

St. Petersburg

Kicking Back in the Sunshine City

With a vibrant cultural life, some of the country's best beaches, and more than 1,500 slips, St. Pete is the perfect destination for boaters looking to slow down and absorb the best that south Florida has to offer. And the average 361 days of sunshine per year don't hurt, either. Don't miss this low-key but lively spot.

Where to Dock

The Renaissance Vinoy Marina

This marina is directly adjacent to the Marriott-owned Renaissance Vinoy Resort & Golf Club, and boaters tied up at the 74 slips (boats to 130 feet) have full access to the private 18-hole golf course, 12 tennis courts, spa, and trio of restaurants—there's even a special menu for dockside dining. 501 5th Avenue NE, 727-824-8022



Loggerhead Club & Marina St. Petersburg

The newest addition to the Loggerhead Group, this marina offers unmatched protection within a 140 mph Category 4 hurricane rated dry storage barn. 5821 32nd Way South, 727-867-2600



Harborage Marina

The well-run Harborage Marina at Bayboro located on St. Pete's bustling downtown waterfront, has a pool, concrete floating dock, and popular bar. Just two minutes from the open bay, the marina is protected by an 800-foot breakwater. 1110 Third Street South, 727-821-6347

St. Petersburg Municipal Marina

Located on the west side of Tampa Bay, in the heart of St. Petersburg's downtown waterfront. 300 Second Avenue SE, 727-893-7329

Where to Eat

Primi Urban Café

Relaxed, welcoming place owned and run by a globetrotting South African couple who serve from-scratch Italian classics—chicken Marsala, Chianti-braised short ribs. 27 4th St. N, 727-895-4909

Parkshore Grill

Chic but casual new-American restaurant with some of the best al fresco dining in town. Dishes range from pecan-crusted tilapia to an inventive beef Wellington, and the martini list is a must-do. 300 Beach Dr., 727-896-9463

Pacific Wave

Centrally located seafood spot focusing on Pacific Rim-influenced preparations—crab cakes with citrus-daikon salad, wok-seared tiger shrimp with udon noodles—and an impressive selection of sushi. Much of the fish is flown in daily from Hawaii. 211 2nd St S, 727-822-5235

Paciugo

To-die-for gelato in dozens of flavors, such as Amaretto chocolate chip and Mamma Mia apple pie. 300 Beach Dr, 727-209-0298



What to Do

Play Golf

St. Petersburg is home to three acclaimed municipal golf courses: Mangrove Bay, Cypress Links, and Twin Brooks (727-893-7800). There are also a number of private courses in the area where visitors can play.

Explore Museums

Downtown on Bayboro Harbor, the Salvador Dalí Museum (1000 3rd St. S., 727-823-3767) houses the world's most comprehensive collection of the artist's Surrealist work. At the delightful Great Explorations Children's Museum (1925 4th St. N., 727-821-8992), you don't just look at the exhibits—you touch them, move them, explore them, and in some cases even become part of them.

Shop for One-of-a-Kind Finds

Built around a plaza in the heart of town, the BayWalk complex (727-895-9277) has upscale shops and a 20-screen movie theater (727-502-9573). The 300-400 blocks of Beach Drive are packed with a dazzling mix of boutiques and galleries.



Walk the Pier

The justly famous pyramid-shaped Pier juts half a mile into the bay and includes a five-story marketplace of restaurants and shops, an observation deck, and a highly regarded aquarium (727-895-7437).

Upcoming Special Events

Ribfest

(November 13-15, 2009) Fun-filled three-day charity event held in Vinoy Park; supports children's causes and features live music and some of the best 'cue masters in the world. (www.ribfest.org)

Chillounge

(November 21, 2009) One-day hang-out celebration in Vinoy Park, complete with a Brazilian samba parade, an opera performance, a fashion show, and comfy open-air lounge seating. (www.chilloungenight.com)

St. Petersburg Power & Sailboat Show

(December 3-5, 2009) The Gulf Coast's largest boat show, held at Progress Energy Center for the Arts, Mahaffey Theater Yacht Basin, and Albert Whitted Park. (www.showmanagement.com)

First Friday

(Central Ave., between 2nd and 3rd Sts.) Free live music and lots of mixing-and-mingling on the first Friday of every month.

Nearby Excursions

Set aside some time to explore these popular destinations, all within easy reach of St. Pete.

Tierra Verde

A sleepy, picturesque community southwest of St. Pete, and the gateway to 1,136-acre Fort De Soto Park, just named America's top beach by TripAdvisor for the second year in a row. Slips are available at the Tierra Verde Resort Marina (727-866-1487).

Clearwater

Smaller than nearby Tampa and St. Pete, the city has its own unique vitality and one of the best city beaches in the U.S. The well-located Clearwater Municipal Marina (727-462-6954) is only one mile from the Gulf of Mexico and staff organize charters, sight-seeing boats, dinner cruises, and dolphin tours.

Gulfport

A historic, park-filled hamlet known for its thriving arts scene and 1934 Gulfport Casino (a popular live-music hall, not a gambling venue). Dock at the Gulfport Municipal Marina (727-893-1071), which has easy access to the gulf and the ICW, and is a short walk to the center of town. [m/](#)