Great Bike Tours

Florida Keys 2028
The Everglades, Florida Keys, and Key West

Turquoise water, towering palms, and warm ocean breezes. Imagine yourself whisked away to this tropical paradise where you can indulge your mind, body, and spirit. The Florida Keys is that place. So kick off your shoes and come join us in January. We have everything you could possibly want for a laid-back vacation – the only thing missing is you!

Tour Length
6 Days/5 nights

2028 Tour Dates
- January 2-7
- January 9-14
- January 16-21
- January 23-28
- Jan. 30-Feb. 4

Tour Start & End
Miami, FL

2028 Tour Cost
$4,995 per person (based on double occupancy).
Single Supplement of +$1,500



Ideas for Post-Tour
Stay longer in Key West, or visit the Dry Tortugas National Park

Level of Difficulty
Very easy – 15-30 miles/day, with total mileage of 85-135. Expect flat terrain, tailwinds, and lots of bike paths. Cycle at your own pace. Get a lift in the van whenever you like. E-bikes available (limited supply)

Accommodations
All week we stay at deluxe lodgings overlooking the water: two nights in Key Largo (Reefhouse Resort), one night in Marathon (Courtyard Marathon), and two nights in Key West (Southernmost Beach Resort)

Highlights

- **Cycle through the Everglades National Park** on a 15-mile paved biking path (no cars allowed), enjoying the quiet beauty of the sawgrass prairies of this UNESCO World Heritage Area
- **Experience one of the "Five Great Tailwind Rides" of the world** (*Bicycling Magazine*), as we head towards Key West on the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail**,** a multi-use paved path that skips across islands and sails over the water
- **Stay at three gorgeous waterfront resorts** featuring heated outdoor pools & Jacuzzi's, spa treatments, tiki bars, hammocks, beach cafés, yoga on the beach, and water-sports rentals
- **Delicious outdoor meals** at tiki huts and cafés set in the fine white sand (think palm trees, warm ocean breezes, tiki torches, and the blue water beyond)
- **Private guided kayak eco-tour** through John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, the first undersea park in the U.S.
- **Guided tour of the non-profit Turtle Hospital**, the only veterinary hospital in the world for rehabilitating injured sea turtles, and returning them to the wild
- **Private guided tour of the non-profit Dolphin Research Center** (swimming with the dolphins is extra)
- **Great wildlife**, including manatees, alligators, large wading birds, bottlenose dolphins, sea lions, iguanas, loggerhead sea turtles, manta rays, and roosters
- **Two exciting days in Key West**, the eclectic town that Ernest Hemmingway described as "*the best place I've ever been anytime, anywhere*"
- **Memorable sailing trip** aboard a 60-foot schooner, along with bottomless cocktails
- **Enjoy perfect cycling weather** (January has temps in the high 70s)

What's Included

- 6 days of bike riding, along with boat trips, ecotours, and other activities
- 5 nights of lodging overlooking the water
- 10 meals, catering to all dietary needs
- Free use of our bikes, along with a helmet, rear rack bag, rear safety light and triangle, basic bike computer, water bottle, and T-shirt. E-bikes available
- Superior level of support throughout your stay (each trip comes with two 15-passenger vans and three professional bike tour guides)
- *Ride with GPS* navigation (using your own device) or paper route notes & maps
- Exclusive GBT activities, including a guided kayak ecotour through the mangroves and an afternoon sail aboard a 60-foot yacht
- Admission to Everglades National Park, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, Dolphin Research Center, and the Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital
- Complimentary transportation back to Miami at end of tour (in our vans)
- Full access to our online photo gallery with photos/videos from your trip
- Small group size of 15-20 people (or organize your own private trip)

Detailed Itinerary

Pre-tour (Saturday) — Arrive in Miami and stay near the airport

We recommend flying into Miami International Airport (MIA) on the Saturday before your tour starts, and then staying at the *Hampton Inn & Suites (Miami-Airport South-Blue Lagoon)* that evening. You're welcome to stay at other hotels near the airport, but you'll need to meet us at this Hampton Inn at 9:00 am on Sunday morning. If you're driving to the start of the tour, you can park at this Hampton Inn for the week, for free (providing you stay there on Saturday night).

