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THINGS TO DO & SEE

The St. Petersburg/Clearwater area offers all the ingredients for a memorable Florida visit-- ample amounts of sunshine and warm weather, 35 miles of picturesque beaches and an enchanting blend of art, culture, history, attractions and a lifestyle that will bring one back again and again. Following are some of the major sites and attractions:

CLEARWATER AND CLEARWATER BEACH

Captain Memo's Pirate Cruise - 25 Causeway Blvd. -Dock 3, Clearwater Beach, FL 34630. Phone: 727-446-2587. Two-hour day cruises at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Champagne evening cruise at 4:30 and 7 p.m. Free beverages served on all cruises. Day cruises - Adults, \$27 Seniors \$20, Children \$17. Evening cruises - Adults \$30, Children \$17, Senior \$20. Open 7 days per week. Group rates and private charters available.

Celebration Station - 24546 US 19 North, Clearwater, FL 34623. Phone: 727-791-1799. Family oriented mini-theme park with go-karts, bumper boats, games, miniature golf, batting cages, shows and dining. Open Sunday -Thursday 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday 12 p.m. to midnight; Saturday 10 a.m. to midnight. Different pricing options and group rates are available.

Clearwater Ferry Service - P.O. Box 3335, Clearwater, FL 34630 (From Clearwater Beach Marina). Phone: 727-442-7433. Offering three exciting boat trips including Dolphin Encounter, Caladesi Island Adventure and Tarpon Springs Excursion. The group also operates the Clearwater and Clearwater Beach Water Taxi. Prices and hours of operation vary. Group rates available.

Clearwater Marine Aquarium - 249 Windward Passage, Clearwater, FL 34615. Phone: 727-447-0980. Open Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. & Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Live and model displays of area marine life are on exhibit at this research and rehabilitation facility. Popular exhibits include tanks containing numerous varieties of fish, baby sea turtles and "Sam" The Bottlenose Dolphin. Daily tours available. The Aquarium also features Marine Life Adventures, Kayak Adventures and Sea Life Safari programs. Summer marine biology class available for children ages 8-16. Adults \$6.75, Children \$4.25, Under 3 free.

SunCruz Casino - Clearwater Bay Marina, 198 Seminole Street; Clearwater, FL 34615; 727-895-DEAL Dining, dancing and a full casino featuring blackjack, Caribbean stud poker, roulette, craps and slots. Group rates available.

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Gulf Coast Museum of Art - 222 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Belleair, FL 34616. Phone 727-584-8634. 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. Free admission.

Moccasin Lake Nature Park - 2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater, FL 34619. Phone: 727-462-6024. (East of US 19, North of Gulf to Bay Blvd.) An environmental and energy education center located on a 50-acre park featuring a lake, upland forest, wetlands and most of the plant and animal species native to the area. A one-mile nature trail winds through the park and the Interpretive Center features wildlife exhibits, displays, information, a classroom and laboratory. The sun and wind provide the park's electrical power generation and water supply. The Park is closed on Mondays, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Friday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Adults \$2, Children (3-11) \$1.

Ruth Eckerd Hall - 1111 McMullen-Booth Road, Clearwater, FL 34619. (Located just north of Courtney Campbell Causeway, State Road 60) Phone: 727-791-7400. The performing arts center presents music, dance, and educational programs for all ages. Visual arts exhibits are regularly displayed in the spacious gallery. Ruth Eckerd Hall is home to the Florida Orchestra and offers performances by the Florida Opera. A year-round schedule of cultural entertainment is provided.

Sea Life Safari Cruises - P.O. Box 3335 Clearwater, FL 34630. Phone: 727-462-2628. Docked at the Clearwater Beach Marina. Guests touch sea creatures, visit bird sanctuaries and look for shells on a barrier island. The two-hour cruises are guided by a marine biologist and include an "up-close" look or touch of sea horses, crabs and sea urchins. Cruises depart at 12:45 and 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$13.95 for adults, \$9 children ages 3-12.

