Locally Inspired: Florida's One-of-a-Kind Group Experiences





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On the cover: Alligator Reef Lighthouse, Islamorada, credit Visit Florida; above Miami day club.

Locally Inspired: Florida's One-of-a-Kind Group Experiences

Between its year-round mild weather, 825 miles of sandy coastline, and total dedication to being the consummate host, Florida is uniquely positioned to offer group experiences like nowhere else in the country... or the world, for that matter.

Following are just some of the experiences awaiting your groups in the Sunshine State. Local DMCs, visitor bureaus and hotel event services can help you put together the best options for meetings of any size and style, corporate retreats and incentive programs.

Gathering Offsite

Is Florida the land of the offsite venue? Could be when you consider the sheer number of attractions, museums, stadiums, heritage homes, nature centers, space centers and beaches—to name a few—that are at a planner's disposal for events aligned with company missions and values.

Corporate parties and events in the shadow of Walt Disney World's Cinderella's Castle or on a backlot movie set of Universal Studios will literally transport attendees to other worlds. Let your groups sample creamy Butterbeer at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter or walk through an underwater

tunnel surrounded by sharks and barracuda before dining at Shark's Underwater Grill at SeaWorld Orlando.

Far from the techno-thrills of Florida attractions are museum-worthy houses—and many are museums—that tell the story of the state's founding families and pioneers as well as the towns and cities they helped develop and which have grown up around them.

Heart-of-downtown locations are not surprising, considering that suburbia didn't exist in Florida a hundred years ago, and it only makes places like Bonnet House, Historic Needham Estate and Stranahan House, for example—all located in downtown Fort Lauderdale and hosting group events—that much more pedestrian-friendly and convenient to nearby dining and entertainment.

Just south of downtown Miami and once occupying acres of bayside land now taken by homes and businesses, Vizcaya Museum & Gardens started life as the winter estate of

businessman James Deering, who filled his lavish home with art and antiques from Renaissance Europe and surrounded it with formal gardens. Once completed, it looked as if it had been standing for centuries, and between that and its location overlooking Biscayne Bay, Vizcaya is an enormously popular choice for private functions such as plated dinners under the stars.

On the flip side of graceful historic homes are sports-related venues like Jacksonville's Everbank Stadium, welcoming groups to dinners on the field complete with jumbotron signage accompanying the event.

Also courting meetings is South Florida's Hard Rock Stadium offering more than 20 private spaces for group functions, including ten club areas, locker rooms, suites and even the concourses.

But football isn't the only game in town catering to groups. State-of-the-art facilities for conferences and events are waiting at Daytona International Speedway, including the Daytona 500 Club, the Bill France Room and a variety of suites. Not to be left in the dust is Florida Sports Park in Naples, home of swamp buggy races as well as private event space for up to 300.

Teambuilding

From painting ceramics together to cheering each other on during zipline races, Florida has no shortage of ways to build team bonding and morale.

Margarita and ceviche classes.



Charity-focused teambuilding.



Art classes can draw your group together, offering hands-on encounters that get the creative juices flowing while building rapport among attendees. At The Art Room in Orlando, groups of up to 30 can create their own acrylic paintings during two-hour parties, with supplies provided (you bring the food). Meanwhile, the Tampa Museum of Art recently unveiled expanded classroom and studio space, offering group sessions in ceramics, digital art, mixed media and more. Expand your group's visit with cocktails or dinner in event spaces that include a covered terrace and spacious atrium.

If you're looking for a one-stop-shop, the Go Game offers in-person and hybrid events, including game shows, escape rooms, scavenger hunts and wellness options like developing skills to cope with stress. There's even a CSR Build a Bike Challenge. The Go Game is based in Orlando but offers programs across the state, including Gainesville and Juno Beach.

Communing with wildlife can bring people together, and one unique spot for this is Miami's Pelican Harbor Seabird Station, founded to care for injured brown pelicans but now recognized internationally as a center for seabird rehabilitation. Groups can tour the rehabilitation facilities and aviaries and see first-hand how the station cares for injured and displaced wildlife with the goal of returning them to the wild. Afterwards, you board the Pelican Skipper for a guided tour of the surrounding islands and rookeries that seabirds and other wildlife call home.

