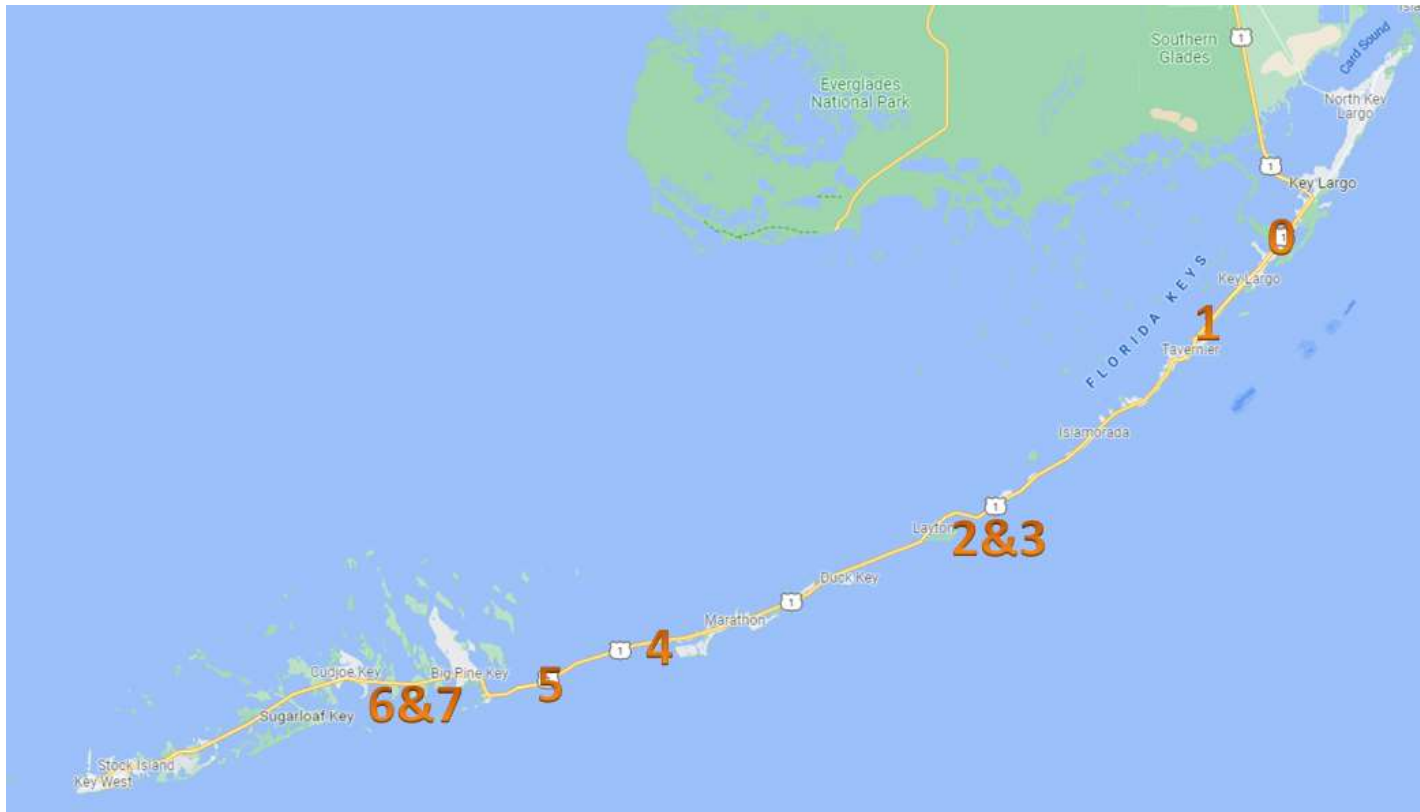


Sailing the Florida Keys – December 2021

More trips are documented at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yf9rpXCMjBzrMnfyBDakTzFkOfKu5sjW/view?usp=sharing>

