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Three Perfect Days in Key West - A Journey Connected Travel Guide

Day 1

Old Town Trolley Tours - Old Town Trolley Tours USCGC Ingham Maritime Museum - USCGC Ingham Maritime Museum Truman Little White House - Truman Little White House Southernmost Point, Key West - Southernmost Point, Key West

Day 2

Key West Shipwreck Museum - Key West Shipwreck Museum Duval Street - Duval Street Ernest Hemingway House & Museum - Ernest Hemingway House & Museum

Day 3

Ferry to Dry Tortugas & Fort Jefferson - Ferry to Dry Tortugas & Fort Jefferson Vandenberg Wreck - Vandenberg Wreck Audubon House and Tropical Garden - Audubon House and Tropical Garden

Key West City Guide

Key West, Florida - The City

Top Things to Do and See in Key West

Key West, Florida - Do & See - Southernmost Point, Key West, Old Town Trolley Tours, Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center, Mallory Square, Ernest Hemingway House & Museum, Duval Street, Audubon House and Tropical Garden, Ferry to Dry Tortugas & Fort Jefferson, Key West Lighthouse & Keeper's Quarters Museum, Fort Zachary Taylor State Park Beach, Fury Water Adventures, Vandenberg Wreck, Key West Shipwreck Museum, Truman Little White House, USCGC Ingham Maritime Museum, Key West Aquarium, Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory, Basilica of St. Mary Star of the Sea, Key West Garden Club & West Martello Tower

Key West Top Ten

Southernmost Point, Key West - Southernmost Point, Key West Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center - Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center Old Town Trolley Tours - Old Town Trolley Tours Mallory Square - Mallory Square Duval Street - Duval Street Ferry to Dry Tortugas & Fort Jefferson - Ferry to Dry Tortugas & Fort Jefferson Audubon House and Tropical Garden - Audubon House and Tropical Garden Key West Lighthouse & Keeper's Quarters Museum - Key West Lighthouse & Keeper's Quarters Museum Fort Zachary Taylor State Park Beach - Fort Zachary Taylor State Park Beach

Key West Dining, Bars, and Nightlife

Key West, Florida - Dining - El Meson de Pepe, Mangia Mangia, Coles Peace Bakery, Antonia's Restaurant, Two Friends Patio Restaurant, Cafe Sole, Blue Heaven, Prime Steakhouse, La Trattoria Old Town, Santiago's Bodega, La Crêperie French Café Key West, Azur, Shor American Seafood Grill, The Flaming Buoy Filet Co., Hot Tin Roof Restaurant, Seven Fish Restaurant, Nine One Five Bistro and Wine Bar, Salute! On the Beach, Denny's

Key West, Florida - Cafes - Keys Coffee Co., Date & Thyme, Sandy's Café, La Grignote, Seaside Cafe at the Mansion, The Cafe, Pepe's Café, Banana Cafe, Cuban Coffee Queen

Key West, Florida - Bars & Nightlife - Sloppy Joe's Bar, Smokin' Tuna Saloon, Schooner Wharf Bar, Sandbar Sports Grill, Grand Vin Wine Bar, Virgilio's, Rick's, Aqua Bar & Nightclub, Green Parrot Bar

Key West Tourist Resources

Key West, Florida - Tourist Information - Passport / Visa, Best Time to Visit, Key West International Airport (EYW), Public Transport, Taxi, Post, Pharmacy, Time Zone, Telephone, Electricity

Day 1

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Key West Shipwreck Museum

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Ferry to Dry Tortugas & Fort Jefferson

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Vandenberg Wreck

Located 7 miles off the shore of Key West, this is an artificial reef made of a former military ship that was intentionally sunk in 2009. The ship is also a former movie star, since it appeared in the movie Virus in 1996. Today, the sunken ship is the second-largest artificial reef in the world and bucket-list dive for many experienced divers.







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Key West City Guide



Key West, Florida - The City

Enjoy acres of spectacular beaches with powdery white sand and immerse yourself in the colorful flora. Swim with dolphins, shred frosty Atlantic Ocean waves by surfing, and immerse yourself in the perpetual warm waters by snorkeling or swimming. The endless activities will keep you entertained from morning till dusk with jet skiing, and Ferry trips to the Dry Tortuga National Park.

