

Turtle Kraals Museum

FREE!!!

Learn

about the history of
the turtle cannery
business at the
world's only Sea
Turtle Museum!

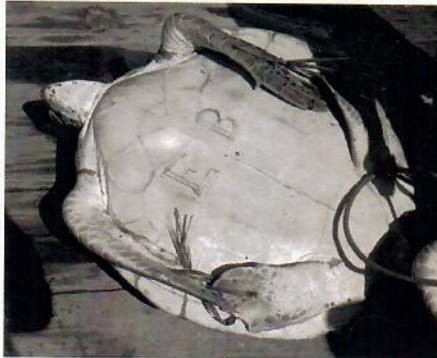


Photo Credit: William Chase - 1940

View

a living display
tank with a
LIVE
Sea Turtle!



Photo Credit: Tina Brown

Located at: 200 Margaret Street
Historic Seaport, Key West, FL 33040
(305) 294-0209
www.seaturtle museum.org

The first Key West turtle cannery opened in 1849. This cannery operated with some success until 1890, when a fellow named Armand Granday opened his turtle cannery. Granday's cannery dominated the industry because he was situated right on the docks. The turtles were brought in from the sea and kept in the kraals (corrals) along the shore. They were fed until they went into the cannery to be decapitated and made into soup and steak. Then, in 1910, Norberg Thompson bought the business, and Thompson Enterprises made turtle soup until 1957. Sea Farm took over the operation after that. One of the schooners that fished for turtles was the A.M. Adams. They would catch turtles along the coast of Nicaragua.



Betty Page Photo Credit: Becky Auld

The turtles were trapped in nets. They set 85 nets attached to mooring buoys, the top of the net floated and the rest hung in the water to tangle the turtles as they swam by. The average catch would be 35 turtles for all 85 nets. After the boat was loaded, they would make the 6-day journey back to Key West. The boats would bring in around 400 turtles per trip, and then they would butcher them at a rate of 25 per day for soup and steaks. The Key west turtle industry flourished until the 1970's when it was forced to close down due to the diminishing numbers of green turtles in the Caribbean. The A.M. Adams made their last trip in 1971. The state conservationists made a rule requiring that turtles be at least 41 inches long in order for them to be caught. Then, in 1973, the Endangered Species Act was enacted, and all sea turtles were protected.



Turtle at Kraals (pens) Photo Credit: H. Waterson

Sea Turtle Facts:

Hawksbill Turtle



The endangered Hawksbill, a relatively small turtle, has been hunted to the brink of extinction for its beautiful shell. Once relatively common in Florida, these turtles now nest here only rarely. Hawksbills feed on sponges and other invertebrates and tend to nest on small, isolated beaches.

Kemp's Ridley



The rarest and smallest of all the sea turtles, the endangered Kemp's ridley feeds in the coastal waters of Florida on blue crabs and other crabs and shrimp. All Kemp's ridleys nest on a single stretch of beach on the Gulf coast of Mexico.

Loggerhead Turtle



The loggerhead turtle is the most common sea turtle in Florida. It is listed as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. Named for its large head, which can be ten inches wide, it has powerful jaws to crush the heavy shelled clams, crabs and encrusting animals on which it feeds. In the past few years, 49,000 to 68,000 loggerhead nests have been recorded in Florida annually.

Green Turtle



The green turtle, named for the greenish color of its body fat, is listed as endangered in Florida. Most green turtles nest in the Caribbean but 500 to 2000 nests are recorded in Florida each year. Green turtles have been hunted for centuries for their meat and the gelatinous "calipee" that is made into soup. Hunting and egg gathering have reduced their number greatly. Green turtles are the only sea turtles that eat plants. They graze on the vast beds of seagrasses found throughout the tropics. Some populations travel over a thousand miles over open ocean to nest on islands in the mid-Atlantic.

