

NEXT GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD

# St. Pete's Grand Central District

Funky Florida antiques and local art fill the shops of this walkable neighborhood

**WITH DOWNTOWN ST. PETERSBURG**

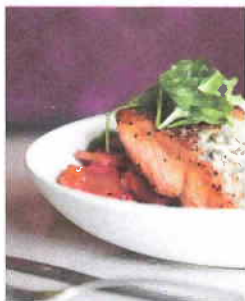
hemmed in by Tampa Bay to the east, the city's revitalization can only head west. This shines the spotlight on the Grand Central District—a pedestrian-friendly area that is also a designated Main Street by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The district's main thoroughfare, Central Avenue, features both double-wide sidewalks and street parking. Here are some of our favorite spots.



Affordable works by local artists are on display at Artpool Gallery.

**▼ 1. THE QUEENS HEAD**

This European-inspired gastropub features dishes like malt vinegar fish and chips (\$15), crispy chickpeas (\$5), and sticky toffee pudding with butter-pecan ice cream and a home-made toffee sauce (\$8). In the evening, kick back in the outdoor lounge complete with canopy beds and padded benches. [thequeensheadbar.com](http://thequeensheadbar.com)



**► 2. CENTRAL ODDITIES**

Opened in late 2012, the shop houses an ever-changing handpicked collection of quirky retro treasures and mid-century modern furnishings. Some of our favorite finds include: pinball machines (\$850), authentic James Bond movie posters (\$40), and fun wall-art made from bits of old jukeboxes (\$200). 727/592-1996

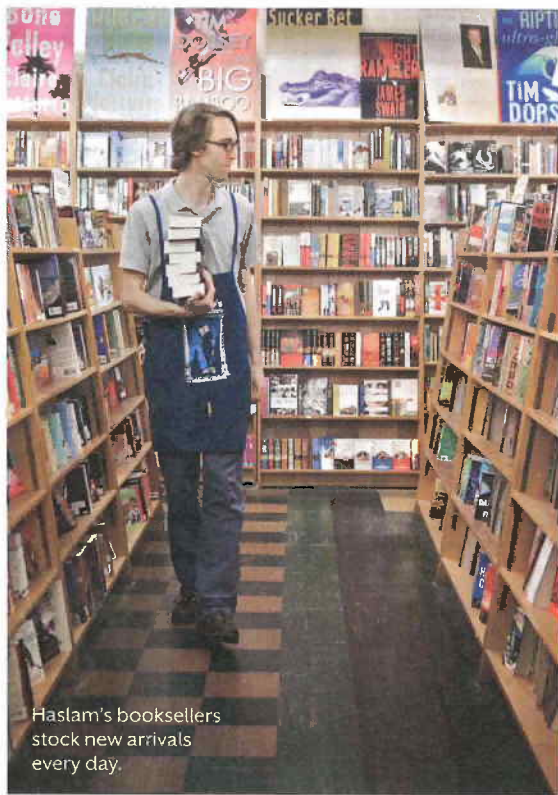


**▲ 3. ARTPOOL GALLERY & VINTAGE BOUTIQUE**

This indie-art headquarters (in a former auto-repair shop) boasts 7,500 square feet of vintage clothing, vinyl records, and rotating works by local artists. Regular fashion shows and craft fests here support [St. Petersburg.com](http://St.Petersburg.com). [artpoolgallery.com](http://artpoolgallery.com)

**4. BEAK'S ST. PETE**

Kitschy Florida lives on at Beak's (think plastic pink flamingos and paintings of tropical beauties). The menu goes beyond the obvious with a weekend brunch that includes a breakfast burger (\$12) with a fried egg, bacon, onion jam, and house-made maple aioli. [beakstpete.com](http://beakstpete.com)



Haslam's booksellers stock new arrivals every day.

**▲ 5. HASLAM'S BOOK STORE**

Florida's largest independent bookstore has endured since 1933. For years it was Grand Central's only retail anchor. Now with 30,000 square feet and more than 300,000 books, it's the perfect spot to spend hours escaping a rainy (or too-hot) day. Book signings, a large selection of Florida titles, and an impressive collection of first editions make this a must-visit. [haslams.com](http://haslams.com)

**6. TWIGS & LEAVES**

One of Florida's first all-native plant nurseries relocated to Grand Central in 2012. The shop sells drought-tolerant, wind-resistant plants such as the purple-flowered blue-eyed grass and the peppy,

yellow black-eyed Susan (both \$4.95 per gallon plant). Don't know where to start to create a lawn with more color and less hassle? Sign up for one of the frequent workshops or landscaping seminars. [twigsleaves.com](http://twigsleaves.com)

**► 7. ROCO TRADERS**

The colorful shop houses unique finds from designers south of the border. Look for the one-of-a-kind jewelry brought back from annual buying trips to the sterling silver capital of the world—Taxco, Mexico. More of an indoor type? Don't miss RoCo's good selection of artisan-made home decor, including a variety of dishware, some reclaimed-wood furniture, and chimineas. 727/895-8922



Artisan-made items for the home fill RoCo Traders.



**▲ 8. URBAN BREW AND BBQ**

This new, casual joint celebrates the art of 'cue with items like smoked pulled pork (\$10) and skillet mac-and-cheese (\$5). On tap, choose from 18 craft brews, including ones from local Rapp Brewing Company. [urbanbrewandbbq.com](http://urbanbrewandbbq.com)



Urban Brew and BBQ has served more than 200 varieties of beer since opening.