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GUIDE

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FRONT COVER:

Alligator Reef Lighthouse is located approximately 4 miles east of Indian Key. It was established in 1873 to mark the wreck of the USS Alligator, a Navy ship that ran aground on the reef in 1822.

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INTERESTED IN
ADVERTISING IN THE NEXT
EDITION OF BeLOCAL?
CONTACT TODD BRAUN AT
TODD.BRAUN@N2CO.COM

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DINING OUT

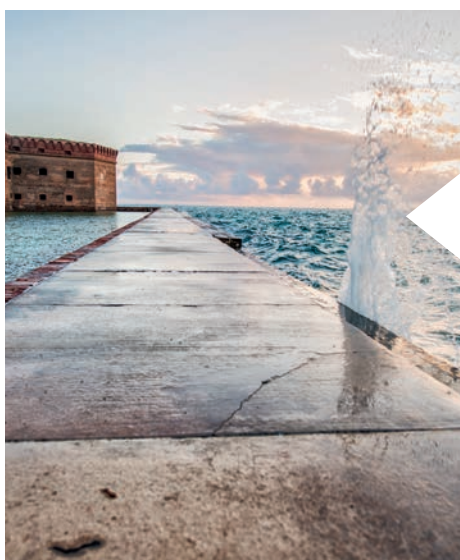
It will be tough to find a favorite eating establishment here! So many choices no matter what your preference. We know you will have dining experiences to remember!



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SHOPPING

Grab your comfy shoes, your purse, and your bestie because shopping in The Keys is a one-of-a-kind experience!



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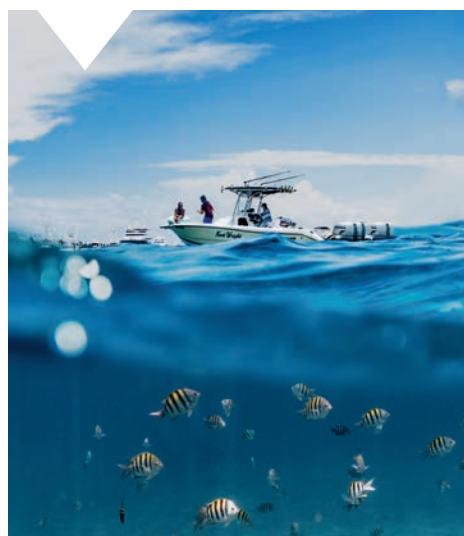
STATE PARKS

You will be surprised how many state parks are found from Key Largo to Key West.

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FISHING & BOATING

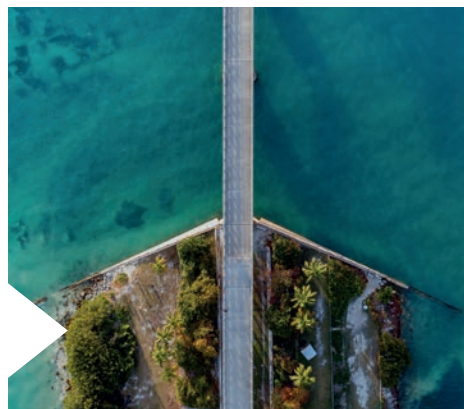
Watching the sun disappear over the horizon is one of the most spectacular things the Keys have to offer.



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BOATING DAY TRIPS

Have boat, will travel. You will want to explore a new spot every day and we have the best day trips right here.



CONTRIBUTORS



TODD BRAUN

Publisher

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(772) 217-5533 cell/text

Originally from just outside Philadelphia in New Jersey, Todd made the move to Florida in 2010 and quickly fell in love with the laid-back lifestyle of the Sunshine State. Like many newcomers, he had to navigate the learning curve of settling into a new place—figuring out how to live like a local, where to go, who to trust, and how to truly feel at home.

It wasn't always easy, but it was absolutely worth it. That experience is exactly what inspired him to bring *BeLocal The Keys* to your mailbox. Each month, *BeLocal* connects new residents with the very best the Keys have to offer—from local hotspots and trusted service providers to favorite restaurants and hidden gems that only locals know about. While Todd and his family spend much of their time at their home in Summerland Key, don't be surprised if you spot him anywhere from Key Largo to Key West, discovering and sharing the best of what makes life in the Florida Keys so special.



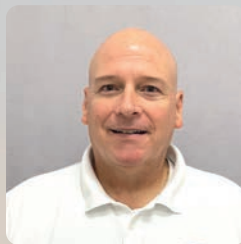
MADELINE ROUSSEAU

is a proud local resident of Islamorada who was once told, "Come visit Islamorada—you may not want to leave," and she never did! Born in New York and raised in South Florida, she now lives her dream in paradise as a published author of *Struggled To Sold* on Amazon, a successful real estate broker, and the founder of the vibrant community brand I LOVE Islamorada. Madeline's heart belongs to her two wonderful sons and her grandson, who are the light of her life. A true Pisces, she's happiest on the water, in the water, or anywhere near it. Join the fun and follow her journey on Facebook!



SANDRA LEE

Originally from Michigan, Sandra and her husband visited the Keys while on a road trip and never left. Now they call Marathon "home." Sandra jumped at the chance to share the beauty of the Keys in *BeLocal* through her lens. For over 20 years, Sandra has been combining her love of fine art and people. She is a published international photographer, and her photography and paintings are in homes, shops, banks, and hotels from coast to coast and overseas.



CHAD HUFF

is the Public Education/Information Officer for the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District (FKMCD). As such he is responsible for most of the district's internal and external communications initiatives along with any advertising and marketing efforts. Prior to moving to the fabulous Florida Keys three years ago, Chad held the position of Communications and Marketing Manager for Florida's Turnpike for several years. Chad says he appreciates working at the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District because of the ability it provides him to truly make an impact on the public he works with every day. Fight the Bite-Dump the Water!



JOEY TITENSOR

Originally from Fort Myers, FL, Joey started working on boats at the age of 19. In the past 20 years, he has lived in eight locations from Florida to Guam, and worked/owned a multitude of boat shops and marinas all over the world as he followed his wife's military career. When she retired from the USCG in 2016, they chose Key West as home permanently. In 2021, he partnered with Sheryl Steinmeyer and became co-owner/operator of Reel Impact Marina.



DANIEL SAMESS

Daniel has served as the CEO of the Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce since 2007. Daniel and his wife, Liz, who owns an interior design business, are raising their two daughters here in Marathon. The family enjoys being on the water, lounging by the pool, and being involved in a great community.



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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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POLICE

Key West PD	305-809-1111
Key Colony Beach PD	305-743-5380
Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Islamorada Substation	305-664-6480
Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Freeman Substation (Cudjoe Key).....	305-745-3184
Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Key West	305-292-7000
Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Tavernier Substation.....	305-853-3211
Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Marathon Substation.....	305-289-2430

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Monroe County Fire Department, Marathon	305-289-6088
Conch Key Fire Department, Duck Key	305-289-1313
Key West Fire Department Station 1, Key West.....	305-809-3933
Key Largo Fire Station #24, Key Largo	305-451-2700
Key Largo Fire Station #25, Key Largo	305-453-0025
Marathon Fire Department, Marathon	305-743-5266
Cudjoe Fire Rescue Station 11, Cudjoe Key	305-745-9014
Islamorada Fire Department, Islamorada.....	305-664-6490
Monroe County Fire Rescue Headquarters, Marathon.....	305-289-6004
Tavernier Volunteer Fire Department, Tavernier	305-852-6285
Big Pine Key Fire Rescue Station 13, Big Pine Key	305-872-0975

MISC

Florida Keys Mosquito Control.....	305-292-7190
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POST OFFICES ▶ (800) 275-8777

Islamorada ▶ 82801 Overseas Hwy.
Summerland Key ▶ 24700 Overseas Hwy
Marathon ▶ 11400 Overseas Hwy., Ste. 120
Key Largo ▶ 100100 Overseas Hwy.
Big Pine Key ▶ 29959 Overseas Hwy.
Key West ▶ 400 Whitehead St.
Marathon ▶ 5171 Overseas Hwy.
Tavernier ▶ 91220 Overseas Hwy.
Key Colony Beach ▶ 2764 N. Roosevelt Blvd.
Naval Air Station ▶ 4069 Langley Ave., Bldg. A
Layton ▶ 68340 Overseas Hwy.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICES

Key Largo
305-451-1414
Islamorada
305-664-4503
Greater Marathon
305-743-5417
Lower Keys
305-872-2411
Key West
305-294-2587

MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

101485 Overseas Hwy., Key Largo.....	305-451-2396
700 Fleming St., Key West.....	305-292-3595
81830 Overseas Hwy., Islamorada	305-664-4645
213 Key Deer Blvd., Big Pine Key	305-872-0992
3490 Overseas Hwy., Marathon	305-743-5156



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KEY TO THE KEYS

Podcast



Welcome to Life in the Florida Keys!

