



## HILTON HEAD ISLAND-BLUFFTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### CONVENTIONS GONE LOWCOUNTRY

*A Look at Meeting Options on Beautiful Hilton Head Island*

Temperate year-round climate, exceptional natural beauty and challenging golf courses have earned Hilton Head Island a reputation as one of America's premier leisure and business destinations. While warm sand and world-championship golf remain leading attractions, superb conference facilities and meeting packages also serve to draw millions of annual visitors. Best of all, Hilton Head Island offers a variety of diverse accommodations and outdoor activities to customize any meeting or convention.

#### **Accommodations and Facilities**

From large, recently renovated resorts equipped with traditional meeting facilities and state-of-the-art conference technology, to quaint seaside villas outfitted with private swimming pools and tennis courts, Hilton Head Island has an appropriate venue for any size or type of meeting. More than a half dozen major conference resorts with approximately 150,000 square feet of meeting space line the beaches of Hilton Head Island. These exceptional oceanfront properties maintain the highest industry accolades, feature the latest technological equipment, banquet catering for up to 2,000 attendees and professional sales and conference staffs to help coordinate every detail. As an added bonus, several of Hilton Head Island's premier golf courses, tennis courts, health spas, restaurants and shopping areas can be found at these resorts.

The Island also features 6,000 villas for those groups preferring a little extra room or privacy. Villas offer more casual and relaxed atmospheres for executive meetings and retreats. Whether oceanfront or on the golf course, the villas are tastefully furnished and carefully maintained, and many are equipped with private swimming pools and tennis courts onsite.

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### **Group and Convention Services**

Meeting and incentive planners will enjoy the wide range of on-Island group tour and convention services available to assist with organizing any event, including golf, tennis or fishing tournaments; dinner cruises; spousal programs; event entertainment; and nature and heritage tours.

Complete meeting support is readily available, including equipment rental, media production and A/V services. Transportation around Hilton Head Island also is easy and convenient with numerous car rental, limousine and motorcoach companies offering services throughout the Island and surrounding areas.

### **A New Spin on Recreational Activities**

After meetings have adjourned, guests on Hilton Head Island can enjoy a multitude of leisure pursuits. In addition to golf on one of the Island's renowned courses, excellent shopping and dining opportunities, and Broadway-style performances at the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, distinctive Hilton Head Island activities include:

- A guided walk along the Gullah Heritage Trail to discover a culture that encompasses a thriving mix of language (a Creole blend of European and African tongues), folktales, superstition and distinctive cuisine that has shaped generations of families who live on Hilton Head Island and in the Lowcountry today. The tour concludes with a traditional Gullah meal prepared over an open fire, with uplifting entertainment provided by gospel singers.
- Participate in a team-building triathlon comprised of biking, canoeing or kayaking and a fun three-legged race on the sand. After the race, enjoy an oyster roast or a picnic on the beach.
- Tour an art gallery or museum to experience the Island's rich Lowcountry art and history. Afterwards, sip cocktails and nibble hors d'oeuvres while aboard a sunset dolphin-watching cruise.

### **Top Notch Facilities and Properties**

**The Westin Hilton Head Island Resort and Spa** is an oceanfront resort in Port Royal Plantation with 28,000 square feet of flexible meeting space. They have recently opened the first Heavenly Spa by Westin in the Continental United States. They have also completed a covered, outdoor beach pavilion with an expansive open-air deck for group functions. Other renovations include all the guest rooms, public space, spa and food and beverage areas.

The Westin also features access to three championship golf courses, premier tennis facilities, the Westin Kids Club, Westin Workout, and three swimming pools near the outdoor oceanfront function space.

**The Hilton Head Marriott Resort and Spa in Palmetto Dunes Resort** is the largest oceanfront resort on the island with 513 guest rooms and over 45,000 square feet of meeting and banquet space. The 2,000+ acre resort features rental homes and villas, with courtesy shuttle transportation within Palmetto Dunes Resort and Shelter Cove Harbour.

The Marriott is completing more than \$20 million in renovations, including the addition of Spa Soleil, a 17 room facility. Inside Palmetto Dunes, there is access to three championship golf courses, 25 tennis courts and numerous other recreational activities. The picturesque Shelter Cove Marina offers a 175-slip marina with dolphin tours, boat rentals, in-shore and off-shore fishing, shopping and dining.

**The Sea Pines Resort** is a full-service, oceanfront resort featuring villas, homes, and the AAA Four-Diamond Inn at Harbour Town, featuring private butler service, evening turndown service, complimentary valet parking, wireless internet, and more. The total inventory is nearly 500 inn rooms, villas, and homes. Award winning conference space includes the Harbour Town Conference Center and spectacular outdoor venues featuring ocean, golf, and harbour views. Total indoor space exceeds 15,000 square feet plus several outdoor venues for any size group.

A key attraction at The Sea Pines Resort is 54 holes of world class golf including Harbour Town Golf Links, home of the PGA TOUR's Verizon Heritage, and Pete Dye's newest masterpiece, Heron Point. Unlimited recreational opportunities include tennis, water sports, team building events, dolphin or sunset cruises, fishing, horseback riding, biking, nature trails, boat rentals, family and holiday activities, and live entertainment.

**Harbour Town Resort** features luxury oceanfront villas and homes with over 5,000 square feet of meeting space. Charter fishing, golf, tennis and spa available on site where there is free parking and on-site transportation.

**The Hilton Oceanfront Resort** features natural light in every meeting room and all eight newly renovated Promenade rooms have glassed porches. They also feature the largest guest rooms on the island, equipped with complimentary high speed internet and kitchenettes. A private, 7,000 square foot covered oceanfront pavilion has unbroken views of the Atlantic Ocean. The resort's four dining areas will undergo a \$3.5 million update. There is an onsite spa and golf and tennis activities are located within Palmetto Dunes Plantation. Transportation to these activities is complimentary.

**The Crowne Plaza Hilton Head Island** offers groups of up to 200 rooms and it will sometimes be the only group in the resort. There are two oceanfront, food and beverage venues; 7,000 square feet Pavilion and 4,000 square feet beach house. The Crown Plaza

invested nearly a million dollars in 2004-05, involving high speed Internet access in all guest rooms and meeting rooms, wireless access in most public areas, new landscaping, paving, flooring, and other renovation.

**The Inn at Palmetto Bluff**, managed by Auberge Resorts, offers a unique setting for company meetings and catered events. The Inn is located in Bluffton, South Carolina just minutes from Savannah and Hilton Head Island. There are a variety of venues at the Inn to accommodate casual gatherings, stunning events and formal meetings.

For more information on selecting an Island property for a meeting or to request a *Meeting Planner's Guide*, contact the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce at 800-523-3373 or visit us at [www.hiltonheadisland.org](http://www.hiltonheadisland.org).

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