

Girlfriends' Itinerary:

Welcome to the Keys, Come as you are and have a lot of fun. The perfect girlfriends 'getaway!
Make lifetime memories!

Throughout the Keys you will find an array of accommodations. From branded hotels, motels, resorts, there is something for all the wallets. The complete list of accommodations is available on our website at www.fla-keys.com (places to stay)

Long Itinerary 6 nights, 7 days

Day 1 – Key Largo

On your way down to the Keys, preferably cruising in a convertible, ipod loaded up and sunscreen close by, take the a little detour via Card Sound Road, you will not be disappointed! Half way through this beautiful drive you will make your first stop at the **Alabama Jack's**. Don't expect anything fancy but very "Keyzzy" One of the locals' favorite watering hole, Relax, enjoy a great lunch, the beauty of the surroundings, the view of the inlet and mangroves is spectacular (and on Sunday be part of the "clogging" dance ritual.

I particularly recommend the fresh Snapper, Conch Fritters, Smoked Fish Dip, Dolphin (the fish) and Conch Salad. All are tremendously good. You r first taste of the Keys and you won't regret it!

<http://www.alabamajacks.com>

Phone: (305) 248-8741

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.pennekampark.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 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.

Dolphin Encounters:

Two possibilities for an encounter with our friendly dolphins in Key Largo. Bring your cameras and videos.

Dolphin Cove (MM103 Bayside)

Meet and interact with dolphins in the hands-on Structured and Shallow Water Dolphin Swims or Snorkel freely alongside the dolphins in the Natural Dolphin Swim program.

Phone: 305-451-4060

www.dolphinsove.com

Dolphins Plus (MM99.5 Oceanside)

Here is a lifetime opportunity to get up close and personal with dolphins and sea lions for an unforgettable experience.

Phone: 305-451-1993

www.dolphinsplus.com

Party Fishing:

Sailor's Choice Party Boat (MM100 Oceanside)

You want to fish but don't want to handle bait, hooks etc... I don't blame you. This is a nice opportunity to say I did it! Board the 65' party boat departing daily from the Holiday Inn Marina. Perfect outing with no fishing experience is required, the crew will assist you. You will have the choice to release your catch or keep it to eat. Most resorts' restaurants will cook your catch for a nominal fee.

www.sailorschoicefishingboat.com

Phone: 305-451-1802

Hover Tours (MM103 Bayside)

You can travel above the water at high speeds aboard Lady Hawke hovercraft operated by Hover Tour. This new attraction launched from a bayside beach next to the Caribbean Club takes passengers on tours of Blackwater Sound and Lake Surprise. Cruising at a speed of about 37 mph, hovercrafts provide an eco-friendly joyride on a cushion of air above the surface — with no real contact with the water or land and no harmful impact on marine animals. The hovercraft seats up to 20 passengers in an air-conditioned cabin and offers rides ranging from a 15-minute "curiosity tour" to two-hour tours involving beach picnics, water volleyball, snorkeling and more.

Visit www.Hover-tour.com or call 305-904-3833 for reservations and information.

If you want to travel back to the era of Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall take a tour on the **African Queen** (MM100 Oceanside)

www.calypsosailing.com

Phone: (305) 896-8004

The African Queen offers two-hour canal cruises several times daily and six-passenger dinner cruises on selected nights in Key Largo waters. The dinner cruise experience is to feature a pre-fixe menu at the Pilot House restaurant in a designated area dubbed the "African Queen Corner.

Day 2 – Islamorada

Spend the day 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.

Other options include **Anne's Beach** (MM80 Oceanside)

This small beach offers a scenic walkway and great views of the shallows surrounding Islamorada. Pack a picnic and spend hours of fun in the sun (It has bathrooms and picnic tables). Cute guys are showing their skills kitesurfing.....

Want to relax, what about a day at one of our Day Spas

Blu Bamboo, Kiki's Spa and Ciao Bella will treat you like a star, from massages, facials, mani/pedi and other relaxing treatments.

