



TAMPA BAY
HISTORY
CENTER®

Field Trip Guide 2026-2027

Experience **Florida**
history in a new way.

Docent-led field trip of Immigration and Industry in the 2nd Floor gallery.



Planning and Reserving Your History Center Field Trip

MAKING YOUR RESERVATION REQUEST

Our Field Trip Request Form can be found on the Tampa Bay History Center Website under the “Learning” tab. Here you’ll find the opportunity to communicate all the relevant details related to your visit including your grade level, group size, arrival date and time. Once your reservation request has been made, you’ll receive an email confirming the details for your field trip.

Please note that reservations are always handled in the order they are received and dates can fill up quickly. Booking your tour in advance with at least a 30-day notice will give us the best opportunity to accommodate your group.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT

After receiving your Reservation Acknowledgement confirming the details of your reservation request, the next step is to make a deposit payment to formally complete your reservation. This \$50 deposit will be due within **30 DAYS** of receiving your acknowledgement and instructions for how to make your deposit will be found within your Reservation Acknowledgment form. The remainder of your balance is to be paid in one transaction on the date of your visit.

CANCELLATIONS AND CHANGES

If you need to cancel or change your reservation for any reason, please contact the History Center with at least **10 BUSINESS DAYS** notice before your scheduled visit. Providing **10+ DAYS** notice for any cancellation will **ENSURE YOUR DEPOSIT IS REFUNDED** in full. If your group fails to cancel at least 10 business days prior to your visit or does not show up for your scheduled tour, your deposit will be forfeited to the Tampa Bay History Center.

We’re excited that you’ve chosen to bring your students to the Tampa Bay History Center! This packet will help you organize your trip. Don’t forget to visit the “Learning” tab on our website for additional field trip information!

This Field Trip Guide is designed to help teachers get the most out of their visit to the Tampa Bay History Center. Please read this guide in its entirety prior to your visit. If you have any questions, contact

Martin Leone,
Education Coordinator
at (813) 675-8983 or email
education@tampabayhistorycenter.org.



801 Water Street, Tampa, FL 33602
TampaBayHistoryCenter.org

SCHOOL ADMISSION RATES

Students **\$8/pp**

Teachers/Chaperones..... **free**

(1 adult per every 10 students - Required for Supervision)

Additional Chaperones **\$10/pp**

About The Field Trip

TOUR OVERVIEW

Tours are designed to be fun-filled and interactive, ensuring an appealing and memorable visit for all ages. During their visit, students will be engaged in both educational and entertaining experiences as our expert docents bring the past to life. With a focus on meeting Florida State Educational Standards, our programs provide valuable insights into the region's rich heritage while encouraging active participation and hands on learning. Through a series of exhibits, films, and activities, students will gain insight into Tampa Bay's vibrant past.

CAPACITY

A minimum of 10 students are required for a tour and discounted group rate. TBHC can accommodate a group size of 150 guests total, or approximately 135 students and 15 accompanying teachers/chaperones. Group sizes of 80-100 are recommended for an ideal museum experience.

TOUR LENGTH

Please budget no less than 2 hours for your field trip as checking in and organizing students adds additional time to your visit. Groups who arrive after their scheduled tour start time may not have an opportunity to see all of the exhibits.

Please let us know if you plan to eat lunch, return to the galleries following your tour, or shop in the Museum Store. Note: only 10 supervised students will be permitted in the Museum Store at one time.

STATE STANDARDS

Our museum themes closely follow the Florida Department of Education State Standards, and meet numerous benchmarks tied to the Florida History curriculum. By exploring primary sources and hands-on objects throughout our galleries, students will make connections to Florida's growth from its pre-historic past through the state's modernization in the 21st century.