Sea Screamer - Clearwater Municipal Marina, Slip #10, Clearwater Beach, FL 34630. Phone 727-447-7200; Billed as the world's largest speedboat, this 73-foot craft takes you on both a scenic nature cruise and a thrilling, fast ride in the Gulf of Mexico. \$12.50 for adults; \$8 for children 12 & under; kids 4 & under are free. Daily rides are at noon, 2 and 4 p.m. Ticket booth is open daily 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Show Queen - 25 Causeway Blvd., Clearwater, FL 34630. Phone: 727-461-3113. Located at the Clearwater City Marina, this boat offers narrated scenic cruises. Day and night sightseeing cruises, dinner cruises and Sunday brunch are offered anywhere from \$8.95 - \$24.95 for adults and \$5.95 - \$13.95 for children ages 4 to 10. Children under 4 free.

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Starlite Majesty Dinner Boat - P.O. Box 3335 Clearwater, FL 34630. Phone: 727-462-2628. Docked at the Clearwater Beach Marina. Offers three-hour (3 1/2 on Sat.) dinner/dance cruises Tuesday - Saturday at 7 p.m. Cruise admission \$12.50 Tuesday-Friday, \$15 Saturday plus price of dinner (\$8.95 - \$17.95). 2-hour sightseeing cruises available Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 12:30 p.m. Optional lunch available Friday and Saturday. Group rates available.

Sunshine Speedway - 4500 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater, FL 34620. Phone: 727-573-4598. Drag racing featured on Friday nights March 1 - Nov. 29. Stock car racing held Saturday nights from Feb. 27 through Nov. 26. Concession stands and gift shop provide refreshments and souvenirs. Gates open at 5 p.m. on race nights. Adults \$15, Seniors \$8, and Children 6-12 \$5.

DUNEDIN

Caladesi Island State Park - #1 Causeway Blvd., Dunedin, FL 34698. Phone: 727-469-5942. Accessible only by boat. One of the state's few remaining undisturbed barrier islands. Ideal for swimming, shelling, fishing, picnics, skin and scuba diving and nature study. A three-mile nature trail winds through the island's interior. The park is open daily from 8 a.m. to sunset. A ferry departs hourly from nearby Honeymoon Island. For ferry information, call 727-734-1501. Docks are available on the island for private boats (\$4 adults and \$2.50 children). A snack bar and shelters are also available. **Rated in 1998 as having the sixth finest beach in the United States.**

Dunedin Fine Art Center - 1143 Michigan Blvd., Dunedin, FL 34698. Phone: 727-738-1892. The Center features a variety of exhibitions, workshops and demonstrations to foster the growth and development of visual arts. It is also home to the David L. Mason Children's Art Museum. This museum presents interactive exhibits that help children, in partnership with adults, to be creative and get a new understanding of the arts. Call for latest exhibition. Open Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Saturday.

Dunedin Historical Museum - 349 Main Street, Dunedin, FL 34698. Phone: 727-736-1176. Originally a railroad station for the Orange Belt Railroad system that dates to 1889. Drawings and relics from this Scottish community's past are on exhibit. Walking tours of historic areas are available. Open Tuesday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed June 1 to Oct. 1. Admission \$1, Children 12 & under free. Will open for group tours.

Honeymoon Island State Recreation Area - #1 Causeway Blvd., Dunedin, FL 34698. Phone: 727- 469-5942. Located in the Gulf of Mexico on the Dunedin Causeway (Hwy. 586). A state recreation area suited for swimming, shelling, fishing, picnics and nature study. Like Caladesi Island, Honeymoon Island is one of the state's pristine barrier islands. Open daily from 8 a.m. to sunset. \$2 for a person in a car; \$4 for 2 or more people in a car.

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GULFPORT

Art Village - Beach Blvd. South, Gulfport. Phone: 727-321-7741. Enjoy more than 40 galleries, studios, boutiques and restaurants all within walking distance in this pedestrian-friendly historic district. Gallery Walks with free trolley service run from 6-10 p.m. the first Friday of the month.

