

# Super Bowl XVIII



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## NFL Experience - locals this weekend is your chance!

Posted By: Grayson Kamm ■ 6 months ago

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Tampa, Florida -- The interactive theme park outside Raymond James Stadium opens Saturday for a weekend full of fun for mainly local Tampa Bay fans.

The party starts with the arrival of the Vince Lombardi Trophy, the iconic silver award that will be hoisted by the winning team.

When the NFL Experience opens for the first time at 10 a.m. Saturday, the trophy will arrive by armored car from Tiffany & Co. and be placed on display until the big game.

The trophy will be one of around 50 exhibits, games, and other interactive attractions at the NFL Experience just south of the stadium, and accessible .

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## Tampa Bay gearing up to keep Super Bowl visitors entertained

By SCOTT LUDLUM

For The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Sunday, December 28, 2008

With Super Bowl XLIII barely a month away, Tampa Bay is preparing to kick off an action-packed lineup of spectacular events that promises to offer a super experience for all. Related events are sprinkled throughout the area, from the beaches to the bay and beyond.

"There is something for every visiting football fan to enjoy, from celebrity flag football games and outdoor concerts to high-end parties and kid-friendly events," said Reid Sigmon, executive director for the Tampa Bay Super Bowl Host Committee. Even if you don't have tickets to the big event on Feb. 1, there are plenty of ways to get in on the fun.

Visit the official Web site of the Tampa Bay Super Bowl Host Committee at

[www.tampabaysuperbowl.com](http://www.tampabaysuperbowl.com) for the latest and most up-to-date details on dozens of events. Be sure to check regularly, as new activities are being added daily.

- **NFL Experience.** Encompassing 850,000 square feet, the NFL Experience features more than 50

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# WEB EXTRA: Sights & Sounds from the NFL Experience

Monday, January 26, 2009

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Buccaneer wide receiver Joey Galloway takes pictures with fans Saturday at the NFL Experience.

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY** (Bay News 9) -- From near and seemingly far, they have begun to descend on Tampa.

And stop number one after the airport, appears to be the NFL Experience. Thousands of fans turned out on the opening day of the NFL-themed amusement park.


From kids to adults, there was something for everyone at the event, adjacent to Raymond

James Stadium.

"It's just great fun," said Jill Goodrich, who made the drive over from Palm



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## NFL Experience Puts Super Bowl Fans Into Big Game

Sunday, January 25, 2009 11:06:50 AM

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**TAMPA** -- The [Super Bowl](#) does not kick off for another week, but the festivities got under way Saturday, starting with the [NFL Experience](#).

The interactive area is your change to find out how you measure up against the pros, how accurate your passing skills are, or how far you can kick a field goal.

One of the most exciting continuous events surrounding Super Bowl XLIII, the NFL Experience offers participatory games, displays, entertainment attractions, kids' clinics, free autograph sessions and the largest football card



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TAMPA, Fla., Feb. 1, 2009

## Recession Clips Super Bowl

As Tampa Hopes For Windfall From NFL Championship Game, Some Fans Keep Wallets Closed, Or Just Stay Home

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PHOTO

Fans walk through the NFL Experience in Tampa, Fla., on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009. The Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals will play in Super Bowl XLIII on Sunday in Tampa. (AP Photo/Matt Slocum)

(CBS/AP) From crazed fans ... "Here we go, Steelers, here we go!" ... to crowded hotels, the country's biggest sports party is in full swing.

A hundred thousand out-of-town guests have flocked to Tampa to watch Arizona and Pittsburgh clash, with the Steelers trying to capture their record sixth Super Bowl title and the Cardinals their first.

... And "The Boss" sings at half-time.

It's good timing for Tampa. Before this week, tourism officials say, hotels were down 15 percent compared to the same time last year.

"Just talking to the hotels, just talking to people in the industry, this is a huge shot in the arm for them," Steve Hayes of the Tampa Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau told CBS News correspondent Kelly Cobiella.

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## Workers set up NFL Experience

Posted by Dave Balut ■ 6 months ago

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Tampa, Florida - In the grassy lots just south of Raymond James Stadium, frames of several large tents are taking shape. It will take workers about three weeks to build The NFL Experience, pro football's interactive fan festival.

"This is the NFL's big official public event so this is the best way to kind of come out to the stadium see how everything's laid out and really get a chance to experience the football side of it," said Reid Sigmon, Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Super Bowl Host Committee.

Sigmon says The NFL Experience has everything from punt, pass and kick interactive games to Hall of Fame and locker room exhibits.

