



# FLORIDA KEYS

## National Weather Service

### Forecast Office

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### **COOLER DECEMBER GAVE WAY TO A COOL JANUARY FOR THE FLORIDA KEYS 6<sup>TH</sup> WETTEST JANUARY FOR THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN 30 YEARS WETTEST JANUARY ON RECORD FOR THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT**

THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY WAS BELOW NORMAL FOR THE KEYS, MORE SO FOR KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT THAN THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT. KEY WEST ENDED THE MONTH WITH AN AVERAGE TEMPERATURE OF 67.2 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT, OR 3.1 DEGREES BELOW NORMAL. MARATHON AVERAGED SLIGHTLY WARMER AT 67.9 DEGREES, OR 1.1 DEGREES SHY OF NORMAL. WHILE BOTH SITES REPORTED BELOW NORMAL AVERAGES, JANUARY WAS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER TEMPERATURES EXPERIENCED IN DECEMBER ACROSS THE KEYS ISLAND CHAIN.

THE RECENT COOL WEATHER IS NOTEWORTHY DESPITE THE LACK OF DAILY OR MONTHLY RECORDS BROKEN. AN EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THAT THE TEMPERATURE HAS NOT REACHED 80 DEGREES FOR 67 CONSECUTIVE DAYS AS OF FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. THIS STREAK OF SUB-80-DEGREE DAYS TIES AS THE 6<sup>TH</sup> LONGEST SINCE 1873. THE OTHER STRETCH OF 67 DAYS IS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> 1886.

OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS TEMPERATURES ARE FORECAST TO REMAIN NEAR OR JUST SLIGHTLY ABOVE NORMAL IN THE KEYS, POTENTIALLY BUMPING THAT RECORD TO THE 5<sup>TH</sup> LONGEST STRETCH IF IT LASTS FOR 69 DAYS. THE LONGEST STRETCH OF CONSECUTIVE DAILY READINGS BELOW 80 DEGREES IS 88 DAYS ENDING ON FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> 1902.

LOOKING AT THE MARATHON AREA LAST MONTH, THE STREAK OF READINGS BELOW 80 ENDED ON JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup> WITH 47 DAYS. THIS WAS THE 3<sup>RD</sup> LONGEST SUCH STRETCH FOR MARATHON, WITH THE LONGEST BEING 60 DAYS ENDING ON FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> 2005. ROUTINE OBSERVATIONS FOR THE MARATHON AREA BEGAN IN 1982.

RAINFALL LAST MONTH WAS SLIGHTLY ABOVE NORMAL FOR KEY WEST AND SLIGHTLY BELOW NORMAL FOR MARATHON. KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RECEIVED 2.63 INCHES OF RAINFALL AND MARATHON RECEIVED 2.40 INCHES. THESE MEASUREMENTS WERE 0.41 INCHES ABOVE NORMAL FOR KEY WEST AND 0.50 INCHES BELOW NORMAL FOR MARATHON.

ONE RAINFALL RECORD WAS SET IN JANUARY FOR KEY WEST, WHEN 1.91 INCHES OF RAIN FELL ON THE 17<sup>TH</sup> AT THE AIRPORT. THIS NEARLY DOUBLED THE PREVIOUS DAILY RECORD OF 0.98 INCHES

SET BACK IN 1922. THE WETTEST DAY EVER RECORDED IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY REMAINS THE 22<sup>ND</sup> IN 1983, WITH A DAILY RAINFALL TOTAL OF 6.42 INCHES.

THE TOTAL RAINFALL LAST MONTH MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO ENTER THE TOP 5 FOR WET JANUARY RECORDS, BUT IN THE LAST 30 YEARS IT DOES RANK AS THE 6<sup>TH</sup> WETTEST. LOOKING BACK FURTHER IT ONLY DROPS TO THE 10<sup>TH</sup> WETTEST JANUARY IN THE PAST 50 YEARS. FOR KEY WEST THE WETTEST JANUARY ON RECORD IS 1983 WITH 17.64 INCHES OF RAIN.

AT THE MARATHON AIRPORT JANUARY 2011 WAS THE WETTEST ON RECORD SINCE DATA COLLECTION BEGAN IN 2001. LOOKING JUST OUTSIDE OF THE MARATHON AREA, TO INCLUDE DATA FROM NEARBY DUCK KEY, 1983 REMAINS THE WETTEST JANUARY ON RECORD WITH 16.76 INCHES OF RAIN.

BELOW ARE PRELIMINARY RAINFALL TOTALS FOR JANUARY 2011 ALONG THE KEYS ISLAND CHAIN, COMPARING 2011 TO 2010 AND THE DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL VALUES WHERE AVAILABLE.

***JANUARY 2011 RAINFALL TOTALS/DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL/2010 IN INCHES***

<b>Station – Station Type</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>Dep. fm Normal</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Dep. fm 2010</b>
Dry Tortugas National Park – COOP	3.04		1.45	+1.59
Key West WFO – NWS	2.82	+0.60	1.35	+1.47
Key West International Airport – ASOS	2.63	+0.41	1.15	+1.48
Big Coppitt Key – CoCoRaHS	4.32		1.15	+3.17
Cudjoe Key – CoCoRaHS	5.76		1.42	+4.34
Cudjoe Key – Citizen Observer	3.85		1.74	+2.11
Bahia Honda State Park – COOP	2.04		3.51	-1.47
Florida Keys Marathon Airport – ASOS	2.40	-0.50	1.48	+0.92
Curry Hammock State Park – COOP	3.01	+0.11	1.34	+1.67
Duck Key – COOP	1.99	-0.91	1.27	+0.72
Islamorada – CoCoRaHS	1.44		0.92	+0.52
John Pennekamp State Park – COOP	1.90		1.82	+0.08
Key Largo – CoCoRaHS	1.86		1.29	+0.57

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