

# Keys Traveler

The Magazine

## Keys Cuisine

The Bogart Connection

Keys Lighthouses Inspire Artist

The 'Ten Keymandments'

# Sister Shipwrecks Off Key Largo Turn 25

For a quarter of a century, advanced and experienced divers have enjoyed diving the twin “Treasury Class” 327-foot U.S. Coast Guard cutters, a class simply referred to as “the 327s,” that rest in nearly 130 feet of water one mile south of Molasses Reef off Key Largo in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

The Duane was named for Secretary of the Treasury William L. Duane, who served under Andrew Jackson. It was sunk as an artificial reef Nov. 27, 1987.

A day later, the Bibb was sunk nearby. Large pelagic fish often visit the wreck, and there’s no shortage of big barracuda.

Considered the service’s flagships, the cutters served in a variety of capacities, including service in World War II.

Both cutters are part of a trail of Florida Keys shipwrecks stretching from Key Largo to Key West and spotlighted by the Wreck Trek Passport Program. The program rewards certified divers who complete a series of wreck dives listed in an official logbook.

Because of its popularity, a “Wreck Trek 2.0” continuation of the dive challenge is under way through January 2014.

Divers who complete five dives (one wreck in each Keys region) receive a personalized print of Keys shipwrecks.

Divers who finish all nine dives are entered in a contest for a chance to win one of several grand prizes including dive equipment, accessories and dive and lodging packages.

— Julie Botteri

# Keys Traveler

The Magazine

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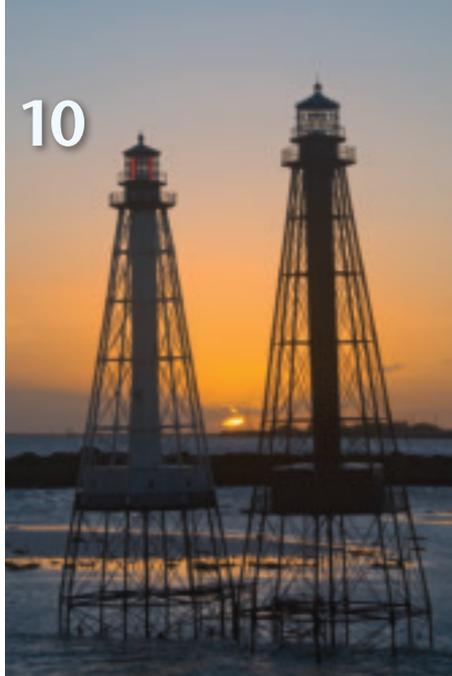
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ANDY NEWMAN (2)



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The Florida Keys & Key West



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You'll find this QR code accompanying many stories in this issue of "Keys Traveler." The QR codes can be scanned by most smartphones. Activate the app, aim your phone at the bar code and you'll be automatically taken to a corresponding website or video for more information. For iPhones and iPads, QR readers can be downloaded free at the Apple App Store.



Cover photo of Islamorada Fish Company restaurant by Andy Newman

# From Seafood to Key Lime Pie, Florida Keys Cuisine Pleases



By Carol Shaughnessy

It's spicy conch chowder. Savory Cuban pork. Succulent pink shrimp dipped in tangy mustard sauce. And Key lime pie, sweet and creamy with a hint of tartness. It's Florida Keys cuisine, and it's as unique and appealing as the island chain itself.

The Keys' location and heritage largely shaped the development of the islands' cuisine. Their remoteness and saltwater surroundings meant residents relied on the ocean's harvest for food, and settlers brought the flavors of their homelands with them.

"Cooks in the Florida Keys have followed a long history of resourcefulness and recipes," said chef and author Paul Menta, whose book "Native Fuel" is a flavorful blend of insights, recipes that invite

experimentation and regional food history.

Menta delved deep into the island chain's past to compile the volume, which emphasizes old and new Keys dishes, food secrets from local residents, healthy preparation and the value of sourcing native foods.

"Before trains and the Overseas Highway, you fed your family only the local foods," said Menta. "The ocean has always been our 'farm.'"

Today, many restaurants create menus around fish and seafood. Popular local "eating fish" include yellowtail, hogfish and mutton snapper, grouper and dolphin (the fish, not the friendly mammal). Fish can be sautéed, broiled or blackened, fried or prepared with sauce containing mango or other tropical fruit.



**Florida Keys stone crab claws, lobster, shrimp, yellowtail snapper and other fresh fish species are displayed at the Hogfish Bar and Grill near Key West.**

Shellfish are equally popular with Keys diners, and conch tops the list. Pronounced *konk*, it's found in rich chowder, deep-fried fritters and lime-dressed salad among other dishes.

Another well-loved Keys delicacy is sweet pink shrimp, steamed and eaten hot with drawn butter or cold with cocktail or mustard sauce. Creative local chefs might serve shrimp in garlicky scampi, fried in batter or blackened in Caribbean spices.

Stone crab and lobster also are plentiful in area waters. With stone crab, only the claws are harvested and eaten, while the Florida lobster has no claws. Lobster can be served plain and dipped in butter sauce, stuffed with breadcrumbs and spices or as the

focal ingredient in dishes dreamed up by innovative chefs.

For example, Chef Bobby Stoky of Islamorada's famed Marker 88 enjoys preparing tasty lobster tempura tacos that combine fresh battered Florida lobster and avocado cream wrapped in tortillas.

