

Fun Fish Facts: The Toadfish

I was walking along the beach at Gilbert's on day and came across the ugliest fish I'd ever seen. When I pointed it out my friend, who is a fisherman, he told me it was simply a Toadfish.

Toadfish, also called Dogfish or Oysterdog, are brown and gray with a huge mouth full of razor sharp teeth. They only get to be about 12 inches long and when caught they make a strange noise similar to a grunt or a croak. Some people say it even sounds like the cry of a baby. The sound comes from their swim bladder and not their throat. Males also "grunt" to attract females for the purpose of mating, just like my ex-husband did.

If you happen to find a Toadfish on the beach, take a stick and roll it over. Check it out, there will be no mistaking it if it's



a male.

The reason my friend and I found it on the beach was probably because fishermen don't want anything to do with them. If they hook one and manage to remove the hook they usually throw them overboard or cut their line just to get rid of the ugly creature.

Although Toadfish may possibly be eaten in other countries, you won't find it on any menu in the Florida Keys. Toadfish made history in the United States years back when Senator John Glenn took them on a space flight. Toadfish have a balance system very similar to that of humans and they wanted to study the effects of microgravity on the fish. See, every creature, even ugly Toadfish, serves a purpose.

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4 Days of Pirate-Themed Events!

Thursday October 20

Captain Morgan Look Alike Pirate Plunder Party
6:30 pm Snapper's Restaurant, MM 94
Got a little Captain in ya? Shiver your timbers with local pirates and enter the Captain Morgan look-alike contest, fabulous prizes! Captain Morgan \$5 drink specials, live music and plundering.

Friday, October 21

The Pillage Begins! Black Caesar's Parade and Pirate Bash
Starts 6:30 pm, Coconuts Restaurant, 522 Caribbean Blvd.

Unleash your inner buccaneer, don yer garb, grab yer partner and join Black Caesar for Black Caesar's Pirate Parade and its invasion of the Pilot House Restaurant. There ye'll splice the mainbrace' at the Pirate Bash featuring live music, dancing, grub and grog 'til the wee hours. Entry to parade is free - parade entrants gather at 5pm to register and line up. Parade starts at 6.30pm. Download entry form from website.

Saturday, October 22

Pirate-themed Brunch: 8am -noon Key Largo Conch House, MM100

Black Caesar Returns to Key Largo
Noon - 11 pm, Sundowners & Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill, MM 104
Pirate Bazaar and Thieves Market. Family fun day features pirate shows, black powder demonstrations, cannons, swordfights and lots more.

Concert on the Bay

2pm - 10pm - Blackwater Sound
Continuous live music as bands perform on the water from the pirate ship Queen Anne's Revenge II. The concert can be viewed from the water's edge at Sundowners and the Big Chill or join other pirate boats on the water for a pirate raft-up.

Sunset - Black Caesar and his motley crew invade the shore

Sunday, October 23

Underwater Treasure Hunt: 8am Capt. Slate's Atlantis Dive Center

Pirate-themed Brunch: 8am -noon Key Largo Conch House, MM100

Black Caesar's By-Land-or-Sea Booty Hunt
11 am, Sundowners, MM104 Bayside
Travel to Ports of Call and collect your booty... Entry fee \$15 includes souvenir T-Shirt and Continental Breakfast.

Pirate Bazaar and Thieves Market
Noon - 5pm, Sundowners, MM 104 Bayside

Pirates' Poker - By Land or by Sea Poker Run
Noon, The Elks Club MM 92.6 Bayside, Tavernier
\$15 entry includes souvenir T-Shirt, first hand and Continental Breakfast.

Buccaneer Bash, Costume Contest and Finale
4pm, Sundowners Restaurant & Beach, MM 104 Bayside
Adult and Kids Costume Contests: Best Buccaneer and Sausiest Wench, and Under 14 Likeliest Lad and Loveliest Lassie; Booty Hunt, Underwater Treasure Hunt and Pirates Poker awards. Grub and Grog. Rockin' the Dock and dancin' to Live Music from Devinshire.

October 20-21-22-23



Pirate Parade & Bash
Costume Contests
Pirate Shows & Invasion
Underwater Treasure Hunt
Thieves Market
Pirates Poker Run
Booty Hunt

\$5 "Captain Specials" at participating locations.



More info: www.keylargopiratesfest.com or call Sue Finney at 305-394-3736



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"Whoa! Who died in here?"