GRADES K-5 (ELEMENTARY SCHOOL)

- American History (SS.K-5.A)
- Geography (SS.K-5.G)
- Economics (SS.K-5.E)
- Civics and Government (SS.K-5.CG)
- African American History (SS.K-5.AA)

GRADES 6-8 (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

- World History (SS.6.W)
- American History (SS.8.A)
- Geography (SS.6-8.G)
- Economics (SS.6-8.E)

GRADES 9-12 (HIGH SCHOOL)

- American History (SS.912.A)
- World History (SS.912.W)
- Geography (SS.912.G)
- Economics (SS.912.E)
- African American History (SS.912.AA)

Pre-Visit Checklist

RESERVATION PROCESS

- ☐ Submit the online Field Trip Request with three possible dates for your visit.
- ☐ Reserve appropriate transportation for your group.
- ☐ Obtain permission slips as required by your school district.
- ☐ Create a plan for bringing your student lunches, or consider ordering boxed lunches from the Columbia Cafe.
- ☐ Collect money for museum admission (\$8 per student), plus any other costs related to your trip (transportation, lunches, Museum Gift Shop, etc).
- ☐ Read this entire Field Trip Guide and visit TampaBayHistoryCenter.org to explore our additional resources.
- ☐ Recruit chaperones. **WE REQUIRE AT LEAST 2 ADULT CHAPERONES AND SUPERVISION AT A 1:10 RATIO.** It is suggested that you assign 2-3 chaperones to each group of students with at least one certified teacher in attendance to help monitor student behavior and needs.
- ☐ **NOTE:** All chaperones should be included in the group booking and must be included in the one transaction upon arrival. Chaperones that arrive and intend on paying on their own will pay the standard museum admission rate.

CONFIRMING YOUR RESERVATION

- ☐ Pay your \$50 deposit to complete your reservation, confirming the date and time of your tour. We **MUST** have this deposit prior to your visit.
- ☐ Ten days prior to your field trip call TBHC (813) 675-8983 with your number of students, teachers and chaperones.
- ☐ Review the map and driving directions, being sure to provide a copy to your bus driver or any chaperones driving separately. NOTE: Parking options are public and off site from the Tampa Bay History Center.

DAY OF YOUR VISIT

- ☐ **BEFORE** you arrive, be sure students are divided into groups according to History Center instructions. Be prepared to give TBHC the actual number of students, teachers and chaperones in attendance.
- ☐ Remind students (and adults) they may not bring backpacks, large bags, gum or candy to the History Center. Drinks and snacks must remain in lunch boxes or on your bus.
- ☐ Arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled tour time. Call (813) 675-8983 if you are running late and will not be there 15 minutes early.
- ☐ Look for your TBHC museum docent, dressed in a navy blue TBHC polo, as they greet you by the Museum entrance.

Gallery and Exhibit Themes

SECOND FLOOR

ICONS OF TAMPA BAY (ATRIUM)

These large, colorful works of art depict historic characters, events and symbols unique to our region.

FLORIDA'S FIRST PEOPLE

Featuring information about Florida's early inhabitants, this exhibit showcases artifacts such as ancient tools, pottery and a dugout canoe.

WINDS OF CHANGE

This 20-minute film tells the story of Spanish explorer Panfilo de Narvaez's landing near Tampa Bay in 1528, and his encounters with the native people.

SEMINOLE CULTURE

This exhibit showcases Seminole culture, the Seminole Wars, and various artifacts such as patchwork, basketry, wood carvings, ceremonial objects, and a replica chickee.

COACOOCHEE'S STORY

This 20-minute film immerses viewers in a riveting account of the Second Seminole War, telling the story of resistance leader Coacoochee and Lt. Sprague of the U.S. military.

YBOR CITY - IMMIGRATION AND INDUSTRY

Enter a 1920's cigar shop and factory and relive the story of the industry that put Tampa on the map and the immigrant communities at the center of that story.

THIRD FLOOR

TAMPA BAY TIMELINE

Discover the chronology of the events that shaped Tampa's community and culture.

COWMEN

Showcasing Florida's cattle ranching history, this exhibit and accompanying 6-minute film puts viewers in the middle of an actual cattle drive.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Investigate some of Florida's most important industries, including fishing, phosphate mining, and agriculture.

A LAND OF CITRUS

Visit our grove stand where we highlight the history of Florida's agricultural past with a strong reference to one of our state's most synonymous and valuable crops, citrus.

PORT CITY

Immerse yourself in the story of Tampa's port with a whimsical 6-minute film, "NOW LOADING," inside an actual shipping container-turned theater.

