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Monroe County

A FLORIDA COUNTY GUIDE · SOUTH FLORIDA & THE KEYS

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REGION

South Florida & the Keys

COMMUNITIES TO START WITH

**Key Largo,
Islamorada,
Marathon, Key West**

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The Florida Keys deliver one-of-a-kind island living, marine recreation and tourism along a long, narrow chain with unique housing, insurance and transportation realities.

Lifestyle: Island life · Marine · Tourism

Monroe County by the numbers

Population Census estimate	81,860	At the last full count 2020 Census	82,874
Median age	49.2	Aged 65 and over	24.7%
Under 18	15.7%	Median household income	\$87,738
Median home value what owners estimate	\$780,600	Homeownership	65.8%
People per household	2.33	Average commute	19.5 minutes

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, published January 2026, read September 19, 2026. Survey figures are estimates; median home value is what owners estimate their home is worth, not a sale price.

Communities to compare

Key Largo

Start with Key Largo to understand the established center, nearby services and everyday rhythm within Monroe County.

Marathon

Walk or drive through Marathon at different times of day to judge traffic, neighborhood character and access to outdoor space.

Islamorada

Use Islamorada to compare housing patterns, main-road access and the shopping or medical stops used during a normal week.

Key West

Compare Key West with the county's other major places for commute direction, home choices and the pace you want in Monroe County.

Places that reveal the county

Dry Tortugas National Park

Sixty-four thousand seven hundred acres of which more than ninety-nine parts in a hundred is water, about sixty-eight miles west of Key West.

Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum

The house at 907 Whitehead Street where Ernest Hemingway lived through the 1930s, built in 1851.

Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory

A glass-enclosed, climate-controlled habitat at 1316 Duval Street holding live butterflies and free-flying birds.

Mel Fisher Maritime Museum

A museum of shipwreck archaeology at 200 Greene Street, built on one of the largest treasure recoveries ever made.

Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center

A free visitor center at 35 East Quay Road on the Truman Waterfront, run by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Bahia Honda State Park

A state park at Mile Marker 37 on Big Pine Key, holding the broadest natural sand beaches in the Florida Keys.

The Turtle Hospital

A working veterinary hospital for sea turtles at Marathon, open to visitors on guided tours.

Key West National Wildlife Refuge

A refuge of nearly a hundred and ninety thousand acres west of Key West, of which barely two thousand is dry land.

Southernmost Point

A painted concrete marker at the corner of South and Whitehead Streets, put there by the city on September 10, 1983.

Key West Aquarium

A small aquarium at 1 Whitehead Street beside Mallory Square, opened in 1935 as a Works Progress Administration project.

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park

The first undersea park in the United States, established in 1963 at Mile Marker 102.5 in Key Largo.

Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park

Eighty-seven acres at the western end of Key West, holding a brick fort begun in 1845 and the clearest swimming beach on the island.

Harry S. Truman Little White House

The house at 111 Front Street where President Truman spent a hundred and seventy-five days of his presidency.

Key West Lighthouse & Keeper's Quarters

An 1848 lighthouse and the keeper's house beside it at 938 Whitehead Street, run by the Key West Art and Historical Society.

Dolphin Research Center

A nonprofit marine mammal center on Grassy Key at Marathon, founded in 1984 by Armando and Jayne Rodriguez.

Crane Point Museum & Nature Center

Sixty-three acres of thatch palm hammock in the middle of Marathon at 5550 Overseas Highway.

Theater of the Sea

A marine park at Mile Marker 84.5 in Islamorada, established in 1946 in a quarry dug for Flagler's railroad.

Mallory Square

The old steamship dock at the north end of Key West, now the place the town gathers to watch the sun go down.

Duval Street

The main street of Key West, running just over a mile and a quarter from the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic.

National Key Deer Refuge

Eight and a half thousand acres on Big Pine Key and No Name Key, set aside in 1957 for the smallest deer in North America.

Beaches in Monroe County

Always verify current parking, fees, water quality, lifeguard coverage and posted rules before leaving.

Cannon Beach at John Pennekamp State Park

Founders Park Beach

Curry Hammock State Park Beach

Sombrero Beach

Smathers Beach

Fort Zachary Taylor State Park Beach

Rest Beach

Harry Harris Park Beach

Anne’s Beach

Coco Plum Beach

Bahia Honda State Park Beach

Higgs Beach

South Beach Key West

Dry Tortugas National Park Beach

Where to check

Florida disaster preparedness maps · Official evacuation-zone, route and storm-surge planning maps.	floridadisaster.org
Florida school accountability reports · Current state school and district accountability information.	fldoe.org
Florida community health data · County-level public health indicators and community reports.	flhealthcharts.gov
Florida housing resources · State resources for homebuyers, renters and local assistance programs.	floridahousing.org