

# DESTINATION

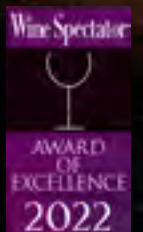


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Turks & Caicos Islands



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**DESTINATION 2023 | TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS**

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# A LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

There is so much to share with you this year as we explore the heart and soul of our destination and all that it offers in its most native and unaltered form.

Globally, our attention is shifting to experiencing the world's attractions in a more conscientious and responsible way. This extends to the travel and tourism space, as more visitors are keen to shape their vacation experiences with an awareness and respect that lends to longevity and sustainability. This opens the door for us to take you on a journey of the Turks and Caicos you have yet to see or hear about.

Aside from being home to the most idyllic waters imaginable, our destination is an eco-tourism haven. Each of our inhabited islands boasts exotic wildlife and impressive natural features that are vastly underexplored. Through our thriving marine life and rugged terrain, Turks and Caicos provides the ideal environment for adventure seekers. Our rare wildlife and protected habitats are the perfect opportunity for birding and getting up close and personal with endangered animal life. Our unique geographical positioning lends to a magnificent juxtaposition of shallow turquoise waters suited for leisurely enjoyment and deep waters that allow for deep sea fishing adventures and whale watching experiences.

If you are looking to enjoy nature, culture, and a truly immersive experience in Turks and Caicos, the Destination Magazine is your pathway to the eco-conscious side of these 'beautiful by nature' islands.

Nichollette Thomas/ Sonia Omega Simmons

Ocean Club West / Paradise Photography



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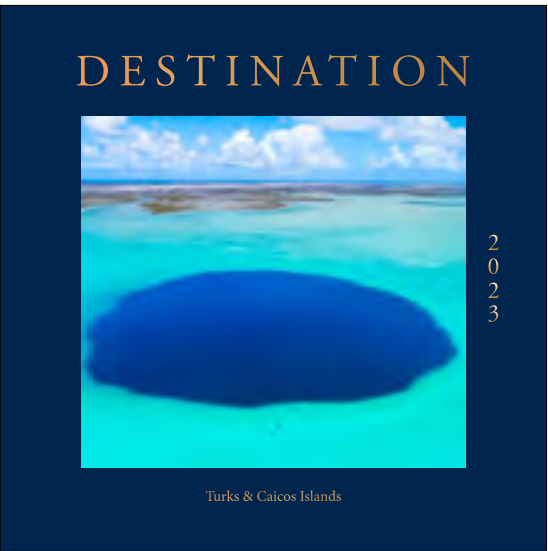
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*The Farm Restaurant on Grace Bay*



*Philip Shearer*

100



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# Welcome

FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND CEO

Thank you. Because of you, our readers and visitors, Turks and Caicos has seen a remarkable recovery as a destination since reopening our borders. The island of Providenciales and the world-renowned Grace Bay Beach continue to amass international travel awards and we are now one of the world's top trending destinations, all thanks to you.

You have developed a love for our beaches, our exquisite cuisine, our luxurious resorts, and our exceptional service. You have made us your destination of choice and shared us with your family, friends, and colleagues.

As a destination, we are excited to welcome you to come back to Turks and Caicos each year, and to explore far beyond our beaches and villas. We invite you to seek out the little-known crevices, the one-of-a-kind experiences, and the unspoiled vistas that make these islands 'beautiful by nature'.

As an association, the TCHTA is proud to highlight the vast array of offerings that our members provide – many of which allow you to explore our islands in the most authentic way imaginable.

In this edition, you will travel the path of eco-tourism in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Each of our islands and cays tells a story of its own, and is home to magnificent terrain, flora, and fauna.

The 2023 traveller seeks an inspiring experience; one that connects them to the natural features of our destination and allows them to visit and enjoy this location in a responsible way, honouring our people and our history. You know about our beaches. Now, you will learn about the rare species that call Turks and Caicos home, and the underwater explorations that await you.

The Board of Directors and Members of the Turks & Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association invite you to dive in and explore each of these pages and what they offer. There are 40 islands and cays to discover. One down, 39 to go!







TCHTA President **Trevor Musgrove** / Chief Executive Officer **Stacy Cox**  
*Ocean Club West / Paradise Photography*





*Board Members (standing left to right): Wilbert Mason, Ocean Club Resorts, Paul Telford, Beach House Turks & Caicos, Taparahi Tibble, COMO Parrot Cay, Karen Whitt, The Hartling Group, Kashmie Ali, Sailrock Resort (retired), Adam Twigg, The Source, Ltd, James McAnally, Beaches Turks & Caicos (seated left to right) Stewart Howard, Turks & Caicos Collection, Malaika Wint-Williams, The Patty Place, Tendra Musgrove, COMO Parrot Cay, Aisha Laporte, FortisTCL, Yolander Forbes, Seven Stars Resort, Stacy Cox, TCHTA, Trevor Musgrove, Discovery Tours & Adventures, Todd Foss – Inn at Grace Bay*

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# The Turks & Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association

Through the involvement and support of our Association members, the TCHTA is dedicated to the achievement and sustainable growth of the tourism industry in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

We advocate to Government on behalf of our members, providing a collective voice and an avenue by which industry partners can add to the sustainable growth and protection of the service, character, and vitality of the industry. Our members count themselves among the ranks of the leading hotel, villa and industry-related businesses in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The association provides the presence, visibility and reach our members need to continue the promotion of their efforts to the wider market.

The TCHTA is an information hub for members on the national and regional marketing of the destination. We collect and share relative statistics and regional data from the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA). Being a member of the TCHTA affords members the opportunity to enhance their business in ways that could prove difficult or expensive on their own.

Our members are promoted through our digital and print publications (Destination, TCI Style, Spotlight), our website and our social media platforms. These >200 member companies consist of banks, hotels, law firms, insurance companies, restaurants, spas, villas and watersports operators, just to name a few.





# A Message From The MINISTRY OF TOURISM



Minister of Tourism  
**Honourable  
Josephine Connolly**



Acting Director of Tourism  
**Mary Lightbourne**

It is indeed a pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you as Minister of Tourism, Hon. Josephine Connolly and Acting Director of Tourism, Mary Lightbourne. It is lovely to have you here with us! The Turks and Caicos Islands have often been referred to as the one of the world's best kept secrets.

But it is evident that the secret is out and the demand to visit is as high as ever, as the Turks and Caicos Islands was recently named Tripadvisor's Hottest Travel Destination for Fall 2022.

We continue to develop our tourism product to provide our guests with premium experiences at every touchpoint and across our islands. From diving into our history in Grand Turk to enjoying adrenaline-rushing water activities in the TCI's fishing capital, South Caicos to exploring the lush twin-islands of North Caicos and Middle Caicos, to whale watching in Salt Cay to indulging in world-class luxury in Providenciales, the Turks and Caicos Islands is truly a multi-island destination with something for everyone.

Come enjoy our laid-back lifestyle, friendly people and warm hospitality. It will always be a pleasure to welcome our visitors – both first-time and returning – to our beautiful shores.

Thank you for making the Turks and Caicos Islands as your destination of choice. You could have been anywhere in the world, and you're here with us. We appreciate that and look forward to welcoming you again soon.





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## JANUARY

New Year's Day

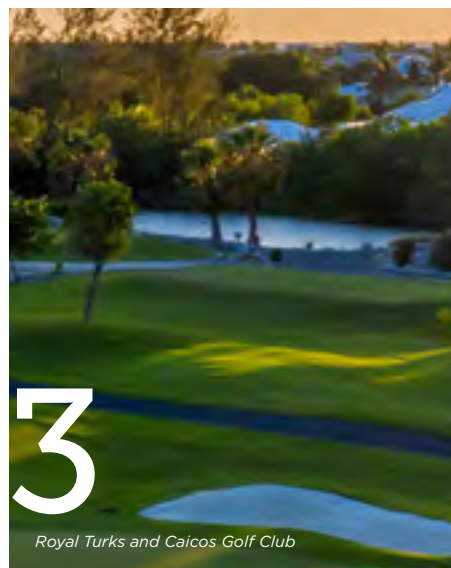
14th MOVE-A-THON TCI  
Annual Half and Full Marathon for  
Runners, Bikers, and Walkers

## FEBRUARY

3rd Chocolate Lovers Showcase  
Fundraiser Benefitting the  
Salvation Army of TCI

11th Valentine's Day Cup  
Model Sailboat Race on Bambarra  
Beach in Middle Caicos

23rd Star Awards  
Turks & Caicos Hotel and Tourism  
Association Awards Star Performers  
in the Hospitality Industry



## MARCH

5th-8th Annual Wine Cellar  
Golf & Fishing Tournament

13th Commonwealth Day

## APRIL

7th Good Friday

10th Easter Monday  
Annual Kite Flying Competition

TCI Shines  
Turks & Caicos Hotel and  
Tourism Association  
Earth Day Clean-Up

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# TCHTA 2023 Events CALENDAR

There is always something exciting to see or  
experience in Turks and Caicos! Here you can find  
information on activities, festivals, cultural shows, and  
events happening during your stay.



