

welcome

Discover The Treasure

Whether you come to the Tampa Bay area for business, for pleasure, for continuing education or for your "Golden Years," one thing's for certain: you'll know you've discovered a real treasure. The Tampa Bay area is referred to by the locals as "Tampa Bay" and covers three counties, Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco. And, the Tampa Bay Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) covers the same three counties, as well as Hernando county. The MSA for Tampa Bay is the largest in Florida, and the second largest in the entire Southeast. Tampa Bay offers a wealth of opportunity for those who are looking for a superior lifestyle combined with a low cost of living. With an appreciation for its rich, cultural heritage and visionary planning, Tampa Bay is truly a find. It's attractive to individuals, entrepreneurs, and diverse industrial clusters alike. So, if you're looking for a bright future, discover Tampa Bay.



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Welcome to Tampa Bay, an area that encompasses three counties and is “home” to over 2 million residents. It’s a home filled with sunny beaches and bright futures. It offers great business opportunities and low costs for doing business. It’s where Tampa Bay Buccaneers’ fans cheered their winning team on to Super Bowl glory in 2002 and their favorite hockey team, the Tampa Bay Lightning, on to the 2004 Stanley Cup victory. It’s also home to the “Number 1 Zoo in the United States for Kids.”

It has the largest performing arts center in the southeast. The largest science museum in the south. And the cultural arts district in downtown Tampa is expanding every day, with the recent addition of the Patel Conservatory which helps both young and mature actors, artists, musicians and performers perfect their craft.

It’s one of the few markets in America with two major metropolitan




newspapers. The #1 ranked airport in the country. And Tampa is the only city in America that celebrates the glory of being a pirate and all the festivities that Gasparilla offers during one whole month each year.

If you’re looking for a great way of life, it doesn’t get better than Tampa Bay. There’s no state income tax. Low property taxes. And Tampa offers a lower cost of living than other major southern cities, including Atlanta,


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As a region, the commitment to excellence in education is impressive, and is essential for providing an educated, talented workforce for area businesses. Tampa is also one of the

most Literate Cities in America, ranking 16th in the country among cities with more than 250,000 residents.

It's a region that attracts millions of tourists each year, who appreciate its mild winter climates, tropical sum-

mers, spectacular sunsets and beautiful beaches. To those of us who choose to live here, these are every day pleasures--not just vacation moments. We go fishing before heading into the office. We walk on the beach at sunset. We enjoy wearing shorts in January. And we are thankful, with each and every sunny day, to have made the decision to live in Tampa Bay.

We have a healthy economy, as well as some of the best healthcare facilities in the United States, including H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, two trauma centers, a medical school (which works in conjunction with two major hospitals) and three hospitals ranked as "America's Best Hospitals" by U.S. News and World Report.

Like most Americans, the residents of Tampa Bay are proud of the men and women who serve in the military. And we're honored that MacDill Air



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Force Base is located here in Tampa. It's the headquarters for two major commands; special U.S. Operations Command and U.S. Central Command. And it's also where Coalition Village is located, comprised of representatives from 65 nations who are working together to combat terrorism.

If you're looking for a place to start or grow your business, Tampa Bay is right for you. In 2004, Florida was ranked #2 as one of the best places in America for start-ups. And more and more companies are also relocating their headquarters to Tampa, as well. We're the west coast anchor of Florida's High Tech Corridor. And you'll find all the logistical resources needed for import/export through Florida's largest deep-water port, conveniently located in downtown Tampa. And you can take advantage of the five major cruise lines that also sail out of the Port of Tampa. The Tampa Bay MSA is also known as a top growth market for manufacturing, especially for the medical industry.

You can choose to live in a historic bungalow – or a high rise by the Bay. You might live in a country club community – or a lakeside villa might be right for you. Tampa Bay has a wide range of residential choices to fit every budget and lifestyle. Just remember, the sunshine, sunsets and gulf breezes are free!

We invite you to explore all the treasures of Tampa Bay. This guide is designed to help you find the answers to all of your questions. We've included maps throughout the publication to help you choose the right home, school, health care resources and more. The more you find out about Tampa Bay, the more we're certain you'll decide to make this special region your home. We look forward to calling you our "neighbor."



