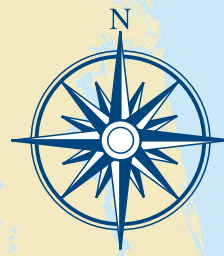


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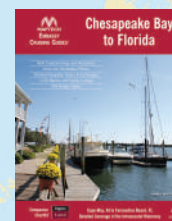
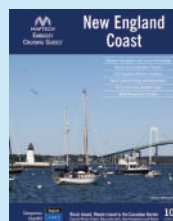


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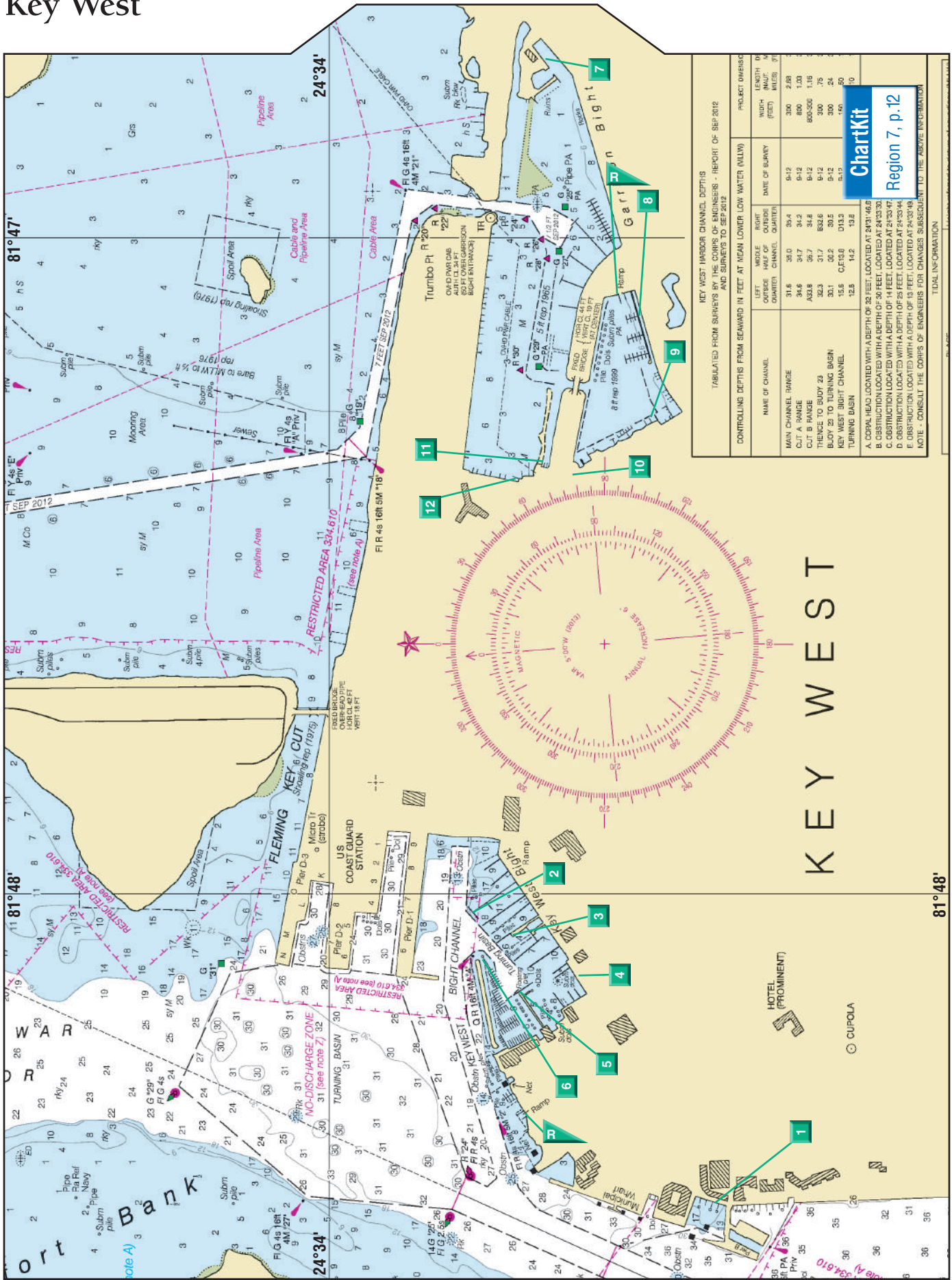
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Cruising north?

