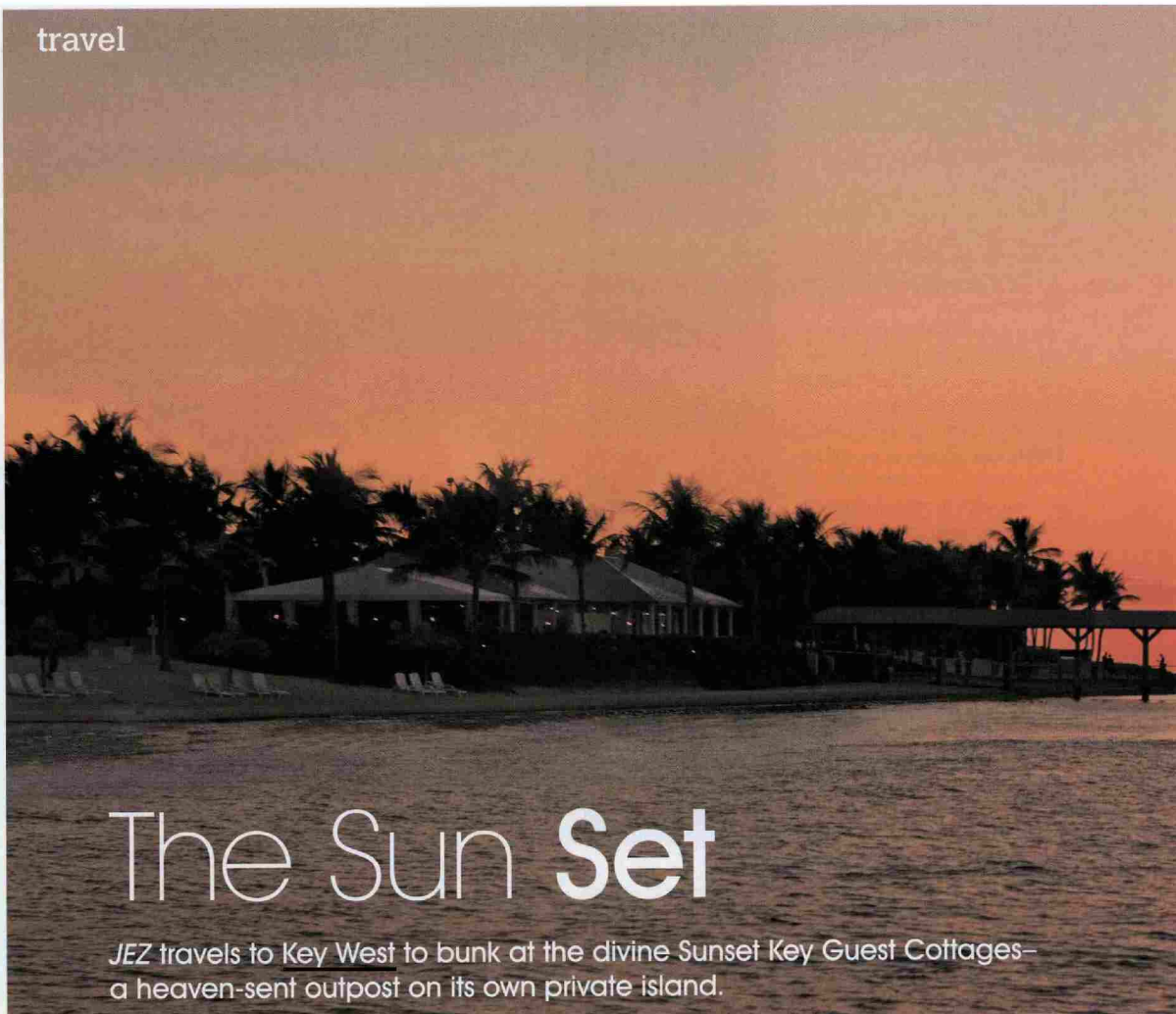


travel



The Sun Set

JEZ travels to Key West to bunk at the divine Sunset Key Guest Cottages—a heaven-sent outpost on its own private island.