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

Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill (MM104 Bayside)

Waterfront with pool access (extra fee), live music, spectacular sunsets, "The" place to be in Key Largo.

Pilot House Restaurant and Marina (MM100.2 Oceanside)

Waterfront dining and kids can feed fish from the dock.

Snapper's Restaurant (MM94.5 Oceanside)

Great oceanfront dining.

Morada Bay Restaurant / Pierre's (MM81.6 Bayside)

(Waterfront, enjoy a cocktail while watching the beautiful sunset over the Bay in an Adirondack chair while listening the local musicians). If you happen to be there on a full moon, the best Party ever.....

Next door, if you are looking for an unforgettable Five Star dinner in a more formal setting, go to Pierre's.

Islamorada Fishing Company (MM81.5 Bayside)

Dine on the water, enjoy the outdoors and all the beautiful fish swimming around. Don't miss to visit the World Wide Sportsman and now part of Bass Pro Shops. Shop for souvenirs and enjoy the replica of Ernest Hemingway's boat as well as a giant salt water aquarium.

The Party Place: **The Tiki Bar at Holiday Isle** (MM84 Oceanside)

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

Day 3 – Marathon

On your way down to Marathon stop for a 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....)

You 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.

If you haven't swim with the dolphins in Key Largo, this is your last opportunity. 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](#). All kinds of programs are available. My favorite: Painting with the dolphins. 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.

If you are looking for a great beach, I will recommend **Sombrero Beach** (MM50 Oceanside) (Turn off U.S. 1 at Sombrero Beach Blvd., and drive to the end).

This 12.6-acre beach is one of the most popular stops in Marathon for good reason. It offers walkways, picnic areas and a roped off swimming area.

Another great place is **Crane Point Museum, Nature Center & Historic Site** (MM50.5 Bayside)

This 64-acre tropical oasis of hardwood trees, nature trails and educational displays is a paradise. You will discover the Adderley's home, the Marathon Wild Bird Center, the Museum of Natural

History where you can learn about everything from the life cycle of sea turtles to how Native Americans forged a living from the sea. Trolley tours of the botanic gardens and historic sites can also be arranged

www.cranepoint.net

Phone: 305-743-9100

On your way out of Marathon, you will see the magnificent **Seven-Mile Bridge**. Before driving on it, make a left and stop at the Knight's Key. Visit Pigeon Key and step back in time inside buildings built in 1909 to house more than 400 workers building the Overseas Railway. Ride the Pigeon Key ferry from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico, and you'll cross beneath the new 7-Mile Bridge and a 2.2-mile segment of the old Seven-Mile Bridge! Once on the Island, you may spend your day in the **Pigeon Key Museum**, exploring the historic buildings or snorkeling.

www.pigeonkey.net

A great stop for lunch or dinner at **the Island Fish Company** (MM54 Bayside) Spectacular sunsets, Florida Bay views and locally inspired food are all found in one place.

Day 4 – Lower Keys

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**.

Another great place, unique to the Florida Keys is **Key Deer Refuge** (MM30 Bayside)

This refuge is home to the tropical hardwood hammock habitat and 22 federally listed endangered and threatened species of plants and animals, five of which are found nowhere else in the world like the Key deers (about 800 left)

www.fws.gov/nationalkeydeer

Phone: 305-872-2239

*Hungry, Thirsty: Make a stop at **No name Pub**, one of our great landmarks.*

www.nonamepub.com

30813 N. Watson Blvd

Phone: (305) 872-9115

As they say, « the greatest pizza in the known universe »

Day 5-6-7– Key West

Final Stop: Key West.

Have your group picture taking in front of the **Southernmost Point Buoy** at the corner of South Street and Whitehead Street. Post it on Facebook right away and make everyone wishing they were there.

