

The trail is intended to link communities with a safe multi-use path, offer an alternative form of transportation, help mitigate traffic congestion, promote public recreation, and support preservation and use of the railroad bridges. The Florida Keys project is supported by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Department of Transportation, and Monroe County.

The Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail includes more than 90 miles of scenic multi-use trails along a planned 106-mile corridor stretching from Key Largo to Key West. Paralleling U.S. Highway 1, the recreational pathway incorporates 23 of the historic Flagler Railroad bridges and is popular with sightseers, hikers, bikers, skaters, paddlers and anglers. Roadside picnic areas, scenic overlooks, fishing piers, water access points, and bicycle and jogging paths are available along the trail.

## The Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail



Next is Bahia Honda State Park, which protects some of the most beautiful beaches in the Keys. The nature trail to the historic Bahia Honda bridge provides a scenic overlook and photo opportunity. On the south side of the Bahia Honda bridge is Spanish Harbor. This rest area is a perfect place for picnics by the large lagoon that was once a quarry for the Flagler Railroad.

Upon arriving in Marathon, the trail continues a past Curry Hammock State Park, which offers a recreational area along the water and is popular for kayaking and kite boarding. Just past Curry Hammock, the rest stop at Grassy Key offers bicyclists and hikers a scenic trail through hardwood hammock and mangrove habitats. To access the next section, trail users can travel over the Seven Mile bridge. The iconic bridge has a narrow five-foot shoulder and heavy vehicular traffic but is used often by experienced cyclists.

## Middle Keys Grassy Key to Spanish Harbor Key (Mile Marker 60 to 35)

FLORIDA KEYS OVERSEAS HERITAGE TRAIL  
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### Historic Bridges

Before the city of Miami existed, Henry Flagler envisioned a railroad across the sea that would promote a cultural and economic connection with Cuba, the Panama Canal and South America.

By 1905 Flagler had begun construction on the Keys section of his Florida East Coast Railroad. On January 22, 1912, Flagler rode the railroad to Key West where the project was heralded by the press as the "Eighth Wonder of the World." A crowd of nearly 10,000 people filled the streets of Key West for a weeklong celebration of this momentous occasion. The railroad transformed the wilderness of the Florida Keys into an economically viable destination.

Today, the historic Flagler bridges form the backbone of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail, providing opportunities for fishing, sightseeing, recreation, and historical reflection. All 23 Flagler railroad bridges are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and are managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks as part of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail.

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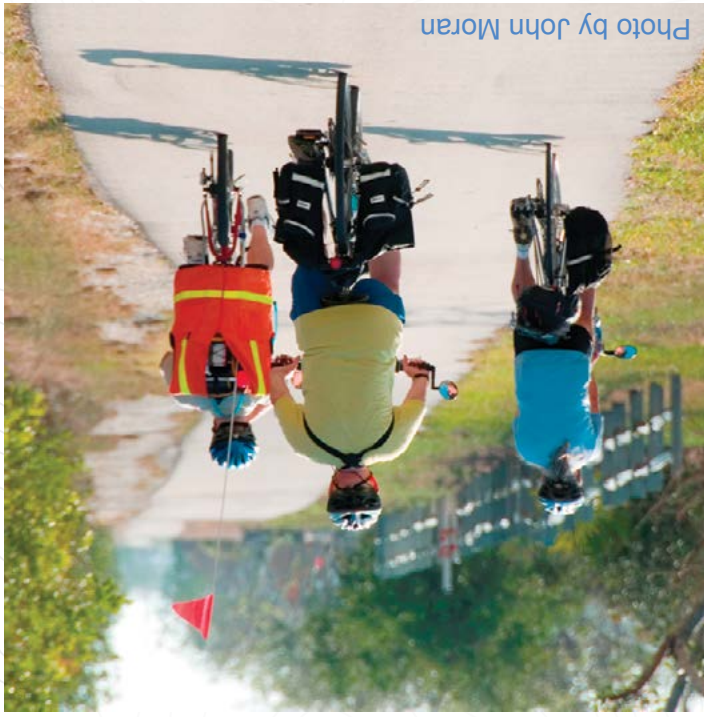
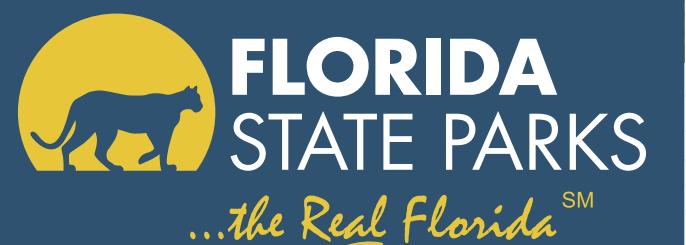


Photo by John Moran

The trail splits at the north end of Key West. To the right, trail users can stroll along palm-lined North Roosevelt Boulevard to Bayview Park. To the left, trail users will see unforgettable views of the Atlantic Ocean as they wind around the island. While in Key West, be sure to visit Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park, the southernmost state park.

In Big Pine Key, keep an eye out for Key deer, a small species of deer found only in the Florida Keys. As the trail continues south, several more Flagler historic bridges are open for trail users. The historic Kemp Channel bridge has beautiful views and is popular with walkers, bicyclists and anglers. The rest area and gazebo at the Saddlebunch Keys is perfect for resting and learning about the ecology of the Keys. Another scenic rest area is at mile marker 6, Boca Chica, where the sunsets are spectacular.

