



Dolphin Cove

Before You Arrive

Inside:

- Packing list of recommended items to bring
- What to expect on the property, including sand, plants, and comfort tips
- Wildlife commonly seen on the property and how to interact respectfully
- Allergy and sensitivity information for guests and pets
- Helpful reminders to make your stay smooth and relaxing

Packing List

Sun, Sand, and Smart Extras

Essentials

- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Bug spray (for no-see-ums we recommend NO NATZ spray which can be found in most stores here)
- Reusable water bottles
- Personal toiletries (we provide TP, paper towels, hand soap & sanitizer, body wash, shampoo and conditioner)
- Prescription medications and medical supplies
- Aloe vera or after-sun lotion
- Hats or visors and polarized sunglasses
- Lightweight clothing (quick-dry recommended for staying cool)
- Swimsuits and cover-ups
- Flip-flops or sandals
- Closed-toe shoes or sneakers for outdoor activities
- Water shoes (highly recommended for rocky or shelly shoreline)

Water & Boating Gear

- Waterproof phone pouch
- Dry bags or Ziplock bags for valuables
- Personal snorkel gear
- Towels for boating or kayaking use (our beach and bath towels must remain on the property)
- Cooler or insulated bags for drinks/snacks on the water

Food & Kitchen Items

- Groceries are not stocked on-site. Publix and Winn-Dixie are located about 15 minutes away in Marathon for full grocery needs. For quick essentials, there is a small convenience store right next door at Grassy Key Marina.

Optional, but Useful

- Beach chairs or portable umbrellas (pool & deck chairs are provided)
- Bluetooth earbuds or waterproof speakers (one speaker is provided for upstairs use only)
- Books, games, or cards for downtime
- Flashlight or headlamp for night walks
- Charging cables and adapters
- Backup battery/power bank

Families with Children

- Infant/toddler flotation devices (small selection of floaties and pool noodles are available in the pool box)
- Portable crib (not provided)
- Baby wipes and swim diapers
- Beach toys or water-safe gear
- Favorite snacks, sippy cups, or baby-specific toiletries

Note: If you or your service animals have known allergies, it's a good idea to bring antihistamines or any personal allergy supplies to ensure comfort in the tropical outdoor setting.



Allergies

Beach, Plant life, and Comfort tips

Landscaping and Natural Elements

At Dolphin Cove, we've kept the landscaping simple, tropical, and easy to enjoy. The property features a mix of palms, flowering plants, and ornamental grasses that create a clean, relaxed atmosphere around the pool and beach areas. While all plant selections are generally considered allergy-friendly, guests with sensitivities may appreciate knowing what's on the property.

Sand, Coral Dust, and Sensitivities

The beach at Dolphin Cove is made up of a soft blend of mason and screened sand, designed for comfort and easy barefoot enjoyment. As with most natural beach areas in the Keys, the sand may include small amounts of coral dust or crushed shell, which can occasionally cause mild irritation for guests or service animals with heightened sensitivities. This is uncommon, but guests with allergies, asthma, or delicate skin may wish to bring water shoes or antihistamines as a precaution. For most visitors, the sand is soft, clean, and simply part of the island charm.

Plants You'll See at Dolphin Cove

- Coconut Palm Trees (*Cocos nucifera*)

Lining the beach, these iconic palms add shade and a tropical feel. Coconut trees are not a common allergen and are maintained regularly.

- Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum* – Red and White varieties)

Planted near the jacuzzi and on the beach, this ornamental grass adds movement and texture. Some grasses may release seeds or pollen in the breeze, but it is not known to cause issues for most guests.

- Cordyline 'Red Sister' (*Cordyline fruticosa*)

A colorful plant with rich burgundy foliage, used for decorative contrast. Contact sensitivity is rare, but guests with very sensitive skin may prefer to avoid brushing against it directly.

- Variegated Liriope (*Liriope muscari*)

A hardy, low-growing plant used as ground cover. It's widely regarded as non-allergenic and is a staple in tropical landscapes.

- Dwarf Morning Glory (*Evolvulus glomeratus*)

This bright, trailing plant adds soft blue flowers near walkways. It produces minimal pollen and is considered very allergy-friendly.

- Clusia (*Clusia rosea* – Autograph Tree)

These sturdy shrubs are used for privacy and borders. They flower occasionally and may attract bees, but their pollen output is low.

- Lemongrass (*Cymbopogon citratus*)

Located upstairs on the balcony, this tall grassy herb has a fresh citrus scent and is planted in pots to naturally help deter mosquitos while relaxing. While generally safe, those with skin sensitivities may wish to avoid direct contact with the blades.

- Society Garlic (*Tulbaghia violacea*)

Also found on the balcony, this ornamental plant produces clusters of purple and white flowers with a mild garlic fragrance. It is both decorative and functional, as it is believed to naturally repel some pests. Sensitivity is uncommon, though those sensitive to garlic may wish to avoid direct handling.

Wildlife

Commonly seen on the property

Brown Pelicans

These coastal birds will often glide up to the dock when a boat returns or when you are using the fish-cleaning table, hoping for scraps. Please remember that feeding wildlife in the Florida Keys is illegal and can cause pelicans and other animals to become dependent on people, behave aggressively, and risk injury from fishing hooks and lines.



Green Iguanas

Look for these colorful reptiles basking on sunny rocks, lounging on the dock, or hiding among the mangroves. They are harmless and prefer to keep their distance, so enjoy watching them without attempting to touch or feed them.



Wading Birds

Quiet early mornings often bring a variety of birds near the pool and shoreline. You may spot White Ibis, Snowy Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Little Blue Herons, and Tricolored Herons, along with mourning doves and grackles perched nearby.



Manatees

During the cooler months from December to March, manatees are drawn to the calm, warm waters of the cove, especially when floating seagrass drifts in. Observe these gentle creatures from a respectful distance and operate boats slowly to avoid disturbing them.

