

# Travel Scene



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## Florida Keys Taste the Caribbean without leaving U.S.

By Iris Sanderson Jones  
special writer

Voices. "If they would only move some of those Caribbean islands to the United States and make them American."

Two thoughts flashed through my head. The first: "That's a narrow view of travel." The second: "The Florida Keys."

Voices. "I'm going to sunset. You coming?" The sun goes down all over the world, but there's only one place I know where people "go to sunset" and applaud the sun as it goes down. The Florida Keys.

The Keys: a 100-mile-long whiplash of bony islands curving out from the southeast corner of the United States toward the warm Caribbean Sea. Your American passport is good there, although some people think it's a different world. Voices.

**The Keys: a 100-mile-long whiplash of bony islands curving out from the southeast corner of the United States toward the warm Caribbean Sea.**

"Welcome to the Conch Republic."

You enter the Conch Republic on Highway 1, which starts at the Canada-U.S. border in Maine and follows the Atlantic coast south until it crosses the interstate waterway and does a sharp right turn south toward the Caribbean.

Some people take the Card Sound Bridge to the north end of Key Largo Key and the Ocean Reef Club, a private club where members have names like Monaghan and J.P.

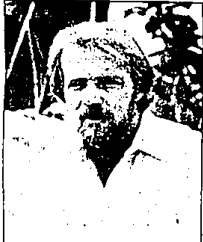
McCarthy.

Most of us follow Highway 1 as it narrows and the signs begin amid the roadside scrub: "Patience pays -- only three minutes to a passing zone." There's no border, no immigration, but this is where the Conch Republic begins.

Billboards announce marinas, dive shops, anything related to the sea. That telltale turquoise water, so far

Please turn to Page 9

## Exchanging 9-to-5 routine for barefoot Florida life



Dan Webster

Dan Webster has that bleached-head look you get when you spend a lot of time in the sun. He didn't have it when he graduated from East Garden City High School or when he was opening restaurants all over the metro Detroit area in the 1970s and 80s, but he has it now, after 18 months of working in the Florida Keys.

He has the Keys Disease. The Keys are about dive boats, fishermen, funky bars and sunsets, but most of all they are about people. Not just ordinary people, but individualists, people who leave the shirt-and-tie life behind, run away to rediscover their own lives and contract the Keys Disease. It may or may not be incurable.



crossroads  
Iris Jones

There are a long list of rugged individualists in the folklore of the Keys. Pirates. Wreckers who swung lanterns to lure Spanish treasure ships to their death on the reefs, then salvaged the contents. Legendary figures like Ernest Hemingway.

Today the individualists are often young men, and occasionally women, who exchange successful nine-to-five



Scuba diving among incredible Florida Keys reefs, surrounded by more than 300 species of tropical fish, is a delight to diving enthusiasts.

The nation's first underwater park, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park in Key Largo, offers many diving opportunities.

bought a boat, and is now a sun-bronzed doorman in shorts and boat shoes at Cheeca Lodge. He's got his life on course now. Next year he plans to sail to the Bahamas, the

year after that to the Virgin Islands. The Keys are about Tom who was a handyman to the rich and famous

Please turn to Page 9

## Geneva museum A-paeen to humanity amidst war

By Irene McMahon  
special writer

An open tunnel of concrete resembling a World War I trench leads to the courtyard of the Red Cross-Red Crescent International Museum dug into a grassy hill opening toward the impressive headquarters of The International Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland.

In the museum's courtyard stand nine bronze sculptures, human in size, draped and faceted, representing prisoners of war. Above are parachute-cloth flags of giant size. One features a red cross on a field of white, the other is emblazoned with an internationally recognized crescent.

These symbols are the only two recognized by the Geneva Convention. The banners filter the light and reflect many times in the floor-to-ceiling window glass.

Beside the stone wall and equally reflective are words from Dostoyevsky's "The Brothers Karamazov": "Each one of us is responsible to all others, for everything."

The museum attempts and succeeds in portraying the need for a shared responsibility for events that shape world history. Exhibits and films speak of a Red Cross not standing in judgment, but offering humanitarian services to all.

**When businessman Henry Dunant arrived on the battlefield three days later, he found thousands of soldiers unattended and dying of their wounds.**

bloody battle with Austrians they perceived as an occupying force.

When businessman Henry Dunant arrived on the battlefield three days later, he found thousands of soldiers unattended and dying of their wounds.

He mobilized the local population to assist him in caring for the victims and later returned to Geneva to write "A Memory of Solferino." In the museum there is a white sculpture by the American George Segal called "Henry Dunant writing."