Coverage continues in our East Coast Series spanning Canada's Passamaquoddy Bay to Mobile Bay, Alabama.



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What would you get if you combined the French Quarter of New Orleans, the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood of San Francisco, and any given Six Flags theme park? Probably something that looks an awful lot like Key West — a melting pot of culture and diversity at the southernmost point of the Florida Keys.

Key West offers such a fun vibe that it long ago attracted the attention of cruise ships, which dock here every day of the month during the high season in the winter. (And most days of the month during the spring and summer.) You can avoid the hordes by checking the schedule at keywest.com, which tells you which cruise ships are coming in at what times. Beyond that, you'll be competing for space with garden-variety tourists from all around the world. Many of them come to party and look for the green flash at sunset. Bring your good nature and your tolerance, and you'll fit right in.

More good news for boaters is that Key West offers a lot of basic amenities including a deep-water harbor, well-equipped marinas, upscale resorts, free anchorage, top-notch restaurants, provisioning spots, well-stocked marine stores, and historic sites to explore. Even if you want to avoid the hype on the main drag, you can still find plenty to do in Key West.

Things to See and Do

The blending of longtime Conchs from the Bahamas of old,



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Just about any form of relaxation you can think of is available here.

Nouveau Conchs from the Bahamas of today, military personnel, and tourists has created a place where there truly is something for everyone. Key West is even the right place to be a dog, cat, or chicken. Most restaurants don't mind a well-behaved pet at your table, particularly in the outdoor and street-side venues. Most of the dogs in this town are as mellow as their human companions. You can't always be sure who's the master.

| SEA TOW 800-4-SEATOW | | DOCKAGE | | SERVICES | | | | SUPPLIES | | | AMENITIES | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | Approach / Dockside Depth in Feet at MLW | Hookups: Water / Moorings | 110V * 220V ▲ 3 Phase ■ Maximum Amps | Rail / Lift / Crane / Trailer: Capacity (tons) | Diesel / Wood / Fiberglass / Electronics | Repairs: Prop / Sail / Rigging / Gas | Restrooms / Showers / Laundry / Pump-out | Gas / Diesel | Marine / Groceries / Ice / Bait | Fuel Brand | Hotel / Pool / Tennis / Golf | Internet / Restaurant / Discover / AmEx | MasterCard / VISA / AmEx | | | | |
| 1 | Key West Hilton Resort and Marina | 305-294-4375 | 16/9 | 37/ | Y/ | 1000 | 32/28 | WC | ◆▲100 | | | | | All | HP | All | All | |
| 2 | Conch Harbor Marina (Key West) | 305-294-2933 | 16/9 | 50/ | Y/ | 195 | 12/12 | WC | ◆▲100 | | | GD | | All | All | P | All | All |
| 3 | Key West Bight Marina | 305-809-3984 | 16/9 | 76/ | Y/ | 200 | 12/5 | W | ◆▲100 | D | | GD | Chev | All | All | | All | MVA |
| 4 | Schooner Wharf Bar | 305-395-9301 | | 11/ | Y/ | 40 | | W | ◆▲50 | | | | | | | R | R | All |
| 5 | A & B Marina | 305-294-2535 | 16/10 | 39/ | Y/ | 200 | 14/14 | WC | ◆▲480 | | | D | | I | All | | IR | MVA |
| 6 | Galleon Resort & Marina | 305-292-1292 | 16/17 | 95/ | Y/ | 160 | 10/10 | WC | ◆▲50 | | | | | I | RSL | HP | IS | All |
| 7 | Key West Yacht Club | 305-296-5389 | 16/68 | | Y/ | 65 | 6/6 | WC | ◆▲50 | RD | | | | IB | RS | | R | All |
| 8 | City Marina at Garrison Bight | 305-809-3981 | 16/12 | 200/141 | Y/Y | 50 | 7/6 | W | ◆30 | RD | | | | | All | | R | All |
| 9 | Harborside Motel & Marina | 305-294-2780 | | 9/ | | 30 | | W | ◆30 | | | | | I | | HP | | All |
| 10 | Garrison Bight Marina | 305-294-3093 | 16/9 | 12/ | Y/ | 40 | 10/6 | W | | | L5 | G | G | All | R | | RS | All |
| 11 | Spencer's Boatyard* | 305-296-8826 | | | | 45 | | W | ◆30 | | L25 | All | | M | R | | | MV |
| 12 | Key West Community Sailing Center | 305-292-5993 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Facilities continue, next page



