

2023 FACT SHEET

**OVERVIEW**

The Southeast’s largest waterfront district, the St. Pete Pier**™**, comprises 26 acres of activated waterfront park in St. Petersburg, Florida’s vibrant downtown. Redefining the concept of a pier, this entertainment district is an extension of St. Pete’s bustling city center. Each day, visitors enjoy countless experiences at and around the Pier, from pop-up performances to inspiring public art installations. The Pier hosts events throughout the year, including holiday festivities, markets, and more.

**LOCATION**

The St. Pete Pier is located in downtown St. Petersburg, Florida.

800 2nd Ave NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

**WEBSITE:** <https://stpetepier.org/>

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Twitter: [@StPetePier](https://twitter.com/stpetepier?lang=en)

Instagram: [@stpetepier](https://www.instagram.com/stpetepier/)

Facebook: [StPetePier](https://www.facebook.com/StPetePier/)

Hashtags: #StPetePier

**OPENING DATE**

The St. Pete Pier first opened on July 6, 2020.

**PIER HOURS OF OPERATION**

Opens 30 minutes before sunrise and closes at 11:00 PM

Restaurant hours may vary.

**Marketplace Hours**

Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Holiday hours may differ, please refer to the Pier [website](https://stpetepier.org/faq/).

**Discovery Center Hours**

Monday-Thursday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Friday-Saturday 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM, Sunday 10AM - 6 PM

**HISTORY OF THE PIER**

The St. Pete Pier has been integral to the identity and image of the city throughout history. Dating back to 1889, the city has seen several previous iterations of a pier, including:

1889 – The Railroad Pier

1896 – The Brantley Pier

1900 – The Fountain of Youth Pier

1906 – The Electric Pier

1913 – Municipal Recreation Pier

1926 – Million Dollar Pier

1973 – Inverted Pyramid Pier

2020 – St. Pete Pier

**ACTIVITY AREAS**

The Pier offers something for everyone, including all ages and activity levels. Comprising 26 acres of downtown waterfront, the Pier provides visitors plenty of space with multiple outdoor areas to lounge in the sun, enjoy a picnic or find a shaded spot to enjoy the bay and city views.

**Bayfront Health Tilted Lawn**

The Tilted Lawn, boasting a slanted, state-of-the-art design, provides a relaxing, grassy surface for visitors to relax and enjoy the views of the St. Pete waterfront and skyline.

**Fishing Deck**

The new Pier has a dedicated fishing platform built on caissons leftover from the previous Inverted Pyramid Pier, inviting you to get closer to the water – and the fish. Walk down a small set of steps to a spacious deck that accommodates a multitude of people enjoying one of St. Petersburg’s favorite pastimes in the fish-fertile waters of Tampa Bay. Gator Jim’s Tackle at the St. Pete Pier provides everything an angler could need – gear, tackle, nets, a variety of frozen bait, and more.

**The Glazer Family Playground**

Designed by renowned, award-winning playground company, Earthscape, the kids’ play area is located near the Splash Pad and Spa Beach, so kids and their families can enjoy the sunshine and outdoors. Boasting a unique, natural, all-wood design, the play areas incorporate kid-friendly, age-specific activity zones.

**The Majeed Foundation Coastal Thicket**

The Coastal Thicket is a place for nature lovers and explorers to discover native vegetation and learn more about St. Pete’s natural ecosystem. Designed with plenty of shady areas, the Coastal Thicket invites visitors to take a walk or bike ride through an oasis of native Florida vegetation. T Additionally, the boardwalk is ADA-compliant

**The Majeed Foundation Splash Pad**

At the heart of the St. Pete Pier is an interactive water feature that is both a water fountain and splash pad. During the day and into the evening, the Splash Pad offers a place for families to splash around and cool down. It features big and small vertical water jets that also light up at night.

