

LOCAL'S GUIDE TO TAMPA BAY



The Tampa Bay Chapter is thrilled to welcome members of the Federal Bar Association to our hometown in the heart of Florida's west coast. The Tampa Bay region offers the full range of Florida experiences—a vibrant nightlife, beautiful beaches, amazing food, professional and amateur sports, history, culture, and family-friendly fun.

Tampa Riverwalk The convention hotel, the Hilton Tampa Downtown Hotel, is only steps from the Tampa Riverwalk. Running through downtown Tampa, the Tampa Riverwalk links numerous hotels, restaurants, and cultural venues with a 2.6-mile long waterside walkway. At each end of the Tampa Riverwalk, open-air Sparkman Wharf and historic Armature Works highlight fantastic food halls that capture the spectrum of Tampa Bay's food culture. The Riverwalk starts at South Plaza, near the Florida Aquarium, the site of the Tampa Convention's Friday night reception. Along with parks and public art, among the many highlights along the trail is the Tampa Bay History Center and Columbia Café. Further along the Riverwalk, the trail passes the Tampa Museum of Art, Glazer Children's Museum, and the waterfront Straz Center for the Performing Arts. The Riverwalk ends at Water Works Park, from which you can cross Ulele Spring bridge to the marvelous Ulele restaurant.

Sports Sports fans can cheer every day in Tampa Bay. Located in the region are the home-field stadiums and arenas for the NFL Tampa Bay Buccaneers, NHL Tampa Bay Lightning, MLB Tampa Bay Rays (the Rays will be in town playing the Toronto Blue Jays the weekend of the convention!), and NASL Tampa Bay Rowdies. For more than 20 years, Tampa has been the spring training home for the New York Yankees. The region has hosted the NCAA Women's Final Four, the Men's Frozen Four, and the 2017 College Football Playoff National Championship Game. In





2020, Tampa Bay will host the first and second round of the NCAA Men's Final Four. And in 2021—Super Bowl LV!

History & Culture As one of Florida's oldest communities, Tampa Bay embraces its history and carries it into the present. The historic federal courthouse has been renovated and reborn as the boutique Le Méridien Tampa hotel. The TECO Historic Streetcar takes visitors to Ybor City, Tampa Bay's Latin Quarter where Cuban masters still roll cigars by hand as they have since 1885. There, brick streets and iron balconies remain largely unchanged because the neighborhood was a melting pot for immigrants from Cuba, Spain, Sicily, Germany, and Eastern Europe. The J.C. Newman Cigar Factory is the last family-run cigar factory still making cigars in the United States, and it includes a small museum and cigar shop. Along with cigar stores, visitors to Ybor City can watch authentic flamenco performances at the 113-year-old Columbia—the oldest restaurant in Florida. In the Channelside District near downtown Tampa, the American Victory Ship Museum is a World War II ship and museum. The Tampa Bay History Center and Columbia Café offers three floors of exhibits covering three centuries of Tampa his-

tory coupled with indoor and outdoor dining. In downtown Tampa, visitors can find the historic Tampa Theater, iconic Tampa Museum of Art, and Glazer Children's Museum. North of downtown, the Museum of Science and Industry lets children participate in hands-on activities to learn about the world around them. Across the bay in downtown St. Petersburg, the Dali Museum is devoted to the work of





Spanish Surrealist artist Salvador Dalí, while the glass art of sculptor Dale Chihuly is featured at the Chihuly Collection.

After Hours Tampa Bay abounds in locales for letting loose after a long day. Since Florida's first commercial brewery opened in Tampa Bay in 1897, beer has been as much a part of local culture as sunshine and hand-rolled cigars. Drop into internationally known Cigar City Brewing—regularly ranked among the best breweries in the world. Coppertail Brewing, Angry Chair, and more than a dozen others make the region Florida's hub for craft brewing. Coppertail, which is located near Ybor City, is as famous for its beautiful murals as for its perfect pours. Across the street from the convention hotel, Hotel Bar carries guests to other times and places with cocktails created in famous hotels around the world. CW's Gin Joint and Ciro's Speakeasy & Supper Club surround guests with the style of Prohibition-era Tampa Bay. Ybor City's Latin flavor comes to life in dance clubs after dark.

Culinary Creativity In the downtown Tampa area, Mise En Place is known for its modern American cuisine, Edison provides innovative menus by a four-times James Beard Best Chef Semifinalist, and Oxford Exchange is a restaurant, bookstore, gift shop, and tea company. Near downtown Tampa in Hyde Park, Bern's Steak House has earned James Beard Foundation honors for its outstanding wine collection, and On Swann features a seasonal menu of contemporary American cuisine. In Tampa's historic Seminole Heights district, local favorite Rooster & the Till earns great reviews and The Refinery is known for its farm-to-table food. Elsewhere, menus abound with

Florida seafood, vegetarian dishes, and desserts that are the perfect finale to a masterpiece of a meal. Across the bay in downtown St. Petersburg, Beach Drive is home to area favorites that include Birch & Vine and the Parkshore Grill, along with art shops and live music. SunDial St. Pete is an upscale outdoor mall that includes shops and restaurants, including culinary marketplace Locale Market; FarmTable Cucina, which serves seasonal, regionally sourced

Italian food; and Sea Salt, known for its spectacular wine cellar and fresh, sustainably sourced seafood.

Outdoor Fun Each year, Tampa Bay enjoys more than 300 days of sunshine and Gulf breezes, a climate that makes Tampa Bay a magnet for tourism. Bayshore Boulevard near downtown Tampa runs 4.5 miles along Tampa Bay—the longest continuous sidewalk in the world—and is a stunning location for a morning run or evening stroll. Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, one of the country's top theme parks, offers thrill rides, animal attractions, and live shows. On the other side of Tampa Bay from downtown Tampa are some of the best beaches in the country. Jet skis, paddleboards, canoes, and kayaks are available for rent. Devoted anglers should set aside an afternoon or even a day to charter a fishing boat, as the Gulf of Mexico offers some of the best fishing in the world. ☺

