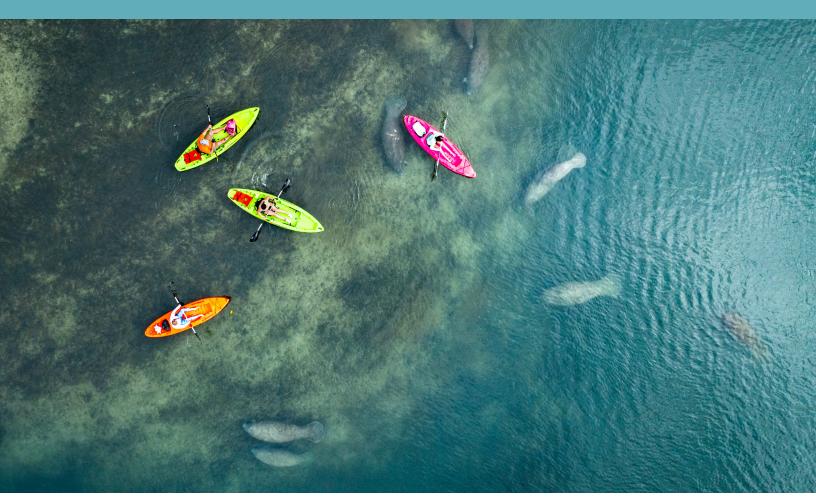
# **Florida:** The Sunny Side of Meetings





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## Florida: the Sunny Side of Meetings

Leisure travelers flock to Florida for its beaches, attractions, great dining and general fun in the sun, but savvy planners know that everything making the Sunshine State a hit with vacationers also takes meetings and events to the next level, and the level after that.

Instead of a meeting room for dinner, how about a beach banquet? Or a night on the African plain under the stars, complete with music, dancing and exotic animals? And when it comes to teambuilding, there's no competition—Florida leaves traditional options in the rearview mirror... literally, if your group takes the wheel at one of the state's famed speedways. Or participates in a world of CSR events ranging from Everglades clean-ups to community art projects.

From Pensacola to Key West, Florida cities and regions are uniquely distinct from one another, giving each facet of your group's program its own unique flavor. Read on for much more about Florida's one-of-a-kind group experiences.

#### **Activities & Experiences**

Whether it's indoors or the great outdoors, activities and bonding experiences for groups are endless.

What's in a name? Tons of fun, if your name is Florida's Sports Coast north of Tampa. Here, planners can rent multiple kayaks or stand-up paddleboards and send groups out on the water along one of the area's scenic rivers and lakes coastlines.

**Florida's Sports Coast** is also home to a number of stunning golf courses, including the famed links of **Saddlebrook Resort**. For a more social, laid-back group experience, visit Topgolf for food, drinks, and competitive fun with a twist.

Ramp up the excitement at **TreeUmph!** in **Bradenton**, featuring 10 football fields of challenging terrain and hundreds of aerial adventure games. Their Aerial Adventure Course will have your team cheering each other on as they ascend toward the summit.

In **Ocala/Marion County**, groups will channel their inner cowboy at the area's famed horse farms, including those breeding championship racehorses. Many farms offer behindthe-scenes tours and experiences like onsite dining and shows. On the cover: Paddling with Manatees at Crystal River (Photo credit: VISIT FLORIDA/Roundhouse Creative) Left: Meeting Place in Miami (Photo credit: VISIT FLORIDA/Peter W. Cross and Patrick Farrell)

On the white-sand coast of Northwest Florida, the 16 beach neighborhoods of **South Walton** offer an eclectic array of group activities, such as paddling on one of the rare coastal dune lakes. Take a group lesson at the **Golf Academy** at **Sandestin** or relax on an open-air patio at a local microbrewery like Idyll **Hounds Brewing Company**. At the end of the day, kick back at a beach bonfire, made simple by companies such as **Pirate's Life** and **30A Blaze**.

