

Well, I may be a bit late but I promise you will love this newsletter and Key West as we do! I reviewed the pictures from our first Key West adventure in April of 2004. Key West is one of my most favorite places in the continental US.

First there is the ride from the mainland through the Florida Keyes on Route 1. Route 1 was built partially on the 'Former right-of-way' of the Over Seas Railroad. Originally, the only way to get there was by boat and later, the Railroad. The distance between the mainland and Key West is 112 miles. The whole island chain consists of 800 islands. The Highway passes over 3 Islands, *Big Pine Key*, *Cudjoe Key* and *Long Sugarloaf Key*. Sugarloaf Key is known for the 'deer' population because they are no bigger than a large dog. We actually got to see one while driving across.

It was in Key West that I learned to love to eat *conch fritters*...yum!! The best place to get this shellfish meal is the Conch Shack in Key West. The best part of Key West for me was the *Sunsets!!* Sooo I have taken the liberty of giving you a taste of this with more than one picture.

Tons of people gather along the shoreline to watch this beautiful event. The sunsets are the most beautiful ones I have ever seen! As the sun goes down, it will hit a point when the sun explodes on the horizon!!! While we wait for this to happen, there is free entertainment, with 'locals' conducting stunts for the crowds, and then there is another set of 'residents' the 'Key West Chickens', yes, chickens that just roam about freely, looking for handouts.

Since Bob is retired Army, and the Key West Navy Air Base has an area for RV Parking, we were within walking distance to downtown Key West! Key West is 1.25 miles wide and 4 miles long. Alright, lets get going with these pictures so we can move on to more things to see. I am guessing the helicopter is there for the sun-set also.



Watching the sun go down.....



Get Ready!!!

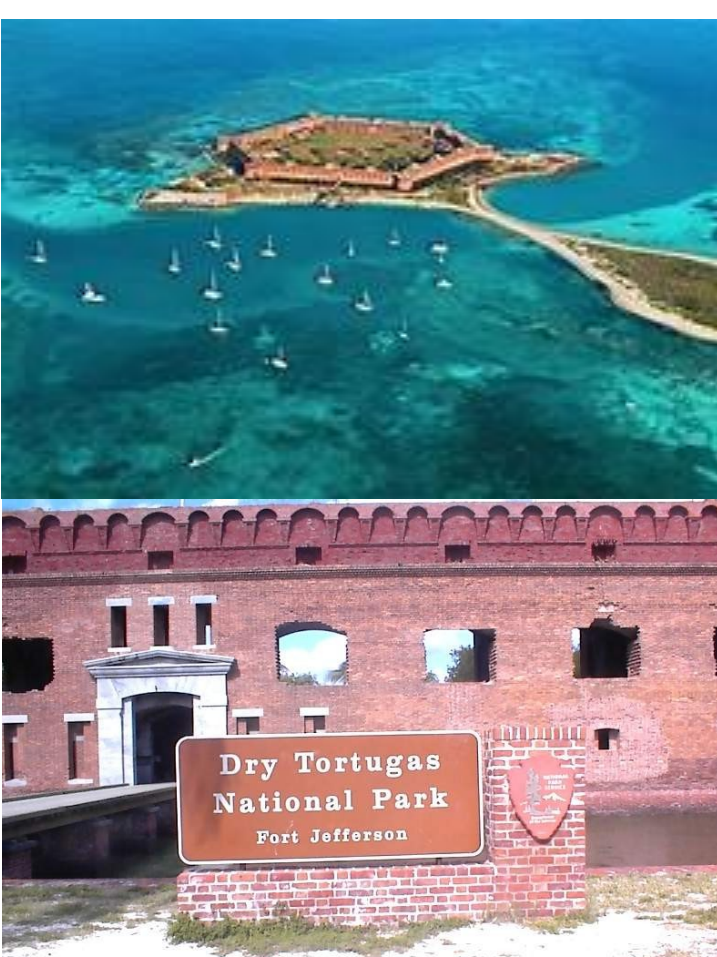


Well? Did I exaggerate? OK so what now? How about *The Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum at 907 White Head St in Old Town, Key West*. He lived there for about 10 years, and while there he wrote, "*Farewell to Arms*" and "*To Have and To Have Not*". His home has about 40 cats roaming about freely! Yes, you read right! The current cats are decedents of "*Snow White*", a 'six toed' cat, given to Hemming-



There are so many things to do in Key West, but the atmosphere is sooo relaxing regardless of what you do. The next time we went to Key West was in February Of 2009. You can get to that newsletter through our web site, if you want.

Next is the *Dry Tortugas National Park*, which includes Fort Jefferson, which was built after the war of 1812, to help protect the continental US. The Park includes 100 square miles of water plus 7 small islands. The picture below was inserted for you to get a view of the entire fort. It is one of the 3 largest forts built in the US. It was here that Dr Samuel Mudd was imprisoned for his involvement in the assassination of President Lincoln. The Park is 67 miles west of Key West, with tour boats taking you there. A really great full day adventure with lunch included.



Well, I hope this gives you a sense of what our visit to Key West entailed, and if you have not been there yet, I hope you will have an opportunity to go. I just scratched the surface in this newsletter. Some other outings include the Dolphin Boat Tour and the Conch Train Tour (on and off options) all around Key West. Or you can just walk. Maybe you will come across the GREAT COFFEE ICE CREAM I found.

