

TRAVEL



Hong Kong: Still Great

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While other parts of China and Asia are enticing incentive travelers, Hong Kong is still an exciting destination



All of the Emerald Isle

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Ireland holds a special place in the American imagination, and now peace has opened up the North

Field Report: The Tropical Lure of Key West

There's more to the Conch Republic than sipping margaritas on the beach

By Nancy Lazarus



Hemingway Home houses the authoring studio gardens and polydactyl tea

While the sand of Key West's beaches is imported, everything else about the island is uniquely local, from its storied history to its brilliant sunsets. The southernmost point in the continental United States has retained its allure as a relaxed beach community by day that transforms into a lively scene on Duval Street at night.

Key West's most notable attractions are located in the historic district, full of restored conch-style and tin-roofed shotgun houses. The Hemingway Home is among the most popular and comprises Ernest Hemingway's residence, writing studio, gardens, swimming pool and grounds where dozens of polydactyl cats

still wander. The town's past is revealed on its palm tree-lined blocks with picket fences. Caroline Street, a prime example, includes the Robert Frost cottage and the house where Pan Am World Airways began its operations. Both are just around the corner from President Truman's "Little White House" compound, site of several political summits.

A new luxury retreat that approaches presidential-style comfort is Beachside Resort and Conference Center, situated on the Gulf of Mexico toward the outskirts of town. The 222 spa-

cious suites and well-equipped rooms overlooking the expansive pool or private beach are ideal for incentive groups. The resort's Tavern 'N T own restaurant features an open kitchen, tapas bar and gourmet specialties.

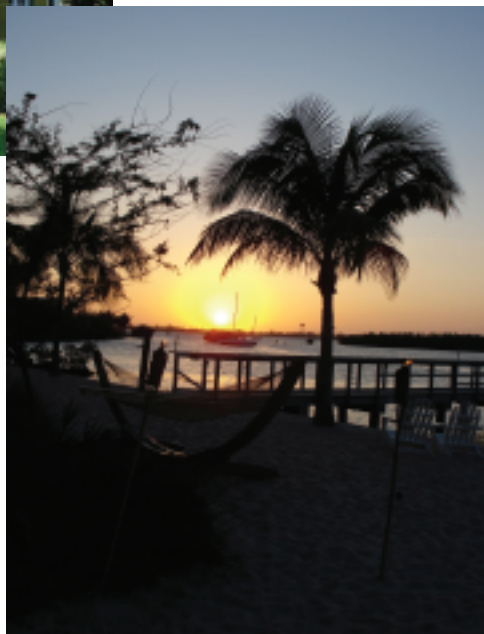
Events at Beachside range from small incentives to large functions at its category five hurricane-proof ballroom, the

sightseeing and sporty group diversions including glass-bottom boat tours, sunset cruises, golf, biking, fishing and snorkeling off the coral reef.

Key West, aka the Conch Republic, has a wealth of restaurants for those wishing to sample the island favors. Many eateries on Duval Street are in Victorian houses with porches where one can leisurely watch passers-by. Nine One Five bistro specializes in small portions and entrees like snapper with organic vegetables, while crab cakes with key lime mustard are among the regional menu items at The Grand Café.

Located on a residential side street, Seven Fish provides fresh local dishes such as grouper and mahimahi to knowing residents and visitors in an intimate space. At the opposite end of town is the historic seaport area where Alonzo's Oyster Bar, a casual seafood restaurant, serves favorites such as lobster cakes and conch fritters.

Key West's party atmosphere is fueled by a multitude of bars downtown. Across the marina, Schooner Wharf Bar is a popular watering hole with frozen margaritas and live music. Sloppy Joe's Bar on Duval Street is a legendary hangout now frequented by tourists and nearby. Sunset Pier is an outdoor bar where the sun is the only thing that turns in early. ■



Only the sun goes down early in nightlife-friendly Key West

biggest in Key West. Tiffany Boeckman, director of group sales, says they have applied for green certification from the state of Florida, which grants different palm tree levels for implementing specific green practices.

The resort arranges both