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And chickens! They've had their run of Key West for decades. No one is quite sure if they first came as pets, as food, or as sacrificial creatures. A crackdown in 2004 resulted in the city hiring a chicken catcher. For various reasons, it didn't work out. The following year, friends of the chicken persuaded the city fathers to make the chicken the "official bird of Key West," but only during the four days of **ChickenFest Key West** each June. You can't make this stuff up, folks. The Ripley's museum in Key West has nothing on day-to-day life in this neck of the woods.

For sheer fun, the ritualistic sunset celebration at **Mallory Square** is street theater at its finest. On any given day, you may see a sword swallower, a mystic who walks on coals, dancing dogs and amazing cats, a fearless chainsaw juggler, and other unconventional performers. It all happens on the quay as the sun is setting and a green flash hides just over the horizon. The nightly gathering includes concession booths for artists, craftsmen, and food vendors.

Mallory Square, named after native son Stephen R. Mallory, secretary of the Confederate Navy, was a prosperous wrecking center in the 1800s. The old chandlery now houses the **Chamber of Commerce** (402 Wall St.; 305-294-2587) where you'll find bundles of brochures on local attractions, entertainment, and restaurants.

It's easy to get around on foot, bike, or scooter here, but you can quickly get a perspective of Key West proper by hopping aboard the **Conch Tour Train** (305-294-5161) or the **Old Town Trolley** (305-296-6688). These funky and

informative guided tours ramble past the historic seaport, infamous drinking establishments, and the lovely homes and gardens showing Bahamian, Cuban, and New England influences in their architecture.

Key West in January brings top sailors from around the world for **Key West Race Week** (www.premiere-racing.com). Hundreds of race boats work the wind, crewed by Olympians, professionals, and your everyday Joes and Janes. Boating in Key West during this event is like getting to play golf with Tiger Woods. You can share the race course with the sport's rock stars during the day and rub elbows with them in the party tent at night.

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|---|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Marine Facilities and Services 1 2 3 | | Approach / Dockside Slips / Moorings | 110V * 220V ▲ 3 Phase ■ Maximum LOA | Rail / Lift / Crane / Trailer Capacity (tons) | Restrooms / Showers / Laundry / Pump-out | Gas / Diesel | Fuel Brand | Marine / Groceries / Ice / Bait | Gas / Diesel | | | | |
| 13 | Sunset Marina | 305-296-7101 | 125/ Y/ 110 | 6/12 W | ◆▲50 | | | GD | All | All | I | All | |
| 14 | Hurricane Hole Marina | 305-294-8025 | 45/ Y/ 36 | 3/3 W | ◆▲50 | L15 | | GD | MIB | RS | R | All | |
| 15 | Cow Key Marina | 305-292-9111 | 18/ 30 | 2/10 W | | R | | G | All | R | | All | |
| 16 | Coconut Mallory Resort and Marina | 305-292-0017 | | | | | | PRIVATE | | | | | |
| 17 | Safe Harbour Marina | 305-294-9797 | 100/ Y/ 100 | 15/15 WC | ◆▲50 | | | DW | | All | IR | All | |
| 18 | Oceanside Marina | 305-294-4676 | 16/78 100/ Y/ 80 | 10/12 W | ◆▲50 | R L6 | | GD GD | MIB | All | | All | |
| 19 | Key West Harbour | 305-292-3121 | 16/11 100/ Y/ 105 | 6/12 WC | ◆▲100 | L50 | | GDE GD | Valv | MI | All | HP IR | All |
| 20 | Murray Marine | 305-296-9555 | 30/ Y/ 35 | 3/3 W | | R L20 | | PGE G | Shell | MIB | R | | All |
| 21 | Boca Chica Naval Air Station Marina | 305-293-2402 | 118/21 Y/Y 60 | 12/20 W | ◆▲50 | RD | MILITARY/DOD ONLY | | | | | | |
| 22 | Geiger Key RV Park Marina | 305-296-3553 | 25/ Y/ 24 | 2/10 | | | | G | | IB | RSL | R | All |
| 23 | NAS Sigsbee Marina and RV Park | 305-293-4434 | 4/ Y/ 44 | 4/4 W | | R | MILITARY/DOD ONLY | | | | | | |
| 24 | Robbie's Maritime Center | 305-294-1124 | 12/ Y/ 70 | 15/30 W | ◆▲200 | LC125 | | All GD | | I | RS | | MVA |
| 25 | Stock Island Marina Village p. 295 | 305-294-2288 | 80/ Y/ 350 | 25/25 W | ◆▲50 | | | | | | All | I | MV |

