



**nileGUIDE**

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Adventurous Wench

# Top 10 Nightlife of Key West

## Key West, 1 Day

### Table of contents:

Guide Description 2

Itinerary Overview 3

Daily Itineraries 4

Key West Snapshot 7

# Guide Description



**AUTHOR NOTE:** In addition to the literary, arts & culture heritage Key West is world famous for, so are the bars along Duval Street. Hundreds of versions of the 'Duval Crawl' bar hop have emerged based on people's likes and dislikes, but for a truly energetic night of live music on the town, start at the top of the list with crazy, loud, raucous, let-it-all-hang-out places.

# Itinerary Overview

things to do  
restaurants  
hotels  
nightlife

## Day 1 - Key West



### Hog's Breath Saloon

Hog's Breath is better than no breath at all



### Rick's/Durty Harry's

Live rock 'n' roll until the wee hours of the night



### Captain Tony's Saloon

Lively spot in the Old Town



### Virgilio's

Trendy spot for dinner, cocktails, or dancing



### Green Parrot Bar

Historic bar, wild crowd



### Sloppy Joe's

Live entertainment highlighted by annual Hemingway look-alike contest



### Fat Tuesday

Perhaps the best prices in town



### Irish Kevin's

Irishmen in Florida



### Conch Republic Seafood Company

Large Rum bar and waterfront dining



### Blue Mojito Pool Bar and Grill

A fabulous view of Keys

# Day 1 - Key West

QUICK NOTE

**contact:**  
tel: 305 292 2032  
<http://www.hogsbreath.com/>

**location:**  
400 Front Street  
Key West FL 33040

## 1 Hog's Breath Saloon

**DESCRIPTION:** At Hog's Breath, the motto is "better than no breath at all," and who can argue with that simple logic. You can even buy hats and shirts with that adroit slogan. While the restaurant and raw bar are a draw, the entertainment and Harley "Hogs" are as well. Live entertainment goes on daily, as does the partying. Try Hog's Breath beer, raw oysters and a fish nugget sandwich with tartar sauce. © wcities.com



editor

**contact:**  
tel: 305 296-5513  
<http://www.ricksanddurtyharrys.com/about.html>

**location:**  
208 Duval St  
Key West FL 33040

## 2 Rick's/Durty Harry's

**DESCRIPTION:** In 1984 Mark Rossi purchased a small bar on the 200 block of Duval St. and changed the name to Rick's. Since that time the business has evolved into a huge complex consisting of six venues and 10 bars. With the acquisition of the sports bar next door the business became known as The Rick's/Durty Harry's Entertainment Complex! Today the complex features Rick's Upstairs, Key West's hottest dance club. Durty Harry's, the best live rock & roll and sports bar in the keys. The Tree Bar gets its name from the huge shade tree providing customers with the most comfortable place to take in the sights and sounds of Duval St. This bar is best know for serving fresh squeezed juices and premium spirits. Rick's Down has the best live entertainment in town combined with the lowest priced and most potent drinks on Duval Street! The Crow's Nest is our brand new VIP Bar and deck. The bar was named for the bird's eye view it offers of the stage and courtyard. The sixth venue is our adult entertainment club, the Red Garter, which offers all that you would expect from the Key's premier facility.

**contact:**  
tel: 305 294 1838  
<http://www.capttonyssaloon.com/>

**location:**  
428 Greene Street  
Key West FL 33040

**hours:**  
Mo to Su from 11:00 AM to  
04:00 AM

## 3 Captain Tony's Saloon

**DESCRIPTION:** Once an icehouse, this lively spot is one of the city's most popular bars and is said to have been the original Sloppy Joe's, entertaining author Ernest Hemingway. Jimmy Buffet sang here for a while in the beginning of his career and now live bands play nightly, who knows, perhaps you will hear the next Buffet. Stop by for a drink, or just to take a look at the "Hanging Tree," located inside the bar. Captain Tony Tarracino, who died Nov. 1 at age 92, came to Key West from New Jersey in 1948 with \$18 in his pocket. Ten years later he purchased the bar on Greene Street and changed its name to Captain Tony's Saloon. A former charter boat captain, gambler and reputed gunrunner, Tarracino served as mayor of Key West from 1989 to 1991. Though he sold his bar in 1989, he remained a public figure who often stopped by to greet patrons. © wcities.com



