

Holiday Winter 2025-2026

Florida's #1 Award-Winning Visitors Guide

DESTINATION ™ FLORIDA

A Slice of Paradise

*Fox Hollow Golf Course
Takes the Cake*

LET'S EAT!

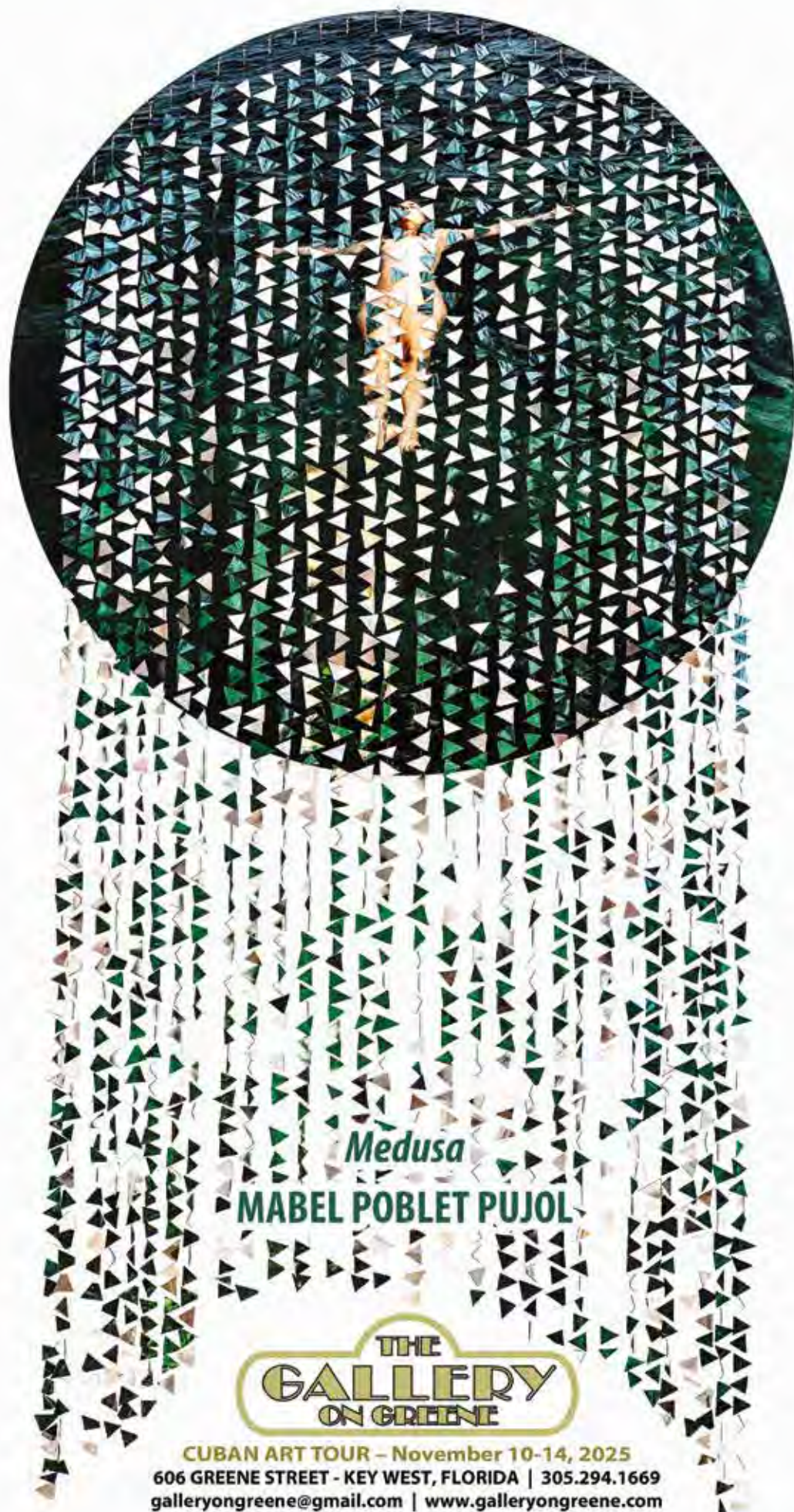
*Top Tables, Recipes,
Restaurant Reviews & More*

WHAT'S UP?

**+ 131 Fun Happenings,
Festivals, Theater
& Concerts**

GREATER TAMPA | GULF COAST

ALAN S. MALTZ GALLERY



Medusa
MABEL POBLET PUJOL



CUBAN ART TOUR - November 10-14, 2025
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SETTING ON THE HORIZON - OLD FLORIDA

ALAN S. MALTZ

1210 DUVAL ST KEY WEST FL | 305-294-0005 | WWW.ALANMALTZ.COM

Concierge TOP PICKS



BEST RESORT FOR AGES 2 -12 Legoland

If there's anything that makes you long to be a kid again, it's this totally awesome 150-acre interactive theme park specifically designed for kids 2-12 years old. With more than 50 unique rides, 10 theme zones and all kinds of really cool attractions, it is the absolute bomb! Lots of special events here, too. FYI: The water ride, "Quest For Chi" is an absolute blast! Find it at 1 Legoland Way in Winter Haven. 877-350-5346; legoland.com/Florida. Legoland Properties - Legoland Hotel, Legoland Beach Retreat and Pirate Island Hotel.

BEST SOUTHERN COOKING Ivy On The Square

Southern food is synonymous with comfort food so it's not surprising that great Southern recipes, passed down from one generation to the next, are cherished and protected. And that brings us to Marjorie "Mimi" Hale - the matriarch of the award-winning "Ivy House Restaurant & Catering" in Williston as well as the new, hip "Ivy On The Square" in downtown Ocala. Two restaurants, two different vibes but both share the same authentic

Southern specialties created from Mimi's cherished family recipes. You'll find perennial favorites like homemade Pimento Cheese, Fried Green Tomatoes, Shrimp & Grits and Mimi's signature Baked Krispy Chicken. Everything here is outrageously good! In Ocala at 53 S Magnolia (352-622-5550); and in Williston at 106 NW Mail St (352-528-5410). ivyhousefl.com.

BEST PUPPY HUGS

Southeastern Guide Dogs
Need a good hug? Then head on down to Southeastern Guide Dogs, an outstanding organization that trains puppies on a 33 acre campus to prepare them for their future lives as trained guide dogs. To help socialize these precious puppies, you are invited to come visit for lots of free puppy hugs. FYI: Reservations a must! Find it at 4210 77th St, East in Palmetto - just over St Pete's Skyway Bridge. Info: 941-729-5665; guidedogs.org.

BEST MEXICAN FOOD

Lona

If you appreciate great Mexican food, listen up: Internationally acclaimed Chefs, Richard Sandoval and Pablo Salas hit the ball out of the park. Their collaborative and contemporary approach to traditional dishes showcases a fusion of regional Mexican cuisines with an inventive array of bold and authentic flavors. From delectable street food favorites, to refined dishes inspired by ancient recipes, Sandoval's and Salas' masterful creations celebrate the diversity and complexity of Mexican gastronomy. Not to be missed! Find their cool digs at the Tampa Marriott Water Street, 505 Water St. Info: 813-221-4900 lonatampa.com

BEST WILD HANG

ZooTampa at Lowry Park

With more than 1300 resident animals, ZooTampa is famous for having one of the most beautiful, tropical zoological settings in the world. You'll experience unforgettable, natural connections and get closer to wildlife than ever before. Touch a giant tortoise, feed a giraffe, go nose-to-horn with an Indian rhino, hand-to-fin with slippery stingrays and a whole lot more! You and your family can also splash in the fun water play areas, climb aboard thrilling rides and take in fascinating educational shows. Love manatees? At the David A. Straz Jr. Manatee Hospital, the Zoo's veterinary and animal-care staff treat sick, injured and orphaned manatees before returning them to the wild after rehabilitation. Don't miss this one! ZooTampa is open daily from 9:30am - 5pm. Find it at Lowry Park, 1101 W Sligh Ave, Tampa, FL 33604. Info: 813-935-8552; zootampa.org.



BEST CONCERTS

Benchmark International Arena

Often cited as "The Live Music Capital of the World," Tampa is also home to one of the most amazing concert venues in the country. From Rock and Pop, to Country and EDM, this high-energy music venue makes every concert a totally immersive experience. The top-tier productions are insanely good with mind-shattering acoustics and electric vibes. The Arena, which also underwent a massive makeover and name change, also boasts a "Concert Club" where a VIP ticket nets you access to an exclusive lounge with premium cocktails and indulgent gourmet food. A great way to kick things up a notch! Located at 401 Channelside Dr, Tampa. Info: 813-301-6500; benchmarkintarena.com.



BEST CIGAR EMPORIUM

Corona Cigar Tampa

With 5,000 square feet of humidified space, this smoking-hot cigar emporium showcases a unique collection of premium cigars, must-have accessories and curated pieces. But what really puts it over the top are the added amenities which include multiple indoor-and-out smoking lounges, private lockers and an elegant full service bar with top shelf libations. Yowza! Find it at the Metwest International Shopping Center, 4142 Boy Scout Blvd. near Tampa's International Mall and Airport. Info: 813-513-7560; coronacigar.com.



BEST VIEW OF TAMPA

Ballast Point Park & Fishing Pier

Located a little more than 4 miles from downtown Tampa along Bayshore Blvd, this wonderful park with its historic wooden fishing pier jutting out of Tampa Bay, offers unparalleled views of the downtown skyline. It's also known for the Taste Of Boston restaurant which is one of the few places in the Bay area that serves up classic New England fare including fried Ipswich clams and steamers.

BEST RIB EYE

Bascom's Chop House

It's impossible not to fall in love with everything on Bascom's menu. The seafood, delivered daily and expertly prepared, is always top-notch. The center-cut prime chops? Simply the best. But let's talk about the showstopper: the glorious 16 oz bone-in Ribeye. Hand-cut from Certified Angus Midwestern grain-fed steer, this steak is a masterpiece. It's rich, well-marbled, and served perfectly charred on the outside with an intense, unforgettable flavor. If you're a steak lover, this Ribeye needs to be on your bucket list! Find it at 3665 Ulmerton Rd., Clearwater. 727-573-3363; bascoms.com.

BEST ART HOUSE CINEMA

Hippodrome Theater

Regaled as Gainesville's "Cultural Centerpiece," this beautifully restored historic landmark once served as a US Post Office. Today, it's a fun hub for an eclectic lineup of live theater; independent, foreign and classic films; cutting edge art exhibits by local and regional artists; classes and special events. The spacious multi-purpose, state-of-the-art performance hall is a hip hang year-round and is always a fun jam. Find it at 25 SW 2nd Pl in Gainesville. Info: 352-375-4477; thehipp.orgresistance! Find it at 48 SW 1st Ave in Ocala. 352-433-2570; lacuisineocala.com.





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DESTINATION FLORIDA

Greater Tampa | Gulf Coast
Florida's #1 Award-Winning Visitors Guide

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ABOUT THE COVER

Created by award-winning photographer, Alan Maltz, "Dramatic Ending" captures the magic and romance of South Florida. Renowned for his style and vision, Maltz has been designated as the Official FineArt Photographer by Visit Florida and as the Official Wildlife Photographer of Florida by the Wildlife Foundation of Florida. You can see more of Maltz's astounding work on at his amazing gallery and studio in Key West. Now celebrating 26 years, the Alan S Maltz Gallery showcases his 40 year collection of Florida imagery. Discover it all at 1210 Duval Street. Info: 305-294-0005; alanmaltz.com.

The official in-room visitors guide for the top lodging properties in Greater Tampa Bay, St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Sarasota Gainesville, Ocala and Cedar Key. Also distributed at local Chambers, restaurants, attractions and other popular locations.

PREMIUM CIGAR BARS AND LOUNGES

Corona Cigar Company has one purpose: to be the destination of choice for those who wish to explore, discover and enjoy the best premium cigars and spirits.

With unparalleled expertise, we are on hand to guide you through our unique collection of the finest cigars, accessories and carefully curated pieces. We invite you to fill your time beautifully with us in Tampa, Florida.



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SINCE 1996



PREMIUM WHISKEY BARS AND CIGAR STORES

VISIT OUR 5 LOCATIONS

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407.248.1212

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DIAMOND CROWN LOUNGE



127 S. ORANGE AVE.
ORLANDO, FL. 32801
407.404.5344

HEATHROW
MONTECRISTO LOUNGE



1130 TOWNPARK AVE.
LAKE MARY, FL. 32746
407.333.3453

TAMPA
DIAMOND CROWN LOUNGE



4142 W. BOY SCOUT BLVD.
TAMPA, FL. 33607
813.513.7560

SARASOTA
EL SEPTIMO VIP LOUNGE



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SARASOTA, FL. 34236
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Secure Your Space Today at 352-672-0788
wodlinger@mmwodlinger.com

DESTINATION FLORIDA
Florida's #1 Award-Winning Visitors Guide

Art + Cultural Venues

TAMPA AREA

AMALIE ARENA

401 Channelside Dr., Tampa, FL 33602
813-301-6500; amaliearena.com
World-Class Experience At Every Game
The former Tampa Bay Times Forum reinvented itself with over \$40 million in improvements that have clearly revolutionized the industry. Come enjoy Florida's premier entertainment venue, home of the 2004 Stanley Cup Champion Tampa Bay Lightning and Tampa Bay Storm – five-time Arena Football Champion.

ST. PETERSBURG AREA

MOREAN ARTS CENTER

719 Central Ave, St Petersburg FL 33701
M – Sa 9 am – 5 pm;
727-896-4527-7872; moreanartscenter.org
Connecting People With Art
A premiere showcase for award-winning artists, this 35,000 square foot art center includes six galleries of art space. The Center also offers an amazing contemporary art gallery with revolving exhibits, as well as affordable art classes year-round. Not to be missed: the Chihuly Collection – a stunning, permanent collection of world-renowned artist, Dale Chihuly's unique artwork. At the center of the collection is Chihuly's spectacular large-scale installations including his Ruby Red Icicle. The Collection also includes popular series works by *Macchia*, *Ikebana*, *Nijijima Floats*, *Persians* and *Tumbleweeds*, which have thrilled art lovers around the globe. FYI: Affordable art classes are also offered year-round!

