

Families' Itinerary:

Throughout the Keys you will find children friendly hotels. For a complete list of accommodations, visit our website at www.fla-keys.com (places to stay)

Short Itinerary 3 nights, 4 days

Day 1 – Key Largo, Islamorada

Being in the Keys means being close to nature, exploring the outdoors and finding an appreciation for wildlife.

The Florida Keys and Key West is a destination but with a relaxed atmosphere.

Start your day at the **John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park** (MM102.5 Oceanside)
www.pennekamppark.com

Discover the oldest underwater park in the world. You will be able to enjoy the Park's popular water activities including viewing the reef on a glass-bottom-boat or snorkel and scuba tours, as well as canoeing and kayaking on mangrove-lined waterways. A visitor center featuring a refurbished 30,000-gallon aquarium, as well as boat rentals, nature trails, picnic pavilions and two beaches round out the variety of offerings at Pennekamp.

Spend the afternoon at the **Theater of the Sea** (MM84.5 Oceanside)
www.theaterofthesea.com

Your general admission ticket includes dolphin, sea lion, and parrot shows, a guided tour of marine life exhibits, lagoon-side beach, and the bottomless boat ride. After enjoying the shows, guests can visit the unique gift shop, dine at Nicky's grill, and sunbathe, relax and swim on the private lagoon beach. Interactive swim programs with dolphins, sea lions and rays are available at extra cost.

There are so many possibilities for lunch and dinner. My suggestions:

Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill (MM104 Bayside)

Waterfront with pool access (extra fee)

Pilot House Restaurant and Marina (MM100.2 Oceanside)

Waterfront dining and kids can feed fish from the dock.

Snapper's Restaurant (MM94.5 Oceanside)
Oceanfront dining and the kids can see the giant tarpons.

Whale Harbor Inn (MM84 Oceanside)
Affordable all you can eat seafood buffet.
Take a look at all the fishing boats in the marina.

Morada Bay Restaurant (MM81.6 Bayside)
Waterfront with a large child-friendly beach.

Islamorada Fishing Company (MM81.5 Bayside)
Dine on the water; kids will enjoy the outdoors and all the beautiful fish swimming around.
Don't miss the **World Wide Sportsman** store and now part of Bass Pro Shops. Shop for souvenirs and kids will enjoy the replica of Ernest Hemingway's boat as well as a giant saltwater aquarium.

For more dining options, please go to the Restaurant and Bars section of our website www.fla-keys.com

Day 2 – Marathon

On your way down to Marathon, stop for breakfast and fun on the water at **Robbie's Marina** (MM77.5 Bayside).

www.robbies.com

I definitely recommend the lobster frittata or the Purple Isle (crepes stuffed with eggs and lobster, should I say more....)

Kids will enjoy feeding the giant tarpons and stroll through the open air shops and market.
Fishing, boat rentals, state parks tours and much more are also available.

Make your way to the **Dolphin Research Center**, Home of Flipper (MM59 Bayside)

www.Dolphins.org

Spend an hour or the whole day learning all about our family of Atlantic [bottlenose dolphins](#) and [California sea lions](#). Make a splash in DRC's new **Shawn Rodriguez Family Sprayground!**

Run through jets and streams of water, shot from a colorful seahorse, whale flukes and other tropical and marine life sculptures while dolphins chatter and whale songs play.

Hungry? **Hammer's Café** sells cold drinks, ice cream and a variety of lunch items and snacks.

Spend the afternoon at the **Turtle Hospital** (MM48.5 Bayside)

www.turtlehospital.org

You are invited to take a guided educational tour of the hospital facilities and the sea turtle rehabilitation area. This educational experience lasts approximately 90 minutes and provides a presentation on sea turtles as well as a behind the scenes look at the hospital facilities and rehabilitation area. At the end of each program guests are invited to feed the permanent resident sea turtles.

Stop for dinner at the **Island Fish Company** (MM54 Bayside) for spectacular sunsets, Florida Bay views and locally inspired.

Day 3 and 4 – Lower Keys and Key West

On your way to Key West, make a stop at **Bahia Honda State Park** (MM37 Oceanside) www.bahiahondapark.com

Featuring an award winning beach and historic bridge, Bahia Honda State Park is one of the favorite destinations. The park offers the perfect and quiet getaway for the entire family with gift shop, snack bar, kayak rentals and daily snorkeling tours to the fabulous **Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary**.

Final Stop: Key West.

Have your family picture taken in front of the **Southernmost Point Buoy** at the corner of South Street and Whitehead Street. (Use it for your Christmas cards)

Children and parents will enjoy discovering the beauty of Key West via the **Conch Tour Train** (children 12 and under ride for free)

www.conchtourtrain.com

The tour lasts 90 minutes and begins at the Front Street Depot and ends right behind it in Mallory Square. There are three stops which allow you to purchase refreshments, shop, see the sights and catch a later train.

Stroll along **Mallory Square** and enjoy our nightly Sunset Celebration with [arts and crafts exhibitors](#), [street performers](#), [food carts](#) and [psychics](#).

The Key West Aquarium is open every day from 10 AM – 6 PM and includes a touch tank to explore the wonders of our surrounding waters. www.keywestaquarium.com

The Butterfly and Nature Conservatory is open daily 9 AM – 5 PM www.keywestbutterfly.com

There are several options for hands on family friendly activities that are free of charge and they are as follows:

Key West Toy Factory (Make a craft area \$5) open daily 8:30 AM- 9 PM
www.keywesttoyfactory.com

The Children's Playground across from Higgs Beach

Eco-Discovery Center open Tuesday – Saturday, 9 AM – 4 PM

http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/eco_discovery.html

Key West Wildlife Center open daily 9 AM – 5 PM <http://www.keywestwildlifecenter.org/>

Spend your last day on the **FURY's Ultimate Adventure**.

www.furycat.com

Check in at 9:30 am and depart at 10:00 am. Just bring sunscreen and towel. You will sail 7 miles out to the reef on a 65' sailing catamaran, while enjoying breakfast. Once there you will snorkel for one hour, the crew will provide snorkel equipment and free training. You will then take a 45-minute sail from the coral reef that is on the Atlantic side of Key West to the Gulf of Mexico and enjoy an all you can eat picnic lunch buffet on the sail over (sodas and water provided free all day). Then you will dock with our floating platform island. There you will have an afternoon of fun Jet Skiing, Parasailing, Kayaking, Climbing and jumping or you can relax and sunbathe on the spacious sun decks. When finished, Mom and Dad can cool down with complimentary beer or wine while sailing back to Key West for a 4pm return.

After all those adventures, everyone is starving: Explore the many possibilities for lunch and dinner in Key West. My suggestions:

Conch Republic Seafood Company

Phone: 305.294.4403

631 Greene Street

Overlooking the Historic Seaport and spectacular waterfront dining

El Meson de Pepe

Phone: (305) 295-2620

410 Wall Street

El Meson de Pepe's offers Cuban Conch Cuisine.

Hard Rock Cafe (teenagers will love it!!!)

Phone: 305-293-0230

313 Duval St.

Beautiful patio overlooking Duval St.

Blue Heaven (eat with the chickens!!!!)

Phone: (305) 296-8666
729 Thomas Street

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Eh Voila! I hope you will enjoy those few suggestions, but feel free to do whatever YOU want to do. After all it is YOUR vacation!!!!!!