

# **Composite Exhibit D**

Old Town Trolley Tours®

# KEY WEST

*Tour Script*



Welcome aboard, and welcome to Key West. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'll be your conductor today. We'll be leaving here in just a couple minutes. We're going to make our way all the way around this pretty little island, and I'm going to make 13 more stops along the way. You're welcome to hop off this trolley at any of those stops. You're also welcome to hop back onto any other trolley at any of those stops. You can do that all day long. There's no limit to the number of trolleys you can ride in any one day. A couple of the more popular stops are Stop 5, which is your best stop for the Hemingway Home and Museum. Also very popular is Stop 11, which is your best stop for the Southernmost Point of the continental United States. A couple of quick safety items before we get rolling: Please remain seated any time the trolley is in motion. There is no smoking on the trolley. There is no drinking of alcohol on the trolley. Please always keep your arms, legs, heads, and children inside the trolley. Also, please keep in mind that this is a fully narrated tour. If you feel the need to talk with your neighbor, please do so at a volume that won't disturb the people sitting near you. Keep in mind that our tours run at least every 15 minutes and the last full tour of the day leaves here, Mallory Square, at 4:30, so please plan accordingly to get back to wherever you would like to end your day. Alright, do we have everybody? Raise your hand if you're not here.

#### Soundbite 1: CHRIS BELLAND MESSAGE (**CALL IN NUMBERS**)

United States, the Louisiana Purchase influenced the destiny of this little island immensely. As we get started, I'd like to tell you about a recurring theme you'll hear now and then during our tour – something we call our Golden Thread: Why did Key West become an island city in the first place, and how did it become one of the most important economic centers in the United States in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Whether you came here for its natural beauty, its vibrant atmosphere, or any other reason, Key West owes its prominence and longevity largely to industries that thrived on its deepwater harbor and strategic location along the Straits of Florida. A lot of money sailed by here, stopped here, and in some cases even sank here. You see, although Key West's history dates back much longer than the United States, the Louisiana Purchase Influenced the destiny of this little island immensely. Included with that 1803 acquisition was the entire Mississippi River. Almost all worldwide shipping headed to or from the Mississippi had to come around a mostly underwater obstacle called the Florida Reef, including this southernmost island. As you might imagine, some tried to cut corners, and that meant shipwrecks. Lots of shipwrecks. As you're about to see, the wrecking industry made Key West the nation's richest city, per capita, in the mid-1800s. Many of our sites and stories tie to that very Golden Thread in Key West.

1. On your right is Key West's first tourist attraction: The KEY WEST AQUARIUM. It was opened in February 1935. It was built by the Works Progress Administration, part of FDR's New Deal, to promote tourism. The aquarium has regularly scheduled tours and shark feedings. • The exotic tree next to the aquarium is a kigelia, also known as a sausage tree. The sausage tree is native to Africa. The sausage-shaped fruit is not edible. The tree has deep maroon flowers that bloom at night.

2. The big yellow brick building on your right is known as BUILDING NO. 1, as it was the first masonry building on the old Navy base. It was erected in 1852 as a coaling depot for naval steamships. The Navy first established its presence here in 1823 though, just four years after the U.S. bought Florida from Spain, first to stop piracy in the region. Remember a moment ago I mentioned the Florida Straits? Well, pirates took advantage of all the ships and precious cargo passing by here, knowing it was a speedy route for merchants. An early tie to the Golden Thread that explains Key West's prominence. As for Building No. 1, the top floor was used as a sail maker's loft. • It was here that the U.S.S. Maine was loaded with coal prior to its fateful trip to Havana Harbor in 1898. The explosion of the Maine on February 15, 1898, served as a catalyst for the Spanish-American War. (TURN RIGHT ONTO WHITEHEAD)

3. The red brick building on the right was the CUSTOM HOUSE. It is known as "Old 91" because it was built in 1891 at a cost of slightly more than \$100,000. Designed by William Kerr, an Irish American architect, the Custom House is a great example of Richardson Romanesque architecture. The building housed the district and circuit courts until 1932, which played an important role in the brisk business of the shipwrecking industry, as wreckers fought the legal battles of who got how much of what, after wrecks were salvaged. This building also housed the postal services and customs office. Notice the high sloping roofs that the federal government insisted upon. Those are "snow roofs" and were designed to prevent snow from accumulating and collapsing the building. It has done a wonderful job here in sunny Key West, the only frost-free area in the continental United States. • Thomas Edison had a laboratory here for six months during WWI, experimenting with depth charges, developing more than 40 underwater weapons for the Navy. • It was recently restored in a nine-year project by the Key West Art & Historical Society, at a cost of nearly \$9 million. The Custom House is now a beautiful museum and art gallery.

4. The tan stone building on the far-right corner is the MEL FISHER MARITIME MUSEUM. It was a warehouse used by Customs to store salvaged goods from shipwrecks. The cargo was auctioned nearly every Saturday. Exhibits inside contain treasure from the Spanish galleons [Nuestra Senora de] Atocha and the Santa Margarita, which sank off the Florida Keys during a hurricane in 1622. It was re-

discovered by Mel Fisher after a 16-year search. Every day, Mel Fisher rallied his crew by saying "Today's the day!" On July 20, 1985, his dream came true. The treasure he brought up from that shipwreck is now valued at about \$400 million.

5. Coming up on your right are the PRESIDENTIAL GATES, built in 1906. The sidewalk behind those gates leads to Harry S Truman's Little White House, the only presidential museum in Florida. These gates are only opened for sitting and former U.S. presidents. They've been opened for presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Carter, and Clinton. Harry Truman spent eleven working vacations - 175 days - at this home during his presidency. There are free exhibits inside, a unique gift shop, and guided tours offered all day long.

#### Soundbite 3: HAIL TO THE CHIEF

This is STOP 1A. Truman's Little White House is one block up this sidewalk, behind the Presidential Gates. If you're planning to hop off here, please remain seated until the trolley comes to a complete stop. Take your time, watch your step, and use the handrails. Trolleys will be through here at least every 15 minutes, so come back here and continue your tour whenever you are ready. Enjoy Key West!

For those of you just joining us, please remain seated any time the trolley is in motion, there is no smoking or drinking of alcoholic beverages on the trolley. Keep your arms and legs inside the trolley, and please keep your conversations to a whisper so everyone can hear the narration. (TURN LEFT ONTO CAROLINE)

6. The building on the right corner is the birthplace of PAN AMERICAN AIRLINES. This was the airline's ticket office in 1927. Pan Am started an international seaplane service, delivering both air mail and passengers to Havana, Cuba, on October 28, 1927. Today this building is the First Flight Island Restaurant and Brewery, also the Southernmost Brewery in the United States. The famous "Crash Bar" sits off the main garden, so named for the Sikorsky seaplane that plunged through its roof, now providing a unique drinking surface: an aluminum airplane wing. • Pan Am was the principal and largest international air carrier in the United States from 1927 until its collapse on December 4, 1991. Delta purchased the remaining profitable assets. • Pan Am is credited with many innovations that shaped the airline industry, including the widespread use of jet aircraft, jumbo jets, and computerized reservation systems.

7. Continue looking to your right and down the brick paved driveway. The cottage at the rear of the house was the winter home of American poet ROBERT FROST for 16 winter seasons. The house in front of the cottage is the second oldest house on the

island, built in 1834 by Captain George Carey. Notice the Pirate's Well beside the front steps, to the left of the porch. It's the first recorded known source of fresh water on the island and was used through the 1700s.

8. On the right is the former home of Doctor JOSEPH YATES PORTER. He did extensive research into the spread of yellow fever, which led to quarantine laws and helped to eradicate the disease. Named Florida's first public health official, Dr. Porter was born in this house in 1847 and died, in the very same room, 80 years later.

9. Ahead on your left is the CURRY MANSION, an example of the wealth built on shipwrecking - in this case at least partially. Captain William Curry came to Key West in 1837 from the Bahamas. Mr. Curry made a lot of money in the mercantile, shipwrecking, and tobacco industries. He became Florida's first millionaire, and when he died in 1896 was one of the richest men in Florida. He left a significant inheritance to each of his children, and several of them built beautiful houses all over the island. I will point out a few more along the way. Curry's youngest son Milton took over the estate, leveled the original home, and built this Georgian Revival mansion in 1905 at a cost of about \$13,000. • The house likely incorporated the use of mail order plans from architect George Franklin Barber, who supplied designs to affluent American businessmen. • Immediately to the right is the George Patterson House, built after the Great Fire of 1886, a fine example of Queen Anne architecture. Mr. Patterson was our postmaster and U.S. District Attorney. • On the far-left corner is the Kemp family home, built in 1888. The Kemps were among the richest of our sea sponging families. The Kemp's Ridley Sea turtle is named after Richard Kemp, who discovered it in 1880.

10. Across on the right is the current FEDERAL BUILDING, constructed in 1931. It's made of fossilized limestone quarried here in the Florida Keys. The building was originally constructed to be a federal courthouse, customs office, post office, and home to other federal agencies. Today, both the Customs and Immigration Services are still located here, because Key West remains an official port of entry to the United States.

11. A few generations ago, Caroline Street was a rough-and-tumble type of neighborhood, full of rowdy sailors. The building coming up on our right far corner was built in the late 1800s as a grocery store for Theophilus Pinder, but in 1969 it was the RED DOORS TAVERN. It was infamous for the many fights that happened there, earning it the nickname "The Bucket of Blood!" Rumor has it you would be frisked at the door, and if you didn't have a weapon, the tavern would provide you with one. They just wanted to keep it fair!

12. The white building on our right is the oldest eatery in the Florida Keys, established in 1909. It's claimed that PEPE'S CAFÉ was President Harry Truman's favorite lunch spot. (TURN LEFT ONTO MARGARET)

13. Turning into the Historic Seaport area, the yellow building on your right is a replica of Henry Flagler's terminal building, now the SAILS TO RAILS museum, our newest museum, is where you can journey from the age of sails through the age of rails. Inside is the world's largest scale model of Fort Jefferson at the Dry Tortugas National Park on Garden Key, which is 70 miles farther west than Key West. Entrance to this fantastic attraction is included with your Old Town Trolley ticket.

We are now approaching STOP 2 for Mac's Sea Garden, the Historic Seaport area, and the Sails to Rails Museum. If you're planning to hop off here, please remain seated until the trolley comes to a complete stop. Take your time, watch your step, and use the handrails. Trolleys will be through here at least every 15 minutes, so come back here and continue your tour whenever you are ready. Enjoy Key West!

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14. On your right is the Key West HISTORIC SEAPORT. It's home to many popular restaurants and an area called the Turtle Kraals. "Kraal" is a Dutch African word that means pen or corral. Sea turtles were kept in these pens until they could be made into turtle soup or turtle steaks. Since 1972 that practice has been illegal, as sea turtles are now recognized as an endangered species.

15. On the right you'll see a "WHALING WALL" painted by Robert Wyland. The Michigan-born artist painted over 100 such works of art worldwide between 1981 and 2008, all depicting scenes of underwater marine life. This is wall number 52.

16. Just beyond the colorful wall you can see the SCHOONER WHARF BAR. The folks there call the bar "a last little piece of old Key West." The Schooner Wharf Bar is known for having one of the earliest happy hours on the island, starting at 7:30 ... A.M.! (TURN LEFT ONTO WILLIAM) (TURN RIGHT ONTO CAROLINE)

17. In just a moment you'll see the CONCH REPUBLIC SEAFOOD COMPANY. It was formerly the Singleton Fish House and Ice Plant, at one time the largest icehouse in the world. Fishermen and shrimpers would come in with their catch, where it would be cleaned, packed up on ice, and shipped to destinations worldwide. Part of the James Bond movie "License to Kill" was filmed here. (TURN RIGHT ONTO ELIZABETH)



18. Coming up on your right side, the little white building with all those stickers was the home to Jimmy Buffett's Shrimiboat Sound, his recording studio! Not only did Jimmy record here, but other great artists as well such as Alan Jackson, Kenny Chesney, Toby Keith, The Eagles, & many others (TURN LEFT ONTO GREENE)

19. There's a brick building coming up at the end of this block on your lefthand side. That's an old CURRY TOBACCO WAREHOUSE, one of the few buildings downtown to survive the Great Fire of 1886. It is now the home of the Hemingway Rum Company, Papa's Pilar Distillery, which offers tours and free tastings of its fine products. When you're done at the Hemingway Rum Distillery, head one block to your right, north on Simonton, and you'll find the Key West First Legal Rum Distillery, where you can also enjoy tours and product tastings. When you're done there, stumble your way right back over here, and the next trolley driver coming through will be happy to help you aboard.

We're now approaching STOP 3, which is good for the Historic Seaport and our rum distilleries just behind us, as well as Duval Street and Sloppy Joe's Bar, which are one block straight ahead of us. If you are planning to hop off here, please remain seated until the trolley comes to a complete stop. Take your time, watch your step, and use the handrails. Trolleys will be through here at least every 15 minutes, so come back here and continue your tour whenever you are ready. Enjoy Key West!

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20. On the left is OLD CITY HALL, originally a wood-framed building, dedicated on July 4, 1876, during the nation's centennial celebration, but lost in the Great Fire of 1886. The current building was completed in 1892. Look down the street to your left and you can see some arched openings. There's an exactly matching set of those arched openings on the opposite side of the building. It was constructed that way to allow easy entrance and easy exit for horse-drawn firefighting equipment. The front doors and the stairs leading up to the second floor are great examples of wrought iron filigree.