"One of the things that's great about Florida lobsters is that they're really sweet," advised Stoky, who has owned the restaurant for 12 years. "You can grill these or just boil them as well, but obviously it makes it a little more decadent with the tempura."

The Keys' most indigenous ethnic food is Cuban, brought by those who fled their nearby homeland seeking freedom. Cuban classics include a dish of

shredded beef called ropa vieja or “old clothes,” picadillo and tender marinated pork. Entrees normally come with black beans, yellow rice and sweet plantains.

Tropical fruits are a favorite accent used by island chefs and passion fruit, mango, sour oranges and carambola find their way into many recipes. So too does the tiny yellow Key lime, the vital ingredient in the Keys’ signature dessert, Key lime pie.

Key lime pies can be topped with meringue or whipped cream, and typically are nestled in a graham cracker crust. Recipes vary from eatery to eatery, so some food-lovers undertake dedicated taste tests to discover the finest.

“What is the best Key lime pie? That’s easy,” said Key West author David Sloan. “It’s the one you’re about to eat.”

Sloan should know. Once a competitor in the professional division of the National Pie Championships, he recently researched and penned “The

truly offbeat offerings like Key lime pies incorporating (believe it or not!) bacon and jalapeno peppers.

Visitors can explore the flavors of the Keys at numerous food festivals each year. They include January’s Uncorked ... the Key Largo and Islamorada Food & Wine Festival, a multisensory Upper Keys experience featuring 10 days of food, wine and spirits. Events range from wine dinners to art and wine shows, and a grand tasting finale.

Also in January, the Key West Food and Wine Festival showcases the creativity of top local chefs and restaurateurs.

The tasty four-day schedule features dining experiences and food and wine adventures including a mile-long tasting stroll on the island city’s Duval Street, an outdoor wine market and the Master Chef’s Classic culinary competition.

Each March brings the Original Marathon Seafood Festival in the Middle Keys, starring popular delicacies such as Florida lobster, stone crab, fish and shrimp. More than 20,000 seafood lovers typically attend the family-friendly



A slice of David Sloan's Key lime pie.

*“What is the best Key lime pie? That’s easy. It’s the one you’re about to eat.”*  
 – David Sloan



Huge shrimp are served at the 2012 Key Largo Food & Wine Festival that has evolved to include Islamorada.

Ultimate Key Lime Pie Cookbook.” Alongside little-known tidbits and tips from fellow pie-making pros, the book contains recipes for 20 crusts, 20 fillings, 20 sauces and 20 toppings that can be mixed and matched to create nearly infinite variations on the delectable dessert. Among the recipes are



Commercial fishermen restock offerings at a past Original Marathon Seafood Festival.



KIM FOEHRINGER

*Paul Menta, above, fillets a yellowtail snapper aboard a commercial shrimping boat, while David Sloan, left, prepares a traditional Key lime pie.*



ROB O'NEAL

weekend event that also features live music, an art show and vendor booths.

Whether sampled at a food festival or local restaurant, the island chain's indigenous cuisine is individualistic and intriguing. From savory seafood to Key lime pie, it's a rich and wonderful part of the Florida Keys experience.

[floridakeysuncorked.com](http://floridakeysuncorked.com)  
[marathonseafoodfestival.com](http://marathonseafoodfestival.com)  
[keywestfoodandwinefest.com](http://keywestfoodandwinefest.com)

*Watch Chef Bobby Stoky prepare onion-encrusted yellowtail snapper.*





# Bogie and Key Largo

Visitors to Key Largo now can cruise on the restored African Queen, the iconic original vessel from John Huston's classic 1951 film that starred Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn.

Registered as a national historic site, the vessel underwent \$70,000 worth of structural, mechanical and cosmetic repairs before its 2012 relaunch featuring Humphrey Bogart's son Stephen Bogart.

"To be able to ride on the African Queen and to be able to have it back in operation is absolutely tremendous," Bogart said at the vessel's premiere. "You know, I've never really been on many movie sets, and this is like being on a movie set, and just the fact that somebody bought it and has taken the time to restore it."

The African Queen was built in 1912 in England. Originally named

the Livingstone, until 1968 it shuttled cargo, hunting parties and mercenaries on the Congo's Ruki River for the British East Africa Rail Company — with a "sabbatical" to appear in the film after it was spotted by John Huston.

In 1968 the boat was purchased and shipped via freighter to San Francisco, but was stripped of almost all gear. Fourteen years later, attorney and Bogart buff



Jim Hendricks Sr. discovered it languishing in a Florida pasture. He purchased it, oversaw restorations, brought the African Queen to Key Largo and began offering rides.

After many years in service, the boat's engine broke and was never fixed, but the African Queen remained on display for history and film fans to view. But the venerable vessel's fortunes changed when Key Largo's Captain Lance Holmquist and Suzanne Holmquist signed a long-term lease with Jim Hendricks' son to restore and operate it again, and dedicated themselves to returning it to its former glory.

"I think my dad would be honored to see the care and concern that people are taking to preserve the legacy of the film and help preserve his legacy, and he would be honored and humbled," Bogart added.

Today, the African Queen, homeported at the Holiday Inn Key Largo, looks just as it appeared in the film. Visitors can come aboard for 90-minute canal cruises offered several times daily, and dinner cruises featuring a three-course meal at Key Largo's Pilot House are offered Friday and Saturday nights.

The African Queen is just one of the ties Key Largo has to Bogart.

