



**The Suncoast Sandpipers Volkssport Club
welcomes you to the
Punta Gorda 6 & 10K Walk
An AVA Sanctioned Year Round Event #Y1589**



| Table of Contents | |
|---|---|
| Course Description | 1 |
| Eligible AVA Special Programs | 1 |
| Online Start Box Finish Table Procedures | 1 |
| Driving Directions to start and 6K Walk Directions | 2 |
| 6K Map | 3 |
| Driving Directions to start and 10K Walk Directions | 4 |
| 10K Map | 5 |



Course description: The easy, rated 1A walk is along Charlotte Harbor and into the downtown area. The walk features a variety of parks, historic buildings, and a breathtaking waterfront. Be sure to look for the many murals displayed on the city's buildings. After (or during) the walk, enjoy one of the many eclectic restaurants that offer fine food and festive atmosphere.

| Eligible AVA Special Programs | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| PROGRAM | STEP # |
| Par for the Course | 5 |
| Step to the Beat | 18 (6K) 24 (10K) |
| Town/City Halls | 39 (6K) 43 (10K) |
| Walking with America's Veterans | 18 (6K) 24 (10K) |
| Walking the United States (FL) | All |
| Walking the USA A - Z (P) | All |



Online Start Box Finish Table: Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account click on the "My Start Box" tab, then the "Finish Table" tab, then click on "Go to Finish Table" button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped "virtual" insert cards that you may choose to print out.

THIS PAGE IS FOR 6K WALKERS. SEE PAGE 4 FOR 10K ROUTE.**Driving Directions to Walk Start Point**

Start Location: Fisherman's Village, 1200 W Retta Esplanade, #57a, Punta Gorda, FL 33950. RESTROOMS ~150' inside on left

From US-41S: Cross Peace River bridge. Turn RiGHT at the 1st traffic light (W Marion Ave). Go ~ 3/4 mile and follow the signs. **From US-41N:** Enter downtown Punta Gorda. At the stoplight for W Marion Ave turn LEFT. Go ~3/4 mile and follow the signs.

From I-75 N&S: Exit 164 WEST (US-17, Marion Ave). Stay on Marion Ave through downtown. After the US-41S stoplight, go ~ 3/4 mile and follow signs.

These walk directions & maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. Other uses prohibited.

In Case of Emergency: Dial 911
For event related assistance:
Call Craig Bennington 237-687-8333

