

# TIME TO PLAY IN TAMPA BAY

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## **ATTRACTIONS GALORE**

Feel the rush at **Busch Gardens® Tampa Bay** on some of the world's most breathtaking roller coasters like Iron Gwazi, SheiKra and Cheetah Hunt. Plus don't miss the opening of Wild Oasis, North America's most immersive kid-friendly adventure realm this summer. **The Florida Aquarium** has unveiled a Sloth Encounter experience where visitors can get up close and personal. The Manatee Critical Care Behind-The-Scenes Tour at **ZooTampa at Lowry Park** gives guests a chance to witness their lifesaving work, and opening early 2026, Manatee Rescue will offer unforgettable moments of eye-level viewing of Florida's aquatic wildlife.

## UNPARALLELED EXHILARATION

The Motor Enclave offers a heart-pounding playground for motorheads at the largest and most comprehensive automotive facility in Florida featuring a 100-acre off-road course, a state-of-the-art, 1.72-mile Tilke-designed performance circuit with professional driving instruction, and the world's largest private garage community. Zip through the trees and conquer the 200-foot- over-water suspension bridge at Empower Adventures Tampa Bay. Take a trip to one of the area's state parks: Hillsborough River State Park is home to some of the only Class II rapids in Florida or head to Alafia River State Park to mountain bike over 20 miles of single-track trails.





## **YBOR CITY + CUBAN CULTURE**

"Hav-a-Tampa" cigar and see how Historic Ybor City turned Tampa into the *Cigar Capital of the World*. Today, skilled tabaqueros still roll cigars by hand, and you can experience their craftsmanship at **J.C. Newman Cigar Co.**, America's oldest family-owned premium cigar maker. The original Cuban sandwich was invented specifically for the cigar workers of Ybor City. Visit Cuba without a passport by stepping through the gates of **José Martí Park**, where the park's soil has been owned by the Cuban people since the 1950s. Be sure to keep an eye – and an ear – out for Ybor City's oldest residents, wild chickens that strut through the street and are protected by law due to their historical significance. **La Segunda Central Bakery** has satisfied customers with authentic Cuban bread since 1915 and for over 100 years has used the same hand-baked process

and traditional recipes to ensure a taste and texture that can't be duplicated. Be sure to try an authentic Cuban sandwich made with Genoa salami for a truly Tampa taste.



## THE TAMPA RIVERWALK

The 2.6-mile (4 km) **Tampa Riverwalk** links together some of downtown Tampa's most popular attractions, hotels, museums, and parks like pearls on a string. At one end, you'll discover **Sparkman Wharf**, an outdoor food and gathering hub and the other end features **Heights Public Market at Armature Works**, housing over 20 dining options plus pop-up events.



## **NONSTOP SPORTS**

Catch a football game at Raymond James Stadium, home to the Super Bowl LV champion **Tampa Bay Buccaneers** (NFL), or keep cool year round inside Amalie Arena, home venue of the perennial Stanley Cup-contending **Tampa Bay Lightning** (NHL). The **Tampa Bay Rays** (MLB) are playing outside in Tampa for the first time in their history, **Tampa Bay Sun FC** is scoring with the new professional women's soccer league (USL Super League), while the **Tampa Bay Rowdies** (USL) take to the pitch across the bay in historic Al Lang Stadium.



#### TIME TO RELAX

With more than 2,700 rooms added in the past three years, Tampa Bay has seen an incredible boom in accommodations.





#### TRAVEL CONFIDENTLY

Tampa International Airport, your gateway to Tampa Bay, was named the #1 Large Airport in North America in 2024 by Airports Council International for a second-consecutive year. With nonstop service from more than 85 destinations, it is easier than ever to visit the heart of Florida's Gulf Coast. Avianca began nonstop flights from Bogota in March 2025, making it the first regular nonstop flight between Tampa and South America and the first connecting Tampa to a new continent in nearly 50 years. This welcome addition comes after Aeroméxico launched daily nonstop flights from Mexico City in 2024, making Tampa Bay its 23rd U.S. destination. Other international carriers with direct flights to Tampa include: Virgin Atlantic (London Heathrow Airport), British Airways (London Gatwick), Discover Airlines (Frankfurt). Delta Airlines (Amsterdam through 2025), Edelweiss Airlines (Zurich), Frontier Airlines (Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Puerto Rico), and Air Canada (Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, Vancouver).

TPA also services 79 domestic destinations — top markets include New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Boston, and Detroit — with 23.8 million domestic passengers yearly ensuring visitors from all across the United States have direct access to Tampa Bay's treasures.

**Port Tampa Bay**, recently named the best cruise destination in the world by Cruise Hive, now homeports six vessels from **Carnival**, **Royal Caribbean**, **Norwegian**, **Celebrity Cruises**, **Oceania**, and **Margaritaville at Sea**. Margaritaville at Sea is launching its first dog-friendly cruise in November 2025, and luxury cruise line Oceania begins sailing from Tampa in February 2026.





#### **TIME TO SAVOR**

Tampa Bay's culinary reputation is soaring with five restaurants – **Ebbe, Kōsen, Koya, Lilac**, and **Rocca** – holding coveted MICHELIN Stars and four more – **Gorkhali Kitchen, Psomi, Rooster & The Till**, and **Streetlight Taco** – earning Bib Gourmand status. In 2025, **Big Ray's Fish Camp, Cousin Vinny's Sandwich Co., Fisk**, and **Mad Dogs and Englishmen** were added, giving Tampa Bay 29 restaurants featured in the esteemed MICHELIN Guide.

