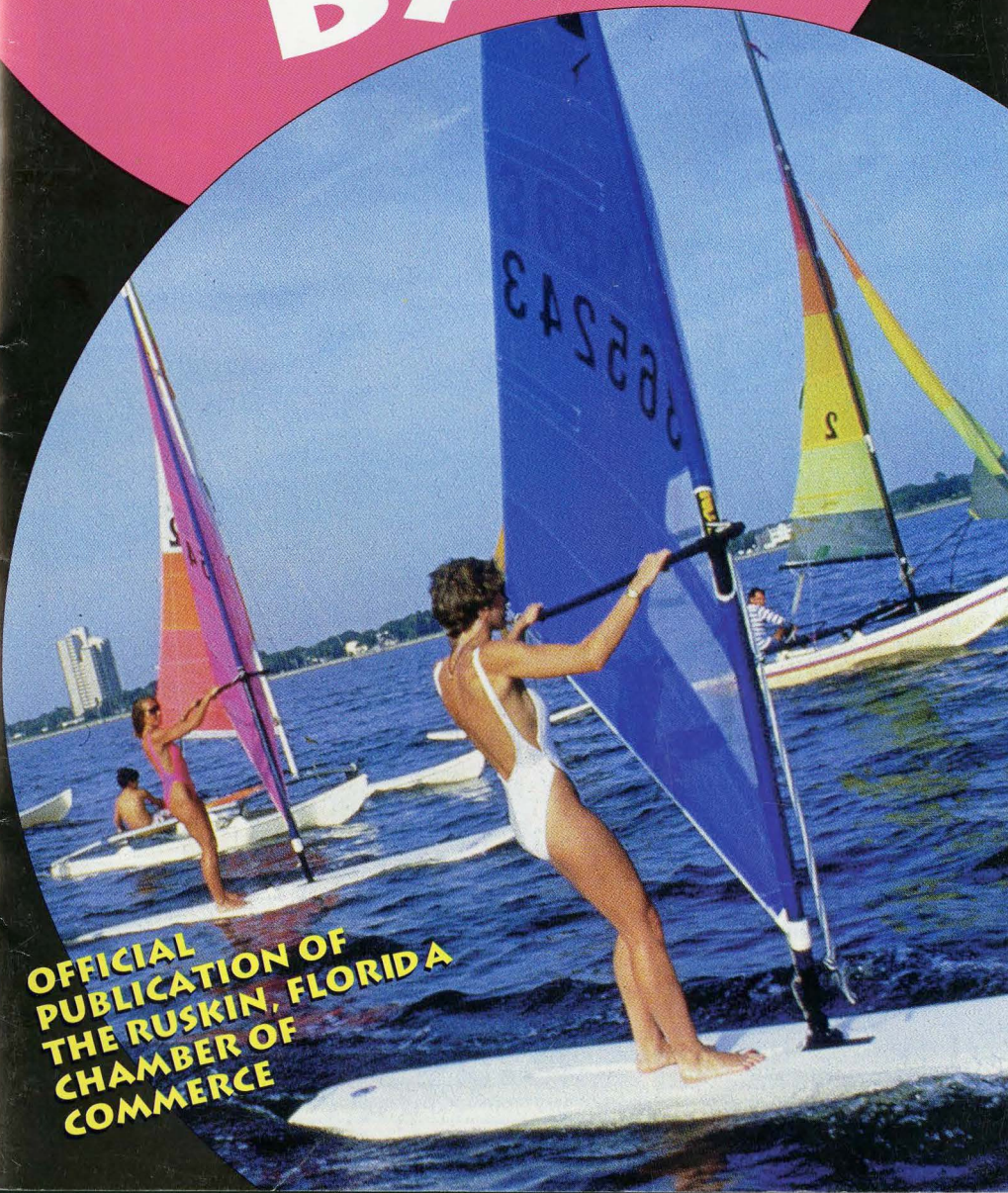


RUSKIN -BY-THE- BAY



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RUSKIN BY-THE-BAY

A SUBTROPICAL HAVEN



Photos: This page,
Pattie Lanier; opposite,
Division of Tourism



Founded in 1906 as an "intentional community," Ruskin is situated on the southeastern shore of Tampa Bay, one of the finest and most protected harbors in the world. Once considered 'off the beaten track,' this delightful town is now within easy commuting distance of several urban centers via Interstate 75, Interstate 4 and Tampa's Crosstown Expressway.