Spring fever may have subsided, but the need for summer sun is in full bloom. Time to take that much-needed vacation to Sunset Key Guest Cottages, a Westin Resort comprised of 27 tropical acres located 500 yards off the coast of historic “Old Town” Key West, Fla. The bright sun, towering palms and clear blue waters of Sunset Key—a beach lover’s dream—seem worlds removed from just about everything, but in reality is still just 160 miles south of Miami. Just hop aboard one of the 24-hour transport ferries that depart from The Westin Key West Resort & Marina, and in 10 minutes you will arrive at fabulous Sunset Key.

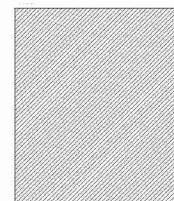
Elegant one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom cottages designed in traditional Key West architecture with charming pastel-colored wood finishes and authentic Victorian-style tin roofs—39 total—

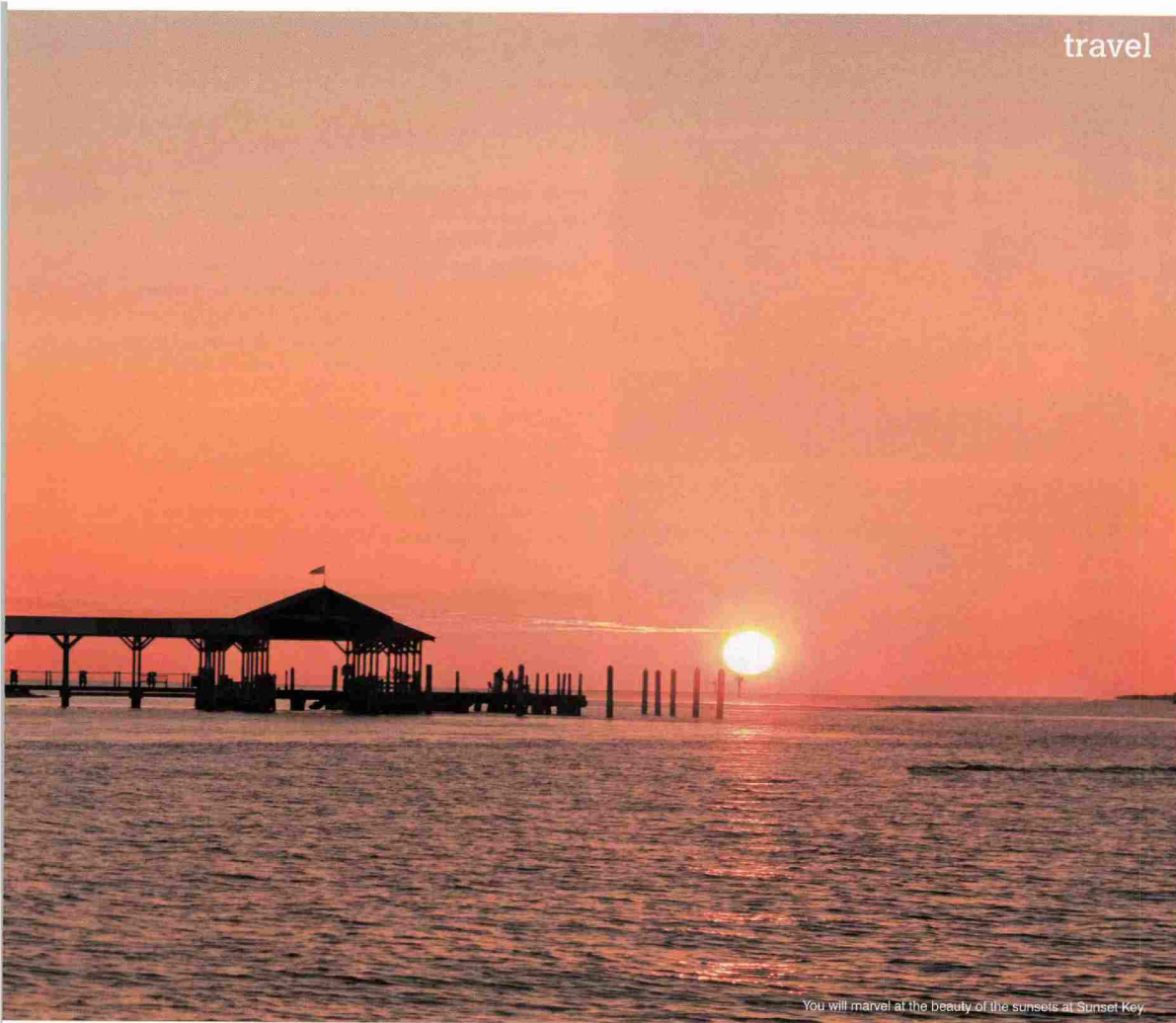
make up Sunset Key. Each cottage captures the unique beauty of Sunset Key with either an ocean or garden view. Airy, spacious verandas and friendly, comfortable Adirondack chairs invite guests to slow down and indulge in the island’s incomparable physical beauty.

