

# THE LITTLE ISLAND GROUP'S GUIDE TO GUIDE TO GUIDE TO KEY WEST

www.thelittleislandgroup.com

### FROM GREG + STEPHANIE

#### Thank you for downloading our Guide to Key West!

We are Greg and Stephanie Gordon. You may know us from our TikTok <u>@livinginkeywest.</u> We are real estate agents in Key West, Florida and we LOVE sharing our love of Key West with you.

If you are planning to visit Key West use this guide as a jumping off point for your travels. There's so much to experience on the island and there really is something for just about everyone. It's easy to find the quintessential Key West vacation spots, so our guide is here to help if you're looking for a local taste, incredible history and culture, and some lesser-known ways to spend your island time.

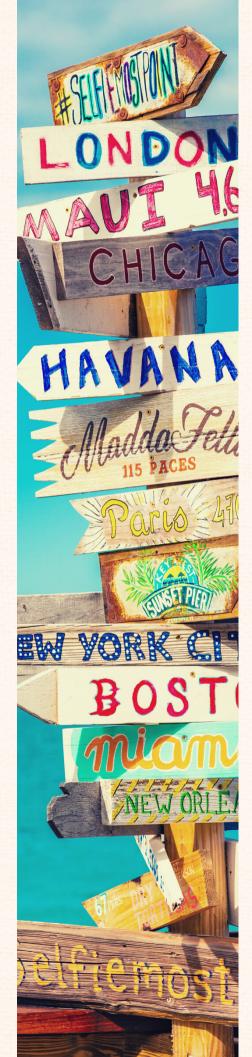
If you would like to chat with us more about your trip or would like personalized insights and Key West recommendations you can book a Key West travel consulting session with us <u>here</u>.

If you are in the market to buy or sell your slice of paradise and would like to chat with us about potentially working together, please click <u>here</u> to learn more about who we work with, how you can work with us, and to book a Key West real estate consult.

In the meantime enjoy the guide and we hope to see you on one of our daily TikTok lives.

To high tides and Key West vibes!

Greg + Stephanie



### <u>CONTENTS</u>

- Accommodations
- Food + Drink
- Art, History + Culture
- Shopping
- Paranormal
- Kids
- Pups
- Grocery
- Rentals
- Free

### **ACCOMMODATIONS**

Please note that at this time we have not personally stayed at these locations except for Ella's Cottages. These are recommendations from friends and followers that we have reviewed and determined to be promising accommodations. Please be sure to research before booking. Click on the underlined links below to learn more.

#### • Ella's Cottages

- We stayed in room 16 which features a king size bed and private outdoor space. We loved our stay. This is a Kimpton property. There are five on the island and they are all <u>exceptionally pet friendly</u>.
- Blue Marlin Motel
- La Concha Hotel\*
- Southernmost Point Guest House
- Southernmost Point Beach Resort
- Little Palm Island
- Perry Hotel
- <u>Casa Marina Resort</u>
- Marrero's Guest Mansion \*
- The Capitana
- <u>The Artist House</u>\*

\*Please be aware this location is known for potential paranormal activity. If you are sensitive to energies and this type of activity please plan accordingly.

#### La Crêperie

Address: 300 Petronia Street Meals Served: Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch Diet Accommodations: Gluten Free, Vegetarian Inside/Outside Seating: Yes Pups Allowed: Yes, outside

**What makes it great:** The food is phenomenal, fresh and delicious every single time. The location is gorgeous and they're very kind to pups dining with their people. The European vibe allows for leisurely meals enjoying your time, meal and scenery.

What to order: Red Velvet Crepe (#45) and get an extra scoop of ice cream—this dish will change your life, #27 omelet, crispy potatoes with bacon and cheese, any coffee drink and get a mimosa for good measure! Don't forget to pop into their wine bistro Viv next door for a bottle to go or for apps and a glass of vino later!

#### ViV

Address: 300 Petronia Street (sister spot to La Crêperie)

Meals Served: Lunch, Apps, Dinner

Diet Accommodations: Gluten Free, Vegetarian

Inside/Outside Seating: Yes

Pups Allowed: Yes, outside

What makes it great: Elevated charcuterie, apps, and nibbles done perfectly every time. The location is gorgeous and they're very kind to pups dining with their people. The European vibe allows for leisurely meals enjoying your time, wine and scenery.

**What to order:** Deviled Eggs, Charcuterie board, Farmer's Goat grilled cheese and pair with any of their fantastic natural wines

#### **One Love Food Truck**

Address: 5220 US HWY 1 (in Chevron Gas Station Parking Lot) Meals Served: Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch, Dinner Diet Accommodations: Gluten Free, Vegetarian Inside/Outside Seating: Outside only Pups Allowed: Yes, outside What makes it great: Chef Clive cares about authentic bold flavors. Every dish is extremely flavorful and cooked perfectly. Chef uses as many local ingredients as he can and you can taste the freshness. Plus,

the location is adorable.