**Spa Beach**

The Pier’s Spa Beach is a true beach that has been expanded and given a naturalized shoreline that is easily accessible from anywhere along St. Pete’s downtown waterfront. Residents and visitors alike can now get sand between their toes and enjoy the beach in downtown St. Pete. Kayakers and paddle boarders can easily launch from this area and beachgoers can enjoy beach volleyball and other activities in this area. Spa Beach is also ADA compliant, featuring non-slip Mobi-mats that provide wheelchair-accessible paths to Spa beach.

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**St. Petersburg Museum of History**

Located near the entrance of the St. Pete Pier is the [St. Petersburg Museum of History](http://spmoh.com/). The oldest museum in Pinellas County, the museum first opened its doors to the public in 1921 and was formerly known as the St. Petersburg Memorial Historical Society. The museum tells the story of the remarkable transformation of the city and its surrounding areas over the past century and how it has grown to the state’s 5th most populous city.

In 2021, in honor of its 100-year anniversary, the museum launched an expansion that will include an extra 8,000-square-feet of space, a new exhibit gallery, a visitor’s center and a roof-top terrace overlooking the bay. Hours: Sunday – Saturday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, contact: (727) 894-1052.

**Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center**

Presented by the Milkey Family Foundation, the [Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center](http://www.tbwdiscoverycenter.org/') is an exciting marine environmental experience. The Discovery Center creates a dynamic visitor experience. including an exhibit gallery that tells the history of the largest open-water estuary in Florida and the role Tampa Bay Watch has had in its recovery. Exhibits include touch tanks, interactive displays, video presentations, and docent-led tours. Guests can also enjoy the view from the outdoor observation deck, with steps leading closer to the water allowing visitors to see varied wildlife up close. This can include dolphins, rays, manatees, fish, and seabirds - some of the animals that call this area home.

**CULINARY**

**Doc Ford’s Rum Bar & Grille**

Of all the places you can grab a bite on the Pier, [Doc Ford’s Rum Bar & Grille](https://www.docfords.com/) is where you’re most apt to find a party. Located at the southern end of the Overlook, the 10,000-square-foot restaurant/bar serves authentic Florida fare and flavors from throughout the Caribbean Rim. Enjoy their famous Yucatan shrimp, chicken wings, flatbreads and more.

**The Driftwood Cafe**

At street-level rising nine feet from The Point deck and connecting to the great lawn is the [Driftwood Cafe](https://stpetepier.org/food-drink/driftwood-cafe/), a casual walkup spot offering ice cream and snacks.

**Fresco’s Waterfront Bistro**

Located near the Pier entrance, [Fresco’s Waterfront Bistro](https://www.frescoswaterfront.com/) features a spacious wrap-around deck with waterfront views and boat-filled marinas. The restaurant serves lunch, dinner, and weekend brunch, specializing in fresh seafood, steaks, burgers, appetizers, salads and more, including gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan options.

**Pier Teaki**

Sitting atop the state-of-the-art building at The Point, [Pier Teaki](https://pierteaki.com/) is a classic tiki bar with a modern, tropical atmosphere, picturesque views, small bites, and craft tiki cocktails. Experience stunning 360-degree views of the Pier and downtown St. Pete from this rooftop.

**Spa Beach Bistro**

This inviting entry point to the Spa Beach features a stylish structure to provide shade and comfort, as well as a cafe that offers grab-and-go snack items for beachgoers.

**Teak**

Located on the fourth floor of the state-of-the-art building at The Point, [Teak](https://teakstpete.com/) is an elevated, casual, modern waterfront restaurant with amazing food and views. The menu features fresh Florida classics and offers elevated casual dining with a Florida flair and views of Tampa Bay and the St. Pete skyline.

**DESIGN**

The St. Pete Pier has been an integral part of the identity and image of St. Pete throughout history. Dating back to 1889, the city has seen several previous iterations of a pier. The current pier, which opened July 6, 2020, is an ambitious and sustainable infrastructure project that not only embraces but also empowers St. Pete’s future. This is a first-of-its-kind pier project that is a 26-acre entertainment district, designed to be as rich in use now as it will be in twenty years, fifty years and beyond. Capturing and demonstrating the potential of a public waterfront that is a place for everyone, the St. Pete Pier is built to support, enhance, and contribute to the growing Sunshine City community and ever-changing world.