editor

**contact:**  
tel: 305 296 8118  
<http://www.latrattoria.us/virgilio.htm>

**location:**  
524 Duval Street  
Key West FL 33040

#### 4 Virgilio's

**DESCRIPTION:** Cocktails and chilled martinis are not the only drinks served here. Virgilio's possesses a penchant for letting you drink lovely wines and scotches. Lounge music rules. The jazz and blues are not left behind though. But don't anticipate a quiet night out as it can get hot down here as the dark hours roll by. Virgilio's is known as trendy spot with live music and late night DJs. © wcities.com

**contact:**  
tel: 305 294 6133  
<http://www.greenparrot.com/>

**location:**  
601 Whitehead Street  
Key West FL 33040

#### 5 Green Parrot Bar

**DESCRIPTION:** Wild groups gather at this open-air bar nightly, to party 'til they drop. If you are up for a pretty rambunctious scene, you will enjoy this antique saloon built in 1890 and generally agreed upon as the oldest bar in Key West. The co-owned smokehouse next door called "Meteor," serves pork, chicken, beef and seafood until 2am. Play pool, darts, or pinball while trying a "spine-tingling" cocktail. On weekends, there is live music, and the jukebox pounds out blues, zydeco and reggae all week. Don't miss this spot, listed as one of the "World's 50 Greatest Bars." © wcities.com

**contact:**  
tel: 305 294 5717  
<http://www.sloppyjoes.com/>

**location:**  
201 Duval Street  
Key West FL 33040

#### 6 Sloppy Joe's

**DESCRIPTION:** You'll have to stop in here just to say you did. Scholars and drunks debate whether this is the same Sloppy Joe's that Hemingway wrote about, but there's no argument that this classic bar's early-20th-century wooden ceiling and cracked-tile floors are Key West originals. There's live music nightly, as well as a cigar room and martini bar. © Frommer's

**contact:**  
tel: 305 296 9373  
<http://www.fattuesdaykeywest.com>

**location:**  
305 Duval Street  
Key West FL 33040

#### 7 Fat Tuesday

**DESCRIPTION:** If you're tired of the same old cocktail mixes and regular drinks, pop into Fat Tuesday. Happy hour starts from 4p-7p. Known as the 'Home of the World's Famous Frozen Drinks', Tuesday's smooth cold concoctions are known throughout the country. The front runner for the most popular drink here is dubbed 190 Octane and consists of grain alcohol and orange. Also check out the Rumrunner, Kuya Pina Colada, Horny Appleton, Stoli Ocean and many many more delicious liquids. You can even make your own or have the experts mix it up for you. The prices just might be the best in town. © wcities.com

**contact:**  
tel: 305 292 1262  
<http://www.irishkevins.com>

**location:**  
211C Duval Street  
Key West FL 33040

#### 8 Irish Kevin's

**DESCRIPTION:** Irish Kevin's is all about having fun. Featuring live entertainment and friendly staff, it's a cool place to hangout, grab a beer and some food. The owner Kevin (we should have guessed!) arrived in the US in 1992 and previously performed on Duval street, finally with his dream intact (dream of opening a watering hole) he is the regular attraction at the bar, with sing-a-long numbers and comedy skits. Also performing every night is singer/entertainer Jared Michael Hobgood. © wcities.com

**contact:**

tel: 305 294 4403  
<http://www.conchrepublicseafood.com/>

**location:**

631 Greene Street  
Key West FL 33040



## Conch Republic Seafood Company

**DESCRIPTION:** The Conch Republic Seafood Company offers a great open-air waterfront view of the Key West Bight and some of the freshest seafood available, but this is not the main draw. Most visitors come for the 80-foot long rum bar, shaped like a boat, which claims to be the largest between Miami and Cuba. You can select from oysters, clams, mussels or shrimp from the raw bar, or dine on Bahamian-Style Cracked Conch, Grilled Tuna Steak or Black Angus steak. For dessert, try the Chocolate Rum Cake with white chocolate glaze. © wcities.com

