

OVERSEAS HIGHWAY FROM THE MAINLAND TO KEY WEST, FLA.

"The Highway that goes to Sea"

OING south from Miami on a splendid highway you are on your way to Key West, southernmost city in the U.S., 172 miles away.

Almost forgotten a few years ago, Key West is now taking its rightful place in the forefront of resort cities, by virtue of the most spectacular and unprecedented engineering wonder, "The New Overseas Highway." Just below Homestead you are in sight of the Florida Keys, which are countless coral islands running off the southern tip of Florida and extending over 125 miles into the sea. This great boulevard spans the water gaps from Key to Key unfolding new tropical vistas, with fringes of coral sand in a turquoise sea and with centers of living green, these isles are decked with swaying coconut palms, bananas, mahogany and other far-southern vegetation.

Leaving the Florida mainland, the Overseas Highway traverses the following Keys: Key Largo, Plantation Key, Isla Morada, Upper Matecumbe Key, Lower Matecumbe Key, Long Key, Grassy Key, Bone Fish Key, Key Vaca, Marathon Key, Knight Key, where the famous Seven-Mile Bridge begins, which is the World's longest and passes high above Pigeon Key, the smallest inhabited island in the world—Bahia Honda Key, where the road rises seventy-five feet above the meeting of the Atlantic Ocean with the Gulf of Mexico, West Summerland Key, Big Pine Key, Torch Key, Ramrod Key, Summerland Key, Cudjoe Key, Sugarloaf Key, Saddlebunch Key, Geiger Key, Boca Chica Key and the island city of Key West.

This quaint city of Key West has much the appearance of the West Indies with houses, many of them of solid cedar and mahogany, built close on the street. Fishing here, as on all the Florida Keys, surpasses description. This is also the center of a large Turtle and Sponge industry, and a glimpse of the sponge fleet and its catch on a market day is a visit worthwhile.

Close by on Dry Tortugas is old Ft. Jefferson, now a National Monument. It was aptly called America's Devil's Island. This grim citadel once housed Dr. Samuel Mudd, imprisoned for giving medical aid to John Wilkes Booth, assassin of Abraham Lincoln.