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**FRONT COVER:** Indian Rocks Beach,  
Photographed by Bill Woerner

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DESIGN: N2 Design Team

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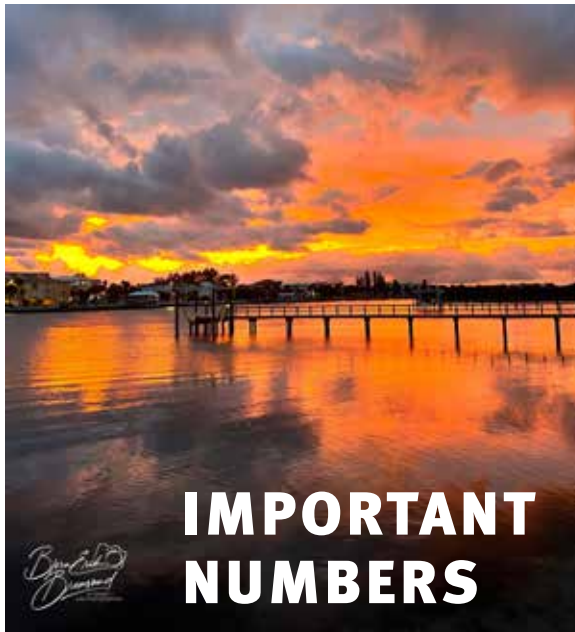
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BELOCAL\_GREATER\_CLEARWATER

LOCAL › PUBLISHER'S NOTE

# WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME! ▶▶

DISCOVER WHY THE GREATER CLEARWATER AREA STANDS OUT AS THE PREMIER DESTINATION FOR FLORIDA LIVING, OFFERING UNPARALLELED LIFESTYLE AND AMENITIES.

Photo Credit Bjorn Brunvand



Ready to unlock the treasure trove of hidden gems that Greater Clearwater has to offer? This vibrant area is not just about its stunning coastline, top-notch entertainment, extensive shopping options, and sprawling biking trails—it's also a foodie paradise! Whether you're a beach enthusiast, a culinary connoisseur, or an outdoor adventurer, the greater Clearwater area promises an abundance of experiences waiting to be discovered.

We understand that relocating can be both exhilarating and daunting. Settling into your new home, establishing routines, and discovering local services takes time. That's where BeLocal Greater Clearwater and Beaches Magazine comes in. Our mission is to make your transition smoother by offering insights, tips, and recommendations from local residents, who reveal all of their favorite hidden spots that truly make this area special.

Throughout this guide, you'll uncover these local favorites, connecting you with some of the finest local businesses, each passionately dedicated to serving their community. From charming boutiques to family-owned restaurants, these hidden gems offer a unique glimpse into the heart and soul of Clearwater.

By supporting these local enterprises, you're not just accessing quality products and services but also contributing to the growth of local jobs and families. Embrace this guide, venture out, and immerse yourself in all that this vibrant area has to offer. Whether you're looking for the perfect brunch spot, a unique gift, or a peaceful retreat, Clearwater's hidden gems await your discovery.

Got questions, want to shout out a remarkable local business, or need more resources for settling into your new home and community? Don't hesitate to reach out. Clearwater is brimming with hidden treasures, and we're here to help you find them all.

**DEVIN PAPPAS** >> Publisher, BeLocal Magazine  
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We also connect you with trusted local businesses that are committed to making your transition easier—whether you're looking for

home repairs or the best family doctor. You're not alone; we're here to support you every step of the way!

Welcome to your new home; we can't wait for you to explore your vibrant community!

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## HISTORICAL

# highlights

## The Roots of Pinellas County: A Historical Look at Clearwater, Dunedin, Indian Rocks, and Largo

### CLEARWATER

Clearwater's origins trace back to 1528 when Spanish explorer Panfilo de Narvaez first landed on its shores, 37 years before the establishment of St. Augustine. De Narvaez's expedition marked one of the earliest European encounters with the area, which was inhabited by a large tribe of Native Americans. Despite initial resistance, the Indian communities were gradually displaced, only to see their territory reclaimed during the Seminole Wars from 1835 to 1842.

Among the first permanent settlers was Dr. Odet Philippe, a French Count and surgeon in Napoleon's Navy, who established a plantation in the mid-1830s. In 1841, Fort Harrison was constructed on the bluffs overlooking what was then called Clearwater Harbor, serving as an encampment for soldiers. Upon the fort's abandonment, homesteaders began claiming land, with James Stevens being the first to obtain a land title in 1842, marking the beginning of Clearwater as a burgeoning community.

While Clearwater initially developed as an agricultural and fishing hub, it slowly expanded, with limited access to outside resources. The local springs, noted for their clear water, supplied Native Americans and early settlers with fresh water, contributing to the area's identity. Clearwater Harbor was officially incorporated in 1891 and became chartered as a municipality on May 27, 1915.



DUNEDIN MARINA, CIRCA 1900

### INDIAN ROCKS

The name Indian Rocks is associated with local legends involving Chief Chic-a-Si, who was said to have been healed by spring waters near large rocks in the area. According to the legend, after drinking from these waters, the chief regained his health, leading Native Americans to return annually for healing and fishing. Another, simpler tale posits that early settlers named the area after observing Native Americans using rocky outcrops to cross from the mainland to fish. While the true origin of the name remains uncertain, both stories enrich the cultural tapestry of Indian Rocks Beach.



GULF BOULEVARD, INDIAN ROCKS BEACH



GULF BOULEVARD INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, FLORIDA 3

### DUNEDIN

The establishment of Dunedin began with Richard L. Garrison receiving a land grant in 1852, shortly after Florida's statehood. The settlement initially bore Jonesboro, influenced by local merchant George Jones. It wasn't until 1882 that Scottish merchants J.O. Douglas and James Somerville petitioned for a name change to Dunedin, which they derived from the Scottish Gaelic term for Edinburgh.

Dunedin developed as a key trading center, thanks to a newly built dock that accommodated larger vessels, and once boasted the largest fleet of sailing vessels in Florida. The community was officially incorporated in 1899 and later elevated to city status in 1925.



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LARGO

Originally inhabited by the Timucua Indians, the area that would become Largo saw significant change following the arrival of Spanish explorers like Panfilo de Narvaez in 1528. After centuries of failed attempts at settlement by various explorers, Count Odet Philippe became the first permanent settler in the region in 1823, paving the way for subsequent families throughout the 1800s.

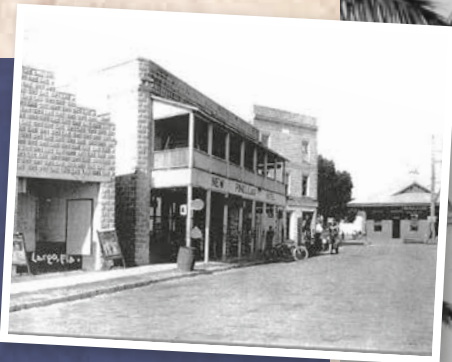
In 1886, with the advent of the Orange Belt Railroad, residents felt the need to give their



community a name. Although some proposed Luluville after a resident's daughter, they ultimately chose Largo, likely due to the presence of a large lake that has since been drained. By the early 1900s, Largo emerged as a center for the citrus industry, earning the title "Citrus City."

Largo was officially incorporated in 1905, becoming the first town in Florida to adopt a town manager system by 1913. Over decades, it faced challenges, including the Great Depression and freezes that devastated its agricultural base. However, post-World War II saw a population boom as returning veterans discovered the region's appeal, transforming Largo into a thriving city with a population exceeding 22,000 by 1970.

These historical narratives of Clearwater, Dunedin, Indian Rocks, and Largo reflect the rich tapestry and resilience of the local communities throughout Pinellas County, each contributing uniquely to the region's legacy.



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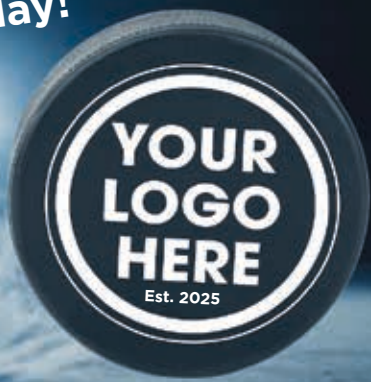
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LOCAL TIP



Make a point to watch the sunset at least three times a week—if not seven. My favorite spot is at Indian Rocks Beach. - Jerilyn

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Photo Credit  
Bjorn Brunvand

beaches

There is no doubt that the Gulf Coast has some of the best beaches anywhere in the world; in fact, Clearwater Beach has been ranked by Dr. Beach as the number-one beach in the world many years running. There is never a loss of things to

do in Clearwater. If you're looking for an adventurous happening place where all the tourists go, then this beach is your pick. However, there are so many beautiful beaches in the area each offering its own style; you might want to check out where the locals soak up the sun.

Indian Shores / Tiki Gardens

This public-access beach is situated on 9.9 acres and offers restrooms, beach showers, a water fountain, and a 170-space parking area (parking fee charged).  
**19601 Gulf Blvd. Indian Shores, FL 34635**

Clearwater Beach

Clearwater Beach is one of the most beautiful (and most popular) beaches in the country. In fact, it's consistently ranked as one of the top beaches in the U.S. by authorities like TripAdvisor and Travel and Leisure. And it's no surprise why – the wide, sweeping, white-sand beach is absolutely stunning. And the warm, calm waters of the Gulf of Mexico are just unbeatable.

Caladesi Island State Park

This beautiful state park is located just off offshore from Dunedin and can be accessed by ferry, which operates 365 days a year and only costs \$6 per person (well worth the cost).

Caladesi Island State Park has a marina with floating docks with 30-amp electric service and water hookups. A covered pavilion with a grill is available for picnicking. A snack bar and gift shop are located in the marina. Some of the amenities include fishing, hiking, paddle boarding, picnicking, and swimming. Canoes and kayaks are available for rent.

