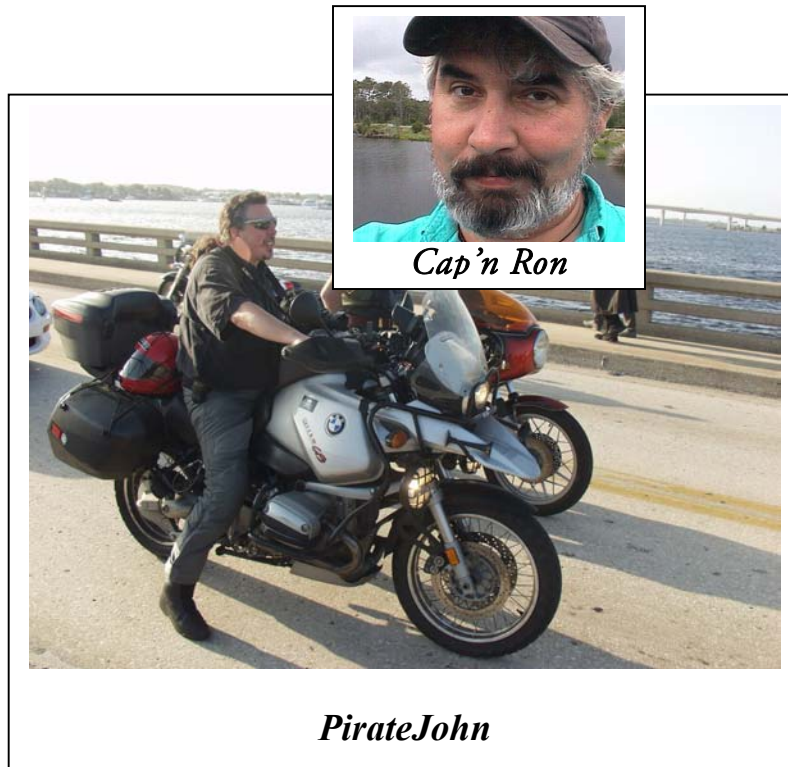


Cap'n Ron and PirateJohn's Florida Keys Adventure Guide 2004 Edition



A product of Buccaneer Press, Inc.
www.buccaneerpress.com

Introduction

Florida Keys Adventure Guide, 2004 Edition

This guide to the Florida Keys was originally developed circa 1998 by Ron Thomas Smith a/k/a Cap'n Ron as *Cap'n Ron's Cafemojo Florida Keys Adventure Guide*. It was and still is a very popular freely distributed guide that has a loyal following among Parrotheads (those rabid fans of Keys singer Jimmy Buffett) and other assorted strange birds. In 2004 PirateJohn updated the Guide.

Both Cap'n Ron and PirateJohn take a somewhat irreverent view to traveling and life in general. Ron used to live in The Florida Keys and is familiar with just about every place down there. And John ... let's just say that he travels down there quite a bit, almost always by motorcycle, and there are still one or two places that he hasn't been thrown out of yet.

This is not an all inclusive guide to every watering hole and lodging opportunity in The Keys. Quite the contrary. We don't necessarily endorse every place that we visit although you can be sure that if it's in this guide that it stands out for one reason or another. And we tend towards the 'different' because, well ... different can be fun.

Ron may not agree with everything that Yours Truly (PirateJohn) says. On the other hand, since I revised the guide I got the final say. So be nice to Ron, y'hear? He isn't to blame for some of the wisecracks in the revised version of the Florida Keys Adventure Guide.

The Updated Guide is copyright ©2004 jointly by Ron Thomas Smith and Buccaneer Press, Inc. No part may be reproduced for commercial purposes without the express written consent of Buccaneer Press, Inc. No paid distribution is allowed except through Buccaneer Press, Inc. although individual readers are permitted and encouraged to print copies for themselves, their loved ones, and their immediate first 1,000 family members and friends. In other words, this guide is a gift to all Parrotheads, motorcyclists, and travelers of the Keys whomever you may be. It's a freebie! Download and print out to your heart's content as long as you aren't selling it or using our material for your own business purposes. Or at least don't use that material for commercial purposes without the express written permission of Buccaneer Press, Inc.


Multiple printed copies for either commercial purposes or for private purposes may be obtained by contacting Buccaneer Press, Inc. at the address below.

The updated Florida Keys Adventure Guide will be incorporated into **PirateJohn's *Most Unique Guide To Motorcycling in Southern Florida and The Florida Keys***, which is scheduled to be available in 2005. Watch the website at <http://www.buccaneerpublishing.com/products.htm> for more details on **PirateJohn's *Most Unique Guide To Motorcycling in Southern Florida and The Florida Keys*** as well as other *Most Unique* books on travel.

You can email Captain Ron at cafemojo@aol.com.

PirateJohn and Buccaneer Press, Inc. can be emailed at BuccaneerPress@aol.com. Or reach John and Buccaneer Press, Inc. the old fashioned way by calling 904/874-8633. Please note that because of travel schedules we prefer email.

The company website is at <http://www.buccaneerpublishing.com/index.html> Cap'n Ron's original material is highlighted in gray.

The  arrow indicates a 'must see' location per Cap'n Ron.

"MM" indicates a mile marker number along the only road in and out of The Keys, US 1. MM 0 is near the Green Parrot Bar in Key West and it is roughly 110 miles from the entrance of The Keys to Key West. So do the math. The numbers count down the closer you are to the Key West end of US 1. And another hint: in most of the built up areas the street numbers, let's say for example 80001 Overseas Highway, means that you are at MM 80.0. Simple! Most of the places in this guide are, conveniently enough, right off of US 1.

And the gibberish at many entries about waypoints and coordinates? That will allow you to precisely locate these places if you are using a global positioning system (GPS) device. We recommend the Garmin™ family of products. A CD with these and other mapping points ready to download into a Garmin GPS will be available shortly from Buccaneer Press, Inc.

Don't have a GPS? Don't fret. You will someday. In the meantime, the waypoints match up with locations on the maps that are provided as needed.

And finally, do you see something that needs to be changed? Or have a comment? We welcome your comments and will update the guide periodically. Email 'em to BuccaneerPress@aol.com



Florida Keys Adventure Guide, 2004 Edition

In the United States, indeed perhaps in the entire world, there is no place quite like the Florida Keys. Sunny, funky, and outrageous, a haven for outlaws and those who felt the need to get away, far away from it all the Keys are now becoming a mega tourist haven. Still, there are vestiges of the original, wild and rural Keys left, you just have to look for them. And this guide will help you find those fun places that we all want to see.

As crazed and as funky as the other Keys get, the motto “only in Key West” covers a lot of territory. Spend a few days in Key West and at least you won’t be bored, I can guarantee that much.

Enjoy the drive or the ride!

Departing Florida City, at the entrance to The Keys:

MM 110ish - The Border of The Conch Republic: Skeeter's Last Chance Saloon just south of Florida City a few miles from the end of the Florida Turnpike and basically across the road from the turnoff for Card Sound Road and Alabama Jack's. 305/248-4935

This is where it all starts, this is where we leave the mainland behind and do what only Americans can do. We drive 100 miles out into the Caribbean Ocean! ...where else but the USA can ya drive to Paradise?

*RULE # 1. Always, always enter the Keys via **CARD SOUND ROAD** and stop off at Alabama Jack's. Right beside the Card Sound Bridge - It's a Key's tradition, and good mojo ...trust me! It only adds 15 minutes to the drive. You'll either dig it or ya won't. If ya don't, stop & turn around now, you'll be better off going directly to MickeyWorld in Orlando!*

➔ If you decide to take US 1 rather than Card Sound Rd. and bypass Alabama Jack's you will be traveling along a causeway that is the old roadbed for Flagler's Railroad, built almost 100 years ago. And that body of water that you are going across? It's called Lake Surprise. Legend has it that the surprise was what was in the lake; the only crocodiles [not 'gators!] native to Florida. Chomp! Chomp!

Print out a copy of this guide now and place it in the glove box of your rental car beside your 9mm on your Tropical Road Trip Down South, which will probably start with you flying into Miami like most tourists. Yeah, you can hop a puddlejumper to KW, but just pony up for the ride, get a rental car which you'll need anyway, and drive yourself to MARGARITAVILLE! Or better yet, fire up your trusty motorcycle and cruise to the south. Besides, ...it's a great view and it's just the way it's done down here.

Keep this guide handy at all times. Because US 1 is the only road in and out of The Keys, traffic jams, accidents, and roadblocks are legendary and traffic delays will often cause complete standstills that can last 1-2 hours. ... So, it's always nice to know what's around you no matter what mile marker you're at. Drive safe, be cool.