As a result, Ruskin's rural character is disappearing. Smart people are discovering how convenient the community is to a rich diversity of jobs. In 30 minutes you can be in downtown Tampa or Bradenton; in 40 minutes, in Sarasota or Lakeland. You can work in the city but sleep in the country, in Ruskin — still a repository of wide open spaces.



Ruskin's permanent population of about 15,000 nearly doubles during the winter months as visitors seek respite from northern winters. In Ruskin they find balmy winter temperatures and a relaxed, rural life. There are miles and miles of waterways for boating, fishing, and other watery pastimes. In nearby cities, sophisticated amenities include theater, concerts, dance, art galleries, and the like. In addition, Ruskin is less than two hours' drive from most of Florida's major attractions.

Housing choices run the gamut from simple to elegant. There are retirement and non-retirement communities around Ruskin's I-75 interchange. Waterfront property along inlets and waterways in Ruskin are reasonably priced.

If you're looking for the quiet appeal and neighborliness of a small town complimented by big-city cultural and intellectual amenities, we invite you to visit Ruskin by the Bay. Here on a beautiful bay with sparkling white beaches, you can look forward to a future that looks brighter every day. But be forewarned . . . a short stay may develop into a lifetime in Ruskin by the Bay.



Scenic Tour

Photos: Tampa/Hillsborough Convention Visitors Assoc.

River, which has been designated an "Outstanding Florida Water" by the Florida legislature. The Little Manatee has also been recognized as a "pristine water" because of the high quality of its water.

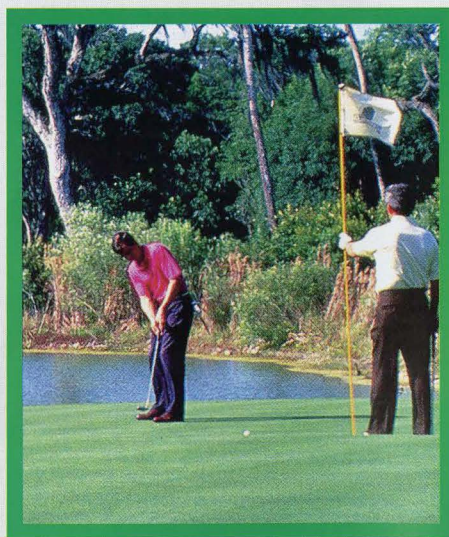
Among the saltwater fish most frequently caught in Tampa Bay are spotted sea trout (also called speckled trout), redfish, snook,

and sheepshead, as well as catfish, ladyfish, and mullet.

Anglers, whether fishing in salt or fresh water, are required to carry a license. License may be purchased from the County Tax Collector's office (272-6040). There are certain exemptions to licensing; inquire about these when you go buy your license.

Golf and Tennis

Contributing to South Hillsborough County's popularity as both vacation spot and retirement community are several area golf



Golf is a favorite activity.

courses. Among the newest are Cypress Creek and Summerfield golf course, each with its own uniqueness. Custom homes are being built along the attractive fairways at both. Cypress Creek recently added six tennis courts. Memberships are available at both courses.

Moorings of Manatee, a community with its own golfing facility - Riverside Golf Course, has a strategic design that rewards the well-executed shot yet still allows high handicappers a safe route to the greens. The public is welcome to play on a greens-fee basis on these lush greens and fairways set amidst sparkling lakes. Riverside also has a fully appointed restaurant.

Guests at Bahia Beach Island Resort enjoy top-notch tennis facilities. There are also public courts adjacent to the Ruskin Elementary School.

Spectator Sports

From early March through early April, area baseball fans may watch the exhibition games of several major league teams. The Tampa Bay and Central Florida areas are home to a number of spring training camps, including those of the St. Louis Cardinals, Philadelphia Phillies, Cincinnati Reds, Toronto Blue Jays, Chicago White Sox, and Pittsburgh Pirates. The New York Yankees will be doing their spring training in Tampa in 1995.