21. At the next stoplight, on your left, is maybe the most famous landmark in Key West: SLOPPY JOE'S BAR. This was the favorite watering hole of Ernest Hemingway.

- Hemingway and Sloppy Joe Russell were fishing buddies and made frequent trips to Havana, Cuba together. Hemingway even referenced Sloppy Joe's in the novel, To Have and Have Not.



22. This is not the original location of Sloppy Joe's Bar. Sloppy Joe's used to be located about half a block straight ahead, at a place that's now called CAPTAIN TONY'S SALOON, but Sloppy Joe's landlord wanted to raise his rent by an entire dollar a week. Joe would have none of it, so one evening he encouraged his patrons to pick up their barstools, and they walked that entire bar right down here to its current location. Sloppy Joe's has been here since 1937. • Hemingway kept a very personal souvenir from the original location: a wall latrine from the men's room. He ripped it off the wall, took it home with him, and dropped it in the garden. It's still there today, serving as a backyard watering fountain for the dozens of cats that live there. (TURN LEFT ONTO DUVAL)

23. We're now on the world-famous DUVAL STREET. This is where Key West holds most of its festivals and celebrations, including Hemingway Days, Fantasy Fest, Conch Republic Days, Food and Wine Festival, and the Songwriters Festival. At one time there were 117 bars on Duval Street alone. There were so many bars on Duval Street that we had to stack them on top of each other. An example of this is coming up on your right. • The bar at ground level is called The Bull. On top of that is The Whistle, and there's a third bar on top of that one! The architecture is unusual for Duval Street, with a wraparound balcony of wrought iron like in New Orleans. • Across the street on the corner, to your left, is another Curry mansion, now the Dr. Joseph Fogarty house, which was built in 1887. Dr. Fogarty was mayor of Key West from 1905 to 1912. In 1912, when the railroad first arrived, Dr. Fogarty hosted an elegant lawn party for Henry Flagler here, that lasted seven continuous days.

24. I've mentioned the name Curry a couple times already, and I'll mention it a couple more times before we're done. Captain William Curry came to Key West seeking opportunity when he was just 16. He built his wealth on shipbuilding, wrecking, and merchandising – a tie back to our Golden Thread of Key West's strategic maritime geography. Captain Curry would leave a significant inheritance to each of his children, several of whom went on to build beautiful homes all over the island. A couple of those homes are coming up on your lefthand side. The big, beautiful blue building, now the HARD ROCK CAFÉ, was built by one of William Curry's sons, Robert. • The very next house is one of the few all-brick houses on the island. The Hellings house was built in 1892 by the manager of the telegraph office, Martin Hellings, married to William Curry's daughter, Eleanor. • In 1940 the house was purchased by the Key West Woman's Club • It was home to the first public library.

25. On your right, the white building with dark shutters is the OLDEST HOUSE in Key West, built in 1829. This house was occupied by one of those making a fortune during

the wrecking boom, Captain Francis Watlington, who lived there with his wife and nine daughters. • The second floor wasn't converted into living space until after the Civil War, adding one room at a time, which explains the different sized and shaped dormers extending from the roof: three on the front, two more out the back. • There's a cistern and detached kitchen in the rear, said to be the oldest cook house on the island, dating back to the 1830s.

26. Fortunately, those Watlington children didn't have far to go to get to school. Here on the right corner, the big yellow building was the OLDEST SCHOOLHOUSE in Key West, built in 1842. If you look to the top of the second story, you can still see the original school bell.

27. Across the street to your left is ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, the oldest Episcopal parish in South Florida. It held its first service on Christmas Day, 1832. This is the fourth St. Paul's Episcopal Church building on this property. The first and third were destroyed by hurricanes in 1846 and 1909; the second went down in the Great Fire of 1886. The current building was finished in 1912. • The stained-glass windows are insured for millions of dollars. It doesn't do them any justice to look at them from the outside, as they're covered by a protective layer of plexiglass. You're welcome to go into the church and admire its stained glass. • There are ten bells, weighing 3 ½ tons, which survived the hurricane and still play to this day.

28. The looming skyscraper coming up on your right is the LA CONCHA HOTEL. It was built in 1926 and is the tallest building in Old Town Key West. • Playwright Tennessee Williams lived here while rewriting his play A Streetcar Named Desire. He maintained a home in Key West until his death in 1983. • If you stay here and get a room facing the street, just know that people sometimes yell out "Hey Stella!" at random times day or night, paying homage to Tennessee Williams.

The La Concha Hotel is STOP 4 on our tour, which is good for Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville, which is one block straight ahead of us, and for all things lower Duval Street. If you plan to hop off here, please remain seated until the trolley comes to a complete stop. Take your time, watch your step, and use the handrails. Trolleys will be through here at least every 15 minutes, so come back here and continue your tour whenever you are ready. Enjoy Key West!

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- As we proceed, look to the CVS on the right. It was once a Kress Department Store. Kress was a chain of "five-and-dime" retail department

stores, established by Samuel Henry Kress, operating from 1896 to 1981. In the first half of the 20th century there were Kress stores with ornamented architecture on the main commercial strips in hundreds of cities across the country.

29. Ahead on the right is Jimmy Buffett's original MARGARITAVILLE, where you can still get yourself a 'cheeseburger in paradise.' This is the very first Margaritaville Jimmy Buffett opened. I hear he opened a few more.

30. Two doors up is the SAN CARLOS INSTITUTE. In 1871 a group of Cuban patriots formed the San Carlos Institute as a place to meet and conspire for Cuban independence. The present structure was built in 1924 in Spanish Colonial style, modeled after the city hall in Havana. • Jose Marti gave rallying speeches here. • It was also here that the horrible downtown fire in 1886 began. • The building was restored in the 1990s and is now associated with the Smithsonian Institute.

31. Look over to your left and you can see our old STRAND THEATER, built in 1934 by Juan Carbonell. It's now maybe the fanciest Walgreens you've ever seen. Look up at the second story - that's called Rococo architecture and is very popular in Havana, Cuba. • The 1993 movie, Matinee, starring John Goodman, was filmed here. • On the left corner is the Pegasus Hotel. It's one of the few Art Deco buildings on the island. Most of the buildings from that period have been significantly remodeled over the years. In 1990 the Pegasus did some major remodeling and received permission to do the facade in Art Deco. (TURN RIGHT ONTO SOUTHARD)

32. Coming up on the left-hand side at the corner, you'll see a white building with green trim, called the GREEN PARROT BAR. But it's much more than just a popular local bar: it's regarded as a Key West icon, a legendary watering hole. Built in 1890, its first life was as a grocery store owned by Anthony Sanchez, a popular hangout for locals who used the back room of the store to engage in spontaneous musical jam sessions. Sanchez' grandson Mario Sanchez would later become an internationally renowned woodcarving artist famous for capturing memories of his youth at the store. • During World War 2 it became a bunker-like military bar known as the Brown Derby. When the Navy pulled out in the 1970s, the bar was converted to an open-air venue, popular among many island locals: hippies, bikers, fishermen, shrimpers, sailors, and so on. • In the mid-80s the bar transformed once more into what it most closely resembles today. Bands from all over the world come to this bar to entertain the Key West masses. When the bigger bands aren't playing here, the Green Parrot stage attracts the most prominent local musicians. Sometimes on weekends you'll find the entire intersection here mobbed with people, all listening to the great music. (LEFT ONTO WHITEHEAD)

33. Looking down Southard Street to your right, you'll notice a gated residential community. It is known as TRUMAN ANNEX, part military installation and part residential housing community. The annex began in 1845 as part of Fort Zachary Taylor, a U.S. Army installation. In 1932, new docks were added to make it a home base for submarines. The name was changed to Naval Station Key West in 1947. In 1974 the base was decommissioned because it couldn't serve modern, much larger nuclear-powered submarines. However, as you might already be thinking, the naval presence here is directly because of that Golden Thread, Key West's critical maritime significance to commerce, and hence its need to be protected. Later the name was changed yet again to honor President Harry S Truman.

34. If you look straight ahead you can see a church steeple. That's the CORNISH MEMORIAL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH, named after Mr. Sandy Cornish, who was born into slavery in Maryland. He eventually purchased his way out of slavery, and with his wife, Lillah, came to Key West and became a very successful farmer, and a highly respected member of the local community.

We're now approaching STOP 5. This is your best stop for the Hemingway Home, which is one block straight ahead on your left; the Key West Lighthouse, one block straight ahead on your right; Bahama Village Market, including the popular Blue Heaven restaurant, behind us and down Petronia Street. If you're planning to hop off here, please remain seated until the trolley comes to a complete stop. Take your time, watch your step, and use the handrails. Trolleys will be through here at least every 15 minutes, so come back here and continue your tour whenever you are ready. Enjoy Key West!

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35. Coming up in this next block, on your left-hand side is the former home of Ernest Hemingway. He lived here with his lovely wife Pauline. It was Pauline's uncle who purchased the house in 1931. He bought it at a tax sale for \$8000. Seems like a pretty good value. He then gave the house to Pauline and Ernest as a wedding present. Now, we all know Ernest Hemingway was a writer, not a wrecker, but the HEMINGWAY HOME is a vestige of wrecker wealth, nonetheless. It was built in the 1850s by Asa Tift, who was a wealthy wrecker and merchant. The home sits on one of the largest lots in

Key West and was the first on the island to have an in-ground swimming pool. If you'd like to learn more about that pool, the tour guides here tell a great story about it. • Hemingway was obviously very inspired by Key West, writing many of his most popular works in the short nine years he lived here, including *A Farewell to Arms*, *Green Hills of Africa*, *Death in the Afternoon*, *To Have and Have Not*, and *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*.

36. To your right is the Key West Lighthouse. This lighthouse was raised 20 feet in 1894 so the light could be 100 feet above sea level. And though it was of course intended to provide safety to mariners, there was no shortage of shipwrecks and hence the shipwrecking industry helped to make Key West at times the most affluent city in the United States. • The original lighthouse was built in 1825 at the south end of this street. • This lighthouse was decommissioned in 1969.

37. Next to the lighthouse is the LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER'S QUARTERS. You can see that it appears to have two front doors. Taking care of this lighthouse was a very demanding task, too demanding for just one family. So, the keeper's quarters were built as a duplex, allowing two families to share in the duties of keeping the light running. • Notice also the chimney, which seems unnecessary in this climate. Fireplaces were generally installed in all federal buildings at the time.

(TURN LEFT ONTO TRUMAN)

38. To your left, these are called SHOTGUN HOUSES. What makes a shotgun house unique is that all its rooms are connected by one common hallway running from the front door straight through to the back door. It's like looking down the barrel of a shotgun. That's how they got their name. They're built that way for ventilation purposes. • It's also an old quip that you could fire a shotgun from the front door, and you wouldn't hit anything all the way to the back door, though I wouldn't recommend testing that theory.

39. As we make this left turn, those of you sitting on the left side of the trolley can look over your left shoulder and get a very nice view of the Key West Lighthouse. We're now on TRUMAN AVENUE. Several streets on our island are named after presidents who left a mark on Key West's history. Harry Truman likely had the greatest impact of all. Interestingly, when he left office in 1953, he was one of the least popular presidents. As historians look back now, many consider him to be among the greatest. • Continuing on this road, Truman Avenue turns into Roosevelt Boulevard. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was president during many big Navy years, and that mattered

especially because we're a Navy town. Off Roosevelt is Kennedy Drive. John F. Kennedy came to Key West twice: once during the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, and again during the Cuban missile crisis in 1962. • Truman Avenue was once known as Division Street because it divided the town into suburbs on your left and rural area on your right. Before that, it was called Rocky Road.

40. Coming up on your right, behind this long old stone wall that runs the course of the entire block, is a collection of buildings that comprise the BASILICA OF ST. MARY STAR OF THE SEA, the oldest Roman Catholic parish in South Florida. Its first services were held in 1846. One of the reasons for the name is that many of our Cuban neighbors still refer to Key West as "Stella Maris:" Star of the Sea. St Mary's has played a significant role in Key West history. For example, it was responsible for opening one of the first schools for Blacks in the state of Florida, in 1867. • Another important contribution happened after the Battleship Maine was blown up in Havana in 1898, and the United States entered the Spanish-American War. The Mother Superior of this convent went to the military and offered to open a convent hospital with nuns to serve as nurses. The military accepted and the hospital went on to treat more than 600 injured servicemen. • One nun in the convent was named Sister Louis Gabriel. She had lived through three hurricanes, the latest of which was in 1919. That one was especially destructive, killing many people. She felt like she had to do something, so she built what is called a prayer grotto. It's made of coral rock, and with every piece of that rock that she placed on that grotto, she said a little prayer. When the grotto was completed in 1922, she declared, "As long as the grotto stands, Key West will never experience the full brunt of a hurricane." Since that day a hundred years ago, no eye of a major hurricane has passed over Key West.

41. Continuing along Truman Avenue, you'll notice many beautiful old "CONCH" HOUSES on the lefthand side. Key West has the most extensive historic district in Florida, with about 3,000 vintage buildings. Guests often ask how these old homes - many dating back to the 1800s - have survived for so long here in the hurricane belt. Any number of these houses may have been built by ship builders, and they had a few tricks up their sleeves. One of those tricks was to use a tree nail, which is just a wooden peg in place of a traditional metal nail. This technique would allow your house some flexibility to give a little in the wind. Call it the bend-but-not-break principle, I suppose. You'll also notice that many of these houses are built a foot or two off the ground. This reduces resistance by allowing the wind to flow under the house instead of pushing so hard against the side of it, making the house a little less likely to be blown from its foundation. Builders also used what are called "hurricane straps" to keep roofs from being taken off.