**contact:**

tel: 305 809 1234  
fax: 305 809 4050  
<http://keywest.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/entertainment/restaurants/index.jsp>

**location:**

601 Front Street  
Key West FL 33040

**hours:**

Daily 11a-10p



## Blue Mojito Pool Bar and Grill

**DESCRIPTION:** Located in the Hyatt Key West Resort and Marina, this restaurant offers scenic views of the Key West islands while you dine. Against the backdrop of the stunning ocean, you can sip your favorite drinks or dig into some light grilled meats seated at the mosaic-work bar. Worth trying out is the signature drink called Pirate's Choice Rum which is made from local key-lime. The pool side has parasol covered tables, teak furniture and pathways to give it a refreshing relaxed look. A great way to take in the magnificent ocean sights and sip on some drinks. © wcities.com



"Photo courtesy of Blue Mojito Pool Bar and Grill"

# Key West Snapshot

## Local Info

Key West is on the silvery ribbon of islands that trail off the southern shore of Florida. Thanks to the ever present warm temperatures and glistening seas, the islands have long been an escapist's nirvana. Eclectic and eccentric, wild and warm, blessed with some of Florida's most colorful characters and equally blessed with some of its most spectacular sea scenery, the Keys are a wonderland paradise.

## Key West

Key West is a rather small island that is about 4 miles long and 2 miles wide. Whether you want to relax on the beach or spend the day shopping, Key West has plenty to offer.

Duval Street is the center of Key West life, with many hotels, guest houses, inns and bed& breakfasts, plus dozens of shops and restaurants, nestled into its tropical ambiance. Wreckers Museum is an old house and museum where you can observe and learn more about the treasures salvaged from shipwrecks. If you get thirsty stop in for a cocktail and a snack at Duval Beach Club.

The Historic Seaport is the perfect place to walk down Harborwalk and enjoy the ocean along with shops and restaurants. Watch the free daily turtle feedings at Turtle Kraals Museum. Then stop for a bite to eat at Conch Republic Seafood Company or Half Shell Raw Bar.

If you get tired of the beach head to Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory where you can observe about 60 species of butterflies. You should also go to Key West Aquarium where you can learn more about sea life. The aquarium is the perfect place to take the kids since there are interactive exhibits where you can touch marine creatures.

## Key Largo

Key Largo is a larger island and is occasionally called the "Diving Capital of the World" since the coral reefs attract so many divers. John Pennekamp Coral Reef

State Park is a protected park where you can view coral reefs and colorful sea life. The state park also offers an aquarium, museum, camping, snorkeling, diving, and boating.

Pennekamp Park is a treasure trove of local flora including wild orchids, gumbo limbo, wild cotton, strangler fig, tamarind trees, wild coffee, and mahogany trees. If you want to see endangered animals go to Key Largo Hammocks State Botanical Site where the mangrove trees grow a "hammock" which is basically a small island that attracts animals.

## Islamorada

Billed as the 'Sportfishing Capital of the World', Islamorada's waters are home to the conch, alligator and Pickles Reefs, with a vast array of marine life. It's a destination for scuba divers and snorkelers. A scuttled ship, sunk on purpose is a great diving spot.

Those interested in Keys' geology can look at Windley Key Fossil Reef State Geologic Site, a reef that's no longer underwater. You can take a boat ride and get a historic exploration at Lignumvitae Key State Botanical Site, a virgin hardwood forest, and Indian Key State Historic Site, once the Miami area's county seat! Both are accessible on ferry trips.

You can feed tarpon off the docks at Robbie's Marina or swim with dolphins, manta rays and sea lions at Theater of the Seas.

