

Clearwater & Its Island Beaches

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REDISCOVER CLEARWATER IN 2009!

CLEARWATER, FL., APRIL 2009 - Miles of white sand coastline, near perfect year-round temperatures, and a variety of attractions and events are some of the reasons why Clearwater is one of the nation's top destinations. Make rediscovering Clearwater part of your vacation plans this year!



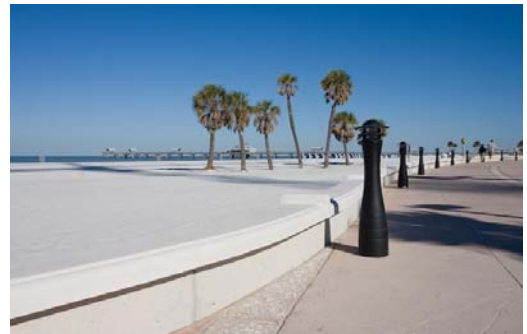
The Country's Best Beach

[Caladesi Island State Park](#) is America's Best Beach according to "[Dr. Beach](#)" (coastal geologist Dr. Stephen Leatherman, Florida International University). Dr. Beach cited the pristine barrier island's "powder white sand, warm, crystal clear water and beautiful nature." Situated two miles in the Gulf just north of Clearwater Beach, the three-mile long uninhabited island is accessible only by ferry, private boat or ... foot, walking north from Clearwater Beach, and has no paved roads or vehicles, but much more! Swim or shell along the beach's fine white sands, kayak through mangrove

tunnels, or hike the nature trail through the island's interior and catch a glimpse of what remains of the 1890 Scharrer homestead. Wildlife abounds. Simple amenities like a café and marina make this "well-kept secret" the "number one beach to enjoy and decompress," says Dr. Beach.

A "New" Clearwater Beach

Over the past couple of years, Clearwater Beach - the star of Pinellas County's visitor industry - has undergone an extraordinary transformation. [Beach Walk](#), the city of Clearwater's multi-million dollar, half-mile long beachside promenade, has led the renewal. It winds along south Clearwater Beach to [Pier 60 Park](#), home of the famed 1,080-foot fishing pier and observation deck, and the nightly [Sunsets at Pier 60 Festival](#). Another important part of the renewal is the [Sandpearl Resort](#), Clearwater Beach's first new beachfront resort in over 25 years and a member of Preferred Hotels & Resorts and Associated Luxury Hotels International. The [Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort & Spa](#) will open this December, and two developments are still in planning phases.



Be Inspired By Dolphins

In December 2005, an Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin - at only three months of age - lost her tail and two vertebrae after being caught in a crab trap line on Florida's east coast. She was taken to the renowned [Clearwater Marine Aquarium](#) to begin a long recovery, which included being fitted with a prosthetic tail. Named "[Winter](#)," her incredible story of survival has been documented in media all over the world, and as a result, she has become an international superstar and inspiration to

countless visitors, especially children living with physical handicaps and wounded war veterans. Among many educational exhibits and events, the aquarium presents daily dolphin shows. Dolphins can also be viewed in the wild by venturing out on a dolphin “encounter” berthed at the **Clearwater Municipal Marina** ... and sometimes even while dining at any number of waterfront restaurants!

Come on in, the Water’s Fine

If water sports are on your “to-do” list, stop by the [Clearwater Municipal Marina](#). In addition to berthing the largest commercial fishing fleet on Florida’s west coast, the marina provides “one-stop” access to every conceivable recreational boating activity including nearly two-dozen fishing charter and fishing party boats; dinner cruises; charter sail boats; dive boats; sight-seeing boats as well as speedboat rides and parasailing. Best of all, it’s centrally located and steps away from shopping, dining and ... the beach! The [Clearwater Community Sailing Center](#), with a prime location on Sand Key that enables easy access to the Gulf and Clearwater Harbor, maintains a fleet of over 40 boats available to the public. Affordable daily memberships make it convenient for visitors to rent the center’s boats, and lessons with US SAILING-certified instructors provide guests with an introduction to sailing.



Not All the Fun is at the Beach!

The Clearwater area hosts several popular events throughout the year. The best known, the MarineMax [Clearwater Jazz Holiday](#) presented by Mercedes-Benz, will celebrate its 30th year October 15-18. This hugely popular event - four days and nights of live jazz performance presented **free** to the public - takes place along the waterfront in downtown Clearwater’s Coachman Park. Many boaters pull up alongside the open, outdoor venue to enjoy great music, warm breezes and brilliant sunsets. This year’s line-up will be announced in August. Other Clearwater events include the **Ironman World Championship 70.3**, **Outback Bowl Beach Day**, and numerous world-class regattas and fishing tournaments.

Professional sports are year-round. The [Philadelphia Phillies](#), Major League Baseball’s reigning World Series Champions, have been spring training in Clearwater since 1948. The Phillies train in Bright House Field, which sits on 17.5 acres and features a 360-degree main concourse, over 7,000 fixed seats, party suites and picnic areas. During the regular season, Minor League Baseball’s [Clearwater Threshers](#) - marking their 25th season in Clearwater - play at Bright House Field. The [Tampa Bay Rays](#) play their regular season home games at St. Petersburg’s Tropicana Field. The **Tampa Bay Buccaneers** and **Tampa Bay Lightning** play their home games in Tampa.

Downtown’s **Cleveland Street District** is enjoying a renewal, becoming a pedestrian friendly neighborhood with distinctive character. New high-rise condominiums and hotels, revolving public art exhibits, street parties, concerts and the weekly **Downtown Farmer’s Market** are part of the landscape. The city also recently purchased the landmark 1920s-era Capitol Theatre and, with **Ruth Eckerd Hall**, will turn it into a performing arts venue after a major renovation. A downtown marina with 126 recreational boat slips will open this fall.

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