42. As long as I'm talking about the weather, here are a few Key West WEATHER STATISTICS. Our average temperature is 77 degrees. The record high temperature is 97 degrees. The temperature has never reached 100 degrees in Key West. The record low temperature is 41 degrees, making the Florida Keys the only frost-free area in the contiguous states. Key West only gets about 39 inches of rain a year, making it the driest city in Florida. So, it doesn't get too hot, it doesn't get too cold, and the sun is usually shining. Not a bad life, really.

43. Coming up on your right is an area called BAYVIEW PARK. This land was owned by prominent cigar manufacturer Eduardo Gato. He used this land as a recreational area for his employees. He thought they deserved to have someplace to go on their days off, to spend time with their families. He sold the property to the city of Key West only with the promise that it would always remain recreational acreage for the citizens, which, as you can see, it has. • At the far end of Bayview Park is politicians' intersection.' Why do we call it that? We're on Truman Avenue, and as we go through the intersection, we'll pass on to Roosevelt Boulevard. To the left is Eisenhower Drive, and to the right is Jose Marti Drive. Señor Marti was a Cuban patriot whom many call the "George Washington of Cuban Independence" from Spain. • On the right is a monument built by the state of New York for New York soldiers who served here during the Civil War, since Key West was always Union territory. Many townspeople, however, were Confederate sympathizers, so next to it, with the columns, is a monument to Confederate soldiers and sailors. There are monuments to soldiers from all U.S. wars here in Bayview Park.

44. As we pass under this stoplight, we transition out of Old Town Key West and into New Town Key West. I'll talk more about New Town in just a couple minutes. Right now, I want you to look across the water to your left. See that building with the sign, "FLY NAVY?" That is the tallest building in Key West. It used to serve as a Navy officer bachelor quarter and is now a Navy hotel.

45. The body of water you're looking across is called the GARRISON BIGHT. A bight is a body of water almost completely surrounded by land, with one narrow opening to allow entrance and exit from the harbor. It was once home to the so-called Mosquito Fleet, a group of fast, maneuverable boats sent here by Commodore David Porter in 1823, to rid the Caribbean of pirates. It's yet another example of how Key West has been shaped – figuratively and sometimes even literally – by many maritime-related industries. Here's a salute to the U.S. Navy, faithfully serving Key West for over 200 years.

Soundbite 4: ANCHORS AWEIGH



46. If you look off to your left you can see a sign that reads "CHARTER BOAT ROW." That's where you can go if you'd like to hire someone to take you fishing. Charters are available for half-day, full-day, or even night fishing ventures. If you're not so much interested in the fishing but you'd like to see some of the more-than-600 species of game fish here in Florida Keys waters, stop down at Charter Boat Row at about 4 or 5 in the afternoon, and you might just get a glimpse of their catch of the day.

47. Look across the water to your left and you can see the narrow opening that leads directly out to the Gulf of Mexico. There once was a SWING BRIDGE there that allowed train cars that had come down the Overseas Railroad to be loaded onto boats and sailed to Cuba.

48. I said I'd talk a little bit about NEW TOWN. That's where we are now. It's called New Town because it is indeed relatively new. This is all manmade and never used to be here. Back in the 1940s the Navy decided it needed more space. It started digging up the sea floor around the island, created a substance called "marl" - (M-A-R-L), a mix of sand, shell, and coral - and used it to fill in this area where we are now. Until then this was shallow-water swampland. The Navy continued this process until 1972, when it was realized it was causing significant damage to the marine ecosystem and stopped dredging. This island will never be any bigger than it currently is, which is 1.5 miles by 3.5 miles. • Now, to your left, that collection of boats is the Key West Yacht Club. Originally established in 1938, it is the southernmost club in the United States, regularly hosting boats from all over the world.

We're now approaching STOP 6, which is the Fairfield Inn. This is your best stop for Charter Boat Row, Key West Yacht Club, Starbucks straight ahead, and Taco Bell right behind us. If you're planning to hop off here, please remain seated until the trolley comes to a complete stop. Take your time, watch your step, and use the handrails. Trolleys will be through here at least every 15 minutes, so come back here and continue your tour whenever you are ready. Enjoy Key West!

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49. Key West has had a couple of different names in its history. It was originally known as CAYO HUESO, which translates to "Bone Island." That's what the Spanish called the island when they discovered it, because they found it covered with human bones,

presumably from warring Indians several hundred years earlier. The pronunciation was, over time, corrupted and anglicized from “Cayo Hueso” to “Key West.”

50. Key West is also known as THE CONCH REPUBLIC. There’s a very interesting story that goes with this. The year was 1982 and the federal government suspected that there was a lot of illegal drug traffic and illegal immigration coming up through the Florida Keys. The feds, of course, wanted to get to the bottom of this, and they set up a roadblock. They stationed that roadblock in a place called Florida City, which is the first town you reach on mainland Florida as you leave the Keys after crossing the Overseas Highway. The Overseas Highway is the only road that connects all the Florida Keys to the Florida mainland. So, it was a logical checkpoint for the government to establish a roadblock. In fact, for a time agents stopped and searched every vehicle.

As you might imagine, this caused hours of delays and backed traffic up for miles. It also put a serious crimp on the Florida Keys' economy because – as many of you are living proof – we depend heavily on tourism. The city of Key West took the federal government to court, but the court sided with the government and the roadblock stayed. So, the mayor of Key West gathered some of his most important people and they sat down to talk about this situation.

They concluded that the roadblock resembled a foreign border checkpoint. They decided that if the federal government was going to treat the Keys like a foreign country, we should respond as a foreign country. It was time to secede from the Union. The leaders decided they didn’t want to be part of the United States anymore, and from that day forward Key West would be officially known as The Conch Republic. The first order of business in our newly formed nation was, of course, to declare war on the United States. They did so by pummeling a Naval officer over the head with a loaf of stale Cuban bread. Of course, they never actually intended to go to war with the United States, so they immediately surrendered to that same Naval officer. So, to summarize, here’s what happened: The Conch Republic declared itself a sovereign nation, declared war on the United States, and then immediately surrendered to the U.S. during time of war, based on the logic that surrender made the Conch Republic eligible for U.S. foreign aid. The mayor-turned-momentary-prime minister and his fellow leaders applied for \$1 billion in aid, figuring that was about how much the roadblock had cost the Keys. But alas, they never did see a penny of that foreign aid they’d applied for.

What they did see was an awful lot of national media attention, which pressured the feds to remove their roadblock the very next day. So, in the end, the city of Key West got exactly what it wanted: no more roadblocks. Sure, the method was unconventional, but it got the job done. To this day the official motto of the Conch Republic is “We

seceded where others failed.” We celebrate our independence every April with ten days of festivities, including a reenactment of the war that never took place, which of course we win.

51. On the left is Florida Bay, which connects to the Gulf of Mexico. The islands on the horizon are KEYS, which comes from the Spanish word “Cayo,” meaning a low, flat island. There are more than 800 named islands in the Florida Keys. Only about 30 are inhabited by humans, but all are bird sanctuaries.

52. Those three large blue tanks to the left on the next island are part of our water supply system. For many years people collected rainwater in cisterns. But in 1942, with the expansion of our military base, we didn’t have enough water. So, the government built a WATER PIPELINE from Florida City, 128 miles from here, and it is still our main source of fresh water.

53. The next island up the keys is STOCK ISLAND. It was given that name because it used to be home to our stockyards. Before refrigeration was widely available, a person would place an order with their butcher, and the following morning their order would be hanging on a hook outside the front door of their home. Stock Island is now home to our hospital, botanical gardens, a beautiful 18-hole golf course, and a community college, with its Tennessee Williams Fine Arts Center attached.

We’re now approaching STOP 7. This is good for all these fine hotels on this end of the island: the 24 North, the Gates Hotel, Hilton Garden Inn, and Beachside Resort and Residences. If you’re planning to hop off here, please remain seated until the trolley comes to a complete stop. Take your time, watch your step, and use the handrails. Trolleys will be through here at least every 15 minutes, so come back here and continue your tour whenever you are ready. Enjoy Key West!

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54. If you drove to Key West from the mainland, you undoubtedly noticed crossing quite a few bridges. There are 42 BRIDGES between here and mainland Florida. The longest of those bridges is seven miles long. We creatively call that the Seven Mile bridge. To your left is U.S. Highway 1, the only road into and out of the Florida Keys. It’s about 120 miles to the mainland from here; on a good day that’ll take a little more than three hours.

55. On the left you'll see just one original building from the NAVY HOSPITAL. The hospital facilities were constructed in 1942, necessary because of the 15,000 military personnel who were moving here during WWII. In 1974, as the naval base was downsized, the hospital was reclassified as a clinic, now the Southernmost V.A. clinic in the Keys.

56. When we get to the top of this next bridge, if you look to your left, you can see Stock Island. If you look to your right, you can see the RIVIERA CANAL. It's the only canal that runs all the way through Key West. The homes along the Riviera Canal are called the Gold Coast, because it's said that it takes a lot of gold to live there.

57. Another form of gold, to locals, is our shrimp. Key West PINK SHRIMP are sometimes called pink gold because of their value. Pink shrimps are very light-sensitive and bury themselves in the sand at the bottom of the sea during the day, only coming out at night to feed. This wasn't discovered until 1949, and quite by accident. Some shrimpers left their nets down one night, and when they hauled them in, the nets were loaded with shrimp. Look off to your left now, and you can see the tall masts of our shrimping fleet.

58. These plants on your left growing in the water are red MANGROVES. These trees are protected by law because the roots trap soil and debris that can slowly form new land. There are some smaller muddy keys that were formed by this process and provide some protection to the larger, rockier keys. The roots serve as a nursery for tiny fish, crustaceans, and shellfish. • There are five varieties of mangrove: red, black, white, palm, and apple.

We're now approaching Stop 8, which is the Hampton Inn. If you're planning to hop off here, please remain seated until the trolley comes to a complete stop. Take your time, watch your step, and use the handrails. Trolleys will be through here at least every 15 minutes, so come back here and continue your tour whenever you are ready. Enjoy Key West!

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59. Across the street, that body of water is what most people think is the Atlantic Ocean. Actually, it's the STRAITS OF FLORIDA, and it connects the Atlantic Ocean -

which is now behind us - with the Gulf of Mexico, which is now straight ahead of us. The Straits of Florida continue for about 90 miles to the south, all the way down to the island nation of Cuba. Remember, it's because of this little maritime superhighway of trade and treachery that Key West became so prosperous in the mid-1800s. So much money and goods sailed past here, stopped here, or even sank as ships ran aground trying to get around this southernmost point.

60. Do you notice anything missing in this little stretch of ocean? There are no big waves out there. There's no surf here. That's because the only living CORAL REEF in North America, which is also the third-longest barrier reef in the world, resides about five miles offshore, just beyond the horizon. It knocks down the big waves out there, keeping the seas in the Keys relatively calm most of the time. • The Florida Reef runs from Key Biscayne, just east of Miami, all the way to the Dry Tortugas, 70 miles west of here - 170 miles total.

61. Coming into view is the first of three Civil War forts on the island. This one is called the EAST MARTELLO fort. Since the military was established here in 1823, Key West remained Union territory throughout the Civil War. So, if you wanted to fight for the South, you'd have had to travel north to do it.

#### **Soundbite 5: BATTLE HYMN OF REPUBLIC**

This is STOP 9, the East Martello, now a museum and art gallery, and the home of Robert the Doll. If you'd like to learn more about him, our Ghosts and Gravestones tour talks at great length about Robert. If you're planning to hop off here, please remain seated until the trolley comes to a complete stop. Take your time, watch your step, and use the handrails. Trolleys will be through here at least every 15 minutes, so come back here and continue your tour whenever you are ready. Enjoy Key West!

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Has anyone noticed chickens running around the island? They're everywhere, right? I'm going to tell you a little story about those chickens. They arrived here with the Cubans. When Cuban people started coming to Key West to escape revolution in their home country, they brought chickens with them, not only as a source of food but also a little piece of their culture. That culture included cock fighting. Eventually cock fighting became illegal and all those chickens were released into the wild. Before that, all the Florida Keys were named bird sanctuaries, so we can't touch the chickens. Chasing a

chicken down the street is a ticket-able offense: you can be fined \$500 for harassing a chicken.

62. On the right is KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. Pilots say the name is only about eight feet shorter than the runway! Because the runway is less than a mile long, the biggest planes that can fly in and out here are 737s and others of similar size. The first international flight in U.S. history was from Key West to Havana, Cuba, back in 1913. Pan American Airlines began commercial service here on October 28, 1927. This was originally known as Meacham field and military blimps were stationed here during WWII.

63. We've talked about how the shipwrecking industry helped build prosperity here in Key West. To your right is another pillar of industry: SALT PONDS. Salt farming began here in 1830. These low, flat ponds were flooded using a series of dikes, allowing the water to evaporate and leave the salt. Fish packing plants in the Carolinas and Virginia were the major purchasers. The hurricane of 1876 ended all future attempts at salt farming. The remaining salt ponds make up about 25% of the total area of Key West. Now it's a wonderful nature preserve and bird sanctuary. • In 1855, the salt ponds had a record yield of 75,000 bushels of salt. That would be about equal to 600,000 gallons (about the volume of an Olympic-size swimming pool), or approximately 40 million of Jimmy Buffett's lost shakers of salt. • Also, to the right, notice the rows of coconut palms. The original trees were planted by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in 1935 to create another tourist attraction, a bridle path for horseback riding.