Or turn your group loose at **Disney Springs** in **Orlando**, where they'll shop, eat and explore different entertainment options, including live music and performances. Planning an event onsite at one of the parks? **Disney World** just unveiled a reimagined **Disney Creative Studio**, housing the vast resources available to professionals collaborating with the **Disney Meetings & Events** team.

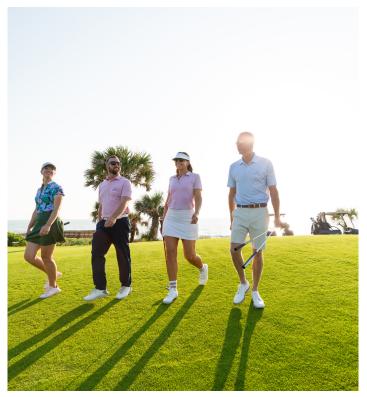
South of Orlando in **Lakeland**, your group will go on a private safari at **Safari Wilderness**, enjoying a sunset reception among a herd of zebras. Or you can turn the energy way down, listening to a custom carillon concert while enjoying chef prepared meal under the stars at **Bok Tower Gardens** in **Lake Wales**.

On the Atlantic coast, coastal Florida is the focus at the **Florida Oceanographic Coastal Center** on **Hutchinson Island**, where your team will engage in interactive exhibits and educational programs about marine life and coastal ecosystems. The center offers group tours and activities.

#### Food & Beverage

When you really want to dazzle attendees, aim for the palate. Scores of restaurants across the state offer private dining

Below: Hammock Beach Golf Resort Spa on Palm Coast (photo credit: VISIT FLORIDA/Folklore Film Company)





Above: Group having a champagne toast outside of a restaurant in Tampa (photo credit: VISIT FLORIDA/SPARK)

rooms, chef's tables, wine tastings and much more, allowing attendees all the privacy—or interaction—they want, coupled with a variety of tastes ranging from traditional to tropical and, of course, the freshest seafood.

Set against **Biscayne Bay** in Miami, the legendary **Rusty Pelican** offers selections from the sea, served in every way imaginable, along with savory steaks and innovative fusions. The restaurant's unique spaces can accommodate events including conferences, board meetings, mixers, seminars and private dining.

In Florida's Southernmost City, **Key West**, groups dine directly over the water at the **Sunset Pier**, enjoying incredible views of the sunset over the ocean. It's an excellent place for a casual seafood feast.

Ninety miles from Key West, the cuisine of Cuba has had a major impact on Florida's dining scene. Savor it at **Columbia Restaurant**, offering multiple locations around the state including **Tampa**, **St. Augustine** and **Sarasota**. Columbia is perfect for group events, offering private rooms and traditional tapas-style service.

If you're looking for something a little more interactive for your group, try **The Tasting Tours** in **St. Augustine**, curating immersive dining experiences for teams and groups of up to 85. Tours include *Wine and Dine* and *Dessert Pairings*.

Maybe beer is the drink of choice; if so, **City Brew Tours** in **Tampa** offers guided tours visiting up to four breweries and providing up to 16 beer samples as well as insights into the brewing process and Tampa's beer history.



Above: Miami South Pointe Park, Miami Beach (photo credit: VISIT FLORIDA/Merge Studios Merge Agreement 14119)

#### Venues

Leave the ballroom behind in Florida and have your gathering outside the box in one of countless unique venues around the state.

A grand heritage home in **Fort Myers** adds a touch of Old Florida to events of all sizes. Situated on the banks of the Caloosahatchee River, the **Burroughs Home & Gardens** includes a waterfront, open-air pavilion (with the option to be fully enclosed) to host a variety of private events.

Across the state in **Coconut Grove**, **Vizcaya Museum & Gardens** also fronts the water—in this case, **Biscayne Bay** and was built in 1916 but looks like a Renaissance palace with its priceless art and furnishings and acres of formal gardens. Vizcaya is available for rent every day of the year except for certain major holidays.

