

Tampa!

Tampa is a great tourist destination. If you are planning to spend a few days before or after our Bridge cruise in Tampa, you will have no shortage of things to do and experience. There are theatres and parks, lots of outdoor activities, several museums, and tons of local history to sort through; there is a Busch Gardens, the Lowry Park Zoo, and the Florida Aquarium. The *SS American Victory*, a World War II Victory ship, is docked in the Channel District and serves as a museum ship. There are lots of shopping areas, and Tampa has a “Mardi Gras” season that runs from January through March. For more information on all Tampa has to offer visit www.tampagov.net or www.visittampabay.com

We are departing from Terminal #6 at the Port of Tampa Bay:

Terminal #6
1101 Channelside Drive
Tampa, FL 33602

Our ship, the RCCL *Serenade of the Seas*, is scheduled to leave port at 4:00 pm on Saturday, March 4th. We are required to be boarded by 2:00 pm. If you are intending to travel on embarkation day, please keep in mind that weather can change plans in an instant.

Tampa International Airport (TPA) is serviced by all of the major airlines including Delta, American, Southwest, and JetBlue. If you are planning to fly into Tampa, there is no shortage of access.

Taxi service is provided from the Commercial Ground Transportation Quadrants located in all four corners of the Baggage Claim Level. The airport is served by several companies who all charge roughly the same fares: \$2.50 plus \$2.40 per mile. From what I’ve found, there appears to be a flat rate of \$28 to Downtown Tampa and the cruise port. Uber or Lyft are other possibilities for those who feel comfortable using those apps on your phone.

If you are flying in the same day, Royal Caribbean does offer an airport transfer. It is \$42 round-trip per person from the Tampa airport. If you would like to book this option, please give me a call. Please note that your incoming flights must arrive before 12:00 PM on March 4th, and 12:00 PM is also the earliest departure allowed for outgoing flights on March 11th.

If you are planning to drive and park at the port, you can pre-pay for a parking permit; the rates are \$105 for self-parking or \$125 for valet parking. The Port of Tampa website is very thorough and has all the information you may need: www.porttb.com

I found some other lots too with better prices:

<https://parkwayparking.com/location/port-tampa-cruise-port>

<http://park4cruise.com> (\$73.50 booked on-line in advance)

<https://241parking.com/> (\$74.65 booked on-line in advance)

Some Hotel options near the Port of Tampa:

Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel
700 South Florida Avenue
Tampa, FL 33602
866.573.4235
Rates from \$259

Hilton Tampa Downtown
211 Tampa Street
Tampa, FL 33602
866.925.4159
Rates from \$199

Embassy Suites Tampa Downtown
513 South Florida Avenue
Tampa, FL 33602
866.678.6350
Rates from \$149

Sheraton Tampa Riverwalk Hotel
200 North Ashley Drive
Tampa, FL 33602
866.925.8676
Rates from \$209

Here's a web-site with a good list of other hotels with parking/shuttle options too:

<https://www.cruzely.com/tampa-park-and-cruise-hotels>

As always, please do not hesitate to call or email if you have any questions or concerns. I always want to help when I am able!

- Brett