

Thousands Of Poker Run Bikers Riding Florida Keys' Overseas Highway

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A biker parks his motorcycle amid others on Duval Street in Key West, Fla., Friday, Sept. 19, 2014, during the Key West Poker Run. (Rob O'Neal/Florida Keys News Bureau)

KEY WEST (CBSMiami) — Motorcyclists from throughout the United States are traveling the Florida Keys' Overseas Highway from mainland Florida to Key West this weekend, raising [money](#) for charity during the annual Key West Poker Run.

Traditionally drawing riders on thousands of bikes, the popular trek features a unique route down the 127-mile Florida Keys Overseas Highway. The road features 42 bridges and long vistas of Atlantic Ocean, Florida Bay and Gulf of Mexico waters.

Participating bikers draw poker cards at designated stops along the route through the Keys. Holders of the 10 best poker hands are [eligible](#) to play in a winner-take-all round of Texas Hold 'Em Saturday night, competing for a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle or \$6,000 in cash.

A section of Key West's lower Duval and Greene streets is closed to [car](#) traffic during much of the Poker Run, so bikers with weekend parking passes can park on the street to display their bikes.

Other attractions include a bike merchandise market, "Biker Bash" and street party, custom bike show, blessing of the bikes and parties at Key West watering holes.

As well as offering a unique motorcycling experience, the Poker Run raises [funds](#) for the Diabetes Research Institute and charities of the Key West Sunrise Rotary Club. Events conclude Sunday.

The event, in its 43rd year, is organized by Peterson's Harley-Davidson of Miami.