

MEETING PLANNERS GUIDE



WELCOME TO THE
BRADENTON AREA

MEETINGS SHINE BRIGHTER HERE



Centrally located on Florida's West Coast, the Bradenton Area is one of the few destinations in the state to have successfully preserved the characteristics of Real. Authentic. Florida.™ The perfect place to host your next conference or trade show, we don't just offer meeting spaces; we offer a myriad of possibilities to impress and inspire – whether you're looking for outdoor adventure, rich cultural experiences, or a chance to simply relax and reconnect with your team on our world-famous beaches. Discover all the Bradenton Area has to offer your group.





285 DAYS OF
YEAR-ROUND
SUNSHINE

AVERAGE
ANNUAL
TEMPERATURE **MID-
80s**

WORLD-FAMOUS BEACHES OF
**ANNA MARIA ISLAND
AND LONGBOAT KEY**



16
MILES OF SUGAR-
WHITE SANDS

150+ MILES OF
COASTLINE
IN MANATEE
COUNTY



12+ NATURE
PARKS AND
PRESERVES

SARASOTA BRADENTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

WITH NONSTOP FLIGHT
SERVICE FOR NEARLY

70
DESTINATIONS



TOTAL VENUES
IN THE AREA

90

HOME TO:



IMG ACADEMY
THE WORLD'S MOST
PRESTIGIOUS SPORTS
PERFORMANCE COMPLEX



LECOM PARK
SPRING TRAINING FOR
THE PITTSBURGH PIRATES



VILLAGE OF THE ARTS
FLORIDA'S LARGEST
LIVE-WORK ARTISTS
COMMUNITY



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DESTINATION SERVICES

Enjoy the many benefits of working with the area's Convention and Visitors Bureau to plan your next event, from streamlined bookings to local connections.



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TRAVEL MADE EASY

Two international airports and major highway access make getting here a breeze, while a walkable downtown and convenient transportation ensure visitors can easily explore.



16

UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES

Laid-back, full of charm, and teeming with unspoiled natural beauty, the Bradenton Area offers the perfect mix of activities for all interests and abilities.



22

ACCOMMODATIONS

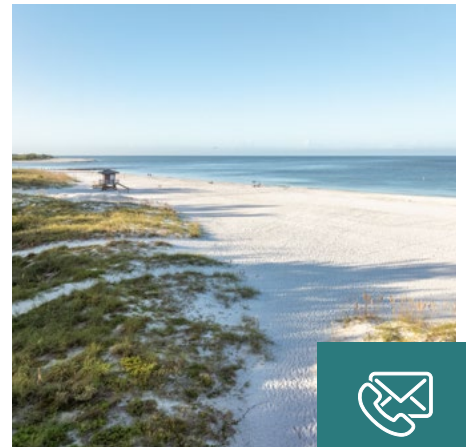
With more than 770 hotel rooms within five miles of the Convention Center, it's easy to find the perfect central home base and gathering spot for your group.



25

THE CONVENTION CENTER

Bring virtually any vision to life at the newly reimagined Bradenton Area Convention Center – featuring the conveniently connected Palmetto Marriott Resort & Spa.



GET IN TOUCH

Questions? Ready to start planning? Reach out to our team at **941.729.9177** or Meetings@BACVB.com. We'd love to learn more about your event and welcome you to the Bradenton Area!





REIMAGINED SPACES. UNFORGETTABLE MEETINGS.



A beacon of hospitality and versatility, the Bradenton Area Convention Center is unveiling a \$53 million transformation in late 2025, featuring 95,000 total square feet of meeting space. This exciting expansion and renovation comes just a year after the opening of the connected Palmetto Marriott Resort & Spa. Together, this state-of-the-art venue and full-service hotel are enhancing the event experience – providing more convenience, more ways to connect, and more of that undeniable charm groups come to expect when making the decision to host on Florida’s West Coast.

Ready to plan something unforgettable?
Scan to get started or visit
[BradentonAreaConventionCenter.com](https://www.BradentonAreaConventionCenter.com).