The Keys' longest island gained fame when the 1948 movie classic "Key Largo," featuring Bogart and Lauren Bacall, hit the silver screen. A local bar, the Caribbean Club, provided the locale for some of the movie's scenes.

Even Key Largo's postmark reflects the Bogart connection.

The central and northern parts of the island were served by what was known as the Rock Harbor Post Office from 1936 until after the success of the film "Key Largo."

In 1952, according to Upper Keys historian Jerry Wilkinson, local businessmen eager to take advantage of the film's widespread publicity spearheaded a post office name change from Rock Harbor to Key Largo, with a corresponding change in postmark for outgoing letters.

— Julie Botteri

**Take a ride on the African Queen in Key Largo.**



Stephen Bogart, left, and Suzanne Holmquist, right, examine photos of Humphrey Bogart.

## Humphrey Bogart Film Festival Set for May 2-5 in Key Largo

Film icon Humphrey Bogart is to be celebrated May 2-5, 2013, in the setting of one of his most famous movies.

The inaugural Humphrey Bogart Film Festival is to mark 65 years since the premiere of the movie "Key Largo," starring Bogart and his wife Lauren Bacall, which was partially filmed on the island at the top of the Keys.

Plans call for the festival to showcase the actor's films and include a formal Bogart Ball, a display of Bogart memorabilia and cruises on the African Queen.

"My father and mother starred in 'Key Largo' and the actual boat from 'The African Queen' is here in Key Largo," said Stephen Bogart, who is to attend. "It feels right to honor my father and his movies in this beautiful place, a connection to his legacy."

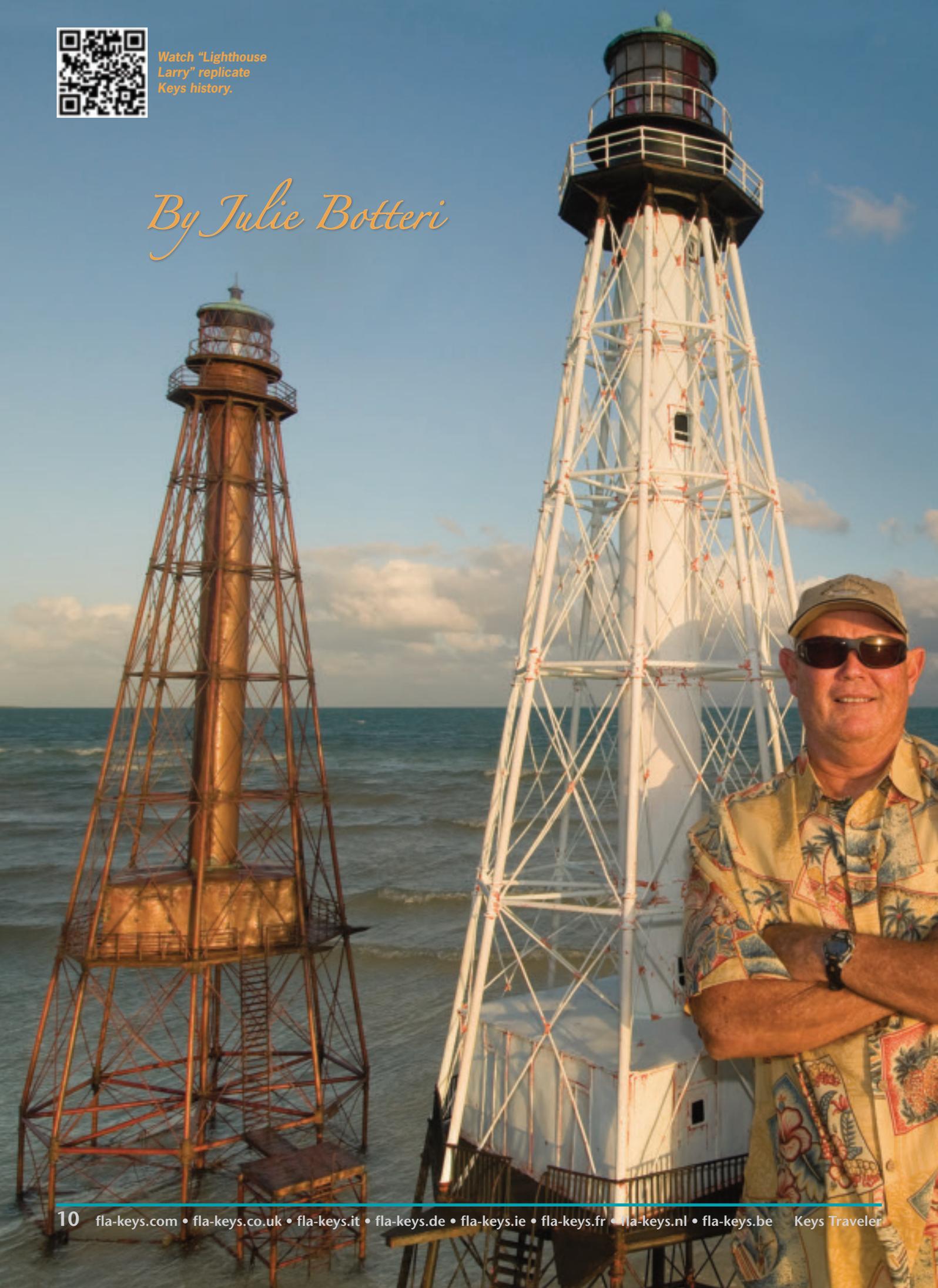
[bogartfilmfestival.com](http://bogartfilmfestival.com)





Watch "Lighthouse  
Larry" replicate  
Keys history.