## Marathon and the Middle Keys

Some of the residents can trace their history to early 1800s settlements. Bahamians raised tropical fruit for a living; New England fishermen searched the sea for its bounty; and in 1908, Henry Flagler's Overseas Railway reached Key Vaca, where the village of Marathon grew as headquarters for the railroad's final push to Key West.

Here your adventure can include a swim with dolphins, an iguana introduction, a visit to a hardwood hammock or rain forest, or a

loll on sandy beaches. Roaring jet skis and other water sports are available. Fishing is great on the reefs, the flats or in the deep.

For a close look at a sea turtle, visit the hospital that treats injured turtles. To learn something about early Indian settlements, visit the Museums of Crane Point, which encompass the Museum of Natural History of the Florida Keys and the Florida Keys Children's Museum.

## Bahia Honda and the Lower Keys

Big Pine Key is the center of life in the Lower Keys. Looe Key Reef off Big Pine Key is one of the Keys' top diving spots and one of the best reefs for diving in the world. In July each year, the Sanctuary sponsors a popular music festival promoting the preservation of the Keys' coral reefs.

So popular is Bahia Honda State Park that campers reserve space months in advance to ensure a place in this waterfront paradise with its pristine beaches and warm waters.

©

## History

Calusa Indians and other tribes found their way to these islands, recognizing them as hunting grounds, both on land and in the warm seas where shellfish, turtles and marine life of all kinds thrive. Generations later, the Spaniards, who discovered and settled most of the Florida, arrived. Most notable was adventurer Ponce de Leon, who first set eyes on the Keys on May 15, 1513. He and his sailors dubbed the islands Los Martires, the martyrs, in salute to the rocks that, from a distance, looked like suffering men.

In 1820, the island was bought from the Spanish for \$2,000, quite a substantial sum in those days, and the purchaser was John Simonton, an Alabama businessman, whose name and descendants live on here and remain a powerful influence in the area.

With a long history of looting and pillaging outlaws, pirates were eventually driven out and the island's mixed population of English Bahamians, Southerners and transplanted

## Key West Snapshot continued

northerners rose to 2,700, many of them happily engaged salvaging the cargoes of wrecked ships.

In the 1850s, however, a lighthouse was built, putting a bit of a damper on the wrecking business, and the town's industry began to change. A devastating fire destroyed the town in 1859. However, about the same time, cigar makers, fleeing war in Cuba, arrived in Key West, where they established a thriving industry. Key West's port was a hot spot, too, and by the 1880s, the city was said to be the wealthiest in the nation.

In the 1800s and 1900s, farmers found success raising pineapples on large plantations that spread across the Upper Keys. Sugarloaf, a kind of pineapple, is now the name of one Key and another is named Plantation Key. A canning plant in Key West provided pineapples to most of eastern North America in the early 1900s.

Some oranges and grapefruit were, and still are, grown, along with the exotic tamarind and breadfruit. But it was the tiny, yellow key lime that was to capture the attention of growers and become an icon of the keys.

Fishing has been a mainstay of Keys success from the earliest Indian inhabitants to today's charter and shrimp boats, the later still netting the little crustaceans so successfully that shrimp are known here as "pink gold."

As the centuries rolled by, railroad entrepreneur Henry Morrison Flagler heard about this place, figured it would have allure for winter-weary Northern travelers, and that it would make a good jumping-off place linking his Florida East Coast railroad to ships sailing to Cuba. In 1912, his Railroad that Went to Sea steamed into Key West on tracks that hopped from island to island, passing over the shallow seas. If you would like to learn more visit Flagler Station Oversea Railway Historeum.

But then decline set in. Cigar makers departed for Tampa; the sponge industry declined. Enterprising entrepreneurs took a look at the possibilities of tourism and got things under way, but a disastrous

hurricane in 1935 blew away the railroad and killed hundreds. While the railroad dubbed 'Flagler's Folly' did not survive, the roadbed on which it was set did, and went on to become the Overseas Highway—the Highway that Goes to Sea. This two-lane roadway streaks across more than 100 miles from Miami to Key West, and has become to Keys tourism what peanut butter is to jelly.