An aerial photograph of Bradenton, Florida, showing the city's coastline, the Gulf of Mexico, and a sandy beach. The image is partially obscured by a white rectangular box containing text. A decorative teal wavy line is at the top of the page.

DESTINATION SERVICES

When you plan an event in the Bradenton Area, you'll work with the dedicated team at the Bradenton Area Convention & Visitors Bureau from start to finish. Leave it to the local experts to help with everything from finding the perfect venue for your vision to coordinating memorable team outings to ensuring every detail has been carefully considered to meet the needs of your whole group.

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TAILORED TO YOUR VISION

We work hard to make the planning process seamless. After all, your guests shouldn't be the only ones having a good time. Consider us your personal concierge, ready to assist with the following details – all at no charge.

PRE-EVENT PLANNING

With extensive knowledge of the area, our team can assist with meeting details, including contacting lodging properties, attractions and/or reception sites; preparing and sending out sales leads; and coordinating site inspections.

VENUE & LODGING SELECTION

Our team has long-standing relationships with Bradenton Area venues and hotels and can send out leads or RFPs to each qualifying property, saving you valuable time. We can also assist with overflow hotel availability and city-wide event planning.

DESTINATION RESOURCES

We will gladly provide attendees with visitor guides, locator maps, and various brochures – all thoughtfully selected based on your group's needs and interests.

GUEST ACTIVITIES & TOURS

There's no shortage of fun things to do for guests and their travel companions. Our sales team can help you create custom itineraries and even arrange visits to local attractions.

MEDIA

Need destination assets to promote your event? We can provide high-resolution digital images for invitations, newsletters, conference brochures, or other needs.

BRADENTON AREA SAVINGS PASS

Guests can download our mobile app for exclusive deals and discounts on a collection of curated attractions, shops, and restaurants.



TRAVEL MADE EASY

While the Bradenton Area feels worlds away from the everyday, getting here is actually quite easy – whether traveling across the country or around the world. In addition to local Sarasota Bradenton International Airport, the destination is conveniently close to other major Florida metropolises for even more flight options. And when it comes to exploring downtown Bradenton or the beach communities of Anna Maria Island, groups can simply take a short stroll or hop aboard a variety of free and eco-friendly transportation options.



SARASOTA
BRADENTON
INTERNATIONAL

Visit [SRQ-Airport.com](https://www.srq-airport.com)