➔ And take your time. The Keys are no place for speeding. Ossifer Friendly is looking for YOU and any other tourist that wants to speed along US 1. Remember: after you get past the Card Sound turnoff south of Key Largo there is only one road in and out of The Keys. So you might as well be patient.

*Stop #1 **ALABAMA JACK'S**, Card Sound Road by the bridge. Located smack in the middle of "The Backdoor to The Keys", in some legendary tarpon and bonefish waters, this is a real Caribbean honky-tonk and a Key's tradition & legend. Great food & live music right on the water. Two thirds of the visitors arrive by boat. Pirates, Cowboys, & Outlaws welcome.*

Note that this place is on the shores of beautiful Crocodile Lake, which is really just part of Lake Surprise. Take that as a hint not to get drunk and go skinny-dipping after dark. The last time that I stopped here we saw manatees swimming next to the bar, and they looked nervous. 305/248-8741.



Upon leaving Alabama Jack's continue down Card Sound Road into Key Largo, observing this last rare patch of undeveloped mangrove tropics the way it used to be .

Enter Key Largo:

Humphrey Bogart fans and fans of the movie Key Largo won't find much that's familiar here except for the African Queen, which is from an entirely different Bogart flick. The classic film Key Largo, about a man's struggles to defeat gangsters during a monster hurricane, was filmed largely on a sound stage in California although some background scenes were shot at the Caribbean Club down the road. At the time the film Key Largo was shot the town was known as Rock Harbor; however, the locals claim that there is evidence that the area was known as Key Largo long before anyone ever thought of making a film by the same name. You decide who used the name first.

MM104 The Caribbean Club, Key Largo, this is the quintessential tropical bar. This is it! Right on the water, killer sunset spot, open-air bar with flocks of wild parrots in the palm trees, manatees, parrotfish and giant tarpon swimming right up beside your table. Heck, you can even go swimming with them while ordering a cheeseburger! Some scenes for Key Largo were filmed here and the present owners claim that Bogart and Bacall stayed

here during some filming (presumably when the place was also a small motel, which it isn't now). There is plenty of memorabilia from the filming.

The Caribbean Club was built in 1938 and over the years there have been no shortage of characters hanging around this joint, which is full of character itself. Until 1948 it was a gambling, uh, 'establishment' in an area where gambling was never legal. Another bit of trivia: in 1948 when the movie was filmed a guy named Ziggy ran the Caribbean Club. Ziggy moved on to Ziggy's, the current reincarnation of which is now down around MM83. But before that Ziggy moved on legendary director John Huston named a character in the movie Ziggy, in honor of Ziggy the manager. Follow that? 305/451-9970


MM104 Neptune's Hideaway Bungalows. *A dive bum favorite for years, cheap & clean, cable & fridge. Great stopover spot for divers & snorkelers going to Pennekamp Marine Park and so close to the Caribbean Club ya can swim over for a beer!* 305/451-0357

➔ There are tons of small local motels in Key Largo. Check them out; there may be some bargains here.

MM 105 The Crack'd Conch, *new location, Open Noon-10pm 100 Kinds Of Beer!, Conch, Caribe, Cajun & Native Specialties like Alligator.* 305/451-0732

MM102: Paradise Pub. Food, pool, and darts. 305/451-1516

MM102.4 The Fish House. Restaurant, seafood market, you name it, this is quite an operation. They say that fresh fish is their trademark. No doubt, but they will also smoke it for you and ship it. 305/451-HOOK or 888/451-4665. www.fishhouse.com/

 **MM 102.5 John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park & Key Largo Marine Sanctuary** *Best snorkeling & diving site in the Upper Keys. Don't miss it! See really cool exotic tropical fish & coral reefs while they still exist.* American's first undersea park. Minimal fees, reservations are strongly suggested. Glass bottom boat, snorkeling, and sailing/snorkeling tours -- 305/451-6300; Scuba tours and instruction – 305/451-6322; Camping – 305/451-1202; Boat Rentals 305/451-6325
<http://www.pennekamppark.com/>

Near MM103.5 The Hideout, *breakfast & lunch, on the water at the end of Transylvania Ave.* Reasonably priced and the views are great. 47 Shoreland Dr. 305/451-0128

MM102.67 M.D. Custom Cycles. They do Harley rentals and can do some repairs if your bike breaks down in The Keys (been there, had that lousy luck). 305/451-3606 or www.seefloridaonline.com/mdcycles/



MM 99.7 Drop by the **Holiday Inn Key Largo**, also known as the Sunspree Resort and check out the genuine **African Queen**. Originally named the SL Livingston, this is the very same steam powered boat that was used in the classic Humphrey Bogart film of the same name. Contrary to the story line the original African Queen was not blown up; that was a scale model. 305/451-4655.

MM 99.6 Bayside DENNY'S LATIN CAFE & LIQUOR STORE 7am-10pm
Best cafe con leche & tequila selection in the Keys! Great Cuban Breakfast Anytime and sweet plantains. Cap'n Ron recommends Herradura Gold or EL Tesoro Anejo 100% pure Blue Agave Tequila . Try some REAL TEQUILA ! 305/451-3665

**SURVIVAL* There's also a great grocery store across the street for laying in provisions and essentials like water, limes, cocoa butter, Corona 12-pack, aloe vera gel, replacement salt shakers, mangos, cocktail sauce, Cortizone 10 Anti-Itch Creme, Advil, a flashlight & candles, Mountain Dew, beef jerky and band-aids.*

MM 97.8 Ballyhoos Grill and Grog. Popular local place. 305/852-0822

MM 99.5B Mrs. Mac's Kitchen, 451-3722 *Homestyle Keys Cookin' & Key Lime Pie.* 7am-9:30pm *Closed Sunday.* 305/451-3722.

MM 95.7 Harriet's, good breakfast joint, a locals spot. Fodor's restaurant guide gives this place a 4.8 on a 5 point scale so I'd say that it has some admirers. No dinner served but the pancakes and basic down home breakfast sound good enough to get folks to make a road trip to get here. Large portions, good prices, and basic Southern breakfasts with grits and biscuits. Damn, just thinking about the place makes me hungry. 305/852-8689

MM 91 Ramshackles Bar, *Parrotheads welcome. Casual cool, velvet Elvis paintings, good food & tasty beverages.* Your basic sports bar in the Keys – how can you go wrong? 305/852-6929.

Tavernier:



MM 93.6 FLORIDA KEYS WILD BIRD SANCTUARY, *Tavernier. A MUST SEE Stop! Free (Free!!!) Admission. Great Photo/Video Spot! See tropical birds like wild eagles, herons, egrets, flamingos and pelicans up close. Great "Rainy day adventure!" Very Kid Friendly!* 305/852-4486. <http://www.thefloridakeys.com/keylargo/bird.htm>

MM 91 Harry's Place, *friendly & inexpensive. 6am Breakfasts, BAR open till 4am!!!* 305/852-7161

MM 90ish Tugboat's, ...on Seagate Blvd. oceanside. Casual, cheap, CASH ONLY. Would you believe that the place's full name is Tugboat's Garden of Eatin'? Sheesh, call the Pun Police! 2 Seagate Blvd. 305/453-9010.

*Just around the corner from Tugboat's is The **PILOT HOUSE**. Marina Tiki Bar with great view of the water and frequent boat accidents.* 13 Seagate Blvd. 305/451-3142



Attack of the giant crustacean! And good help is so hard to find these days ...

MM 86.7 Treasure Village and the world's largest lobster. Arts and gift shop, but what really catches your attention is that motorcycle-eating lobster. Just think how many meals he would make if you got him first!

MM 86.7 The Rain Barrel Artist's Village, which represents the works of many local artists, is across the street from the giant lobster. Dial 305/852-3084 for the Rain Barrel.

Islamorada:

MM 85.5 Island Grill. Right after the Snake Creek drawbridge as you are driving southbound. Purdy indoor and outdoor dining with a great view of the bay and the Atlantic Ocean. What was formerly the Hawk's Channel Bar and Grill (RIP) has now gone seriously upscale. Captain Ron described the place as having the "Best Rainy Day View in the Keys" and being a "Great Manatee watching spot!" and I don't see any reason why that would have changed.

~~85.5 ERIC's FLOATING RESTAURANT. Dinner 5-10pm \$\$\$! Steaks, Shrimp and lots of stuffed animal heads on the walls. This is where the locals go to celebrate when they wanna feel upscale.~~ Alas, this used to be a great place but Eric's floating restaurant ain't a floatin' no mo. Eric's sank a few years ago and got scrapped out. Which is way, way too bad because it was a great place to hang out, eat lobster, and drink that Tuborg beer. If'n you want to feel the presence of the ghost of Eric's then go to the Island Grill parking lot and look at the mangroves next to the water. That's where Eric's was at.



