITAL:

#### SPECIALIZATIONS:

- Ear, Nose & Throat (#39 nationally)
- Orthopedics (#30 nationally)
- Urology (#49 nationally)

#### ADDITIONAL HIGH-PERFORMING SPECIALTIES:

Cancer, Cardiology & Heart Surgery, Geriatrics, Neurology & Neurosurgery, Pulmonology & Lung Surgery

### ST. JOSEPH'S WOMEN'S HOSPITAL:

#### SPECIALIZATIONS:

- Obstetrics, Gynecology, Maternal-fetal Medicine, Neonatology

#### CERTIFICATIONS:

- Level 4 neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)

These institutions not only provide top-tier healthcare, but some are also pivotal in research and education, contributing significantly to advancements in medical science and patient care in the Greater Tampa Bay area and beyond.



## » Research Institutions

In the Greater Tampa Bay area, several renowned medical research institutions play pivotal roles in advancing healthcare and pioneering breakthroughs in various fields of medicine. These institutions, characterized by their dedication to innovation, collaboration and excellence, contribute significantly to the region's reputation as a hub for cutting-edge medical research.

One of the prominent institutions in the area is the Moffitt Cancer Center, recognized globally for its pioneering work in cancer research and treatment. Moffitt's multidisciplinary approach brings together experts from various specialties to conduct groundbreaking research aimed at understanding cancer biology,

developing novel therapies, and improving patient outcomes. With state-of-the-art facilities and a robust research infrastructure, Moffitt continues to make significant strides in the fight against cancer, offering hope to patients not only in Tampa Bay but around the world.

Another key player in medical research in the region is the **University of South Florida (USF) Health**, which encompasses a range of research institutes, centers and academic departments dedicated to advancing healthcare through innovation and discovery. USF Health conducts cutting-edge research across various disciplines, including cardiovascular health, neuroscience, infectious diseases and public health. Through collaborations with local healthcare providers, industry partners and government agencies, USF Health fosters a dynamic research »

ecosystem that drives progress and addresses the healthcare needs of the community.

Additionally, the **James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital** serves as a vital research institution, focusing on improving healthcare for veterans through innovative research initiatives. With a strong emphasis on veteran-centric research, the hospital collaborates with academic institutions and other research organizations to address pressing healthcare challenges faced by military personnel and their families.

Furthermore, Greater Tampa Bay is home to several biotechnology companies and research organizations that contribute to the vibrant medical research landscape. These entities conduct research spanning a wide range of areas, including biopharmaceuticals, medical devices, regenerative medicine and digital health technologies.

Overall, the GTB area boasts a rich ecosystem of medical research institutions that are at the forefront of innovation and discovery. Through their collaborative efforts, these institutions are driving advancements in healthcare, improving patient



outcomes and shaping the future of medicine both locally and globally.

## » Future of Healthcare in GTB

The future of healthcare in Greater Tampa Bay is poised for significant growth and innovation, fueled by the robust life sciences and healthcare industry. With over 3,200 establishments and a projected employment growth of 26% over the

next five years, GTB is emerging as a key player in the healthcare sector.

The region's commitment to healthcare excellence is further underscored by the presence of major corporations like **Bristol Myers Squibb** and **Pfizer**, which have chosen Hillsborough County for their operations. This, coupled with the local universities producing more talent in biomedical sciences, sets the stage for GTB to be a beacon of healthcare innovation and quality care. ■

## » FAQs

### What Does the Term "Healthcare Landscape" Mean?

The term "healthcare landscape" refers to the vast array of specialized services designed to meet the individual health needs of people at different life stages. It's a comprehensive view of all the health-related services available to a community.

### How is Technology Transforming the Healthcare Sector in GTB?

The advent of technology in healthcare is revolutionizing the sector at an extraordinary pace. Innovations such as Telemedicine, wearable health devices, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Blockchain are not only enhancing patient care but are also fundamentally changing how the healthcare ecosystem operates, leading to improved patient outcomes.

### How is Tampa General Hospital Ranked Nationally?

As of March 5, 2024, Tampa General Hospital (TGH) has been ranked 83rd on Forbes Magazine's list of America's Best Large Employers. It stands out as one of only three Florida-based organizations in the top 100 and is recognized as the leading healthcare organization in the Tampa Bay area.

### What are the Key Factors Driving Changes in Healthcare in GTB?

The healthcare industry in GTB is in a state of continuous evolution, influenced by technological advancements, demographic shifts and the changing needs and expectations of patients. These factors compel local healthcare systems to adapt and innovate, ensuring the delivery of high-quality care that aligns with the evolving demands of patients and communities.

# Emma dreams

of being a cheerleader.

Our dream is to  
make it possible.

To us, a child's dream  
is as precious as their  
health, and at the core  
of all we do. Exploring  
every medical possibility.  
Imagining. Teaching.  
And always moving  
forward. For Emma.  
For all children.

**BEST  
CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITALS**

**U.S. News**

RANKED IN  
7 SPECIALTIES  
2023-2024



Forward. For all children.  
[HopkinsAllChildrens.org/Forward](https://HopkinsAllChildrens.org/Forward)



**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
All Children's Hospital





HEALTH CARE SPOTLIGHT:

# JOHNS HOPKINS ALL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

BRINGING PEDIATRIC CARE TO PASCO COUNTY

BY CHAD GRIFFIN

**J**ohns Hopkins All Children's Hospital has recently made a significant move by expanding its reach into Pasco County. The hospital's decision to develop a new facility in the area reflects its commitment to enhancing healthcare services for the growing population in the region. The expansion is poised to bring about transformative changes to the local healthcare landscape and is a testament to the hospital's dedication to providing accessible pediatric care to the community.

## » Expansive Plans

The expansion project encompasses the purchase of 114 acres of land in Pasco County for \$24 million, with plans to construct a new facility solely focused on pediatric care. The site, strategically located off Interstate 75 at Overpass Road in Wesley Chapel, is near a recently completed interchange and is situated in one of the fastest-growing

sections of the county. The overall development, known as the Wildcat Bailes project, spans 176 acres and includes 365,000 square feet of hospital space, along with multifamily residences, retail, office space, medical office space and hotel rooms. The hospital's presence in this area is expected to address the growing need for pediatric specialty care and provide easier access to healthcare services for families in the four-county area it serves.

## » Making an Impact on the Community

The decision to expand into Pasco County was driven by the hospital's recognition of the area's population growth, with the county's population having increased by 20.9% from 2010 to 2020. This growth has created a greater demand for pediatric services, prompting Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital to establish a new facility to cater to the evolving healthcare needs of the community. With more than 90% of families in the surrounding area currently traveling outside of the service area for pediatric specialty care, the new facility aims to fill this gap and accommodate the anticipated significant population growth over the next decade. The hospital's expansion aligns with its goal of providing comprehensive and convenient healthcare services "close to home" for the residents of Pasco County and the broader region.

## » Advancements and Future Plans

While specific details about the new facility are still in the works, the hospital is actively engaging with the public and local pediatricians to determine the most suitable services for the site. The first phase of construction is expected to commence later this year, with the full facility scheduled to open in 2028. As the hospital continues to collaborate with the community and healthcare professionals, it remains committed to tailoring its services to meet the unique needs of the population it serves. The expansion into Pasco County underscores the hospital's dedication to advancing pediatric care and ensuring that its services evolve in tandem with the dynamic healthcare landscape of the region.

## » Another Big Name in Pasco County Healthcare

Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital's expansion in Pasco County is part of a broader trend of medical facilities and healthcare organizations recognizing the area's potential for growth and development. The hospital's move aligns with the growing presence of medical facilities in the county, including the BayCare Hospital Wesley Chapel and Florida Cancer Specialists' clinic. The elimination of certificate of need requirements for new hospitals has created a more market-focused healthcare industry, enabling hospitals to identify and respond to areas with a burgeoning demand for healthcare services. Moreover, the hospital's proactive engagement with the Pasco Economic Development Council reflects its commitment to not only expanding its services but also contributing to the overall growth

and development of the county's healthcare sector. This expansion also signifies Pasco County's emergence as a hub for medical advancements and investments, with the Moffitt Cancer Center's 775-acre campus and the Speros FL project further reinforcing the county's potential as a thriving healthcare and life sciences epicenter.

Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital's expansion into Pasco County represents a significant milestone in the hospital's mission to provide high-quality pediatric care and address the evolving healthcare needs of the community. The new facility, set to open in 2028, is poised to play a pivotal role in catering to the region's growing population and fostering a comprehensive and accessible healthcare environment. Through strategic expansions and collaborative efforts, the hospital is contributing to the county's emergence as a prominent healthcare and life sciences destination, thereby setting the stage for a brighter and healthier future for Pasco County and its residents. ■



# NO SWEAT.

GREATER TAMPA BAY'S FITNESS SCENE

BY RYAN WALSH

**W**ith its warm temperatures and numerous opportunities for having fun while staying fit, Greater Tampa Bay is a top spot for pursuing a well-rounded, healthy lifestyle.

Of course, working out is an umbrella term for lots of physical activities. The gym can take on many different forms for a variety of fitness goals or methods, including CrossFit gyms, martial arts studios, yoga centers, athletic clubs or even rock-climbing. GTB's array of fitness centers cater to the workout regimen of anyone looking for their personal brand of pump. While there are hundreds of gyms and fitness centers throughout the region, there are many additional ways to be active and have fun doing it.

Miles upon miles of nature trails, pedestrian-friendly bridges, causeways and stretches of smooth shorelines provide runners, walkers and cyclists with views they will never grow bored



of and plenty of distance to really get the heart pumping. There is not much better for the mind and body than doing yoga or going for a walk on the beach at sunrise, in those early morning hours when it is the most peaceful and relaxing, or taking in sunset views over the bay while going for a run.



Several local runner's groups and annual events bring like-minded joggers together. Runners can partake in the various races held across the area, including the **St. Pete Run Fest 5k/10k/Half Marathon** through downtown St. Petersburg in November, or the **Gasparilla Distance Classic** in Tampa in February.

Some of the area's most scenic locales are the **Safety Harbor** shoreline, **Courtney Campbell Causeway** and the **Upper Tampa Bay Trail**.

Municipal parks such as **Brown Park** in Clearwater Beach, **North Shore Park** in St. Petersburg, **Glenclyff Park** in Westchase and **Wesley Chapel District Park**, to name a few, house basketball hoops, tennis courts and baseball diamonds. These facilities are perfect for more recreational workouts that not only keep the body in good shape but are a great time with friends as well.

Many gyms and fitness centers in the area often host drop-in classes to sample the kinds of workouts offered. A budding passion for kickboxing, Taekwondo or even goat yoga can be nurtured and explored with only an introductory lesson. The variety is limitless.

Healthy lifestyles and fitness routines are no longer a niche subculture, but a dominant, driving force in the lives of many. No matter the preferred exercise, GTB's temperate weather, accessible parks and regular active events foster a fitness environment unlike any other. Feeling the burn yet? ■

# HEALTHY IS A WAY OF LIFE

Greater Tampa Bay is frequently named one of the healthiest places to live, with many residents prioritizing self-care, mental and spiritual wellness and staying active:

## AMERICA'S HEALTHIEST CITIES — Tampa

The Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater metropolitan area frequently makes an appearance on Mindbody's annual Wellness Index, which recognizes the 50 healthiest cities in America. Tampa, specifically, has been in the top 20 on this index for the past four years in a row, peaking at No. 8 in 2020. It took the No. 10 spot for 2023.

Mindbody surveys approximately 20,000 residents in each major city about several aspects of wellness, including connection to community, stress levels, workout habits, alcohol consumption, spirituality, self-care practices and more, to determine rankings in the index.

## AMERICAN FITNESS INDEX — St. Petersburg, Tampa

St. Petersburg and Tampa often compare favorably to the national average in the American Fitness Index, a ranking of America's 100 largest cities.

According to the index's criteria, "cities that rank near the top of the Fitness Index have more strengths and resources that support healthy living and fewer challenges that hinder it."

The American College of Sports Medicine gathers data from a variety of sources to determine rankings in the index, including the U.S. Census Bureau, Environmental Protection Agency, Feeding America, Center for Disease Control and Prevention and others.



## Here is how Tampa and St. Petersburg compare in the 2023 index:

### TAMPA

- No. 24 — overall rank
- No. 29 — personal health rank
- No. 33 — community and environment rank

### ST. PETERSBURG

- No. 33 — overall rank
- No. 51 — personal health rank
- No. 17 — community and environment rank



# MINDING OUR BUSINESS

## INTRO TO BUSINESS IN GREATER TAMPA BAY

BY ALEXANDRA INGRAM

**T**he Greater Tampa Bay area stands out as one of the nation's premier hubs for business activity. Renowned for its dynamic business environment, GTB consistently garners recognition

as a prime location for launching, managing or relocating enterprises. It boasts remarkable growth as one of the fastest-expanding metropolitan regions, with diverse industry sectors experiencing notable upsurges in recent years.

The blend of factors that render GTB—primarily Hillsborough,

Pinellas, and Pasco counties—highly conducive to a wide spectrum of businesses is noteworthy. A plethora of esteemed colleges and universities continually furnish a fresh influx of young talent. The region benefits from visionary leadership and local administrations that embrace pro-business strategies and endorse

Businesses interested in exploring opportunities to start up or move to one of GTB's communities have plenty of help and support.

**GET CONNECTED:**

- **Amplify Clearwater:**  
amplifyclearwater.com
- **St. Petersburg Area Economic Development Corporation:**  
stpeteedc.com
- **Westshore Alliance:**  
choosewestshore.com
- **St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce**  
stpete.com
- **Tampa Bay Economic Development Council:** tampabayedc.com
- **Tampa Downtown Partnership:**  
tampasdowntown.com
- **North Tampa Bay Chamber:**  
northtampabaychamber.com
- **Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce:** brandonchamber.com
- **Tampa Bay LGBT Chamber:**  
tampabaylgbtchamber.org
- **Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Tampa Bay:** tampahispanicchamber.com
- **South Tampa Chamber:**  
southtampachamber.org

judicious development. Innovation hubs, research facilities, startup incubators and robust entrepreneurial networks ensure that industries remain at the forefront of innovation within their respective domains.

GTB's appeal is further accentuated

by its relatively affordable cost of living, coupled with an array of quality-of-life amenities such as world-class entertainment, pristine beaches and rich cultural offerings. The region fosters inclusivity by actively supporting women and minorities in entrepreneurship, while also providing ample opportunities for professional advancement. Notably, the absence of personal income tax and the diverse mix of vibrant communities add to GTB's allure as an ideal locale to both reside and conduct business.

Accessibility is another key advantage, with GTB boasting two top-tier international airports, the nearest deep-water port to the Panama Canal and an extensive network of transportation arteries including the Interstate 4 corridor catering to warehousing, distribution and logistics needs.

All in all, GTB offers a comprehensive ecosystem wherein businesses of all scales, from small startups to Fortune 500 giants, can thrive. It is not merely a destination for leisure; rather, it stands as a premier destination for professional pursuits as well. ■



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Major Industries

**GTB BUSINESS BY THE NUMBERS**

**No. 2**

• Best Large City to Start a Business, Tampa (Wallethub, 2024)

**No. 5**

• Best Place to Start a Career in U.S., Tampa (Wallethub, 2024)

**No. 2**

• Best Place to Find a Job in U.S., Tampa (Wallethub, 2024)

**3,599**

• New businesses in City of Tampa in Q1 2024

**7**

• Fortune 500 Companies in Greater Tampa Bay

**No. 10**

• Best Large City to Start a Business, St. Petersburg

# SUNSHINE AND SYNERGY

EXPLORING THE BRIGHT BUSINESS SCENE IN ST. PETERSBURG

BY CHAD GRIFFIN

**S**t. Petersburg offers more than just stunning beaches and year-round sunshine. The city's vibrant business landscape and tight-knit community make it an inviting destination for entrepreneurs and established companies alike. Take a closer look at the local business environment and the resources available for those looking to thrive in this sunny city.

## » A Growing Business Community

St. Petersburg boasts a diverse and growing business community, with a range of industries contributing to its economic vitality. From tech startups to established healthcare providers, the city offers ample opportunities for businesses to flourish. The downtown



area is particularly bustling with a mix of innovative startups and established firms, creating a dynamic ecosystem for collaboration and growth.

## » Local Chamber of Commerce

The St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, known as the St. Pete Chamber, stands as a pillar of support for local businesses. With a

mission to foster a thriving business environment, the chamber provides networking events, educational resources and advocacy efforts to empower its members. Whether one is a small business owner or a corporate leader, the St. Pete

Chamber offers valuable opportunities to connect with fellow professionals and contribute to the local economy.

## » Economic Development Council

In addition to the chamber of commerce, St. Petersburg benefits from the efforts of the St. Petersburg

Economic Development Council. This organization focuses on attracting new businesses to the area, supporting existing companies and cultivating a business-friendly environment. Through strategic initiatives and partnerships, the council plays a crucial role in driving economic growth and enhancing the region's competitiveness.

## » Supportive Ecosystem

What truly sets St. Petersburg apart is its supportive business ecosystem. Entrepreneurs can tap into a network of co-working spaces, startup incubators and business accelerators designed to nurture innovation and collaboration. The city's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship has led to the emergence of thriving business districts and a palpable sense of community among local entrepreneurs.

## » The Future is Bright

As the sun sets over the Gulf of Mexico, it is clear that St. Petersburg's business landscape is as vibrant as its sun-soaked beaches. With the backing of the St. Pete Chamber, the dedication of the Economic Development Council and a supportive business ecosystem, entrepreneurs and businesses have ample resources to thrive in this flourishing city. Whether companies are drawn to the city's creative energy or its commitment to economic growth, St. Petersburg is undoubtedly a place where business dreams can take root and flourish. ■

## BUSINESS DISTRICTS IN ST. PETERSBURG

St. Petersburg is home to several unique business districts, each with its own characteristics and notable features.