YEAR ROUND PLAY

Explore some of Tampa's recreational and social activities, including infamous festivals like Gasparilla, and various artifacts highlighting Tampa's premier sports leagues.

TRAVAILS & TRIUMPHS

Relive stories of change in the Tampa Bay region, with a focus on civil rights, urban development, and local Black history.

WAR STORIES

Discover how the U.S. involvement in wars has touched our state and region since the 1830's, while investigating a variety of compelling artifacts.

A LAND REMEMBERED

Inspired by Patrick Smith's iconic novel by the same name, this replica Cracker cabin takes you back to the early settlement of the state.

MOTORING - AUTOMOBILES AND FLORIDA

Discover the ways in which a blossoming 20th century automobile industry transformed Florida's landscape to suit the needs and desires of motorists and their cars.



Gallery and Exhibit Themes

FOURTH FLOOR

TREASURE SEEKERS GALLERY

Explore the history of Florida's conquistadors, pirates, and shipwrecks as you enter a replica 60-foot Bermuda sloop housing artifacts dating back to the 1600's.

EXPLORERS OF FLORIDA

Relive the life of six European explorers who came to Florida in search of wealth and opportunity through an interactive display tracing the journey of each explorer.

FOLLOW THE STARS

Learn how mariners used early technology along with their knowledge of the stars to navigate over vast distances with actual navigation tools and rare recovered artifacts.

IN THE HOLD/LIFE AT SEA ARMORY

Imagine the living conditions, weaponry and tactics used by pirates and other seamen over long voyages at sea inside a 60-foot Bermuda sloop.

PIRATES

Investigate the uniquely democratic yet often nefarious tactics used by the infamous pirates who patrolled Florida waters.

THE PIRATE'S FATE THEATER

Experience an immersive, 8-minute, choose-your own adventure film experience while "press ganged" onto a pirate vessel, determining the fate of yourself and your crew!

SHIPWRECKS

Explore many rare artifacts recovered from shipwrecks dating as far back as the 1600's while learning how these artifacts were recovered.

CHANGING EXHIBIT GALLERIES

TOUCHTON MAP LIBRARY Florida Center for Cartographic Education/ Saunders Foundation Gallery

See our collection of thousands of maps, charts, and other documents dating back from the early European exploration of North America more than 500 years ago up through the early 21st century.

WAYNE THOMAS GALLERY

Teachers and students are welcome to visit our temporary exhibits but, standard tours do not allow time in these galleries.



Field Trip Day

Lunch and Museum Store

LUNCH AMENITIES

PICNIC LUNCHES

We're happy to store neatly packed lunches and coolers as most field trip groups opt for a picnic lunch right next to the History Center at Cotanchobee Park. We recommend transporting individual lunches in coolers to store indoors during your visit.

BOXED LUNCHES

The History Center does not have a cafeteria or vending machines, but boxed lunches are available for pre-order through the Columbia Cafe.

Please note that the Columbia Cafe is not able to accommodate food orders on the day of your visit, nor can they allow student groups to eat at their tables.

If you would like to order a boxed lunch, or have questions, please call the Columbia Cafe at (813) 229-5511.

MUSEUM STORE

The Tampa Bay History Center has a great Museum Store which welcomes student groups. The store offers a wide variety of fun and educational items starting at \$5. Students are welcome to browse, but we ask that no more than 10 students shop at one time and that they be accompanied by an adult chaperone while shopping.

GROUPING YOUR STUDENTS

Prior to your arrival, please ensure your students are divided into evenly sized subgroups. The History Center will determine the amount of subgroups you should arrive with depending on your final number of students provided a week before your arrival.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

Please arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled tour time. A museum docent will greet your bus upon arrival. The docent will instruct you on where to pay your balance, store lunches and park the bus.



Museum Etiquette

To make the most of your visit, we kindly request that you adhere to the following museum guidelines:

HAVE FUN Participate positively by following the directions of your docent or other museum staff.

LEAVE BAGS BEHIND Please leave backpacks and any large tote bags at school or on buses as they are not permitted in the galleries. Medical bags are welcome.