A maritime location, Key West also offers you a historic seaport at Old Town Key West, with museums and historical knowledge. Visit President Harry Truman's Little White House which, now a museum, was premier summer residence. For literature lovers, escape into the enigmatic book world of famous author Ernest Hemingway at his once official Key West vacation spot.

Join in the multi-ethnic restaurant experience and indulge both in delicious creations and in making friends with the locals. Don't leave without visiting Key West's prominent, larger-than-life buoy marker which claims the position of the Southernmost Point Marker in the Continental US, being only 90 miles away from Cuba.





Key West, Florida - Do & See

When thinking about Key West City, the activities that come to mind are soaking in the sun on the shores of the multiple beaches and embarking in the multiple experiences the Atlantic Ocean has to offer. You can spend your days by paddleboarding, sailing the crystal waters on beautiful boats, snorkeling with your family and viewing the vibrant ocean life bellow, graced with colorful reefs and corrals.

You can also get in close contact with the dolphins in their natural habitat, take boat ferry rides to nearby attractions and escape on trolley tours to Old Town Key West, where whimsical local settings await you.

Don't forget to visit the many museums and galleries, dive into the variety of multicultural dishes and take long walks on the pier, all while enjoying the tropical climate and the palm leaves rustling above.





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Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center

35 East Quay Road, Key West +1 305 809 4750

The Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center is a unique ecological phenomenon with a one-of-a-kind underwater ocean laboratory that will take you to its depths. You will find the native flora and animals of the Keys and the spectacular and diverse ecosystem of this region. The living reef exhibit and the Center's theater give you easy access to information about both on-land and underwater life.



Mallory Square 400 Wall Street, Key West

Representing the very heart of the city, Mallory Square gives you many options for shopping, flavorful food, exciting entertainment and spectacular sunsets. Here, every night is a festival: two hours before the sun goes down the Sunset Celebration begins. You will encounter performers of various kinds ranging from aerial acrobats and stunt dogs to bagpipers and local musicians.



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Fort Zachary Taylor State Park Beach

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Fury Water Adventures 2 Duval Street, Key West +1 866 841 3357

Fury Water Adventures offers a variety of experiences: jet ski and glass bottom boat rides, catamaran cruises, parasailing, paddleboard rentals, snorkeling opportunities, dolphin tours and more, all to be enjoyed surrounded by crystal blue waters and local marine life.



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Key West Aquarium

1 Whitehead Street, Key West +1 305 296 2051

Built in 1933 during The Great Depression to stimulate the economy, Key West Aquarium exhibits countless sea creatures, especially ones native to Key West. Kids will love the petting and feeding tanks with stingrays and horseshoe crabs. Themed exhibits are available too, featuring sharks, alligators and jellies.



Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory

1316 Duval Street, Key West +1 305 296 2988

An oasis with a spectrum of colors, here you can stroll through the climate-controlled exhibits with birds, plants, exotic flowers and serene waterfalls. With over 60 butterfly species, this also acts as a learning activity, featuring facts and trivia about the lives of these fragile creatures.



Basilica of St. Mary Star of the Sea 1010 Windsor Lane, Key West +1 305 294 1018

The Basilica of St. Mary made partly of limestone rock from the area offers opportunities for quiet contemplation, a visit to the shrine or simply a stroll in the garden nearby. Being the oldest Catholic church in South Florida, it has been given the title of "basilica" in 2012 because of its historical significance, its spiritual weight and being an excellent example of the eclectic period of American Victorian architecture.



Key West Garden Club & West Martello Tower

1100 Atlantic Boulevard, Key West +1 305 294 3210

The Key West Garden Club is an old Civil War fort and National Historic site that offers a variety of tropical flowering plants and trees, along with a lily pond and a small waterfall. They also offer services for wedding receptions.

This is one of the area's few tourist attractions with no admission charge, since the Key West Garden Club is a non-profit organization.

Key West Top Ten



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Key West Dining, Bars, and Nightlife



Key West, Florida - Dining

Key West is a melting pot of cultural diversity and different ethnic influences. Its dishes range widely from Italian pasta and Cuban Lechon Asado, to Caribbean BBQ shrimp and the more familiar American preparations.