Day 1 (Sunday) — Visit Everglades National Park + Van Shuttle to the Florida Keys

This bike vacation starts on Sunday morning at 9:00 am at the Hampton Inn & Suites (Miami-Airport South-Blue Lagoon). Please arrive dressed to cycle. From here we will shuttle you (45 minutes) to the Shark Valley section of the Everglades National Park. Following lunch, we'll conduct our bike fitting and safety talk, followed by a lovely 17-mile bike ride on the scenic Shark Valley loop road (no cars allowed; only pedestrians, bikes, and a few alligators).

After concluding our ride, we head for the Florida Keys (90 minutes drive), arriving at our accommodations around 4:30 pm. Our home for the next two nights will be the Reefhouse Resort in Key Largo. Nestled on 17 acres of waterfront property, the Resort features an outdoor pool, whirlpool, spa, tiki bar, hammocks, and water-sport rentals (jet skis, SUPs, parasailing).

Join us tonight for a Welcome meeting in our private room overlooking the beach. Happy hour and dinner will follow.

Accommodations:	Reefhouse Resort, Key Largo, FL
Cycling Options:	17-mile loop ride in the Everglades National Park
Wildlife Viewing:	Alligators, turtles, manatees, wading birds
Meals Included:	Lunch, Dinner

Day 2 (Monday) — Exploring Key Largo by Boat & Bike

Following your waterside breakfast at our Beach Resort, we'll be treating you to a 2-3 hour guided kayak trip through the mangrove forests and tunnels of the John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park. Our ecotour will be led a local naturalist, as we head out in search of wading birds and various creatures of the sea. We will be using sit-on-top kayaks, which even beginners find easy to use.

After a delicious buffet lunch back at Resort's tiki hut, you'll have the choice of relaxing at the resort, or joining us for an afternoon bike ride. This will be our first time cycling on the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail, a multi-use recreational trail that soon will cover the

entire stretch between Key Largo and Key West. The trail closely parallels U.S. Highway 1, which has been federally recognized as a National Scenic highway and an All-American Road. One of the highlights of today's ride is a stop at *Key Largo Chocolates & Ice Cream*!

Dinner is on your own tonight, and there are several great restaurants within walking distance of the hotel. All of them are overlooking the water, and some have live music.

Accommodations:	Reefhouse Resort, Key Largo, FL
Cycling Options:	21 or 28 miles (on the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail)
Wildlife Viewing:	Wading birds and marine life (as viewed from a kayak)
Meals Included:	Breakfast and lunch

Day 3 (Tuesday) — Cycling to Marathon + Dolphin Research Center

Following another gorgeous waterside breakfast, we have two cycling options for you. If you'd like to attempt 45 miles today (the longest ride of the week), then you'll leave directly from the hotel at 9:00 am. The rest of us will enjoy a more leisurely start to the day, and at 10:00 am we'll shuttle you to the start of your 28-mile ride in Islamorada. This shorter ride starts at an offbeat artisan marketplace known for its handmade crafts, sculptures, and the roadside kitsch known as *Big Betsy*, a 35-foot spiny lobster! We will all meet up for lunch at an outdoor Mediterranean bistro café set in the sand (think palm trees, tropical flowers, and the blue water beyond). Try their 32 oz margarita if you dare.

Following our exotic lunch, we'll resume cycling south on the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail. Our destination is the non-profit Dolphin Research Center, where we'll be treated to a private 90-minute tour starting at 3:00 pm. The main goal of this Center is to promote the peaceful coexistence between marine mammals and humans, through research and education. GBT covers your admission, though there is an additional charge if you wish to swim with the dolphins. From here we will all shuttle to the Courtyard Marathon, our home for the night. The hotel has a great pool, outdoor Jacuzzi, and of course it has its own Tiki Bar, so we must give it a try. Dinner tonight is served at a nearby restaurant.

