

Our Local Favorites in the Marathon area

We gathered some of our favorite spots in the Keys to help make your trip an unforgettable adventure!

The Keys have one main road (US Hwy 1 or Overseas Hwy), many locations are referred to by their mile marker. Using mile markers allows us to quickly know how far the drive will be. For reference, our properties are located in Marathon at Mile Marker 53.5 and Cudjoe Key at Mile Marker 23.

Beaches & Snorkling

Curry Hammock State Park

www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/curry-hammock-state-park

@ Mile Marker 56.2

56200 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

Beach and kayak rentals. Kayak through mangrove paths or venture out to the sandbar on a calm day.

Coco Plum Beach

www.ci.marathon.fl.us/parksrec/page/coco-plum-beach

@ Mile Marker 54.5

109 Coco Plum Dr, Marathon

More of a natural beach. Grab a coffee on the way and watch the sunrise.

Sombrero Beach

www.ci.marathon.fl.us/parksrec/page/sombrero-beach

@ Mile Marker 50

Sombrero Beach Rd, Marathon

A great little spot with outdoor showers and a bathhouse.

Bahia Honda State Park

www.floridastateparks.org/BahiaHonda

@ Mile Markers between 36 & 37

36850 Overseas Hwy, Big Pine Key

The Park is just south of the 7-mile bridge. This beach is consistently voted in the top twenty-five beaches in the world. It is pristine, and the snorkeling is good when conditions are calm. There is a snorkeling operator that departs from the park (Reservations required). Kayak Rentals available. If you just want to go for a walk/picnic, make a left at the ocean after you enter the park and go down to Sandspur parking area. Continue down the beach to where it turns and ends. On a nice day, this is like heaven on earth in this very spot.

Horseshoe Beach

@ Mile Marker 35

1969 Overseas Hwy, Big Pine Key

If you can't get out to the reef, Horseshoe Beach offers some pretty decent snorkeling from the shore. The beach is not quite a beach because it's made of gravel, but it's certainly a great option for snorkeling.

Dinghy Beach at Lagerhead's Beach Bar

<https://lagerheadsbeachbar.com/>

@ Mile Marker 0

0 Simonton Street, Key West

A hidden gem located at Lagerhead's Beach Bar. Great place for the family to enjoy the beach and live music, while having lunch/dinner and drinks!

Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park

<https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fort-zachary-taylor-historic-state-park>

@ Mile Marker 0

601 Howard England Way, Key West

Fort Zachary Taylor was an old fort used in the Civil War and Spanish-American War. They have historical reenactments on the third weekend of each month. It is the southernmost state park in the continental United States. The fort is not the only offering. There is also a popular beach here.

Marathon area

Attractions

The Lagoon on Grassy Key

<https://ridethelagoon.com/>

@ Mile Marker 59.3

59300 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

A tropical adventure park, marketplace, and day resort. A wakeboard park with Kiteboarding and Foilboarding.

Dolphin Research Center

<https://dolphins.org/>

@ Mile Marker 58.9

58901 Overseas Hwy, Grassy Key, FL

Take a tour or a swim with the dolphins. A fantastic way to spend a day! Family entertainment that is also educational. There is a continuous schedule of shows & events throughout the day.

Florida Keys Aquarium Encounter

www.floridakeysaquariumencounters.com

@ Mile Marker 53

11710 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

A great way to view and learn more about the local wildlife. Perfect way to spend part of a breezy day when you cannot be on the water.

Marathon Mermaid Charters

www.marathonmermaid.com

@ Mile Marker 48

1688 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

Sandbar experience, reef snorkel, and sunset cruise

Turtle Hospital

<https://www.turtlehospital.org/>

@ Mile Marker 48.5

2396 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL

Take a tour of the sea turtle hospital. Their passionate and educated staff provides an educational tour about sea turtles and how their facility operates on rehab and release. A great way to support local efforts to help sea turtles. A moving experience for all ages.

Rental Companies

Tropical Boat Rentals

<https://www.tropicalboatrentals.com/>

@ Mile Marker 54.6

91 Ave A, Marathon

(305) 481-7006

Coco's Boat Rental

<https://www.cocosboatrentals.com/>

@ Mile Marker 54.5

50 Coco Plum Dr, Marathon

(305) 407-7721

Vacation Boat Rentals

<http://vacationboatrentals.com/>

@ Mile Marker 50

4681 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

(866) 420-1515

Bike Marathon Bike Rentals

<https://marathonpontoonrental.com/>

@ Mile Marker 49.5

2994 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

(305) 743-3204

They have bikes, kayaks, and paddleboards.

Florida Keys Kayak and Paddle Board Rentals and Tours

<https://www.keykayak.com/>

@ Mile Marker 49.5

19 Sombrero Blvd, Marathon

(305) 998-6500

They offer free delivery if you're staying on Marathon!

Marathon Pontoon Rental

<https://www.marathonpontoonrental.com/>

@ Mile Marker 49.5

19 Sombrero Blvd, Marathon, FL

(305) 539-9990

Island Time Boat Rental

<https://www.islandtimeboatrental.com/>

(305) 998-8592

Free Delivery to your dock from Conch Key to 7 Mile Bridge.

Keys Vacation Supply

www.keysvacationsupplyrentals.com

9625 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

(305) 900-7401

Baby and vacation gear, free delivery.

Breakfast

The Stuffed Pig

www.thestuffedpig.com/index.php

@ Mile Marker 49

3520 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

Delicious breakfast food. It is likely to be busy in the mornings.

The Marathon Bagel Company

<https://marathonbagelco.com/>

@ Mile Marker 51

11090 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

Great bagels, coffee, and basic breakfast selections.

Lunch & Dinner

Island Fish Company

www.islandfishco.com

@ Mile Marker 54

12648 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

Great place for dinner, fresh fish, steak, and burgers. They have something for everyone! Can't go wrong here!

