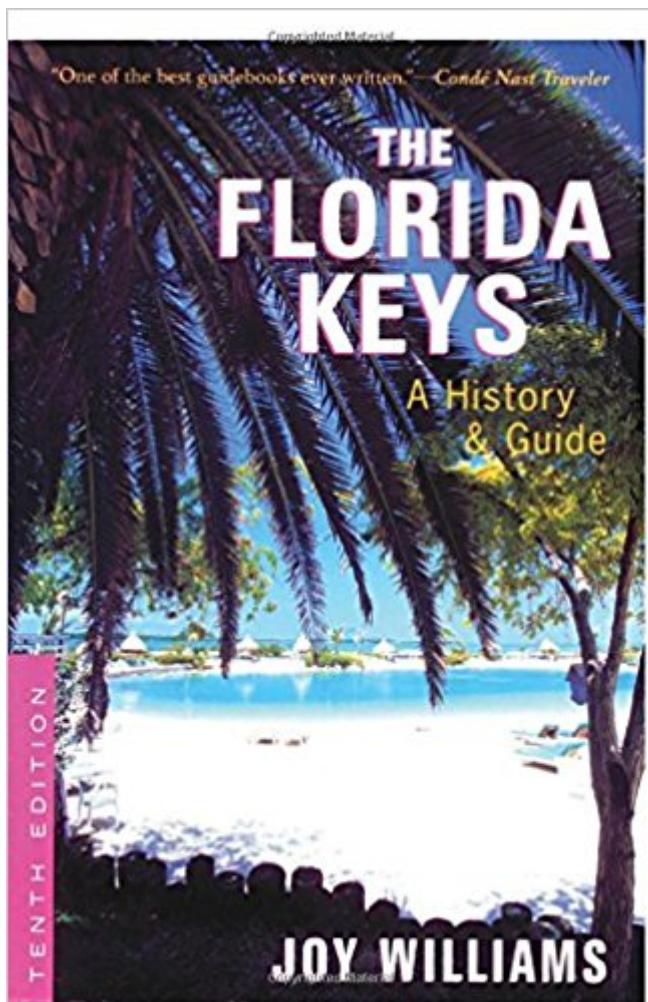


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The Florida Keys: A History & Guide Tenth Edition



Synopsis

The Florida Keys: A History & Guide is an engaging handbook to the unique coral and limestone islands that curve southwest off the tip of Florida. Acclaimed novelist and Florida resident Joy Williams traces U.S. Highway 1 from Key Largo to Key West, combining the best of local legend—colorful stories you won't find in other guidebooks—with insightful commentary and the most up-to-date advice on where to stay, eat, and wander. Along the way, you will explore the exquisite underwater world of North America's only living reef. Discover the beautiful bridges that span the Keys, the forts, and the distinctive architecture of Key West—experience the eerie serenity of Florida Bay, the backcountry and the unique ecology of the Keys. Visit the Key West cemetery and learn about the lives of some of the Keys' eccentrics—writers, madmen, and entrepreneurs with various delusions. Find the best (and avoid the worst) cafés, inns, and other establishments that the Keys have to offer. Here is the most thorough and candid guide to the Keys, one of the most surprising locales in America. With insight and style, Joy Williams shares with us all of the region's idiosyncrasies and delights.

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Customer Reviews

“One of the best guidebooks ever written.” Condé Nast Traveler
“A magnificent, tragicomic guide.” Condé Nast Traveler

“From Key Largo to the Dry Tortugas, novelist Joy Williams has captured the local nuances of the Keys, providing a galaxy of information, including the history of each islet. Flora and fauna, gingerbread architecture and buried treasure—every hamlet, hangout, hotel and eatery is candidly appraised. There is plenty to see and do in the Keys, and here is the lowdown from a native.” The Literate Traveller “Interwoven with the tourist details are nature lore and historical nuggets guaranteed to change the way you look at the social and ecosystems of the Keys.” BookPage

"The Florida Keys: A History & Guide is an engaging handbook to the unique coral and limestone islands that curve southwest off the tip of Florida. Acclaimed novelist and Florida resident Joy Williams traces U.S. Highway 1 from Key Largo to Key West, combining the best of local legend--colorful stories you won't find in other guidebooks--with insightful commentary and the most up-to-date advice on where to stay, eat, and wander. Along the way, you will: - explore the exquisite underwater world of North America's only living reef - discover the beautiful bridges that span the Keys, the forts, and the distinctive "conch" architecture of Key West - experience the eerie serenity of Florida Bay's "backcountry" and the unique ecology of the Keys - visit the Key West cemetery and learn about the lives of some of the Keys' eccentrics--writers, madmen, and entrepreneurs with various delusions - find the best (and avoid the worst) cafes, inns, and other establishments that the Keys have to offer Here is the most thorough and candid guide to the Keys, one of the most surprising locales in America. With insight and style, Joy Williams shares with us all of the region's idiosyncrasies and delights.

I actually read about this book in one of Chuck Wendig's writing books. It was a great and interesting read packed full of information about the Keys. I focused on the Key West section, as that's where I was headed, and I loved reading about all the niche places to try and history there. I loved reading about the places I visited once I left too; accurate information and a fun view on the trip.

Williams tells a lot of stories and shares some fascinating knowledge that wouldn't make it into most guidebooks. She clearly loves the Keys, but manages to avoid becoming a cheerleader, highlighting some of the bad (environmental destruction, over-commercialization) along with the good. Half colorful narrative, half bullet-point style guidebook, this is a great read for anyone traveling the keys or even vaguely considering it.

I drove from Miami to Key West twice in the late 80's using Joy Williams' book "The Florida Keys" in its first 1987 edition as my guide. It pointed me to so many side trips and told me so much history that I turned the three hour drive into six, and enjoyed every minute. Today I read a review by Ms. Williams of "Flannery: a Biography of Flannery O'Connor" in the New York Times and was prompted to look her up on . What a pleasure to see that there are new editions of "The Florida Keys". Sorry to see that she won't be writing any more, but I will order the 10th edition today.

Purchased for an upcoming trip to the keys, granted I am halfway thru so keep that in mind... I wanted to embrace the vibe and with this book you feel that the vibe was destroyed by humans within the past 50 years. It is in depth, informative and well written but with an undercurrent of "you should have seen it when" ... I am still looking forward to my visit but with an eye more on what it used to be. Mayhaps that was the intent of the author??

What a hoot! A travel guide that isn't really a travel guide...more of a treatise FOR the old Florida and AGAINST everyone trying to change it. I loved it...her writing, her wit and her insider details.

Since it has been several years since the last update, this is not a book to read as a guide to attractions. It is, however, a very good guidebook to the history and atmosphere of the Keys.

I visited the Keys this year and passed through all of them before nesting in Key West for the week. Had an awesome time. You should read/skim this book before you go and then again once you leave. What an interesting (quirky) place!

Great book.

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