MM 85.3 Hog Heaven Sports Bar. Indoor and outdoor bars and a spectacular view. Sorta hidden behind an office building but a really

popular place with the locals. Decent food. Definitely rider friendly. 305/664-9669

MM84.8 Coconut Cove Resort and Marina, with a tiki bar that is only open for special events. Like weddings. Which seems to me like an awfully high price to pay to get a drink. They also do jet ski and ultralight rentals, so you 30 year old gals getting married to 90 year old oil tycoons may be able to make a complete package out of this place; just rent a jet ski so that you can spread his ashes following the honeymoon. All kidding aside this place has a great view and is located, as the name suggests, on a cove. 305/664-0123. www.coconutcove.net/

MM84.7 Theater of the Sea. This is a popular amusement park with dolphin shows (and opportunities to swim with the dolphins), sea lion shows (ditto opportunities to swim with the sea lions) and crocodiles (don't ask about swimming with them). They also offer offshore fishing, the famous Four Hour Cruise (cue Gilligan and the Skipper) and a host of other Keysian types of entertainment. 305/664-2431 www.theaterofthesea.com/

MM 84.5 Ocean View Lounge and Sports Pub and Inn. A laid back locals place. When I was there a few Islamorada riders were having a beer so if you want to find fellow riders check to see if there's a bike or two out front. Motel, and patio dining in the back. They claim to have the "oldest and most established liquor license in the Keys" which may come as a surprise to Captain Tony's which claims, along with a few other establishments, to be the oldest bar in Florida. Reportedly nice, clean rooms at a decent price. 305/664-8052

MM 84 The one, the only HOLIDAY ISLE RESORT where it's always Margaritaville 24-7! Everything you want, everything ya need, with room service! High on the "jet ski factor". Big, awesome place with all kinds of opportunities for mischief. 800/327-7070 or 305/664-2321 www.holidayisle.com/

MM 83 ZIGGY'S Crab Shack, formerly Ziggy's Conch. A Key's Landmark- 50's Ambience, Legendary Menu! The original Ziggy (and I have no idea if he's still alive or not) was the manager of the Caribbean Club when Key Largo was filmed there. 305/664-3391



MM 82.5. WOODY'S, a bar that couldn't exist anywhere else. Beer, Food, Music, AC. Open till 4am! 664-4335. Legendary Key's band Big Dick & The Extenders play weekends. "Adult entertainment" pretty well covers the description here because for the last several years most of the girls that work at Woody's get nekkid after about 6PM. Dick does adult comedy, 60's and 70's rock and roll, and Southern rock sometime later in the evening. Really a crazy place, and a fun

place for riders. 305/664-0059 <http://keysdining.com/woodys/index.htm>

MM 82 LOR-E-LEI Restaurant & Cabana Bar Islamorada, 664-4656 *A great lil' cafe, bayside right on the water, a tropical sanctuary with irie vibes, Seafood, Steaks, Tasty Libations & Great Sunsets! Desdemona's Favorite!* 305/664-4656
<http://www.keysdirectory.com/lorelei/index.html>

MM 81.6 MANNY & ISA'S *Closed Tuesday, Cuban Specials, Lunch & dinner. A real* Authentically Cuban; trust me on this! 305/664-5019.

~~**MM 81.5 Green Turtle Inn 664-9031** *Closed Monday. A Key's Tradition since 1947. Excellent food, highly recommended!*~~ Sadly, the Green Turtle appears to be closed, which is a bit of a shock considering what a landmark this place is. Or was. Their website at www.keysdirectory.com/greenturtleinn/ indicates that the original owners sold it and presumably things went downhill since then. Which is really way, way too bad because it has been there since 1947 or so. RIP. With any luck at all someone will reopen it and retain the original building, which is still standing as I write this in November of 2004.

MM 81.5 The Cheeca Lodge. *If you've got the money honey, we've got the time!* This place seems to be more for the Biff and Buffy set - I doubt that any self-respecting motorcyclist who doesn't have a chauffeur or a Parrothead who is used to handling their own bags would enjoy this place. But decide for yourself. 305/664-4651.
<http://cheeca.rockresorts.com/info/din.asp>

MM81.5 Hurricane of 1935 Memorial. Pause here and pay your respects to the souls of the dead from the hurricane that raked the Keys and became the inspiration for the movie



Key Largo. The exact number killed by that hurricane will never be known but the best estimate is around 700 folks, many of them World War I vets who were working on behalf of the Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression. Many of the cremated bodies are buried in a crypt at the memorial. For an interesting read on the memorial and the hurricane check out <http://www.keyshistory.org/hurrmemorial.html>

MM 81.5 The Islamorada Fish Company. In operation since 1948 and family owned since 1960 this impressive fish market and seafood restaurant is now franchising itself to other parts of Florida. Some really tasty stuff, and if you want to get your Keys seafood at home they will ship to your door. You can't beat that! 800/258-2559
<http://www.ifcstonecrab.com/>

MM 80.9 *The beloved former FISHERMAN'S KETTLE is now called Uncle's Cafe,* 305/664-4402

MM 80.0 Outback Steak House. Why mention just a plain, old ordinary everyday Outback Snake (sic) House? Because this one has a tiki bar out back and a great view! Seriously, this is a good place for beverages and food. 305/664-3344.



MM 79.7 PAPA JOE'S UPSTAIRS OUTDOOR TIKI BAR, *A Cap'n Ron favorite! Over-looking both the ocean & bay, it has THE BEST View in The Keys! Great photo spot. Perfect for sunrises & sunsets plus great conch fritters! The channel by the dock is often visited by manatees. Bayside by the Tea Table Channel Bridge. The Famous Wall of Jigs is worth a gander too! It's especially great viewing 4pm - 6pm when all the guide boats come in with their catches too! But it's great there 24-7!!!* Ol' John has been at PapaJoe's a few times himself and I have to agree on the view and the food, which is x-CEL-lent. Easy to find because both the marina and the tiki bar and restaurant are next to the Tea Channel Bridge and across the road from the legendary Bud and Mary's Fishing Marina. 305/664-8109

MM 79.7*B Papa Joe's Marina *home of some of the best fishing & guides in the Key's! Visit the famous "Great Wall Of Jigs" and get the Inside Tip On Key's Fishing! This marina was built just after the Great Labor Day Hurricane of 1935 by legendary Key's fishing guide Everett Fowler, and the surrounding area offers some of the hottest SilverKing angling water in the Key's! Papa Joe's Boat Rental 1-800/539-8329 can outfit you for fishing or pleasure boating. These guys are the pros, this is where you come to learn from the real masters. They'll teach you how to stay out of trouble so ya don't wind up shark bait.*

Best motel values in the Keys - The Blue Fin Inn MM 82.1; 305/664-8709 & Key's Lantern Motel MM82.1; 305/664-4572 in Islamorada right next to Lorelei's. You can get sloppy drunk at their nightly sunset party - the best in the upper Keys, and then crawl back to your room less than 100 yards away!

The Star Of The Sea Motel MM 77.5 *across from the Hungry Tarpon Restaurant also in Islamorada has one of the most beautiful views in the upper Keys. 305/664-0535*

MM 77.5*B The Hungry Tarpon Restaurant *"Five Star gourmet on paper plates!" Open 6:30am - Great Fisherman's Breakfast! Durango Eggs, Huervos Rancheros, Blackened Shrimp Caesar, and perhaps "THE" Best CONCH CHOWDER in the Key's! They use only conch imported from the Turk Islands instead of Bahamas conch. Turk Island conch is bright pink and very sweet. Out back at the dock behind the cafe is one of the true natural wonders of the Florida Keys. 305/ 664-0535*



MM 77.5 ROBBIE'S BOAT RENTAL'S - Come Feed The Live Pet Tarpon! *Recently voted by the Miami Herald as one of the top three best things about South Florida! Come see & feed the schools of Giant Silver King Tarpon that hang out under Robbie's Dock! For \$2 you can get a bucket of bait fish & can literally feed these monster tarpon by hand. Careful though, they got teeth! Great video & photo spot! Cap'n Ron says DON'T MISS IT! Tell 'em Cap'n Ron sent ya! 305/664-9814. www.robbies.com/*

Robbie's is also a great place to rent a skiff which is really the best way to see the Key's, and is a great spot to launch a visit & nature tour of nearby Lignum Vitae Island and Indian Key. This is also a great area for fishing and snorkeling or just cruising over to the dock at Papa Joe's Tiki Bar and Marina. Be careful around the shallow "flats" areas though, pole it only & don't cut across the sea grass beds! The penalties for running over sea grass beds are extremely harsh.

➔ Tiny little Indian Key, all 10 acres of it and just slightly off of US 1 to your left as you cross the bridge, was the original county seat when Dade County was established in the 1830's. Currently Indian Key is a state park but access is only by private boat since US 1 bypasses it.