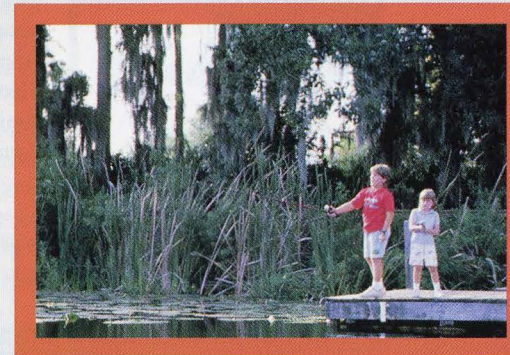
As the Tampa Bay Buccaneers enter another year of gridiron competition, visitors and residents get a chance to see the NFL's toughest teams and brightest stars in power-packed action. The area's first NHL hockey team, the Tampa Bay Lightning, is playing in St. Pete's Dome, until a suitable arena can be built. The Dome can be seen from Ruskin's shore and St. Petersburg is an easy trip for hockey enthusiasts.

Florida Downs in Oldsmar sponsors thoroughbred horse racing from January through March. From January to May, greyhound racing at Derby Lane in St. Petersburg attracts thousands of pari-mutuel bettors. At Tampa's Jai Alai Fronton, balls trav-

elling at speeds of up to 150 miles per hour are slung and captured, hurled and seized by superbly conditioned athletes. The spectacular action, September through January, is made even more exciting by pari-mutuel betting.

City Recreation

Located at 901 6th St. S.E., the Ruskin Recreation Center (671-7670) contains basketball courts, softball and soccer fields, a multi-purpose building, and a children's playground. Planned activities for youngsters include summer and school vacation programs, a tiny-tots morning program for



Testing the Waters

preschoolers, after-school programs, tumble-tots, karate, and beginning baton. Adults can participate in Euchre (cards), co-ed volleyball, ceramics, and physical fitness programs.

Parks

The Little Manatee River begins in Florida's timber country and meanders through Little Manatee River State Park. Clean, fresh water and a steep gradient of about 100 feet in the first 25 miles provide ideal conditions for canoeing. Numerous picnic sites and camping areas lie along the banks of the Little Manatee, a generally shallow river with a white, sandy bottom. With about one inhabited mile along its 28 miles of canoe trails, the river's pristine vistas are matched by few other rivers in the state.

E.G. Simmons Park, 258 acres of native mangrove managed by Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation, is located on the northwest edge of Ruskin along Tampa

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Bay. Bordered by Doyle Campbell Memorial Park's 200 acres of wildlife and bird sanctuary, Simmons Park boasts open land areas laced by waterways. Conceived to provide a relaxing environment for recreational activities for all ages, the park's facilities include picnic tables, a playground, canals, fishing spots, swimming beaches, boat launching areas, and two fishing piers. Recently the state upgraded the boat ramp.

Camping facilities at Simmons Park include 50 sites, each with water and electric hook-ups and screened shelters with barbecue grills and tables (38 sites do not have electricity). Campers can enjoy a shuffleboard court. Occupancy is on a first-come, first-served basis. Fees are \$12 per night with electricity, \$10 per night without; stays are limited to two weeks. Call 645-3836 for information.

Area Wildlife

Sharp-eyed naturalists may be rewarded with sights of raccoons, 'possums, armadillos, even alligators. Less common is the

West Indian manatee which roams throughout Florida's inland waterways. During the winter months, the West Indian Manatee can be found in canals and inlets in Ruskin as well as around the Big Bend Generating Plant in Apollo Beach and the phosphate plant in Gibsonton. Big Bend has built a public overlook for manatee viewing.

The manatee, or sea cow, has been in Florida for at least 2 million years. This gentle, air-breathing mammal, extremely docile and quite harmless, can reach a length of 15 feet and a weight of 2,500 pounds. Essentially solitary animals, manatees consume marine and freshwater vegetation in huge amounts. Manatees are protected by federal and state legislation; it is illegal to harm or harass them.

Ruskin's official bird sanctuaries, wide open spaces, and parks are attractive breeding sites for numerous birds. Avid and novice bird-watchers will find these feathered creatures pacing sedately at the beach, wading in shallow marshes, darting about catch-

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ing insects, or diving dramatically for their dinners. You, too, may see a variety of seagulls, sandpipers, terns, herons and egrets, osprey and bald eagles, pelicans, cormorants, red-winged blackbirds, robins, bluejays, swifts and swallows, hawks, and grackles, as well as an assortment of migrating birds.