Although dampened by World War II, tourism took off in the Keys after the war and has never looked back, thriving beyond the wildest dreams of those early Conchs. Conchs (pronounced 'konks'), by the way, is a reference to the big, pink-lined shells that you put to your ear to hear the ocean's roar. Islanders born here are the only ones who can really call themselves conchs, but those who have lived here more than seven years qualify to be called 'freshwater conchs', and those who visit often enough can earn the name visitor, replacing tourist. Now there's a reason to stay a while!

©

### Hotel Insights

From Key Largo to Key West, and all the little islands in between, you'll find a variety of places to stay in tropical comfort, from simple to luxurious.

Options range from large resorts with several hundred rooms and a host of amenities to middle-size properties with fewer than 100 rooms to small family owned and operated motels and small resorts, with accommodations ranging from single rooms to cottages to suites and townhouses.

### Key West

Accommodations in Key West include inns where residents claim there are ghosts, picket-fenced mansions, large hotels with every amenity, cheap hostels with a few handsomely-or whimsically-appointed rooms, campgrounds, and guest houses. The lodgings are as numerous and varied as the fish in the seas that surround this enchanting island.

If you would like to stay in a large and elegant there are several options: Pier House Resort and Caribbean Spa, Wyndham's Casa Marina and La Concha, all have historic ambiance. The Hyatt Key West is a great contemporary resort with excellent amenities. Smaller but select accommodations include Curry Mansion and Victorian Island City House. The Marquesa Hotel is elegant and has a 1884 grace. Also, Key Lime Inn is know for its Bahamian ambiance.

### Key Largo

If you like big hotels with a restaurant, bar, pool, beach, and a host of water sports, the lively Key Largo Bay Resort and Holiday Inn Resort & Marina are the most popular. At the Holiday Inn, that famous film craft, the African Queen, of Humphrey Bogart/ Katherine Hepburn fame, offers sailings.

If you would like a less conventional hotel, Jules' Undersea Lodge is a unique accommodation where you dine and sleep underwater while rainbow-hued fish drift past your window!

### Islamorada

If you want world-class accommodations, Cheeca Lodge is known for attention to detail and a great golf course. If you would like a smaller resort there are several options, including Pelican Cove Resort, Hampton Inn & Suites and Howard Johnson Lodge at Holiday Isle. If you would rather have a party-loving hotel the El Capitan at Holiday Isle is for you.

### Marathon and the Middle Keys

The best resort is Hawk's Cay, where you can swim with resident dolphins. Amenities also include four pools, sauna, beach, sailing, tennis, putting green, ecology tours and children's programs. Or for a more laid-back resort go to Conch Key Cottages.

### Bahia Honda and the Lower Keys

At the posh Palm Island Resort, you can shower under the sky in enclosed but open-air élan. An award winner for its ability to combine rusticity and elegance, casual

## Key West Snapshot continued

and formal, you won't miss telephones and televisions.

©

### Restaurants Insights

Seafood is king, queen and courtier here in the Keys, and no wonder. Fat lobsters, succulent clams, hefty tuna, shrimp, bass, grouper, pompano, swordfish, and of course conch are all fresh and delicious. Conch has been a long-standing resident of the toasty waters around these islands.

#### Key West

Key West is known for its amazing seafood and there are great restaurant all around the city. A& B Lobster House naturally serves some of the best lobster around. If you want oyster head to Alonzo's Oyster Bar. The trendy Nicola Seafood has a wide selection of seafood and a romantic atmosphere.

Chefs from Europe added some intriguing touches to it all and, voila, such award-winning restaurants as Pisces, Alice's and Louie's Backyard.

Cuban cigar makers who settled here generations ago and whose descendants remain brought their distinctive cuisine with them: picadillo, ground beef and raisins; thick, strong cubano coffee; and sweet, fried banana-like plantains. Bahamians, who have created a colorful Bahamian village right in the middle of Key West, brought their akee fish and rice, their rum and their pigeon peas. Try the flavors at Blue Heaven and Caribe Soul.