El Meson de Pepe 410 Wall Street, Mallory Square +1 305 295 2620

A family owned restaurant that distinguishes itself by marrying two food cultures: the Floridan and the Cuban. This combination is best represented by their Cayo Hueso Cuban Mix — Key West's version of the traditional Cuban sandwich. The menu includes other specialties such as the Vaca Frita (simmered and pulled beef), and the Lechon Asado (the traditional roasted pork).



Mangia Mangia

900 Southard Street, Key West +1 305 294 2469

Mangia Mangia is famous for its homemade pasta coming in many forms: linguine, pappardelle, fusilli and rigatoni. The menu accompanies them with grilled seafood, sautéed chicken or zucchini ribbons. They also offer to-go options if you want to bring back home specialties such as their Picadillo Pasta.



Coles Peace Bakery

1111 Eaton Street, Key West

+1 305 292 0703

Defining itself as an artisan bakery and sandwich shop, Cole's Peace offers a wide selection of bread since 1997: from whole grain and cinnamon raisin to one of their specials, like mango bread. For lunch you can also order one of their homemade soups, or their signature Ciabatta Lotta, a sandwich with boar's head ham.



Antonia's Restaurant 615 Duval Street, Key West +1 305 294 6565

Located in Old Town Key West, Antonia's offers homemade pasta dishes like linguine with Key West pink shrimp and meatbased delights like the sautéed veal scallopini. These can be then accompanied by your pick from their Wine Spectator award-winning wine list or dessert offerings, which include traditional gelato and tiramisu.



Two Friends Patio Restaurant 512 Front Street, Key West +1 305 296 3124

With an outdoor patio facing Duval Street from which you can enjoy live music performances, this restaurant was repeatedly nominated for the best Bloody Mary in Key West. Among their dishes you can find seafood like their broiled lobster tails, but also char-grilled Angus steaks.



Cafe Sole

1029 Southard Street, Key West +1 305 294 0230

Cafe Sole offers a dinner menu filled with Caribbean and European offerings, with a special twist given by the French chef. You can order their rack of lamb with herbes de Provence, or try their award winning dish — the hog snapper fillet. Together with the salads, vegetarian customers can find another menu made for them.



Blue Heaven

729 Thomas Street, Key West +1 305 296 8666

Located inside Bahama Village, Blue Heaven is regarded as a landmark in Key West for Caribbean cuisine. The menu features Jamaican jerk chicken, Cajun Caribbean BBQ shrimp and also vegetarian options such as miso baked eggplant. On Sundays, a brunch menu is available, as well as specials like their Florida pink shrimp omelette.



Prime Steakhouse

951 Caroline Street, Key West +1 305 296 4000

Despite the name, this restaurant doesn't only offer steak, like their signature bone-in rib eye, but also lobster tails, pasta and salads for the vegetarian customers. All their dishes can be enjoyed either on the terrace or inside one of their dining rooms, accompanied by one of the house's wines and their special side, truffled mac and cheese.



La Trattoria Old Town

524 Duval Street, Key West +1 305 296 1075

In this bistro, it is customary to start off your dinner with a martini, whose price drops at \$7 during their Martini Mondays. You'll then be able to choose one of the dishes on offer, be it Italian-style pasta, locally fished hogfish and snapper or grilled lamb chops.



Santiago's Bodega

207 Petronia Street, Key West +1 305 296 7691

The interior of Santiagio's Bodega features art by Robert Henry Thompson lining the bright yellow walls and furniture made with reclaimed wood. The menu includes various soups and salads, but the main draw are the Spanish tapas, which can be enjoyed either hot or cold.



La Crêperie French Café Key West

300 Petronia Street, Key West +1 305 517 6799

This creperie provides both savory and sweet options. You can choose between omelettes, croques and panini, but there are also crepes with chocolate, Chantilly cream and assorted fruits, all of it ready to be enjoyed either inside or under their patio. The happy hour lasts from 1pm to 3pm, and delivery options are available, too.