Nearby Florida Attractions


By virtue of Ruskin's location and proximity to Interstates 75 and 4, nearly all of Florida's major attractions are easily accessible; most within two hours or less. Tampa's **Busch Gardens** and **Ybor City**, the city's Latin Quarter; **Walt Disney World**, **EPCOT Center**, and **Sea World**, all near Orlando; and the freshwater attractions of **Weeki Wachee**, **Homosassa Springs**, and **Silver Springs**, famous for their glass-bottom boats, all provide fun and educational experiences. Exquisite **Bok Tower Gardens**, in Lake Wales; **Cypress Gardens**, near Winter Haven; and **The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art** in Sarasota are other captivating side trips you'll certainly want to take.

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Also in February, the **Florida State Fair** features top-name entertainers, livestock exhibits, and a colorful midway of games and thrill rides. The 275-acre fairgrounds are located at the intersection of I-75 and U.S. 301 in Tampa.

In Plant City, in late February or early March, the **Strawberry Festival** features children's activities, nationally-known country artists, and strawberries, strawberries, strawberries!

Nearby Action

The **Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center** in Tampa, **Bayfront Center** in St. Peters-

Clearwater/ Tampa area produce first-rate plays, and the **Florida Orchestra** presents concerts with guest artists from around the nation and the world.

The **Tampa Convention Center** on Ashley Dr. (223-1111) is the scene of an occasional concert or trade show that is open to the public.

The **Museum of Science and Industry** in Tampa features technological exhibits and historical relics including fossils from the Leisey Shell Pit in Ruskin. Major art museums are located in Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Sarasota.

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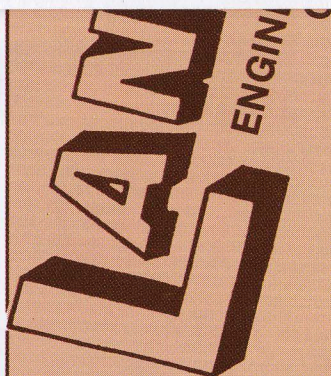
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EVENTS AND CULTURE

Held in October at Bahia Beach Resort on the bay, the **Ruskin Seafood and Arts Festival** draws fans from all over the state. In addition to a wide variety of seafood, hot dogs and hamburgers, festival-goers enjoy arts and crafts, exhibits and listen to calypso-style music. The art section of the festival is drawing professional artistic talent. The Seafood Festival has drawn as many as 22,000 people over its two day period.



Photo: Tampa/Hillsborough Convention & Visitors Assoc.

In February, Tampa hosts a two-day festival which includes boat and street parades, a sidewalk art show, the **Gasparilla Classic**, and other activities. Call 228-7338 for information.

Also in February, the **Florida State Fair** features top-name entertainers, livestock exhibits, and a colorful midway of games and thrill rides. The 275-acre fairgrounds are located at the intersection of I-75 and U.S. 301 in Tampa.

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Nearby Action

The **Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center** in Tampa, **Bayfront Center** in St. Peters-

burg, and **Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall** in Sarasota schedule nationally- and internationally-famous entertainment as well as local talent. Theater groups in the St. Pete/Clearwater/ Tampa area produce first-rate plays, and the **Florida Orchestra** presents concerts with guest artists from around the nation and the world.

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Photo: Pattie Lanier

Ruskin's population of some 15,000 permanent residents enjoys a relaxed and healthy environment in which to live, work and play. The town is small enough for neighbors to enjoy a strong sense of community. Churches, public and private schools, and plenty of shopping facilities support a pleasant lifestyle.

Climate Chart

Month	Avg. Temp. Fahrenheit	Precipitation Celsius	Total Inches
Jan.	59.8	15.5	2.72
Feb.	60.7	16.0	3.44
Mar.	66.2	19.0	3.16
Apr.	71.5	22.0	1.48
May	77.2	25.1	3.78
June	80.9	26.6	6.30
July	82.1	27.9	7.55
Aug.	82.3	27.9	9.66
Sept.	80.8	26.6	6.94
Oct.	74.4	23.6	1.83
Nov.	66.7	19.3	1.94
Dec.	61.3	16.3	0.92
Annual	72.0	22.2	49.28

National Weather Service

From its offices in Ruskin, the National Weather Service provides warnings of hazardous weather conditions for a 15-county area and adjacent coastal areas. The NWS also provides information for agricultural and forestry interests. Weather information is broadcast 24 hours a day on the VHF band on a frequency of 162.55 MHz in the Ruskin

area. The telephone number for a recorded forecast is 645-2506.

As of January 1994, the Ruskin NWS offices are scheduled to have installed the latest doppler radar system.