**What to order:** Mahi Tacos, Jamaican Dinner w/ the jerk chicken, Shrimp Your Way, Rum Cakes, Ginger Tea (oh! And the loaded sweet potato fries when they've got them on special.)

#### Moondog Cafe

Address: 823 Whitehead Street Meals Served: Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch, Dinner Diet Accommodations: Gluten Free, Vegetarian, Vegan Inside/Outside Seating: Yes

Pups Allowed: Yes!

What makes it great: This is the most dog-friendly restaurant we have ever been to anywhere! Pups are allowed to sit inside and outside and they are very kind to your furry family members. The location is fantastic and the menu is extensive. They accommodate your dietary needs and offer tasty options no matter your limitations.

**What to order:** Breakfast Tacos, Classic Benedict (we get it gf and it's awesome), Big Papa burger, BLAT (bacon, lettuce, avo, tomato)

#### Seaside Cafe

Address: 1400 Duval Street Meals Served: Dinner Diet Accommodations: Gluten Free, Vegetarian, Vegan Inside/Outside Seating: Outside only Pups Allowed: Yes, outside

What makes it great: The location on the water is fantastic. They have a covered open-air bar area or tables with umbrellas. The food is fresh and delicious. We have loved everything we tried and you can't beat the setting. Grab a piña colada or pain killer while you wait. Classic fruity tropical cocktails are always a good thing.

**What to order:** Parmesan truffle fries are the kind of fries that you dream of: Crispy, salty, truffly perfection. The aioli that comes along with them is so fresh and delicious and perfectly balances the richness of the fries. Grab a brick oven pizza with whatever toppings you fancy. The traditional pizza is amazing if you want a crowd-pleaser.

#### Southernmost Sandy's Cafe

Address: 1327 Duval Street Meals Served: Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch, Dinner Diet Accommodations: Gluten Free Inside/Outside Seating: Outside only Pups Allowed: Yes

**What makes it great:** Great spot at the very end of Duval Street and a stone's throw from the Southernmost Point. Great for a quick bite and some people watching.

**What to order:** Buchi (Cuban coffee drink) is a strong morning jolt. We love the Key West breakfast especially the hashbrowns and grits. Sandy's is known for their Cuban sandwich but we are gluten free so we haven't tried it. You definitely should and let us know how it is!

#### <u>The Little Pearl</u>

Address: 632 Olivia Street Meals Served: Dinner (be sure to make a reservation!) Diet Accommodations: Gluten Free (modifications to avoid gluten) Inside/Outside Seating: Inside only

Pups Allowed: No

What makes it great: This location is nestled in an Old Town neighborhood away from the hustle and bustle. It's a cozy upscale seafood spot for foodies. The chef prepares a tasting menu with highly curated course options that will wow even the most particular of diners. With three seating times each evening and an extensive hand picked wine menu it's an experience from start to finish.

**What to order:** Whatever chef's got on the tasting menu! We love the less-is-more approach to this dining experience so sit back and let yourself enjoy.

#### Café Marquesa

Address: 600 Fleming Street Meals Served: Dinner (be sure to make a <u>reservation</u>!) Diet Accommodations: Gluten Free Inside/Outside Seating: Inside only

Pups Allowed: No

What makes it great: The chic dining room is quaint and makes for a cozy experience. The service is fantastic and the food is even better. Grab a seat at the bar for a cocktail or wait for a table to enjoy a leisurely dinner. Don't forget the extensive wine list.

**What to order:** She crab soup, shrimp and grits, filet "Oscar", finish off your meal with the dessert trio (beignets, caramel milkshake and Key Lime pie)

#### <u> The Breakfast Club, Too</u>

Address: 610 Greene Street Meals Served: Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch Diet Accommodations: Gluten Free

Inside/Outside Seating: Yes

Pups Allowed: Yes, outside

What makes it great: Extensive menu with all the breakfast classics you know and love. It's also a funky fun spot to enjoy. Insanely yummy Bloody Mary and mimosa choices are the cherry on top! What to order: Corned beef and cheddar röstis is delicious and the portion is enough for four. Don't miss their biscuits and gravy, lobster bene, and Monster Mary.