*By Julie Botteri*



# Lighthouse Larry' Shines a Beacon on Keys History

**A**n Islamorada-based artist, known locally as “Lighthouse Larry” for his passion for lighthouses, focuses on creating exact scale replicas of six historic Florida Keys beacons — three built before the Civil War. As a kid in the Keys, Larry Herth was amazed at a local lobster fisherman’s ability to carve a dolphin from coral rock. Soon he discovered he too could do it.

When a friend asked him to build a dock jetty light, Herth was inspired to turn his artistic sights to lighthouses. He first created a replica of Alligator Lighthouse off Islamorada, which dates back to 1873.

Now, also having forged replicas of the 160-year-old Carysfort Lighthouse, located off the northern end of Key Largo, and Sombrero Lighthouse off Marathon, Herth hopes to re-create each of the once-lived-in and manned lighthouses of the Florida Keys island chain — in several sizes.

Herth creates his replicas from photographs, using copper and brazing techniques to heighten and achieve the visual effects of smaller details. He averages 200 to 300 man-hours on a single replica, depending on the size. For pieces more than 20 feet tall, he uses stronger welded steel.

In addition to crafting replicas, Herth is passionate about preserving the original beacons that once warned ships away from the Florida Keys reef tract.

Modern Global Positioning System navigation has replaced the need for lighthouses in the Keys and, with the exception of their navigation lights, they are no longer maintained.

“We need to bring attention to a national treasure,” he said. “These structures need to be saved.”

In 2012, Herth swam to Alligator Reef Lighthouse and back — an eight-mile Atlantic Ocean swim — to raise awareness about the need to preserve the Keys’ lighthouses. He plans to continue building awareness by spearheading a competitive swim to the light next August.

Lighthouse Larry’s sculptures are publicly displayed outside Upper Keys banks and restaurants, including his 20-foot replica of Alligator Light at Islamorada’s Kaiyo Grill. He dreams of creating a lighthouse park where people can discover what’s just offshore of the Florida Keys.

“I want to bring attention to the actual beauty of these lighthouses in their design and incredible architecture and strength,” Herth said. “They have held up to the wind, the oceans, for 160 years and they are still standing — and hopefully will always be standing.”



# Saving Turtles in the Florida Keys



**L**oggerhead, green, leatherback, hawksbill and Kemp's ridley sea turtles nest on beaches in the Florida Keys and other parts of Florida, or inhabit Florida and Keys waters. All five species are considered either threatened or endangered.

The Keys' Save-a-Turtle organization, formed in 1985, is a volunteer nonprofit group dedicated to the protection of rare and endangered marine turtles and the enhancement of their habitats.

From mid-April through October each year, turtles crawl ashore at night to dig their nests and lay eggs. A female turtle typically lays about 100 eggs and covers them with sand before returning to the water, leaving the nest alone.

Approximately two months later, the hatchlings struggle free of the nest and rush toward the sea, guided by moonlight reflecting off the open water.

Any artificial light, including flashlights and flash cameras, can disturb and disorient the turtles, interrupting the natural process. Laws prohibit people from touching or disturbing hatchlings, nests and nesting turtles.

Save-a-Turtle's activities include surveying local beaches to monitor and document turtle nesting information, working with local municipalities to keep nesting beaches safe and friendly for turtles, spearheading beach cleanups of nesting areas and performing educational outreach to increase awareness of light pollution and other issues affecting sea turtles. — Julie Botteri

[save-a-turtle.org](http://save-a-turtle.org)

## Key West Church Gets Vatican Honor

**K**ey West's St. Mary Star of the Sea, the oldest Catholic church in South Florida, has been designated a minor basilica by the Vatican to mark its historic and spiritual importance.

Established in 1846, St. Mary Star of the Sea has long been revered as a focal point and architectural landmark for the community of Key West. It is the fifth minor basilica in Florida and the 73rd in the United States.

As well as its history and American Victorian architecture, the basilica is renowned for the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.

In 2013, St. Mary's is to host a concert by the world-renowned



ANDY NEWMAN

*Clergymen escort an ombrellino, a symbol of a basilica, into St. Mary's Star of the Sea.*

Vienna Boys Choir, whose roots date back to the 13th century.

The performance of classical inspirational music is presented by the South Florida Symphony as part of its 15th anniversary season.

[keywestcatholicparish.org](http://keywestcatholicparish.org)

## New Park Lures Water-Sports Fans

**O**therside Boardsports has premiered a new cable park where adventure enthusiasts and curious newcomers can safely and cost-effectively participate in wakeboarding, wakeskating, waterskiing and kiteboarding.

Keys Cable, located on Grassy Key in the Middle Keys, is billed as the nation's first cable park to offer full kiteboarding instruction. The cable system uses an overhead towing device to pull riders across the water.

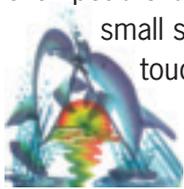
Two two-point cable systems are independently operated on a seven-acre lake.

[KeysCable.com](http://KeysCable.com)

# Keys Offer Family Travel Activities From A to Z

The Florida Keys & Key West offer activities for visitors of virtually all interests, so moms, dads, teens and 'tweens can make vacation days together unforgettable.

One of the first family-friendly attractions in the Keys was the Key West Aquarium, which opened in 1934. Unique and inviting, the aquarium is home to local marine life. Visiting kids can even pet a shark or interact with



small sea creatures in a touch tank.

