

Romance Itinerary

Upper Keys: Day One & Two

Getting out on, in, or under the waters of the Florida Keys and Key West is a priority. One of the best ways to access the ocean in the Upper Keys is through **John Pennekamp State Park**. Explore the kayaking trails in the mangroves or get in the water and investigate the living coral reef on the shallow water snorkeling trips, which leave several times daily!

www.pennekampark.com

The iconic original vessel from John Huston's classic 1951 film **The African Queen**, starring Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn, is still making trips in Key Largo's near shore waters and canals! Sailings on the African Queen are daily and offer a 90 minute canal cruise, and on select evenings, a dinner cruise is offered for up to six passengers. For more information: calypsosailing.com

Romantic Dinner for Two at **PIERRE'S RESTAURANT** on the second story veranda facing the Florida Bay and the sunset. Pierre's Restaurant is a sparkling white two-story plantation house with blue shutters. Fine dining highlighted through French cuisine techniques to please the palate serving nightly.

www.pierres-restaurant.com

Sunrise or Sunset in the Keys

Whichever is your fancy the serenity of the early morning or the quiet reflections of the past day. The Skies over the Florida Keys offer an amazing palate for one of nature's most incredible light shows. You have seen the photos now experience it for yourself. Seek out a quiet place along the water front or on one of the old rail road bridges for your own slice of heaven.

Marathon, Big Pine & the Lower Keys: -Day Three

Continuing down the road, consider stopping in Marathon and check out **Historic Pigeon Key**. Visitors to Pigeon Key venture back in time to a tiny island that played a tremendous role in the Florida Keys of today. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this five-acre property served as a home base for railroad workers erecting and later operating the final installment of Henry M. Flagler's Key West Extension of the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway: the Old Seven-Mile Bridge.

Indulge and pamper yourselves on **Little Palm Island Resort and Spa**. Experience the internationally acclaimed private island paradise. Accessible only by boat, The resort offers a relaxing romantic getaway! Overnight guests can enjoy spacious bungalows, lagoon-style pool, meditative Zen Garden, or lounge the day away on a hammock for two! The Resort also has a spa and world class Dining room, their books fill up quickly, so be sure to call ahead for reservations! Some of the world's finest cuisine can be experienced in the Palm Island resort's Dining Room. Lead by world renowned Chefs and their culinary teams, they have been recognized as the Best Hotel Dining in Florida and Number three in the US by *Zagat*. *Zagat* rated The Dining Room "extraordinary to perfection" in every category - Food,

Decor and Service. They said "Lover's laud this exquisite oasis at a private island resort off Little Torch Key as a piece of absolute paradise, voting it Top Décor in the Keys; words cannot do justice either to the French-Pan-Latin fare."

Advance reservations required: www.littlepalmisland.com

Arriving In Key West Day Four –Six

Exploring the island is great on two wheels! The island is only approximately two miles wide and four miles long; what better way to explore the lazy streets of historic Old Town than on a bike? The Old Town architecture, flora, and fauna is yours to discover at your own pace. Check with your accommodations concierge or front desk staff and they can help arrange your bikes!

Climb to the top of the HISTORIC LIGHT HOUSE

Nearby, at 938 Whitehead St. stands the **Key West Lighthouse Museum & Keeper's Quarters**. Completed in 1847, the lighthouse guided mariners through the treacherous Key West waters until it was decommissioned in 1969. Today both the Lighthouse and the Keeper's Quarters have been restored by the Key West Art & Historical Society to show visitors what life was like for a lighthouse keeper in the days before electricity and automation.

Visitors can climb an 88-step circular staircase to the historic lighthouse deck for a panoramic view of Key West, view a 12-foot "first order" lens circa 1858, learn the stories of two courageous female lighthouse keepers and observe historic artifacts, photos and journals.

The Key West Lighthouse Museum is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (305) 294-0012.

Tour the Gardens of the AUDUBON HOUSE

Today the 19th-century home, originally built by ships' carpenters for harbor pilot and shipwreck salvager Captain John Geiger, whose family occupied the house for approximately 100 years, is a museum that showcases both the Audubon connection and Key West's early years. The house is filled with antiques and nearly 30 first-edition Audubon works that remain after the Geiger family occupied the house for nearly a century. For the avid Audubon lover, check out the adjoining gallery which featuring 500 Audubon lithographs!

The tranquil gardens surrounding the Audubon house, encompassing nearly an acre, contain a breathtaking variety of tropical foliage, native plants and exotics. In the front yard stand three Geiger trees, one of which appears in Audubon's painting of the white-crowned pigeon. The property is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (877) 281-2473 or (305) 294-2116,

Enjoy a three hour lunch

Sidewalk cafés abound and offer their take of the local specialties, many offering mini versions of their award winning evening menus. No rush! With a couple of glasses of fine wine, crafted beer, or frozen margarita, the afternoon is now on the right track. Truly a Keys Experience and a paradise found!

DOLPHIN SAFARI CHARTERS KEY WEST – Dolphin Watching in the Wild

Indulge your senses as you pass over natural sands through the blue waters of Key West into the playgrounds of wild dolphins. Watch as the sea fills with their shapes and energy. Delight in watching dolphins romp, feed and play. The presence of the dolphins thrills your body, mind and spirit. Enjoy their gentleness and grace in the wild. Hundreds of dolphins call the waters of Key West home, so come share the memorable experience of seeing dolphins in their natural habitat. www.safaricharters.com

ISLESCAPES KEY WEST DINNER CRUISE

Islescapes Dinner Cruise is a chance to experience the very best the Florida Keys has to offer. Here you will indulge in exquisite gourmet dinners, impeccable service and gorgeous Key West sunsets in a romantic setting aboard a beautifully restored 33 foot motor yacht. A Key West dinner cruise with Islescapes for that special occasion or to top off your vacation is an evening you will never forget! Our Key West dinner cruise starts off with a brief tour of the harbor; then we find calm water to enjoy your fantastic dinner. During the meal, you always see the famous Key West Sunset! Your view will not be obstructed by an island or a cruise ship, because unlike other Key West restaurants, we are at sea! But like some of the finer Key West restaurants, we have great food and fine service. We actually were named one of the **most romantic Key West restaurants by Key West Magazine!** www.islescapes.com

SWEET AND SASSY: BETTER THAN SEX

Spoil your soul with the best things in life: *Dessert, Wine & Romance*. **Better Than Sex** is a full service dessert only restaurant and lounge unlike any other. Come spend an intimate time and a double entendre or two with that special someone. The restaurant is small and intimate with limited seating, so be sure to make reservations in advance! Reservations suggested after sunset and taken up to 7 days in advance. Voted #1! Decadent Dessert Restaurants Worth Traveling To -2012 TripAdvisor www.betterthansexkeywest.com