



Frequently Asked Questions

Key West

How do I get to Key West?



By air

The easiest (and most expensive) way is to fly to the Key West airport. Service between Key West International Airport and Miami, Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood, Atlanta, Naples, Orlando, St. Petersburg, and Tampa is provided by American Eagle, Cape Air, Comair/Delta Connection, Gulfstream/Continental Connection, and US Airways/US Airways Express. Other carriers come and go depending on the season.



By rental car

Many of our passengers fly into Ft. Lauderdale and rent a car for the week. Southwest Airlines is good choice for this option. Some folks plan on diving the Key Largo wrecks on the weekend before or after their trip on the Spree. We recommend Quiescence Diving Services (www.divekeylargo.com) in Key Largo, or Conch Republic Divers (www.conchrepublicdivers.com) on Tavernier. Tickets into Ft. Lauderdale are much less expensive and the schedule is better than into Miami or Key West. You can make some pretty good deals on car rentals also.



By boat

The Key West Express (www.seakeywestexpress.com) leaves from Fort Myers Beach year round to Key West. Fort Myers is one of the places that Southwest Airlines flies (for you Texas folks). Ft. Myers Beach is also a tourist destination in its own right, so you might plan some extra time there to buy some seashells at the seashell store in Ft. Myers Beach. Just kidding. Luggage facilities are somewhat sparse on the ferry.

Where is Stock Island?

Stock Island is the next major island up the Florida Keys chain from Key West. Stock Island is about a 10 minute cab ride from the Key West Airport. The cab company's are based on Stock Island, so they know where they are going.



Why do I care?

That's where the Spree docks!

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How do I get to the Spree?

By personal car

Once you're on Stock Island, you're 10 minutes away from the boat. Print the Google map from our maps page and follow the winding roads to Robbie's Marina. We have a sign out by the road showing you where to turn in, as it is a large boatyard. It really is only 3 turns off Highway 1—5th Street to 5th Avenue to Shrimp Road.

By taxi

We'll cover your taxi fare to the boat, just get a receipt from the driver. Don't let the driver escape...we take luggage early but not passengers. We'll pay your tab, then you're free to explore Key West until dinner.

What else is there to do in Key West?

I like to people watch on **Duval Street**, where all manner of folks can be seen, and I will leave it at that.



The Mel Fisher Museum

(www.melfisher.org) at 200 Green Street is full of recovered sunken treasure from his finds on the Atocha and Santa Margarita.

The Hemingway Museum

(www.hemingwayhome.com) is located at 907 Whitehead Street, and you can scratch the head of a 6 toed cat there. The cat will like it.

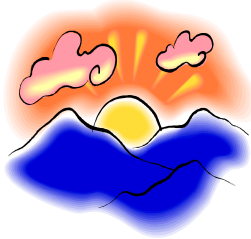
You can visit the Key West Aquarium

(www.keywestaquarium.com) at 1 Whitehead Street. Pet a shark at Key West's first attraction, and not from the Spree in the sanctuary. The aquarium, built in 1934, features the turtles, sharks, game and tropical fish that are native to the waters of Key West.

It's fun to go see the Harry S. Truman White House

(www.trumanlittlewhitehouse.com) While president, Truman spent 175 days in Key West at Quarters A on the Truman Naval Station. Today, as Florida's only presidential museum, the Little White House provides a gander of one of America's greatest presidents.

I also like the **Shipwreck Historeum** (is that a word?) **Museum** (www.shipwreckhistoreum.com) at 201 Front Street. Step back to 1851 and discover the treacherous world of shipwrecking and how it made Key West the richest city in the United States. Live actors, artifacts, laser technology and a 60' lookout tower make the experience one of a kind!



As the day draws to a close, you must go to the sunset celebration at **Mallory Square** to watch (what else) the sun set. Street vendors perform including the French cat trainer fella, the tightrope walker juggler dude, an escape artist, a bagpiper, some banjo players, some iguana guys and a bird man.

When the cacophony reaches a crescendo, go back to Duval Street, buy a stupid t-shirt for yourself and someone you care about, and go visit the many bars I have been kicked out of. That is called the **Duval Crawl**, and everyone must experience it at least once in their life. When you have had enough to drink, mosey up to the Garden of Eden on the third floor of The Bull and Whistle bar. The Garden of Eden is clothing optional, and they have a body painter who will paint your nethers to look like you are wearing clothing, but you really aren't. **DON'T COME BACK TO THE BOAT WITH YOUR NETHERS PAINTED.** We don't want to see it. Even if we say we do, we don't. Even if we do, we don't. You can walk around Key West naked as long as your nethers are painted. We will NOT bail you out of jail.



Where can I stay on the island?



If your coming in early or hanging out after your trip, there are tons of hotels and B&B's on Key West, from the expensive chains to the bargain basement. We don't have any agreements with any of the places to stay in Key West, but we have stayed and/or recommend the following:

Merlin Inn

811 Simonton Street
Key West, Florida 33040
Local Phone: 305.296.3336
Email: merlin@historickeywestinns.com
Web: http://www.historickeywestinns.com/properties/merlin/merlin_guesthouse.htm

Enclosed garden compound, one block off Duval Street. Rooms offer A/C, TV, private bath. Romantic poolside suites. Nice Continental Breakfast by the pool. Reasonable rates. Old town activities and beaches are within easy walking distance.

Key West Bed and Breakfast

415 William Street
Key West, FL 33040
1-800-438-6155 or 305-296-7274
Fax: 305-293-0306
Email: relax@keywestbandb.com
<http://www.keywestbandb.com/>

The Key West Bed & Breakfast is located in the William Russell House (circa 1898), and is listed in the National Historic Register. Constructed by Bahamian shipbuilders, this lovely 3-story Victorian is located on a quiet, tree-shaded street in the heart of "Old Town."

Key West Bed and Breakfast Inns is a collection of 6 small hotels in and around downtown Key West. They are all old estates or homes, so you really get the feel of the island. The Merlin House is one of the six, but all can be found at <http://www.historickeywestinns.com/>

Closer to the boat is the:

Key West Holiday Inn
3850 N Roosevelt Blvd
Key West, FL 33040
1-305-294-6681



Will we ever eat?

On boarding evening, we'll take you to the **Rusty Anchor** on Stock Island for some local fare before we get on the boat.

Once you're on the boat we feed you non-stop, but once you're back on land you're on your own again. Eateries abound on the island. Local venues like **Thai Cuisine** on Greene St, **Finnegan's Wake Irish Pub** on Grinnell and the **Meteor Smokehouse** on Southard are a few of our dinner favorites. **Willie T's** on Duval St has amazing salads, and **Blue Heaven** on Thomas St. has the most wonderful brunch in town, and the kitties and chickens will keep you entertained until your table is ready. If all else fails, follow your nose down Duval St—most restaurants on Duval post their menus streetside. Visit the locals instead of the big chains for some amazing meals—you won't be disappointed! And yes, there is a **Starbucks**—it's on the ground floor of the La Concha hotel, 430 Duval St.

More questions?

Key West has a fabulous website, with tons of information on goings on, lodgings, eateries, and a live webcam on Duval Street. Visit www.keywest.com for volumes of information on "The Rock".

