

DIRECTIONS

BY AIR

Both the Key West and Marathon airports have commercial and charter service, plus rental car service. American Eagle, ASA, Cape Air, Continental Connection, Delta Connection, Discover Air and US Airways Express provide service to Key West. Florida Coastal Airlines provides service to Marathon. The Marathon airport is approximately 110 miles south of Miami; Key West airport, 158 miles. For specific flight information contact the Marathon airport at (305) 289-6060 or the Key West airport at (305) 296-5439.

BY LAND

A leisurely drive from Miami. Bypass the traffic of the City of Miami by taking I-95, I-75, or FL-836 to the Florida Turnpike, south to the Overseas Highway. Card Sound Road offers an alternate route to Key Largo. The Greyhound Keys Shuttle (1-800-231-2222) serves the Florida Keys, Miami Int'l. Airport, Marathon airport and Key West airport. Once you arrive in the Florida Keys, you may not need a car. In Key West you can park at the Park-n-Ride garage at 300 Grinnell Street in Old Town. You'll do and see more on foot. Potential RV Camping visitors should consult with our RV Camping grounds for advanced reservations.

BY SEA

Sail through a national marine sanctuary. All channels are well-marked. Marinas abound. And dock space is readily available.

A MARKER FOR EVERY MILE

Down here in the Keys, the Overseas Highway is like our Main Street. And the best way to get around is to know the mile marker of your destination. These little green signs that dot our highway every mile begin just south of Florida City with number 127 and run all the way down to zero in Key West. They're like our addresses. If you know the mile marker of where you're going, getting there is easy.

CITY	MILE MARKER	APPROX. MILES FROM MIAMI	
Key Largo	118-90.7	58	106
Islamorada	90.7-63	76	
Marathon	63-47	111	
Big Pine Key	47-4	128	
Key West	4-0	159	

THE FLORIDA KEYS & KEY WEST
MONROE COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Come as you are®

fla-keys.com 1-800-FLA-KEYS

THE NUMBER ONE DIVE & SNORKELING

DESTINATION IN THE WORLD.



THE FLORIDA KEYS & KEY WEST
MONROE COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Come as you are®



ONE PLACE YOU'LL LOVE
DIVING INTO.

You can search the whole world over but you won't find a more versatile or breathtaking dive destination than the Florida Keys and Key West.

Our entire coastal area has been declared a National Marine Sanctuary. The crystal clear waters and abundant marine life are now officially protected by law to make sure everything remains as dazzling and pristine for all future generations. And when you finally don your mask and venture into the water,

you'll discover so many wondrous sights you'll wish you could stay down forever. From North America's only living coral reef, to a tremendous variety of sunken ships.

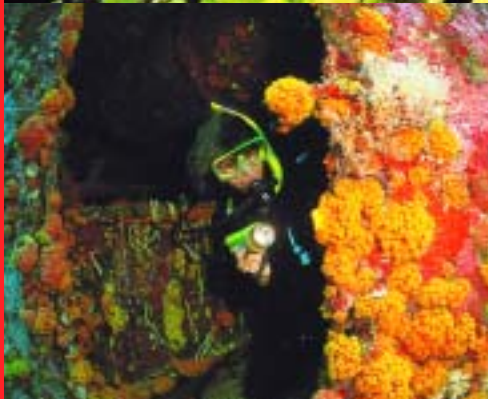
So come on down and explore the underwater majesty of the Florida Keys and Key West. And be prepared to stay a little longer than you had anticipated.



KEY LARGO

M M 118 - 9 0.7

KEY LARGO HAS HAD A LONG HISTORY OF MARINE CONSERVATION. BEGINNING IN 1960 WITH THE CREATION OF THE NATION'S FIRST UNDERSEA PRESERVE, JOHN PENNEKAMP CORAL REEF STATE PARK, AND THEN WITH THE DESIGNATION OF THE KEY LARGO NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY IN 1975, KEY LARGO HAS BEEN PROTECTED FROM SPEARFISHING AND CORAL COLLECTION FOR FOUR DECADES. NOW, AS AN INTEGRAL PORTION OF THE 2800 SQUARE NAUTICAL MILE FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY, KEY LARGO FEATURES SIX UNIQUE SANCTUARY PRESERVATION AREAS (SPAs) WHERE EVEN HOOK AND LINE FISHING IS PROHIBITED. NOWHERE ON EARTH HAS MORE FRIENDLY FISH THAN KEY LARGO, CREATING AN A B S O L U T E PARADISE FOR UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHERS! FOR MORE INFORMATION ON KEY LARGO, VISIT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT MILE MARKER 106. VISIT OUR WEB SITE: FLA-KEYS.COM/KEYLARGO, E-MAIL: KLCHAMBER@AOL.COM, OR SIMPLY C