Enjoying your luxurious cottage? Good news—you don’t ever have to leave the serene shores of Sunset Key. Delicious breakfast baskets with freshly baked muffins and daily newspapers greet guests each morning on their cottage porch. Take a break from a sun-filled day of beach bumming, and grab a snack from the fully stocked pantry and kitchen. Sip wine on the veranda, and watch as the sun slowly descends into the horizon. Sound perfect? Almost.

One of the exclusive perks of any Westin experience is the Heavenly brand. Sink deep into Sunset Key’s Heavenly Bed for

Photo courtesy of Sunset Key Guest Cottages.





You will marvel at the beauty of the sunsets at Sunset Key.

a night of restful, tranquil sleep, and welcome the morning atop signature white-feather linens. (Heavenly Cribs are available upon request!) Cottage bathrooms are also Heavenly tailored with a Heavenly Bath and Speakman showerhead.

While the Heavenly experience is, well, heavenly, the beaches of Sunset Key are equally divine. White sands and salty fresh air entice guests to explore the island coast as beach attendants address their every sun-kissed request. Lie on a comfy chaise lounge beneath a covered island cabana as you quietly listen to the gentle crash of waves meeting the shore, or relish in the tropical rays from Sunset Key's free-form, zero-degree-entry swimming pool, equipped with two whirlpools and the Flippers Pool Bar. And if you're hungry for an outdoor dining affair, Latitudes' delicious Caribbean menu coupled with an alfresco beachfront location

makes for a dining gem (inside dining is also available). Casual yet first class, this outdoor eatery is perfect for a romantic evening under the stars.

Recently opened, The Spa at Sunset Key will take your relaxation up a notch. Engaging all your five senses, the quaint new spa provides highly trained therapists who offer personalized experiences. The Spa houses three spacious treatment suites, each with a full bathroom overflowing with amenities. Lush, tropical vegetation surrounds each suite patio, providing the perfect resting spot after a treatment; in fact, you receive 25 minutes after your service to just kick back and relax. The well-rounded treatment menu offers traditional and tropical body treatments, facials and touch therapy options, including couples massage. Keeping nature in mind, featured product lines at The Spa are organic and include

