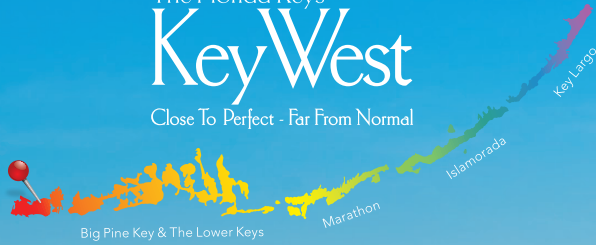


The Florida Keys
KeyWest

Close To Perfect - Far From Normal





Key West. Always open.

Aside from its natural beauty and eclectic charm, Key West's warm, come as you are attitude is one of the main reasons for the island's popularity with gay and lesbian visitors. Key West is safe, seductive and real, a genuinely gay-friendly sanctuary where you can be open, relaxed, make new friends, and savor this small town's live-and-let-live philosophy. So go ahead. Hold hands. Embrace. Hang out. No one will bat an eye. No wonder Key West's motto, "One Human Family", was officially adopted by the City Commission. And why LGBTQ+ visitors feel more themselves in Key West than anywhere else in the world.



Come out, come out, wherever you are.

There's plenty to do and see on this two-by-four mile island, including hidden charms that might go unnoticed by the mainstream. This quaint village boasts bougainvillea, royal poinciana and hibiscus blossoms in a rainbow flag of colors. Canopied streets are lined with lovingly restored Victorian homes, many once owned by illustrious gay and lesbian figures. Tennessee Williams, Elizabeth Bishop and James Merrill are but a few. Here, secluded courtyards and lazy porch swings are permanent fixtures. And bicycles rule the road. With hundreds of dive and snorkel sites just off shore, Key West's turquoise water beckons. Try a clothing-optional dive excursion. Or grab a rod on a deep-sea fishing excursion. But if you'd prefer a lounge chair over a fighting chair, gay and lesbian sunset cruises offer front-row seats to pastel skies as the pulse of Mallory Square festivities beckon in the not-too-distant background.





Key West. Have a gay old time.

When it comes to naughtiness, Key West pulls no punches – and makes no apologies. The nightlife here is uninhibited, unadulterated and unashamed. In other words, anything goes. Make your way to a cabaret for a bawdy performance by stiletto and lipstick-clad drag queens. Liberate your libido at one of Key West's nude entertainment or dance clubs. For something more subdued, kick back in a cocktail lounge or swanky piano bar. Or grab some fresh air and a brew at one of our legendary open-air pubs. If that's too tame, bare it all at annual events such as Womenfest Key West, Tropical Heat and Bone Island Weekends. During the day, visit the Butterfly & Nature Conservatory or the Tennessee Williams Museum. And with year-round events and celebrations designed specifically for LGBTQ+ visitors, any time is a good time to arrive.



H

istory & Culture.

For a small town, Key West is big on gay history and culture. With more than 2,500 historic buildings, Key West is also an architectural wonder. Its famous "Carpenter Gothic" gingerbread houses have hosted gay novelists, playwrights, painters and poets. In fact, our come as you are attitude was the first thing that attracted the gay population to Key West in the 1970's. Here they discovered dilapidated Victorian houses just begging to be restored. Today, many of these homes are fabulous showplaces, open to the public and not to be missed. Other historical highlights include the Little White House Museum, Audubon House, the Ernest Hemingway House and the Key West Lighthouse Museum. Glimpse into the past at the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum, where resurrected artifacts and treasures bedazzle. Besides three live theatres and a film society, Key West boasts local yet world-class symphony performances.





Where to stay. The naked truth.

In gay Key West, the only thing hidden in closets are clothes. Then again, with so many clothing-optional activities and hotels, your wardrobe may never see the light of day. Key West's accommodations range from elegant resorts to cozy tropical guest houses. They're often private hideaways tucked underneath swaying palms, dressed up with island wicker or rattan and museum-quality antiques. It's not uncommon to find private pools, private beaches and, of course, clothing-optional sunning decks. Many establishments offer suites or apartments that are perfect for groups of friends.



Eat, drink and be married.