Corrie and I went on a sailing trip that started in Key Largo and finished in Summerland Key, which is in the lower keys, not far from Key West. We went with Captain Suky, who was recommended to us by our friends Scott and Michelle, who have the slip next to us at Lake Manawa. Suky lives on her Morgan Out Island 41 center cockpit sloop full time so it was a great way to learn more about the live aboard lifestyle along with sailing. We anchored every night and ate (great food!) on the boat. Suky has a wealth of knowledge to share, has an easy going teaching style, and we learned a lot. We enjoyed snorkeling in calm conditions offshore at Alligator Reef and saw a variety of wildlife on the trip including dolphins, small Nurse sharks, manatees, and a sea turtle. After the sailing trip, we spent a couple of days in Key West and then drove back north to spend a couple of days in the Everglades before heading home.

On the following pages, there is a brief log of the trip followed by snapshots of our tracks from Navionics as well as some photos. Here's a general map of the area numbered by where we stayed each night.

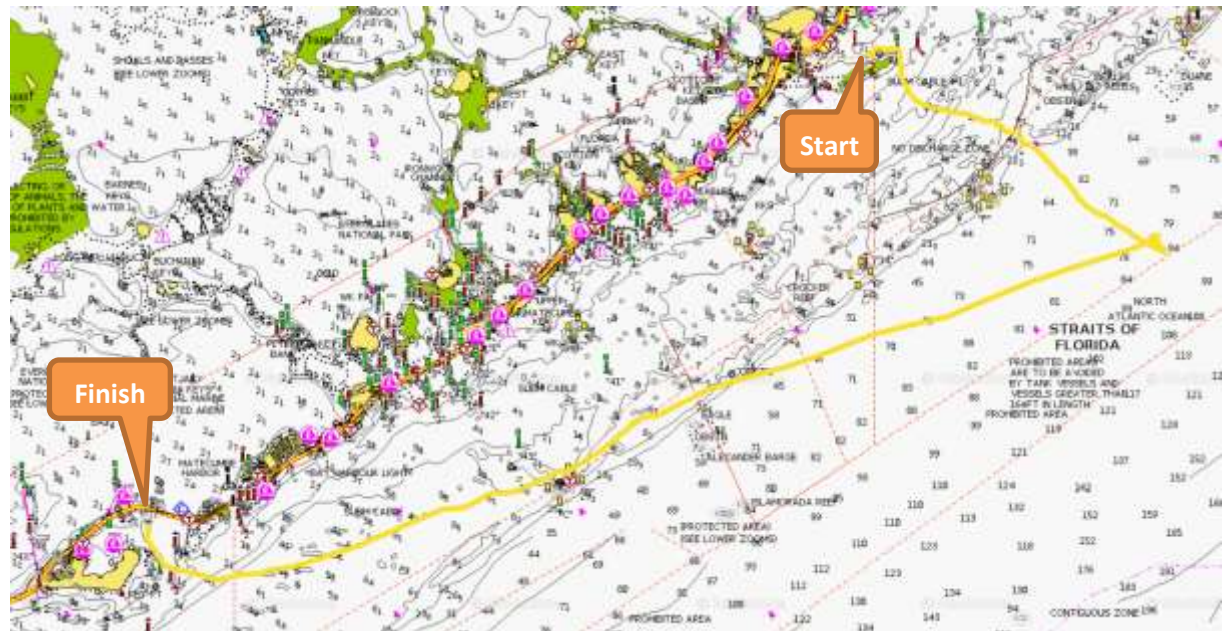


Date	Wind Direction	Wind Speed	Nautical Miles	Weather	Location	Notes
12/19 Sun	SW	10-15	15.5	Some showers to start with, then sun came out but stormy offshore	John Pennekamp State Park – Tavernier Key	The state park is located in the mangroves. We learned that “no-see-ums” bugs come out to attack in droves at dawn and dusk. We departed via a channel through the mangroves. Once we saw lightening, we took down the sails and headed to anchor by Tavernier Key. Took a dinghy ride to explore the area.
12/20 Mon	NE	5-10	32	Calm, sunny conditions	Tavernier Key – Long Key	Sailed 7.5 NM offshore before heading back in and going to snorkel at Alligator Reef and from there motoring in to anchor near Channel 5 bridge by Long Key. Saw Nurse sharks, a sawtooth fish and a variety of other fish while snorkeling. Came into anchorage at night, which required some careful spotting to avoid crab pots which were in abundance.