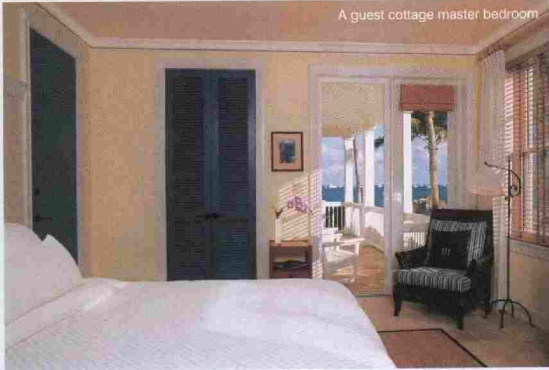


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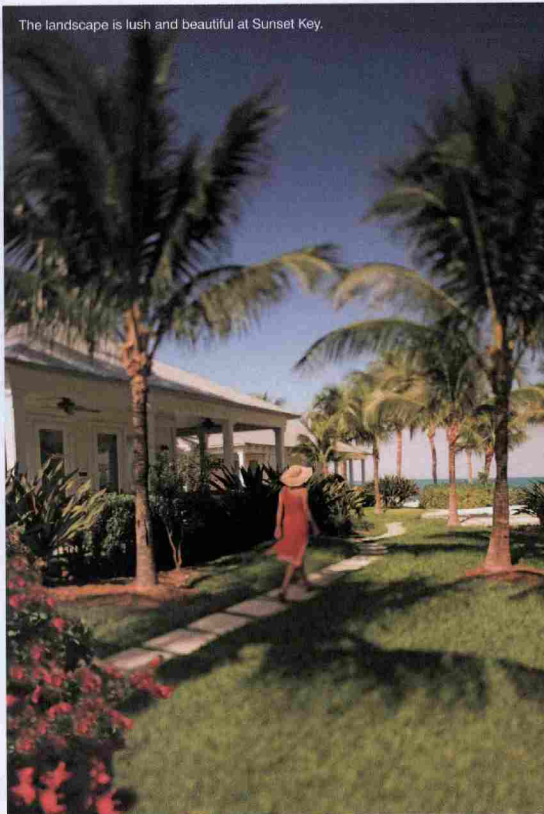
Inside a guest cottage

Your Own Personal Sunset

Love Sunset Key? Purchase a residence, and watch the sunset from your own luxurious veranda. Twenty of the island's 27 acres are devoted to private residences, tempting beach-goers to invest in real estate on these white, sandy shores. Plus, residents of Sunset Key enjoy an exclusive, serene homeowner beach, uninterrupted by the coming and going of guests at the Sunset Key resort. Buy ready-made magnificent beach homes, or design your dream pied-à-terre. Submit architecture plans to the island's Architectural Control Committee for approval. And while home site purchases on Sunset Key are a bit pricey (think high \$1 million to more than \$4 million), think of it as investing in your happiness, which is priceless. Residents of Sunset Key also enjoy many of the amenities of the Sunset Key Guest Cottages. For example, Latitudes welcomes both guests and residents. Other island amenities include tennis courts, a gift shop and 24-hour transportation to and from the main island.

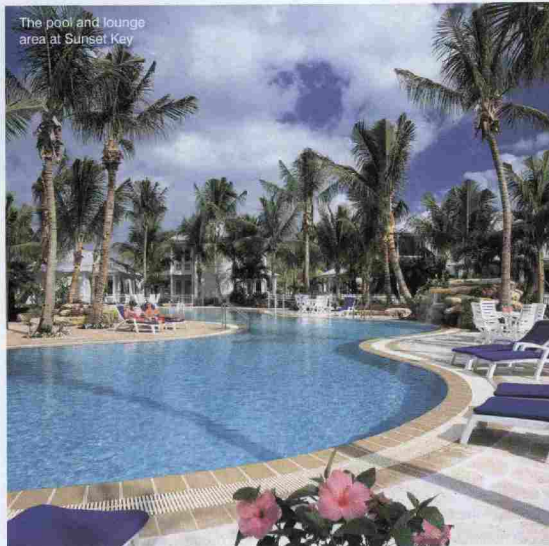


A guest cottage master bedroom



The landscape is lush and beautiful at Sunset Key.

Photos on this page courtesy of Sunset Key Guest Cottages.



The pool and lounge area at Sunset Key

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Pure Fiji, Aromatherapy Associates, B. Kamins and Jane Iredale. Treatment specialties include the Sun Burn Rescue Wrap, which incorporates Dilo Nut, coconut oil and aloe; the Tropical Sugar Scrub, which exfoliates the skin using tropical-infused sugars with cold pressed Fijian oils combined with warm coconut milk; and the Blushing Rose Hydrating Facial that uses rose extracts to rejuvenate, moisturize and nourish dehydrated skin. To top off the treatment, whichever one you choose, a glass of tasty tropical fruit-infused water is provided. The spa relaxation room offering comfortable seating and a Tea Bar with plenty of hot and iced teas, fresh fruit and fruit-infused waters is a nice spot to allow your Zen state of mind to linger.