For history and nature explorers, the Upper

Keys' Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park features 8-foot-high walls of an ancient fossilized coral reef to walk along, as well as five nature trails to hike.

In addition, families can interact with and learn about dolphins at five Keys locations.

Family time in the island chain also means learning together, trying a new sport like fishing, diving, snorkeling or sailing. Free weekend fishing seminars, kiteboarding lessons and even tandem hang gliding are some of the soft-adventure fun that families can enjoy in as little as two days — or a weeklong ultimate experience.

— Julie Botteri

[fla-keys.com/familytravel](http://fla-keys.com/familytravel)

Meet "Miles Marker," star of the Florida Keys Family Travel Video.



Songwriter Chuck Cannon performs at the Key West Song Writer's Festival.



ROB ONEAL

## Tropical Talent Rocks the Keys

While some Florida Keys visitors are attracted by the musical sounds of waves lapping shorelines and breezes stirring palm trees, many other types of live music also are indigenous to the island chain.

Thanks to a community of musicians and songwriters, the rhythms of reggae, salsa, tropical rock and much more can be heard spilling from the open doorways of bars and restaurants throughout the Keys. Many local performers write their own songs, inspired by the natural beauty, free-spirited lifestyle and laid-back pace of the islands.

In addition, music festivals abound. Chief among them is the Key West Songwriter's Festival each May, drawing some of America's foremost performing songwriters to play their hits and preview new

tunes in intimate island settings. Other standout events include Key Largo's Original Music Festival, staged in October, and music abounds the first weekend of each November when Jimmy Buffett's Parrot Heads gather in Key West.

As listeners can attest, Keys music festivals and performances often contain moments of pure enchantment. From spontaneous harmonizing between musical cohorts to jam sessions where each participant's riffs outdo previous efforts, they showcase the talent that thrives in the Florida Keys.

— Carol Shaughnessy

[keywestsongwritersfestival.com](http://keywestsongwritersfestival.com)

[keylargosongwritersfestival.com](http://keylargosongwritersfestival.com)

Watch Jimmy Buffett perform in Key West.



# Kayak Adventures Spotlight Unspoiled Lower Keys



ROB O'NEAL

**Andrea Paulson, left, paddles with a guest on a kayaking excursion in the Lower Keys.**

Florida Keys visitors can discover the unspoiled waters of the Lower Keys backcountry on a unique kayak excursion with Reelax Charters.

Guided by Captain Andrea Paulson, a 20-year Keys resident and lifetime outdoor enthusiast, participants journey by motorboat seven to nine miles off the Lower Keys. They then begin their kayak adventure in a realm of crystal-clear waters, remote islands, pristine beaches, shallow flats, mangroves and more.

While exploring, kayakers enjoy an “off-the-beaten-paddle experience,” discovering islands and areas unreachable by kayak alone. They might spot native Keys wildlife like the great white heron, ibis, starfish, stingrays, colorful tropical fish, sea turtles and even a dolphin or two.

Reelax Charters’ fully customized kayak excursions are an escape in time. Participants begin at their leisure and Paulson doesn’t watch the clock while guests are having fun. Most tours last four to five hours and accommodate up to six people.

Paulson named her business Reelax Charters for her nickname, “Ree,” and the relaxing experience participants enjoy. She began exploring the Lower Keys

backcountry more than 13 years ago as a weekend alternative to Key West shopping for herself and other fishermen’s wives — and loved the experience so much that it seemed only natural for her to share it with others.

“The best part is ending the day with a hug from a customer because we’ve had so much fun together it’s almost like we’ve become best friends,” Paulson said. “I love my job, and when I’m not working I’m out exploring new areas by kayak.”

A few couples, clearly romanced by the natural beauty of the Keys, have even gotten engaged or tied the knot on one of Paulson’s private kayak excursions. Families too find themselves captivated by Reelax Charters’ explorations, and Paulson keeps books and literature on hand for children to use in identifying Keys wildlife.

Offered daily by appointment from Sugarloaf Marina on Sugarloaf Key, Reelax Charters kayak excursions are adventures in “reelaxation.”

They provide an ideal way to experience the wonders of the unspoiled Lower Florida Keys.

[keyskayaking.com](http://keyskayaking.com)

Visitors traveling through the Florida Keys can take advantage of a wide variety of lodging properties ranging from luxurious to modest. However, a growing segment of people prefer to get close to nature by camping when visiting the island chain.

Campsites can be found all along U.S. Highway 1, the main road through the Keys, to suit virtually all budgets and camping gear — from a simple tent to the most opulent recreational vehicle, or RV. Visitors can find on-the-water campsites, grassy tree-shaded sites nestled in natural wooded areas, tiny tucked-away spots and large full-service RV resort facilities.