The six acres that extend the Pier’s exciting and varied elements beyond the shore are a focal point of the entire Pier District. Unique spaces enable active and passive connections to the bay such as a coastal thicket, wet classroom, tilted lawn, and numerous places for dining, fishing, boating and even swimming.

The St. Pete Pier incorporates many of the best trends in modern urban living. It’s eminently walkable; in fact, no cars are permitted. The Pier has been built as a modular series of destinations, each one conveniently leading into the next, making for a cohesive adventure with new surprises at every spot. That means people can plan an itinerary, choose their favorite landing spots, or just show up and explore.

**Awards**

2022 Dezeen Installation Design of the Year

2022 Dezeen People’s Vote

2022 Urban Land Institute Global Awards of Excellence

2022 The European Centre and The Chicago Athenaeum, The International Architecture Award® for Pier Approach

W Architecture & Landscape Architecture

2022 Creative Loafing Best of the Bay Award

2022 Tampa Bay Time’s People’s Choice

2022 AIA FLorida Awards of Excellence in Sustainability

2022 Architizer A+ Awards Popular Choice WInner

2022 Finalist for Urban Land Institute America’s Award for Excellence

2021 AIA Tri-State Merit Design Award, Merit Award for Regional and Urban Design

2021 Tampa Bay CREW – Community Impact Award

2021 AIA Tampa Bay Design Award for the Pier Marketplace

2021 ABC Associated Builders & Contractors for Excellence in Construction

2021 Landscape/Urban Development Best Project

2021 American Architecture Award The Chicago Athenaeum

2021 AIA Florida/Caribbean Award of Excellence

2021 Green Good Design: Green Urban Planning/Landscape Architecture Award

2020 AIA Tampa Bay Chapter

2020 Architect’s Newspaper: Best Infrastructure Project of 2020

2020 Building of the Week 2020 USA TODAY’S 10 BEST READERS’ CHOICE

2018 AIA Florida

2017 The European Centre and The Chicago Athenaeum, American Architecture Award

2017 The European Centre and The Chicago Athenaeum, Green Good Design Award

2017 World Landscape Architecture Award

2016 International Design Awards, Gold Medal for Urban Design

2016 AIA NY Chapter

2016 AIA Tampa Bay Charter

**ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES**

The St. Pete Pier was designed with a laser focus on sustainable measures and environmental protection, including:

* Electric shuttles and vehicle charging stations. Much of the roadway has been eliminated and there are fewer personal vehicles, thus reducing associated pollution over the bay.
* Solar Panels installed throughout the market structures and parking canopies provide renewable energy and reduce the carbon footprint.
* New breakwaters to enhance the restoration of Spa Beach, mitigate erosion and provide protection for surrounding sea grass beds.
* LED lighting throughout the Pier reduces energy usage, cost and minimizes light pollution.
* The caissons and pier foundations are made of concrete designed to withstand extreme weather and built to have a lifetime of at least 80 years.
* Not only were extreme wind, weather, and hurricane risks considered and resistance incorporated into the design, but the new Pier at its highest point is also 11 inches above projected sea level rise for year 2100 based on the 2015 Climate Science Advisory Panel (CSAP) projections.
* Use of herbicide, pesticides and fertilizer is minimized. The Majeed Foundation Coastal Thicket is fertilizer free and designed for low to no maintenance.
* Play equipment in the Glazer Family Playground was created with natural products such as Robinia/black locust wood and recycled materials.