Of course, in a state where temperatures rarely approach freezing—especially in balmy Central and tropical South



Yacht rentals in Fort Lauderdale

Florida—outdoor teambuilding activities are a given. Hundreds of hotels can help you plan volleyball on the beach, snorkeling excursions, bike rides, ropes courses and tons of activities designed to bring attendees together while also awakening their resting heart rates.

You also may opt for one of dozens of sports complexes around the state planning fun and games for corporate and meeting groups, including the IMG Academy in Bradenton, whose immersion environment is ideal for retreats. In addition to onsite meeting space, the Academy can arrange things like Corporate Field Days, technology sessions for improving someone's swing in tennis and baseball, or just coordinating your group's activity of choice—golf, tennis and yoga are among the options.

Dining

Florida has gone from "whose key lime pie is best?"—still a valid research project—to dining venues that earn critical acclaim and Michelin stars for their innovative menus and celebrity-level chefs.

But dining in Florida isn't just what you're eating—though from haute cuisine to shrimp & grits it's all pretty great—but how you're eating.

No matter where they're coming from or in what season, your group will likely want to make a beeline for the shoreline and Florida's copious number of waterfront restaurants. By the way, that waterfront includes the Intracoastal Waterway following the coastline all the way around from Amelia Island to Pensacola, not to mention the Florida Keys.

In Key West, the Southernmost Beach Café serves up boat-totable freshness and a blend of Caribbean and classic Americana cuisine, while the resort makes a luxe spot for small groups and incentive winners.

On Hutchinson Island, Kyle G's oceanside dining room and alfresco deck are the picture-perfect settings for raw bar favorites, including fresh oysters, plus a surf-and-turf menu ranging from NY strip steak to Floribbean mahi-mahi. Private dining with customized menus is available for presentations and parties.

And though seaside usually means seafood, rules were meant to be broken. At Water Pig BBQ on Pensacola Beach, your group will need extra napkins for Texas-style brisket, dry-rubbed pork ribs and BBQ burgers while also being blown away by the views of English Navy Cove on Water Pig's open deck.

F&B combines beautifully with teambuilding when it comes to mixology classes or the delicious work of preparing your own meal. Anyone for margarita- and ceviche-making by the beach? Local restaurants would love to make it happen for your group.

Giving Back

"Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but footprints" is a mantra of green travel that encourages environmental awareness, but many groups also want to leave behind a positive impact in the communities they visit. Local CSR programs can help them.

Options in Florida run the gamut from classic beach cleanups to community and social engagement, depending on the aims of your group and the time available.

State and national parks, for one, are always in the market for volunteers, both for cleanups as well as assisting park employees with daily tasks or special projects.

For groups interested in helping local wildlife, the St. Johns County Audubon Society welcomes volunteers for bird walks, eagle watching and shorebird stewarding—actively discouraging people from treading on hard-to-see nests in the sand. Kids with special needs are the focus of Nathaniel's Hope in Orlando, which remains a support system for families navigating the challenges of raising special needs children through an array of programs. Using an app-based scavenger hunt at one of the Walt Disney World theme parks, attendees can work together to "unlock" a donation of toys for the organization. Once completed, a representative from Nathaniel's Hope will come to collect the toys and thank the group.



Plan an immersive experience for meeting attendees in a place where innovation and creativity come naturally — Fort Myers' islands, beaches and neighborhoods. Create memorable networking and team-building events customized to your group's interests throughout the greater Fort Myers area. Meeting attendees will love our vibrant neighborhoods, historic landmarks, serene parks, and lush gardens. It's an inspiring place to work and play.

Natural settings have a way of sparking creativity. Groups can explore parks and preserves where they'll encounter abundant wildlife. J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island is part of the largest undeveloped mangrove ecosystem in the United States and home to more than 245 species of birds. Between meetings or at the end of each day, attendees can relax on white-sand beaches, paddle coastal waterways and hop between secluded islands.

Host relaxing group dinners at a waterfront restaurant where attendees can savor fresh Gulf seafood. Plan a networking event at a local brewery, like Fort Myers Brewing Co. or Crazy Dingo Brewing Co., or at a rooftop bar in the historic River District. Downtown Fort Myers is teeming with galleries, murals and public art to discover.

