



Punta Gorda's best antipasto from a local gem, Manatees Pizza

BITES OF PUNTA GORDA

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA'S NEWEST FOOD ADVENTURE

By Gabriele Walkow

As part of Southwest Florida Food Tours, the Bites of Punta Gorda Tour is a three-hour walking food tour taking visitors through the city's charming downtown historic district. Perfect for food and history buffs, this tour combines local culture, historical facts and culinary insights into a unique foodie experience. Get an insider's perspective of the area, taste authentic local flavors and meet and engage with local restaurateurs and fellow food lovers.



Trabue's Chef Keith Meyer delivers his signature dish



*Owners of Southwest Florida Food Tours
LaVerne and Rick Roberts*

The tour, which covers approximately 1.4 miles, unfolds at a relaxed pace and stops frequently—including spending approximately 20 minutes at each of the five designated restaurants. (Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.) Restaurants visited on each tour vary, depending on availability, and include ethnic mom and pop spots, locally loved eateries and some of the area's best fine dining establishments. All food tastings, the equivalent of a luncheon meal overall, are included in the ticket price. Ice water is available at each tasting but other beverages are not included in the ticket purchase.

Southwest Florida Food Tours opened its doors in the fall of 2014 after owners LaVerne and Rick Roberts went on a food tour in Nassau, Bahamas. Inspired, they decided to share the many culinary treasures that Punta Gorda has to offer with people traveling to the area. Southwest Florida Food Tours is now recommended on TripAdvisor.

"The local restaurants are excited to be a part of this new adventure," said LaVerne Roberts, "and are anxious to highlight their signature dishes. We generally recommend taking the tour early during your stay in town to allow enough time to revisit some of your favorite stops later during your trip.

"This tour is also an excellent way to entertain out-of-town guests, celebrate a special occasion or encourage professional team building," continued Roberts. "And our gift certificates make for a special treat for family and friends."

The \$45 per person tickets must be purchased in advance. Tours often sell out so purchasing tickets early to guarantee your desired tour day is recommended. Customized private tours for small and large groups are also available.

Cameras are permitted and the taking of photos is encouraged! Visit swffoodtours.com for more information on this memorable culinary and cultural journey. 🍷

Photos by LaVerne Roberts