MOREAN CENTER FOR CLAY

420 22nd St, St Petersburg FL 33712
W – Sa 10 am – 5 pm; Su Noon – 4 pm
727-821-7162 Ext 2311
moreanartscenter.org
The Largest Pottery in the Southwest
Located in a historic freight train depot in St Pete's Warehouse Arts District, the Center for Clay is home to more than 50 studios of ceramic artists creating functional and non-functional clay art. It also boasts a

large kiln complex, two rotating galleries, classrooms, and a beautiful 3,500 square foot event space. The building also includes a retail store with a great variety of Chihuly merchandise.

MOREAN GLASS STUDIO

714 1st Ave N St Petersburg FL 33701
M – Sa 9 am – 5 pm
727-896-4527-7872; moreanartscenter.org
Connecting People With Art
This is where you can actually go behind the scenes and watch resident glass artists create unique works of art which are also for sale in the adjacent Hot Shop glass shop. The Studio offers a variety of glass art classes, workshops and personal glass experience.

THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA

244 2nd Ave N, Suite 420
St Petersburg, FL 33701
Call For Dates And Times
727-892-3331; oridaorchestra.org
Nothing Beats Live Music
Recognized as Tampa Bay's leading performing arts institution and one of the leading professional symphony orchestras in Florida, the TFO is one of the most vibrant and innovative orchestras in America. The Orchestra performs nearly 100 concerts annually throughout greater Tampa, Clearwater and St Pete. Concert series include the "Tampa Bay Times Masterworks," "Raymond James Pops," "Coffee Concerts," "Rock Concerts," "Youth Concerts," and a free outdoor "Pops in the Park."

GAINESVILLE AREA

HIPPODROME THEATER

25 SW 2nd Place
Gainesville, FL 32601
352-375-4477;
thehipp.org
Various Showtimes
Gainesville's Cultural Centerpiece
As Gainesville's only art House Cinema, this historic landmark is also home to a spacious multi-purpose, state-of-the-art performance hall that offers live theatre, films, gallery exhibits, classes, and special events over 340 days a year.



Art + Cultural Happenings



Please confirm details with event organizers or venues in case of changes or cancellations.

MONTHLY

Second Wednesday Heights Night Market

Tampa: A rotating cast of artisans offer handmade goods, jewelry, art, woodwork, unique gifts, and more. Takes place from

5:30 – 9:30 pm in front of Armature Works on 7th Ave. Info: armatureworks.com.

Second Thursday Happy Hour with the Historian

Tampa: Enjoy a fun evening of wine, words and wisdom as local experts cover topics ranging from trailblazing female pilots and St Pete's haunted past, to

artistic astronauts and bridge disasters. Kicks off at 6:30 pm at the St Petersburg Museum of History, 335 2nd Ave NE. Info: 27-894-1052; historystpete.org.

Last Friday Artwalk Gainesville

Gainesville: This self-guided tour introduces you to local galleries, studios, breweries and

eclectic performance venues. Enjoy artist demos, meet-and-greets, workshops and more. Takes place from 7 – 10 pm at various locations. Info: artwalkgainesville.com.

First Saturday Free Museum Day

Ocala: Browse museum masterpieces, enjoy special exhibitions, visiting artists and performers, get creative in the Artspace and enjoy a selfie or two in the sculpture garden. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm at the Appleton Museum, 4333 E. Silver Springs Blvd. Info: appletonmuseum.com.

First Saturday & Sunday Vintage Marche

St Pete: Explore more than 15,000' of hand-picked vintage, repurposed, antique and mid-century modern furnishings, home décor, art, jewelry and more at this unique vendor-run market. Takes place on Sa from 9 am – 6 pm and on Su from 9 am – 5 pm at 2906 34th St S. Info: vintagemarsche727.com.

Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Museum
200 GREENE STREET
KEY WEST
FLORIDA
WWW.MELFISHER.ORG
305.294.2633

New Exhibition "Flashpoint"

The Florida Keys & Key West
...come as you are

IGNITE 24-25 SEASON

Perfect Arrangement
by Topher Payne
August 30-September 22; Previews August 28-29

Every Brilliant Thing
by Duncan Macmillan and Jonny Donahoe
October 12-October 26; Preview October 10

What the Constitution Means to Me
by Heidi Schreck
October 11-October 27; Preview October 9

Honky Tonk Angels Holiday Spectacular
by Ted Swindley
November 29-December 23

A Christmas Carol
Adapted by Niall McGinty from Charles Dickens
November 30-December 23

Laughs in Spanish
by Alexis Scheer
January 24-February 16; Previews January 22-23

Clyde's
by Lynn Nottage
March 28-April 20; Previews March 26-27

Summer Musical 2025 - TBA
May 30-July 6; Previews May 28-29

The Hipp Unplugged
Are you ready to be transported? We continue to thrill with our Hipp Unplugged reading series, where we're pushing the boundaries of traditional theater to showcase the raw power of storytelling.

Art & Cultural Happenings

Second Saturday

Second Saturday Art Walk

St Pete: Explore the Sunshine City's vibrant arts scene as galleries and studios in over seven arts districts stay open late to introduce featured artists and new exhibits. Takes place from 9 am – 9 pm. Info: stpeteartsalliance.org.

Second Sunday

Second Sunday Market & Art Walk

Tampa: Beat the heat at this air-conditioned marketplace where you can shop a wide variety of unique gifts, clothes, healthy living products and more. Takes place from 11 am – 3 pm at Armature Works, 1910 Ola Ave. Info: armatureworks.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 18 – 19

St Armands Fall Festival of the Arts

Sarasota: Local and national artists shine at this outdoor gallery of unique and original works. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm at 434 St Armands Circle. Info: paragonfestivals.com.

October 25

Water Lantern Festival

Sarasota: USA Today's #1 festival showcases the launch of thousands of illuminated rice paper lanterns carrying messages of hope, peace, happiness and goodwill. Takes place from 4 – 8 pm at 5851 Nathan Benderson Circle. Tickets & info: waterlanternfestival.com.

October 25 – 26

Hyde Park Village Art Fair

Tampa: Stroll historic brick-lined streets and shop an array of life-size sculptures, spectacular paintings, and other original creations from more than 100 exhibitors. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm at 1622 Snow Ave. Info: artfestival.com.



November 2

Up, Up and Away Living Arts Festival Kickoff Party

Sarasota: Kickoff the Living Arts Festival at this rooftop extravaganza that boasts amazing bird-eye views of ChalkFest, as well



as live music by the Brazilian Band, a jaw-dropping live climbing dance performance, great food, and more! Takes place from 2 – 5 pm at 1255 N Palm Ave. Info: sarasotarising.com.

November 2 – 9

Living Arts Festival

Sarasota: This annual week-long celebration of the arts features terrific live music, visual art exhibitions, interactive kids' activities, buskers, cultural pop-ups, walking tours, a traveling arts roulette wheel, and lots more! Takes place at various times/locations. Info: sarasotarising.com.

November 7 – 16

SHINE Mural Festival

St Pete: Discover the vibrant citywide landscape of stunning larger-than-life murals from local, regional, and national artists during this special community art event that recognizes the transformative power of public art. Takes place various times/locations. Info: stpeteartsalliance.org.

November 9

Rise and Shine Saturday

Sarasota: Enjoy a day of live music, theater, and art, as well as art therapy, arts immersion activities and more. Takes place from 9 am – 5 pm at 801 N Tamiami Trail. Info: sarasotarising.org.

November 14 – 17

Crystal Classic Int'l Sand Sculpting Festival

Siesta Key: Magnificent sand masterpieces, hand-sculpted by 24 internationally renowned artists magically transform white sand beaches into a larger-than-life art gallery. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm on the beach at 948 Beach Rd. Info: siestakeycrystalclassic.com

November 15 – 16

44th Annual Downtown Festival & Art Show

Gainesville: Experience the largest free celebration of art and creativity as 200+ of the nation's most talented artists set up shop in the city's historic downtown. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm at 111 E University Ave. Info: gainesvilledowntownartfest.net.

November 15 – 16

Sarasota Fall Fine Art Festival

Sarasota: Shop original art all created by talented local, regional and national artists in this unique outdoor gallery. Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm at JD Hamel Park, 199 Bayfront Dr. Info: paragonfestivals.com.

December 5 – January 1

Selby Gardens Lights in Bloom

Sarasota: Stroll through a magical tropical winter wonderland filled with beautifully-lit flowers and plants, illuminated by more than two million lights. Lots of fun activities, entertainment and seasonal treats, too! Takes place from 5:30 – 9 pm, rain or shine, at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, 1534 Mound St. Info: 941.366.5731; selby.org.

ArtFest

FORT MYERS

Southwest Florida's Premier Art Festival

Art for Everyone.

200 nationally-known artists | Kid's activities | Food & entertainment



Publix Art Yard



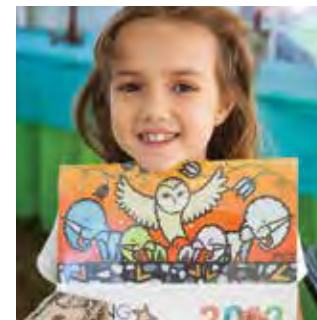
Youth Stage



Art Under 20



200 Nationally-Known Artists



Young Art Collectors



Chalk Block



VIP Experience

FEBRUARY 7 & 8
OPENING NIGHT
FEBRUARY 6, 6pm
 Downtown Fort Myers Riverfront



Artist: Robin Renee Hix

FindYourArt.

FREE ADMISSION & EASY PARKING!

Visit ArtFestFortMyers.com for more information



Worth the drive!

Art & Cultural Happenings



December 6 - 7

Atomic Holiday Bazaar

Sarasota: This festive holiday art and crafts show features affordable and unusual one-of-a-kind items that you won't find at big box stores. Come hungry: two food trucks along with the Roberts Concession will be slingin' yummy eats. Takes place from Noon - 5 pm at Roberts Area at the Sarasota Fair, 3000 Ringling Blvd. Info: 941365-0818; sarasotafair.com.

December 6 - 7

Corey Arts & Crafts Show

St Pete Beach: More than 200 talented artists and crafters showcasing a variety of handmade wares at this juried, open-air festival marketplace. Takes place from 10 am - 5 pm at 415 Corey Ave. Info: artfestival.com.

December 9

Winter Wonderland Market

St Pete: Classic holiday music backdrops a unique display of fine art, crafts and specialty items handcrafted by local artists and businesses. Takes place from 5 - 8 pm in the first floor galleries at The James Museum, 150 Central Ave. Info: thejamesmuseum.org.

January 3 - 4

Sarasota Fine Art Festival

Sarasota: This expansive outdoor gallery showcases spectacular original art, handcrafted jewelry, wearable art, and more. Takes place from 10 am - 5 pm at JD Hamel Park, 199 Bayfront Dr. Info: paragonfestivals.com.

January 24 - 25

St Armands Winter Art Festival & Sidewalk Sale

Sarasota: This outdoor gallery showcases life-size sculpture, fine jewelry, original art, home decor, handcrafted apparel and more from talented national and local artists. Takes place from 10 am - 5 pm at 1 St Armands Circle. Info: starmandscircleassoc.com.

February 7

Downtown Sarasota Festival of the Arts

Sarasota: Ranked among the top 100 art festivals in the nation, this spectacular outdoor event features 200+ award-winning artists who showcase their original works over five city blocks. Takes place from 10 am - 5 pm at 1718 Main St. Info: artfestival.com.

February 7 - 8

St Petersburg Fine Arts Festival

St Pete: More than 100 Florida and US artisans show off their original works at this unique plein air waterfront art gallery. Rated as one of America's Top 10 Art Shows by USA Today. Takes place from 10 am - 5 pm at S Staub Park, 198 Bayshore Dr NE. Info: paragonfestivals.com.

February 7 - 8

Sarasota Arts Festival

Sarasota: Over 200 local and national artists exhibit original works in various mediums including sculpture, jewelry,

paintings, woodwork, wearable art, and more. Takes place from 10 am - 5 pm at Points Park, 1718 Main St. Info: fairsandfestivals.net.

February 27 - 28

American Vintage Markets

Sarasota: This fun shopping extravaganza boasts a dazzling selection of carefully curated treasures, vintage-inspired home decor, up-cycled goods, collectibles, industrial salvage, furniture and more. Takes place from 9 am - 4 pm in Roberts Arena at the Sarasota Fairgrounds, 3000 Ringling Blvd. Info: americanvintagemarkets.com.

February 28 - March 1

Sarasota Festival of the Arts

Sarasota: This spectacular art festival includes 200+ award-winning artists who showcase their original works over five city blocks. Takes place from 10 am - 5 pm at 1718 Main St. Info: artfestival.com.

February 28 - March 1

Gasparilla Festival of the Arts

Tampa: See works by national artists backdropped by great live entertainment and lots of kids' art activities. Takes place on Sa from 9 am - 6 pm; and on Su from 10 am - 5 pm at Julian B Lane Riverfront Park, Tampa. Info: 813-876-1747; gasparillaarts.com.

February 28 - March 1

Sarasota Festival of the Arts

Sarasota: Over 70 artisans showcase their works in a spectacular outdoor gallery. Shop acres of original paintings, sculptures, jewelry, photography, glass, ceramics, fiber and wearable art, mixed-media, metalwork, graphics, woodworking, and more.

You can also commission a unique piece made specifically for you! Takes place from 10 am - 5 pm at JD Hamel Park, 199 Bayfront Dr. Info: 941-263-6386 paragonfestival.com.

