

Marathon Bars & Restaurants

(orientation for those staying at Banana Bay)

Banana Bay is about mile marker 49.5 on US1 at 46th St. The road actually goes East and West (toward Miami or Key West) but may be called North or South. The 7 mile bridge starts at about MM47 on the West end of Vaca Key (Marathon). Side streets start at about 11th Street at this West end and go up to about 117th St as you go off Vaca Key toward Key Colony. Our Island is only 4-5 miles long.

All of this plus a LOT more is available at www.BootKeyHarbor.com

- some menus and pictures on that website as well – Rev 100202

The closest places to Banana Bay are the Hurricane (next door to left as you face the street), Barracuda (next door to right), Takara's Japanese, & Annette's Lobster House (both to right just past Barracuda's, and Cracked Conch (cattycorner across street to left).

Pizza that delivers: Marathon Pizza, Poppa Johns, Dino's (recommended), Pizza Hut.

1. **Castaway's Restaurant.** MM 47.8 1406 Oceanview Ave (Down 11th St) 305-743-6247 Seafood & Hamburgers. Down Canal behind Pancho's Fuel Dock (the left canal as you face their docks from the water, at 24 42.187N 081 06.585W), or short walk from Faro Blanco Oceanside / Burdine's. Dinghy or small boat dock at Restaurant. Off 15th St Oceanside – turn at mermaid club, then keep to right at the jog before the end (before you get to Burdines). Canalfront.
2. **Burdine's Waterfront** (Marina) & Chiki Tiki. MM 47.8 1200 Oceanview Ave. 305-743-5317 . Top deck bar & great sandwiches platters. View of Boot Key Harbor. A great place to hang out. 24 42.196N 081 06.528W (Off 15th Street Oceanside – turn at the mermaid club & follow around jog all the way to end). Beer/Wine only – no liquor. Recommended by Capn Greg. Waterfront.
3. Cabot's restaurant & bar - overlooking the water at west entrance to harbor (new Jan 03), end of 11th St by Marathon Marina. 725 11th St. (Not Recommended by Capn Greg) This was the old Shuckers restaurant. Features seafood & prime beef. Docking available for restaurant. It is a VERY expensive sunset view. Prices are the highest I've seen in Marathon. Waterfront.
4. Crocodile's on the Water (Restaurant & Bar) CLOSED. MM 48. 305-743-9018 (Part of Faro Blanco Oceanside) easy walk from Burdine's and Faro Blanco Ocean (In the basin right between both). Docking. (still closed as of Oct 2003)
5. **Dockside Lounge** & Sombrero Marina. 35 Sombrero Blvd. 305-743-7137 "The" local place on Boot Key Harbor. They monitor channel 16. Dinghy docks available. Transient slips. Live local entertainment most nights. Food & Spirits.. (Recommended by Capt Greg) 24 42.541N 081 04.899W. Turn left out of Banana Bay on US1, turn Oceanside (right) at the traffic light between PUBLIX and KMART. Immediately behind Publix turn right onto Sombrero Blvd. This winds around and Dockside will be on the left across from the Country Club. Past Sombrero Resort. Waterfront.
6. Shuckers Sunset at Marathon Marina, 725 11th Street.. Located Right on the water as you enter Boot Key Harbor through the West Channel. Docking available at the

- restaurant. Cheap beer at happy hour. Sandwiches & Snacks. Turn Oceanside at 11th Street & take to end. (Closed again as of April 2002)
7. **Marathon Pizza** (at Sombrero Resort – down toward Dockside Lounge) 19 Sombrero Blvd. 305-743-4108. Restaurant inside, but also has Tiki Bar out by pool. Pizza, subs, & Italian. (Recommended by Capn Greg) – see the driving directions for Dockside Lounge). Will deliver to your room.
 8. 7 Mile Grill. 1240 Overseas Hwy. 305-743-4481 (also accessible by dinghy from the Gulfside) This is a nice local spot - good food & reasonable prices. (Recommended by Capn Greg). On US1 right at the start of the 7 mile bridge, Gulfside.
 9. Mermaid Club (Adult Club) (down the street from Faro Blanco Oceanside / Burdine's, at 15th St & US 1) CLOSED AS OF OCT 2003
 10. Porky's Bayside. 1400 Overseas Highway (Gulfside). 305-289-2065. Provides free sunset cruises on pontoon boat with advance notice. Big on Ribs. Very "Keys" atmosphere - casual & inexpensive. Large Tiki with open sides. Dinghy accessible from Gulfside. Meals, or can just order drinks. On US1 about MM 47.8. Waterfront.
 11. New China Garden Restaurant. 1622 Overseas Hwy. MM 47.5 (Gulfside) 305-743-2140.
 12. On US1. Kelsey's Fine Dining. 1996 Overseas Hwy. 305-743-9018 (at Faro Blanco Gulfside- also water accessible from the Gulfside.) Fine Dining but pricey. (Voted BEST local place to take Family when THEY are paying the bill). You can get your boat name put on a mounted oar here for around \$100! They also have a small bar down here hidden away at the far end of the restaurant. (Still Closed as of Oct 2003)
 13. **Angler's Lounge**. 1996 Overseas Hwy. 305-743-9018 (food too, or you can order from Kelsey's, downstairs & they'll bring it up) (at Faro Blanco - also water accessible from the Gulfside) Angler's is on the second floor over top of Kelsey's restaurant. Live entertainment.
 14. Sidney's Waterfront Tiki Bar & Grille. MM 47.5 At the Best Western Hotel, Gulfside. New, summer of 2000. Great view of the Gulf. 305-743-9009. All open Tiki. Beer/Wine only at the bar, no liquor. Waterfront.
 15. Buccaneer Resort Hotel Restaurant & Bar . MM 48.5. Gulfside. 305-743-9071 (also water accessible from Gulfside) Waterfront. Not recommended
 16. The Stuffed Pig. 3520 Overseas Hwy. Gulfside. 305-743-4059. Breakfast & Lunch, 5am - 2pm. No bar.