If you an aficionado of Ernest Hemingway, a stop at Captain Tony's Saloon and Sloppy Joe's is required. Ernest Hemingway was said to frequent these bars.

#### Key Largo

Besides well-known restaurants scattered throughout the Keys, perhaps the most fun is stopping into some rustic little find and discovering a memorable meal you'll be discussing for many a day to come. Flamingo Seafood Bar and Grill is not well known, but services a delicious catch of the day. Gus' Grill is another laid back

restaurant that serves seafood. For a party-friendly atmosphere the Alabama Jack's is the place to go.

#### Islamorada

You can taste the freshness of the seafood at Marker 88. If you want Cuban and Spanish food Manny & Isa's can't be beat. For a romantic dinner the Atlantic's Edge provides views of the ocean and a candlelight meal.

#### Bahia Honda and the Lower Keys

The Dining Room is an elegant restaurant where you can dine on seafood. In the Lower Keys, you can find some well-known watering holes such as the rustic ambiance of No Name Pub.

©

### Nightlife Insights

From the top of the Keys at Key Largo through Marathon, Islamorada, Big Pine Key and into Key West, the diversions are as diverse as those who seek them. Pet a shark, sit in the sun, roar across the waters, visit mangrove swamps, swim in the ocean, swim with a dolphin, drink like a fish, eat like a trencherman, visit old churches, scuba dive, shop'til you drop, revel in resort amenities, or romance by candlelight.

#### Outdoor Activities

Whether you choose to tour on a glass-bottomed boat or snorkel or scuba tank, an underwater world of amazing beauty awaits in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, one of the best diving sites in the world and home to 78 square miles of coral reefs. Hiking trails and a visitor's center with a floor-to-ceiling aquarium are among the other diversions of this not-to-be-missed park.

At the Theater of the Seas, you can swim with dolphins, sea lions or stingrays or become a trainer for a day, putting creatures of the sea through their paces. In the Middle Keys, the Dolphin Research Center offers another opportunity for swimming with dolphins.

At the Windley Key Fossil Reef State Geologic Site on Windley Key, you can see what a coral reef looks like when it's left high and dry, and visit middens left behind by the earliest Native American residents of the keys, who clearly knew a good thing when they saw it. Looe Key Reef is home to a beautiful coral reef, and Bahia Honda State Park offers sand dunes, waters as clear as a teardrop, and views that go on forever.

For an offshore adventure, explore Indian Key State Historic Site, ferrying over on the twice-daily ferry or paddling your own canoe—well, kayak—to the island, where you will learn of murder and mayhem on this 10.5-acre islet. Or try a visit to the 280-acre Lignumvitae Key State Botanical Site, a hardwood forest that was the home and gardens of a millionaire who put it all together in 1919 in such style that the site is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

#### Museums

The Keys has a long and fascinating history and you can learn more about it at the many museums scattered amongst the islands. The Custom House Museum provides a detailed history of Key West's history. Fort East Martello Museum and Gallery is dedicated to Key West historical artifacts. The museum also has exhibits dealing with the daily life for earlier Key West inhabitants.

If you would like to know about specific portions of the island history, then Key West Shipwreck Historeum is the place to go. At the museum, you learn about how some islanders would dive for shipwrecked goods. Learn about the ill-fated Henry Flagler's railroad at Flagler Station Over-Sea Railway Historeum. If you want to know more about how the Bahamians influenced the Key West culture, the Lofton B. Sands African-Bahamian Museum provides fascinating artifacts, such as letters and clothing.

#### Theaters

If you would like to enjoy the theater while in the Keys you have plenty of options.

## Key West Snapshot continued

The historical Waterfront Playhouse has a modest theater and shows quirky and well-known productions, including *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *The Best Man*. Another small theater that produces professional productions is Red Barn Theater. If you are in Marathon, the Marathon Community Theater produces small productions featuring local talent.