March 14 - 15

Sarasota Fine Art & Crafts Fair

Sarasota: Explore a stunning collection of life-size sculptures, breathtaking paintings, handcrafted jewelry, mesmerizing photography, and one-of-a-kind ceramics - all created by some of the country's most talented artists and crafters. Takes place from 10 am - 5 pm at 1718 Main St. Info: artfestival.com.



Gypsies, Knights And Magicians!

39th Annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire

Immerse yourself in a world of medieval magic where jugglers, knife throwers and gypsy dancers perform in the street; jousting knights charge across fields on horseback; and spellbinding magicians captivate your imagination.

Welcome to the 39th Annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire.

For one magical weekend, Depot Park in Gainesville morphs into a bastion of medieval revelry where you can immerse yourself in the rich culture of the Middle Ages.

More than 160 talented artisans journey here from across the country to showcase their traditional medieval wares. Great finds, including one-

of-a-kind jewelry, stone and wood carvings, blacksmithing and weaving, hand-blown glassware, beautiful leather goods and Medieval clothing are just some of the treasures you'll discover in the Marketplace.

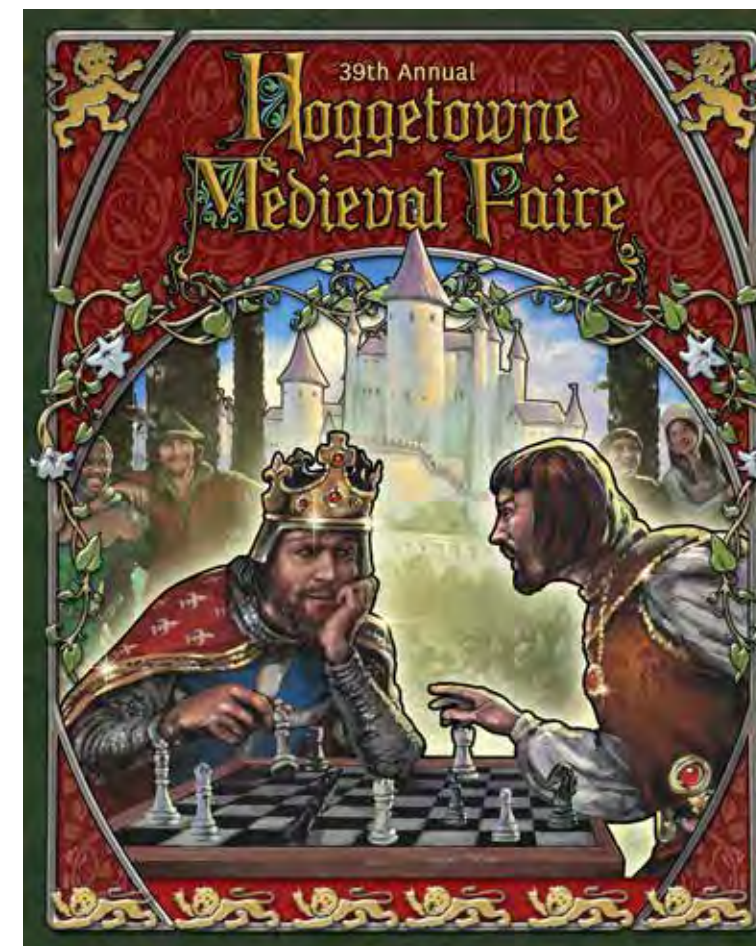
You can also engage in traditional Medieval games, shoot arrows, hurl battle axes, venture through a mind boggling maze, get your hair braided, and even look into the future with a mystical fortune teller.



When hunger strikes, just head on over to the Food Court and feast like a king on giant turkey legs, succulent ribs, blooming onions and an assortment of other goodies. You can

experience all of this Medieval magic

on Saturday, January 24 and on Sunday, January 25 from 10 am - 6 pm at Depot Park, 874 SE 4th St, Gainesville. Info: 352-393-8536; HoggetowneMedFaire.com.



City of
Gainesville
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

One Festive Weekend

Jan. 24 & 25
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Free Admission

Depot Park
Gainesville, FL

For more information visit
HoggetowneMedFaire.com



Funded in part by Visit Gainesville/Alachua County
Visit **GAINESVILLE**
Alachua County, FL

FOOTLIGHTS

Please confirm details with event organizers or venues in case of changes or cancellations.

MONTHLY

First Thursday

Rock the Park

Tampa: This free monthly entertainment series stages live music from all genres. Showtime: 6:30 pm at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, 600 N Ashley Dr. Info: facebook.com/rockthepark.

First Friday

Free Fridays Concert Series

Gainesville: Chill out to the sounds of local and regional musicians performing classic Rock, Reggae, R&B, Soul, SKA, Funk, Blues and more. Takes place under the stars from 7 – 9 pm at 111 E University Ave. Info: bodiddleyplaza.com.

First Friday

Music on Main

Lakewood Ranch: Kick off the weekend with live music, food and drinks during this block party-style event that also includes kids' activities and more. Proceeds benefit local non-profit organizations. Takes place from 6 – 9 pm at 8100 Lakewood Main St. Info: 800-307-2624; lakewoodranch.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 22

Jonas Brothers with The All-American Rejects

Tampa: This career-spanning journey includes dedicated sets from every chapter of Jonas including Nick Jonas & the Administration, Nick Jonas' solo career, Joe Jonas' solo work and DNCE. Culminating it all is an unforgettable headlining performance from the Jonas Brothers. Special guests: The All-American Rejects. Showtime: 7:30 pm at Benchmark International Arena (formerly Amalie Arena), 401 Channelside Dr. Info & tickets: 813-301-2500; benchmarkintlaena.com.



October 23

FEST23 Kickoff Party

Gainesville: Preview this year's music extravaganza with an all-age outdoor kickoff concert featuring live music from some of the best local and regional bands in north Florida.



Showtime: 7:30 pm at Bo Diddley Plaza, 111 University Ave. Info: thefestfl.com.

October 24 – 26

FEST23

Gainesville: Dive into Hogtown's underground music scene as 350+ bands from Florida and around the world jam on four stages and 18+ venues. Festival bonus: comedy shows, no-holds-barred inter-gender pro wrestling, and a flea market! Various showtimes/locations. Info: thefestfl.com.

November 1

Troupe Vertigo

St Pete: Dare to be dazzled, as the elegance of the concert hall meets the magic of the big top. From high-flying aerialists and gravity-defying acrobats to mesmerizing contortionists, every movement is

perfectly choreographed to the sweeping power of The Florida Orchestra.

Showtimes: 2 pm and 8 pm at The Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. Info & tickets: 727-892-5721; the mahaffey.com.

November 12 – 13

A Little Night Music

St Pete: The Florida Orchestra lights up the stage with moonlit melodies of the night including Mozart's A Little Night Music, Tchaikovsky's Waltz from Sleeping Beauty, Mussorgsky's Night on Bald Mountain and more. Showtimes: 11 am on W, Nov 12 at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 300

Cleveland St; and on Th, Nov 13 at The Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. Info & tickets: floridaorchestra.com.

November 13

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis

St Pete: Re-discover this spectacular timeless holiday performance sprinkled with classic carols, original songs and a spectacular multimedia light show. Showtime: 7pm at Ruth Eckerd Hall, 1111 McMullen Booth Rd. Info: 727-791-7400; rutheckerdhall.com.

November 14 – 16

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical

Sarasota: Inspired by Dr. Seuss' popular illustrations, this magical holiday classic comes to life with colorful costumes, magnificent sets, and favorite hits from the original animated special. Various showtimes. Takes place at the Van Wezel, 777 N Tamiami Trail. Info & tickets: 941-263-6799; vanwezel.org.

November 18

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis

Sarasota: America's favorite holiday tradition for more than 40 years showcases 15 musicians playing more than 20 instruments against a backdrop of dazzling multimedia effects. Takes place 7 pm at the Van Wezel, 777 N Tamiami Tr. Info & tickets: 941-263-6799; vanwezel.org.

November 21 – 23

35th Annual Suncoast Jazz Festival

Clearwater: This sun-soaked weekend of sound includes a Swing Dance Party, a Big

Easy Parasol Parade, Sunday Morning Serenade, and Live Jazz from Wycliffe Gordon, Jason Marsalis, Nate Najjar, La Lucha, Paul Wilborn, Eugene Bondurant, and more! Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm on the beach at 1160 Gulf Blvd. Info: 727-248-9441; suncostjazzfestival.com.

November 21 – 23

St Pete Country Fest

St Pete: This 3-day, 3-stage festival showcases some of country music's top-tier talent, as well as well as emerging artists and a regional showcase of up-and-coming acts. Takes place at various times at VinoyWaterfront Park, 701 Bayshore Dr. Info: stpetecountryfest.com.

November 30

Antagonist Tour: Plasboi Carti

Tampa: The genre-defying rapper hits the road for his first solo headlining run since 2021. Opium Collective members, Ken Carson, Destroy Lonely, and Homixide Gang also hit the stage with support acts. Showtime: 7 pm at Benchmark International Arena (formerly Amalie Arena) 401 Channelside Dr. Info: 813-301-6500; benchmarkintarena.com.

December 5 – 6

A Little Night Music

Tampa/St Pete: The Florida Orchestra's beloved holiday tradition embraces the power, beauty and joy of the season with Handel's Messiah, conducted by Music Director Michael Francis and featuring The Master Choral of Tampa Bay. Showtimes: 8 pm on F, Dec 5 at the Straz Center, 1010 NWC Macinnes Pl, Tampa; and on Sa, Dec 6 at The Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St, St Pete. Info & tickets: floridaorchestra.com.

December 6 – 21

A Christmas Carol

Gainesville: This festive holiday classic captures the spirit of Ebenezer Scrooge's journey and transformation with lively music, laughter and good cheer. Various times. Takes place at the Hippodrome Theater, 25 SE 2nd Place. Info: 352-375-4477; the hipp.org.

December 7

Live in Concert: Stevie Nicks

Tampa: Every note tells a story, and every song brings fans together in a shared moment of musical bliss. Showtime: 7 pm at Benchmark International Arena (formerly Amalie Arena) 401 Channelside Dr. Info: 813-301-6500; benchmarkintarena.com.

December 12

Brandy & Monica

Tampa: The iconic GRAMMY Award-winning artists embark on their first-ever co-headlining tour with a powerhouse line-up of special guests. Showtime: 8 pm at Benchmark International Arena (formerly Amalie Arena) 401 Channelside Dr. Info: 813-301-6500; benchmarkintarena.com.

December 14

The Ghosts of Christmas Eve:

Trans-Siberian Orchestra

Tampa: This unique fantasy trip through the magic of Christmas.

meshes sensory overload and majestic guitar overtones with overt sentimentality. Showtime: 3

pm and 7:30

pm at Benchmark

International Arena

(formerly Amalie Arena)

401 Channelside Dr. Info:

813-301-6500; benchmarkintarena.

com.

December 19 – 21

Holiday Pops

Tampa/St Pete: The world-class musicians of The Florida Orchestra perform all of your classic favorites in this great holiday tradition. A jolly good time for the whole family! Various times and locations. Info & tickets: 727-892-3331; floridaorchestra.org.

December 28

Nutcracker!

St Pete: Celebrate a beloved holiday tradition with an international all-star cast that blends world-class ballet with enchanting puppetry, extravagant costumes, and breathtaking acrobatics. Showtimes: Noon, 4 pm, and 8 pm at the Mahaffey Theater, 400 1st St S. Info & tickets: 727-892-5721; the mahaffey.com.

January 18

MLK Dream Big Parade

St Pete: This annual tribute to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr celebrates unity and diversity with colorful floats and lively music from top college marching bands. Takes place from 11 am – 2 pm on 1st Ave S. (E to W) downtown St. Pete. Info: mlkdreambig.com.

January 28 – February 15

Some Enchanted Evening;

The Songs of Rodgers and Hammerstein

Gainesville: Kick off 2026 with romance, passion and a glorious parade of genuine hits from the golden age of Broadway including Sound of Music, Oklahoma, The King and I, Carousel, Flower Drum Song and more. Various times. Takes place at the Hippodrome Theater, 25 SE 2nd Place. Info: 352-375-4477; the hipp.org.

February 13

Rascal Flatts: Life Is A Highway Tour

Tampa: After 20 years of making music, this regaled American country music band has no shortage of hits and this tour is packed with their best sing-alongs. Showtime: 7 pm at Benchmark International Arena (formerly Amalie Arena) 401 Channelside Dr. Info: 813-301-6500; benchmarkintarena.com.



February 14

The Envelope Please

Tampa: Get awards-season ready as the world-class musicians of The Florida Orchestra honor past and present Oscar nominees and winners of Best Picture and Best Score. The concert includes selections from Black Panther, E.T., Titanic, Lord of the Rings, The Godfather and more. Showtimes: 2 pm and 7 pm at The Mahaffey Theater, 400 First St. Info & tickets: 727-892-3331; floridaorchestra.org.

February 21

Fantasia and Anthony Hamilton

Tampa: Renowned for her dynamic gospel-rooted voice, Grammy Award winner, Fantasia, performs her unique "rock soul" style in concert with the highly acclaimed Anthony Hamilton, and his rugged yet graceful R&B. Showtime: 8 pm at Benchmark International Arena (formerly Amalie Arena) 401 Channelside Dr. Info: 813-301-6500; benchmarkintarena.com.

March 4 – 22

The Accomplish

Gainesville: Nothing is what it seems in Rupert Holmes' witty cocktail of a thriller. Author of The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Curtains, and the iconic Piña Colada song, Holmes' captivating whodunnit is sexy, suspenseful, delicious, and breathless. Various times. Takes place at the Hippodrome Theater, 25 SE 2nd Place. Info: 352-375-4477; the hipp.org.

A Wild Ride!