Here are the specific business districts in the city:

### DOWNTOWN

- Flourishing with a rapidly evolving retail and arts scene supported by a growing population of residents and daytime office employees
- Key areas include the Museum District and major arts districts

### GATEWAY

- Home to the region's top employers, including Raymond James Financial, Home Shopping Network and Jabil, supporting more than 2,700 businesses and 60,000 employees

### INNOVATION DISTRICT

- Cluster of higher education, marine science, healthcare, business incubation and media institutions
- Anchored by the St. Petersburg Ocean Team, a premier consortium of marine science and environmental research agencies

### MAIN STREETS AREAS

- St. Petersburg is the only city in

Florida to have three Main Street areas: Deuces Live, Grand Central and the EDGE District

- Revitalization strategy targeting economic development, design, promotions and organization components

### SKYWAY MARINA DISTRICT

- A collective vision for a south St. Petersburg mixed-use center, aiming to improve business mix and increase employment opportunities from local to regional

### TYRONE AREA

- Characterized by retail and residential spaces, with the primary retail attractor being Tyrone Square Mall

### WAREHOUSE ARTS DISTRICT

- Home to a widely diverse group of artists, entrepreneurs, manufacturers and creative minds with a focus on developing, promoting and enhancing critical components of the area

These districts collectively contribute to the economic diversity and vitality of St. Petersburg. Each district plays a crucial role in the city's economic development and employment opportunities, catering to various industries and sectors.



# — CLEARLY — THRIVING

BUSINESS IS BOOMING WITH AMPLIFY CLEARWATER

**A**MPLIFY Clearwater is the leading business advocacy organization in North Pinellas County and serves as the Chamber of Commerce for the Greater Clearwater area. AMPLIFY is a connector, linking communities, people, businesses, resources and more.

Founded in 2019, AMPLIFY Clearwater is the result of the merger of two

organizations: the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Clearwater Beach Chamber of Commerce. As such, AMPLIFY is privileged to carry out over 100 years of history in the community.

Beyond the traditional benefits offered to its members, AMPLIFY Clearwater leads advocacy efforts at the city, County and State levels to ensure its community enjoys a pro-business environment with opportunities to grow and thrive. The organization also works to make health insurance coverage, retirement options and more accessible to small businesses who employ residents, making the community a more attractive place to live and work in the process.

Now: AMPLIFY Clearwater  
Headquarters at 1346 S. Ft  
Harrison Ave.



Then: Bluffs Chamber of Commerce Building

## AMPLIFY FACTS

- **800+ Partners:** connections are at the core of what AMPLIFY does. Members enjoy personalized introductions to the people and businesses they want to know.
- **Advocacy:** AMPLIFY is proud to represent the interest of its partners at all levels of government. Our community thrives when local businesses are able to grow and prosper, which is why we advocate for pro-business policies. Additionally, partners are surveyed every year to establish legislative priorities that are then presented to legislators, in person, in Tallahassee during an annual visit.
  - **Celebrating the Wins:** Every year, AMPLIFY recognizes the shining stars of their business community at the Stellar Awards, an evening to celebrate the people and organizations who make the region a better place. Our partners nominate their peers in categories that reflect the vibrant and diverse small businesses that make up the fabric of Clearwater. Then— it is party time.
- **Tourism:** Amplify serves as the unified voice for Tourism in the Clearwater destination area, operating two high-traffic visitor information centers and producing the official Clearwater Vacation Guide every year. Visitors from around the world trust AMPLIFY’s recommendations and plan their vacation with the tools they provide.

## » Making Health Insurance Coverage and Benefits Accessible to Small Businesses

Leadership in organizations of all sizes, but especially small businesses, struggle with the costs of employee benefit plans. Over the course of 10 years, premiums have risen by over 43%, while employee contributions rose by 41% in the same time period. Hiring and talent retention are becoming priority issues, for which leadership wants to provide solutions. Benefits rank among the most important components of compensation. In fact, employees will sometimes select jobs with lower pay if the benefits are richer. Competitive benefits are important, but there is often heavy administrative work associated with them. The most optimal solution is a turnkey benefits and administration solution, with customized enrollment services, including online and on-site options.

AMPLIFY Clearwater has partnered with AvMed and Exemplary Health to offer fully customizable health and benefits coverage plans for their members, no matter the size of their

business or the number of lives insured. By offering innovative and sustainable solutions, AMPLIFY looks forward to helping its members reduce costs and improve employee satisfaction and retention, as well as quality of care.

AMPLIFY is proud to offer this benefit to ALL their partners, no matter the annual investment they are able to dedicate. Whether a company has two employees or 30, these fully custom health benefits plans will save every participant thousands of dollars a year.

These plans are ONLY available to current AMPLIFY Clearwater members. Interested? Scan the QR code to enter your information and get a quote. ➤



## » Developing A Robust Workforce & Business Community Through A Full-Service Entrepreneurship Center

In 2023, AMPLIFY Clearwater made headlines for launching the first and only business incubator program focused on Tourism Innovation in the State of Florida. Following a successful first cohort and \$30,000 in cash distributed to small businesses, AMPLIFY announced that this was only the first step in opening a full-service Entrepreneurship Center at its headquarters.

Here are some of the programs expected to make up its programming:

- **Business Incubator Program focused on Tourism Innovation:** On the heels of Clearwater being named

#1 beach in the US again, this business incubator initiative further capitalizes on what the Clearwater community already does so well. This biannual 10-week program attracts promising existing growth stage businesses from all over the state and assists entrepreneurs to realize the necessary changes to guarantee sustainability in their businesses. The focus is on emerging trends, strategic partnerships and innovative ideas to drive continued success.

- **Bootcamps and Workshops:** In addition to the twice-a-year incubator cohorts, the Entrepreneurship Center will host bootcamps and workshops

periodically. These classes aim to provide continued education in technical, legal and financial subjects to entrepreneurs, with the help of expert facilitators.

- **Workforce development initiatives:** These programs will fulfill the need to up-skill and/or re-skill the workforce, attracting new employers and higher-paying jobs to the region.

- **Internships/Apprenticeships:** Amplify looks forward to developing more opportunities to place local high school and college students into the workforce pipeline, and to retain talent in the region.

### WHY AMPLIFY?

In 2022, AMPLIFY Clearwater was selected by the City of Clearwater Economic Development department to take over Clearwater Business SPARK, a small business assistance initiative. In less than a full year operating SPARK, AMPLIFY immensely grew its footprint, practicing what the program preaches: resources shared with those wishing to start a business, but unsure how or where to find all the information and help needed for their success.

**Why now?** After AMPLIFY rebranded SPARK to fit more organically under its umbrella, there was still an existing gap in service. While SPARK helps aspiring entrepreneurs early on in the business development process, AMPLIFY Clearwater addresses the business' needs after hanging the first shingle, leaving those in the ideation phase, or the growth phase of a venture without privately-led support in the North Pinellas region. AMPLIFY Clearwater is uniquely qualified to fill this gap, as it already leads the other two initiatives.



AMPLIFY Clearwater leadership unveils IGNITE Entrepreneurship Center at their Spring 2024 Pitch Night event with naming rights sponsor Duke Energy, represented by Florida President Melissa Seixas

## SUCCESS STORY

Lori Lenhart is the owner of Allori Blow Dry Bar in Belleair Bluffs. Unlike a traditional hair salon, Lori's business is centered around a luxurious blow dry experience that can be enjoyed during a lunch break or a vacation. Other than its location near the Gulf beaches, there is a clear connection to tourism for Lori's business: vacationers look to indulge in hair, makeup and infusion services while away from home.

Lori heard about the new program on Facebook. She submitted an application and was selected to be a participant of the inaugural cohort. "As a business owner, I came into class once a week, every week and learned new information. They gave us resources to grow our business, whether it was marketing, finances or operations," she said.

Upon completion of the program, Lori pitched her business to judges April Caldwell, CEO of fayVen;

Lauren Fernandez, founder and CEO of Allegrow; and Emmanuel Hernandez, Dean of the College of Business at St. Petersburg College at the incubator's first Pitch Night. While she was nervous to get up to the podium, she felt supported by the rest of her cohort: "I walked away with new business partners – not financially, but in support of what we all do." Allori Blow Dry Bar won second place, and was awarded \$10,000.



Lori Lenhart, owner of Allori Blow Dry Bar; cohort member of the Fall of 2023 Business Incubator program, and second-place winner of AMPLIFY Clearwater's first Pitch Night.

For more information and to apply, contact Joe Lugo, Chief of Staff at [Joe@amplifyclearwater.com](mailto:Joe@amplifyclearwater.com), or visit [www.amplifyclearwater.com/incubator](http://www.amplifyclearwater.com/incubator).

## » Clearwater Young Professionals

Clearwater Young Professionals is the second peer-to-peer networking group existing under the umbrella of AMPLIFY Clearwater. Through monthly socials and quarterly signature events, the group connects like-minded professionals in similar seasons of life to learn, grow and share valuable insights. Members enjoy community connections, personal and professional development, and more.

### About our 2024 Chairperson, Matt Maizes of Hill Ward Henderson:

Clearwater Young Professionals is excited to welcome Matt Maizes as their 2024 Chairperson. Although originally from the Fort Lauderdale area, Matt started visiting Pinellas County in 2012 after meeting his wife, Lauren (a Palm Harbor native), at the University of Florida. Matt fell in love with the region and Matt and Lauren were able to move back to the area permanently in 2020. Professionally, Matt is an attorney focusing on mergers & acquisitions and general business law in the Corporate and Tax Group at the law firm Hill Ward Henderson. Matt became involved with CYP

in 2023 and, shortly thereafter, was tapped to be the group's Recruitment Chair. Seeing Matt's passion for networking, desire to connect young professionals, and new ideas, Matt was asked to be the 2024 Chairperson for the program.

"In the age of social media interaction and remote meetings, simply showing up in person is the most powerful tool to build personal and professional relationships," says Maizes. Working in Tampa, living in St. Pete and networking in Clearwater (and throughout Tampa Bay), Matt understands that the Tampa

Bay region is booming and is attracting some of the most talented young professionals in the world, representing a diverse range of industries. "Clearwater is on the rise and so should be its network of young professionals. I envision CYP becoming a powerful network of these young professionals from all backgrounds that would represent a valuable and reliable resource to its members," said Maizes.

As such, Matt looks forward to catching up with current members and welcoming new members into the fold this year at our upcoming events.



Join CYP at [amplifyclearwater.com/CYP](http://amplifyclearwater.com/CYP) – membership is free. NEW THIS YEAR: looking for opportunities to connect? Purchase the 2024 CYP All Access Pass for complimentary registration into ALL 2024 gatherings, including the Regional Young Professionals Summit in July.

## » AchieveHERs

AchieveHERs is a peer-to-peer networking group for professional women, by professional women. To advance AMPLIFY Clearwater, AchieveHERs provides engaging experiences that intentionally foster leadership through an inclusive culture of support, wisdom and community connections to nurture personal and professional life for all women. AchieveHERs is open to both established women in business and those aspiring to lead.

AchieveHERs offers monthly opportunities for their members to connect in the form of socials, named Energize HER Hour in the mornings, and Happi HER Hour in the evenings. Additionally, AMPLIFY Clearwater produces four Signature Events a year, including the highly anticipated and always well-attended Signature Luncheon. “Every year, we kick off International Women’s Month early with the AchieveHERs Signature Luncheon, where keynote speakers touch on a subject that women in our community seek,” said Camille Hebbing, Executive Vice President, External Affairs for AMPLIFY Clearwater, and AchieveHERs Staff Liaison. “It’s an honor to follow the footsteps of the founding members of this group to continue to bring important conversations to rooms full of change makers.” In February of 2024, AchieveHERs welcomed business leaders Liz and Mallory Dimmitt on the Signature Luncheon stage. Liz and Mallory tragically lost their brother Lawrence to suicide; they opened up about their experience, shared advice and highlighted resources that resonated with the 200+ women and men in attendance.

## 10 YEARS OF ACHIEVEHERS

AMPLIFY celebrated 10 years of AchieveHERs last year – indeed, November of 2023 marked 10 years since the very first AchieveHERs Signature Luncheon. To celebrate, the organization reunited the founding members of the group, invited past members and included new members to share testimonials about the past decade and wishes for the future. The result? Six short-form videos that can be viewed on AchieveHERs Social Media platforms

In 2024, AchieveHERs looks forward to sharing the stage with other women’s groups in the Tampa Bay Region. “We are dedicated to intentional collaboration, so that we can amplify the message that vulnerability, while difficult, is paramount,” adds Hebbing. “AchieveHERs celebrates the ebbs and flows of being professional women and the diversity of our community by connecting our members to the resources they need, the persons they should meet and the businesses they should know.”



### SOCIAL MEDIA:



AchieveHERs



@achieveherswsw



AchieveHERs



## The Carol Hague AchieveHERs Woman of the Year Award

Named after AchieveHER founding member and former Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Carol Hague, this award recognizes trailblazing women who epitomize community and success. These servant leaders are celebrated by their peers for being change-makers for whom impact is the most valuable deliverable.

Past recipients include (from left to right):  
2023 – Sheri Aquilar • 2022 – Sharon Fekete • 2021 – Suzy Sofer • 2020 – Haley Crum



## BECOME AN ACHIEVEHER

Join this robust network of professional women from across Tampa Bay as we tackle the issues affecting women in the workplace, connect you with a network of trusted advisors, promote you and your business and provide skills and experiences that help you get more out of life – both inside and outside of the office. To explore our membership levels and benefits, and to join, visit [amplifyclearwater.com/achievehers](http://amplifyclearwater.com/achievehers)



## » AMPLIFY's Impact

The impact of AMPLIFY Clearwater is felt way beyond its partners, as all actions taken, and initiatives carried out benefit the community as a whole.

- AMPLIFY Clearwater provides valuable information about the local business environment, market trends and regulatory changes. While this information is made readily available to their partners, it also helps other businesses seeking to understand the local business landscape.

- AMPLIFY Clearwater markets and promotes activities to attract visitors, residents and businesses to the community, which in turn creates employment, lowers the tax burden of our residents and increases their quality of life. All benefit from these efforts as they contribute to the overall economic prosperity and attractiveness of the Clearwater area and Tampa Bay region as a whole.

- AMPLIFY Clearwater advocates for policies and initiatives that benefit the entire community, not just its members. This includes efforts to support economic development projects, like Coachman Park, improve infrastructure, like the road improvements on Drew Street, and attract or retain community partners such as the Philadelphia Phillies, who have called Clearwater their home for Spring Training for the last 75+ years. All community stakeholders benefit from these advocacy efforts through improved business conditions, quality of life and a more vibrant community. ■

## SPRING TRAINING

The Phillies have been training in Clearwater, Florida, since 1947, the second-longest affiliation between a major league club and its spring training home in baseball. While it was Jack Russell, former baseball professional who retired in Clearwater and was elected to the City Council, who told the Phillies, then looking for a Spring Training home, "If you make a commitment, we'll build a ballpark," many persons and organizations have played a role in keeping the Phillies in Clearwater – including AMPLIFY Clearwater.

"The Phillies are a great example of a long-term partnership that AMPLIFY Clearwater continues to foster and grow," said Amanda Payne, President/CEO. Every year, Phillies Spring Training has an economic impact of more than \$40 million, a result of direct spending by visitors and teams in the county. And outside of Spring Training, the Phillies invest in our region year-round. The Phillies organization is developing a \$250 million residential, dining and shopping complex to enhance player development and visitor experience surrounding BayCare Ballpark. "This important relationship is a great example of the work that we all do together to bring value to our community and its stakeholders," added Payne.



# WESTSHORE MEANS BUSINESS

THE GREATER TAMPA BAY DISTRICT  
DETERMINED TO HAVE IT ALL

BY RYAN WALSH

**T**ampa's famous Westshore district means business. It is a place like no other. Modern business suites, acclaimed restaurants and residential communities exist in a harmonious synergy that makes this 10 square mile region one of the hottest in Greater Tampa Bay. As one of the top employment areas on

Florida's west coast, it is no surprise that it shows no sign of slowing down.

Opportunities in the Westshore area are boundless. Companies of all sizes, from tech startups to Fortune 500s, grow amongst each other and foster development. From retail to dining, exciting entertainment to convenient travel, the Westshore area is one of the best places to live, work and play in Greater Tampa Bay.

## » What's New?

In a word – everything.

This year will feature an exciting slate of new homes, eateries and offices that will make Westshore even better.

Novel Beach Park by Crescent Communities is a beautiful, 289-unit multi-family complex that sits on Old Tampa Bay. This recently opened residential experience features a ninth-floor sky bar, resort-style pool and floor-to-ceiling windows.

Midtown East, a new commercial tower coming to Westshore's Midtown area, holds a unique distinction: it is currently the only new

office building being constructed in Hillsborough County. A testament to the business appeal of Westshore, Midtown East will see Tampa Electric as a tenant of several of the building's floors. A topping-off ceremony will take place in early May 2024, with the offices set to be fully open in 2025.

Other recently opened developments include Casa Cami, a high-end Mexican restaurant located at the Current Hotel, the Sheltair Executive Hanger Complex expansion and the new offices for Johnson and Johnson Global Services at the International Plaza.

### » Business — Why Do it Here?

Location, location, location. Key to Westshore's success is its position in between downtown Tampa and Pinellas County. The Courtney Campbell Causeway connects Westshore to Clearwater while the Howard Frankland Bridge does the same with St. Petersburg. And with Tampa International Airport in its backyard, Westshore is a hub that attracts employees, clients and customers from around the area and around the country.

For those who live and work in Westshore, developments in transportation and accessibility have made it even easier to get around. 2022's Transportation Action Plan included an additional 30 miles of bike lanes and trails, as well as walkability improvements on West Shore Boulevard. ➤

## Westshore By the Numbers

**15,000**  
RESIDENTS

**15.5**  
million  
square feet  
OF COMMERCIAL  
OFFICE SPACE

**100,000**  
EMPLOYEES

**6,500**  
BUSINESSES

**250+**  
RESTAURANTS

**350**  
RETAIL STORES

**45**  
HOTELS

**3,600**  
APARTMENTS  
ADDED SINCE 2009

**26,000**  
STUDENTS ATTENDING  
COLLEGE IN  
WESTSHORE



## » Eats and Drinks

WestShore is known for its impressive number of bars and restaurants and its culinary excellence. Recent additions that opened last year include restaurateur Jeff Gigante's Union New American and Hall of Fame Chef Chris Ponte's Ponte Modern American.