NO FOOD AND DRINK We all can get thirsty and hungry, but to protect our artifacts from accidental damage, food, drinks (including water), gum, and candy are not allowed inside the galleries.

LIVE IN THE MOMENT It might be tempting to take pictures, but don't let it get in your way of being an active observer of what's happening in the present.

Students CAN take pictures of the objects within our museum exhibits with permission from their docent, teacher, or chaperone.

DO NOT record video or use a flash, as this can damage artifacts over time.

INTERACT APPROPRIATELY Many of our exhibits are interactive, but avoid touching any display cases, objects, or artifacts, as our hand and skin oils can damage museum pieces.

MOVE WITH PURPOSE We'll be actively moving through our museum galleries to explore all we have to offer, but please follow the docent instructions about where and how you should move. Never run, shove, push, or play aggressively anywhere inside. Let's keep the environment calm and focused for ourselves and other museum guests.

DISCUSS APPROPRIATELY We're going to be taking part in conversation and discussion, asking and answering questions, and sharing what we notice about TBHC's exhibits and galleries. To be courteous to other guests, unnecessary and excessive noise should be kept to a minimum to allow all students to remain engaged with their tour experience.

TAKE A BREAK Restroom and water fountains are located on every floor for convenience.

We appreciate your help in respecting these guidelines, collectively ensuring the preservation and enjoyment of our remarkable history and artifacts.

Directions and Parking

FROM I-275 NORTH OR SOUTH

- Traveling N in I-275, take Ashley Street/West Tampa Exit # 44 to downtown.
- Traveling S in I-275, take Downtown East-West Exit # 45A to downtown.
- Turn left on Jackson Street
- Turn right on Morgan Street
- Turn left on Channelside Drive
- Turn right on Water Street

FROM GANDY AND SOUTH TAMPA

- Take Gandy Blvd. to Bayshore Blvd; turn left
- Take Bayshore Blvd. to the Platt Street bridge
- Merge right onto the bridge (go underneath the Tampa Convention Center)
- Turn right on Water Street

FROM CROSSTOWN EXPRESSWAY

- Take Crosstown Expressway Exit 8 (Downtown East)
- Turn right on Kennedy Blvd
- Turn left on Channelside Drive
- Turn right on Water Street

DROP OFF, VEHICLE, AND BUS PARKING

Buses should pull up to the History Center's entrance to allow students to disembark safely. Although we can not guarantee reserved parking at all times bus drivers will be directed to "Lot 5" on 110 S. Nebraska Ave. No parking fee is required for school buses. Chaperones driving separately should plan to park in nearby public parking lots. Please see the map on the next page for a better look at where to park.

PARKING/WALKING DISTANCES

- 1** CHANNELSIDE PARKING GARAGE
369 S. 12th St. (6-minute walk)
- 2** GARRISON STREET PARKING LOT
615 Channelside Dr. (5-minute walk)
- 3** EAST CUMBERLAND PARKING GARAGE
1046 E. Cumberland Ave. (5-minute walk)

Bus Parking

All buses dropping students off at the History Center will be granted parking nearby at the Morgan Street Lot, located at 717 Eunice Street, Tampa, FL 33602.