64. Ahead on your left is SMATHERS BEACH. It is named for Senator George Smathers, who was responsible for the procurement of money used to build up this beach. During the Cold War period, this beach was heavily fortified to protect against a potential attack from the south. We replenish this beach and all our beaches periodically with sand from the Bahamas or the panhandle of Florida.

65. As we've talked about, that coral reef I mentioned earlier also gave birth to a vital industry in Key West. That industry was called SHIPWRECKING. Back in the 1800s this was a very busy shipping lane. About a hundred ships a week would pass by Key West, and sometimes one of those ships would run aground on that coral reef. Keep in mind, these were wooden ships, and a wooden ship doesn't do well against a coral reef. People stood watch atop tall towers all along this south shore of Key West, watching for any such occurrence. When they saw a ship run aground on the coral reef, they'd yell down from their watch towers, "Wreck ashore!"

## Soundbite 6: WRECK ASHORE!

When people on the ground heard the call, they'd repeat it and before you knew it the entire city of Key West was aware that a ship had run into the reef. They'd jump into their little boats and race to the shipwreck. Their first priority was to rescue survivors, but a close second to that was salvaging as much of the cargo as they could. That cargo could have been just about anything: gold, silver, jewels - even something as simple as lumber. They'd bring all the cargo back to the island and, once a week, hold an auction. The proceeds from those auctions would be divided among the citizens of Key West. The opportunistic industry of wrecking contributed to Key West becoming the richest city per capita in the United States, and it went on for 50 or 60 years. Eventually the reef became marked on maps, and ships stopped running into it. The last wrecking auction here happened in 1921.

(TURN RIGHT ONTO BERTHA)

66. But another lucrative industry came about here because of one man making the best of his own bad situation. There was an Englishman named William Wall who was shipwrecked on the coral reef, stranding him on Key West. Wall decided to start importing Cuban tobacco, and with that tobacco he brought people who knew how to make CIGARS. This became a very popular industry - at one time there were 166 cigar manufacturing facilities on this little island, producing 100 million hand-rolled Cuban cigars every year. That's about 375,000 cigars every working day, making Key West the world's leading manufacturer of cigars at the time. The Great Fire of 1886 destroyed many of the factories, and labor problems drove the industry to Tampa, leaving our last Cuban cigar factory to close in 1931.

(TURN LEFT ONTO ATLANTIC)

67. And, there was yet one other major industry in Key West at that time. It was SPONGING. Natural sea sponges once almost completely covered the sea floor around the Florida Keys. People in small boats with long poles would pluck the sponges from the sea floor, bring them to Key West, clean them, and ship them off to destinations worldwide. The sponging industry once employed more than a thousand people here, until a red tide rolled in. Red tide is a micro-organism of sorts that turns the water a bright red color. That red tide blocked sunlight from reaching the sponges, killing them and the sponging industry in Key West.



68. Coming up on your left is the as-of-yet-unfinished road to Cuba. No, it's the WHITE STREET PIER, a very popular place for fishing. There are more than 600 varieties of game fish in the surrounding waters. Though not as famous as our sunsets, this is a great place to watch a fabulous Key West sunrise. • At the foot of the White Street Pier is the Key West AIDS MEMORIAL. It was dedicated in 1997 to honor the more-than-1000 local victims of the disease. The memorial was built with private funds and donated to the city, making it the only official municipal AIDS memorial in the world. It's made of Zimbabwe granite.

69. Just beyond the pier is the AFRICAN CEMETERY. In 1860, off the coast of Key West, the U.S. Navy intercepted three ships holding more than 1,400 African men, women, and children. The ships were involved in illegal slave trade. Brought to Key West, those refugees were given food, clothing, and medical attention. Unfortunately, because of the horrific conditions they'd endured on the ship, almost 300 died and were buried here. Most of the survivors returned to Africa, though some chose to stay here, and many of their descendants still live here today.

70. The red brick structure to the left is the second of three forts on the island. This one is called the WEST MARTELLO. During the Civil War, Key West was the only port in the South that remained under Northern control. The Union started building the West Martello fort in 1861, but the fort became obsolete before it was finished because of the development of rifled cannons. The West Martello is now home to the Key West Garden Club, which has turned it into one of the most beautiful places on the island offering free tours daily.

71. On the left is HIGGS MEMORIAL BEACH. In the 1800s a wide sandy beach existed on this whole side of the island. Because of storm damage and manmade structures, the shape of the island and the tidal flow changed, causing much of the sand to erode. This long continuous beach has now been broken into several smaller beaches along this side of the island.

72. Ahead, this large tan building with a red roof is the CASA MARINA – or House by the Sea Hotel. It is built of poured concrete 22 inches thick at the base, narrowing to 12 inches at the top. Construction of this grand establishment began in 1918, and it opened on New Year's Eve, 1920. At the time, room rates were considered quite pricey, at eight to 12 dollars per night, which included all meals. A 750,000-gallon cistern was installed under the building to collect rainwater from the roof and provide running water to guests. Although we now have a reliable source of fresh water on Key West, the cistern is still used for irrigation of the lush landscape here.

(TURN RIGHT ONTO REYNOLDS)

73. This hotel was the vision of a man named HENRY FLAGLER. Flagler was a business partner of a man named John D. Rockefeller, together starting a company called Standard Oil, which is now mostly known as Exxon-Mobil. Flagler used the fortune he'd made from Standard Oil and built a railroad. It was called the Florida East Coast Railroad, and it ran from Jacksonville all the way down to Miami. Flagler was a pioneer in the development of Florida, and everywhere his railroad went, he insisted on the availability of first-class accommodations. If he couldn't find anything suitable wherever he was, he simply built it. There are still several luxury hotels all along Flagler's railroad route.

We're now approaching STOP 10. This is good for the Casa Marina Hotel, as well as the beaches and the West Martello Garden. If you're planning to hop off here, please remain seated until the trolley comes to a complete stop. Take your time, watch your step, and use the handrails. Trolleys will be through here at least every 15 minutes, so come back here and continue your tour whenever you are ready. Enjoy Key West!

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#### **74. Soundbite 7: STEAM TRAIN**

Henry Flagler got wind that a shortcut called the Panama Canal was in the works, that would cut more than 9000 miles of ship travel around South America connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. That gave him the idea to extend his railroad from Miami all the way down to Key West. That would make his railroad the nearest port of entry into the United States for all cargo coming eastward through the Panama Canal. Brilliant, right? People called him crazy. They told him he couldn't build a railroad across the Atlantic Ocean. They called it "Flagler's Folly." But on January 22, 1912, Henry Flagler arrived here in Key West, aboard his very own OVERSEAS RAILROAD. He proved all those naysayers wrong, and it only cost him about \$50 million - equaling about 1.2 billion dollars in today's money. That's about the equivalent of one person paying for the entire Alaska Pipeline.

(TURN LEFT ONTO UNITED)

75. By the 1920s all the major industries in Key West had been destroyed. As we know, Key West had been one of the richest cities in the country through the mid-1800s. But the cigar industry shifted to Tampa after the Great Fire of 1886, the last cigar factory leaving in 1931, hurricanes pummeled Key West in 1909 and 1910, and improved maritime technologies and techniques brought an end to shipwrecking. Soon would come the Great Depression. The population had dwindled from 25,000 to 10,000, and of those remaining residents, 80% were on welfare! Key West was truly a riches-to-rags story by the 1930s. So, how did it bridge the gap eventually back to prosperity? Well, you folks are part of the answer. Not being the kind to throw in the towel, they called up the Roosevelt Administration and explained that the population was broke and needed help. FDR's administration responded: 'Well, you've got some pretty nice weather down there, and you have that railroad, let's try something there that's been successful in other places. We call it tourism. The Roosevelt Administration came down and built a couple hotels. It also created the Key West Aquarium opening in February 1935. The first season of tourism, in 1934, brought 40,000 visitors, but it hit a major speedbump almost instantly: the Great Labor Day Hurricane of 1935 destroyed the Overseas Railroad, bringing a very sudden end to what looked to be a booming new industry. In 1938, the Overseas Highway was laid mainly on Flagler's railbed and completed. Tourism didn't become the dominant Key West industry until the 1980s, and the industry is still doing well. Now we attract more than a million visitors a year.

76. Our first TROLLEY SYSTEM began operating in 1885, created by Eduardo Gato, one of the city's largest cigar manufacturers, to transport his employees from their homes to his factories. He started with a single car pulled by mule, which lasted only as far as the mule was willing to go. In 1896, Gato's transport system was converted to electric streetcars, operating until 1926. Streetcar tracks ran up and down multiple streets, including Simonton, Duval, White, and Truman.

(TURN LEFT ONTO DUVAL)

We're now approaching STOP 11. This is your best stop for the Southernmost Point, the Southernmost House, and the Key West Butterfly and Nature Conservatory. Inside you can walk among hundreds of free flying butterflies. There are also about 20 species of exotic birds, including a mated pair of pink flamingoes named Rhett and Scarlett. • Every Friday is Flamingo Friday, when the facility allows the flamingoes out of their usual habitat to wander among the visitors.

If you're planning to hop off here, please remain seated until the trolley comes to a complete stop. Take your time, watch your step, and use the handrails. Trolleys will be

through here at least every 15 minutes, so come back here and continue your tour whenever you are ready. Enjoy Key West!

### **(CALL IN NUMBERS)**

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77. On the far-right corner is a large Queen Anne style brick home called the SOUTHERNMOST HOUSE. (TURN RIGHT ONTO SOUTH) It was built in 1896 by federal judge J. Vining Harris and his wife Florida Curry Harris, the youngest daughter of William Curry, Florida's first millionaire. The Harrises loved to entertain; in fact, their entire top floor was one giant ballroom. They did not, however, like overnight guests. This gigantic house was built with just one bedroom. Of course, they also built these three guesthouses across the street, all complete with servant quarters out back. Construction costs were \$250,000 (more than \$7M in today's money) • It was the first house on the island with electricity, designed by Thomas Edison. • The Harrises hosted such celebrities as Henry Flagler, Ernest Hemingway, Tennessee Williams, Truman Capote, Gloria Swanson, Louis Armstrong, and Charles Lindbergh. Five American presidents have also stayed there: Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Nixon and Carter.

78. There was an author named THELMA STRABEL, who wrote a novel titled Reap the Wild Wind. It was about the shipwrecking industry in Key West and was made into a movie starring John Wayne. Upon her great success Strabel wanted to purchase the Southernmost House, but her offer was refused. So, she bought the lot next door and had her house built 18 inches farther south than the Southernmost House. You can see by the plaque on the stone fence, it was called the "Southernmost Southernmost House."

79. *If you keep looking to your left, you'll see the southernmost tourists, who are standing in the southernmost line, waiting to take their southernmost selfies, in front of the southernmost concrete buoy. We're now at the SOUTHERNMOST POINT, which means you all are aboard the southernmost trolley in the continental United States. From here it's about 90 miles to Cuba, and about 130 miles to the nearest Wal-Mart. We are 85 miles farther south than Brownsville, Texas, and 200 miles farther south than Cairo, Egypt. Right now, Cleveland, Ohio is farther east than we are!*

**(TURN RIGHT ONTO WHITEHEAD)**

*Off to your left, behind that tall black fence, is part of our still-active Navy base, this is the Naval Air Station Truman Annex. The actual Navy airfield sits 7 miles to our north on Boca Chica. There are some very tall towers over there monitoring ship traffic, as well as other goings-on all over the Caribbean region.*

(TURN RIGHT ONTO UNITED)

80. This area to your right is called GATO VILLAGE. It's named for prominent cigar manufacturer Eduardo Gato. Mr. Gato took very good care of his employees. He knew that a good cigar roller could roll 150 cigars a day, and he of course wanted to keep all the best cigar rollers working for him. So, to entice them to stay, he would build them houses. Any of the houses you see around you right now could very well have been occupied by a cigar roller who worked for Eduardo Gato. • Every major cigar roller had their own little villages all over the island; within each you could find schools, churches, groceries, bakeries, and coffee shops.

(TURN LEFT ONTO DUVAL)

81. We're now back on Duval Street. This is called UPPER DUVAL. You'll notice that not only are the numbers on the buildings higher, but there's a completely different atmosphere at this end of the island. There are more art galleries and fine dining opportunities here, while the louder, more party-themed venues are predominantly at the lower end.

82. Coming up on your right-hand side you can see some blue striped awnings. Look up at the second story. That became known as La Terraza de Marti – "The Terrace of Marti." JOSE MARTI, sometimes referred to as the George Washington of Cuban independence from Spain, gave rallying speeches from up there. Of course, the name of the building is difficult for some to pronounce, so it was shortened to "La Te Da."

83. To your left, the big white building with the unique roof structure and two-story wraparound porches was once the CUBAN CLUB. Cuban immigrants could pay a modest fee for membership, which entitled them to medical care, education, and social events including some of the best dances in Key West history, upstairs. The original building, incorporated in 1917, was active through most of the 20th century, but the advent of widespread medical insurance contributed to its decline and the building was eventually destroyed by fire in 1983. It's been faithfully replicated to what you see now.

We're now approaching STOP 12. This is a good stop for upper Duval Street, or the Basilica of St. Mary Star of the Sea. From here, the Hemingway Home and the Key West Lighthouse are just two blocks away. If you're planning to hop off here, please remain seated until the trolley comes to a complete stop. Take your time, watch your step, and use the handrails. Trolleys will be through here at least every 15 minutes, so come back here and continue your tour whenever you are ready. Enjoy Key West!