17. Overseas Lounge & Liquor Store. MM49. Gulfside. 305-743-5311. VERY local. Oldest bar in marathon. Pool Tables. New owners in 2002 and remaking the place. Live music many nights. Some food.
18. **Annette's Florida Keys Lobster House.** 3660 Overseas Hwy. Gulfside. 305-743-5516. Restaurant. Nice local bar too. A bit on the high price end.
19. **Takara Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar.** 3740 Overseas Hwy. Gulfside. 305-743-0505 (Highly Recommended by Capn Greg) Seating, or sit at Sushi Bar. About MM 49 (Close to Banana Bay Resort – turn right out the doors) One of Capn Greg's favorite places to eat. If you don't do Sushi you can get teriyaki steaks, chicken & other "American" food.
20. **Hurricane Grill.** 4650 Overseas Hwy. Gulfside. 305-743-5755 (Recommended by Capn Greg) One side is a restaurant, and the other is a bar with tables and chairs and live entertainment. This is just outside the doors of Banana Bay Resort – turn left out the door.
21. Banana Cabana Restaurant & Bar. 4590 Overseas Hwy. Gulfside. 305-289-1232 Fine Dining (at Banana Bay Resort - Great tropical atmosphere, good food & nice people. Eat inside or sit in the elegant inside bar area. Has a Tiki Bar poolside right outside the restaurant, and another (better) Tiki SandBar down at the Marina by the water with a sand floor. Great water & sunset views. Live entertainment most nights.
22. **Panda House Chinese Restaurant.** 5230 Overseas Hwy. 305-743-3417 located on US 1 at corner of 52nd Street, around MM 50. Across street from Publix Grocery, and catty-corner from K-Mart. (Recommended by Capn Greg)
23. Marathon Yacht Club. 33rd St Gulfside. This is a private, members only club.
24. **National Fisheries Seafood Company.** Turn Gulfside on 35th by the Stuffed Pig – go all the way to end and jog right. All the crab you can eat for about \$14 – other fresh seafood too. Sit at picnic tables on the docks and order from the window. Beer/Wine. Recommended by Capn Greg. Waterfront.
25. Barracuda Bistro (Restaurant). 4290 Overseas Hwy. Gulfside. 305-743-3314. Upscale. Fine Dining. More expensive. Right beside Banana Bay Restaurant. Turn to your right out the door of Banana Bay.
26. **The Cracked Conch Café.** 4999 Overseas Hwy. Oceanside. 305-743-2233. Restaurant & bar. The best variety of conch dishes in the keys. Nice Bar. Just down the street from Banana Bay on the other side – turn left out Banana Bay.

