Pensacola, Florida, was discovered by Spanish explorers led by Don Tristan de Luna y Arellano in 1559 and became the first major European settlement attempt in America. Through its long history, Pensacola has been ruled by Spain, Britain, France, the Confederacy, and the United States and is therefore known as the “City of Five Flags,” which is celebrated in the annual 10-day Fiesta of Five Flags.

Historic Pensacola Village consists of 27 properties in the Pensacola National Register Historic District and includes the Old Christ Church, the 1805 French-Creole Lavalle House, the 1871 Dorr House, the 1832 Old Christ Church, the 1890 Lear-Rocheblave House, and the 1825 Barkley House. The T.T. Wentworth Jr. Florida State Museum displays historic artifacts illustrating West Florida’s history. The Museum of Industry and the Museum of Commerce are also located in the Historic Pensacola Village. The Colonial Archaeological Trail contains archaeological remains from the British fort.

The National Naval Aviation Museum located on board Pensacola Naval Air Station contains artifacts and over 150 beautifully restored aircraft representing Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard aviation. The Museum also hosts the renowned Blue Angels. The nearby Fort San Carlos de Barrancas was the site of British, Spanish, and American forts and is available for touring.

Other museums include the Pensacola Lighthouse & Museum, Pensacola Historical Museum, Pensacola Children's Museum, and the Pensacola Museum of Art. Quina House is Pensacola's oldest surviving house still located on its original site and is furnished with pieces dating from 1790 through the 1880s.

Performing arts venues include the Saenger Theater, which is home to the Pensacola Symphony, Ballet Pensacola, Pensacola Opera, and the Pensacola Children's Chorus and also presents concerts, plays, and family entertainment. The Devilliers Cultural Heritage Museum of Performing Arts is dedicated to the preservation of cultural blues, jazz, and gospel music. The Pensacola Cultural Center is home to the Pensacola Little Theatre, which produces musicals, comedies, dramas, and children's shows.

The Center for Fine & Performing Arts at the University of West Florida showcases the work of their students as well as artists from around the world.

**Neighborhoods**

Downtown Pensacola offers historic homes and newly developed loft condominiums. A newer downtown neighborhood, Aragon, was constructed to resemble a turn-of-the-20th-century neighborhood with homes in many sizes; many of the homes have home offices or workshops.

Located close to downtown, the North Hill Preservation District contains more than 600 historic homes built between 1870 and the 1930s in Queen Anne, Neoclassical, Tudor Revival, Craftsman Bungalow, Mediterranean Revival, and Art Moderne styles and are situated on cobblestone streets lined with oak trees. North Hill is one of two garden districts and is close to Baptists Hospital. Housing styles in East Hill, the other garden district, include Craftsman, Federal, National, Neoclassical, and French Provincial. Homes in this neighborhood tend to be a little smaller than those in North Hill, with the exception of the homes bordering Bayou Texar and overlooking Pensacola Bay.

The Cordova Park neighborhoods feature houses built between 1930 and 1990. The Whispers is a small, newer neighborhood of contemporary homes that are situated on smaller-sized lots. Homes were first built in the Inverness neighborhood in the mid-1980s and are primarily traditional, ranch, and contemporary styles. These neighborhoods are convenient to Sacred Heart Hospital.

**Parks and Recreation**

The City of Pensacola has a total of 92 parks, open spaces, and resource centers with facilities that include 8 activity centers, 2 seasonal swimming pools, 58 playgrounds, the Osceola Golf Course, 21 sports fields, a 28-court tennis center, and 25 outdoor basketball courts.

**Health Care**

Pensacola is served by two hospital systems with a total of almost 1,000 beds. These systems offer a pediatric hospital and behavior health facilities. In addition, a third hospital with over 500 beds serves the unincorporated Escambia county areas. Two military hospitals are also located nearby.

**City Stats**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Statistical Area Population</td>
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<td>Per Capita Personal Income, Pensacola-Ferry</td>
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<td>Pass-Brent, MSA</td>
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Photograph courtesy of Bill Strength and Visit Pensacola.