12/21 Tue	Variable	15-25	16	Winds veered as cold front passed through	Long Key – Lower Maticumbe and then back	We sailed for a bit and moved to Lower Maticumbe Key to get better protection as the front passed through, then moved back to Long Key for the night to get better protection again as the winds continued to shift. Got over 7 knots while sailing downwind on jib alone. Dolphins briefly came and played in our bow wave. Dug anchor on Monday night as winds shifted but there was plenty of room in the anchorage.
12/22 Wed	NNW	10-15	27	Colder following the front, mostly clear skies	Long Key to Boot Key	Got up to 8.4 knots speed over ground under full sail. Perfect sailing weather with a beam reach down to Marathon. Took a long dinghy ride into the city marina so we could use the showers and stretch our legs with a walk onshore.
12/23 Thu	N	15-20	12	Mostly sunny and windy	Boot Key to Bahia Honda	Short sail today with a later start. Another day of beam reaching and fast sailing. Anchored between the old railroad bridge (which has a section removed to allow boats to pass) and the new highway bridge. Corrie and I dinghied in to Bahia Honda and went for a walk.
12/24 Thu	NE	10-15	23	Mostly sunny and windy	Bahia Honda to Looe Key and then to Newfound Harbor	First sailed to Looe Key but there was too much swell to take a mooring ball and go snorkeling. Anchored in Newfound Harbor between Ramrod Key and Middle Torch Key
12/25 Thu	E	15-20	15.7	Mostly sunny and windy	Newfound Harbor to Looe Key then Summerland Key	Lively sailing close hauled to Looe Key with plenty of wind and swell. Like the previous day, it was too rough to take a mooring and snorkel so we headed to anchor by Summerland Key. Dinghied to shore to go for a walk and saw a small sea turtle on the way. The next day we dinghied to shore with all our gear and took a Lyft to get to Key West where we picked up a rental car and spent a couple of days, including Corrie’s birthday there, before driving north.

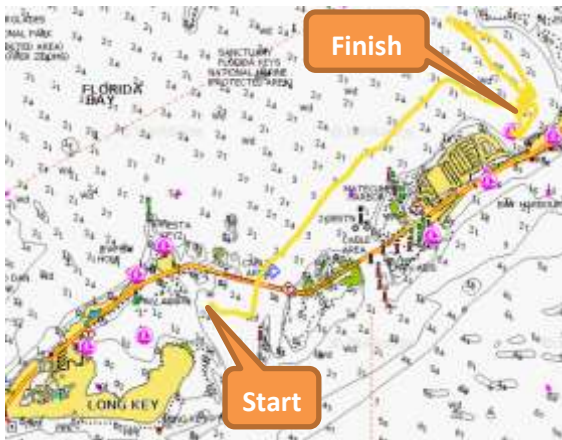
Sunday 12/19



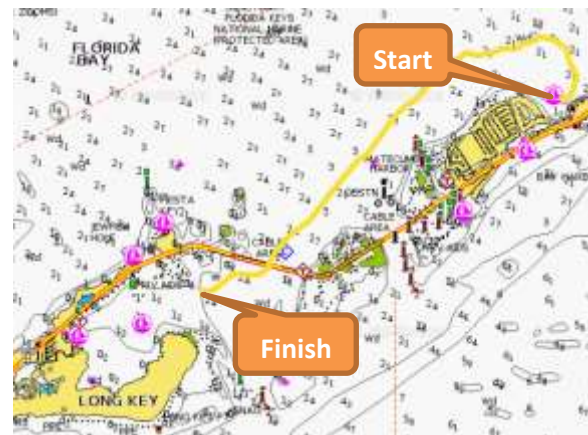
Monday 12/20



Tuesday morning 12/21



Tuesday afternoon 12/21



Wednesday 12/22



Thursday 12/23



Friday 12/24



Saturday 12/25

