

# St. Petersburg–Clearwater a great resort with plenty of attractions

By Mike Cohen  
The Suburban

ST. PETERSBURG — Following a fabulous nine-day stay in the St. Petersburg–Clearwater area over the Christmas holidays, the Gulf Coast of Florida has now captured my heart. Along with beautiful beaches, St. Petersburg is home to the Salvador Dali Museum, top-rated restaurants and beautiful Fort De Soto Park. Through April 17, the Dali is also presenting the work of one of the most celebrated female artists of all time, Frida Kahlo. ([www.visitstpeteclearwater.com](http://www.visitstpeteclearwater.com))

Downtown St. Petersburg is known for its urban art scene where you can see dozens of painted murals on a stroll down Central Ave. You might also want to check out the Museum of Fine Arts, the Florida Holocaust Museum or the Great Explorations Children’s Museum.

Clearwater is about 45 minutes away. The Clearwater Marine Aquarium is the home of Winter and Hope, stars of the sequel to the Dolphin Tale. Consider a Dolphin Cruise aboard the Sea Screamer or take a stroll to Sunsets at Pier 60 festival



PHOTO: ST. PETERSBURG-CLEARWATER TOURISM

The Salvadore Dali Museum is one of St. Pete’s top tourist attractions.

— a local institution in Clearwater Beach.

We obtained accommodations at the Beach House Suites by Loews Don CeSar. The hotel debuted its total room renovation in February 2016, introducing 70 brand-new all-suite accommodations. The resort, located directly on St. Pete Beach and just one-half mile from the posh Loews Don CeSar Hotel, is perfect

for extended stays, smaller groups and families. Each suite includes a separate living room with sofa bed, washers and dryers and a kitchenette with mini-refrigerator, dishwasher, coffeemaker and more.

There are two beachfront heated pools. The poolside concierge provides everything from cucumber hydration to trop-

ical smoothies. You can rent a Jet Ski or spend a day lounging in a private daybed while ordering lunch and drinks right to your chair from the Beachcomber.

One of the more outstanding restaurants in St. Pete was right at the Don CeSar. The Maritana Grille exudes fine dining. The menu features food sourced from local farms, dairies, and fishermen and includes traditional contemporary favourites prepared with a creative twist. Loews has just sold the properties to Host Hotels.

Montrealers looking to dine somewhere very familiar could check out Harold Seltzer’s Steakhouse with locations in St. Petersburg and Port Richey. In 1995 he gave up his law career in Montreal and created a chain of seven Sam Seltzer’s Steakhouse restaurants (named after his grandfather Sam of NDG Meat Market fame). He eventually sold the business, but when his successors went bankrupt in 2010 he reopened the two spots he operates today. ■

For a more detailed story, visit *The-Suburban.com* and type ‘St. Petersburg–Clearwater’ in the search bar.



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