For those of you just joining us, please remain seated any time the trolley is in motion, there is no smoking, or drinking alcoholic beverages on the trolley. Keep your arms and legs inside the trolley, and please keep your conversations to a whisper so everyone can hear the tour.

84. I'd like to talk a little about Key West ISLAND CUISINE. Our culinary culture is heavily based in Bahamian origin. Back about the time of the American Revolution, British sympathizers weren't very popular around here. Many of them fled Key West, headed for the nearest Crown colony, which was the Bahamas. British Parliament decided to start taxing Bahamians on their food, and the Bahamians didn't care for that decision, so they said, "We would rather eat conch!" This is a conch shell. It is spelled c-o-n-c-h but is pronounced k-o-n-k like a konk on the noggin. Inside this shell lived a mollusk, a rather snail-like creature. When the Bahamians came back to Key West, they came up with 27 different ways to eat conch. They had conch salad, conch chowder, conch fritters, among many others.

85. If you're born in Key West, you are called a Conch. If you weren't born here but have lived here for seven years (the time it takes for an actual conch to reach maturity), you attain the status of "freshwater conch." It's still common practice for a native Bahamian Key Wester to announce the arrival of a new child by placing a conch shell wrapped in a blue or pink ribbon on a fence post outside their house. People passing by then state, "There's another conch." Key West High School's sports teams are called the Fighting Conchs (if you ever try to remove a conch from its shell, you'll understand why), and the cheerleaders are the Conchettes. Even our streets and sidewalks fit the culture: Know what they're made of? Conch-crete!

We're now approaching STOP 13, which puts you right about in the middle of Duval Street: just as easy to explore upper Duval or lower Duval from Stop 13. A word of warning though: if you choose to get off my trolley now, you'll miss the conch-clusion of my tour. If you're planning to hop off here, please remain seated until the trolley comes to a complete stop. Take your time, watch your step, and use the handrails. Trolleys will be through here at least every 15 minutes, so come back here and continue your tour whenever you are ready. Enjoy Key West!

(TURN LEFT ONTO ANGELA)

For those of you just joining us, please remain seated any time the trolley is in motion, there is no smoking, or drinking alcoholic beverages on the trolley. Keep your arms and legs inside the trolley, and please keep your conversations to a whisper so everyone can hear the tour.

86. There are more than 600 varieties of flowering plants and trees in the Florida Keys. Most of those varieties are not native to this area. The non-native species arrived here as seeds or spores, mixed in - intentionally or not - with cargo being shipped here. • To the right is a gumbo limbo tree. The gumbo limbo always has a red peeling bark – somewhat like a peeling sunburn - so it's referred to as the tourist tree. • Also, to the right across the street is a royal poinciana. It is also called the "flamboyant" or "flame" tree because when it is in bloom it has a fiery color. British often planted them on the shores of their islands, to let passersby know that the islands were of British control, hence the "royal" distinction. • There are many varieties and colors of bougainvillea on the island. The colors you see are just leaves (called bracts) colored brightly to attract pollinators to tiny white flowers in the middle. • Croton - its oil is used to make ex-lax. What a moving story, right? Holy crap. • Night-blooming cereus: a cactus that produces flowers when the nighttime temperature is 80 degrees or warmer. • Hibiscus – hundreds of varieties originating from Asia, including the national flower of Malaysia and the state flower of Hawaii. • Plumeria, a.k.a. frangipani - native to the Caribbean, its flowers are used in Hawaii to make leis. • Pride of Barbados, also referred to as peacock flower or dwarf poinciana, is truly a stunning specimen native to this area.

(TURN RIGHT ONTO WHITEHEAD)

87. Ahead you can see a sign indicating FORT ZACHARY TAYLOR to the left. At the end of Southard Street is one of Key West's best kept secrets. Fort Taylor is a Civil War fort, museum, and state park, and has possibly the best beach on the island.

88. Across the street to your left is an area called JACKSON SQUARE. It's named for former president Andrew Jackson, who was president when Key West was incorporated. Andrew Jackson was also the first military governor of Florida. The first civilian governor of Florida was William Pope Duval, the namesake of our world-famous Duval Street. The Monroe County Courthouse in Jackson Square was built in 1890.



89. The big, beautiful tree here to your left is called a KAPOK TREE. The structures extending from the trunk of the tree are called buttresses. They're part of the root system of the tree and can extend as deep as 150 feet into the ground. The seed pods of the kapok tree are buoyant enough that they once were used to stuff life jackets.

90. Coming up on your right is the official southern end of U.S. Highway 1. This is MILE MARKER ZERO, the most photographed and **STOLEN** street sign in Key West. That seems kind of silly to me, as you can buy one right across the street at The End of The Road Gift Shop. The other end of this road is at a place called Fort Kent, Maine, just this side of the Canadian border, almost 2,400 miles (about twice the distance from Florida to New York City) of asphalt, more than 1,700 miles away as the crow flies. That makes U.S. Highway 1 the longest north-south highway in the country.

91. To your left is the KEY WEST POST OFFICE. You may notice that the structure looks familiar. It was built to resemble the Civil War forts that you've seen on the island. It was designed by a local architect named Sonny McCoy, who was also a five-term mayor of Key West. Mr. McCoy is also listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for waterskiing from Key West to Cuba ... on one ski! It took him six hours and ten minutes.

92. I'm going to show you a very interesting tree. It's called a BANYAN TREE. They grow up like any other tree for a while, but then they can drop roots from their branches. When these so-called "prop" roots come down and reach the ground, they can take hold, allowing the tree to grow new trunks. That allows the tree to grow branches outward infinitely. There's a banyan tree coming up on your right side. It starts here, jumps over the driveway, continues in the next yard, then jumps over the sidewalk and continues here. Following the drive at the end on the right side, that's all the same tree. • This is the second-largest banyan tree in Florida; the largest is on the Thomas Edison property in Fort Myers. • The nation's largest is in Hawaii. • The world's largest is in Anantapur, India: called "Thimmamma Marrimanu." It covers five acres!

93. On your right, the white building with green trim is the AUDUBON HOUSE. It's an art gallery dedicated to the work of John James Audubon, who created the book Birds of America. There are several original Audubon creations in that gallery. The house was built in 1830 for Key West's first harbor pilot, Captain John Geiger. • This house was almost torn down and turned into a gas station in the 1950s. Instead, it was saved and restored, beginning the still strong preservation movement in Key West.

94. As we near the end of our tour, we can see one more Golden Thread emblem of the shipwrecking industry that spawned Key West's early prosperity. I'm referring to the very tall wooden tower ahead of us. That's a replica of the sort of tower you'd have seen all along the south shore of Key West throughout the 1800s. Beneath that tower is the SHIPWRECK TREASURES MUSEUM, a fascinating exhibit featuring live actors, movies, and treasure displays rescued mostly from the wreck of the Isaac Allerton in 1856. You can climb to the top of that tower and get a 360-degree view of the island. I have coupons that will save you a dollar off your admission to the museum.

(TURN RIGHT ONTO FRONT)

We are always looking for ways to improve our tour and your experience, and you all are the best source of that information. When you get a minute, you can fill out the questionnaire on the back side of our comment cards that I have available for you to fill out and drop it in any mailbox - the postage is already paid. Also, you could go to TripAdvisor or Yelp, or directly to our website at [trolleytours.com](http://trolleytours.com), and let us know how we're doing.

(TURN LEFT ONTO TIFT)

95. We're now approaching Mallory Square, which will be the end of my tour, but of course you're welcome to hop on to the next trolley here and continue - or repeat - your Old Town Trolley tour of Key West. If you're looking for the best place on the island to take in the sunset, straight ahead is the MALLORY DOCK, where every evening we have a sunset celebration. It's a very festive environment, including live music and street performers.

96. To your right is the Key West Historic Memorial SCULPTURE GARDEN, where you can find bronze busts and stories of some of the most influential people in Key West history.

(TURN LEFT ONTO WALL)

97. Look down this street to your right - that big red brick building is El Meson de Pepe, where you can get authentic Cuban food and what many say is the best mojito on the island. Inside the building is the Cayo Hueso y Habana Historeum, a walking tour immersing you in the fascinating cultural relationship between Key West and Cuba. There's also a gift shop offering authentic Cuban art, décor, and spices.

98. The SHELL WAREHOUSE offers some of the most beautiful sea treasures you can imagine. The building was once an icehouse owned by wrecker and merchant Asa Tift, a name you'll recognize in the Shipwreck Museum, and the original owner of the Hemingway Home.

99. Here to your right is the SPONGE MARKET, in an area where the sale of sea sponges took place many generations ago. It's filled with natural sea sponges and other souvenirs to remind you of your time here.

100. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for riding with me. It's been my pleasure to show you around our tiny little piece of paradise. And, whatever brought you here, we hope you take home with you a greater understanding and deeper appreciation for our Golden Thread: how our southernmost geographic location and deepwater harbor brought so much wealth by this little island, and how that opportunity drew so many people to stay and build their lives here, in many instances rebuilding again and again. If you'd do me a big favor and allow me to be the first one off the trolley, I would greatly appreciate it. I'll be able to help anyone who needs it and I'll be available at the bottom of the stairs to answer any questions. Again, thanks for joining me on the Old Town Trolley, and I hope you enjoy the rest of your time in Key West.

Soundbite 8: BUFFETT

Soundbite 10: TROLLEY SONG

Soundbite 11: CHRIS, END OF TOUR

## Composite Exhibit D

# **Ghost and Gravestones Script**

Ghosts & Gravestones®

# KEY WEST

*Tour Script*



# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

### Staging, Boarding, Safety Message & Prelude [15 mins]

[GHOST HOST: Either greet guests as they arrive in trolley staging area at Station at the corner of Duval and Front, stay out of sight, or remain silent on the trolley. Most importantly: stay in character the entire time, always focusing on what they are about to experience until the all-aboard is called.]

Good evening! My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I will be your ghost host tonight. Together we are the doomed. There is only one person on board who is not doomed; \_\_\_\_\_ of course, our conductor! He/She will be navigating the streets safely through the night – on your Journey into the Isle of Bones.

It is with good reason that we call it that: *The Isle of Bones*. More than 500 years ago, when Spanish explorers first got here, what did they find, but the remains of Calusa Native Americans. Bleach-white bones were scattered along Higgs Beach (which we'll be visiting shortly), so they named the island "Cayo Hueso" or "Isle of Bones". It is an ancient belief that spirits cannot cross over water; in Greek mythology it's the River Styx that separates the living from the dead, and in case you haven't noticed, we're surrounded by water. Early settlers to the island brought with them their spiritual beliefs and passed them down from generation to generation. You could say that we're a superstitious lot on this island to this day. Some still indulge these superstitions to invoke higher powers or make "unnatural" things happen. It is woven into our history, it is in our nature, and it is part of our culture – "Conch Culture."

Has any of you noticed that many of the porch ceilings of our historic homes are painted blue? It's not just any blue - it's a particular shade of blue.

[*With an air of mystery:*] A powerful blue ... a blue that's said to keep evil spirits away. "Haint" blue is what it's called in Gullah, a creole language originating in South Carolina. Haint blue

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

can be found on porch ceilings all up the Atlantic Coast. A “haint” (or “haunt”) is a spirit of the dead with bad intentions. But, why blue? Well, blue represents water. Can anyone here put it together?

*[Look for someone willing to answer. If no one gets it tell them:]*

Remember the belief that haints (or haunts) cannot cross over water. Therefore, spirits of the dead with bad intentions can't cross the threshold of a house with a porch ceiling painted haint blue.

What dies in Key West stays in Key West, and the dead residents outnumber the living more than four-to-one. With more than five centuries of murders, betrayal, hurricanes, and diseases, this island is congested with spirits. Before the days of antibiotics, fatal illnesses were fairly common here. Tuberculosis and yellow fever were the two most feared. Tuberculosis brought a long and painful death and was known as “consumption,” as it seemed to consume those who were infected, while yellow fever was a much quicker killer. The fever brought chills, colic, and bloody vomit, then bleeding from every orifice of the body - even the pores of your skin. You'd be dead within a week. In the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, death was everywhere. On hot summer nights horse-drawn hearses could be heard rumbling down these streets, gathering up the rapidly decaying bodies.

On our journey we'll pass by many sites where paranormal activity has occurred and where supernatural presences have been seen ... or felt. We'll even be entering two historic locations known to be haunted. They're both closed for the night but we are permitted inside. Keep vigilant. Over the years, guests just like yourselves have witnessed strange and unexplainable events. While we can't guarantee that you'll see a ghost or have a paranormal experience, I can offer you a few suggestions to help you get ready for tonight's journey.



# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

Be aware of all your senses: goose bumps, a fleeting motion out of the corner of your eye, heaviness in your chest, or unexpected sadness are good indicators that something foul is afoot, so trust your gut. Perhaps you'll even notice a scent that's out of place, such as the faint smell of cologne or tobacco. Keep your ears open for unexplained footsteps, knocking, or the sound of children's laughter while inside these locations. Especially, be aware of a sudden chill. Sudden temperature fluctuations are good indicators of energy being sucked from the atmosphere as a presence attempts to manifest or present itself.

And of course, have your cameras ready. Orbs, energy-lights, apparitions, and photographic and electrical anomalies can all be common on our tour. If you feel a presence, take not one but at least two photos. If something is there, your photo may pick up a blue smoke-like haze, strange dancing lights, balls of light in the shape of an orb, or a dark smudge. Or, maybe your picture won't turn out at all.