- **STATUE OF CHRIST OF THE ABYSS** - This famed bronze statue of Christ is found amid a coral reef in just 25 feet of water, its outstretched arms beckoning divers and snorkelers to experience a rare and wonderful world of beauty.
- **MOLASSES REEF** - High profile coral heads and massive congregates of tropical marine life define this popular reef.
- **BENWOOD WRECK** - A casualty of World War II, this shipwreck is now home to huge schools of grunt and porkfish.
- **THE ELBOW** - This reef offers several historic shipwrecks, as well as the thrill of face-to-face encounters with friendly moray eels and barracuda.
- **BIBB AND DUANE** - These twin 327-foot U.S. Coast Guard cutters were sunk intentionally as dive attractions in 1987 and now are virtually cloaked in colorful coral and gorgonia.
- **SPIEGEL GROVE** - This 510-foot military vessel is the newest addition to the already impressive Key Largo shipwreck portfolio.



- **THE EAGLE** - This 287-foot ship was intentionally sunk in 110 feet of water as a dive attraction and rests on her starboard side cloaked in a colorful patina of encrusting sponge and coral, populated by huge schools of grunt, tarpon, and jack.

- **DAVIS REEF** - This reef is revered for its incredible concentration of grunts and schoolmaster snapper, as well as several amiable resident green morays, long accustomed to benign interaction with the divemasters.

- **ALLIGATOR REEF** - Now marked by a 136-foot tall lighthouse, on this spot in 1822 the USS Alligator grounded and sank while protecting a convoy from pirates. Now all that remains of the wreck are the twin piles of ballast stones, but the coral reef in just 25 feet of water is vibrant and alive.

- **CONCH WALL** - Offering an exciting change of pace from the normal spur-and-groove profiles of most Keys' reefs, Conch Wall presents a precipitous sloping wall and captivating concentrations of barrel sponge and gorgonia punctuating the seafloor.

- **CROCKER WALL** - A 450+ foot-long wall in 50 feet of water. The wall has a thirty foot decline and features grunts, yellow tail and grouper with spur-and-groove coral and black coral on the wall.

- **PICKLES REEF** - For macro photo enthusiasts, Pickles provides a wonderful opportunity to encounter the reef's minutia, from flamingo tongue cowries to banded coral shrimp, all amid a dynamic coral reef in only 15 to 25 feet of water.



ISLAMORADA

M M 9 0.7 - 6 3

ISLAMORADA, LONG RECOGNIZED AS THE "SPORT FISHING CAPITAL OF THE WORLD," IS NOW AN ICON AMONG SPORT DIVERS FOR MUCH THE SAME REASON, A MASSIVE POPULATION OF TROPICAL MARINE LIFE. HIGH PROFILE CORAL HEADS AND BROAD LEDGES SHELTER HUGE CONGREGATES OF FRENCH GRUNT AND GOATFISH, WHILE REGAL QUEEN ANGELFISH CASUALLY GRAZE AMID THE REEF RECESSES. FRIENDLY GREEN MORAY EELS SWIM FREELY ALONG THE SPUR-AND-GROOVE CHANNELS, AND RECLUSIVE NURSE SHARKS LURK BENEATH THE OVERHANGS. ISLAMORADA OFFERS A WIDE VARIETY OF SHALLOW CORAL REEFS, MINI WALLS, SHIPWRECKS, AND EVEN AN UNDERWATER HABITAT FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, THE AQUARIUS. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ISLAMORADA OR ANY OTHER MANNER OF LOCAL LORE, STOP BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT MILE MARKER 82.5. VISIT OUR WEB SITE: FLA-KEYS.COM/ISLAMORADA, E-MAIL: INFO@ISLAMORADACHAMBER.COM OR DIAL 1-800-322-5397.



MARATHON

M M 6 3 - 4 7

AS SEEN FROM THE AIR, MARATHON AND THE MIDDLE KEYS APPEAR AS EMERALD ISLES SET AMID A SEA OF TURQUOISE. MARATHON'S REEFS OFFER GREAT VARIETY IN CORAL FORMATIONS AND FISH LIFE.