Sparky's Landing

www.sparkyslanding.com

@ Mile Marker 54

13205 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

Waterfront restaurant that has an amazing view, if you sit at the bar. The food is good, the view is better!

Burdines Waterfront

<http://www.burdineswaterfront.com/>

@ Mile Marker 48

1200 Ocean View Ave, Marathon (at the end of 15th St)

This is the place to eat on the water in Marathon. Most items on the menu are reasonably priced. Mostly Sandwiches and salads, fresh squeezed lemonade. Located on an elevated tiki bar, overlooking Boot Key Harbor.

Sunset Grille

www.sunsetgrille7milebridge.com

@ Mile Marker 47

7 Knights Key Blvd, Marathon

This is a waterfront restaurant on Marathon. They have a dock, pool, great food and drinks.

Grocery

Publix

www.publix.com/locations/575-publix-at-marathon

5407 Overseas Hwy Marathon

Supermarket chain with a wide selection of groceries, deli and premade food.

Boat Ramps

The Quay on Overseas Highway

@ Mile Marker 54

12650 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

(305) 289-1810

Ocean View Marina

@ Mile Marker 50

4681 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

(305) 517-1232

Marina with a boat ramp

Little Duck Key Wayside Park Public Boat Ramp

@ Mile Marker 40 (Bayside)

Free

Driving Down to the Keys

Attractions

Robbie's Marina

www.robbies.com

@ Mile Marker 77.5

77522 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada

This full-service marina hosts a restaurant and vendors as well as the unique experience of hand feeding Tarpon off the dock. These fantastic creatures are so used to being hand fed that they will actually leap out of the water to grab your fish from your hands. So don't forget your cameras because this is a must see and do for everyone in your family!

Restaurants

Gilbert's

www.gilbertsresort.com

@ Mile Marker 108

107900 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo, FL 33037

Gilbert's in Key Largo is one of the first places as you arrive in the keys from the mainland. It's a tiki bar on the water. A great place for a frozen drink or lunch rather than stopping on the mainland.

Lorelei

www.loreleicabanabar.com

@ Mile Marker 82

96 Madeira Rd, Islamorada, FL

Lorelei in Islamorada is a Great place for eats and drinks while driving down from the mainland. Try their Key Lime Colada! Reasonable prices

On the Water

Curry Hammock State Park Sandbar

24°44'31.3"N 80°58'17.3"W

The sandbar is on the oceanside. Nice place to hang out when the tide is low.

Bahia Honda Sandbar

24° 39' 59.997", 81° 14' 59.406"

The Bahia Honda sandbar is just south of the Ohio-Bahia Honda Channel Bridge. It runs for about 300 yards and is at the easternmost tip of Bahia Honda State Park. This sandbar is easily accessed from Marathon, Big Pine Key, and the Lower Keys

Boca Grande Key

24°32'05.4"N 82°00'36.2"W

Boca Grande is a beautiful island to explore. It's located 14 miles west of Key West. You can trailer the boat down to Key West and make the trip.

Looe Key Reef

<https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/zones/spas/looekey.html>

24°32'46.2"N 81°24'21.8"W

A diversity of fish congregate here – parrots and surgeonfish on the north side; barracudas and jacks on top of the reef; grunts, butterflyfish, and angelfish on the reef crest. Great place to dive with the Looe Key Reef Dive Resort providing charters. It is a preservation area where you may not fish, feed or touch the animals/coral, or anchor. Make sure to use a mooring buoy and bring your dive flag!

Marvin Key Sandbar

24.7115° N, 81.6445° W

Although it's a long boat ride away, this beautiful island has a beach that becomes more exposed with low tide. You'll be navigating through very shallow water to get there, so it's best recommended to those with a charter plot and depth finder. Definitely worth the trip!

If you're not too comfortable with a boat, you can rent a pontoon from Sugarloaf Marina, and they'll set you up with directions. Snipe Point is nearby, and we highly recommend motoring a little further to hang out at its sandbar.

Newfound Harbor Marine Sanctuary

<https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/zones/spas/newfound.html>

24.615°N 81.392°W

Easily accessible by boaters as it is just off Little Palm Island. There is great snorkeling to be done here with large coral boulders in the water. Be aware as you motor through that there are some coral boulders that nearly rise to the surface. You may not fish, touch or feed the animals/coral, or anchor in the preservation area.

Picnic Island

24°38'10.5"N 81°23'40.9"W

Located near Ramrod Key and Little Palm, this tiny island is a super popular spot on sunny days. The water is shallow, and the island is great for exploring. Great hangout spot!

Snipe Point Sandbar

24.6982° N, 81.6740°

Snipe Point is only accessible by boat. It's a beautiful sandbar to hang out at and have a couple drinks. We love to grill out and relax here. You can also hit Marvin Key on the way to Snipe Point.

If you're not too comfortable with a boat, you can rent a pontoon from Sugarloaf Marina, and they'll set you up with directions. We highly recommend making the trip out if you're able!

Sombrero Key National Marine Sanctuary

24°37'36"N 81°06'39"W / 24.62667°N 81.11083°W

An underwater state park approximately 3.5 miles offshore, ocean side from Boot Key. The state park is clearly marked on the local navigational charts. Please know that there is absolutely no fishing, trapping, or spearing inside the confines of the park. Please be mindful of your boat's bottom and props. The fines for damaging coral are very expensive! While this may sound ominous, the water is very clear and the visibility on almost any given day is 50 feet to the bottom. The park is relatively shallow and conducive to snorkeling. The wildlife underneath the sea is amazing and plentiful. One of the Best Reefs to Dive or Snorkel! There are many local tour operators that provide snorkeling and diving trips.