## MAY

20th Taste of Tapas  
Fundraising Event for the National  
Culinary Team  
featuring Tapas from  
Restaurants Across TCI

29th JAGS McCartney Day  
In commemoration of TCI's  
Only National Hero (formerly  
Nat'l Heroes Day)

29th South Caicos Regatta  
Cultural Festival Featuring  
Sailing, Music, Food, Donkey  
Races, Maypole Plaiting and  
More

Turks and Caicos Conference  
(TACC) FAM Trip for Travel  
Wholesalers and Partners



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**JUNE**

Middle Caicos Crab Fest

Rotary Caicos Classic  
Annual Billfish Tournament and  
Qualifier for the Offshore World  
Championships

His Majesty the King's  
Official Birthday

7

**JULY**

10th–28th TCI Hospitality  
Adventure Camps  
Lit'l chefs, Jr. Lit'l chefs,  
Spa & Cosmetology

Race for the Conch  
Eco-Sea Swim

10

**OCTOBER**

7th In the Pink  
Annual fundraiser for the  
Turks and Caicos Islands  
Cancer Society

9th National Heritage Day  
(Columbus Day)

Cancer Walkathon  
Annual Breast Cancer  
Awareness Walkathon

TCHTA Annual Golf Scramble  
Fundraiser for National  
Culinary Team

**NOVEMBER**

24th National Day of  
Thanksgiving

Tourism Environmental  
Awareness Month

Caribbean Food and Wine Festival  
A 4-day Culinary Event Featuring  
World-Renowned Chefs and Wine  
Makers

Annual Turks and Caicos  
Conch Festival  
Annual Food and Music Festival  
Featuring Restaurant Competition

**DECEMBER**

25th Christmas Day

26th Maskanoo™  
Annual Boxing Day Street Festival  
Celebrating Junkanoo and Massin'



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**AUGUST**

1st Emancipation Day

Lobster Fest  
Annual Food and Music  
Festival Featuring Lobster  
Dishes and Mini-Regatta

**SEPTEMBER**

29th National Youth Day

Poker Run  
Annual Boating Event

8



12







An aerial photograph of a small, white motorboat with a blue stripe, floating on exceptionally clear, turquoise water. The water's clarity allows the seabed to be visible beneath the surface. In the background, the horizon line separates the deep blue ocean from a bright blue sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is serene and captures the natural beauty of a tropical location.

# About THE COVER

*By: Sonia OMEGA Simmons*

Our cover photo is an homage to the majesty of the Middle Caicos Ocean Hole. Said to be one of the widest in the world, this natural feature extends almost 250 feet below sea level and can only be reached by boats with a shallow draft that can cruise 'the flats' with ease.

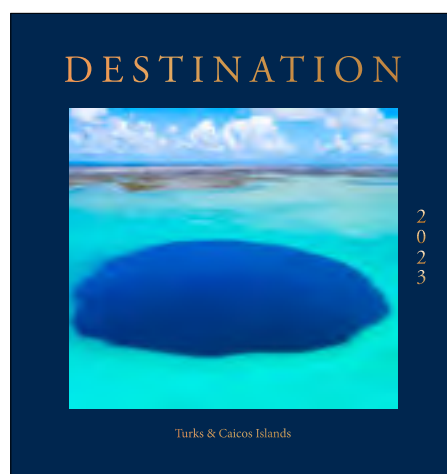
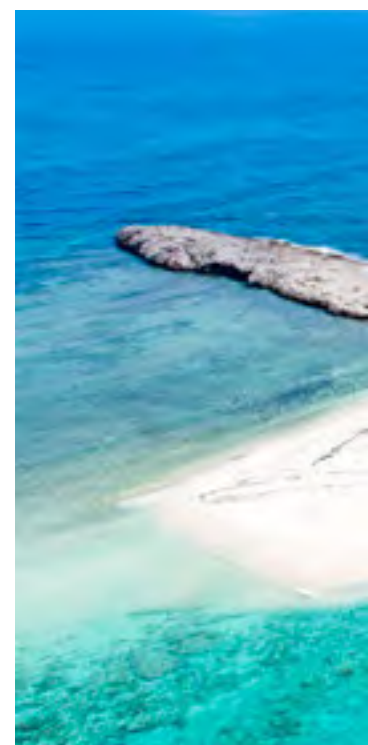
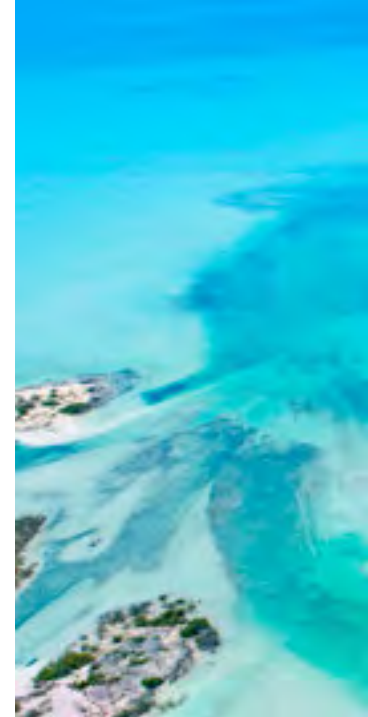
Located on the south side of Middle Caicos in the Caicos Banks, it is said that the hole is some 2000 feet in diameter with water said to be very murky and dark at around 65 feet into the hole which is approximately 30 feet thick and rich in acid. Beyond this is said to be fresh water that is the darkest black, but so clear if lit by torch that it is as if there is nothing around...not even water.

The hole's acid layer leaves it devoid of life, but the surrounding banks are rich with lobster, sharks, and bonefish providing some of the best bone fishing in the world enjoyed by many.





Visit TCI



Blue holes are collapsed underwater caves and are one of the world’s most mysterious wonders. While they remain largely underexplored, they are often an oasis for marine life and home to archaeological artifacts and extinct animals.

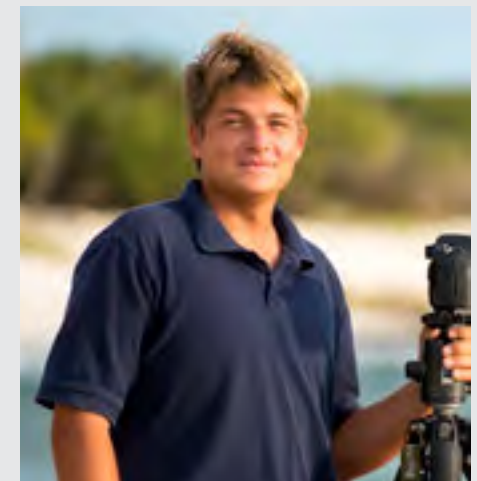
As tempting as these natural beauties may be, the idea of exploring their depths should not be taken lightly. Proper equipment and skills are necessary to traverse the deep dark waters, and these vast holes

have been known to lay claim to human lives. One of the world’s most infamous blue holes is called “Divers’ Cemetery” owing to the number of explorers who have lost their lives pushing beyond their limitations. Though this is not the history of our cover subject, it is interesting that its size alone has not given it the prominence and recognition one would expect. When searching the web for the largest or most impressive blue holes, this one does not appear at the top of any lists.





## COVER PHOTOGRAPHY



**AGILE LEVIN** grew up in the Turks and Caicos Islands and has always had a keen interest in exploring the archipelago, with its countless landscapes, caves, wildlife and historical sites.

Enthusiasm for outdoor photography was a natural outcome of visiting the many remote and beautiful locations in the TCI, and Agile's work has appeared in many local and international publications and websites.

Visit TCI, a premier visitor resource, indicates it is a '250-foot-deep geological feature that can clearly be seen by air when flying by Middle Caicos. At nearly 2000 feet (0.6 km) in diameter, the Ocean Hole is by far the largest of the many blue hole features in the Turks and Caicos, and at nearly twice the diameter of the Great Blue Hole of Belize and three times the diameter of Dean's Blue Hole in The Bahamas, the Middle Caicos Ocean Hole is likely the widest blue hole in the world.'

