



NEWS

**Forbes**

December 29, 2018

# 7 Reasons To Go To The Florida Keys

Hurricane Irma slammed into the Florida Keys in the fall of last year, causing tremendous damage in the Middle and Upper Keys, hurling 130 mile an hour winds at Bahia Honda, Marathon, Cudjoe Key and Key Largo while battering the entire island chain. Driving the 110 mile stretch today long after the cleanup, you can still see the ravages, stretches of disappeared foliage, empty lots where houses once stood or scaffolding revealing further repairs. The hotels took a beating too but didn't stay down for long. Some reopened in renovated form earlier this year, others this fall. And a new one appeared on the scene.

About 17 miles south in Islamorada, [Cheeca Lodge](#), a fishing mecca for 72 years formerly owned by Bungalows' owner, reemerged from a six month closure due to hurricane damage with a \$25 million makeover that redesigned the lobby to open it up to exterior views of the Atlantic and lightened and updated the room décor. The restaurants Nikai Sushi Bar and Atlantic's Edge also reemerged with refreshed menus and a new casual Italian café Mia Cucina took the place of a more formal restaurant located near the pool. The spa was also redesigned with new treatments built around ocean elements.



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