**1 Causeway Blvd, Dunedin, FL 34698 > (727) 469-5918 (ferry)**

Honeymoon Island Beach State Park

One of Florida's best-loved state parks, Honeymoon Island has more than four miles of beach to explore along with a three-mile trail through one of the last remaining virgin slash pine forests. A natural barrier island, this state park boasts pristine nature trails and abundant wildlife, including eagles, osprey, and great horned owls. Ground animals include raccoons, armadillos, and don't be surprised to see an endangered gopher tortoise walking across your path or hear the call of an osprey—or the bark of Fido, who may explore the dog beach, which is a half-mile hike off the main road. The Pinellas Trail has a spur that runs the length of the Dunedin Causeway right to the park entrance.

**1 Causeway Blvd. Dunedin, FL 34698  
(727) 469-5942  
www.floridastateparks.org/honeymoonisland**



Indian Rocks Beach

While all of the tourists are stacked deep at Clearwater Beach, most locals head for the white sandy dunes of Indians Rocks Beach, where there are usually very few people on the beach, and you'll be able to spread out and enjoy a peaceful relaxing experience. After a long day at the beach, head to the original Crabby Bills on Gulf Boulevard at Fourth Avenue North for a premium adult beverage and a dozen fresh succulent oysters to start. Sit back and relax while listening to live music at their outdoor bar where a full menu is available for dinner.

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county parks

John S. Taylor Park

Taylor Park consists of 156.5 acres, including a 53-acre freshwater lake. Discover the sport of disc golf on a course set in the natural beauty of this park that also hosts a tree-lined 1.8-mile multi-purpose shell trail.

Amenities include a ball field, boat ramp (non-motorized), disc golf, fishing, picnic area, playground equipment, restrooms, seven picnic shelters with grills, and is located on the Pinellas Trail.

1100 Eighth Ave. SW.,  
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Eagle Lake Park

Great care was given to the restoration of the land's natural habitat during the park's development. One key feature is a wetlands section on the western side of the park, which has been restored with 100-percent native plants. The park is home to fox squirrels, numerous bird species, gopher tortoises, and water turtles.

Amenities include six picnic shelters, three restrooms, playground, dog park, a paved 12-foot wide recreation trail, numerous shell paths for walking and enjoying nature, 2,000 feet of boardwalks over restored wetlands, fishing, three vending stations

1800 Keene Rd.,  
Largo, FL 33771

LOCAL TIP



"Largo Central Park is beautiful to walk through during the holidays with all of the beautiful lights they put up." – Dottie S.

largo city parks

Largo Central Park

Largo Central Park is a beautiful, 70-acre park located in the heart of Largo. Its rolling grounds and fountains have set it apart as one of the finest parks in the county. Rainbow Rotary Playground is one of the only playgrounds in the Bay area completely accessible to disabled users.

101 Central Park Dr., Largo, FL 33771  
(727) 586-7415

George C. McGough Nature Park

This park is also known as "the turtle park" for its abundant aquatic turtle population. Escape the hustle and bustle of the city and stroll through the shady oak hammock or through the mangroves along the Intercoastal waterway. Make sure you visit the nature center, which houses live animal exhibits and hands-on activities for children.

11901 146th St. N., Largo, FL 33774  
(727) 518-3047

Largo Central Park Nature Preserve

Largo Central Park Nature Preserve (LCPNP) is a 31-acre nature park virtually surrounded by water. The park is home to hundreds of wildlife species for viewing. Over 130 species of birds, otters, red fox, American alligator, marsh rabbits, wild turkey, and bats all feed or live within the park. A 5-mile kayak/canoe route begins at the park and ends at Park Boulevard. Due to environmental reasons fishing is not allowed at the park. Dogs are not allowed.

150 Highland Ave. N., Largo, FL 33770 » (727) 586-7415

LOCAL TIP



"One of the best-kept secrets is Sand Key Park. One of the most beautiful beaches with plentiful parking on beautiful Sand Key." – Deborah V.

John R. Bonner Nature Park

This park is Largo's best-kept secret! Bonner Park is on the Great Florida Birding Trail because of its diverse migratory bird population. Bonner Park features picnic facilities, nature trails, a playground, and a covered pavilion. This beautiful park overlooks the waterway.

14444 143rd St. N., Largo, FL 33774

Sand Key Beach State Park

This beautiful park has two distinct areas—a beach and a park. In the park proper are two picnic shelters with grills, a playground, a restroom, and a dog park. Grills, picnic tables, and water fountains are but a few amenities.

A salt marsh with viewing benches further enhances the park where heron, roseate spoonbill, great horned owl, anhinga, and common moorhen nest and feed.

Sand Key Park houses the base of operations for the artificial reef program, an interdepartmental cooperation program to build a reef in the Gulf. Sand Key Park's natural communities include a beach where sea turtles annually deposit eggs.

Amenities include a concession booth, boardwalk, nature trail, two beach wheelchairs, outdoor showers, two bathhouses with separate changing stalls and restrooms, parking (fee charged), dog park, playground, restrooms, two shelters with grills, umbrella and cabana rentals as well as kayak and bicycle rentals.

1060 Gulf Blvd.,  
Clearwater, FL 33767  
(727) 588-4852  
[www.pinellascounty.org/park/15\\_sand\\_key.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/15_sand_key.htm)





# SO MANY Cool Things TO DO!

HERE ARE OUR  
TOP PICKS



## ► CLEARWATER BEACH MUNICIPAL MARINA

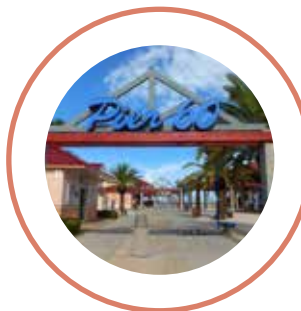
While not really an attraction in itself, it is a hub for all kinds of water-borne activities. Ideally located on world-renowned Clearwater Beach, the marina is a well-equipped and versatile marina with a vibrant beach atmosphere. The marina offers access to a variety of boating activities and is home to the finest fishing charters, sailing charters, sight-seeing boats, dinner cruises, dolphin tours, parasailing, and personal watercraft rentals. It also has some great amenities, including restaurants, a gift shop, barbershop, laundry facilities, mini-mart, and bait house. It is also located close to several shopping and entertainment venues.

**25 Causeway Blvd.,  
Clearwater, FL 33767  
(727) 562-4955**

## ► PIER 60 PARK AND SUNSETS AT PIER 69

Located in the middle of the island of Clearwater Beach, Pier 60 Park is located at the pier's promenade to provide visitors a focal point to gather each evening and watch the sunset. The park features two unique covered-playground areas that include swings, slides, monkey bars, a ship, and one of the world's largest sandboxes, Clearwater Beach. A street festival located on the promenade portion of Clearwater Beach's famous fishing pier, the Sunsets at Pier 60 Daily Festival, celebrates the setting of the sun and features artists, craftsmen, and performers with weekend musical entertainment.

**10 Pier 60 Dr., Clearwater Beach » (727) 449-1036**



## ► VERTICAL FLIGHT-HELICOPTER TOURS

Up, up, and away! Soar through the skies of Tampa Bay and across the beautiful waters of the Gulf of Mexico with a helicopter tour from Vertical Flight. See the sunset like never before, enjoy ocean views, spot dolphins, celebrate special occasions, and create magical moments during your ride in the sky.

Vertical Flights is the longest-running helicopter tour company in Tampa Bay. They offer safe, comfortable, and exciting helicopter tours with highly trained and experienced pilots. They've been creating lasting memories for over 10 years and have given thousands of people an experience of a lifetime. Let them make a memory for you too!

**experienceverticalflight.com**





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Starlite Dinner Cruises offer passengers the most variety and the best value on the water. With so many options and a great reputation for service, it's no wonder that over three million passengers have enjoyed cruising with Starlite. Choose one of their regularly scheduled cruises for that special occasion like a birthday or anniversary. For larger parties, they offer private dining areas and private vessel charters. From nature cruises to fine dining yacht cruises, casual tropical party cruises to dolphin tours, and luncheon cruises to full-day tour group excursions, they offer it all! **25 Causeway Blvd., Slip #58, Clearwater, FL 33767 (727) 462-2628 >> [starlitecruises.com](http://starlitecruises.com)**



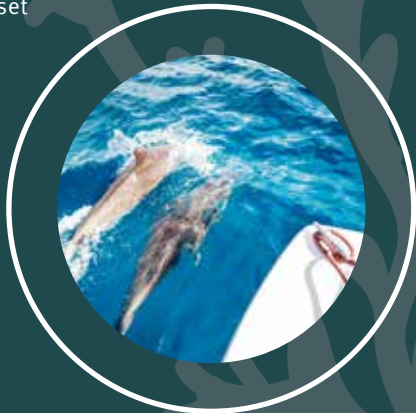
► **CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM**

The Clearwater Aquarium, located at 249 Windward Passage, is famous for rescuing Winter, the dolphin featured in the movie \*Dolphin Tale\*, and offers visitors a chance to learn about marine rescue efforts; more details about their exhibits and programs can be found at their website, **[www.seewinter.com](http://www.seewinter.com)**.



► **SUNSHINE BOAT TOURS**

Sunshine Boat Tours at John's Pass features three exciting excursion boats: the Sunshine, a spacious vessel perfect for dolphin watching and sightseeing cruises; the Pirate Ship, a fun-filled pirate-themed boat ideal for family adventures and sunset cruises; and the Sunset Cruise Boat, which offers relaxing evening trips to enjoy breathtaking Gulf Coast sunsets. For more details and booking information, visit their website at **[www.sunshineboattours.com](http://www.sunshineboattours.com)**



► **FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS**

The gardens are developed and maintained by Parks and Conservation Resources. Visitors to the gardens relish the natural wonder. This destination boasts a formal wedding garden, pathways leading to areas spotlighting local flora, as well as designated natural areas showcasing some of the rarest natural habitats. Learn how Florida grows. Take a refreshing pause in nature and enjoy a pleasant walk through 150-acres of formal gardens, scenic landscapes, and native habitats. The Garden has a number of unique demonstration gardens where visitors can relax and learn. Come enjoy our plant collections as you stroll along our many ADA-compliant walkways. Sorry, but we do not have wheelchairs or scooters for rent on site.

