

florida travel Lifestyles



Pinellas & Hillsborough Counties

Who doesn't want to live with the best of both worlds? Offering its residents tropical and award-winning beaches to an exhilarating theme park, these Gulf Coast communities beckon their locals to spend their free time outdoors!

The Tampa Bay Region is the home of two of the state's most populous cities: **Tampa** and **St. Petersburg**. In the last decade, the region has become a hotspot for high-tech company growth. It anchors one end of the Florida High Tech Corridor, which houses more than 50 percent of Florida's high-tech companies.

>> **Area Overview** Located along Florida's west-central coast, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA is comprised of Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties. Forming the western edge of the Florida High Tech Corridor, the MSA boasts several developed high tech clusters including nanotechnology, aviation/aerospace and homeland security/defense. The region also recently ranked 12th in the Milken Institute's "Best Performing Cities: where America's jobs are created and sustained." Tampa and St. Petersburg are two of the most populous cities in Florida, providing a large labor force, in addition to a large market for products / services.

>> **Labor Force** Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA provides a large, education labor pool of more than 1.3 million individuals that firms may leverage. This large labor force has experienced steady growth during the past 10 years, growing by 16 percent. Of residents age 25 or older, more than 85 percent have at least a high school education, while nearly 25 percent possess at least a bachelor's degree.

>> **Business Environment** With a top-tier research university, exceptional quality of life, and thriving high tech industry clusters, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA continues to position west-central Florida for a bright

future. The MSA continues to leverage its R&D critical mass to prime its growth. The University of South Florida has played a large role in this growth, with innovative facilities such as the USF Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Research Center (NNRC). The new USF Research Park will play host to bioengineering, life sciences medicine, biomedical engineering and medical manufacturing companies. Additionally, a facility such as the Tampa Bay Technology Incubator fosters small start-up biotechnology and life sciences companies. Finally, the United States Central Command, which directs military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Middle East, is based in the MSA, underscoring the region's strength in homeland security/defense.

>> **Infrastructure** Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater MSA possesses a highly developed network of road, air, water, and rail transportation. The MSA is bisected east-west by I-4 and north-south by I-75. Orlando is easily accessible via I-4, 80 miles to the east, with a connection to I-95 on Florida's east coast. I-75 provides access to I-10 to the north, which reaches Tallahassee and Jacksonville. Air transport is available at Tampa International Airport, where 21 airlines provide non-stop service to 50 domestic destinations and 7 international destinations. The Port of Tampa serves as both a cargo and cruise port and is also a foreign trade zone. CSX Railroad is the primary provider of rail transport.

NEIGHBORHOODS

>> **Hillsborough County**

Davis Island - With a level one-trauma center hospital, a

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commuter size airport, a newly renovated yacht club, a classic small town retail strip, a community college and superb urban living, Davis Islands is a community that has it all! Local residents enjoy the short commute to and from work during the day and spectacular water views in the evening.

Hyde Park/Bayshore Boulevard - Graceful mansions line shade drenched streets with quaint bungalow homes making Hyde Park one of the most desired neighborhoods in Tampa Bay. Nestled in the heart of the community is Old Hyde Park Shopping Village - a European style open air shopping destination featuring local and national specialty shops.

SoHo District - Although the name may seem familiar, those in Tampa know this area as South of Howard, Tampa's entertainment district. From world famous Bern's Steakhouse, the dining choice of visiting presidents and world leaders, to small local trendy eateries, the SoHo District will exceed your expectations.

Harbour Island - Just off the southern tip of downtown is Harbour Island. More than 6,000 residents, the upscale Wyndham Harbour Island Hotel and two class A office buildings make Harbour Island a diverse mix use community with all the conveniences found in an urban setting. Spectacular water and city views grace the windows of its residents each day.

>>The **Northeast** area of St. Petersburg attracts the homebuyer who appreciates protected waterfront areas and a great location close to downtown. Those looking for an exclusive address choose **Snell Isle** with its mix of old and new estate homes priced from \$300,000 and up for a non-waterfront home. The neighborhoods that embrace mid core of Central Avenue have easy and quick access to the Gulf beaches, Tropicana Field, north Pinellas, I-275, Tampa, Bradenton and points beyond.

>>**Historic Kenwood** boasts the highest concentration of Craftsman Bungalows in the state of Florida. Homes in this National Historic Registered neighborhood range from \$125,000 to remodel to over \$300,000.

>>The **West Central** section of St. Petersburg is popular for its proximity to the Gulf Beaches and a large concentration of shopping centers, including the Tyrone Square Mall. Huge trees all but hide many styles of luxury homes built several decades ago in one area known as the Jungle. Many of these homes have large lots backing up to Boca Ciega Bay and are priced at over \$1-million. *

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