

Gulf Coast



paradise!

Clearwater

Ideally situated on the Gulf of Mexico on Florida's west coast, Clearwater offers **SOMETHING FOR EVERY VISITOR**, whether they plan on spending most of their time in the area, or venturing into other parts of the region.

In addition to the seemingly endless supply of sun and a mild and temperate climate some of the best beaches in the country are located in this region.

In fact, more than anything else, Clearwater is best known for its magnificent beaches, many of which have been recognized internationally for their overall "beach health," including sand and water quality as well as for safety and their vast array of recreational offerings. Stephen Leatherman, Ph.D. (aka "Dr. Beach"), director, Laboratory for Coastal Research at Florida International University, and founder, National Healthy Beaches Campaign, consistently

ranks several of the area's beaches among the best. Clearwater Beach has retained the honor of being the "Best City Beach on the Gulf Of Mexico" since 1999. Caladesi Island State Park is currently ranked the second best beach (for 2007-08), and Fort DeSoto Park was named the best beach in the U.S. in 2005. Also in 2008, Ft. DeSoto was named America's Top Beach by TripAdvisor's Popularity Index and editors.

Many of the Clearwater area's beaches have also received the Blue Wave Clean Beach designation from the Clean Beaches Council, a nonprofit organization devoted to sus-

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taining America's beaches. Blue Wave certification acknowledges that a beach is a safe, healthy and clean place to visit. Area beaches that have received Blue Wave certification include Caladesi Island, Clearwater Beach, Fort DeSoto Park, Fred Howard Park, Honeymoon Island, Sand Key Park, St. Pete Beach and Treasure Island.

We Recommend!

Sunsets at Pier 60 are a must do! The nightly festival, which originally ran from Thursday evening through Monday evening until June of 1998, was expanded to seven nights a week.

In 2005 the festival celebrated its 10th anniversary of providing locals and visitors with Clearwater Beach's only free form of family entertainment. As a result of its growth and continued success, Sunsets at Pier 60 now operates 365 days per a year weather permitting. The Sunsets at Pier 60 Society in partnership with the City of Clearwater and features local buskers, music and crafts.

Visit their Website for an upcoming calendar of events.

www.sunsetsatpier60.com

Located on the Intercoastal waterway and at the northern end of John's Pass Bridge, **John's Pass Village & Boardwalk** is comprised of 268,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space and is the largest tourist destination on the gulf coast of west central Florida. It is a historical, one of a kind attraction that offers shopping, dining, entertainment and fishing. Some of the most popular activities include parasailing, charter fishing, dolphin watching and Jet Ski rentals. Sunset views and waterfront dining is available at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co and the Friendly Fisherman restaurant. The Village is accessible by boat or beach trolley and is a short walk from the beautiful Madeira Beach public access point. There is also a new 350 car parking garage available for vehicular traffic. For more information on leasing space at John's Pass Village & Boardwalk please call Michelle Seifert, Grubb & Ellis Commercial Florida **813-639-1111**.

The **Parker Manor Resort**, Clearwater, which is family owned and operated, prides itself on their spacious accommodations, beautiful water views and abundance of nearby activities. Each efficiency, one- and two-bedroom vacation units features a full kitchen and spacious living area. Deluxe units are available. Outdoors, resort guests can meet new friends at the large heated pool or unwind

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Brightly colored and unmistakably entertaining is the **South Beach Resort**, Treasure Island. This gulf-front property, which has been recently renovated and upgraded, features one- and two-bedroom vacation units highlighted with superior interiors and furnishings. Outdoors, guests are invited to utilize the onsite heated pool area, shuffleboard courts, or simply relax on the beachside hammock.

727-367-1991 | www.sunsational.com

Beachfront suites that overlook the calming Gulf of Mexico waters are the highlight at the **Surf Beach Resort**, Treasure Island. Situated within minutes of Florida's West Coast attractions, this newly-constructed condo/hotel features fully furnished two bedroom/two bath living spaces, heated pool and spa, all within a classic Mediterranean style.

727-360-1611 | www.sunsational.com

Visitors who prefer a more casual luxury enjoy the **Pelican Pointe Hotel**, Clearwater Beach. This extended-stay efficiency hotel offers guests the "Best Value on the Beach" while providing travelers with the convenience of nearby shopping, dining, and the family-fun found at Pier 60. Each one-bedroom unit comes fully equipped, and features onsite laundry and heated pool.

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