27. Gary's Pub & Billiards. MM 50. Oceanside. 305-743-0622. Sports bar. Billiards. Darts. Games. Just before the Publix Grocery. Can walk from Banana Bay – turn left and it's down the street on the other side
28. The Brass Monkey Liquor Store & Lounge. K-Mart Plaza. 305-743-4028. This is the late night place in Marathon – gets going as the others shut down. Action starts at about 11-12 and goes til 3 or 4am. Get a cab home.
29. McDonald's. K-Mart Plaza. MM 50. 305-743-0230. Has a playground for the kids. Fast Food.
- 30. Upper Crust Pizza.** 2217 Overseas Hwy. Oceanside. 305-743-7100 (In strip of stores by Tugboats Discount Marine) Good pizza. Pickup only.
31. **Village Café, in Gulfside** Village shopping center, across from K-Mart. 305-743-9090. Very nice casual dining. Entertainment and dancing on weekends. Nice small bar at entry. Italian. Recommended.
32. **Herbie's** (Restaurant) 6350 Overseas Hwy. 305-743-6373 (Voted BEST local place to take family when you have to pay the bill) Wednesday nights are “hump” nights with live entertainment. Spirits, good local seafood, and inexpensive. Turn left out of Banana Bay – go past the K-Mart – it will be up on your left.
33. Wendy's. MM 49.5 Gulfside. 305-743-4480. Fast Food. Across from Gary's Pub & Publix.
34. Shuckers Restaurant – approximately mm 51, Gulfside. Restaurant & separate bar. Just North (actually East) of Laser Labs.
35. Miami Subs – approximately mm 51.5 Oceanside.
36. **Leigh Ann's Coffee House** – mm 51.6 Oceanside. (Big Pink Coffee Cup Billboard out front) Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. At 75th St. Family run by Leigh Ann and her mom. Recommended.
37. DJ's Sports Bar – just past airport going East (North).
38. Driftwood Bar – just across street from DJ's sports bar, past airport. Very local bar. Pool Tables. Music many nights. Remnant of the 60's – 70's.
39. Dino's Pizzeria & Ristorante. 11400 Overseas Highway. 305-743-5144. Close to Vaca Cut at East end - but their food & pizza is really good and for \$2 or \$3 they'll deliver into Marathon. (Recommended by Capt Greg)

These places are further out from Marathon – off Vaca Key, but still a reasonable drive from town. Remember that Banana Bay is about MM49.5. All of these places are North on US1 toward Miami.

- Quaterdeck Restaurant – Key Colony Beach (Sadowski) causeway on left. Bar & Restaurant. 305-289-0141. Waterfront.
- **Key Colony Inn** – Key Colony Beach – down causeway & then right. Nice restaurant. Separate Bar to right.
- **The Island Restaurant** – on US 1 past Key Colony Causeway, Gulfside. Nice Tiki Bar & Restaurant. Open Air. Waterfront
- The Quay – Restaurant & Bar. Nice Atmosphere & more upscale dining. Out back though is the **Quay Tiki Bar**. Local. Low prices. Cheap Sandwiches but big & good. Enclosed Tiki. I'd skip the fancy restaurant up front, and go to the Tiki out back. Waterfront.
- **Holiday Inn Tiki Bar** – across street from the Quay – Oceanside. Tiki bar is out back by pool.

Other things to do in Marathon & the Keys:

Beaches: The Keys don't really have beaches like the Gulf coast because of the reef. However, there is a nice small beach in Marathon – Sombrero Beach – with a playground for the kids too. Turn down Sombrero Beach Road at the light between Publix and Kmart about MM50 and take it all the way to the end. There is also a major beach just a few miles on the other side of the 7 mile bridge (W of Marathon toward Key West). It's probably 12-13 miles from Banana Bay Resort, called Bahia Honda State Park. This has been reported to be one of the 7 best beaches in the world. The long beach is over the dunes on Oceanside. There is also a smaller beach just off the parking lot on the channel between the bridges.

Crane Point in Marathon: This is a nature area with hiking trails through the Hammock (wooded area with hardwoods). It also has a gift shop and small Keys history museum that is interesting. There are birds, iguanas and a small salt water pond with tropical reef fish you can feed. There's a small play building for kids with books, toys and pirate stuff. Admission is charged. It's on Gulfside around MM50 right across from Publix – almost in front of the traffic light there.

Dolphin Research Center: Admission is charged and tours are provided about every hour or so. You can see the dolphins in various stages of training & research, plus other resident animals too. You can schedule dolphin swims at higher prices, but these usually must be booked weeks or months in advance to get on the schedule. This is where "Flipper" from the 60's TV series came from. It's on Grassy Key, Gulfside, about 10 minutes drive from Marathon back toward Miami.

Fishing: Many charters are available for full or half day fishing trips. The problem with these (and the dive charters) for our laser class is that the ¹times usually don't work out right. One small boat charter – Stinger Charters – does accommodate our class schedules to take people out after class for a few hours. It's close to shore and under the bridges fishing for Tarpon, Snapper and other fish. Call Captain Sam Nelson at 743-4011 and tell him you're with the laser class. He charges a flat fee to go out so you'll need at least 2 or 3 people to split up the cost. He can take up to 6, but 4 is more manageable.

Snorkeling or Diving: The problem with this is similar to fishing charters – they go out on the reef (about 3 miles Oceanside) during regular class times. – but check. There is a dive shop right beside Banana Bay Resort called Tilden's (at Hurricanes). There is a snorkel boat on Sombrero Blvd beside dockside lounge, one that runs out of The Island restaurant up by Key Colony, and numerous dive shops in the area. Summer is the best time for snorkeling because the water is usually calmer. We don't recommend Hall's dive shop because they'll take you out regardless of the weather or visibility even when other shops all cancel reef trips.

Pigeon Key Historical Site – The Island in the middle of 7 mile bridge.

Or Just sitting on the dock of the Bay Watchin the ti-i-de roll away