A Podcast created for locals who want to build
real connections and feel rooted in the Florida
Keys community.

Featuring conversations with the people and
businesses that shape this island life.



Hosted by: “MJ” - Megan Jones, Realtor®

Coldwell Banker Schmitt R.E. Co.

305-395-9567 | mjsellingparadise@gmail.com

Your local guide to all things Florida Keys
real estate and lifestyle.



OUR GUIDES
ARE LISTS FROM
UPPER KEYS
TO LOWER KEYS
TO KEY WEST

WELCOME TO THE FLORIDA KEYS

YOUR NEW HOME AWAITS!

Whether you've relocated from the Upper Keys, the mainland, or across the country, settling into a new area can be both thrilling and overwhelming.

Within your first few months, you'll likely find yourself:

- ▶ Establishing new routines
- ▶ Exploring local hotspots
- ▶ Meeting professionals and influencers
- ▶ Discovering the resources of your new community

Major transitions come with many moving parts—and emotions. That's where we come in.

Enter *BeLocal The Keys*

In your hands is your guide to the *very best* that life in the Florida Keys has to offer. From **dining and shopping** to the **top spots for boating, fishing, and relaxing**, this is your insider's companion to everything you need—or want—to know about your new hometown.

Curated by Locals, For Locals

BeLocal The Keys was created by those who know it best—**residents and experts** in their crafts who share firsthand knowledge of the Keys. Whether you're uncovering hidden gems

or learning where to grab the perfect seafood dinner, this guide connects you directly to what matters.

What You'll Find Inside:

- ▶ Trusted insights from Key Largo to Key West
- ▶ Must-visit parks, restaurants, and boutiques
- ▶ Local tips from community influencers
- ▶ Ideas for day trips and quiet escapes
- ▶ Resources to help you feel at home—fast

Your Journey Starts Here

Sit back, relax, and explore all your new community offers. With *BeLocal The Keys* by your side, you'll feel like a local in no time.

Welcome home!

TODD BRAUN, Publisher
Todd.Braun@n2co.com (772) 217-5533



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Your **BeLOCAL** Favorites



ON THE GO

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Snap for local favorites

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Here's the part we're most proud of:
The magazine you're reading is part of that impact.

Read how THIS magazine is part of something bigger.





what's happening

ANNUAL EVENTS THROUGH THE SEASONS

IN THE KEYS?

IN THE WINTER

DECEMBER

- ▶ Key Largo Christmas Boat Parade
- ▶ Key West Holiday Parade

JANUARY

- ▶ Annual New Year's Day Celebration, Islamorada's Founders Park
- ▶ Annual Tennessee in Key West Seminar

FEBRUARY

- ▶ Poor Girls Sailfish Tournament
- ▶ Islamorada Women's Sailfish Tournament
- ▶ Buccaneer Blast Regatta, Key Largo
- ▶ Key West Headdress Ball
- ▶ Cuda Bowl, Key West
- ▶ Presidents' Day Weekend at Truman Little White House, Key West
- ▶ Historic Key West Cemetery Stroll
- ▶ Pup Crawl, Key West
- ▶ Backcountry Fly Championship Series, Islamorada
- ▶ Gigantic Nautical Flea Market, Islamorada

IN THE SPRING

MARCH

- ▶ Sombrero Beach Run
- ▶ Islamorada All-Tackle Bonefish Tournament
- ▶ Marathon Seafood Festival
- ▶ Conch Shell Blowing Contest
- ▶ Butterfly Garden Tour
- ▶ Florida Keys SPCA Annual Spring Social, Lower Keys

APRIL

- ▶ Annual Ladies Tarpon Tournament
- ▶ Conch Republic Independence Celebration
- ▶ Annual Seven Mile Bridge Run
- ▶ Marathon Sailfish Tournament
- ▶ Luau Fundraiser for Reef Relief to Celebrate Earth Day, Key West
- ▶ MOTE Ocean Fest, Key West
- ▶ Herman Lucerne Memorial Tarpon Cup, Islamorada

MAY

- ▶ Taste of Islamorada
- ▶ McDonald's Tarpon Tournament
- ▶ Barley Bay Festival

IN THE SUMMER

JUNE

- ▶ Cuban American Heritage Festival, Key West
- ▶ Dick Fuhr Memorial Fishing Tournament
- ▶ PrideFest Key West
- ▶ Marathon Super Boat Grand Prix

JULY

- ▶ Hemingway Days Festival

AUGUST

- ▶ Key West Summer Food and Wine Festival
- ▶ Key Largo Offshore Classic
- ▶ Mercury Little Palm Island Grand Slam, Little Torch Key

IN THE FALL

SEPTEMBER

- ▶ Key West Poker Run
- ▶ Marathon International Bonefish Tournament
- ▶ WomenFest

OCTOBER

- ▶ Fantasy FestIn Key West
- ▶ Florida Keys Birding and Wildlife Festival, Marathon
- ▶ Fright Night at Holiday IsleIn Islamorada

NOVEMBER

- ▶ Parrot Heads in Paradise Convention
- ▶ Pirates in Paradise Festival
- ▶ Annual Corvettes in Paradise

IN THE KEYS, THERE'S
ALWAYS SOMETHING
GOING ON SOMEWHERE.

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@BELOCAL.THEKEYS



WHERE TO GET THE



BEST GRUB



AS YOU WILL QUICKLY FIND, THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF DINING EXPERIENCES IN THE KEYS. BUT THE LOCALS HAVE SPOKEN AND THESE ARE THEIR FAVS...

WAKING UP

HARRIETTE'S RESTAURANT

Key Largo ▶ Harriette's has been around since the '80s. Look for the quaint yellow shack, serving down-home breakfast and lunch favorites, plus some health-minded options. Visitors love the homemade biscuits and muffins, and believe them to be "made with love."

MANGROVE MIKE'S CAFE

MM 85, Islamorada ▶ Popular with locals, this no-frills pick offers an informal breakfast and lunch-only diner menu. The locals love it for the gluten-free options and huge portions. Try the Kitchen Sink quesadilla. Yum!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

MM 50.6, Marathon ▶ Healthy, organic, and vegetarian cafe with the additional perk of a bookstore! It's been reported that the homemade blueberry muffins are "delish" and the ginger shot works wonders for a Keys hangover.

THE STUFFED PIG

MM 49, Marathon ▶ Low-key eatery with a tiki patio, hearty breakfasts and Keys specialties such as alligator tail. Absolutely great for breakfast and lunch. They open early and close early.



THE GALLEY GRILL

Summerland Key ▶ Unpretentious local option for breakfast and lunch classics like a variety of Eggs Benedict and BLTs. Sip on a Bloody Mary while you enjoy crab Eggs Benedict or some fluffy pancakes.

MORNING JOINT

Cudjoe Key ▶ A comfortable and relaxing atmosphere for everyone. Try some of their delicious made-to-order Munchies, farm-to-table Colombian Coffee, and enjoy a cheat day with their freshest pastries. The pet-friendly back patio is also perfect for our beautiful Florida Keys weather. Be sure to check out the ice cream trailer called **Icestream** (it's a renovated Airstream), serving super-delicious homemade ice cream.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB, TOO

Key West ▶ If you like Bloody Marys, this is your place. You can choose from 11 concoctions! Relaxed hangout with fun decor and creative takes on breakfast and lunch classics.

PEPE'S CAFE ▶ **Key West** ▶ Rustic joint with laid-back vibes dishing up not only signature breakfasts like omelets and French Toast, but also surf 'n' turf for dinner! One of the oldest places in town, Pepe's has been serving happy customers since 1909!

KEY PLAZA CREPERIE

Key West ▶ European-style, high-end, daytime bistro serving sweet and savory crepes, plus panini, wraps, salads and American breakfast fare. Atmosphere and service are great!

LOCAL LORE

Ernest Hemingway, Truman Capote, Shel Silverstein, Tennessee Williams, and Jimmy Buffet have all been known to frequent Captain Tony's Saloon.