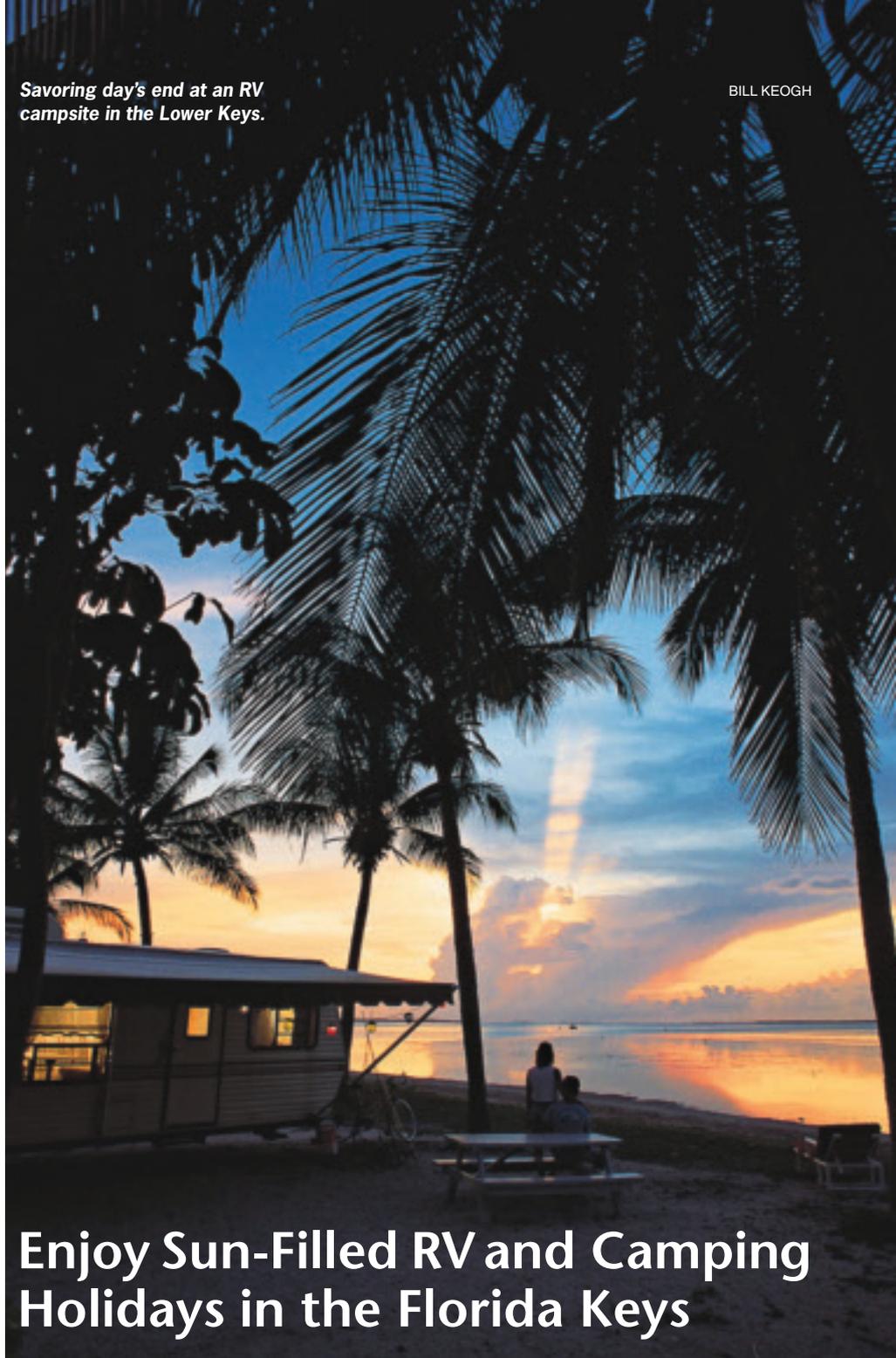
On Key Largo, first and largest of the Keys along U.S. 1, is the United States' first underwater park, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park. The park, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2010, offers 47 full-facility camping sites for both tent and RV campers. Park activities include scuba diving, snorkeling, canoeing and kayaking, fishing, boat rentals, glass-bottom boat tours of the Florida Keys' living coral reef and guided and self-guided nature walks.

A popular camping destination farther down U.S. 1 is Long Key State Park. Campsites are all on the water, with nature trails and canoe rentals on premises. Campers can hike the Golden Orb Trail through five natural communities to an observation tower that provides a panoramic view of the island and its profusion of plant and animal life.

Marathon's Curry Hammock State Park in the Middle Keys recently was named America's third-favorite park based on an online survey. The park's full-service campground has 28 sites and the 1,200-foot sandy beach is popular for kiteboarding

*Savoring day's end at an RV campsite in the Lower Keys.*

BILL KEOGH



## Enjoy Sun-Filled RV and Camping Holidays in the Florida Keys

and windsurfing. Visitors can enjoy canoeing, kayaking, hiking, opportunities for wildlife viewing and waterfront picnic shelters for family and group picnics.

Foremost among Lower Keys facilities is Bahia Honda State Park, one of the Keys' most popular camping and recreation areas. Bahia Honda offers swimming sites on both the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, and its sandy-bottom beach has been named one of the

United States' top 10 in several travel surveys. Other attractions include picnic areas, rental kayaks and snorkel gear, birding, wildlife viewing and a nature trail that leads to the top of the historic Old Bahia Honda Bridge.

Whatever camping option visitors choose, reservations are a must, especially during the popular winter season from November through Easter.

