

# DAY 1 • KEY LARGO & THE UNDERWATER WORLD

## Coral Reefs, Mangroves & Island Sunset

### Morning: John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park

Start your Florida Keys adventure at John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park in Key Largo, the first undersea park in the United States.

Take a snorkeling excursion, scuba-diving trip or glass-bottom boat tour to experience the coral reefs and marine life of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

You can also rent a kayak or paddleboard to explore the mangrove waterways. Cannon Beach offers shore snorkeling, although the offshore reefs are the park's main attraction.

### Lunch: Key Largo

Restaurant ideas:

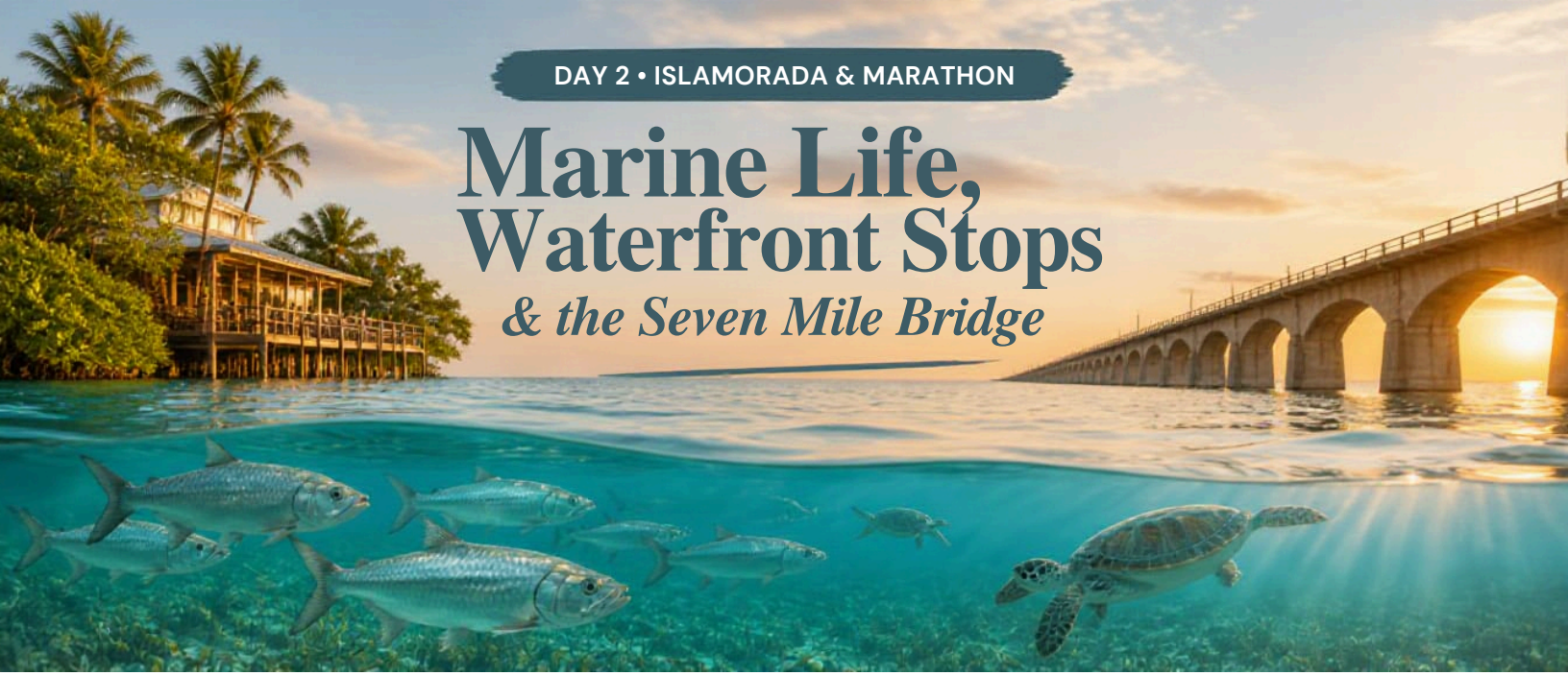
- **The Fish House —** 📍 102401 Overseas Highway
- **Mrs. Mac's Kitchen —** 📍 99336 Overseas Highway
- **Snappers Oceanfront Restaurant & Bar —** 📍 139 Seaside Avenue
- **Hobo's Cafe —** 📍 101691 Overseas Highway

### Evening: Key Largo Sunset

Finish your first day with dinner overlooking Florida Bay. Stay for sunset and enjoy the laid-back island atmosphere.

