

Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

JULY 2002

Budget airlines go global
WORLD ON SALE!

Special Islands Issue

Capri, St. Barts, Maui, Majorca,

Bora Bora

Bali, Zanzibar

Mykonos, Oahu

Phuket, Japan



Island Dr

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CLASSICS: The grand, the
the unique, the new, the

UNITED STATES

Key West, Florida

Key West has always been loaded with promise. As the Overseas Highway was heading toward completion in 1938, Ernest Hemingway lived here, fishing and producing, among other works, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. Tennessee Williams and Ralph Ellison were lured by the promise of tolerance. But it is only in the past two decades that Key West really changed, when cruise ships frequenting the island brought the commercialism that redefined the town. First-time visitors may be put off by the I PARTIED IN KEY WEST T-shirts that sprout on Duval Street, but a few blocks away the island settles down to its charming identity—flowers and welcoming Conchs (as the locals call themselves), gingerbread and brightly painted clapboard houses (particularly the 300 and 400 blocks of William Street, and Fleming Street east of Simonton).

Westwinds, a quiet, friendly inn, has simple rooms and a pleasant small pool (800-788-4150; westwindskeywest.com; doubles, \$70–\$125; Ⓟ). Hilton's spacious **Sunset Key Guest Cottages**, a ten-minute boat ride from Key West, has a white-sand beach and a dock ideal for sunset watching (305-292-5300; sunsetkeycottages.hilton.com; doubles, \$435–\$600).

For lunch or dinner, try **Mangoes**, which found fame in 1998 after feeding Hurricane George relief workers 24/7. It also deserves attention for the yellowtail snapper with passion fruit sauce (305-292-4606; entrées, \$20–\$26).

Free and widely available, the "**Sharon Wells' Hiking & Biking Guide**" is a handy resource. Before you go, check the link-loaded keywest.com.

S.A. \$4.50
Foreign/Canada \$5.50