At 850,000 square feet, it will be much larger



Crews work on setting up the NFL Experience outside Raymond James Stadium.

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## Promo cards abound at NFL Experience

Submitted by Waxpak on Wed, 01/28/2009 - 01:40.

Donruss and Upper Deck have big plans for fans attending the NFL Experience in Tampa Bay Jan. 29-Feb. 1.

For starters, both will have wrapper redemption promo cards. Both redemption programs require fans to open packs at the each company's booth and will feature Tampa Bay Buccaneers players. Collectors who bring three unopened packs of any 2008 Donruss Playoff trading card product to the booth will receive one card — Jeff Garcia, Earnest Graham, Derrick Brooks or Ronde Barber. Fans who purchase three packs of any 2008 Upper Deck football products (except UD First Edition) can exchange their three foil wrappers for one of four cards — Antonio Bryant, Derrick Brooks, Jeff Garcia and Aqib Talib. For more information on other special Donruss cards and other offers from the two companies, visit my blog at [www.scrippsnews.com/waxpak](http://www.scrippsnews.com/waxpak). In addition, Upper Deck will be conducting a second level of wrapper redemptions for a special set entitled "The Franchise" highlighting six NFL rookie standouts from this past season including: Matt Ryan, Jonathan Stewart, Chris Johnson, Matt Forte, Joe Flacco and Darren McFadden. To obtain the entire six-card set, collectors need to simply purchase five packs of any 2008 Upper Deck football products at the show (with the exception of Upper Deck First Edition) and bring their unopened foil packs to the booth

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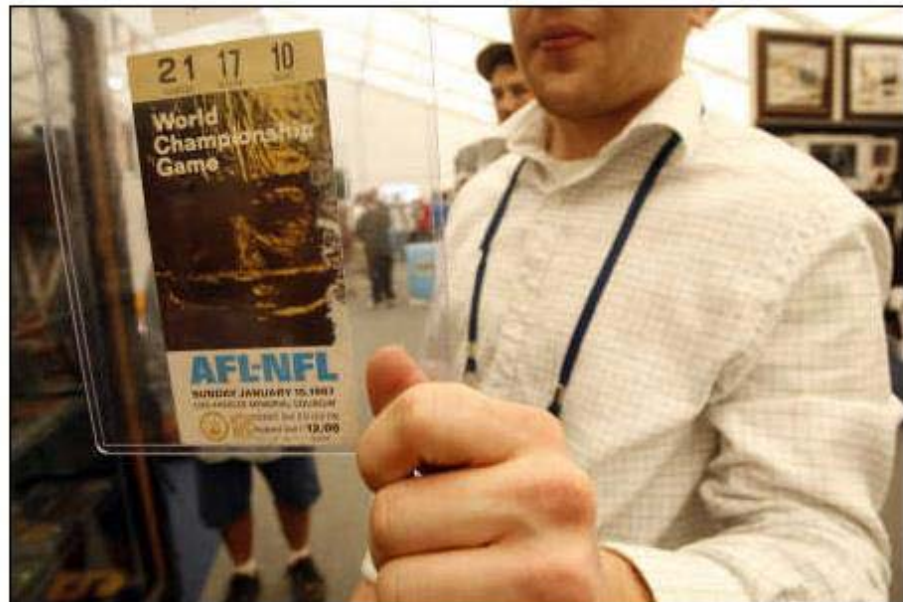
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## Memorabilia auction at the Super Bowl NFL Experience in Tampa to raise money for charity

By Kevin Graham, Times Staff Writer  
In Print: Monday, January 26, 2009

This ticket for the first Super Bowl is being auctioned at the NFL Experience. It's for an "expensive" seat; face value is \$12.



[WILLIE J. ALLEN JR. | Times]

TAMPA — Tom Plunkett won't be one of the bidders when an original ticket to Super Bowl I is auctioned off at the NFL Experience this week.

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## Super Bowl notebook: NFL Experience helps fans catch the excitement

By ANGELA BUSCH

Posted January 29, 2009 at 2 a.m.



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TAMPA — Super Bowl tickets are notoriously hard to come by, but Tampa does offer other options for nearby fans who just want to get in on all the excitement this week.

Take the NFL Experience, for example.

Starting today at 3 p.m., the NFL Experience will open to the general public at Raymond James Stadium. In its 18th year of existence, the Experience — an interactive fan festival — has been offering football entertainment accessible to fans and families who don't get the chance to attend the game itself.

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Published: Jan 24, 2009

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### NFL Experience Kicksoff in Tampa

by Rich Cannon

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The NFL Experience officially kicks in to gear Saturday morning in Tampa Bay at Raymond James Stadium, starting with the arrival of the Lombardi Trophy.