Meet on the green at one of the award-winning golf courses or golf-themed experiences throughout the region. Fort Myers Country Club is one of many courses open to the public and was once the favored course of two of America's most prominent inventors: Thomas Edison and Henry Ford. There's also PopStroke, which features two Tiger Woods–designed mini-golf courses plus a full-service restaurant and bar.

About Fort Myers - Islands, Beaches and Neighborhoods

The greater Fort Myers area is where meetings are a breeze. Find inspiration surrounded by fresh air and endless sunshine with access to over 220,000 square feet of meeting space and more than 10,000 hotel rooms. It's a laid-back destination that's ideal for small to midsize groups.

MeetInFortMyers.com





in @fort-myers-islands-beaches-and neighborhoods





Imagine having all the creative talent, ideas, and resources of Disney on your side as you plan your event. Imagine the possibilities as you create a powerful and memorable experience for your attendees. At Disney we've combined all the resources one needs to plan and produce a meeting or event into one creative and production team, offering you innovative solutions and a great return on investment.

When you partner with Disney for your meeting, you get access to best-in-class planners, industry-leading technology, world-class culinary experts and unforgettable entertainment. But, most importantly, you'll get Disney's legendary creativity and attention to detail. When you use our imagination, you will transform your meeting into something incredible only found at Disney.

Disney Meetings & Events – Walt Disney World includes an exclusive portfolio of 5 convention resorts: Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resorts, Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, Disney's Boardwalk Inn, and Disney's Contemporary Resort. And with over 600,000 sq. ft. of meeting and event space between the 5 convention resorts, and unique venues within the Disney Theme Parks, you're certain to find the right unique space to meet your needs. Nothing says VIP like a private event in an immersive world-famous Disney attraction.

We know that capturing attendees' attention is one thing – continuing the momentum of the experience long after it has ended is what makes the difference. At Disney, meetings aren't planned, they're designed, with you in mind.

About Disney Meetings & Events

Disney Meetings & Events creates memorable experiences for you and your attendees. With our world-renowned creative resources, experiential learning, and unexpected value, your meeting comes to life in ways you never thought possible. Explore our unique destinations in Florida, California, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Paris and at sea at DisneyMeetingsAndEvents.com.

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From iconic resorts, sprawling outdoor spaces and world-class dining, shopping and entertainment options, The Palm Beaches deliver a one-of-a-kind, unrivaled meetings experience. With lush courtyards, waterfront terraces, downtown rooftops, and modern hotels and venues, it's easy to find a perfect fit for every group. Plan safe, innovative and inspiring events with The Palm Beaches' award-winning Group Sales & Destination Services Team, who are experts at creating engaging moments and exclusive local experiences to elevate events and delight attendees, both within the meeting and beyond. Infusing meetings with local touches from The Palm Beaches — through hosting community and business leaders as keynote speakers, local food & beverage experiences, and more — provides an opportunity to build connection through shared experiences and create conversations which inspire new ideas. Betweenthe-sessions, discover unmatched arts and cultural, culinary, natural beauty and outdoor spaces, entertainment, and wellness offerings. While business insights take place in the ballroom, meaningful connections and ideas can be sparked in a variety of unique local settings, like an evening team-building event at the world's largest dedicated croquet facility or a group CSR program at a renowned sea turtle rehabilitation and conservation facility. The Palm Beaches offer vibrant downtown districts that provide access to diverse collections of hotels and attractions, with over 1,000,000 sq. ft. of meeting space and 18,000 guestrooms throughout the destination. Attendees will enjoy the most of their time in The Palm Beaches — in and out of the boardroom — with an immersive meeting and betweenthesessions experience that ignites inspiration.

About The Palm Beaches

The Palm Beaches is where meeting spaces of every size boasting the latest technology share the stage with vibrant communities and breathtaking natural beauty. Beyond the insights and connections gained within the boardroom, The Palm Beaches take care of the rest with inspiring venues, unique opportunities to connect, and Between-The-Sessions experiences that set meetings apart.

Learn more at www.thepalmbeaches.com/meetings.



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CARIBE ROYALE

Caribe Royale Reimagined. A Fresh Perspective For Your Next Orlando Meeting.

