



Florida Keys & Key West

POP 77,482 / 305,786

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Best Places to Eat

- Lazy Days (p180)
- Square Grouper (p187)
- Keys Fisheries (p183)
- Key Largo Conch House (p177)
- No Name Pub (p186)

Best Places to Sleep

- Kona Kai Resort (p176)
- Seascope Motel & Marina (p182)
- Bay Harbor Lodge (p176)
- Deer Run Bed & Breakfast (p186)

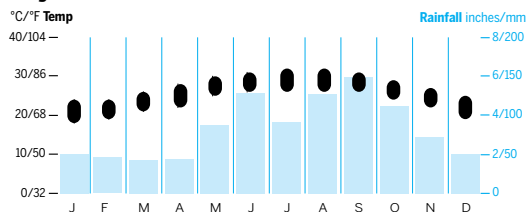
Why Go?

If Florida is a state apart from the USA, the Keys are islands apart from Florida – in other words, it's different down here. This is a place where those who reject everyday life on the mainland escape. What do they find? About 113 mangrove-and-sandbar islands where the white sun melts over tight fists of deep green mangroves; long, gloriously soft mudflats and tidal bars; water as teal as Arizona turquoise; and a bunch of people often like themselves: freaks, geeks and lovable weirdos all.

Key West is still defined by its motto – One Human Family – an ideal that equals a tolerant, accepting ethos where anything goes and life is always a party (or at least a hungover day after). The color scheme: watercolor pastels cooled by breezes on a sunset-kissed Bahamian porch. Welcome to the End of the USA.

When to Go

Key West



Dec–Mar It's dry, the sun is out, the weather is grand and the lodging is at its most expensive.

Apr–Jun Sea breezes help to keep the summer heat down, and hotel rates drop precipitously.

Jul–Nov There's some rain (and maybe even some hurricanes), but plenty of festivals too.



Gulf of Mexico

Everglades National Park Boundary

Shark Point

INSET



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Marquesas Keys

Key West National Wildlife Refuge

Note: Same scale as main map

See Inset

Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge

Big Torch Key

Little Torch Key

Little Pine Key

Seven Mile Bridge

Snipe Keys

Cudjoe Key

No Name Key

Pigeon Key

Boat Key

Boca Chica Key

Sugarloaf Key

Bahia Honda Key

Bahia Honda State Park

Summerland Key

Ramrod Key

Key West

Key West International Airport

5 4 1

Key West

Key West International Airport

Big Pine Key

Big Pine Key

Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary

Lower Keys

Florida Keys & Key West Highlights

- 1 Mallory Square** (p191) Watching the sun set over the ocean as you sit and take in the raucous show.
- 2 John Pennekamp Coral**

- 3 Indian Key Historic State Park** (p178) Paddling out to this eerie, lonely, beautiful park.

- 4 Fantasy Fest** (p194) Donning a purple-and-green crocodile costume and partying in the streets of Key West.