Tonight, these stories of the unexplained will be told, as we take you into the dark Key West night, **you'll understand why it is one of the most haunted cities in America.**

Along our way we may cross paths with people less refined than you. They may be dealing with their own ... *liquid* spirits. As such, they'll probably shout at you, "YOU ARE DOOMED!" Well, we already know that, so we shall respond to their pitiful cry, "YES WE ARE THE DOOMED!" On a count of three let's practice that response in unison, with a singular voice echoing throughout old town, "YES WE ARE THE DOOMED!" Can we practice once, to get it right?

[*Driver, LOD, or Valet*]: "YOU'RE DOOMED!"

1, 2, 3, "YES WE ARE THE DOOMED."

That was very nicely done. I do believe we're ready for our journey.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

We'll listen to a brief safety message before we hit the road, but first, a little bit more about myself: (Host's Story)

### **Many Still Haunt Pt. 1 [1:30] (Story #1)**

There are many types of hauntings present on this island, but there are four particular kinds that are especially common. As we traverse the corridors of Bone Island it's important for us to understand what these four types of hauntings are.

First, we have **intelligent hauntings**. These spirits can interact with living beings. The spirit will attach itself to an object or location. It's possible that the spirit is someone who died suddenly, as a result of a traumatic event, or had unfinished business to tend to.

The second and most common type of haunting is **residual hauntings**. These occur when energy is blasted into the atmosphere, imprinting the events of a specific time on a specific place. Like a recording, these events play out again and again in a loop. It's common to hear unexplained sounds such as footsteps, music, or children's laughter in an empty room when there's no one there.

Often featured in pop culture, our third type of haunting is actually the rarest in real life.

**Poltergeist activity:** the word is German, meaning "noisy spirit." Said to be the most terrifying type of haunting, there are reports of knocking and tapping noises, sounds with no visible cause, disturbances of stationary objects such as household items and furniture, doors slamming, lights turning on and off, fires breaking out, and much more.

Our last type of haunting is known as **shadow people**. These shadowy figures are dark masses usually seen with your peripheral vision. They may appear as a silhouette of a person but they

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

have no discernable face. Those who have encountered shadow people describe a feeling of dread or doom.

### **Artist house (story #1)**

One of the most famous residents of Key West is Robert the Doll. Standing 40 inches tall, he is stuffed with a wood wool known as excelsior and is dressed in a sailor's suit. Robert's unusual size suggests he was fashioned in the image of his constant companion – a boy named Robert Eugene Otto.

Gene and Robert were best friends growing up. It's believed that voodoo played a part in Robert's early life: a curse placed upon the doll by his Bahamian nanny when she was dismissed from her job, a parting gift for her young charge. Sweet, unless you know what the nanny had in mind. A doll ... just for Gene. Gene was immediately attached to the doll – an attachment that lasted a lifetime. The doll took Robert as his name while the boy simply went by his middle name, Gene. The two were inseparable.

As Gene grew older, odd things happened in the house: clothing was torn; when Gene was questioned, he would say, "Robert did it." Toys broken - "Robert did it." Servants locked out of the house - "Robert did it." Whatever went wrong, Gene's answer was always the same: "ROBERT DID IT."

The connection between child and doll was so disturbing, Robert was eventually banished to the attic turret room of the artist house, just up ahead.

Gene grew up and traveled the world as an artist. In Paris he met and married a pianist named Anne. He brought her to Key West to live in his family home. Little did Anne know who'd been patiently waiting for Gene's return.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

Once back in his childhood home, Gene's demeanor changed. He insisted that the odd doll be retrieved from the attic and join them in the house.

Robert did not take to Anne at all, and the feeling was mutual. Gene painted his artwork in seclusion, with Robert always by his side. In time, rumors began to spread around town that Gene had become abusive toward his lovely wife. During a wellness check, police arrived to find Anne locked in a closet. They questioned Gene, but what do you think he told them? - That's right: "Robert did it!"

Gene died in 1974. He's buried in the Key West city cemetery. Anne left Robert in the attic, sold the house, and left the island for good.

For years Robert was left in the attic turret tower of the Artist House. Children and adults alike feared the doll. He seemed to peer down upon all who walked by with his beady little eyes. Some would cross the street or avoid the block altogether.

Today Robert resides at the East Martello Fort, where you can visit him during the daytime. Across the street to your left is the Artist House. Turn your attention to the attic tower of the lovely 1890s Victorian home with lavender shutters. For years Robert the Doll lived in that turret room.

### St Paul's Church (*Story #2*)

Coming up on your left, our **first burial ground** on tonight's *Ghosts and Gravestones* tour: the memorial garden of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. There may not be as many graves here as in the Key West Cemetery, but it seems there are just as many tormented souls. Many people report residual hauntings of children playing around the statue of an angel in the near corner; others have heard their laughter.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

A single body is buried beneath the church itself: John W.C. Fleming. Once a very wealthy landowner, Fleming's widow gave the land to the church under one condition: Mr. Fleming is to remain buried there forever. This is actually the fourth church built on the same plot; two were lost to hurricanes, the other burned down ... but Fleming is still buried under there somewhere.

### **The Double Life of Francisco Marrero (*Story #3*)**

In the late 1880s, cigar makers fleeing revolutionary unrest in Cuba came to Key West in droves, bringing their profitable businesses with them.

One of the wealthiest was Francisco Marrero. In 1889 Marrero built a beautiful mansion to entice his young love, Enriqueta, to be his bride. It worked and she married him. Over time the couple would have eight children. As much as ever, the link between Cuba and Key West at the time was strong. Francisco Marrero's cigar business regularly took him to Cuba. But on one such trip, he died under rather suspicious circumstances.

Enriqueta was distraught. As if dealing with her grief and eight fatherless children wasn't enough, one evening there was a knock at her door and Enriqueta opened it to find another woman.

*[In a slow, measured voice:]* Another woman dressed in black.

That woman presented herself as Maria, Francisco's other wife – from Cuba – whom he had never divorced. Maria came to Key West to get what she believed to be rightfully hers. She claimed Francisco's estate in court and won; the entire Marrero fortune was hers.

As Enriqueta and her children were forced out of their home with only what they could carry, a crowd began to form. She stopped at the top of the stairs and made a vow for all to hear. "You

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

may take away my home, but my spirit will never leave!" Remarkably, in the next six months they all died of starvation and dysentery.

And it seems Enriqueta kept her promise. The Marrero Mansion is on your right. Now a lovely guest house, former owners kept a journal of guest encounters with various residual hauntings.

Crying babies are heard from what was once the Marrero children's nursery, now rooms 17 and 23. The apparition of a woman is often seen passing through the door connecting the rooms, Enriqueta, checking on her children. Guests in room 18 have seen the reflection in a mirror of a woman brushing her long dark hair, Enriqueta still waiting for Francisco to return.

### **La Concha Hotel (*Story #4*)**

The building to your left has long been a known hotspot for residual and intelligent hauntings, as well as poltergeist activity. Built in 1926, the La Concha Hotel was the site of some pretty salacious activity in its day. Over the years, 13 people have leapt to their deaths from the rooftop observation deck, including a lawyer accused of embezzlement, whose restless spirit can still be heard pacing back and forth.

Even better known is an event that took place here on New Year's Eve in 1982. During hotel renovations a young man named Brent Hoekstra was cleaning up after a party on the fifth floor. With a loaded cart full of dirty dishes, he pushed the elevator button. When the door opened he pulled his cart, stepping backward, but there was no elevator there. Instead he fell five stories to his demise, down the empty elevator shaft. Guests at the hotel have reported seeing the ghost of a man who makes the same journey to the elevator before falling to the ground and disappearing. Screaming can be heard at night coming from the depths of the elevator shaft.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

### **The Oldest House [1:00] (*Story #5*)**

Two young victims of the dreaded yellow fever lived (and died) in what is now known as the Oldest House in South Florida. It has been here since 1832 and was once the home of Captain Francis Watlington, his wife Emeline, and their nine daughters. Today it's a lovely museum but the residual hauntings of the Watlingtons can still be heard inside.

The captain was a busy man, a prosperous wrecker, and a politician. During one of his many business trips away from home, yellow fever struck. Emeline was still mourning the loss of one of her little girls when a second began to rapidly deteriorate. She knew death was inevitable, so she at least tried to comfort her daughter. Emeline held her daughter in a rocking chair upstairs as the little girl drew her final breath.

Emeline still grieves those two daughters. Inside the house, caretakers have heard the sound of a rocking chair, rocking – Slowly ... rhythmically. [*Pause:*] The sound comes from the children's room. Downstairs, behind the front left window ... Emeline rocks.

### **Dr. Porter [1:45] (*Story #6*)**

It took hundreds of years for mankind to discover how yellow fever spread. The culprit? Mosquitos from afar! One of the many doctors and scientists who dedicated their lives to solving this medical mystery was Dr. Joseph Yates Porter, the state of Florida's first health officer. Porter performed quarantine experiments in his home that helped lay down the groundwork for eventual breakthroughs.

The grand 1830s Porter House is on the corner to your left. Dr. Porter was born in a room upstairs in 1847. Eighty years later he died in that very same room.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

Today the Porter House is a bar, and residual and intelligent hauntings have been reported throughout the mansion. Workers on the first floor have reported wine glasses being thrown from the rack and music coming from unoccupied rooms above. Multiple séances have been held inside, trying to communicate with the souls who haunt this property.

Many patients died in that house as Dr. Porter was searching for a cure - upwards of 50 during particularly bad years. Even Porter's young mother died of the fever shortly after he was born. People living and working there have experienced a strong presence in his room. An unexplained cold breeze can be felt - a tormented Dr. Porter.

### **Many Still Haunt Part 2 (*Story #7*)**

There are three types of hauntings present in the Porter House, but we're on our way to a location that has all four! Tonight, you'll have the opportunity to go inside and possibly experience them for yourselves.

The Ship Wreckers warehouse holds countless artifacts of precious cargo salvaged from ships that have wrecked upon our reef in the last 500 years. Lives were lost as many of these ships were destroyed, victims of the raging sea. Try to imagine those poor souls in their final moments, clinging to anything they could. It's no surprise that many such physical objects seem to be spiritually possessed. Inside, you'll even get the opportunity to touch cursed Spanish treasure, if you dare.

In the last 10 years paranormal activity has increased dramatically in this building. I must advise you that many guests here have had strange encounters. An unseen presence has been felt. One particular shadow figure has been seen repeatedly, so often in fact, that we've given it a name, which we'll be telling you shortly. You may experience chills, goose-bumps, or perhaps feel an unexplained heaviness in the room. Keep an open ear for footsteps from the tower



# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

above. I can assure you that we will be alone inside. I'll explain more shortly, but if you're uncomfortable, you are welcome to stay with our driver aboard the trolley. Personally, I feel there is safety in numbers.

You can see the lookout tower looming above the square. It stands 65 feet above the ground and is a replica of a tower one would find on this island in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Lookouts would stand up there and keep an eye out for ships crashing on the reef. When spotted, a cry of "Wreck ashore!" could be heard echoing throughout the streets. Wreckers would go out in small boats known as "sloops," much like *The Mary* to your left. The first to the wreck would be known as the "master wrecker" and would gather all the loot they could salvage, occasionally rescuing surviving souls at sea.

The treasures found would be auctioned, making wrecking a very profitable business venture on the island for many years. We'll explore some of these treasures inside, so follow me and behold! The lookout tower above!

### **Ship Wrecker's Warehouse (Story #8)**

You're standing inside a Key West rarity: a basement cellar. As you all know, we're very close to sea level here, and many floods have ravaged this island. Many of our buildings have large porches or are even built on stilts to avoid the flood water. The only reason to have an underground cement structure in the early days on this island would be to keep items cold. Items such as human remains. Yes, a cellar in the 19<sup>th</sup> century would be used as an icehouse, storage room, and sometimes even a morgue. Still, this island is subtropical! On hot summer days those ice blocks could melt, and you can imagine the smell as an icehouse turns into an oven.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

Today of course, this cellar is part of a replica shipwreck warehouse. Countless artifacts from the shipwrecking era are within these walls, but just imagine for a moment you're in the hull of a large ship. A storm can be heard outside, the waves tossing the ship around with reckless abandon. You then crash upon a reef. Like most seafaring folk of past centuries, you don't know how to swim. Your final moments on this earth are consumed by the fear of impending death as you cling to any object within your reach.

When those wreckers later salvage artifacts from what was once your great vessel, part of your spirit may still be attached to those objects - No wonder this is such a strange place at night.

Longtime employees have witnessed apparitions and shadow figures countless times. They've experienced sudden chills when standing in the corners or alcoves of the building. Others are overcome with severe shortness of breath or experience intense atmospheric pressure on their bodies.

### **Daddy Longlegs (*Story #9*)**

Although this place has always been strange, paranormal activity has been on the rise here in recent years, and we believe it's the result of a single event that happened in the early morning hours of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. A motion detector went off in the tower above and the alarm was triggered, but the monitoring company failed to notify police or museum management. That night a tragedy occurred on top of the tower, that seems to have left a roaming spirit in this building. It wasn't until after sun-up that a worker opening the museum was climbing the stairs of the wrecking tower to raise the American flag. As he climbed he began seeing what he thought was red paint dripping between the boards. When he reached the top, he found a man lying in a pool of his own blood, dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

Shortly thereafter, a worker closing up one night saw a shadow figure moving across the wall. He thought it was his own shadow, but he stopped, turned, and watched as this shadow figure kept moving along the wall and across the ceiling. It made quick movements and had long appendages. The worker described it as “a huge, spider-like” figure reaching out beside him.