**PUBLIC ART**

St. Petersburg has become one of the most recognized cultural hubs in the Southeast. Featuring museums devoted to artistic legends like Dalí and Chihuly, as well as streets adorned with colorful murals both large and small, it is easy to see why “Art Shines Here.” The St. Pete Pier is no exception. Not only is the Pier itself a work of art, but it is also the home to four large-scale public art installations from the following internationally renowned artists:

**Janet Echelman** was commissioned to design a monumental aerial sculpture for the Pier. Her permanent work at the Pier, *Bending Arc*, is composed of 1,662,528 knots and 180 miles of fiber; the aerial sculpture spans 424 feet and measures 72 feet at its tallest point. An internationally renowned artist, born and raised along the shores of Tampa Bay, she was inspired by historical postcards depicting blue and white striped beach parasols together with the geometric forms made by colonies of barnacles growing on the underside of the Pier itself. The sculpture’s design in aerial view can be read as three barnacle-like parasols nestled together.

As she continued her design process, she learned of the site’s important Civil Rights Movement significance, as the place where local citizens began peacefully challenging racial barriers. This led to the 1957 US Supreme Court case ruling, which upheld the rights of all citizens to enjoy use of the municipal beach and swimming pool without discrimination. The sculpture’s geometry is composed of multiple arcs, which gently billow in the wind. The artist titled the sculpture *Bending Arc* in reference to MLK’s words: “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

**Xenobia Bailey’s** crochet designed mosaic, *Morning Stars,* is installed near the Pier splash pad. A New York City-based artist, Bailey primarily works in fiber arts, creating crocheted mandalas that consist of colorful concentric circles and repeating patterns. They are then created digitally so they can be applied as a mosaic design to the surface.

**Nick Ervinck’s** sculpture, *Olnetopia,* is inspired by macro photographic images of splashing water - thus sculpturally interpreting the encounter between nature and technology. *Olnetopia* is created in bronze with a patina finish.

**Nathan Mabry** from Los Angeles created *Myth (Red Pelican)*, a coated steel, origami-inspired pelican that greets visitors at the entrance of the new Pier. The pelican is a symbol for kindness, generosity, friendship, and love and serves as the emblem for St. Pete.

In addition to the installations above, the Pier Marketplace features closeups of seven murals by artists: **Derek Donnelly, Leo Gomez Studio, Zulu Painter, Vitale Bros, Cecilia Lueza, Pale Horse, and Jennifer Kosharek**. These details are from murals that can be found throughout downtown St. Petersburg.

**SHOPPING**

The Marketplace is located just past the Pier’s Gateway and features independent vendors selling unique items in kiosks and under 10’x10’ tents. A solar roof structure provides shade as visitors browse the selections. Marketplace lease agreements are short-term, ensuring that a rotating cast of vendors will be on hand to sell an interesting array of products.

In addition to the Marketplace, the Pier features Pier Gear and Gifts, a sundry shop located on level one in The Point building as well as Gator Jim’s Tackle - a one-stop shop for all fishing needs.

**ONSITE TRANSPORTATION**

**Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital Tram**

The Pier has three 12-passenger trams named after Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in St. Pete. The trams are ADA accessible and are designed to pull an additional 35-passenger trailer, if needed. Two electric vehicles, able to carry 9 passengers each, are available for special occasions.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Owner**

City of St. Petersburg, Florida

**City Team**

Mayor Ken Welch

City Architect: Raul Quintana

Managing Director of Development: Chris Ballestra

**Pier Management**

City of St. Petersburg

**Pier Architects**

Design Architect, Pier: Rogers Partners Architects

Executive Architect, Pier: ASD|SKY Architects Pier Landscape Architect: Ken Smith Workshop

**Pier Approach Architects**

Pier Approach Design and Landscape Architects: W Architecture and Landscape Architecture

Executive Architect, Pier Approach: Wannemacher Jensen Architects

**Pier / Pier Approach Construction Manager**

Skanska USA

**Consultants - Pier and Pier Approach**

Booth Design Group

Thornton Tomassetti

TLC Engineers

Stantec

Humiston and Moore Engineers

Terracon

Renfro Design Group

Landon Moree

FP&C Consultants, Inc.

Kimley Horn

ARUP

VoltAire Engineering