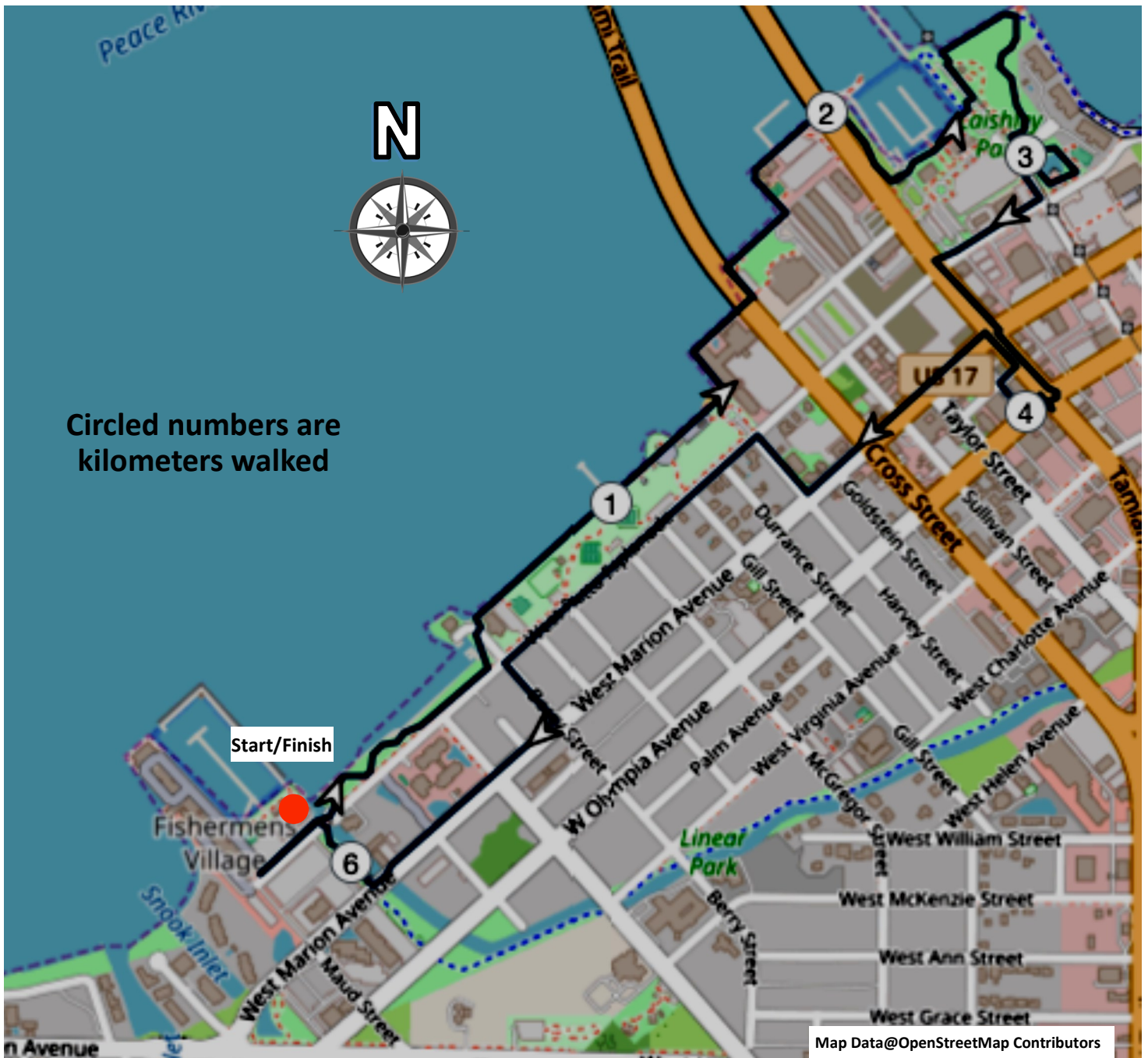
6K Walk Directions & Points of Interest**START - Face Fisherman's Village Entrance****Keep water on left thru #13**