Dinner ideas:

- **Sundowners —** 📍 103900 Overseas Highway
- **Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill —** 📍 104000 Overseas Highway
- **Bayside Grille & Sunset Bar —** 📍 99540 Overseas Highway




## Morning: Theater of the Sea

Travel south to Islamorada and begin your day at Theater of the Sea. Explore tropical lagoons and gardens while seeing dolphins, sea lions, sea turtles, stingrays, sharks, alligators, birds and tropical fish.

## Late Morning: Robbie's of Islamorada

Continue south to Robbie's Marina, one of the Florida Keys' most recognizable roadside stops. Feed the resident tarpon, browse the open-air market or book a snorkeling, fishing, parasailing or eco-tour adventure.

## Lunch: Islamorada

## Restaurant ideas:

- **Hungry Tarpon —** 📍77522 Overseas Highway
- **Lorelei Restaurant & Cabana Bar —** 📍 96 Madeira Road
- **Morada Bay Beach Cafe —** 📍 81600 Overseas Highway
- **Marker 88 —** 📍 88000 Overseas Highway

## Evening: Old Seven Mile Bridge

Walk or bike part of the restored Old Seven Mile Bridge for views of the water, the modern Seven Mile Bridge and Pigeon Key.

Finish the day with a waterfront dinner in Marathon.




## Morning: Key West Old Town

Begin your day in Key West's historic Old Town. Walk past colorful conch houses, tropical gardens and historic buildings before the streets become busier.

Stop for a photo near the Southernmost Point, then continue toward the Key West Lighthouse and the Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum.

Tour the former home of Ernest Hemingway and see its tropical gardens, writing studio and famous six-toed cats.

## Lunch: Key West

Restaurant ideas:

- **Blue Heaven —** 📍 729 Thomas Street
- **El Siboney Restaurant —** 📍900 Catherine Street
- **Cuban Coffee Queen —** 📍 284 Margaret Street
- **Half Shell Raw Bar —** 📍 231 Margaret Street

## Afternoon: Choose Your Own Adventure

Use your afternoon to explore the side of Key West that interests you most.

- **History lovers:** Truman Little White House or Key West Shipwreck Museum
- **Families:** Key West Aquarium or Butterfly and Nature Conservatory
- **Beach lovers:** Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park
- **Shoppers:** Duval Street and the surrounding side streets

## Evening: Mallory Square

Finish your Florida Keys journey at the nightly Mallory Square Sunset Celebration.



# INSIDER TIPS FOR THE FLORIDA KEYS

*Plan smarter, slow down & enjoy the journey*

- This itinerary works best as a road trip with overnight stays in Key Largo, Marathon or Islamorada, and Key West.
- The Overseas Highway stretches approximately 113 miles from mainland Florida to Key West. Driving the full route takes longer than the mileage suggests.
- Do not try to rush between islands. Traffic can move slowly, especially on weekends, holidays and around special events.
- Book snorkeling trips, glass-bottom boat tours, animal encounters and Turtle Hospital tours before your trip.
- Check marine forecasts because wind and water conditions can affect boating and snorkeling excursions.
- Download an offline map in case cellular service becomes inconsistent.
- Watch for mile markers along the Overseas Highway; most Keys businesses use them to describe their locations.
- Never feed or touch wildlife unless you are participating in an authorized experience.
- Bring reef-conscious sunscreen, water, hats, insect repellent and a waterproof bag.
- The Florida Keys are more about boating, snorkeling, wildlife and waterfront experiences than long, wide beaches.
- Allow extra time for the drive into Key West and park your car once you arrive.
- If possible, add at least one additional day. Three days provides a highlights tour, but four or five days creates a much more relaxed Florida Keys experience