Information in these listings is provided by the facilities themselves. An asterisk (*) indicates we have confirmed the facility's existence, but it did not respond to our request for updated information.

Championships (www.superboat.com) are held in the fall. Moving at a much slower pace, **Hemingway Days** fill in the lazy, hazy days of summer in July.

The Conchs commemorate the **Conch Republic Independence Celebration** (www.conchrepublic.com) annually in April to mark their secession from Florida in 1982 (unofficial motto: “We seceded where others failed”). December brings the lighted boat parade, but the ultimate crazy Conch experience comes with Halloween’s **Fantasy Fest**. It’s so bawdy that we can’t publish pictures of it here.

Numerous attractions both historic and downright kitschy make the should-do list. You can dredge up memories of the “wrecking” era at the **Key West Shipwreck Historeum** (1 Whitehead St.; 305-292-8990) at Mallory Square, where actors portray stories of the seafarers who heeded the cry, “Wreck ashore!” Dive into neighboring **Key West Aquarium** (201 Front St.; 305-296-2051) for an up-close look at octopi, sea turtles, stingrays, and sharks. Kids especially enjoy the touch tanks at this open-air facility. If you haven’t had your fill of fish, also drop into the **Florida Keys Eco Discovery Center** (35 East Quay Road; 305-809-4750). It’s across the street from **Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park**.

When visiting Mallory Square, check out the **Museum of Art and History** at the **Custom House** (281 Front St.; 305-295-6616). This imposing, Romanesque-revival structure was at various times a post office, Navy and Coast Guard offices, district court, and court of inquiry during the investigation of the *USS Maine* sinking in Havana, Cuba.

Sunken ships were the livelihood of Key Westers in the early days, yet it was Mel Fisher who came up with the biggest booty in the 1980s. More than 350 years after several Spanish galleons sank in the Florida Straits, Fisher discovered the remains of the *Nuestra Señora de Atocha* and *Santa Margarita* off the Marquesas. It took nearly 20 years of scanning 100,000 square miles of ocean before he came across this sunken Fort Knox, valued at more than \$60 million (some say it’s closer to \$2 billion). Find the treasure for yourself at the **Mel Fisher Maritime Heritage Society and Museum** (200 Greene St.; 305-294-2633), less than two blocks from Mallory Square.

If you treasure the undersea environment and the creatures that live there, then **Reef Relief** (631 Greene St.; 305-294-3100) has a gift store and information center at the historic seaport in the Waterfront Market building. Its efforts include installing mooring buoys near the reefs so we all can enjoy the coral without doing damage. A stop at Reef Relief is a win-win.

Pop over to the **Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum** (907 Whitehead St.; 305-294-1575), once the home of “Papa.” Today, it’s a cat house where you’ll find a colony of six-toed felines guarding the grounds. While living here, Hemingway wrote in the morning, swam or fished in the afternoon, and caroused at night.