THE CRYSTALLINE WATERS OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN REVEAL A MARINE WILDERNESS COMPRISED OF AN EXTENSIVE SPUR-AND-GROOVE CORAL COMPLEX AND NUMEROUS WELL-DEVELOPED PATCH REEFS. EACH REEF IS POPULATED BY A VAST ARRAY OF CARIBBEAN TROPICAL FISH AND INVERTEBRATES, WITH THE FASCINATING ADDITION OF BOTH MODERN AND HISTORICAL SHIPWRECKS TO COMPLETE THE TREMENDOUS SPORT DIVE APPEAL OF THE REGION.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MARATHON, DROP BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT MILE MARKER 53.5.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: FLA-KEYS.COM/MARATHON,

E-MAIL US AT VISITUS@FLORIDAKEYSMARATHON.COM

OR CALL 1-800-262-7284.



- **ADELAIDE BAKER** - This historic shipwreck features a pair of huge stacks in only 25 feet of water, a vivid reminder of the days when steamships plied the Florida Keys.

- **SOMBRERO REEF** - This traditional favorite of the Marathon dive portfolio is marked by a 140-foot lighted tower. Here coral canyons and archways provide refuge for schools of grunt and snapper while solitary barracuda appear to stand sentinel.

- **COFFIN'S PATCH** - This is not a single reef, but a conglomerate of six distinct patch reefs, each with a unique identity defined by a predominant coral species. For example, at Pillar Coral Patch dozens of intact pillar coral heads thrust their fuzzy polyps to snare passing nutrients. Snorkelers will especially appreciate the shallow elkhorn forests found throughout Coffin's Patch in less than 20 feet of water.

- **DELTA SHOALS** - Here a vast network of coral canyons fan seaward from a sandy shoal, offering wonderful opportunities for both dive and snorkel amid elkhorn, brain, and star coral heads.

- **THE THUNDERBOLT** - This 188-foot ship is the queen of the Marathon wreck fleet. Sunk intentionally as a dive attraction on March 3, 1986, she now sits perfectly upright in 115 feet of water. Her superstructure is coated with colorful sponge, coral, and hydroid, providing refuge and sustenance to large angelfish, jacks, and a variety of deep-water pelagic creatures.



LOWER KEYS

M M 47 - 4

THE LOWER KEYS ARE THE LEAST DEVELOPED OF THE FLORIDA KEYS, AND IN MANY WAYS THE MOST NATURAL. IT IS HERE THAT THE LAST REMAINING HERD OF KEY DEER IS FOUND, AND THERE ARE EVEN ALLIGATORS RESIDING WITHIN A SCENIC INLAND BLUE HOLE. YET FOR THE VISITING SNORKELER AND DIVER, THE HIGHLIGHT OF A VISIT TO THE LOWER KEYS WOULDN'T BE COMPLETE WITHOUT AN EXCURSION TO LOOE KEY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY. NAMED FOR THE HMS LOOE WHICH RAN AGROUND HERE IN 1744, LOOE KEY REEF IS JUST 5.3 SQ. NAUTICAL MILES, YET WITHIN THIS SMALL AREA IS A TREMENDOUS VARIETY OF BOTH CORAL STRUCTURE AND MARINE LIFE. LONG BEEN RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE SPECIAL JEWELS OF THE FLORIDA KEYS' REEF TRACT, THE CORAL REEF OF LOOE KEY WAS AFFORDED SPECIAL PROTECTION IN 1981 WHEN IT WAS DESIGNATED A NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY. FROM THIS DAY FORWARD ALL SPEARFISHING, CORAL COLLECTION, AND EVEN LOBSTERING HAVE BEEN BANNED HERE, WITH THE RESULT BEING LARGE SCHOOLS OF FRIENDLY FISH AND A GORGEOUS CORAL REEF. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BIG PINE KEY AND THE LOWER KEYS, VISIT THE LOWER KEYS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT MILE MARKER 31. VISIT OUR WEB SITE: FLA-KEYS.COM/LOWERKEYS, E-MAIL: LKCHAMBER@AOL.COM, OR SIMPLY DIAL 1-800-872-3722.



• **LOOE KEY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY** - Here angelfish boldly swim right to a diver's facemask, and more varieties of tropical marine species are found than perhaps anywhere else in the hemisphere. One unusual aspect of Looe Key is that a complete reef ecosystem is found here, from a rubble ridge of ancient fossilized corals, to a reef flat comprised of turtle grass, to a fore reef made up of large star and brain corals arranged in a spur-and-groove coral formation sloping from 20 to 40 feet. There is even a deep reef which slopes to more than 100 feet, providing a spectacular opportunity to view the pelagic species of the Florida Keys, including eagle rays, turtles, and even the rare and wonderful whale shark or manta ray on occasion.

• **ADOLPHUS BUSCH SR.** - Wreck diving came to the Lower Keys in a big way with the intentional sinking of the 210-foot Adolphus Busch Sr. The former island freighter was purchased by the local dive community with the generous assistance of Adolphus Busch IV, and sunk perfectly upright and intact in just 100 feet of water some seven miles southwest of Big Pine Key. It seems each day more and more marine life calls this fascinating wreck "home." In fact, a 350-pound Jewfish has already staked its claim beneath the wheelhouse!

