

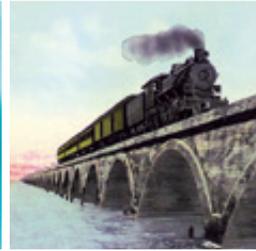
# The Florida Keys & Key West

# HISTORIC GUIDE



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The maps..weren't always accurate. And frequent shipwrecks created an entire industry for pirates and salvagers alike, helping Key West become, at one point, the richest city in America. But it wasn't until Henry Flagler's miraculous Oversea Railway appeared in 1912, that The Florida Keys began to look like the place we cherish today. Washed away in the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935, the remains of the railroad became The Overseas Highway, and the rest is history. In 1990, the entire area was named a National Marine Sanctuary, ensuring the protection of North America's only living coral barrier reef for generations to come.

These days, it's easy to get here by air, by sea, or by car on one of America's most scenic highways. But with spectacular diving, fishing and snorkeling, a vibrant art and music scene, a vast array of accommodations and history at every turn, it's harder than ever to leave. From Key Largo to Key West, you'll find artifacts of another era, evolving and adapting like the coral that surrounds us.

*It all starts  
with the reefs.  
Everything that  
makes The Florida Keys  
& Key West one of the World's  
most unique and intriguing  
destinations is a result of the  
living, breathing coral reefs that  
form, surround and protect this  
exotic archipelago.*



Originally inhabited by Native American tribes, The Spanish claimed The Keys during Ponce de León's 1513 expedition. They saw little of value in the stony islands, but they mapped and named The Keys to help their ships navigate The Florida Straits as they carried gold and silver from the New World to the old one.



Everglades National Park

Key Largo

Islamorada

Florida Bay

Atlantic Ocean

Marathon

Big Pine Key

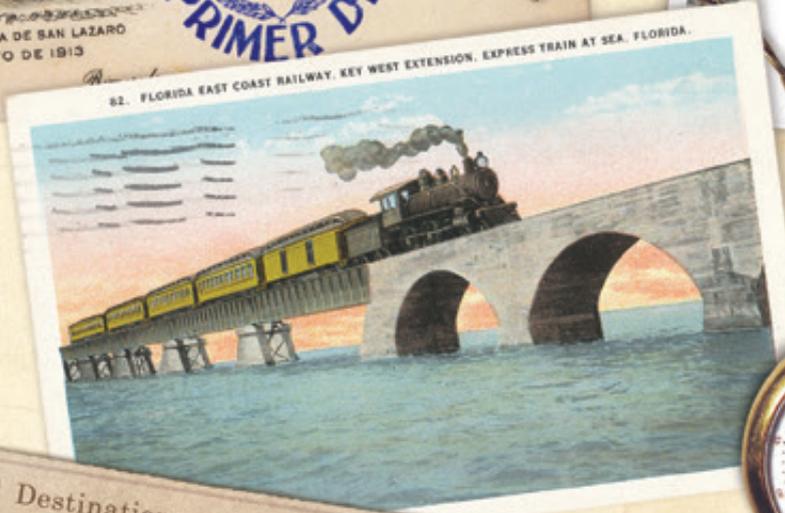
Key West

Marquesas Keys

UPPER KEYS MM 108-63

MIDDLE KEYS MM 63-47

LOWER KEYS MM 47-0



# THE UPPER KEYS

Mile Marker 118 to 63

## KEY LARGO

Through much of the 19th century, Key Largo was a thriving farm community, producing fruits and vegetables for sale in the mainland and Key West. The shallow waters surrounding the island made shipping difficult and expensive, but Flagler's railroad brought hopes of great riches. Sadly, the train rolled right on through to the deepwater harbors further south, and the promise of cheaper produce imported from the Caribbean and South America. Between the depleted soil and the Great Depression, Key Largo's farming industry faded into history by the early 1900s. But as the railroad, and later the Overseas Highway came along, Key Largo evolved and adapted, becoming the gateway to a far more accessible Keys adventure. The Key Largo Chamber of Commerce is located at MM 106 (Bayside). 1-800-822-1088

## JOHN PENNEKAMP CORAL REEF STATE PARK

MM 103

Explore an archaeological paradise for divers and snorkelers alike, with stunning coral formations and shipwrecks dating to the early 1600s. Named for the journalist who led efforts to preserve Florida's coral reefs, the park opened in 1963 as the first undersea park in the U.S. For information, call 305-451-6300.



## AFRICAN QUEEN

MM 100 Holiday Inn

Experience two iconic Humphrey Bogart moments at the same time with a voyage on the legendary African Queen, right here in Key Largo. Originally known as Rock Harbor, residents voted to rename the town Key Largo to capitalize on the popularity of the cinema classic. The vessel was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992. For information, call 305-451-8080.



## REEF HOUSE

MM 98.3

The oldest house in Key Largo is home to REEF, the Reef Education Environmental Foundation. REEF is committed to protecting marine environments around the world by engaging the public in events like the Lionfish Derby, a competition to help reduce the population of this invasive species.