The cover image of the Middle Caicos Ocean Hole was captured by Agile Levin, one half of the Visit Turks & Caicos Islands duo. The specks dotting the lower quadrant of the image are kiteboarders in action, Kaja Lepczyńska and Duncan Sanders. The visual of the kiteboards near the edge aptly illuminates the sheer magnitude of the Middle Caicos hole. The contrast of the deep blue hole against the shallow light blues that surround it makes for a striking image.





**SONIA  
OMEGA SIMMONS**  
Head Writer

Sonia OMEGA Simmons is owner of SOS Media, a full-service Public Relations and Marketing agency based in Turks and Caicos. She is an experienced media professional, with a history in print and radio that spans more than two decades. She is well-known through her talk show, professional singing and performances. Hailing from The Bahamas, OMEGA is a descendant of Turks and Caicos parents. She holds the position of Communications Manager for the Turks & Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA) and is President of the TCHTA Young Leaders. Along with her stories, OMEGA has penned the intros for each section of the magazine.

# Voices of Destination

## 2023 - Contributing Writers



**JAYNE BAKER**

Jayne has been working in the scuba diving industry for 28 years - 22 of those years here in the Turks and Caicos Islands where she and her husband own and operate Flamingo Divers. Most days you'll find her guiding visitors through the underwater world, but once back on dry land she is often engaged in her second love - creative writing pursuits. Jayne writes for theater projects, feature articles for local magazines, and blog articles.



**LEVENIA BISHOP**

Levenia Bishop is a Counselling Psychologist and avid lover of poetry, spoken word and story writing. She is a proud mother of four, which gave the inspiration for her book Lily and Isla the Flamingo. Her mission through her writing is to encourage youth to develop self-confidence and self-love, as well as to motivate them to become the best version of themselves, unapologetically. Her life's mantra is "aspire to inspire before you expire."



**EVANGELIA JARDINE**

Evangelia "Lia" Ganosellis Jardine is a writer who has called the Turks and Caicos home for 10 years. A trained journalist, Lia worked as a newspaper reporter in Florida before moving to Providenciales in 2012. Today, she works as a copywriter and social media specialist who is passionate about the art of storytelling and continually inspired by the people she meets through her writing journey.



**LORRAINE KENLOCK  
CHIA | CNC | CWC**

Chef Lorraine is a Luxury Hospitality Professional who has provided exceptional services to some of the most discerning clients ranging from A-list celebrities to corporate entities who have graced the Turks and Caicos. A former Board Director of the TCHTA, Lorraine has mastered the art of blending Wellness and Hospitality and is the Founder of The Ital Lifestyle, a wellness brand based on Nutrition.



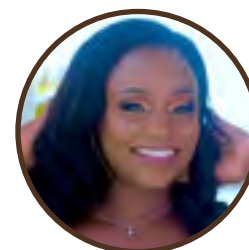
**L. T. BOURNE**

Leo Lightbourne whose pen name is L.T. Bourne is a Speaker, Radio Talk Show Host, Content Creator, and Author of the book "It's Not a Man's World: How I conquered the Sins of my Father". Leo discovered his gift of inspiration and leadership in his early 20s and founded Open Thought Communications, a media production group that creates youth talk shows in the Turks and Caicos Islands; giving youth a voice and an outlet to express themselves.



**DR. CARLTON MILLS**

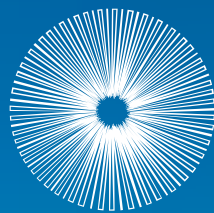
Carlton was born in the Turks and Caicos Islands where he received his early education before moving on to Jamaica to pursue his training in Teacher Education. He later pursued his Doctorate at the University of Sheffield. His most recent publications "The History of The Turks and Caicos Islands" in which he is the chief editor and "Our Heritage Our History" by both he and his wife Debby-Lee Mills.



**LAVERN  
SKIPPINGS-REYNOLDS**

Lavern hails from the island of Grand Turk, which is the capital of the Turks and Caicos Islands. As a true patriot, she focuses her crafting on local education by highlighting the cultural and historic elements of the islands through her goods. She is the creator and owner of TCI Dolls and is a proud Fish Fry vendor. In addition to showcasing all things TCI, she hopes to inspire others to live eco friendly by continuing to engage in sustainable crafting.





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# *A Matter of* Design *with Erin Patrick*

Erin Patrick, owner and founder of Erin Patrick Designs, is honored to be Creative Director and Lead Graphic Designer of Destination Turks & Caicos Islands for the third year in a row. With over 12 years of experience in branding, corporate design and creative strategy, Erin takes the utmost pride in delivering a quality experience from concept to completion.

This year, Erin has once again partnered with the Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association to develop one of the most engaging editions of Destination Turks & Caicos Islands thus far. The aesthetically daring take on this year's theme of ecotourism captures the true essence of the islands, allowing the spirit of the islands to radiate from each page. Readers will once again experience what makes Turks & Caicos one of the most desired destinations in the Caribbean.

Staying informed and up to date with trends and best practices while utilizing state-of-the-art tools and technology has given Erin an edge in a highly competitive industry. She had these remarks on her unique approach to creative work: "Growing up I always had a great sense of fulfillment through helping others obtain their goals. After working in corporate for years, I decided to go back to those fundamentals. That mindset, coupled with a love for design, has now translated into a business rooted in exceptional service."

With over a decade of delivering outstanding content and thoughtful service, Erin Patrick continues to prove herself to be one of the Turks and Caicos Islands most impactful creative leaders.





# WE ARE **LEADING** THE WAY TO A CLEANER ENERGY FUTURE



Our executive team: (L-R) Vice President of Corporate Services and CFO Aisha Laporte; Vice President of Grand Turk and Sister Island Operations Allan Robinson; President and CEO Ruth Forbes; Senior Vice President of Operations Devon Cox; Vice President of Engineering and Energy Production and Delivery Don Forsyth (seated); and Vice President of Innovation, Technology and Strategic Planning Rachell Roullet.






*In a rapidly evolving electricity sector, energy leaders of today are focused on driving the transformation to cleaner, more sustainable energy sources.*

*At FortisTCl, our purpose and passion are unwavering – to serve our customers, community, and the Turks and Caicos Islands with the safe, reliable, and least-cost electricity they need – whenever and wherever.*

*Every day, we are working towards an energy future that is cleaner, more resilient, reliable, and sustainable.*



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A large, clear blue swimming pool with lounge chairs and umbrellas under a clear sky. The pool is surrounded by a concrete deck and has a small waterfall feature. In the background, there are palm trees and a clear blue sky.

# Accommodations

Our destination has it all – boutique dwellings, properties featuring both condominium-style accommodations and estates in one expanse, villas that accommodate multiple families with ease, and private island resorts that deliver the ultimate escape. Turks & Caicos has taken ‘something for everyone’ to an entirely new level. Amidst the myriad of offerings, even our repeat visitors would be hard-pressed to become overly familiar as these properties continue to up-level and develop year to year. The destination is a jewel yet undiscovered by many, and our aim is to provide an unmatched experience to those who make us their destination of choice for ages to come.

There is certainly no shortage of options for you, and they are all striking. Breathtaking architecture, dazzling décor, stunning views of the world’s best beaches...all laid out here just for you. Where is the best place to stay in Turks & Caicos? We’ve given you all the options you could ever need. Now, which will you choose?



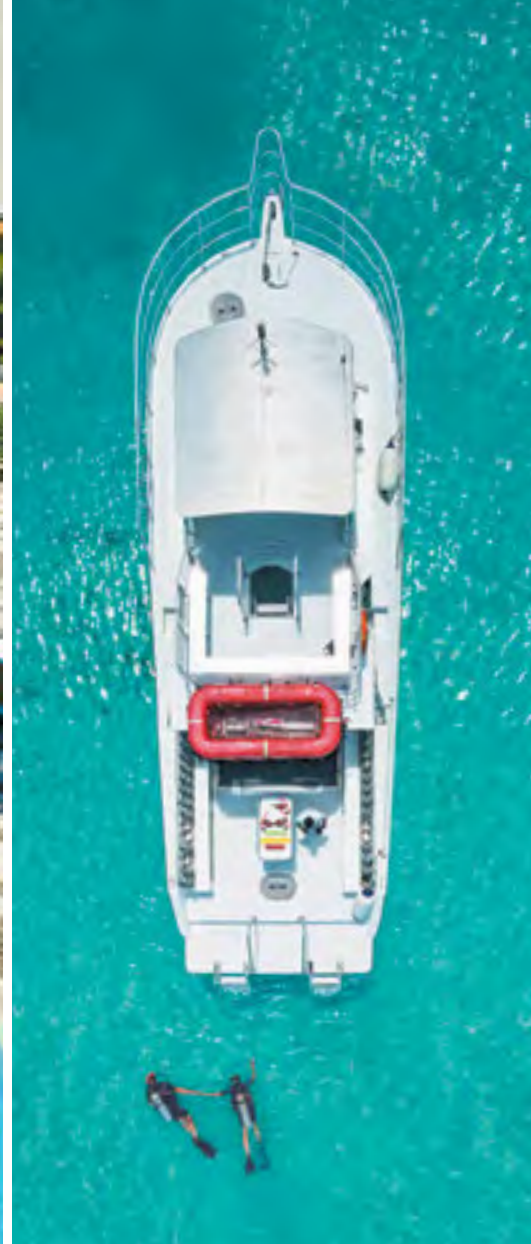


# *Everything's Included*

The World's Best All-Inclusive Family Resorts







# *For Everyone*

Beaches® Turks & Caicos has held the top spot at the World Travel Awards for over two decades by offering families more of everything on the world's best beach, featuring 5 villages, every land and water sport\*, an awe-inspiring waterpark with a surf simulator, 5-Star Global Gourmet™ dining at 22 incredible restaurants, and 14 bars. Tips, taxes and Beaches airport transfers are included too. And with trend-setting food trucks, live entertainment, and family sized accommodations... the World's Best Family Resorts include everything families want and deserve.

