



ST. PETERSBURG/CLEARWATER AREA OFFERS A MULTITUDE OF FREE ATTRACTIONS

The best things in life are free, and many of them can be found in the St. Petersburg/Clearwater area. In fact, the area's top attractions -- 35 miles of white-sand, Gulf of Mexico beaches -- are free and open year-round. Nearly all the area beaches have public access with free or metered parking close by. And there's more. From outstanding museums to some of the country's best parks and nature preserves, the area offers free entertainment options for visitors of all ages.

CLEARWATER

Orange Blossom Groves: 18200 US Hwy 19 N, Clearwater. This large citrus operation offers free tours of their shipping, packing and squeezing facility November through May. Large groups should call in advance. 727-536-3588 www.obgroves.com

Sunset at Pier 60 on Clearwater Beach: Pier 60, Clearwater Beach. The City of Clearwater features "Sunsets at Pier 60" across the street from Clearwater's Municipal Marina and offers a wonderful covered playground for children, concession stands with food and beverages and is just a few steps away from the sightseeing and fishing opportunities of Pier 60. Patterned after the highly successful festival at Mallory Square in Key West, Sunsets at Pier 60 features unique craftsmen, artists and entertainers performing nightly from two hours prior to sunset to two hours after sunset. 727-449-1036 www.sunsetsatpier60.com

DUNEDIN

Dunedin Fine Art Center: 1143 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin. The Center features a variety of exhibitions, workshops and demonstrations to foster the growth and development of visual arts. Call for latest exhibition. 727-738-1892 www.dfac.org

Fiber Arts Institute: 505 Causeway Blvd., Dunedin. The Fiber Arts Institute promotes the heritage of fiber skills such as spinning, weaving, apparel design, silk dyeing, quilting and creative stitchery. Examples of all these techniques are on display. 727-784-0107

St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

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GULFPORT

Gulfport Historical Museum: 5301 28th Ave. S., Gulfport. The museum documents the diversity and colorful history of one of Pinellas County's oldest incorporated cities. Operating hours vary. Donations are accepted. 727-327-0505

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH

The Beach Art Center: 1515 Bay Palm Blvd., Indian Rocks Beach. This Center hosts art exhibits every month and features two major outdoor exhibitions. Classes are also offered in painting and drawing. 727-596-4331

INDIAN SHORES

Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary: 18328 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores. A refuge and rehabilitation center for as many as 500 injured and permanently crippled birds. This non-profit organization is known worldwide for its preservation of wild birds. Permanently injured brown pelicans, cormorants, white herons, birds of prey, song birds and other species are on exhibit. Open daily 9 a.m. until dusk. Group tours can be arranged on Wednesday and Sunday at 2 p.m. 727-391-6211
www.seabirdsanctuary.org

LARGO

Gulf Coast Museum of Art: 12211 Walsingham Road, Largo. The Museum features classes, workshops, educational programs and a diverse exhibitions schedule. Galleries are open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday noon until 4 p.m. Admission to the museum is free on Thursdays. On other days, admission is \$5 adults; \$4 seniors and \$3 for students; children (12 and under) are free. Docent-led tours are available for groups. 727-518-6833 www.gulfcoastmuseum.org

Heritage Village: 11909-125th Street North, Largo. Part of Pinewood Cultural Park, Heritage Village is the St. Petersburg/Clearwater area's gateway to the past featuring a fascinating collection of 22 restored homes and buildings on 21 wooded acres. The historical museum is the centerpiece of this park and depicts the county's pioneer lifestyle. Spinning, weaving and other exhibitions are regularly held. On the fourth Saturday in October, the Country Jubilee is held at the park. Open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 727-582-2123
www.pinellascounty.org/heritag.htm

Florida Botanical Gardens at Pinewood Cultural Park: 12175 125th St. N, Largo. The 182-acre Pinewood project combines a cultural, historic and botanical experience at a single destination. Florida's largest gardens, the Florida Botanical Gardens will eventually include 18 distinct gardens

and a state-of-the-art botanical learning center. The new Gulf Coast Museum of Art contains permanent and traveling art collections as well as studios where visitors can work with artists in various media. Both are adjacent to Heritage Village, the county's doorway to the past with 22 historic structures. Admission is free to all three attractions. 727-582-2100 www.flbg.org

Pinellas Trail: 12020 Walsingham Road, Largo. The 47-mile long, 15-foot wide Pinellas Trail is part of the county park system and is one of the longest linear parks in the southeastern United States. It enables visitors and residents alike to have a wonderful opportunity for biking, in-line skating, jogging and walking--all without the hassles and safety concerns of being in automobile traffic. There are rental shops for bikes and skates at numerous points along the trail. The trail runs from the sponge docks at the north end of Tarpon Springs to St. Petersburg in the south end of the county. 727-549-6099 www.pinellascounty.org/trailgd/trailgd.htm