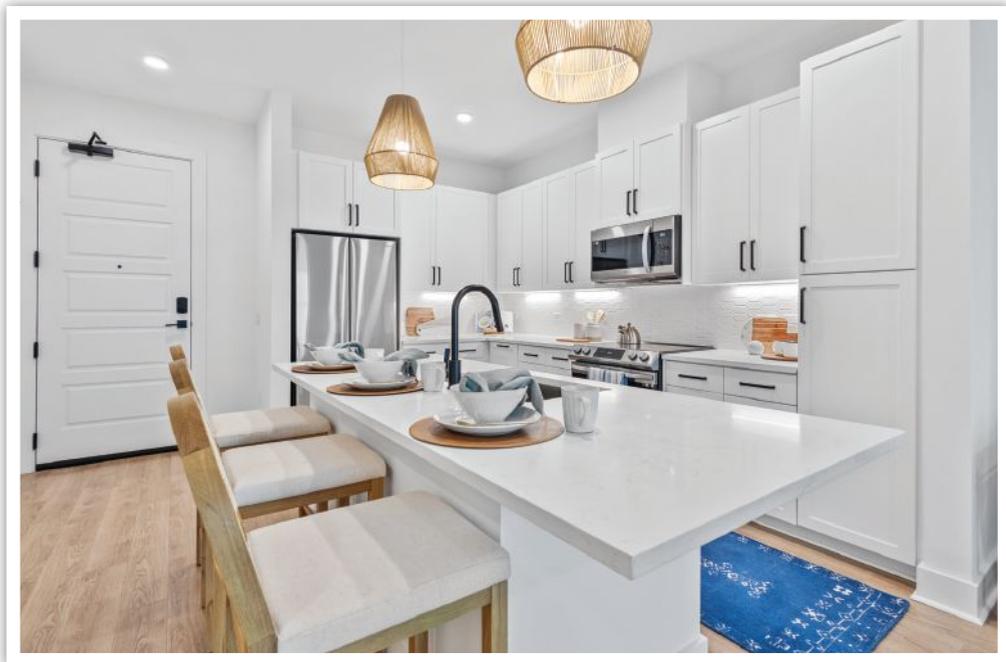
Nearby in Westshore Plaza, Kura, a revolving sushi restaurant, opened in October 2023. The Florida-based eatery, which also employs robot servers, opened its debut location in Central Florida before bringing the high-tech idea to Westshore.

Other classic Westshore staples include Ocean Prime, Charley's Steak House (relocating within Westshore next year), Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar (currently building new flagship location scheduled to open September 2024 in Westshore next to existing location) and over 250 more fantastic restaurants. For a cozy, laidback beach atmosphere, Rocky Point spots like Bahama Breeze and the Rusty Pelican provide that classic Florida feel that GTB is known for.

## » Entertainment

It might be easier to ask, 'what can't you do?' in Westshore.

For the diehard sports fan, there is no better place to get in on the action. The two-time Super Bowl Champion

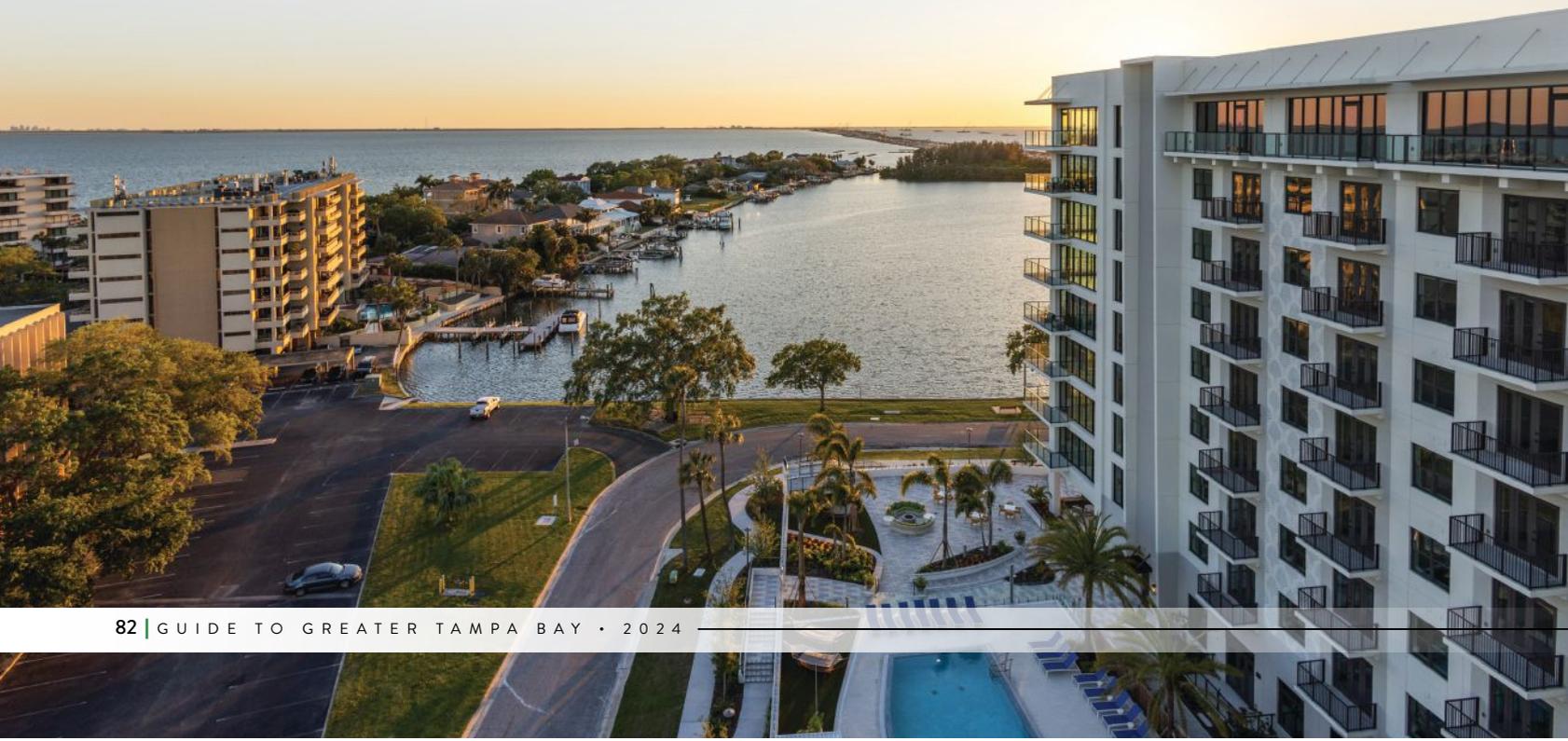


Tampa Bay Buccaneers host opponents at Raymond James Stadium, while in the springtime, the New York Yankees hold spring training in Westshore's George M. Steinbrenner Field. During the season, the AAA Tampa Tarpons call GMS Field home.

In addition to football, Raymond James sees the biggest names in music and entertainment perform each year. Morgan Wallen, Jelly Roll and Zach Bryan all performed concerts this year. In the last twelve months, the stadium has hosted Billy Joel, Taylor Swift,

Beyoncé, Luke Combs and Ed Sheeran.

The International Plaza is a shopper's dream with over 200 stores across its 1.25 million square feet, complete with offerings like Gucci, Burberry, Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom and the interactive new concept Dick's House of Sport scheduled to open later this year. The Rocky Point Golf Course, one of the first in the state, features 18 holes of waterfront golf and is open to the public.



## » Westshore Alliance

With over 400 members, the Westshore Alliance is the voice of the area's businesses. Designed to advocate for and advance the interests of the area's economic success, this nonprofit organization offers its member businesses networking opportunities, marketing and employee programs and services.

"We convene businesspeople in the areas, serve as an advocate for improved transportation and bring dialogue between businesses," said Westshore Alliance Executive Director Michael Maurino.

## » Future and Beyond

2024 is only the beginning.

As part of last year's 2023-2033 strategic plan, the Westshore Alliance aims to redesign the look and feel of West Shore Boulevard, create more green space and walkability, install more electric vehicle charging stations and finish construction on the Howard Frankland Bridge.

Additional housing is also set to be added in May 2024 with the opening of NOVEL Independence Park.

The Westshore District is a continuously evolving project, striving always to maintain its position as one of GTB's best places to live, work and relax. ■

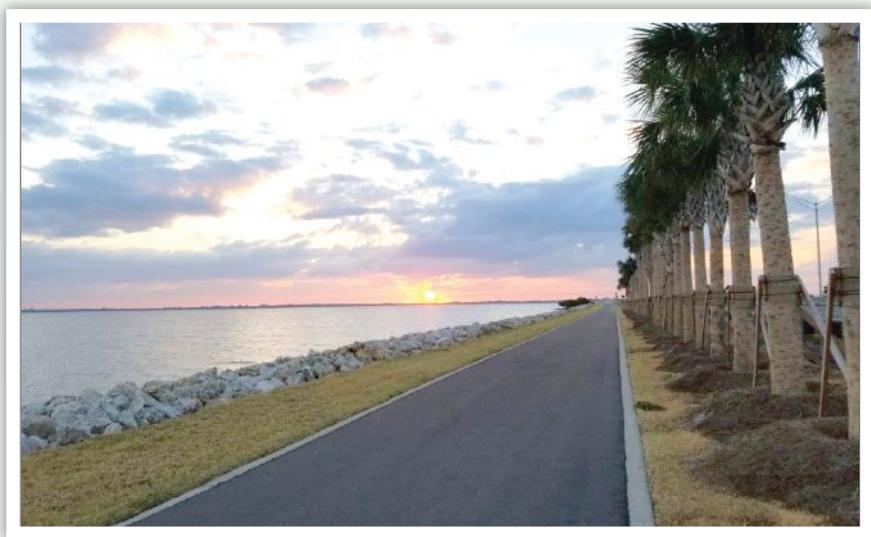


### NOVEL BEACH PARK

The newest multifamily residential development in Westshore is Tampa Bay personified. Waterfront views, luxurious amenities and centralized location make it a coveted place to call home. Currently open for leasing, NOVEL Beach Park has 289 units offering 9-foot ceilings, oversized kitchens and many floorplans.

#### Amenities include:

- Waterside pool and lounge
- Sunset lounge with indoor/outdoor terrace
- Co-working space
- Fitness club
- Pet facilities



### WESTSHORE TRAIL ACCESS

• **The Courtney Campbell Trail** – Whether biking, walking or rollerblading, this walk along the water is perfect for great workouts and greater views. Stretching across the expanse of the bay itself, this nearly 11-mile trail runs from Gulf to Bay Boulevard in Clearwater to W. Cypress Street in Tampa.

• **Cypress Point Park** – Located just north of the Courtney Campbell Causeway, is everything a Tampa park should be. Beach access, a disc golf course, a sand volleyball court and miles of walking trails. Rent a paddle board from PADL Standup and watch the sunset across Old Tampa Bay or take a picnic lunch under one of their many shaded shelter areas.

# DUE NORTH

## GROWTH AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES OF NORTH TAMPA BAY

BY CHAD GRIFFIN

**N**orth Tampa Bay is a unique blend of rural tranquility and suburban vibrancy. Boasting a medley of cities and communities like Wesley Chapel, Lutz, Odessa and Trinity, this region is a hotbed of growing businesses and a thriving commercial community.

The business scene in North Tampa Bay is equal parts land of opportunity and community of spirit. The region's

rapid growth, diverse demographics and vibrant business landscape make it an ideal setting for entrepreneurs and business owners. With access to a mix of rural and suburban markets, a supportive community and the backing of organizations like the North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce, businesses in this area have the chance to thrive while contributing to the region's overall prosperity. Whether it is the picturesque landscapes of Lutz, the family-friendly allure of Trinity or the growth opportunities in Wesley Chapel, North Tampa Bay provides a welcoming environment where businesses can flourish and form meaningful connections within the community.



## » What to Know, Where to Grow

### WESLEY CHAPEL:

#### Where Growth Meets

#### Opportunity

Wesley Chapel, just a stone's throw from Tampa, has blossomed into a hub of growth and opportunity. With its burgeoning array of residential communities, retail centers and dining hotspots, this suburb is a dream come true for entrepreneurs and business owners seeking to carve their niche in a lively and dynamic setting.

### LUTZ: Where Community and Commerce Coalesce

Lutz, with its idyllic scenery and welcoming community, offers a haven for businesses looking to weave themselves into the fabric of local life. Surrounded by nature's finest, Lutz beckons businesses that resonate with its laid-back and natural ambiance.

### ODESSA: Where Serenity Meets Business

The small, yet enchanting community of Odessa charms with its glittering lakes, equestrian allure and natural spaces. Businesses in Odessa have the chance to embrace the local charm and cater to the needs of a community that cherishes its natural beauty.

### TRINITY: Where Family and Business Flourish

Trinity, a community abuzz with familial warmth, is a place where businesses can thrive amidst a tapestry of family-friendly appeal. With its top-notch schools and well-groomed neighborhoods, Trinity beckons businesses that cater to the needs of its diverse and vibrant population.

# The North Tampa Bay Chamber

## A Local Champion Weaving Together Business and Community

A 2022 and 2023 Chamber of the Year finalist, the North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce has stood as a steadfast advocate for local businesses since its founding in 1998.

### NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

- Events such as Tampa Bay @ Sunset, Ambassador Program, membership lunches and formal networking sessions offer a platform for businesses to engage and connect with others in the local business community.

### EXPOSURE AND SPONSORSHIP

- Members have the chance to expand their exposure within the business community by sponsoring Chamber events and programs, gaining visibility and demonstrating their support for the local business ecosystem.

### ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND DISCOUNTS

- Membership offers access to networking events, marketing

opportunities, educational resources and exclusive discounts on certain products and services.

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Beyond business support, the Chamber is actively involved in various community initiatives that contribute to the overall well-being and economic development of North Tampa Bay, including supporting local schools, promoting tourism and advocating for infrastructure improvements.

### TAILORED MEMBERSHIP PLANS

- The Chamber offers different membership plans, each with its own features and services, enabling businesses to choose a plan that best aligns with their individual budget and engagement preferences.

Overall, membership in the North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce offers businesses a platform to expand their network, gain exposure in the community, access valuable resources and actively contribute to the region's economic development and well-being.



## » A Bright Future Awaits

As North Tampa Bay continues to bloom and flourish, its business landscape and community spirit stand as a testament to the region's potential for entrepreneurial ventures and heartfelt connections. The North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce, with its focus on nurturing businesses and embracing the community, weaves a tapestry of growth and opportunity for all who call this vibrant region home. Here's to a future filled with prosperity, camaraderie and boundless opportunities in North Tampa Bay. ■



# TAMPA BAY TITANS

BY CHAD GRIFFIN

## The Major Industries of Greater Tampa Bay

**B**eachside bike shops are not the only businesses booming in Greater Tampa

Bay. From corporate headquarters to manufacturing, healthcare, information technology and defense, GTB offers a thriving business environment that attracts both large corporations and small businesses.

### » Manufacturing, Distribution and Logistics

Tampa Bay's manufacturing sector is a key driver of innovation for various industries, with over 2,800 manufacturing firms employing nearly 62,000 people. The region is home to leading companies, contributing to the advancement of modern manufacturing technology and attracting investment from overseas.

Global headquarters of leading manufacturing companies such

as Jabil, Bausch + Lomb and Bertram Yachts, among others.

Close to 500 foreign-owned companies representing more than 40 nations having established successful operations in the area.

### » Life Sciences and Healthcare

The area has emerged as a hub for the state's fast-growing life sciences industry. Notable corporations have established major operations in Tampa, leveraging the region's talented

## Why GTB?

### Large Corporate Presence:

The region hosts numerous Fortune 1000 companies and offers favorable conditions such as low labor costs, stable leadership and targeted financial incentives, making it an ideal location for corporate headquarters and large businesses.

### Business-Friendly Environment:

Tampa Bay provides a supportive business environment with collaboration between government, industry and community, resulting in effective development packages, financial incentives and streamlined regulatory processes.

**Talented Workforce:** The presence of globally renowned educational institutions and a strong university presence contribute to a talented workforce, attracting companies across various industries to the region.

### Proximity to Major Transportation Hubs:

The area's high connectivity between Florida's largest port, the Interstate 4 corridor and access to top-ranked international airports make it an attractive location for businesses requiring efficient transportation and logistics infrastructure.

The Greater Tampa Bay area's major industries, including manufacturing, healthcare, IT, finance and defense, play a vital role in driving the region's economy and attracting both large corporations and small businesses. With its diverse business environment, robust infrastructure and supportive community, GTB continues to be a prime destination for companies looking to establish and expand their operations.

workforce, pro-business climate and quality of life.

Over 7,000 companies supporting more than 131,000 jobs.

Globally renowned corporations like **Bristol-Myers Squibb** and **Johnson & Johnson**, along with numerous other prominent companies in the sector.

## » Information Technology

Tampa is ranked among the top ten best American cities to work in tech, with a growing IT job market and a significant presence in high-tech establishments. The region's favorable business environment and strong talent pipeline from area schools have contributed to its appeal for IT companies.

The area holds 20 percent of the state's IT positions and is known for its significant growth in the IT industry over the past five years.

## » Financial and Professional Services

The fastest-growing industry segment in Greater Tampa Bay, financial and professional services businesses have experienced year-over-year employment gains, benefiting from the area's business-friendly government,

low cost of living and quality of life.

Tampa Bay's financial and professional services businesses have experienced year-over-year employment gains of 3.9 percent, with an average workforce of 230,000.

The region is home to Fortune 500 firms such as **Raymond James** and **Franklin Templeton**, as well as major operations of global companies including **Johnson & Johnson** and **Citi**, which leverage the area's business-friendly government and high-quality talent pool.

## » Defense and Security

Home to **MacDill Air Force Base** and two, four-star Combatant Commands, GTB has developed a \$14 billion military industry around cybersecurity, IT, intelligence and advanced manufacturing. The region's large veteran workforce and specialized education programs support its role as a center for defense and security.

Tampa Bay boasts one of the largest veteran workforces in the nation, with approximately 92,000 skilled professionals.

Notable events such as the **Special Operations Forces Industry Conference (SOFIC)** provide businesses with valuable insights and opportunities through USSOCOM acquisition programs. ■



## Corporate HQ

Tampa Bay hosts **19 corporate headquarters** with over **\$1 billion** in annual revenue, including Fortune 1000 companies such as **Raymond James**, **Jabil**, **Tech Data** and **Citi**, benefiting from low labor costs, favorable corporate tax policies and stable, pro-business leadership.

# CULTURE TO THE CORE

BY SHELLEY AKINS

## INTRO TO CULTURE IN GREATER TAMPA BAY

**L**ive like a tourist and spend the day catching rays on some of the nation's most popular beaches, lounging by the pool or paddle boarding through the bay. Finish the day with a drink in hand, enjoying fresh seafood and sunset views at any of the numerous waterfront restaurants.

Catch the thrill of a roller coaster ride, dive into the world of native marine life, cheer on champion sports teams or party like a pirate at a wide variety of events and attractions.

Kick it with the locals and grab a beer from one of the area's many craft breweries. Let loose and dance the night away to the tunes of GTB's lively music scene, anywhere from laid-back beach bars to stunning outdoor venues. Enjoy a night out on the town with a dazzling nightlife scene, from craft cocktails at moody speakeasys, stylish rooftop lounges, lively downtown venues, cigar bars and more.