## TAVERNIER

MM 92-91

Established in the early 1870s on the southern end of Key Largo, Tavernier was originally known as Planter. The tiny farming town consisted of a small store, a community dock, and the only post office between Miami and Key West. The arrival of Flagler's railroad marked the end of the line for Planter. With mail and primary transportation by way of the railroad, Planter's pier and post office were no longer needed. And less expensive pineapples from Cuba destroyed Planter's pineapple economy. By 1911, the town took on the train station name of Tavernier. But while the town's name may have changed, the names of some of the earliest settlers – Albury, Lowe and Johnson – can still be found everywhere.

## HARRY HARRIS COUNTY PARK

MM 92.5, 50 E. Beach Road

Located on the site of the original Keys settlement of Planter, the park is named for one of Monroe County's most colorful mayors. The town of Planter was erased by the railroad in the early 1900s. Today, you'll find a boat ramp, baseball fields and picnic tables. An entrance fee is charged for non-Monroe County residents.

## JOSEPH ALBURY HOUSE

92001 Overseas Highway, Oceanside

A survivor of the 1935 hurricane, the house was swept from its foundation near the water to its present site close to the road, and has remained there ever since. Today it houses the offices of VNA & Hospice of The Florida Keys.



you'll find the Old Tavern Store, which was a drug store and gas station for the town's earliest motorists. Tavernier Hotel, at 91865 Overseas Highway, once housed the town's movie theater. And during Prohibition, the small building next door at 91861 was the Tavernier Tea Room, a popular gathering place serving more than just tea.

## OLD SETTLERS PARK

MM 92

Old Settlers Park is located in the center of the Tavernier Historic District, right by the town's first business area. Nearby, at 91875 Overseas Highway,

It eventually became Harry's Place, owned by Mayor Harry Harris. The Merlin Albury House, built on the ocean side before the 1926 hurricane, was swept off its foundation in the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935, coming to rest beside the railroad tracks. After the storm, it was returned to its original site, but in 1984, the Old Tavernier Town Association moved it to 91731 Overseas Highway, next to the Old Tavernier Methodist Church.

## FLORIDA KEYS WILD BIRD REHABILITATION CENTER

92080 Overseas Highway

In the Keys spirit of preservation, the Wild Bird Center rescues, rehabilitates and releases wild birds that have been injured or displaced. For information, call 305-852-4486.



## OLD TAVERNIER POST OFFICE

91951 Overseas Highway

Postmaster Harold Albury built this two-story, hip-roofed building to house both his family and the post office. Completed in 1926, it quickly became the center of the community.



## ISLAMORADA

MM 90.7-63

Named "the purple isle" by early Spanish explorers, Islamorada is actually a village of islands encompassing Plantation Key, Windley Key, Upper and Lower Matecumbe Key and the offshore islands of Indian Key and Lignumvitae Key. Nearly every structure on Islamorada was swept away during the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane, but the area has thrived ever since, and is now known as the Sport Fishing Capital of the World.

## WINDLEY KEY

MM 85

Formed out of two separate land masses brought together by Flagler's railroad, Windley Key served as a work camp for World War I veterans hired to build the Overseas Highway. A quarry on Windley Key provided coral rock used to sheathe the Federal Building in Key West, as well as the Hurricane Monument in Islamorada. This remarkable stone is preserved at the Windley Key Fossil Reef State Geological Site. For more information, call the Long Key State Recreation Area at 305-664-4815.

## UPPER MATECUMBE

The first settlers in what would later become Islamorada were members of the Russell and Pinder families, who began fishing and farming here in the 1880s. They were soon joined by The Parkers, completing the island's trio of principal land owners. Over time, affluent visitors from the north discovered the incredible vistas and built winter homes on the ocean.



# THE UPPER KEYS

Mile Marker 118 to 63

Coral Gables developer George Merrick constructed the Caribe Colony, complete with limo service from Miami. And by the 1950s, baseball legend Ted Williams spent his winters here, stalking bonefish in the backcountry. Today, the once sleepy fishing village is a world-class destination, all year round. The Islamorada Chamber of Commerce is located on MM 87 bayside. For information, call 1-800-322-3397.

## THEATER OF THE SEA

MM 84.5 Oceanside

Established in 1946, Theater of The Sea is one of the oldest marine mammal facilities in the world, with lush tropical gardens and lagoons that are home to dolphins, sea lions, sea turtles, sharks, stingrays, alligators and birds. For information, call 305-664-2431.

## HISTORY OF DIVING MUSEUM

MM 83 Bayside

Learn about the special role The Florida Keys has played in the history of man's exploration of the ocean through the world's most extensive collection of artifacts, antiques, books and photographs. For information, call 305-664-9737.



