Our Visit to the...

Tampa Bay History Center
Tampa Bay History Center
801 Old Water St., Tampa, FL 33602
813.228.0097

Open Daily:
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas, open until
3 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve

Columbia Café Hours:
Sunday - Thursday: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Friday - Saturday: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Notes to Caregivers

- Monday and Tuesday afternoons are the quietest times at the museum.
- Valet parking is available from 9:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. You may also park at the Channelside Parking Garage or other downtown street lots. For the most up-to-date parking and traffic advisory information, please check TBHC’s website.
- Backpacks, food and drink will not be allowed in the galleries. You can place these items in a locker on the 1st floor by asking for a key at the Visitor Services desk on the 2nd floor in the Lykes Atrium.
- The ‘Coacoochee’s Story’, ‘Winds of Change’ and ‘The Pirate’s Fate’ films shown at the museum are not recommended for children under the age of 10 due to mature themes.
- Please note that some of the fire exit doors inside of the museum have alarms.
- The Columbia Café is on the 1st and 2nd floors of the building. Food smells and dining sounds may be present.
- If you or your family have sensory issues with noise, please bring sound cancelling headphones.
- There are restrooms and water fountains on every floor of the museum.
Today, we are going to visit the Tampa Bay History Center! TBHC is a museum that explores the history of the Tampa Bay area.
My adult may park the car in the Channelside Parking Garage. That means I might walk from the garage to TBHC. I will make sure I stay with my adult during the entire walk and only cross the street when my adult says it is safe.
We will begin in front of the building outside in Heroes Plaza where there are fountains. It is *not* okay to swim or play in these fountains before going inside the museum. I will stay with my supervising adult.
Second Floor

RESTROOMS
INFORMATION & TICKETS
ELEVATORS
1. FLORIDA'S FIRST PEOPLE
2. WINDS OF CHANGE THEATER
3. EUROPEAN EXPLORATION
4. SEMINOLE AND MICCOSUKEE GALLERY
5. COACOOCHEE'S STORY THEATER
6. CIGAR CITY
Once we are inside the building, we will take the elevator or stairs to the Lykes Atrium on the 2nd floor. We will pay for our museum tickets at the Visitor Services desk. Once we pay for our tickets, each of us will get a sticker. These stickers are our tickets, so we will wear them on our shirts until we leave the museum. If I do not want to wear it on my clothes, I can let the associate at the front desk know and I can put it on my Gallery Guide.
I will not bring my backpack inside of the museum galleries. I can leave my backpack with a staff member at the Visitor Services Desk. They will keep it safe for me while I am exploring the museum. If I do not want to leave my backpack with a staff member, I can use a locker. Lockers are available on the 1st floor. Before I leave the museum, I will collect all of my belongings from the locker and return the key to a staff member at the front desk. If my backpack is a medical bag, I can keep it with me.
Before I leave the History Center, I may shop in the Museum Store. Some items in the Museum Store might be made of glass, so I will be careful. If my adult tells me it is okay, I may be able to buy a souvenir to remember my visit. If I have any questions, I can ask my adult or a Visitor Services Associate to help.
We can go out onto the Upper Terrace to look at the boats going by on the Garrison Channel. If I go outside, I will make sure my adult comes with me.
We may go to the Columbia Café to have lunch. A staff member will help my adult and I find a table. We may sit outside or inside. The Columbia Café is busy and may be loud if we eat inside. The staff members will do their best to accommodate us.
We will enter the galleries under the neon sign that says “Tampa Bay.” Inside, there are theaters to watch films and history displays to look at so I can learn about people, places and things from the past.
In the first theater, we can watch ‘Winds of Change.’ It begins every 20 minutes. The clock outside will let us know how much time we have before the next showing starts. The room will be dark and there will be three large screens at the front. Some loud sounds will play during the film. If it is too loud, I will let my adult know I need a break and we can exit the theater at any time.