Accommodations:	Courtyard Marathon, Marathon, FL
Cycling Options:	28 or 45 miles (on the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail)
Wildlife Viewing:	Bottlenose dolphins, sea lions, iguanas, giant tarpon fish
Meals Included:	Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4 (Wednesday) — Turtle Hospital + Cycling to Key West

This morning you may sleep-in if you wish, or join us for an optional 8-mile ride to a local beach. At 10:00 am we will all gather at the non-profit Turtle Hospital for a 90-minute guided tour of their facility. As the only veterinary hospital in the world for sea turtles, the Turtle Hospital is tasked with rescuing injured and sick sea turtles, rehabilitating them, and then releasing them back into the wild.

Next up we all head out for a gorgeous 6-mile ride on the "Old Seven Mile Bridge" to Pigeon Key. Often called the best ride of the week, this former railway bridge heads out over the water, without any traffic except for cyclists and pedestrians. Make sure you take a few breaks along the way to admire the lovely teal-colored water beneath you.

Lunch today is be served at a tiki-restaurant overlooking the water (they even have their own swimming pool for you to use).

After lunch we'll shuttle you a little further south to our favorite coffee house, from which you can cycle all the way to Key West. Our destination for the next two nights is the Southernmost Beach Resort, which features a beach café, three heated pools, two pool side bars, a state-of-the-art fitness center, morning yoga, and two beach areas overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. This property is located at the quiet end of the famous Duval Street.

Once we arrive in Key West we recommend a visit to Mallory Square to witness their famous sunset celebration. Dinner is on your own this evening. Enjoy exploring the famous Duval Street with its many wonderful restaurants, shops, cabaret acts, and other live shows.

Accommodations: Southernmost Beach Resort, Key West, FL
Cycling Options: 6, 14, or 30 miles (on the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail)
Wildlife Viewing: Sea turtles, manta rays, manatees
Meals Included: Breakfast

Day 5 (Thursday) — Explore Key West by Bike + Afternoon Sail

After breakfast we recommend taking part in the optional Bala Yoga class on the beach. At 10:00 am your guides will provide you with a scintillating 90-minute guided bicycle tour past the main attractions in Key West. This will help you decide where to concentrate your energies during the remainder of your stay.

In the late afternoon please join us for a memorable sail aboard a 54-foot sailing yacht on the calm waters of Key West. Complimentary snacks and alcoholic beverages are provided.

Our farewell group dinner tonight will be held at the Southernmost Café, overlooking the water.

Accommodations: Southernmost Beach Resort, Key West, FL
Cycling Options: 6-mile guided bike tour + optional longer self-guided bike rides
Wildlife Viewing: Roosters, dolphins
Meals Included: Breakfast and dinner

Day 6 (Friday) — Morning bike ride + Transportation back to Miami

This morning we offer a casual (and optional) 9-mile bike ride to the northeast end of the Island. If you'd prefer to squeeze in a little more sightseeing this morning, then all of the sights of Key West are within easy walking distance of the hotel, including the Ernest Hemmingway House, Audubon House & Tropical Gardens, and the Butterfly Conservancy.

At 12 noon we will offer a van ride back to Miami. Please note that this option takes about 4 hours, not including stops. We will arrive at the Miami International Airport around 4:00 pm, or back at our starting hotel by 4:30 pm. If you're flying out of the Miami airport, we recommend that you book your flight for Saturday morning.

If you wish to stay longer in Key West, or if you'd prefer not to spend 4 hours in our van, then here are your other options:

1. **Flying out of Key West** – We highly recommend this option because it is the quickest way to get back to Miami. We can drop you off at the Key West International Airport (EYW) at 12:30 pm on Friday, or you can stay longer in Key West and catch a later flight (the hotel will store your luggage for you).

2. **Shuttle Bus to Miami** – If you're staying another night (or two) in Key West, you might consider catching the van shuttle to Miami International Airport. These vans carry 12 people max, and offer door-to-door service. Daily departures from Key West are at 5:30 am, 9:30 am, and 1:30 pm, arriving at Miami four hours later.

Accommodations:	On your own in Miami (or Key West if you stay longer)
Cycling Options:	Optional 9-mile bike ride in the morning
Meals Included:	Breakfast

If you require further information regarding travel logistics, please request our "Florida Keys Travel Information" document.

We hope you enjoy your Florida Keys Bike Tour in January 2028. If you have any questions, or would like to confirm some spaces on these trips, please contact us soon.

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