

Florida Keys: The Conch Republic

10 Days / 9 Nights

Departure Date: Nov. 5-14

Tour Code: KEYS91

FLIGHTS INCLUDED

DAY ONE

This late fall trip to the Conch Republic begins with a one way flight to Fort Myers, FL where we will spend a couple of days exploring. Upon our arrival we will check into the Hampton Inn & Suites for two nights.

DAY TWO — CB, L

Our day in Florida begins with breakfast then boarding the coach see both the Ford & Edison Winter Estates nearby. These two giants of the age were good friends and spent many weeks together basking in the Florida sunshine. Step back in time as you imagine Fort Myers as it was before Edison arrived. Learn how he changed this cattle town with 350 residents with no roads, electricity or railroads into what it is today. See one of the largest Banyan Trees in the United States and rare autos from Ford's time. Later enjoy lunch at a quirky eatery before having the rest of the afternoon and evening free upon returning to the hotel.

DAY THREE — CB

We check out early to catch the Key West Express to Key West. Enjoy air-conditioned interiors, several exterior sun decks, couches, tables, and even reclining airline-style seating. This 3.5 hour ride takes you across the waves where you might even see dolphins or whales! Arrive in Key West ready to explore. Walk to many attractions and dining options upon arrival then gather again with your tour director to visit the Mel Fisher Museum. Artifacts and treasures from the Atocha and Margarita form the cornerstone of the museum's collection. Among the items found on the wrecks are a fortune in gold and silver bars; coins destined for the coffers of Spain; a solid gold belt and necklace set with gems; a gold chalice; a gold chain that weighs more than seven pounds; a horde of contraband emeralds including an impressive 77.76 carat uncut hexagonal crystal experts have traced to the Muzo mine in Colombia and so much more. After checking into The Havana Cabana Resort for the next three nights your evening is free to explore the area on your own.

DAY FOUR

After time for breakfast nearby, gather with your tour director to walk to the Hemingway House. Nestled in the heart of Old Town Key West, this unique property was home to one of America's most honored and respected authors. Ernest Hemingway lived and wrote here for more than ten years. Calling Key West home, he found solace in the turquoise waters that surround this tiny island. Visit the rooms and gardens that witnessed the most prolific period of this Nobel Prize winner's writing career. Be sure to stroll through the lush grounds and enjoy the whimsy of the more than forty cats that live and wander free here. The rest of the day is yours to explore with your two-day Conch/Trolley Tour Pass. Get a narrated tour and be able to hop on and off at many of the famous sites in the historic old town area. Included in your pass are admissions to the beautiful Butterfly House and Harry Truman's Little White House.

DAY FIVE

Today use your Trolley Pass to get further around the island.

Your day is free to find many more Key West treasures, famous restaurants and wonderful attractions. Be sure to pose at the Southernmost Point of the United States!

DAY SIX — L

Great memories already made we move northbound along the Overseas Highway. Sometimes called "the Highway that Goes to Sea," these bridges are a modern wonder. This magic carpet by which visitors from

Florida's mainland can cross countless coral and limestone islets through that special world of the Florida Keys is astounding. Our destination today is Miami where our local guide will join us for a comprehensive and historic tour of this vibrant city. Lunch is a special treat at the 94th Aero Squadron right here in Miami. This casual aviation-themed eatery allows diners listen to air traffic control and they maneuver various aircraft and watch as the jets take off and land. Our overnight will be in Palm Beach Gardens at the Best Western Plus.

DAY SEVEN — CB

Just a short drive north brings us to Juno Beach, FL and the Loggerhead Marinelife Center. Started over 30 years ago the facility houses a variety of exhibits, live sea turtles and other coastal creatures. Exhibits include a massive prehistoric Archelon sea turtle replica, salt water aquaria and displays of local wildlife, educational displays about South Florida's marine environment. After a full morning we pause for lunch and shopping on famous Cocoa Beach Pier. As an historic landmark on Florida's Space Coast, the world-famous Cocoa Beach Pier stretches 800 feet over the Atlantic Ocean and is home to restaurants, bars, gift shops and live musical entertainment. We finish our day in Jacksonville at the full-service Holiday Inn.

DAY EIGHT — CB, L

Following breakfast we leave Florida behind and travel through the cotton fields of Georgia enroute to the beautiful city of Savannah. Visit the Savannah Visitor Center & History Museum to get the history and flavor of this southern beauty. Lunch is in the historic Pirate House today before our local step on guide drives us throughout the city and area for a comprehensive lesson on how Savannah became so iconic. You have the rest of the afternoon to explore on your own. Our accommodations will be at the Fairfield Inn.

DAY NINE — B

Deep in the south, it's time we began our journey homeward bound. We'll pass through North and South Carolina enroute to Williamsburg, KY and the Hampton Inn, our home for the night. Enjoy many restaurants within walking distance of the hotel for dinner this evening.

DAY TEN — CB

With many miles to make today onboard the coach, it gives us time to reflect on a great experience in the south and to the very southern tip of the U.S. Many don't make it there so great memories to share once back home.

PER PERSON PRICING:

\$3,217 Double | \$3,135 Triple | \$2,989 Quad | \$3,702 Single

Deposit: \$500 per person within 7 days of making reservation. Final payment due 90 days prior to departure. Luggage handling is included.