Marathon's Best Kept Secret

Beat the heat with an Acai or Pitaya Bowl!

It's always made to order and loaded with fresh organic fruit, local honey, and GF granola.



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MID-DAY MUNCHING



KEY LARGO FISHERIES BACKYARD CAFE

Key Largo ▶ Waterfront cafe with a patio, serving locally sourced seafood, soups and salads in a casual setting. You might be lucky enough to catch some live music while you're enjoying your seafood chowder and grilled snapper sandwich.

7 MILE GRILLE

MM47.5, Marathon ▶ World Famous since 1954! Small, cozy, and casual atmosphere right on the water. Delectable breakfasts, wonderful lunches, and fabulous dinners. Local seafood dishes, including catch-and-cook options, and amazing custom Brazilian cocktails!



MAYANJALI

Key West ▶ A soulful space to gather with friends or rest a while and to enjoy tea, coffee & nourishing foods such as smoothies, bowls, wraps. A must stop when in Key West!

SPARKY'S LANDING FISH AND COCKTAILS

MM 53.5, Marathon ▶ Seafood eats and tropical drinks are whipped up at this chill waterside hangout with live music. Happy hour specials, wood-fired pizzas, and nice selection of seafood.

KEYS FISHERIES

MM 49.2, Marathon ▶ Come by boat or by car! Order from the window, then sit at picnic tables on the docks. The Keys Fisheries has served quality seafood to the residents of the Florida Keys for over 30 years!



LOCAL TIP



"Check out Irie Island Eats food truck! It's a Sombrero Beach favorite."

- Dr. Alex Belke

LATE-DAY DINNER

THE BUZZARD'S ROOST

MM 106.5, Key Largo ▶ Pine-paneled seafood eatery on the water with outdoor seats, a tiki bar, live music, and cove views. Bring Fido because leashed pets are welcome in the outside dining area.

LAZY LOBSTER SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

Key Largo ▶ Brightly colored restaurant with a garden cooking up ocean-fresh specials, steaks, and fried corn! Bring the kids and the dogs, because the Lazy Lobster can take care of both.

FLORIDA KEYS STEAK AND LOBSTER HOUSE

Marathon ▶ The name says it all. Order your steaks cooked on a stone grill or a mouth-watering lobster tail. If you like sushi, this place has a huge selection, in addition to French onion soup, or a rack of lamb. Save room for their key lime pie — it's delicious!

BROIL SMALL ISLAND STEAKHOUSE

Cudjoe Key ▶ Reportedly the "best food in the Keys," Broil has a beautiful space, amazing staff, and delicious food, such as steak and swordfish. Make reservations because it's a hot spot!

SQUARE GROUPER BAR AND GRILL

MM 80.4 Islamorada ▶ 80460 Overseas Hwy

MM 22.5 Cudjoe Key ▶ 22658 Overseas Hwy

MM 0 Key West ▶ 920 Caroline St ▶ One of the Florida Keys' most popular destinations for unforgettable fresh & local seafood, with an emphasis on consistency and quality. Lynn and her staff have a dedication to excellence paired with a focus on detail, which has defined the Square Grouper Bar and Grill as a must-visit restaurant.



NO NAME PUB

MM 30, Big Pine Key ▶ Since 1935, this tavern with no name has been dishing up delicious pizzas and other homestyle food such as chili, spaghetti, and tacos in a unique atmosphere. Leave a dollar on the ceiling, the wall, the post — if you can find a spot! Outdoor seating is plentiful, but you can still expect to wait.



LOCAL TIP



"Island Fish Company will cook your catch!" - **Bill H.**



LATE-DAY DINNER CONT.

CHEF MICHAEL'S

Islamorada ▶ Mouth-watering, fresh Florida Keys fish and New American entrées in an upscale island-style environment. Be sure to order an appetizer — especially the Lion Fish. Wonderful intimate atmosphere for a special occasion, plus an extensive wine and craft beer selection.

ZIGGIE & MAD DOGS

MM 83, Islamorada ▶ Casual, upscale spot known for its steaks, chops, and local seafood served in a sports-bar atmosphere. Make a reservation because Ziggy's is hot!

MARKER 88

MM88 ▶ **Islamorada** ▶ One of the oldest restaurants in the Keys. Easy-going beachfront bar and grill featuring local seafood and cocktails with sunset views and live music. People who visit this establishment say it has a "romantic, relaxing, gorgeous atmosphere."

THE FLAMING BUOY FILET CO.

Key West ▶ Steak and seafood spot serves a New American menu and daily specials in a tropical space. The waitstaff is said to be knowledgeable and efficient. One patron remarked: "If you do not stop here, you are missing out!"

CONCH REPUBLIC SEAFOOD COMPANY

Key West ▶ Conch and Caribbean-style eats star at this laid-back eatery overlooking the seaport and marina. Recommended by locals as the best seafood in Key West!

MY NEW JOINT

Cudjoe Key ▶ A cocktail lounge, tapas bar, and live music venue located upstairs from Square Grouper Bar and Grill. Offering a Raw Bar featuring fresh shucked oysters from the east and west coasts of the USA, full liquor bar with a specialty cocktail menu, wines by the glass and bottle, 15 draft beers, 170 bottled beers, full tapas menu including salads and fondues, 170 bottled beers, full tapas menu, and lots of yummy desserts!



**publisher's
pick:**

FRANK'S GRILL, Marathon

Lively, upbeat Italian joint with amazing food and fun service. Watch out, though, because if Frank's not there, they're not open. Lasagna, pork osso buco, chicken salad for lunch, and whatever special fish Frank feels like dishing up!

CAFE SOLE

Key West ▶ Cozy, romantic spot serving French-Caribbean fare, signature hog snapper, and of course, key lime pie. Ambiance is wonderful and they offer an extensive wine list.



cheers!

it's always happy hour here!

Snook's Bayside ▶ Key Largo ▶ Specializing in fresh seafood & tropical drinks. Their open-air eatery is the idyllic place to enjoy a waterfront lunch or dinner in the fabulous Florida Keys. Amazing specials are offered every day, 3 pm to 5 pm at any of their 3 bars

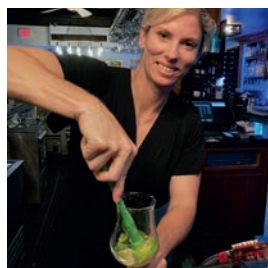
Hog Heaven Bar and Grill ▶ Islamorada ▶ Catch all the action with 27 TV's showcasing your favorite sporting events. Enjoy billiards, inside and outdoor bars, and dining with a view. Indulge in mouthwatering food and refreshing cocktails while soaking up the lively atmosphere. Take advantage of the full-service bar and enjoy happy hour specials every Monday through Friday from 4 to 7 PM.

FL Keys Steak and Lobster House ▶ Marathon Get happy here every day from 11:30-6 p.m. Discounted well drinks and some beers, as well as specially priced dinners from 3:30-5:30.

Chart Room ▶ Key West ▶ Hidden within Pier House Resort, Chart Room Bar is a Key West legend. A favorite since the 1960s, this nautically inspired watering hole is rich with local history and character. Sip a rum punch, chat with longtime regulars, and enjoy the kind of authentic island atmosphere that can't be faked. Open daily from 5 pm to midnight.

Pepe's Cafe ▶ Old Town, Key West ▶ The oldest restaurant in the Keys! Every day, 4-6 p.m., Pepe's has half-priced raw and baked oysters, \$6 fresh-squeezed margaritas. Go for happy hour, see a piece of history!

Bobby's Monkey Bar ▶ Key West ▶ Every weekday from noon to 8 p.m., Bobby's has beer and well-drink specials. Step up to the karaoke mike to belt out your favorite show tunes.



DID
SOMEONE
SAY

KEY LIME PIE?

Nothing says "Florida Keys" like key lime pie! Our publisher stepped up to many plates, licked just as many forks, and has declared the winner of **Best Key Lime Pie** to be **Florida Keys Steak and Lobster House** in Marathon.