Heading north to **Palm Beach County**, the acclaimed **Kravis Center for the Performing Arts** also doubles as a private event venue, with multiple spaces including the *Dreyfoos Hall* and the *Cohen Pavilion*, perfect for events ranging from lectures to corporate dinners.

How about dinner while cruising the waterways of Florida's "Venice of America," **Fort Lauderdale**? Renting a private yacht or chartering a boat is a unique way to host an event while gliding along Fort Lauderdale's rivers and canals, taking in the city skyline and tropical scenery.

Your event takes a trip into the history of aviation at the **Florida Air Museum** in **Lakeland**, boasting a dynamic display of unique designs, classics, ultra-lights, antiques and warbirds. A fascinating venue for aviation enthusiasts, it's a great location for events with a sense of adventure.

When sports is the name of the game, the **Stadium Club** at **Caribe Royale Orlando** brings people together in an interactive and immersive entertainment experience while offering event spaces that can accommodate anywhere from six to 500 people. And with state-of-the-art sports simulators, it's a natural for teambuilding.

#### CSR & Giving Back

CSR opportunities in Florida can be found in any city and town hosting your meeting, and you're sure to find the right one to align with your group's core values.

Bordered by Southeast and Southwest Florida, **Everglades National Park** is the largest subtropical wilderness in the U.S., protecting important habitat for numerous rare and endangered species like the manatee, American crocodile, and the elusive Florida panther. Volunteers here help protect the unique ecosystem, assist in habitat restoration, and support education programs.

Other natural areas of Florida depend on the help of volunteers, including the **Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary**, where your group can help with coral restoration, marine wildlife monitoring, and beach cleanups.

Community support and outreach opportunities abound as well. Reach out to **Feeding Florida**, whose network of food banks welcomes the assistance of volunteers to help sort and package food for local families in need.

Florida has a rich cultural heritage, and volunteers can help preserve historical sites, assist with museum programs, or work with local arts initiatives. Organizations like **The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation** often have volunteer programs.



Centrally located on Florida's West Coast, the Bradenton Area is one of the few places to have successfully preserved the characteristics of Real. Authentic. Florida.<sup>™</sup> Perfect for your next conference or trade show, a newly expanded and renovated convention center — nestled in the heart of this quaint community — is managed by the local CVB, ensuring exceptional service from start to finish.

Bring virtually any vision to life at the reimagined Bradenton Area Convention Center, debuting its \$52 million transformation mid-2025. Gather in the new Grand Ballroom, which seats up to 900 guests banquet-style, or take advantage of the additional outdoor plazas, highlighting the venue's scenic location near the Manatee River. The existing large exhibit hall and intimate conference center are equally impressive, both receiving extensive renovations to complement the new hotel on-site.

Connected to the convention center by a climate-controlled walkway, the Palmetto Marriott Resort & Spa features 252 spacious rooms, spa services, rooftop dining, and other upscale amenities — not to mention 10,000 square feet of indoor meeting space.

Just minutes away, downtown Bradenton delights with exciting museums, local shopping, and outdoor entertainment along the Riverwalk. Groups can enjoy memorable dine-arounds at waterfront restaurants — or catch a ferry to Anna Maria Island to try fresh Floribbean cuisine with their toes in the sand.

When it comes to team building, the possibilities are just as unforgettable. From clear kayak eco-tours and sunset boat charters to lively art walks and group beach cleanups, there's no such thing as "business as usual" in the Bradenton Area.

#### About the Bradenton Area

Located on Florida's West Coast, the Bradenton Area is home to the world-famous beaches of Anna Maria Island and Longboat Key — as well as mainland Bradenton, featuring a thriving urban core energized by arts, culture, and recreation. Business and leisure travelers alike praise the destination for its unspoiled natural beauty, fresh Floribbean cuisine, and laid-back charm.

