



★ *Destination* GUIDE ★

Southeast Florida

LUXURY *Yacht* GROUP

Sophisticated, sensual and tantalizingly decadent, yachting in Miami and the Florida Keys is delightfully self-indulgent. More than seeing, this is a voyage to experience with all the senses. Miami is one of the world's hippest hotspots, from fusion food to fine art to fashion couture. Yacht a few miles south and the edgy glamor is replaced by the languid, laidback, dreamy, Florida Keys. Discover 'The Sport Fishing and Diving Capital of America' (some say the world), which begins where the Miami skyscrapers end, and ends at the nation's party capital and southernmost point, Key West.

- ① MIAMI
- ② KEY LARGO
- ③ ISLAMORADA, DUCK KEY
- ④ MARATHON & LITTLE TORCH
- ⑤ BIG PINE, SUGARLOAF, SUMMERLAND
- ⑥ KEY WEST
- ⑦ MARQUESAS KEYS

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MIAMI ★

FLORIDA

MIAMI & THE KEYS





Miami

Whether you spend time ashore or afloat, Miami's options are impressive. On shore, every trendy district of the city; museums, festivals, restaurants, galleries and nightspots, is animated by cultural diversity. On deck, view opulent Intracoastal mansions, or circumnavigate chic private islands. The calm water of Biscayne Bay National Park, a vast marine reserve that reaches to the northernmost Keys, is perfect for launching Jet Skis, water skis and inflatables. There are sandbars to picnic on, reefs to snorkel, wrecks to dive, and Stiltsville, a group of very curious, historic shacks reached only by boat. Photograph the skyline, especially breathtaking at sunset. Pull up anchor and head for the Keys. Leave civilization, as you know it, a distant glow on the horizon.

The Setai, Miami Beach — www.thesetaihotel.com

Perez Art Museum, Downtown — www.pamm.org

Stiltsville — www.nps.gov/bisc/historyculture/stiltsville.htm

“Miami puts junk to use — they sink it; tons of boulders, a water tower, two oil platforms, army tanks, and a couple hundred boats are now “wreckreational” dives. There are 11 inshore and 17 offshore artificial reefs you can swim through along with yellow tang, barracudas, nurse sharks, snapper, and eels.”

— Captain Julia Alvarez

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Key Largo

Key Largo's barrier reef has dazzling underwater sites for all skill levels, from shallow reef snorkeling to advanced wreck diving. Two state parks, a national park, and a national marine sanctuary, let you connect with nature above and below the waterline. Go after sailfish offshore, bonefish along the Atlantic shallows, or redfish and tarpon in Florida Bay. REEF headquarters hosts marine conservation activities and events. The Bird Rehabilitation Center nature trail meanders through habitats and mangroves. For local encounters of the super casual kind, have a drink at the Caribbean Club, built by developer Carl G. Fisher in 1938 as "a poor man's retreat". Aged rafters and crooked shelves support mementos of Bogie and Bacall's movie "Key Largo" — not actually filmed here. Beware of sleeping dogs.

Dive Spots — www.divespots.com/scuba-diving-spots/florida/florida-keys/key-largo

Caribbean Club — www.caribbeanclubkl.com

Key Largo Conch House — www.keylargoconchhouse.com

“Christ of the Abyss is a larger-than-life sculpture sunk 25 feet deep off Key Largo. Cast from a mold by Italian sculptor Guido Galletti, it was donated to John Pennekamp State Marine Park in recognition of their marine conservation efforts. Divers and snorkelers will also see large fish, Spotted Eagle Rays and Southern Stingrays swimming around the sandy perimeter.”

— Captain Bob Arthur

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Islamorada, Duck Key

“It is not pretentious to call this the fishing capital of the world. In the same day, diehard fisherman can go offshore to catch swordfish, sailfish, snappers and grouper, then head in to the Florida Bay backcountry to catch redfish, permit, bonefish, tarpon, and snook. Non-fishing guests can enjoy kayaking and hiking at Indian Key Historic State Park.”