Experience a world of art



through vibrant murals and the world-famous Dali Museum, the thriving arts communities in Dunedin and Safety Harbor, the show-stopping dances at Mahaffey Theatre, the live entertainment at Ruth Eckerd Hall or the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, and so much more.

The GTB area boasts some of

the best in entertainment, art, culture and natural attractions in the country. No matter the interest, every resident will enjoy the lighter side of life here. Between all the action-packed fun of the city and the stunning landscapes perfect for the active and outdoorsy, there is no shortage of fun and adventure in GTB. ■

**“Culture is not a surface phenomenon, it is our very core.”**

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# LET GTB ENTERTAIN YOU

**Parties, Putting and Pride.** Greater Tampa Bay has something to delight everyone.

BY FILIPPA MALMSTRÖM

**T** There is nothing better than spending time having fun in Greater Tampa Bay. Along with its sunny and warm weather, GTB offers plenty of adventures for the whole family. Enjoy activities at the beach, visit one of the downtown districts or explore Florida's wildlife. While mothers and daughters browse the enormous selection of shops, the guys can have a nice father-son day golfing at one of the PGA-frequented golf courses.

GTB is more than just family activities. Friends can enjoy GTB's vast selection of activities, including festivals, races and all things aquatic. Many of the local beaches have bars and restaurants for the perfect beachside cocktail and dining experience. When it comes to nightlife, party time is all the time in GTB. From clubs and



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

bars with pulsing dance beats to more chill vibes at lounges and speakeasies, any squad's perfect night is possible here.

Greater Tampa Bay offers diverse entertainment options, even beyond the beaches and bars. Visitors can explore the vibrant **Tampa Riverwalk**, home to parks, museums and eateries. **Busch Gardens** provides thrilling rides and animal encounters, while the **Florida Aquarium** showcases marine life. Sports enthusiasts can catch **Tampa Bay Buccaneers** football games, **Tampa Bay Rays** baseball or **Tampa Bay Lightning** hockey. For a cultural experience, the **Salvador Dalí Museum** in St. Petersburg is a must-visit. Ybor City, known for its Cuban heritage, features lively nightlife and historic sites. Additionally, nearby beaches like Clearwater and St. Pete Beach offer stunning sunsets and water activities.

Best of all, Greater Tampa Bay is a place to create memories. Always be sure to take out the camera or phone and snap pictures and videos of all the fun adventures GTB offers. Entertainment here is unforgettable. ➤



## JOHN'S PASS SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

*January*  
Madeira Beach's annual seafood festival is a big hit for locals and new visitors. The yearly festival tops the second-largest seafood festival on the East Coast, with lots of entertainment and shopping.

## FLORIDA STATE FAIR

*February*  
The annual state fair features 12 fun days for all ages, including rides that pump up the adrenaline, wildlife with over 5,000 animals and fair food.

## FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX OF ST. PETERSBURG

*March*  
Watch top drivers race in a challenging waterfront course during the annual IndyCar Series Race.



## PIER 60 SUGAR SAND FESTIVAL

*April*  
It is known as "Florida's best sand sculpture festival" for a reason. Stroll through Sugar Sand Walk with sculptures from multiple professional sand sculptors. Also offered are free sand sculpting classes, live music, fireworks, artisans, food vendors and more.

## DUNEDIN HIGHLAND GAMES & FESTIVAL

*April*  
Celebrate Dunedin's Celtic culture with fun physical activities from Scottish traditions, such as Highland dancing, music, the Highland Trail 5K run, beer and much more.

## ST PETE PRIDE PARADE

*June*  
The annual St. Pete Pride Parade is a vibrant celebration of LGBTQIA+ pride. Featuring colorful

floats, lively music and enthusiastic crowds, it is one of the largest pride events in the Southeast, promoting inclusivity, diversity and community spirit.

## TAMPA FRINGE FESTIVAL

*June*  
Tampa Fringe is an international festival featuring indie performances. Dive into another world with stand-up and improv, theatre and dance, and quirky art performances.

## GECKO FEST

*August*  
The 24th annual Gecko Fest celebrates the end of summer with the biggest festival, which honors the unofficial mascot and resident favorite, the gecko.

## CHRISTMAS TOWN

*November-January*  
Get ready for the holidays and bring out the Christmas spirit at Bush Gardens. Enjoy the excitement of the holidays up close with animal encounters, exciting rides, delicious holiday foods and festive performances like Christmas on Ice.



## » Life on the Greens in GTB

The passion for golf is big in Greater Tampa Bay. For some, it is a way to spend their free time between work and family, while others play professionally. The community is full of golf lovers and aficionados.

GTB golfers can play on one of the 20 local courses, with 60 more found within a 20-mile radius. GTB is golf heaven for passionate players. The sunny weather, the breeze of sea air and great swings define a perfect day.

As it was once said by golf legend Arnold Palmer, “Life is better when you’re golfing.”

Many of GTB’s famous courses can be seen on the PGA Tour. Although countless golfing legends and upcoming pros use GTB’s courses as their home base, there is still room and love for amateur players.

Tiger Woods and Vijay Singh have both been hosted by GTB’s famous **Innisbrook Resort** in Palm Harbor. It has four incredible courses to play on, including the copperhead, the north course and south course, with more challenging plays.

St Petersburg offers nine and 18-hole courses by the water at **Mangrove Bay** and **Cypress Links Golf Course**. Players will also find **The Vinoy Golf Club**, which has 18 holes and an incredible course design by architect Ron Garl. Be sure to head to Clearwater and **The Cove Cay Golf Club** down the shores of old Tampa Bay. **Countryside Country Club** in Clearwater, designed by professional golfer Gary Player, has three nine-hole courses. The **Tarpon Springs Club** is perfect for golfing and has a great history. The golf course was one of the first to open in the state. Today, it is a participating member of the **Florida Historic Golf Trail**.



## » GTB’s Nightlife is Epic

For the night owls, GTB is the perfect place to enjoy dining, drinking and dancing.

Head up to any of the rooftop bars and sip on cocktails with a view. Looking for a sunset view? **M. Bird** is the perfect place. Get into vacation mode at **Level 11** at Bellwether Beach Resort and look out at the Gulf of Mexico. Dress to impress at **Jimmy’s on the Edge**, the largest rooftop bar in Clearwater. GTB offers many bars that fit every personality, so head down the street and explore new bars that fit your needs.

Show off your moves after drinks at the bar. **Club Prana** in Ybor is a fan favorite of many locals and visitors. Dance through their five different floors, each with a different music style. Downtown Tampa is by far the best place to dance. They have many different kinds of clubs and music to dance to. **Hyde Park Café** is famous for its packed calendar with lots of DJs. Another favorite is **Seminole Hard Rock Casino** featuring one of the largest casinos in the United States.

## » Family Fun in GTB

Greater Tampa Bay is perfect for spending fun quality time with the kids.

### DISCOVER OUTSIDE ADVENTURES

It is no secret that the heart of the sunshine state has some of the most famous weather conditions all year round. Travelers worldwide come to experience sun, beaches and aquatic life throughout the entire year.

Grab the family and head to **TreeHoppers Aerial Adventure Park** for friendly competition from the above. Climb up the trees and see who can solve zip lines and treetop obstacles. The children get to compete and motivate each other to face their fears and obstacles on the way.

For a calmer day, take a short drive to meet cute farm animals at **Dakin Dairy Farms**. On the 1,000-acre farm, children learn about dairy products and the importance of taking care of animals. They offer fun activities, including bottle-feeding calves, butter making and Dakin product tasting.

Get in touch with nature at **Sunken Gardens** in St. Petersburg. Their botanic beauty amazes visitors every time. Families can expect incredible walking tours through the gardens, learn about tropical plants and befriend flamingos.



### EXPLORE WILDLIFE

There is nothing better than exotic animals to keep the kids happy. Visit **ZooTampa** at Lowry Park for a range of diverse wildlife. It has been recognized and acknowledged by happy families, recommending it as one of the best zoos.

**Clearwater Marine Aquarium** and **Tarpon Springs Aquarium** are perfect for viewing underwater wildlife. The family gets to see what animals are hiding under the sea's

surface. Both aquariums offer incredible opportunities and are unique in their own ways. Clearwater Marine Aquarium focuses on marine life health care. They are a nonprofit organization dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing sick and injured marine animals. Tarpon Springs Aquarium allows visitors to interact with the wildlife, including feeding stingrays, petting an alligator and holding a python.



## » The Power of Love: St. Pete Pride

While support for the Pride community lasts all year long in GTB, June is a month to love. Thousands come together to show their support. At St. Pete Pride Festival, all are invited. First starting as a “Pride Promenade,” this special event has become the biggest Pride celebration in Florida and ranked in the world’s top 40 largest Pride celebrations.

There would be no St. Pete Pride without all its volunteers. Every year, hundreds of people volunteer to help bring the events together. Many enthusiastically participate and help make the celebrations spectacular. They have constantly put new voices in charge for over two decades to get a bigger perspective. The organization wants all voices in the LGBTQIA+ community to be respected, valued and celebrated.

People can expect a month full of events starting off with a Kickoff Block Party on Central Ave. Bring friends; there will be dancing on the streets, live entertainment and great company.

# ENDLESS PASTA-BILITIES

The Food Scene in Greater Tampa Bay has palate pleasers for every taste and craving imaginable.

BY DYLAN BERMAN

Kale Salad at  
On Swann

CARRIE BRADSHAW, "SEX AND THE CITY"



Ulele

No food craving must go unanswered in Greater Tampa Bay. GTB is filled to the brim with restaurants on almost every block. Offering its guests and locals unlimited options for breakfast, lunch and dinner. GTB's offerings do not stop with just the three meals of the day. Here, guests can find hidden gems for coffee, a late-night treat or a midday snack. Whether diners are in the mood for a gourmet meal, a quick bite or a sweet treat, GTB's culinary scene has something to satisfy every palate.

## » American

Named after a legendary young princess, **Ulele** is a must-visit for those wishing to experience a delicately crafted meal full of locally sourced ingredients and infused with Indigenous flavors. Situated in the beautifully renovated Tampa Heights Water Works building, Ulele's modern interior design and close proximity to the river provides breathtaking views, whether seated inside the restaurant or dining al fresco. The onsite brewery ensures an endless supply of

high-quality beers that pair perfectly with both lunch and dinner. Should beer not suffice, Ulele also boasts an array of great cocktails to choose from. The delicious native-inspired food, large selection of beer and cocktails and stunning views make Ulele a favorite for both locals and visitors.

A second American cuisine gem sits not too far away in Hyde Park Village. **On Swann**, founded by a group of friends, serves true American cuisine in an elegant atmosphere. Visitors can watch as chefs delicately work to prepare food with the restaurant's open-kitchen design. After dinner, retreat to the outdoor patio to watch the night sky, or just take in the city. Meal choices at On Swann vary from mussels to shrimp and grits to roasted chicken, meaning every visitor can dig in to their idea of a delectable American meal.

## » Surf & Turf

At the **Rusty Pelican**, Greater Tampa Bay's food lovers can enjoy hearty seafood long before the sun sets, with lunch available most days. The experience begins with a warm welcome from friendly and attentive staff upon arrival. Offering a wide selection of exceptional dishes, ranging from fried calamari to a seafood tower, ▶



On Swann



Hot Chicken at On Swann

guests are sure to find a fulfilling meal. Though the Rusty Pelican excels in its seafood offerings, patrons can also choose from a range of soups, salads and red meats. Whether savoring their last bites of a seafood-filled dinner, enjoying a cocktail during happy hour or sitting down for a Sunday brunch, take the time to admire the beautiful blue waters surrounding GTB.

With one of the largest wine collections in the world, **Bern's Steak House** is good for more than just perfectly aged steak. Visitors can choose from an exceptional selection of caviar and fresh vegetables and explore an internationally acclaimed dessert room. At Bern's, the steakhouse experience does not end with dessert; the restaurant offers tours of its vast wine collection. The timeless and sophisticated ambiance of the family-owned steakhouse provides the perfect setting for an unforgettable dining experience.

Bern's Steak House has truly earned its spot as a Greater Tampa Bay staple.

Those who have a difficult time deciding between land and sea may find relief at **Counter Culture**. There are truly no wrong choices, as both seafood and meat are served to meet the highest of standards and with a modern twist. The restaurant accounts for its indecisive guests with its unique tasting menu. Counter Culture certainly does not trade good quality food for views as guests are treated to a classic Florida vista. Alongside good food, Counter Culture pours divine cocktails and wine. On weekends, Counter Culture offers a three-course brunch.

## » Spanish

While savoring fresh Spanish cuisine at the **Columbia Restaurant** in Ybor City, foodies can enjoy a delightful Cuban meal without ever booking a

## NEW RESTAURANTS

**ANGORA MEDITERRANEAN GRILL** • Turkish food including kebabs and shawarmas in uptown Tampa.

**CALA ITALIAN KITCHEN** • Relaxed Italian cuisine brought outdoors.

**FORTU** • Brand new steakhouse.

**GORDITO** - A vast array of tasty empanadas.

**KOSEN** - Japanese cuisine offering a 20 course omakase experience.

**LEONS LOBSTAH SHACK** • Cozy restaurant with outdoor patio specializing in everything lobster related.

**LEPLEY'S KITCHEN AND LOUNGE** • Mix of southern and Caribbean food.

**NOMI NORI** • Classic high quality Japanese food.

**PREDALINA** - Mix of Mediterranean dishes on the waterfront.

**YBOR SEOUL** • Serves Korean street food in the bustling center of Ybor City.



Veggie Paella at Columbia Restaurant

flight. As Florida’s oldest dining establishment, Columbia Restaurant has built its reputation for tasty Cuban dishes one plate at a time, featuring traditional menu items, including tapas and Cuban sandwiches. Instead of pairing dinner with a great wine, Columbia Restaurant pairs dinner with a fiery flamenco show, offering guests an unforgettable evening of culinary and cultural indulgence. Rest assured; Columbia Restaurant also provides a wide selection of exquisite Spanish wines.

A few blocks away from the Performing Arts Center, sits **Spain Restaurant and Toma Bar** in Downtown Tampa. Not only will guests find fresh European cuisine here. They will also revel in the strong European atmosphere. The live music, stream of food from the kitchen and laughter will only enhance the feeling. Possible dinner dishes include empanadas, ceviche and paella Valenciana. With its warm ambiance and authentic flavors, Spain Restaurant offers a perfect blend of tradition and modernity, creating a truly immersive dining experience.



Columbia Restaurant



1905 Salad at Columbia Restaurant

## » Caribbean

Often described as a hidden gem, **Sal Rosa** serves authentic and tasty Caribbean food right in the heart of Downtown Tampa. Sal Rosa stays open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, allowing guests to experience Caribbean culture whenever they crave the flavors. In the morning, patrons have endless choices including oatmeal, sandwiches or burritos. At night, Sal Rosa serves flavorful fare from octopus and pork belly to rock shrimp. Though an unexpected treat to be found here, house made ice cream and coffee is available for guests with a sweet tooth. ▶

## » Italian

Located in Tampa Heights, **Rocca** offers traditional Italian cuisine in a modern, vibrant setting. Pasta, seafood and cheese are staples across the menu. Though delightful on their own, Rocca transforms these simple components into mouthwatering feasts. Rocca's hand pulled to order mozzarella and blue crab pasta are cannot-miss items for patrons. Completing the Italian experience, Rocca offers an extensive wine selection to complement dinner.

**La Terrazza** in Ybor City brings traditional Italian cooking methods to the heart of Greater Tampa Bay. The restaurant prides itself on using only fresh ingredients and house-made pastas and sauces. Patrons can kick off their dining experience with a variety of classic salads and appetizers like caprese and fresh mussels marinara. Enticing main courses range from veal scaloppini and pollo rollatino to pan-seared filet mignon with portabellas in a rich red wine sauce. Make sure to leave room for dessert, as the restaurant offers plenty of treats that are sure to satisfy any cravings. La Terrazza perfects the authentic Italian dining experience with its warm and friendly atmosphere.

## » Asian

**Rakki Seminole Heights** is known for its distinct twist on Asian cuisine, offering unique dishes like their truffle mac and cheese ramen. With a diverse and innovative menu, there is something to delight every palate. Patrons of the indecisive or adventurous type may especially enjoy Rakki's tasting menu. Featuring an open kitchen design, Rakki Seminole Heights treats guests with the opportunity to observe their food being crafted live. To finish the experience, the restaurant has a fine selection of classic desserts for guests to choose from, great for pleasing any sweet tooth.

For those with a craving for the more traditional, **Yummy House** may do the trick. Yummy House, an upscale Chinese restaurant, located in Tampa, offers everything from kung po chicken and beef with broccoli, to sweet and sour shrimp. If dinner plans are not in the cards, Yummy House offers an unforgettable dim sum lunch. Delicious food, meticulous attention to detail and exceptional service has earned Yummy House a permanent spot on the map.



## MICHELIN STARRED RESTAURANTS

Supernatural Food and Wine

- Mise en Place • Ebbe
- Lilac • Predalina • The Pearl • Koya • Cena • Noble Rice • Ulele • Oak & Ola • Steelbach • Kosen
- Columbia Restaurant • Haven • Bern's Steakhouse
- Elevage SoHo Kitchen and Bar • Restaurant BT • Ponte • Oliva • Streetlight Taco • Bistro BT • Yummy House • Rooster and the Till • Flaming Mountain • Gorkhali Kitchen • Rocca
- On Swann • Timpano • Psomi

## — COFFEE SHOPS AND CAFES —

A night of dining at one of Tampa's hit restaurants or checking out the local bar scene would certainly leave most guests feeling a bit sluggish. Luckily, GTB's iconic coffee shops and cafes will have any java lover feeling ready for another day of exploring all the food that Tampa has to offer.

**The Lab's** modern and refreshing interior design is one reason why it's a wonderful choice for anyone looking to

grab their morning coffee. This cafe encourages guests to chat with their staff about all their coffee desires. The friendly baristas are happy to help any guest design their dream daily coffee order or just try something new. The Lab has a variety of tasty bagels that are sure to delight the tastebuds and jumpstart even the most tedious day.

The perfect balance of scenery, caffeine and food can only be found at Tampa's **DI Coffee Bar** on Davis Islands. First, welcoming and talented baristas will brew any guest's perfect coffee order. While they wait, DI Coffee Bar's outside patio is a lovely spot to enjoy the morning sky. After grabbing their order, guests can head back outside or grab a seat inside and enjoy DI Coffee Bar's traditional feel. Before leaving to

start the day, be sure to fill up on one of the cafe's savory breakfast choices. Don't go too far though because DI Coffee Bar's live music events on Friday nights will have anyone sprinting back.