**THE BEST KEY LIME PIE IN THE KEYS
ACCORDING TO OTHER LOCALS:**

Key Lime Products in Key Largo
Key Lime Pie Bakery in Key West
Kermit's Key Lime Shoppe in Key West
Blue Heaven in Key West
Old Town Bakery in Key West

MAKE YOUR OWN
AUTHENTIC
KEY WEST KEY LIME PIE

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 egg yolks
- 6 egg whites
- 1/2 c. key lime juice
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 t. cream of tartar
- pinch of salt

DIRECTIONS:

1. Beat egg yolks until lemon in color, then blend in the condensed milk.
2. Slowly add lime juice and salt and mix well.
3. Add the cream of tartar to the egg whites and beat until foamy.
4. Continue beating, adding sugar one tablespoon at a time until egg whites peak.
5. Fold six tablespoons of the meringue into the filling mixture and pour into a 9-inch graham cracker pie shell.
6. Top with the remaining meringue, sealing the edges carefully.
7. Bake in a slow oven at 330 degrees until golden brown.



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BELOCAL

For advertising info, contact the publisher of this magazine.

LOCAL TIP



"It's hard not to be smiling here. You'll make friends quickly with a happy face and warm 'hello!' - Arlee S.

IGUANAS FALLING FROM TREES ARE FROZEN, NOT DEAD.

Do not try to touch one or pick one up. You will be bitten! Hands off!

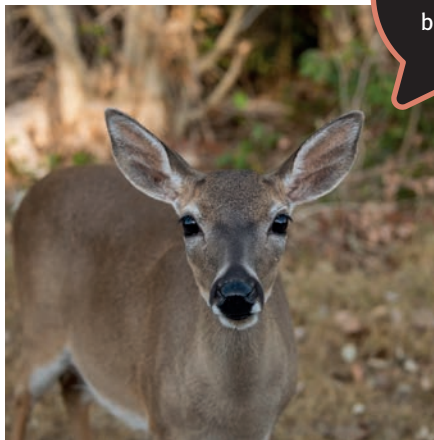


ONLY THE
locals
know

▲ IN THIS PHOTO
Casitas at Cheeca Lodge



**THE KEY
DEER ARE
ADORABLE**
but not to
be fed.



If you want to hang out at **Bahia Honda**, arrive before 10 a.m., especially on the weekends. The park closes when they reach capacity, and you do not want to miss this place.

Off the parking lot at **Coco Plum Beach**, a sandy trail goes off to the left through the trees parallel to the ocean. You'll find many secluded sandy spots where you can set up your chair, your cooler, and your towel and spend the day on your own little "beach."

LOCAL TIP



"Coco Plum Beach is the best place for dogs! I'm friendly and well-

behaved, so I can be off the leash with my humans nearby. Come early in the morning and play with other canine friends!" - **Lucy the Weimaraner**



Tonio's is the best stop after a day in Key West. Laid-back atmosphere, live music, and a grouper sandwich beyond compare.

Anne's Beach is the place to be amazed by the kite surfers. Watch them flip around and catch air for hours. Parking is a premium, but there are small lots at each end.

Crane Point Hammock in Marathon has a walking path tucked away off the bike path heading toward Islamorada. Beautiful views of the water and eye-catching flora and fauna. Be sure to wear good shoes (no flip-flops here) for this short hike through jungle-like surroundings.

Coco Plum Beach is a surprisingly sandy beach in the Middle Keys. Decent parking available and restrooms on-site. Hang for the day or just stroll along the water's edge. Dogs are welcome here!

The nasty, sulphur smell that invades your olfactory sensors is really just rotting sargassum seaweed and other organic matter collecting along the beach.



WHAT IS THE "keys," disease?

You know you've got it when...

SYMPTOMS OF THE KEYS DISEASE MAY INCLUDE:

- Intense cravings for a piece of key lime pie
- Wearing your sunglasses on cloudy days
- Sneaking shots of tequila in your morning coffee
- Believing that "sunset" is a time of day
- Counting down the days 'til your next trip

SOME PEOPLE WITH KEYS DISEASE HAVE EXPERIENCED THE FOLLOWING:

- Laziness
- Calling off work and fishing all day
- Laying on the beach
- Going to happy hour every day of the week
- Daily day drinking
- Doing the bare minimum
- Leaving the house without shoes
- Constant buzz

AWARENESS IS THE 'KEY'
TO NOT CONTRACTING
THE KEYS DISEASE!

island hopping

KEYS STYLE



OVER 113 MILES, 42 BRIDGES,
AND 44 ISLANDS FROM KEY LARGO
TO KEY WEST

KEY LARGO
TAVERNIER
PLANTATION KEY
UPPER MATECUMBE KEY
ISLAMORADA
LAYTON
CONCH KEYS
DUCK KEY
GRASSY KEY
KEY COLONY BEACH
MARATHON
BIG PINE KEY
LITTLE TORCH KEY
SUMMERLAND KEY
CUDJOE KEY
SUGARLOAF KEY
BIG COPPITT KEY
STOCK ISLAND
KEY WEST



Resident Writer, Madeline Rousseau

WELCOME
TO MY
PARADISE

i love
Islamorada!

THE VILLAGE OF ISLANDS!



I LOVE Islamorada is more than a phrase—it's a vibrant Facebook community full of locals, businesses, and visitors celebrating everything that makes Islamorada special. Scan the QR code and join us online to discover the magic for yourself. You'll fall in Love with Islamorada just like I have!

NESTLED BETWEEN MILE MARKERS 90 AND 72,

Islamorada stretches across six islands and feels worlds away from mainland life, despite being only a short drive from Miami. With endless summer weather, glowing sunsets, and a strong "support local" spirit, this island community is truly one of a kind.

Known as the Sport Fishing Capital of the World, Islamorada boasts the highest concentration of professional offshore and backcountry charter boats. It's the birthplace of backcountry and saltwater fly fishing, offering anglers access to thriving reefs, the deep Atlantic, and the shallow flats of Florida Bay. From tarpon and bonefish to sailfish, the adventures are endless—and local restaurants will happily "cook your catch" for the freshest meal imaginable.

Below the surface, Islamorada's waters hold part of the world's third-largest coral reef system, filled with tropical fish, shipwrecks, and vibrant coral gardens. Local dive shops offer everything from guided snorkel tours to shark dives and coral restoration experiences. For paddleboarders and kayakers, mangrove tunnels and quiet seagrass meadows reveal a peaceful, untouched side of the Keys. And for snorkelers, sunset lovers, and sightseers, Captain Mike with MyKeys Tours of Islamorada is always a top recommendation.

On land, visitors enjoy state parks, nature trails, unique geological formations, and iconic stops like Robbie's Marina. Boutique hotels, waterfront resorts, local dining, and island-inspired art galleries create Islamorada's upscale, small-town charm—especially magical during the mild winter season.

Looking for the ultimate Florida Keys experience?

Hop aboard a private charter with Capt. Mike & MyKeysTours of Islamorada—your go-to for snorkeling, sandbar fun, sightseeing, eco tours, and unforgettable sunrises and sunsets. Crystal-clear water, warm sunshine, and memories that last a lifetime await.

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MYKEYS
TOURS OF ISLAMORADA



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Madeline Rousseau
Owner/Founder
352-274-2407



The Keys is known for its unique boutiques that showcase local flavor and flair. Get your shopping shoes on, grab a shopping buddy, and enjoy some retail therapy!



UPPER KEYS

Her Swag Shop

[Key Largo](#)

A sanctuary where women shine as their truest selves. Flowing dresses, handcrafted jewelry, and soulful gifts, each crafted by global artisans.

RR Island Boutique

[Key Largo](#)

A women's clothing boutique offering a relaxed & rejuvenated shopping experience & atmosphere, with very affordable prices.

Miss Monroe Boutique

[Islamorada](#)

Shoppers say this is the “go-to” for jewelry! Find a little gem for yourself, and then pick up treats for friends. Always new things to check out and budget-friendly on top of that!

Wild Lily Boutique

[Islamorada](#)

While you're browsing the gorgeous designer clothing and accessories, you might even receive some local recommendations! The owner loves her customers and the Keys.

Zero Dress Code

[Islamorada](#)

Looking for clothing that captures the Keys vibe? The items here are eclectic and fit in with the lifestyle of the Keys. If you are looking for something special to wear, this is a must-visit shop.

Olive Morada

[Islamorada](#)

Specializing in unique infused olive oils, balsamic vinegars, and island gifts, you will find gifts for the cook lover, food enthusiast, and something for yourself. They also carry Florida spices, sauces, and custom island gifts and gift baskets.

shop
TIL YOU
drop!



