

Located on the waterfront in historic Punta Gorda's downtown district, the Center provides easy access to nearby hotel accommodations, dining options and attractions in a very walkable city.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Group accommodations range from full-service upscale resorts to smaller hotels, many with expansive waterfront vistas. Hotels within walking distance include:

Best Western Waterfront

Location: Downtown Punta Gorda

Number of rooms: 187

Auxiliary space: Restaurant, pool, meeting space

Sheraton Four Points

Location: Downtown Punta Gorda

Number of rooms: 106

Auxiliary space: Restaurant, pool, meeting space

Projected opening date: February 2009

Wyvern Hotel

Location: Downtown Punta Gorda

Number of rooms: 64

Auxiliary space: Restaurant, rooftop pool/garden

Projected opening date: Late fall 2008

Hilton Garden Inn

Location: Downtown Punta Gorda

Number of rooms: 120

Projected opening date: Late 2009

For pre- and post-conference accommodations throughout the Charlotte Harbor Area, visit www.CharlotteHarborMeetings.com.

DINING

Take in the beautiful sunsets and waterfront vistas as a variety of indoor and outdoor dining options exist, all within walking distance of the Event & Conference Center. From exquisite gourmet cuisine, to relaxed Florida-style fare, to quick and scrumptious snacks, the historic downtown area offers your attendees a wide array of palate-pleasing creations by a number of award-winning chefs.

SHOPPING

From waterfront boutiques and malls, to antique fairs and flea markets, shopping takes on many forms within Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands. In addition to its marina, Fishermen's Village features 33 shops and boutiques, seven restaurants, live entertainment and special events. Meeting attendees can bring home a whimsical souvenir, an original work of art or a fabulous new outfit as a memento of this beautiful destination.



ATTRACTIONS

Situated along beautiful Charlotte Harbor, architecturally rich Punta Gorda is a “True Florida” boating town offering a genuine old Florida atmosphere with new amenities. Cobble streets are lined with huge royal palms, restored period homes, vintage streetlights, boutiques and art galleries – an engaging setting for a state-of-the-art event and conference center. Amenities and nearly everything to see and do, from spas and eclectic shopping to nature parks, and fine dining at trendy restaurants and sidewalk bistros, are located near the historic downtown waterfront.

Punta Gorda’s waterfront location and numerous parks welcome visitors and nature enthusiasts to walk, jog, or bike along paths for possible encounters with birds of almost every feather, turtles and other local wildlife. In addition to winding trails and pathways, Laishley Park on the Peace River and Gilchrist Park on the harbor offer boating and fishing access, as well as gardens, picnicking and a vintage paddle boat.

Several area environmental and wildlife centers, like Babcock Wilderness Adventures, provide guided eco-tours and educational programs throughout the area. As Florida’s second-largest open-water estuary, the harbor feeds peaceful coves and bays and 200 miles of Blueway Trails ideal for paddling enthusiasts. The marina at Punta Gorda’s Fishermen’s Village provides the perfect spot to shop and dine, as well as charter a fishing boat or board a tour boat for an island hop, luncheon or sunset harbor cruise.

Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands was recently ranked by *Golf Digest* as the 3rd Best Place in America to Live and Play Golf, and has plenty to offer the golf enthusiast, including 4½-star ranked courses.

Opportunities for teambuilding, ranging from a day out on the water, to racing at the International Motorsports Academy, to an outdoor group Challenge Course, are also available nearby.

ARTS & CULTURE

Art galleries, festivals and exhibits; a professional symphony orchestra and theatrical productions offer artistic and cultural experiences year round in Punta Gorda. History buffs can soak up Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands’ rich past in the town’s varied museums, including the Museum of African-American History & Culture and the only military/aviation museum on the Gulf Coast. Ten outdoor murals depicting the area’s social and natural history and trolley tours round out the historical offerings in Punta Gorda.