ZooTampa Trips You Around the World

Featured on the hit television show, Animal Planet, ZooTampa is a lush 65 acre tropical habitat that's home to more than 1,300 exotic animals. Divided into six distinct areas with

Interactive exhibits that literally take you around the world, the zoo also includes lots of fun rides as well as a special Splash Pad area (bring your bathing suits) where you and the kids can cool your jets.

First up is the Manatee Circle anchored by a beautiful Manatee Fountain which is a perfect place for photo ops.

Just next door is the Asia section where you can go nose-to-horn with an Indian Rhino and hang out with a hulking Komodo dragon, laid back sloth bear and clouded leopard.

Love manatees? At the David A Straz, Jr Manatee Hospital, the Zoo's veterinary and animal-care staff treat sick, injured and orphaned manatees before returning them to the wild after rehabilitation. There's also a Stingray Feeding area here which is pretty darn cool.

Walk over to the Africa area and you'll feel like you

were teleported to a village in the Savannah where giraffes, zebras, elephants, rhinos, and other native species meander about.

Want to get even closer? Just hop on the Safari Tram for a behind the scenes ride. FYI: Don't be surprised to see baby elephants frolicking in the mud to stay cool.

One of our favorite sections at ZooTampa is the Primate area where orangutans, chimpanzees and siamangs compete for attention in all kinds of funny ways.

At the Wallaroo section, kids can interact with the goats and ponies at the Petting Zoo and also visit with Koala bears, emu, and wallaby. There are lots of fun rides here, too, like the Tasmanian Tiger Coaster.

So go have a blast. Between the



animals, the rides, and the splash area, you can spend more than a full day here!

ZooTampa is open daily from 9:30am - 5pm. Find it at Lowry Park, 1101 W Sligh Ave, Tampa, FL 33604. Info: 813-935-8552; zootampa.org.



EVERY VISIT HELPS SAVE FLORIDA WILDLIFE



ZooTampa at Lowry Park is an award-winning conservation organization committed to the protection of wildlife. Voted among USA Today's 10 Best Zoos and 13-time winner of TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Award, ZooTampa is Florida's most attended cultural institution offering unforgettable adventures to guests of all ages. Most notably, the Zoo is a champion for Florida species and the home to the largest nonprofit manatee rehabilitation centers in the United States treating more than 500 sick, injured, and orphaned manatees with the majority returning to Florida waters.

What's Up



one of the world's oldest known sports, including the halftime divot stomp! Kicks off at 6 pm at the Ocala Polo Club, 11008 S Hwy 475. Info and tickets: 352-362-0282 ocalapolo.com.

MONTHLY

Third Thursday Third Thursday Market

Tampa: This hip, fun nighttime gourmet food event features food trucks, cocktails, live music and more! Takes place from 6–10 pm at 1208 E Kennedy Blvd. Info: tampabaymarkets.com.

Third Thursday Sip and Shop

Ocala: Merchants and restaurants stay open late for shopping and complimentary cocktails. Show your receipt from participating retailers and get 15% off at select downtown eateries and bars. Takes place from 5–8 pm in Downtown Ocala. Info: ocalamainstreet.org.

First Friday Sip & Shop

Sarasota: This lively evening is filled with shopping, sipping, and dining delights. Takes place from 4–7 pm along the 1300–1500 blocks of Main St, as well as on 1st & 2nd Sts, Pineapple, Palm Ave, Central Ave., and Lemon Ave. Info: destinationdowntown.sarasota.com.

Second Saturday The Market Marie

Clearwater: More than 65 small, local vendors offer up delicious food, art, clothing, jewelry, candles and soaps, pet treats, home goods and more. Takes place from 10 am–2 pm at the Market Marie, 710 Court St. Info: themarketmarie.com.

Third Saturday Indie Faire Maker's Market

Gulfport: Discover local, handmade arts and crafts, jewelry, pottery, locally sourced botanicals and more at this expansive downtown arts market. Takes place from 5–9 pm on Beach Blvd S between 28th Ave S and Shore Blvd. Info: visitgulfportflorida.com.

First Sunday Hyde Park Essentials Market

Hyde Park: Browse more than 100 vendors offering fresh and organic fruits and veggies,

locally prepared foods, handcrafted and artisan home décor, gifts and more. Takes place from 10 am–3 pm at 742 S Village Circle. Info: tampabaymarkets.com.

Second Sunday Seminole Heights Sunday Morning Market

Tampa: Shop a wide variety of unique gifts, clothes, healthy living products and more from popular market vendors. Takes place from 11 am–3 pm at 4500 N Nebraska Ave. Info: tampabaymarkets.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 18–19 Seafood Festival

Cedar Key: A colorful parade, amazing art crafted from local cedar trees, live music, and fresh local seafood commemorates Cedar Key's local fishing heritage. Takes place on Sa from 10 am–5 pm; and on Su from 10 am–4 pm at Second St and City Beach Front Park. Info: cedarkey.org.

October 24 Movies Under the Stars

Sarasota: Enjoy a night of wicked fun featuring the fan-favorite 90's classic "Hocus Pocus", as well as face painting, trick or treating, and a special appearance by the Sanderson Sisters! Takes place at 8 pm at 125 N Cattlemen Rd. Info: utcsarasotsa.com.

October 26 Taste of Latino Festival

Tampa: Enjoy authentic Latin food, including an "Empanada Smackdown" and Top Latino Chef Contest, live Latin music, dance performances, and more. Takes place from Noon–6 pm in Centennial Park, Ybor City, 1800 E 8th Ave. Info: tasteoflatino.com.



October 26 Selby Spooktacular

Sarasota: Dress up in your favorite costume for a not-so-scary Halloween celebration that features games, spooky story stations, arts and crafts, contests and trick or treating. Takes place 10 am–1 pm at 1534 Mound St. Tickets & info: selby.org.

October 27 Halloween on Central

St Pete: This amazing 22-block open street costume crawl boasts a Voodoo Village Marketplace, scavenger hunts, dance and costume contests, scary street performers, a costume parade, and more. Takes place from Noon–5 pm along 900–3100 Central Ave. St. Info: halloweenoncentral.com.

October 31–November 2 Fall Fest & Carnival

Sarasota: Spice up your weekend with carnival rides, photo ops, live performances, pet costume contests, and lots of trunk or treating. Takes place from 11 am–8 pm at 140 University Town Center Dr. Info: 727-674-1464; floridapenguinproductions.com.

October 31–November 2 Pirate Invasion

Cedar Key: Local pirates pillage, plunder and battle to claim historic Cedar Key! Enjoy gun and cannon demos, wenches, sea shanties, traditional grub and grog, costume contests, mermaids and more! Takes place on F from Noon–7 pm; on Sa from 8 am–6 pm; and on Su from 10 am–3 pm at 192 2nd St. Info: cedarkeypiratefest.com.

November 1–2 Savor St. Pete

St Pete: The Bay Area's longest-running food & wine festival features flavor-packed bites handcrafted by local chefs and paired with fine wines and microbrews. Takes place from 1–4 pm in Vinoy Park, at 701 Bayshore Dr NE. Info: savortheburg.com.

November 7–9 37th Annual Tarpon Springs Seafood Festival

Tarpon Springs: Enjoy a vast selection of fresh local seafood dishes, landlubber specialties, and a mouthwatering Chef Showdown. Shopaholics can browse a curated collective of artisans showcasing unique art, crafts, fishing apparel, and more. Takes place on F from Noon–9 pm; on Sat from 10 am–9 pm; and on Su from 10 am–5 pm on the Sponge Docks, 600 Hill St. Info: tarponspringsmerchantassociation.com.



November 8 Santa's Grand Arrival Parade

Sarasota: Kick off the holidays with a grand parade featuring Santa Claus, marching bands, floats, and more, as well as a spectacular light show and dazzling fireworks display. Takes place from 6–9:15 pm at 140 University Town Center Dr. Info: utcsarasota.com.



"'tis the season, and once again we're lighting up old town with a dazzling display of holiday decorations, twinkling light, food and family fun. It all begins with the spectacular lighting of the Harbor Walk in late November with our spectacular beautiful Christmas Palms followed by the Historic Inns Tours and celebrated lighted Boat Parade.

For holiday schedules throughout December, visit keywestholidayfest.com

The Florida Keys
Key West
Close To Perfect - Far From Normal





**November 29
Holiday Tree Lighting**
Tampa: Join Santa Claus and his merry elves for a night of live interactive entertainment, a Merry Makers Market and an exciting countdown the giant holiday tree lighting. Takes place from 5 – 9 pm at 1910 N Ola Ave.

**November 30
Santa Parade & Holiday Tree Lighting**
St Pete: This spectacular seasonal tradition has all the bells and whistles: Santa Claus, marching bands, festive floats, dazzling waterfront park displays, and the illumination of the giant holiday tree. Holiday parade kicks off at 6:30 pm

followed by the tree lighting at North Straub Park, 400 Bayshore Dr NE. Info: stpeteparksrec.org/holidayevents.

**December 1
Riverwalk Holiday Tree Lighting**
Tampa: This festive annual tree lighting ceremony showcases a 30' LED holiday tree synchronized to music, and a floating 35' tall Christmas tree illuminating the river, both backdropped by a DJ spinning holiday tunes. Photos with Santa and special treats, too! Takes place from 5:30 – 7:30 pm in front of the Tampa Convention Center and Sail Pavillon, 333 S Franklin St. Info: thetampariverwalk.com.

**December 5
Holiday Night of Lights**
Sarasota: This twinkling winter wonderland brims with the cozy sounds of a holiday carol sing-a-long, family photo ops, and a 60' tall holiday tree lighting. Takes place from 5:30 – 8 pm at Armands Circle, 300 Madison Dr. Info: starmandcircleassoc.com.

**December 6
Santa Fest Parade**
Tampa: This spirited holiday parade kicks off from Morgan and Madison Sts and travels west on Madison St to Ashley Dr where it turns north and ends at Ashley Dr and Cass St. Best viewing is along Madison St. Info: tampa.gov.



**November 20
Centro Ybor Winter Spectacular**
Ybor City: Deck the halls with live music and holiday fun as the season unfolds with a magical Santa photo experience, enchanting snow machines, a bustling holiday night market, tree lighting, and a cozy holiday movie under the stars. Takes place from 6 – 8 pm at Centro Ybor on 7th Ave. Info: ybor.org.

**November 22 – 23
Tampa Bay Holiday Market**
St Pete: Shop 100+ local vendors offering everything from home essentials, unique handmade gifts, holiday decor, apparel, and more! Takes place from 10 am – 5 pm at The Coliseum, 535 4th Ave N. Info: tampabay.com.

**November 27 – December 28
Tampa Bay Festival of Lights & Santa's Village**
Tampa: With nearly two miles of more than a million lights, this animated drive-thru holiday light spectacular is truly a sight to behold! Not to be missed: the walking tour around Santa's Village which brims with holiday themed rides, activities, great shopping, and visits with Santa. Gates open at 6 pm at the Hillsborough County Fairgrounds, 215 Sydney Washer Rd. Info: 813-737-3247; hillsboroughcountyfair.com.

**November 28 – January 2
Illuminated Holiday Displays**
St Pete: Four downtown waterfront parks magically transform into a sparkling fairyland of twinkling lights, decorations and giant greeting cards. Festive interactive games at each stop add to the fun. Takes place from Dusk – 10 pm at Vinoy Park, 701 Bayshore Dr NE and stretches all the way to 8 Central Ave. Info: stpeteparksrec.org/holidayevents.

**December 6
Santa Fest & Tree Lighting**
Tampa: The city's annual Tree Lighting includes a lively holiday concert with familiar Christmas favorites, dazzling dancers, and staged entertainment starring Super Star Cortni. A festive holiday movie follows the tree lighting. Takes place at 6 pm at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park. Info: 813-274-8854; tampa.gov.

**December 6
Snowfest**
St Pete: Experience a Florida-style winter wonderland with toboggan rides, holiday inflatables, winter-themed arts and crafts, live music, food trucks and more! Takes place from 2 – 9 pm at N Straub Park, 400 Bayshore Dr NE. Info: 727-893-7441; stpetestateparksrec.org.

**December 6 – 7
Atomic Holiday Bazaar**
Sarasota: Over 230 vendors offer affordable, and one-of-a-kind treasures including original art, vintage goods, clothing, and home decor, plus homemade goodies and more. Takes place from noon – 5pm at the Sarasota Fairgrounds, 3000 Ringling Blvd. Info: sarasotafair.com.

**December 13
SantaCon**
Cedar Key: Dress like Santa or in your holiday best and toast the holidays with a festive afternoon of seasonal spirits and merriment at four local watering holes. Ages 21+. Takes place from 3 – 10 pm at various locations around the island. Info: 302-543-5600; cedarkey.org.

**December 31
New Year's Eve at Armature Works**
Tampa: Ring in 2026 with outdoor music performances, skyline photo ops, pop-up bars, specialty cocktails, and live DJs. An exhilarating countdown to midnight kicks off an explosive fireworks show. Takes place from 7 pm – 1 am at Armature Works, 1910 N Ola Ave. Info: 813-250-3725; armatureworks.com.

**December 31
NYE on The Pier**
St Pete: Outfitted with a huge disco ball and LED light displays, this free dance party includes live music and DJs, games, food trucks, full bar and champagne toasts. The celebration culminates with the largest midnight waterfront

fireworks show in the area! Takes place from 8 pm – 12:30 am, rain or shine, at the St Pete Pier, 615 2nd Ave NE. Info: stpetepier.com.

**January 2 – 4
Sarasota Winter Seafood & Music Festival**
Sarasota: Indulge in a wide selection of dishes including fresh seafood, meats, and vegetarian options, all cooked onsite. Backdropping it all is a terrific lineup of live performances. Takes place from on F from 4:30 – 10 pm; on Sa from 11 am – 10 pm; and on Su from 11 am – 6 pm at the Sarasota Fairgrounds, 300 Ringling Blvd. Info: paragonfestivals.com.