## TASTE OF TAMPA BAY

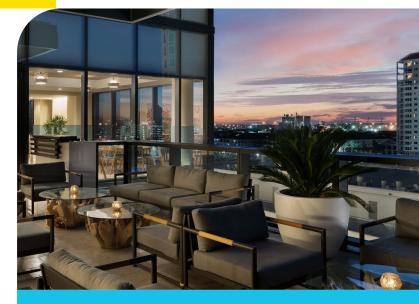
Enticing dining options have opened within the **Water Street** district like Mediterranean-inspired Predalina and Italian favorite Ash. Hyde Park Village is dishing up new concepts with Ro, a modern twist on Asian cuisine, and **Timpano**, where the steaks, seafood, and pasta stand out. Hales Blackbrick provides Chinese cuisine with eclectic ambiance and elevated service. Willa's is NoHo's favorite neighborhood restaurant and bar, serving simple classic dishes, killer cocktails, and fine wines while old school classics like Mise en Place, Bern's Steak House, Donatello Italian Restaurant, and Malio's Prime Steakhouse prove Tampa's dining scene has always churned out exquisite dishes. Edison: Food + Drink Lab serves up new interpretations of everyday food expertly engineered into current, modern cuisine. Ybor City's world-famous Columbia Restaurant, since 1905, is Florida's oldest restaurant and the largest Spanish restaurant in the world. Check out **Ulele**, which serves native-inspired food and spirits on the Riverwalk



## **ROOFTOP BARS**

Cocktail culture is just as much a part of Tampa Bay as sunshine, craft beer, and hand-rolled cigars. Savor your drink with sweeping downtown views at **Azure**, the rooftop dining destination atop the five-star **The Tampa EDITION**, or at **SiX**, an open-air rooftop experience on the sixth floor of the **JW Marriott Tampa Water Street**. Other rooftop favorites include **M. Bird** atop the popular Heights Public Market at Armature Works in Tampa Heights and **Santo's Drinkeria**, an indoor-outdoor gathering space located on the second floor of **Casa Santo Stefano Sicilian Restaurant** in historic Ybor City. And newly-opened **Maru Rooftop Nikkei** blends Japanese and Peruvian flavors from its sixth-floor perch overlooking South Tampa and Hillsborough Bay.





#### **MICHELIN STAYS**

The five-star **Tampa EDITION** opened in October 2022 with luxury amenities and seven unique dining concepts under the guidance of MICHELIN-starred chef John Fraser and is one of two hotels locally to be awarded a MICHELIN Key alongside **Palihouse Hyde Park Village** the chic boutique hotel nestled in the heart of Hyde Park featuring 36 charming accommodations.

## **HYDE PARK HIDEAWAYS**

In the historic Hyde Park district, the iconic foodie-focused **Epicurean Hotel, Autograph Collection** has added eight suites and a 4th-floor terrace space.

#### **DOWNTOWN DIGS**

Hotel Flor, originally Floridan Palace Hotel, is now a part of the Tapestry Collections Hotels by Hilton following a major \$30 million renovation. Water Street is home to the JW Marriott Tampa Water Street and Tampa Marriott Water Street, each boasting beautiful views and relaxing vibes at their rooftop pools. Travel back in time and experience a piece of Tampa history at the newly renovated Le Méridien Tampa, The Courthouse, a century old historic federal courthouse transformed into a one-of-a-kind boutique hotel. Just minutes from downtown, old Ybor City charm meets modern flair at Hotel Haya.



## **PLACE YOUR BETS**

For more thrills and excitement, try your luck at the **Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa**. Florida's largest casino recently completed a \$700 million expansion that included a 14-floor, 562-room tower and an extra 200,000 square feet of gaming space. When it's time to break for a bite, dine at the famed **Council Oak Steaks & Seafood** or grab something more casual at **The Rez Grill** or **Hard Rock Cafe**.



#### TREAT YOURSELF

**Cheeseology** brings people together through the art of cheese-making. Join one of their classes to learn how to make your own fresh mozzarella, burrata, or creme de ricotta, among others. Step into the culinary playground that is the Epicurean Theatre inside the **Epicurean Hotel**, **Autograph Collection** for immersive workshops and chef-led classes that act as a forum for the open discussion of a range of topics, from cultural trends to the art of mixology and cooking techniques.



#### SPA-CATION

Relax at **Spa Evangeline**, the ultimate luxury day spa in South Tampa where their extensive range of luxurious treatments are designed to refresh the body, mind, and spirit. Complete with 10 treatment rooms, a relaxation lounge, and an exclusive rooftop whirlpool, **Spa by JW** at the JW Marriott Tampa Water Street offers a full menu of treatments designed to help calm, indulge, invigorate, and renew.

#### **RETAIL THERAPY**

Ready to get a serious retail fix? You've come to the right place. The region's premiere shopping destination, **International Plaza and Bay Street**, offers 200+ luxury brands and diverse dining options. The beautiful, open-air shopping destination **Hyde Park Village** features a collection of high-end retailers and local restaurants. Just 20 minutes north of downtown, **Tampa Premium Outlets** is home to big-name retailers at bargain prices.

## WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

With Tampa strategically situated where the Hillsborough River meets Tampa Bay, there are plenty of ways to get out and play on the water. Indulge on a culinary and cocktail river journey aboard **Craft**, a multi-million dollar river cruiser or see the city from a new angle with a sightseeing tour or sunset cruise on **Tampa Bay Fun Boat**. Look for dolphins with friends and family or have a romantic date to watch the sunset aboard **eBoats Tampa**, your chance to captain your own 10- or 12-passenger boat over the city's waterways. Explore the Hillsborough River with a paddleboard or kayak rental from **Urban Kai** or **Tampa Riverwalk Rentals**. Hop on the **Pirate Water Taxi** to see all the downtown sights from the water with its fleet of yellow and black vessels.