— Captain Vic Richards

Upscale tourist infrastructure and a Margaritaville-party atmosphere has made Islamorada popular for mainlanders seeking a quick, tropical getaway. While fine dining and full moon party mayhem lures weekenders, there are also excellent walking trails, historic exploration, great dive sites and big-purse fishing tournaments. The International Game Fish Association states that more saltwater world records have been established in the Florida Keys than any other angling destination on the globe. Plunge off the aft deck to search shallow reefs for abundant lobster or stone crab, season permitting. Follow the Florida Keys Shipwreck Trail to snorkel or dive a fascinating assortment of sunken ships.

Pierre's Restaurant, Islamorada — www.moradabay.com/pierres

Chef Michael's Restaurant, Islamorada — www.foodtotalkabout.com

Florida Keys Diving — www.flkeys-diving.com

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Marathon Key, Little Torch Key

Positioned right in the middle of the chain, Marathon is part fishing village, part tourist center, and part nature preserve. Visit the Dolphin Research Center, Turtle Hospital, Bird Sanctuary or Crane Point Museum and Nature Trail. The EEA Air Museum collection at the Marathon airport includes historic memorabilia and an Ozark D-C3. Little Palm Island Resort, 3.5 miles off Little Torch Key, is the very exclusive retreat of presidents, celebrities and a favorite honeymoon destination. Tie up at Sunset Dock, laze on the white sand beach, indulge in treatments at SpaTerre, and dine in the most romantic setting in the Florida Keys. Zagat rated *The Dining Room*, “Top Décor in the Keys; words cannot do justice either to the French-Pan-Latin fare.”

Little Palm Island Resort — www.littlepalmisland.com

Butterfly Café, Marathon — www.tranquilitybay.com/dining

“A federally protected section of the U.S.’s only living coral barrier reef lies just a few miles offshore. Here, Delta Shoals, Coffin Patch and Sombrero Reef are shallow sites, ideal for beginning dives. We take experienced divers to the deeper waters of the Florida Straits to explore artificial reefs and the purposely-sunk wreck of the Thunderbolt.”

— Captain Julia Alvarez

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Big Pine, Sugarloaf, & Summerland Keys

Anchor out and commune with the sea off of the Lower Keys. There will be no disturbances and millions of stars. Unlike their neighbors to the north and south, the Lower Keys are devoid of crowds and have only a few restaurants and bars. What they offer are the best opportunities to explore the vast natural resources on land and water that make the area so rich. Hike or bike the beautiful back roads, follow Key Deer Boulevard and ride into the National Key Deer Refuge, home to gentle, dog-size Key deer. Kayak or paddleboard to Bahia Honda for extraordinary beaches and bird-watching. Snorkel or dive over the Looe Key coral reef. Go backcountry fishing, or deep sea trolling.

Bahia Honda State Park — www.bahiahondapark.com

Coco's Cuban Kitchen, Big Pine — www.cocoskitchen.com

No Name Pub, Big Pine — www.nonamepub.com

For techno fun try geo-seeking at Bahia Honda State Park. A mobile phone's GPS function gives treasure hunt clues to find four geocaches. The codes for geocaching at Bahia Honda are: (GC): Henry Flagler's View-GC2MVRJ, Picnic in Paradise-GC26FEE, Silver Palm-GC1MD7X, Wings and Waves-GC1MBAR. Download the official app at geocaching.com.



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Key West

Key Westers seem to be on perpetual vacation. What doesn't get done today might get done tomorrow, but have a mojito in the meantime. The unfailing sun makes for spectacular bronzing, diving, fishing, snorkeling and watersports. Launch the Jet Skis to explore islets, coves and mangrove swamps. Browse the shops on Duval Street, where you can purchase all manner of stuff from three dollar T-shirts to pricy pieces of Atocha treasure. The town is thick with history; Hemingway's home, Audubon House, Bahama Village and Truman's Little White House. As the sun goes down the action heats up on Mallory Square, where jugglers, acrobats, magicians, fortunetellers, locals and tourists celebrate the sunset. Let the carousing commence.