Hemingway’s hobby was fishing, and the charter captains in Key West can satisfy anyone’s angling passion. Most marinas offer deep-sea or backcountry trips. The biggest fleets are located at **Harborwalk** (305-296-3838) and **Charter Boat**

Row in Garrison Bight. You can catch up on military history at the **Fort Zachary Taylor State Historic Site** (305-292-6713), named after the 12th U.S. president. Begun in 1845, the brick fort took more than 20 years to build and was active during the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and both world wars.

If your interests are more suntan-inspired, then there’s a beautiful beach next to the fort that will keep you occupied while others in your group tour the facility.

The 44-acre former Truman Annex Naval Station nearby was auctioned in 1986 for \$17 million to a New England developer. Most of the significant historic structures at the annex have been rehabilitated, including the **Little White House** (305-294-9911). Built in 1890 as the commandant’s quarters, the house evolved into the base VIP lodge. While Presidents Taft, Coolidge, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy all visited Key West, only Truman stayed overnight in the building. From 1946 to ’48, Truman made 11 visits to the island, and his casual demeanor and gaudy tropical shirts endeared him to the local citizenry.

For the ultimate in kitsch, head southeast of the Annex to the end of Whitehead Street, the southernmost point in the continental United States. Have your photo taken in front of the large concrete buoy that’s painted black, white, red, and yellow. This is undoubtedly the most-photographed attraction in all the Keys, yet one that you’re obliged to visit.

For cruisers without wheels, the **Key West Transit System** (305-809-3910) is an efficient service rarely found in Florida communities. It’s a buck a ride, no change provided. The red and blue routes go almost everywhere you need, including the airport, shopping centers, Garrison Bight, and Stock Island. There also is shuttle service as far north as Marathon.

If you prefer to drive, the **Moped Hospital** (601 Truman Ave.; 305-296-3344) has scooters and bicycle rentals. Its two-wheelers are a good solution to the limited parking in Key West.

When the sun goes down, Key West lights up. There’s a local “dance” called the Duval Stumble, and it needs no music. Let’s just say **Duval Street** is a playground for adults.

Restaurants and Provisions

Boaters looking for food along the waterfront have multiple options. The **Half Shell Raw Bar** (305-294-7496) is a fine place to start for ample portions of fresh seafood served on throwaway dinnerware. If you’d rather sit down and use a cloth napkin, then crawl over to **Turtle Kraals** (231 Margaret St.; 305-294-2640), where live music often accompanies the meals. Want to shoot the breeze with other boaters? Head around the corner to **Schooner Wharf Bar** (202 William St.; 305-292-9520). It’s rumored that more lies per hour are told here during the January race week than a year’s worth of U.N. negotiations. Next door, the **Waterfront Market** (201 William St.; 305-296-0778) offers upscale takeout options and provisioning opportunities, including sushi, sandwiches, wine, espresso, and freshly squeezed juices.

Just off the water on Caroline and Williams Streets, **B.O.’s Fish Wagon** (801 Caroline St.; 305-294-9272) produces



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some of the best food you'll ever eat in a place that looks, well, let's just say it has a lot of "character." No breakfast (that's across the street), eight tables, some bar stools, and you place your order under the rusty tin roof. (As a general rule in Key West, if you've never seen the restaurant name anywhere else, and if it looks somewhat dicey, then it's probably will be one of the better culinary experiences in your lifetime.) Breakfast at nearby **Pepe's** (806 Caroline St.; 305-294-7192) is a must. Serving three meals a day, seven days a week, Pepe's was founded in 1909. We haven't been going there quite that long, but we've never had a bad meal or drink.

The **Conch Republic Seafood Company** (631 Greene St.; 305-294-4403) is on the waterfront near A & B Marina. Open spaces, live music, and a Caribbean feeling say it all.

The locals thrive on **Caroline's** (310 Duval St.; 305-294-7511) for inexpensive and tasty lunches and dinners. According to the menu, Caroline's delivers anywhere in the continental U.S. (some restrictions may apply). And then there's **Sloppy Joe's Bar** (201 Duval St.; 305-294-5717), a classic after-dinner spot. Don't miss it.