2025

NEW CONCOURSE OPENED

11

AIRLINES

NEARLY 70

NONSTOP FLIGHTS

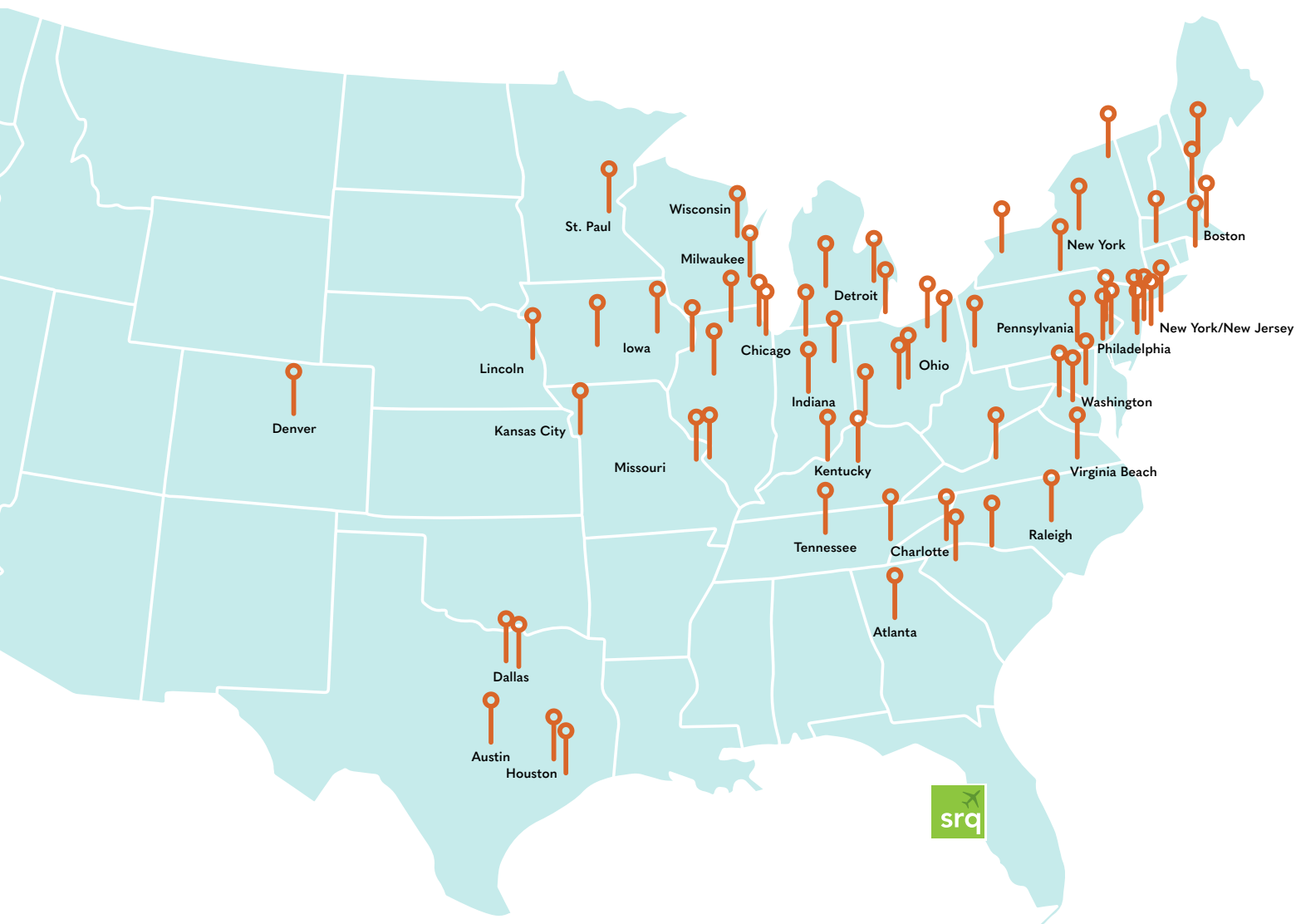
ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING
AIRPORTS IN THE USA



12
MILES

FROM AIRPORT TO
THE BRADENTON AREA
CONVENTION CENTER





FLIGHT TIMES

Atlanta, GA	1 hour 30 min
Washington, D.C.	2 hours 30 min
Nashville, TN	1 hour 50 min
New York City, NY	3 hours
Indianapolis, IN	2 hours 20 min
Philadelphia, PA	2 hours 50 min
St. Louis, MO	2 hours 20 min

Chicago, IL	2 hours 40 min
Pittsburgh, PA	2 hours 30 min
Cleveland, OH	2 hours 50 min
New Haven, CT	3 hours 10 min
Boston, MA	3 hours 40 min
Raleigh/Durham, NC	2 hours



FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS

Visit TampaAirport.com

22
AIRLINES

85
NONSTOP
U.S. FLIGHTS

20
NONSTOP
INTERNATIONAL
FLIGHTS

41 MILES



FROM AIRPORT TO
THE BRADENTON AREA
CONVENTION CENTER

LOOKING FOR A NEARBY FLORIDA ESCAPE?

The Bradenton Area is just a short drive from popular cities in the state – and easily accessible by several major highways.

DRIVE TIMES

Tampa	1 hour
Orlando	2 hours
Tallahassee	4 hours 45 min
Florida Keys	4 hour 45 min
Ft. Myers	1 hour 30 min
Miami	4 hours



GETTING AROUND

WALKABLE DOWNTOWNS. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION.

For a true change of pace, groups can stretch their legs or catch a ride on one of the area's stress-free and eco-friendly modes of transportation.

