

Travel via the Moon

Submitted by the Editor in honor of the adventurous spirit of AGCM Moon Mullen, USN (Ret)

Ahoy Shipmates, Now Hear This! All Hands Prepare to Embark Cruise Ship Celebrity Summit



A few fun facts about Miami

Miami was founded in 1896 by **Julia Tuttle**. She is the only woman in the United States known for having founded a **major** city.

Miami is such a famous city that it's often mistaken for being Florida's capital. But it is not! As a matter of fact, it's not the biggest city in Florida either. Florida's capital is Tallahassee and the biggest city in Florida (by population and size) is Jacksonville.

Miami is an incredible city in the way that it was built from scratch. The city literally evolved from Mangrove swampland to one of the most important cities in the U.S. in a relatively short period of time. This exceptionally quick growth is the main reason why it was nicknamed the "**Magic City**." Other reasons include its inviting climate and marketing to attract northerners.

Miami is the only US city bordered by two national parks: Everglades and Biscayne National Parks.

The port of Miami is the busiest cruise port in the world serving millions of passengers every year. It is also one of the world's most modern ports and home to some of the largest cruise ships on earth.

Underway, Shift Colors!

Setting Sail from Miami, Florida

30 March, 2023 @ 1600

First Port of Call – Key West, Florida

01 April 2023



A few quick facts about Key West

Date first explored: 1521, Ponce de Leon visits Dry Tortugas

Date as a U.S. territory: 1822

Size: 2 x 4 miles

Population: 24,909

Average hi/lo temperature, winter (F): 76°/66° **Average hi/lo temperature, summer (F):** 89°/80° **Sunny or partly-sunny days per year:** 259 **Distance from Miami:** 160 miles

Distance from Cuba: 90 miles

Geographic fact: Southernmost point in the U.S.

Key West History Facts and Timeline

As the southernmost city of continental United States, Key West boasts an impressive history. The first preColumbian settlements on the island belonged to the indigenous people known as the Calusa, while the first European explorer to discover the island was Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon in 1521. With Florida coming under Spanish rule, a fishing village was established in Key West. It even fell briefly, along with the rest of Florida, under British rule. In any case, the name is believed to be an Anglicized version of Cueso Hueso, which means 'Bone Cay', although it is also the Western most Cay of this archipelago.

Founding

Although Spain claimed Key West, no single nation exercised control over the island until 1822, when Lt. Commander Matthew C. Perry claimed it for the United States - but not before a crafty Spaniard officer, Juan Pablo Salas, who had been given the island, sold it twice! The first people to develop Key West were John Simonton, Pardon C. Greene, John Whitehead and John W.C. Fleming, whose names are still remembered as part of local history on avenues and buildings within the modern city.

Early Industry

Many Bahamians fled here during the 1830s and these people were commonly called Conchs (a term which is still used as a nickname for Key West locals today). Industries like fishing and salt production were big business in the 19th century.

By 1860, Key West had developed into one of the richest cities in the United States. Today's Old Town still preserves much history from this era. There are well articulated tours of the city, or alternatively, you can visit the Museum of Art and History at the Customs House on Front Street.

During the 1800s, salvaging became one of the most important industries in Key West. At one stage, houses here were renowned for containing stunningly manufactured furniture, chandeliers and other expensive items salvaged from local shipwrecks. The city's Shipwreck Museum provides tourists with a detailed look at the influences of shipwrecks on the city.

Civil War and the late 19th Century

The American Civil War (1861 to 1865) played a significant role in the development of Key West history. Fort Zachary Taylor, constructed between 1845 and 1866, was used by the Union Army despite Florida's joining of the Confederacy. The fort can still be explored today and now ranks as a State Historic Park. Of note, gun running earned a fortune for Key West at this time.

By 1889, cigar-making overtook salt and fishing industries as the major economic source. However, the city was relatively isolated until the Overseas Railway was constructed in 1912, which connected the island with the mainland. Following the railway's demise in a hurricane in 1935, the Overseas Highway was built in 1938, making it easier for tourists to access the Florida Keys. Even today it acts as a lifeline, putting Key West in touch with Miami in a mere three and a half hours.

A Popular Winter Residence

Author Ernest Hemingway spent much of his life residing in his winter home in Key West. Several US Presidents also favored the city, especially, Harry S. Truman. The city became a popular destination for celebrities too, either to reside or holiday in, especially after the Overseas Highway was constructed. The Hemmingway House is available for tours, and visitors can even see a descendant of his famous 'seven-toed' cat, Snowball. The annual Hemingway look-alike competition is a highlight on the city's events calendar.

The Southernmost House



Judge Jephtha Vining Harris built the mansion that is now called the Southernmost House in 1897 for \$250,000. His wife was the youngest daughter of William Curry, one of Florida's first millionaires. It was the first home in Key West with electricity, and Mrs. Harris was able to engage Thomas Edison to oversee the electrical design and installation for the house. In the 1930s air conditioning was installed. It served as a speakeasy during the Prohibition from 1919 to 1933. In the 1940's it operated as a nightclub called "Cafe Cayo Hueso" entertaining renowned patrons Ernest Hemingway, Tennessee Williams, Truman Capote, Gloria Swanson, Louis Armstrong and Charles Lindbergh, just to name a few. As a private residence it has hosted presidents Truman, Eisenhower and

Kennedy. In 2016, the mansion was inducted into the Historic Hotels of America program and is now being operated as an 18-room bed and breakfast.

The 19th Century

The city experienced a large influx of Cuban immigrants from the late 1800s until the Cuban revolution of 1959, and most were employed primarily in the cigar-making industry. During WWII, the naval base at Fort Taylor was expanded, with the US Navy still having a major presence here today.