— Jo Thomas

# When and Where to Fish for Popular Florida Keys Game Fish

SPECIES	SIZE	HABITAT	SEASON	TACKLE *
Amberjack	30-75 lbs.	reef, wreck, humps	March-May	20-80#
Barracuda	7-35 lbs.	all areas	year round	fly, spin, baitcast
Bonefish	5-16 lbs.	flats	May-Oct.	fly, spin, baitcast
Cobia	15-80 lbs.	reef, wreck, humps	Nov.-April	fly, spin, baitcast
Dolphin (Mahi-Mahi)	5-65 lbs.	reef, wreck, humps	April-Oct.	fly, spin, baitcast
Grouper (multiple species)	10-500 lbs.	reef, wreck, humps	May-Dec.	spin, 20-50#
Cero Mackerel	3-10 lbs.	reef, wreck, humps	Nov.-April	fly, spin, baitcast
King Mackerel	8-70 lbs.	reef, wreck, humps	Oct.-April	spin, 12-30#
Spanish Mackerel	3-7 lbs.	bay, bridge, reef	Nov.-March	fly, spin, baitcast
Blue Marlin	80-600 lbs.	blue water	May-Oct.	50-80#
White Marlin	30-125 lbs.	blue water	April-Sept.	12-30#
Permit	8-40 lbs.	flats, wreck	March-Nov.	fly, spin, baitcast
Redfish	3-20 lbs.	backcountry	year round	fly, spin, baitcast
Sailfish	30-80 lbs.	reef edge, blue water	Nov.-May	fly, spin, 12-20#
Shark (multiple species)	10-600 lbs.	all areas	year round	fly, spin, baitcast, 30-80#
Snapper (Mangrove)	1-6 lbs.	bridges, bay and reef	year round	spin
Snapper (Mutton)	5-20 lbs.	flats and reef	April-Sept.	fly, spin, baitcast
Snapper (Yellowtail)	2-6 lbs.	reef	year round	spin
Snook	6-35 lbs.	backcountry	March-Nov.	fly, spin, baitcast
Swordfish	70-700 lbs.	blue water	year round	50-130#
Tarpon	25-150 lbs.	bridges, flats, bay	March-Aug.	fly, spin, baitcast
Tuna (Blackfin)	5-38 lbs.	blue water, off-shore humps	year round	fly, spin, 20-30#
Wahoo	15-80 lbs.	blue water	Nov.-June	spin, 30#

\*Tackle is specified as spin, fly, baitcast or conventional with appropriate line class (# means line test breaking strength in pounds).

The Florida Keys lay claim to more world saltwater angling records than any other destination on the globe, according to the International Game Fish Association.

A saltwater fishing license is required to fish from a pier, bridge, boat or wading from shore in all Florida waters. Visitors who fish on a certified charter, party or backcountry boat do not need a license because the captain and boat carry necessary documentation.

More information on fishing licenses and saltwater fishing regulations is available at [myfwc.com/fishing](http://myfwc.com/fishing).



[fla-keys.com/fishing](http://fla-keys.com/fishing)

*A sailfish leaps before being caught and released off the Florida Keys.*

# 1.25-Mile Key West Rainbow Flag To Celebrate 10th Birthday

The 1.25-mile-long banner believed to be the world's longest rainbow flag, unfurled during Key West's Pride 2003 festivities, will mark its 10th "birthday" in June 2013 — and sections of that flag are still carrying the island city's message of acceptance and diversity to locations around the world.

Gilbert Baker, creator of the original rainbow flag that symbolizes gay pride, sewed the "Key West Rainbow Flag" in the island city to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the original banner's debut. Its creation took three months and approximately 17,600 linear yards of fabric that weighed more than 3 tons.

During Pride 2003, approximately 2,000 volunteers unfurled the vibrant banner down the entire length of Key West's Duval Street, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean. Volunteers simultaneously dipped both ends of the flag into the water for a sea-to-sea showing of openness and pride.

After the unfurling, the flag was divided into sections that have since appeared at festivities around the world. Sections of the Key West banner have been featured at celebrations in Manchester, England; Koln, Germany; Toronto, Canada; Stockholm, Sweden; Oslo, Norway, and Los Angeles, New York City, Chicago, Dallas and Atlanta, among many other locales.

A 100-foot section is carried each year during Key West's Pride Parade, and smaller rainbow flags also are a familiar sight in the island city — one of the top tourist destinations in the world for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered



**The sea-to-sea rainbow flag is unfurled along Duval Street on June 15, 2003.**

people and their friends. The colorful flags are flown from a large percentage of shops, clubs and other businesses, and one stands alongside the American flag in Key West's city hall.

To celebrate the flag's 10th anniversary, Key West Pride organizers hope to bring home as many sections as possible to appear in the 2013 Pride Parade set for June 9. Each section is to be accompanied by signage chronicling its traveling "history" to help people understand the global impact the sea-to-sea flag has had over the past 10 years.

[keywestpride.org](http://keywestpride.org)

## Two Unique Properties Offer Florida Keys Flair

The Ibis Bay Waterfront Resort is Key West's hottest new property. The resort combines "island chic" and Key West's lighthearted atmosphere, thriving on its individuality with vibrant décor throughout and 78 beautifully decorated guestrooms. The resort's open-air Lighthouse Restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, offering freshly caught seafood and live entertainment, and guests can soak up the sun on more than 600 feet of white sand beach. The resort's "fun desk" can arrange everything from kiteboarding lessons to ghost tours, sand-sculpture classes, fine dining and more.



Lime Tree Bay Resort is idyllically located on Long Key, featuring a quarter-mile of lush waterfront property. The resort recently underwent a renovation and enhancement to its 46 rooms and suites, most with magnificent views of the Gulf of Mexico's tranquil blue waters. Lime Tree Bay offers amenities including complimentary continental breakfast, two swimming pools, a white sand beach, free use of ocean kayaks and free boat dockage. Each room has access to comfortable hammocks, barbecue grills and secluded seating areas among palm trees. In addition, the resort offers wonderful views of the renowned Florida Keys sunset.

