

## A Quintessential Character Town: TAVARES, "America's Seaplane City".

**Founded in 1880** by Alexander St. Clair-Abrams, a newspaper and railroad man from a Creole family in New Orleans. He gave it the surname of a Portuguese ancestor. In 1883 a post office was established; then a hotel, three stores, a sawmill, and eight cottages; the city was incorporated in 1919...from Wikipedia.

### Population (2019):

- City 16,752
- Lake County 367,118

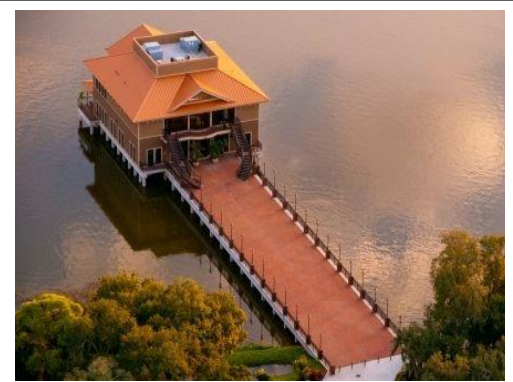
**Distance to Orlando:** 40 miles, 15-20% of workforce commutes

### Features.

- 1. Pavilion on the Lake** \$6.5M and the Key West Resort Hotel, good occupancy week-ends, now weekdays. Civic Entrepreneur and City Manager John Drury, ICMA-CM, AAE teamed with hotel entrepreneur Alex Cooke for a "win-win" in downtown Tavares. The City built the Pavilion on the Lake, a beautiful wedding and private/civic reception center and Mr. Cooke built a hotel to accommodate multi-day guests and functions.
- 2. The Downtown Hotel.** The Key West Resort on Lake Dora offers 65 rooms with ample amenities in a downtown, lakefront setting. Downtown hotels in small cities are threshold assets, they turn day-trippers into week-enders.
- 3. Powerboat Nationals** is the "New Wave" in speed boat racing on Lake Dora's Wootton Park downtown Tavares! Experience the thrills of a breath-taking Championship Boat Race. Featuring ProTunnel 1 and ProTunnel 2 Classes, with special guest Hydro-Cross. **LINK:** <https://www.powerboatnationals.com/tavares-fl-april-2019>
- Tavares was featured in an episode of the *Central Florida Road Trip* produced by WUCF, Orlando's PBS affiliate. Dr. Phil Hoffman hosts the ½ hour show that features interviews and photos of the City's history and its present, like the Seaplane Base and Marina. The video can be viewed at: **LINK:** <https://www.pbs.org/video/at-home-tavares-z2df2u/>.



Depart the wedding by sea or air from Tavares' Pavilion on the Lake.



The Pavilion on the Lake, Lake Dora Tavares



The Key West Resort on Lake Dora  
Photo from TripAdvisor.

5. America's Seaplane City.

The Tavares Seaplane Base & Marina (FA1) is a seaplane airport and recreational boating marina located on the Lake Dora waterfront in the heart of Tavares' Wootton Park. The Prop Shop is in the historic Woodlea House located by the Seaplane ramp.



Source: <https://www.tavares.org/1217/Seaplane-Base-FA1>



The seaplane theme is everywhere.

Visit: <https://www.tavares.org/>