

Key West, Florida

Flat, American, and walkable. The easiest port day on most itineraries, as long as you are not expecting Caribbean sand.

Facts checked against official sources on 24 September 2026

Getting ashore	Ships dock. Three facilities: Mallory Square, the privately owned Pier B, and the Navy's Outer Mole Pier, listed as currently closed.
Currency and language	US dollars, English, US phone service and US medical care
Free transport	The Duval Loop bus is free for tourists and residents alike

Getting around without walking far

Key West Transit runs five routes from 5:40am to 10pm, seven days a week except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, on a fleet of 20 accessible buses. The **Duval Loop is free**. Other city routes are \$2, or \$1 reduced, with a one-day pass at \$4.

The sit-down sightseeing options publish their prices: the Conch Tour Train from \$40.80 for a 60-minute loop, and the Old Town Trolley from \$50.30 for a one-day hop-on hop-off ticket with 13 stops, first tour 9am and last departure from Mallory Square at 4:30pm. Monroe County's tourism office publishes that Key West Transit, the Conch Tour Train and the Old Town Trolley all provide accessible options.

The beaches, and the honest verdict

Key West is a town day. The beaches are pleasant rather than spectacular, and people who arrive expecting the Caribbean are routinely disappointed.

Fort Zachary Taylor	\$6 per vehicle up to eight people, \$4.50 single occupant, \$2.50 for pedestrians and cyclists, plus a county surcharge. Open 8am to sundown daily; the fort itself closes at 5pm.
Higgs Beach	County beach, open 7:30am to sunset, with restrooms, playground, volleyball, tennis and pickleball. Florida's wildlife commission lists it as offering beach wheelchairs and accessible restrooms .
Smathers Beach	City beach with restrooms and showers. Parking is \$5 an hour.

Not published anywhere official that we could read: any limit on cruise ship size or number of ships per day, walking distances from the piers into Old Town or to the beaches, and whether Higgs and Smathers charge admission. The City of Key West's port pages blocked automated reading, so check the city site directly if the ship-size question matters to you.

Where these facts come from

- Florida Ports Council, Port of Key West (<https://flaports.org/ports/port-of-key-west/>)
- City of Key West, bus fares (<https://www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov/350/Bus-Fares>)
- City of Key West, public transportation (<https://cityofkeywest-fl.gov/358/Public-Transportation>)
- Florida State Parks, Fort Zachary Taylor hours and fees (<https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/fort-zachary-taylor-historic-state-park/hours-fees>)
- Monroe County, Higgs Beach (<https://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/1363/Higgs-Beach-Reynolds-Street-Pier>)
- Florida Fish and Wildlife, wheelchair-friendly beaches (<https://myfwc.com/license/accessibility/wheelchair-friendly-beaches/>)
- Visit Florida Keys, accessible travel (<https://visitfloridakeys.com/plan-your-trip/travel-tips/accessible-travel>)
- Conch Tour Train, tickets (<https://www.conchtourtrain.com/tickets/>)
- Old Town Trolley, Key West (<https://www.trolleytours.com/key-west>)

Ports change their rules and their prices. Check the official pages above before you sail.

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