1. **RIGHT.** Follow walkway (Harbor Walk) crossing foot-bridge to first sidewalk on left.
2. **LEFT.** Follow meandering walkway thru Alice Park & Pittman Park, rejoining sidewalk paralleling street.
3. **CONTINUE** past (on left) Shreve Park sign to fork.
4. **LEFT** passing flagpole to water.
5. **RIGHT** to bridge underpass passing (on right) basketball court; playground; **RESTROOMS**; pickleball courts; tennis courts; Ponce de Leon monument; riverfront gazebo; & additional **RESTROOMS**.
6. Go under bridge viewing **POIs: "Tails from the Harbor" murals.**
7. **CONTINUE** to 2nd bridge underpass passing (on right) Charlotte Harbor Event & Convention Center; Tiki Hut Pavilion, TT's Tiki Bar & Restaurant).
8. **Go under** bridge to wagon wheel circle in walkway.
9. **RIGHT** to compass rose circle in walkway.
10. **LEFT** crossing footbridge. **POI: (ahead & right) mural on wall.**
11. **CONTINUE** to top of short ramp with white railings.
12. **ANGLE LEFT** crossing parking area toward yellow building (**RESTROOMS**). Join sidewalk to river.
13. **RIGHT** to **POI: "Spirit of Punta Gorda" memorial (a reminder of the destruction caused by 2004 Hurricane Charley).**
14. **GO TO BACKSIDE OF MEMORIAL (AWAY FROM THE WALTER).** Join meandering path (condos on left, lawn on both sides) to 1st sidewalk intersection.
15. **LEFT. POI: Historic Punta Gorda Army Air Field monument.**
16. **Go to & CROSS** blacktop roadway.
17. **LEFT** entering Laishley/Veterans Park.
18. **CONTINUE** to **POIs: Vietnam War Memorial Wall; Plaques; 6 flags & (in short distance) plaque on post— Go to opposite side of plaque to view Blue Star Memorial.**
19. **RETURN TO WALKWAY AROUND POND.**
20. **LEFT**, walking **CLOCKWISE** around pond passing (on right) gazebo & (on left) wall with **POIs: war memorials.**
21. **CONTINUE** to blue star circle in walkway.
22. **LEFT** to Nesbitt St.
23. **LEFT** 1 block to East Retta Esplanade intersection.. **POI: Turn around to view Pilot/Airplane mural.**
24. **RIGHT - CROSS** Nesbitt St. Go 1 (long) block along E Retta Esplanade to major street (Tamiami Trail - NB US-41 - not marked).
25. **LEFT** to 2nd stoplight (Olympia Ave).
26. **CROSS** Olympia Ave. **POI: Go 50' to view (on building @ left) Ladies Remembered mural.**
27. **RETURN** to US-41/Olympia intersection.
28. **LEFT** to CROSS US-41..
29. **ANGLE LEFT** to **POI: Steve's Garage (aka "Classics of the Past"). Ask attendant to close one or all of the garage doors to view POI: murals.**
30. **RETURN** to US-41/Olympia intersection.
31. **CROSS** Olympia Ave.
32. **LEFT** to alleyway on right.
33. **RIGHT.** Enter alleyway passing (on left). **RESTROOMS.** Continue short distance to street. (Herald Ct - not marked).
34. **RIGHT** to street (NB US-41 - not marked).
35. **LEFT** to stoplight (W Marion Ave).
36. **CROSS** W Marion Ave.
37. **LEFT** 1/2 block to **POI: City Clock.**
38. **CONTINUE** to stoplight (Taylor St) **POI (on right); Radioactive Fountain of Youth. In its 1920s heyday, the Fountain of Youth -- which resembles a public drinking fountain -- was so popular that its tap handle wore out every six months. But in the early 1980s, EPA testing of public water sources for radioactivity found that the Fountain's water was contaminated with almost double the amount that was considered safe.**
39. **CROSS** Taylor St. Go 3 blocks to Harvey St passing (on right) **POI: City of Punta Gorda City Hall.**
40. **RIGHT.** Go 1 block to West Retta Esplanade.
41. **LEFT** 7 blocks to Berry St .
42. **LEFT** 1 block to West Marion Ave.
43. **RIGHT** 2+ blocks passing (on right) **POI: Florida Military Heritage Museum; compass rose in sidewalk (Pittman St), & crossing bridge to walkway on right (Linear Park & walkway.**
44. **RIGHT** passing exercise areas on left and right to end @ Harbor Walk.
45. **LEFT** to Finish. Shopping & Restaurants inside Fisherman's Village.



6K Route

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THIS PAGE IS FOR 10K WALKERS. SEE PAGE 2 FOR 6K ROUTE.**Driving Directions to Walk Start Point**

Start Location: Fisherman's Village, 1200 W Retta Esplanade, #57a, Punta Gorda, FL 33950. RESTROOMS ~150' inside on left

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From I-75 N&S: Exit 164 WEST (US-17, Marion Ave). Stay on Marion Ave through downtown. After the US-41S stoplight, go ~ 3/4 mile and follow signs.

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10K Walk Directions & Points of Interest**START - Face Fisherman's Village Entrance****Keep water on left thru #15**