MIDDLE KEYS

D'Asign Source

Marathon

After 60 years of business, this place knows what they are doing when it comes to designing your dream home or outdoor entertainment space. Maybe you're searching for that perfect piece of furniture, or you're ready to remodel. You'll find the experts in architecture, construction, landscape and interior design right here in Marathon.

The Tackle Box » Marathon

Providing everything you need to fish in the Florida Keys!

DK's Beach Boutique » Key Colony Beach

Cute finds for everyone in the family! Shoppers agree that this is a very cool store with stylish items at reasonable prices. Not only clothes but accessories too, from all over the world. The owner and her staff received rave reviews!

Bayshore Clothing » Marathon

Family-owned business since 1988 with wonderful selection of clothing and jewelry. Hats, custom jewelry, sun-protection apparel and name-brand items for everyone in the family. Owners are super friendly and knowledgeable about the islands.

Curvy Conch » Marathon

High-quality selection of missy, junior, and plus-sized women's clothing from dresses, skirts, and tops to swimwear, jewelry, and lots of accessories! Great place for a girls' shopping day!

Isla Bella's The Marketplace

Marathon

The best shopping experience in the Middle Keys! Gifts, coffee, food, clothing, and island home decor. People describe this spot as "hip, urban, and modern." A must-visit.

LOCAL TIP



"Pack your patience.

Visitors are constantly amazed at the views and aren't sure where to turn. Locals know where they're going and how to get there." - **Trish K.**



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LOWER KEYS

Low Key Tye Dye

Lots of unusual clothing and tie-dye everything! Dog-friendly spot where you will find headbands, dresses with pockets, skirts, tops, shorts, silver jewelry, tapestries to adorn your walls, and a bumper sticker for your car!

Island Dreams Decor

Big Pine Key

Outdoor furniture made in the USA! Wicker items, seating arrangements, replacement cushions, unique gifts, and island home furnishings are all waiting for your home in the Keys.



KEY WEST

FLOAT

Built on a dream inspired by the island itself, FLOAT is a chic & stylish fashion boutique in the heart of downtown Key West. Located in a 100-year-old historic conch house, the bright & airy space is a treasure trove of carefully curated clothing & accessories that embrace the island lifestyle. With a focus on quality fabrics, vibrant patterns & joyful pops of color, we offer pieces that range from every day wear to date night, girls night out or a casual Sunday brunch.

The Island Mercantile

Nestled in the heart of Key West's historic Old Seaport, The Island Mercantile is a haven of effortless luxury and coastal charm. The boutique offers a carefully curated selection of exclusive Italian beachwear, blending sun-kissed sophistication with island ease, alongside an eclectic array of designer curios to elevate your style. Each piece is hand-selected to bring a touch of European elegance to your tropical retreat. Two great locations to serve you best! » 804 Caroline Street » 811 Fleming Street



Mine Shaft Designs

Unique and one-of-a-kind jewelry! Coins from Greece and treasures from the Atocha are perfect for lovers of history and jewelry combined. You won't find mass productions here, but you will find custom, handmade pieces of jewelry that will last a lifetime.



Tucker's Provisions

Part general store, part dry goods store, Tucker's has it all. Find just what you need for beach days, birthdays, anniversaries, or first dates. Shoppers say you'll find great customer service here and will likely return for more!



Local Color

Over 30 years in business and still going! Funky, fun store for tropical designs and designer jewelry, including raw stones. Huge selection of clothing and helpful staff. Go in to browse, come out with two rings, a shirt, and a beautiful dress!

LOCAL > SHOPPING

Besame Mucho

Wonderful, welcoming setting with carefully curated selection of small luxuries. Cards, lotions, candles, and minimalist jewelry will catch your eye and you might even find your favorite soap here. Beautiful store to wander around and delight all your senses!

Stingray Steve

Shoppers love Steve's because it's not the typical tourist shop. He carries HUK items not to be found anywhere else and has the best selection of activewear. Casual and dressy dresses, rash guards, and solar protective clothing all have a place at Steve's!

Green Pineapple Boutique

Welcome to a place of nourishment for your mind, body, and spirit. Browse the gorgeous array of men's and women's apparel, handmade jewelry, and accessories while sipping a delicious concoction from the cafe. Take your body through a yoga class to finish off your visit. Eco-conscious boutique right on Duval Street.

Royal Furniture

A wide selection of furniture is not the only great find here! Design and remodeling are also offered! Customers say they have friendly service and go the extra mile to make you happy. It truly is a one-stop shop.



LOCAL LORE

The original owner of Audubon House and Gardens, Captain Geiger, is said to be seen roaming around in the gardens to keep an eye on his fortune, which legend says is buried there.



By Chad Huff, Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

▶▶ FIGHT THE BITE ◀◀

AND CONTROL PESKY MOSQUITOES

There is a good reason why calling the Florida Keys home is a dream come true for thousands of residents — breathtaking views, abundant water, unspoiled mangroves and wetlands that stretch on for miles.

Many of those reasons are why mosquitoes attempt to make their home along the same 120-mile-long island chain. They are not new residents as they have been here for eons. Throughout various times in history, certain species have even infected thousands of their human neighbors with terrible diseases such as Yellow Fever and Dengue Fever.

Enter the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District (FKMCD).

Monroe County recognized early on that organized mosquito control had to be a priority in order for people to share and enjoy this strip of paradise so far off the beaten path. Funded by property taxes, FKMCD has evolved into a recognized, national leader in organized mosquito control, utilizing a system of integrated pest management to keep the local, potentially dangerous, mosquito population in check. Today, FKMCD utilizes nearly 40 specially trained “inspectors” to maintain the front lines of the ongoing battle, while four helicopters, two airplanes and several “fog trucks” are frequently called in for support.

One of these trained inspectors is available to come to **your** property to research and help solve any particular mosquito control problem you may have. Residents can place a service request by going to the website: keysmosquito.org or by calling 305-292-7190. When not responding to service requests, the FKMCD inspectors are responsible for certain assigned neighborhoods where they go “door to door” in an ongoing effort to prevent or eliminate mosquito breeding habitats. If an official FKMCD inspector knocks on your door, they will always be in uniform. Please allow them access to the property; it is in the best interest of the entire community.

The experts at FKMCD say that more than 60 varieties of mosquito can be found in the Florida Keys, but it is two that demand the most attention and resources.

The first is the *Aedes aegypti*, an urban mosquito that if found almost exclusively in man-made containers and thrives where humans choose to live, never straying far from where they are hatched from eggs. Even though this species comprises a SMALL percentage of the total mosquito population in the Florida Keys, it spreads nearly **ALL** of the mosquito-borne disease. If you have

containers in your yard that hold even a small amount of fresh water, you may be harboring this potentially dangerous mosquito.

The second is *Aedes taeniorhynchus*, or black salt marsh mosquito, which comprises the vast majority of the local mosquito population. A very aggressive biter, *Aedes taeniorhynchus* is found in and around wetlands where standing water is prevalent. This species is known to migrate in large numbers from the Everglades into the Upper Keys, however, they are not known as carriers of most mosquito-borne diseases.

Regardless of the mosquito involved, the experts at the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District are here to help you with any current or potential mosquito issue. Mosquito larvae are found in water, so to fight the bite, dump all standing water on your property weekly. Even if you just have questions, feel free to contact FKMCD via the website, keysmosquito.org, or by calling 305-292-7190.

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BY DUMPING
THE WATER**

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LOCAL TIP



"Dr. Dunn is the best at
Keys Animal Hospital!"

