



## **Sports in Tampa Bay/St. Petersburg, FL**

Tampa Bay is home to multiple sports teams and events. Whether your passion is football, baseball, or hockey, you will find the right sporting event in Tampa.

### **Football**

The **Tampa Bay Buccaneers** began their journey in 1976. In January of 2003, the Buccaneers brought home the Lombardi Trophy after defeating Oakland in Super Bowl XXXVII. **Raymond James Stadium** is the proud home of the Buccaneers. Since opening in 1998, Raymond James Stadium served as the site for both Super Bowl XXXV in 2001 and Super Bowl XLIII in 2009. Known as the “The Crown Jewel of the NFL”, Raymond James Stadium features state-of-the-art technology and modern design.

The **Outback Bowl** is a New Year’s Day college football game matching 3rd ranked teams from the SEC and Big Ten Conference. This annual event takes place at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa. A weeklong schedule of events attracts fans from all over the region, roaring for their favorite team. Guests at the Outback Bowl can enjoy a variety of special events and sports activities throughout the game week. Football fans will certainly experience maximum excitement and enthusiasm at the Outback Bowl.

Another exciting event for the football fans is the **ACC championship game** sponsored by Dr. Pepper. Each year, the ACC determines the football champion by matching the champion of the Coastal Division against the champion of the Atlantic Division. The 2009 ACC Championship Game will be played at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida, on December 5, 2009.

### **Hockey**

NHL fanatics can visit the Lightning in Tampa. The **Tampa Bay Lightning** played their first game on September 12, 1992 at the Lakeland Civic Center. Later, players such as Brian Bradley, John Tucker, and Chris Kontos became familiar to some of the NHL’s most dedicated fans. Before a crowd of 10,425 at Expo Hall, the Tampa Bay Lightning unexpectedly defeated the Campbell Conference Champion, Chicago Blackhawks, which became a remarkable debut of the Tampa Bay Lightning.

**St. Petersburg Marriott Clearwater**  
**12600 Roosevelt Boulevard, St. Petersburg, FL 33716**  
**727-572-7800 [www.stpeteclearwatermarriott.com](http://www.stpeteclearwatermarriott.com)**



## **Baseball**

Based in St. Petersburg, FL, the **Tampa Bay Rays** are a Major League Baseball favorite. Before 2007, the Tampa Bay Rays were known as the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. They played their first game in 1998 against the Detroit Tigers at **Tropicana Field**. Although they lost the game, they were able to make a historical homerun during their very first game. In 2007, they changed their team colors and franchise name to Tampa Bay Rays. In 2008, they were able to finish in 1<sup>st</sup> place as the Eastern Division Champions.

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