

# focus on



RAYMOND JAMES STADIUM - COURTESY OF TAMPA BAY & COMPANY

## Tampa Bay

The community of Tampa Bay proudly boasts diversity. It's the host of the 2009 SuperBowl - and theme park screams. It's where the smell of hand-rolled cigars and gourmet dining entice the curious - and it's a destination where beach enthusiasts and city dwellers rub elbows daily.

Situated along the Gulf of Mexico's Central West Coast, Tampa is easy to navigate! Whether you arrive by plane (Tampa International Airport) or St. Petersburg/Clearwater International Airport (PIE), ship (via the Port of Tampa) or car (via the I-75) - singles, couples, families and seniors will find something to their liking!

Tampa's food and restaurant scene tells the story of its people and its past. While Spanish and Cuban dishes took on new twists, the Italians stayed true to their traditions.

However, it wouldn't be unusual in Tampa's Historic neighborhood, Ybor City, to find homemade focaccia and cannoli on the same menu as guava turnovers and paella. Strolling the brick-lined streets of former "Cigar Capital of the World" Ybor City, vintage clothing stores, coffee houses, bistros and nightclubs can be found. In addition to antique furniture, gargoyle statues, and handcrafted Spanish tiles, visitors can experience the Latin Quarter's latest development, Centro Ybor, which offers shopping, dining, and

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- MaxFlight Simulator
- The Florida Gulf Coast Hurricane
- The Amazing YOU!

Conveniently located across from the University of South Florida and within miles from Interstate 75 and 275, MOSI makes a great daytime excursion for children and adults. The museum offers a comprehensive overview of science and technology through a 400,000-square-foot campus of interpretive exhibits and visual displays on natural disasters, health and wellness, physics, astronomy and more!

The museum also serves as an educational institution designed to help make a difference in people's lives by making science real for all ages and backgrounds.



  
**MOSI**

4801 E. Fowler Ave., Tampa, FL 33617  
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entertainment.

If you're familiar with cultural attributes, you won't be surprised to discover that Tampa Bay was recently awarded the distinction "Top Arts Destination" by American Style Magazine. Many of the city's cultural centers are clustered downtown along the Hillsborough River. Amidst high-rise office buildings and fine hotels, are the Tampa Theatre, Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, Tampa Bay Museum of Art, Henry B. Plant Museum, and the Tampa Bay History Center.

**For those who came to play** - there's no better destination! On February 1, 2009, Tampa Bay will welcome fans and spectators alike as they host the Super Bowl for the fourth time! Possibly Tampa Bay's best-known home team is the Buccaneers, who became Super Bowl Champions for the first time in 2003. A host of other professional sports teams calls the Bay area home. The Stanley Cup Winning Tampa Bay Lightning, and Major League Baseball's Tampa Bay Rays continue to excite enthusiastic crowds!

When it comes to golf, there's no shortage of courses! Tampa has dozens of public, semi-private and private golf courses with challenging fairways to tempt even the most advanced player.

### Take time to explore!

The community of Clearwater is a harbor community nestled between Tampa Bay to the east and Clearwater Harbor on the west. Only the new Memorial Causeway Bridge separates Clearwater from Clearwater Beach the Gulf beaches. Oak lined avenues and streets run along gentle sloping ter-

rain throughout this third largest metro area in the Tampa Bay region.

Clearwater Beach is #1 city beach in the Gulf region; not to mention a Blue Wave Beach. The island is the most popular of all the area's many beaches, especially with families. Clearwater Beach offers just about every water and beach activity imaginable. Pier 60

Park on Clearwater Beach features a family recreation complex on Clearwater's expansive beach with covered playgrounds, fishing and concessions. The Sunsets at Pier 60 festival features music, entertainment and a beautiful Gulf of Mexico sunset throughout the year from two hours before sunset until two hours after. [www.visitclearwaterflorida.com](http://www.visitclearwaterflorida.com)

### What's New & What's to come!

**Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo** in addition to building greater depth in the animal collection and expanding conservation programs, the zoo recently added a white "albino" alligator exhibit and water flume ride. Guests can now enhance their outdoor adventure by hopping on "Gator Falls," which floats ridegoers through some of the most enchanting parts of old Florida, with a surprising twist!

**The Tampa Bay History Center**, Florida's newest arts and cultural institution, is being constructed along downtown Tampa's Channelside district. The History Center will feature four floors of interactive exhibits, a cafe operated and designed to resemble the century-old Columbia restaurant, a theater, library, one of the largest private collection of maps and event hall overlooking the water. The History Center is anticipating an opening December 2008.

For more than a century pirates have invaded Tampa Bay in celebration of their spirit and adventure! More than

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1,000 raucous pirates sail into downtown Tampa with cannons booming and flags flying on a fully rigged ship flanked by hundreds of pleasure crafts. The **Gasparilla Pirate Fest** include the invasion and parade, midway, and local and national entertainment acts. The Pirate Fest is held February 7, 2009, with a children's parade and extravaganza held January 24, 2009.

February 5-16, 2009 the 105th annual **Florida State Fair** features more than 200 food purveyor's onsite, and boasts one of the largest midways in the country, with more than 100 rides, games and attractions. Entertainers such as Alan Jackson, LeAnn Rimes, and Bill Cosby have graced the stages at past fairs.

## while visiting >>> TAMPA BAY

### WE RECOMMEND

Just because you're on vacation doesn't mean you have to compromise quality. Eugen Fuhrmann came to the United States in 1978 to open the Lobster Pot Restaurant in Reddington Shores, Florida with Erwin Scheuringer as the Chef. In 1985 together both Eugen and Erwin opened Eugen's Restaurant in Belleair Bluffs. Which led to fine dining and older clientele. In 1995 the restaurant was remodeled and opened with its new southwestern look as E & E Stakeout Grill.

In 1992, again both Eugen and Erwin along with Scott Bebell (who at that time was working as the Sous Chef at Eugen's Restaurant) opened Guppy's On The Beach. In April of 1999, Eugen sold his interest in the Lobster Pot

Restaurant and devoted all of his attentions and expertise to **E & E Stakeout Grill, Guppy's and the Mystic Fish.**

In May of 2001, Eugen Fuhrmann and Doug Bebell (formally the chef at the Lobster Pot) opened the Mystic Fish Seafood Grill & Bar on Tampa Road in Palm Harbor. Experience a mouthwatering Florida experience at any of these fine Gulf Coast eateries! Call or visit their Website for directions and hours for each restaurant.

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## for more >>> Tampa Bay

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