

YOU CAN NEVER FREEZE IN THE FLORIDA KEYS!

The road to Key West is about 158 miles from Miami. It is a 2-lane road for the most part and connects the different Cays by 42 bridges! In some places the old railroad bridges and road are still standing because they are too expensive to tear down.

The weather down here is more humid, in part because you are surrounded by water, and it is hotter as we are further South.

We found a nice little park about 5 miles from Key West and they only charged us \$38 a night in the off-season! We spent 3 nights here and have gone into the city each day to see the sights through sweat-laden eyes.

One of the places we went to was Ernest Hemmingway's home. There are presently 61 cats that live here. About half of them have six toes on their feet. They have it so good here they aren't about to leave!

There were 2 cruise ships in port one day and there was an abundance of people around. Each year there are 2.5 million tourists in Key West. There is no reason to have cheap anything here!



Tourism is about the only business here. Years ago this was the cigar capital of the US.

Key West has the distinction of having the southernmost point in the United States. It is marked by a domed pylon, that is inundated with tourists taking pictures in front of it. There is also the southernmost house beside it, as well as the southernmost mansion!

Oddly enough there are not many sandy beaches around the island. The ones that exist, have new sand hauled in every 5 years, from the West Indies! It also has been many years since Key West has experienced the full brunt of a hurricane. They endure storms, but never a direct hit by a major hurricane.

One of the useful things to do when you come down here, is to ride the Old Town Trolley. It is about a 2 hour narrated tour of the town and area around it. There is also the Conch Train that tours the downtown Historic area.

The town does not lack for places to eat. We ate at Papa's, which was the place that Hemmingway spent a lot of time in. Another interesting and popular place to eat is called Blue Heaven. This one is a back yard complete with a rope swing from a huge almond tree. This occupies the children. To occupy the adults, there are hens and roosters all over the yard, under the tables pecking at the bark floor. Some of the tables are setting on the remains of slate pool tables from the past. They used to have boxing matches here and cock fights too. The food is excellent.

Dave & Bonnie

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