



Tampa, FL



Tampa is located between the Tampa Bay and the Hillsborough River along Florida's Gulf Coast. Although the Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon first arrived in the Tampa Bay area in 1513, the Spaniards did not develop this area. The U.S. Army established Fort Brooke to protect the strategic harbor at Tampa Bay in 1824 shortly after the arrival of the first American settler in the city.

Built by Henry Plant, the historic Tampa Bay Hotel now houses the Henry B. Plant Museum, which contains original hotel furnishings, personal art, objects from Europe and Asia, and other turn-of-the-20th-century furnishings and artifacts. The museum focuses on the beginning of Florida's tourist industry and Tampa's early years. Three art museums are located in Tampa: Tampa Museum of Art, Florida Museum of Photographic Arts, and University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum. The American Victory Ship Mariners Memorial Museum honors the people who built, sailed, protected, and provided service through the American Merchant Fleet. Cracker Country Rural History Museum is a living history museum that consists of 13 original buildings dating from 1870 to 1912 that were relocated from across the state of Florida and are furnished to recreate the lifestyles of the past. Costumed interpreters portray daily living as Florida pioneers. The Robert W. Willaford Railroad Museum displays a collection of railroad memorabilia, including a completely restored Seaboard Airline, no. 5735 Caboose. Other Tampa museums include the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI), Glazer Children's Museum, Tampa Bay History Center, Tampa Firefighters Museum, Tampa Police Museum, and the Tampa Baseball Museum at the Al Lopez House.

The David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts has four theaters that present a Broadway series; it is also the home of Opera Tampa, Tampa Bay Symphony, and Florida Orchestra and hosts speakers, other concerts, dance, and theatrical performances. Amalie Arena has sports, concerts, and events. Stageworks Theater is a local professional theater company. Performances by students at the University of Tampa are held in the David Falk Theatre.

Neighborhoods

Many of Tampa's cultural centers are clustered downtown along the Hillsborough River. This area also offers various residential options ranging from rentals to luxury lofts. Located next to downtown, the Channelside District features many new multistory condominium projects.

South Tampa comprises many distinctive neighborhoods. The Palma Ceia, Hyde Park, and New Suburb Beautiful neighborhoods primarily consist of large homes constructed before 1940. Culbreath Isles' traditional style homes dating from the 1960s overlook Old Tampa Bay. Parkland Estates and Sunset Park offer modern designs and renovated older homes. The Sunset Park and Bayshore Boulevard neighborhoods offer condominiums and single-family homes. Davis Island was developed during the 1920s and features Mediterranean revival styles and custom estates, as well as high-rise apartment buildings. Harbour Island is a private, gated, master-planned community of single-family homes, townhouses, and condominiums.

The Seminole Heights area of North Tampa features original bungalow style houses built between the 1920s and 1940s and newly constructed houses in the same style. North Tampa is also home to the University of South Florida-Tampa and offers apartments, condominiums, and townhomes.

New Tampa is an area of rapid growth and features many master-planned residential communities. Tampa Palms is the largest community in the city, with single-family homes, apartments, townhouses, and custom estates in an area that features 45 lakes and acres of nature preserves. Homes in Hunter's Green have been built in a variety of styles along 34 lakes.

Parks and Recreation

Tampa has more than 185 parks and amenities that include 26 community centers, 14 aquatic facilities, art studios, ball fields, beaches, boat ramps, canoe launches, fitness facilities, gymnasiums, golf courses, 71 playgrounds, tennis/racquetball courts, 9 dog parks, 3 skate parks, and trails. Tampa also has four beaches: Picnic Island, Ben T. Davis Beach, Cypress Point Park, and Davis Island.

Among the city's larger parks, the 132-acre Al Lopez Park offers fishing piers, two ponds, fitness stations, a community center, and a dog park. Also at 132 acres, Copeland Park features an outdoor pool; tennis courts; a ball field; and a community center with a gymnasium, basketball courts, racquetball courts, fitness center, and exercise equipment. Ballast Point Park has a 600-foot pier, a shaded splash park, playground, picnic areas, a gazebo, a boat dock, and a boat ramp. The Perry Harvey, Sr. Park features major works by four artists and tells the story of the contributions of the African American community. A festival lawn, basketball courts, a skate

park, and an interactive fountain with colorful lights and music are major features of the park.

The Ybor City Museum State Park is an urban park and historical museum in the heart of Tampa's National Historic Landmark District. Housed in the historic Ferlita Bakery building, the park's main exhibit space focuses on the immigrant groups who settled the community and the area's renowned cigar industry. A Mediterranean-style garden and a recreated cigar worker's house are also located on the park's grounds.

Other attractions in Tampa include The Florida Aquarium, ZooTampa at Lowry Park, Busch Gardens Tampa, and Adventure Island Water Park. Dinosaur World is located near Tampa in Plant City.

Professional sports teams include the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (football) and Tampa Bay Lightning (ice hockey). Tampa's George M. Steinbrenner Field hosts the New York Yankees' spring training. Tampa Bay Downs is a thoroughbred horseracing track. Tampa Bay Rowdies (soccer) and Tampa Bay Rays (baseball) play their home games in nearby St. Petersburg.

Education

Hillsborough County Public Schools educates over 206,000 students in Tampa and the surrounding areas of the County in 140 elementary schools, 42 middle schools, 6 schools for kindergarten through grade 8, and 31 high schools. Families can choose from educational options that include traditional, magnet, career, and technical schools as well as a virtual school.

Higher education is available at the University of South Florida, which is a public research university that offers programs at the graduate, specialist, and doctoral levels. The university is also home to USF Health, which includes the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, and Pharmacy. The University of Tampa is a private university that grants undergraduate degrees and several professional master's degree programs. Hillsborough Community College offers associate's degrees and certificate and short-term training options.

Career-focused education opportunities are offered at Erwin Technical College and Brewster Technical College, which are part of the Hillsborough County Public Schools system; the Art Institute of Tampa; Argosy University-Tampa; Concorde Career College-Tampa; Keiser University Tampa; Everest College-Brandon; South University, Tampa; and Everglades University.

Health Care

Tampa is served by the following health care facilities:

- Adventhealth Carrollwood: 103 licensed beds
- Adventhealth Tampa: 536 licensed beds
- H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute Hospital: 206 licensed beds
- Memorial Hospital of Tampa: 183 licensed beds
- St. Joseph's Hospital (also includes St. Joseph's Children's Hospital and St. Joseph's Women's Hospital): 780 licensed beds
- Tampa Community Hospital: 201 licensed beds
- Tampa General Hospital: 1,010 licensed beds
- The James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital: 415 authorized beds
- Shriners Hospitals for Children-Tampa: 60 licensed beds
- St. Joseph's Hospital Behavioral Health Center: 60 licensed psychiatric beds
- Kindred Hospital-Bay Area-Tampa: 73 licensed long-term acute care beds
- Kindred Hospital-Central Tampa: 102 licensed long-term acute care beds

City Stats

2017

City Population	385,430
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	3,091,399
Per Capita Personal Income, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL, MSA	\$45,067