MADEIRA BEACH

John's Pass Village & Boardwalk: 12901 Gulf Blvd. East, Madeira Beach. A quaint shopping district which overlooks "fish famous" John's Pass, the Village is home to a large commercial and charter fishing fleet. Art galleries, restaurants, boutiques are located in the area and the boardwalk provides a scenic view of the waterfront. It is the site of several free festivals and special events, including Beachfest in October. 727-391-7373 <http://johnspass.com>

PALM HARBOR

Palm Harbor Historical Museum: 2043 Curlew Road, Palm Harbor. Opened in 1998, the museum features a variety of exhibits on the history of the Palm Harbor, Crystal Beach, Ozona and Curlew communities. The museum is located in the 1915 home of "Judge" Thomas William Hartley, a justice of the peace, Methodist lay minister and businessman. Hours of operation are Thursday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Tours are available with prior arrangement. 727-724-3054 www.pinellascounty.org/village/Hartley.htm

PINELLAS PARK

Pinellas Park Art Society: 5795 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park. The Society houses exhibitions of work by members and students. Classes are also offered in painting, drawing and photography. 727-541-4294

SAFETY HARBOR

Philippe Park: 2525 Philippe Parkway, Safety Harbor. This historical site overlooks Old Tampa Bay. The park is named for Count Odet Philippe, a surgeon for Napoleon who settled there in the 1830s and introduced the first grapefruit trees to the New World. Before Philippe, the area was a

significant Indian settlement and later a campsite for Spanish explorers. A sizable ceremonial mound from the ancient Indian settlement exists today. The park is an excellent picnic area. 727-726-2700 www.pinellascounty.org/park/philippe_park.htm

ST. PETE BEACH

The Gulf Beaches Historical Museum: 115-10th Ave., St. Pete Beach. Located in the heart of Pass-A-Grille's National Historic District, the museum traces the history of the St. Petersburg/Clearwater area's barrier islands through photographs, news clippings and artifacts dating from the 1500s through modern times. Educational tours, historical lectures, children's activities and special exhibits are also featured at the museum. Hours are Thursday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 727-360-2491 www.pinellascounty.org/village/beach.htm

St. Pete Beach Art Institute: 3300 Pass-A-Grille Way, St. Pete Beach. The institute is a teaching gallery that features monthly exhibits. Classes are held throughout the year and are available for single-day or weekend registrants. 727-367-3818 www.suntanartcenter.com

ST. PETERSBURG

The Arts Center: 719 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg. The Center hosts exhibits of Florida's emerging and established artists. A shop with artwork for sale and an educational program are included. 727-822-7872 www.theartscenter.org

Beaux Arts Society, Gallery and Museum: 2635 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. In operation as a meeting place for people who enjoy the arts since 1914, the Beaux Arts Society is in effect, the "World's Oldest Coffeehouse." Beaux Arts operates an Art Gallery and Modern Art Museum. The gallery features several artists at a time and artists from around the world. Beaux Arts Gallery and Modern Art Museum is open daily from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 - 11 p.m. 727-328-0702 www.inklein.com/beauxarts

Creative Clay Cultural Arts Center: 333 1st St. N.E., St. Petersburg. This gallery and arts center showcases and develops works by people who are at-risk with physical, developmental or emotional challenges. 727-825-0515 www.creativeclay.org

Florida Craftsmen Gallery: 501 Central Ave., St. Petersburg. This gallery is a showcase for contemporary craft work being produced by more than 100 artists from throughout the state. 727-821-7391 www.floridacraftsmen.net

Fort De Soto Park: Accessible by Pinellas Bayway off I-275 and 54th Ave. South. Guided tours are available of this historic fort built during the Spanish-American War located on Mullet Key, the largest of the five islands which make up this unique area. The park consists of 900 unspoiled acres,

seven miles of beaches, two fishing piers, and picnic and camping areas. A concession stand, bathrooms and covered picnic shelters are available. The park features several self-guided tours of the fort and surrounding area. Toll on bridges to the park is 85 cents. Fort De Soto recently rated as the second best beach in the United States in a national study. 727-582-2267
www.fortdesoto.com

Museum of Fine Arts: 255 Beach Drive, NE. St. Petersburg. The Museum has the only comprehensive art collection, from antiquity to the present day, on Florida's west coast. The collection of 4,000 objects includes significant works by Cezanne, Monet, Gauguin, Renoir, Rodin, Henri, Bellows and O'Keeffe. Special exhibits feature works on loan from other metropolitan museums. Period rooms feature antiques and historical furnishing. The museum has a collection of photos by American master photographers and a Steuben glass gallery. **Free admission only on Sunday.** Sunday hours are 1-5 p.m. 727-896-2667 www.fine-arts.org

The Pier: 800 Second Ave. NE, St. Petersburg. The landmark Pier in the heart of St. Petersburg is a unique piece of Florida architecture that offers visitors a chance to experience the waterfront along Tampa Bay. Located at the end of a mile-long approach, this five story inverted pyramid features shops, restaurants, its own aquarium, live music and even boat docks. The top floor of The Pier combines both the tropical dining of Cha Cha Coconuts with a huge observation deck, giving the visitor a truly unique observation point on Tampa Bay. The Pier features plenty of parking, complete with trolley service linking the Pier to the rest of downtown. No admission fee charged. Open daily, most shops open 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. 727-821-6164 www.stpete-pier.com

