



**Rev Up, Tee Up, Go Fish, even Free Fall
In Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands, Florida**

Guys Getaways in Southwest Florida Offer Variety, Action for all Ages

CHARLOTTE HARBOR & THE GULF ISLANDS, Fla.— Want to kayak remote, wild areas, learn to skydive, sail or see the best private collection of “muscle cars” ever? Halfway between Sarasota and Fort Myers is Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands, an outdoor adventure paradise made for active types. Florida’s Southwest Gulf coast offers an off-the-beaten-path escape from crowds and congestion, where skydiving, fishing, sailing, kayaking, golfing and wildlife viewing are top attractions. Here are the top five guy-guaranteed favorites.

- **Rev Your Engines:** Rick Treworgy's Muscle Car City Museum (Punta Gorda) displays an unparalleled collection of authentic classic cars, trucks and automotive memorabilia and accessories, including vintage gas pumps and signs. More than 200 automobiles date back to the 1920s and include an impressive lineup of 57 Chevys and Corvettes, Pontiac GTOs, Corvettes, Oldsmobile Cutlass 442s, Chevelles, Camaros and high-horsepower Impalas. The diner serves up the treats we used to order from the car-hop at a drive-in.
www.musclecarcity.net
- **Hit a Birdie:** Named among the “best places in America to live and play golf” by *Golf Digest*, Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands offers year-round play on more than 20 courses. Spectacular landscapes provide the backdrop on courses that include two ranked 4½ stars by *Golf Digest*. Each have special summer/fall greens fees as low as \$30 per person. Area hotels are offering accommodations and golf packages starting at \$118 per person, per night plus tax. The Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau regularly posts special golf vacation packages at www.CharlotteHarborTravel.com.
- **Go Fish:** Known as the “**Tarpon Capital of the World**” and one of the **world’s top sport-fishing destinations**, Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands offers clean waters and dozens of sport and edible species. Captain Ralph Allen, charter captain and owner of King Fisher Fleet, says that one could “fish a different way, for different fish, and in a different place every week and not repeat yourself in six months.” Enjoy the adrenaline rush of deep sea charter fishing in the Gulf or back bay fishing in the Charlotte Harbor Aquatic Preserve, teeming with snook, mackerel, redfish, sea trout, yellowtail, cobia, snapper, grouper and kingfish.
www.kingfisherfleet.com
- **Sail Away:** Named to *SAIL* magazine’s “10 Greatest Places to Sail in the U.S.,” the area offers several regattas, sailing charters and schools, even sailing for those with disabilities. Many area hotels, accommodations and restaurants are located within marina complexes or less than a five minute walk. (<http://bit.ly/charlotteharbortravelssail>) Nearly 200 miles of Blueway Trails are mapped for kayakers, with 53 trails rated for access, difficulty and scenic value. Phoenix Rising Kayak Tours (www.prkayak.com), It's Time! Kayak and Canoe (www.itstimekayakandcanoe.com) and O-Sea-D Aquatic Adventures (www.oseadkayaking.com) offer guided wilderness Blueway trips on some of Florida’s most scenic waterways. Each can tailor a trip for beginners or experts, with opportunities to spot an amazing variety of birds and perhaps a chance encounter with a manatee or dolphin.

- **Paddle On:** Stand Up Paddle (SUP) boarding is the newest and hottest human-powered water activity, a cross between surfboarding and kayaking, offering a great workout and a lot of fun in calm water or waves. Rentals are available at Grande Tours (www.Grandetours.com), an outfitter that also provides kayak tours and rentals.
- **Take a Dive:** Skydiving is as close to flying as man can get, an experience like no other, and the SW Florida Skydive Club loves to share the thrill. Free-falling at 120 mph is speedy, surreal and for some, scary, so first-timers will take a tandem jump with an experienced instructor. The company offers complete instruction up to and beyond certification. Group rates make this an even more attractive adventure and videos set to music are available. www.skydiveswflorida.com

About Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands

Located halfway between Tampa and Naples on the Southwest Florida Gulf coast, Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands is a charming collection of nine coastal communities surrounding the state's second largest harbor. Florida's premier year-round eco-tourism destination, Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands offers a pristine unspoiled beauty that has served as the backdrop for seven major feature films as well as countless memorable vacations. A haven for outdoor enthusiasts, Charlotte Harbor & the Gulf Islands has been named to *SAIL* magazine's "10 Greatest Places to Sail in the United States," ranked by *Golf Digest* as "Third Best Place to Live and Play Golf in America," and rated by *MONEY* magazine as one of the "Best Places to Live in the South." The city of Punta Gorda was named in one of "Top Ten Places to Retire Healthy" by U.S. News & World Report. Englewood was named as #2 of the Top Ten emerging travel destinations in the U.S. by TripAdvisor.com.

For information about area events, activities and attractions, contact the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau, 18500 Murdock Circle, Suite B104, Port Charlotte, FL 33948; 941-743-1900, or call toll free at 1-800-652-6090 for a free Visitor's Guide; or visit the Web site at www.CharlotteHarborTravel.com.

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