

CFCA Cruise to Key West
Departing Friday, November 5th, 2021

Starting Point:

CFCA will depart from the Cracker Barrel Restaurant just South of SR417 on Orange Blossom Trail.

Cracker Barrel Restaurant
13300 S. Orange Blossom Trail
SR 417 & US 17/92/441
Orlando, FL 32837-6636
www.crackerbarrel.com

Meet for optional breakfast at 7:00am with a driver's meeting at 7:45am and immediate departure after everyone has signed the club liability waiver.

The Route: 379 mi, 6 hrs, 41 minutes according to Google... your mileage & speed may vary. :-)

Departing from the Cracker Barrel, we will turn right (South) onto Orange Blossom Trail. Go about 3 miles then turn left (East) onto Osceola Parkway. Once on the Parkway, get into the right lane as we will take the onramp on the right to the Florida Turnpike (South) where we will begin our journey to the Keys.

F.T. Mile Marker 229	Canoe Creek Service Plaza (optional stop)
F.T. Mile Marker 184	Fort Drum Service Plaza (scheduled stop)
F.T. Mile Marker 144	Fort Pierce/Port St. Lucie Service Plaza (optional stop)
F.T. Mile Marker 94	West Palm Beach Service Plaza (scheduled stop)
F.T. Mile Marker 71	Exit to Sawgrass Expressway (Route 869)
	Take Sawgrass Expressway to I-75 South
I-75, Exit 5	Head towards KEY WEST
F.T. Mile Marker 39	Rejoin Florida Turnpike South
F.T. Mile Marker 19	Snapper Creek Service Plaza (optional stop)
F.T. Mile Marker 2	Florida City, RaceTrac gas station, on right (scheduled stop) 35426 S Dixie Hwy, Florida City, FL 33034

Take U.S. 1 towards Key West (about 2-1/2 hours)

U.S. 1 Mile Marker 83.4	Hog Heaven Sports Bar & Grill, on left (lunch stop) 85631 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada, FL 33036
U.S. 1 Mile Marker 0	Sheraton Suites Key West, 2001 South Roosevelt Blvd AT LAST! WE MADE IT!

Our first scheduled rest stop is the Fort Drum Service Plaza rest at Mile Marker 184 for early-morning coffee drainage about an hour from Orlando. Our next scheduled stop will be at the West Palm Beach Service Plaza at Mile Marker 94 about 2-1/2 hours from Orlando. If you NEED to stop before one of our scheduled breaks, by all means, do so! We will bypass some Miami traffic by taking the Sawgrass Expressway (Route 869) at Mile Marker 71 continuing on to I-75 South.

We'll follow I-75 South to exit 5 (old 3B exit to Key West) where we will once again get back onto the Florida Turnpike southbound continuing on to Florida City where the Turnpike ends. There we will stop at the big RaceTrac gas station on the right hand side of the road. Recommend everyone fill up their tanks here as fuel is more expensive in the Keys. From that point on it's a two lane road nearly all the way to Key West (about 2-1/2 hours from Florida City). The narrow roads in the keys can be quite dangerous (darn tourists!) so be careful and watch your speed.

Many of us plan to stop for lunch at **the Hog Heaven Sports Bar & Grill** in Islamorada just as after you cross the bridge on your left at Mile Marker 83.4. Of course, you can continue on to Key West on your own if you wish but we'll be hungry by then! The driveway is gravel, however, so take it slow to avoid damage. Enjoy some great food, drinks, and views and then we all head south to Key West and check into our hotel.

HOTEL. Our hotel is the newly remodeled **Key West Barbary Beach House**, at 2001 South Roosevelt Blvd, Key West, 33040, arriving by mid afternoon. The hotel offers a free shuttle to downtown Key West or Key West Taxi may be reached at 305-296-6666. Sadly, our favorite courtesy bus driver, Mr Ed, has retired but we hope to run into him while there.

FRS radios - channel 7, sub-channel 0. Please keep this channel clear for caravan info and emergencies.

Turnpike Tolls. You'll need your E-Pass Transponder or approximately \$11 in tolls.

Caravan Etiquette. Safety is our prime concern. Please turn on your parking lights or daytime running lights. When traveling in a caravan with other Corvettes, keep it reasonably tight but maintain enough distance between cars to be safe. Be alert and WATCH the car in front of you. When the car in front of you slows or applies their turn signal, please do likewise for the benefit of those behind you. Caravans have the natural tendency to "rubber band" but we'll try to slow down somewhat after each toll booth or other bottlenecks, at least until we reach Florida City. From there to Key West, the US-1 overseas highway makes it impossible to keep our entire group together. A good idea is to team up with a caravan buddy and exchange cell phone numbers in case of emergency. Drive safe and we'll cya in Key West!

FRIDAY. Check in at our hotel, park your car, drop off your bags, and RELAX. You're in Key West! On Friday night we are going to enjoy the famous Key West sunset by boarding the retired Coast Guard ship, the **USCGC INGHAM**, docked on the Truman Annex Waterfront in Old Town Key West. They offer a Sunset Happy Hour on the deck one hour before sunset until they feel like kicking us off! A bar is set up and there are chairs where you can relax. The cost is \$5.00 per person. If our hotel's new management won't take us there via shuttle, plan on an Uber or Lyft ride. Hey, it's cheap.

SATURDAY. Saturday evening, we have our **Wind & Wine Sunset Sailing Cruise** with Danger Charters. It's awesome! You must check in at the marina for Danger Charters behind the Westin Hotel, 245 Front Street by 5pm. The hotel offers a free shuttle to downtown Key West or Key West Taxi may be reached at 305-296-6666. No parking at the pier so suggest you grab a taxi so you don't miss the boat! For those that wish to join us, we will likely have a group dinner after the cruise on Saturday night at the Half Shell Raw Bar or one of the many other casual restaurants in Key West.

SUNDAY. For those of you sticking around, we're going to just lounge around the hotel and recuperate from the night before or maybe take a Tiki Bar harbor cruise (crazy!). For those of you headed home today or tomorrow, be safe.

As this is also Parrot Head Weekend, Jimmy Buffet will likely be in town and may stop by Margaritaville on Duval Street. Ya never know! You will want to visit some of Key West's great night spots like Sloppy Joe's, Hog's Breath Saloon, Fat Tuesday's, Captain Tony's, the Bull, and many others. Just try to keep your composure! (ask Patti Hutchinson & Arlene Pavlic what that means ☺).

There is so much to do in Key West! You may want to try the Conch Tram Tour, visit the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum, Harry S Truman Little White House, Ernest Hemingway Home, Southernmost Point in the US, Shipwreck Museum, Ripley's Believe It Or Not, Key West Aquarium, do some serious shopping, rent a bicycle or moped, watch for the "green flash" at sunset from Mallory Square, catch the Powerboat Parade down Duval Street on Sunday at 4:00 pm, or hangout at Smather's Beach (literally across the street from our hotel). Otherwise just take it easy and relax... island style!

Return trip to Orlando. You are on your own for the return trip to Orlando as many leave on different days and times.

Emergency Contact Cell #'s: Wiley Boland: 407-257-5094

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