



Event Highlights for 2009/10

23 October to 1 November 2009 – 31st Annual Fantasy Fest

This outrageous, 10-day celebration features costume competitions, promenades, street fairs and a grand parade with marching groups and lavish floats.

8 to 15 November - Key West World Powerboat Championship

High-speed powerboats continue Key West's longstanding tradition in a challenge described as the Indianapolis 500 of powerboat racing.

7th – 10th January 2010 - 28th Annual Key West Literary Seminar

The seminar's 2010 topic is "Clearing The Sill of the World," a celebration of 60 years of American poetry in honor of Richard Wilbur.

12th – 14th February 2010 – Civil War Heritage Festival

Colorful Civil War re-enactments and tours of Key West's historic Civil War-era Fort Zachary Taylor highlight the journey into the island's past.

6 to 7 February 2010 - 15th Annual Pigeon Key Art Festival

Artists and craftspeople are to exhibit their works at Marathon Community Park, mile marker 49 on U.S. 1. The event includes food, music, and a children's corner to benefit the Pigeon Key Foundation which works to preserve the historic island along the Old Seven Mile Bridge.

March 2010 – date TBC - 47th Annual Conch Shell Blowing Contest

An Old Island Days tradition, this unique contest features novel sounds produced by contestants in several age categories as they attempt to make "music" on fluted conch shells.

13 to 14 March 2010 - 35th Annual Original Marathon Seafood Festival

Gourmet delicacies from the waters of the Florida Keys highlight this annual event at Marathon Community Park, mile marker 50.5 oceanside.

21st March 2010 - 16th Annual Bay Jam. Islamorada.

This music and art festival features local and guest artists performing on the shores of Florida Bay at the TIB Amphitheatre at Founders Park.

April 2010 - date TBC - Underwater Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter bunny hosts this annual underwater egg hunt off Key Largo to benefit Kids in Special Situations, a local charity for needy children.

11th April 2010 - 16th Annual Robert Frost Poetry Festival

The festival features poetry and haiku workshops and readings, and a poetry and haiku contest. Events are staged at the Robert Frost Cottage at the Heritage House Museum, where Frost spent many island winters.

16th – 25th April 2010 - 28th Conch Republic Independence Celebration

Parades, bed races, parties and a wacky "drag race" commemorate the founding of the Conch Republic on April 23, 1982, in response to a U.S. Border Patrol roadblock that halted traffic in and out of the Florida Keys.

17th April 2010 - 29th Annual Seven Mile Bridge Run

An estimated field of 1,500 runners are to participate in the annual foot race across the longest segmental bridge in the world.

19th April 2010 - 15th Annual Taste of Key West

Scores of area restaurants present mouthwatering samples of their cuisine to benefit AIDS Help Inc. The culinary celebration takes place at the Truman Waterfront overlooking Key West Harbor.

28th April- 2nd May 2010 - Key West Songwriters' Festival

The 13th-annual showcase of musical magic features America's foremost performing songwriters, with concerts staged in intimate, audience-friendly island settings. The festival is presented by Hog's Breath Saloon.

14th – 16th May 2010 - Marathon Super Boat Grand Prix

World-class, high-speed powerboats compete in the waters surrounding Marathon and the historic Seven Mile Bridge in the Middle Keys.

29th May – 6th June 2010 – Pride Fest Key West: Diversity in Paradise

This festival honors diversity, openness and freedom in the city that is consistently recognised as one of the world's top gay and lesbian vacation destinations.

July 2009 – dates TBC - 25th Annual Underwater Music Festival

A quirky concert broadcast underwater for divers, snorkellers and the occasional mermaid emphasises reef preservation. The submerged songfest is held at Looe Key Reef in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

July 2009 – dates TBC - Hemingway Days

The 28th celebration of the legendary author's work and lifestyle features literary readings, a theatrical premiere, short story competition, fishing tournament and Sloppy Joe's Look-Alike Contest. A celebration will be held on July 21st, Hemingway's 109th birthday.

August 2009 – dates TBC – Wreckfest 2009

Key Largo is the perfect venue for advanced divers through "wreckaholics" who just can't get enough! Wreck diving plus a roster of topside activities.

September 2009 – dates TBC – Womenfest 2009

This lesbian-oriented festival features art shows, sailing and snorkeling, comedy performances and other activities.

September 2009 – dates TBC - 37th Annual Key West Poker Run

Motorcycle enthusiasts from around the U.S. are to travel the Keys' scenic Overseas Highway from mainland Florida to Key West to raise money for charity. Stops are arranged throughout the Keys with a final celebration in Key West.

For further information please visit www.fla-keys.co.uk

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