A week before the [Arizona Cardinals](#) and the Pittsburgh Steelers face off in Super Bowl 43, fans, media and some players from the also-rans of 2008 will be on hand to punt, pass and kick their way to a good time in a tradition that has now lasted 18 years.

The event is open to the public, with a fee of course, and includes a [Super Bowl ring](#) exhibit and autograph sessions to go with the clinics and games that all ages will enjoy.

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## Rihanna's Pepsi Smash Super Bowl Bash Performance Pics

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## Rihanna: Performance at the Pepsi Smash Super Bowl XLIII Bash

January 30, 2009 by [GossipCenter.com](#)

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*Other Musicians: U2, Kid Rock, Coldplay, Jennifer Hudson, the Jonas Brothers, Radiohead, Katy Perry, Jay-Z, Kanye West, T.I., And Lil Wayne*

As celebrities and sports fans alike pour into Tampa, Florida for the big [Super Bowl XLIII](#) weekend, there are plenty of events to keep them busy. And last night [Rihanna](#) gave a stunning performance at the Pepsi Smash [Super Bowl XLIII](#) Bash.

The "Disturbia" hottie donned a sexy all-black ensemble and hit the stage at the Ford Amphitheater for a rousing set chock full of her hits.

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And it sounds like the Barbadian songstress has another high-profile gig just around the corner - she's just signed on to perform at the 2009 Grammys on February 8th.

Rihanna joins acts like U2, [Kid Rock](#), [Coldplay](#), [Jennifer Hudson](#), the [Jonas Brothers](#), [Radiohead](#), [Katy Perry](#), and an all-star hip-hop ensemble including [Jay-Z](#), [Kanye West](#), [T.I.](#), and [Lil Wayne](#).

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## Super Bowl 2009: Fall Out Boy, Rihanna Pump Up Fans at Pepsi Smash Concert

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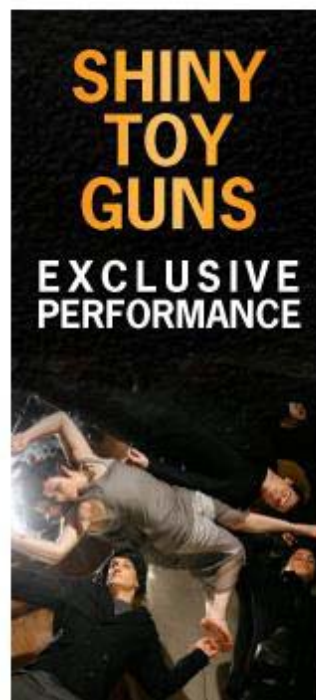
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Rihanna performs at the NFL Pepsi Smash Super Bowl Concert held at the Ford





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Jan 30 2009 10:54 AM EST

## Rihanna, Fall Out Boy Kick Off Super Bowl Weekend With Pepsi Smash Show

Lifehouse also perform their new  
singles at Tampa's Ford  
Amphitheater.

By Gil Kaufman

Just what exactly does Barbadian R&B pop queen [Rihanna](#) have to do with the Super Bowl? About as much as [Fall Out Boy](#). Yet there both acts were, playing to a hyped-up crowd on Thursday night at Tampa's Ford Amphitheater for the VH1-broadcast Pepsi Super Bowl Smash show that served as the unofficial kickoff of Super Bowl XLIII weekend.

The one-hour special, hosted for the second year by easily excited actor [Jerry O'Connell](#) and a series of NFL guests, kicked off with a mini-set from FOB. The

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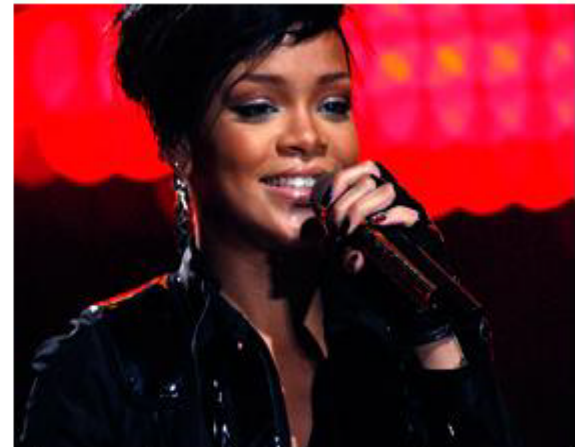
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Rihanna performs at the Pepsi Smash Super Bowl Concert on Thursday

Photo: Kevin C. Cox/ Getty Images

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