#### W: BradentonGulfIslands.com/Meetings

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Color Outside the Lines – and experience an exceptional new standard for meetings.

Leave tried, true, and traditional where they belong and discover an exceptional new standard for meetings and conventions. Designed for the disruptors and rule-benders among us. Caribe Royale Orlando is a groundbreaking AAA Four Diamond destination with an incomparable resort experience, exceptional indoor and outdoor venues, and luxurious all-suite accommodations.

All 1,217 one-bedroom suites feature fresh, contemporary design and in-demand amenities and services. The exclusive Villas at Caribe Royale offer the best of resort living, with an additional 120 spacious two-bedroom suites featuring full kitchens, dining areas, and premier services.

In the resort's Reception Building – the vibrant heart of guest activity and networking featuring personal check-in stations, the expansion of The Venetian Chop House, the addition of Starbucks® and a vibrant new networking venue Stadium Club®, Orlando's most immersive and interactive sport bar and entertainment venue featuring a 110' ribbon screen for 360-degree gametime viewing, 8 sport simulator suites and a creative chef-driven menu.

Meeting planners love the resort's 240,000 sq. ft. of event space, with three newly redesigned ballrooms including the 50,000 sq. ft. Palms Ballroom. The Grove, a new 20,000 sq. ft. event lawn, provides an exceptional and highly sought-after space for outdoor events. And, the resort recently broke ground on an exciting new 20,000 sq. ft. addition to their convention center including a new ballroom and breakouts. The new space is expected to open in Q4 2025.

#### About Caribe Royale Orlando

Break from the ordinary and redefine your meetings at Caribe Royale Orlando. This AAA Four Diamond resort offers bold experiences, exceptional indoor and outdoor venues, all-suite luxury, and personalized service—crafted for innovators who defy convention. Discover a new standard for extraordinary events.

#### W: CaribeRoyale.com

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Bring the REAL Florida magic to your next event in Polk County.

Centrally located between Orlando and Tampa, Polk County offers an ideal setting for meetings with outdoor adventures, thrilling attractions, and scenic beauty. Nowhere else in Florida can you immerse meeting attendees into the cowboy lifestyle on a Corporate Cattle Drive at Westgate River Ranch or turn your "typical" offsite reception into a ride on the wilder side with a private safari experience, followed by a sunset cocktail reception at Safari Wilderness.

Home to more than 7,000 hotel rooms and 7,000+ rental properties in the region, even the largest groups have the fabulous opportunity to stay together under one roof. The area offers more than 100,000 sq. ft. of meeting space with unique venues including a converted 727 airliner that will capture attendees' attention in ways few other destinations can match.

After your conference, attendees can enjoy paddling on 550 lakes, hiking 300+ miles of trails, or playing at Streamsong Golf Resort – the only resort in North America with three golf courses ranked in the "Top 30 Places to Play."

The region also features a variety of locally owned restaurants and cafés to choose from, like the Kitchen Garden at Bok Tower Gardens. As one of the "Top 3 Botanical Gardens in the US," it's an ideal backdrop for a chef inspired reception.

Polk County is where real Florida magic events take place. Contact Visit Central Florida to bring your vision to life.

#### **About Visit Central Florida**

- 7,000+ hotel rooms
- 100,000+ sq. ft. of flexible meeting & event space
- Safe, walkable downtowns featuring local shops & restaurants
- World-class golf, outdoor experiences & entertainment
- Two international airports within reach

#### W: MeetCentralFlorida.com

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When it comes to Between-the-Sessions moments, The Palm Beaches are in a league of their own, seamlessly integrating community partners, local charm, and breathtaking natural scenery for world-class meeting experiences. 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 teambuilding event at the world's largest dedicated croquet facility or a group CSR program at a renowned sea turtle rehabilitation and conservation facility.

