



Florida Keys & Key West

Includes »

Upper Keys	139
Key Largo & Tavernier ..	139
Islamorada	142
Long Key	145
Middle Keys	145
Grassy Key	145
Marathon	147
Lower Keys	149
Big Pine, Bahia Honda & Looe Key	150
Sugarloaf & Boca Chica Keys	152
Key West	153

Best Places to Eat

- » Café Solé (p163)
- » Keys Fisheries (p148)
- » Seven Fish (p163)
- » Midway Cafe (p144)
- » Key Largo Conch House (p141)

Best Places to Stay

- » Deer Run Bed & Breakfast (p151)
- » Curry Mansion Inn (p162)
- » Mermaid & Alligator (p162)
- » Casa Morada (p144)
- » Bahia Honda State Park Campground (p151)

Why Go?

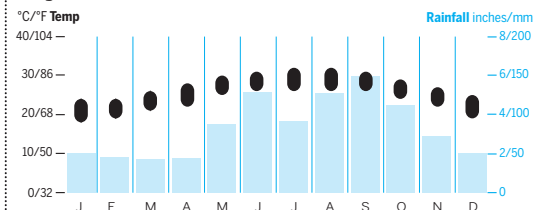
The Keys are a place separate from mainland USA. They march to the beat of their own drum, or Alabama country band, or Jimmy Buffett single, or Bahamian steel calypso set...whatever. The point is, this is a place where those who reject everyday life in the Lower 48 escape to. What do they find? About 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 weirdoes all.

Key West is still defined by its motto, which we love – 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.

Have a drink.

When to Go

Key West



Dec–Mar It's dry, the sun is out, weather is grand and 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 happening too.



Gulf of
Mexico

Everglades National Park Boundary

Shark
Point

INSET



Marquesas
Keys

Note: Same scale as main map

See Inset

Marquesas
Keys

Florida Keys
National Marine
Sanctuary

Great White
Heron
National Wildlife
Refuge

Big Torch
Key

Little
Torch
Key

Big Pine
Key

Little Pine
Key

Great White
Heron
National Wildlife
Refuge

Seven Mile
Bridge

Pigeon
Key

Bahia
Honda
Key

Bahia
Honda
State Park

Loose Key
National Marine
Sanctuary

Summerland
Key

Ramrod
Key

Big Pine
Key

Snipe
Keys

Cudjoe
Key

Sugarloaf
Key

Boca Chica
Key

Key West
International
Airport

Key West

Lower Keys

Florida Keys & Key West Highlights

1 Getting friendly with the locals as you down drinks at the oldest bar in Key West, the **Green Parrot** (p164).

2 Spotting Key deer while you wander on Big Pine and

No Name Keys at the **National Key Deer Refuge** (p150)

3 Watching the sun set over the ocean as you sit and take in the raucous show at **Mallory Square** (p153).

4 Diving around the rainbow reefs of **John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park** (p139).

5 Paddling out to eerie, lonely, beautiful **Indian Key State Historic Site** (p143)