



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 Mariners Memorial & Museum Ship honors the men and women who built, sailed, protected, and provided service through the American Merchant Fleet. Other Tampa museums include the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI), Glazer Children's Museum, Tampa Bay History Center, Tampa Firefighters Museum, and Tampa Police Museum.

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

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

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

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 multi-story condominium projects.

South Tampa is comprised of 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 170 parks and amenities that include 23 community centers, 14 aquatic facilities, art studios, ball fields, beaches, boat ramps, canoe launches, pools, fitness facilities, gymnasiums, golf courses, playgrounds, tennis/racquetball courts, dog parks, skate parks, and trails. Tampa also has four beaches: Picnic Island, Ben T. Davis Beach, Cypress Point Park, and Davis Island. Gadsden Park offers one of Tampa's Greenway Trails, ball fields, a dog park, playground, and fishing lake. The Al Lopez Park offers fishing piers, two ponds, fitness stations, a community center, and a dog park.

The new Perry Harvey, Sr. Park features major works by four artists and tells the story of the contributions of the African American community.

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.

EDUCATION

Hillsborough County Public Schools educates over 200,000 students in Tampa and the surrounding areas of the County in 141 elementary schools, 43 middle schools, 5 kindergarten through grade 8 schools, and 27 high schools. The district also has 4 career centers, 9 special school centers, and 3 alternative 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 degrees and certificate and short-term training options.

Career-focused education opportunities are offered at the Art Institute of Tampa, Keiser University, Everest College, South University, Everglades University, Argosy University, Tampa, and ITT Technical Institute-Tampa.

Florida College is a Christian college located in Temple Terrace near Tampa.

HEALTH CARE

Tampa is served by the following health care facilities:

- Florida Hospital Carrollwood: 120 licensed beds
- Florida Hospital Tampa: 517 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: 1,011 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

2014

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| City Population | 358,699 |
| Metropolitan Statistical Area Population | 2,915,582 |
| Per Capita Personal Income, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL, MSA | \$41,296 |