Leatherback Turtle



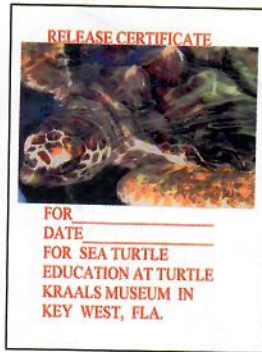
The endangered leatherback turtle is the largest and most active of the sea turtles. They travel thousands of miles, dive thousands of feet deep, and venture into much colder water than any other kind of sea turtle. Up to eight feet in length, these huge turtles have a rubbery dark shell marked by seven narrow ridges that extend the length of the back. Remarkably leatherbacks feed on jellyfish and soft-bodied animals that would appear to provide very little nutrition for such huge animals. Ingestion of plastic bags and egg collecting are reasons for mortality and population declines. About 100 to 200 leatherback nests are recorded in Florida each year.

Turtle Kraals Museum is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public about the past and present dangers to our endangered and threatened sea turtles.

Please Help Us!

***If you see a sick or injured sea turtle or a nest,
call 1-888-404-FWCC***

You can also help by joining our online conservation group, buy a release certificate, (this helps us get a turtle ready for release back into the wild), or buy our t-shirt.



Clip and mail to:

Turtle Kraals Museum
200 Margaret Street
Key West, FL 33040

Online Conservation Group Annual \$15.00 _____

E-mail Address: _____

Release Certificate(s) \$15.00 _____

Name on Certificate _____

Address _____

Phone _____

T-Shirt \$18.00

S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____

For donations, we are a 501-C3 nonprofit corp., and will provide receipts for tax deductions! Thank You!!!

Hatchling Donor \$25.00 _____

Juvenile Donor \$50.00 _____

Sub Adult Donor \$100.00 _____

Adult Donor \$500.00 _____

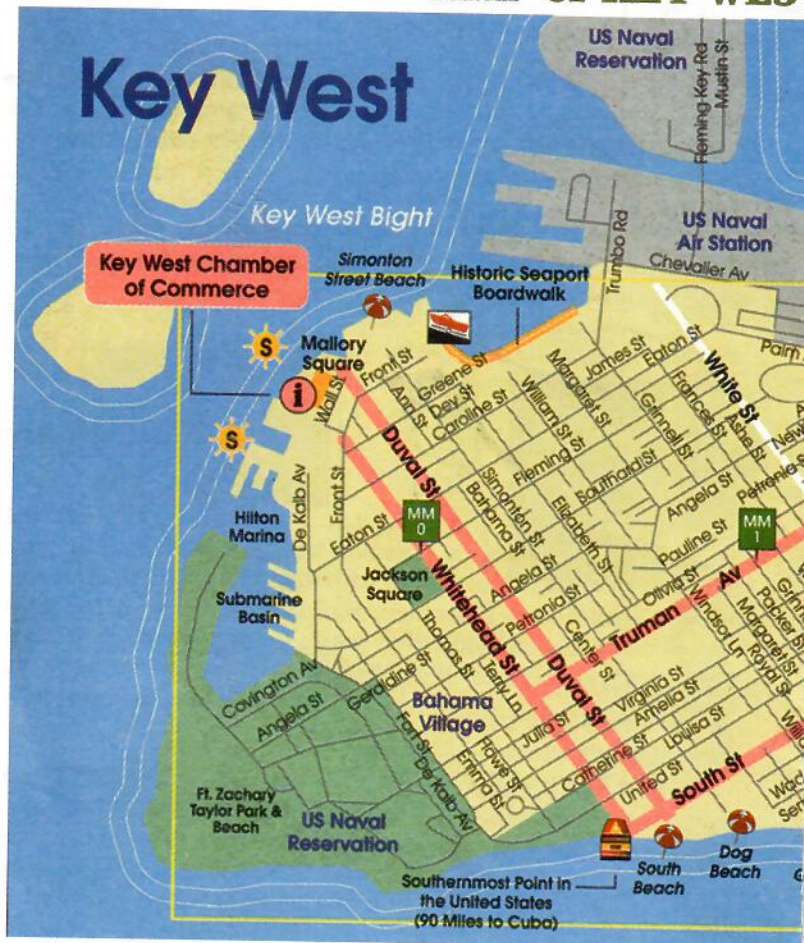
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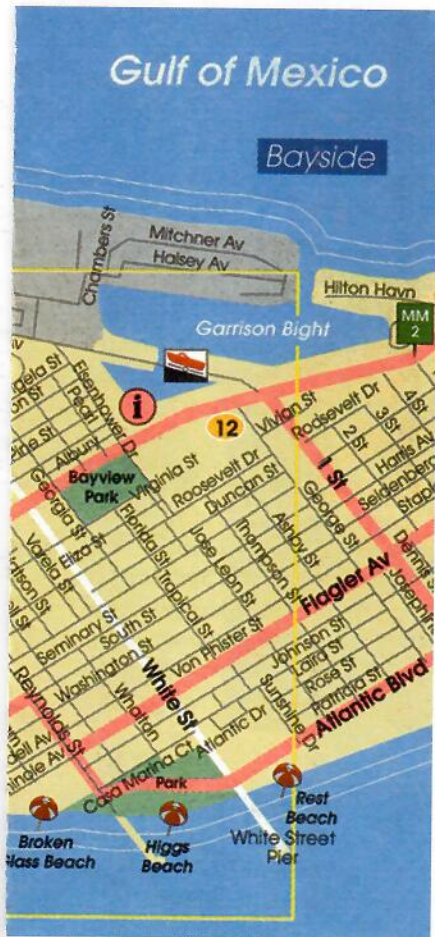
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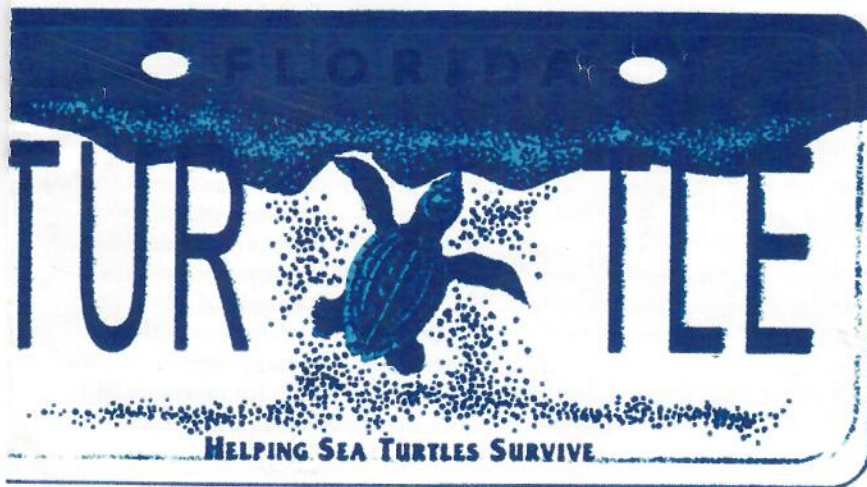