Azur 425 Grinnell Street, Key West +1 305 292 2987

The Azur Restaurant menu is rich with gnocchi-based dishes — a kind of pasta in the form of dough dumplings, coupled with tomato, mushrooms and cheese. The meat offerings include Angus rib-eye steak and yellowtail snapper, while vegetarians can select among the different options for salad. You can also have lunch under their terrace, beside a waterfall.



Shor American Seafood Grill

601 Front Street, Key West +1 305 809 4000

Located at the Hyatt Key West Resort and Spa, the waterfront Shor American Seafood Grill uses fresh off the boat seafood such as oysters, shrimps and mussels in order to prepare its award- winning dishes. Specialties include the Shor Seafood hot pot and the local mahi-mahi sandwich.



The Flaming Buoy Filet Co.

424 Eaton Street, Key West +1 305 295 7970

A bistro that caught the eye of The New York Times, The Flaming Buoy offers seating both on a porch and surrounded by their orange-tinted walls. Its cuisine is multi-ethnic, featuring local ingredients and Cuban recipes, among which you can find their lobster mac and cheese and The Filet Co. Three Way, made of ground beef chili.



Hot Tin Roof Restaurant

0 Duval Street, Key West +1 305 296 7701

A 3,000 square foot dining hall with indoor and outdoor seating overlooking Key West Harbor, Hot Tin Roof has a menu characterized by Floridan cuisine enriched with Caribbean influences. Appropriately named, this place offers many choices for both meat lovers and vegans, and a sweeping view of the town.



Seven Fish Restaurant

921 Truman Avenue, Key West +1 305 296 2777

Located slightly off the beaten path, Seven Fish is a restaurant specializing in locally caught seafood. Their specials include the Thai curry snapper and the 7 Fish meatloaf, while they also have many options for cocktails and wines.



Nine One Five Bistro and Wine Bar

915 Duval Street, Key West +1 305 296 0669

Led by an award-winning chef, the 915 features the New Island cuisine, born from Caribbean, Asian and French influences. The dish options range from lobster ravioli and salmon tartare to Peking duck confit and grilled octopus, while you can choose between indoor seating or make use of their Victorian porch.



Salute! On the Beach

1000 Atlantic Boulevard, Key West +1 305 292 1117

Located at Higgs Beach, this restaurant stands out for the Caribbean twists they give to traditional Italian dishes, like with their house made pasta with mussels, white wine and butter. You can then finish your meal with their ice cream sandwiches or Dan's cheesecake.



Denny's

2710 North Roosevelt Boulevard, Key West +1 305 741 7990

Open 24/7, Denny's is your typical American Diner. You'll be able to enjoy their hand-pressed 100% beef burgers, slowcooked pot roast or apple bourbon pancakes. This is only a fraction of their menu based on home-styled dishes, which are available both for delivery and takeout.

Key West, Florida - Cafes

All you will need is plenty of time to explore and enjoy the different variety of cafes available in Key West: from sandwich experts to organic-focused establishments, you'll most likely find something made just for you.





Keys Coffee Co. 505 Southard Street, Key West +1 305 906 1205

All the food in Keys Coffee Co. is made to order with fresh, local ingredients, and can be both consumed indoors, in their blue and yellow tinted interior, or be delivered to you. Sandwiches, tacos and wraps are available for both breakfast and lunch, and they can be coupled with either classic, Cuban or cold coffee.



Date & Thyme

829 Fleming Street, Key West +1 305 296 7766

Date & Thyme is an organic cafe and market, located in a repurposed gas station which is now aptly covered in a vibrant coat of green. The food selection has vegan and gluten-free offerings, among other healthy options. Try their avocado toast, hummus wrap and Thai curry bowl with organic smoothies, juices or coffee on the side.



Sandy's Café

1026 White Street, Key West +1 305 296 4747

This Cuban and Conch cafe is located at the M&M Laundry on White Street. At their two walk-up windows you'll be able to order specials such the "bucci" — eggs with Cuban toast and coffee. Alternatively, try their Authentic Cuban Sandwich, which includes roast pork, ham, salami and Swiss cheese. They also offer take-out and delivery options through their website.



La Grignote

1211 Duval Street, Key West +1 305 916 5445

An artisan French cafe that offers a wide range of daily baked goods: from sweets like croissants, muffins and cookies to savory options like sandwiches, croque-monsieurs, and even lobster soup. Free delivery of their dishes is also available.