### Festivals & Street Fairs

Depending on when you go to Key West, there are annual festivals and fairs that shouldn't be missed. The German Oktoberfest has reached Sumerland Key that holds a parade, live music and of course plenty to drink and eat. If you come in December enjoy the beautiful and often humorous Key West Lighted Boat Parade. Key West is transformed into a pirates heaven for a day during *Pirates In Paradise*. In July the Hemingway Days Festival can't be beat.

One of the best annual events is the Conch Republic Independence Celebration. The festival is a ten day celebration of when the Florida Keys briefly seceded from the United States. The United States Border Patrol was treating the Keys unfairly and in protest the Keys seceded and humorously declared "war." After a minute and without any prompting the Keys surrendered and jokingly asked for foreign aid. The festival celebrates how the Border Patrol stopped the unfair treatment and the celebration features drag races, music concerts, a parade, and a "battle" against the US Border Patrol.

©

### Things to Do Insights

Along the 113 miles that make up Key West, you will see small signs every mile marking the distance. Called Mile Markers, many hotels and restaurants along the way bear no other address than MM 99 or MM 88.5. Businesses may also identify themselves with the letters OS for ocean side, or BS, for bay side. Florida's Keys are also often grouped into three divisions—the Upper Keys, Middle Keys and Lower Keys, and there are plenty to see in each one.

**Key Largo** Largo means long in Spanish and Key Largo lives up to that name as the longest of the keys, stretching from MM 106 to MM 91. Here you'll find the Indian Key State Historic Site, which holds many local treasures. The island is also home to the Dolphin Cove Research & Education Center's Dolphin Encounter, which offers you an opportunity to swim with dolphins and watch them play. Grab a bite at Alabama Jack's. The best attraction of Key Largo is John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, the nation's first underwater park. Also stop into the Theater of the Sea.

**Smathers Beach** The Seven-Mile Bridge connects the Middle and Lower Keys. Nearby Smathers Beach is Key West's longest, while the Curry Hammock State Park is a small wonder that attracts many visitors. For some interesting exhibits, check out the Museum of Natural History of the Florida Keys. Stop into the Barracuda Grill for dinner.

**Key West Lighthouse Museum** The views from the Key West Lighthouse Museum are stunning. Take a boat to Dry Tortugas National Park and do some diving, swimming or fishing. Dine at Louie's Backyard. The nearby Nancy Forrester's Secret Garden is worth a stroll, then discover the shops, restaurants and other attractions at Historic Seaport at Key West Bight.

**Wrecker's Museum** Take a tour of the Wrecker's Museum, a unique home built in 1829 that has some interesting features. Have lunch at Antonia's Restaurant, then stroll through Bahia Honda State Park or check out the creations at the Paradise Gallery. Tour the historical Curry Mansion, with its elegant period furniture and antiques.

**Key West Aquarium** City Zoo- The Gallery preserves some of the most important remnants of Haitian culture. The Audubon House & Tropical Gardens is named for the artist John James Audubon. The home and surrounding gardens are open to visitors. The Key West Aquarium is also a must-see. Dine at the Caribe Soul restaurant,

then go to the Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Museum to take in some nautical exhibits.

This is nature's wonderland. You'll find a national wildlife refuge devoted to tiny Key deer, an endangered species, and a national marine sanctuary, Looe Key, rated one of the best diving reefs in the world. You can see this Keys' version of Big Bird—great white herons, North America's largest wading bird—in a 375-square-mile refuge. Kayaks and shallow-draft boats are a favored way to tour, since the Keys are surrounded by water.