When you're here, your team can explore 47 miles of pristine coastline, improve their swing on one of our 145+ golf courses, or recharge and rejuvenate with world-famous spas. From Jupiter to Boca Raton, our 39 coastal cities and towns offer even more to discover: dozens of inspiring cultural attractions, iconic world-class shopping, and a critically acclaimed culinary scene with award-winning chefs.

Our unrivaled collection of more than 170 hotels offers 19,000+ total rooms within The Palm Beaches, and 1,000,000+ square feet of meeting space allow for groups of every size to gather. In West Palm Beach, the centrally located PBCCC offers 350,000 square feet of flexible meeting space and is connected via an enclosed, airconditioned walkway to the Hilton West Palm Beach, a perfect fit for groups looking for an all-in-one solution.

The Palm Beaches are a hub of bustling industries, including agribusiness, life sciences, finance, and technology. Connect your attendees with innovators and thought leaders who will bring expertise and star power to your event.

#### About The Palm Beaches

The Palm Beaches are where meeting spaces of various sizes, equipped with cutting-edge technology, share the spotlight with lively and welcoming communities as well as awe-inspiring natural landscapes. Beyond the boardroom discussions, The Palm Beaches go the extra mile by offering inspiring and eco-friendly venues, unique networking opportunities that turn good colleagues into great teammates, and Between-the-Sessions experiences that make meetings true masterpieces.

#### W: thepalmbeaches.com/meetings

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At Disney Meetings & Events, we are reimagining the events industry as your ultimate collaborator in designing transformational experiences. Explore our unique venues and immersive creative resources, ensuring your guests will have a memorable gathering experience.

Engage and inspire your attendees like never before! Enjoy the sounds of contemporary Afropop among the jungle trees at Disney's Animal Kingdom Harambe Train Station. This unique venue is perfect for an immersive culinary experience! Or, set your sights on the galaxy at Disney's Hollywood Studios Star Wars Launch Bay before heading to an attraction mix-in at Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge<sup>®</sup>. With themed place settings, an outof-this-world DJ, and immersive environments, this will be an unforgettable event.

Indulge your guest's taste buds with delectable culinary delights. Whether your event calls for a buffet, table-service, or small bites, our talented team of chefs can bring your vision to life. Choose from one of our themed menus like our Main Street Fare or customize a menu to meet your attendees' needs!

End your day the Disney way! Invite your guests to a captivating Disney nighttime spectacular while enjoying beverages and tastefully created desserts. Whether it's a mix and mingle over refreshments at Everest Base Camp before journeying on Expedition Everest, or the spectacular fireworks display of EPCOT's "Luminous: The Symphony of Us," our team will ensure your guests are dazzled till the very end.

#### **About Disney Meetings & Events**

Disney Meetings & Events is your ultimate collaborator for transformational experiences. With a team of Disney Event Architects to help you design your next meeting or event, our Disney Creative Studio serves as our epicenter of creative resources to create a magical experience for you and your attendees.

#### W: disneymeetingsandevents.com

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Here on Florida's Sports Coast, we believe life is a game — and it's best played as part of a team. That's why we're proud to offer one-of-a-kind group experiences that are sure to make every meeting you plan here memorable. From the moment your attendees arrive in our sun-soaked destination located just outside Tampa, they'll dive into fresh experiences, gain new insights, and continue strengthening their bond as a team.

Picture your group feeding giraffes at Giraffe Ranch, where safari guides provide a closer look at exotic animals from around the world. Getting out on the water with a group boating excursion to Anclote Key Preserve State Park, a pristine island sanctuary perfect for relaxation or adventure. Or navigating obstacle courses and ziplines at TreeHoppers Aerial Adventure Park, the perfect place to build camaraderie while tackling thrilling challenges together.

For those with a taste for adrenaline, Skydive City in Zephyrhills offers an unforgettable bonding experience as participants take the leap together — literally. Prefer a more grounded activity? At The Lift Adventure Park, your group can paddle across tranquil lake waters for a calming team-building experience or amp up the excitement with a wakeboarding lesson.