The city of Key West and its military bases played important roles during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. In 1969, the first cruise ship docked here and today, cruise ships and tourism pull in some four million tourists annually.

Second Port of Call – Nassau, Bahamas

02 April 2023

What exactly are the Bahamas famous for? From swimming pigs to pristine blue waters to the mystic lore of Pirates and their ill-gotten booty, there is more to this Caribbean destination than just the beach. The Bahamas' capital, Nassau, is among the world's busiest island cities with a population of well over 200,000.



From an active harbor for cruise ships to a snorkeling den, tourists have a lot to explore. It's an archipelago of more than 700 islands, but only 30 are inhabited. Nassau, originally called Charles Towne, is situated on the northeast coast of New Providence Island and is among the world's busiest island cities and pleasure resorts. The climate is temperate and the sandy beaches and scenery are beautiful. Although the city proper is comparatively small, suburbs and residential districts stretch far along the coast and into the interior. The United Kingdom ruled over the Bahamas for more than 150 years. On 10 July 1973, the Bahamas attained its independence.

A couple of fun facts:

There is a blue hole named 'Dean's Blue Hole' which is located in the bay west of Clarence Town on Long Island. This blue hole is the second deepest blue hole after the Dragon Hole in the South China Sea. The depth of Dean's Blue Hole is 202 meters or 667 feet.



Swimming is unique in the Exuma Islands of the Bahamas where people enjoy frolicking with happy go lucky pigs. The beach is often called 'Pig Beach.' There is a colony of pigs that live on the island and in the surrounding shallows. So, how exactly did swimming pigs make a name for themselves on the island? The real answer isn't known. Some theorize a few pigs were able to escape a shipwreck nearby and wandered onto the beach as it was the closest island.



Wild pigs are not native to the Exumas but they have made Big Major Cay their home and continue to thrive on the beaches. And in so doing, bring many a smile to their newfound human friends.



The Golden Age of Pirates



The Bahamas were at one point one of the premier stopping grounds for pirates in the Caribbean. The presence of pirates on the islands of the Bahamas is a large, influential and unforgettable piece of Bahamian history. The **Pirates Museum in Nassau** on the island of New Providence chronicles the golden age of pirates in excellent interactive displays and a replica of the pirate ship called "The Revenge." The time period known as the Golden Age of Pirates in the Bahamas varies from source to source. Some say it lasted 30 years, from 1690 to 1720. Others say it started as early as 1670 and lasted for 70 years, instead of thirty. What can be agreed upon is that the late 1600s and most of the early- to mid- 1700s were a golden time for pirating on the great seas of the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. And the Bahamas were the favored hunting grounds for the best pirates of the Caribbean. Even with Spanish and English military fleets trying to scour Nassau Bahamas and the other Bahamas islands, the pirates remained strong until at least the middle of the century. The first time the pirates were somewhat defeated in battle was almost 50 years after they first took unofficial claim of the Bahamas. Before 1718, the British government attempted to lay claim to the islands but they were not powerful enough to defeat the savvy pirates until the islands' first British governor, Woodes Rogers, was able to finally drive out the pirates and establish an official British colony.

Why the Bahamas Were Ideal for Pirates

With its many islands, coves and cays, the Bahamas were an ideal place for mischievous pirates looking to perform secret attacks and seeking to escape governments that were trying to eliminate them. The unique geography of the islands allowed even the largest of pirate ships to hide in a huge variety of coves, inlets, shoals and channels to make it complicated to find the pirates. But mostly, they used the geography of the islands to execute surprise attacks on any ship passing close to the Bahamas islands. These surprise attacks were also feasible thanks to the islands' proximity to a variety of shipping routes including the famous Windward Passage. Most pirates based out of the Bahamas chose this method of surprise attacks versus heading out to the seas searching for vessels.

Bahamas Pirate Legends

Several of the world's most famous pirates did plenty of their pillaging and treasure-seeking right off the waters of the Bahamas. One of these pirate legends that lived in the Bahamas islands during the golden age of pirates is Calico Jack, who was romantically involved with another pirate legend, Anne Bonny. The two met in New Providence Island, where Nassau Bahamas is currently located. Though the English were trying to upkeep a colony on the island, it was basically run by pirates. Various rumors abound as to why Anne decided to leave her husband to pursue the risky and thrilling life aboard pirate ships. To become a pirate, Anne had to pose as a man, which she did successfully and gained prominence aboard pirate ships, particularly when her beau's ship was attacked by the English and it was her and fellow female-dressed-male pirate Mary Read who single-handedly fought the attack while the other pirates on board were too drunk to battle. While this is one of the battles that truly sealed the two ladies' status as legends, they also lost the battle and the pirate fleet was captured and tried. Calico Jack was hung. Both Mary and Anne were able to avoid immediate hanging due to being pregnant; Mary, however, died in prison, while Anne granted reprieve after giving birth to her child but there is no record of her after this.

Another pirate legend of the Bahamas was Edward Teach, more famously known as Blackbeard. He had the reputation of being the toughest and most indestructible of pirates. Blackbeard was huge, especially for the time, and he was boundless when it came to fighting. Legend has it that he would weave kemp into his large black beard and keep it smoldering during fights to quickly light his pistols. He was really only out on the waters for two years but the large number of ships he plundered gave him notoriety in the Caribbean. In the pirate colony on Nassau, the other pirates voted him in as their own Privateers' Republic magistrate. It was in 1718 that a British fleet finally fought the once-unstoppable Blackbeard to the death,

though legend has it that the fierce pirate kept fighting with five bullets and three sabre-thrusts before he finally died.