Downtown Bradenton

Just minutes away from the Bradenton Area Convention Center is vibrant and very walkable downtown Bradenton for waterfront dining, local shopping, museums, and more. There's also the Bradenton Riverwalk – a 1.5-mile, ADA-friendly walking path that runs along the scenic Manatee River with plenty of recreational opportunities.



Gulf Islands Ferry

A scenic and traffic-free way to visit our breathtaking beaches – the ferry offers round-trip service from the downtown Bradenton Riverwalk Pier to the historic Bridge Street Pier on Anna Maria Island. Be sure to download the Gulf Islands Ferry app for tickets, schedules, and updates.

Anna Maria Island Trolley

Take advantage of the FREE trolley system that runs between the Anna Maria City Pier on the island's north side to Coquina Beach on the south. The trolley operates 365 days a year from 6 a.m to 10:30 p.m.

EXPLORE THE BRADENTON AREA

AREA VENUES

- Bradenton Area Convention Center
- Powel Crosley Estate
- IMG Academy

ARTS & CULTURE

- Village of the Arts
- Manatee Performing Arts Center
- Herrig Center for the Arts
- The Bishop Museum of Science & Nature

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- Bradenton Riverwalk
- Robinson Preserve
- De Soto National Memorial
- Lake Manatee State Park
- LECOM Park

LAID-BACK LOCATIONS

- Anna Maria City Pier
- Pine Avenue
- Manatee Beach
- Bridge Street
- Coquina Beach
- Cortez Village

SHOPPING

- Lakewood Ranch Main Street
- Ellenton Premium Outlets
- Shoppes at University Center

TRANSPORTATION

- Sarasota Bradenton International Airport (SRQ)
- Bridge Street - Ferry Stop
- Bradenton Riverwalk - Ferry Stop
- Tampa International Airport (TPA)





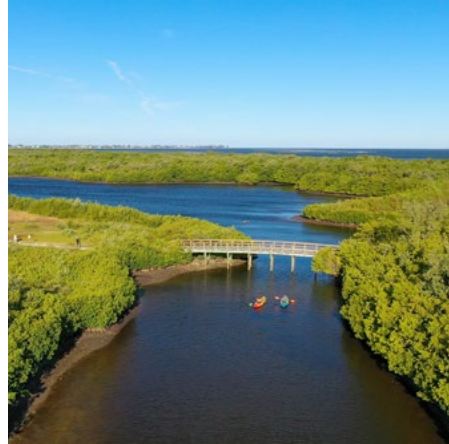


UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES IN REAL. AUTHENTIC. FLORIDA.™



BEACH BLISS

Refreshingly laid-back and low-rise, our pristine beaches are great for catching rays, waves – and especially sunsets.



ENDLESS OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Discover more than a dozen nature parks and preserves for getting out and enjoying the natural beauty of the Bradenton Area.



RICH ARTS & CULTURE

From exciting museums that celebrate Florida's heritage to the area's thriving local arts scene, inspiration is easy to come by here.



FRESH FLORIBBEAN CUISINE

Sustainably caught seafood and fresh, local ingredients create an irresistible fusion – best enjoyed with one's toes in the sand.



TAKE A BEACH BREAK

With a rich blend of natural wonders and laid-back coastal vibes, our beaches promise an unforgettable experience where relaxation and recreation effortlessly intertwine. It's just the change of pace your team needs.

ONLY CONTINENTAL BEACH
DESTINATION FEATURED
IN TRAVEL + LEISURE'S

**TOP 50
PLACES TO
GO IN 2024**



16 MILES

OF SUGAR-WHITE SHORELINE AND
CRYSTAL CLEAR TURQUOISE WATERS

**ADA-ACCESSIBLE
BEACHES**

FEATURING MOBILITY MATS
AND BEACH WHEELCHAIRS

HOW TO LOVE IT LIKE A LOCAL

Here in the Bradenton Area, sustainability, preservation, and respect are more than just buzzwords; they're a way of life. From reef-safe sunscreens to sea turtle protections, locals and visitors are encouraged to help leave the area as beautiful as they found it so that future generations can continue to enjoy the same natural wonders.

