

Motorcycle Itinerary

Day 1:

Upon arriving in Florida City you will be in the last town on the mainland of Florida before driving down to the Keys. It's a good idea to fill up your tank; gas is generally cheaper here than on the Islands.

Now you have a choice of two roads leading to Key Largo. You can drive down US 1, the "Eighteen Mile Stretch," which is a recently refinished road with a center retaining wall preventing collisions with head-on traffic. Or, you can turn left at the **Last Chance Saloon** and drive down the less used Card Sound Road, or CR 905. This road connects the mainland with North Key Largo where **Ocean Reef Club**, an upscale, private club is located. It will take you a little while longer and cost you \$1.00 in toll, but it also offers a great stopping point; **Alabama Jack's**. Here you can mingle with the hot shot millionaires from **Ocean Reef** and the local fisherman. Order the conch fritters or a crab cake sandwich. Try and make it on a Sunday and you can trade your biker outfit for a pair of cowboy boots and hat and do some line dancing.

The Keys highway is the only All-American Road in Florida, and is among only 30 other roadways in the nation with the prestigious title.

Before checking in to your hotel in Key Largo, you can make a stop at the **Caribbean Club** where the movie **Key Largo** was filmed (so they claim), or shoot some pool at the **Paradise Pub**. Or you can get the dust out of your hair and spend the afternoon by the pool at **Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill** or just 'hang' at this biker friendly Tiki bar. See if you are as fearless on a jet ski as on your bike; they rent them right here or go next door and challenge your buddy to a tandem parasail ride.

Stay in one of the hotels in Port Largo; they all have pools, plenty of space to park the bikes and most importantly, you can walk from one place to another. Before dinner, let **Captain Vance** take you out on **Pirate's Choice** for a sunset cruise. Sing a sea chanty, have an Island Rum or two and maybe you'll even see the green flash.

Have dinner at the **Galley**; plenty of fresh seafood specials here. Listen to a band at **Sharkey's** or hang out at **Coconuts**.

Day 2:

Breakfast at MM 100 gives you the choice of **Mrs. Macs**, **DJ's Diner**, **Doc's Diner** or **Harriette's**; try a local version of eggs benedict, they're served with shrimp or lobster.

Time to kick up some dust and head south, with a first stop at **Theatre of The Sea** in Islamorada (MM 84). Be charmed by the dolphins or get in the water with sea lions and sting rays. Afterwards we'll go a little further south for some more action. **Robbie's** at MM 74.5 is a great place for all kinds of fun. Start off with feeding the tarpons, but watch out for the pelicans, they'll want to steal your fish, and don't put your hand in the water or it will become bait as well! Have lunch under the

sea grapes at the **Hungry Tarpon**; the tuna tacos are to die for. Stroll around the little stalls where vendors sell artwork, souvenirs and all kinds of knick knacks.

Now is a good time to go fishing on a party boat. **Bud and Mary's**, just one mile north, as well as **Robbie's** offer half day fishing trips to the reef. Just get on board; you'll be provided with a rod and reel, as well as bait.

Afterwards you will have your fish cleaned and filleted, and then you can take it to a nearby restaurant like **Uncle's**, **Whale Harbor** or **Bentley's** and have a local chef prepare your catch for you.

You can drive the 20 miles back to Key Largo for another night at your Port Largo hotel or if you don't mind packing and unpacking, stay in Islamorada. Plenty of waterfront hotels here. Great restaurants too; check out the **Islamorada Fish Company**; this outdoor restaurant overlooks the bay and offers you front row seating at our spectacular sunsets. For the thirsty members in your group there is the **Whistle Stop** or the **Ocean View** bar (better known as the OV); this place is located on the bayside but a hurricane supposedly blew it from its former Oceanside location...only in the Keys!

Day 3:

Let's put some miles on those bikes today. After breakfast we'll be heading for Marathon. If yesterday's fishing trip got you 'hooked,' there are plenty of opportunities here to go fishing as well. You can choose to go off-shore and go after some big game fish or go in the backcountry with your

personal guide. Just want to chill, make a left turn at the traffic lights at Kmart and follow the road to the end. This is **Sombrero Beach**. Have a late lunch at the **Keys Fisheries (MM49)**. This hole in the wall serves fresh-from-the-boat fish. This is a working fisheries annex restaurant. Order a Lobster Reuben, and choose a picnic table anywhere on the dock and enjoy.

Ready to move on to Big Pine Key. Have your passenger get his or her camera ready, as we'll be going over the iconic Seven Mile Bridge. Take some more pictures on the other side at **Bahia Honda** too. From now on you will have to watch your speed; this is endangered Key Deer habitat with a 35 mph speed limit. Take a right hand turn at the next lights and try to find some of these miniature deer. Look for the **No Name Pub** and befriend some fellow bikers. But were not there yet; further south you can make a last stop before getting to Key West at **Boondocks (MM27)**. Talk about an open air Tiki bar - this is the Taj Mahal of all Tiki's! Dare your friends to a round of mini golf. Its championship rated and the only one in the Keys.

Another 27 miles and you will have made it to Key West, the Southernmost Town in the Continental United States. Check in to one of the hotels located on Roosevelt Boulevard. You can leave the bikes at the hotel and take their shuttle to downtown Key West. This is a good idea especially for your late night outings. Tonight's dinner is served at the **Hogfish Bar and Grill** on Stock Island; just ask the receptionist for directions.

Day 4:

After breakfast it's time for the obligatory group photo at the **Southernmost Point**; this landmark shows you that you are actually closer to Cuba than you are to Miami!

Cruise through Duval Street, connecting the Gulf of Mexico with the Atlantic Ocean. Your choices for entertainment and activities are quasi unlimited here. This town boasts more bars per capita than any other place in the US. In the evening don't miss the famous sunset celebration at Mallory Square. See the artists and street performers, and check out the vendors all free of charge. Sail into the sunset on a schooner or catamaran while listening to a live band.

Day 5 – 6:

Want a dose of culture and/or history? Take a trolley tour of the island; visit the **Mel Fisher Maritime Museum**, and maybe even the **Hemmingway House**. Something lighter perhaps, **Ripley's Believe it or Not**, the **Shipwreck Museum** or check out the **Leather Master** shop on Applerouth Lane.

Want to get rid of last night's cobwebs? Go out on one of the big catamaran's; they'll take you to the reef for some snorkeling or...you can chill by the pool.

Don't forget, **its Five o'clock somewhere!**