## Lower Keys Big Pine Key to Key West (Mile Marker 35 to 0)



## Upper Keys Key Largo to Long Key (Mile Marker 106.5 to 60)

Shaded in places by tropical vegetation, the 15.5-mile multi-use trail runs by numerous businesses and parks in Key Largo and Tavernier. Take a side trip to John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and learn about the colorful coral reefs and their teeming marine life.

Farther south, a 20-mile trail section passes through the islands that make up the Village of Islamorada. While in the area, stop at Windley Key Fossil Reef Geological State Park to learn about the geology of the Florida Keys. Side trips on the water can include Lignumvitae Key Botanical State Park, Indian Key Historic State Park and San Pedro Underwater Archaeological Preserve State Park.

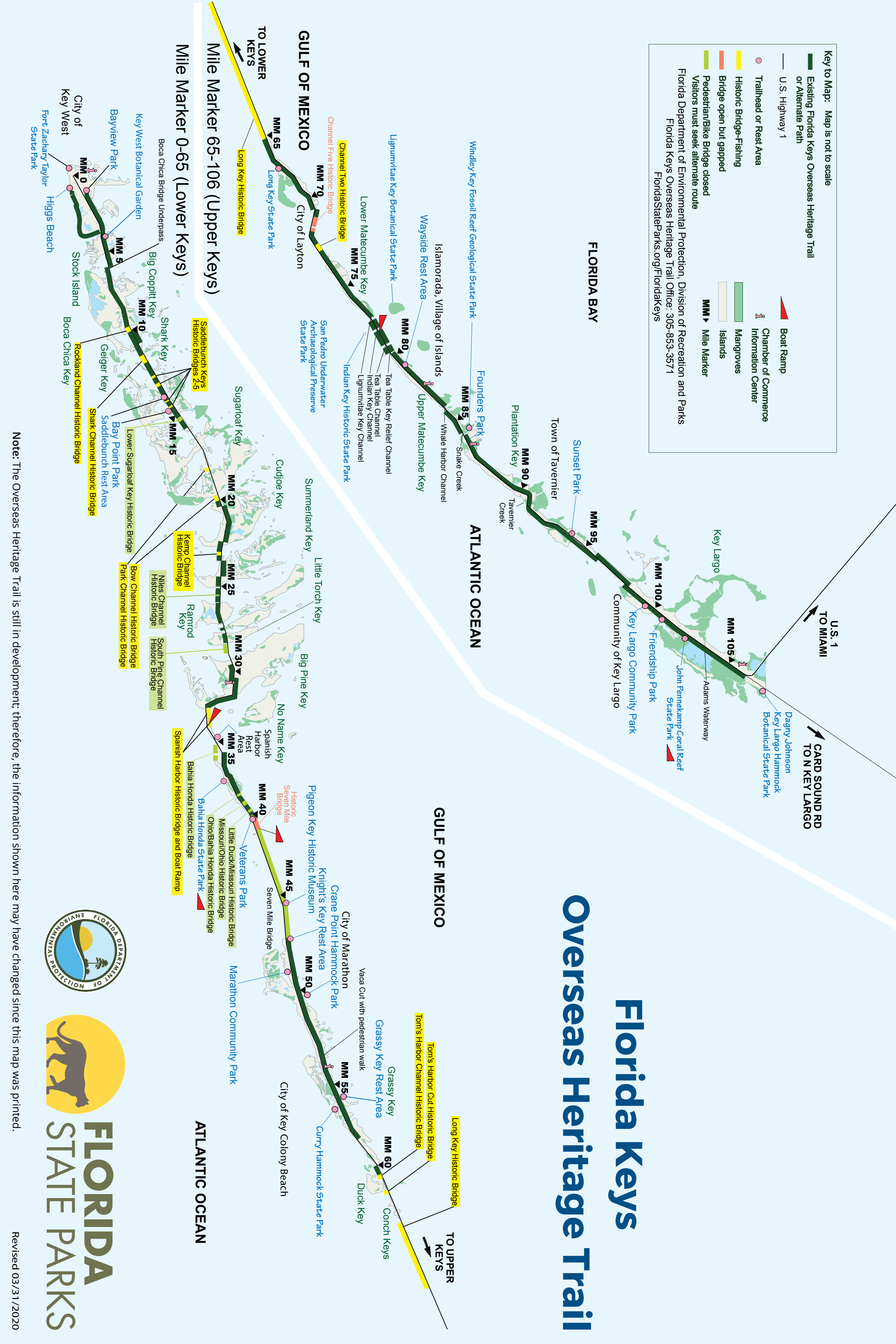
Popular fishing spots in the area include the historic Channel 2 and Channel 5 bridges. Make another stop at Long Key State Park, a popular spot for bird-watchers. Farther down the trail, enjoy the views from the Long Key historic bridge, Tom's Harbor Cut bridge and Tom's Harbor Channel bridge. The historic bridges are popular with anglers, hikers, bicyclists and other trail users.

**Key to Map: Map is not to scale**

- Existing Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail or Alternate Path
- U.S. Highway 1
- Trailhead or Rest Area
- Historic Bridge-Fishing
- Bridge open but gapped
- Pedestrian/Bike Bridge closed
- Visitors must seek alternate route
- Boat Ramp
- Chamber of Commerce Information Center
- Mangroves
- Islands
- Mile Marker

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks  
 Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail Office: 305-853-3571  
 FloridaStateParks.org/FloridaKeys

# Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail



Note: The Overseas Heritage Trail is still in development; therefore, the information shown here may have changed since this map was printed.



**FLORIDA STATE PARKS**

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