

Try something new ?????

How about a day in St. Petersburg

Tuesday, Jan. 18 8:30- 7:00

(Why Tuesday ???– some of the museums are not open on Monday.)

In lieu of swimming in 60-degree water, let's enjoy an opportunity to visit some of St. Petersburg's most exciting museums, followed by an afternoon at the St. Pete Pier, a gleaming new attraction on the city's picturesque waterfront.

### **It's an exPIERience !**

Its 26 beautiful acres seamlessly combine the peaceful blue waters of Tampa Bay with the vibrant greenery of downtown St. Petersburg's parks promising limitless fun for everyone, from first-time visitors to long-time residents. We'll tease you with more about the pier later in this invitation.

But first, we'll offer you a visit to your choice of three memorable museums. Let's start with an invitation to tour a unique collection at,

### **The Museum of the American Arts & Crafts Movement**

The Villages Daily Sun described this museum which opened on Sept. 7, 2021 as "stunning" and "a triumph." It's the only one in the world dedicated exclusively to the American Arts and Crafts movement which spread across America from approximately 1890-1930. The tenets of the movement are simplicity in design, honesty in materials, hand craftsmanship, and depiction of the natural world, things still widely valued today.

Founded by local philanthropist and collector Rudy Ciccarello who, along with Alfonso Architects, designed and oversaw the incredible task of creating this five-story, 137,000 square-foot museum. It is a work of art itself, with incredible architectural elements such as a grand atrium, skylights, and a dramatic spiral staircase—all adorned with period art, light fixtures, windows, fireplaces, and more.

The museum features more than 40,000 square feet of gallery space, as well as a destination restaurant with private dining rooms, a retail store, an upscale café, a children's gallery, a reference library, a theater, a graphic studio, and an outdoor green space enhanced by original period tiles and fountains. Feel free to explore as much or as little of this museum as you like.

You can learn more about this museum at: <https://www.museumaacm.org/index.html>  
Senior group admission cost: \$20

Orrrrrrrr, you might prefer to visit the [Chihuly Collection](#) to fall in love with the visually dazzling glass art created by artist Dale Chihuly who famously said, "I never met a color I didn't like." You will appreciate the full rainbow of colors in his and other talented artisans' meticulously blown and assembled glass sculptures which are dreamy, abstract

interpretations of sea creatures, submerged landscapes, and floating tumbleweeds. Some are enormous individual sculptures - while others are intricate collections of many smaller pieces.

While it might be tempting to skip the short documentary film in the theater so that you can get to Chihuly's gorgeous creations faster - don't do it. The film is an up-close look at Chihuly's life and creative process, and watching it will make the rest of your visit to the museum more meaningful.

Senior admission cost: \$18 To learn more, visit:

<https://www.visitstpeteclearwater.com/article/chihuly-collection>

Finally, you may choose to be inspired by

### **The James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art**

which provides experiences through art depicting the peoples, landscapes, and history of the American West, and wildlife of the world. More than 400 premiere works of art including sculpture, paintings and jewelry are on display in the museum's 26,000 square feet of gallery space.

Over the past 200 years, artists from a variety of backgrounds have captured elements of the culturally rich and expansive American West in many ways. In addition to traditional paintings and sculpture, Western art can take the form of jewelry, quilts, baskets, pottery, photography, film, and so much more. The Jewel Box gallery features premier examples of Native-made jewelry.

The deep-rooted history, diverse cultures and plentiful wildlife provide endless inspiration for artists. Western art from generations ago helped shape our earliest perceptions of cowboys, Native Americans, and the land itself. Some of these perceptions still echo today. More recent artists of Western America have added perspectives that shed light on little-known histories, sometimes challenging long-held assumptions. Above all, Western art is storytelling and an important part of American culture and art.

For more information, visit <https://thejamesmuseum.org/permanent-collection/>

Senior admission cost \$10 (on Tues.)

After you have educated yourself--and perhaps had your breath taken away--our buses will take you less than 10 minutes away—adding time for people eagerly boarding the bus, of course—to The Pier, where you can

[Walk the pier or take the tram](#)

[Try some craft beer at Hops & Props](#)

[Learn at the Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center](#)

[Drop a line at the fishing deck](#)

[Watch the kids at the playground or the Splash Pad](#)

[Relax at Spa Beach](#)

Watch the street performers and live entertainment    Go on a Dolphin Cruise

Eat at Doc Fords or the other waterfront restaurants    Get a drink at Pier Teaki at the end of the pier

Learn about the city at the St. Petersburg Museum of History \$15, but significant reduction (\$11 or 2 people for \$17) is available at Groupon. Copy and paste the below website (yes, the whole thing) into a website search box.

[https://www.groupon.com/deals/st-petersburg-museum-of-history-1-7?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=cpc&utm\\_campaign=US\\_DT\\_SEA\\_GGL\\_TXT\\_ALP\\_SR\\_CBP\\_CH1\\_NBR\\_d\\*things-to-do\\_g\\*st-petersburg-museum-of-history-1-7&template=regular&bypass=true&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIxZ2E2K\\_A9AIVlc3ICh06DAEhEBEYASAAEgL2V\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.groupon.com/deals/st-petersburg-museum-of-history-1-7?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=US_DT_SEA_GGL_TXT_ALP_SR_CBP_CH1_NBR_d*things-to-do_g*st-petersburg-museum-of-history-1-7&template=regular&bypass=true&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIxZ2E2K_A9AIVlc3ICh06DAEhEBEYASAAEgL2V_D_BwE)

You just might find you've worked up an appetite, or thirst, when you reach the Pier Point. Teak, a fine restaurant named after a fine tropical hardwood, is the marquee eatery in the elegant building at the end of the Pier. Located on the fourth floor of the Pier Point structure, Teak offers upscale dining imbued with a Florida flair, and lovely views of Tampa Bay and the ever-growing St. Pete skyline. Up on the roof, you can kick back at Pier Teaki, a modern take on the classic tiki bar. At ground level, there's the Driftwood Cafe, rising nine feet from the Pier Point deck and connecting to the tilted lawn. It's a casual walkup spot offering ice cream and snacks.

To learn about places to dine at the Pier, visit: <https://stpetepier.org/food-drink/>

Then, there's the Birchwood, a 5-minute walk away at 340 Beach Dr NE, one of Beach Drive's hottest spots and home to The Canopy, St. Pete's premier rooftop lounge (see the Canopy's menu at <https://www.thebirchwood.com/thecanopy/canopy-menu/>)

We will leave for home at 5:30, arriving between 7:00-7:15.