KEY WEST

M M 4 - 0

KEY WEST IS THE FLORIDA KEY WITH THE MOST HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, WITH PIRACY, WRECKING, CIGAR MAKING, SPONGING, SHRIMPING, AND FISHING AMONG THE INDUSTRIES WHICH ONCE FLOURISHED ON THIS SOUTHERNMOST ISLE. NOW, KEY WEST IS A PARADISE OF TERRESTRIAL TOURIST WONDERS, WITH BEACHES, RESORTS, GALLERIES, MUSEUMS, BARS, AND BOUTIQUES PROVIDING A FASCINATING COMPLEMENT TO THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE ISLAND. YET THERE IS ALSO A WORLD OF WONDER BENEATH THE SEA OFF KEY WEST, AND MORE SCUBA DIVERS AND SNORKELERS ARE DISCOVERING THIS EVERY YEAR. TO LEARN ALL ABOUT THE ECLECTIC HISTORY OF KEY WEST AND ITS DIVERSE PRESENT-DAY ATTRACTIONS, STOP BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT 402 WALL STREET IN OLD TOWN. VISIT OUR WEB SITE: FLA-KEYS.COM/KEYWEST, E-MAIL: INFO@KEYWESTCHAMBER.ORG OR CALL 1-800-527-8539.



- SAND KEY - One of the many popular reef destinations off Key West. This islet, marked by a large iron lighthouse, delights both snorkelers and scuba divers with an abundance of coral and marine life. With over ten miles of coral reefs of varying depths, Sand Key offers visitors endless opportunities to enjoy the best diving in the Caribbean!

- JOE'S TUG - This classic tugboat sits upright in 65 feet of water, an idyllic setting for encounters with Jewfish, spotted morays, barracuda, and horseeye jacks.

- TEN-FATHOM LEDGE - Here, unusual coral caves and overhangs provide refuge for both lobster and grouper, while pelagic life parades in the bluewater to seaward.

- THE CAYMAN SALVOR - This 180-foot steel-hulled buoy tender was intentionally sunk as an artificial reef in 1985. She now sits upright with cavernous open holds providing refuge for baitfish and grunts, as well as a resident Jewfish and green moray eel.

- NINE FOOT STAKE - This patch reef, in 10 to 25 feet, is perfect for scuba or snorkel exploration, and is noted for concentrations of soft corals and juvenile marine life.

- KEDGE LEDGE - One of the highlights of this reef is the remains of a pair of coral-encrusted anchors lost from 18th century sailing vessels.

- THE ATOCHA - While not a local dive site, the Atocha was discovered by treasure hunter Mel Fisher in the waters off Key West. It's hard to dive these waters without wondering what bit of history or bounty might be concealed beneath the convoluted corals and vast reef structures.

- USS HOYT VANDENBERG - Key West waters are soon to be the final resting place for the largest artificial reef sunk to date. This 500+foot vessel is a World War II converted troop transport most recently used as a missile tracking ship. Its elaborate topside structures are sure to attract a myriad of sea life!



Gulf of Mexico

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

MIAMI

FLAMINGO

KEY LARGO

TAVERNIER

ISLAMORADA

Long Key State Park


MARATHON

Bahia Honda State Park

BIG PINE KEY

KEY WEST

Atlantic Ocean

 Ft. Jefferson Nat'l. Monument and Dry Tortugas (70 miles west of Key West)

CARYSPORT

ELBOW

DRYROCKS

GRECIAN ROCKS

SPEIGEL GROVE

BENWOOD

FRENCH

MOLASSES

PICKLES

DUJANE & BIBB

HEN & CHICKENS

LITTLE CONCH

SPANISH PLATE FLEET

DAVIS REEF

ALLIGATOR

EAGLE

COFFIN'S PATCH

THUNDERBOLT

EAST WASHERWOMAN

SOMBRERO

DELTA SHOALS

OUTER REEF

AMERICAN SHOALS

ADOLPHUS BUSCH SR.

ALEXANDER'S WRECK

COTTRELL KEY





THE TUG

CAYMAN SALVOR

SAND KEY

LOOE KEY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

LEGEND

-  TOWER OR LIGHTHOUSE
-  SHIPWRECK
-  CORAL REEF
-  ARTIFICIAL REEF

The entire Florida Keys has been declared a national marine sanctuary, encompassing 2,800 sq. nautical miles.

THIS CHART NOT INTENDED FOR NAVIGATIONAL USE