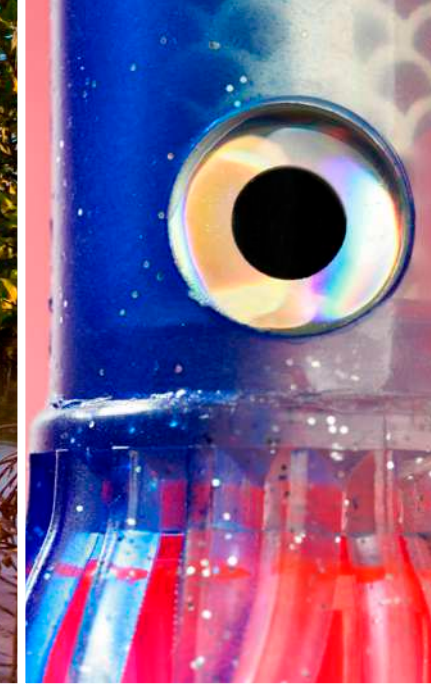
Café Marquesa — www.marquesa.com/cafe-marquesa.htm

Latitudes Restaurant — westinsunsetkeycottages.com/latitudes-key-west

“Key West curiosities include the ubiquitous, feral gypsy chickens, and six-toed “Hemingway Cats”, some 60 of which rule the roost at Hemingway’s house. They are offspring of the first family pet. Mel Fisher’s Maritime Museum has displays of nautical oddities and a store, which together house the richest single collection of 17th-century shipwreck and maritime antiquities in the Western Hemisphere.”

— Captain Bob Arthur

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Marquesas Keys

Formed by a meteorite, the Marquesas Keys are out of this world. This fishing paradise is 25 miles west of Key West, where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Gulf of Mexico. It was here that hurricane-tossed waters claimed the Spanish galleon Atocha. Others in the fleet bound for Spain from Havana were also victims. Loaded with silver, gold and emeralds, divers and snorkelers can still find coins and pottery shards scattered about the ocean floor. This remote and pristine region is protected as part of the Key West National Wildlife Refuge. Covered by mangroves, the forest is thick with birds. Fishing for tarpon, permit and bonefish is awesome. Diving among turtles, stingrays, barracuda and sharks is astonishing, not to mention the lure of sunken treasure lying in the depths.

Events Calendar — http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/visitor_information/events.html

“ Photographers and enthusiasts of nature must plan to explore the beaches of the Marquesas, which are a nesting habitat for sea turtles, Great White Herons, and other marine species. We picnic on the beach, throw a couple of lines in, and usually manage to pull out dinner. Or go diving for lobster. These waters are prime territory for fishing, diving and snorkeling.”

— Captain Vic Richards



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Passports are required for non-US citizens.

TIME ZONE: UTC/GMT – 5:00/Eastern Daylight
Time UTC – 4:00

ECONOMY: Tourism, Industry, Construction

DRESS CODE: In major metropolitan areas dress is fashionable, especially evening attire, which tends to be dressier than in other US regions. Dress is very casual in the Keys, but proper attire, shirts, shoes or sandals, should be worn when shopping, dining or visiting attractions.

DRIVING: Motorists drive on the right side of the road.

ELECTRIC CURRENT: Outlets are 120V 60Hz.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: English

OFFICIAL CURRENCY: United States dollar

GOVERNMENT WEBSITES:

Florida – www.myflorida.com

Miami – www.miamibeachfl.gov/visitors

When to visit:

South Florida averages between 65°F and 90°F and is a year around destination. In the summer, water temperatures are in the mid to upper 80s, ideal for watersports without a wetsuit. June to November is hurricane season, with increased storms in September and October. Peak season is December to April, and the population swells with visitors and winter residents.

CLIMATE DATA FOR SOUTH FLORIDA													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
Average High °F	74	75	77	80	83	86	87	88	86	83	79	75	81
Average Low °F	63	64	67	70	74	77	78	78	77	74	70	65	71
Average Rainfall (in)	2	2	2.2	2.9	4.9	7.1	4.3	5.2	7.1	5.5	2.6	1.9	4

Climate:

Summers are hot along the coast and even hotter inland. There are gentle, offshore breezes during the summer, which become steady and brisk during the winter. On the mainland, the Atlantic side has milder, more moderate weather, as opposed to the Gulf side. Visitors to Florida during the rainy season (mid-June to September) expect daily, brief afternoon thunderstorms to occur. The Florida Keys have never had frost or snow flurries, but still do get chilly weather for short periods every winter.



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