You won't want to miss the Botanical Gardens during the holiday season. They offer one of the best light displays in the area. They ask for a small donation to cover the cost of their extensive display. It's well worth it!

**WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A SMALL DONATION DURING THE HOLIDAY LIGHT DISPLAY, ADMISSION TO THE BOTANICAL GARDENS IS FREE.**

**LOCAL TIP**



"Don't miss the Florida Botanical Gardens and Heritage Village to learn about our local history and nature. Both are in Largo and are free. Watch for special events throughout the year. You can even bring your dog!" – **Carrie T.**

They are open daily from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., except for the day after Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Leashed pets welcome. Entrances are located at 12520 Ulmerton Rd. and 12211 Walsingham Rd. **12520 Ulmerton Rd., Largo 33774 (727) 582-2100**



**SUNSHINE**  
SCENIC TOURS  
JOHN'S PASS



**Dolphin Quest**



**The Pirate Ship**  
Royal Conquest



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**Please visit our website for all of our Upcoming Events!**





**► SEA LIFE SAFARI**  
Sea Life Safari is a two-hour boat trip hosted by the Clearwater Marine Aquarium into the beautiful Intracoastal waters. Look for dolphins, sea birds, and other marine life as staff narrates the scenic ride to a shell island.  
**249 Windward Passage, Clearwater Beach**  
**(727) 441-1790**



► PINELLAS COUNTY TRAIL

The Fred Marquis Pinellas Trail is a rail-trail that stretches from Tarpon Springs in the north to St. Petersburg in the south, passing through the towns of Palm Harbor, Dunedin, Belleair, Clearwater, Largo, Seminole, South Pasadena, and Gulfport. The Trail, created along a portion of an abandoned railroad corridor is a multi-use trail everyone can enjoy. It provides a unique, protected greenspace for walking, jogging, skating, and biking, and skating. Some trail users are able to commute to work using the Pinellas Trail instead of a motor vehicle. The distance that the main trail currently covers is 47 miles. The Pinellas Trail was named after Fred Marquis, a former Pinellas County Administrator who served from 1979 until 2000. Parks and Conservation Resources Admin Office  
**12520 Ulmerton Rd., Largo, FL 33774**  
**(727) 582-2100 – select option #2**

► HIGHLAND FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

The Highland Family Aquatic Center includes an activity and multipurpose pool and offers private and open session rentals by reservation, special events, open swim sessions, swimming lessons, and water aerobics. The aquatic center is a family-friendly mini-waterpark providing a wide variety of fun play experiences for all ages.  
**400 Highland Ave., Largo, FL 33770**  
**(727) 518-3016**

► CAPTAIN MEMO’S PIRATE CRUISE

Captain Memo’s Pirate Cruises offers a variety of cruises for different ages and occasions, all aboard the authentic ship, the Pirate’s Ransom, and staffed by a crew of jovial, sea-faring pirates.  
**Clearwater Beach Marina, 25 Causeway Blvd., Clearwater Beach**  
**(727) 446-2587**

► JOLLEY TROLLEY

Clearwater Jolley Trolley runs from Sand Key up to Tarpon Springs! Choose from the beach route which runs through Clearwater Beach and covers the areas from North Beach to Sand Key or the coastal route, which starts at the N. Transit Center on Clearwater Beach and runs to the Sponge Docks of Tarpon Springs, with many stops in between.  
**(727) 445-1200**  
**clearwaterjolleytrolley.com**



► LAWN BOWLING

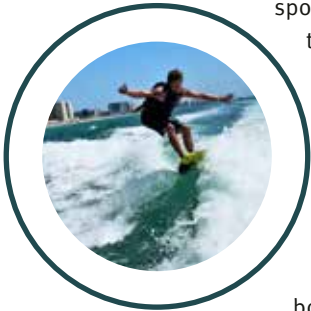
Lawn bowling is a strategic game where players roll biased balls to get close to the jack. It offers low-impact, heart-healthy exercise for all ages and fitness levels. Easy to learn but challenging, it's fun to meet people and enjoy the outdoors. Join us at  
**1040 Calumet St., Clearwater, FL**  
**(727) 641-9144**  
**clearwaterlawnbowlingclub.org**

► INDOOR SURFING – SURF STYLE’S FLOWRIDER

The FlowRider is a self-contained wave-pool machine that mimics some of Mother Nature’s biggest waves. Water churns nonstop on the indoor FlowRider, which lets boarders of all ages and skill levels ride waves atop skimboards. Instructors stand by as boarders attempt kickflips and aerial maneuvers as the pool’s soft surface cushions wipeouts. Located right on Clearwater’s Beach Walk within Surf Style’s 55,000-square-foot shopping center, you can find the largest skateboard shop in Tampa bay and a variety of swimsuits, surf brands, beach gear, and convenience shop.  
**315 S. Gulfview Blvd., Clearwater**  
**(888) 787-3789**

► CLEARWAKE WATER SPORTS

For a more intimate experience, we recommend Clearwater Beach’s premier water-sports attraction, not only do they offer the only Clearwater Beach-based WakeSurfing Experience but they can also do private dolphin-seeing excursions, romantic sunset cruises, or small parties of up to 10 people on their pontoon boat. Whether you want to go out for two hours or a whole day, you can’t go wrong with the great people at ClearWake Water Sports.  
**198 Seminole St., Clearwater, FL 33755**  
**(727) 519-8398**  
**clearwakewatersports.com**



► SEA SCREAMER

The Sea Screamer is the world’s largest speed boat. With its dual twin-turbocharged diesel engines, the 72-foot long Sea Screamer gives you a thrill ride you’ll never forget. At speeds up to 35 miles per hour on its deep-V hull, the Sea Screamer zips along the waters of the Gulf of Mexico in speed and comfort.  
**Clearwater Beach Marina, 25 Causeway Blvd., Clearwater Beach**  
**(727) 447-7200 >> seascreamer.com**

► WET RENTALS AND TOURS

Explore the Gulf with us! Book your adventure today and explore Clearwater Beach, Reddington Beach, Indian Rocks Beach, and St. Petersburg by the Pier.  
► **Waverunner Rentals:** Enjoy 30-minute or 1-hour freestyle rentals, or try our guided island and dolphin tours for a unique experience with our top tour guides!  
► **JetCar Experience:** Book a JetCar for an out-of-this-world experience, combining exotic car shells with high-performance JetSki "guts" for a drive in the middle of the Gulf!  
► **Sunset Cruises & Dolphin Tours:** Relax with a boat cruise, dolphin sightseeing tour, or sunset cruise. Get up close to dolphins and experience breathtaking Gulf sunsets.  
► **Tiki Boat Tours:** BYOB, join us on our 2022 Tiki Boat for a floating bar experience. Our Captains will guide you along the Gulf Coast for a memorable trip.  
► **Banana Boat Rides:** Visit our Marriott Sand Key location for Clearwater's first Banana Boat rides! Experience this unique adventure on the water!  
**(727) 503-0700 >> getwetfl.com**



LOCAL TIP



“The Narrows Nature Preserve in McGough Park off Walsingham Road in Largo is a delightful place to see turtles, owls, birds of prey, a rehabilitated American Bald Eagle. Great paths to the Intracoastal as well as a view of the Oak Hammocks.” – **Diann M.**





LOCAL TIP



"Walking over the bridge into Clearwater Beach is amazing, with great views. All new residents should check it out; it's also a great form of exercise."  
— Dennis W.

► **MOCCASIN LAKE NATURE PARK**  
A showcase of the plant and animal species native to the area. Preserve featuring rescued and rehabilitated birds; reptilian, insect, and fish displays; plant and energy exhibits; and nature trails through a diversity of natural Florida habitats, allowing viewing of native birds, insects, amphibians, mammals, and reptiles.  
**2750 Park Trail Ln., Clearwater**  
**(727) 793-2976**



► **HERITAGE VILLAGE**  
The grounds of Heritage Village include two museum exhibits inside the Visitor Center. The exhibits share the history of Pinellas County using objects from the museum collection and items from the archives and library. Demonstrations occur periodically around Heritage Village throughout the year and during special events.

The demonstration shed area includes a smokehouse, sugar cane mill and boiling shed, and blacksmith and woodworking areas.

While you're there, check out the Shirley McPherson Native Plant Trail that wanders through a Pine Flatwoods habitat featuring dozens of plants used for food and shelter by early inhabitants and pioneer settlers of the Pinellas peninsula. As you walk along the trail, you will learn about the relationship of people to the environment. Hopefully, you will gain a new appreciation for Florida's native plants and wildlife and their value in the past as well as for the future.  
**11909 125th St. N., Largo, FL 33774 | (727) 582-2123**

► **SPLASH HARBOUR WATER PARK**  
Water park with a variety of slides, kids' splash zones, a lazy river, casual dining and a tiki bar.