Emerging from a \$140-million transformation, Caribe Royale Orlando has unveiled an entirely reimagined meetings resort experience from expanded meeting space to a contemporary new look and a refined attitude. This AAA Four-Diamond resort takes pride not only in its physical redesign, but also in an elevated level of warm, intuitive service aptly called "The Royale Treatment".

All 1,217 one-bedroom suites have been completely reimagined, with a fresh, modern style and all the comforts of home. The resort's exclusive Villas, a hotel-within-a-hotel, offers an additional 120 lakeside, two-bedroom suites each with a full kitchen, dining room and a wealth of exclusive services and amenities. In the resort's Reception Building — the vibrant heart of guest activity and networking — the transformation continues with redesigned lobby areas featuring personal check-in stations; the expansion of The Venetian Chop House; the addition of Starbucks® and a vibrant new networking venue, Rum Bar featuring Bacardi® and the opening of Stadium Club, Orlando's most immersive and interactive spots bar and entertainment venue featuring a 110' ribbon screen for 360-degree gametime viewing, 8 sport simulator suites and a creative chef-driven menu.

Planners will love the enhancements to the resort's 240,000 sf of event space, including the new 50,000 sf Palms Ballroom. With its expansive pre-function space, sunlit atrium with builtin registration, and dedicated boardroom, this addition is as multifunctional as it is impressive. And, The Grove, a lush 19,000 sf event lawn.

About Caribe Royale Orlando

Emerging from a \$140-million transformation, the AAA Four Diamond Caribe Royale Orlando has created an entirely reimagined meetings experience from expanded meeting space, redesigned suite accommodations and exciting new dining and entertainment experiences to a contemporary new look, and an elevated level of personalized service.

CaribeRoyale.com

StadiumClub.com



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#cariberoyaleorlando #liveroyale #royaletreatment



At Sunseeker Resort Charlotte Harbor, you'll discover an all-in-one resort destination where business and pleasure seamlessly coexist unlike anywhere else. Set to become the center of activity in Charlotte Harbor, this brand-new resort offers guests the finest amenities on the Gulf Coast. Spectacular gatherings start here with 60,000-square-foot of event space, innovative breakout areas, immersive indoor/outdoor spaces, world-class catering, and stunning waterfront views.

Here, awe-inspiring accommodations are the norm. Featuring 596 coastal-inspired premium guestrooms and 189 SunsuitesTM, guests can relax in total comfort as they take in the coastal surroundings and reflect on the day's events. Just outside our doors you'll discover Florida's best-kept secrets where life moves a little slower and the fun lasts a little longer with myriad things to do. Experience the convenience of hosting an event and allowing for the conversation to continue over 18 holes of championship golf at our exclusive course, on a private sunset chartered sailboat, or a visit to the Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens.

From social events to corporate meetings, the cutting-edge event facility offers the latest multimedia equipment, with the ideal mix of privacy, flexibility and convenience transforming any event into an unforgettable experience. With 22-foot-high floor-to-ceiling windows that overlook the stunning views of Charlotte Harbor and a chef de cuisine preparing dishes with sustainable and locally sourced ingredients in a dedicated banquet kitchen to the highest culinary standard, Sunseeker Resort offers a dynamic environment that allows groups the opportunity to customize and create their own unique event experience.

About Sunseeker Resort Charlotte Harbor

Located along the Peace River and Charlotte Harbor, Sunseeker Resort is the first new-build resort of this size to open in Southwest Florida in over thirteen years. This premier luxury resort lets you escape to an endlessly entertaining, totally relaxing waterfront destination offering the best of everything under the sun.

SunseekerResorts.com



@Sunseekerresorts



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Unveiling a \$35-million transformation in 2024, Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa is revolutionizing the meeting experience. As the largest full-service beach resort on Florida's Gulf Coast, guests can enjoy over 60,000 square feet of freshly renovated indoor and outdoor event space, featuring the addition of two versatile meeting rooms. The award-winning beachfront property allows guests to go from the boardroom to the beach in just a few steps.

On-site, discover six seasonal dining venues ranging from a beachside cafe to our AAA Four-Diamond steakhouse. Elsewhere on the property, guests enjoy two outdoor pools and one indoor pool, an on-site spa and 24-hour fitness center, and of course—beach access and unforgettable Gulf views. The experience at Hilton Sandestin Beach is about more than just the location—it's about the unique team building opportunities our location offers. From Beach Olympics to beachside bonfires, sunset receptions on the pool deck and more, our team can curate an unforgettable conference experience with activities you won't find anywhere else.