After several more uncomfortable encounters, he described them to his co-workers. To his surprise, other staff members began to open up about their own strange experiences with the shadow. They began to refer to it ever so affectionately as “Daddy Longlegs”. We still see Daddy Longlegs to this day.

Months passed by, until one summer night when the same motion detector alarm was triggered once again. This time the alarm company dispatched police. A museum manager and two police officers entered the building. They searched the museum and tower but found nothing. After clearing the building, the alarm was reset and the three men headed on their way ... but an hour later the alarms went off again, and they came back.

This time they split up: one police officer on the main floor, the museum manager to the tower above, and the other officer came down to this basement theatre. Once the three separated, the officer upstairs heard loud banging coming from outside all four walls simultaneously. The officer radioed to a patrol car waiting outside, “I know we’re close to Duval, but really? People banging on all four walls?” The officer outside called back that there was no one else around.

Meanwhile, the other officer crept down those stairs on high alert. He checked behind every artifact and in every corner. He was just about to head back upstairs when he turned and came face-to-face with a full-on apparition! He described seeing the ghostly figure of a large man against this very wall. By his account the spirit seemed depressed, as if he needed to get

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

something off his chest, but the ghostly man didn't say anything. The two made eye contact, seemingly acknowledging each other's presence, then the ghost man turned and walked straight through this wall.

Both officers were terrified and ran from the museum, reconvening outside where they compared notes with the museum manager. They all believed something paranormal was happening here. As he was resetting the alarm once again, the museum manager realized something: it was July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, the first anniversary of that horrific event on the tower. That same alarm went off three more times that night. No physical intruders were ever found. Since then, paranormal activity has continued to increase and the tower alarms go off, leading up to anniversaries of that tragic night. Just before the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the tower was struck by lightning. While employees and visitors have observed various hauntings over the years, there is more to this site than spiritual remains.

Now, I believe I mentioned that you'd have the opportunity to touch cursed Spanish treasure. As we venture upstairs, look along this wall where Daddy Longlegs was first spotted. Watch your step and be sure to take as many photos as you'd like - who knows what you'll find?

*[Lead guests upstairs as you show them the aforementioned wall.]*

### **Cursed Treasure (Story #10)**

As you know from tonight's journey, objects and artifacts have been known to hold incredible power! This museum is home to a silver bar from one of the most cursed treasures in history.

This silver bar was salvaged from the wreckage of a ship named *Nuestra Senora de las Maravillas* - Our Lady of Marvels – She was carrying the contents of a previous shipwreck off the coast of

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

Ecuador, when her fleet got caught in a January storm in 1656.

The storm that sunk the *Maravillas* was so huge, it spun her entire fleet in circles. The *Maravillas*, which was at the rear of the fleet, was broadsided by the *Capitana*, the ship leading the fleet.

The impact was so great that the *Capitana* pierced through the hull of the *Maravillas*. As the ships began to sink, the captain of the *Maravillas* announced that all hope was lost. As the crew's minutes were numbered, he instructed a priest aboard the ship to administer last rites.

Father Diego began to hear the confessions of the crew. He went down the line and blessed 44 men before both ships were crushed upon a reef. Of the 650 people aboard the two ships, only 45 survived. Father Diego lived to tell the tale, along with the 44 men he had blessed, before the ships took the rest to their watery grave.

Cursed treasure indeed! Here, go ahead and lift or touch it yourself. But consider this, the only thing keeping that silver bar from sealing your fate is the land that you stand on. Trust me, I would never share a boat with cursed Spanish treasure; it almost always finds its way to the bottom of the ocean. Take a few minutes, take some photos, touch the treasure if you dare. Then we'll be back aboard *The Trolley of The Doomed* for the remainder of our journey.

### **The Geiger House (Story #11)**

As you can gather from the lovely museum, wrecking was big business in Key West in the early days. Captain John H. Geiger, a harbor pilot and master wrecker, was one of the wealthiest of all. But there were rumors that the captain led a double life as a plundering pirate. Captain Geiger lived in the lovely Audubon House with his wife and 11 children. Today the Audubon House is home to both residual and intelligent hauntings.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

Across the street to the left are the lovely gardens of the Audubon House. Peer closely amid the ginger and hibiscus, and you may see the fleeting presence of a man pacing. This is the ghost of “pirate” Geiger, that paces these gardens, protecting his loot buried somewhere on the grounds.

Many tragedies occurred in this house and today it’s home to multiple spirits. The Geiger children’s nursery was in that second floor all the way to the right with a light on [*pointing to the window to the right end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*]. Visitors often report a distinct gloom in that room, and with reason. You see, three Geiger children died of yellow fever in that room, and a fourth died after falling from a tree in the back yard while the other children looked on. The furniture has been changed and it’s been re-painted in lighter colors. But the gloom remains.

### **The Lynching [3:00] (Story #13)**

We’re now on our way to Jackson Square, where Key West’s first courthouse and the old jail remain today. It’s also where the gallows once stood. The grounds surrounding Jackson Square are charged with the residual hauntings of many who were sentenced, held, and hanged here, waiting for justice of their own to be served.

Manolo Cabeza was a handsome, well-liked young man, a decorated veteran of World War One. He was known simply as “Isleño” - the Islander. Cabeza owned the Red Rooster bar near the waterfront. Everyone in town knew he was smitten by a lovely young Afro-Cuban lady of the night named Angela. In time Angela fell in love with her handsome Isleño. She gave up her night job to live with him under common law as man and wife.

All was well, young love at its finest; until a fateful night in December 1921.

Isleño and Angela were asleep in their apartment above Solano’s grocery, just up the street from here, when five or six hooded men carrying baseball bats climbed the outside stairs. They broke

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

down the door and lunged at Isleño. In the struggle he managed to unmask one of his attackers and recognized him: William Decker - a ringleader of sorts. Isleño was strong but he was outnumbered. They pinned him down and beat him within an inch of his life. Their brutal message was clear: do not lie with Angela for she is of mixed African and Cuban blood.

Angela could patch her man's wounds but not his pride. The next day, with a ruptured kidney and his army-issued pistol in hand, Isleño hailed a cab in search of Decker. He was spotted driving down Duval Street, and the cab pulled up alongside Decker, Isleño leaned out the window, looked Decker square in the eye and said "This is how a man kills another man..." BANG! He shot Decker point-blank, dead in the street.

Isleño jumped out of the cab and raced to his apartment as a crowd gathered outside. Sheriff Roland Curry arrived with six marines to arrest him, but Isleño resisted - he didn't trust the Sheriff. He finally agreed to surrender and was taken to the **OLD CITY JAIL**.

Isleño thought he would surely be hanged for his crime, but that night two cars pulled up to the jail. Once again hooded men got out. With no guards, no sheriff, and Isleño's cell mysteriously left unlocked, they walked right in, and this time they beat him. Then they dragged his limp body outside, tied him to the bumper of a car, and dragged him to the outskirts of town where they tarred, feathered, and lynched the dead man from a palm tree. They were making a statement, but it was cowardly overkill, I'd say.

A grand jury met in this very courthouse on your right. In a town where everyone knows everything, no one seemed to know anything ... and their verdict? That the lynching of Manolo Cabeza was not done by an organized society but by individuals unknown. No arrests were ever made.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

### **Isleño's Legacy [1:30] (*Story #14*)**

Angela was distraught, but she was one of many on this island who practiced the religion of Santeria. In fact, we're just a few blocks from a neighborhood known as Bahama Village, an early Key West Bahamian cultural center. Congo Hall was where they would perform ceremonies, often even sacrificing animals to make unnatural – even magical - things occur.

Angela lit some candles, burned incense, sacrificed a chicken, and combined blood and bones as she called out into the night "DEATH TO THOSE WHO HAVE HARMED MY HUSBAND!"

Now, we don't know the identities of all six of those vile men who lynched Manuel Cabeza, but local legend has it that they each died a gruesome death, paying the ultimate price for their horrific crime. As for Angela? She seemingly vanished: there's no recorded trace of her after her call for redemption. But the story doesn't quite end there.

Isleño's final resting place is in the Key West Cemetery. For almost 100 years he was left with a lowly headstone, but in 2019 he was finally given the proper military burial ceremony he deserved. Local historians, surviving family members, the Monroe County sheriff, and even the Key West mayor showed up to pay respects for the World War One hero, and today you can see the new headstone for Isleño in Key West Cemetery.

### **Lighthouse / Whitehead Spit (*Story #15*)**

The **KEY WEST LIGHTHOUSE**, to your right, was built in 1847 to replace the island's first lighthouse, which once stood at the end of this street near the Southernmost Point. In the early years this end of the island was deserted. Few ventured this far from town. There were only two



# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

things out here: the **OLD LIGHTHOUSE**, constructed of brick in 1825 to mark the dangerous shoals off Whitehead Spit, and the **OLD CEMETERY**, the original settler's cemetery.

So, why build a new lighthouse? Both the lighthouse and the cemetery met a violent end. In 1846 a tempest descended upon the island. That year the Great Havana Hurricane roared up the straits from Cuba, flattening the lighthouse with 200-mile-per-hour wind – a category five storm in modern terms.

*[Ominously:]*

Inside the lighthouse, taking refuge from the storm, was the lighthouse keeper Barbara Mabrity and her six children. They survived when the lighthouse came crumbling down around them, but what the wind didn't destroy, the waves reclaimed, washing the children out to sea. Remarkably, Barbara survived the tragedy and lived the rest of her days at the new lighthouse. But the tempest was not finished.

The powerful storm surge scoured deep enough into the earth to dig up those buried in the Old Cemetery. The intense winds hurled exposed human remains into the air, scattering them inland ... around this part of the island we're currently traveling.

When the storm was finally over, all was quiet - eerily quiet. Decomposing bodies and bones were everywhere, some dangling in bushes and trees. A gruesome sight. To prevent the spread of disease, families had no choice but to gather the remains, carefully place them in baskets and buckets, a mix of bones. They gathered what they could and reburied them in a mass grave, somewhere long forgotten on the south side of the island. Uprooted graves and dead bodies thrown about, a disturbance so vile that residual hauntings have imprinted themselves on this side of the island in search of their final resting place.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

### **Graves in the Sand [1:00] (*Story #16*)**

Others bodies are still here – **Graves in the sand**. We’ve been finding them over the last 150 years. The area we’re traveling now is known as South Beach. It stretches from Key West’s Southernmost Point to the White Street Pier. This whole stretch of beach has been used as a burial ground at some point or another. It was beautiful in the early days, before all these resorts and restaurants were here. You can almost picture it.

The cool, soft sand of the beach ... palm trees swaying in the wind ... a gorgeous view of the pristine blue ocean ... a beautiful place to spend eternity, don’t you think? Something to ponder for those of you staying on this side of the island. As you take your evening stroll, remember that you never know what - or who, rather - lies under foot! As I said, we’ve been burying and finding bodies here for more than 150 years.

From 1823 to 1826, Commodore David Porter’s Navy squadron was sent to Key West to combat the pirates of the West Indies. They would bring fallen sailors back to our beaches to bury them on American soil. Even after the new city cemetery was built in 1847, many townfolk who had succumbed to yellow fever were buried out here, to isolate their bodies in an attempt to prevent the spread of disease. Some of the graves remain, despite the wind and rain.

A local man recalled that in the 1940s, as water and sewer lines were being laid, workers unexpectedly unearthed human remains, and of course just moved them to the side.

### **African Cemetery [2:30] (*Story #17*)**

More recently, in 2002, local historians began to find the burial grounds of 295 African refugees who were previously thought to be lost forever.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

It was May 1860 and spring had sprung. The U.S. Navy was patrolling the Florida isles patrolling for ships containing illegal cargo - *human* cargo. The Navy captured three off the coast of Cuba: the *William*, the *Wildfire*, and the *Bogota*. All three were American-owned and flagged, and operating as slave vessels.

Inside the holds of these ships were more than 1,400 African children between the ages of 12 and 16. They were sick from the inhumane conditions of their voyage, many near death, many *already* dead. The Navy confiscated the three ships and brought them to the nearest American port, Key West of course. They were turned over to a surprised U.S. Marshal, Fernando J. Moreno.

Moreno had no advance notice and nowhere to house all those refugees. A hasty decision was made to put them up in quarters that were still being built for Fort Zachary Taylor. Almost overnight the population of this island increased by half! The good people of Key West gathered what they could to feed, clothe, and comfort these refugees thousands of miles away from home. A community formed in the barracks. Eighty days after their arrival, it was decided that they'd be sent to live in freedom in the newly formed Liberia. But the cycle of death and disease that had begun on those slave ships continued in the barracks, and 295 of the children never left our island. They died and were buried here.

A local carpenter, Daniel Davis, was commissioned to make their coffins. The deceased refugees were buried in the sand on a remote beach - *this* remote beach.

Just a year later, as the Civil War was brewing, the Union set out to build two fortifications called the "Martellos" on the southern shore of Key West, a mile-and-a-half away from each other (or about as far as a cannon could fire). Their plan was to put the *West Martello* over the

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

burial site of those rescued African children. The Army engineer in Key West objected, but his objection was overruled in Washington. As excavations dug deep into the sand and rock, those bodies were unearthed and relocated to mass unmarked graves ... their location unknown to us for better part of the last 150 years. On your right, the *West Martello Tower* is all that remains of the old fort, which was never even finished.

And it was here in 2002 that we began to find them. Local historians, using an old map and ground-penetrating radar, located scattered graves in the sand.