**Spaddy's Coffee** is a great way to disconnect from electronics, escape the office and reconnect with GTB's beautiful outdoors. Spaddy's was originally a mobile coffee truck, moving its way through Tampa and serving impeccable coffee. Now, Spaddy's has found its home in Seminole Heights. The coffee truck sits regularly in a small, yet nature-filled courtyard, ready to take on any coffee order. Adventurous coffee drinkers, or even those just tired of their usual, would be remiss to not try one of Spaddy's signature creations. Other than serving killer coffee orders, Spaddy's offers flavorful bagels, toast and more.



# BARS AND BREWERIES

Greater Tampa Bay's delicious food scene is perfectly paired with its exceptional pubs, bars and breweries that offer a never-ending list of beers, wines and cocktails.

The premier spot for watching games in Tampa is no mystery: **Hattricks Sports Bar and Restaurant** nestled in Downtown Tampa is the answer. Hattricks not only provides the perfect atmosphere to cheer on the Buccaneers, Rays and Lightning, it also supplies on-tap beer, provides comfortable seating and serves tasty food. Menu choices range from wings to salads, burgers and wraps. Avoid rush hour traffic and arrive just in time to enjoy discounted on-tap beer during

happy hour, available any day of the week.

Four-legged friends are welcome on nights out at **Pups Pub**, a dog park and bar all in one. The fun does not stop there. Bargoers can enjoy special events like trivia nights accompanied by their canine companions. Human friends are welcome, too. Pups Pub has an array of creative cocktails, wines and beers to sip on while partying with a man's best friend. Dog owners looking to celebrate their pup's birthday can even spoil their dogs with a birthday party at Pup's Pub.

**CW's Gin Joint** is for those seeking a more stylish bar experience. Guests of this speakeasy-style bar can pick

from a long list of cocktails and other beverages to enjoy while listening to live music. To fulfill late night cravings, patrons can choose dishes including cheese boards to share, sandwiches and seafood. After enjoying a drink at the bar, CW's Gin Joint's lounge area is perfect for guests looking to properly catch up with friends.

**American Classic** is another great pick for Tampa visitors and natives seeking a night out on the town. Partiers can take in the Tampa skyline as they savor a handcrafted house cocktail, a bubbly wine or delicious craft beer. The bar hosts nights, such as Taco Tuesday and Burger Monday and has social hours most days of the week. ■

Cane & Barrel



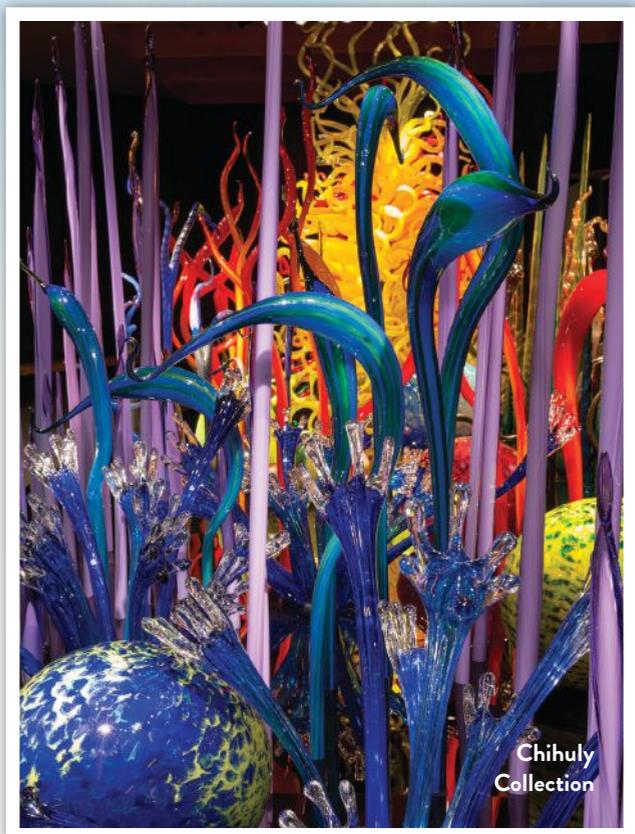
# — A TAPESTRY OF — CREATIVE CULTURE

Discover the Vibrant Arts Scene of Greater Tampa Bay

BY LAUREN YOUNG

**G**reater Tampa Bay, known for its stunning beaches and bustling urban life, also boasts a thriving arts scene that rivals any major city. For the art aficionados, the music lovers and those who simply enjoy the creative spirit, GTB is a diverse and dynamic cultural landscape sure to please. From world-class museums to energetic street art, here is the ultimate guide to the arts in Greater Tampa Bay.

The Dali  
Museum



Chihuly Collection

## » Marvelous Museums and Galleries

Tampa Bay is a treasure trove for museum enthusiasts. One standout is the **Tampa Museum of Art**, nestled along the scenic Hillsborough River. With its sleek, modern architecture, the museum houses an impressive collection of contemporary and classical art. Visitors can explore exhibitions ranging from ancient Greek and Roman antiquities to modern photography and sculpture. The museum also offers educational programs and workshops for all ages, making it a community hub for art appreciation and learning.

Just a short drive away, the **Dalí Museum** in St. Petersburg is a surreal experience not to be missed. Home to the largest collection of Salvador

Dalí's works outside of Spain, this museum's unique architecture—a geodesic glass structure known as the “Enigma”—is as captivating as the art within. The collection spans Dalí's entire career, from his early works to his famous surrealist masterpieces, providing an in-depth look at his creative evolution.

For those who prefer a more intimate setting, the **Morean Arts Center** offers a delightful mix of contemporary art exhibitions, classes and workshops. It is also home to the **Chihuly Collection**, a stunning display of Dale Chihuly's intricate glass sculptures that dazzle with their vibrant colors and complex forms. ▶



Tampa Museum of Art



Straz  
Center

Tampa Museum of Art

## » The Rhythm of Tampa Bay: The Music Scene

The music scene in Greater Tampa Bay is as eclectic as it is exciting, offering something for every taste. Ybor City, the historic heart of Tampa, comes alive at night with the sounds of live music spilling out from its many bars and clubs. Known for its vibrant nightlife, Ybor City hosts everything from jazz and blues to indie rock and electronic dance music. **The Ritz Ybor**, a beautifully restored theater, is a favorite venue for both up-and-coming and established artists, offering an intimate yet electric atmosphere.

If you're a fan of classical music, the **Florida Orchestra** is a cultural gem. Performing at venues across the region,

including the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, the orchestra presents a diverse range of programs, from classical masterpieces to contemporary compositions and popular music concerts. Their performances are a testament to the rich musical heritage of the area and a treat for the ears.

For a more laid-back experience, **Jannus Live** in downtown St. Petersburg offers an open-air courtyard venue that is perfect for enjoying live music under the stars. With a lineup that includes rock, reggae and everything in between, Jannus Live provides a relaxed yet vibrant atmosphere that is quintessentially Floridian.

## » Spotlight on the Stage: Performing Arts

The performing arts scene in Greater Tampa Bay is thriving, with a wide array of theaters and performance venues catering to all tastes. **The David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts** in downtown Tampa is the crown jewel, offering Broadway shows, opera, ballet and more. The Straz Center is one of the largest performing arts complexes in the Southeast, and its diverse programming ensures there is always something new and exciting to see.

Additionally, **Ruth Eckerd Hall** in Clearwater is a premier performing arts venue renowned for its world-class acoustics and diverse programming. Hosting concerts, Broadway shows and educational

programs, it offers a vibrant cultural experience for all ages, making it a cornerstone of GTB's arts scene.

In St. Petersburg, the **American Stage Theatre Company** delivers top-notch productions in an intimate setting. Known for its powerful performances and commitment to storytelling, American Stage offers a mix of classic and contemporary plays that engage and entertain.

The region also celebrates dance with venues like the **Palladium Theater**, which hosts performances ranging from ballet to modern dance. The Palladium's intimate atmosphere and historic charm make it a beloved venue for both performers and audiences alike.

## » Street Art and Graffiti Murals: Urban Canvas

Greater Tampa Bay’s streets are alive with color, thanks to its vibrant street art and graffiti murals. St. Petersburg, in particular, has gained a reputation as a hub for urban art. The annual **SHINE Mural Festival** brings artists from around the world to create large-scale murals that transform the city’s walls into a living gallery. These murals, which cover a wide range of styles and themes, are a testament to the creativity and diversity of the local and international art community.

Walking through neighborhoods like the Edge District and the Central Arts District, visitors can discover an ever-changing array of murals that add a dynamic and ever-evolving character to the cityscape. From abstract designs to realistic portraits, the street art in St. Petersburg is a reflection of the city’s vibrant cultural identity.

In Tampa, the **Heights Public Market**

at Armature Works showcases local talent with its colorful murals and public art installations. The blend of historic architecture and contemporary art creates a unique and inspiring atmosphere that celebrates the city’s past and present.

Ybor City also boasts a rich tapestry of street art, with murals that pay homage to its cultural heritage and vibrant community. These works of art not only beautify the urban environment but also tell the stories of the people and history that make Greater Tampa Bay unique.

From world-class museums and eclectic music venues to dynamic performing arts and vibrant street art, GTB’s arts scene is a feast for the senses. There is always something new and exciting for residents and visitors to discover in this cultural paradise. So, dive in and explore the rich tapestry of creativity that makes Greater Tampa Bay a true artistic gem. ■

“Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.”

— PABLO PICASSO





# TREAT YO' SELF!

The Extraordinary  
Shopping at  
International Plaza

BY JENNIFER KENNEDY

**G**reater Tampa Bay boasts plenty of fantastic retail but a popular Westshore District destination is one of the most notable on

Florida's West Coast. International Plaza and Bay Street offers something for everyone with their wide selection of specialty stores, bars and restaurants. The upscale shopping center adjacent to Tampa International Airport has over 200 impressive retail and dining options, as well as standout special events.

## » Community Connection

International Plaza provides one-of-a-kind experiences for the community. From children's fun to adult activities, special happenings cater to every age group.

Flower and plant shop Flor and Palma hosted a Galentine's Day Flower Arranging Workshop. Female guests enjoyed a complimentary glass of wine and charcuterie boards while learning from floral experts. During the holiday season, Grow Financial Federal Credit Union employees help visitors navigate the busy time by offering assistance and surprising shoppers with gift cards.

In addition to the traditional Easter Bunny and Santa Claus visits, a sensory-friendly night is available to support children with special needs. A popular Santa Paws event provides complimentary holiday bows and treats to pets that want to get their picture taken with their favorite humans.

## » New and Notable

Unique choices set International Plaza apart from other venues. Take advantage of the valet parking option at the Bay Street entrance. Enjoy outdoor casual or fine dining at one of 16 vibrant sit-down restaurants with covered patios. Visit one of the largest Restoration Hardware stores in the country. Online retailer Alo Yoga offers Greater Tampa Bay



shoppers a chance to view their products in person with the only brick and mortar store on Florida's West Coast.

Distinctive new stores are constantly joining the lineup, with several exciting additions this year. Visitors can now shop for luxury watches at Omega, near Neiman Marcus. Chanel Fragrance & Beauty boutique brings their products to a new store near the Grand Court. Popular J. Crew and Swatch recently opened near Dillard's on the upper level. Shoppers can browse high-quality, classic furniture and décor in person at Birch Lane's brand-new location near Nordstrom.

## » All Things Shopping

While many are choosing online shopping over traditional malls these days, International Plaza is thriving, celebrating its highest sales last year. From affordable fashion to high-end luxury brands, there are choices for each style and budget. Marketing and Sponsorship Director Julia Wyman cites price points for every category as the reason so many flock to the world-class retail center.

"We are all things shopping in Tampa Bay," Wyman said, "No other place offers luxury combined with high end restaurants and events for the community." ■

## NEW ADDITIONS

**VERSACE** • *Spring 2024* • International Plaza is known for an impressive list of high-end luxury brand stores. One of the leading international fashion design houses chose the premiere shopping destination for their exclusive Tampa location. Visitors can browse the Italian luxury designer's fashion and lifestyle products including haute couture, prêt-à-porter, accessories, jewelry, watches, eyewear, fragrances and home furnishings.

**PARADISE GRILLS** • *Spring 2024* • Beautiful Florida weather means grilling is a year-round activity in Greater Tampa Bay. Visit Paradise Grills' new store in International Plaza to design the perfect outdoor kitchen for a backyard oasis. An impressive list of options can be customized to fit every personal style, patio space and entertainment need. Choose between various grill islands and bar systems to create a fully functional, sophisticated outdoor living experience.

**DICK'S SPORTING GOODS HOUSE OF SPORT** • *Fall 2024* • Tampa is home to Florida's first Dick's Sporting Goods House of Sport, which is much more than the retail giant's typical store. At just a handful of locations around the country, the popular retailer offers the best in athletic gear, plus one-of-a-kind interactive experiences. In addition to finding top-notch equipment, athletes can practice skills on the rock wall or baseball field. Demo the latest sports gear by testing the multi-sport HitTrax cage from baseball, softball and lacrosse, to field hockey, soccer and hockey. Customize golf clubs or bikes and take advantage of certified experts to repair, upgrade and maintain your equipment.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**BURN ON BAY STREET** • Athletic wear stores Lululemon, Fabletics or Athleta host fitness classes on select Saturdays. Choices include Stroller Strides, a special class designed for new moms, Zumba, Yoga or Pilates. Participants can win a gift card to their favorite brand.

**SANTA FLIGHT ACADEMY & SIGNING WITH SANTA** • Join Santa and one of his elves for this magical interactive holiday encounter that offers much more than a photo. All are invited to experience this in American Sign Language. Professional interpreters are available to enhance the enjoyment for deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

# WELCOME TO CHAMPA BAY

For more than a century, Greater Tampa Bay has been home to a winning pro sports scene.

BY DYLAN BERMAN

**G**reater Tampa Bay is home to countless great restaurants, fun experiences,

culture landmarks and a plethora of things to do. The checklist of fun experiences waiting to be had is not complete until cheering on the local sports team is checked off. Whether it is taking on the Florida heat to watch the Tampa Bay Rowdies, a part of the United Soccer League, or heading inside Amalie Arena to see the Tampa Bay Lightning players skate across the rink to score the winning goal, there is no shortage of sporting events in GTB.

## » Fire the Cannons for the Buccaneers

Nothing is quite as entertaining as watching the Tampa Bay Buccaneers steal the game at Raymond James Stadium. Competing in the National Football League as a part of the NFC South division, Buccaneers games are a cannot-miss event for sports fans in GTB. Being a Bucs fan comes with perks— other than serving as a Sunday distraction from the upcoming work week. That includes the right to brag about being the only NFL team to have won the Super Bowl while playing in their home stadium. Not only did the Buccaneers win the 2020 Super Bowl, but they also maintained an impressive defensive game. Their captivating defensive style still keeps watchers on the edge of their seats. With Todd Bowles as the team's head coach, there will certainly be plenty of jaw dropping games for GTB locals and visitors to enjoy in the years to come.



## » Catch the Rays at Tropicana Field

Guests line up at Tropicana Field, the only stadium in the league with a year-around dome, in hopes of watching the Tampa Bay Rays make history yet again in the American League East Division. With the Rays named first place champions in 2020 and 2021, and Wild Card team in 2022 and 2023, it would come as no surprise. The atmosphere at the stadium during one of the Tampa Bay Rays games can only be described as exhilarating. Being a part of the American League East Division, means regularly taking on the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees, practically ensuring there is no such thing as a boring game at Tropicana Field.



## » Bolt Over to Amalie Arena

Those who prefer sports played on ice instead of grass, may find cheering on the Tampa Bay Lightning hockey team to be more their speed. Lightning games are constantly filled with high-energy supporters and roaring crowds, excited to watch their team take on any opponent. Playing in the Atlantic Division of the Eastern Conference, their competition has ranged from the Toronto Maple

Leafs to the Nashville Predators. Coming in third place in the 2022/2023 season, making it to the playoffs in 2024 and winning the Stanley Cup in 2020 and 2021, the Bolts have certainly set a high bar for performance. Their impressive streak of winning 11 straight playoff games from 2020 to 2022 only adds to the team's consistent glory. In 2022, the Tampa Bay Lightning team even ventured outdoors when they took on the Nashville Predators at Nissan Stadium in the Stanley Cup finals. Although the Lightning did not win the Stanley Cup that year, the team has a remarkable history and a promising future with their general manager Julien BriseBois at the helm.

## » Kick It with The Rowdies

Leave the cold fort that is Amalie Arena to watch the Tampa Bay



Rowdies play at Al Lang Stadium in St. Petersburg. While there, visitors should check out the waterfront views for stunning pictures before and after the game. However, the main attraction of coming to St. Petersburg is to watch the Tampa Bay Rowdies, who have truly stood out from the crowd through the last few seasons. The Rowdies came in first overall in the 2021 season, fourth in 2022 and third in 2023. With a track record like this and their current head coach Neil Collins, the results of future seasons are bound to be impressive. The spirited and fun atmosphere of these games makes going to a Rowdies game an unforgettable experience.

