

# Key West

## Packing List



### CLOTHING ESSENTIALS

#### TOPS

- 4-5 lightweight, breathable t-shirts or tank tops
- 2-3 casual button-up shirts (linen or cotton)
- 1 nice top for upscale dinners
- Long-sleeve sun shirt for boat trips
- Light cardigan or hoodie (for air conditioning and boat rides)

#### BOTTOMS

- 3-4 pairs of shorts
- 1-2 pairs of lightweight pants or capris
- Swimsuits (bring 2-3 so one is always dry)
- Board shorts or swim trunks
- 1 nicer outfit for dinner (sundress, khakis, etc.)

#### FOOTWEAR

- Comfortable walking sandals (you'll wear these 90% of the time)
- Water shoes or reef-safe shoes for snorkeling
- Flip flops for beach/pool
- One pair of nicer shoes for evening dining
- Athletic shoes if you're biking

#### ACCESSORIES

- Wide-brimmed sun hat or baseball cap
- Sunglasses (polarized recommended for water activities)
- Lightweight backpack or beach bag
- Small crossbody bag or fanny pack for walking Duval Street

# TOILETRIES & MEDICATIONS

## PERSONAL CARE

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash or soap
- Razor and shaving cream
- Hair ties/clips
- Moisturizer
- Insect repellent
- Hand sanitizer

## MEDICATIONS & FIRST AID

- Prescription medications
- Seasickness medication  
(Dramamine for Dry Tortugas ferry)
- Pain reliever (ibuprofen, acetaminophen)
- Antihistamine  
(for allergies or bug bites)
- Motion sickness bands (alternative to pills)
- Basic first aid kit
- Antacids (rich seafood meals)

# ELECTRONICS & DOCUMENTS

## TECH

- Phone and charger
- Portable battery pack/power bank
- Camera and extra memory cards
- Waterproof case for electronics
- E-reader or tablet for beach reading
- Headphones/earbuds

## IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

- Driver's license or ID
- Dry Tortugas ferry confirmation (print or digital)
- Hotel/rental confirmations
- Travel insurance information
- Credit cards and cash (some places are cash-only)
- Fishing license (if fishing - can purchase online)

# FUN IN THE SUN

## SUN PROTECTION (CRITICAL!)

- Reef-safe sunscreen (required at Dry Tortugas and most snorkel sites)
  - Look for mineral-based (zinc oxide or titanium dioxide)
  - No oxybenzone or octinoxate
  - SPF 30+ minimum
- After-sun lotion or aloe vera gel
- Lip balm with SPF
- Face sunscreen (higher SPF for extended sun exposure)

## SNORKELING GEAR

- Snorkel mask (rentals available but personal ones fit better)
- Fins (optional - available for rent)
- Waterproof phone case or dry bag
- Underwater camera or GoPro
- Anti-fog spray for mask

## BEACH ESSENTIALS

- Beach towels (check if your accommodation provides them)
- Waterproof Bluetooth speaker
- Beach umbrella or sun shade (if driving to Bahia Honda)
- Cooler for drinks and snacks (especially for Bahia Honda day)
- Insulated water bottle

## FOOD & DRINK

- Reusable water bottles (stay hydrated in the heat)
- Snacks for boat trips and beach days
- Protein bars or granola bars
- Electrolyte packets (hydration multipliers)
- Coffee/tea bags if you're particular about your morning brew

## OPTIONAL BUT RECOMMENDED

### FOR COMFORT

- Reef-safe sunscreen (required at Dry Tortugas and most snorkel sites)
  - Look for mineral-based (zinc oxide or titanium dioxide)
  - No oxybenzone or octinoxate
  - SPF 30+ minimum
- After-sun lotion or aloe vera gel
- Lip balm with SPF
- Face sunscreen (higher SPF for extended sun exposure)

### FOR ACTIVITIES

- Binoculars (bird watching at Dry Tortugas and Bahia Honda)
- Fishing gear (if you have it, though charters provide equipment)
- Paddleboard or kayak equipment (if you own)
- Playing cards or travel games
- Books or magazines
- Journal for travel memories

### Beach Essentials

- Tripod or phone stand
- External lighting for evening photos
- Extra camera batteries
- Lens cleaning kit

## WHAT TO LEAVE AT HOME

- Heavy jackets or winter clothes
- Expensive jewelry
- Too many shoes (you'll live in sandals)
- Formal business attire
- Hair dryer (most accommodations provide)
- Large suitcases (pack light!)

# TIPS & *Tricks*



*Adventure*  
RACHAEL

## SMART PACKING

- **Roll, don't fold** - Saves space and reduces wrinkles
- **Pack an extra day's outfit** - In case of delays or spills
- **Wear your bulkiest items on the plane** - Save luggage space
- **Use packing cubes** - Keeps everything organized
- **Pack medications in carry-on** - Never risk losing these in checked luggage
- **Bring an empty water bottle** - Fill after security to save money
- **Pack a change of clothes in your personal item** - In case checked luggage is delayed

## KEY WEST SPECIFIC REMINDERS

- ✓ **Key West is casual** - Even "nice" restaurants are pretty relaxed. Leave the suit at home.
- ✓ **The sun is intense** - You'll use more sunscreen than you think. Bring extra or buy when you arrive.
- ✓ **Reef-safe sunscreen is mandatory** - Regular sunscreen is not allowed at Dry Tortugas and many beaches.
- ✓ **Cash is useful** - Some bars, food trucks, and smaller shops are cash-only.
- ✓ **Bring layers for boats** - Morning ferry rides and ocean breezes can be chilly.
- ✓ **You'll get wet** - Pack items that dry quickly and don't bring anything you can't replace.
- ✓ **Space for souvenirs** - Leave room in your luggage for key lime products, hot sauce, and t-shirts!

# Final Thoughts



The beauty of Key West is that it strips away all the unnecessary. You don't need much—just sunscreen, a good attitude, and comfortable sandals. If you forget something, you'll find it on Duval Street (probably with a rooster logo on it). The island has a way of reminding you that the best moments aren't about what you packed, but about slowing down enough to watch the sunset, taste the key lime pie, and let the rhythm of the waves reset your internal clock.

*Pack light, arrive ready, and let Key West do the rest.*

Questions about this packing list? Email us at [okienomads@gmail.com](mailto:okienomads@gmail.com) and we'll help you plan the perfect Key West adventure.