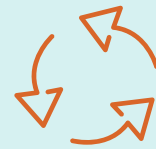


1ST
FLORIDA
DESTINATION TO
PARTNER WITH
LEAVE NO TRACE

645 SEA TURTLE NESTS ON
AVERAGE EACH YEAR



7 PRINCIPLES OF
SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL



See more ways to
[#LoveItLikeALocal](https://www.instagram.com/LoveItLikeALocal)

UNPLUG IN OUR UNSPOILED NATURE

Help your group recharge and reconnect with an outdoor adventure! The Bradenton Area has more than a dozen nature parks and preserves, where teams can hike scenic trails, paddle through tranquil waterways – even learn a little local history along the way.

Our crystal clear Gulf waters and sparkling Sarasota Bay are great for all kinds of boating excursions – from fishing adventures to wildlife watching.





EXPAND THEIR HORIZONS

The Bradenton Area is home to exciting museums and a thriving local arts scene, perfect for opening minds, encouraging creativity, and strengthening teams. All within a two-mile radius of downtown Bradenton, you'll find a number of inspiring ways to entertain your group – whether it's exploring stories of the past and the great outdoors at The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature, enjoying an evening of theater at Manatee Performing Arts Center, taking a hands-on class at Herrig Center for the Arts, or catching a local outdoor concert at the Riverwalk's Mosaic Amphitheater.



Visiting on the first Friday or Saturday of the month? Check out an Art Walk in nearby Village of the Arts and enjoy an evening of self-expression, live music, and local flavors in Florida's largest live-work artists community.

INDULGE THEIR APPETITE FOR ADVENTURE

Dining in the Bradenton Area means experiencing local flavor in its purest sense. From vegetables picked hours before serving to restaurants that cook your catch, the meals your group enjoys here will be those they couldn't eat anywhere else. Numerous restaurants feature regional Floribbean cuisine, consisting of seafood staples like grouper, shrimp, and stone crab caught right off our shores – along with tropical fruits and flavors originating in Cuba, Jamaica, and other Caribbean countries.



It's not just about the food though. The dining ambience here is unmatched. Waterfront and rooftop views. Dockside and toes-in-the-sand dining. Let our team help plan a memorable dine-around that'll have your group talking long after the meal is over.

TOP 5 TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN THE BRADENTON AREA



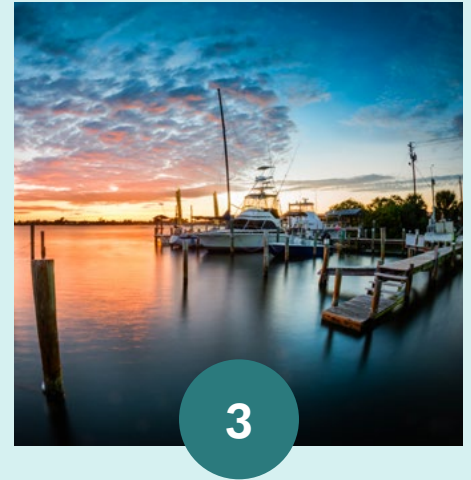
PLAN A BEACH CLEANUP

How about some feel-good voluntourism? Groups can help keep our beaches beautiful for others (and for their return trip to paradise).



TAKE A KAYAK TOUR

Such a cool and surreal experience – immerse yourself in the natural habitat of manatees, dolphins, and more.



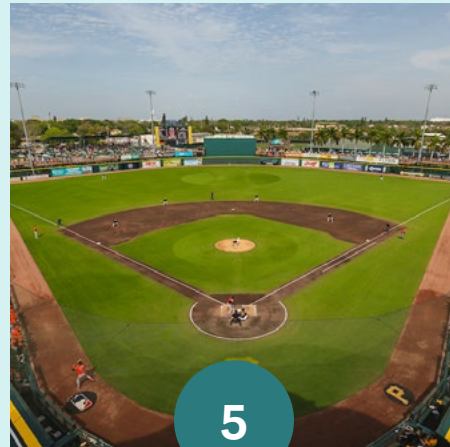
ENJOY A SUNSET BOAT CHARTER

After a full day of meetings, slow down on the water. Breathe in the fresh, salty air and watch the sun melt into the horizon.



