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Drive south from Miami along this southernmost stretch of the continental U.S. and you'll discover an intriguing collection of islands strung together like a shell necklace, each with its own vibe. First up is the kitschy-cute Key Largo, where t-shirt shops may outnumber the tropical fish in John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park. Dive into the gin-clear waters here, then rest your salty head at a boutique-style hotel from some of the big name players in the space. If you continue down Overseas Highway you'll get to Islamorada, which takes its name from the purple-hued sunsets visible from the beachside hammocks and outdoor tiki bars. Further south still, Duck Key beckons families with a plush summer camp vibe. So whether fish trophies and shiplap or cosmopolitan coastal float your boat, there's a hotel, and a Key, to match your every mood.



Courtesy Hawks Cay

Hawks Cay Resort →

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Just when you thought you'd crossed all of the bridges connecting the Keys, you'll turn off the highway and onto another one, which serves as a grand entrance to Hawks Cay. Surrounded by water, this polished Floridian resort looks and feels like a true island getaway. Rooms are fresh and sophisticated, with hardwood floors, comfortable beds, and beach cottage-style furnishings and accents. Above all though, this a place for families, with excellent kids' programming and an opportunity for people of all ages to interact with dolphins in their natural habitat. Although there is an adults-only pool and restaurant, there are better places in the Keys if you're looking for romance.

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