- Remington



CANINES IN THE KEYS!

and cats and birds and lizards

We're thrilled you're here and glad your furry friends made the move with you. We know your pets are an important part of the family and finding the best services in a new community is top priority.

veterinaries/hospitals



Upper Keys

- ▶ **Orcat** ▶ 97 S. Harbor Dr., Key Largo
(305) 367-4701
- ▶ **Animal Care Clinic** ▶ 100660 Overseas Hwy., Key Largo ▶ (305) 453-0044
- ▶ **Upper Keys Veterinary Hospital**
7801 Overseas Hwy., Islamorada
(305) 852-3665
- ▶ **The Animal Hospital of Islamorada**
82771 Overseas Hwy., Islamorada
(305) 664-0011

Middle Keys

- ▶ **Keys Animal Hospital** ▶ 11425 Overseas Hwy., Marathon ▶ (305) 743-6250
- ▶ **Marathon Veterinary Hospital**
5001 Overseas Hwy., Marathon
(305) 743-7099
- ▶ **Cruz Animal Hospital** ▶ 27063 Overseas Hwy., Ramrod Key ▶ (305) 872-2559

Lower Keys and Key West

- ▶ **Keys Animal Care Center** ▶ 501 Overseas Hwy., Key West ▶ (305) 296-4220
- ▶ **Lower Keys Animal Clinic** ▶ 1456 Kennedy Dr., Key West ▶ (305) 294-6335
- ▶ **All Animal Clinic** ▶ 450 MacDonald Ave., Stock Island ▶ (305) 294-5255
- ▶ **Florida Keys SPCA Inc.**
5711 College Rd., Key West

LOCAL LORE

Key West is home to 'mitten' cats, and rumor has it they came to America via Ernest Hemingway, who was given a white, six-toed feline on board a ship to the Keys.

animal rescue shelters

Upper Keys

- ▶ **Humane Animal Care Coalition**
105951 Overseas Hwy., Key Largo
- ▶ **Upper Keys Humane Society Inc**
101617 Overseas Hwy., Key Largo

Middle Keys

- ▶ **FKSPCA** ▶ 10550 Aviation Blvd., Marathon
- ▶ **American Pet Association**
29161 Allamanda Ln., Big Pine Key



groomers

Lower Keys and Key West

- ▶ **C.Bark And Bath Pet Grooming** ▶ 102900 Overseas Hwy., Key Largo ▶ (305) 916-5041
- ▶ **The Barker Shop** ▶ 95355 Overseas Hwy., Key Largo, FL 33037 ▶ (305) 783-6195
- ▶ **Grannie's Bed Bone and Spa** ▶ 88165 Overseas Hwy. #2, Islamorada, FL 33036 ▶ (305) 852-4644
- ▶ **Salty Dog Pet Grooming LLC** ▶ 11400 Overseas Hwy. #101, Marathon, FL 33050 ▶ (305) 922-2535
- ▶ **Salty Paws Pet Spa** ▶ 3255 Flagler Ave. #306, Key West, FL 33040 ▶ (305) 394-1586
- ▶ **Grooming By John** ▶ 1014 Truman Ave., Key West, FL 33040 ▶ (305) 294-5082



Check out the dining guide for the locals' favorite restaurants that are also Fido-friendly!



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a stroll in the park (or at the beach!)

Here are some of the locals' favorite pet-friendly parks and beaches

Harry Harris Beach and Park ▶ Tavernier | **Picnic Island** ▶ Summerland Key | **Sombrero Beach** ▶ Marathon
Sunset Park ▶ Key Colony Beach | **Founders Park Beach, Playground and Picnic Area** ▶ Islamorada
Marathon's Dog Park (Rotary Park) ▶ Marathon | **Oceanfront Park** ▶ Marathon | **Veteran's Memorial Park** ▶ Big Pine Key
Higgs Memorial Beach Park ▶ Key West | **Dog Beach** ▶ Key West

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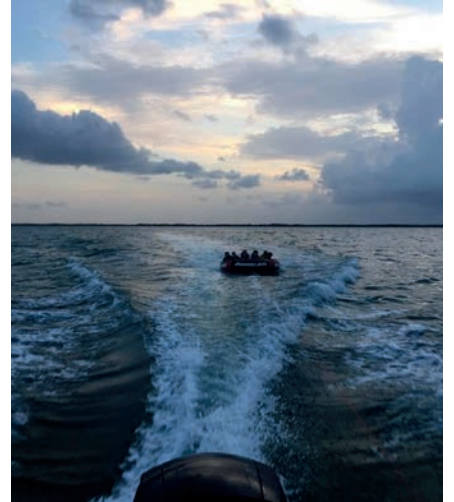




riding the waves

IN PARADISE

By Joey Tinster



Welcome to our corner of true paradise! There is nothing in the world like being out on the water in the Florida Keys. Anytime I can be on the boat is my favorite time to go boating or fishing! The older I get, the more I enjoy just going to the sandbars on the weekends and hanging out with my friends. Watching the sun disappear over the horizon is one of the most spectacular things the Keys have to offer. I suggest taking full advantage of our incredible views, as well as getting in some quality fishing time. It's good for the soul. A perfect day is being on a boat, feeling the fresh and invigorating breeze as the salt-water spray fills your senses.

When it's time for lunch, you'll want to stop and enjoy the great food of our Keys restaurants. Some of my favorite spots are Kiki Sandbar on Big Pine Key, Hogfish Bar & Grill and Perry Hotel on Stock Island. Of course, grilling on the boat is a wonderful way to dine with friends or loved ones. Don't forget the cold beverages!

WHEN YOU'RE HEADING OUT ON THE WATER, YOU WANT TO BE SURE YOUR BOAT IS PROPERLY MAINTAINED. HERE ARE SOME SAFETY TIPS:

- 1 **Check all your safety gear** before going out.
- 2 **File a float plan** with a friend or neighbor.
- 3 Even if you have a brand-new boat, **purchase tow boat U.S. or Sea Tow membership**. Neighbors and locals are helpful, but it's always better to be self-sufficient.
- 4 Make sure you **take enough provisions** for everyone on board, and keep everyone hydrated.
- 5 **GPS monitor locators** are cheap, and in an emergency, you have a way to send a distress call quickly. A newer GPS with the local chart card makes navigating much easier and is a lot less expensive than having motor damage.





Remember, we live on a rock! Preventative maintenance is the best way to prolong the investment of a boat. We live in an area where the sun and salt are just brutal on boats. Annual services are great for catching things that may be deteriorating. Since the four-stroke engine came along, people stopped pulling the cowling off, because the motors just start automatically. It used to be with the old two-smokers, the cowling was off just to leave the dock, so boaters were more aware of corrosion or water leaks. So be aware that just because you can't see it happening, does not mean there aren't issues arising. Also, detailing your boat on a windy day, or having it professionally done, will help with upkeep on the interior.

If fishing is your thing, you're in the right place. Florida Keys is known for having some of the best fishing spots in the world. For sport fish, we have the occasional Marlin, Sailfish, Bonefish, Tarpon, and Permit. These are targeted for catch and release. For Pelagic fish that make a great supper, there are Mahi Mahi (dolphin, dorado), Wahoo, and Blackfin tuna. Occasionally, you'll hear of someone catching a yellowfin tuna or bluefin tuna.

The fast-growing Deep Drop fishing industry offers some snowy grouper, swordfish, tilefish and rosy snapper. On the edge of the reef and on the patch, there is plentiful grouper (red, gag, and black are the most targeted), yellowtail and mangrove snapper, mutton, and the occasional red snapper. On the patch reefs within free diving range, most fishermen go after Hogfish snapper. In the backcountry for flats boat fishing, the most targeted are barracuda sharks, sea trout, bonefish, permit, and sometimes snook. Most people come down here for offshore trolling as we are known for having some of the best in the world.

There are a multitude of Fishing Charters with knowledgeable captains and guides all throughout the Keys, ready to assist you with whatever you need. Remember, you're in paradise. So be sure to take time to soak in the sun and enjoy your time out on the water. The sun feels different here, and you'll never want to be anywhere else.