Outside our doors, guests will find a variety of nearby attractions. Nature lovers will enjoy state parks, nature preserves, and hiking around rare Coastal Dune Lakes. Anglers love charting the waters in Destin, Florida, known as "the world's luckiest fishing village," and golfers will enjoy convenient access to four nearby golf courses. Shopping outlets, entertainment centers and dining options also dot the coast around our resort.

Give your attendees an experience they'll never forget, and let our professional meetings staff help you plan uniquely Florida experiences.

About Hilton Sandestin Beach

Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa in South Walton is a beloved home-away-from-home for countless guests. Surrounded by emerald water and sugar-white sand, our full-service beachfront resort offers guests multiple dining options, an award-winning spa, access to four championship golf courses, and world-class service. We're located on the picturesque Gulf of Mexico in Miramar Beach—just a few miles from Destin, Florida.

meetings.hiltonsandestinbeach.com



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Panama City Beach invites attendees to discover the stunning natural surroundings, premier amenities and unique experiences that await along its 27 miles of sugar-white sand beaches and turquoise waters.

For a truly one-of-a-kind experience in Panama City Beach, embark on an excursion to Shell Island. Nestled between the Gulf of Mexico and St. Andrews Bay, this hidden gem features seven miles of untouched paradise and is home to the world's highest concentration of bottlenose dolphins. Accessible only by boat or the Shell Island Shuttle, there is a selection of sightseeing trips, private charters, and boat rental options available for groups.

Elevate your evening with a curated beach bonfire experience offering personalized setups with chairs, hammocks, s'mores, and more. Gather around the glow of the fire while savoring a breathtaking sunset or enjoy a scenic sunset cruise along the Gulf of Mexico on Paradise Adventures spacious catamaran, which comfortably seats up to 72 guests.

Known as the "Seafood Capital of the South", Panama City Beach's unique geography makes it an ideal locale for fresh coastal cuisine blended with Cajun, Gulf Coast and Southern traditions. From fine dining to seafood markets and beachfront eateries, you'll find a range of delicious dining options to please all palates. The destination's new Duplin Winery offers immersive tours, tastings, hand-bottling demonstrations, and ample event space.

With its incredible natural beauty and array of exciting, locally inspired offerings, Panama City Beach guarantees a memorable meeting experience for all at the Real. Fun. Beach.

About Panama City Beach

Situated on 27 miles of sugar-white sand beaches bordering the glistening emerald waters of the Gulf of Mexico, Panama City Beach is a premier destination for small meetings in Florida. The charming locale provides unmatched hospitality with authentic experiences, unique amenities, and immersive group experiences for exceptional meetings and events.



@VisitPanamaCityBeach

@panamacitybeach



Discover the unparalleled allure of Florida's Sports Coast—a destination where every facet of your meeting experience is elevated to extraordinary heights. From intimate and distinctive meeting venues to unparalleled adventures that push the boundaries of expectation, this is where your event transcends the ordinary.

After your productive sessions, immerse yourself in the natural splendor of the Florida's Sports Coast's coastline. Join a local fishing charter captain for an exhilarating day on the water, where the thrill of reeling in prized catches like Redfish or Grouper is matched only by the commitment to sustainable fishing practices. Venture further into the heart of Dade City and embrace pulse-pounding activities that set Florida's Sports Coast apart. Take a leap of faith with your team from 13,500 feet at SkyDive City, a renowned drop zone that promises an unforgettable aerial experience. Or, navigate through treetops at TreeHoppers Aerial Adventure Park, immersing yourself in an exhilarating canopy adventure. For a truly wild encounter, embark on a guided safari tour of Giraffe Ranch, where encounters with majestic giraffes, zebras, and cheetahs await.

Whether you opt for the historic charm of the Hacienda Hotel in downtown New Port Richey, the luxurious amenities of Saddlebrook Golf Resort, or the dynamic energy of Wiregrass Ranch Sports Campus, Florida's Sports Coast offers a venue tailored to exceed your every expectation.