Splash Harbour was designed for the young and the young at heart. From 2 to 102, they have something for everyone. Infants, toddlers, and grade-schoolers will love the Treasure Cove Splash Zone with three slides, several interactive water features, and the large dumping bucket. Grade schoolers through adults will enjoy the thrills of Smugglers Rum and Pirates Plunge a twin 42-foot high tube and body slides, which are over 400 feet long. Everyone will enjoy our Great White Lazy River with over 600 feet of winding turns through the Key West-themed park and the Blue Lagoon Big Pool with raindrop mushrooms and the Iguana Falls rock waterfall. Splash Harbour circulates millions of gallons of water throughout the park daily for a splashtacular time for all ages.  
**399 Second St., Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785**  
**(727) 754-6492**  
**splashharbourwaterpark.com**



► **PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES SPRING TRAINING**  
Spectrum Field is home to the Philadelphia Phillies Spring Training, and also teams in the Florida State League, Gulf Coast Rookie League, and the Florida Instructional League.  
**601 N. Old Coachman Rd., Clearwater**  
**(727) 712-4300**

► **SIMCENTER TAMPA BAY**  
SimCenter Tampa Bay is a first-of-its-kind indoor entertainment center that offers various experiences on very realistic, high-end simulators. Our simulators include a Boeing 737, an F-16 and an F-35 fighter jet, Formula 1 race cars, and a 3D Space Simulator.  
**802 Court St., Clearwater, FL 33756**  
**(727) 643-1781**  
**simcentertampabay.com**

► **THE SEGWAY ADVENTURE**  
Take a tour with Clearwater's first and premier Segway Company. Venture over the Memorial Causeway, taking in panoramic views of the Intracoastal Waterway and the Gulf of Mexico, and to the downtown Clearwater Harbor Marina and historic areas, or to Sand Key Park or to the Cleveland Street District.  
**421 S. Gulfview Blvd., Clearwater Beach**  
**(727) 314-8224**  
**thesegwayadventure.com**

► **TROPICS BOAT TOURS**  
The Tropics Boat Tours is a boat tour and excursion company providing tours of the Intracoastal waterway of Pinellas county and the Gulf of Mexico. We offer several different tours, including Dolphin Exploration Tours, extended Dolphin Tours (known as our Honeymoon and Caladesi Island Tour), Sunset Celebration Cruises, and Saturday Night Party Booze Cruises for our guests 21 and over. We also offer Caladesi Island Excursions and a number of private charter options.

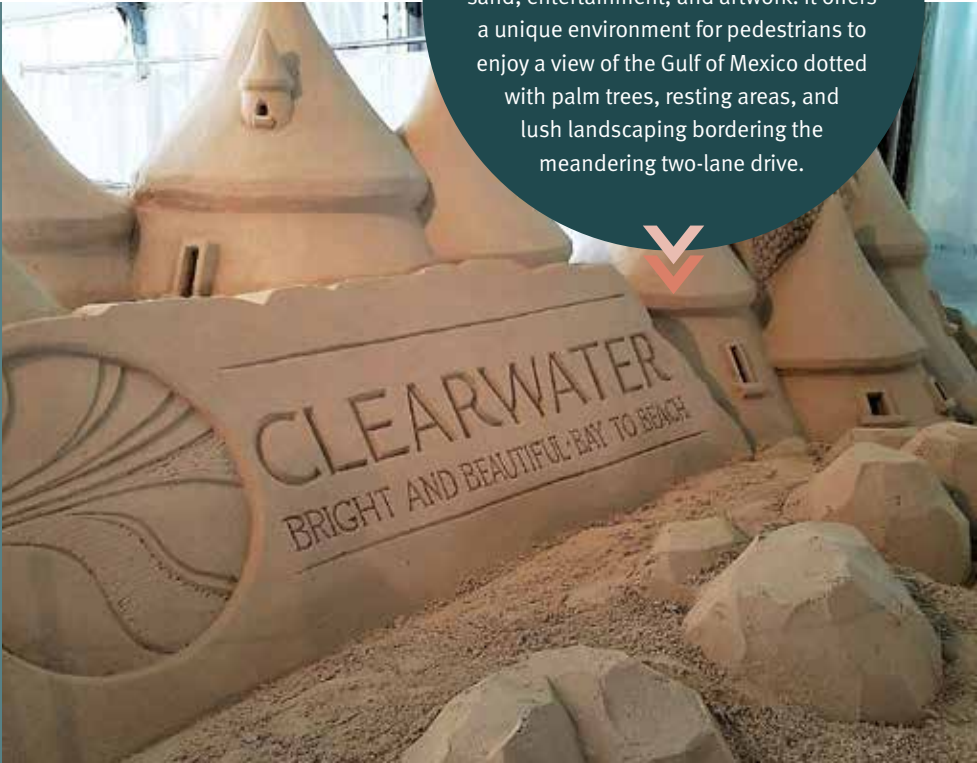
We offer something for everyone, from unlimited beer, wine, and soft drinks for the adults to Tommy the Turtle Story Time for the kids! Just sit back, relax and enjoy the music from our state-of-the-art sound system. We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with a memorable experience and look forward to serving you.  
**Clearwater Beach Marina, Slip 5,**  
**25 Causeway Blvd., Clearwater**  
**(727) 442-7433**  
**thetropicsboattours.com**

► **BEACH WALK, CLEARWATER BEACH SOUTH OF PIER 60**  
Beachwalk is a winding promenade surrounded by resorts, beautiful white sand, entertainment, and artwork. It offers a unique environment for pedestrians to enjoy a view of the Gulf of Mexico dotted with palm trees, resting areas, and lush landscaping bordering the meandering two-lane drive.

LOCAL TIP



The Clearwater Sugar Sand Festival is an incredible experience that no one should miss. The sculptors are so talented.  
— Kelly S.





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**Home Empowerment Program (HEP)**  
(727) 442-9041

**Hope Villages of America**  
(727) 584-3528 • hopevillagesofamerica.org

**Pinellas Hope**  
(727) 556-6397 • pinellashope.org

**Raising Relief Foundation**  
(727) 657-9615 • raisingreliefoundation.org

**St. Jerome Lifeline Ministry**  
(727) 595-4610 • freefood.org • fgbach76@gmail.com

**Women with Purpose**  
(727) 642-3171 • womenwithpurposefl.org

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pet stores

## DOG PARKS

Pinellas County has some wonderful places for your furry friends to stretch out, run and interact with other fluffy puppies. However, the only parks where dogs are allowed on the a real beach are Fort De Soto in St. Pete and our favorite Honeymoon Island Dog Beach in Dunedin. If you're just looking for a place for your dog to get wet, the beaches that line the Pinellas and Gandy Bridge Causeways also allow dogs. For an off-leash treat, you can go to the Honeymoon Dog Park, which boasts beautiful scenery, a long stretch of white sandy beach, and sparkling water as well as a small area at the south eat corner of the Belleair Bridge boat ramp.

### Honeymoon Dog Beach

**Address:** Honeymoon Island, Dunedin, FL 34698  
**Hours:** Daily 8 am–8 pm  
**Phone:** (727) 241-6106

### Fort De Soto Dog Park / Beach

**Address:** St. Petersburg, FL 33715  
**Hours:** Daily 7 am–8 pm  
**Phone:** (727) 582-2267



## HERE ARE A FEW MORE PLACES WE THINK YOU MIGHT ENJOY:

### Sand Key Park

**Address:** 1060 Gulf Blvd., Clearwater, FL  
**Hours:** 7 am till dusk

### Walsingham Park

**Address:** 12615 102nd Ave. N., Largo, FL  
**Hours:** 7 am to sunset

### Indian Rocks Beach Dog Park

**Located in:** Indian Rocks Beach Nature Preserve  
**Address:** 107 10th Ave. N., Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785  
**Hours:** Daily, 7 am–8:30 pm

### Dog Bone Run – Dog Park

**Address:** 100 Fifth Ave. SW, Largo, FL 33770  
**Hours:** Open 24 hours except for Sunday and Friday, 8 am–8 pm

### Crest Lake Dog Park

**Located in:** Crest Lake Park  
**Address:** 332 S. Glenwood Ave., Clearwater, FL 33755

## LOCAL TIP



Ft Desoto is as good as it gets! Countless world-class beaches. We are locals who have developed a tradition of camping at the park for at least one holiday a year. Great setting with good privacy at the campsites that have water access. The whole park offers amazing beaches, the fort and bike trails. **-Lily and Roy E**



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## GROOMERS/DAYCARE & PET STORE

Finding that special trusted groomer that will treat our furry friends with care and kindness is so important; after all, they are our best friends and only deserve the best. When it comes to the care of our pets, we can recommend only local groomers and daycare facilities that will treat your pets with compassion and individuality that you can't find at a big-box groomer or daycare.

## ANIMAL HOSPITAL & EMERGENCY CARE

**Bluffs Animal Hospital**  
320 Indian Rocks Rd. N., Belleair  
Bluffs, FL 33770  
(727) 585-5682  
bluffsanimal.com

**Sun-Surf Animal Hospital**  
1507 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks  
Beach, FL 33785  
(727) 595-8188  
sunsurfanimalhospital.com

**Coastal Veterinary Care**  
971 Douglas Ave.,  
Dunedin, FL 34698  
(727) 250-1394  
coastalvetcaresdunedin.com

**Coastal Animal Clinic**  
1019 Highland Ave  
Largo, FL 33770  
(727) 518-7387  
coastalvets.com



**Blue Pearl Veterinary  
24hr Hospital**  
4701 Ulmerton Rd.,  
Ste. 500,  
Clearwater, FL 33762  
(727) 572-0132  
bluepearlvet.com

### Fluffy Puppies of Pinellas

This wonderful, family-owned boutique has been servicing pets in the area for over 18 years. Their small staff is highly trained and really gets to know the pets on an individual basis. They offer grooming of cats and dogs, doggy daycare, and only carry the top brands of food, treats, toys, and more for cats and dogs.  
**14219 Walsingham Rd Suite D & E, Largo 33774**  
(727) 446-7999  
fluffypuppiesofpinellas.net

### Bark Life Market

This unique 14,000-square-foot market, daycare and cage-free pet resort is a must-see. Serving the area for over eight years, this family-owned business has continued to grow and further serve the community with exceptional care and service.  
**10720 Park Blvd. N., Seminole, FL 33772**  
(727) 399-3647  
barklife.com

### Clippingdale's Groomers

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# DAY TRIPS

## WORTH THE DRIVE



Living in or visiting Clearwater means you already have sugar-white sand, turquoise waters, and stunning sunsets right at your doorstep. But if you're itching for a change of scenery—or looking to impress visiting friends—there are plenty of unforgettable destinations within a 2.5-hour drive. Whether you crave art, nature, history, or thrills, these day trips promise a refreshing break without the need for overnight bags.