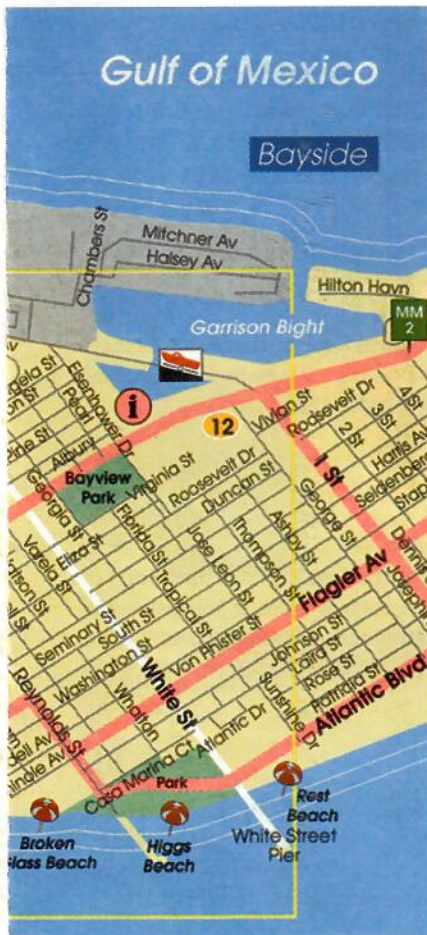
***Purchase a sea turtle
license tag and do your
part to ensure the
survival of these
remarkable animals.***



A copy of the official registration and financial information of Turtle Kraals Museum, Inc. may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free, 1-800-435-7352 (within the state). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state of Florida.

Thank you to the Marine Turtle Grants Program for funds that helped to make this Brochure, and to "Florida's Sea Turtles, Copyright 1992, Florida Power and Light Company."





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