## PIONEER CEMETERY AND METHODIST CHURCH & SCHOOL SITE

MM 82 Oceanside

Note the Angel statue marking the gravesite of Etta Dolores Pinder. During the 1935 hurricane, the statue flew through the air and landed intact, except for a broken wing, which remains unhealed.

## HURRICANE MONUMENT

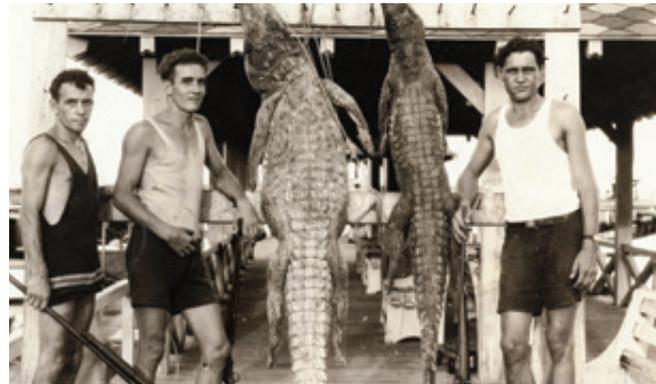
MM 81.5 Oceanside

Constructed in 1937, this roadside monument commemorates more than 400 lives lost in the 1935 hurricane. The monument contains the body of one hurricane victim as well as the ashes of many others. The design motif features churning waves and wind-blown trees, typical of the Art Moderne style.

## LIGNUMVITAE KEY STATE BOTANICAL SITE

Accessible from MM 78.5 Oceanside

Named for an endangered hardwood native to the area, this 280-acre island forest on the bay side is accessible by boat from Robbie's Marina. The first English-speaking settlers arrived here in 1830, and in 1919, wealthy Miami chemist William J. Matheson bought the island and built a home which now serves as the visitor center. Ranger-guided tours are given December through April. Tours are available twice daily, Friday through Sunday. Tour boat services, as well as boat and kayak rentals, are available from Robbie's Marina. And don't miss the chance to feed tarpon right from the dock. For tour reservations, call 305-664-2540.



## INDIAN KEY STATE RECREATION AREA

MM 78 Oceanside

This tiny island on the ocean side of the Overseas Highway was once a thriving town built from a fortune made in the wrecking industry. Salvager Jacob Housman bought the island in 1831 to avoid paying taxes in Key West. By 1832, the island proved so lucrative that the Federal government opened a customs station and post office, soon followed by homes, wharves, warehouses and a resort hotel. In 1836, Housman successfully campaigned for the creation of a new county, and Dade County was born, with Indian Key as its first county seat. By 1840, it was all gone...the result of an attack by the Seminole Indians. Today, only traces of the town remain, but the island's abundant wildlife is flourishing. Tours are available by boat from Robbie's Marina. For more information, call 305-664-2540.

## LOWER MATECUMBE

MM 77 - 74

During the Great Depression, Lower Matecumbe served as a Federal Emergency Relief Administration work camp for war veterans building the Overseas Highway. Many of these workers perished in the storm surge from the 1935 hurricane, but the bridge footings they constructed are still visible on the bay side. Although the Hurricane Monument in Islamorada commemorates their deaths, perhaps the work they left behind is their true memorial.

## ANNE'S BEACH

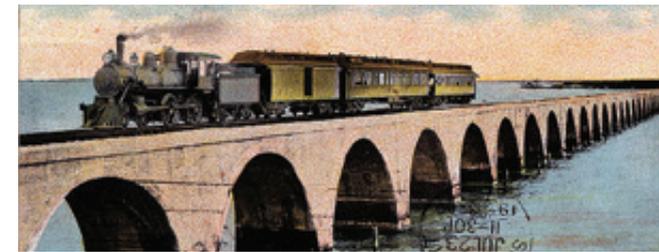
MM 73 Oceanside

Named for local environmentalist Anne Eaton, Anne's Beach offers a wide expanse of calm, clear water. A force in the community until her death in 1992, Anne Eaton worked to preserve the environment and the area's historic properties. In 1971, she had a wood-frame Albury "Conch" house trucked from Tavernier to a site overlooking the ocean in Lower Matecumbe, where it remains today. She restored the home to its pristine 1922 condition, and named it "Last Resort."

## CRAIG KEY

MM 72.5

Originally a fishing camp and flag stop on the railroad, this tiny, man-made island's true claim to fame is that it was ground zero for the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane - the storm that defined modern Keys history. It remains the most intense storm to ever make landfall in the United States.



