



00:00  
This is the remarkable seven mile bridge  
00:03  
in the Florida Keys, the  
00:05

centerpiece of the Overseas Highway, the  
00:07  
southernmost section of America's Route  
00:09  
one, that runs through the famous  
00:11  
subtropical island chain for 127 miles.  
00:14  
And because it is one of America's truly  
00:18  
great highways there really is only one  
00:20  
way to see it and that is by Road,  
00:22  
meaning you'll probably have to hire a  
00:23  
car. That, however, is for the camera crew  
00:26  
because this bad boy, he's mine,  
00:32  
on my journey on this All-American road.  
00:35  
I head southwest from Key Largo, renowned  
00:38  
for snorkeling at John Pennekamp coral  
00:40  
reef State Park and the surrounding  
00:42  
waters of the Florida Keys National  
00:43  
Marine Sanctuary. While there, it's worth  
00:48  
keeping your eyes peeled as you'll  
00:49  
discover hidden gems like this giant  
00:51  
mural by prolific marine artist Wyland.  
00:54  
And this is well worth a visit, the  
00:56  
restored original vessel from John  
00:58  
Huston's classic film the African Queen  
01:00  
starring Humphrey Bogart. You know, I've  
01:03  
never really been on many movie sets, and  
01:06  
this is like being on a movie set. After  
01:08  
leaving Key Largo, my first port of call  
01:10

on this adventure through the Keys is a  
01:12  
fishing village community spread over  
01:14  
four islands. Isla Mirada,  
01:16  
home to the world's largest anatomically  
01:18  
correct Lobster which is well worth a  
01:20  
photo or two. Sitting here in the middle  
01:26  
of Isla Morada, the sport fishing capital  
01:27  
world, we can look for tarpon, we can look  
01:30  
for redfish, we can go catch a shark if  
01:32  
you like. Back on the highway, and I'm  
01:36  
headed to the islands of Marathon, a 16  
01:38  
mile long family-friendly region where  
01:41  
you can fly like James Bond. It's  
01:47  
actually a lot easier than people think.  
01:49  
It's simply moving up and down and  
01:51  
throttle. As long you control that, you're  
01:53  
safe. You're ready to go ready to fly.  
02:04  
This has to be a new addition to the  
02:07  
bucket list.  
02:11  
So we've just hit the start of something  
02:13  
truly remarkable in a feat of  
02:15  
engineering. It's the seven mile bridge  
02:18  
here in the Florida Keys and with a car  
02:20  
like this, on a day like today, there is  
02:23  
no better Road to drive. Now I've stopped  
02:26  
off here at Bahia Honda State Park which  
02:28

is a great location to take in a couple  
02:30  
of the very best things that the Florida  
02:32  
Keys has to offer. I'm talking great  
02:33  
weather and picturesque sandy beaches.  
02:35  
It's also a great place to spot both the  
02:38  
new and the old, and by that I mean this,  
02:40  
the new current highway US number one,  
02:42  
all the way from Miami down to Key West.  
02:44  
And this, the original railroad almost a  
02:46  
hundred years old and the very first  
02:49  
Highway. The railroad was the brainchild  
02:52  
of Henry Flagler, an American tycoon who  
02:55  
developed the Florida East Coast Railway.  
02:57  
It links the far out reaches of the keys  
02:59  
to the then modest town of Miami.  
03:02  
Construction began in 1905. For more than  
03:05  
seven years men and machines  
03:07  
relentlessly pushed forward on the  
03:09  
railroad that went to sea Henry Flagler  
03:11  
genius (ingenious)  
03:11  
but yet very challenging project. A  
03:13  
project that at any given time, 4,000 men  
03:16  
were working on under incredibly harsh  
03:18  
conditions. Imagine the Sun beating down,  
03:20  
and of course having to invent brand new  
03:22  
techniques in railroad construction,  
03:24

deep-sea diving and building the bridges.  
03:26  
All of which, using the most simple and  
03:29  
basic of tools. His vision to link up the  
03:32  
islands strengthened the local economy  
03:34  
and unlocked the keys for businesses,  
03:36  
residents and luckily for me, tourists.  
03:41  
Back behind the wheel, and it's just a  
03:44  
little further along this historic  
03:45  
Scenic Byway to my final destination,  
03:48  
Key West. Closer to Cuba than to Miami,  
03:51  
this free-spirited community has  
03:53  
attracted many people away from the  
03:55  
fast-paced lifestyle of mainland America.  
03:57  
Among them, former writers Tennessee  
03:59  
Williams. And perhaps its most famous former  
04:02  
resident, Ernest Hemingway. He did a lot of his  
04:04  
best writing here. People don't realize  
04:07  
that they've had him down here fighting  
04:09  
and drinking and carousing but he did a  
04:12  
lot of work in addition to that. And so  
04:14  
profound is Hemingway's legend here, that  
04:16  
a whole festival takes place every year  
04:18  
in his honor. It comes at the end of July  
04:20  
when his birthday was. And it's a very  
04:22  
festive occasion and the town is full of  
04:25  
people celebrating it. Hemingway spent  
04:27

ten years in Key West and you can be sure  
04:29  
that he indulged in all the pleasures  
04:31  
this unpretentious city has to offer. And  
04:33  
when you visit here today, you can still  
04:35  
feel the great atmosphere that kept him  
04:37  
here for so long. So that is it. We're at  
04:41  
journey's end, after an incredible trip  
04:43  
of more than 125 miles, we're here at the  
04:46  
southernmost point of continental United  
04:48  
States of America, just 90 miles that way  
04:50  
till you hit Cuba. And what a trip it's  
04:53  
been, through some of the most scenic  
04:54  
highway I have ever been lucky enough to  
04:56  
travel. Thank you Henry Flagler for  
04:58  
creating the railroad that started the  
05:00  
Keys evolution into a prime vacation  
05:03  
destination.