A festival for your taste buds and feast for the senses, Key West is home to world-class chefs and a dizzying array of dining options. Many restaurants artfully prepare authentic island delicacies – succulent Key West pink shrimp, conch, fresh-off-the-dock fish and luscious Key Lime Pie – with their own unique flair. Whatever the culinary theme, the ambiance is as enticing as the entrée. From romantic hidden courtyards to chic sidewalk cafes where dining and people-watching intertwine, you'll soon discover why Key West is meant to be savored.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

Every Sunday Gay Bingo • Every Sunday La Te Da Tea Dance • Yachting Race Week • Literary Seminar • Key West Food & Wine Festival • Key West Craft Show • House & Garden Tours

February

Valentines Day Celebrations • Civil War Days • Third Thursday "Night on White" Gallery Walk • Old Island Days Art Festival • Every Sunday Gay Bingo • Every Sunday La Te Da Tea Dance • International Women and Girls Flag Football

March

Oscar Parties at the Bars • Pink Saint Patty's Day Celebration and March • Gay Spring Break – all month • Every Sunday Gay Bingo • Every Sunday La Te Da Tea Dance • Sculpture Key West

April

Easter Bonnet Brunch at La Te Da • Every Sunday Gay Bingo • Every Sunday La Te Da Tea Dance • Conch Republic Days Celebration – Annual Drag Races and Bed Races • World's Longest Parade • Key West Songwriters Festival

May

Taste of Key West • Queen Mother Pageant • Cinco de Mayo Celebration • Key West Songwriters Festival • Memorial Day Celebrations • Every Sunday Gay Bingo • Every Sunday La Te Da Tea Dance • Survivor's Party

June

Key West Pride Celebration Street Fair and Parade • Every Sunday Gay Bingo • Every Sunday La Te Da Tea Dance

July

Independence Day Celebration & Fireworks • Hemingway Days Festival • Miss Firecracker Pageant • Every Sunday Gay Bingo • Mel Fisher Days • Every Sunday La Te Da Tea Dance • Bone Island Bare It All

August

Tropical Heat Key West • Key West LobsterFest • Every Sunday Gay Bingo • Every Sunday La Te Da Tea Dance

September

Womenfest • Every Sunday Gay Bingo • Every Sunday La Te Da Tea Dance

October

Annual Fantasy Fest • Royal Coronation Ball • Island House Fetish & Fantasy Party • Headdress Ball • Goombay Street Festival • Key West World Championship Powerboat Race • Every Sunday Gay Bingo • Every Sunday La Te Da Tea Dance

November

Powerboat Races • Every Sunday Gay Bingo • Every Sunday La Te Da Tea Dance

December

Key West Krampus Walk • Key West Pirates in Paradise • Bone Island Bare It All • Miss Merry Christmas • Holiday Parade • Historic Lighted Inn Tours • House & Garden Tours • Lighted Boat Parade • Every Sunday Gay Bingo • Every Sunday La Te Da Tea Dance • New Year's Eve Celebration – Dropping of the High Heel • The Bight Before Christmas



How to get to the Gay Destination.

BY AIR



The Key West International Airport has commercial service, and both the Key West and Marathon airports have charter service, general aviation and rental service. American Airlines, Delta, Jet Blue, Allegiant, United (seasonally direct) and Silver Airways provide service to Key West. For an up-to-date roster of charter operators serving Key West International and Florida Keys Marathon International Airports, go to fla-keys.com/how-to-get-here.

BY LAND



A leisurely drive from Miami and an opportunity to drive the only designated All-American Road in Florida. Only 30 other roads in the nation have received this highest recognition possible under the National Scenic Byways program. To reach The Florida Keys Overseas Highway, bypass the traffic of the City of Miami by taking I-95, I-75, or FL-836 to the Florida Turnpike, south. Card Sound Road offers an alternate route to Key Largo. The eco-friendly FlixBus (www.flixbus.com) offers a multitude of routes throughout Florida with stops in Islamorada, Marathon and Key West. Greyhound Bus Lines (1-800-231-2222), The Keys Shuttle (305-289-9997) and Florida Keys Express Shuttle (305-743-7454) serve The Florida Keys, Miami International Airport and Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. Greyhound also services Marathon and Key West airports. Once you arrive in The Florida Keys, you may not need a car. In Key West you can park at the Park-n-Ride garage at 300 Grinnell Street in Old Town. You'll do and see more on foot. Potential RV Camping visitors should consult with our RV Camping Grounds for advance reservations.

BY SEA



Sail through America's Caribbean. All channels are well-marked, marinas abound and dock space is available. Key West Express: 3 to 3.5 hour daily passenger ferry departing from Ft. Myers year-round, and seasonal service from Marco Island. 1-888-539-2628 or www.seakeywest.com

For specific information on how to get to Key West, go to fla-keys.com/keywest/gettinghere

For more information, call 1-877-724-5247 or outside the U.S., call 305-294-4603

Or write the Key West Business Guild, 808 Duval Street, Key West, FL 33040
office@gaykeywestfl.com • gaykeywestfl.com



Visit our web site at fla-keys.com/gaykeywest

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