**January 11 – 12
Beer, Bacon & BBQ Festival & Competition**
St Pete: Indulge in 100+ savory and salty dishes from your favorite BBQ vendors; enjoy local craft beers and handcrafted cocktails; and get down with some great live music. Takes place on Sa from Noon – 7 pm; and on Su from 11 am – 5pm at Vinoy Park, 701 Bayshore Dr NE. Info: stpetebaconandbbq.com.

**January 15 – 18
St Petersburg Power & Sailboat Show**
St Pete: The Gulf Coast's largest boat show features the latest models of power boats, motor yachts, sailboats and personal watercraft. You can also shop marine gear, electronics, and maritime art. Takes place on F from 10 am – 6 pm; on Sa from 10 am – 7 pm; and on Su from 10 am – 5 pm at the Mahaffey Theater, 400 1st St S. Info & tickets: stpeteboatshow.com.



**January 19
MLK Dream Big Parade**
St Pete: This annual tribute to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr celebrates unity and diversity with colorful floats and lively music from top college marching bands. Takes place from 11 am – 2 pm on 1st Ave S. (E to W) downtown St. Pete. Info: 813-302-9495; mlkjrparade.com.

**January 22 – 27
19th Annual Forks & Corks Food and Wine Festival**
Sarasota: This major foodie fest showcases the enormous talents of Sarasota's local chefs, highlighted by an esteemed global cast of visiting winery owners and winemakers. Takes place at various times and venues Info: 941-365-2800; eatlikealocal.com.

**January 23 – 24
PBR Tampa**
Tampa: Over 800 top bull riders compete in this exclusive world elite bull riding tour. Doors open at 7:45 pm on F and at 6:45 pm on Sa. Takes place at Benchmark International Arena (formerly Amalie Arena), 401 Channelside Dr. Info, tickets and full concert schedule: 813-301-2500; benchmarkintlaraena.com.

**January 24 – 25
39th Annual Hoggetowne Medieval Faire**
Gainesville: For one magical weekend, Depot Park transforms into "Hoggetowne" – a bastion of medieval revelry, where you can immerse yourself in the rich culture of the

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What's Up

Middle Ages. Takes place, rain or shine, from 10 am – 6 pm at Depot Park, 874 SE 4th St. Tickets and info: 352-393-8536; HoggetowneMedFaire.com.

January 31

Gasparilla Invasion and Pirate Fest

Tampa: A fleet of swashbuckling pirates sail into Tampa Bay to invade downtown and receive the Key to the City. It's a full day of revelry and pillaging including a wild After Party with live music and entertainment. Invasion takes place from 11:30 am – 7:30 pm at various downtown locations. After Party happens from 10 am – 8 pm at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, (Ashley Dr and Twiggs St) and at also at MacDill Park (Ashley Dr and Whiting St). Info: gasparillapiratefest.com.

January 31

Gasparilla Parade of Pirates

Tampa: After bands of merry pirates conquer the city with a triumphant invasion, the party continues with a celebration march down Bayshore Blvd for a 4.5-mile journey through downtown Tampa along the beautiful Hillsborough Bay. Takes place from 2 – 5:30 pm. Info: gasparillapiratefest.com.

January 31

Suncoast Scots Highland Games & Celtic Festival

Sarasota: This lively celebration of Scottish & Celtic heritage is a full day of Celtic music, a bagpiping competition, heavy athletic events (with athletes throwing telephone poles), Scottish and Irish Dancing Competitions and more. Takes place from 9 am – 4:30 pm at the Sarasota Fairgrounds, 3000 Ringling Blvd. Info: suncoastscots.com.



February 5 - 16

Florida State Fair

Tampa: Celebrate the best in Florida agriculture, horticulture, crafts, cooking, livestock and 4H. A thrilling midway, tractor pulls, sheep shearing, cow milking contests, equestrian events, and all of your favorite fair food makes for a great time! Takes place M – Th from 11 am – 9 pm; and on F – Su from 10 am – 9 pm at Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 US 301 N. Tickets and Info: floriidastatefair.com.

February 15

21st Annual Festivals of Speed

St Pete: Some of the world's most exotic cars, motorcycles, and watercraft are on display along the sparkling waterfront. Stroll the show, sip on fine wines, savor delicious bites, enjoy live music or smoke a premium blend in the outdoor cigar lounge. Takes place from 11 am – 3 pm at Vinoy Park, 701 Bayshore Dr NE. Info: festivalofspeed.com.

February 20 - 22

St Petersburg Seafood & Music Festival

St Pete: Gourmet seafood preparations; exquisite wines and craft cocktails; live music and a vibrant arts marketplace makes for a great weekend! Takes place on F from 4 – 10; on Sa from 11 am – 10 pm; and on Su from 11 am – 6 pm at Vinoy Park, 701 Bayshore Dr NE. Info: paragonfestivals.com.

February 27 - March 1

Firestone Grand Prix of St Petersburg

St Pete: World-class racers burn rubber along St Pete's downtown waterfront. Snag driver autographs, tour the Speed Zone and Gasoline Alley, stroll the IndyCar Series Fan Village and enjoy live entertainment is this week-long celebration of speed. Takes place daily from 8 am – 5 pm. Info: gpstpete.com.

OTHER FLORIDA HAPPENINGS

November 26 - December 31

Key West Holiday Fest

Key West: A merry range of celebrations during Key West's busy holiday season includes the Harbor Walk of Lights, Holiday Historic Inn Tours, and a spectacular lighted boat parade. Other events include the annual hometown holiday parade, festive island lights tours, seasonal artisan markets, bazaars, and multiple New Year's Eve "Drops." Info: keywestholidayfest.com.



January 28 - February 1

17th Annual Key West Food & Wine Festival

Key West: Voted one of the Best Food & Wine Festivals in the US, this creative series of wine and food events showcases a diverse range of wines and inventive cuisine hosted by their passionate creators at iconic Island locations. Over 20 unique events, including waterfront, tastings, Winemaker/Chef collaborations and local funky events present an authentic taste of Key West. Info: keywestfoodandwinefestival.com.

February 6 - 8

Artfest Fort Myers

Historic Downtown Fort Myers: Southwest Florida's Premier Art Festival celebrates its 25th anniversary on the spectacular downtown waterfront and showcases the works of 200+ outstanding national artists. Also includes a high school art competition, children's craft area, sidewalk chalk extravaganza and more. Opening Night Party kicks things off on F from 6 – 9 pm and includes a special Pops Concert. The festival continues on Sa from 10 am – 5 pm and on Su from from 10 am – 4 pm at Edwards Dr and Hendry St. Info: ArtFestFortMyers.com.

February 15

68th DAYTONA 500

Daytona Beach: Don't miss the 68th running of "The Great American Race!" Historic performances, spectacular racing, amazing memories, and being here in person will stay with you for a lifetime. Takes place at Daytona International Speedway, the "World Center of Racing," at 1801 W International Speedway Blvd. Info: 800-748-7467; daytonainternationalspeedway.com.

XPLORE

TAMPA / CLEARWATER

CORONA CIGAR TAMPA

Metwest Shopping Center
4142 Boy Scout Blvd, Tampa FL 33607
813-513-7560; coronacigar.com
M & Tu 9 am – Midnight; W & Th 9 am – 1 am; F & Sa 9 am – 2 am; Su 10 am – Midnight
The Ultimate Premium Cigar Experience
You'll find only the best cigars and libations at this smoking hot cigar emporium which boasts over 5,000 square feet of humidified space, multiple lounges both indoor and out, and an elegant full service bar with over 100 different spirits. In addition to *Davidoff, Camacho, Avo, Room 101, BG Meyer, Griffin's* and *Zino Platinum Cigars*, you can also savor special featured cigars from renowned brands like *Padron, MyFather, Montecristo, Ashton, Fuente, Tatuaje* and *Illusione*. The store features a big assortment of pipes, humidors, lighters, cutters and other smoking accessories, as well.

FLORIDA AQUARIUM

701 Channelside Dr., Tampa, FL 33602
M – Su 9:30 am – 5 pm
813-273-4000; aquarium.org

One of the Country's Top 10 Aquariums

This large scale 250,000 square foot "kid-friendly" aquarium is a "must see" when you're in the area. Come face to fin with some of the world's apex predators, see eye-to-eye with sea turtles, feel a jelly bell and take in hundreds of fish species. There's also a free flying bird aviary and an exciting Wild Dolphin Cruise.

FOX HOLLOW GOLF CLUB

10050 Robert Trent Jones Pkwy
Trinity, FL 34655
Call For Hours
727-376-6333; golfthefox.com
Tampa's Finest Semi-Private Golf Club
Cited as one of the top three public-access courses in West Central Florida, this local favorite has the distinction of being one of the last courses designed and built by the legendary Robert Trent Jones, Sr – one of the most prolific and innovative golf course designers of all time. This par 71 championship course has hosted local qualifiers for the US Open, as well as qualifying for the PGA Tour's Valspar Championship. With rolling fairways, gentle

undulations, abundant water hazards and excellent bunkering, this premier semi-private 18 hole tree-lined course features five sets of tees and offers new challenges every time you play here.

ZOOTAMPA

Lowry Park
1101 W Sligh Ave, Tampa, FL 33604
Daily 9:30 am – 5 pm
813-9358552;
zootampa.org.
Featured On Animal Planet
Voted the #1 Family Friendly Zoo in the US, this 65 acre lush tropical habitat is home to more



Tampa Bay's Favorite Place to Play Golf

For Tee Times Call
(727) 376-6333

Or Online At
foxhollowgolfclub.com

10050 Robert Trent Jones Parkway Trinity, FL 34655

XPLORE

than 1300 resident animals and offers lots of opportunities to get up close and personal with giraffes, rhinos, exotic birds, stingrays and more. The emphasis here is on endangered and vulnerable species, as well as on conservation and education. Love manatees? At the David A Straz Jr Manatee Hospital, the Zoo's veterinary and animal care staff treat sick, injured and orphaned manatees before returning them to the wild after rehabilitation. The Zoo also cares for the most diverse group of Florida wildlife anywhere, and has won numerous awards for animal preservation. There's also a cool splash pad for kids, several rides and fun play areas.

RON JON SURF SHOP

377 Mandalay Ave
Clearwater Beach, FL
727-286-5888
ronjonsurfshop.com
Open Daily
The World's Most Famous Surf Shop
This iconic lifestyle shop carries the best apparel and accessories for the surf, skate and beach crowd. Whether you're looking for relaxing island wear, the latest surf fashion or Ron Jon souvenirs, this is your place in the sun.

GAINESVILLE AREA

FLINT ROCK

6840 SW 120th St, Gainesville, FL 32608
FlintRockGainesville.com;
FlintRockInfo@MMParrish.com
By Appointment
Gainesville's First Agrihood Community
Nestled next to 151 acres of conservation preserve, this new luxury residential subdivision embraces a refreshing new approach to a timeless way of living. With over 250 acres of common area and greenway, 2.5 miles of walking paths, private clubhouse, two-story event barn and gardens, Flint Rock is not just a home: it's a community designed around the principles of wellness, sustainability and a farm-to-table lifestyle.

SANDERS JEWELERS

Haile Plantation
9119 SW 52nd Ave, Gainesville, FL 32608
352-331-6100; sandersjewelers.net
Open Tu - F 10 am - 6 pm;
Sa 10 am - 5 pm
Gainesville's Home for Custom Jewelry
Old world craftsmanship with a dramatic vintage air is the hallmark of Master Jeweler

Rick Sanders. In addition to his stunning, highly sought after designs, Sanders also showcases fine diamond jewelry by Allison Kaufman; beautiful bridal jewelry from Benchmark; modern day heirloom jewelry in 18K gold and platinum from Dove's; a spectacular collection of cultured pearls from Imperial; and many other special creations by some of the best designers in the business.

SARASOTA

CORONA CIGAR SARASOTA

22 N Lemon Ave, Sarasota, FL;
800-702-4427; coronacigar.com
M & Tu 9 am - Midnight;
W & Th 9 am - 1 am; F & Sa 9 am - 2 am;
Su: 10 am - Midnight
The Ultimate Premium Cigar Experience
You'll find only the best cigars and libations at this smoking hot cigar emporium which boasts over 5,000 square feet of humidified space, multiple lounges both indoor and out, and an elegant full service bar with over 100 different spirits. In addition to *Davidoff, Camacho, Avo, Room 101, BG Meyer, Grif n's* and *Zino Platinum Cigars*, you can also savor special featured cigars from renowned brands like



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XPLORE

Padron, MyFather Montecristo, Ashton, Fuente, Tatuaje and Illusione. The store features a big assortment of pipes, humidors, lighters, cutters and other smoking accessories, as well.

MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS

1811 S Palm Ave, Sarasota, FL 34236
941-366-5731; selby.org

Daily 10 am – 5 pm

A Quiet & Spectacular Oasis

Nestled on the shores of beautiful Sarasota Bay, this tropical, urban oasis showcases unparalleled horticulture displays and is a world-class center for education, research and education. There is just so much to see here including a Conservatory that looks and feels like a tropical forest, Fern Garden, Bamboo Garden, Banyan Grove, Mangroves and Baywalk, Bromeliad Garden, Butterfly Garden, Children's Rainforest and more.

THE RINGLING

5401 Bayshore Rd, Sarasota, FL 34243
941-359-5700; ringling.org

Daily 10 am – 5 pm

The Greatest Show On Earth

The Ringling Circus may be gone but it is certainly not forgotten. This State Art Museum is home to one of the preeminent art and cultural



collections in the US which John Ringling, in the spirit of America's wealthiest Gilded Age, began acquiring in the 1920s. The museum now houses a treasure trove of paintings and art objects as well as a Circus Gallery which showcases performers wardrobes, beautifully carved parade wagons, lithographic circus posters, a cannon which shot fearless

performers across the big top and so much more. FYI: Check out the interactive Tibbals Learning Center where you can experience the excitement of a day at the circus.