*Beaches*  
Resorts *by Sandals*

**Turks & Caicos**  
Resort Villages & Spa

**BEACHES.COM | 1-800-BEACHES OR CALL YOUR TRAVEL ADVISOR**

\*Visit [www.beaches.com/disclaimers/turksandcaicosmagazine2023](http://www.beaches.com/disclaimers/turksandcaicosmagazine2023) or call 1-800-BEACHES for important terms and conditions.  
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## ALEXANDRA RESORT - TURKS & CAICOS COLLECTION



The all-inclusive Alexandra Resort offers fun for all ages on world famous Grace Bay Beach. Featuring 120 rooms and 1 – 4 bedroom suites, the resort is ideal for friends and family looking for a variety of dining options and activities without of a “mega” resort. Options include casual buffet and a la carte dining, premium bar drinks, made -to-order smoothie bar, large free-form swimming pool, kids club, 2 tennis courts, daytime activities, nightly entertainment and more. Enjoy dining around to sister resort Blue Haven.

[alexandradesort.com](http://alexandradesort.com)

1 800 284 0699

[contact@alexandradesort.com](mailto:contact@alexandradesort.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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## AMANYARA



Amanyara is a secluded beachside resort situated on the coast of Northwest Point on the beautiful Providenciales in the Turks & Caicos Islands. The resort borders the pristine reefs of Northwest Point Marine National Park, acclaimed for some of the world’s best wall and reef diving. With a contemporary layout and design, the timber-shingled Guest Pavilions and Aman Villas are tucked along the coast or situated inland on the edge of tranquil ponds.

[aman.com/resorts/amanyara](http://aman.com/resorts/amanyara)

1 833 941 5770

[amanyara@aman.com](mailto:amanyara@aman.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## AMBERGRIS CAY - TURKS & CAICOS COLLECTION



A secret Caribbean paradise, yet easily accessible, the all-inclusive Ambergris Cay private island is a mere 18-min. flight away from PLS Int'l Airport, where arriving guests are met with personal concierge service for their complimentary private air transfers. The 3-mile-long private island offers friends and family a choice of 1-bedroom suites or 3- and 4-bedroom villas, far enough away from civilization to enjoy a rustic environment with watersports by day and gourmet dining under brilliant stars at night. Enjoy 24-hour butler service, morning beach hikes, a private picnic on a deserted island, a complimentary daily spa treatment and more. Can't unplug entirely? High-speed Wi-Fi and cell service are available. The 5,700 ft. long runway also welcomes guests arriving in private jets.

[ambergriscay.com](http://ambergriscay.com)

1 833 313 3172

[contact@ambergriscay.com](mailto:contact@ambergriscay.com)

Ambergris Cay, Turks & Caicos Islands

## BEACH ENCLAVE



Beach Enclave redefines beach-front luxury living with 27 villas across three unique beach locations in the Turks and Caicos Islands, each with its own character. These locations showcase breathtaking ocean views and enjoy the island's gentle trade winds. Beach Enclave North Shore debuted in November 2016 with a combination of beachfront and ocean view villas on Princess Alexandra National Park which makes it the perfect location for exploring the marina life of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Beach Enclave Long Bay opened in November 2018 with beachfront properties ranging from 2 to 7 bedrooms and has become a popular location amongst water sports enthusiasts and kite boarders alike. Beach Enclave Grace Bay had a successful opening in December of 2020 with a combination of ocean view and beachfront properties and is the go-to location for wellness.

[beachenclave.com](http://beachenclave.com)

1 866 580 1675

[experiences@beachenclave.com](mailto:experiences@beachenclave.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## BEACHES® TURKS AND CAICOS



Bringing iconic locales to the 12-mile stretch of Grace Bay, Beaches® Turks & Caicos is the globally inspired pinnacle of paradise created for everyone – and now open for 2020 & beyond! Stay at the picturesque oceanfront Seaside Village and enjoy the old-world charm of Italy and France to the endless summers of the Caribbean and Key West, there's a village to match every vacation mood. For accommodations that are never far from the action, the Italian Ocean view Concierge Family Suite with Kids Room grants space for all ages, plus close access to the resort's main pool. If peace, quiet and the ocean is your desire, the Key West Ocean view Four Bedroom Butler Villa Residence brings plenty of beach town vibes.

[beaches.com/turks-caicos](https://beaches.com/turks-caicos)

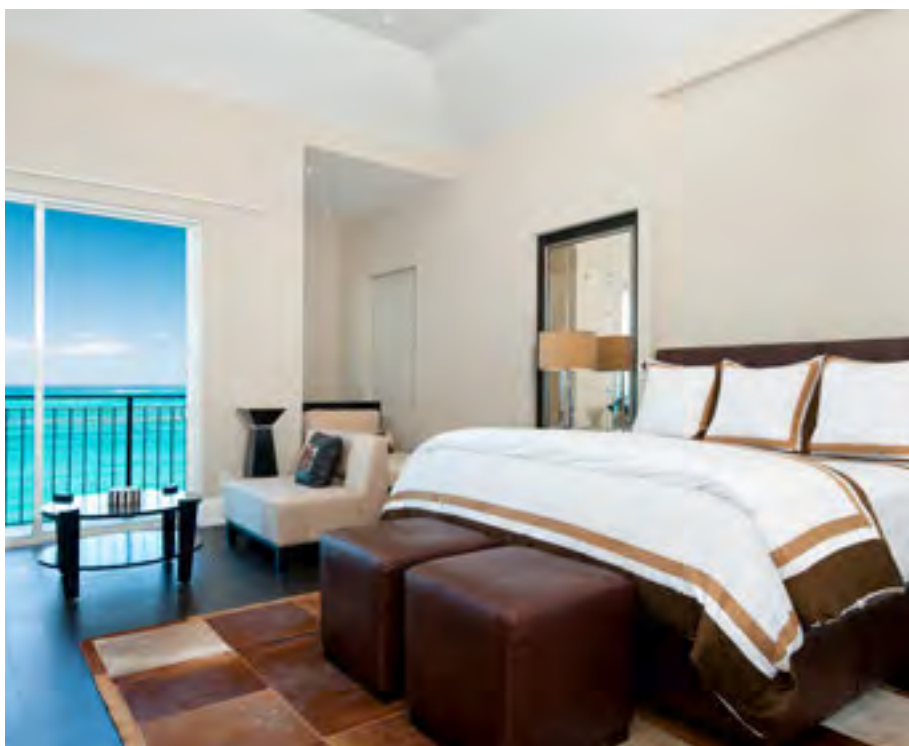
1 888 232 2437

[info@beaches.com](mailto:info@beaches.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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## BIANCA SANDS RESORT



Located on a pristine 300-foot stretch of powder white sand on world-famous Grace Bay Beach, Bianca Sands is a luxury vacation villa resort that defines a private world of refined beauty, privilege and unique luxury in Turks & Caicos. The resort offers 30 oceanfront suites with fully equipped kitchens and luxury amenities including complimentary beach and poolside chairs and umbrellas. The exquisite all-suite oasis on four expansive oceanfront acres of silver palms and lush sea grape is the destination of choice for sophisticated travelers who delight in the most thoughtful details. For additional information or reservations at Bianca Sands on Grace Bay.