From watching the Lightning take on the Toronto Maple Leafs at Amalie Arena, excitedly anticipating the next moves of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers defense, cheering on the Tampa Bay Rowdies or enjoying the electric atmosphere of a Rays game, there is clearly a variety of sports for Greater Tampa Bay natives and visitors to cheer for. ■

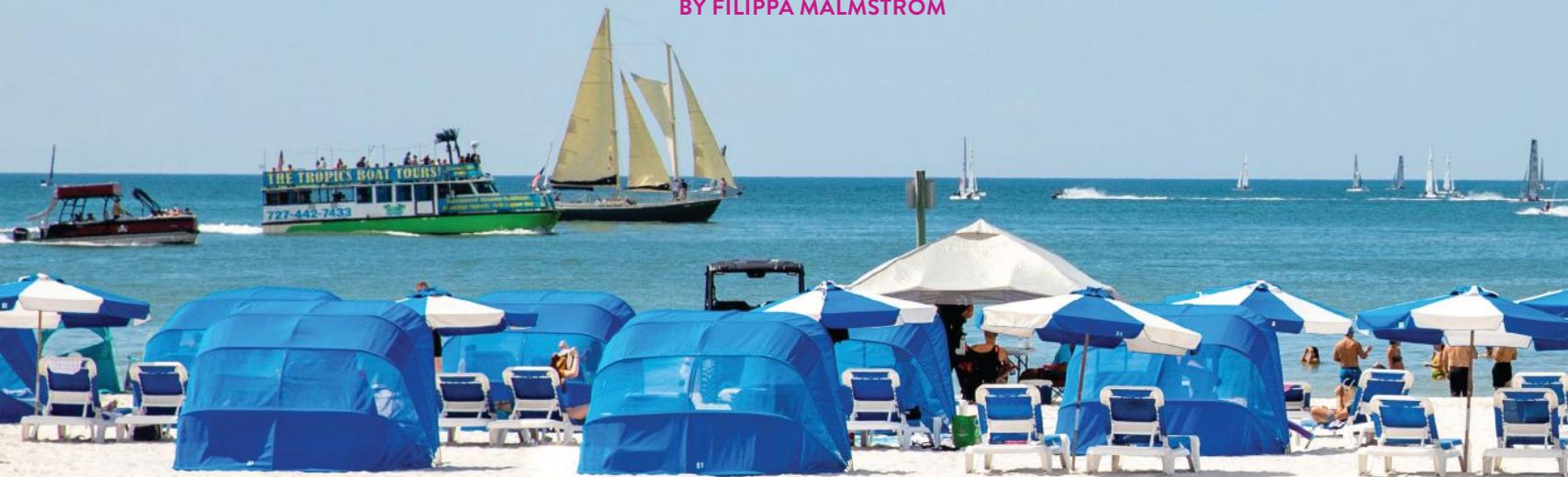


# BEACH

# PLEASE

The World- Famous Beaches  
of Greater Tampa Bay

BY FILIPPA MALMSTRÖM



**G**reater Tampa Bay's beaches are world famous for a reason. From Clearwater Beach to Honeymoon Island, there is no shortage of sun, sand and saltwater to delight any beach bum. Hike through nature, relax by the sea, paddle canoes or explore sea creatures. No matter the preference, the perfect beach day exists here in GTB.

The beaches of GTB are not only known as the best. They have the accolades to prove it. In 2024, Caladesi Island was listed as the No. 4 Best

Beach in the Nation by Forbes, Clearwater Beach was ranked in the top 10 Best Beaches in Florida by U.S. News and World Reports and St. Pete Beach made an appearance on Travel & Leisure's list of the 15 Best Florida Beaches for Families.

With something for every member of the family, GTB beaches ensure that even pets can get in on the fun. Designated dog beaches and other pet-specific amenities are available throughout the bay. Furry friends are allowed at Honeymoon Island Beach, Davis Island Beach, Fort DeSoto Dog Beach and Pass-a-Grille Dog Beach.

## » Caladesi Island

For those who like hiking near the beach and exploring nature, Caladesi Island is the place to visit. Take the ferry from **Honeymoon Island** for an adventurous day. Rent a kayak or canoe and paddle through the mangrove waterways or through the canopies of Florida's most iconic tree. It is a great way to explore the stunning nature of the island. Paddle onto land and hike the sandy trails of beach elders, sea oats and palm trees. There are also many species to explore. The island is full of secrets, so look up to see ospreys in the trees or gopher tortoises hiding in the sand. However, boaters should be careful sailing the waters off the beach, as it is full of oyster reefs.



## » Clearwater Beach

World famous Clearwater Beach is beach day perfection. It is a must-go for both locals and visitors. Beyond crystal clear water and stunning sunsets, there are cabanas available to rent close to top-ranked restaurants. With warm sun and beach fun, Clearwater Beach is also highly family friendly. On **Pier 60** there is plenty to do, including playgrounds with waterslides for kids to slide down. If strolling through the

natural beauty of the bay is more appealing, a walk down to **Sand Key Park** is a great way to clear the mind. One of the most famous activities is the opportunity to see real-life dolphins. **Clearwater Marine Aquarium** offers visitors the opportunity to get up-close and personal with their dolphins while they play in the waves.

## » Fort DeSoto Beach

Fort DeSoto Park is a place to visit for activities, exploring sea creatures and stepping into history. At the southern tip of Pinellas County, an old military base is open for visitors at **Mullet Key**. The park also offers diverse activities that fit everyone's style, including nature trails, campsites, picnic areas, piers, playgrounds and boat ramps. Rent a canoe and paddle into a magical adventure. With more than two miles of canoe trails and seven miles of hiking trails, there is much to explore. The water is full of exciting surprises from dolphins, sea turtles and manatees. Beyond remarkable sea life, over 300 bird species can be found among the trees. ▶



## ST. PETE PIER

St. Pete Pier offers a day of fun activities. The pier design fits all ages, and they are constantly hosting events for every lifestyle. The whole family can enjoy sunset yoga, movie nights, fishing spots and delicious restaurants. Feel free to bring a fishing rod, reels and bait to fish on the deck. Stroll by the public artwork "Olnetopia," a water-like bronze sculpture worth visiting.

However, do not forget to visit their historical attractions. The pier offers over 25 attractions, including monumental venues, museums and parks. Visitors will see the **St. Petersburg Museum of History**, which offers more than 100 years of stories about the city and much more. End the visit at the top to watch the skyline from the **Pier Teaki** rooftop bar. They offer a modern version of the classic tiki bar with incredible views.

The history of the former military base offers a unique adventure. With the old, shattered buildings, visitors can still stroll through to see the remains. **The Quartermaster Museum** contains war mementos, photographs, maps and more. Visitors can learn the history of the old military station and discover what life was like for the soldiers of wars from long ago. Down the waterways are the ruins of the park's namesake fort. Going down to the bunkers, explorers can even get a peek at century old artillery weapons.

## » Honeymoon Island

Drive from the mainland through Dunedin Causeway to explore more than four miles of the beautiful Honeymoon Island, one of Florida's best-loved beaches and state parks. In addition to a perfect beach day for family and friends, furry family members are also welcomed on the island's southern end and nature trail. Home to Honeymoon Island are white sand beaches, cafes, restaurants and shopping. Its nature is full of mysteries to explore. Rent a kayak or paddleboard and paddle into the island's 2.5-mile **Osprey Trail** and see what is hiding in the trees. Keep an eye out for rare birds, including the bar-tailed godwit, green-tailed towhee, long-billed

murrelet and mourning warbler. After a sunny day at the beach, hiking, paddling, or all three, visitors can head to **Rotary Centennial Nature Center** to learn the island's fascinating history.

## » Indian Rocks Beach

Indian Rocks Beach sets an even more leisurely pace. It still gives visitors a relaxing vibe like St. Pete Beach, but it is a quieter locale. Here, lying down in the sun, listening to the waves and reading a good book are enjoyable. Some stay for a few days at their popular bed-and-breakfast spots to relax. Indian Rocks beach is also known for its one-of-a-kind dive bars. **Mahuffer** is one of the most popular dive bars for its personality. The place features a collection of oddballs on the walls, mismatched furniture and bright-colored trinkets. Coining the nickname "Wurst Place on the Beach" the local favorite even has the silly moniker on their welcome sign. Locals express their love for Indian Rocks Beach, saying it is one of the most beautiful places with great water, location and sand.

## » St. Pete Beach

St. Pete Beach and Indian Rocks

Beach are the ultimate seaside chill spots. Visitors will find laidback beach bars and lounges with live music. Local art, fashionable items and beach attire are found for sale on almost every block. At lunchtime, beach goers can walk up to **Upham Beach Park** to grab something to eat. The promenade along the dunes, **Seaside Grill**, is a favorite among the residents. St. Pete Beach is one of the best beaches in the country. Beach lovers highly appreciate the combination of a pristine shoreline with the perfect beach town vibe.

## » Treasure Island

As the name suggests, Treasure Island is a gem worth exploring. It is most famous for its wide, sugar sand beach. The Gulf waters lap the shore, perfect for those entranced by the gentle sounds of the shore. Kids can enjoy fun sliding down the giant inflatable waterslide on the west side. The more adventurous types can rent a kayak or paddleboard by the shore. Treasure Island also offers shaded cabanas to escape the sun for those who want to relax. Although it is very family-friendly, Treasure Island is still a great spot for some grown-up fun. Go to **Sloppy Joe's** and drink unique cocktails while watching the sunset.



# BOATING ON THE BAY

Out on the waters of Greater Tampa Bay there are no problems, only beautiful coastlines and sparkling clear water. Boating and water sports are a big part of the culture and community here. Beyond its limitless marine world, boating in GTB is a great way to find new friends. Join any one of the bay's anglers, boating or yacht clubs to find like-minded seafarers. The community loves to get together and share their passion for boat life.

GTB offers multiple restaurants where boaters can tie up and stop in for a bite. **Fresco's Waterfront Bistro** in St. Petersburg has beautiful views like no other. Look out at the marina by day or admire the string lights and sparkling waters at night. The menu is full of unique dishes for every taste. They offer plenty of land and sea options for brunch, lunch and dinner. Pair that with one of their special drinks, like the Dragonberry Bliss, Honeybee martinis, Cucumber Fizz and Spicy Jalapeno Margarita.

Another local favorite in St. Petersburg is **The Island Grille**. Their turquoise blue interior gives visitors a feeling of being on a tropical island while enjoying

good food. It is famous as one of the best places to get oysters. Other finds on the menu include fresh catch, island-inspired landlubber dishes, stir fry and pasta. Sit down and listen to live music while sipping tropical martinis, margaritas and daiquiris. Visitors can also swim in their private pool.

Boaters will also find **Tiki Docks Skyway Bar + Grill** while sailing through St. Petersburg. Visitors get that tropical feeling with palm trees swaying in the breeze and tiki huts with tasty cocktails. Alongside the sea wall, boaters can tie their boat right in front of the tiki area. Sit in one of their Adirondack chairs and take in the views of white sand and beautiful nature. They are famous for their bloody Mary but also offer tacos, sandwiches and much more.

Boat lovers can find multiple fishing spots with a variety of great catches. Right in the Gulf of Mexico, boaters can catch the most sought-after species. Some are tasty to take home for dinner, while others are a thrilling catch-and-release. Here is a list of species to take home and which are better suited for the thrill.



## FOR THE TABLE:

- Mahi Mahi
- Grouper
- Flounder
- Snapper
- Snook
- Black drum
- Redfish
- Sheepshead
- Trout
- Permit
- Pompano
- Spotted Sea Trout

## FOR THE THRILL:

- Tarpon
- Blue Marlin
- Sailfish
- Redfish
- Kingfish
- Mackerel
- Amberjacks
- Barracuda

Locals love to get out on the waters of Greater Tampa Bay. From modern Jon boats to luxury yachts, they sail through the water, sharing a common passion for the salt life, an irresistible love to push off the shore and traverse through the sparkling sea. ■



IT'S  
**PAW-SOME**  
 HERE

Fur-Real Fun for Pets in Greater Tampa Bay

BY RYAN WALSH

**P**ets are family. Dog moms, cat dads, parrot parents, lizard lovers and animal owners of all sorts know this well. In Greater Tampa Bay, where parks, beaches and outdoor seating are open year-round, pets certainly have a place — in fact, they have many places.

From dedicated beaches to dog-friendly taprooms, from apartments with pet parks to world-class veterinary care, the cat is officially out of the bag: GTB is a top spot for pet resources and recreation.



## » Who Let the Dogs Out?

Grab a frisbee, unhook the leash and prepare to sweat. Up and down the Gulf Coast, dedicated dog parks and beaches are in no short supply. The **Davis Island Dog Park** near downtown Tampa offers views of both the city skyline and Hillsborough Bay. A bit further north is the **Curtis Hixon Waterfront Dog Park**, where pets can run freely, play on recreation equipment and cool off with drinking water dispensers.

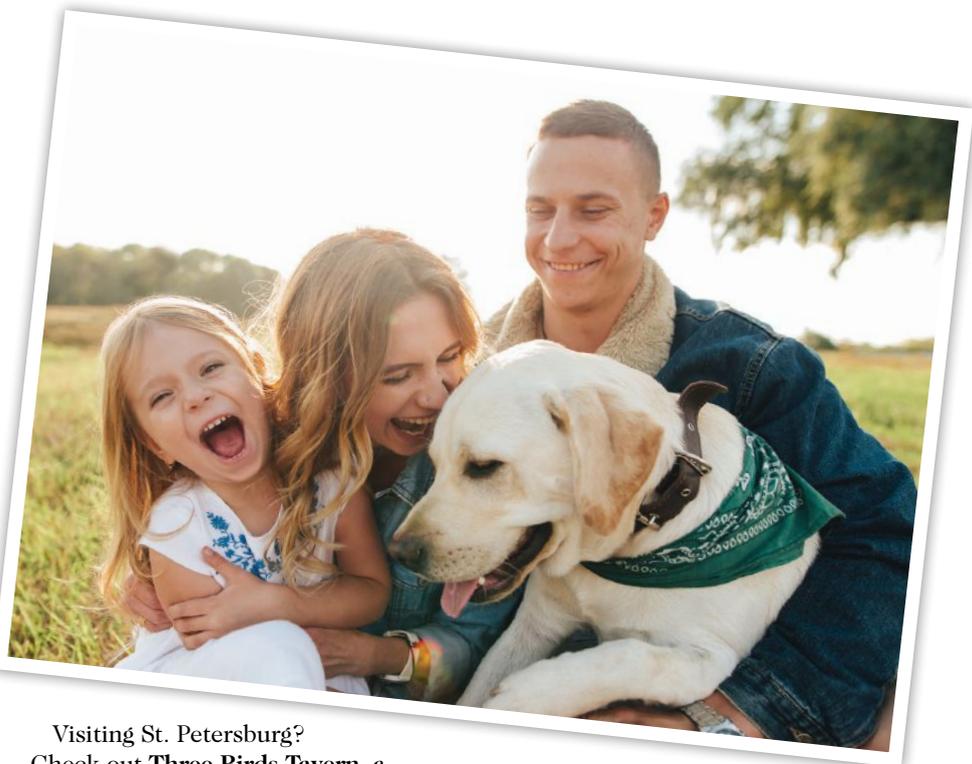
For a fence-free adventure outside the city, check out **Honeymoon Island State Park's dog beach**. Canines can frolic freely on the white sands and clear waters at this park and are allowed to explore the scenic nature trail while leashed.

Down near St. Petersburg is the **Fort De Soto Dog Beach and Park**, which, much like Honeymoon Island, is about as free-ranging and nature-filled as any dog desires. Other local spots include the **Achieve Paw Park in Dunedin** and the **Safety Harbor Dog Park**.

Up towards Holiday, dog parks are open at the **Anclote Gulf Park**, as well. The free park features plenty of agility amenities, fountains and grass for dogs to enjoy. With copse of trees casting much-welcomed shadows over the benches, it is the perfect place for owners to relax.

## » Bigger Bark or Bite?

After getting all tuckered out from a long day at the park, take a break and grab a bite from one of the area's many pet-friendly restaurants.



### Visiting St. Petersburg?

Check out **Three Birds Tavern**, a gastropub with a wraparound porch. A relaxing meal in the cooling shade of the veranda is sure to be a hit.

The **Sail Plaza** on the Riverwalk in downtown Tampa offers a waterfront view with outdoor seating for dogs and their humans. The plaza's all-day Yappy Hour lets them snack on dog biscuits or ice cream pup cups while dog owners enjoy a meal.

**Whiskey Joe's**, located off the Courtney Campbell Causeway between Clearwater and Tampa's Westshore District, has a dog-friendly beachfront with plenty of sandy coastline to roam. In Dunedin, the **Living Room on Main** features eclectic eats and décor, as well as outdoor patio seating on the street for good people- and pet-watching.

Other pet-friendly restaurants include **Rick's Reef** in St. Pete, **Gil Dawg Tiki Bar and Grill** in Port Richey and the **Tarpon Tavern** in Tarpon Springs — but of course, that is just the tip of the iceberg.

## » Feelin' Frisky

Only looking for a drink? Greater Tampa Bay is known for its breweries, coffeehouses, taprooms and bars, many of which allow pets indoors.

**Two Shepherds Taproom** in Tampa is a dog bar paradise. Serving a collection of some of Tampa's finest local brews, Two Shepherds also gives dogs a seat at the table. Featuring both an indoor and outdoor play area, this taproom, with dogs featured prominently on its logo, is more than pet-friendly — it is pet-focused.

**Nikko's Dog and Sports Bar** in St. Pete Beach sells pints, cocktails and squeeze toys. Rotating craft beers, sake and bowls of fresh crisp water will quench everyone's thirst.

In South Tampa is the **Dog Saloon**, a sports bar with an off-leash dog park. Follow favorite teams while pets chase their tail. ▶



**Mad Dogs and Englishmen**, a '60s-style London-esque pub in Tampa, serves up food, drink and an atmosphere friendly to both lovers of the Rolling Stones and rawhide bones.

If searching for that cat café bodega experience, visit **Cats & Caffeine Cat Lounge** in Tampa. While guests cannot bring their own pet, they could leave with one. Adoptable rescue cats come paired with morning lattes to make this trendy spot an experience like no other.

## » Take a Cat Nap

The dog days of summer are the perfect time for a vacation. If taking a family trip and in need of a pet-friendly place to stay, GTB has no shortage of lodgings.

The famous **Don CeSar** hotel in St. Petersburg is one such place, going so far as to even offer treats, accessories and tips on dog-walking routes. For a small fee, guests can bring up to two of their four-legged family members to this unique and luxurious vacation spot.

Heading toward Tampa, the well-known **Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino** is happy to house pets and even has a grassy area for them to enjoy. Feeling lucky here is a sure thing but be warned — no poker-playing dogs allowed.

The **SpringHill Suites Tampa North** hotel welcomes pets as they would with any guest. Allowing two small pets to sample their accommodations, SpringHill also provides a grassy area for when nature calls. The historic, but newly renovated **Hacienda Hotel**, famous for its pink façade, is also friendly to the smaller fur-babies.

**Artistry St. Pete** near downtown offers luxury living and a dog park with pet-washing stations. The **Pierhouse** at Channelside, **Camden Westchase Park**,



**Sur Club Apartments and Havana Square** are just a few more of the many hundreds of accommodating homes in GTB.

## » Nine (Long) Lives

Everyone loves a good spa day so when veterinary and grooming services are necessary, knowing the nearest and best place to treat pets is a must. For routine procedures or emergency situations, take note of these vet resources in GTB.

The **Tampa Veterinary Hospital** on West Kennedy Boulevard does everything from physical exams to X-rays to nail trims to surgeries. They even make house calls. With services ranging from mammals to reptiles, from crawlers to trotters to flyers, Tampa Veterinary Hospital is there to deliver peace of mind over pets' well-being. The **Pet Pal Veterinary Clinic** in St. Pete provides many of the same services in Pinellas County.