MM 73 Anne Eaton Beach Park, Near Channel #2 Tire Swing. *Beach, crab stalking, lizard watching and a seaside nature trail. Stop and chill a spell.* Named after a popular local environmentalist.

MM 65.5 The Edgewater Lodge in the lower keys has perhaps the best sunset view in that entire area. Rooms are literally on the water and the sunsets there are nothing short of majestic. They're always booked because it's such a great place, but I highly recommend a stay over there if possible. The view and vibe is just so mellow and beautiful and you're on the water! 305/664-2662 <http://www.edgewaterlodge.com/>

~~**MM 58.5 Grassy Key Dairy Bar.** Best Food for miles! Breakfast, Lunch, Diner. Closed Sunday & Monday.~~ Closed more than just Sunday and Monday I'm afraid. The place has been completely remodeled and is now spic and span and reportedly renamed **Manatees**. Alas, no further info, not even a phone number, as we go to press.

MM 57.5 SEASHELL BEACH RESORT, Grassy Key, Oceanside. Boat rentals. Row out to the coral reef that just off the dock here. Bungalow 8 here is a great stayover spot. <http://www.thefloridakeys.com/seashellbeach/index.html> 305/289-0265

MM 59 Dolphin Research Center, Grassy Key. Former home of the original Flipper. Great for kids of all ages. This is perhaps the best known of all the swim-with-a-dolphin places. 305/289-1121. <http://www.dolphins.org/>

Marathon:

MM 54 The Island Tiki Bar and Restaurant. A friend of mine who has lived in the area for decades and who was in the fish business considers The Island to be one of his favorites, so e'nuf said. The food is good (some would argue gourmet quality) and the view from the tiki bar is excellent. Enjoy! 305/289-1810 <http://users.cnu.edu/~dharnett/>

MM 53 Don Pedro's Cuban Cantina. They claim to be the best Cuban restaurant north of the border; as a practical matter they may be the only Cuban in Marathon. 305/743-5247 <http://www.keysdirectory.com/donpedros/index.html>

MM 50.5 HERBIE'S. *Best Conch Fritters! Casual Old-Time Cool. A real Conch Joint. This is it, this is what ya came for! 11am-10pm, Closed Sundays. Inexpensive, the real deal!* 305/743-6373

MM 50 THE CRACKED CONCH CAFE, *Fresh Conch any way you want it! A Keys Landmark. Conch Burgers, Conch Fritters, Jerked Conch Steaks, Conch Salad, Conch Du Jour! 8am-Midnight, casual, inexpensive and always good!* 25 years in the same location, and they even have a good web site! And there's a coupon on the site for *free* conch chowder, so you can't beat that! 305/743-2233 <http://www.conchcafe.com/>

MM49 Overseas Lounge and Liquor Store. Just your basic casual unassuming bar, but also a Marathon rider friendly hangout which is also popular with a lot of cruising sailors who don't have gold fixtures on their boats. Food, billiards, jukebox & dancing, live music many nights. 305/743-5311

~~MM 48.5 Sunset Cafe at Buccaneer Resort. Good Sunset.~~—The whole place, including Buccaneer Resort, is closed for renovations during 2004. Stay tuned.

near MM 48 Castaway Restaurant, *down 15th St. Evenings 5pm-10pm. Beer & Shrimp. Very Casual.* 1406 Oceanview Ave. 305/743-6247

~~MM who knows where, but it's a bit north of the Marathon Airport. **Shucker's Rawbar & Grill,** *Marathon, great sunset spot on the water. Cold Corona & Stone Crab Claws, Best Grouper Sandwich in Marathon.*~~—RIP. The building has reportedly been purchased by a bank and will be used for their offices. Just what Marathon needs – another bank building with a view. Argh!

Keys Fisheries Market and Marina. One of the few places that isn't on US 1 but it also isn't hard to find - just find 35th St. and follow 35th a few blocks west until you find saltwater. Nice hidden away restaurant where you know that the fish is fresh because the restaurant is attached to a hidden away processing facility for several of the best-known restaurants in the area. Their motto "*We make eating fun*" is appropriate. 3502 Gulfview Ave. 305/743-6727.

near MM 47.6 Cabot's on the Water, formerly the Bacchus Tiki Bar, down 11th St. north of 7 Mile Bridge. A sports bar with good seafood & sunsets; this is one of Marathon's better views. 725 11th St Ocean. 305/743-6442 <http://www.cabotsonthewater.com/>

 **MM 47.5*B Porky's Bayside BBQ & Tiki Bar,** *Home of the FREE NIGHTLY SUNSET PARTY CRUISE! Leaves every night 1/2 hour prior to sunset! Lasts aprox. 1 Hour. Great Sunset Photos & Cold beer! Great food & live music by Rocketman back at the bar! Another Cap'n Ron Top Ten. See the Parrotfish under the dock.* This is a popular local rider friendly place. Rocketman sounds like quite a character, and plays a variety of Buffett and Buffettesque music. Info on Rocketman is at <http://www.captainpips.com/rocketman.htm>. 305/289-2065



MM 47 Old 7 Mile Grille, Open-air local joint, Closed Wed & Thur. A buddy of mine once owned this place and he and his family still have a home on the street just in back of the Grille. Now that he is retired he spends all of his summertime motorcycling around the US and going to motorcycling events. Tough gig! Anywho, this place has been a popular casual establishment for

breakfast, lunch and dinner since 1954. Might as well stop here if you are hungry, because pretty soon there's going to be a long stretch (almost 7 miles, to be exact) where there ain't gonna be any food or drink. 305/743-4481 <http://keysdining.com/7milegrill/>

MM47 and change thru about MM 41. The historic **Seven Mile Bridge**. No food or drink. No nothing as a matter of fact, except a great view and tons of history. The new bridge was opened in 1980 and replaced the very narrow old bridge which had actually been built on the pilings that supported Flagler's railroad, now almost 100 years old itself (take a close look at the guardrails on the old bridge that are rusting and falling into the sea; they are actually the old tracks from Flagler's railroad) . OK, so someone gyped someone and this new bridge is only 6.79 miles long but it is still the longest segmented bridge in the World.



You have seen it on the silver screen in everything from old Shell Oil commercials to the Arnold Schwarzenegger flick True Lies where the villains blow up a section of the roadbed. Enjoy the ride across the new Seven Mile Bridge but be careful - nasty head on collisions happen here way too frequently. Take your time, don't speed, and don't pass anyone unless you are sure that it's going to be a safe pass. There are some great images of the two bridges at <http://www.firstboat.schoolreference.com/7-mile-bridge-florida-keys-1.html>.

➔ That island in the middle of the Seven Mile Bridge is **Pigeon Key** and was used as a construction camp when the original bridge was built. A shuttle will take you from the MM47 end of the bridge to Pigeon Key; no autos are allowed on the old and rickety Old Bridge. Interesting info on Pigeon Key at <http://www.trainweb.org/rshs/GRS - Pigeon Key, Florida.htm>

MM 37 Bahia Honda Park. *The Best Beach in the Lower Keys! Boat Rentals & Snorkel Trips to Looe Key Dive Park. Great place to hang, swim, BBQ grill some goodies outdoors.*



Three camping areas with cabins, marinas, and picnic grounds. The Flagler Bridge off the southern peninsula, with Flagler's train trestle and the later automobile span curving high above it, is the original Bahia Honda Bridge, now a national historical site. Take a hard look at how tall and narrow that sucker is and be thankful for the new bridge and highway system. 305/872-2353

Enter Big Pine Key:

CAUTION! Big Pine is the home of the endangered Key deer. Whatever you do here, ride or drive slowly. Obey the speed limit signs. If you hit one of the deer, and that happens with frightening frequency, you will have bought yourself some of the most expensive venison on the planet (the fine for feeding a Key deer is \$250; don't even think about putting one on the hood of your car). Which overlooks the obvious, and that is that the little suckers are cute and endangered.

