


The Florida Keys

10 days



Home to presidents and poets who sought inspiration from the beautiful, fragile eco-system that surrounded them, the Florida Keys are truly unique. The drive, with the Gulf of Mexico on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other is certainly breathtaking and will take you across 43 bridges from Key Largo to Key West. The famous "Seven Mile Bridge," located at Mile Marker 47, is more than 35,000 feet in length.

Day 1 Miami

Fly into Miami and enjoy a stay in South Beach before starting your journey down to the Keys.

Stay here:

Value for Money Hotels: Ocean Five, 3*

Recommended: The Ritz-Carlton, South Beach, 5*

Day 3 (Miami - Key West 155 miles)

Depart Miami and start your journey south along the Florida Keys Overseas Scenic Highway US-1, across the Seven Mile Bridge and travelling the length of the Keys to Key West, right at the very end on Mile Marker 0. From here you will start your drive back up the Florida Keys towards Miami.

Key West

Kick off your time in the Keys with a relaxing stay in the southernmost city of the Continental US. Key West has the hottest nightlife, the tiniest beaches, the most sights to see, and easiest access to The Tortugas, a remote group of islets 70 miles to the west. You can park the car once you're in Key West and use the Conch Tour Train, the Old Town Trolley, or a bicycle to get around. If you can, make sure you get there in time to watch the sun set at Mallory Square along with the musicians and street performers.

Stay here:

Spa Hotels: Ocean Key Resort and Spa, 4*

Beach and Resort Hotels: Casa Marina Resort, 4*

Day 5 (Key West – Marathon 48 miles)

Marathon

Moving up from Key West, travel through Big Pine Key and on to Marathon Key, right at the heart of the Keys. Here you'll find fantastic fishing, including marlin, trout and snapper as well as some stunning beaches and trips to wrecks and reefs. It's also a great location for families, with educational programs and family friendly hotels.

Stay here:

Recommended: Tranquility Bay Beach House Resort, 5*

Day 6 (Marathon – Duck Key 13 miles)

Duck Key

Heading north still from Marathon, check into Duck Key for even more rest and relaxation. It's a tranquil place, where you can dive among artificially created reefs and bird watch.

Stay here:

Family Friendly Hotels: Hawks Cay Resort, 4*

Day 8 (Duck Key – Islamorada 23 miles)

Islamorada

Next stop, Islamorada has the best sport fishing in Florida (ask ex US President George Bush: it's reputed to be one of his preferred fishing spots). You can also explore wrecks and coral gardens or just soak up the sun on Long Key State Park.

Stay here:

Family Friendly Hotels: Cheeca Lodge, 4*

Day 9 (Islamorada – Key Largo 17 miles)

Key Largo

Your final stop on your journey through the Keys back to Miami takes you back to Key Largo. As the largest island on the chain, there's a choice of activities and hotels on offer. Best known for John Pennekamp State Park, the first underwater park, Key Largo is famous for its diving.

Stay here:

Beach & Resort Hotels: Marriott Beach Resort, 3.5*

Value for Money Hotels: Key Largo Grande Resort, 4.5*

Day 10 (Key Largo – Miami 63 miles)

Start your drive back up to Miami for your flight, or, add on some additional nights in Miami or Fort Lauderdale before heading home.