[biancasandsresort.com](https://biancasandsresort.com)

1 877 380 5750

[reservations@biancasandsresort.com](mailto:reservations@biancasandsresort.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## BLUE HAVEN RESORT & MARINA - TURKS & CAICOS COLLECTION



Located in the private villa and yacht community of Leeward, the all inclusive Blue Haven Resort offers a serene setting with a private beach, 48 rooms and 1-3 bedroom suites and Penthouse Suites, watersports, kids club, Elevate Spa, infinity pool with swim up bar, evening entertainment, fine dining, beach service and complimentary "Stay at 1, Play at 2" shuttle service to our sister Alexandra Resort for dine around to 10 restaurants and 7 bars within the Turks and Caicos Collection. Kids 12 and under stay and play free. The adjacent marina offers easy access to additional watersports, fishing, jet ski rental and boat excursions.

[bluehaventci.com](http://bluehaventci.com)

1 855 832 7667

[contact@bluehaventci.com](mailto:contact@bluehaventci.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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## BLUE HERON VACATIONS LTD.



Diving into the crystal-clear turquoise waters of the Turks and Caicos Islands has never been easier. With Blue Heron Vacations you can relax in comfort and safety in one of our Luxurious or Affordable vacation homes. Our hand-picked villa portfolio consists of a wide range of luxurious vacation villas as well as affordable family homes. Rest assured that our reservations department will find you the perfect home. Blue Heron's concierge department will pair you with the best local fishing tours, kitesurfing instructors and spas. As a locally owned and operated vacation rental company, Blue Heron Vacations builds tailored vacation packages for any level of activity. Whether you are an extreme kite surfer or relaxed sun bather, we can ensure that you get the most out of our vacation in paradise. Contact us today for the best rates and service in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

[blueherontci.com](http://blueherontci.com)

1 649 232 3901

[reservations@blueherontci.com](mailto:reservations@blueherontci.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## BLUE PARROT MANAGEMENT



Blue Parrot is a property management and concierge services company that strives to ensure the successful functioning, continued readiness and impeccable cleanliness of your high-end vacation villa. Combined with our wide array of concierge services from private chefs, butler services or something as simple as pre-arrival grocery shopping, we offer our owners the opportunity to be treated like a guest in their own home. To learn more about our full range of services contact Kerry Lancaster on 1-649-231-8202.

1 649 231 8202

[blueparrot@tciway.tc](mailto:blueparrot@tciway.tc)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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## CLUB MED TURKOISE



Discover a newly redesigned Club Med Turkoise, an adults-exclusive all-inclusive paradise. At Turkoise, guests have the luxury to do it all or nothing at all, making this the perfect vacation destination for action-packed adventures and romantic getaways alike! Our newly renovated resort center features brand-new amenities, including a gorgeous infinity edge pool overlooking Grace Bay, a fully staffed main bar, a renovated theater with LED screens, a wine cellar offering premium spirits and champagne, enhanced restaurant terraces that will take your breath away and, of course, the world-famous Sharkies bar – offering live music and an unforgettable sunset happy hour just steps away from the beach.

[clubmed.com](http://clubmed.com)

1 649 946 5500

[turccrec01@clubmed.com](mailto:turccrec01@clubmed.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## COMO PARROT CAY



COMO Parrot Cay is a private island resort in the Turks and Caicos, with 1,000 unspoilt acres and a mile-long white beach. Beachside houses and villas have whitewash interiors with chic teak finishing, while the elegant private residences are each individually designed, tucked away in secluded spots on the island but with full access to the resort's many facilities. The island's two restaurants serve a range of fine dining and casual dishes, including the healthy COMO Shambhala Cuisine. The multi-award-winning COMO Shambhala Retreat caters for wellness, offering yoga, Pilates and a range of holistic therapies. Watersports, diving and island excursions complete the COMO Parrot Cay experience.

[comohotels.com/parrotcay](http://comohotels.com/parrotcay)

1 855 727 7682

[res.parrotcay@comohotels.com](mailto:res.parrotcay@comohotels.com)

Parrot Cay, Turks & Caicos Islands

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## DRAGON CAY RESORT



Dragon Cay Resort is a unique tropical destination tucked behind 2,200 feet of naturally preserved beachfront on Middle Caicos. When you stay at one of the private Cottages or Villas at Dragon Cay Resort, you will be immersed in a privacy and tranquility, plus receive the benefits of a resort stay. This is the only resort-style accommodations on Middle Caicos. Our guests enjoy daily housekeeping, an on-site manager and concierge, room service, small sundries shop and complimentary use of activity equipment including paddleboards, kayaks and bicycles. The natural beauty of Mudjin Harbor will bring you to a place of utter relaxation, while the adventurous environment, recreational activities and local culture keep you entertained and active.

[dragoncayresort.com](http://dragoncayresort.com)

1 888 354 7290

[rentals@dragoncayresort.com](mailto:rentals@dragoncayresort.com)

Middle Caicos, Turks & Caicos Islands



## EAST BAY RESORT



An idyllic 2-mile long, often deserted beach awaits on South Caicos, where East Bay Resort is the lone property offering a sanctuary for travelers seeking a respite from busy lives and a launch pad to pursue adventure in a pristine marine environment. This beach-front resort features attentive service and exciting amenities – including on-site PADI dive shop - to make vacations fun and memorable. Suites offer spacious floor plans, private balconies, and full kitchens. BLU bar and grill offers a diverse menu to suit every taste. A scenic 25-minute flight from Providenciales, South Caicos delights visitors with sightings of wild horses and donkeys, flamingos in their natural habitat, historic buildings echoing a proud history and world class fishing and watersports activities. Your authentic out-island vacation awaits at East Bay Resort.

[eastbayresort.com](http://eastbayresort.com)

1 866 297 6248

[reservations@eastbayresort.com](mailto:reservations@eastbayresort.com)

South Caicos, Turks & Caicos Islands

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## EMERALD PAVILION



Sitting proud on the exclusive Emerald Point Peninsula in Leeward, Emerald Pavilion is a newly constructed, “soft contemporary” five-bedroom estate on an acre of prime Grace Bay beachfront, representing one of the most exceptional offerings on the market in the Turks & Caicos Islands. In this rare setting, Emerald Pavilion has been constructed at the highest level of detail and quality, with an elevated grade setting it up high to enjoy the unparalleled views. Arriving through the signature front door to a bright expansive space with high ceilings and not a beam in sight, floor to ceiling sliding glass doors showcase the dramatic 1,600 sq. ft. zero edge beach entry pool, white sands and turquoise ocean beyond. Spanning approximately 8,000 sq. ft. under roof (6,000 interior a/c sq. ft.), and more than 12,000 of total finished area.

[emeraldpavilion.pavilionmanagement.tc](http://emeraldpavilion.pavilionmanagement.tc)

1 649 231 6077

[foluso@fyitci.com](mailto:foluso@fyitci.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## GRACE BAY CLUB



The world-renowned Grace Bay Club offers guests a haven for uninterrupted relaxation from its 1,100-foot stretch of beachfront in the heart of Grace Bay. Showcasing the property's prized turquoise-water views—which have repeatedly earned this popular locale space atop TripAdvisor's list of World's Best Beaches—each suite, pool and dining venue is thoughtfully placed oceanfront to maximize the stunning vistas. Every guest at our all-suite resort receives Grace Bay Club's signature level of superior service, including a personal concierge available day and night via a provided mobile phone, and unparalleled ultra-luxury resort amenities

[gracebayclub.com](http://gracebayclub.com)

1 800 946 5757

[reservations@gracebayclub.com](mailto:reservations@gracebayclub.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

## H2O LIFESTYLE RESORT



H2O Life.Style.Resort is a Brand-New Boutique hotel for those looking for a quiet, hassle-free alternative to increasingly crowded Grace Bay and especially a unique place for water-sports enthusiasts. Each of the 25 rooms offer incredible views of the sparkling turquoise Caicos Banks with its dramatic sunrises and Caribbean moonrises. Every unit is furnished by Restoration Hardware and the kitchens fully equipped. The resort offers an extensive array of amenities for everyone.

[H2Oresorttc.com](http://H2Oresorttc.com)

1 649 232 4262

[reservations@h2oresorttc.com](mailto:reservations@h2oresorttc.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## HOLLYWOOD BEACH SUITES



A secluded, intimate, and tranquil paradise, our beach-front suites sit directly on a stunning, seven-mile stretch of powder-soft sand, looking out on brilliant, sweeping turquoise waters. Take pleasure in sunrises, sunsets, day-light swims and moonlit strolls. Explore the underwater world of wonders. Discover the beautiful island scenery, lush vegetation, tropical birds, and butterflies.