Seaside Cafe at the Mansion 1400 Duval Street, Key West

+1 305 340 8167

Located just beside the Atlantic Ocean, inside the Victorian Southernmost Mansion, the Seaside Café is famous for its signature dishes: the Honey Butter Lobster Biscuits and their pizzas baked in a wood-fired oven, as well as their Mansion Mojitos in the drinks department.



The Cafe

509 Southard Street, Key West +1 306 296 5515

Featuring walls decorated with art by a local artist, The Cafe offers gluten-free treats and focuses on vegetarian dishes. Try their Cafe Veggie Burger and seasoned tofu, or order a plate of delicious grilled seafood. Here you'll have the options for dine-in, delivery and take-out.



Pepe's Café

806 Caroline Street, Key West +1 305 294 7192

Pepe's Cafe is one of the oldest restaurants in town — it first opened circa 1909! With different menus for breakfast, lunch and dinner, you can expect soft pancakes, "build-your-own" omelets and fresh sandwiches, as well as their New York Strip steak and seafood entrees.



Banana Cafe

1215 Duval Street, Key West +1 305 294 7227

This French bistro features menus made for breakfast, lunch and dinner, so you'll be able to find sweet and savory crepes, omelets and croque-monsieurs, but also burgers and sandwiches.



Cuban Coffee Queen

284 Margaret Street, Key West +1 305 292 4747

Hot or iced, original or flavored, big or small — here the Cuban coffee comes in all shapes and tastes. You can couple your cup with signature Cuban Mixes with fresh roasted Mojo pork, or their vegetarian options like the black bean veggie burger. Roasted coffee beans are also available to purchase if you want to brew a cup at home.

Key West, Florida - Bars & Nightlife

Key West's evenings and late nights are rife with spectacular venues full of food, live music, and dancing. No matter your preferences, the local bars are so different from each other that you're bound to find what you're looking for. There are plenty opportunities for club hopping or pub crawls, with the added chance of tasting domestic beers and wines as well as Caribbean and Cuban-style drinks.





Sloppy Joe's Bar 201 Duval Street, Key West +1 305 294 5717

Tourist or not, a visit to Earnest Hemingway's favorite bar in Key West is mandatory. With live entertainment, national record fish hanging in the bar, the Hemingway look-alike contests (in July) and the original Sloppy Joe Sandwich, this bar lives up to its history, dating back to 1937.



Smokin' Tuna Saloon 4 Charles Street, Key West +1 305 517 6350

Smokin' Tuna Saloon offers open-air seating with a lush garden, partially under an awning, to take advantage of the Floridian weather. This bar is the perfect place to try old classics with a signature twist, as well as delectable seafood sandwiches. Live music plays every day, just like their happy hour which lasts from 3 pm to 5 pm.



Schooner Wharf Bar 202 William Street, Key West +1 305 292 3302

With its unique maritime decor, this bar and grill beckons locals and tourists with its view of the typical yachts of Key West's seaport and waterfront. Voted Best Local's Bar six years in a row partly because of its food and drinks offering, you'll be able to find a variety of specialty cocktails, martinis, margaritas and mojitos. Also hosting live music with special guest musicians such as Mike McCloud, and legendary bluesmen Big Jack Johnson and Johnny Johnson.



Sandbar Sports Grill

511 Greene Street, Key West +1 305 916 5530

Sandbar Sports Grill bar is famous for dedicating different days to specific deals on their menu offering: taco Tuesday, chicken wing Wednesday and bloody Mary Sunday are only some examples. It also features live music performances and sporting events, as well as two happy hours Monday to Friday, one from noon to 4 pm and the other from midnight to 4 am.



Grand Vin Wine Bar 1107 Duval Street, Key West

+1 305 296 1020

The Grand Vin opened its doors in 1997, and was actually the first wine bar of Key West. You can choose between red and white wine by the glass to be coupled with cheese, but beer is also available. They provide font porch seating, facing Duval Street.