Housing

The area's wide variety of housing ranges from quaint to elegant. There are older homes along the Little Manatee River, manufactured housing in shaded

parks, and new construction in prestigious subdivisions. Single-family homes and condominiums line the waterfront in Ruskin. The Golf Club at Cypress Creek recently has six tennis courts, tennis pro shop, exercise facilities and new dining areas in the clubhouse.

There are numerous campgrounds and RV parks here as well as several mobile home parks, some of which welcome travel trailers. There are also a few rental apartments. Attractive properties are still available at reasonable prices, and due to the community's unincorporated status, property taxes are low.

Employment

Jobs can be found in retail stores, construction, cattle ranching, u-pick and wholesale farms, as well as medical and teaching jobs. In spite of the slow economy, residential construction continues. Businesses generally are small, employing fewer than 100 people. If you are seeking employment, stop in at Florida Job Services, the state employment agency, at 258 Apollo Beach Blvd., Apollo Beach (671-5015). The agency charges no fee; wages begin at minimum wage and increase according to the skills, education, and experience required for the positions.

Transportation

Ruskin is easily accessible. A "circle" of major highways — U.S. 301, U.S. 41, I-75, I-275, I-4, the Crosstown Expressway (a toll road), and State Roads 60, and 674 —

links Ruskin with all of Florida and the nation, as well as putting Ruskin within easy access of the 3,000,000 people who live within 30 miles of Tampa Bay.

With I-75 so near, young families in which both spouses work find Ruskin an especially convenient location as each can go in a different direction to work and neither will have an overly long commute.

Air travel is quite convenient as well. Commercial airlines fly in and out of Tampa International Airport (30 minutes away) and St. Petersburg/Clearwater International Airport (45 minutes away). Private fields in the area include Albert Whitted (downtown St. Pete), Clearwater Executive, Peter O. Knight (downtown Tampa), and Brandon (northeast of Tampa).

Government

Unincorporated Ruskin is governed by the Hillsborough County Commission, whose seven members oversee the county's

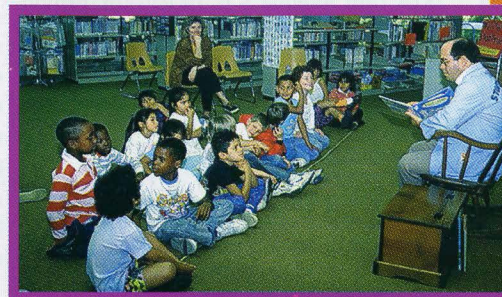


Photo: Pattie Lanier

budget and develop and implement policy from offices in downtown Tampa. Branches of the county's building department and tax collector's office are located in the Hillsborough County Service Center at 3046 State Road 674 in Sun Point Shopping Center (272-6020).

Education

The county school system places high emphasis on good study habits for students and classroom effectiveness for teachers. Ruskin's elementary schools, as well as its junior high and high school, offer a full range of academic programs plus gifted and exceptional programs. Eisenhower Junior High

rounds out its academic curriculum with music, art, agriculture, graphic arts, home economics and business. Seniors at East Bay High rank above the national, regional, and district means in scholastic achievement, scoring top in the county on Scholastic Aptitude Tests for college entrance.

There are also a few private schools in the area.

College courses are available at the University of South Florida in Tampa and at the University of Tampa. Hillsborough Community College offers extension classes at nearby East Bay Senior High School.

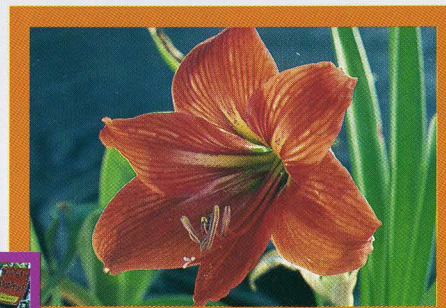


Photo: Harry H. Hull

Houses of Worship

Churches of most major denominations are in or near Ruskin. Serving both spiritual and social needs, Ruskin's churches offer a warm welcome to visitors and new residents, as well as support and guidance to the community.

Calvary Lutheran,	645-1305
Christian Science	645-6102
Church of God, Ruskin,	645-1538
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter	
Day Saints	645-7773
First Apostolic Church of	645-9582
Jesus Christ	
First Assembly of God	645-3337
First Baptist	645-6439
Northside Baptist	645-1121
Ruskin Four Square Gospel	645-4892
Ruskin United Methodist	645-1241
S. Hillsborough	
Church of Christ	645-7607
St. Anne's Catholic	645-1714

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Health Care

Some 100 physicians and surgeons in the area represent more than two dozen specialties, including dentistry and eye care. Numerous medical offices cover a wide range of specialties.