**1. SARASOTA > 1.5 HRS.** Head south along the Gulf Coast to discover Sarasota's blend of culture and coastal charm. The crown jewel is the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, home to masterpieces and circus history alike. Stroll through the lush gardens, tour the stunning Ca' d'Zan mansion, and finish with lunch at St. Armands Circle. Nearby, Siesta Key Beach—famed for its powder-soft quartz sand—makes for a relaxing afternoon.

**2. CRYSTAL RIVER > 1.5 HRS.** North of Clearwater, Crystal River offers one of Florida's most unique wildlife encounters: swimming with manatees. This gentle, curious species loves the warm springs that feed the river, making it one of the only places in the country where swimming with them is legally permitted. Even if you'd rather stay dry, you can kayak or take a glass-bottom boat tour through the crystal-clear waters.

**3. TAMPA > 45 MINS.** While Tampa might be practically in Clearwater's backyard, it's worth dedicating a full day to exploring. The Tampa Riverwalk connects parks, restaurants, and attractions like the Florida Aquarium and the Tampa Museum of Art. Foodies will love the mix of flavors at Armature Works, while history buffs can soak up Cuban culture in Ybor City.

**4. ORLANDO > 2 HRS.** It's not just about the big theme parks—though Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando, and SeaWorld are certainly world-class attractions. Orlando also boasts vibrant neighborhoods, outlet shopping, and unique spots like Leu Gardens or the Orlando Science Center. For an artsy twist, visit the charming town of Winter Park for boutique shopping, a scenic boat tour, and a renowned art museum.

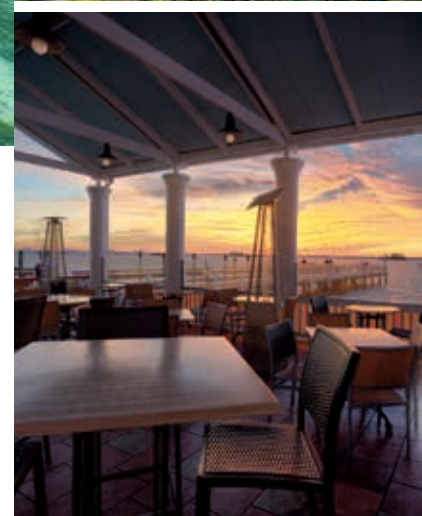
**5. WEEKI WACHEE SPRINGS > 1 HR.** Step into old Florida charm at Weeki Wachee, famous for its live "mermaid" shows that have delighted visitors since 1947. You can also rent a kayak and paddle down the Weeki Wachee River, spotting turtles, fish, and even manatees in the clear, spring-fed waters. Buccaneer Bay water park, located within the state park, is a hit with families.

**6. ST. PETERSBURG > 30 MINS.** Just across the bay, St. Pete offers a vibrant mix of art and beach life. Don't miss The Dalí Museum, the St. Pete Pier, and the colorful murals scattered throughout downtown. If you're in the mood for sand and surf, Pass-a-Grille Beach delivers a quieter, old-Florida feel compared to busier Clearwater Beach.

**PLAN YOUR PERFECT DAY** The beauty of Clearwater's location is that you can enjoy so many distinct experiences without spending hours on the road. Pack a cooler, grab your sunglasses, and let curiosity lead the way—Florida's west and central coasts are full of treasures just waiting to be discovered.



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## From Early Morning to Late At Night...

When you have to have your coffee or tea ... Check these places out!

### How do you take it?

Black, Americano, Macchiato, Café au Lait, Espresso, Latte, Cappuccino, Iced, or with a splash of the Irish.

Some like it hot, others iced, then there is the question: Are you a dark-roast or a light, smooth and mellow connoisseur? Regardless of your fancy, these shops will have the brew for you. If it were just about the coffee, Dunkin's drive-through would make our list, but we wanted to share with you a few spots where you can have more than just a cup of coffee. The shops listed below offer great coffee, pastries/desserts, and an experience that you won't find at a corporate Starbucks, Dunkin's, or even Panera, for that matter.

### Alaeddin Brews Coffee and Kava Bar

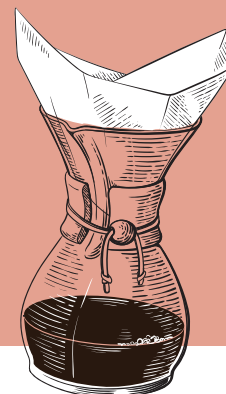
A cozy hang out for meetings, studying, socializing or for some alone time. Specialty Coffees, kratom, kava, hookah, pastries and pool table.  
1495 Indian Rocks Rd, Largo

### Indian Rocks Cafe Deli and Market

A local favorite for coffee, breakfast, and lunch. Dine in or take away. They also carry beer, wine and groceries.  
1401 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach

### Voila-Merci French Bakery and Bistro

They bring the heart of France to Indian Shores, offering a cozy and inviting ambiance where you can savor the essence of French cuisine and delicious pastries and desserts.  
19525 Gulf Blvd, Indian Shores  
voila-merci.com 727-221-0401



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**Speakeasy Kava**  
12514 Starkey Rd., Largo, FL 33773  
(727) 351-2672  
speakeasykavabar.com

**Restoration Café**  
38 N. Fort Harrison Ave.,  
Clearwater, FL 33755  
(727) 281-8302  
rcclw.com

**Belleair Coffee Company**  
100 Indian Rocks Rd N.  
Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770  
(727) 501-1010  
belleaircoffeecompany.com

**Basimo Beach Café**  
1261 Gulf Blvd., #120,  
Clearwater Beach, FL 33767  
(727) 281-2193  
basimocafe.com

**Katrina's Bakery**  
Offers a delightful array of coffee, plush  
ambiance and freshly baked goods that  
perfectly blend flavor and artistry, mak-  
ing every visit a treat for the senses!  
2480 E Bay Dr #10 Largo, FL

**9th Bar Coffee Co**  
949 Huntley Ave., Dunedin, FL 34698  
(727) 733-2572  
9thbarcoffee.com

**Tukro Coffee Shop**  
472 Wood St., Dunedin, FL 34698  
(727) 953-3958  
tukrocoffee.com

**The Sandpiper Coffee Roaster Café**  
833 Douglas Ave., Dunedin, FL 34698  
(727) 314-4247  
thesandpipercafe.com

**Cappuccino's Altro Posto Café**  
733 Broadway St., Dunedin, FL 34698  
(727) 738-8009

**Veskolini Cafe**  
461 Grant St., Dunedin, FL 34698  
(727) 270-6548  
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## LOCAL > COFFEE SPOTS



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A specialty coffee roaster located in Belleair, FL. Modern, unique roasting profiles. Organic, rainforest-friendly coffee, teas, pastries, and baked goods. We love it because it's comfortable, laid-back, and it's perfect for meetings or just relaxing while partaking of some sweet treats and a rich cup of their ground/brewed on-premises coffee. **100 Indian Rocks Rd. N., Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770 (727) 501-1010 | belleaircoffeecompany.com**



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# Eat

LIKE A LOCAL



## LOCAL TIP



October is Stone Crab season in Florida. There are festivals all over the area and most restaurants will have them on their menus, but if you want the biggest and in my opinion the best, you have to go to Frenchy's on Clearwater Beach. We never miss it. - **Lenore S.**



VISIT THE  
LOCAL FAVORITES  
& AWARD-WINNING  
PLACES

## • restaurants

### WILDFLOWER CAFÉ

A Belleair favorite for years. A really cute sunny breakfast and lunch quarters with a seasonal menu of house-made baked goods and sandwiches. Indoor and outdoor seating.  
**1465 S. Ft. Harrison Ave. #105, Clearwater, FL 33756**  
(727) 447-4497 » [wildflowercafe.net](http://wildflowercafe.net)

### BELLEAIR CAFÉ

Super cute café in the heart of Belleair Bluffs, with an intimate atmosphere and incredibly friendly staff serving breakfast and lunch. Indoor and outdoor seating.  
**2601 Jewell Rd., Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770**  
(727) 518-7901 » [belleaircafe.com](http://belleaircafe.com)

### TURKISH FLAME

At Turkish Flame Indian Rocks Beach, the mouthwatering dishes and inviting atmosphere create an unforgettable dining experience that transports you straight to the flavors of the Mediterranean.  
**2699 Gulf Blvd, Indian Rocks Beach, FL**

### VILLAGE INN

Family-friendly chain serving homestyle American classics such as chicken-fried steak and pot pie. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner. FREE PIE WEDNESDAY  
**13105 Walsingham Rd., Largo, FL 33774** » (727) 596-4310  
**10155 Bay Pines Blvd., St. Petersburg, FL 33708** » (727) 317-5700  
[villageinn.com/locations/largo-fl](http://villageinn.com/locations/largo-fl)

### SOUL SICILIAN FUSION

This family-run, very popular restaurant located in “The District” serves authentic Italian/Sicilian cuisine prepared to perfection and paired with an extensive variety of Italian wines.  
**516 Cleveland St., Clearwater, FL 33755**  
(727) 754-3259  
[soulsicilianfusion.com](http://soulsicilianfusion.com)

### BONEFISH GRILL

**2939 W. Bay Dr., Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770**  
(727) 518-1230 » [bonefishgrill.com](http://bonefishgrill.com)

### MIOS GRILL & CAFE

Locals adore this Sand Key restaurant for its amazing waterfront view and delicious food. The perfect spot for a memorable dining experience.  
**1261 Gulf Blvd #120, Clearwater, FL 33767**  
(727) 281-2193 » [miosgrill.com](http://miosgrill.com)