[hollywoodbeachsuites.com](http://hollywoodbeachsuites.com)

1 800 551 2256

[vacations@hollywoodbeachsuites.com](mailto:vacations@hollywoodbeachsuites.com)

North Caicos, Turks and Caicos Islands

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## INN AT GRACE BAY



The Inn at Grace Bay are one-bedroom suites located on Grace Bay Road in the heart of Providenciales' famous Grace Bay beach in the Turks and Caicos Islands. This intimate boutique hotel offers full kitchens, flat screen televisions, complimentary Wi-Fi, and beautiful garden pool views. Grace Bay beach, rated number one in the world in 2010, is only a few steps from your patio.

[innatgracebay.com](http://innatgracebay.com)

1 649 432 8633

[info@bwwsresorts.com](mailto:info@bwwsresorts.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## ISLAND CLUB TURKS



A Hidden Oasis in the Heart of Grace Bay. Stand on your private balcony and overlook a beautiful inner courtyard which features palm trees, lush tropical vegetation and a newly renovated pool; an amazing spot to just escape and relax! We are a cozy enclave of 24 townhouses consisting of three-bedroom, two-bedroom and studio units. They are just a short walk from one of the world's number one beaches, numerous restaurants, shops and Graceway Gourmet supermarket.

islandclubturks.com  
1 649 344 8558  
book@islandclubturks.com  
Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

## ISLAND ESCAPES



Island Escapes was founded in 2011 and has quickly grown to be the largest property management company in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Their resident island team of villa specialists manage and market only those villas that meet scrupulous standards - of comfort, functionality, location and of course, luxury. With a combined knowledge and experience of more than 50 years in property rentals, Island Escapes is an industry leader in the vacation rental market. Whether you're a villa owner looking for a property manager, or just looking for your next vacation villa, come stop by their offices at Ports of Call and talk to one of their friendly villa managers.

islandescapestci.com  
1 250 483 5887  
villarentals@islandescapestci.com  
Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## LA VISTA AZUL



La Vista Azul translates into “The Blue View” and was designed with your comfort in mind. This resort community of 78 richly appointed units overlooks Turtle Cove on 3.5 acres nestled into the hillside. Lush roof-top gardens, waterfalls, and spacious balconies and terraces reflect refined tropical ambiance. A short walk to premier snorkeling, Turtle Cove Marina, and a variety of shops and restaurants

[hotellavistaazul.com](http://hotellavistaazul.com)

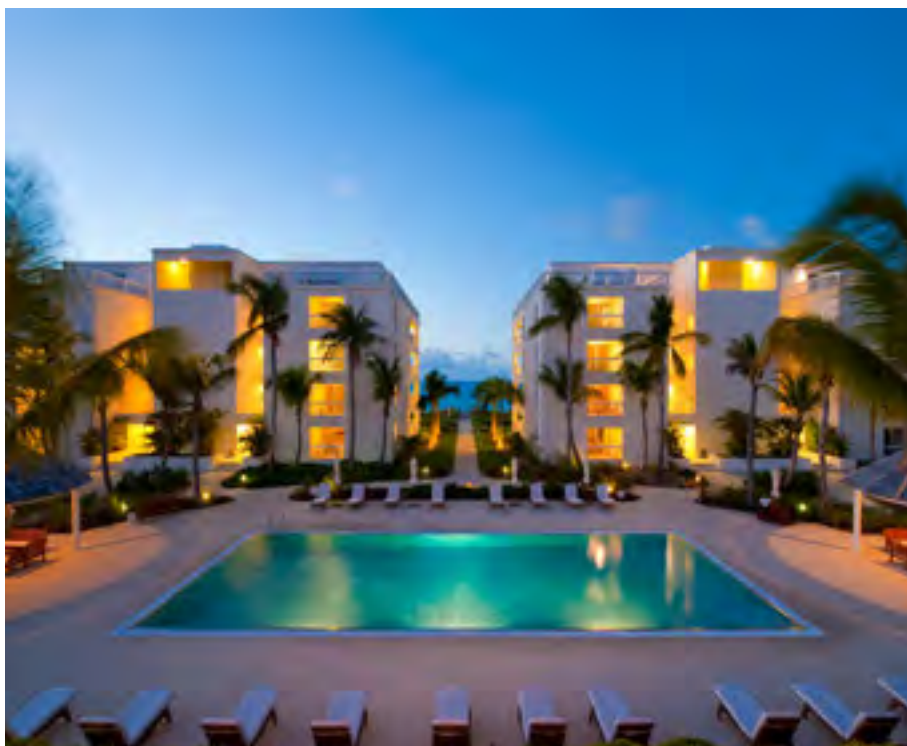
1 866 519 9617

[reservations@lvaresort.com](mailto:reservations@lvaresort.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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## LE VELE



The boutique nature of Le Vele resort offers a high level of intimacy and exclusivity for guests. All studio, one, two- and three-bedroom suites feature modern interiors designed to enhance the panoramic views of Grace Bay Beach, the white powdery sand beaches and turquoise Caribbean waters. We like to think of ourselves as the quiet gem of this beach, within short walking distances to many award-winning restaurants. Discover the ultimate Turks and Caicos vacation at Le Vele Resort.

[leveleresort.com](http://leveleresort.com)

1 888 272 4406

[info@levele.tc](mailto:info@levele.tc)

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands



## MARYJANE TOWNHOUSE



This elegant 2-bedroom, 2.5 bathroom newly renovated condo is located in the heart of Providenciales. Nestled on Venetian Road, this townhouse boasts a large pool, stunning bedroom views and a family-friendly atmosphere for your vacation. Close to the facilities such as Graceway Sports-centre, which offer tennis courts and gym facilities at daily rates for visitors, guests have easy access to a variety of activities, as well as 5-star restaurants shopping and beach-access in the Grace Bay area - accessible via a short drive. Outfitted with Bluetooth surround sound, 55-inch LED TVs, and highspeed internet, guests can enjoy modern technology during their stay, making this townhouse the perfect 'home away from home'. Guests are provided with personal pool chairs, as well as portable beach chairs, umbrellas, and snorkeling gear you can take with you on your trip to the beach.

1 649 232 5733

villamaryjane41@gmail.com

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands

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## NEPTUNE VILLAS ON CHALK SOUND



Each of our tropical vacation villas are fully furnished and equipped. Great for families or friends traveling together! Each villa contains two bedrooms/two bathrooms, or three bedrooms/three bathrooms, kitchen, living/dining room, and your own private balconies with hammock to enjoy the tropical breezes. Dine on our spacious deck, in our picturesque gazebo or in our open air dining room as you take in the inimitable hues of the iridescent waters of Chalk Sound. Our menu features Tapas and Mediterranean cuisine with a Caribbean splash. Poolside Bar, Terrace, Gazebo & Inside Dining. Extensive Menu & Wine List. Live Music on select nights. Open for Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner, daily from 9 am to 10 pm.

neptunevillastci.com

1 649 946 5306

neptunevillas@aol.com

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## NV PROPERTIES LTD



When you book with Nature's Vision (N V Properties Ltd.), you will get peace-of-mind knowing that if you need any assistance during your stay, our on-island team is always available. With options such as Cocoa Villa, Villa Bella Sera and Beau Soleil with 2, 3 and 4-bedroom villas to choose from, we are a boutique agency located in Providenciales specializing in luxury rentals. Each of our villas are fully equipped with everything you need for the perfect Turks & Caicos Islands beach vacation.

[turksandcaicos.rentals](https://turksandcaicos.rentals)

1 315 800 5850

[bookings@turksandcaicos.rentals](mailto:bookings@turksandcaicos.rentals)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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## OCEAN CLUB



Grace Bay Beach is one of the top beaches in the world, and you'll find the most pristine section of this gorgeous stretch of sand at Ocean Club. Bask in the sun, savor fine dining at your choice of two on-site restaurants; the lively beach-front Cabana Bar and Grille, or the elegant garden setting Opus Wine-Bar-Grille. Take part in a variety of activities and excursions, and so much more. And remember, when you stay at Ocean Club you're also invited to enjoy all the amenities of Ocean Club West. Ocean Club has 100 air-conditioned suites ranging from Studios through Two Bedrooms. Perfect for couples, friends, and families. Complimentary wifi is available throughout the property.

[oceanclubresorts.com](https://oceanclubresorts.com)

1 800 457 8787

[res@oceanclubresorts.com](mailto:res@oceanclubresorts.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## OCEAN CLUB WEST



On exquisite, pristine Grace Bay Beach is where you'll find Ocean Club West, close to local shopping, restaurants, and island night-life, yet a 15-minute walk on the beach from Ocean Club. On property enjoy dining at the Asian/Caribbean inspired Solana! Relax and take in the sunset overlooking the beach. During your stay, you are free to enjoy all the facilities, amenities and all the dining delights of both resorts. Ocean Club West has 75 air-conditioned suites ranging from Studios through Three Bedrooms. Perfect for couples, friends, and families. Complimentary wifi is available throughout the property.