Gulfport Historical Museum - 5301 28th Ave. South, Gulfport, FL 33707. Phone: 727-327-0505. The museum documents the diversity and colorful history of one of Pinellas County's oldest incorporated cities. Operating hours vary. Admission is free, donations are accepted.

INDIAN SHORES

Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary - 18328 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores, FL 34635. Phone: 727-391-6211. 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. No admission fee. Group tours can be arranged on Wednesday and Sunday at 2 p.m.

LARGO

Heritage Village - 11909-125th Street North, Largo, FL 34644. Phone: 727-582-2123. A fascinating collection of 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. No admission fee.

MADEIRA BEACH

John's Pass Village & Boardwalk - 12901 Gulf Blvd. East, Madeira Beach, FL 33708. 727-391-7373. (Located on Gulf Blvd. just north of Treasure Island at John's Pass). 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 festivals and special events, including the John's Pass Seafood Festival in October. Open daily. No admission fee.

Europa SeaKruz - Located at John's Pass Village & Boardwalk. Phone: 1-800-688-PLAY. A cruise ship offering twice daily (luncheon and evening dinner) Gulf of Mexico cruises. Casino gambling is offered. All-inclusive daytime ticket prices are offered as well as special group rates.

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SAFETY HARBOR

Philippe Park - 2525 Philippe Parkway, Safety Harbor, FL 34695. Phone: 727-726-2700. (Located north of Safety Harbor off Hwy. 590). This historical site overlooks Old Tampa Bay. The park is named for Count Odet Philippe, a reputed 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 Native American 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.

Safety Harbor Museum of Regional History - 329 S. Bayshore Blvd., Safety Harbor FL 34695; Phone: 727-726-1668. A Florida history and archaeology museum featuring 10,000 years of history and located on the site of a Tocobaga Indian shell mound. Dioramas and displays of fossils, projectile points, shell tools, beads and pottery tell the story of Florida's first people and the arrival of Spanish explorers. Photographs and memorabilia illustrate Safety Harbor at the turn of the century when visitors were first drawn to the place "where healing waters flow." Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission \$1 for adults, 50 cents children 12 and under.

ST. PETE BEACH

Silas Bayside Market - 5505 Gulf Blvd., St. Petersburg Beach, FL 33706. Phone: 727-367-4485. A unique shopping village in a tropical setting featuring numerous specialty shops and a food court.

Starlite Princess Cruises - 3400 Pasadena Ave. South, St. Petersburg, FL 33707. Phone: 727-462-2628. An authentic paddlewheeler offering luncheon, dinner and sightseeing cruises. Reservations recommend. Group rates available.

ST. PETERSBURG

The Arts Center - 719 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Phone: 727-822-7872. A fine arts gallery that offers hands-on creative experiences to people wishing to express themselves artistically. The Arts Center features galleries with works of some of Florida's best artists and studios, and classes for visitors and children. The Arts Center also organizes Art Talks, where artists discuss their work and the work of the artists who have influenced them. Gallery Hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Admission is free.
www.theartscenter.org

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Bayfront Center - 400 First Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Phone: 727-893-7211, for information on events and ticket availability. The site of celebrity entertainment, special exhibits, performances, athletic events and shows.

Boyd Hill Nature Trail - 1101 Country Club Way South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705. Phone: 727-893-7326. 216 acres of natural beauty with six trails that lead you through Florida's various ecosystems. Wildlife abounds in this park and excellent photo opportunities exist on every trail. Guided tours available. Special programs include educational shows, day camps, nature photography classes, bird walks and more. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Adults \$1, Children \$.50.

Coliseum Ballroom - 535 Fourth Ave. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Phone: 727-892-5202. Featured in the popular motion picture "Cocoon," this landmark opened in 1924. An all-star list of Big Band musicians have performed here and hundreds of thousands have danced on the 13,000 sq. ft. maple dance floor -- one of the nation's largest. Call for dance and events schedule.