### CLEAR SKY BEACHSIDE CAFÉ

**490 Mandalay Ave., Clearwater, FL 33767** » (727) 442-3684  
**418 Cleveland St., Clearwater, FL 33755** » (727) 754-7244  
[clearskyrestaurants.com](http://clearskyrestaurants.com)

### BOB HEILMAN'S BEACHCOMBER

**447 Mandalay Ave., Clearwater Beach, FL 33767**  
(727) 442-4144  
[bobheilmansbeachcomber.com](http://bobheilmansbeachcomber.com)

### VILLA GALLACE

**109 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785**  
(727) 596-0200 » [villagallace.com](http://villagallace.com)

### THE LIVING ROOM ON MAIN

**487 Main St., Dunedin, FL 34698**  
(727) 736-5202

### E&E STAKEOUT GRILL

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• restaurants



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(727) 595-4825  
crabbybills.com

**PALM PAVILION BEACHSIDE GRILL & BAR**  
10 Bay Esplanade, Clearwater, FL 33767  
(727) 446-2642 >> palmpavilion.com

**ISLAND WAY GRILL**  
20 Island Way, Clearwater, FL 33767  
(727) 461-6617 >> islandwaygrill.com

• pizza

**PAJANOS PIZZA AND SUBS**  
From-scratch pizzeria from a Chicago native. Also offering hot or cold subs, stromboli and beer.  
1305 Gulf Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785  
(727) 595-8446 >> pajanospizzaandsubs.com

**BROOKLYN PIZZA**  
Brooklyn Pizza is a cozy pizzeria that has earned a loyal following thanks to its authentic New York-style pies. The secret? Thin, crispy crusts that perfectly complement the generous toppings. Whether you're a fan of classic cheese or prefer something more adventurous like the Brooklyn Deluxe, there's a pizza here to satisfy every craving.  
10785 Park Blvd, Seminole, FL 33772  
(727) 317-0044 >> brooklynpizzaco.com

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(727) 238-3413 >> belleair@cleaneatz.com

**OHANA CAFE (HAWAIIAN / ORGANIC)**  
1452 Main St., Dunedin, FL 34698 >> (727) 314-4277

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(727) 507-8870

**CRISTINO'S COAL OVEN PIZZA**  
1101 S. Ft. Harrison Ave., Clearwater, FL 33756  
(727) 443-4900 >> cristinoscoaloven.com

**MIKE'S PIZZA AND PUB**  
14477 Walsingham Rd., Largo, FL 33774  
(727) 724-4100 >> mikespizzaandpub.com

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thekiost-group.com



• ethnic



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lazyjerkeats.com

**DELUKAS RESTAURANT AND BAR**  
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• **G R E E K**  
**MIOS GRILL & CAFE**  
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(727) 281-2193 >> miosgrill.com

**ACROPOL FAMILY RESTAURANT**  
1170 Starkey Rd., Largo, FL 33771  
(727) 581-9535 >> acropolfamilyrestaurant.com

• **S U S H I**  
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• **T H A I**  
**THAI TOWN**  
1342 Main St., Dunedin, FL 34698  
(727) 736-9190 >> thaitowneat.com

**THAI BAY & SUSHI RESTAURANT**  
1300 E. Bay Dr., Ste. P, Largo, FL 33771  
(727) 584-5522 >> thaibaysushi.com

• **C H I N E S E**  
**HA LONG BAY**  
2192 Main St., Dunedin, FL 34698  
(727) 734-3998 >> ha-long-bay.business.site

**ZOM HEE CHINESE RESTAURANT**  
9015 Park Blvd. N., Seminole, FL 33777  
(727) 391-8393 >> zomhee.com

• **M E X I C A N**  
**MARINA CANTINA**  
25 Causeway Blvd., Clearwater, FL 33767  
(727) 443-1750 >> marinacantina.com

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viplounge-fla.com

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365 Main St., Dunedin, FL 34698  
(727) 734-9226 >> castinas.com

LOCAL TIP



For an authentic Greek experience, visit the sponge docks of Tarpon Springs where you'll find great food, unique shopping, excellent Greek pastries, and desserts as well as some great entertainment. We recommend the waterfront dining at Demetri's Restaurant. - Marc P.





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LOCAL TIP



You're going to love the Bluffs Wine Walk every October. It's a fun afternoon of shopping, drinking, mingling, and listening to some great music. It's an absolute locals favorite.

- Bonnie T.



WOMEN'S APPAREL

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(727) 953-6681 ▶ [roxiek.com](http://roxiek.com)

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[clearwaterclothingboutique.com](http://clearwaterclothingboutique.com)

**SALTY & CHIC BOUTIQUE**  
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(727) 515-1295  
[saltyandchicboutique.com](http://saltyandchicboutique.com)

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**POOLSIDE SAND KEY**  
Poolside Sand Key offers a fantastic collection of stylish women's and men's branded apparel, along with trendy accessories and chic bathing suits, making it the ultimate destination for locals.  
**1261 Gulf Blvd, Sand Key, FL**



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**COASTAL MARKET 607**  
Your source for coastal, farmhouse, and MCM furniture and accessories, as well as handcrafted items, vintage finds, jewelry, and apparel. This place has so much, it will take you some time to see it all.  
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**DEJA VU CONSIGNMENT FURNITURE**  
This huge furniture and accessory store has been a local favorite for years, whatever your decor preference is, they are sure to have something to tickle your fancy.  
**1601 34th Street N., Saint Petersburg 4351 34th Street N., Saint Petersburg (727) 328-8630 ▶ [dejavuconsignmentfurniture.com](http://dejavuconsignmentfurniture.com)**

**THE JEWEL ANTIQUE MALL**  
Is eclectic design what you are looking for? Are you an antique seeker? The Jewel Antique Mall is the local favorite. Spend time decorating your new home with furniture, decor, antique gems or just go explore their 6000 Sq foot experience. Make it an afternoon and have lunch next door at another local favorite, The Belleair Cafe.  
**2601 Jewell Rd, Belleair Bluffs**

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**3700 Tyrone Blvd. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710**  
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# turtle TALES



As a newcomer to Pinellas County, Florida, it's important to be aware of the beautiful wildlife that shares the area with humans. One of the most fascinating events that takes place on the county's beaches is sea turtle nesting. Sea turtle nesting season typically runs from May through October, with the peak of activity occurring in July and August.

During this time, female sea turtles come ashore to lay their eggs in the sand, where they incubate for about two months before the hatchlings emerge and make their way to the sea. It's important to be mindful of sea turtle nesting areas and to take precautions to keep them safe.



HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN VISITING THE BEACHES DURING NESTING SEASON:

1. **Respect the marked nesting areas** - Do not disturb any area that's marked as a nesting site. These areas are carefully monitored to ensure the safety of the eggs and hatchlings.
2. **Avoid using lights on the beach at night** - Sea turtles are easily disoriented by artificial lights, which can cause them to lose their way and become prey to predators. It's best to avoid the use of flashlights and other lighting sources during nesting season.
3. **Don't leave trash on the beach** - Trash and debris can be dangerous to sea turtles, who can become entangled and injured. Always dispose of trash and litter in proper receptacles.
4. **Follow beach regulations** - Many beaches have specific regulations regarding behavior on the beach, such as no pets or no vehicles.

Make sure to follow these regulations to ensure the safety of the sea turtles. By following these tips, newcomers to Pinellas County can help protect the sea turtles that make their home on the beautiful beaches of this area. Remember, these stunning creatures are an important part of our ecosystem and deserve our respect and protection.

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# HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

ENSURING SAFETY AND RESILIENCE



## HURRICANE AND STORM PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

Hurricane season in Florida officially runs from June 1st to November 30th. Most hurricane activity peaks in Florida from mid-August to mid-October.



### INSIDE YOUR HOME

- ☐ Invest in NOAA energy weather radio
- ☐ Pack an emergency readiness kit for each member of your family
- ☐ Ensure that you have a whole house or standby generator
- ☐ If you are not evacuating turn your refrigerator up to the highest setting in the case of possible outages
- ☐ Turn off the gas in your home to avoid a disaster from carbon monoxide poisoning
- ☐ If you have a basement unplug appliances, water heaters and remove or elevate anything to avoid water damage



### OUTDOOR PREPARATIONS

- ☐ Make sure your gutters are being cleaned regularly
- ☐ Have a roof inspection done
- ☐ Consult a tree care specialist to make sure nearby trees won't fall on your home
- ☐ Put outdoor furniture in your garage or basement
- ☐ Bring garbage cans into your garage or other protected area
- ☐ Download FEMA's guide to hurricane preparedness

## PACK A HURRICANE KIT

### KEY ESSENTIALS

- ☐ Flashlight / batteries
- ☐ Cell phone charger and backup battery
- ☐ Hand sanitizer
- ☐ Matches / Lighter
- ☐ Cooler
- ☐ Blankets
- ☐ Clean clothing
- ☐ Paper plates, plastic utensils, and cups
- ☐ Pillows
- ☐ Pet food
- ☐ Any medications
- ☐ Documents
- ☐ Birth certificates
- ☐ Record of bank account numbers
- ☐ Marriage certificates copies of insurance policies passports
- ☐ Social Security cards

## LISTEN TO WEATHER ADVISORIES IN HEED WARNINGS

Sign up for local alerts. Download emergency apps from NOAA and the Red Cross. Send the text message **HURRICANE** to **43362 (4FEMA)** to be notified of safety tips and other important information



## THUNDERSTORMS AND LIGHTNING

The combination of thunderstorms and lightning is another dangerous threat to homeowners. Take precautions to safeguard your house and family members before the storm.