A few miles after you have crossed the Seven Mile Bridge a tourist bar and two rider-friendly bars appear in quick succession:

MM 31.2 Rob's Island Grill. Of the three bars and restaurants in this little strip of US1, Rob's is about the most upscale. If that's your thing. 305/872-3022

MM 31.1 Big Pine House of Music. This is a new place that just opened up in October 2004 but promises to be a home to musicians visiting the Keys. Presumably they are especially fond of thirsty musicians. The owner is a gent by the name of Angus Bangus, so I guess that just proves that sometimes the truth is stranger than fiction. Seriously, I have to wish them well and this sounds like an entertaining place. One of the local ABATE chapters meets here and the bar supports poker runs, so they are definitely motorcycle friendly. 305/872-9000. Website at <http://www.angusbangushome.com/>

MM 31 Key Deer Bar and Grill. Local small biker-friendly establishment. Really, really laid back and oftentimes the local regulars provide a little unintentional entertainment. Captain Dan runs the show there and he's usually around the place and quite friendly. Dan describes the place as not a sports bar as such but a Green Bay Packers and NASCAR bar. They have plenty of televisions and are within walking distance of Big Pine House of Music. 305/872-1014

The NO NAME PUB 30831 North Watson Blvd, Big Pine Key. Best Pizza in the Keys! A great hangout with mega cold AC. DRIVE REALLY SLOW! NEIGHBORHOOD SPEED TRAP!!!! Turn at the only stoplight on Big Pine Key, take left fork for 1.5 miles, then turn right onto N.Watson for another 1.5 miles, it's on the left just before the bridge to No Name Key on the back side of Big Pine Key. It's also where the endangered Tiny Key Deer live. Be Careful!. Really! Stupid tourista idiots hit & kill dozens of Tiny Key Deer every year and fines & penalties are severe! Slow down & mellow out! Here's where

Captain Ron and I disagree, because if you take the right fork in the road (right after you turn at the light) and follow that road you will meander through the neighborhood but will eventually find the No Name Pub bit faster. In my opinion. And you will go through less of the deer habitat, too. The No Name is a Florida legend and is well worth tracking down. Originally a bait and tackle shop, the pub was added on in 1936. Somewhere in the late 1930's the upstairs storage room was converted into a brothel. In the 1940's the brothel folded as the place concentrated more on travelers to the Keys (also, some would argue that the girls looked rougher than the local fishermen). In the 1950's the general store closed but the bar had a lively series of dice games out back, allegedly with the local sheriff getting part of the proceeds. The '70s and '80s saw a lot of rowdy behavior, mostly because of the amount of illegal money passing through the Keys, a portion of which currently adorns the walls. Now the No Name is best known for casual but civilized dining and good pizza. 305/872-9115



305/872-9115
<http://www.nonamepub.com/index.html>



And while you are right next to No Name Key, take the time to take a SLOW drive onto No Name and check out the tiny deer. A definite Captain Ron and PirateJohn must see.

MM 30 BIG PINE COFFEE SHOP, open 6am-9pm. 305/872-2790

MM 28.5 Little Palm Island, Small luxury resort on private island. If you have to ask, ... then you definitely can't afford it. 305/872-2524 <http://www.littlepalmisland.com/>

MM 27.5 Looe Key Reef Resort and Dive Center, nearby DIVE shops that go out to Looe Key Reef for the most primo diving/snorkeling in the lower Keys, WAY better than ANY diving in Key West! Snorkel trips are on \$20! Cap'n Ron says Don't Miss It! 1-800/942-5397 (Hotel) or 1-800/LOOE KEY (Diving) <http://www.diveflakekeys.com/>

MM 27.5 Boondocks, Ramrod Key 305/872-4094

MM 22.5. Square Grouper Bar and Grill. Although you can see the place from US 1 you have to turn onto Cutthroat and then hang a right on La Fitte. Those of you who appreciate Pirate lore don't you just love those names? Decent food, clean and new building, but the

place is kind of straining to go upscale. Not really my idea of a laid back place but if you want nicer at a reasonable price this is a good stop. 305/745-8880

➔ And if you wonder what a square grouper is, it's a slang expression for a square package of cocaine, usually mysteriously washed up on the shore in the Keys. It's no secret that back in the bad old days of the 80's a square grouper was as negotiable as cash in most of the bars of the Keys.

MM25. Fishcutter's Restaurant and Fish Market. Fish doesn't get any fresher than this, nor do stone crabs when they are in season. This is one of the hot new places catering to the locals with outstanding seafood. The owner is a H-D rider so this place is 100% rider friendly. 305/745-1322.

MM 20 MANGROVE MAMA'S, oh yez, now this, this is really what ya came for! Let the rum, shrimp, & Coppertone flow baby! You are in the fabulous Florida Keys! 305/745-3030

MM 17 Sugarloaf Airstrip right behind the Sugarloaf Lodge; Fantasy Dan's Sightseeing Cessna plane rides out over the Keys backcountry at low altitude! Only \$40 - \$60 depending on the trip you pick. A great bargain and great for video & photos! See sharks, rays, whales, and assorted smugglers & refugees!!! 305/745-2217
<http://www.sugarloaflodge.com/airstrip.htm>

MM 10 BOBALU'S SOUTHERN CAFE, Big Coppitt Key. Good Southern style food. 305/296-1664

Stock Island - Right next door to Key West!

The Rusty Anchor, Blue-Collar Conch. A rustic, local working man's establishment. The seafood here is the freshest, the portions are generous, and the prices are very reasonable by Keys standards. 5510 3rd. Ave. 305/294-5369 Waypoint = "RUSTY" Coordinates = N24.56879 W81.73888

Hickory House. A funky jazz club, built in the 40's and right next to the water. 5948 Peninsula Ave. 305/292-2211 <http://www.seefloridaonline.com/hickoryhouse/home.html>
Waypoint = "HICKRY" Coordinates = N24.56467 W81.7294

Key West! You made it to the end of the line!

Duval Street is the heart of the Key West tourist district. As you are driving in on US1, a/k/a Roosevelt Blvd., keep rolling until you come to Duval St. Hang a right on Duval and enjoy the show. We are going to take a quick run down the northern end of Duval, show you some highlights, and then turn around and work our way back.

WARNING! - - MARGARITAVILLE DEAD AHEAD!!!!!!!

Go directly to **DUVAL STREET** ! Slowly cruise west towards Mallory Pier, just follow the sun stupid! (or look for a towering cruise ship) Note **Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville, Sloppy Joe's, the legendary Bull and Whistle Pub, and the real deal: Capt. Tony's Saloon, (the original Sloppy Joe's).**



Jimmy Buffett performing an unannounced concert in front of Margaritaville in 2002.

And what can you say about **Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville?** If you are a Parrothead, and who going to Key West isn't, then you've got to stop by. Plenty of Jimmy Buffett memorabilia, decent food (although the menu seems to shrink every year), and some great musical acts grace the stage there. Mr. Jimmy himself seems to sneak into town about once a year and play at his own place, so who knows – you might get lucky and see him perform up close and personal. 305/292-1435. 500 Duval St. <http://margaritaville.com/cafes/keywest.htm> Waypoint = "MARGKW" Coordinates = N24.55566 W81.80294

Then go next door and check out **Fast Buck Freddie's**. Think Bloomingdale's meets Key West. If it is glitzy and for sale it is here somewhere. Legendary window displays. I've always got a laugh out of them because when someone penned a slightly unflattering and unauthorized biography of Jimmy Buffett they had stacks to sell to the Parrotheads leaving Margaritaville. Buffett later put that same book on sale in his own store, which shows you that a sense of humor goes a long way in Key West. 500 Duval St. 305/294-2007 Waypoint = "FASTFD" Coordinates = N24.55573 W81.80300.

Past Buffett's Margaritaville you will find the **Bull and Whistle**. See the large plants on the roof? According to Captain Ron "the 3rd floor rooftop clothing optional bar above the Bull and Whistle on Duval St. is always an interesting place to stop by for a beer, if only for the great view of Duval St. below, never mind the other 'sights' " On the corner of Duval & Caroline Streets. 305/296-4565 <http://www.thebullandwhistle.com/> Waypoint = EDEN Coordinates = N24.55788 W81.80454



Sloppy Joe's is on the corner of Greene and Duval. Supposedly Hemingway's favorite bar (see further comments when we discuss Captain Tony's Saloon) Sloppy Joe's is really popular with tourists, so if you can find a place to sit down then grab it. And if you are stuck at home look on

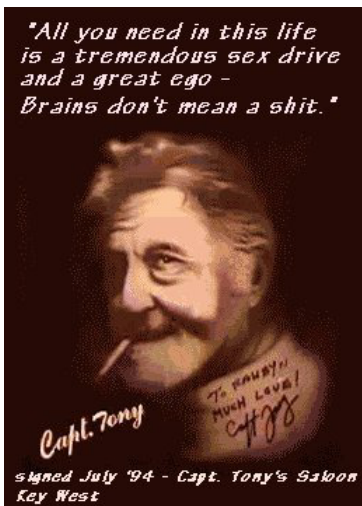
their website for the webcam, check out the traffic on Duval St., and live vicariously during the dead of winter when you are stuck in the house in Newark and the Key West tourists are running around in shorts. 201 Duval Street. 305/294-5717 <http://www.sloppyjoes.com/>
Waypoint = "SJOE" Coordinates = N24.55891 W81.80532

Just down Greene Street is **Captain Tony's Saloon**, which is appropriate because the current location of Sloppy Joe's is actually the second location for Hemingway's favorite bar. Just look for the eyeball-searing bright yellow building with the fish above the doorway. The legend has it that Joe Russell, who rented Sloppy Joe's at the location that is now Captain Tony's, got irritated with a \$1 a week rent increase. So one day he told his customers to pick up their bar stools and they all walked to the current location of Sloppy Joe's.

