



FLORIDA KEYS

National Weather Service

Forecast Office

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4TH WETTEST OCTOBER FOR MARATHON IN ALMOST THREE DECADES
9TH WETTEST OCTOBER FOR KEY WEST THE PAST THREE DECADES
COOL START TO THE MONTH ENDS RELATIVELY NORMAL FOR THE KEYS

AFTER STARTING THE MONTH OFF DRY AND COOL, COMPARED TO NORMAL OCTOBER VALUES, BOTH AIRPORT TERMINALS ENDED WITH A SURPLUS OF RAINFALL AND NEAR NORMAL TEMPERATURES. THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT TALLIED AN IMPRESSIVE 10.84 INCHES OF RAINFALL LAST MONTH, ALMOST HALF A FOOT ABOVE THE NORMAL AMOUNT OF 5.30 INCHES. KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RECEIVED 6.58 INCHES OF RAINFALL FOR THE MONTH, OR 2.24 INCHES ABOVE THE NORMAL 4.34 INCHES FOR OCTOBER.

ALTHOUGH NO MEASURABLE RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THESE AIRPORT LOCATIONS IN THE FIRST 11 DAYS OF THE MONTH, THAT DRY STREAK CAME TO A QUICK END ON THE 12TH FOR BOTH LOCATIONS. MARATHON RECORDED 8.28 INCHES OF RAINFALL ON THE 12TH. THIS BECAME THE WETTEST DAY ON RECORD FOR THE MARATHON AIRPORT AND THE 3RD WETTEST DAY ON RECORD FOR THE MARATHON AREA GOING BACK TO 1982, WHEN RECORDKEEPING BEGAN.

IN CONTRAST, KEY WEST RECORDED A MODEST 0.89 INCHES FOR THAT DATE, BUT RECEIVED ITS OWN DELUGE ON THE 26TH. THE MORNING OF THE 26TH DELIVERED 3.44 INCHES OF RAINFALL TO THE KEY WEST AIRPORT, IN A 7-HOUR PERIOD FROM 100 TO 800 AM. THIS AMOUNT FOR KEY WEST SET A NEW DAILY RAINFALL RECORD, SHATTERING THE PREVIOUS RECORD OF 2.01 INCHES SET BACK IN 1879. OFFICIAL RECORDS BEGAN IN 1871 FOR KEY WEST.

THESE WET DAYS HELPED BOOST EACH ISLAND LOCATION INTO THE TOP TEN FOR WETTEST OCTOBER IN THE PAST 30 YEARS. OCTOBER 2010 RANKS AS THE 9TH WETTEST OCTOBER ON RECORD FOR KEY WEST IN THE PAST 30 YEARS, AND THE 4TH WETTEST FOR THE MARATHON AREA SINCE 1982. THE WETTEST OCTOBER ON RECORD IS 1999 FOR BOTH LOCATIONS...WHEN 12.55 INCHES WAS MEASURED AT THE KEY WEST AIRPORT AND 16.62 INCHES WAS MEASURED ON DUCK KEY FOR THE MARATHON AREA.

TEMPERATURES FOR OCTOBER STARTED OFF BELOW NORMAL AS NORTH WINDS USHERED IN COOLER AIR, BUT THEN WARMER TEMPERATURES TOOK HOLD FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE MONTH KEEPING MONTHLY AVERAGES RIGHT AROUND NORMAL FOR MARATHON AND JUST SLIGHTLY BELOW NORMAL FOR KEY WEST. AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURES AT THE AIRPORT TERMINALS WERE 79.6 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT AT KEY WEST AND 79.7 DEGREES AT MARATHON.

THESE AVERAGES ARE 0.6 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL FOR KEY WEST AND RIGHT ON THE AVERAGE FOR MARATHON.

THE FIRST HALF OF THE MONTH RANKS AS THE SECOND COOLEST START TO OCTOBER FOR KEY WEST IN THE PAST 30 YEARS WITH AN AVERAGE OF 78.9 DEGREES. THE COOLEST REMAINS 1987, WHEN THE AVERAGE WAS 77.3 DEGREES BETWEEN THE FIRST AND FIFTEENTH. THE NORMAL TEMPERATURE FOR THIS PERIOD AVERAGES 81.2 DEGREES.

IN MARATHON, THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE WAS 78.9 DEGREES FOR THE FIRST 15 DAYS, WHICH PLACES IT IN A TIE WITH 1990 FOR THE 4TH COOLEST IN THE MARATHON/DUCK KEY AREA. THIS IS ALSO THE COOLEST START TO OCTOBER IN THE PAST TEN YEARS FOR MARATHON. THE AVERAGE FOR THE FIRST THROUGH FIFTEENTH IN THE MARATHON AREA IS 80.7 DEGREES.

ASIDE FROM THE RECORD RAINFALL IN KEY WEST, ONLY ONE OTHER RECORD WAS SET OR TIED OVER THE COURSE OF THE MONTH. A WARM NIGHT IN KEY WEST ON THE 25TH ALLOWED FOR THE AIRPORT TO TIE THE WARM MINIMUM TEMPERATURE FOR THE DATE OF 79 DEGREES. THIS DAILY RECORD WAS MOST RECENTLY REACHED BACK IN 1997.

BELOW ARE PRELIMINARY RAINFALL TOTALS FOR OCTOBER ALONG THE KEYS ISLAND CHAIN, COMPARING 2010 TO 2009 AND THE DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL VALUES WHERE AVAILABLE.

OCTOBER 2010 RAINFALL TOTALS/DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL/2009 IN INCHES

Station – Station Type	2010	Dep. fm Normal	2009	Dep. fm 2009
Dry Tortugas National Park – <i>COOP</i>	5.08		1.21	+3.87
Key West WFO – <i>NWS</i>	7.43	+3.09	1.35	+6.08
Key West International Airport – <i>ASOS</i>	6.58	+2.24	1.11	+5.47
Key West (NE side) – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	7.15	+2.81	1.33	+5.82
Big Coppitt Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	2.90		2.39	+0.51
Cudjoe Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	2.83		1.19	+1.64
Bahia Honda State Park – <i>COOP</i>	5.10		0.93	+4.17
Florida Keys Marathon Airport – <i>ASOS</i>	10.84	+5.54	1.23	+9.61
Marathon – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	10.88	+5.58	1.92	+8.96
Curry Hammock State Park – <i>COOP</i>	8.01	+2.71	2.94	+5.07
Duck Key – <i>COOP</i>	5.86	+0.56	1.59	+4.27
Islamorada – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	5.57		1.92	+3.65
John Pennekamp State Park – <i>COOP</i>	3.06		1.02	+2.04
Key Largo – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	6.33		0.55	+5.78

NORMAL VALUES FOR KEY WEST LOCATIONS ARE THE AVERAGE OF 1979-2000 AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AND FOR THE MARATHON AREA THEY ARE THE AVERAGE SPANNING 1982-2004 AT DUCK KEY. RECORDS ARE NOT YET TRACKED AT THE MARATHON AIRPORT DUE TO THE SHORT PERIOD OF ASOS DATA.