WINTER HAVEN

LEGOLAND®

1 Legoland Way Winter Haven, FL 33884

M 10 am – 5 pm; Th – F 10 am – 5 pm;

Sa & Su 10 am – 6 pm;

877-350-5346; legoland.com/Florida

365 Days Of Awesome!

This amazing 150-acre interactive theme park is just 45 minutes from downtown Tampa and is specifically designed for families with kids who are between the ages of two and twelve. The park features more than 50 unique rides, engaging shows and some really cool attractions. Imaginations soar at the "DUPLo Village" where youngsters can fly a plane, drive a car and explore a "kid-sized" town. At "LEGO Kingdom," they can travel back to Medieval Times where they'll meet brave knights, beautiful damsels and fiery dragons. In the "Land Of Adventure," they can hunt for hidden treasure and explore buried tombs. And that's only the beginning!

Good Eats

TAMPA AREA

ANCHOR AND BRINE

Tampa Marriott Water Street

505 Water Street, Tampa, FL 33602

813-204-6388; anchorandbrine.com

M – F 11 am – 10 pm

Sa & Su 10 am – 11 pm

Seafood Centric Dining, Sushi & Raw Bar

Chef, restaurateur and entrepreneur, Richard Sandoval is acclaimed for his innovative culinary techniques and award-winning flavors that span 50 locations and five continents. Here, his refined yet approachable seafood centric menu shines with an excellent selection of inventive dishes. Small Plates include Sautéed Mussels, Smoked Grouper Dip and Exotic Mushroom Flatbread. Large Plates are just as enticing with items like Seared Salmon with corn puree and edamame salsa; Chicken Milanese with marinated heirloom cherry tomatoes; and Pasta Pescatore, a wonderful melange of calamari, shrimp, mussels and lobster in Pomodoro sauce served over linguine.



A terrific Sushi and Raw Bar, along with a beautiful waterfront terrace is the topping on the cake!

tampamarriottwaterstreet.com

Daily 11 am – 2 am

Elevated Gastro Pub & Virtual Sports

World-renowned celebrity chef, Richard Sandoval never seems to slow down. With dozens of acclaimed restaurants to his credit, Sandoval's waterfront "social house" may be one of his most unique venues. Situated

GARRISON TAVERN

Tampa Marriott Water Street

505 Water Street, Tampa, FL 33602

813-221-6390;

DAYTONA INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY TOURS

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- Daytona International Speedway tours run daily
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- Kids 4 and under are FREE

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TAMPA'S BEST KEPT SECRET.

With an elegant yet casual waterfront ambiance, Tampa Marriott Water Street is the ideal choice for Your evening out.

Enjoy a seafood-forward menu and beautifully-styled raw bar at Anchor and Brine our newest restaurant and bar, situated on the water along Tampa's Riverwalk with indoor and outdoor terrace dining options.

A complete dining and entertainment experience awaits at Garrison Tavern. Enjoy made-from-scratch cuisine, local craft beers, hand-crafted cocktails and the first virtual Topgolf Swing Suite.

Network with friends and colleagues at our redesigned Tampa hub the Great Room & Patio, with appetizing lite bites and shareable plates. Unwind with specialty cocktails as you listen to live music on our scenic patio along the water.

TO VIEW MENUS OR ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULES, OR TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, VISIT TAMPAMARRIOTTWATERSTREET.COM

505 WATER STREET,
TAMPA, FL 33602, 813.221.4900
TAMPAMARRIOTTWATERSTREET.COM

Tampa At A Glance

So Much To See And Do!

Tampa Bay – the second largest metro area in Florida – offers a variety of treasures in the communities that surround its beautiful waters. From gleaming high rises and the rich Latin heritage of Tampa, to St. Petersburg’s European-style charm of café-lined streets along the nation’s most beautiful waterfront, and to Clearwater’s white sand beaches, Tampa Bay offers everything under the sun.

A visitor here can enjoy it all within a 45-minute drive from their hotel. Three bridges span Tampa Bay, and the drive yields a spectacular vista of all that is Florida: palm trees, gliding pelicans and dolphins paint a picture of a paradise where summer never ends.

Thirty-five miles of some of the best beaches in the world border the Gulf of Mexico: from Clearwater’s pristine Caladesi Island to south beyond St. Petersburg and the expansive Fort de Soto Beach. Here, fresh grouper is king,

and golden sunsets are the dessert to cap off a perfect day in the sun.

Just minutes away in downtown St. Petersburg, this resort city boomed while the big bands played and is now home to a thriving arts community.

Seven arts districts, dozens of galleries, world-class museums such as the Dali Museum and the Chihuly Collection, and a rising curtain on a host of performing arts rival the best arts cities in the world. And, sandwiched between museums and galleries, is stylish Beach Drive, a European promenade with open-air cafés overlooking beautiful waterfront parks, Mediterranean-tiled towers and the masts of sailboats.

Tampa’s Busch Gardens is not only one of America’s most popular theme parks with heart-palpitating rollercoasters, but it is also home to



one of the largest zoos in the United States.

Downtown

Tampa’s Riverwalk provides a linear path

past the Tampa Museum of Art, Curtis Hixon Park and the city’s gleaming business district.

And less than a minute away, the Ybor City Historic District, where former cigar factories transformed into restaurants and nightclubs and the smell of Cuban coffee seems to seep from the old hexagon block sidewalks.

From the shores of Tampa Bay, discover everything from 21st century cities embracing the future, to spine-tingling rollercoasters, the crack of a Major League Baseball bat and the perfect place to nestle your toes in the sand. We invite you to explore and discover the treasures of Tampa Bay.



The Art of the Cigar

Corona Cigar Co Is All About Luxury

The cigar industry in Tampa began in 1886 when Vicente Martinez Ybor, visiting from Key West, bought 40 acres of land and founded Ybor City. From that beginning and for more than 50 years thereafter, Ybor City became the “Cigar Capitol of the World.”

Today, Ybor City is home to just a handful of cigar makers but it still remains a popular destination for cigar aficionados. And that brings us to tobacco farmer and entrepreneur, Jeff Borysiewicz.

Founder of Orlando’s prestigious Corona Cigar Co, Borysiewicz, chose Ybor City to open the world’s largest cigar bar and lounge. Since then, Borysiewicz has expanded his luxe concept to include four additional locations with two in Orlando, one in Lake Mary and yet another one slated for Sarasota.

Borysiewicz’s Corona Cigar Co is now recognized as the global leader in luxury cigar experiences and its ultra premium cigar lounges and bars are simply off the charts.

You’ll find the best selection of the rarest and finest premium cigars available anywhere in the world, including limited editions from famous international cigar makers that are exclusive to Corona Cigar Company. And get this: if you’re really a serious cigar connoisseur, Corona Cigar



has one of the largest collections of extremely rare vintage, pre-embargo, pre-Castro Cuban cigars.

The original Tampa location boasts over 5,000 square feet of humidified space, private lockers, multiple lounges both indoor and out, and an elegant full service bar showcasing the most extensive collection of whiskies and small batch bourbons in Tampa.

In all, there are over 400 spirits on hand including rare pours like the Johnnie Walker King George V blended Scotch whisky and The Macallan 62-year-old single malt Scotch. The bar also serves several classic cocktails and has an extensive Port collection.

But the real stars of the show are the exceptional hand-crafted cigars and limited editions. Kick back with the Corona Cigar Co Tampa

Exclusive, *Camacho*, *Avo*, *Room 101*, *BG Meyer*, *Griffin’s* and *Zino Platinum Cigars*, or savor special featured cigars from renowned brands like *Padron*, *MyFather Montecristo*, *Ashton*, *Fuente*, *Tatuaje* and *Illusione*.

The stores also feature a big assortment of luxury cigar accessories including pipes, humidors, lighters, cutters and more.

You can find the original Corona Cigar Co right in the center of Tampa at the Metwest International Shopping Center, 4142 W Boy Scout Blvd (813-513-75600); in Orlando at 127 Orange Ave (407-404-5344); and also at 7792 W Sand Lake (407-248-1212); in Lake Mary at 1130 TownPark Ave in Colonial TownPark (407-333-3453); and coming soon to Sarasota at 22N Lemon Ave (941-240-9711).

For more info on any one of Borysiewicz’s smoking hot cigar emporiums, hit up coronacigar.com.

Good Eats



SKYYE BAR & GRILL
Tampa Airport Marriott
4200 George J Bean Parkway
Tampa, FL 33607
813-998-3705;
tampamarriottairport.com
Daily 3 – 11 pm
Skip the Taxi
Who knew that you get find some really good eats right off the tarmac? Conveniently located in the Tampa Airport Marriott, and just a short indoor walk down the terminal, is the hotel's Skyye Bar & Grill. In addition to the panoramic bird's-eye views, you'll also find a varied menu with just about anything you could hanker. Appetizers range from Fried Calamari, Wings, and Pan-Fried Potstickers, to almost a dozen salads and handhelds.

in a one-of-a-kind space along the Tampa Riverwalk, his contemporary take on the age-old tavern concept is a lively dining and entertainment experience. With a relaxed open layout outfitted with large communal tables, it's all about social connection. It's no surprise that the menu here is chef-driven. Sandoval re-energizes comfort food into a robust collection of scratch-made plates that include Beef Barbacoa Nachos; Crispz Fried Chicken Wings; Grilled Flat Iron Steak; Smoky Gouda Mac & Cheese; a Tavern Butcher's Burger made with house-ground Florida raised grass-fed beef; and lots of other handhelds. The friendly space also boasts Florida's first "Top Golf Swing Suite," a very cool virtual sporting experience that is as immersive as the food. *A really fun hang!*

LONA
Tampa Marriott Water Street
505 Water Street, Tampa, FL 33602
813-221-4900; lonatampa.com
Daily 6:30 am – 11 pm
Dynamic Modern Mexican Cuisine
This collaboration between internationally acclaimed Chefs, Richard Sandoval and Pablo Salas brings out the best of the best. While their creative and contemporary approach to traditional Mexican dining pays homage to Mexico's rich culinary heritage, it also takes traditional dishes to a whole new level. Their curated menu showcases a fusion of regional Mexican cuisines with a mind-blowing array of bold and authentic flavors. From delectable street food favorites to refined dishes inspired by ancient recipes, Sandoval's and Salas' masterful collaboration celebrates the diversity and complexity of Mexican gastronomy. *Not to be missed!*

If you're looking for something heartier, you can always opt for one of the Main Plates which include entrees like Airway Meatloaf, Hull Huli Salmon, and Asian Infused Quinoa Stir-Fry. FYI: Save room for the Chocolate Bourbon Cake!

ST PETERSBURG AREA

AZURA COASTAL KITCHEN & BAR
At Hotel Zamora
3701 Gulf Blvd., St Pete Beach, FL 3306
727-456-8660; thehotelzamora.com
Breakfast 9 am – 11:30 pm;
Brunch 11:30 am – 2:30 pm;
Lunch 11:30 am – 4 pm; Dinner 5 pm Close
Coastal Mediterranean Fare & Water Views
With an expansive veranda overlooking the Intracoastal, Zamora's signature restaurant is a top choice for breakfast, brunch, lunch or dinner. Prepare yourself for some really outstanding traditional and contemporary fare. From Banana Foster French Toast and Lemon Blueberry Pancakes; to Crispy Calamari and Lobster Rolls; to Chicken Saltimbocca and Chilean Sea Bass – the chefs here always deliver delicious, eye-popping plates. Other noteworthy main



dishes include the Grilled Salmon with spinach and feta puff pastry; Lobster A La Vodka Pasta; Wagyu Bolognese; and the slow braised Short Rib.

THE VINOY RESORT & GOLF CLUB
501 5th Ave, St Petersburg, FL 33701
727-894-1000; thvinoy.com
Hours Vary
A Vibrant Dining & Social Hub
With seven distinctive dining options, this cherished St Pete landmark is an iconic dining destination that boasts a wonderfully diverse culinary lineup. From fresh brews and house made patisseries at *Lottie*, the resort's classic French café; to local seafood and international dishes on the marina at *Paul's Landing*; to creative Latin cuisine on the *Veranda*, aka "St Pete's Front Porch," dining here is a cause célèbre. FYI: The resort's culinary offerings are expanding with the addition of the exciting new *Elliott Aster*, an elevated fine-dining experience by Chef Lee Wolen and the Boka Restaurant Group (coming in 2025). *Stay tuned!*

CLEARWATER AREA

BASCOM'S CHOP HOUSE
3665 Ulmerton Rd, Clearwater, FL 33762
727-573-3363; bascoms.com
Lunch: M – F 11:30 – 2:30 pm
Dinner: M – Th 5 – 9 pm;
F 5 – 9:30 pm; Sa – 4:30 – 9:30 pm;
Su 4 – 9 pm
Award-Winning Steak House With A Modern Twist
Hemed by acclaimed chef, Tony Bonanno, this elegant Chop House is heralded for its exceptional meat preparations and expansive menu. All the steaks here are Certified Angus Midwestern grain-fed steer, wet-aged in-house for a minimum of 28 days. Chef Bonanno has a flair for combining flavors and methods from around the world and his inspiring cuisine is all his own. Bonanno's seafood preparations are also especially wonderful and include creations like Pecan Crusted Grouper, Chilean Sea Bass, and Shrimp Scampi Pasta. Whether it's steak or seafood, you can't go wrong with anything on Bonanno's menu.

Surprising St. Pete

One Of The World's 52 Must See Places!"



Just a half hour from Tampa and Clearwater, St. Pete boasts a rich cultural scene, one of North America's largest and most beautiful downtown waterfronts and a climate that holds a world record for the most consecutive days of sunshine.

