

***CFCA Cruise to Key West***  
Departing Friday, November 6th, 2015

**Starting Point:**

CFCA will depart from the Cracker Barrel Restaurant just South of SR417 on Orange Blossom Trail.

Cracker Barrel Restaurant  
13300 S. Orange Blossom Trail  
SR 417 & US 17/92/441  
Orlando, FL 32837-6636  
[www.crackerbarrel.com](http://www.crackerbarrel.com)

Meet for breakfast at 6:00am with a driver's meeting at 7:00am and immediate departure after everyone has signed the club liability waiver.

**The Route: 379 mi, 6 hrs, 41 minutes according to Google... your mileage & speed may vary. :-)**

Departing from the Cracker Barrel, we will turn right (South) onto Orange Blossom Trail. Go about 3 miles then turn left (East) onto Osceola Parkway. Once on the Parkway, get into the right lane as we will take the onramp on the right to the Florida Turnpike (South) where we will begin our journey to the Keys.

F.T. Mile Marker 229	Canoe Creek Service Plaza (optional stop)
F.T. Mile Marker 184	Fort Drum Service Plaza (scheduled stop)
F.T. Mile Marker 144	Fort Pierce/Port St. Lucie Service Plaza (optional stop)
F.T. Mile Marker 94	West Palm Beach Service Plaza (scheduled stop)
F.T. Mile Marker 71	Exit to Sawgrass Expressway (Route 869)
	Take Sawgrass Expressway to I-75 South
I-75, Exit 5	Head towards KEY WEST
F.T. Mile Marker 39	Rejoin Florida Turnpike South
F.T. Mile Marker 19	Snapper Creek Service Plaza (optional stop)
F.T. Mile Marker 2	Florida City, RaceTrac gas station, on right (scheduled stop) 35426 S Dixie Hwy, Florida City, FL 33034
Take U.S. 1 towards Key West (about 2-1/2 hours)	
U.S. 1 Mile Marker 90	Craig's Restaurant, Tavernier Key, on right (optional lunch stop) 90154 Overseas Hwy, Tavernier, FL 33070
U.S. 1 Mile Marker 0	Sheraton Suites Key West, 2001 South Roosevelt Blvd AT LAST! WE MADE IT!

Our first scheduled rest stop is the Fort Drum Service Plaza rest at Mile Marker 184 for early-morning coffee drainage about an hour from Orlando. Our next scheduled stop will be at the West Palm Beach Service Plaza at Mile Marker 94 about 2-1/2 hours from Orlando. If you NEED to stop before one of our scheduled breaks, by all means, do so! We will bypass some Miami traffic by taking the Sawgrass Expressway (Route 869) at Mile Marker 71 continuing on to I-75 South.

We'll follow I-75 South to exit 5 (old 3B exit to Key West) where we will once again get back onto the Florida Turnpike southbound continuing on to Florida City where the Turnpike ends. There we will stop at the big RaceTrac gas station on the right hand side of the road. Recommend everyone fill up their tanks here as fuel is more expensive in the Keys. From that point on it's a 2 lane road nearly all the way to Key West (about 2-1/2 hours from Florida City). The narrow roads in the keys can be quite dangerous (darn tourists!) so be careful and watch your speed.

An *optional* lunch stop is Craig's Restaurant in Tavernier Key, on your right at Mile Marker 90.5. Parking is in the back. If you're hungry, stop here for lunch (try their Famous Fish Sandwich) or just keep on trucking to the Sheraton Suites Key West, at 2001 South Roosevelt Blvd, Key West, 33040, arriving by early afternoon.

**FRS radios - channel 7, sub-channel 0.** Please keep this channel clear for caravan info and emergencies.

**Turnpike Tolls.** You'll need your E-Pass Transponder or approximately \$11 in tolls.

**Caravan Etiquette.** Safety is our prime concern. Please turn on your parking lights or daytime running lights. When traveling in a caravan with other Corvettes, keep it reasonably tight but maintain enough distance between cars to be safe. Be alert and WATCH the car in front of you. When the car in front of you slows or applies their turn signal, please do likewise for the benefit of those behind you. Caravans have the natural tendency to "rubber band" but we'll try to slow down somewhat after each toll booth or other bottlenecks, at least until we reach Florida City. From there to Key West, the US-1 overseas highway makes it impossible to keep our entire group together. A good idea is to team up with a caravan buddy and exchange cell phone numbers in case of emergency. Drive safe and we'll cya in Key West!

**FRIDAY.** After checking in at our hotel, parking your car, and dropping off your bags, you'll want to get ready for CFCA's awesome Wind & Wine Sunset Cruise on Friday night. You must check in at the Danger Charters booth behind the Westin Hotel, 245 Front St, by 5:00 pm or risk being left behind. The hotel offers a free shuttle to downtown Key West or Key West Taxi may be reached at 305-296-6666. No parking at the pier so suggest you grab a taxi so you don't miss the boat!

**SATURDAY.** Again this year we are scheduling a Wind & Wine Sunset Sailing Cruise. Because daylight savings is still in effect, we are moving the cruise to Saturday. You must check in at the marina for Danger Charters behind the Westin Hotel, 245 Front Street by 4pm so check into the hotel quickly upon arrival. From there, you can catch the hotel shuttle or take a taxi to the marina. We are also planning a CFCA group dinner on Saturday night at 7:00pm at the Half Shell Raw Bar (231 Margaret St, 305-294-7496) a less pricey, more casual, open air restaurant. Just right for our group!

**SUNDAY.** For those of you sticking around, an optional day trip to the Dry Tortugas is planned on Sunday. Or you can just lounge around the hotel and recuperate from the night before. For those of you headed home today or tomorrow, be safe.

As this is also Parrot Head Weekend, Jimmy Buffet will likely be in town and may stop by Margaritaville on Duval Street. Ya never know! You will want to visit some of Key West's great night spots like Sloppy Joe's, Hog's Breath Saloon, Fat Tuesday's, Captain Tony's, the Bull, and many others. Just try to keep your composure! (ask Patti Hutchinson & Arlene Pavlic what that means ☺).

There is so much to do in Key West! You may want to try the Conch Tram Tour, visit the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum, Harry S Truman Little White House, Ernest Hemingway Home, Southernmost Point in the US, Shipwreck Museum, Ripley's Believe It Or Not, Key West Aquarium, do some serious shopping, rent a bicycle or moped, watch for the "green flash" at sunset from Mallory Square, catch the Powerboat Parade down Duval Street on Sunday at 4:00 pm, or hangout at Smather's Beach (literally across the street from our hotel). Otherwise just take it easy and relax... island style!

**Return trip to Orlando.** You are on your own for the return trip to Orlando as many leave on different days and times.

Have Fun but be Safe! And remember... Keep the SHINY side UP! ☺

**Emergency Contact Cell #'s:**

Patti Hutchinson: 407-256-1335

John Hutchinson: 407-403-4249