For some Mediterranean flavor, **Abbondanza Italian Restaurant** (1208 Simonton St.; 305-292-1199) provides casual dining with fresh pasta and seafood. The blackened chicken pasta and shrimp baskets keep the locals coming.

Other favorites include **Café Solé** (1029 Southard St.; 305-294-0230), **Camille's** (1202 Simonton St.; 305-296-4811), **Harpoon Harry's** (832 Caroline St.; 305-294-8744), **Alonzo's Oyster House** (700 Front St.; 305-294-5880), and **Mangia Mangia** (900 Southard St.; 305-294-2469).

Serving gourmet Italian food, **Antonia's** (615 Duval St.; 305-294-6565) is truly special for its five-star service and indescribable meals. It rivals anything in New York, Boston, or Palm Beach.

One of our favorites is **Blue Heaven Restaurant** (729 Thomas St.; 305-296-8666). The food is phenomenal, and the friendly, fresh-air ambience is like no other place. You'll also see a bunch of Hemingway's cats' descendants. It's perfect.

Many Key West restaurants have live entertainment. If you are looking for music and dancing, check out **Island Dogs Bar** (505 Front St.; 305-509-7136).

Closest to the waterfront docks, **Key West Marine Hardware** (818 Caroline St.; 305-294-3425) has an extensive inventory and knowledgeable staff. It has been serving commercial and recreational boaters for some 30 years. The nearby **West Marine** (725 Caroline St.; 305-295-0999) is a reliable alternative with nationwide connections to find what you need in a hurry. The **NAPA auto parts store** (2334 N. Roosevelt Blvd.; 305-294-5201) can fill a lot of your maintenance needs.

Pharmacies, banks with ATMs, small convenience stores, and specialty stores are along Duval and the side streets.

Farther east at Garrison Bight on U.S. Route 1, you'll find several fast-food restaurants, a **Winn-Dixie** (2760 N. Roosevelt Blvd.; 305-294-0491), **Publix** (3316 N. Roosevelt Blvd.; 305-296-2225), theaters, department stores, pharmacies, hardware stores, banks with ATMs, marine supplies, moped rental, and the ubiquitous souvenir shops. As we said

earlier, it's all here in Key West.

Separated by distance only, Stock Island's marine facilities are often less crowded than those in downtown Key West. **West Marine** (5790 2nd Ave.; 305-294-2025) has a store on Second Avenue and Maloney.

If you're hungry for an authentic Cuban breakfast or lunch, then don't miss **El Mocho** (5708 Maloney Ave.; 305-296-7490). It's open from 5 a.m. until 3 p.m. The food is excellent, and the homemade watermelon juice will bring you back again and again.

For dinner, it's the **Hogfish Bar and Grill** (6810 Front St.; 305-293-4041). This is Old Key West at its finest, with fish tacos, lobster BLTs, and fresh shrimp to die for. If you're having guests who want to stay ashore, try the **Albury Court Hotel** (1030 Eaton St.; 305-294-5229).

Bridges

There are two bridges of note in this area — one crossing **Fleming Key Cut**, which leads directly to Key West's north side. This passage features strong tidal currents, shoaling, and a fixed bridge with 18 feet of vertical clearance. Transients should circumnavigate Fleming Key north, then south into Garrison Bight. A 19-foot bridge limits access to the southern portion of **Garrison Bight**.

Anchorage

Around Key West there are assorted anchorages — some okay, others not so. Just be sure to stay away from restricted military areas and private islands. The sand-grass mix of the bottom provides a good hold but the change in tidal currents can easily trip an anchor not well set. The mean tidal range is only 1.3 feet. Making the anchoring choices more difficult is the lack of water taxi services in the Key West Harbor waters. It can be a long and wet dinghy ride.