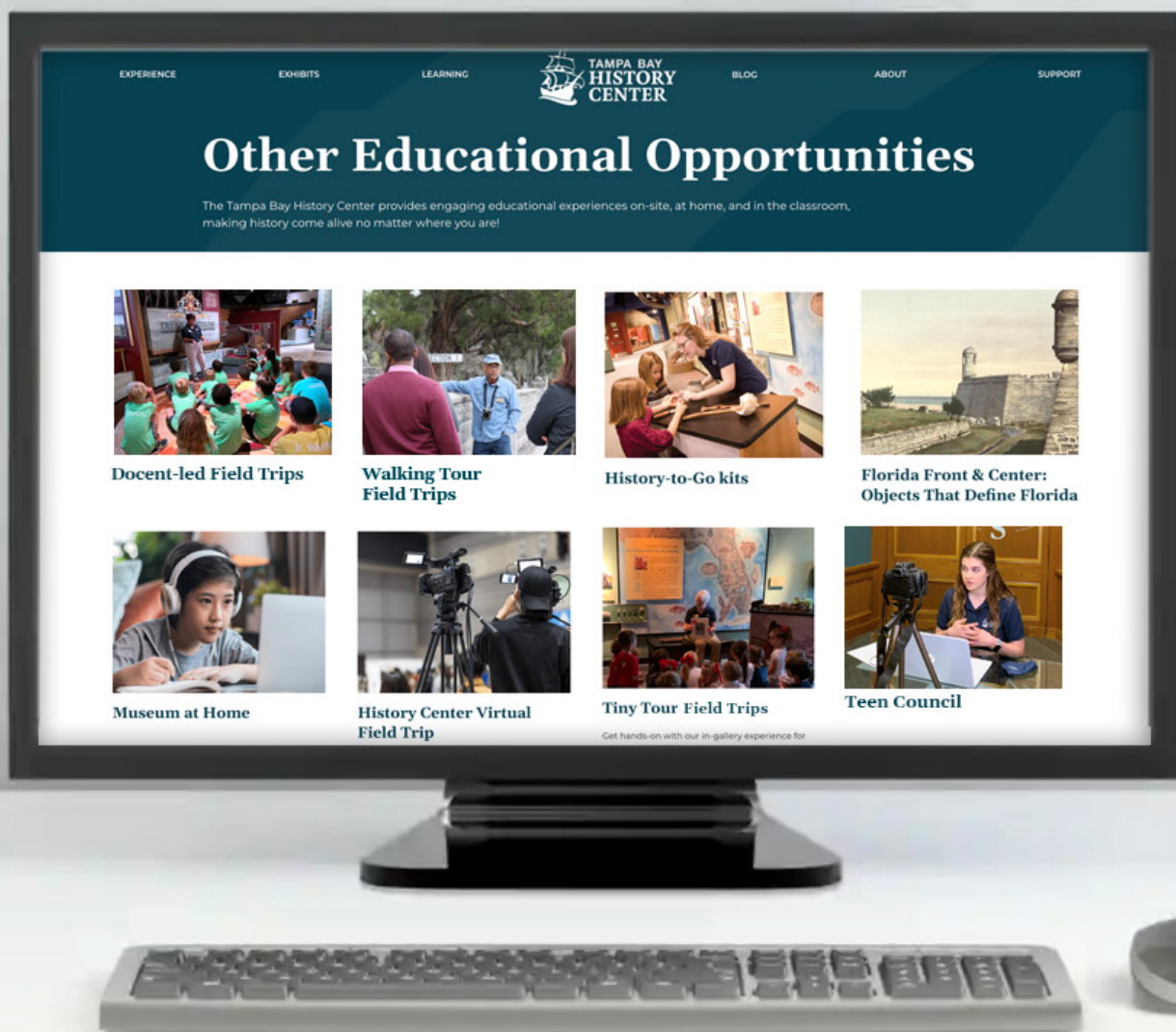
The lot is managed by The Car Park and is conveniently located just a short distance from the History Center.

The map, directions, and photos below should help drivers identify the lot and follow the easiest route to the Morgan Street Lot after dropping off students at the museum.

FROM THE TAMPA BAY HISTORY CENTER:

- 1) Head northeast on Water Street toward Channelside Drive.
- 2) Turn left onto Channelside Drive.
- 3) Turn right onto South Morgan Street.
- 4) Continue north on South Morgan Street for approximately 0.4 miles.
- 5) Turn right onto Eunice Street.
- 6) Enter the Morgan Street Lot at 717 Eunice Street.
- 7) Park in the gravel lot to your second right.





Other educational opportunities

The Tampa Bay History Center provides engaging educational experiences on-site, at home, and in the classroom, making history come alive no matter where you are!

Walking Tour Field Trips • History-to-Go kits • Museum at Home
 “Florida Front & Center: Objects That Define Florida” • Tiny Tours Field Trips
 History Center Virtual Field Trip • Teen Council - Youth Volunteers

For more information, visit us online at TampaBayHistoryCenter.org/field-trips
 or email education@tampabayhistorycenter.org



801 Water Street, Tampa, FL • TampaBayHistoryCenter.org