

Florida's Unusual, Exotic & Unique Hotels



According to Visit Florida Research, more than 82 million visitors chose Florida as their vacation destination in 2008.

Due to a tremendous number of travelers the Sunshine State hosts annually, many statewide hotels and resorts have made the decision to set themselves apart and capture the interest of those wanting to add "a little something extra" to their vacations...

GAYLORD PALMS RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER [Orlando]

Why? *It's fully enclosed under glass!*

Travelers who simply don't have the time to explore some of Florida's best attributes are provided with a unique alternative in the heart of Central Florida. This 2.1-million-square-foot, fully-enclosed resort features an expansive 4.5-acre glass-topped atrium and is completely themed to the Sunshine State, including the locales of St. Augustine, Key West, the Emerald Coast, Miami's South Beach and the Everglades.

Each atrium reflects the architecture, natural resources, beauty, and personality of the destination. Standing tall inside the St. Augustine atrium is a reproduction of Castillo de San Marcos, the oldest Spanish fort in America.

The focal point for the Key West atrium is a 60-foot sailboat in a 161,000-gallon indoor lagoon with live stingrays and Florida game fish. Every evening, the atrium is the setting of a sunset celebration reminiscent of Key West's Mallory Square.

407-586-2000 | www.gaylordhotels.com

KEY LIME SAILING CLUB [Key Largo]

Why? *Visitors can utilize the onsite sailboats!*

Located in the secluded and tropical locale of Key Largo, overlooking the bay, visitors wanting to truly get away from it all without hustle and bustle will be in relaxation splendor. Whether your passion is snorkeling, diving or simply soaking up the sun, the staff at Key Lime Sailing Club extend their hospitality and passion for the water to all who visit.

Experienced sailors can utilize onsite sailboats or take

advantage of the resort's sailing lessons and instruction.
305-451-3438 | www.keylimesailingclub.com

ARTIST HOUSE [Key West]

Why? *It's haunted!*

Built between 1890-98, and formerly the home of the celebrated Key West painter, Robert Eugene Otto, and his wife Anne, a concert and jazz pianist, The Artist House is an architectural gem highlighted with numerous graceful columns, spacious verandas and gingerbread trim.

One of the most photographed houses in Key West, Artist House displays a breathtaking array of antiquities combined with modern and luxurious amenities.

The home is a centerpiece of conversation among the Historic Walking Tour, ghost tours, the Historic Bike Tour, and featured prominently on the world-famous "Conch Train" and "Trolley" tours due to the home's historic Robert the Doll, which reportedly haunts the house and is in itself a museum.

800-582-7882 | www.artisthouse.com

AVALON HOUSE [Key West]

Why? *There's over the bed canopies!*

Situated on the quiet side of Duval Street, the Avalon Bed & Breakfast greets its visitors with unsurpassed hospitality among a tropical and charming retreat. This beautifully restored 1895 Victorian home boasts high colonial ceilings, wide front porch and fully appointed guestrooms with over the bed canopies.

The new Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory is just across the street and is within walking distance to all of Key West's most popular sights and sounds, including the Southernmost Point. The Avalon B&B is able to accommodate up to 40 guests, which is ideal for that small gather-

ing or celebratory event.
305-294-8233 | www.avalonbnb.com

THE MERMAID & THE ALLIGATOR [Key West]
Why? *None of the guestrooms have phones or televisions!*

A breathtaking circa 1904 Victorian home, situated within minutes of Key West's most enjoyable attractions welcomes visitors to relax among its lush gardens and comfortable spacious interiors.

Featuring the warmth found in a bed and breakfast and the comforts of home, guests can rejuvenate and unwind while enjoying amenities that include an onsite pool area and complimentary evening wine service. Wedding and event packages are available.

800-773-1894 | 305-294-1894 | www.kwmermaid.com

CYPRESS HOUSE [Key West]

Why? *It's a grand conch mansion!*

Built in 1888, the historic Cypress House is one of the purest examples of the availability of Bahamian architecture in Key West. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Cypress House bed and breakfast has been maintained with utmost care to capture a true feeling of a 19th century island residence adorned with old Florida charm woven tightly with first class service you would expect from any luxury bed and breakfast.

Located within one block of Duval Street, visitors can reflect on their days resting on the wide front porch, or reflecting in the tropical gardens.

800-525-2488 | www.cypresshousekw.com

SIMONTON COURT HISTORIC INN [Key West]

Why? *The Inn was once a world-renowned cigar factory!*

This adults only resort, located one block from the fun of Duval Street, emits a peaceful and serene atmosphere, which many of travelers deserve while on vacation. Overlooking fragrant and tropical foliage, resort guests can enjoy modern interiors and expertly restored cottages. Outdoors, four shimmering pools, flowering vines and palm fronds are highlighted.

800-944-2687 | www.simontoncourt.com

BEACHER'S LODGE [St. Augustine]

Why? *A magnificent sunrise view!*

These vacation units, which are individually owned and decorated, provides guests with thoughtful and comfortable amenities. Visitors are encouraged to take their time enjoying a morning coffee on the private waterfront balconies, and begin planning their day exploring historic St. Augustine, or simply relaxing by the newly renovated pool area.

904-471-8849 | www.beacherslodge.com *

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