

Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach VCB Announces New Domestic and International Leisure Sales Hire

PUNTA GORDA/ENGLEWOOD BEACH, Fla. (May 10, 2023) – The Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau announced that Aimee Blenker has joined the team as their new Domestic and International Leisure Sales Manager. Aimee will be responsible for promoting Charlotte County, FL as a preferred vacation destination through attendance at various domestic and international consumer trade shows and be responsible for creating and enhancing relationships with tour operators and other travel professionals to sell our destination to their clients. Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach is expanding our reach to international travelers and Aimee will be the main point of contact with our international representation firm.

Ms. Blenker is a highly experienced travel and tourism professional with over 20 years of combined experience in the hospitality, event management, and tourism industries and brings a wealth of expertise. Before joining the VCB, Aimee enjoyed success as the owner of Aimee & Company Event Planning, and as the catering sales manager for Mattison's Restaurant and Catering Company. She also most recently spent 12 years as the Destination Sales Manager for the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. "We are excited to welcome Aimee to the team. She comes to us with a great background and experience in the industry which will contribute greatly to our efforts to expand our appeal to leisure travelers both domestically and abroad", said Sean Doherty, Tourism Director for the VCB.

Aimee has earned both the Certified Meetings Professional (CMP) designation from the Events Industry Council, as well as the designation as a Travel Marketing Professional (TMP) from the Southeast Tourism Society Marketing College. Her passion for travel and tourism, combined with her deep Florida native roots, makes her the ideal choice for this role. Aimee is thrilled to have the opportunity to become part of the Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach VCB team overseeing international and domestic leisure travel sales for the destination. She is eager to contribute to the success of the VCB and the growth of this vibrant area, she looks forward to working collaboratively with everyone to make this community a must-experience destination for prospective visitors from all over the world.

Our Best Side is Outside."

Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach Visitor & Convention Bureau 1700 Tamiami Trail, Suite G-2, Port Charlotte, FL 33948 941.743.1900 If you wish to know more about the Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach region and wish to connect with the Visitor and Convention Bureau, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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ABOUT PUNTA GORDA / ENGLEWOOD BEACH

Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach is Florida's best-kept secret of a charming natural paradise located on the idyllic Southwest Gulf Coast. This coastal community surrounding the state's second-largest harbor sits conveniently between Tampa and Naples. Outdoor enthusiasts will find a haven of vibrant experiences in the sun-soaked oasis of the Southwest Florida islands, characterized by almost year-round sunshine and sub-tropical weather. Relaxation and discovery await in miles of waterways and inland exploration trails filled with unspoiled natural beauty. From beaches to boating, hiking to harbor tours, fishing to nature paths; to sun, shelling, and fossilized sharks' teeth, Punta Gorda/Englewood Beach immerses lively locals and active adventurers in a pure island experience. Most notably known for its 830 miles of pristine unparalleled shoreline, including captivating river passages, a mangrove-edged aquatic preserve, and more than a dozen miles of natural Gulf beaches, the Charlotte Harbor Gulf Island Coast includes the areas of Boca Grande, Don Pedro Island, Englewood-Cape Haze, Little Gasparilla Island, Manasota Key, Knight Island, Placida, Babcock Ranch, Port Charlotte, Charlotte Harbor and Punta Gorda.

To learn more about Punta Gorda / Englewood Beach, visit <u>www.PureFlorida.com</u>, call 941.743.1900 or discover the destination on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook @RealPureFlorida.