In fact, the New York Times recently named St. Petersburg as one of the "52

must see places in the world."

Also ranked as America's #1 Arts Destination and Crafts Town, the Sunshine City is home to seven arts districts, dozens

of galleries and world-class museums including the Dali and the Chihuly Collection.

The Florida Orchestra and a host of other performing arts also make St Pete a rival for one the world's best cultural cities.

Sandwiched between museums and galleries, is stylish Beach Drive,

a European promenade with open-air cafés overlooking a ribbon of green city parks and the sparkling waters of Tampa Bay.

Downtown, you'll discover great shopping including eclectic home-grown businesses in the Grand Central District.

After dark, the city really hops. A thriving craft beer industry and a 24/7 downtown attracts the largest cluster of bars and entertainment spots in the Tampa Bay area.

Hard to believe that this hip city was once known as just a sleepy retirement destination because it's now a huge draw for all ages and just ranked as Florida's #1 spot for relocation among millennials.



Where classic elegance meets historic charm

The Vinoy Resort and Golf Club stands as a premier destination for travelers and locals, offering elevated experiences and creative programming like the History Tour & High Tea. With six distinctive dining venues, two resort pools, and a holistic spa, it reflects a century of rich social culture. As the celebration of its 100-year anniversary begins in 2025, this milestone becomes an integral part of the vibrant experiences that define The Vinoy.

The Vinoy Resort & Golf Club
501 5th Ave. NE, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
+1 727.894.1000 | TheVinoy.com



Good Eats

KATCH BISTRO

Karol Hotel
2675 Umberton Rd, Clearwater, FL 33762
727-273-7850; thekarolhotel.com
M – Th 7 am – 9 pm; F 7 am – 10 pm;
Sa 8 am – 10 pm; Su 8 am – 3 pm
Inventive Gulf-To-Table Cuisine
Local seafood creations headline a terrific lineup of gourmet creations that include elevated appetizers like Creole Shrimp with fennel sausage in chili lime broth; Fried Deviled Eggs with truffle aioli and bacon; and crispy Brussels Sprouts with chili honey sauce and bacon. Sea and Land entrees rock the boat with options like Champagne Grouper; Pesto Gulf Shrimp; Atlantic Seared Salmon; Braised Short Rib; and Hot Honey Half Chicken. *Really lovely!*

GAINESVILLE AREA

VOLCANIC SUSHI + SAKE

Haile Village Center
5212 SW 91st Terrace, Gainesville, FL 32608
352-363-6226; volcanicushisaki.com
Su – Th 11 am – 9 pm; F & Sa 11 am – 10 pm
Gainesville's Iron Chef Winner
Winner of Gainesville's 2018 Iron Chef Competition, owner Nestor Espartero is a master at creating fabulous fusion dishes which reflect his passion for Asian, Latin and French cuisine. The food at his small, unassuming eatery is deliciously fresh, beautifully plated and artistically arranged (the wasabi is sculpted to resemble leaves). Chef Nestor's flavors are often complex, resulting in sensational dishes like the Sweet Salmon Teriyaki, Shaken Beef Tenderloin and Duck Curry. His signature rolls are also off the chart – especially the crunchy Haile Roll with tuna tartare and lotus root drizzled with eel sauce. *Outstanding!*

MARK'S PRIME STEAKHOUSE

201 SE 2nd Ave,
Gainesville,
Florida 32601
Tu – Th 5 – 9 pm;
F & Sa 5 – 10 pm
352-336-0077;
marksprimesteakhouse.com
A Top Pick of Wood Fired Prime Steaks
For over two decades, Mark's has been a top destination for prime wood-fired steaks and elegant dining. You can easily make a meal out of the array of homemade

soups, crisp salads, and intriguing appetizers. The list of starters is extensive but Mark's classic Crab Bisque – a smooth, creamy recipe with lots of depth and plenty of lump crab meat; and the Lobster Escargot with six large chunks of lobster tail sautéed in herbed garlic butter – are really superb. Needless to say, steaks and chops take center stage here and include a variety of cuts with master class preparations. Topping the list: the Frenched Prime Bone In Ribeye; exquisite 16 oz Delmonico; and the Twin Grilled Colorado Lamb Chops with rosemary butter. If fresh seafood is more your gig, the Pan Seared Sea Bass, Rock Shrimp & Crab Fettuccine and Wood Grilled North Atlantic Salmon with dill beurre blanc are all the bomb.



CEDAR KEY

BIG DECK BAR & GRILL

331 Dock St., Cedar Key, FL 32625
352-543-9992
Su – Th 11 am – 9 pm;
F & Sa 11 am – 12:30 am;
A Diamond in the Rough

Don't be fooled by the look of this rough hewn open-air hangout. It may not be fancy, and the bar can get a bit rowdy but the food here is damn good. If you like steamed, nothing even comes close to the locally farmed, sweet and juicy Cedar Key Clams. Needless to say, the seafood here is exceptionally fresh and includes a variety shrimp, oysters and fish preparations. If you're not a seafood lover, you can bib up for the Smoked Slab of Ribs or Pig Wings slathered in butter, garlic and parsley. Lots of burger options, too, as

well as sandwiches, quesadillas, wraps, and Po' Boys. Heads up: Most everything is served on styrofoam plates with plastic utensils so no need to get dressed up.

OCALA

IVY ON THE SQUARE

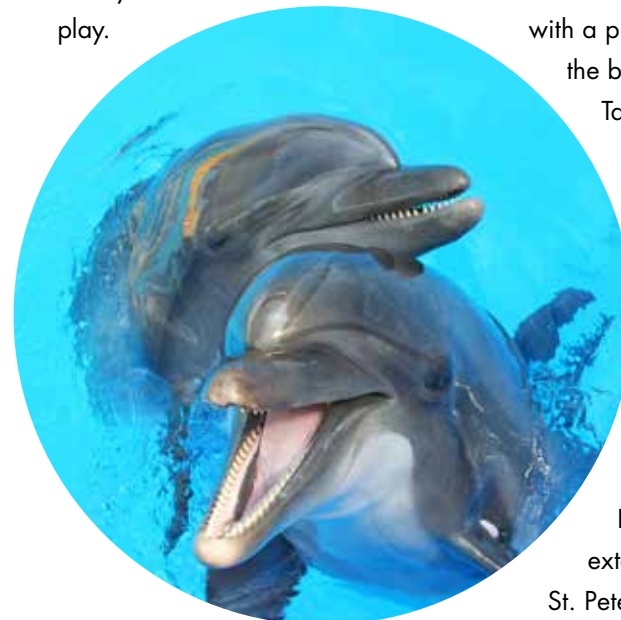
53 S Magnolia, Ocala, FL 34471
352-622-5550; ivyhouse.com
Tu 11 am – 2 pm; W 11 am – 9 pm;
Th 11 am – 10 pm; F & Sa 11 am – 11 pm;
Sunday Brunch 10:30 am – 2pm
Southern Cooking At Its Best
Marjorie "Mimi" Hale and her family are the epitome of "Southern Hospitality." In addition to their hip Ivy On The Square restaurant, the Hale clan also owns the landmark Ivy House Restaurant & Catering in Williston. Renowned for her delicious, yet simple meals, Mimi's heart-felt creations come from cherished family recipes. Topping the list of house favorites is Mimi's signature Baked Krispy Chicken, as well as other southern specialties like her Fried Green Tomatoes, Cheese Fritters and BBQ Shrimp & Grits. There's also a wide selection of seafood and steak dishes along with an extensive gluten-free menu. BTW: Be sure to check out the Late Night Tapas & Cocktails on Fr & Sa from 9 – 11 pm and the Williston location at 106 NW Mail St. (352-528-5410).

Clearwater

For Everything Under The Sun



From its renowned white sand beaches, amazing marine life and glorious weather, to fabulous dining, shopping, cultural attractions and festivals, Clearwater has it all. Lots of sports and recreational activities also make it a perfect place to stay and play.



So it wasn't surprising when USA Today readers named this popular year-round destination as "Best Beach Town," and "Best Place To Watch A Sunset," and also voted the Clearwater Marine Aquarium as "Best Florida Attraction."

Remember Winter, the dolphin with a prosthetic tail made famous in the blockbuster movie, "Dolphin Tale?" Well, you can see her here at the Marine Aquarium which focuses on rehabilitation and education. And speaking of dolphins, you may be greeted by any number of six-foot tall dolphins - 115 of them in fact, that comprise the Clearwater Dolphins Trail which extends from Tarpon Springs to St. Petersburg.

If shopping's your bag (and even if it's not) head on over to Westfield Countryside Mall. With 180+ retailers, twelve movie theaters, an indoor ice-skating rink and Restaurant Row, it has just about everything you need for a day of fun.

Another "Must-See": the free nightly Sunset Celebration at Pier 60 which includes local artisans, street performers, musicians and terrific live entertainment.

For true world-class entertainment, check out the performance lineup at Ruth Eckerd Hall. Long a mainstay of the Tampa Bay Cultural scene and downtown Clearwater's beautifully restored Capitol Theatre, it hosts some of the hottest acts in the US. So come see for yourself because Clearwater really does have it all!

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Voted #1 Rooftop Bar Tampa Bay Times: Vantage Rooftop Bar

Rise to the top of The Karol Hotel at Vantage Rooftop Bar, where panoramic views of Tampa Bay meet award-winning cocktails and culinary delights. Watch the sunset in style as you relax in the area's premier rooftop destination, perfect for intimate gatherings or unwinding after a day of adventure.

World-Class Dining at K Club Bar & Bistro

Indulge in exquisite cuisine at K Club Bar & Bistro. Whether it's a gourmet breakfast, a casual lunch, or a memorable dinner, every dish promises to delight your senses.

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As part of the Marriott Tribute Portfolio, The Karol Hotel delivers exceptional service, intimate surroundings, and a boutique atmosphere with all the world-class amenities Marriott is known for.

Your Gateway to Tampa Bay

Perfectly situated for both leisure and business travelers, The Karol Hotel offers easy access to Clearwater's pristine beaches and top attractions, making it the ideal destination for your next escape.

Reserve Your Stay Today

Experience the ultimate blend of luxury and elegance. Visit TheKarolHotel.com or call 833-928-1437 to book your stay. Discover why The Karol Hotel is Clearwater's premier destination for travelers seeking unforgettable moments.



bite

Miss K's Pecan Pie

From the Award-Winning Bascom's Chop House



Acclaimed Chef Tony Bonanno of the award-winning Bascom's Chophouse and the luxe Karol Hotel in Clearwater, shares his signature recipe for Miss K's Pecan Pie.

- 1 Cup White Corn Syrup
- 4 Eggs
- 1/2 Cup Chocolate Chips
- 1 Cup Pecans
- 19" Pie Shell

PREPARATION:

Combine all ingredients except pie shell and mix. Pour mixture into pie shell and bake for 40 to 45 minutes at 350°. Cool on a baking rack and serve with fresh whipped cream.

CHEF'S NOTE:

We originally created Miss K's Pecan Pie to pair with a bourbon flight that we were featuring in the restaurant. But if you want to really kick things up a notch, try adding an ounce or two of your favorite bourbon whiskey to create your own Kentucky Derby pecan pie.

Enjoy!
 Chef Tony Bonanno

- INGREDIENTS** (Makes one pie)
- 1/2 Cup Unsalted butter
 - 1 Cup Sugar

You can enjoy many of Chef Tony's other wonderful dishes at Clearwater's award-winning Bascom's Chop House, 3665 Ulmerton Rd (727-573-3363; bascoms.com) and at the KATCH Bistro in the Karol Hotel located just down the road at 2675 Ulmerton Rd (833-928-1437; theKarolHotel.com).

Haile Village Center— Small Town Charm in Gainesville



Check out SW Gainesville and you'll discover one of the area's most charming communities. Located just a short five miles from the University of Florida and a few miles from I-75 Exits Archer or Newberry Road, Haile Plantation boasts 1,700 acres of walking and biking trails, swaths

of green space, dozens of lovely neighborhoods and the Hawkstone Golf and Country Club - an 18 hole Gary Player Signature golf course. At the center of it all is the Haile Village Center, a diverse collection of restaurants, boutiques, spas,

and gift shops, interwoven with gracious homes, tree-lined brick sidewalks and pedestrian-friendly streets. Every Saturday morning, there is a local Farmers' Market in



the Haile Village Center where you can shop for locally grown organic produce, fresh baked goods and a variety of crafts. The market is open from 8:30am until noon and is also a performance venue for local musicians. Throughout the year, the Village is also a hotspot for fun community events and festive holiday celebrations. If you're in the Gainesville area, make sure to put this one on your itinerary. For more info, check out hailevillagecenter.com



Eat. Shop. Play. Gainesville's Haile Village Center

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Winner of Gainesville's 2017, 2018 and 2019 Iron Chef Competition, owner Nestor Espartero is a master at creating fabulous Fusion dishes which are deliciously fresh, beautifully plated and artistically arranged. Find it at 5212 SW 91st Terrace, Suite A, Gainesville. 352-363-6226; volcanicsushisake.com



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Special Events At Haile Village Center

Farmer's Market
Every Saturday Morning

Light The Village
Friday December 5th

Easter Egg Hunt
To Be Announced!

Oktoberfest
Friday October 17th

Gainesville

Where Nature and Culture Meet



Home to both “real” gators and the University of Florida’s “Fightin’ Gators,” Gainesville is where nature and culture meet.

Alligators, bison and wild horses freely roam the 22,000 acres of Paynes Prairie State Park, a National Landmark

which has lots of walking trails and platforms that provide fantastic views of the prairie and the 100 - 270 bird species that regularly visit here.

And then there are the museums. The Florida Museum of Natural History hosts fascinating exhibits about Florida and

also features a Butterfly Rainforest with hundreds of free-flying butterflies and birds from around the world.