## LONG KEY & LONG KEY BRIDGE

MM 64-68

In the early part of the 20th century, Henry Flagler's upscale Long Key Fishing Camp was a playground for the rich and famous, and mecca for the world's best saltwater anglers. The party came to a crashing end with the 1935 hurricane, and the resort never reopened. Today, you can camp at Long Key State Park, and you can still fish the legendary flats. But you can also hike, kayak, swim and bird watch - on a mile long trail through five natural bird habitats. The name "Long Key" was cemented with the construction of the second longest bridge in the Oversea Railroad, spanning 2.5 miles over 180 concrete arches, and known to be Flagler's favorite. After the railroad was destroyed in the 1935 hurricane, the bridge was widened to carry cars, but was later converted to its railroad-era width of 11 feet for use as a fishing pier. Tom's Harbor Cut Railroad Bridge (MM 61.5) is another Flagler-era bridge converted to a fishing pier.

## CURRY HAMMOCK STATE PARK

MM 56.2

The largest uninhabited parcel of land between Key Largo and Big Pine Key, the park protects large areas of mangrove swamps, rockland hammocks and seagrass beds essential to The Florida Keys ecosystem. Two miles of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail pass through the park, following the route of the Oversea Railroad and providing foot and bicycle access to Marathon. With miles of pristine coastline, it's also an ideal place for kayaking, paddleboarding, kiteboarding, birding and camping. For more information, call 305-289-2690.



# THE MIDDLE KEYS

Mile Marker 63 to 47

## MARATHON

MM 63-47

Located on Vaca Key, Marathon takes its name from the railroad workers who started to feel like their job would never end. They made rapid progress from Homestead through the Upper and Middle Keys, but when they reached the southern end of Vaca Key, they faced seven miles of open water. More than 100 years later, the Seven-Mile Bridge they created remains a masterpiece of modern engineering. Before the bridge, Marathon was the last stop for the railroad, and the town grew and prospered. Buildings from this era are still visible on the Overseas Highway, which now runs on the old railroad bed.



## DOLPHIN RESEARCH CENTER

MM 59

What began in 1958 as a roadside attraction known as Santini's Porpoise School is now a renowned facility fostering education, research and rescue, and promoting peaceful coexistence between marine mammals, humans and the environment. Behavior sessions and educational presentations are offered throughout the day, including the opportunity to enjoy a face-to-fin encounter in the Dolphin Lagoon. To learn more, call 305-289-1121.

## MARATHON AIRPORT

MM 52-51

Today's modern Marathon airport belies roots that date back to the late 1930s, when U.S. leaders realized we were heading towards another world war. Government workers descended



on Marathon to build a runway capable of handling the military's most formidable airplane, the B-17 Flying Fortress. During WWII, planes stopped in Marathon on their way to Africa and the European Theater. Marathon Airport's main runway is the same one on which those legendary aircraft landed and took off.

## MUSEUMS OF CRANE POINT HAMMOCK

MM 50 Bayside

Created by the Florida Keys Land & Sea Trust in 1976 to prevent the area from being developed, Crane Point Hammock is a 63-acre oasis of hardwood trees, nature trails and educational displays, providing a glimpse of another era. The Museum of Natural History focuses on native inhabitants and wildlife. The Children's Museum offers marine touch tanks and interactive experiences. And the Marathon Wild Bird Center rehabilitates injured and orphaned birds.

## ADDERLEY HOUSE

MM 50 Bayside, in Crane Point Hammock

Built by Bahamian sponger George Adderley in 1903, this home is the only standing structure in Florida made of Tabby construction. Tabby is a concrete-like stone made from burned oyster, conch and other shells mixed with sand. The home once anchored Adderley Town, a community of 10 houses built by other Bahamians. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.



## KNIGHTS KEY

MM 47

The southern tip of Marathon served as the staging area for the building of the Seven-Mile Bridge. Knights Key was the end of the line for the railroad until 1912, when service opened straight through to Key West. Not content to wait for the completion of the railroad, Flagler built a home port for the Peninsular & Occidental steamship line, which hauled passengers and freight to Cuba, and many of the materials necessary to build the bridge. The Port of Marathon was dismantled with the completion of the Seven-Mile Bridge, and while no visible traces remain, its legacy lives on in every mile of the Overseas Highway.

## BOOT KEY

MM 48 Located adjacent to Vaca Key within the city limits of Marathon

Boot Key is a largely undeveloped island next to a 38-acre tract of land from which the U.S. Government broadcasts Radio Marti, transmitting newscasts and programs in Spanish to Cuba.

