



**CHARLOTTE HARBOR & THE GULF ISLANDS' COMMUNITIES
PROVIDE CHARM & DIVERSE ACTIVITIES**

CHARLOTTE HARBOR & THE GULF ISLANDS, Fla. – If there is an embodiment of the charming Florida coastal community, then it must be Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands on Florida's Southwest Gulf coast. Surrounding Charlotte Harbor, the state's second largest marine estuary into which the Peace and Myakka rivers flow, this diverse blend of artsy towns, serene fishing communities and barrier islands brims with unparalleled natural beauty, recreation, pristine beaches, arts, culture, and historic sites. The expansive landscape of unspoiled islands, upland pine flatwoods, meandering waterways, mangrove shorelines, and dune-fringed beaches is a watercolorist's dream.

From Englewood Beach south to Punta Gorda, the coastal communities of Charlotte County share a common bond with Charlotte Harbor, but each has its own distinctive personality:

- **Boca Grande**, a historic fishing village and beach town set on **Gasparilla Island** at Boca Grande Pass, is highlighted by a circa-1890 lighthouse, a host of charming shops and boutiques, and a walking- and biking-friendly downtown where captains of industry and Presidents play.
- **Don Pedro Island**, just about the most perfect beach anywhere with plenty of shells and warm water, is a secluded barrier island accessible only by boat. Picnicking, birding and wildlife viewing are popular here, but the star attraction is the mile-long beach fronting the azure blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico.
- **El Jobean**, a modest community that is the former winter home for circus and carnival performers from across the United States, boasts a 1920s-era post office that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and which has been converted into a museum/café that hosts lively bluegrass sessions weekly.
- **Englewood-Cape Haze**, fronted by the Gulf of Mexico and Lemon Bay, has all the frills of a Florida beach town: nature parks, cultural events, fishing – the tarpon runs here are among the greatest in the world, arts, unusual boutiques and galleries along Englewood's Dearborn Street, and of course, the beach.
- **Manasota Key** is home to Chadwick Park at Englewood Beach and Stump Pass Beach State Park where beachgoers can comb for shells; take in an afternoon of sunning and swimming, or surf-fish for the main course for that night's dinner.
- Accessible only by car ferry, **Palm Island** has seven miles of beaches where it's easy to get Florida sand in your shoes. A prototype for white sand, blue sky and clear water beaches, Palm Island is home to Palm Island Resort and is the perfect antidote for today's stressful lifestyles.
- **Little Gasparilla Island** is accessible by boat. Seven miles of secluded beaches are perfect for swimming, fishing, shelling, and bird watching. A boater's paradise, accommodations are available in rental condominiums and homes offer access, but guests need to bring their own supplies as there are no stores or restaurants on-island.
- **Placida**, yet another secluded waterfront community providing instant access to the Charlotte Harbor Blueway Trails. Professional outfitters complement the wealth of natural

resources, and a great selection of accommodations, restaurants, and shopping lend a civilized touch.

- **Port Charlotte**, a vibrant small town, with distinctive entertainment options including theater at the Cultural Center of Charlotte County and educational and historic programs at the Charlotte County Historical Center. The 400-member Arts & Humanities Council of Charlotte County is also headquartered here. For harbor-front relaxation, the Port Charlotte Beach Park offers 15 acres of amenities including pool, picnicking, basketball, fishing and boat-ramp access to Charlotte Harbor.
- **Punta Gorda** is perhaps the most well known of Charlotte County's communities and the cultural heartbeat of Charlotte County with diverse performances at The Center for Performing Arts & Education and juried exhibits and workshops at the Visual Arts Center. As Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands typify Florida and its great diversity, so does Punta Gorda illustrate distinctive images as a waterfront neighborhood. The streets, lined with towering royal palms, restored period homes complete with wide verandahs, and boutique shopping at Fishermen's Village, are highlighted by flowering shrubs, streetlamps, and town benches. Featuring palate-pleasing restaurants, privately owned boutiques, and a 140-slip marina where fishing, cruising and boating are but moments away, Punta Gorda easily enchants even the most jaded of travelers.

Whether visiting the beaches and communities of Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands as an angler, a beachcomber, honeymooner, nature lover, boater, kayaker, hiker, bicyclist, shopper, or just plain vacationer in need of rest, the array of activities available here is practically endless.

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