Yes, the intimate ambiance of Sunset Key leaves little to be desired. (I mean, really, what else could you possibly want?) But with the excitement and amenities of Key West just a 10-minute ferry ride away, historic tours, beautiful gardens and local restaurants entice guests from the tranquility of Sunset's shores to indulge in a day of adventure on the main island.

Book a fishing excursion since Key West's turquoise waters are home to some of the best fishing game in the country, including sailfish, cobia, tarpon and barracuda; schedule a ghost tour, and experience the bizarre history of Key West's above-ground cemeteries and legendary phantoms (reservations can be made through Sunset Key's concierge); or visit North America's only living coral reef on a three-hour sailing and snorkeling adventure. The trip provides snorkeling gear, instruction and refreshments.

When the adventure continues, follow it to an orchid tour. See the lush, vibrant gardens of Key West, whose blossoms have never been stifled by frost. Next up is the Hemingway House and the studio where Ernest Hemingway composed his prize-winning masterpieces. Catch a glimpse of Key West's culture

through a visit to local art galleries and museums such as the Wyland Galleries and the East Martello Museum. Or explore President Harry S. Truman's "Little White House." The former president retreated to Key West for vacations during his presidency, and one of the command posts for the then commander in chief was located on this tropical paradise during the Korean War. And, of course, stick around for the Mallory Square sunset celebration. Celebrate as Tennessee Williams once did with drinks, artisans, entertainment and food as a crowd gathers to watch the spectacular sunset.

It takes a lot of energy to take part in the numerous Key West festivities, but not to worry, Key West brims with appetizing eateries to refuel your empty belly. For instance, try Bistro 245. Located inside The Westin Key West Resort & Marina, this restaurant specializes in tasty "Floribbean" cuisine, a unique island treat. Do it up with a night out at The Commodore Waterfront Restaurant, a premier seafood, beef and chops diner—don't forget to check out its impressive selection of wines. Another restaurant with a notable wine list is Pisces, where the award-winning Franco-Caribbean cuisine will blow you away. Adventurous eaters might enjoy Martin's Restaurant and Lounge, a bistro serving German and island cuisine. Martin's features German dishes like weiner schnitzel and jäger schnitzel as well as potato soup. Once again, delicious spirits abound!

Key West offers many more activities and restaurants for guests of all ages. And, yet, it seems impossible to see all the beautiful historically rich sites and taste every bite of scrumptious cuisine on the island. So I have another idea. Retreat back to your island paradise on Sunset Key, sink into your Heavenly Bed and enjoy hours of quiet slumber. Tomorrow a refreshing breeze of cool, salty air will wake you with a quiet reminder that just outside your window is seventh heaven. —BETH WEITZMAN



Photo: this page by Beth Weitzman.

You'll see many beautiful sailboats cruising around Sunset Key.

Visit westinsunsetkeycottages.com, or call 866.716.8126 for more information.

Summer rates and specials:

- 1-Bedroom Cottage, \$595 - \$745
- 2-Bedroom Cottage, \$645 - \$1,295
- 3-Bedroom Cottage, \$1,015 - \$1,495
- 4-Bedroom Cottage, \$2,565 - \$3,695

Two For One: Receive a two-bedroom gardenview cottage for the price of a one-bedroom. Through Dec. 24.

Better Tomorrows: Stay One Night and the Next Is 50 percent off: For every night you pay regular rate, you can get the next for 50 percent off; arrive Saturday-Wednesday; through Dec. 24.



Visit the famous Mallory Square in "Old Town," Key West, just a boat ride away.



You'll spend most of your time at Sunset Key just walking around. Staff can transport you in a golf cart if needed.