



An American Tour:
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Tampa's *Busch Gardens*

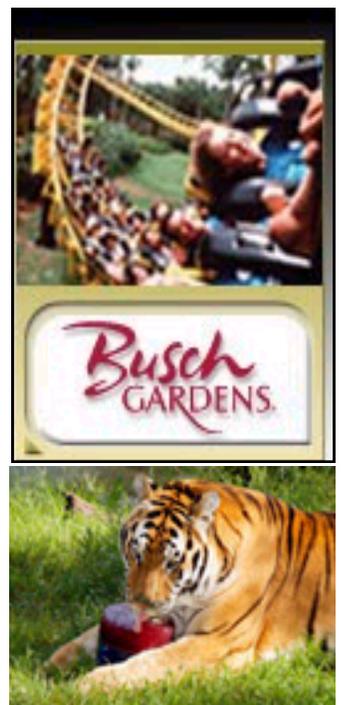
Here's an attraction that has plenty to offer, aside from being in sunny Florida. I've never been to either, but this certainly makes me want to see what there is to see.

Busch Gardens Tampa, one of Florida's most popular theme parks, offers the Southeastern US's fastest, largest, most nerve-jangling roller coasters, incongruously set in an interpretation of colonial-era Africa. A sedate monorail journey allows inspection of a variety of African wildlife, but by far the most popular of the twenty-odd rides is Gwazi, a double wooden roller coaster that pits the two against each other in a race to finish first. Other winners include the nerve-jangling Montu and the enormous Kumba. For those weary of the G forces, the water rides, Stanley Falls and Congo River, are a refreshing alternative on a hot afternoon.

This African-themed park is not only home to six thrilling roller coasters like *Kumba* and *Gwazi*, it is also home to an abundance of wildlife ranging from alligators to zebras. The park offers guests nine themed areas, each featuring numerous rides, attractions, animal exhibits, shops and live entertainment venues. Busch Gardens Tampa Bay is home to more than 2,700 animals representing 320 exotic species in naturalistic habitats, from zebras and giraffes roaming the Serengeti Plain to chimpanzees and gorillas lounging in tropical rain forests. The 335-acre park encompasses an entertainment mecca featuring action-packed rides and world-class shows for guests of all ages, in addition to being one of North America's premier zoos.

In a huge, maze-like park such as this, the immediate problem is not overlooking major areas. Guides suggest that you should start at 'Egypt' and make a circle, doing all the attractions in order from the gate. There are plenty of restaurants, and the myth about not riding roller coasters after you eat is not 'entirely' true. (!)

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