



Beyond the Bay

With an opening slated for early December, the **Tampa Bay History Center's 8,500-square-foot expansion** is its most ambitious yet. Here are three things to look for in the new gallery, "Treasure Seekers: Conquistadors, Pirates & Shipwrecks."



◀ **SHIPSHAPE:** The centerpiece is a 60-foot long pirate sloop, modeled after the 17th- and 18th-century ships used around Florida during the age of piracy. Also on display: artifacts recovered from wrecks, including a 7-pound ship's bell and a 6-foot-long iron cannon.

MAP IT: The new Touchton Map Library and Florida Center for Cartographic Education will be one of only nine like it in the country. See select documents from its collection of more than 6,000 maps and charts focused on Florida and the Caribbean—some dating back to 1493.

BIRD'S-EYE: After exploring inside, climb up to the new rooftop "crow's nest," which will offer rare unobstructed views of the Port of Tampa. tampabayhistorycenter.org

Holiday Towns

St. Augustine

The city's Nights of Lights display, Nov. 18–Jan. 31, is justifiably famous. But if you'll be there on Dec. 3, reserve a ticket in advance for the always-sold-out 49th annual **CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HOMES** through six lavishly decorated historic residences.

Punta Gorda

For a more intimate alternative to Ft. Lauderdale's huge lighted boat parade, head for Punta Gorda Isle's family-friendly rendition on Dec. 23. The rest of the month, reserve a **CHRISTMAS LIGHT CANAL CRUISE** with the King Fisher Fleet and spend a relaxing hour cruising by the illuminated city.

Lake Wales

Besides its 205-foot-tall Singing Tower carillon, Bok Tower Gardens is also home to the less-visited Pinewood Estate. This 20-room, 85-year-old mansion offers a **HOLIDAY HOME TOUR**, Nov. 24–Jan. 7, with every room ornamented using vintage-style decorations.



Get Up and Go!

Ways to enjoy Florida this season.



3 OF THE BEST

THANKSGIVING ESCAPES

DAYTONA BEACH SHORES Instead of pumpkin pie, snack on complimentary s'mores around an oceanside fire pit (*above*) at AAA Four Diamond-rated **The Shores Resort** (💎💎💎💎).

PANHANDLE For a nature lover's take on the holiday, **Torrey State Park** offers surprising bluff-top views and easy hikes. floridastateparks.org/park/Torrey

NAPLES Dig into the tasty (and complimentary) buffet spreads and decadent spa products at the Club Level Suites of the AAA Four Diamond-rated **The Inn on Fifth Hotel** (💎💎💎💎).

MADE IN FLORIDA

Gourmet popsicles

Stephen DiMare first began selling his **Hyppo** gourmet ice pops in St. Augustine in 2010, naming them after Hypolita Street, where they were made. The handmade popsicles come in flavors that change with the growing season (think guava hibiscus, kale apple cucumber and strawberry basil). Now, you can get them in Gainesville, Jacksonville, Tampa and St. Petersburg, too. Or, have some shipped to your door. thehyppo.com



DON'T MISS

Artists will shape more than 1,900 tons of sand into intricate creations during the 31st annual **American Sandsculpting Championship and Beach Festival** at Fort Myers Beach. **Nov. 17-26**. fmbsandsculpting.com

FESTIVAL FOCUS ▼

Some 240 local and national artists, sculptors, jewelers and photographers gather for the 36th annual **Gainesville Downtown Festival & Art Show**. **Nov. 11-12**. gainesvilledowntownartfest.org



ON STAGE

Theatre Winter Haven presents the two-person holiday musical **Another Night Before Christmas**. **Nov. 30-Dec. 17**. The show features Karol, an overworked social worker, and a mysterious homeless man who helps reverse her humbug attitude. theatrewinterhaven.com