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Captivating Clearwater Beach, Florida

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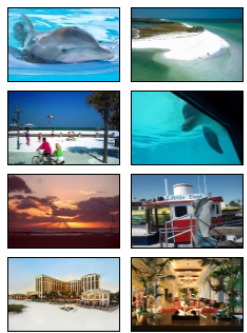
Photo: (Photo: Sandpearl Resort)

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If you adore dolphins, endless stretches of soft, white sand, and warm, sunny weather, then Clearwater Beach, Florida is the place to go. It's a beautiful unspoiled community in the Tampa Bay area, a mere twenty-minute drive from the airport. And it's not only the location where the movie *A Dolphin's Tale* was shot, but also still home to the star of the film- "Winter", the charismatic dolphin with the prosthetic tail.

Meet Winter this Winter

The famous dolphin is only one of the many residents at the [Clearwater Marine Aquarium](#). A non-profit foundation, CMA's mission is to rescue, rehabilitate, and release their charges back to the wild. But unfortunately, sometimes releasing the animals is not an option. Those that have recuperated fully but were too young to have learned basic survivor skills, or have injuries that affect their ability to feed themselves must become permanent guests. There are other dolphins there besides Winter, as well as sea turtles, sea otters and other marine life with health issues. And though the movie has made the place rather famous, they never lose sight of the fact that they are a hospital first and foremost, not a fin and flipper show. The entrance fee to visit Winter and her friends contributes to their financial goal of building a much bigger, more modern, and better-equipped animal hospital so that they can do even more for marine life in the future.



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A Warm and Charming Community

But beyond the draw of meeting a movie star dolphin, there's a lot more to enjoy in this idyllic little escape. It's a charming, arty and laid-back bohemian community. Beyond fabulous beach leisure attractions, there are scads of boat tours options, the most popular being wild dolphin spotting trips! [Little Toot Adventures](#) is one such operator, their little tugboat has a powerful engine that attracts the dolphins to swim in its wake. Clearwater Beach is also famous for its hyper-glorious sunsets. To celebrate the nightly nature show, locals and visitors alike gather for the [Sunsets at Pier 60](#) festival.

Sandpearl Resort – A Rare Gem

The crown jewel of the area is Sandpearl Resort. Though large with 253 rooms and suites, it borders on "boutique" due to its unique character, eclectic arty decor, and storied history. (It's located where the very first Clearwater Beach Hotel was established in the early 1900's.) And they operate in very environmentally friendly manner. In fact, they are the first Silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified resort in Florida. They also excel at creature comforts. Their water circuit, spa, and amenities are world class, and their main dining room

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Caretta on the Gulf is the area's only four-star restaurant. They also offer some unique [guest enrichment programs](#). Visit: www.sandpearl.com.

For more information on Clearwater Beach, visit: www.visitclearwaterflorida.com.

To get there, [Allegiant Air](#) often has spectacular fares from Plattsburgh to Tampa .



Sue Campbell

Meet Winter the Dolphin this Winter and stay at glorious Sandpearl resort!

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