You will enjoy discovering the beauty of Key West via the **Old Town Trolley**
www.trolleytours.com/key-west/

Old Town Trolley Tours is the best way to see the city, highlighting the best of **Key West**, with on and off free reboarding at 12 stops and more than 100 points of interest. Each conductor narrates the sightseeing tour with his or her own blend of colorful anecdotes, and humorous stories to ensure that your experience is both enjoyable and informative.

Another unusual and fun way to discover Key West: **Lloyd's Tropical Bike Tours**
www.lloydstropicalbiketour.com

Relax and enjoy the charm of **Key West** during a leisurely ride along the lesser known, quaint streets and secret lanes. You will sample the exotic aromas of **tropical flowers** such as frangipani, gardenias, and jasmine which bloom all year round. Also, you have an opportunity to **taste a variety of the local fruits**, such as mangoes, coconuts, star fruit, key limes, and more.

First night in Key West.! You are in for a treat. Nightly **Sunset Celebration on Mallory Square** is awaiting for you. Enjoy this giant free party where you will discover [arts and crafts exhibitors](#), [street performers](#), [food carts](#) and [psychics](#).

Other option: a **Sunset Cruise**.

My favorite: **Commotion on the Ocean on the Fury Catamaran**
www.furycat.com

The Fury sails the tropical waters of Key West with a warm ocean breeze and a magnificent sunset as a backdrop. Enjoy free beer, margaritas, and appetizers while listening to the live sounds of your favorite musicians!

One of my favorites, spending the day on the **FURY's Ultimate Adventure**.
www.furycat.com

Checks in at 9:30am and departs at 10 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, a well-deserved complimentary beer or wine while sailing back to Key West for a 4pm return.

No trip to Key West is complete without visiting the best beach in the Florida Keys: **Fort Jefferson Dry Tortugas National Park**, located just 70 miles west of Key West in the Gulf of Mexico.

The **Yankee Freedom** departs Key West at 8am and will return around 5pm. During your voyage to one of America's most remote National Parks, you will enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Marquesa Islands, Boca Grande, and frequent turtle and dolphin sightings. The excursion includes continental breakfast on board, Lunch on the island (Includes a Sandwich Buffett with meats and cheeses, fresh fruit, cookies, chips, sodas & bottled water. The cash bar is also available.), your Complimentary snorkeling equipment and a fully narrated 40 minute tour of the fort. The trip of a lifetime!!!!!!

<http://www.drytortugasinfo.com/yankee-freedom>

There are so many possibilities for lunch, dinner and before and after in Key West. My suggestions:

For a more formal evening (don't forget this is Key West, no need to overdress....)

Louie's Backyard

Phone: (305) 294-1061

700 Waddell Avenue

Spectacular oceanfront setting with Caribbean-American cuisine

Hot Tin Roof

Phone: (305) 296-7701

0 Duval Street

Casual elegance for a sensational waterfront dining experience overlooking Key West Harbor.

More casual:

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.

Dante's Pool Bar and Restaurant

Phone: (305) 293-5123

951 Caroline Street

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

Ate too much, walk it off on the **Key West Ghosts Tours**

www.hauntedtours.com

Happy Haunting! Discover the ghoulish aspects of Key West's ghosts. Tours depart nightly from the haunted La Concha Hotel located at 430 Duval Street, rain or shine. Reservations are highly recommended. Call (305) 294-9255

Nightlife

Let's go Party!!!!!!!!!!

The Duval crawl, a lot of options, but one required stop: Hemingway's favorite bar: **Sloppy Joe's**.

If you want a more a local hang out with great music: **the Green Parrot**.

If you are in for fun evenings definitely try a Drag Show, you won't be disappointed at **La-Te-da**

The state-of-the-art cabaret theater plays host to shows as diverse as renowned female impersonators singing live to headline Broadway stars and comedians.

Don't drive. There are plenty of taxis or even more fun get a Pedi cab ride back to your hotel.....

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!!!!!!