## PIGEON KEY

MM 47

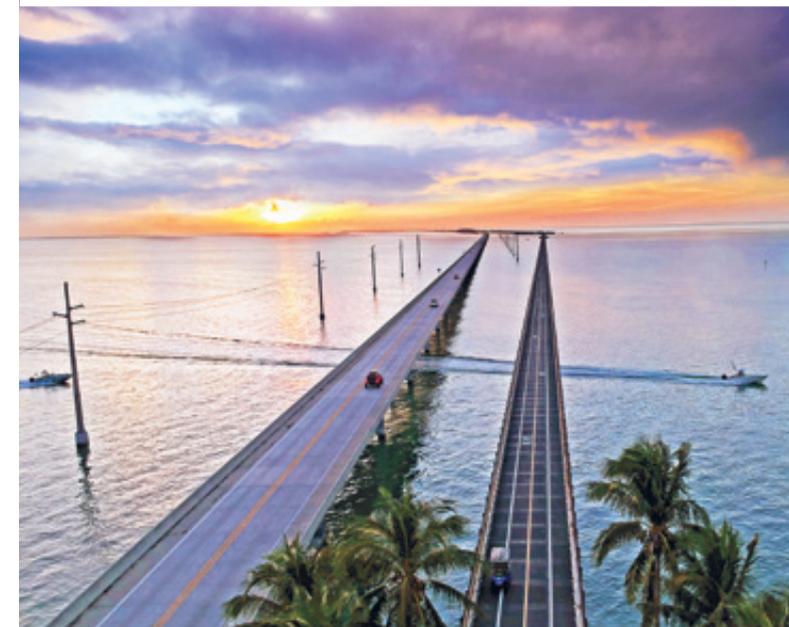
The tiny island of Pigeon Key played a huge role in the evolution of The Keys, serving as home to hundreds of workers during construction of the original Seven-Mile Bridge. Today, it's home to 8 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Among them, you'll find the railroad museum, which displays an extensive collection of historic artifacts from the railway, including concrete "bones" used to test the strength of mixtures used to construct the bridge. Pigeon Key is accessible by ferry from the Pigeon Key Gift Shop at MM 47 on Knights Key. For complete information, call 305-743-5999.



## OLD SEVEN-MILE BRIDGE

MM 47-40 Knights Key Bridge

Even with today's technology, a bridge spanning 7 miles of open water is an extraordinary undertaking. In 1912, it was the 8th wonder of the world. An engineering marvel, the bridge employed multiple construction techniques. To the north, concrete piers support huge steel girders, on which the rails – and later the road – were laid. In the deepest water, a 253-foot long swinging span allowed passage between the Gulf and the Atlantic. And the southern end is marked by 210 53-foot concrete arches. After the 1935 hurricane, the bridge was widened to accommodate automobiles, serving travelers to The Lower Keys until the new bridge opened in 1982. Accessible from Little Duck Key, the southeastern end of the historic bridge remains a breathtaking place for walking, biking and fishing.



# THE LOWER KEYS

Mile Marker 47 to 0

## BAHIA HONDA STATE PARK

MM 39

Bahia Honda marks the beginning of The Lower Keys, where the ground changes from coral rock to limestone. At the 524-acre Bahia Honda State Park, you'll find one of the world's most beautiful beaches, with soft sand, clear water and spectacular views of the old Bahia Honda Bridge.



## OLD BAHIA HONDA BRIDGE

MM 36

Built between 1909 and 1912, this was the only truss bridge in the Oversea Railroad. When it was converted from railway to road, it proved too narrow for two-way traffic. So engineers built a one-mile highway on top of the trusses, which can still be seen from the new bridge today.



## NO NAME KEY

MM 34-35

Visible from Spanish Harbor Channel Bridge, No Name Key saw the establishment, in 1915, of the first school in The Lower Keys outside of Key West. Later, speculators' plans for large-scale development on the island led to the construction of a controversial bridge linking No Name Key to neighboring Big Pine Key, but environmental obstacles prevented the realization of further schemes. In fact, the island didn't even have electricity until 2013. The No Name Pub is a beloved spot for those who choose to live off the grid, simply because it's so hard to find.

## BIG PINE KEY

MM 29.5-33

Rustic, wooded and brimming with wildlife, Big Pine Key is a beautiful place to commune with nature. Dedicated to preservation, Big Pine is home to the National Key Deer Refuge, providing a safe haven for the tiny, endangered species. You'll also find The Blue Hole here. Once a rock quarry used to build Flagler's railroad, today it's the only freshwater lake in The Keys, and home to a variety of wildlife including alligators, turtles and birds. The Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce is located at MM 31 (Ocean side). 1-800-872-3722



## LOOE KEY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

MM 27 Oceanside

Located 5 miles offshore of Big Pine, Looe Key is a coral reef named for the HMS Looe, which ran aground here in 1744. The large, U-shaped reef is home to more than 150 species of fish and 50 species of coral, and its varying depths make it an excellent site for scuba and snorkeling. The Marine Sanctuary is accessible by boat from Little Torch Key (MM 28) or Big Pine Key (MM 30 - 33).

## SUGARLOAF

MM 16.5-20.5

In 1912, English entrepreneur Charles Chase set out to create a sponge farming empire in the waters of Sugarloaf Sound. He soon built a town here, which he named for himself. The sponging business thrived until a London bank froze Chase's assets at the start of World War I. Squeezed by lack of funding and a devastating sponge blight in 1917, Chase declared bankruptcy and sold his holdings to R.C. Perky, who embarked on a folly of his own.

