The roar of the engines as they fly around the track, thousands of people in an uproar cheering on their favorite, and the waves crashing at your feet while you watch them soar. The waves give it away that this isn’t Nascar, right? This is the Bright House Clearwater Super Boat National Championship & Seafood Festival, and this could possibly be one of the most exhilarating racing experiences you will ever see. Clearwater beach has been rated as one of the best beaches in the gulf region and that’s not even including all of the wonderful yearly attractions they offer.

Take a moment and imagine being in a boat that can hit speeds up to 180 mph and turning corners at speeds you will want to close your eyes, all in the crystal clear Gulf waters. Still can’t? Well then what if I told you to take a Lamborghini Gallardo that has about 1200 horsepower and multiply that by 5 and you are starting to get into the ballpark of what these boats can do. They are so powerful that they use F-16 canopies for the design of the boat. A single person is not capable of controlling one of these on the water, so it takes two people to race these monstrous machines. First is the driver who controls the steering and second, the throttleman who takes care of four engines. These two together have to be in perfect harmony throughout the race so they are able to produce the highest speeds possible. Has the adrenaline junkie in you kicked in yet? You will want to make sure you are there for all of the weekend festivities, too.

The weekend kicks off that Friday, September 26, where spectators can see the boats on display, meet the drivers and offer different activities to take part in, ending the night with a boat parade. Saturday you won’t want to miss the Seafood Festival,
highlighting specialties from local restaurants, from 10 am to 10 pm in downtown Clearwater’s Coachmen Park. After two days packed with events, parties, festivals and more...it’s now time to start the engines! Sunday is race day and the first heat starts at 12 pm with the second heat at 2 pm. Clearwater offers a variety of race viewing options. If you want to get up close and personal with the sand in your toes, then the beach is where to be. If sand and salt water isn’t your thing then there is Pier 60 which puts you right in the action, over the ocean. And for the viewers that want more of a luxury feel, many of the shoreline hotels offer VIP parties with food, drinks and mingling as you watch those jet-like boats scream around the track.

Although the Super Boats Championships is one of the biggest events of the year, Clearwater has yearly attractions that are worth coming to see. The Clearwater Jazz Holiday is a four day and four night event in October, with artists including Woody Herman, Natalie Cole, Tony Bennett and many more including local jazz artists. The Chalk Walk, also in October, features local artists that show off their expertise right on the sidewalks. Another great visual artistry is the Dolphin Trail which displays 65 one-of-a kind, fiberglass dolphins, that stand 6 feet tall. These dolphins can be found in and outside of businesses from Clearwater all the way to Pinellas County. If you are a baseball fan there might not be a better place to vacation in March. The Tampa Bay Rays call Clearwater home for spring training and the Philadelphia Phillies, New York Yankees, and Toronto Blue Jays are in close proximity. With 4 major league teams all around the same area, you are sure to get your baseball fix. But for our all year round must see in Clearwater are the sunsets. Rated one of the best places to watch a sunset, we suggest heading to Pier 60 for their sunset festival that takes place 7 days a week.

With resort hotels, world-class spa amenities, and some of the best seafood restaurants on the beach, Clearwater has it all.
Places to Dine

Clear Sky Beachside Cafe:
Rated the number one restaurant in Clearwater Beach, they are known for gourmet food without the high price tag. Featuring foods from around the world, this is a perfect breakfast spot. But be sure to make reservations because with the beautiful beach views, it fills up quickly. If you are a Bloody Mary drinker, make sure to try the Bloody Mary Bar where you can customize your drink made just the way you like it.

Frenchy’s South Beach Cafe:
Owned by Mike Preston, a native to Clearwater since 1981, Frenchy’s collection of funky restaurants has become a city staple. Featuring every type of way to cook Grouper, which is sourced each day from the Gulf, they are known for their Grouper sandwich-es. Whether you want their famous Grouper Reuben, or their Buffalo Grouper, or a Super Grouper sandwich, you will see why Frenchy’s is a longtime local favorite.

Hyatt’s SHOR Restaurant:
With an open showpiece kitchen, patio Gulf of Mexico views, and some of the best crab cakes, SHOR restaurant is a dining experience. From freshly caught black Grouper to the 1855 Angus beef filets, Lobster Mac ‘Cheese and the House Made Lobster Ravioli, SHOR combines the freshest seafood with Coastal American cuisine to create decadent dishes with ease. And, you can always catch the sunsets on the patio.

Places to Stay

Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort & Spa:
Named one of the most remarkable resort hotels on Florida’s West Coast, and set between the Gulf of Mexico and the Intercoastal Waterway, Hyatt Regency is a beachfront resort perfect for your trip to Clearwater. Stay in one of their 250 spacious suites, ranging from 600 to 2,000 square feet, and utilize a fully-equipped kitchen while enjoying cocktails on your balcony overlooking the waterfront. Or rent out one of Hyatt’s climate controlled private poolside cabanas for a more intimate stay. Lounge at the poolside bar and grill or take advantage of the Beach-to-Go service, but know that with the breathtaking views, fresh, salt air, and impeccable service, Hyatt continues to never disappoint.

Sandpearl Resort:
A leader in environmental conservation and the first Silver LEED-certified resort in the state of Florida, Sandpearl is an unmatched Clearwater Beach Resort. Surrounded by the powder white sand and the beautiful blue waters, a romantic beach getaway or a family vacation is a perfect fit at this resort. With one of the best spas and three popular restaurants, Caretta on the Gulf, Tate Island Grill and the Marketplace, Sandpearl is a perfect “get away from the ordinary.”

58