Captain Tony's Saloon is far and away about ol' John's most favoritest bar to casually hang out, drink a few, and watch the locals and the tourists go by. The bar is named after former owner Tony Terracino, who is outrageous to the extreme. Although he is getting up there in years (you have to admire a man who is on oxygen yet is hitting on your date) he still manages to make it to the bar every so often to sign autographs - ask the bartender at Tony's when he will be back. Tony was the subject of a magazine article back in the 60's about his gun running, pimping, and other illegal activities, and was the mayor of Key West in 1990 or so. Only in Key West.



They have some good music there, too, with excellent local musicians playing throughout the day so tip the musicians well. See the mounted fish at the entrance to the building? Tradition says that if you toss a quarter into the fish's mouth you will have good luck, although I'm sure that the best luck goes to the gent who cleans out that stuffed grouper every now and then.



Notice the tombstone on the floor – Reba Sawyer, 1900-1950? Her husband discovered upon her death that she was having a decade-long affair with a man that she was meeting at the saloon, so he threw the tombstone on the sidewalk with the comment "She wanted to be here so much, now she can be here for all eternity." After Captain Tony heard that Reba's kids didn't want her headstone back, he imbedded it in the floor of the bar. See all the names of celebrities on the bar stools? That means that they sat there. Once upon a time this building was the city mortuary. History, weirdness, and humor, it's all buried there at Captain Tony's Saloon, even if you do have to blow the dust off sometimes to find it. 428 Green St. 305/294-1838 <http://www.capttonyssaloon.com/>
Waypoint = "TONYS" Coordinates = N24.55875 W81.80555

→ “*All you need in this life is a tremendous sex drive and a giant ego. Brains don’t mean a shit.*” Tony’s motto, proudly reproduced on zillions of t-shirts.

Sunset at Mallory Pier. Margaritas, Boatdrinks, Rum Tundra Blowouts! Go to the northern end of Duval Street and hang a left. Trust me, you cannot miss Mallory Square and the legendary sunset celebration that occurs every day at, duh, sunset. Waypoint = MALLRY Coordinates = N24.56043 W81.80770

OK. Has Key West and it’s inherent weirdness scared you off yet? No? Good! Now that you are at Mallory Square and the northern end of the island, let’s look around at a few other places nearby -

The **Pier House Resort**. 1 Duval St. is the very northern end of Duval so you shouldn’t have too much trouble finding the place. There are several restaurants and bars on the premises and upscale lodging starting at \$200/night during the off season and \$290/night during the tourist season. Or try the Sunset Suite for \$1,400 to \$1,800 per night – nice! Like everything else in Key West there are stories here. David Wolkowsky, who built the Pier House in the early 60’s was a friend of Tennessee Williams, was one of the pallbearers at William’s funeral, and is still a political power in Key West. The Pier House was built on the site of the old Porter Steamship Company offices; Wolkowsky had his office lifted onto pilings out in the water and basically built the Pier House around that building. 800/327-8340. <http://www.pierhouse.com/iflash.html> Waypoint = PIERHS Coordinates = N24.56095 W81.80681

Hog’s Breath Saloon. Everyone in this part of the country has seen those t-shirts that proudly proclaim that *hog’s breath is better than no breath at all*, right? Well, this is the place, and they will be happy to sell you a few. Sorta on the corner of Front St. and Duval St. (there is actually another building right on the corner but you get the picture) 400 Front St. Good live music throughout the day and outdoor drinkin’ of some ice cold beer. They will even be happy to sell you their own brand of beer. 305/296-4222 <http://www.hogsbreath.com/> Waypoint = HOGBTH Coordinates = N24.55994 W81.80611

Now turn around and walk back southward on Duval until you get to Greene St. where Sloppy Joe’s and Captain Tony’s is located.

To the west is **Mel Fisher’s Maritime Museum, a/k/a the Atocha Museum**. Mel, who passed away a few years ago, was either one of Key West’s greatest saints or greatest sinners depending on your side of the equation, but there is no doubt that he was an independent cuss and a charismatic figure. Mel was a true Pirate, in the best sense of the word. After decades of searching for sunken treasure in the waters off of the Florida Keys and with a crew in the Tortugas searching for the wreck of the legendary Nuestra Senora de Atocha, Mel’s big day came on July 20 of 1985 when his son Kane radioed "Put away the charts. We've found the main pile." Pandemonium broke out in Key West with the local radio stations broadcasting messages that if anyone saw Mel they should tell him the news. Reportedly Mel was in a store buying new swim fins when well wishers told him. The museum houses

some of the more spectacular pieces from the Atocha and other Spanish treasure ships that have been salvaged, as well as the offices of the ongoing Fisher treasure hunting operations. And make no mistake about it, a salvage operation has bills to pay and they will be happy to sell you jewelry that they have found. 200 Greene Street. 305/294-2633. <http://www.melfisher.org/> Waypoint = MEL Coordinates = N24.55807 W81.80647

Keep walking southbound on Duval and you will find:

Irish Kevin's is practically next door to Sloppy Joe's. Popular with Parrotheads and just about anyone else with a sense of mischievousness. They have some regular performers here, including Irish Kevin Himself and Adrian Walker, a Brit whose humour can best be described (according to their website) as "not for everyone," which is a polite way of saying "adult." This is kind of like a traditional Irish pub on acid, so if you are looking for a relaxed and quiet place go elsewhere, but most of the folks who drop in for a beer wind up staying all afternoon. 211 Duval St. 305/292-1262 <http://www.irishkevins.com/> Waypoint = IKEV Coordinates = N24.55858 W81.80507

Across the street from Irish Kevin's is **Rick's/Durty Harry's Entertainment Complex**. 10 bars in 4 venues, this is a very popular location on Duval St. Three varieties of **Rick's** (Upstairs, Downstairs, and the Tree Bar), **Durty Harry's**, **Crow's Nest**, and the **Red Garter Saloon**, which is the only topless bar in the Duval St. tourist strip. They have an entertaining web site: look for the photos from Fantasy Fest and their webcam which shows you what's happenin' in the bar. 202 Duval St. <http://www.rickskeywest.com/index.php>



Waypoint = RICKS Coordinates = N24.55862 W81.80514

See that small street, practically an alley, across from Irish Kevin's? That's Charles St.

The **Red Garter Saloon** has an entrance on Charles St. if you are the shy type and don't want to be seen walking into a topless bar from the center of Rick's complex.

And if you aren't quite that shy, across the street is **Naked Lunch**, a stand-alone clothing-optional restaurant, and perhaps the only clothing optional restaurant in the country actually located in a metropolitan area, which is conveniently around the corner from the Garden of Eden. The food is actually pretty good and the prices fair, especially by Keys standards. 4 Charles St. 305/293-9532 Waypoint = NEKKID Coordinates = N24.55821 W81.80551

Keep walking south on Duval and go back to the Bull and Whistle and Garden of Eden. If you turn westward on Caroline you will find -

Kelly's Caribbean Bar, Grill and Brewery. Fine dining, whether you want to go inside or hang outside among the trees and the scenery. The bar was built into the corner of the building where the legendary Pan Am Airlines had their offices when they began the first international flights (Key West to Cuba in 1927). Kelly incidentally, is Kelly McGillis the actress, best known for her starring role alongside Tom Cruise in Top Gun. On the corner of Caroline and Whitehead. 305/293-8484 <http://www.kellyskeywest.com/> Waypoint = "KELLY" Coordinates = N24.55719 W81.80566

➔ And yeah, this is the street made famous in the Jimmy Buffett tune "*Woman Going Crazy On Caroline Street.*"

Keep walking south on Duval St. Walk past Fast Buck Freddie's and Margaritaville. A bit past Margaritaville do you see that alley on your right? Appelrouth Lane?

Check out **Leather Master of Key West.** Don't know if they have any biker leathers here, but for a definite walk on the wild side stroll half a block off Duval to 418 Appelrouth Lane. This is a good place to pick up a souvenir for your grandma or the folks back at the bank where you work. Assuming, of course, that your grandma pierces her nipples and enjoys this kind of stuff. They describe Leather Master as a toy store for the adventurous, so I guess that if your adventure begins in the Erogenous Zones then you must check this place out. Even their window displays are R-rated. 418 Appelrouth Lane 305/292-5051 <http://www.leathermaster.com/> Waypoint = LTHR Coordinates = N24.55463 W81.80286

Keep walking south on Duval St. and hang a right (westward) turn on Southward.