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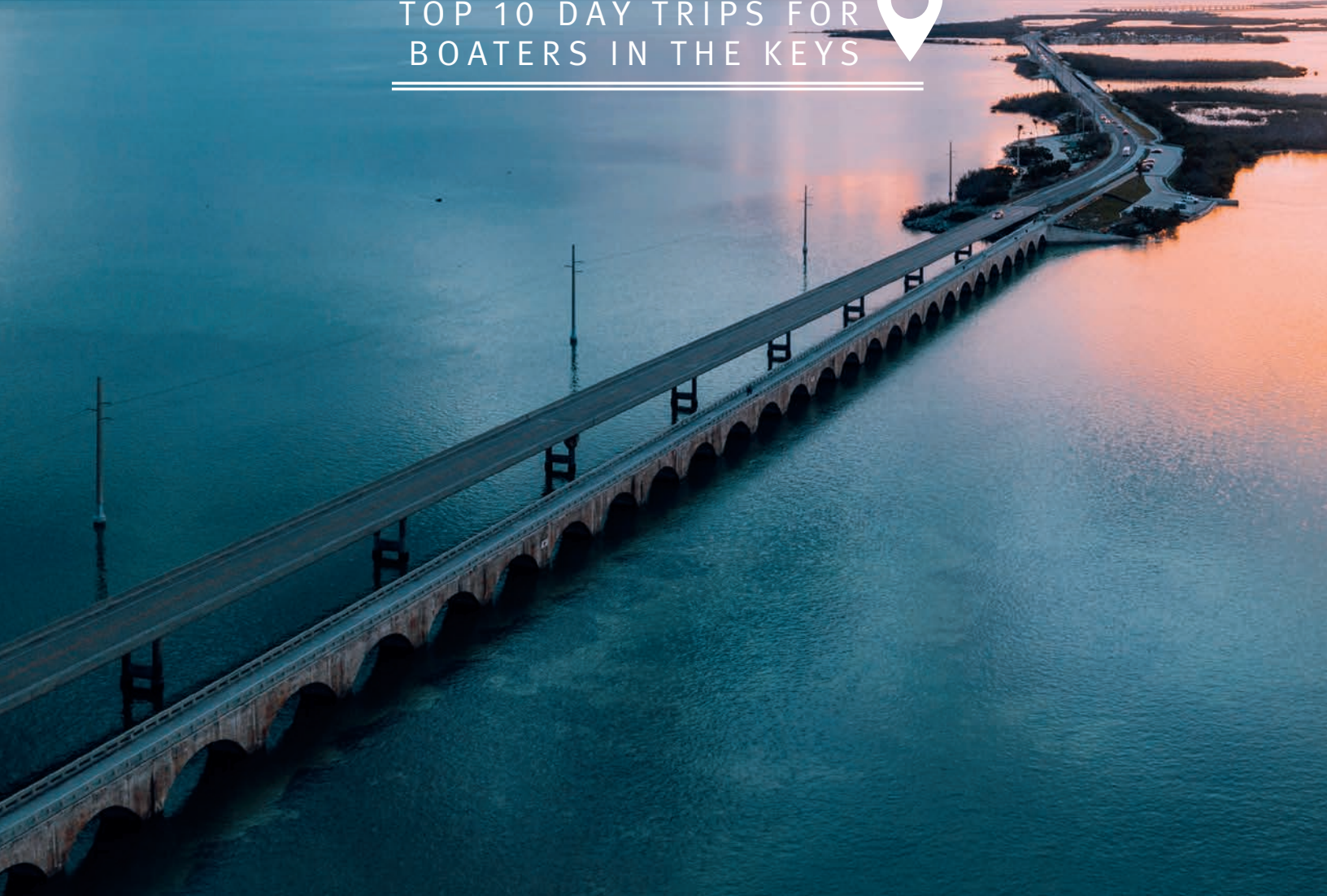
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LOCAL › BOATING DAY TRIPS



DAY TRIPPIN',

TOP 10 DAY TRIPS FOR
BOATERS IN THE KEYS





UPPER KEYS

1. THE JOHN PENNEKAMP CORAL REEF AND STATE PARK

is the first underwater park in the United States and is located in Key Largo. Enjoy snorkeling or scuba diving the 70-nautical-square-mile park. You can also take a nature walk on one of the short trails.



2. SPEND YOUR DAY SNORKELING OR DIVING THE MOLASSES REEF.

This reef is located just Southeast of Key Largo and is known for its colorful reef, clear water, and marine life. On the north side of the reef is depths of only 10-15 feet, which makes it the perfect snorkeling destination. If you're looking to dive, head to the southwest end of the reef to find depths up to 65 feet!

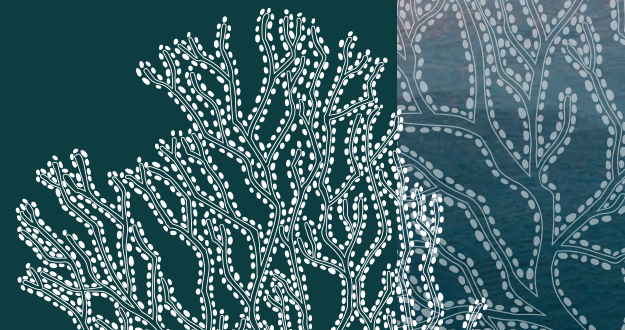
3. TAKE A TRIP TO THE EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK IF YOU LOOKING FOR SOME ADVENTURE!

Get aboard an airboat and see the nature around you. Keep your eyes peeled for alligators, manatees, and other marine life. You may also take a slower approach and rent kayaks for the day. The Everglades is a destination you won't want to miss out on.



4. THE ISLAMORADA SANDBAR IS LOCATED LESS THAN A MILE FROM MILE MARKER 84.

This sandbar is the perfect spot to anchor up and enjoy a barbecue with the family on the water. This sandbar also welcomes four-legged first mates.





MIDDLE KEYS

5. IF YOU ENJOY SNORKELING OR DIVING, YOU HAVE TO CHECK OUT ALLIGATOR REEF LIGHTHOUSE.

In 1825, the USS Alligator was a ship that sank there in the shallow waters and is now a beautiful reef. It is now home to coral and over 500 different species of marine life.

6. THE SOMBRERO KEY LIGHTHOUSE IS LOCATED OFF OF VACA KEY AND IS THE TALLEST LIGHTHOUSE IN THE KEYS.

This destination is also the largest reef in the Middle Keys. The depth ranges from 5-35 feet so whether you are an experienced diver or not, it's perfect for diving or just spending the day snorkeling.

7. ENJOY A DAY TRIP TO BAHIA HONDA STATE PARK, LOCATED AT MILE MARKER 37.

Whether you decide to head out on a snorkeling tour or rent a kayak for the day. This state park has plenty of activities for the whole family to enjoy.



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LOWER KEYS

8. LOOE KEY IS A SANCTUARY PRESERVATION AREA THAT IS LOCATED 5.5 MILES FROM RAMROD KEY. This is home to over 50 different species of coral and over 150 different species of fish. If you're looking to grab lunch, head to the Looe Key Resort Tiki Bar. They have live music and entertainment every day!

9. IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A RELAXING BEACH DAY, HEAD TO THE BOCA GRANDE KEY SANDBAR. It is 183 acres in size and is located in the Outlying Islands of the Florida Keys, it is the largest and westernmost of the Mule Keys that are 9 miles west of Key West. There are also several shipwrecks nearby if you're looking to snorkel or dive.



10. SPEND YOUR DAY AT THE DRY TORTUGAS. It is known for Fort Jefferson, one of the largest forts ever built, dating back to 1846–1875. Grab your snorkel gear and head out to the reefs and boat wreck. The only way to reach the dry Tortugas is by scheduled ferry, boat, or seaplane.





VISIT OUR STUNNING state parks!

Welcome to the land of some of the most stunning state parks in the country. Although you won't find mountains to climb, you can explore all the underwater wonders found in the Keys.

LOCAL LORE

The pirate Black Caesar, or Henri Caesar, is said to have buried between \$2 million and \$6 million in treasure across several islands in the area.

BAHIA HONDA STATE PARK, BIG PINE KEY

Immensely popular, Bahia Honda State Park's sandy beaches, gin-clear waters, and magnificent sunsets make for a relaxing day. Rent a kayak or snorkeling gear and take a trip to the reef for amazing snorkeling. Bahia Honda has two beaches — Loggerhead Beach on the Atlantic side and Calusa Beach on the bay. The Buttonwood campground, the Bayside tent sites, and six cabins are available for reservations.



JOHN PENNEKAMP CORAL REEF STATE PARK, KEY LARGO

The first undersea park in the United States, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, and the adjacent Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, cover approximately 178 nautical square miles of coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove swamps. Bring your scuba gear, snorkel stuff, kayak, or paddle board, hike the Mangrove Nature Trail, or take a ride in a glass-bottom boat!

Their glass-bottom tours are accessible to those in wheelchairs, however, the vessel does not have oversized marine heads (restrooms). John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park also has a wheelchair-friendly snorkeling vessel, *Encounter*, which features wheelchair tie-downs as well as an oversized marine head.

DAGNY JOHNSON KEY LARGO HAMMOCK BOTANICAL STATE PARK, KEY LARGO

Home to 84 protected species of plants and animals, including wild cotton, mahogany mistletoe, and the American crocodile, Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park offers six miles of nature trails perfect for birdwatchers and photographers.



FORT ZACHARY TAYLOR HISTORIC STATE PARK, KEY WEST

A true one-of-a-kind experience, visiting Fort Taylor not only provides a magnificent natural setting to bird-watch or swim but also to immerse yourself in history. The southernmost state park in the continental United States, Fort Taylor houses the largest cache of Civil War armament in the world. History buffs will be amazed wandering through the corridors past cannon and gun ports. Sun and sand lovers can relax and bask on Key West's favorite beach.