Just next door is the Harn Museum of Art - one of the country’s largest university owned art museums. The Harn’s impressive collection totals more than 10,000 objects including an extensive collection of Asian Art, as well as modern and contemporary art, photography and more.

For foodies, Gainesville’s vibrant downtown delivers a plethora of excellent local restaurants that range from sushi to steak to everything in between. After dark, lively nightclubs and a professional theater keep things even more interesting.

Historic Cedar Key— A Taste of Old Florida

If you want to visit a piece of “Old Florida,” tell Siri to take you to the tiny enclave of Cedar Key.

Rich in small town flavor, this quaint, old-fashioned vacation town, with its lovely beaches, great fishing and lush natural preserves, is a haven for artists and writers who find inspiration from the unspoiled environment.

Located about 60 miles southwest of Gainesville and three

miles out into the Gulf of Mexico, it’s an island whose out of the way location helps keep it authentic and where time seems to stand still.

This is a place where houses and stores stand like herons perched on stilts above the Gulf and where the police greet you from spiffed up golf carts.

As one of the nation’s top sources of farm-raised clams, it’s easy to find tasty clam chowder here along with some of the best “Cracker Cuisine” in Florida.



WOW YOUR HOLIDAY GUESTS!

CAVIAR PIE

This elegant appetizer is so easy to make and your guests will absolutely love it!

INGREDIENTS

- 4 Hard Boiled Eggs - Chopped
- 2 Tbl. Mayonnaise
- 1 Cup Minced Onion
- 6 Oz. Cream Cheese - Softened
- 1/2 Cup Sour Cream
- 4 Small Jars Black Lumpfish Roe
- 2 Lemons - Wedges for garnish
- 3 Parsley Sprigs for garnish

DIRECTIONS

Grease an 8 inch spring form pan and set aside. Stir together the hard-cooked eggs and mayonnaise. Spread mixture evenly into the bottom of the spring form pan. Sprinkle the minced onion over the top. Stir together cream cheese and sour cream until smooth and then spread over the layer of onion. Cover and chill at least 3 hours. To serve, spread the lumpfish roe over the top. Run a knife around the edge of the pie, then remove the side of the spring form pan. Garnish with lemon wedges and parsley sprigs. Serve with Carr’s Crackers.



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Home to the Foreign Film Festival, there is plenty of theater in

and around Sarasota too, and if you want to add music to your itinerary, the Sarasota Orchestra, Key Chorale and Sarasota Ballet are just a few of the many groups who have stage performances throughout the season.

Revered as one of the "Best Food



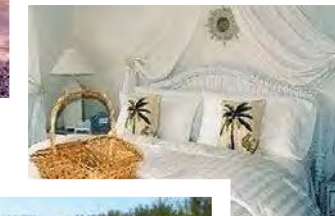
Cities" in the US, there's no shortage of great spots to eat in Sarasota which attracts some of the best culinary talent in the industry.

There's also plenty of fine shopping, as well, including St. Armand's Circle close to the coast and the Mall at University Town Center which has many distinctive retailers not found anywhere else in the area.

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Not fast enough for you? How about hopping a flight to some other exotic

destination? **St Pete-Clearwater International (PIE)** is home to most of the major airlines, and will take you just about anywhere you want to go. Best of all, it's a total breeze for coming or going.

Want to explore Southwest Florida and The Florida Keys? Trip on down to Ft Myers or Marco Island and jump aboard the **Key West Express**. This jet powered catamaran will get you to Key West in half the time it takes to drive and it's twice as much fun.



So what are you waiting for? Pack your bags and grab your passport.

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Grab Your Flip Flops & Salt Shaker—

Margaritaville at Sea Sets Sail from Port Tampa



As Jimmy Buffet once said, “Life is a journey that’s not measured in miles or years, but in experiences.”

And there is no experience quite like sailing away on Jimmy’s namesake: the *Margaritaville at Sea Islander*.

As the Flagship for *Margaritaville at Sea*, the *Sea Islander* now sails out of Port Tampa with four, five, six and seven night cruises to beautiful, sun-soaked destinations. The journey really is the destination on this fully-reimagined ship which spans twelve passenger decks with spacious balconies, and boasts a whopping 1,100 staterooms outfitted with gorgeous custom furnishings and signature bedding.

In all, there are more than 700 Breezy Balcony Staterooms, Grand Terrace Suites, luxurious Corner Suites, and ultra-exclusive Islander Suites.

The ship also features a soaring 14-story atrium with a unique nautical

Margaritaville flip flop, as well as a lively atrium bar outfitted with three awe-inspiring multi-story floating margarita glass chandeliers. But that’s just the beginning.

The entertainment-packed *Sea Islander* cruise is guaranteed to immerse you in a true “Margaritaville State of Mind,” starting with the “Stars On The Water Theater.” This amazing three-story entertainment venue raises the curtain on an incredible lineup of all-new productions: from the original, boots-stompin’ “*Conky Tonkin’ at Sea*,” to the electric energy of “*Caribbean Heat Remix*,” it’s a double-dose of jaw-dropping entertainment that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

But that’s just the beginning.

Exclusive innovations like the first three-story poolside LandShark Bar at Sea, Margaritaville-inspired corn hole, Paradise Pickle ball, and a challenging mini-golf course are flanked by new family friendly spaces like the Caribbean Amphibian Splash and Slide.

Hungry? Flip flop on over to signature eateries like Cheeseburger in Paradise, JWB Prime Steakhouse, Rita’s Taco House, Frank and Lola’s Pizzeria, or the Margaritaville Coffee Shop.

With comfortable accommodations for up to 2,650 adventure-seekers, the *Margaritaville at Sea*’s four night trip departs from Port Tampa Bay and includes two days at sea with a stop in Cozumel and Progreso, Mexico.

The ship’s five night excursions from Tampa include a few different itineraries including ports in Key West, Nassau, Freeport, Cozumel, and Progreso.

There are also seven night sails with even more Ports of Call, as well.

And here’s the thing: the really great thing about sailing out of Tampa is that

the Port’s cruise terminals are easy to navigate and provide a variety of unique and interesting activities just steps from the *Margaritaville at Sea Islander*.

For additional news, updates, and exclusive access to preview incentives on the *Margaritaville at Sea Islander*, visit and book now at MargaritavilleAtSea.com.

BTW: Don’t forget your salt shaker!



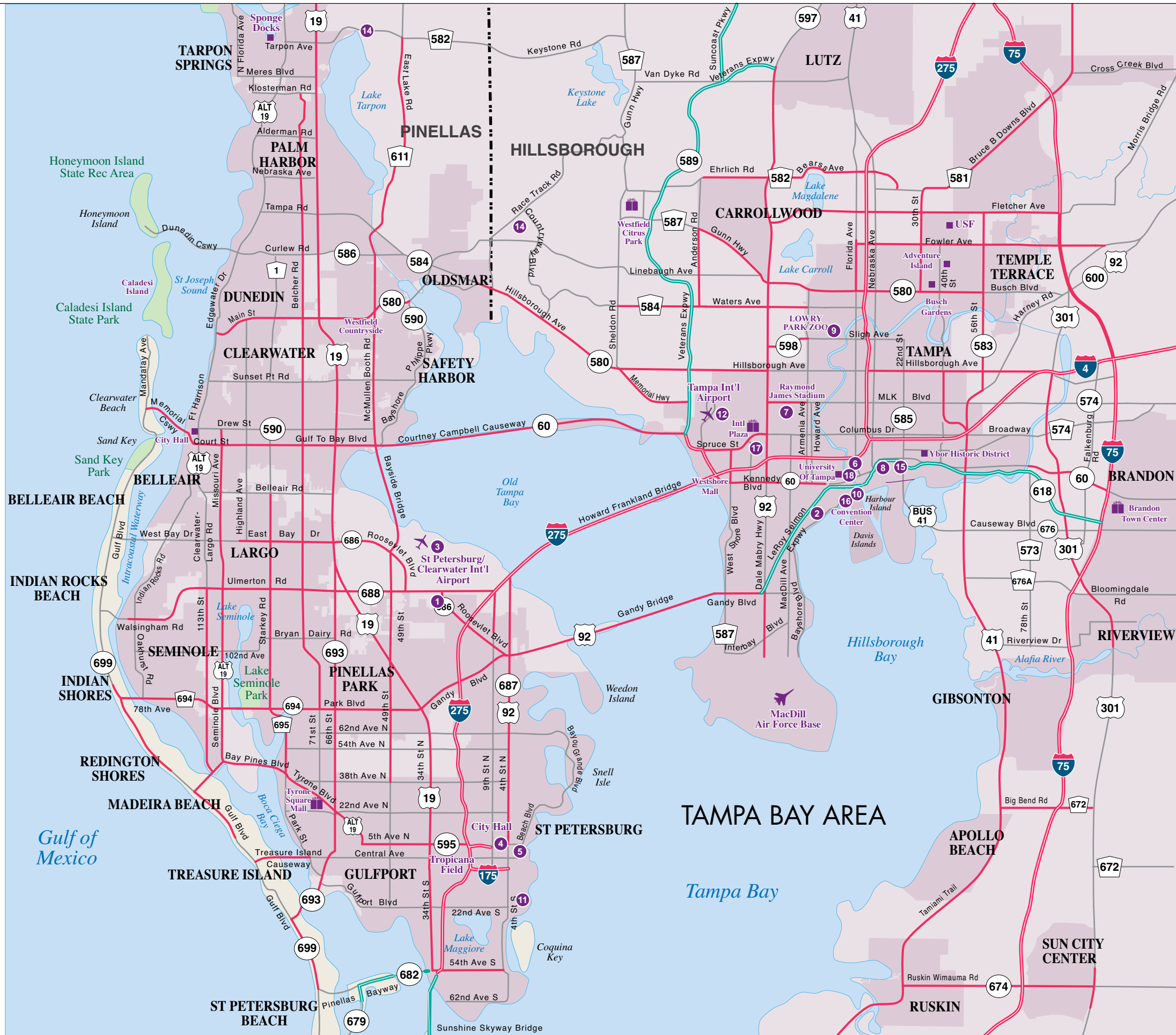
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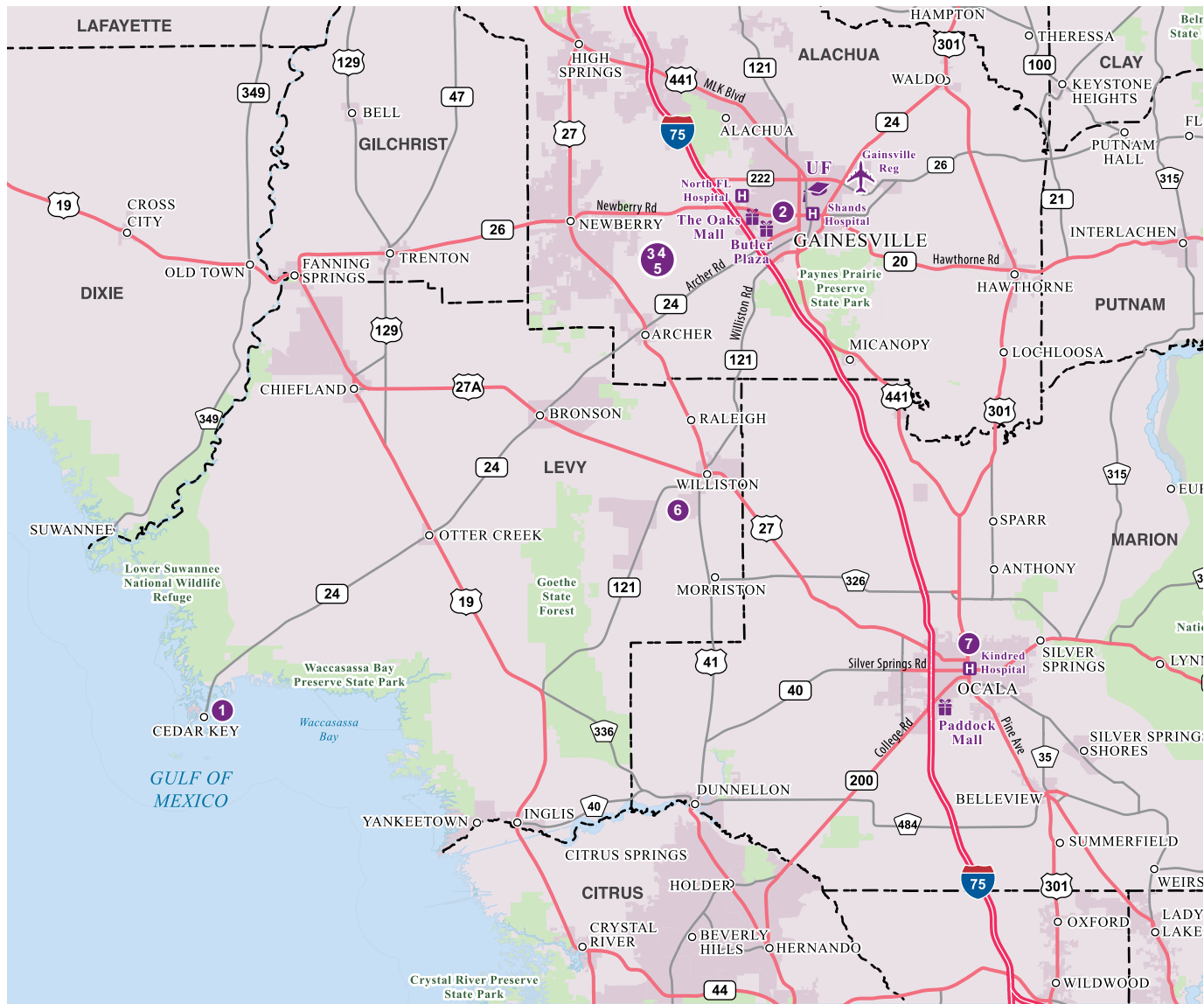


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