The Pier Aquarium: 800 Second Ave. NE, St. Petersburg. This aquarium is open daily and uses the expertise of University of South Florida marine science graduate students in giving tours, lectures and workshops. 727-821-6164

Planetarium: St. Petersburg Junior College, Science Building, 6605 Fifth Ave. North, St. Petersburg. Showings are held September through May and special presentations are regularly scheduled. The planetarium is a sky theater under a 7.3 meter domed ceiling projection screen. 727-341-4320 www.spjc.edu/spg/Science/dns/Planetarium.html

St. Petersburg Little Theatre: 4025 31st St. S., St. Petersburg. The St. Petersburg Little Theatre is a community theatre that stages major productions each year. Classes are also available. 727-866-1973

Sawgrass Lake Park: 7400 25th Street North, St. Petersburg. Open daily 7 a.m. until sunset. This 360-acre park provides a unique learning opportunities. A mile of elevated boardwalk winds through a maple swamp and an observation tower provides a panoramic view of Sawgrass Lake. The Environmental Education Center houses laboratory, classroom and display facilities. A self-guide booklet is available for nature trails. 727-527-3814
www.pinellascounty.org/park/sawgrass_lake_park.htm

Science Center of Pinellas County: 7701 22nd Avenue N., St. Petersburg. Permanent exhibits include nature trails, static electricity, antique microscopes, minerals and ores, corals, African-American inventors and more. 727-384-0027

Suncoast Children's Theatre & TV Studio: 8045 46th Ave. N., St. Petersburg. Suncoast performs stage and TV productions for the general public. The Studio offers training programs for children ages 5-17 in acting, voice and musical development, costuming, make-up and TV production. 727-545-0092

Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center: 1800 Weedon Island Drive, St. Petersburg. Weedon Island Preserve combines a wonderful nature experience on a site with fascinating historical significance. The Cultural and Natural History Center features classrooms and exhibit areas designed by anthropologists, historians and Native Americans to reflect the art and history of the area's first people. Weedon Island Preserve is a group of low-lying islands in north St. Petersburg whose history goes back 10,000 years when early peoples such as the Timucuan and Manasotas made the island their home. The center combines a look at artifacts excavated from the site by the Smithsonian in the 1920s, with a chance to experience aspects of Native American culture including dance, cooking, art, crafts and more. The preserve also includes a nature experience with a 4-mile canoe trail, 9-mile hiking trail, fishing pier and waterfront picnic sites. Free Guided Walks at the Preserve are conducted every Saturday at 9 a.m. Guides share the cultural history and nature's treasures during these 3-mile walks. Reservations are required in advance. 727-453-6500 www.pinellascounty.org/Environ/#Weedon

TARPON SPRINGS

Brooker Creek Wildlife Preserve: 1001 Lora Lane, Tarpon Springs. This 8,500-acre preserve near Tarpon Springs offers free five-mile nature hikes every Saturday morning. Visitors can enjoy the abundant natural Florida wildlife, native and migratory birds, plus the many plants and flowers that inhabit this beautiful site. 727-934-4000 www.pinellascounty.org/Environ/#Brooker

Inness Paintings - Universalist Church: 57 Read Street, Tarpon Springs. Features the largest collection of works by George Inness, Jr. the American landscape artist whose most notable painting were done in Tarpon Springs. 727-937-4682

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church: 36 North Pinellas Ave., Tarpon Springs. Patterned after St. Sofia's in Constantinople, this church is an excellent example of New Byzantine architecture with an interior of sculptured Grecian marble, elaborate icons and stained glass. The Cathedral was built in 1943, replacing a smaller structure built in 1907 by the community's early Greek settlers. Open daily for visitors except when services are being held. 727-937-3540 www.epiphanycity.com

Sponge Docks: Dodecanese Blvd., Tarpon Springs. This waterfront area is listed as a National Historic District. Its quaint shops feature sponges, Greek foods and handicrafts. Spirited card games, discussions about politics and sports fill Greek coffee shops located along side streets. Once the "Wall Street for sponges," the Sponge Exchange has been converted into a shopping and dining district. 727-937-6109 www.tarponsprings.com

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Tarpon Springs Cultural Center: 101 South Pinellas Avenue, Tarpon Springs. This facility identifies, preserves and promotes the city's heritage, culture and natural resources by offering programs, performances and exhibits of statewide, national and international interest. 727-942-5605

Tarpon Springs Historical Society Museum: 106 Tarpon Ave., Tarpon Springs. This museum is located in Tarpon Springs' original train station. The museum features items and exhibits depicting Tarpon Springs' development as a Greek community and its sponge industry. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. 727-943-4624

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