[ibisbayresort.com](http://ibisbayresort.com)  
[limetreebayresort.com](http://limetreebayresort.com)

# 'Ten Keymandments' for Keys Travelers



The 10 Commandments are about things not to do. However, the laidback Florida Keys are all about what travelers can do to have meaningful and memorable vacations — while respecting and helping preserve the island chain's unique environment. Thus, consider these “Ten Keymandments” as guidelines for enjoying a sustainable travel experience in the Keys.

- I. **Plant a coral** (or adopt one of the cute little things, but don't touch them on the reef).
- II. **Use a mooring buoy at dive sites** (save your back and leave the anchor alone).
- III. **Support the wildlife** (volunteer food, funds or time to a local wild bird center).
- IV. **Take out the trash** (especially if it's floating in the water).
- V. **Capture a lionfish** (any time and any size — we can show you how).
- VI. **Leave a digital footprint** (share pictures with fans, friends and followers).
- VII. **Hike it, bike it or hoof it** (it's low on eco-impact and high on fresh tropical air).
- VIII. **Catch dinner** (and release all the fish you know you can't eat).
- IX. **Conserve versus consume** (reduce, reuse and recycle even on vacation).
- X. **Get off the beaten path** (you can hike, bike, walk, kayak or paddleboard along Keys trails).

# Traveling Tips to the Florida Keys



The 120-mile-long Florida Keys island chain is linked to mainland Florida by U.S. Highway 1, the Overseas Highway. Visitors can fly into Miami International Airport (MIA) or Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) and from there can reach the Keys by airport shuttle bus or rental car. Travelers can reach Key Largo, the gateway to the Keys, in about an hour from Miami or an hour and 45 minutes from Fort Lauderdale.

## Commercial Airlines Serving Key West International Airport

American Airlines	aa.com
Cape Air	capeair.com
Delta	delta.com
Southwest	southwest.com
United Express	united.com
USAirways	usairways.com

## Driving Directions

From Miami International Airport (MIA), take LeJeune Road south to 836 West. Take the Florida Turnpike south toward Key West. The Turnpike ends at U.S. 1 in Florida City. Follow U.S. 1 south about 22 miles to Key Largo and you are now in the Florida Keys.

From Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL), exit the airport and follow the signs for 595 West. Take 595 to the Florida Turnpike and follow the signs for the Florida Keys.

From the north, take the Florida Turnpike south to just below Fort Lauderdale, where Exit 4 joins the southern portion of the Turnpike. The Turnpike ends at U.S. 1 in Florida City. Follow U.S. 1 south into the Florida Keys.

From Florida's west coast, take I-75 (Alligator Alley) east to the Miami exit, and

south to the Turnpike Extension.

## Driving Data to Keys/Key Largo

FROM	MILES	KM	HOURS
Miami	50	80	1
Fort Myers	200	320	4
Tampa	300	480	6
Orlando	280	450	5.25

## Distance from Miami

REGION	MILES	KM	MILE MARKER
Key Largo	50	80	107-90
Islamorada	76	122	89-66
Marathon	111	178	65-45
Lower Keys	128	205	45-4
Key West	159	254	4-0

## Via Bus

Bus/shuttle connections from MIA and FLL to the Florida Keys allow traveling to the Florida Keys without renting a car.

## Via Boat

Ferry connections from Fort Myers or Marco Island to Key West are offered via the Key West Express. Voyages take approximately 3.5 hours.

Extensive details on getting to the Florida Keys & Key West are available at:

[fla-keys.com/gettinghere.cfm](http://fla-keys.com/gettinghere.cfm)

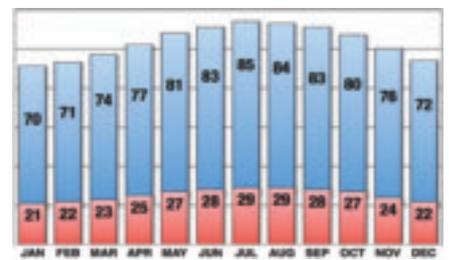
The Florida Keys & Key West  
[fla-keys.com](http://fla-keys.com)  
[fla-keys.co.uk](http://fla-keys.co.uk)

## Weather/Climat

Wherever you are right now, chances are the weather is better in the Florida Keys. That's true even on a summer day. The hottest it's ever been in Key West is 97° F (36° C), and that was in 1880. At the peak of summer, the average high air temperature is about 89° F (32° C). The Keys are devoid of superhighways or urban sprawl to absorb and radiate the sun's heat. And the subtropical islands are cooled by sea breezes.

In the winter, the Keys are typically the warmest region in the continental U.S. There has never been a frost in Key West, according to the U.S. Weather Service.

Below are the average monthly air temperatures for the past 30 years, according to the Key West weather office. Temperatures in blue shades are Fahrenheit and those in light red are Celsius.



## Help and More Information

If you're traveling in the Keys and need any help, call our toll-free Visitors' Assistance line at 1-800-771-KEYS. It's staffed 24 hours per day. To contact visitor offices in the Keys, call 1-800-FLA-KEYS. The Florida Keys website at [fla-keys.com](http://fla-keys.com) and [fla-keys.co.uk](http://fla-keys.co.uk) has a live chat feature with visitor information specialists during regular U.S. weekday business hours to aid travelers in vacation planning.