He called upon states to "formulate some international principle, sanctioned by a convention inviolate in character, which once agreed upon and ratified, might constitute the basis for statutes for the relief of the wounded."

His proposal led to the formation of the Red Cross as well as the Geneva Conventions. In 1864 his "Committee of Five" philanthropists quickly became international. Clara Barton was the first American president of the Red Cross.

The Red Cross has set an international style for the city of Geneva which now hosts not only the Geneva Conventions, but the administrative headquarters for the United Nations and World Health Organization as well.

The interior of the museum is a hazy realm of reinforced concrete with tubes of light-colored handling equipment running overhead throughout and forming a stark

Please turn to Page 9

## Lost bags Airlines differ in what they'll replace, pay for

AP — Your flight was smooth and on time.

Now, to retrieve your luggage. The lost bag has been belched up onto the conveyor belt, but yours is nowhere to be found.

The fact that airlines successfully deliver vast numbers of checked bags to intended destinations on time doesn't impress you as you stand there, claim check in hand, surveying the empty carousel.

You report the bag missing, and the airline immediately puts a tracer on it. With luck, your luggage will be found and delivered to you within 24 hours. If not, what compensation can you expect?

For actual loss, if the bag cannot be found within a reasonable period often specified as five days, the airline's liability is limited to the amount listed on the back of your airline ticket.

For domestic flights it's \$1,250 per incident (not per bag), set by U.S. Transportation Department regulations. For international flights, it's \$20 per kilogram, or \$9.05 per pound, of checked luggage, determined by the Warsaw Convention. That's \$1,250.80 for the 70 pounds of allowable free luggage.

These amounts are frequently inadequate. And, to be compensated, most airlines require passengers to list contents of lost bags, with receipts or other proofs of value.

Passengers have little recourse. Most lawsuits are dismissed, resulting in further frustration. One notable exception involved a to-beachy. The check-in agent on a New York to London flight hadn't written the luggage weight on the passenger's ticket. The Warsaw Convention states, "If the baggage check does not contain the weight of the

luggage, the carrier shall not be entitled to avail himself of those provisions of the convention which exclude or limit his liability." British Airways settled out of court for a sum substantially higher than \$1,250.80.

You can take measures to protect against loss. If you know the airline's limited liability won't cover clothing, work-related items or other accessories, you can buy additional baggage insurance — a maximum of \$5,000 coverage per passenger — at check-in time. The cost is minimal. Delta, Continental and Northwest airlines charge \$1 per each additional \$100 of value. American and United charge \$2 per each additional \$100 of value.

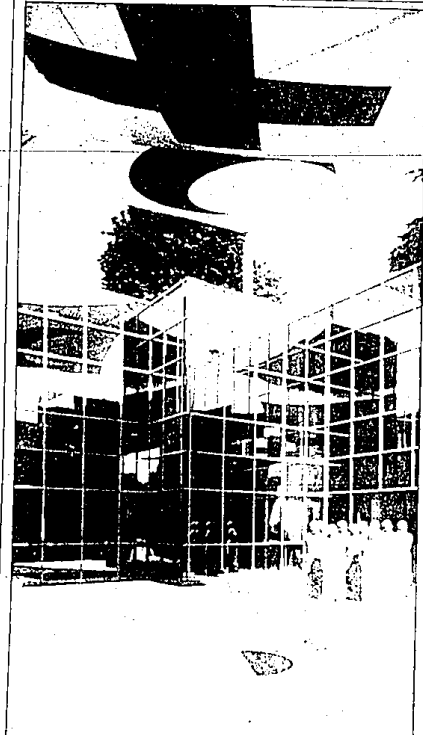
What immediate assistance can you expect if your luggage arrives later than you do? Although you'll have to ask, even most airlines reimburse you for necessary purchases. No, you can't buy a new suit. But toiletries, medicine, underwear, and, depending on the time elapsed between lost and found, a change of clothing or cleaning services are reimbursable with sales receipts.

Some airlines are more liberal. Most give baggage survivors personnel some leeway in determining amounts and conditions of payment. Be prepared to state your case politely but strongly to get the best deal.

Delta Airlines, known to be particularly responsive, allows \$150 for expenses incurred as a result of delayed luggage. Payment is made in cash upon presentation of receipts.

Northwest Airlines allows \$50 if the bag has not been recovered with

Please turn to Page 9



Here in the Red Cross Museum's courtyard stand nine bronze sculptures, human in size, draped and faceted, representing prisoners of war. Above are big parachute-cloth flags. One has a red cross on a field of white, the other a red crescent.