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Unlocking Tampa Bay – Treasure Awaits

TAMPA – The **Epicurean Hotel** rises from the heart of the vibrant city of Tampa, Fla., bringing a new level of contemporary comfort and style to the Hyde Park historic district. From the thrill of major league sports to the authentic charm of Tampa's unique history, the Epicurean is the gateway to exploring one of Florida's most beloved destinations. With distinctive vibes and cultures emanating from each of the city's districts, Tampa always surprises visitors with something new to explore and experience.

While staying at the Epicurean, guests can expect anything but a generic hotel experience. The hotel's well-connected Epicurean Hosts give adventurous guests an inside track for finding the area's genuine and enriching local experiences. From "locals-only" restaurants and hidden shopping gems, to the best bike routes and museum exhibitions, a chat with the Epicurean Hosts will leave guests feeling as if they own the city.

Guests don't have to travel far from the hotel to experience more of Tampa's premier dining, nightlife and shopping. Directly across the street, the legendary **Bern's Steak House** is a destination all its own, where diners can tour the kitchen and wine cellar and pay a visit to the famous Harry Waugh Dessert Room. Bern's sister restaurant, **Haven**, thrills foodies with whimsical small plates, housemade charcuterie, cultured artisanal cheeses, crafted cocktails and cellared wine selections. All along South Howard Avenue – known to locals as SoHo – guests are treated to Tampa's hottest nightlife with a variety of offerings, including a rollicking Irish Pub, craft beer bars and exciting dance clubs.

A great way to explore the area is on one of the Epicurean's custom-made bikes. Guests can peddle their way to **Bayshore Boulevard** – the "World's Longest Continuous Sidewalk" – with more than seven miles of waterfront walking, running, rollerblading and various exercise stations. A popular spot with locals, the wide promenade also provides wonderful views of some of Tampa Bay's most spectacular homes. Where Bayshore ends, downtown begins offering visitors a world-class art and cultural scene. The 66,000 square-foot **Tampa Museum of Art** sits directly on the Hillsborough River and enthralls visitors with blockbuster exhibitions and collections. Right next door is the **Glazer Children's Museum**, a 53,000-square-foot facility designed to inspire children and families by creating learning opportunities around innovative play and discovery. Both museums overlook downtown and **Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park**, featuring a playground, green space and a dog park. Across the street, the **Straz Center for the Performing Arts** dazzles visitors with live performances and unique experiences.

Guests can also get a peek into Tampa's colorful history at the **Henry B. Plant Museum** and the **Tampa Bay History Center**. Just steps away is **The Florida Aquarium**, an architectural wonder of glass that submerges visitors into Florida's underwater worlds and the creatures that inhabit them. Watch staff members as they dive with sharks, rays and barracuda in the 500,000-gallon Coral Reefs Gallery, or pet a favorite sea creature in a shallow pool. All of these are connected by the fabulous new **Tampa Riverwalk** area where guests can walk or bike along the scenic river with shaded areas, swings and public art along the way. Visitors can even travel via the river on a water taxi or e-boat between all of the exciting downtown offerings.

In addition to sea creatures and beautiful scenery, Tampa Bay is a community of champions. From the MLB **Tampa Bay Rays**, American League Champions in 2008, NHL **Tampa Bay Lightning**, Stanley Cup champions in 2004 and the NFL **Tampa Bay Buccaneers**, Super Bowl champions in 2003, Tampa has a winning tradition in major league sports for every season. Even the off-season is exciting with the legendary **New York Yankees** hosting spring training at George Steinbrenner (Legends) Field.

If thrill-seeking is a sport, guests of the **Epicurean Hotel** will agree Tampa is a serious competitor. Attractions such as **Busch Gardens** will leave visitors in awe, as they come face-to-face with elephants and giraffes on an African safari experience or turn upside down on rocketing roller coasters like the aptly named Sheikra. After a day exploring Busch Gardens, guests can make a splash at **Adventure Island** on thrilling waterslides or slow down on peaceful lazy rivers. Additional exciting diversions include **Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo** or **MOSI** (Museum of Science and Industry).

The Tampa area hosts its share of big name performers in such venues as **Raymond James Stadium**, **Amalie Arena**, **MidFlorida Credit Union Amphitheatre** and the **Straz Center for the Performing Arts** – all just minutes from the Epicurean. In recent years the city has seen U2, Paul McCartney, Taylor Swift, Beyoncé and hosted a plethora of the most popular touring Broadway productions with *Hamilton* coming to town during the 2018-2019 season.

Beyond its appealing attractions, major league sports and A-list entertainment, Tampa offers a charming ambiance drawn from its vibrant, ethnic history. The pulse of Tampa's nightlife, **Ybor City** was born in 1886 when Vicente Martinez Ybor left Cuba with his workers to start a cigar factory in Florida. Just a short drive from the Epicurean, Ybor City, the former "cigar capital of the world," comes alive at sunset with a spicy nightlife. The Cuban influence in Ybor is evidenced by everything from historic buildings and brick-paved streets to artisan galleries and cigar factories.

Shopping and dining connoisseurs won't be disappointed with the mix Tampa has to offer. Just minutes from the hotel, **Hyde Park Village** is a cherished neighborhood destination bustling with shops and eateries, including Pottery Barn, Anthropologie and West Elm, as well as many local boutiques. The Village also has several local and unique dining options where visitors can grab a leisurely coffee or a lively dinner. Tampa is also home to two major shopping malls. **International Plaza** is anchored by upscale department store Nordstrom, and includes several luxury brand stores such as Tory Burch, Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Tiffany & Co. Just down the street, **Westshore Plaza** has a mix of high-end and affordable shopping, complemented by a movie theater and several dining destinations.

A collaboration between Mainsail Lodging & Development and the legendary Bern's Steak House, the food-focused Epicurean Hotel is located in the trendy Hyde Park historic district of South Tampa, Fla. The hotel features a state-of-the-art culinary classroom known as the Epicurean Theatre; Élevage, a restaurant where classic recipes are re-imagined; EDGE rooftop bar; Chocolate Pi pâtisserie; Bern's Fine Wines & Spirits wine shop; Evangeline full-service spa; and 5,200 square feet of flexible event space. The Epicurean is the first newly constructed property in the United States to join the prestigious Autograph Collection® of Marriott International, Inc. (NYSE: MAR).

For more information on the Epicurean, please visit [EpicureanHotel.com](https://www.EpicureanHotel.com) or call (813) 999-8700.

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