

## A Behind The Scenes Tour of the Famous Columbia Restaurant



Join the OLLI-USF Travel Opportunities Committee on Tues., Aug. 19, at 10:30 a.m., for an insider's look at the famous Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City.

The Columbia Restaurant was founded by Casimiro Hernandez, Sr., in 1903 as the Columbia Saloon and was renamed the Columbia Restaurant in 1905. Over nearly 120 years, the original restaurant has expanded to an entire city block and is now the largest Spanish restaurant in the world. Casimiro's descendants diligently care for the Columbia Restaurant and help preserve his American dream.

As Florida's oldest restaurant, the Columbia boasts seven locations in Florida and is still owned and operated by family members. At the Ybor City location, the restaurant has 15 different dining rooms.

The walking tour will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Columbia Restaurant, 2117 E. 7th Ave., Tampa, and will be followed by lunch. Guests will be responsible for their individual meal costs. Free parking is available in front of the restaurant and behind the restaurant, which is accessible off 21st Avenue and 22nd Avenue.

The tour lasts approximately 45 minutes. One segment includes stairs to a second-floor dining room, which unfortunately is not accessible by elevator. The remainder of the tour takes place on the first floor, and overall walking is minimal.

For more information, contact [Mary Coffeen](#).

This opportunity is limited to 30 guests. To reserve your spot, click [here](#) or contact Charise at 813-974-5848.