

SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE CENTRAL KEYS, FLORIDA

LOCATION: The Florida Keys are a chain of low islands that stretch for more than a hundred miles southwestward from the tip of the Florida peninsula into the Gulf of Mexico. They start with Key Largo and continue on to Key West. Most of the keys are connected to the mainland and to each other by US-1, the Overseas Highway. Elevations are everywhere close to sea level. A lot of the chain is taken up with gross examples of kitsch, but significant public areas include the John Pennenkamp Coral Reef State Park, Long Key State Recreation Area, Bahia Honda State Park, the National Key Deer Refuge, and the Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge. Private facilities range from the sublime to the ridiculous.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	10:48	11:19	12:00	12:44	13:20	13:39	13:31	13:01	12:19	11:36	10:59	10:39
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	7:41	8:27	9:28	10:11	10:13	9:38	9:52	9:31	8:32	7:58	7:28	7:18
AREA OF BLUE SKY	49%	52%	52%	53%	47%	36%	36%	36%	34%	44%	48%	48%
LOW FOR MONTH	48°	51°	55°	61°	67°	71°	73°	73°	73°	67°	58°	51°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	63°	64°	66°	70°	73°	76°	78°	78°	77°	73°	69°	64°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	75°	76°	79°	82°	85°	87°	89°	89°	88°	84°	79°	76°
HIGH FOR MONTH	82°	83°	85°	88°	90°	92°	92°	92°	91°	89°	85°	83°
FROSTY MORNINGS	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	2%	6%	26%	48%	53%	28%	3%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	65%	63%	62%	61%	64%	68%	66%	67%	69%	67%	67%	65%
NEARBY WATERS	75°	75°	76°	77°	80°	83°	84°	85°	85°	82°	80°	76°
DRY DAYS	79%	79%	82%	82%	71%	58%	56%	51%	45%	60%	75%	78%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	90%	89%	91%	91%	81%	72%	74%	70%	66%	77%	88%	91%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.30	0.32	0.29	0.40	0.66	0.96	0.74	0.88	1.19	1.00	0.45	0.29
DAYS WITH SOME SNOW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
DAYS WITH SOME THUNDER	3%	4%	6%	8%	17%	36%	45%	49%	38%	14%	4%	3%
DAYS WITH SOME FOG	3%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%

COMMENTS: Bright sunshine is likely on 73% of the year's daylight hours. This might range from a low of 68% in November, to a high of 80% in April. The year's lowest temperature should be close to 45°, and the highest should be near 93°. Sensible afternoon temperatures (the ones you feel) will be substantially higher than actual ones from June through September. The Keys have a subtropical two-season year. There is no cold season, and vegetative growth continues throughout the year. Humidity is always high. The warm and less rainy season runs from late November through early May. The hot and rainy season runs from late May through early November. The official hurricane season runs from June through November. The Keys have one chance in eight of having one of these tropical storms pass across the island chain in any given year. Early warning systems are excellent, but the Overseas Highway is essentially the only way out, and quickly becomes jammed.