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'burg Blogs »

Study, Work and Play in Downtown St. Petersburg.

Posted May 23, 2013 at 11:44 am by [Adrienne Bradshaw '14](#)



Sunken Gardens. Picture courtesy of Trip Advisor.

Attending college is an important step in most teenagers and young adults lives. There are a few important factors in deciding where to spend the next few years of your life.

As an undergrad I made my choice based on a few factors: The academic programs being offered, distance from my immediate family, the school that would give me the best opportunities academically and athletically.

My years as an undergrad ended in 2008 and 4 years later I made the very important decision to return to school and receive my M.A. in Journalism and Media Studies. As an undergrad I attended a very large school in the South that boasted a top 10 football program and that gave me the opportunity to play the sport that I loved, basketball, at the highest level collegiality. I did not take into account the environment of the city that my University was a part of.

As a graduate student I made it a point to chose a vibrant, relaxing city with a beach and so much more. St. Petersburg, Florida houses my current University, the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. The University is academically top notch and it doesn't hurt that I'm surrounded by culture and adventure!

A Look at What Downtown St. Petersburg has to offer

The Dali Museum

The Dali Museum is a striking building is a concrete trapezoid wrapped in an undulating wave of glass and steel. And its design is an homage to the Dalí Teatro-Museo in Figueres, Spain. The Dali houses beautiful works of art from around the world. The museum's collection includes 96 oil paintings, over 100 watercolors and drawings, 1,300 graphics, photographs, sculptures and objets d'art, and an extensive archival library, and displays are periodically rotated. The museum was recently rebuilt in 2011.



Sunken Gardens

The Sunken Gardens currently contain over 500 species of tropical and subtropical plants amidst pools and cascading waterfalls, lushly planted in a collection of more than 50,000 tropical plants and flowers. They include a Japanese garden, cactus garden, and butterfly garden, and Chilean flamingos. Plants include bougainvilleas, royal palms, water lilies, shrimp plants, and fruit trees. The garden atmosphere is peaceful and many of the plants are quite large (compared to typical specimens) due to their long history of protection and cultivation. Sunken Gardens is the oldest commercial tourist attraction on Florida's west coast.

The NEW St. Pete Pier



New Pier sketch, Picture courtesy of: Michael Malt

The Pier is a landmark and major tourist destination in downtown St. Petersburg, Florida. Some of the activities and sights it encompasses include fishing, boat rentals, weekly festivals, and the Pier Aquarium. Shopping, dining and nightlife are other amenities. The pier is probably undergoing a complete renovation and may close for renovation on May 31, 2013 and reopen with a new refreshed look and feel!

With all of the wonderful options available in Downtown St. Petersburg, it's easy to see why I chose this wonderful University and city to study, work and play.

About the blogger



Hi everyone! I'm Adrienne and I'm a second semester Journalism and Media Studies graduate student, class of 2014. I graduated from Clemson University in 2008 and I'm currently a Graduate Assistant within the Journalism and Media Studies program. I aspire to work as a broadcast journalist post graduation, concentrating in sports and investigative journalism.