Complementing these activities are 65 versatile meeting venues, ranging from luxury resorts in Wesley Chapel to boutique hotels in New Port Richey. Each venue offers exceptional service and state-of-the-art amenities, accommodating every type of event — whether you're planning a seminar for hundreds or a retreat for a small team.

#### About Florida's Sports Coast

Florida's Sports Coast invites you to discover what moves you. Located in Pasco County just 30 minutes north of Tampa, this destination offers year-round sunshine, world-class amenities, and an exciting range of unique group activities. Ready to take your meeting off the sidelines? Choose Florida's Sports Coast!

#### W: flsportscoast.com

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### MARTIN COUNTY Florida

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.

#### W: MeetInFortMyers.com

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Florida's meeting industry has seen a surge of interest in unique, off-the-beaten-path destinations that offer exceptional venues and a memorable experience for attendees. Martin County, located on the Treasure Coast, is a prime example of this trend, where business meets pleasure in a naturally quaint paradise.

Nestled between the vibrant cities of Orlando and Miami, Martin County is a hidden gem with more than 22 miles of uncrowded beaches, over 100,000 acres of pristine parks, and a rich history that seamlessly blends "Old Florida" charm with modern amenities. Easily accessible from Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, or Miami airports, Martin County provides diverse meeting spaces, from boutique venues to expansive outdoor settings.

What makes Martin County stand out is its flexibility. With numerous meeting spaces — from intimate, boutique-style venues to expansive outdoor locations — it's easy to craft the perfect setting for any gathering.

For meeting planners seeking the perfect balance of productivity and relaxation, Marriott Hutchinson Island Beach Resort, Golf & Marina and Hutchinson Shores Resort & Spa offer exceptional venues, luxury accommodations, and seamless service in an inspiring resort setting.

Beyond meetings, visitors can unwind with cultural attractions, waterfront dining, and outdoor adventures. The award-winning Explore Natural Martin ecotourism program offers free guided excursions, enhancing the experience with nature-based activities.

Planning your meeting or event in Florida just makes sense. You can enjoy everything from thrilling theme parks, beautiful museums and rich local culture, or a more laidback vibe like Martin County.

#### **About Martin County**

Conveniently located on Florida's East Coast, Martin County is an uncrowded gem that celebrates small-town life and that hardto-find "Old Florida" charm. Boasting 22 miles of uncrowded beaches plus 100,000 sprawling acres of greenery. Building restrictions have limited structures to four stories, preserving breathtaking views and plenty of open space.

#### W: discovermartin.com/plan/meetings

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Ocala/Marion County, FL, offers group travelers a variety of unique, one-of-a-kind experiences that showcase the region's natural beauty, rich history, and vibrant culture. Known as the Horse Capital of the World®, groups can tour world-renowned horse farms, meet champion thoroughbreds, and enjoy horse competitions and events at World Equestrian Center.

Outdoor enthusiasts can explore the crystal-clear waters of Silver Springs State Park with glass-bottom boat tours, offering a glimpse into Florida's oldest attraction and diverse wildlife. Adventurous groups can kayak or paddleboard the scenic Rainbow River or hike through the picturesque trails of the Ocala National Forest, one of the most ecologically diverse forests in the country.

For a taste of local culture, groups can visit historic downtown Ocala, featuring charming boutiques, art galleries, and delicious dining experiences. Agritourism experiences such as U-pick farms provide an authentic taste of Ocala/ Marion County's charm. Unique group-friendly venues, including authentic barn settings and elegant hotels, make Ocala/ Marion County an ideal destination for corporate retreats, family reunions, and special events.

Whether exploring nature, indulging in equestrian culture, or immersing in local flavors, Ocala/Marion County offers an unforgettable experience for every group traveler.

#### **About Ocala/Marion County**

When you plan your meeting in Ocala/Marion County, you have the expert help and resources of our Visitors and Convention Bureau at your disposal! With years of experience and intimate knowledge of the area, our Sales Team will provide you with the resources and tools you need to plan your best meeting.