#### Eaton Street Seafood Market & Restaurant

Address: 801 Eaton Street

Meals Served: Lunch and Dinner

Diet Accommodations: Gluten Free

Inside/Outside Seating: Outside only

#### Pups Allowed: Yes

What makes it great: Super fresh yummy seafood dishes, excellent Old Town location, adorable little spot with shady outside seating, seafood market to snag something delicious to make at home. Plus, a caviar fridge for a night of caviar and wine if you're feeling fancy! (They do ship if you want to send a gift to a seafood loving friend.)

**What to order:** The fish tacos are our favorite. Get conch ceviche or crab artichoke dip to start and don't forget a slice of Key Lime pie.

#### Wicked Lick Ice Cream

Address: 335 Duval Street Meals Served: Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch, Dinner Diet Accommodations: Gluten Free, Vegetarian, Vegan Inside/Outside Seating: Outside only Pups Allowed: Yes, outside What makes it great: Wicked Lick's ice cream is made in small batches on-site using liquid nitrogen. They use the freshest ingredients and it's obvious in the taste. Plus, the location is prime Duval Street people watching real estate!

What to order: We LOVE the Cuban coffee milkshake.

#### <u>Key Lime Pie Bakery</u>

Address: 412 Greene Street Meals Served: Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch, Dinner Diet Accommodations: Gluten Free Inside/Outside Seating: n/a

Pups Allowed: Yes

**What makes it great:** This Key Lime pie spot is a Key West staple. All their Key Lime pies and other Key Lime desserts are made on-site in their Key Lime pie kitchen. Plus, they have a fantastic storefront with every Key Lime product you can imagine. Come for the pie but snag some Key Lime fudge and coconut coffee for later.

**What to order:** Key Lime pie, Key Lime cheesecake for a tangy twist on a classic dessert, and they also have fantastic homemade ice cream you can't miss. The Cuban coffee milkshake rivals Wicked Lick's!

#### <u>915</u>

Address: 915 Duval Street Meals Served: Dinner (be sure to make a <u>reservation</u>!) Diet Accommodations: Gluten Free, Vegetarian, Vegan Inside/Outside Seating: Yes Pups Allowed: Yes, outside

What makes it great: This is our favorite spot to take guests. It feels fancy/casual with upscale eats and cocktails but not a stuffy feeling. The menu covers all the bases as far as tastes and dietary needs and the service is great. Plus, you're on Duval but at the less busy end so it's not too loud but it feels fun. The price point is a little higher than a fast casual spot but it's worth it.

What to order: For starters the burrata salad is excellent along with the shishito peppers and caramelized Brussels sprouts. You can have a great meal of shared apps here! Greg loves the grass fed burger and fries. Papardelle and lobster ravioli can't be missed if you're craving pasta. For a refreshing cocktail get The Smash (Makers with lemon and mint) Stephanie loves the espresso martini. You really can't pick wrong at 915 so see what catches your eye.

#### **Cuban Coffee Queen**

Address: 5 Key Lime Square (Three locations, this is our favorite) Meals Served: Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch, Dinner Diet Accommodations: Gluten Free Inside/Outside Seating: Outside only Pups Allowed: Yes What makes it great: Excellent Cuban coffee and authentic fare. What to order: Cafe con leche with cheese toast is a yummy simple way to start the day. The Havana Rice & Beans and Cuban Mix sandwich are mouthwatering.

#### <u>Louie's Backyard</u>

Address: 700 Waddell Avenue Meals Served: Brunch, Lunch, Cocktails + Appetizers, Dinner Diet Accommodations: Gluten Free, Vegetarian, Vegan Inside/Outside Seating: Yes

Pups Allowed: Yes, outside

What makes it great: Don't let the casual name fool you, Louie's is a fantastic upscale dining experience. Located in an old historic home right on the ocean, it strikes a great balance between being delicious and refined but with the laid back Key West vibe. The restaurant includes a no-reservation-needed upstairs bar, Café at Louie's, along with the main restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating including a large deck. We enjoyed our Thanksgiving dinner here seated on an upstairs balcony under the stars and with the perfect warm breeze. Island holiday perfection. If you're on the island be sure to make a reservation for at least one meal here. It's a must-visit.

**What to order:** Heirloom tomato salad with lemon-basil vinaigrette is a light starter. The filet with horseradish crust and Gulf shrimp and grits are spectacular. Finish the evening with the dark chocolate pudding with whipped crème fraiche.

#### Funky Rooster Coffee House and Wine Bar

Address: 713 Caroline Street Meals Served: Breakfast, Brunch, Coffee, Wine, Charcuterie Diet Accommodations: Gluten Free, Vegetarian, Vegan Inside/Outside Seating: Yes

Pups Allowed: Yes

**What makes it great:** Delicious coffee, excellent wine selection, fun charcuterie and in a quirky historic home in a great people-watching location. They also welcome pups with open arms.

