

CFCA in Paradise -- Key West 2015

Greetings CFCA!

Who wants to go to Key West? It is time to make those reservations. Our trip begins on Friday, November 6, 2015 and ends whenever you feel like leaving. We will caravan down as a group on Friday, leaving from the Cracker Barrel on OBT. Some members will be returning on Sunday morning and others are staying for a few more days.

Once again our host hotel is the beautiful [Sheraton Suites Key West](#) directly across from world famous Smathers Beach. For several years we have enjoyed this beautiful hotel and the wonderful staff and look forward to going back.



Call soon as this is a very busy weekend for Key West. Please be advised that this is a smoke-free hotel. While our hotel is quite a way from Duval Street where all the action is, prices in the Duval area are almost double what we are getting at the Sheraton. As always, this is Parrothead Weekend so expect a lot of crazy people, in addition to our own craziness! You might even see Jimmy Buffet at his restaurant, Margaritaville, or out singing on the streets.

The hotel has a free shuttle which runs continuously. In years past we've made use of both the hotel shuttle as well as Key West's plentiful taxi service and it wasn't a problem at all. When taking the shuttle you will likely meet Mr. Ed. If you have any questions about Key West, he is the man to ask. Please tip him generously as he is very good to our group and often brings out extra shuttles so our group doesn't have to wait long.

Again this year we are scheduling a Wind & Wine Sunset Sailing Cruise. Because daylight savings is still in effect, we are moving the cruise to Saturday November 7, 2015. Otherwise, we would have a very long drive with few stops in order to check into our hotel and arrive for the cruise at 4:00 P.M. A group dinner at a more casual local seafood restaurant is planned for Saturday night after the cruise and, weather permitting, an optional day trip to the Dry Tortugas on Sunday. There is more information on this below.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS Prices have gone up again (what else is new?) but we did get a special rate with your choice of the Courtyard King Suites at \$239.00 per night or the Courtyard Double Queen Suites at \$259.00 per night. The Sheraton will NOT be charging us the new \$25.00/night Key West resort tax.

Cancellations must be made 3 days prior to arrival. Keep in mind all rooms are suites, the hotel is very nicely appointed, and there is plenty of safe, off street parking. The regular rate is \$329/\$349 per night for these rooms during this busy time of year. You must call the hotel directly at 305-292-9800 by October 1st and reference the **CENTRAL FLORIDA CORVETTE ASSOCIATION** to get our group rate.

SUNSET CRUISE We are again going with Danger Charters on their Wind & Wine Sunset Cruise. Their 65' sailing boat has been rated #1 for the last three years on Trip Advisor and holds just over 20 people. The wines are more upscale than the other cruises and they also serve cheese, crackers, veggies, dip, soda, beer, and water. Last year's 2½ hour cruise was a lot fun (for those that can remember). The cost is \$90 per person. This includes tax, gratuity and a 10% discount. To make your reservation call Danger Charters at 305-304-7999. Be sure to tell them you are with CFCA. You can also go to www.DangerCharters.com for more information. The marina for Danger Charters is located behind the Westen Hotel, 245 Front Street.

AFTER CRUISE DINNER We will be going to a VERY casual raw bar after the cruise. The Half Shell Raw Bar is a pleasant walk along the marina over by the Conch Republic Seafood Company. The address is 231 Margaret Street. The food is good and we don't have to behave ourselves like we try to do at the Conch Republic.

YANKEE FREEDOM FERRY TO DRY TORTUGAS We have tried the past two years to make it to the Dry Tortugas but were stopped by bad weather and then routine maintenance. This year we are determined to do it. We will be leaving Sunday morning for a 7:00 A.M. check-in and returning around 5:30 P.M. The Dry Tortugas is 70 miles from Key West. The ferry cost includes breakfast, lunch, snorkeling equipment and a guided tour of Fort Jefferson. You may use the ferry to get in out of the sun when needed. Snacks and drinks are available on the ferry also. The cost is \$170.00 for adults and \$160.00 for seniors (Yea!). Cancellations must be made by 3:00 P.M. the day before leaving. The terminal is located at 100 Grinnell Street. I am trying to get a group discount and will let you know about that if it happens. You can go online to www.drytortugas.com for more information and to make your reservation or call 888-212-5009. Give me a couple of weeks to get any possible discount together and I will notify you by email.

Mallory Square, "green flash" sunsets, street performers, white sandy beaches, Duval pub crawl, beautiful hotel pool, Conch Train, Sloppy Joe's, Key West Lighthouse, REAL key lime pie, Mel Fisher Maritime Museum, Key West Aquarium, Mai Tai's, Earnest Hemmingway home and museum, Harry Truman Little White House, Shipwreck Museum, Southernmost Point, jello shots, Mud Slides, Kino Sandal Factory, shopping, Fat Tuesdays, custom jewelry, Wyland Art Gallery (I can hear Hutch groaning already), and much, much more! It all awaits you at Key West. Make your reservations now!

Just think... as others are shoveling the snow off their sidewalks up north, we'll be sitting in the sun by the pool or the beach in the Keys sipping on a cool frozen drink. Ah yes, Life is good.

Of course plans change and it is early yet, but be sure to me know if you plan on joining us so I can add you to the list.

Hope to see you in Paradise this November!

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See the DRAFT route and activities info at http://www.cfca.net/events/key_west-2015/KeyWest-2015.pdf