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HILLSBOROUGH

Local Government:

Hillsborough County
(813) 272-5900
www.hillsboroughcounty.org

Tampa City Hall
(813) 274-7734
www.ci.tampa.fl.us

Temple Terrace City Hall
(813) 989-7100
www.templeterrace.com

Plant City Hall
(813) 659-4200
www.ci.plant-city.fl.us

Business Organizations:

Tampa Bay Partnership
(813) 878-2208
www.tampabay.org

Greater Tampa Chamber
of Commerce
(813) 228-7777
www.tampachamber.com

Tampa Downtown Partnership
(813) 221-3686
www.tampasdowntown.com

The Westshore Alliance
(813) 289-5488
www.westshorealliance.org

Tampa Bay Visitors &
Convention Bureau
(813) 223-1111
www.visittampa.org

Professional Networking:

Small Business Development
(850) 473-7800
www.floridasbdc.com

Tampa Bay Technology Forum
(727) 510-2524
www.tbtf.org

Tampa Chapter AITP
www.aitp-tampa.org

The Professionals Network
of Tampa Bay
www.pronettampabay.org

Department of Motor Vehicles Offices and Tags:

4100 W. Dr. Martin Luther
King Blvd., Tampa
(813) 871-7375
www.hillstax.org

Media:

The Tampa Tribune (daily)
(813) 259-7711

www.tampatrib.com

Tampa Bay Online
(813) 259-8225
www.tbo.com

Tampa Bay Business
Journal (weekly)
(813) 873-8225
<http://tampabay.bizjournals.com>

Weekly Planet
(813) 739-4800
www.weeklyplanet.com

La Gaceta Trilingual
Newspaper
(813) 248-3921
www.lagacetanewspaper.com/index.html

Florida Sentinel
(African-American)
(813) 248-1921
www.flsentinel.com

Thunderbolt (Military)
(813) 828-4586
<http://macdillthunderbolt.com>

St. Petersburg Times (daily)
(727) 893-8111
www.sptimes.com

Utilities Electric

Tampa Electric Company
(TECO)
(813) 223-0800
www.tampaelectric.com

Phone

Verizon
(800) 483-4000
www.verizon.com

Water and Sewage

Hillsborough County
Water Department
(813) 272-6680
www.hillsboroughcounty.org/waterdept

Cable

Brighthouse Networks
(813) 684-6400
www.mybighthouse.com

Gas

TECO People's Gas
(813) 275-3700
www.peoplesgas.com/peoplesgas.cfm

Employment Information:

City of Tampa Job Line
(813) 274-8115

Hillsborough Employment
and Training
(813) 744-5547

Benefits Center
(813) 930-7548

Tampa Bay Workforce
Alliance
(813) 930-7400
www.workforcetampa.com

Job Line Listings

<http://isis.fastmail.usf.edu/usf-pers/outplacement/joblnno.htm>

Veteran & Military Information

Retiree Activities Office
(813) 828-4555
<http://public.macdill.amc.af.mil>

Office of Veteran Affairs
(813) 975-2181

U.S. Department
of Veteran Affairs
(800) 827-1000
www.va.gov

MacDill Air Force Base
(813) 828-2215
<http://public.macdill.amc.af.mil>

U.S. Army Reserve Center
(813) 877-2180
www.military.com

Relocation Assistance:

Tampa Bay Online
Relocation Guide
(813) 259-8225
<http://relocation.tbo.com>

Tampa Bay Builders
Association (813) 873-1000
www.bagt.com

Tampa Bay Area
Relocation Council
www.tbarc.org

Hunting and Fishing Licenses:

Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
Fishing (888) 347-4356
Hunting (888) 486-8356

Libraries:

Main Branch:
John F. Germany
(813) 273-3652
www.thpl.org

Post Office

Main Post Office
(Airport, open 24 hours)



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5201 W. Spruce Street
(813) 877-0374

Public Safety

Emergency: 911

Florida Highway Patrol
(813) 632-6859

Fire Department
(813) 272-6600

Sheriff (non-emergency)
(813) 247-8000

Tampa Fire Department
(813) 274-7015

Tampa Police Department
(813) 276-3200

Temple Terrace Fire Dept.
(813) 989-7121

Temple Terrace Police Dept.
(813) 989-7117

Plant City Fire Department
(813) 757-9131

Plant City Police
Department
(813) 757-9200

Local Community Links:

General
State of Florida Corporate
Licenses
www.stateofflora.com

Tax Collector
(813) 635-5200

www.hillstax.org

Florida Building Codes
(850) 487-1824
www.floridabuilding.org

Tampa Bay Wired
(813) 248-0092
www.tampabaywired.com

Humane Society
of Tampa Bay
(813) 876-7138
www.humanesocietytampa.org

Florida Driver's License
(813) 871-7375
<http://express.hsmv.state.fl.us>

Voter Registration
(813) 272-5850
www.votehillsborough.org

Occupational Licenses
(813) 635-5200
www.hillstax.org

Boat Registration
(813) 635-5200
www.hillstax.org

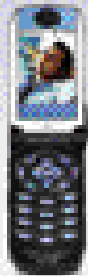
Property Appraiser
(813) 272-6100
www.hcpafl.org

Consumer Protection Agency
(813) 903-3430

Clerk of Circuit Court
(813) 276-8100
www.hillsclerk.com

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OFF NETWORK. OR ON. Whether you're inside a building, at a remote location or faced with an emergency situation, the new i315 and i325 phones get it done with Direct Talk – the short range walkie-talkie that lets you connect off-network.