LONG KEY STATE PARK, LAYTON

A tranquil haven for bird-watching, swimming, kayaking or relaxing on the shoreline, Long Key State Park offers trails and lagoons that provide a close-up look at the variety of natural plant and animal communities in the Keys. Kayaking, hiking, birding, picnicking, flats fishing, and snorkeling are just the start of your adventures!

WINDLEY KEY FOSSIL REEF GEOLOGICAL STATE PARK, ISLAMORADA

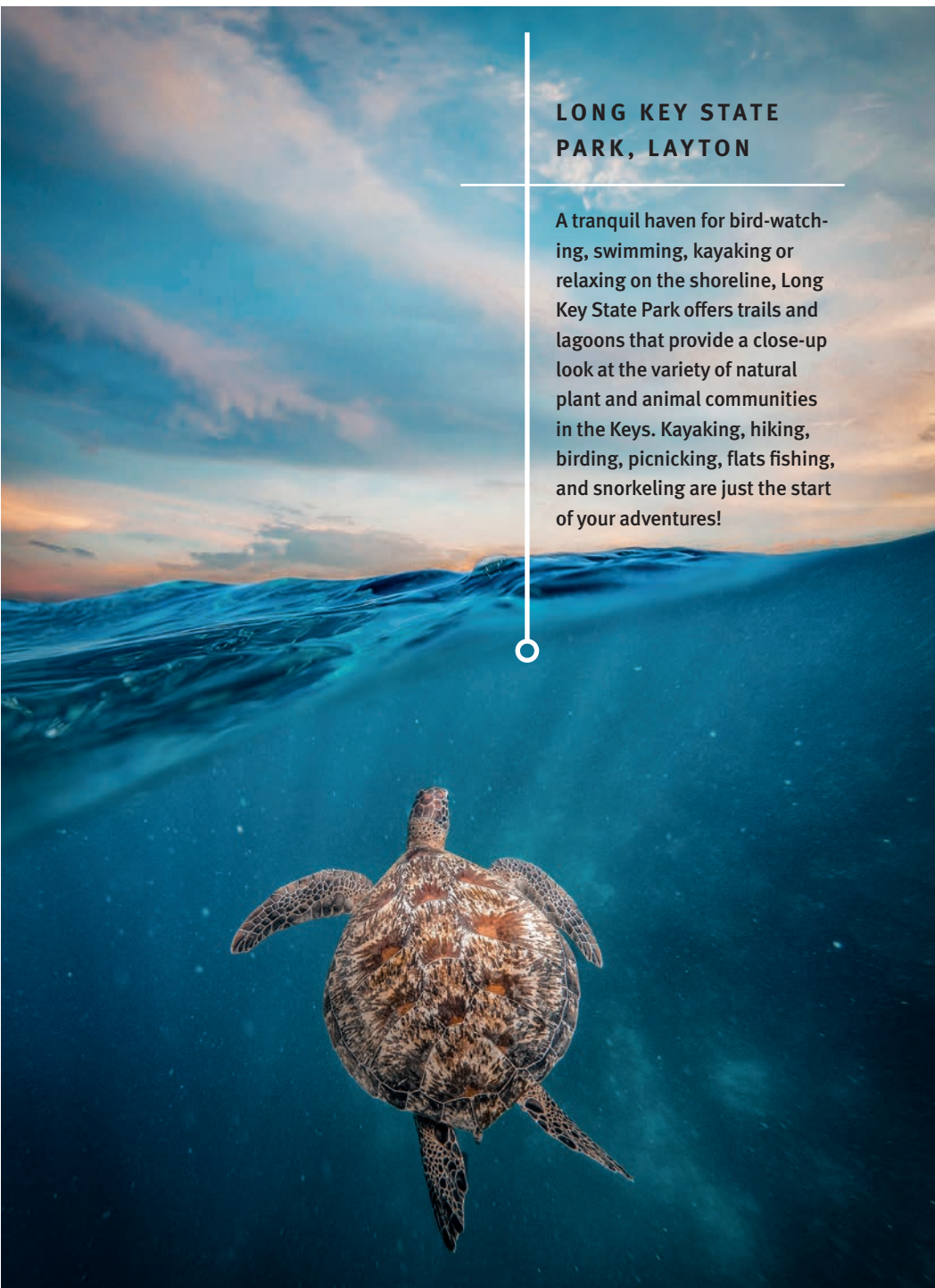
Step back in time and discover the former quarry! Formed of Key Largo limestone, or fossilized coral, this land was sold to the Florida East Coast Railroad, which used the stone to build Henry Flagler's Overseas Railroad in the early 1900s. Today, visitors can walk along 80-foot-high quarry walls to see cross-sections of the ancient coral and learn about the quarry and its operation. Visitors can enjoy the natural beauty of this island while strolling five short self-guided trails. Picnic tables are available.

LIGNUMVITAE KEY BOTANICAL STATE PARK, ISLAMORADA

Accessible only by boat or kayak, Lignumvitae Key Botanical State Park offers camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, and much more! Filled with flora, fauna, birds, and wildlife, the tropical hardwood hammock that thrives on this island was once common on the highest elevations in the Upper Keys.

CURRY HAMMOCK STATE PARK, MARATHON

The largest undeveloped parcel of land between Key Largo and Big Pine Key, Curry Hammock provides vital habitat for many local and migrating species and hosts record numbers of peregrine falcons every fall. On calm days, paddlers come and go finding their own quiet slice of paradise, and on windy, wild days, the park bubbles with the activity and excitement of kiteboarders.



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JUNGLE JAMBOREE, ISLAMORADA

Free concerts one Saturday each month, November through April. Bring your dog for the Pooch Parade! Fun for the whole family.



OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS TO CHECK OUT:

- ▶ Old Island Days Arts Festival, Key West
- ▶ Pigeon Key Art Festival
- ▶ Third Thursday Morada Way Art Walk, Islamorada
- ▶ BayJam Music Festival, Plantation Key
- ▶ Art Festival Weekend (April)
- ▶ Robert Frost Poetry Festival
- ▶ Stock Island Art Stroll (April)
- ▶ Annual Underwater Music Festival (July)
- ▶ Annual Island Art Fair, Big Pine Key (December)

DON'T BE LATE!

Arrive early to explore the galleries before sunset, then enjoy the evening as the district comes alive with music, food, and local art. You may just discover your new favorite artist, or the perfect piece of the Keys to take home.



MORADA WAY ART WALK ▶ AN EVENING OF CREATIVITY IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

If you're looking for one of the most authentic cultural experiences in the Florida Keys, be sure to mark your calendar for the Morada Way Art Walk in Islamorada. Held on the **third Thursday of every month from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM**, this beloved community event transforms the Morada Way Arts & Cultural District into a vibrant celebration of art, music, food, and local culture.

Located at Mile Marker 81.5 in the heart of Islamorada, the Art Walk showcases the incredible talent of Keys artists and makers. Visitors can stroll through galleries and studios, meet local artists, enjoy live music, sample food and beverages, and browse unique handcrafted items that capture the spirit of island life.

The event has become a treasured tradition in the Upper Keys, bringing together

residents and visitors in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. From paintings and photography to ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, and mixed-media creations, the variety of artwork on display reflects the creativity and natural beauty that make the Florida Keys such an inspiring place to live.

One of the highlights of the evening is the opportunity to meet the artists themselves. Many creators are on-site to discuss their work, share their inspiration, and offer insight into their creative process. It's a wonderful way to connect with the local community while discovering one-of-a-kind pieces for your home.

Beyond the art, the event offers a true Keys experience. Live music fills the streets, local vendors offer delicious food and refreshments, and neighbors gather

to enjoy an evening outdoors under the tropical sky. The combination of creativity, community, and island charm makes the Art Walk one of the most enjoyable monthly events in Islamorada.

For new residents, the Morada Way Art Walk is an excellent introduction to the culture of the Florida Keys. It's a chance to meet local business owners, artists, and fellow neighbors while experiencing the laid-back lifestyle that makes Islamorada so special.

Whether you're an avid art collector, decorating a new home, or simply looking for a memorable evening out, the Morada Way Art Walk offers something for everyone. Come experience why this monthly gathering has become one of the Keys' most celebrated traditions.

www.moradaway.org

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