[oceanclubresorts.com](http://oceanclubresorts.com)

1 800 457 8787

[res@oceanclubresorts.com](mailto:res@oceanclubresorts.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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## POINT GRACE RESORT



All-suite hideaway with a beach as far as the eye can see in Turks & Caicos — This is a boutique hotel that sparkles with bygone glamour. White fretwork, dark polished wood and shuttered windows are Point Grace's cue cards. Whether it's a one-bedroom cottage or grand penthouse suite, you'll have an individual retreat that's timeless and modern in equal measure. Dine under a canopy of stars at the newly renovated Grace's Cottage. At this dinner-only restaurant, you can choose from an extensive wine list and a gourmet Caribbean menu showcasing the region's strong ethnic influences.

[pointgrace.com](http://pointgrace.com)

1 888 209 5582

[reservations@pointgrace.com](mailto:reservations@pointgrace.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## PORTS OF CALL RESORT & VILLAS



Situated in the heart of Grace Bay, Ports of Call Resort & Villas offers an incredibly high valued boutique experience for an affordable price. Guests will enjoy a newly renovated resort with daily breakfast, WiFi, a staffed designated beach section on Grace Bay equipped with chairs, umbrellas, stand up paddle boards and kayaks, as well as exclusive discounts to the shops and services in the Shops of Ports of Call. Just steps from the resort, you'll find 20+ restaurants (not including the three on-site dining options), a grocery store, pharmacy, a covid-19 testing center, and the best of Grace Bay's nightlife. Relish in ultimate relaxation and the company of extremely caring staff that will make you feel like it is your home away from home.

[portsofcallresort.com](http://portsofcallresort.com)

1 888 678 3483

[reservations@portsofcallresort.com](mailto:reservations@portsofcallresort.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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## ROYAL WEST INDIES RESORT



As one of the first beach-front all-suite resorts in Turks & Caicos, Royal West Indies is situated centrally in the popular Grace Bay Beach area. Just a short drive from Providenciales Airport, the five-and-a-half acre property provides a lush tropical sanctuary complete with everything you need for a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. You'll discover the comfort of our spacious studio, one- and two-bedroom suites. Decorated in a classic colonial Caribbean style, they offer full kitchens and living/dining areas that are ideal for family and friends to use as a base for enjoying the Turks and Caicos. All of our suites feature spacious outdoor patios to enjoy the soothing tropical breezes that sweep off the gentle seas just a few steps from your room.

[royalwestindies.com](http://royalwestindies.com)

1 800 332 4203

[info@royalwestindies.com](mailto:info@royalwestindies.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## SAILROCK RESORT



Sailrock Resort is the premier luxury Turks and Caicos resort nestled privately along the pristine beaches of the Caribbean Sea. Home to the fourth-largest coral reef and miles of undiscovered land, Sailrock Resort is the perfect setting for connoisseurs of authentic experiences. With Ridgetops Suites elevated above the shoreline and Beachfront Villas steps from the ocean, Sailrock Resort gives new meaning to unparalleled service, exclusivity, and relaxation in a luxurious out-island setting. Enjoy a selection of amenities along with prime dining options, secluded beaches, an infinity pool, and the incomparable Na Spa cabanas. Sailrock resort is located in South Caicos just a short 20-minute flight from Providenciales International Airport (PLS) and under 2 hours from Miami.

[sailrockresort.com](http://sailrockresort.com) | [sailrockliving.com](http://sailrockliving.com)

1 800 929 7197

[reservations@sailrockresort.com](mailto:reservations@sailrockresort.com)

South Caicos, Turks & Caicos Islands

## SEVEN STARS RESORT & SPA



Framed by Grace Bay's world-famous white-sand beaches, Seven Stars Resort & Spa embraces the natural beauty of the Turks & Caicos Islands. Providing guests with an experience that is sophisticated, yet casual, the resort's highly personalized guest service and exceptional accommodations have made it one of the Caribbean's most iconic, top-ranked luxury resorts year after year. Signature amenities such as the resort's two heated saltwater pools, world-class spa, award-winning dining, wine-tasting and pairing experience, Champagne Shack, watersports, and specialty pillow and mattress menus help ensure that guests' needs and wants are met. Meanwhile, a recent multimillion-dollar redesign of its lobby, guestrooms and suites – the most spacious on the island, along with a new private dining room and rooftop garden and dining area, have made the guest experience even more stellar.

[sevenstarsgracebay.com](http://sevenstarsgracebay.com)

1 844 332 5315

[concierge@sevenstarsgracebay.com](mailto:concierge@sevenstarsgracebay.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



# Two perfect choices on Grace Bay



## Ocean Club & Ocean Club West

Ocean Club at the tranquil end with two unique dining experiences  
Cabana Bar and Grille and the Opus Wine Bar and Grille.

Ocean Club West in the heart of it all and featuring  
Solana Asian cuisine right by the beach.

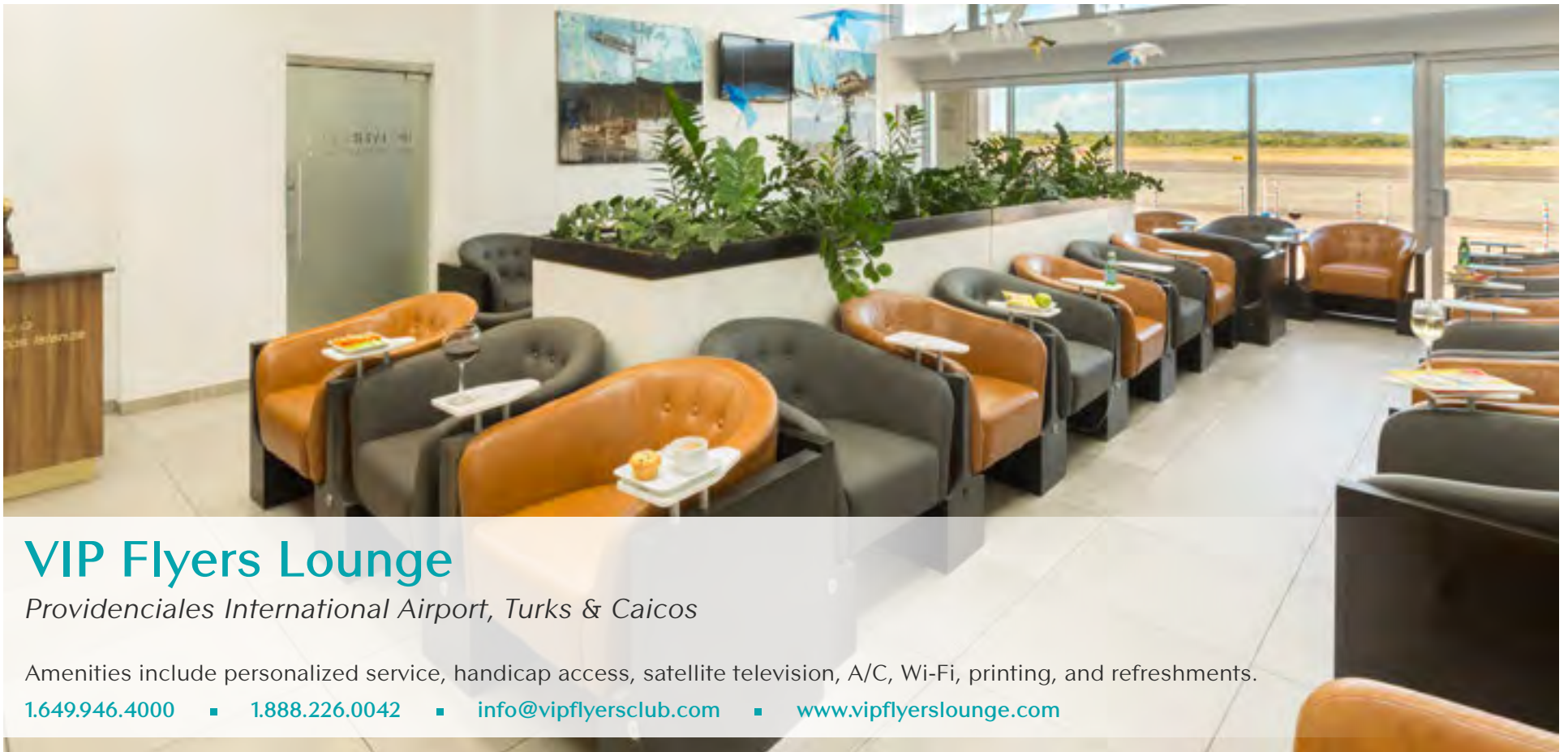


[oceanclubresorts.com](http://oceanclubresorts.com) • 649.946.5880 • 800.457.8787



# Olympia Destination Management Co.

Turks & Caicos Islands



## VIP Flyers Lounge

*Providenciales International Airport, Turks & Caicos*

Amenities include personalized service, handicap access, satellite television, A/C, Wi-Fi, printing, and refreshments.