With three locations in GTB, and more on the way, **Hounds Town** is available for any dog around the bay. Their location in Clearwater is now open and offers a range of services from doggie daycare and boarding to bathing and grooming. Fully stocked with plenty of goodies for pups to play with, pets will love their time here.

Pet owners new to New Port Richey should keep the **Animal Care Center of Pasco County** in mind. Its services range from wellness exams to radiology, and they are specially equipped to handle exotic pets as well.

To treat dogs to a day of pampering, head to **Woof Gang Bakery and Grooming** in Carrollwood, or **Downtown Dogs** in Tampa's Hyde Park Village.

Offering a range of baked treats, supplements and chews, as well as variety of spa packages, Woof Gang is the place to reward pets and give them the day every dog deserves. At Downtown Dogs, high-quality food and equipment allows pets to be spoiled in the best way. Leashes, harnesses, toys and beds are both functional and fashionable. So, let sleeping dogs lie... in style.

Perhaps the most well-rounded pet paradise on this list, **Royal Pets Market & Resort Plus Veterinary Center** in South Tampa has just about anything a pet could need. There are treats of all shapes, sizes and kinds, from tasty to toys to accessories, at the market. The pet resort offers boarding, dog day camp and grooming. In addition, Royal Pets also has its own full-service veterinary center.

Wagging tails and loud purrs are what pet owners live for. Making sure they are happy makes their human companions happy, too. It is their world — we are just living in it. ■



# SPOTLIGHT: TAMPA VETERINARY HOSPITAL COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR GTB'S PETS

BY RYAN WALSH

Compassion is at the heart of veterinary care, and nobody understands that better than the expert doctors and caretakers at Tampa Veterinary Hospital (TVH).

Owners Jon VanNevel and Dr. Melissa Webster have even codified this as part of their business's mission statement:

"Our lives are dedicated to caring for pets and their families with compassionate, state-of-the-art veterinary medicine."

Founded in 1925, TVH is not only Tampa's oldest veterinary hospital, but it is also one of the largest and most innovative. With a team of over 50 employees, TVH offers everything, including telemedicine services, MRIs and pain-management methods like stem cell therapy and cold-laser therapy.

From dogs and cats to birds, fish, ferrets, lizards and more, if an animal is family to a patient, it is family to TVH.

"It's about what patients and their pets want from us, not what we want from them," said Dr. Webster. "It's not just veterinary medicine, but listening to the people who bring their pet in. At the end of the day, we work for them."

VanNevel and Webster see their patients as guests, going so far as to eschew the words 'client' or 'customer' from their vocabulary. For them, it is about the extra things – providing curbside visits during the pandemic and complimentary pet photo events during holidays are just two examples. Building relationships with their animal guests and human owners is quintessential to TVH's overall philosophy.

Webster, a graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia, became an owner of TVH in 2008. In 2021, the facility moved from its longstanding location on Kennedy Boulevard to its current spot on North Howard Avenue.

Taking over this Tampa fixture was a longtime goal of Dr. Webster's.

"Since I was in vet school, I always wanted to own a practice," Webster said. "Tampa Veterinary Hospital was a dream for me, and I've been very fortunate to accomplish this."

Beyond its full-service offerings, TVH is also heavily involved in giving back to its community. It sponsors and supports nonprofits such as Pets 4 Patriots and the Humane Society of Tampa Bay, in addition to donations toward the Glazer Children's Museum and the Fraternal Order of Police. On a personal level, guests with service animals can receive discounts on medical care, and internship opportunities for aspiring veterinarians are often available.

Compassion comes with the territory. "I enjoy seeing the pet and the family over the course of that pet's lifetime," Webster said. "I love helping them achieve what they want for their pet."





# — ONE-TANK — WONDERS

10 Must-Visit Destinations within  
Driving Distance from Greater Tampa Bay

BY DYLAN BERMAN

## 1 » Anna Maria Island

Anna Maria Island is for thrill seekers and beach lovers alike. Start the adventure at Bradenton Beach, a scenic town at the southern tip of the island. First, experience the ocean from a bird's point of view and be lifted up into the blue skies and parasail over the deep blue waters.

To continue the journey, travelers should change into

walking clothes and head to **Pine Avenue**. While the name may sound ordinary, Pine Avenue offers delicious desserts at **Anna Maria Donuts** or **Hometown Desserts**, cheesy pizza at **Poppo's Taqueria** or samples of different lemon olive oils at **Olive Oil Outpost**.

Built in 1927, the **Old City Jail** is now a popular photo destination due to its unique open air, no roof

design. The jail is of course no longer functioning. Wrap up the adventure next door at the **Anna Maria Historical Society**.

Leave Bradenton Beach and drive north to **Bean Point Beach** to be immersed in the light blue waters. The 20-minute drive between the two beaches is well worth it for travelers who are looking to witness a breathtaking sunset.

-----  
**DRIVING  
DISTANCE:**  
• 50 to 60 miles

**RESTAURANTS:**  
**Breakfast:** Ginny's  
and Jane E's Cafe  
**Lunch:** The  
Waterfront  
Restaurant  
**Dinner:** The Porch  
Restaurant  
-----

## 2 » Fort Myers

Boredom is not a part of the Fort Myers' vernacular. This shoreline city in southwest Florida is home to the impressive **Edison and Ford Winter Estates**, which sits bordering the **Caloosahatchee River**. The 25,000 square foot museum contains a botanical library and huge, vibrant gardens sure to catch any traveler's eye.

Besides the Edison and Ford Winter Estates, Fort Myers boasts the **IMAG History and Science Center**. Step back in time to learn about the Calusa Native Americans or choose to stay in the present and check out their science and technology related exhibits.

-----  
**DRIVING DISTANCE:**

• 130 to 140 miles

**RESTAURANTS:**

• **Breakfast:** House of Omelets • **Lunch:** Connors Steak and Seafood • **Dinner:** The Melting Pot

For those that prefer to leave the learning for home, Fort Myers has plenty of walkable neighborhoods filled with photo worthy waterfront homes. In addition, there are rows of shops, boutiques and other forms of entertainment sprinkled throughout the city. Grab a tasty cocktail at **The Standard**, enjoy fresh seafood at the **Oxbow Bar and Grill** or relax to some jazz music at **The 86 Room**.

**Manatee Park** is another great source of entertainment. Soak up the sun while renting a kayak. Alternatively, choose to explore one of the many walking trails the park has to offer. Lastly, get up-close views and some great pictures with our seafaring friends, manatees.



## 3 » St. Augustine

Year after year, this small beach town is consistently voted a top travel destination. Given its extensive 42 miles of sandy beaches, trendy restaurants and enough historical sites to fill up any road trip itinerary, this comes as no surprise.

As the oldest city in North America, St. Augustine boasts strong roots in Spanish culture and history. Once visitors arrive in the historic beach town, they should head to either the **Old Town Trolley** or **Ripley's Sightseeing Train**. In this case, the destination truly matters more than the journey as either choice will give guests the chance to explore the **Colonial Quarter** or the **Castillo de San Marcos**.

The local private college, **Flagler College**, is so much more than just a four-year educational institution. The college is neatly tucked away in downtown St. Augustine, and is situated in the former **Ponce De Leon Hotel**, developed by Henry Flagler in the 1800s as a luxury resort.

For something more out of the ordinary, the **St. Augustine Alligator Farm** regularly hosts live feedings of its fascinating reptiles, informative bird shows and hands-on snake shows. When travelers have had enough animal facts for one road trip, they can delve back into Spanish history at **The Fountain of Youth**.

At the end of a tiring day of learning and exploring activities, grab a bite to eat or enjoy a beverage at the **Ice Plant Bar**. Once feeling refreshed, adventure back out to either the **St. Augustine and Vilano Beaches** or reserve a spot on a haunted ghost tour. And of course, visitors can always choose to take a tour of the **St. Augustine Distillery**.

-----  
**DRIVING DISTANCE:**

• 175 to 185 miles

**RESTAURANTS:**

• **Breakfast:** The Blue Hen Cafe • **Lunch:** The Floridian • **Dinner:** Collage





## » Cedar Key

The casual, charming town of Cedar Key has so much to offer passers-by. **The Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge** is covered in trees but cut into by the ocean at several points, giving visitors tons of beaches to enjoy along the way. The refuge is home to birds and other eye-catching wildlife.

The wildlife refuge is just the first chance to enjoy the small town's greenery. **Cemetery Point Park** and **Shell Mound County Park** offer equally beautiful chances to glance at the fresh waters crashing against the Florida shoreline.

In town, guests can admire and even shop through locally produced art at **Island Arts**. Stay in town and



check out the **Cedar Key Historical Society Museum**. Going back to prehistoric times, the museum offers visitors a detailed account of Cedar Key history.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:** • 130 to 140 miles

**RESTAURANTS:** **Breakfast:** 2nd Street Cafe  
• **Lunch:** Steamers • **Dinner:** Big Deck Bar and Grill



## » Destin

Buried in the Florida Panhandle sits Destin. This small city is a wonderful destination for golfers, active travelers and beach-wanders. In Destin, visitors can jet ski on the famous emerald waters, say hello to one of the dolphins that calls the gulf waters home or relax on one of the sandy beaches.

Vast bodies of blue water

surround **Choctawhatchee Bay**, making it the perfect place to stroll through beachy terrain and gaze at the nearby water. For another stunning view of the coast, **Henderson Beach State Park** has travelers covered.

Play through 18 holes of golf at the **Kelly Plantation Golf Club**, built on a former turpentine plantation. After

the game, admire another part of the Florida coast with the club's waterfront views.

**Destin Commons** is for those more inclined to browsing the shopping scene and exploring the mix of local restaurants. Similar to Destin Commons, **Fort Walton Beach** is packed with more cafes, bars and boutiques for visitors to delve into.

**DRIVING DISTANCE:**  
• 425 to 435 miles

**RESTAURANTS:**  
• **Breakfast:** Donut Hole Bakery and Cafe • **Lunch:** The Back Porch • **Dinner:** Boshamps Seafood and Oyster House



## » Gainesville

FROM THE BAY AREA TO THE HEART OF GAINESVILLE AND ALACHUA COUNTY FIND DREAMY ESCAPES AND FUN WAYS TO KICK BACK

Just two hours from Tampa is a place of orange and blue skies you might have heard of – home of the Florida Gators, the cradle of some of America’s most beloved musicians, writers, artists, athletes, educators, and inventors with a picturesque tree canopy, crystal-blue springs, and over one hundred miles of trails leading to the only place in Florida that you can visit a prairie and observe free-roaming bison and wild horses.

### » Plan a Day in Gainesville and Alachua County

#### MORNING

Start your visit with a trip to Micanopy, Florida’s oldest inland town. Micanopy is known for its antique shops, fall festivals, and perfect Instagram-worthy photo opportunities. Rediscover the joy of the leisurely stroll as you browse Micanopy’s numerous antique shops, hear bluegrass tunes floating up from the front deck of dining establishments like the **Old Florida Café**, and explore attractions like the **Micanopy Historical Society Museum**. Grab coffee and sweets at “no-chain-restaurants-here” gems like **Coffee and Cream** and the **Mosswood Farm Store and Bake House**.

#### AFTERNOON

##### • OPTION 1: ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Continue exploring down State Road 441 to **Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park**. On any given day, visitors can see bison, wild horses, alligators, and dozens of bird species

from the prairie trails and lookout tower.

Heading into Gainesville - hometown of the **University of Florida**, one of the nation’s top-ranked public universities, nature lovers can explore serene escapes like the **Sweetwater Wetlands Park**, a haven for birdwatching, and **Kanapaha Botanical Gardens** which boast record-setting giant Victoria water lilies. Leashed dogs and picnic baskets are always welcome at the gardens.

##### • OPTION 2: DISCOVER INCREDIBLE ANIMAL CONSERVATION AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Visit the **Retirement Home for Horses at Mill Creek Farm** (admission price: two carrots!) – a non-profit providing safe-haven and lifelong care for otherwise unprotected horses. Explore the **Santa Fe Teaching Zoo**, the only zoo on a college campus accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), or **Carson Springs Wildlife Conservation**, a facility caring for exotic animals in need.

##### • OPTION 3: PEDAL OR PADDLE ON A ROBUST TRAIL SYSTEM

Known for its strong focus on conservation, Alachua County shines with opportunities for active outdoor recreation. Paddle “8 Springs in 8 Miles” with a trip down the **Santa Fe River** or take a swim at **Poe Springs**, where the water remains a cool 72 degrees year-round. Grab your bike and pedal the nearly 40 miles of single-track mountain bike trails of **San Felasco Hammock Preserve** or enjoy the soft rolling hills and great vistas throughout the paved 16.5 mile **Gainesville-Hawthorne trail**.

##### • OPTION 4: EXPLORE THE GREAT INDOORS

Thought-provoking exhibits and world-class collections at the **Florida Museum of Natural History**, **Cade Museum for Creativity and Invention**, **Harn Museum of Art**,

Matheson History Museum, the Haile Homestead, and the Cotton Club Museum and Cultural Center offer enriching indoor activities.

**EVENING – UNWIND AND BE ENTERTAINED**

The fun doesn't stop when the sun goes down. Dining and entertainment districts like Downtown Gainesville, Celebration Pointe, Butler Plaza North, South Main Station, and Tioga Town Center showcase a vibrant nightlife with live music on dozens of stages and dining options for every palate.

Discover year-round entertainment with live productions at the Hippodrome Theatre, the UF Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, Gainesville Community Playhouse, High Springs Playhouse and more.



Plan a visit with a full list of attractions, events, dining, and lodging options at VisitGainesville.com. For top weekly and quarterly events, subscribe to the award-winning What's Good guide of weekly events at WhatsGoodAlachuaCounty.com.



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Alachua County, FL



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Alachua | Archer | Gainesville | Hawthorne | High Springs | La Crosse | Micanopy | Newberry | Waldo

Image by Wes C. Skiles, Courtesy of Tessa Skiles, Karst Productions LLC



## 7 » Orlando

Orlando is host to the joy and excitement that both **Walt Disney World** and **Universal Studios** bring its millions of visitors. However, the thrill of roller coasters is not for everybody, and **SeaWorld Orlando** is another fantastic destination.

To get away from the crowds, make a stop at **Boggy Creek Airboat Adventure** to speed through the everglades. Be immersed in nature, while keeping on solid footing, at **Gatorland**, a 110-acre wildlife preserve, home to many alligators, reptiles and even the rare leucistic white alligator.

Pedal or skate through beautiful scenery on a 22-acre trail at the **West Orange Trail Bikes and Blades**. After, leave the ground for the sky, and indulge in a hot air balloon adventure at **Orlando Balloon Rides**. For a calm work through nature, **Lake Eola Park** and **Bill Frederick Park** are worthy options.

Orlando has as much offer indoors as it does outdoors. For an adrenaline rush, check out the arcade and go-kart tracks at **Fun Spot**. Admire a vast collection of modern art pieces at the **Orlando Museum of Art** or learn about the world around us at the **Orlando Science Center**.

- 
- DRIVING DISTANCE:**
- 90 to 100 miles
- RESTAURANTS:**
- **Breakfast:** White Wolf Cafe
  - **Lunch:** 903 Mills Market
  - **Dinner:** The Stubborn Mule
- 

## 8 » Naples

Discover the vibrant charm of the Florida landscape with a trip to Naples. For the first dose of nature, start the adventure at the **Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens** or the **East Community Park**.

Then get a true sense of the tropics at the **Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge** through its multitude of hiking trails. Stop at one of the observation decks for a chance to spot a wild animal. For more animal sightseeing fun, visit the **Bird Garden of Naples**

to witness an array of uniquely colored parrots.

Before the sun sets, wander through the historic downtown. Walk through streets like **Fifth Avenue South** and **Third Street South**, both filled to the brim with stores. Guests can purchase more than just clothes in Naples. Exquisite restaurants cover the downtown area as well. To rest tired feet, sit and listen to talented voices at the **Opera Naples at the Wang Opera Center**.

Approximately 30 miles away from Naples is another slice of paradise called **Marco Island**. The small island located just off the coast offers folks all things nature. **South Marco Beach** is a go-to place to watch the waves crash, enjoy the sunset, host a picnic or take a walk along the blue waters. When it is time to take a break from the Florida sun, enjoy the **Marco Island Center for Arts** or the **Marco Island Historical Museum**.

- 
- DRIVING DISTANCE:**
- 160 to 170 miles
- RESTAURANTS:**
- **Breakfast:** Jane's Garden Cafe
  - **Lunch:** Fuse Gastrobar
  - **Dinner:** The Turtle Club
- 



## 9 » Jupiter

Fishing expeditions in this Florida city result in catching more than just everyday fish, such as trout or bass. Instead, fish for a species that has been around since before the dinosaurs, sharks. Jupiter is one of the nation's prime locations for shark fishing, just one of the many facts that make this Florida city unique.

The 110 acre, 6,800 seat **Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium**, which sits in the eastern part of Jupiter,

are the training grounds for the Miami Marlins and the St. Louis Cardinals. Furthermore, it serves as training grounds for a minor league baseball team called the Jupiter Hammerheads. Opened in 1988, this stadium has also hosted several Florida championships.

Walk along the **Loxahatchee River** at **Harbourside Place**, a local destination for eateries and shops. Shopping and dining are only part of the experience. Harbourside

Place keeps it interesting with yoga events, car shows and farmers markets throughout the year.

Once those shopping bags are full, **Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Museum** is a must-visit during any stay in Jupiter. Sightseers will awe at the views offered from this iconic lighthouse. Views include the Loxahatchee River, Indian River, boats, docks and last, but not least, the Atlantic Ocean.

