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How To Drive In The Keys by Karen Beal

1. You must first learn to pronounce the island names (EYE-la-more-ada, CUD-joe and tav-earn-EAR). Old-timers are allowed to simply be on the rock or off the rock.
2. The morning rush hour from Homestead is from 6 am to 10 am. The evening rush hour is from 3 pm to 7 pm. Morning and evening rush hours are impacted by school zones seasonally. Saturday traffic starts on Friday evening and Sunday traffic starts late on Sunday.
3. The minimum acceptable speed on The Stretch is 80 mph. On US1 on the rock, your speed is expected to be at least 10 miles over the posted limit in the right lane; 20 if you are in the left lane. Anything less is considered 'a tie up.'
4. Forget the traffic rules you learned elsewhere. We have our own version of traffic rules. For example, Teslas and Lexuses owned by seasonal residents with homes worth more than two million dollars go first at a four-way stop. Cars/trucks pulling boat trailers go second. The trucks with the biggest tires go third. Priuses go last.
5. If you actually stop at a yellow light or stop sign on a side street, you probably will be rear ended, cussed out, or these days, possibly shot. Unless there is a Monroe County Sheriff's car nearby. Nearly everyone stops for a yellow light when driving on US1, at least by the time it turns red.



6. Never honk at anyone. Ever. Seriously. It's an offense that can get you shot by someone with an out-of-town driver's license.
 7. Waterline construction is going to be permanent and continuous. They can basically only put it down the highway. Traffic barrels are moved around for your entertainment pleasure during the middle of the night to make the next day's driving a bit more exciting. Generally, Keys roads, other than some of the posher neighborhoods, have more potholes and bumps (often speed bumps) than most dirt roads in North Florida.
 8. Watch carefully for road hazards such as drunks, lost tourists, normal bicyclists, box-man on his bike, dead raccoons, styrofoam coolers, boating equipment, actual boats.
 9. Be aware that there are multiple streets named: Atlantic, Bayside, Hibiscus, Sunset, 1st, 2nd & 3rd - and they could ALL be in your neighborhood.
 10. House numbers are chosen by lottery on some streets, in consecutive order on one side of the street OR odd on one side and even on the other - and they could ALL be in your neighborhood.
 11. If someone actually has their turn signal on, wave them to the shoulder immediately to let them know it has been "accidentally activated."
- MOST IMPORTANT:** If you get lost, look for a road named Grouper... then you know you are still somewhere in the Keys.



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