Salvador Dali Museum - 1000 Third Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Phone: 727-823-3767. Features the world's most extensive private collection of work by the famous Spanish master. Valued at more than \$125 million, the collection includes 94 oil paintings, 200 water colors and drawings and 1,000 graphics, sculptures and objects d'art. Open Monday - Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Sunday noon - 5:30 p.m. Adults \$8, Seniors \$7, Students \$4 and Children 10 and under free. Group rates available.

Derby Lane - 10490 Gandy Blvd., St. Petersburg, FL 33702. Phone: 727-576-1361, for general information or grandstand reservations; and 727-576-1359, for dinner reservations. Features greyhound racing and pari-mutual wagering January through June with 14 races daily, Monday through Saturday. Matinee races are held at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Evening races at 7:30 p.m. \$1 general admission.

Florida International Museum - 261 Second Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701; Phone: 727-822-3693/ 800-777-9882. The museum hosts grand-scale international exhibitions each year. John F. Kennedy: the Exhibit opens in November 99 and continues until spring 2000. The exhibit features the world's largest private collection of the late President's personal items. Among the collection's 50,000 items are Kennedy's rocking chair, bearing the imprint of his back brace; the flags that flew on Kennedy's car in the Dallas motorcade; and the red, white and blue White House hotline telephone. Also in the collection are letters written by Kennedy and a threatening telegram from then Soviet President Nikita Khrushchev.

Fort De Soto Park- Accessible by Pinellas Bayway off I-275 and 54th Ave. South. Phone 727-866-2662. An historic fort built during the Spanish-American War is 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. Toll on bridges to the park is 85 cents. Fort De Soto rated as the seventh best beach in the United States in a national study.

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Great Explorations The Hands-On Museum – 800 2nd Ave. NE, 3rd Floor, St. Petersburg, FL 33701 (The Pier). Phone: 727-821-8992. A “hands on” museum where you touch, move and interact with exhibits that educate and entertain. Exhibition areas include Phenomenal Arts. Explore Galore, Exchange, Think Tank, Touch Tunnel and Body Shop. A gift shop is also included. Open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Children under 3 are admitted free. Adults \$4, Seniors (56 and above) \$2. Group rates available.

Home Shopping Network Studio Tours – 12000 25th Court N, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Phone: 727-872-7713. Tour an American cultural phenomenon, the worldwide headquarters and studio of the Home Shopping Network. HSN offers one tour every day of the week. Special tours on Thursday include being part of a live studio audience on “Sue’s Kitchen.” Tours start at 3 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, 11 a.m. Wednesday and Friday, and 10 a.m. on Thursday. Tours are free, but reservations must be made in advance.

Museum of Fine Arts - 255 Beach Drive, NE. St. Petersburg, FL 33701 Phone: 727-896-2667. 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. Guided tours available. Closed Monday. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday 1-5 p.m. Admission is \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and \$2 students. Free Sunday Admission.

The Pier - 800 Second Ave. NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Phone: 727-821-6164. Open daily, most shops open 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. This famous landmark re-opened in 1988 following a \$9.7 million renovation. Covered shelters, an expanded retail area, a farmer’s market, dining court, observation deck, public boat docks and two catwalks for fishermen have been added. No admission fee charged.

Post Office (Open Air) – 76 4th St. N, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Phone: 727-823-7558. The world’s first open-air post office opened here in 1917. The Mediterranean Revival structure is on the National Register of Historic Places and features a small postal museum.

Planetarium - St. Petersburg Junior College, Science Building, 6605 Fifth Ave. North, St. Petersburg, FL 33703. Phone: 727-341-4320. 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.

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St. Petersburg Museum of History - 335 Second Avenue NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Phone: 727-894-1052. The museum features a permanent interactive exhibition of the chronology of St. Petersburg's history filled with priceless artifacts, documents and photographs. The Benoit Pavilion houses a replica of the world's first commercial airliner which made the first scheduled commercial flight from St. Petersburg to Tampa on January 1, 1914. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$2 for children under seven. Group rates/tours are available.