#### W: ocalamarion.com/meetings-events



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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 12 lighted tennis courts, unwind at an extraordinary spa, indulge in world-class dining and explore 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 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 has achieved AAA Five Diamond status every year since 2002, and was recently named one of the Top 10 resorts in Florida by the readers of Condé Nast Traveler.

The Inn boasts more than 25,000 square feet of flexible function space spread across 16 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 beachside cookouts. Either way, the resort's expert event planners can tailor special moments that attendees will never forget. All of The Inn's 242 rooms and suites feature designer touches and luxury finishes, and most provide ocean views.

The AAA Four Diamond 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.

#### W: PonteVedra.com/Meetings

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- @pontevedrainnclub



St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra Beach exemplify how local charm and heritage can elevate Florida's group experiences. By weaving together history, nature, and tailored hospitality, this region creates immersive opportunities that leave lasting impressions on meeting and event attendees.

Known as the Nation's Oldest City, St. Augustine offers an unparalleled historical backdrop. Venues like the Lightner Museum and the historic Castillo de San Marcos provide not just meeting spaces but transformative environments where corporate retreats and incentive groups can connect through time-traveling tours and storytelling. Meanwhile, Ponte Vedra Beach offers luxury and relaxation with its pristine coastline, world-class golf courses, and oceanfront resorts, such as the iconic Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, perfectly suited for blending business and leisure.

Team-building activities here take full advantage of the unique local assets. Whether it's paddleboarding in the Guana Tolomato Matanzas Reserve, engaging in culinary challenges featuring fresh local seafood, or connecting with nature through volunteer opportunities with conservation efforts, every experience reflects the area's vibrant community and natural beauty.

By thoughtfully integrating its rich heritage, stunning landscapes, and customizable offerings, St. Augustine and Ponte Vedra Beach embody Florida's ability to host innovative, locally inspired group events that resonate deeply and inspire collaboration.

#### About Florida's Historic Coast

Host your next meeting in St. Augustine | Ponte Vedra, where stunning venues meet rich history and coastal charm. From state-of-the-art facilities to unique event spaces, your attendees will enjoy exceptional hospitality, vibrant culture, and unforgettable experience. Plan your memorable meeting on Florida's Historic Coast today!

#### W: MyFloridaMeetings.com

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

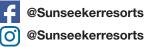
Here, awe-inspiring accommodations are the norm. Featuring 596 coastal-inspired premium guestrooms and 189 Sunsuites<sup>™</sup>, guests can relax in total comfort as they take in the coastal surroundings and reflect on the day's events. Just outside our doors you'll discover Florida's best-kept secrets 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 floorto-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

Nestled between Sarasota and Ft. Myers, along the stunning Gulf Coast, Sunseeker Resort Charlotte Harbor is Florida's newest paradise oasis. Explore world-class dining, championship-level golf, two breathtaking pool settings and more. Stay and play here. Eat and drink here. Meet and greet here. Experience the best of everything under the sun.

#### W: SunseekerResorts.com



## VisitOrlando.



Orlando, Cvent's top meetings destination, is an unmatched meetings destination where imagination and business come together each year in the form of new meetings offerings. The Orange County Convention Center (OCCC) is targeting to break ground by 2026 on its enhancements to the North-South Building, which will include an additional 44,000 square feet of meeting space, a 100,000-square-foot ballroom, and a new entry along Convention Way.

New dining and nightlife options near the Center include Live! at The Pointe Orlando. Available for full buyout, this social destination features five restaurants and a 37,000-square-foot outdoor plaza.

In close proximity to the OCCC, Universal Orlando Resort's highly anticipated theme park, Universal Epic Universe, opens in May along with the Universal Grand Helios, a Loews Hotel, while the new Universal Stella Nova and Terra Luna Resorts began welcoming guests earlier this year. This adds to the nearly 500 hotels available in Orlando.