DO YOGA AT THE NEST

Perched off the ground with panoramic views of 600+ acres of coastal wetlands, this unique space at nearby Robinson Preserve is the perfect place to zen out.



CATCH A BALL GAME AT LECOM PARK (SPRING/SUMMER)

Just minutes from the Bradenton Area Convention Center, watch spring training for the Pittsburgh Pirates or cheer on the Bradenton Marauders during the regular season.



ACCOMMODATIONS

From upscale resorts to beachfront hotels, the destination offers a range of accommodations for groups of all sizes and needs. In addition to on-site event space, many properties also feature high-end and complimentary amenities to ensure attendees can make the most of their stay.

770 HOTEL ROOMS

WITHIN 5 MILES OF
THE BRADENTON AREA
CONVENTION CENTER



BRADENTON AREA HOTELS

WITH MORE THAN 1,000 SQ. FT. OF MEETING SPACE

HOTEL NAME	LOCATION	TOTAL MEETING SPACE (SQ. FT.)	TOTAL ROOMS	WEBSITE
Palmetto Marriott Resort & Spa	Urban Corridor – Palmetto	10,000	252	www.marriott.com/srqpm
Ramada Waterfront Sarasota	Sarasota Bradenton International Airport	10,000	110	www.ramadasarasota.com
Courtyard Marriott Bradenton Riverfront	Urban Corridor – Downtown Bradenton	6,000	153	www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/srqbd-courtyard-bradenton-sarasota-riverfront/overview/
Legacy Hotel at IMG Academy	IMG Academy	5,000	150	www.IMGLegacyHotel.com
Zota Beach Resort	Longboat Key	2,756	187	www.zotabeachresort.com
Even Hotel Sarasota-Lakewood Ranch	Lakewood Ranch	2,548	128	www.evenhotels.com
Hampton Inn & Suites Bradenton Downtown Historic District	Urban Corridor – Downtown Bradenton	2,390	114	www.bradentondowntownhistoricdistrictsuits.hamptoninn.com
Holiday Inn Express & Suites – Bradenton West	West Bradenton	2,050	129	www.HIExpress.com/BradentonWest
DoubleTree by Hilton Sarasota Bradenton Airport	Sarasota Bradenton International Airport	2,000	135	www.hilton.com/en/hotels/tpasadt-doubletree-sarasota-bradenton-airport/
Hilton Garden Inn Sarasota Bradenton Airport	Sarasota Bradenton International Airport	1,850	115	www.sarasotabradentonairport.hgi.com
Waterline Marina Resort & Beach Club	Holmes Beach	1,570	37	www.waterlineresort.com
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Bradenton East/Lakewood Ranch	Lakewood Ranch	1,225	78	www.HIExpress.com
Courtyard by Marriott Sarasota/University Park	Lakewood Ranch	1,110	134	www.marriott.com/srqbt



NEW BRADENTON AREA CONVENTION CENTER

**REIMAGINED & READY
FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT**



Conveniently located in the heart of it all and near the scenic Manatee River, the brand-new Bradenton Area Convention Center is the perfect canvas for bringing virtually any vision to life. Discover its versatile meeting spaces, best suited for small to midsize events of up to 3,800 people.

\$53 MILLION TRANSFORMATION

TO COMPLETE IN 2025

LARGEST CONVENTION CENTER

BETWEEN ST. PETERSBURG AND NAPLES

95,000 SQ FT OF MEETING SPACE

2 OUTDOOR PLAZAS

NEW CONNECTED HOTEL

ADDITIONAL FEATURES:

- Full-Service Food and Beverage
- Complimentary High-Speed Wi-Fi
- Non-Union Venue
- Operated by the Convention & Visitors Bureau



LET'S CONNECT

941.729.9177
Meetings@BACVB.com

BradentonAreaConventionCenter.com

For more about the Bradenton Area, follow
@VisitBradentonGulfIslands on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).



BRADENTON AREA
CONVENTION CENTER

1 Haben Blvd, Palmetto, FL 34221