1. **RIGHT.** Follow walkway (Harbor Walk) crossing footbridge to first sidewalk on left.
2. **LEFT.** Follow meandering walkway thru Alice Park & Pittman Park, rejoining sidewalk paralleling street.
3. **CONTINUE** past (on left) Shreve Park sign to fork.
4. **LEFT** passing flagpole to water.
5. **RIGHT** to bridge underpass passing (on right) basketball court; playground; **RESTROOMS**; pickleball courts; tennis courts; Ponce de Leon monument; riverfront gazebo; & additional **RESTROOMS**.
6. Go under bridge viewing **POIs: "Tails from the Harbor" murals.**
7. **CONTINUE** to 2nd bridge underpass passing (on right) Charlotte Harbor Event & Convention Center; Tiki Hut Pavilion, TT's Tiki Bar & Restaurant).
8. **Go under** bridge to wagon wheel circle in walkway.
9. **RIGHT** to compass rose circle in walkway.
10. **LEFT** crossing footbridge **POI:** (ahead & right) **mural on wall.**
11. **CONTINUE** to top of short ramp with white railings.
12. **ANGLE LEFT** crossing parking area toward yellow building (**RESTROOMS**). Join sidewalk to river.
13. **CONTINUE** on walkway (water on left, condos on right) crossing wooden footbridge.
14. **CONTINUE STRAIGHT** crossing 2nd wooden footbridge to compass rose in walkway.
15. **LEFT.** Go thru zigzag intersection **KEEPING LEFT** to first sidewalk on right.
16. **RIGHT** to street (Hwy 17).
17. **RIGHT** 2 blocks to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.
18. **RIGHT** to (just prior to) compass rose circle in walk.
19. **LEFT** to street, then **IMMEDIATE RIGHT.**
20. **STRAIGHT** along street (passing street sign @ curve & crossing grass to walkway at river.
21. **LEFT** to footbridge. **DO NOT ENTER BRIDGE!!**
22. **LEFT** on sidewalk to (on right) **POI: Blue Star Memorial.**
23. **CONTINUE** to first sidewalk.
24. **RIGHT**, then **IMMEDIATE RIGHT** joining circular walkway around pond **POIs: 6 flags & Vietnam War Memorial Wall** to blue star circle in walkway.
25. **LEFT. POIs (left & right) war memorial plaques.**
26. **CONTINUE** (keeping wall on right) to street (Nesbitt Ave). **POIs on wall: more war memorials & Pilot/Airplane mural.**
27. **LEFT** to 2nd traffic light (Olympia Ave).
28. **RIGHT - CROSS** Nesbitt Ave.
29. **LEFT - CROSS** Olympia Ave. Go ~100' to (on right) driveway/alleyway through parking lot.
30. **RIGHT** through alleyway/parking lot & between green & tan buildings to street (Tamiami Trail, NB US-41, not marked).
31. **RIGHT** 1/2 block (passing **POI: "Ladies Remembered" mural**) to stoplight **Olympia Ave).**
32. **LEFT - CROSS** NB US-41.
33. **ANGLE LEFT** to **POI: Steve's Garage (aka "Classics of the Past"). POI: Ask attendant to close garage doors to see murals on doors.**
34. **TURN AROUND.** Go back to the Olympia/US-41 intersection.
35. **CROSS** Olympia Ave.
36. **LEFT** to alleyway on right.
37. **RIGHT**, passing (on left) **RESTROOMS**, short distance to street (Herald Ct - not marked).
38. **RIGHT** to street (NB US-41 - not marked).
39. **LEFT** to stoplight (W Marion Ave (may not be marked).
40. **CROSS W Marion Ave.**
41. **LEFT** 1/2 block to **POI: City Clock.**
42. **CONTINUE** to stoplight (Taylor St). **POI (on right); Radioactive Fountain of Youth - READ PLAQUE!**
43. **CROSS** Taylor St continuing 3 blocks to Harvey St (passing on right). **POI: City of Punta Gorda City Hall.**
44. **RIGHT** 1 block to West Retta Esplanade.
45. **LEFT** 5 blocks to Chasteen St (not marked).
46. **LEFT** 2 blocks to Trabue St.
47. **LEFT** 1 block to McGregor St.
48. **LEFT** 1 block to West Marion Ave.
49. **RIGHT** 2 blocks to Durance St.
50. **RIGHT** 3 blocks to West Charlotte Ave.
51. **LEFT** 2 blocks to stop sign (SB US-41 - not marked).
52. **RIGHT** ~ 1 block to 1/2 star circle in walk.
53. **RIGHT** (entering Linear Park) ~2 km to end @ Harbor Walk.
54. **LEFT** to Finish. Shopping & Restaurants inside Fisherman's Village.



10K Map

Circled numbers are kilometers walked.



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