Depart from your conference enriched with memories that only Florida's Sports Coast can provide—memories that linger long after the event has concluded, ensuring an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

About Florida's Space Coast

Score your next unbeatable conference, corporate retreat or business event on Florida's Sports Coast. Nestled in Pasco County, a mere 40 minutes north of Tampa, our region boasts 65 world-class venues renowned for their top-tier amenities, state-of-the-art sports facilities, and unparalleled opportunities for team building.

flsportscoast.com/meetings









A beautiful balance of business and pleasure.

With a picture-perfect location on one of Florida's best beaches, just 20 miles southeast of Jacksonville, Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and The Lodge & Club Ponte Vedra Beach have played host to some of the nation's most influential meetings, conferences and conventions since 1928. And at meeting's end, guests enjoy play on two golf courses, 15 lighted tennis courts and more than a mile of pristine Atlantic oceanfront.

Beyond the more than 30,000 square feet of flexible meeting space and wide-open beach, the resorts offer world-class dining, an extraordinary spa and legendary golf on two championship courses. In fact, both resort courses, from the storied Ocean Course to the renowned Lagoon Course have been recently updated, offering breathtaking views and exhilarating play.

The historic Ponte Vedra Inn & Club boasts more than 25,000 square feet of flexible function space spread across 17 rooms, and can comfortably accommodate groups of up to 350. An abundance of outdoor venues – from oceanfront patios to golf-view terraces – are perfect for putting-green coffee breaks and oceanfront cookouts. Additionally, all of The Inn's 262 rooms and suites feature designer touches and luxury finishes, and most provide ocean views.

The Lodge & Club offers the same unparalleled oceanfront access on a more intimate scale for small to midsized groups. More than 13,000 square feet of meeting space can accommodate 10 to 150 people. And every one of The Lodge & Club's 66 rooms and suites offers contemporary luxury with panoramic ocean views.

Where inspiration comes in waves.

Situated on more than a mile of Atlantic oceanfront, Ponte Vedra Beach Resorts have played host to exceptional meetings, conferences and conventions since 1928. Boasting 30,000+ square feet of flexible function space, luxury accommodations, world-class dining, two championship golf courses and an extraordinary spa, our two resorts offer a beautiful balance of business and pleasure.

Learn More: pontevedra.com/meetings

CONTACT
Craig Schoninger
Director of Sales and Marketing
T: 904-273-7781
E: cschoninger@pvresorts.com



Nestled along the pristine shores of Clearwater Beach in Florida, the Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach promises an unparalleled group experience. Boasting over 22,000 square feet of meeting space and 343 well-appointed guest rooms, the resort caters to groups of all sizes. From outdoor event space to meeting rooms showcasing expansive water views and natural light, guests are immersed in the serene surroundings.

For environmentally conscious groups, the resort's proximity to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium provides an opportunity to gain insights into marine life through guided tours. Meanwhile, nearby local breweries offer a unique venue for exploring the area's vibrant craft beer scene. Elevating the culinary experience, Ocean Hai, the resort's signature restaurant, proudly showcases locally sourced, fresh seafood, and banquet menus are thoughtfully crafted with regional ingredients, seamlessly integrating the area's culinary delights into group dining.

Groups can indulge in a variety of outdoor activities at the nearby marina, offering opportunities to explore the Gulf of Mexico. Additionally, guests can indulge with spa services at the resort's luxury Pallavi Spa, where the healing essence of the sun, sand, and sea are incorporated into rejuvenating treatments. Let the inspiration of sunny Florida ignite the innovation of your meetings at Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach. Embrace the harmonious blend of work and leisure amidst breathtaking scenery, as the resort serves as a canvas for creating unforgettable memories where the allure of the outdoors and the richness of local flavors converge for an exceptional and unforgettable event.

About Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach

Wyndham Grand Clearwater Beach offers 343 luxuriously appointed guest rooms with views of the Gulf of Mexico and the Intracoastal Waterway, the tranquil Pallavi Spa, and three onsite dining options. The resort boasts the largest ballroom in Pinellas County and more than 22,000 square feet of flexible meeting space. For more information visit, www.wyndhamgrandclearwater.com.