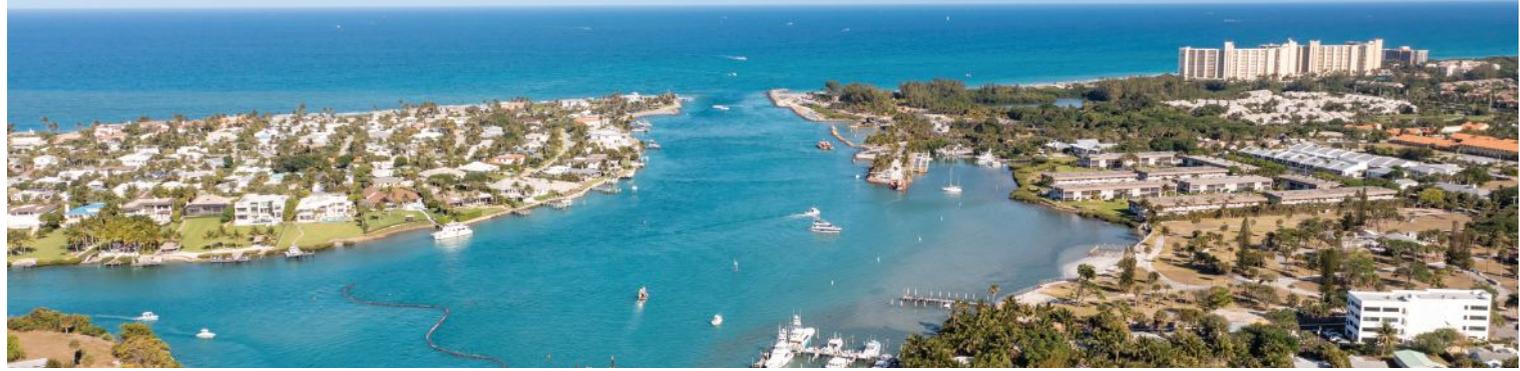
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**DRIVING DISTANCE:**

• 180 to 190 miles

**RESTAURANTS:**

• **Breakfast:** Soul Rebel • **Lunch:** Cafe Sol • **Dinner:** The Jupiter Grill

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## 10 » Space Coast

Home to the site of America's first space launch, the **Kennedy Space Center** is a truly historic part of Florida. Located in Space Coast, the Kennedy Space Center allows guests to step back in time to the space launch through tours of the facility, viewings of realistically scaled space shuttles and chats with astronauts.

A mere 16 miles away sits another landmark in NASA history, the **Cape Canaveral Space Force Station**. Still in use today, the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station has been headquarters for Falcon and Starlink space missions.

Honor the lives of astronauts at the **Space Mirror Memorial**, designed in 1987 by Holt Hinshaw Pfau Jones. In the afternoon, retire the space helmet and re-visit Earth's natural beauty. Head to **Manatee Sanctuary Park** to see calming trees, still water and fields of healthy, beautiful greenery.



Depart on glass-like kayaks with **BK Adventure** from **Kiwanis Island Park** or **Merritt Island** and sail through the bioluminescent waters, lit up by glowing plankton. The bioluminescent glow is at its best during summer months. Travelers who come outside of the warmer months may still see Comb Jellies roaming around.

||| **DRIVING DISTANCE:** |||  
 • 125 to 145 miles

||| **RESTAURANTS:** • **Breakfast:** Joanne's Beachside Cafe • **Lunch:** Sand on the Beach • **Dinner:** Sage Bistro |||

# WELCOME HOME

INTRO TO GETTING SETTLED IN GREATER TAMPA BAY

BY DANIELA MARTIN

**G**reater Tampa Bay is a vibrant region, seamlessly blending urban excitement with seaside relaxation. The subtropical climate means mild winters and warm summers, perfect for outdoor activities year-round. Housing in GTB offers a range of options to suit every budget and lifestyle. From cozy apartments to spacious estates, there are endless possibilities. Residents have two trusted electricity providers to choose from: Duke Energy and Tampa Electric. Both offer affordable rates and reliable service. In GTB, the home of one's dreams is reality, no matter what that vision may look like.

## » Tampa International Airport (TPA)

Home may be where the heart is, but accessible travel is essential for many residents of the bay area. Tampa International Airport (TPA) serves the region, offering flights to and from domestic and international destinations.

Among North American airports, it ranked No. 1 in its annual Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards. One of the standout features of this top-ranked airport is its commitment to customer service and passenger

satisfaction. With close proximity to the gates, minimal walking distance and quick security wait times, passengers can enjoy a stress-free and efficient travel experience. Additionally, having a variety of airlines to choose from, both domestic and international, allows travelers to easily access their desired destinations. With ongoing renovations and improvements, Tampa International Airport continues to set the standard for excellence in the aviation industry.

Read on for more information about how to get settled in Greater Tampa Bay. Welcome Home. ■





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# JUST THE FACTS

Helpful Data for Living in GTB

BY DANIELA MARTIN



## » Cost of Living

Tampa's housing expenses are 3% lower than the national average and the utility prices are 3% lower than the national average.

The cost of living in Tampa, FL is 2% lower than the state average and 4% lower than the national average.

## » Housing Market

The average Tampa, FL home value is **\$386,957**

The Greater Tampa Bay real estate market anticipates a

**6.4% growth**

in the upcoming year

The average time a home spends on the market before sale pending is

**18 days**

## » Energy Companies

### DUKE ENERGY

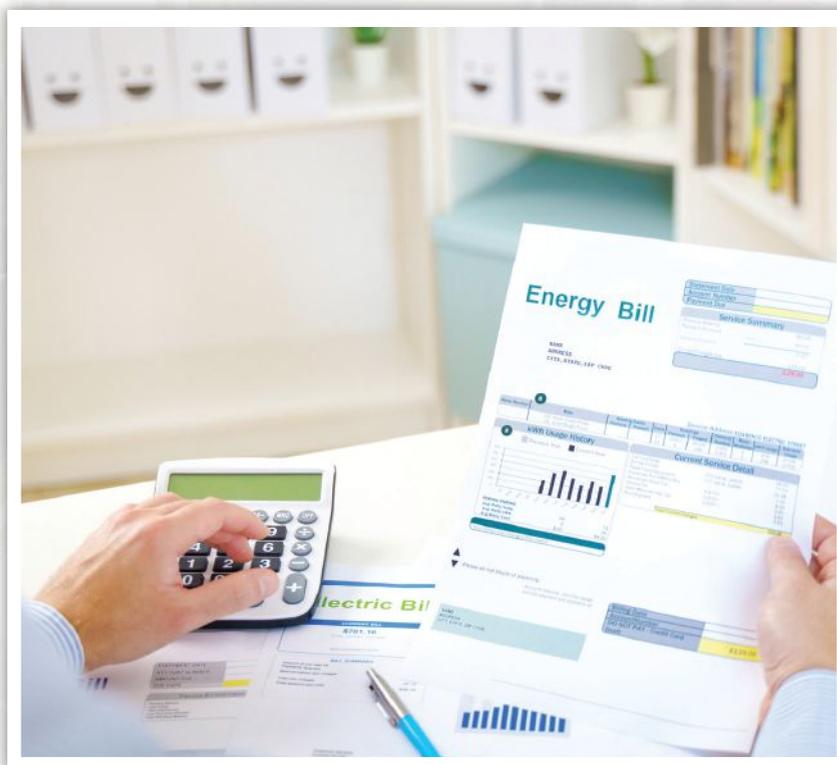
**Price per Kilowatt:** \$17.89 cents  
**Average monthly cost:** \$180.94  
**Coverage Area:** Hillsborough County, Polk, and Pinellas Counties

### TAMPA ELECTRIC

**Price per Kilowatt:** \$7.914 cents  
**Average monthly cost:** \$192  
**Coverage Area:** Hillsborough County, Polk, Pasco and Pinellas Counties

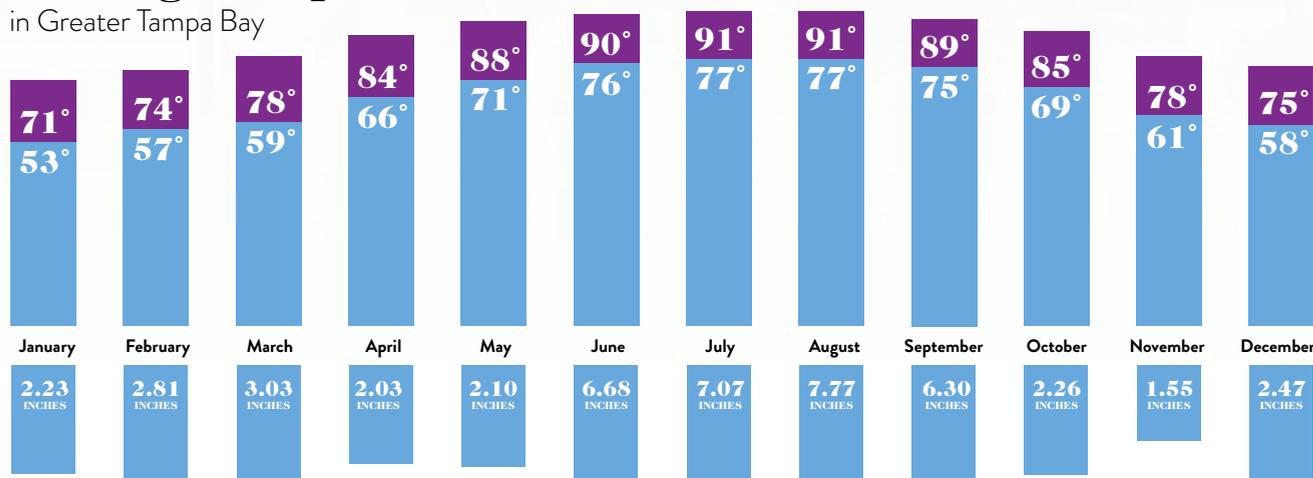
### WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**Price per Kilowatt:** \$11.40  
**Average monthly cost:** \$136  
**Coverage Area:** Pasco and Hernando Counties



## » Average Temperatures

in Greater Tampa Bay



## » Average Rainfall

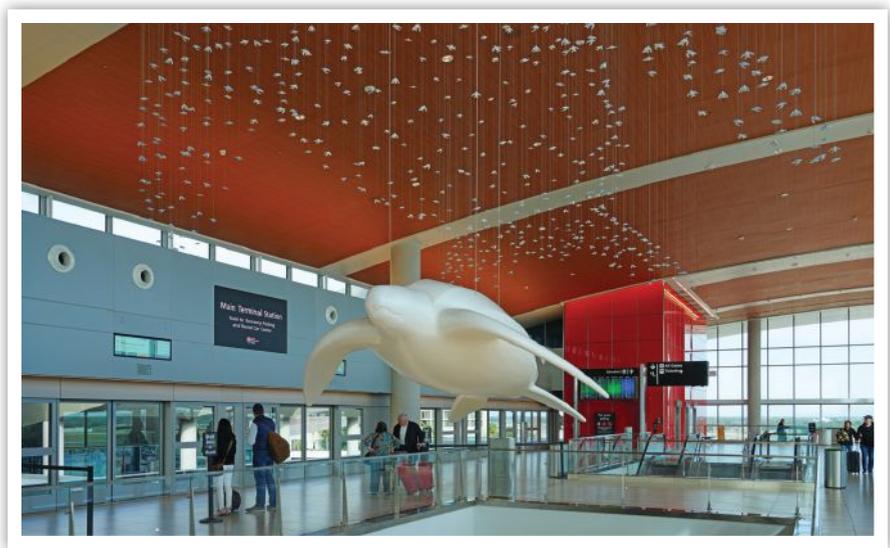


# TAKE FLIGHT

TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S STELLAR SERVICE AND MILE-HIGH AMENITIES

BY DYLAN BERMAN

Living in Greater Tampa Bay means easy access to a large, upscale airport, namely the Tampa International Airport. TIA is home to dozens of airlines, food venues and other amenities. With nonstop flights available to a plethora of vacation destinations, business hubs and bustling cities, Tampa International Airport will surely be able to accommodate travelers flying within the country and across the globe.



## » Sky's the Limit

Major airlines including American Airlines, Delta, British Airways, United and Jetblue operate out of the Tampa International Airport. With so many options there are even more choices of destinations. For instance, Delta,

JetBlue and Southwest all offer direct flights to the Big Apple. Similarly, vacationers looking to escape the lights and noises that come with city life for destinations like Havana and Cancun can choose from airlines like JetBlue, Frontier, and Southwest.

## » Fueling the Journey

Tampa International Airport has a wide variety of food options to choose from. Those feeling like they just need a quick pick me up can head to Bay Coffee and Tea, Buddy Brew, illy Cafe or Starbucks. Travelers looking for a quick but fulfilling meal have options from P.F. Changs, Panda Express, Pei Wei to Qdoba Mexican Grill or Auntie Anne's. Patrons who have a little more time on their hands should check out Burger 21 or Hard Rock Cafe. Guests can even enjoy Michelin-starred food at Ulele like salads, seafood, cocktails and beers while waiting to board.

## » Stop and Shop

Besides limitless choices for quick bites or longer meals, TIA also offers a full range of shopping venues. Souvenirs, books, medicine and easy-to-go snacks can be found at Stellar Bar News or Ybor City News stores. Guests in need of last-minute clothes shopping can check out The Runway, The Shoppes at Bayshore or Tampa Bay Sports. Additionally, for those looking to pick up electronics on the go, there are several stores available

to meet your tech needs, such as Intune Electronics, Immotion and Tech on the Go.

## » Lounge in Luxury

American Airlines customers have access to their own little getaway before their vacation even starts with the Admirals Club lounge located in Airside F. Some perks of the Admirals Club are buffet snacks and refreshments at no additional cost and access to a fully loaded bar. Guests can enjoy their favorite cocktail while catching up on the news with access to newspapers, magazines, and televisions. If it's a slow news day, visitors can finish up last minute work assignments through one of the semi private workstations with access to Wi-Fi.

Delta customers also enjoy some luxury at the TIA with access to the Sky Club in Airside E. Delta guests can sip their favorite wine, beer or cocktail while they munch on a quick snack. Or guests can connect their devices to the WiFi and catch up on the latest episode of their favorite show or download it for the flight. The delta lounge contains flight monitors so guests can stay up to date on their flights status. ■

## ST. PETE/ CLEARWATER

A smaller but fierce airport, the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport comes with some charming benefits.

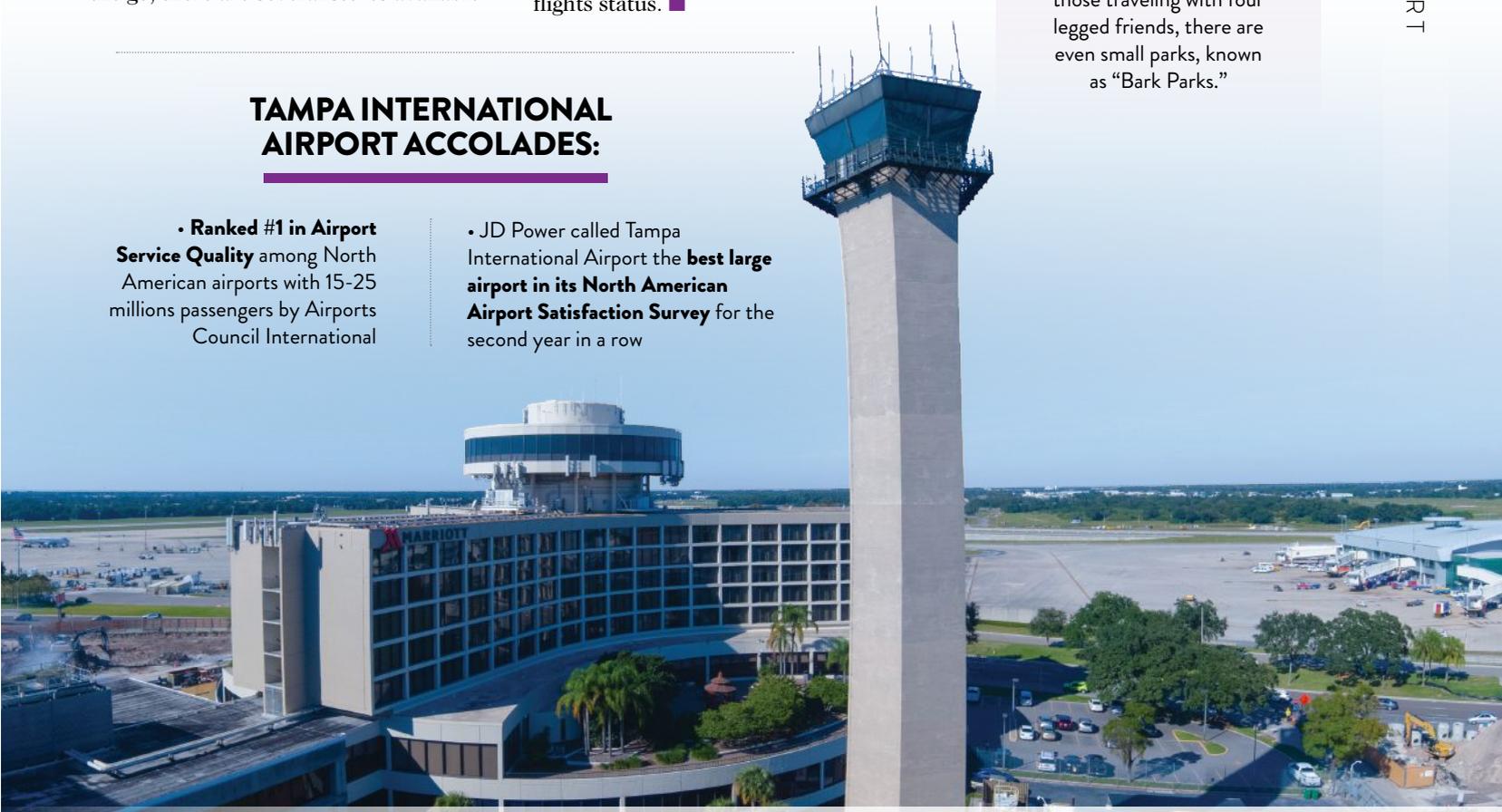
Dining choices at St. Pete are fewer, but cuisine choices are equally as strong with options including Mazzaro for Italian, Dunkin Donuts or Market 361 for coffee and the District Pub for a more classic American meal experience.

Shopping for small snacks or in-flight entertainment is possible thanks to Sand & Sky Shoppe or Hudson. Though the airport lacks exclusive lounges, it makes up it with Wi-Fi, art installations, and for those traveling with four legged friends, there are even small parks, known as "Bark Parks."

## TAMPA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ACCOLADES:

- **Ranked #1 in Airport Service Quality** among North American airports with 15-25 millions passengers by Airports Council International

- JD Power called Tampa International Airport the **best large airport in its North American Airport Satisfaction Survey** for the second year in a row





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<sup>‡</sup>Terms & conditions apply.

# THE GATEWAY TO FLORIDA'S WEST COAST

Consistently ranked in the top 3 U.S. airports, Tampa International Airport is known for its efficiency and convenient location between Tampa's business core and world-renowned beaches in St. Pete/Clearwater. TPA currently serves more than 85 domestic and international destinations nonstop.



Visit us at [TampaAirport.com](https://www.tampaairport.com) or follow us @FlyTPA

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