

JEFF JANSEN PHOTOGRAPHY

# Location *Guide*

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Eight spots across four cities that consistently photograph well for families — with the practical details you need before you pick one.

NEW PORT RICHEY

# Home *base.*

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These are the two I use most in Pasco County — both free, both public, neither needs a permit.

## *Sims Park*

Downtown, right on the Pithlachascotee River. Oak trees draped in Spanish moss, a waterfront boardwalk, a pier, a gazebo, the historic Hacienda Hotel building — four or five distinct looks without leaving the park. The playground gives kids somewhere to burn off energy between shots.

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ADDRESS	PARKING	PERMIT
Sims Park, downtown New Port Richey	Free, Sims Lane lot — fills up weekends	Not required

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## *Frances Avenue Park*

Same water views and shade trees as Sims, a fraction of the foot traffic. Thicker canopy means more flexible timing outside golden hour. No splash pad, so no wet kids and no wet shoes.

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ADDRESS	PARKING	PERMIT
5580 Frances Ave, New Port Richey	Free, rarely full	Not required

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TARPON SPRINGS

# Gulf light, *quiet water.*

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One beach, one that's all shade and boardwalk. Both sit in Pinellas County, so both need a commercial permit — I handle that.

## *Fred Howard Park & Sunset Beach*

A causeway leads out to a white sand beach with open Gulf views in both directions. Palms and dunes on the way in, water on both sides once you're out. This is the sunset spot — the beach faces west and the light does the work for you.

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**ADDRESS**

1700 Sunset Dr, Tarpon Springs

**PARKING**

\$6/day at the causeway & beach lot

**PERMIT**

Required — Pinellas County

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## *A.L. Anderson Park*

135 acres on Lake Tarpon and Salmon Bay. A boardwalk runs through cypress trees along the shoreline, with gazebos and a playground scattered through the woods. No beach, no crowds — the pick when you want shade and water without the Gulf traffic.

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**ADDRESS**

39699 US Hwy 19 N, Tarpon Springs

**PARKING**

Free (boat ramp lot is \$5)

**PERMIT**

Required — Pinellas County

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PALM HARBOR

## Trees, springs, *Lake Tarpon.*

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Both county parks. Both need a permit — built into your session, no extra step on your end.

### *Wall Springs Park*

A spring-fed park with a boardwalk over the water and a 35-foot observation tower. Heavy tree cover through most of it, so you're not fighting midday sun the way you would on open ground.

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**ADDRESS**

3725 Desoto Blvd, Palm Harbor

**PARKING**

Free, 7am to sunset

**PERMIT**

Required — Pinellas County

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### *John Chesnut Sr. Park*

255 acres on Lake Tarpon. Big oaks hung with Spanish moss, open trails, lake views. More room to move than Wall Springs if you've got older kids who need to walk it out before they'll sit still for a photo.

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**ADDRESS**

2200 E Lake Rd S, Palm Harbor

**PARKING**

Free (boat ramp lot has a fee)

**PERMIT**

Required — Pinellas County

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CLEARWATER

## Beach without *the strip*.

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Skip Clearwater Beach proper for family sessions — it's built for tourists, not photos. These two aren't.

### *Sand Key Park*

Same Gulf, same sand, none of the Pier 60 crowd. Clean open beach with a playground at the north end if you need a break between setups.

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ADDRESS	PARKING	PERMIT
1060 Gulf Blvd, Clearwater	\$6/day, pay station, card only	Required — Pinellas County

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### *Moccasin Lake Nature Park*

Wooded trails and a boardwalk over the lake, with light filtering through the tree canopy all day. A City of Clearwater park, not county — still needs a permit. Open Wednesday through Sunday only, so it has to be planned around, not booked last-minute.

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ADDRESS	PARKING	PERMIT
2750 Park Trail Ln, Clearwater	Free, Wed–Sun 10am–5pm only	Required — City of Clearwater

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## CHOOSING FAST

# Match the *look* to the spot.

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**Downtown, waterfront variety** → Sims Park, New Port Richey

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**Quiet, fewer people around** → Frances Avenue Park · A.L. Anderson Park

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**Sunset over open water** → Fred Howard Park & Sunset Beach

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**Shade all day, no fighting the sun** → Wall Springs Park · Moccasin Lake

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**Room for older kids to roam** → John Chesnut Sr. Park

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**Beach, without the tourist crowd** → Sand Key Park

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### ON PERMITS

Every park in this guide sits in Pinellas or Pasco County. Pinellas parks require a commercial photography permit for every paid session, no matter the group size. I pull the permit and build the cost into your session fee — you don't file anything and you don't pay extra.

STILL DECIDING

## Not sure which *fits*?

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Tell me what you're picturing, and I'll tell you which of these gets you there.

Light, crowd level, how much your kids can handle walking, what's actually open the day of your session — that's the real decision, not which park looks best on Instagram. I've shot all eight of these. I'll point you at the right one before you book.

— *Jeff Jansen*