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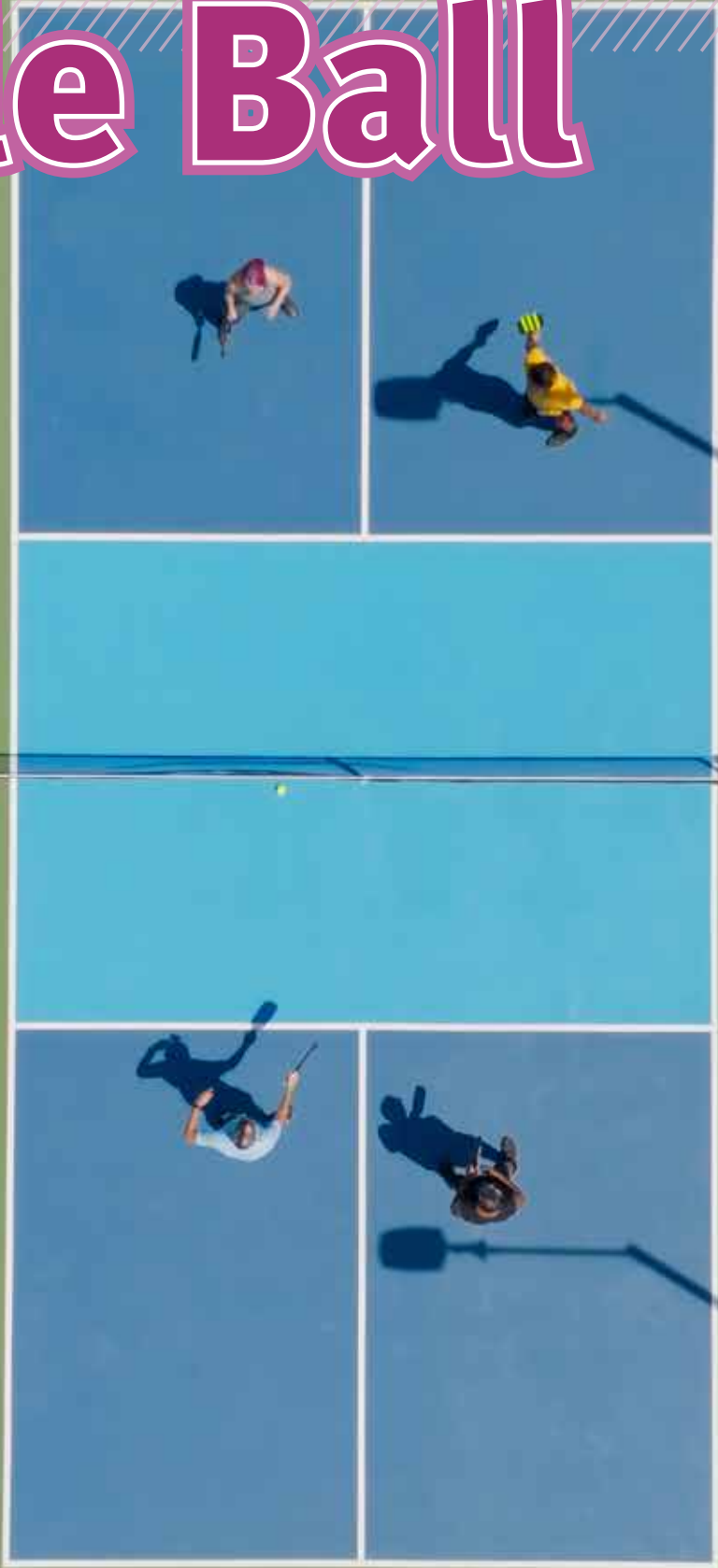
# Pickle Ball

Clearwater, Florida, known for its pristine beaches and abundant recreational activities, has emerged as a hub for pickleball enthusiasts. This dynamic and fast-growing sport, a hybrid of tennis, badminton, and ping pong, has captured the attention of players of all ages and skill levels. Clearwater boasts a range of exceptional venues that cater to pickleball aficionados, providing them with top-notch facilities and a vibrant community. In this article, we will explore the popularity of pickleball in Clearwater and highlight some fantastic places where locals and visitors alike can enjoy this exciting sport.

## THE RISE OF PICKLEBALL

Pickleball has seen an unprecedented surge in popularity over the past decade, and Clearwater has been at the forefront of this trend. Combining elements of other racquet sports, pickleball offers a unique and accessible experience for players of all abilities. It's played on a smaller court with a solid paddle and a plastic ball with holes, allowing for intense yet enjoyable rallies.

**Clearwater's Pickleball Community:** Clearwater has cultivated a vibrant and welcoming pickleball community, where players can connect, compete, and improve their skills. Numerous clubs, leagues, and social groups cater to players of all levels, ensuring that enthusiasts can find like-minded individuals to play with. The community not only fosters healthy competition but also creates a sense of camaraderie among its members.



## WHERE TO PLAY PICKLEBALL IN CLEARWATER:

**Clearwater Tennis Center:** Situated at 2897 Belcher Road, the Clearwater Tennis Center offers excellent pickleball facilities. With six dedicated pickleball courts and top-notch amenities, including restrooms and shaded seating areas, this center is a haven for pickleball enthusiasts. The center also hosts regular tournaments and clinics for players looking to improve their skills.

**Clearwater Beach Recreation Center:** Located at 69 Bay Esplanade, the Clearwater Beach Recreation Center is a popular destination for pickleball enthusiasts. Offering both indoor and outdoor courts, players can enjoy the game in any weather. The center provides equipment rentals, making it convenient for visitors to try out the sport. With its prime beachfront location, players can relish pickleball while taking in stunning ocean views.

**Ross Norton Recreation Complex:** The Ross Norton Recreation Complex, located at 1426 South Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, features six well-maintained outdoor pickleball courts. Players appreciate the shaded seating areas, restrooms, and nearby parking. The complex offers open play times and organized leagues, ensuring opportunities for players of all skill levels to participate.

**Henry L. McMullen Tennis Complex:** The Henry L. McMullen Tennis Complex, situated at 1000 Edenville Avenue, has embraced the growing pickleball community by introducing dedicated courts for the sport. With its spacious layout and well-kept facilities,

this complex is a fantastic option for both tennis and pickleball players. The friendly staff organizes various events, including round-robin tournaments, to engage the community.

**Del Oro Park:** Del Oro Park, located at 401 McMullen Booth Road, offers four outdoor pickleball courts in a serene setting. This park is perfect for players who prefer a quieter and more laid-back atmosphere. The courts are open to the public, and players can enjoy a peaceful game surrounded by lush greenery.

## Highland Recreation Complex

## Bay Park on Sand Key

## Clearwater Beach Library and Recreation Center

## Clearwater Beach Tennis Courts

## Ed Wright Pickleball Courts

## Woodgate Park Tennis and Pickleball Courts

**Conclusion:** Pickleball has become a beloved sport in Clearwater, Florida, attracting players from all walks of life. The city offers a plethora of fantastic venues where individuals can engage in this fast-paced and enjoyable game. Whether you're a seasoned player or a beginner looking to try something new, Clearwater provides an array of options for pickleball enthusiasts. So grab a paddle, rally with friends or make new ones, and immerse yourself in the vibrant pickleball scene in Clearwater.

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"Clearwater Jazz Festival, normally held the third week in October, is one of the Tampa Bay Area's Signature Music events with a 41-year tradition of world-class performances."

– Deborah V.



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THE BAYCARE SOUND

Clearwater's new music venue, The BayCare Sound, is a breathtaking addition to the city's vibrant arts and entertainment scene. Nestled along the picturesque waterfront, this state-of-the-art facility promises an unparalleled audio-visual experience for music lovers of all genres. Boasting cutting-edge acoustics, a spacious and comfortable seating arrangement, and top-of-the-line sound systems, The BayCare Sound is set to become a haven for both renowned artists and emerging talents. With its sleek and modern design, the venue creates an immersive atmosphere that allows audiences to fully immerse themselves in the magic of live music. Whether it's a high-energy rock concert, a soulful jazz performance, or an intimate acoustic set, The BayCare Sound offers an unforgettable experience for music enthusiasts in Clearwater and beyond.

225 Drew Street, in  
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NANCY AND DAVID BILHEIMER  
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The Nancy and David Bilheimer Capitol Theatre, which was also known as the Capitol Theatre and the Royalty Theatre, is a historic theater in Clearwater, FL. The theater has a seating capacity of 750 people. The theater is owned by the City of Clearwater and managed by Ruth Eckerd Hall. This venue also offers "A" list acts as well as comedic acts, Broadway shows, all be it in a much more intimate atmosphere.

405 Cleveland St., Clearwater, FL 33755  
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ruth Eckerd Hall.com/bilheimer-capitol-theatre



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A n n u a l

# Happenings

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THROUGHOUT THE YEAR GREATER CLEARWATER IS TEAMING WITH FUN EVENTS, FOR BOTH YOUNG AND OLD; SO MANY THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUST MENTION A FEW, BUT MOST LOCALS WOULD AGREE THAT YOU SHOULDN'T MISS THESE EVENTS.



## FIRST NIGHT ST. PETE – DOWNTOWN SAINT PETERSBURG

First Night St Petersburg is the largest family-friendly New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts in Florida. It is a collaboration between local venues, artists, and performers in and around downtown St. Petersburg. Each venue showcases a variety of artistic mediums. This year's First Night team has put together an amazing program with eight hours of music, interactive exhibits, literary arts, aerial arts, fire jugglers, street performers, fire sculpture, a labyrinth, a peace flag project, a sea creature puppet procession, Bubble Stomp with Ann Kelly of WDUV and so much more. The newest addition this year is The Larger-than-life Monarch butterfly installation! Entrance buttons can be purchased online from 11/1 to 12/24 for \$12 or locally from 12/1 to 12/30. Go to the website to view locations. Buttons are also available in the main tent located near the Kapok tree and the MFA beginning at noon or at any of the participating venues. \* Tickets sold on the night of will be \$20. [firstnightstpete.com](http://firstnightstpete.com)

## GARSAPARILLA INVASION – TAMPA ▶ January

This annual re-enactment of Tampa's historic pirate invasion is something you have to see at least once. It's a uniquely Tampa event that features the Pirate ship Jose Gasparilla filled with pirates as they sail Tampa Bay and dock at Tampa Convention Center where the Mayor of Tampa turns over the key to the city to the Captain of the Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla. The landing at the dock takes place at 1:00 PM but the party and merriment go on all day and well into the night.