**We are now at our second burial ground of the night.**

Today, the **AFRICAN CEMETERY** memorializes 15 of the rescued Africans buried here. As you view this terrace you'll see that it's a world map – you're looking at it as if from the north pole. The map depicts the arduous journey forced upon these enslaved Africans. Look closely and you can see 15 ovals in the concrete. They outline three close rows of shallow graves, just two to three feet below ground and five to six feet long. These were truly children buried here.

Across the street to your left, in 2010, we continued to find these refugees. Workers surveying the area found caskets and human graves beneath the topsoil. The curator of the African Cemetery says there are no doubt at least 100 graves from the same event in 1860. A greenspace has since been dedicated as a memorial to those who remain. Although we'll never hear their stories, it gives me some comfort that the refugees lost here are finally getting the respect that they deserve.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

### **Countess Elena (*Story #17*)**

She is at the center of a rather bizarre and tragic love story – one that involves grave-robbing. Grave robbing or tomb raiding has been a common human pastime for thousands of years, usually for treasure. The grave robbery on this island in April 1933 had a peculiar motive: obsessive love.

In 1930 a woman named Elena Milagro de Hoyos was brought to the Marine Hospital. She was desperately ill. Her distraught parents' worst fears were confirmed: Elena was diagnosed with tuberculosis. Incurable. She would die.

Working at the hospital as an x-ray technician was a count – Count Carl Von Cossel – a selfproclaimed German count and inventor. He claimed to be well-educated, with nine degrees. The count, also known as Carl Tanzler, had arrived in Key West in 1927.

The moment Carl saw Elena in that hospital bed, it was love at first sight. In his mind, meeting her was destiny. According to his memoirs, her face had appeared to him in a dream some years before. Throughout Elena's stay in the hospital, Carl forewent his normal hospital duties to dote on her daily, showering her with gifts, repeatedly asking her to marry him, but alas, it was not to be.

Elena died a few days before Halloween 1931, at the tender age of 22. Carl was of course heartbroken. He persuaded her parents to let him take care of the funeral arrangements, and take care of her, he did. She was entombed in the Key West Cemetery in this elegant mausoleum.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

For two years, night after night, the count sat at her gravesite and spoke to her. Then, one night in April 1933, according to his memoirs, she answered back, begging him to release her from her personal prison.

He would do anything for his love, so he of course honored her wishes. He entered the cemetery, pried open the crypt, and took Elena's dead body to his wingless airship, this oddlooking contraption kept on hospital grounds that was appropriately christened the "Countess Elena." The hospital administrator soon grew tired of the unsightly contraption and demanded it be moved. Carl towed it across town and parked it (with Elena still inside) on the deserted

Rest Beach. Although far from town, people would wander by and gawk at the strange airship. The count grew nervous, paranoid that someone might find his secret inside, so he moved her into his own home just off Flagler Avenue, where things took an even more ... macabre turn.

You can imagine the rapidly decaying body in an airtight metal box on the hot beach. To counteract the effects of decomposition, the count fitted her corpse with tubes and wired her bones back together. He used mortician's wax and cloth to repair her rotting skin, stuffed the body cavity with rags to replace her internal organs, put glass eyeballs in her eye sockets, even made her a wig with her own hair. He then dressed her in a white wedding gown and laid her down in his own bed. There, they "lived" together, in his fantasy as husband and wife, for seven years.

In time a neighborhood grew up around his once-abandoned shack. Folks grew leery of the strange man living on their block and rumors began to spread. The count was seen buying perfumes, soaps, and women's clothing ... yet no one in town had ever seen him with a woman.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

Neighbors reported hearing organ music coming from inside at all hours of the night, and a neighborhood boy claimed to have seen him dancing with ... a life-sized doll.

In time, Elena's sister Nana Hoyos caught wind of the rumors. She sensed something was not quite right about the count, so she first went to visit Elena's mausoleum and found that Elena's coffin was missing. She stormed across the island and pounded on the count's door, nearly breaking it down. He opened with a smile and invited her in to join him and his lovely wife for dinner.

Nana entered and, what did she see? Elena's body. Wired. Waxed. Dressed in a white wedding gown. Nine years after she had been buried.

The count admitted to taking Elena from her crypt and innocently explained that he just wanted to restore her to life with his potions and inventions. He was arrested and jailed, charged with grave robbing. The judge ordered a psychiatric evaluation, which found the count to be completely ... sane. Fit to stand trial.

In the meantime, Elena's remains were taken to the local funeral home, where the staff was so impressed by how well the count had preserved the body, they held a public wake for Elena. They laid her out for viewing, her waxen face visible in a satin-lined coffin. In a three-day span more than 6,000 people - including schoolchildren - filed by. Elena was then re-buried in an undisclosed location ... for obvious reasons.

When it came time for Carl's trial, just about everyone in Key West piled into the courthouse. But the prosecutors then realized the count couldn't be prosecuted at all: the statute of limitations on grave robbery was only two years, and the count had been with his "wife's" body for seven. With no charges to hold him on, the count was once again a free man. He demanded

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

to have his wife returned to him, but that of course wasn't successful. In a fit of rage the count split town and headed for Zephyrhills, Florida, near Tampa. What was once Elena's tomb mysteriously crumbled that very night.

Carl lived out the rest of his days in Zephyrhills selling postcards of Elena, writing about her in pulp fiction magazines, and even showing tourists a wax replica he made of her. In 1952 he was found dead in his home– [*pause...*] slumped over an effigy of his beloved Elena.

Or ... was it Elena herself? Some say he had managed to find her.

### **Military Cemetery (*Story #18*)**

Key West needed as much medical help as it could get in those days. As I mentioned, the dreaded yellow fever would grip this town every summer. It was an indiscriminate disease, taking the rich, the poor; young, old, neighbors and strangers - folks just like yourselves. One of the most vulnerable subsets of our population were Union soldiers, unaccustomed to the South Florida heat. In 1831 a U.S. barracks was built here. The garrison had all the comforts of home – hospital, stables, commissary, and of course a cemetery.

The small burial ground quickly filled to capacity. In February 1927, all the dead were disinterred and taken by the tugboat Major Albert Jenkins to the Fort Barrancas Military Cemetery at NAS Pensacola, or so it was thought! Somewhere, something dreadful occurred. When the tug departed Key West, 468 bodies were listed on the manifest. [*Pause:*] .... Only 441 were re-interred in Pensacola. Twenty-seven bodies were unaccounted for. It was dubbed "The Key West Mix-up."



# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

On your right, behind that picket fence, is the U.S. Military Cemetery, our third burial ground of the night, with one lone commemorative white stone. Take some photos, it has been dubbed the "Field of Orbs."

We've since found four bodies buried on the grounds that didn't show up in Pensacola, but that still leaves 23 missing. Graves disturbed, but their spirits remain.

### **Bahamian Guardian: [1:00] (*Story #19*)**

Now, just a few blocks from here at 701 Passover Lane, is the Key West Cemetery, where more than 100,000 people are buried. Their bodies are entombed, but it appears many still linger between life and death.

The Bahamian Guardian is an intelligent haunt that patrols the vicinity of Key West Cemetery, serious about her self-appointed position. Her goal is to ensure that visitors are respectful of the thousands of lost souls laid to rest here. If visitors sit on gravestones, walk over headstones, speak irreverently, or appear disrespectful in any way, she's known to appear as an apparition of a Bahamian woman, frightening off those who misbehave with scolding remarks and even threats!

### **Bucket of Blood [2:00] (*Story #20*)**

We're approaching the Historic Seaport. Today you'll notice many wonderful historic homes with lovely porches painted haint blue, on both sides of the trolley. But not long ago this was not a place where fine folk ventured, especially at night. In the 1940s and 1950s the seaport was rough and raunchy - some would say deadly. There were bordellos and bars, gambling houses, cock fighting, and some very friendly women ... for a price of course.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

At night the streets would run red with blood, especially when shrimpers came into port. Shrimpers spent long days at sea, and if the catch was lackluster they'd stay out for weeks at a time. No whiskey, no women, no interim ports of call. It was hard work and a spartan life. Ah, but when they finally arrived in port with their catch, the shrimpers were paid in hard cash. Once docked, they spilled from the boats like wharf rats, pockets stuffed flush. They'd hit the bars, the gambling dens, and of course the bordellos above the bars. On any given night there were stabbings and shootings, murder, and mayhem.

The Red Door Saloon was most notorious bar of them all! A white building built in 1868 with big red barn doors. It gained the reputation of being the toughest bar on the gulf coast because of the fights, stabbings, and murders that routinely took place there. According to legend, if you didn't have a weapon, you'd be issued one at the door. No wonder it was christened "The Bucket of Blood."

Upstairs was a brothel. A few decades ago, carpenters renovating the upstairs into apartments found dozens of dusty, empty wallets behind wall boards, thrown there by madams who'd picked their clients' pockets clean while they were passed out in the night. What was once the Bucket of Blood is coming up on your left; it still has those iconic red doors, although as you can see, it's no longer a dangerous bar. Folks still rent the rooms upstairs, and many report waking up in the dead of night to their beds shaking for no apparent reason. And the building still has a curious penchant for emptying men's wallets: it's now a women's boutique. Gentlemen, if you go in there with your sweetheart, chances are your wallet will be quite a bit lighter on the way out.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

### **The Ghost in Room 8 [1:00] (*Story #20*)**

We're on our way to the house Mr. Noseby haunts. For years Mr. Noseby was the primary caretaker for Ms. Grace Kemp, who lived alone in her family home built in 1888.

The rambling house was so big and the Historic Seaport down the street so dangerous, Mr. Noseby made sure all the doors were locked and latched tight when he left for the night. On stormy nights he would stay on a cot in the laundry room ... now Guest Room 8 of the lovely Ridley House Hotel.

[GHOST HOST: In front of Cypress House :}]

Ms. Grace passed away in the 1960s, and over the years guests staying at the Cypress House have witnessed the shadowy figure of a man walking the grounds on dark, stormy nights.

Guests in room 8 report unexplainable chills, even in the dead of summer.

Many staying down the hall report similar stories – If they slip from their rooms at night for a smoke or a beverage, they may return to find their room locked ... with the deadbolt ... from the inside! Mr. Noseby ... still looking after Ms. Grace.

### **Morbid Watering Holes (story #22)**

As you may have gathered along the way tonight, many of our buildings have long and twisted histories. They've been repurposed, rebuilt, and some even picked up and moved to new locations. The result? Some morbid watering holes not unlike the Red Door Saloon. The white house on your left is now a bar called Shots and Giggles, but not all of those shots have come from a glass and served with laughter. It was once the home of Frank Fontes, a local socialite. He was found shot on his front porch. Today it seems he still doesn't want the party to end.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

Bartenders report that their closing routine is often disturbed by his intelligent haunting.

Barstools are put back on the floor, the music regularly turns back on, and the lights often need to be turned off multiple times before his spirit will finally rest for the night.

Another bar just a block away also has a rather gruesome history. Captain Tony's Saloon was an icehouse that doubled as the city's morgue in the 1850s. Portions of the morgue remain unchanged inside, so if you get separated from your loved ones on the streets of Key West, you may find them alive and well on a barstool in the very same room others were claimed in a body bag. There are even two headstones on the floor of the bar: one Elvira Edmunds, 1822, and Reba Sawyer. In the 1980s Captain Tony did some renovating and found the remains of 15 to 18 people under the floorboards. He also enclosed the courtyard, leaving a single tree standing in the bar. That tree is rumored to have been the town hanging tree in the 1800s. You can see it poking through the first set of doors. Patrons have reported ghostly figures passing through the building, and others see apparitions in the restrooms!

### Epilogue: Remember Our Culture

I'm sad to say we're nearing the end of our *Journey into the Isle of Bones*. I do hope that you've enjoyed yourself as much as I have, and I know that you'll never look at our pretty little island in the same light again.

Go, visit some of these locations by day: (*Choose a few depending on timing*)

- Visit the Audubon House and experience the doom and gloom of that nursery room.  
Stroll by the Porter House and have a drink with the good doctor - I'm sure he's in.
- See if any spirits are hanging around Captain Tony's.
- Visit St. Paul's; see the headstone of Mr. Fleming.

# Journey into the Isle of Bones

## Key West Ghosts and Gravestones Script

- Visit the Shipwreck Treasures Museum during the daytime, there are many other interesting treasures and artifacts to view, while the view from the tower will take your breath away.
- Some of you may need to go back and see Robert the Doll ... to apologize! You know who you are ... and so does he.

If you enjoyed yourselves tonight, we would love to hear from you. If you had a physical ticket, you now have a review card! Fill it out, stick it in the mail, postage paid for. If you discover anything unusual in your photos, share them with us! You can post them on our Ghosts and Gravestones Key West Facebook page. My undead livelihood may rely upon your TripAdvisor/Yelp Reviews! Please let them know that \_\_\_\_\_ and *[Driver's Name]* showed you the Isle of Bones. Speaking of *[driver]*, can we please give *[him/her]* a round of applause for safely navigating us on the wild streets of Key West?

I would like to thank you for spending your evening with us aboard the Trolley of the Doomed. We hope you enjoyed your Journey into the Isle of Bones! Kindly wait for the trolley to come to a complete stop, please look around the seating area to collect all your belongings. When the trolley has come to a complete stop, your driver will be the first off in order to offer a hand to anyone in need. As you step off of the *Trolley of the Doomed* the doom will be lifted, and you will be free to enjoy the rest of your night. Be safe, everyone, and thank you.