What to order: Iced coffee, your favorite bottle of wine, and charcuterie

## ART, HISTORY + CULTURE

Click on the underlined links below to learn more about each activity.

- Truman Little White House
- <u>Hemingway Home + Museum</u>
- <u>Tennessee Williams Museum</u>
- Old Town Literary Walking Tour
- Lighthouse & Keeper's Quarters
- Fort East Martello Museum
- The Audubon House

### <u>Shopping</u>

Click the underlined links below to learn more.

#### <u>The Green Pineapple</u>

There are three Green Pineapple boutique on the island. Each is darling with the most beautiful tropical clothing. Depending on the location you can also find men's clothing selections and even a cute cafe in their Duval Street location.

#### **Bésame Mucho**

This is Stephanie's favorite boutique on the island. The store is so perfectly curated with French-inspired home decor, beauty products, clothing, handbags, jewelry, gifts, and so much more. It is a high-end boutique and the prices reflect the quality you get when you purchase from bésame.

#### Key West Pottery

This quaint shop features modern locally-handmade pottery. Not only is the shop adorable but they are very kind and grateful for your patronage.

### PARANORMAL

Click on the underlined links below to learn more about each activity.

- <u>Robert the Doll Experience</u>
- Ghosts & Gravestones Haunted Trolley Tour
- <u>Key West Historic Cemetery Self-Guided</u>

Walking Tour

### KIDS

Click on the underlined links below to learn more about each activity.

- Monroe County Sheriff's Office Animal Farm
- <u>Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory</u>
- Imagination Station
- <u>Smathers Beach</u>
- <u>Higgs Beach</u>
- Fort Zachary Taylor State Park
- <u>Key West Wildlife Center</u>
- Truman Waterfront Park
- <u>Key West Eco Discovery Center</u>
- Key West Library

### <u>PUPS</u>

Many eateries in Key West offer outside seating and allow wellbehaved dogs to sit with their people on the patio. Click the underlined links below to learn more.

#### Moondog Cafe

The most dog-friendly restaurant we have ever visited anywhere. Pups are allowed inside and outside the cafe. Both the front and rear patios are shaded and have fans. Exceptionally kind and accommodating for pups.

#### **Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Gardens**

The only "frost-free," subtropical forest and botanical garden in the continental United States. Meander through the lush tropical landscape for a relaxing detour from the hustle and bustle.

#### Lily and Lola's Pet Boutique

Hotel and grounds are pet-friendly. There is a very nice dog park on campus for hotel guests' pups with separate fenced runs for large and small pups. Plus, right across the way is as a store that sells homemade dog food, treats, and gifts. Note the Perry is technically in Stock Island.

#### Perry Hotel

Hotel and grounds are pet-friendly. There is a very nice dog park on campus for hotel guests' pups with separate fenced runs for large and small pups. Plus, right across the way is as a store that sells homemade dog food, treats, and gifts. *Note the Perry is technically in Stock Island*.

#### Higgs Beach Dog Park

The park hosts a large dog park with separate runs for small and large dogs.

### <u>GROCERY</u>

#### Click the underlined links below to learn more.

#### Fausto's

Established in 1926 Fausto's is a Key West staple. This market has everything you need and with two locations in convenient centralized locations on the island it's perfect for the odds and ends or a week of shopping. There are two locations for your convenience.

#### Sugar Apple

Vegan market specializing in health food, supplements, and natural beauty products. Sugar Apple also has a small cafe with vegan entrees, smoothies, and fresh juices.

#### Publix

We love Publix and simply use InstaCart to get groceries delivered. Download the free app and get shopping!

### **BIKE + SCOOTER RENTALS**

Click on the underlined links below to learn more about each.

- <u>Sunshine Scooters</u>
- Blue Sky Rentals

### **GOLF CART RENTALS**

Click on the underlined links below to learn more about each.

Sunshine Scooters

### JET SKI RENTALS

Click on the underlined links below to learn more about each.

• <u>Fury</u> (ask for Amy)

### FREE

Click on the underlined links below to learn more about each activity.

- Duval Loop: Free hop on, hop off bus service
- Southernmost Point
- Mallory Square Sunset Celebration
- Martello Tower & Botanical Gardens
- <u>Key West Historic Cemetery Self-Guided Walking</u> Tour
- Wander the neighborhoods of Old Town
- People watch on Duval Street
- Monroe County Sheriff's Office Animal Farm
- <u>Smathers Beach</u>
- <u>Higgs Beach</u>
- <u>Key West Wildlife Center</u>
- <u>Truman Waterfront Park</u>
- <u>Key West Eco Discovery Center</u>
- Key West Library

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