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Empower Your Meetings in Greater Fort Lauderdale's Expanded Venue Discover Greater Fort Lauderdale for an unmatched event experience. Featuring a newly expanded \$1.3 billion Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, we're reimagining meetings to empower and inspire you. Here are the top three reasons why you should choose us:

- Reimagined Convention Center: With a sprawling 350,000-square-foot exhibit hall at its heart, our newly expanded convention center offers exclusive Water Taxi access, a five-star food and beverage department serving inspired cuisine, and more. By late 2025, the full expansion to 1.2 million sq. ft, coupled with the new 801-room OMNI Fort Lauderdale Hotel, will redefine the landscape.
- Spectacular Setting: Blessed with gorgeous weather, 24 miles of breathtaking beaches, and a vibrant downtown, we provide the perfect backdrop for productive meetings.
- Convenience: Boasting 350+ direct flights into FLL (Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport), plus 38,000+ hotel rooms, including waterfront, luxury, boutique, all-suite, and budget-friendly options, Greater Fort Lauderdale assures a seamless and stress-free experience for both you and your attendees.

About Greater Fort Lauderdale

Greater Fort Lauderdale is more than just a beach destination. It's a place that welcomes everyone under the sun. It's a place where people from more than 170 countries speak 147 languages. Greater Fort Lauderdale is rich with inclusive communities, thriving arts and culture, delicious flavors and a diverse range of experiences and things to do. It's even nicknamed the "Venice of America" because of its 300+ miles of navigable waterways.





Orlando offers everything meeting planners need to create memorable and productive meetings. Here, planners will discover the state-of-the-art Orange County Convention Center (OCCC), nearly 500 hotels with more than 130,000 rooms and 5.8 million sq. ft. of meeting space, 46 Michelin-recognized restaurants and world-class entertainment.

Evermore Orlando Resort is Orlando's first beach-like property and features a 20-acre beach centered around the 8-acre crystalline Evermore Bay, and a range of bedroom vacation homes for groups. Located at Evermore, the Conrad Orlando is our destination's first Hilton luxury brand and features 433 rooms, a spa, a signature rooftop dining experience, and 65,000 sq. ft. of flexible meeting space.

Orlando's culinary scene continues to grow with new concepts from Michelin-recognized and Food Network and Top Chef celebrity chefs such as eet by Maneet Chauhan in Disney Springs, while new nightlife experiences including champagne bars, sober speakeasies, omakases – like Natsu Omakase in downtown Orlando – reflect the diversity of our destination.

For venues that inspire, tucked inside downtown Orlando's Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, planners will find Judson's Live, a new intimate, 150-seat, cabaret-style music space with unparalleled sound and a scratch-kitchen menu.

Recently our destination increased accessibility for business travelers with the addition of Brightline high-speed rail connecting Miami to Orlando and elevated our health services with the launch of the Orlando Health Virtual Care Center inside the OCCC. Also, as the Theme Park Capital of the World, Orlando is a prime destination for attendees to bring their families and turn their business trip into a "bleisure" adventure.

Planners can partner with Visit Orlando for a set of "boots on the ground' to help craft unforgettable events for attendees in our city. Our Destination Experience team members, many of whom are Certified Meeting Professionals (CMP), are well-versed in the complexities of planning events of all sizes and offer a deep expertise on the destination.

About Visit Orlando

Visit Orlando is The Official Tourism Association® for Orlando, the most visited destination in the United States, Theme Park Capital of the World® and No. 1 meeting destination in the country. A not-for-profit trade association that brands, markets and sells the Orlando destination globally, we represent more than 1,500 member companies comprising every segment of Central Florida's tourism community. Find more information at VisitOrlando.com or OrlandoMeeting.com.



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With an endless array of dining, entertainment and activity options, South Walton offers unique bonding experiences for groups while creating lifelong memories for each individual visitor.

These 16 beach neighborhoods are filled with exciting teambuilding opportunities. Create your own piece of art during an outing to The Shard Shop, or get inspired by the pristine scenery, with about 40% of the land in South Walton preserved for nature. More than 200 miles of hiking and biking trails - some throughout state parks and forests - make exploring easy. Originating from the Appalachian Mountains, the stunning sugarwhite sand sets these 26 miles of beaches apart from others in Florida. Take a team course on sandcastle building, or simply gather for a festive beach bonfire. The area is also home to rare coastal dune lakes, only found in a few other locales on earth. A morning of stand-up paddleboarding lets you see these peaceful, biodiverse environments up close. And even the not-so-wildlife provides ways to get involved here. The Alaqua Animal Refuge is an amazing local shelter and sanctuary that partners with organizations for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects.