Closed captioning is available for this film and can be activated by pressing a button to the left of the door.
On the 2nd floor, I will read to learn about the people of Tampa, listen to audio clips about life in Ybor City and look at artifacts. I might be tempted to touch the artifacts. If I am not supposed to touch something, it will be in a glass case or have a rail around it. If I am not sure, I can ask a staff member.
People who work and volunteer at TBHC will be wearing a gold name tag. There might be a Gallery Guide or Docent who will assist us on our tour of the museum, if we would like help. They will instruct us on which parts of the galleries are interactive and can answer any questions I may have about Tampa’s history.
There are benches, like the ones in the Cigar City and Seminole and Miccosukee galleries, around the museum. If I need to take a break, I can tell my adult and we can sit down.
There are buttons in the Cigar City exhibit that activate sound and videos. If I press the button, the sounds will continue until the recording is finished. If the sound is overwhelming, I can exit the exhibit with my adult.
We can also watch ‘Coacoochee’s Story’ and learn about the Seminole Wars. The film begins every 20 minutes. The clock outside will let us know how much time we have before the next showing starts. This film has loud and sudden sounds, flashing lights and graphic images. It is okay to leave the room with an adult if the movie becomes too overwhelming.
After we finish exploring the 2nd floor, we can take the elevator or the stairs to the 3rd floor to see more exhibits. The elevator is very large and holds a lot of people. If I don’t want to take the elevator, we can use the stairs instead. I will stay close to my adult.
In Your Tampa Bay, I can use electronic touch tables to explore landmarks in the Tampa community. There are only 4 screens, so I may have to wait until someone else is done to use one. That is okay. I can explore the Community Case nearby while I wait.
In the Cowmen & Crackers exhibit, I can watch a short film about Florida cattlemen while sitting on a horse’s saddle. If I need help getting onto the saddle, I will ask my adult. I will make sure that I hold onto the handle the entire time. If other guests are watching the film, I may have to wait to sit on a saddle. If I need to wait, I can look at the artifacts in the cases around the film or experiment with making my own cattle branding symbol.

Closed captioning is available for this short film and can be activated by pressing a button to the right of the screen.
After I ride along with Florida cattlemen, I can play an interactive memory game in the grove stand. I can also move boats and trains around on a large table map of Tampa’s port and shipping area. I will keep all of the boats and trains on the table. If there are other families around, I may have to share.
To learn about the Port of Tampa, we will have the opportunity to view the film ‘Now Loading’ inside a metal shipping container. There are seats available. If I want, I can tell my adult and leave the container at any time and watch from outside until the film is done. Closed captioning is available for this short film and can be activated by pressing a button to the right of the entrance.
In the Year Round Play and Witness to Change exhibits, recorded messages or videos will turn on by motion sensor when I get close. I may be surprised by sudden sounds. If I need a break, I can tell my adult and we can have a seat in the TECO Learning Center. There is also a wall with trivia disks that I can move to learn about sports in Tampa.
In the War Stories exhibit, there is a screen that I can gently slide down the track to learn about Tampa military history. It might make a sound as it moves along the track.
In A Land Remembered, I can explore a pioneer cabin! There are toys, games, clothes and props that I can hold, try on and play with to learn about how Florida pioneers lived. I may have to share with other kids playing in the area. I want to stay safe, so I will walk in the cabin and place things down gently. Before I leave the cabin, I will make sure I put all items back where I found them so other kids can enjoy them too.
To the left of the elevator, there are two sets of cabinets that I can investigate. I can pull out the different drawers to discover the artifacts inside. It is important not to pull too roughly or lean on the drawers.
The Wayne Thomas Gallery is used for temporary exhibits. When I visit today, there might be an exhibit I have never seen before. When I visit again in the future, this exhibit will be different. This means I will have something new and exciting to explore every time I come back. We can visit TBHC’s website to see what will be on exhibit before our next trip.
In the Treasure Seekers gallery, we will learn all about pirates, explorers and shipwrecks! The ceiling has moving constellations, and we can hear sounds of the ocean and seagulls. There are interactive activities where we can learn about different knots, sails, and pulleys used on ships. We will also be able to view and use tools that sailors used to navigate. If there are other visitors using these tools, I can explore the rest of the exhibit while I wait for my turn.
‘The Pirate’s Fate’ is an interactive theatre experience where I will learn about pirates while inside of a ship. There is a large touch screen that lets us choose where the ship will go and what we will do. There will be loud sounds, dark lights and wind effects. I will hear sounds from different sides of the theatre. I can stand in this theatre, but there are also boxes I can sit on in the back of the theatre. I will let the adult I am with know if I need to take a break.

We can leave at any time during the show.
After we exit The Pirate’s Fate Theater, we will learn about shipwrecks. We can look at recovered treasures discovered near Tampa. We can also go out onto Dave’s Crow’s Nest where I can look through binoculars and see parts of Tampa’s port. I will stay with my adult when outside.
Before we leave the 4th floor, we will visit the Touchton Map Library. This exhibit changes every few months, so it might look different each time I come to TBHC. There are interactive touchscreens for viewing maps up close. I may have to wait to use a touchscreen. I can explore the TML while I wait. This is a quiet space if I need to take a break.
When we are finished exploring the galleries, we will take the elevator back down to the 2nd floor to exit the museum. Before we go, we will make sure we get all of our belongings from the lockers and return our key to the Visitor Services desk. We can come back again and see more exhibits next time. Thank you, Tampa Bay History Center!
Created by:

The University of South Florida
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and
Related Disabilities
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