*Then, after ya got all the tourista crap outta yer system and ya wanna really get down and do "The Key West Boogie" the way the locals do, Take it to the END OF THE LINE! THE LAST BAR ON EARTH! THE SOUTHERNMOST DIVE IN THE USA!!!! 90 MILES NORTH OF CUBA! I'm talkin' about the one & only, the myth, the legend, ... The **Green Parrot Bar** on Whitehead Street just off Duval. And hey buckaroo, it don't get no better than that muchacho unless **BILL BLUE & The Nervous Guys** or **The Roach Thompson Blues Band** are playing that night! Cold Beer, Hot Music, Cool Vibes! Yeah, man! This is one of the real last of the old school Key West Boogie Palaces. The Green Parrot is the last (& first) bar on U.S. 1, a sunny place for shady people! and **THE BEST DAMN BAR IN KEY WEST!** Do check out the bands at the Green Parrot; they often get some legendary rockabilly and blues performers. Corner of Southard and Whitehead. Website at <http://www.greenparrot.com/> Waypoint = GREENP Coordinates = N24.55391 W81.80317*

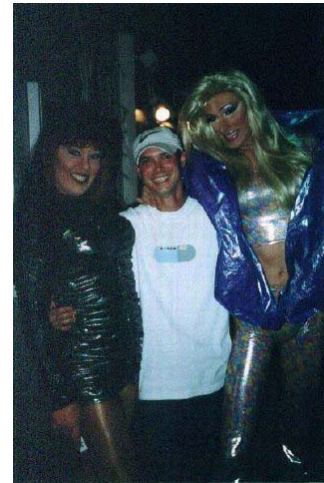
Continue southbound on Duval St. Find ...

Crabby Dicks'. Good seafood and cold beer on the second floor overlooking Duval Street. A nice place where you can eat indoor in the cold air conditioning or outside on the patio, and they do some serious cooking here. My favorite recollection of this place was watching The Keys Channel (a local cable channel and well worth watching) where Capt. Tony

Terracino, of Captain Tony's Saloon fame, commented about how fresh the fish was and to the horror of Crabby Dicks' owner's wife adlibbed that Crabby Dicks' was a great place to sit and watch the hookers on Duval. You be the judge. 305/294-7229. 712 Duval St. Waypoint = CRABDK Coordinates = N24.55340 W81.80127

OK, so has Key West scared you YET? No? OK, so continue southbound to Duval and Petronia.

801 Bourbon Bar. This is perhaps not the best place to pick up a chick, because here the ladies are likely to have kickstands. Unless you are into that sort of thing. Not like there's anything wrong with that, if that's their preference. Seriously, some of the most outrageous and campy "gals" in town regularly hang around on Duval Street in the evenings in order to promote shows at this place. Their motto is "*where life is a drag*" so you should be getting the picture by now. Needless to say this place is a bit, uh, 'entertaining.' If you are from Kansas, you can find Dorothy here every so often but I doubt if there is any place like this in Topeka. 801 Duval, on the corner of Duval St. and Petronia St. 305/294-9354 Waypoint = 801B Coordinates = N24.55264 W81.80068



And across Duval Street and slightly back to the north is the **Bourbon Street Pub Complex** composed of the Bourbon Street Bar, the New Orleans House Gay Guesthouse, and a few other shops. The Bourbon Street Bar hosts what they claim is the largest gay party in Key West every evening. The complex starts at 724 Duval Street. They have a good website at <http://www.bourbonstreetpub.com/> Waypoint = BOURBN Coordinates = N24.55267 W81.80072

➔ On any average day Key West has about 185 bars, which isn't bad for a little island 2 miles by 3 miles.

Looking for breakfast after closing the bars in a town where most of the bars shut the doors at 4AM? Well, catch a little sleep and then head westward on Petronia to Blue Heaven.

Have dinner at Blue Heaven, or The Half Shell Raw Bar! or maybe Pepe's or The Pier House.



Blue Heaven has an eclectic history that includes, among other things, being the location where Ernest Hemingway used to referee fights. Fights among boxers, that is. They would do cock fights the rest of the time, which helps to explain the roosters that are still hanging around the outdoor dining area. Immortalized in a Buffett song, Blue Heaven has gotten to be quite popular so expect to wait for your food, although breakfast is awesome and arguably worth the wait. If you have

to wait head to the bar and order a Bloody Mary. 729 Thomas St. (2 blocks west of Duval St., at the corner of Petronia and Thomas, and in the heart of Bahama Village) 305/296-8666 [http://blueheavenkw.homestead.com/Blue Heaven Restaurant Key West.html](http://blueheavenkw.homestead.com/Blue_Heaven_Restaurant_Key_West.html)
Waypoint = BLUHVN Coordinates = N24.55136 W81.80281

Ah, the Half Shell! We almost forgot! Some of Key West's best places aren't on Duval. OK, so let's head back northbound on Duval to Caroline Street. Hang a right (eastbound) on Caroline Street.

The **Half Shell Raw Bar** is another of both Ron and John's favorite places. Great seafood, and with a location on the Old Historic Seaport you can sit there and enjoy the boats and boat traffic. The atmosphere is decidedly casual (long picnic tables and paper plates) but the beer and food are great. And just remember that motto: *Eat it raw!* 231 Margaret St. 305/294-7496 <http://www.halfshellrawbar.com/> Waypoint = HALFSH Coordinates = N24.56178 W81.80013

While at the Half Shell walk across the parking lot to their sister restaurant **Turtle Kraals**. "Kraals" is a Dutch corruption for the word corral and refers to the once thriving turtle fishing industry that used to exist in Key West. Some of the last pens (kraals) for holding turtles can still be seen beside the restaurant but hurry because they are deteriorating quickly and almost completely gone. There is a turtle museum next to the restaurant that is well worth a look. <http://www.turtlekraals.com/> Waypoint = KRAALS Coordinates = N24.56178 W81.80062

Walk a bit further along the waterway going toward Duval Street and find the **Conch Republic Seafood Company** at 631 Greene St. 305/294-4403. Conch Republic is a fine place with good food, live entertainment every so often, and a good view of the boats and waterways. It's a popular place with riders. But something else makes the Conch Republic Seafood Company especially entertaining, especially to Parrotheads. Look out the front door. See that unmarked white windowless building a little to the left of the corner? That's **Shrimpboat Sound Studios**, Jimmy Buffett's recording studio. Quite a bit of Buffett's latest #1 album, *License to Chill*, was recorded there, along with tunes that appear on several other artists' albums. David Allan Coe may sing that "*Jimmy Buffett don't live in Key West no mo*"", which is partly true, but he sure continues to come back to the Keys and he records his music here. Conch Republic Seafood's Waypoint = CNCHSF Coordinates = N24.56063 W81.80317 Shrimpboat Sound Studio Waypoint = SHMPBT Coordinates = N24.56056 W81.80251

Walk back to Caroline St. and find Pepe's.

Founded in 1910, **Pepe's** is a popular and somewhat legendary small place near the Half Shell. They serve great Cuban food and some seriously healthy portions (like double pork chops with a steak on top of that!), but the outdoor bartender that was there the last time that I ate at Pepe's really should seriously consider changing careers. Either that, or get his HMO to pay for a personality transplant. I've since heard that others have had problems with this dude, so be warned. 806 Caroline St. 305/294-7192 Waypoint = PEPE Coordinates = N24.56015 W81.80084

➔ ol' John was walking on Caroline St. between Pepe's and Duval Street once and found a gaggle of tourists standing around on the sidewalk and laughing. It seems that someone had been evicted, their property was on the curb, and their vibrator had gotten turned on and was wiggling its way down the sidewalk. As my date commented "That was a very expensive vibrator once." Way more detail than I needed to know, and a sight that you would see only in Key West ...

No trip to Key West would be complete without a couple of other landmarks:

Stop off at the Ernest Hemingway House and see the famous SIX-TOED CATS of Key West! Nautical legend has it six-toed cats were good luck on a ship, and all of Key West's present six-toes are said to be descended from the original Polydactyl furkats that Hemingway brought down from New England. Ol' Papa often said he preferred them to most people he knew. The Hemingway House is a magnificent home with tons of interesting artifacts. When you are Hemingway and you have friends like Picasso what does one expect? <http://www.hemingwayhome.com/> Waypoint = HEMING Coordinates = N24.55109 W81.80122



And at the end of Whitehead Street, go to the Southernmost Point Marker, designating the southernmost point of something. The southernmost point that you can drive or ride to? Anywho, it's a must see. At the southern end of Whitehead Street, one block away from Duval and very near the southern end of Duval St. Waypoint = STHRNM Coordinates = N24.54634 W81.79776

➔ "I told you I was sick." The legend on the tomb of B.P. Roberts, interred in the Key West Cemetery.