## KEY WEST

MM 04-0

Key West is more Bahamian than mainland, and closer to Havana than Miami. Restoration, renovation and preservation have become a way of life in the Island City, which includes a large historic district with over 2,500 historic buildings. Many of the district's homes were built by shipbuilders of the past, featuring the "Carpenter Gothic" gingerbread for which Key West is famous.



## KEY WEST AQUARIUM

1 Whitehead Street

A state-sponsored Emergency Relief Administration project, this is the world's first open-air aquarium. The Square itself is named for Key West's own Stephen Mallory, Confederate Secretary of the Navy.



## KEY WEST MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY AT CUSTOM HOUSE

281 Front Street

Completed in 1891, this Romanesque Revival edifice once hosted the Court of Inquiry in the 1898 sinking of the Maine in Havana Harbor. Today it serves as home to a collection of art and artifacts that reflect the history of The Florida Keys.



## NAVAL STOREHOUSE/MEL FISHER MARITIME HERITAGE MUSEUM

200 Greene Street

Constructed by the Navy as the U.S. Naval Store House, this impressive building now houses artifacts from 17th century shipwrecks discovered by renowned treasure hunter Mel Fisher.



## LITTLE WHITE HOUSE MUSEUM

111 Front Street

Harry Truman lived here - at least for 175 days of working vacations. Donated to the state of Florida in 1987, the house was privately restored and is now a museum dedicated to President Truman's tenure.



# THE LOWER KEYS

Mile Marker 47 to 0

## PRESIDENTIAL GATES

Caroline and Whitehead Streets

These gates have welcomed Presidents and world-stage dignitaries to the main entrance of the Naval base since 1906.

They were opened to the public for the first time in 1987.



## AUDUBON HOUSE & TROPICAL GARDENS

205 Whitehead Street

Once the home of wrecker and harbor pilot John Huling Geiger, the house was restored in 1960 as a museum, framed by a spectacular tropical garden. Original Audubon paintings are on exhibit in the house.

## OLD CITY HALL

510 Greene Street

Built in 1891 as a Victorian Italianate city hall, the building was renovated and returned to service as Key West's Chamber of Commerce in 1991. Its original first-floor open air market now houses offices.

## CURRY MANSION

511 Caroline Street

A replica of a Newport cottage, this exuberant Beaux Arts estate was a wedding gift from Milton Curry to his bride in 1905. Today, it's a beautifully restored Bed & Breakfast, with spectacular gulf views from the widow's walk.

## GEORGE BOWNE PATTERSON HOUSE

522 Caroline Street

This Queen Anne house was built for the city's postmaster and U.S. District Attorney and his wife.

## DR. JOSEPH YATES PORTER HOUSE

429 Caroline Street

This majestic French Second Empire residence was home to Florida's first public health officer, who was instrumental in eradicating yellow fever.



## OLDEST HOUSE MUSEUM

322 Duval Street

Reputedly the oldest dwelling in The Keys, it is managed by the Old Island Restoration Foundation as a museum to the Wreckers of yore. The site includes the only surviving Cook House, or detached kitchen, in South Florida.

## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

401 Duval Street

Built in 1919, this Gothic Revival church is notable for its stained glass and stirring pipe organ.

## KEY WEST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

600 Eaton Street

Fondly referred to as "Old Stone", the city's oldest religious building went up between 1877 and 1892.



## RICHARD PEACON HOUSE

712 Eaton Street

This 1890s house's principal facade takes its cue from the octagon design of the mid-19th century. Recent owners have included designers Angelo Donghia and Calvin Klein.

## BAHAMA HOUSES

730 Eaton Street and 409 William Street

Following the devastating 1846 hurricane, two brothers-in-law disassembled their houses in Green Turtle Cay and brought them to Key West.

## KEY WEST HISTORIC SEAPORT

631 Greene Street

Formerly known as Key West Bight, this historic waterfront has been a maritime hub for 200 years. Today it's home to restaurants, bars, shops and museums, and a departure point for boating and watersports.

## HARRIS SCHOOL

812 Southard Street

Built in 1909, this is Key West's oldest surviving public school. It is constructed of locally fabricated, rusticated concrete block and features a crenelated parapet – a castle-inspired wall treatment.

## KEY WEST CEMETERY

701 Pauline Street

This 15-acre site was established following the 1846 hurricane. Two internationally significant plots are the Los Martires de Cuba and the Navy plot honoring sailors who died on the U.S.S. Maine in 1898.



## WILLIAM ALBURY HOUSE

730 Southard Street

One of several houses constructed by Bahamian-born citizens, its most spectacular features are its wraparound verandas and its belvedere, a rooftop lookout with windows.

## JOHN LOWE, JR. HOUSE

620 Southard Street

Born in Green Turtle Cay in the Abaco Islands, Bahamian John Lowe came to Key West as a teenager, working for his brother-in-law William Curry. He built the earliest section of this house (ca. 1857) with lumber from his Greene Street sawmill. His son enlarged it in the 1880s. During WWII, it served as a hospital.