The closest medical center is South Bay Hospital, a 112-bed located in Sun City Center at 4016 State Road 674 (634-3301). An acute care facility with intensive/cardiac care and progressive care units, out-patient surgery, physical and occupational therapy, radiology, laser and vascular surgery, MRI/CAT scan, cancer care, and skilled nursing, the hospital operates a chest pain center and 24-hour emergency room. South Bay's newest service is a mobile cardiac catheterization unit. The hospital also offers a Physician Referral service (634-0376).

The Suncoast Health Center, located at 2814 14th Avenue S.E. in Ruskin, provides medical and dental care to the general public on a sliding scale based on income. Insurance assignment is accepted. All physicians are Board Certified or eligible for certification. For information, call 645-4681.

There are a number of facilities in the area that offer skilled nursing care and long-term care beds.

Media

Local news is emphasized by two weekly publications — the *Shopper Observer News* and the *East Bay Breeze*. The metro papers, *The Tampa Tribune* and *St. Petersburg Times*, are home-delivered in the

area, and other out-of-town newspapers are available at newsstands. TV viewers receive eight television channels "off the air"; cable subscribers may receive up to 50.

Library

The Ruskin branch of the Hillsborough County Library, located at One Dickman Dr. S.E. (645-3721), houses some 37,000 volumes. Special collections include best sellers, children's picture books, a section, *Floridiana*, large-print editions, books on tape, and books specializing in the Spanish language, plus magazines, newspapers and paperback editions.

Establishing Legal Residency

Residency is established by filing a Declaration of Domicile at the Circuit Court Office, Hillsborough County Courthouse, Room 114, 419 Pierce St., Tampa (223-7811), or by registering to vote.

Register to Vote

If you are at least 18 years of age, a citizen of the United States, a permanent resident of Florida and of the county of registration, you may register to vote at the County Courthouse, Room 195. You can also register at the Tax Collector's office in the Sun Point Shopping Center, the Ruskin Library during specified times or at most Barnett Banks. The registration books are closed 30 days prior to an election.

Real Estate and Other Taxes

Ad valorem taxes, a combination of county, city, and school taxes and occasional special assessments, are based on 100 percent of the appraisal value of all real property, business or residential, and vary accord-

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ing to location, construction, and exemptions. Residents of Florida are exempt, by the state's Homestead Exemption Act, from taxation on the first \$25,000 of assessed value of their permanent residence. Qualified persons — disabled and widowed — may receive additional exemptions. Exemptions must be renewed each year.

There is no state income tax for individuals in Florida, though there is a corporate tax. The six percent state sales tax excludes food, medicine, and professional services. From time to time, counties may collect an additional one percent discretionary tax for special projects. State Inheritance Tax is only collected up to the amount of the Federal Estate Tax. An Intangibles Tax is levied on stocks, bonds, accounts receivable, mortgages outside the state, and the like. The first \$20,000 per individual is exempt.

Automobile License Plates

Out-of-state plates are honored until their expiration date, unless you are in business, are employed or have children in public schools in Florida, in which case you must

secure Florida plates immediately. License plates are issued according to the owner's birthdate and are renewed annually by sticker. Tags may be obtained at the County Courthouse in Tampa or at the Sun Point Shopping Center, State Road 674 at I-75 (272-6020). The initial registration fee for new tags is \$100. If the car was not purchased in Florida so no sales tax is due, there is an impact fee of \$295.

Driver's License

Your out-of-state license is honored unless you become a resident, take employment or place children in public schools, in which case you have 30 days to secure a Florida Driver's License. Examinations are given (by appointment) by the Driver's License Division of the Florida Highway Patrol, 10101 Adamo Drive (US 60) in the Brandon Crossings Shopping Center (272-2714). Renewals can be handled at Eckerd Drugs, Sun Point Shopping Center, 3050 State Road 674 in Ruskin, Monday through Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.



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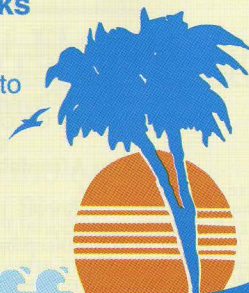
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