**Boat Tours** Dry Tortugas National Park Ferry( +1 305 294 7009/<http://www.yankeefreedom.com/>) Key Largo Princess( +1 305 451 4655/<http://www.keylargoprincess.com/>) Discovery Undersea Tours( +1 305 293 0099/+1 800 262 0099/<http://www.discoveryunderseatours.com/>) Snorkel and Sailing Adventure( +1 305 292 4768/<http://www.keywestsebago.com/>) Tortugas Party Boat( +1 305 293 1189/<http://www.tortugacharters.com/>)

**Trolley Tours** Old Town Trolley Tours( +1 800 213 2474/<http://www.trolleytours.com/>)

**Train Tours** Conch Tour Train( +1 305 294 5161/<http://www.conchtourtrain.com/>)

**Air Tours** Island City Flying Service Incorporated( +1 305 296 5422)

**Diving Tours** Reef Express Catamaran( +1 305 294 7755/<http://www.sunnydayskeywest.com/reefx.htm>) Snorkel and Sailing Adventure( +1 305 292 4768/<http://www.keywestsebago.com/>)

**Ghost Tours** Ghost Tours of Key West( +1 305 294 9255/<http://www.hauntedtours.com>) Ghosts & Legends of Key West( +1 305 294 1713/ +1 866 612 3890/<http://www.keywestghosts.com/>)

©

### Travel Tips

#### Getting There

#### Air

## Key West Snapshot continued

Key West International  
Airport(EYW)+1 305 296 5439http://  
www.keywestinternationalairport.com

EYW is located just minutes from downtown  
and services the following airlines:

Air Key West(+1 305 923 4033/http://  
www.airkeywest.com) American Airlines(+  
1 800 433 7300/http://www.aa.com)  
Cape Air(+1 800 352 0714/http://  
www.flycapeair.com/ca/index.html) Delta(+1  
800 221 1212/http://www.delta.com)  
Florida Coastal(+1 888 435 9322/http://  
www.floridacoastalairlines.com) Gulfstream  
International(+1 800 992 8532/http://  
www.gulfstreamair.com) US Airways(+1 800  
428 4322/http://www.usairways.com)

### From the Airport

Taxi and Shuttle: Taxi and shuttle services  
are provided by: A Airport Cab Company(+1  
305 292 1111) Bone Island Shuttle(+1 305  
293 8710) Crabby Cabby(+1 305 923 3747)  
Five Sixes Taxi(+1 305 296 6666) Friendly  
Cab Company(+1 305 292 0000) Keys  
Shuttle(+1 888 765 9997) Southernmost  
Shuttle of Key West(+1 305 293 1811)  
Yellow Cabs of Key West(+1 305 294 2227)  
Car Rental: Alamo(+1 800 327 9633/http://  
www.alamo.com) Avis(+1 800 831 2847/

http://www.avis.com) Budget(+1 800 527  
0700/http://www.budget.com) Hertz(+1 800  
654 3131/http://www.hertz.com)

### By Train

Amtrak(+1 800 872 7245/http://  
www.amtrak.com) offers service to Miami.  
From Miami, take the Keys Shuttle.

### By Bus

Key Largo is serviced by Greyhound(+1  
800 231 2222/http://www.greyhound.com)  
which provides transportation to  
destinations throughout America.

### Highway

Palm Beach is accessible by U.S. 1.

### Getting Around

#### Shuttle

Key West Park N' Ride offers a shuttle  
service to downtown. For ferry service  
to and from the island, take the Key  
West Shuttle(+1 888 539 2628/http://  
www.keywestshuttle.com) or the X-Press  
to Key West(+1 800 273 4496/http://  
www.keywestferry.com).

If traveling overseas, take the safety  
precaution of registering your trip athttps://  
travelregistration.state.gov and for

helpful, practical advice about traveling  
technicalities and safety standards check  
outhttp://travel.state.gov/  
©

## Fun Facts

**Key West State:** Florida **Country:** United  
States

### Key West by the Numbers:

Population: 25,478 Average Winter  
Temperature: 69 degrees F Average  
Summer Temperature: 84 degrees F  
Elevation: 25 feet Average Rainfall: 40  
inches

### Quick Facts:

Time Zone: GMT-5 Electricity: 110 volts,  
60Hz, standard two pin plugs Country  
Dialing Code: 1 Area Code: 305

### Did You Know?

In 1938 the Overseas Highway connected  
the Florida Keys to mainland Florida. Key  
West is considered to be the most urban of  
the islands in the Florida Keys and is known  
for its thriving nightlife.  
©