[main.gasparillapiratefest.com](http://main.gasparillapiratefest.com)

An Alternative to the hectic and often very rowdy Gasparilla event is a very family-friendly Pirate celebration event hosted by Party Pirates on the Rock charity. Their flotilla boat parade and party travel from Johns Pass to Clearwater Beach in full regalia. Check out and join this local favorite at [partypiratesontherocks.com](http://partypiratesontherocks.com)



## FIRESTONE GRAND PRIX OF ST. PETERSBURG

– ST, PETERSBURG WATERFRONT ▶ March

The Grand Prix of St. Petersburg is among the most respected motor-sports events in North America and features a week-long festival-like atmosphere that includes the fastest racing series on the planet, celebrity athletes, live entertainment and interactive activities including the Speed Zone, IndyCar Series Fan Village, Beer Gardens, Driver Autograph Sessions, and Interactive games & exhibits. Check out their website for more details: [gpstpete.com](http://gpstpete.com)

## ST PATRICK'S DAY – DUNEDIN ▶ March

On Saint Patrick's Day, everyone wants to be Irish and parties abound, but if you're looking for a one-stop shop where the entire town parties you need to go to Dunedin. A celebration of Irish culture, the St. Patrick's Day Festival in downtown Dunedin puts on one of the best street festivals of the year with plenty of green beer and delicious Irish food to keep the party going throughout the day. Start your day dining at Flanagan's Irish Pub on Main Street before heading to Pioneer Park Stage, where visitors will find live music, street parades, Irish dancers, and a lively ambiance of partygoers from noon to midnight.

**ST. PETE PRIDE MONTH ▶ June** ▶ This major festival usually takes place in June and is one of the biggest pride events in the USA. Though the event evolves each year, you'll always find a warm and inclusive environment great entertainment, and plenty of good food. Check out [stpetepride.org](http://stpetepride.org)



## DENIM AND DIAMONDS GALA

The Raising Relief Foundation Denim and Diamonds Gala is a stylish and charitable soirée that combines the casual elegance of denim with the glitz of diamonds to support vital humanitarian causes. [raisingrelieffoundation.org](http://raisingrelieffoundation.org) for dates and details

## STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL – PLANT CITY ▶ March

The Florida Strawberry Festival is an 11day event celebrating the strawberry harvest. The event draws nearly a half million people each year attendees enjoy top-tier entertainment, youth livestock shows, exhibits, Carnival rides, and of course Strawberries. The festival usually takes place in the latter part of March and admission is \$10 at the gate. For more details, visit [flstrawberryfestival.com](http://flstrawberryfestival.com), Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.



## LARGO EVENING MARKET ▶ Year-Round except December

As a new resident, don't miss The Largo Evening Market, held every fourth Saturday of the month from 5 to 9 PM. Enjoy this outdoor market filled with a variety of vendors, raffles, food trucks, and more—perfect for the whole family and pet-friendly!

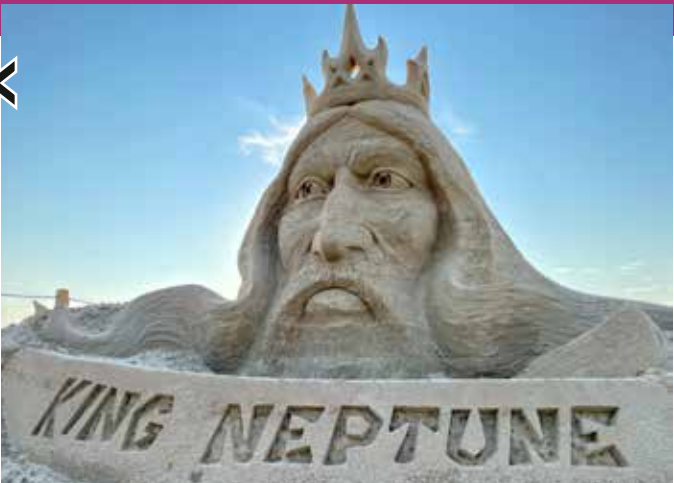
**301 West Bay Drive, Largo**





**CLEARWATER OFFSHORE NATIONAL POWERBOAT RACES ▶ September** ▶ This weekend-long event is a local favorite. Start out on Friday with the VIP Party with cocktails, heavy appetizers, and live entertainment. You'll be able to meet the Drivers, Throttlemen, and Team members, and be able to check out the boats up close. Then pick a good spot to watch and cheer on your favorite Team. Saturday, watch the boats out on the water for Race Boat Testing, followed by another party at Shepard's VIP Party Sunset at Pier 60, Where you will also find Vendors and Live Entertainment. Then Sunday it's off to the Races, followed by an after-race party & awards at Marina Cantina, then "Shephard's Largest After-Race Party". [clearwaternationals.com](http://clearwaternationals.com)

**PIER 60 SUGAR SAND FESTIVAL – CLEARWATER BEACH ▶ April** ▶ Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival is a 17-day sand sculpting festival. This absolutely amazing event draws Master Sand Sculptors from all over the world. This truly unique event is a must-see, not just for the amazing sand sculpture but the event also offers free Beach concerts, Cornhole tournaments, Sand Sculpting classes, numerous street performers, a bounce house, a water slide, even a Ferris wheel, and on Pier 60 you will find so many beautiful handmade items by local artisans and to top it off they produce a spectacular fireworks show. You won't want to miss this local favorite. [sugarsandfestival.com](http://sugarsandfestival.com)



**SPRING & FALL OUTDOOR VENDOR MARKET ▶ April & November** ▶ Local artists, vendors, food trucks, live music, and more at Coastal Market 607, Clearwater Largo Rd, Largo



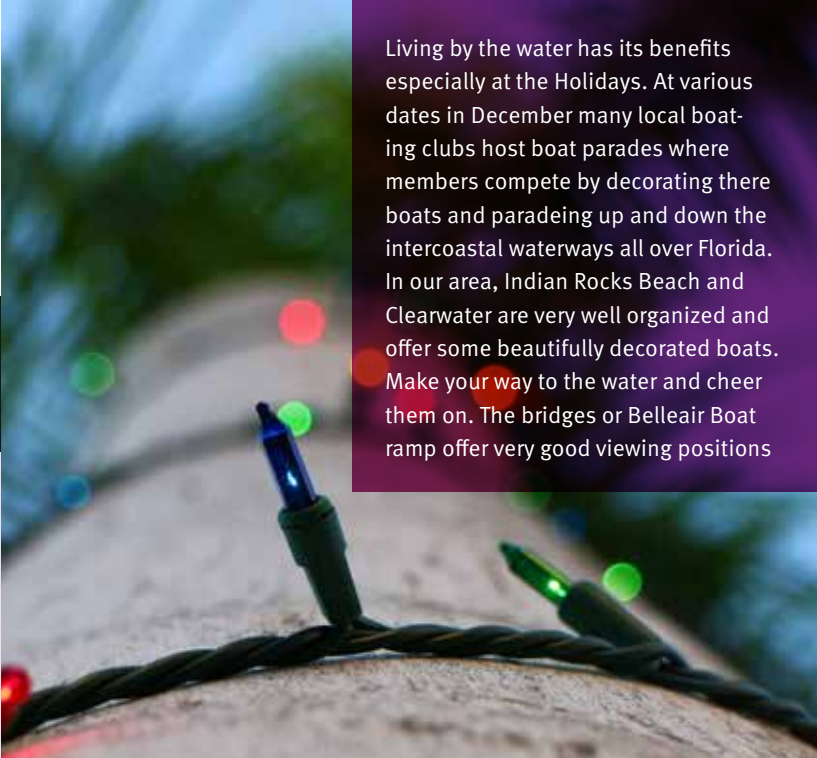
**BLUFFS WINE WALK - BELLEAIR BLUFFS ▶ Late October** ▶ Talk about a local favorite. This event has become so popular over the years that now thousands attend this unique event. With the purchase of a \$10 string of tickets, you can meander through the Bluffs Business District stopping at various merchants to shop and sample their wine. It's truly a unique event that has grown to include transportation from the Jolley Trolley, Live music at various locations, plenty of food sampling, and at city hall you will find a free Pig roast. Visit [bbastrong.com](http://bbastrong.com) for details.

**GHOST SHIP ROYAL CONQUEST ▶ October** ▶ A thrilling nighttime pirate cruise, is like no other. A unique black-light party on the water, music, and Halloween costumes are suggested. 140 Boardwalk Place, Madeira Beach [boattoursjohnspass.com](http://boattoursjohnspass.com)



**TAMPA BAY TIMES TURKEY TROTT – CLEARWATER ▶ November** ▶ Slap the turkey in the oven, put on a funky outfit, and head out to join thousands of your friends and neighbors as they walk, run, and trot their way through this yearly tradition. Take your pick of either 1 mile or 5k. You can register officially or just join in, it's fun for all ages. Go to [turkeytrot.net](http://turkeytrot.net) to see sign-up locations.

**FLORIDA BOTANICAL GARDENS HOLIDAY LIGHTS ▶ November** ▶ Admission is a suggested donation of \$10.00 per person, over the age of 13. The Botanical Garden Display never disappoints, with over 1 million led lights, live local musicians entertaining, and St. Pet Concessions providing great food desserts and of course nonalcoholic beverages. Leashed pets are welcome. [flbgfoundation.org](http://flbgfoundation.org)



Living by the water has its benefits especially at the Holidays. At various dates in December many local boating clubs host boat parades where members compete by decorating their boats and parading up and down the intercoastal waterways all over Florida. In our area, Indian Rocks Beach and Clearwater are very well organized and offer some beautifully decorated boats. Make your way to the water and cheer them on. The bridges or Belleair Boat ramp offer very good viewing positions

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