⚓ The most attractive anchorages are located on the west and north side of waterfront Key West. As you approach Tank Island (now renamed Sunset Island with posh Caribbean-style estates) along the Key West Channel, you will see dozens of boats at anchor. ⚓ One of the preferred anchorages is north of **Wisteria Island**, a.k.a. Christmas Tree Island, which is best approached by passing west of **Tank Island**. Leaving Fl G 4s 16ft 4M "19" to port, continue north along the west side of Tank Island. Stay at least 300 yards off Wisteria Island to avoid the shoals and the partially submerged obstructions extending from the shoreline. This crowded anchorage is protected against heavy seas by Frankfort Bank and Pearl Bank to the north, but it's exposed to northerly winds. Once you have a good hold and have secured your boat, you can take your dinghy in to Key West Bight. It's too far to row and can be a very wet ride when tide and wind are opposed.

There is a small and often tight anchorage off the southeastern end of Wisteria Island. ⚓ It's closer to the waterfront but can be choppy from boat traffic and the wind/current dance. Approached from the Key West Channel, space may be available between G "25" Fl G 2.5s and Fl G 4s 16ft 4M "27."

Anchoring in Key West Bight is prohibited, but north of

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The Hemingway Home and Museum has polydactyl (six-toed) cats.

the bight and the Coast Guard base you'll find 6- to 12-foot depths along the western shore of Fleming Key. This key is owned by the U.S. Navy and there is a restricted area around the perimeter of the island.

On the east side of Fleming Key, south of Fl G 4s 13ft 4M "17," you'll find the large municipal mooring field. Contact the city **dockmaster** (305-292-8167; VHF 16) before tying up to one. It's a five- to 10-minute dinghy ride in to the municipal basin.

 **Charts**

Use Maptech ChartKit Region 7, pages 12 and 14; Maptech ChartKit Region 8, pages 12A and 14A. Also, NOAA charts 11447 (1:10,000), 11441 (1:30,000), and 11446 (1:40,000).

 **Navigation**

Approaching from Hawk Channel, you'll pass the entrances to Boca Chica Channel, Safe Harbor and the Cow Key Channel. To reach **Stock Island Marina Village** (305-294-2288), turn north at Fl R 4s 16ft 3M "2" and follow the channel. Stock Island Marina Village is the largest deep-water marina you'll find in the Keys. It's safe, pet-friendly and full of wonderful amenities, including a community garden and dog park.

To continue to the Main Ship Channel, from Fl G 4s 16ft 5M "57," head west for R "12" Q R. Follow the deep water and parallel the shoreline on a northward course past Whitehead Spit. A slight bend northeast at G "15" Fl G 4s takes you between Key West and the two islands to the north, charted as Tank Island and Wisteria Island. Another turn to the east at R "24" Fl R 4s leads to the entrance to Key West Bight.

Approaching Key West from the north, you must use Northwest Channel. Pick up G "1" Fl G 2.5s BELL, which marks the approach, and head south toward R N "2," which leads you into the well-marked, deep channel. The charted jetties at the entrance are a significant hazard and are

generally submerged. As long as you keep your speed down, watch for traffic, and stay within the markers, you should have no trouble. A night approach can be confusing due to the assorted flashing lights on radio towers, other distant navigation aids, and the lights of the city. Mind your course. As you approach Key West Harbor along Northwest Channel, avoid Middle Ground and Frankfort Bank to the east. Shoaling and shallow spots come up quickly. Continue southeast in the Northwest Channel to Fl G 4s 16ft 4M "19," then round the southern shore of Tank Island.

Cruise ships dock alongside the quays running along Key West's southwest shore. For security reasons, you must keep at least 200 feet from any cruise ship.

Approaching Fl R 4s 16ft 5M "2," you officially enter Key West Bight Channel. One hundred yards east of here you will see an opening in the rock breakwater protecting the Galleon

Resort and Marina docks. This cut is for personal watercraft and kayaks only! As you round the eastern end of the breakwater, keep your speed down and watch for traffic. The piers jutting out from these establishments are hard to distinguish and can cause confusion. Most marinas have a sign or a fuel logo at the end of their piers, but when you're calling for a slip, it's a good idea to ask the dockmaster to describe a vessel at the end of the dock.