One last note about adult entertainment in Key West, because everyone that walks down to the southern end of Duval Street always asks about this place:

Key West Scrub Club. I'm pretty sure that Hemingway never visited here; if he had, it would have aged him pretty quickly. From their web site: "Totally nude ladies for your bathing pleasure. Fetish & fantasy role-playing. Nude lap dancing & modeling in private rooms." The web site is in various languages: French, Greek, Cowgirl, etc. Sorry, that's a bad joke but I couldn't resist. Do, however, recharge your pacemaker batteries before visiting this place. And my guess is that you should bring lots of ca\$h. They run an escort service so whatever your kinks are I'm sure they will be happy to help you iron them out. This is a flashy place on the southern end of Duval St. and the City of Key West recently

requested that the Scrub Club stop driving their brightly painted vans around the town and parking them at random places in order to promote the business. Only in Key West. 1221 Duval St. 305/294-4174. <http://keywestscrubclub.com/En/> Waypoint = SCRUB Coordinates = N24.54859 W81.79736

And finally, yeah, FINALLY ('cause there is so much to see in Key West!), a few of Ron's favorite places and things that are a bit off of Duval Street. These aren't in walking distance so if you are riding a cycle then I suggest that you ride. And if you are hoofing it, calling a cab is in order. Cab service in Key West is excellent, by the way.

IMHO - Chicharrones Cuban Cafe on White St. off the tourist path has the best Cuban food in Key West and 1/3 the price of the Duval tourist joints. Owner Miguel Garcia's Mojo Cuban Pork Roast with yellow rice & black beans and fried sweet plantains is the third best thing I've ever put in my mouth!!! 1223 White Street. 305/292-0160 Waypoint = CHICHA Coordinates = N24.55357 W81.78924

Cap'n Dave & his 28' boat The Coral Reefer at Garrison Bight Marina does great reef trips and takes you out to hang with pods of wild dolphins. This is the real Flipper Experience - no cages, no pens - the way nature intended. Dave is also very well respected locally as he does not allow tourists to hassle, harass or harm and wild dolphins they encounter. It's great fun and a great photo op for pictures & memories you'll cherish. A hundred times better than the Dolphin Research Center "Swim With The Dolphin in a pool" in the middle Keys which is a tourist trap and the only "research" they do is exploiting caged dolphin for tourist bucks. Cap'n Dave & his boat the Coral Reefer totally ROCK!!!! Tell'em Cap'n Ron sent ya! Call 800/733-5397 to contact Captain Dave Lewis. <http://www.wilddolphinadventures.com/custom.html> Garrison Bight Marina is at 711 Eisenhower Dr. Waypoint = BITE Coordinates = N24.56058 W81.78901

And once you've had your walk on the semi-wild side and need to chill and relax, here are a couple of ol' John's favorite haunts when he gets into town -



I usually stay at **Bogart's Inn** at the corner of Duval and Olivia. The rates are good and the rooms always nice, and the place is right for the heart of the tourist area. It always amazes me that more people don't know about this place. And they have a genuine Irish pub, Casablanca, on the premises. 900 Duval St. 305/296-0637 Waypoint = CASABL, Coordinates = N24.55175 W81.80008

For breakfast, walk down the street to **Croissants De France**. Great stuff, and all open air dining. You can also pick up coffees and breakfast pastries to go. 816 Duval St. 305/294-2624 Waypoint = FRANCE, Coordinates = N24.55255 W81.80066

➔ A good way to get an overview of Key West's Old Town is to take the **Conch Tour Train**. For \$22 the Conch Train will ride you around Key West and the experienced tour

guide operating the 'train' will show you the high points and low points of the history of the island. Very educational; I cannot think of any place in the country that has so much history crammed into such a tiny little island. 800/868-7482. You can catch the Conch Tour Train at various places around Old Town; try the main Conch Train stop on Front St. a block or so from the Hog's Breathe and near Mallory Square. <http://www.conchtourtrain.com/>



Should you need 'em here are the motorcycle dealers in Key West:

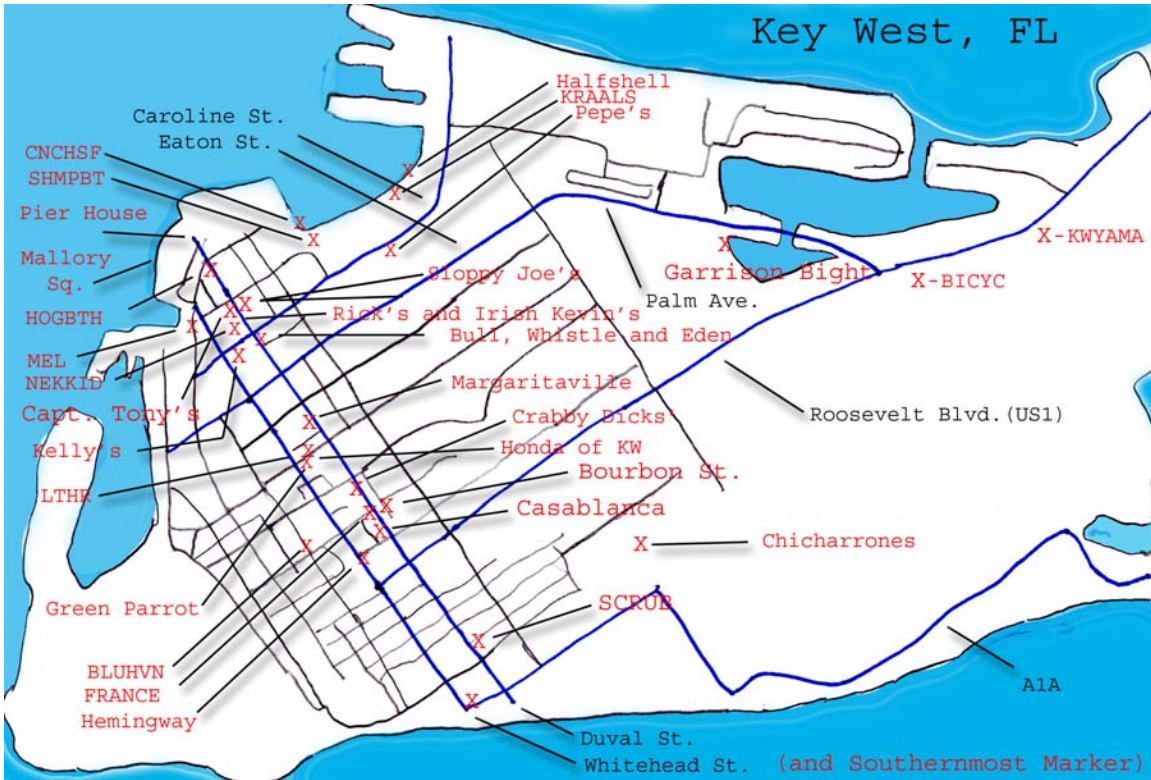
Bone Island Cycle Repairs. Rents and sells used Harleys. Near the local Yamaha dealer. 1910 N Roosevelt Blvd. 305/293-9877 Waypoint = BICYC, Coordinates = N24.55994 W81.78277

➔ Key West was originally called *Cayo Hueso*, or *Island of Bones* by the Spanish explorers because of the large number of Indian bones that were scattered around. Whether Key West was an Indian burial ground or the scene of a large and bloody Indian battle no one knows to this day. So you will see these names quite a bit in Key West.

Yamaha-Fla Keys Cycle. The local Yamaha dealer. 2222 Roosevelt Blvd. 305/296-8600 Waypoint = KWYAMA, Coordinates = N24.56081 W81.77916

Honda Key West. These guys are my buddies after I had a flat one trip and had to have the K1200LT trailered into Key West. They got the tire replaced despite it being a holiday and got me back on the road post haste. Thanks guys! 417 Southard St. 305/294-5551. Waypoint = HNDAKW, Coordinates = N24.55417 W81.80296

➔ A serious note for riders: Key West has special rules for motorcycles. See the bulletin that has a link at <http://www.fla-keys.com/keywest/> but the bottom line is that excessive noise is not tolerated. You need to have a working muffler and Key West is taking the same approach that Daytona Beach is taking, which is to say that revving your motor, burnouts, and other nonsense designed to produce some sound will get you a ticket. Don't wake up the locals, and don't make your stay in Paradise a confrontation between you and the coppers.



Enjoy your stay in The Keys. Wild and crazy, or tropical and just warm and beautiful, Key West and the Florida Keys are a must see for the traveler.

Copyright ©2004 by Ron Thomas Smith and Buccaneer Press, Inc.



BUCCANEER PRESS, INC.