For example, the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin is embarking on their largest renovation and expansion ever highlighted by the addition of 120,000 square feet of event space to the property's floorplan.

Orlando's culinary scene continues to gain recognition with 52 MICHELIN Guide restaurants including seven Starred establishments. With every corner brimming with new experiences, Orlando remains the perfect stage for 'Unbelievably Real' meetings and conventions.

#### About Visit Orlando

Visit Orlando is The Official Tourism Association® for Orlando, the most visited destination in the United States 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 1,600 member companies comprising every segment of Central Florida's tourism community.

#### W: orlandomeeting.com

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While there's no place like home for the holidays, South Walton may be the ideal destination for groups planning a retreat from November into February. Famous for sugar-white sand and turquoise water, these 16 beach neighborhoods are also home to an incredible variety of entertainment, dining, and diversions. Each neighborhood has its own vibe, and all together they create a strong sense of community. Every guest will feel right at home, whether they've been here many times or it's their first visit.

Summer is always popular here, but the winter season provides plenty of flexibility in accommodations and activities. This is a relaxed time of year to enjoy some sunshine and discover all that the area has to offer. Groups can bond while exploring unique shops, venues with great live music, and award-winning restaurants offering everything from international cuisine to fresh Gulf-to-table fare. One day might involve a round of golf on a championship course, the next a chartered boat excursion out on the Gulf. Surrounding it all is pristine natural beauty — with stunning trails and waterways for team-building outings.

The local social calendar is also punctuated with year-round festivals that add to the fun. Winter is no exception. Groups can plan their gatherings around events that focus on anything from the arts to food and wine. Or they can simply soak in the excitement that typically surrounds these celebrations. Even just a long weekend here will leave everyone feeling recharged and filled with lifelong memories.

#### **About South Walton**

Located along Northwest Florida's Gulf Coast, this refined yet relaxed destination is conveniently located about 30 minutes from two regional airports. You'll find more than 10,000 rental rooms in a wide variety of accommodations from cozy beach homes to full-service resorts. Start planning at VisitSouthWalton. com/Meetings or visit our LinkedIn profile for more.

#### W: visitsouthwalton.com

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# FLORIDA

Tampa Bay is the ultimate destination for unforgettable meetings, featuring a vibrant waterfront Convention District. With America's favorite airport, stunning views, world-class venues, and a MICHELIN-starred dining scene, Tampa Bay ensures an exceptional experience in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere.

Tampa International Airport (TPA), consistently ranked among J.D. Power's top airports, offers modern facilities and easy navigation. Located just minutes from the Convention District, it makes traveling seamless from start to finish.

After meetings, indulge in Tampa Bay's renowned dining scene. From MICHELIN-starred restaurants to creative local gems, fresh Gulf seafood and innovative dishes cater to every taste.

Tampa Bay's scenic waterfronts and vibrant neighborhoods set the stage for productive, inspiring events. Whether hosting intimate retreats or large conferences, the area's venues and services emphasize responsible tourism and genuine hospitality.

Plan events in eco-friendly spaces with wellness-focused amenities. Walkable neighborhoods like Water Street Tampa showcase sustainability in design, while local dining and entertainment highlight green initiatives.

#### Celebrate your Impact

At Visit Tampa Bay, we celebrate groups that champion sustainability, local partnerships or social inclusion. Our Meeting the Moment program honors impactful events, like most recently APA Florida, that make a positive impact and leave a lasting impression in Tampa Bay. Winners gain visibility in Visit Tampa Bay's marketing and are celebrated during National Travel & Tourism Week.

Discover how Tampa Bay can help you achieve your goals while leaving a positive impact.

#### W: VisitTampaBay.com/Meeting-the-Moment

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### WYNDHAM GRAND<sup>®</sup> Clearwater Beach

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.

#### W: wyndhamgrandclearwater.com

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