About South Walton:

Located along Northwest Florida's Gulf Coast, this refined yet relaxed destination is easy to get to, conveniently located about 30 minutes from two regional airports on Florida's panhandle. You'll find more than 15,000 guest rooms in a wide variety of accommodations from cozy beach homes to boutique hotels and full-service resorts. Start planning at VisitSouthWalton.com/ Meetings or visit our LinkedIn profile for more.



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If you're searching for unforgettable, local group experiences to enhance your meeting, Tampa Bay offers a million ways to play, an easygoing pace and hospitality for everyone. It's the kind of adventure-filled destination that's perfect for meeting guests to extend their stays and play for a few extra days with family and friends.

The centerpiece is the newly updated, waterfront Tampa Convention Center. This cutting-edge venue added 18 meeting rooms overlooking the Hillsborough River. Part of a \$38 million expansion, the rooms are the latest in a series of upgrades to the treasured venue.

When it's time to dine, Tampa Bay's award-winning local dining scene makes every meal an experience to treasure. Savor MICHELIN Starred restaurants, like the elegant Italian favorite, Rocca, the Japanese cuisine innovator, Koya, and the Mediterranean master, Lilac. Plus, these are just a few of Tampa Bay's many acclaimed options.

For must-try experiences just steps from each other, visit the Tampa Riverwalk. This 2.6-mile pedestrian-friendly pathway provides fast access to modern hotels, celebrated attractions and more. To experience some of the best escapes, a Tampa Riverwalk Attraction Pass unlocks up to 50% off admission to The Florida Aquarium and six more memorable destinations.

A short ride away on the free electric streetcar is historic Ybor City — aka Cigar City. Here groups can explore Cuban culture and dazzling nightlife, plus try the art of cigar making. The J.C. Newman Cigar Company, America's longest-operating, family-run cigar factory, offers popular group tours and classes on hand rolling cigars.

About Tampa Bay

Tampa Bay makes memorable meetings come together nearly effortlessly with an easily accessible waterfront Convention District, unforgettable local experiences and easy vibes. We call it The Tampa Bay Effect, and it's key to making your meeting shine. Explore more at TampaMeetings.com.



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Add some sun to the agenda when you host your next event on Florida's Gulf Coast in St. Pete/Clearwater, the destination that will encourage your group to feel relaxed and productive. Here, you can choose from a variety of state-of-the-art conference facilities and unique gathering spaces, from upscale waterfront venues to outdoor oases. Attendees will enjoy stunning intracoastal waterway views when they gather at the expanded Clearwater Marine Aquarium, which boasts a 7,200-square-foot ballroom complete with exhibition spaces, meeting rooms and a 289-person state-of-the-art theater. Or experience breathtaking luxury at the newly opened JW Marriott Clearwater Beach, with over 17,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor event space. And when the workday is done, 35 miles of white-sand beaches, bright sunshine and fresh seafood beckon.

Our staff is here to help with complimentary services including personalized promotional materials, registration bags, destination brochures, on-site registration assistance and more. Plus, transportation is a breeze with two award-winning nearby airports – Tampa International Airport (TPA) and St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) – rideshare services and convenient walkability. Discover the perfect place for your group to meet, greet and soak up the sun when you bring your next meeting to St. Pete/Clearwater.

Plan your next event on Florda's Gulf Coast at MeetStPeteClearwater.com

DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS

- 23,000+ guest rooms available
- Waterfront & outdoor meeting spaces
- Accommodations from classic beach hotels to gleaming downtown properties
- Proximity to two major airports
- Over 35 miles of award-winning beaches
- Team building activities, such as kayaking, glassblowing and mural trolley tours
- Over 30 world-class museums and multiple arts districts

About Florida's Gulf Coast

Situated on Florida's Gulf Coast, St. Pete/Clearwater is the state's primary destination for award-winning beaches complemented by world-renowned museums, interactive art, numerous sporting and recreational activities, fresh seafood, a burgeoning culinary scene, family fun, and endless sunshine.

Contact Information Hortensia Simmons, Senior Sales Manager Email: Hortensia@VisitSPC.com Phone: 727-464-6556



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