Virgilio's

524 Duval Street, Key West +1 305 296 1075

A cocktail bar located behind La Trattoria Restaurant, Virgilio's hosts live music every day of the week, with genres ranging from Jazz to Latin — all in the lush embrace of their garden. It's also known for being the home to the traditional Martini Monday.



Rick's

202 Duval Street, Key West +1 305 296 4890

A major nightspot complex in Key West, Rick's is open seven days a week. It's equipped with dance floors at multiple levels and an outdoor patio that hosts two more bars, in addition to the main one inside. The mood ranges from lounge to dance club to live music.



Aqua Bar & Nightclub 711 Duval Street, Key West +1 305 294 0555

This nightclub hosts Drag shows with an all-age option every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, starting from 7 pm. Drinks can be ordered at the nearby garden bar named Back Bar, just down Tabby Way.



Green Parrot Bar

601 Whitehead Street, Key West +1 305 294 6133

The Green Parrot Bar is a fine option for everyone who enjoys having music coupled with their drinks. Other than daily live music, you'll also find a jukebox and monthly ukulele-based performances. Stop by for Monday night Bingo and check their website for more lively events.

Key West Tourist Resources



Key West, Florida - Tourist Information





Passport / Visa

Citizens of the Schengen countries, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and the Kingdom of Brunei can visit the United States for up to 90 days without applying for a visa (as well as citizens of Andorra, Lichtenstein, Monaco and San Marino). Citizens of these countries must obtain an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorization) before traveling. All other travelers must obtain a visa before visiting the United States. International travelers need a passport that is valid for at least 3 months after the end of their intended trip in order to enter the country.



Best Time to Visit

Key West weather gives its winter season a warm temperature and a low chance of rain, which is why it is also the busiest period in terms of crowds and the priciest with regard to accommodation. Summer and fall on the other hand are mostly avoided by tourists because of the frequent rain, high humidity and the fact that they coincide with the hurricane season, but they also see the best bargains for hotel prices and the best time to visit the local beaches.

From March to May, you can count on reasonable prices for accommodation and local attractions, as well as stable weather conditions.



Key West International Airport (EYW)

3491 South Roosevelt Boulevard, Key West +1 305 809 5200

Key West International Airport (EYW) is an international airport situated in Monroe County, just two miles east of Key West — only minutes from many Key West accommodations, attractions and downtown Key West.

Transportation services available from and to the airport include rental cars, shuttles, taxis and bus services. See airport website for an exhaustive list of options and prices.

Taxis and Key West Transit buses are conveniently situated curb side at the terminal. Rental cars counter is located right on-site.



Public Transport Key West +1 305 292 8165

Key West offers extensive public bus service that can be used for getting around the area. There are four bus routes running within the city of Key West, called Blue Route, Red Route, Green Route and Orange Route and two additional routes that travel between Key West & Marathon. The buses run every 60-90 minutes, so a schedule map is recommended. When boarding the buss make sure you have the exact change.

The Key West Transit website gives you a live bus map and arrival times.



Taxi D.B. Taxi +1 305 588 3200

Taxis can be hailed on the street or found at the airport and major hotels, with rates set by the city. Rideshare apps such as Uber and Lyft also operate in Key West, providing an easy and affordable way to get around.



Post

US Post Office, 400 Whitehead Street +1 305 294 9539

Sending parcels and letters in the US is a relatively straightforward process. The most common method is through the United States Postal Service (USPS). The USPS offers a variety of services for sending mail, including First-Class Mail for letters and postcards, Priority Mail for packages, and Priority Mail Express for overnight delivery. To send a parcel or letter, you will need to take it to a USPS post office or use a USPS blue collection box. Use the USPS website to find the nearest post office or collection box to your location. Additionally, you can also use private couriers such as FedEx and UPS, which often provide a wider range of services and faster delivery times, but generally at a higher cost.



Pharmacy

Walgreens Pharmacy, 527 Duval Street +1 305 292 2979

Abundant locations of Walgreen's, CVS, Walmart, Target and various independent chain store retailers.



Time Zone

Key West is in the Eastern Time Zone and all times reflect Eastern time.



Telephone

Country Code: +1

Area Code: 305



Flat two or three-prong plugs are standard with 110-115 volts. Adaptors can be bought in most electrical shops.