## BENJAMIN CURRY, JR. HOUSE

610 Southard Street

Built by another Bahamian from the Abacos and a cousin of William Curry, ca. 1856.



## SAN CARLOS INSTITUTE

516 Duval Street

Founded in 1871 as a cultural center for the Cuban community, this club served as a rallying point for the 1890s independence movement led by patriot Jose Marti. The present building was designed by a Cuban architect and built in 1924.

## LA CONCHA HOTEL

430 Duval Street

For many years Key West's tallest building, the hotel was constructed during the tourism boom of the 1920s and served as a way station on the journey by rail and by steamship to Havana.

## MONROE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

500 Whitehead Street

Readily identified by its Second Empire clock tower, this two-story brick building with its classical portico was built in 1890.



# THE LOWER KEYS

Mile Marker 47 to 0

## CORNISH MEMORIAL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

702 Whitehead Street

The congregation was organized at the conclusion of the civil war by Maryland-born freedman Sandy Cornish and other black citizens. The 1894 frame building is one of a half dozen churches that serve the Bahama Village community.



## KEY WEST ARMORY

600 White Street

The city's only wooden government building, the twin-towered structure was built after the Spanish-American War.

## CHARLES PENDLETON HOUSE

718 Eisenhower Drive

Built by the controversial publisher of The Equator Democrat in 1891.

## BAYVIEW PARK/MARTI STATUE

1320 Truman Avenue

Donated to the city by cigar magnate Eduardo Gato, the site features a statue of Jose Marti, a confederate soldiers and sailors memorial, and a new veterans plaza and bandstand.



## TENNESSEE WILLIAMS HOUSE

513 Truman Avenue

Originally constructed on Bahama Street, the famous playwright relocated this dwelling to its current location when he moved to Key West after WWII. He lived here until his death in 1983.



## CHARLES THOMPSON HOUSE

1314 Seminary Street

The owner of this 1902 house was most famous as Ernest Hemingway's fishing partner and as "Karl", a character

in Hemingway's *The Green Hills of Africa*, which depicts their 1933-1934 safari.

## HARVEY GOVERNMENT CENTER AT THE HISTORIC TRUMAN SCHOOL

1200 Truman Avenue

Dedicated as a grammar school in 1914, the building is now used for Monroe County offices.

## BASILICA OF SAINT MARY STAR OF THE SEA

1010 Windsor Lane



Built in 1905, this Catholic Church features a three-story octagonal-towered convent and a natural rock grotto containing the statues of Our Lady of Lourdes and Bernadette, who help protect Key West from experiencing the full force of

hurricanes. The church served as a hospital during the Spanish-American war.

## KEY WEST FIREHOUSE MUSEUM

1024 Grinnell Street

Built in 1907, this is Key West's oldest standing firehouse and was the oldest operating firehouse in Florida. Today, it's a museum showcasing firefighting artifacts dating back to the early 20th century.



## SLOPPY JOE'S BAR

201 Duval Street

A Key West institution and Ernest Hemingway's favorite watering hole, Sloppy Joe's officially opened on December 5th, 1933...the day prohibition ended. The bar moved to its current site in 1937 after Sloppy Joe Russell refused to pay a \$1 per week rent increase. Patrons simply grabbed their drinks and their barstools and set up shop across the street at the corner of Greene and Duval.

## CORAL ROCK HOUSE

1401 Reynolds Street

This one-of-a-kind house was constructed in 1909 by photographer Richard William Harrison and his son. Their forward-thinking design elevated the main floor above the flood level.



## ERNEST HEMINGWAY HOME & MUSEUM

938 Whitehead Street

This National Historic Landmark, built by a confederate Naval architect and Key West merchant Asa Tift, was Hemingway's home between 1929 and 1940. It boasts the island's first swimming pool and its only basement.

## KEY WEST LIGHTHOUSE & KEEPER'S QUARTERS MUSEUM

938 Whitehead Street

The lighthouse was completed in 1848 following destruction of its predecessor in the 1846 hurricane. In 1894, it received an addition to achieve its current 90-foot height. The restored keeper's cottage focused on early 20th century life.

## ALFONSO/CARRASCO HOUSE

1001 Eaton Street

Built in 1890, this was the home of the Cuban Consul. Its most spectacular feature is the two-story circular cornered porch with elaborate scrollwork gingerbread.



# THE LOWER KEYS

Mile Marker 47 to 0

## CASA MARINA

1500 Reynolds Street

The terminus of Henry Flagler's railroad, this Spanish Revival hotel overlooking the ocean opened in 1921, nine years after the train's first Key West run.

## WEST MARTELLO TOWER

1100 Atlantic Boulevard

Constructed at the beginning of the Civil War, this is one of two never-used munitions support facilities for Fort Zachary Taylor. It is maintained as a stabilized ruin and is now home to the Key West Garden Club.