Sawgrass Lake Park - 7400 25th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702. Phone: 727-527-3814. Open daily 7 a.m. until sunset. This 360-acre park provides a unique learning opportunity for school and community groups. 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. No admission fee charged.

Science Center of Pinellas County - 7701 22nd Avenue N., St. Petersburg, FL; 33710; Phone 727-384-0027. Hours Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Permanent exhibits include a nature trail, static electricity exhibit, antique microscopes, minerals and ores, corals, African-American scientists exhibit and more. Free admission.

Sunshine Skyway Bridge - Located South of St. Petersburg it spans Tampa Bay and connects Pinellas and Manatee counties. The bridge was modeled after the Brotonne Bridge over the Seine River in France and is Florida's first suspension bridge. It is 4.1 miles long and the roadway soars 183 feet above Tampa Bay. It is the third in the lineage of bridges which have connected St. Petersburg and Bradenton. The old bridge will be dismantled, but its approaches have been converted into the state's longest fishing piers. The new bridge's cables, resembling an inverted fan, are painted yellow and illuminated at night. Bridge toll \$1.

Florida Holocaust Museum - 55 5th Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701. Phone: 727-821-8261. The facility is the third largest of its kind in the United States containing photographs, memorabilia, books, films, video tapes and other material from and about the era. Open Monday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Adults \$6; Senior \$5; Student free. Special evening tours can be arranged.

Tropicana Field - One Tropicana Drive, St. Petersburg, Fl 33705. Information 727-825-3120; Tickets 727-898-2100. Florida's first domed stadium and only the seventh in the United States is home to the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, other athletic events, conventions, trade shows, concerts and other entertainment. Seating configurations range from 12,000 to 60,000.

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TARPON SPRINGS

Inness Paintings - Universalist Church - 57 Read Street, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689. Phone: 727-937-4682. Features the largest collection of works by George Inness, Jr. the American landscape artist whose most notable painting were done in this area. Open October through May, Tuesday through Sunday 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Island Wind Tours - 600 Dodecanese Blvd., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689. Phone: 727-934-0606. This 40-foot, restroom-equipped pontoon boat offers one-hour sightseeing cruises and four-hour excursions to beautiful Anclote Key to enjoy this pristine island in the Gulf of Mexico. Sightseeing is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children; Anclote Key trips cost \$20 for adults and \$15 for children. Group rates available.

Konger Coral Sea Aquarium - 850 Dodecanese Blvd., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689. Phone: 727-938-5378. The aquarium features a 100,000-gallon main tank with a variety of fish that are indigenous to the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean. Three smaller tanks showcase other colorful marine life. Hours are from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily. Admission is \$4.75 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$2.75 for children, with kids under three free.

St. Nicholas Boat Line - 693 Dodecanese Blvd., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689. Phone: 727-942-6425. Offers a 30-minute boat cruise through the historic sponge docks including a narration on the history of sponge diving, the different types of sponges and a diving and harvesting demonstration. Rates are \$5 for adults, \$2 for children 6-12 and free for kids under six. Specialty cruises are also offered.

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church - 36 North Pinellas Ave., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689. Phone: 727-937-3540. 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.

Spongeorama - 510 Dodecanese Blvd., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689. Phone: 727-942-3771. This exhibit captures the history of the sponge industry and the Greek settlers who created America's "sponge capital." A museum, movie on the sponge industry and gift shop are included. Daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tarpon Springs Cultural Center - 101 South Pinellas Avenue, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689; 727-942-5605. 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.

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TREASURE ISLAND

SunCruz Casino - Kingfish Wharf, John's Pass, Treasure Island; 727-895-DEAL. Dining, dancing and a full casino featuring blackjack, Caribbean stud poker, roulette, craps and slot machines. Group rates available.

*Prices and hours of operation of attractions are subject to change. Please confirm specifics directly with the individual attractions.

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