The two marinas you'll see immediately after turning into the Bight will be **Key West Bight Marina** (305-809-3984), operated by the city of Key West, and **Conch Harbor Marina** (305-294-2933). Both offer fuel, pumpout, 24-hour security, and immediate access to the Key West waterfront. For trivia buffs, the dockmaster's houseboat office once was owned by actor Gary Burghoff, who played Radar on TV's "M*A*S*H."

Garrison Bight

Another popular harbor is **Garrison Bight** on the island's north shore. This is where you'll find the city-owned marina and **Charter Boat Row**. From Key West Harbor there are two approaches to Garrison Bight. Heading north past the Coast Guard station you will see unmarked Fleming Key Cut to the east. This leads directly to the island's north side, but it should only be traversed with local knowledge. This passage has a fixed bridge with 18 feet of vertical clearance. The Garrison Bight entrance has limiting overhead power lines (vertical clearance: 50 feet at the entrance, 34 feet north of the channel inside the basin).

Garrison Bight Channel rounds the tip of Fleming Key and is narrow and bordered by shallows. Once you've passed Fl R 4s 16ft 3M "2," split Fl G 4s 16ft 5M "3" and R "4," favoring the east side of the channel and the red markers. The distinct water colors here will also help guide you, as dark, grassy shallows appear outside the channel. Round Fleming Key toward Fl G 4s 13ft 4M "17," then head south for Fl R 4s

16ft 5M “18” on the north shore of Key West. Along the way you’ll be cutting through the municipal mooring field.

From Fl R 4s 16ft 5M “18,” head east and parallel the island to Trumbo Point and the entrance of Garrison Bight, located south of Fl G 4s 16ft 4M “21.”

Once you pass through the narrow opening into the harbor, you will see **Key West Yacht Club** to the east. Daymarks guide you past power lines and the city-owned slips into the inner basin, where you’ll find **Garrison Bight Marina** and **Charter Boat Row**. It’s less than a mile east to the large shopping centers and family restaurants on Roosevelt Boulevard (U.S. 1) and two miles west to the heart of activity on Duval Street.

Houseboat Row, controversial a decade ago when the boats were moored west of Cow Key Channel near the Key West Airport, was relocated and somewhat recreated in the outer basin in Garrison Bight. Mother Nature and several storms ultimately decided which boats were moved to a new home.

Stock Island

If Key West is Fantasy Land, then Stock Island is Reality World. The marine facilities include working boat yards and commercial vessels. The entire island is undergoing changes, and luxury residences won’t be far behind.

The Stock Island marinas tend to have dockage available when the Key West marinas are full. A bike, moped, bus, or taxi can get you onto U.S. 1 and the commercial shopping areas. To reach **Stock Island Marina Village** (305-294-2288), turn north at Fl R 4s 16ft 3M “2” and follow the channel. Stock Island Marina Village is the largest deep-water marina you’ll find in the Keys. It’s safe, pet-friendly and full of

wonderful amenities. On the northern side, **Sunset Marina** (305-296-7101), on the northwest corner of Stock Island facing Florida Bay, is about as far from Sloppy Joe’s as you can get...serenity-wise. The approach from **Sigsbee Park** (Navy property) is a little tricky. If you’re eastbound, pass between R “36” and G “35,” then quickly turn to port to line up three red markers running across the bay. A visual aid is to line up the microwave tower behind you on Sigsbee Park with the landfill (Mount Trashmore) to the southeast and the green roofs of Sunset Marina just to the south. Don’t be misled by the channel running south toward Cow Key Channel. Shallow rocks to starboard on the approach to Sunset Marina are marked by small white private aids.

Shoreside and Emergency Services

Airport: Key West International Airport 305-296-5439

Bus:

—Key West Transit 305-292-8162

—Greyhound Bus Lines 800-231-2222

Coast Guard:

—Key West 305-295-9700 or VHF 16

Customs: 800-432-1216

Florida Wildlife Commission: 888-404-3922

Police, Fire, Ambulance: 911

Taxi: Friendly Cab 305-295-5555

—Classic Cabs 305-294-2227

—On Time Taxi 305-289-5656

Tow Service:

—Sea Tow 800-4SEATOW or VHF 16

—TowBoatU.S. 800-391-4869 or VHF 16 ♦



The Key West Bight entrance.