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Ocala
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Savannah
(912) 356-0000

Brunswick
(912) 267-1515

School Board
(813) 272-4000
<http://apps.sdhc.k12.fl.us/sdhc2/Board/>

Youth and Family Organizations:

Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Greater Tampa Bay
(813) 287-2210
www.bbbsfl.org

Boys and Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay, Inc.
(813) 875- 5771

Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA
(813) 224-9622
www.tampaymca.org

Police Athletic League of Tampa, Inc.
(813) 876-9363

Mean Travel Time to Work:

According to the US Census Bureau Hillsborough: 25.8 minutes

PINELLAS

Local Government:

Pinellas County
(727) 464-3000
www.pinellascounty.org

Town of Belleair
(727) 588-3769
<http://tampabaybeaches.com/belleairshore.htm>

City of Belleair Beach
(727) 595-4646
www.cityofbelleairbeach.com

City of Belleair Bluffs
(727) 584-2151
www.belleairbluffs.org

Town of Belleair Shores
(727) 593-9296
<http://tampabaybeaches.com/belleairshore.htm>

City of Clearwater
(727) 562-4040
www.clearwater-fl.com

City of Dunedin
(727) 298-3000
www.dunedingov.com

City of Gulfport

(727) 893-1000
www.ci.gulfport.fl.us

Town of Indian Rocks Beach
(727) 595-2517
<http://tampabaybeaches.com/indianrocks.htm>

Town of Indian Shores
(727) 595-4020
www.myindianshores.com

Town of Kenneth City
(727) 544-6655

City of Largo
(727) 587-6700
www.largo.com

City of Madeira Beach
(727) 391-9951
www.ci.madeira-beach.fl.us

North Redington Beach
(727) 391-4848

City of Oldsmar
(813) 749-1100
www.ci.oldsmar.fl.us

City of Pinellas Park
(727) 541-0700
www.pinellas-park.com



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Town of Reddington Beach
(727) 391-3875
<http://town.reddington-beach.fl.us>

Town of Reddington Shores
(727) 397-5538
www.townofreddingtonshores.com

City of Safety Harbor
(727) 724-1555
www.cityofsafetyharbor.com

City of St. Petersburg
(727) 893-7171
www.stpete.org

City of St. Petersburg Beach
(727) 367-2735
www.stpetebeach.org

City of Seminole
(727) 391-0204
<http://www.seminolechamber.net/Seminole.html>

City of South Pasadena
(727) 347-4171
<http://ci.south-pasadena.fl.us/>

City of Tarpon Springs
(727) 938-3711
www.ci.tarpon-springs.fl.us

City of Treasure Island
(727) 547-4575
www.ci.treasure-island.fl.us

Business Organizations:
Pinellas Planning Council
(727) 464-8250
www.co.pinellas.fl.us/ppc/cgibin/links.cgi

Florida's Entrepreneur Resource
(813) 632-7882
<http://members.aol.com/flacorps/ferp.htm>

Biz Market
www.bizmarketflorida.com

Florida Business Resources
www.floridasmart.com/business/resources.htm

Better Business Bureau of West Florida
(727) 535-5522
www.clearwater.bbb.org/index.html

Professional Networking:
Pinellas Economic Development
(727) 464-7332
www.siliconbay.org

Pinellas Professional Organizations
www.pinellaslife.com/eBiz/ResultsAll.asp?SIC=862101

Department of Motor Vehicles Offices and Tags: Pinellas
1800 66th Street North, St. Pete
(727) 562-3262
www.taxcollect.com

1663 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Clearwater
(727) 562-3262

Utilities Electric
Progress Energy
(727) 443-2641

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www.progress-energy.com

Water and Sewage

Pinellas County Utilities
(727) 464-4000
<http://pubgis.co.pinellas.fl.us>

Phone

Verizon
(800) 483-2641
www.verizon.com

Cable

Brighthouse Networks
(727) 562-5015
www.mybrighthouse.com

Gas

TECO People's Gas
(727) 826-3333
www.peoplesgas.com/peoplesgas.cfm

Veteran & Military Information

Pinellas Veteran Services
(727) 464-8460
www.pinellascounty.org/veterans

Relocation Assistance:

Pinellas Business Relocation
(727) 464-7332
http://pced.org/business_relocation/

Pinellas Real Estate

http://bigpinellas.com/bus_real_estate/index.php

Libraries

Clearwater Library
(727) 462-6800

www.clearwater-fl.com/cpl/

Post Offices

Main Clearwater Retail Office
100 S. Belcher Rd.
(727) 464- 2906

Main St. Petersburg Retail Office
3135 First Ave, N.
(727) 322-6696

Public Safety

Emergency: 911

Pasco County Fire Department
<http://pascocountyfire.com/>
(727) 847-8102

Pasco County Sheriff Department
(800) 854-2861
<http://pascosheriff.com>

Florida Highway Patrol
(727) 469- 5959
Main Branches:
Clearwater Fire Department
(727) 562-4334

Clearwater Police Department
(727) 562-4420

St. Petersburg Fire Department
(727) 893-7694

St. Petersburg Police Department
(727) 893-7521

Local Community Links

St.Pete/Clearwater Convention & Visitors Bureau
(727) 464-7200
www.floridasbeach.com

Pinellas Humane Society
(727) 582-2600
www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices

Property Appraiser
(727) 464-3207
<http://pao.co.pinellas.fl.us>

Building Licenses
(727) 464-3241
www.pinellascounty.org/build

Pinellas Charities
www.bigpinellas.com

Voter Registration
(727) 464-3551
www.votepinellas.com

Occupational Licenses
(727) 562-3262
www.pinellascounty.org/occupational_licenses.htm

Tax Collector
(727) 562.3262

www.taxcollect.com

Clerk of Circuit Court
(727) 464.3341
<http://clerk.co.pinellas.fl.us>

School Board
(727) 586-1818
www.pinellas.k12.fl.us/BOARD/

Youth and Family Organizations

Big Brother & Big Sister of Pinellas County
(727) 518-8860
www.bbbsfl.org

YMCA of the Suncoast
(727) 467-9622
www.suncoastymca.org

Mean Travel Time to Work:

According to the US Census Bureau
Pinellas: 23.6 minutes

PASCO

Local Government:

Pasco
Pasco County

(727) 847-3411
www.pascocountyfl.net

Dade City
(352) 523-5050
www.dadecity.com

Port Richey
(727) 816-1900

New Port Richey
(727) 841-4500
www.cityofnewportrichey.org

St. Leo
(352) 588-2622

San Antonio
(352) 588-2127
www.sanantoniofla.com/city

Zephyrhills
(813) 780-0005
www.ci.zephyrhills.fl.us

Business Organizations:

Pasco
Pasco County
Business Information
www.pascofla.com/business.html#top

Pasco County Resources

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www.tampabayfederal.com
813.247.4414

(866) 783-1122
[www.leadershippasco.com/
resources.htm](http://www.leadershippasco.com/resources.htm)

Pasco Economic
Development Council
(888) 60-PASCO
[www.pascoedc.com/index.
html](http://www.pascoedc.com/index.html)

Department of Motor Vehicles Offices and Tags:

Pasco
4720 U.S. Hwy 19, New
Port Richey
(727) 847-8165

Utilities Electric:

Progress Energy
(800) 700-8744
www.progress-energy.com

Tampa Electric (TECO)
(888) 223-0800
www.tampaelectric.com

Water

Pasco County Water Dept.
(727) 847-8145
(352) 521-4274
www.pascocountyfl.net/

menu/uindex.htm

Phone

Verizon
(800) 483-2641
www.verizon.com

Cable

Brighthouse Networks
(727) 848-0543
(813) 684-6400
www.mybrighthouse.com

Gas

TECO People's Gas
(727) 275-3700
www.peoplesgas.com

Employment Information:

Career Central
(813) 780-0111
(727) 816-1714
www.career-central.org

Veteran & Military Information

Pasco Veteran Services
(727) 847- 3219
(352) 521-5172
[www.pascocountyfl.net/
pubser/comser/veterans.html](http://www.pascocountyfl.net/pubser/comser/veterans.html)

Relocation Assistance:

Pasco Real Estate
Association
www.pascofla.com/Real_Estate

Libraries

(352) 588-2622
<http://pascolibraries.org/>

Post Offices

Dade City
37926 Church Avenue
(352) 567-9369

Port Richey
8101 Washington Street
(727) 815-1308

New Port Richey
6550 Main Street
(727) 847-1659

Zephyrhills
38032 Postal Drive
(813) 715-0149

Local Community Links

Pasco County Visitor's
Bureau
(800) 842-1873
www.visitpasco.net



Occupational Licenses
(727) 847-8165
(813) 235-6020
[http://taxcollector.
pascogov.com/License/](http://taxcollector.pascogov.com/License/)

Property Appraiser
(727) 847-8151
(813) 929-1280
www.appraiser.pascogov.com

Pasco Humane Society
(727) 834-3216

(813) 929-1212
www.pascocountyfl.net

Pasco County
Community Site
(727) 376-8083
www.pascocounty.com

Voter Registration
(727) 847-8162
www.pascovotes.com

Tax Collector
(727) 847-8165
(813) 235-6020
[http://taxcollector.
pascogov.com](http://taxcollector.pascogov.com)

Clerk of Circuit Court
(727) 847-8181
<http://www.pascoclerk.com>

School Board
(813) 794-2000
(727) 774-2000
www.pasco.k12.fl.us

Mean Travel Time to Work:

According to the
US Census Bureau
Pasco: 30.0 minutes

Homestead Exemption Information:

Florida Law entitles landowners
to deduct the first \$25,000
off the assessed value of a
primary residence. A partial
exemption may apply if the
ownership of the applicant
is less than 100%. For
information on how to file
for Homestead Exemption
check out the sites below...

Hillsborough:

[www.hcpafl.org/requi
re-exempt.html](http://www.hcpafl.org/requi-re-exempt.html)

Pinellas:

[http://pao.co.pinellas.fl.us/
HowDoI.html](http://pao.co.pinellas.fl.us/HowDoI.html)

Pasco:

<http://appraiser.pascogov.com>

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“a change would do you good”

– Sheryl Crow

Hi. I am 20-years-old and currently a junior at the University of South Florida.

I was asked to write an article about why my friends and I enjoy Tampa and why we continue to live in the Tampa Bay area. After venturing out to start the project, I have to say I was pleasantly surprised by the answers. Many of my classmates and peers had similar responses to my own. We all agreed that Tampa Bay's warm and inviting atmosphere and welcoming approach really sets it apart from other places. As a young adult myself, I know that choosing where to live, study and start my career are all difficult decisions to make. So, after a number of conversations with my peers, I found that it really came down to this: what type of an environment did we want to be surrounded by? For my friends and me, Tampa Bay was, without a doubt, just that environment. We've got the beautiful white sand beaches, great nightlife, convenient commutes and lots of other young adults. I can't imagine

living anywhere but Tampa Bay.

The word must be spreading too, because the number of young adults (ages 20-35) living in Tampa Bay, has been rising dramatically over the past few years. " According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median age in the Bay area is 34. And, in 2002, Tampa Bay was ranked as Forbes 21st out of 40 "best places to be single". With the combination of a low cost-of-living and our increasingly higher paying jobs, it's no wonder why so many young people, like myself, are moving here.

Have I mentioned how much there is to do? If you're an old movie buff, then the historic Tampa Theater would make for a great Saturday night. Or maybe you're ready to get your groove on at The Amphitheater's famous revolving dance floor in Ybor City? For those of us who like to live a little more dangerously, there's the new Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. And

let's not forget Sunday football games by our Superbowl winning team, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Yet, whatever your vice may be, Tampa has got it all. From outdoor festivals and live music venues to the vibrant nightlife, trendy restaurants, museums and theater, it's the young adults that really have it made. There is also a vast array of junior colleges, universities, and trade/technical schools to choose from. And, of course, a great tan on the beach is just a boogie-board away.

So, maybe we'll run into each other, literally, at the Skate Park, or maybe I'll see you shopping outside at Old Hyde Park Village. Just remember, pack your bathing suit and shorts. The weather is waiting for you and so are we....

Jane
Age 20
USF Student

To learn more about what the Tampa Bay area has to offer young adults.....

Weekly Planet- An alternative paper that features local happenings, as well as, current news stories. www.weeklyplanet.com

Tbt*- A division of the St. Pete Times that focuses on entertainment and 'zippy' current events. www.tampabay.com

AOL City Guide- An informative guide to the nightlife and special events in Tampa. www.digitalcity.com/tampabay

Emerge Tampa- The Chamber's leadership program designed for young professionals in the area. www.emergetampa.com

Patel Conservatory- Offers information about acting or digital art classes. www.patelconservatory.org

Creative TampaBay- An organization that used a focus group of USF students to determine the creative progress of the area. www.creativetampabay.com