## EAST MARTELLO

3501 S. Roosevelt Boulevard

Restored by the Key West Art & Historical Society, this tower hosts Civil War relics, historical island memorabilia, imaginative artwork, and the mysterious Robert the Doll.



## J. VINING HARRIS HOUSE

1400 Duval Street

Known as the Southernmost House, this unusual brick Queen Anne dwelling with two-story wraparound porches and a three-story corner tower, opened on New Year's Eve 1899. Originally built for Judge Jephtha Vining Harris and his wife, Florida Curry Harris, the Southernmost House is now a celebrated Bed & Breakfast.



## GATO CIGAR FACTORY

1110 Simonton Street

Eduardo Gato, owner of the island's largest cigar factory, constructed this building in 1916. It was later modified by the Navy for use as barracks during World War II. Today, it's used as Monroe County offices, with artifacts of the cigar industry displayed in the lobby.

## NELSON ENGLISH HOUSE

720 Thomas Street

Nelson English was a freedman born in 1848 who served in the local customs office and later as postmaster. His frame eyebrow house is in the center of the historically African-American community known as Bahama Village.

## FORT ZACHARY TAYLOR

601 Howard England Way

Begun at the time of Florida's statehood in 1845, the fort was not completed until two decades later. It has witnessed continuous service from the Civil War through the Cuban Missile Crisis. During the former, it remained in Union hands and was instrumental in maintaining a blockade of U.S. Gulf ports. In 1864, it hosted the Second U.S. Colored Troops, making it an important African-American historic site.



## AFRICAN CEMETERY AT HIGGS BEACH

White Street & Atlantic Blvd.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this burial ground contains the graves of hundreds of Africans who died after being rescued from slave ships diverted to Key West in 1860.

## GREEN PARROT BAR

601 Whitehead Street

A Key West institution since 1890, this iconic dive bar was once a grocery store for Bahamian settlers in the neighborhood, and became the setting for many famous Mario Sanchez woodcarvings and pencil drawings.



## KEY WEST SHIPWRECK MUSEUM

1 Whitehead Street

"Wreck ashore!" Learn how those two words built one of America's wealthiest cities in the mid 19th century. Experience the golden age of the wrecking industry through film, actors and artifacts.

## PEPE'S CAFÉ

806 Caroline Street

Established in 1909 on the old commercial waterfront, Pepe's is the oldest eating house in The Keys.



## USCGC INGHAM MARITIME MUSEUM AND NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Southard Street

After more than 50 years of service around the world, the Coast Guard Cutter Ingham now serves as a memorial to Guardians killed in World War II and Vietnam.



# THE LOWER KEYS

Mile Marker 47 to 0



## FLORIDA KEYS ECO-DISCOVERY CENTER

35 E. Quay Road

In 1990, The Florida Keys was designated a National Marine Sanctuary. Here, you can take a journey into the native plants and animals that call this fragile eco-system home.

## THE STUDIOS OF KEY WEST

533 Eaton Street

Key West has long been a haven for artists, musicians, poets and playwrights. The Studios were created to connect artists and audiences in an environment that nurtures creativity.



## THOMPSON FISH HOUSE, TURTLE CANNERY AND KRAALS

200 Margaret Street

See exhibits from the Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Museum and the Turtle Kraals Museum. The converted cannery that houses the museum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## TENNESSEE WILLIAMS IN KEY WEST EXHIBIT

513 Truman Avenue

The Tennessee Williams exhibit invites visitors to discover the celebrated playwright's life in Key West through an extensive collection of photographs, articles, books and videos.



## TROPIC CINEMA

416 Eaton Street

Situated in the heart of Old Town, the modern Art Deco theater showcases independent films, foreign films and motion picture classics, and serves as a community space for concerts, political forums and lectures.

## FORT JEFFERSON

68 Miles West of Key West

Sixty-eight miles to the west of the Island City lay the Dry Tortugas, named by Ponce de León for the large number of sea turtles in the area.

After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the Dry Tortugas became the "Gibraltar of the Gulf", from which the U.S. would maintain control of the waters from the Gulf of Mexico to the Caribbean. In 1846, workers began constructing a great hexagonal structure on Garden Key, but the Civil War broke out before completion. At the same time, the invention of the rifled cannon, which could easily breach masonry walls, rendered



Fort Jefferson obsolete before its time. Following Abraham Lincoln's assassination, authorities sentenced the conspirators to the isolated fortress. During an epidemic of yellow fever, one of these prisoners, Dr. Samuel Mudd, treated both inmates and soldiers alike in a heroic response that led to a Presidential pardon. After the war, the outpost found itself reduced to a lowly coaling station. The ill-fated battleship Maine stopped there in 1898 on her way from Key West to Havana, where her mysterious explosion ignited the Spanish-American War. In 1935, the fort was transferred to the National Park Service, which still operates it. Visitors may travel by boat or seaplane, and tent camping is possible by prior arrangement. For further information about Key West, contact the Key West Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-572-8539.

