



TAKE THE PLUNGE Busch Gardens, above. Main pic: the gardens at the Salvador Dali museum

Coaster coast

Angela Wormald combines theme parks with beaches in sunny Florida

I'm perched 335ft up a tower in Florida and trembling. "Why are we doing this?!" I shout to my partner Chris. The view is amazing, but then the seat turns 90 degrees so we're face-down. A piston hisses loudly and suddenly we're plunging (and I'm screeching).

Falcon's Fury at Busch Gardens, Tampa, is the tallest freestanding drop-ride in the USA and we're told it mimics how the birds catch their prey. It's such an adrenalin rush, within minutes we were back on it again.

Busch Gardens, 90 minutes away on the

west coast in Tampa, has some of the best rides in Florida: the 60mph Cheetah Hunt and 70mph SheiKra, which looked the most terrifying but was the most fun. We also did the Serengeti Safari – a tour of the park's animals



Walk and cycle by the water on the newly extended Tampa Riverwalk.

The leisure route by the Hillsborough River and Garrison Channel in the Florida city now stretches 1.8 miles and when completed in the spring will run for 2.4 miles from the Ulele brewery to the Tampa Bay History Center. It links five major hotels, 18 historic monuments and four museums.

thetampariverwalk.com
visittampabay.com