1.649.946.4000 ■ 1.888.226.0042 ■ [info@vipflyersclub.com](mailto:info@vipflyersclub.com) ■ [www.vipflyerslounge.com](http://www.vipflyerslounge.com)



## TIDES Grace Bay

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# Eco-Conscious Luxury



Written By  
**Evangelia Jardine**

At the heart of the archipelago that makes up the Turks and Caicos Islands is a pair of green isles where farms flourish and ancient cave systems offer a glimpse into the lives of the native Lucayans who resided there thousands of years ago.

A birdwatcher's delight, the islands of North and Middle Caicos are home to a variety of birdlife that seek refuge in the ponds and wetlands here, from flamingoes to pelicans, ospreys to herons.

Here, the wildlife outnumbers the people, with the population estimated at fewer than 3,000—the majority of which live on North Caicos, and of which fewer than 300 call Middle Caicos home. There are no high-density hotels, no swanky restaurants. At night, the stars shine bright with no light pollution to obscure them. Here, the star of the show is Mother Nature.

Natural, largely untouched environments such as these are becoming harder to come by as global development pushes forward every year. And in 2023, they're also exactly what many travelers are in search of.

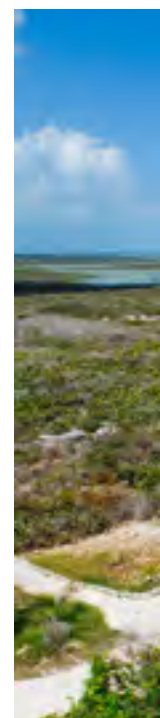
According to the latest report by market research company IMARC Group, the global ecotourism market size reached \$152.5 billion in 2021 and is projected to reach \$334.4 billion by 2027—a growth rate of 14.5% over a five-year period.

A form of tourism that involves responsible travel to natural areas, ecotourism focuses on environmental conservation and improving the well-being of locals.

And that's good news for places like Dragon Cay Resort, a low-density resort comprising quaint cottages at Mudjin Harbour—a scenic beach with an impressive dragon-like rock formation off the shore from which the resort derives its name—on Middle Caicos.

"The destination itself is a very eco-conscious destination," says Jennifer Bohmann, Marketing Director for the resort. "Very low build, everything is spread out. The focus is on the beauty that is Middle Caicos."

A popular place for snorkelling, kayaking, hiking, cycling and more—the focus at Dragon Cay Resort







Rock House

and on the Twin Islands in general is “getting back to nature,” Bohmann says.

“It’s getting away from the Jet Skis and the power boats. (It’s) a much more quiet and serene and eco-friendly vacation.”

Likewise, the private island resort of COMO Parrot Cay, which opened in 1998, offers travelers complimentary access to kayaks, standup paddleboards, windsurfing equipment and Hobie Cats for exploring the high seas in a way that doesn’t require fuel.

Back on land, guests can explore the low-density resort’s 1,000 unspoiled acres via scenic trails on foot or by bicycle. Not only do the resort’s paths offer some peaceful sightseeing of the island, but they lead to the hotel’s own coconut and banana grove. At COMO Parrot Cay, much of the food served on property is sustainably sourced, whether it’s grown locally on the lush island or caught fresh from the sea.

The growing trend of travellers in search of eco-conscious offerings has also influenced the design of newer developments in Turks and Caicos, including the newly opened Rock House Resort on the north shore of Providenciales.

Here, to reduce the use of single-use plastic water bottles, guests are provided with complimentary reusable bottles that can be topped up at free water refill stations around the property. Meanwhile, the resort is completely PVC-free—even the room keys are crafted from bamboo.

Set on a dramatic limestone cliffside, the resort’s architects prioritized the preservation of the wildly alluring natural setting when designing the hotel. As a result, Rock House is built directly into the cliffside, with leftover limestone materials repurposed in the wraparound feature walls of the resort’s homes nestled into the landscape.

The developers also established an on-site nursery during construction to protect the local flora throughout the building phase and avoid the importation of foreign plants. Once construction was completed, the native plants and trees were replanted around the property.

Because the truth is this: Turks and Caicos is home to some incredible local plantlife, from the delicate local Encyclia orchids to the towering mahogany trees. From a sustainable standpoint, preserving the local landscape is a must for developers in the islands to create a natural and authentic experience that is truly Turks and Caicos.

And that’s no secret to John Fair, Managing Director, Developer and Manager of The Strand—one of the latest luxury developments in Turks and Caicos currently under construction and set to open on Cooper Jack Bay in 2023.

As part of The Strand’s commitment to sustainability, the development has partnered with the Colorado-based Butterfly Pavilion—a nonprofit invertebrate zoo—to transform the community into a pollinator sanctuary through the preservation of local flora and thoughtful landscaping that incorporates nectar-producing plants native to the islands.

Meanwhile, The Strand team has incorporated raw elements such as natural limestone and sustainably harvested wood into the design of each home, while solar power and smart technology will be integrated throughout the property.

“We feel it’s necessary that we not only give back to the community and preserve the environment, but also help our residents lead a more sustainable life as well,” Fair says.

Indeed, today’s trends in ecotourism open up a world of opportunity for Turk and Caicos as a unique family of islands that prides itself not only on its natural beauty, but also on its fierce protection of the islands’ most precious jewels—from the wild mystique of Mudjin Harbour on Middle Caicos to the pristine sandy shores of Grace Bay on Providenciales—and everywhere in between.



Dragon Cay Resort

*There are no high-density hotels, no swanky restaurants. At night, the stars shine bright with no light pollution to obscure them. Here, the star of the show is Mother Nature.*



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Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



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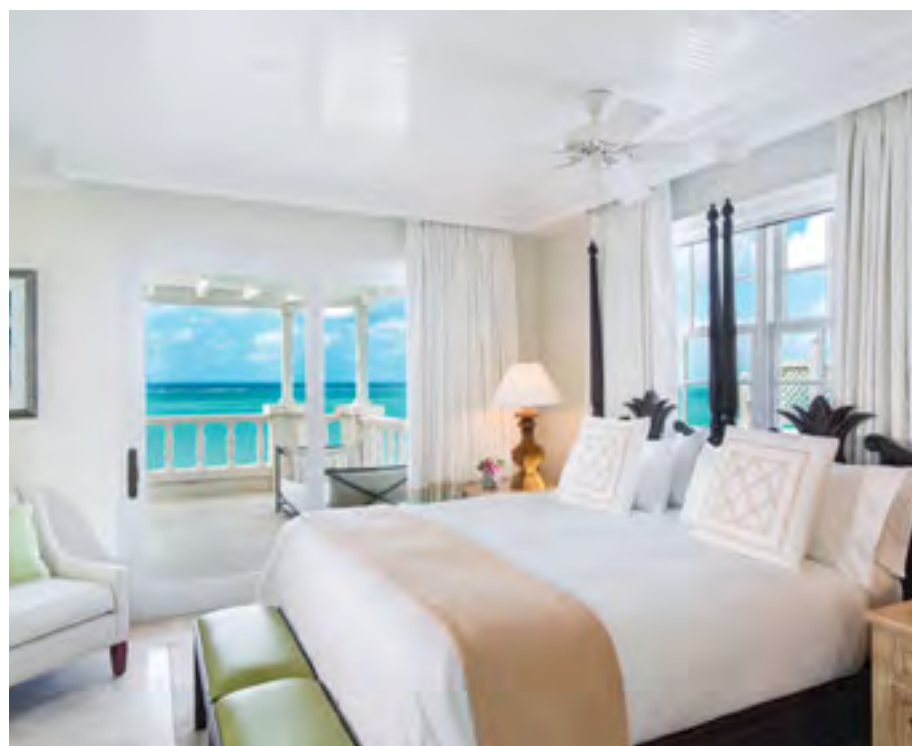
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Pine Cay, Turks & Caicos Islands

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[thepalmstc.com](http://thepalmstc.com)

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Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



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[ritzcarlton.com](http://ritzcarlton.com)

1 649 339 2222

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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[thesandstc.com](http://thesandstc.com)

1 877 777 2637

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Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



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Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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Occupying a sweet spot on beautiful white shores sits 53 intimate luxury villas ranging from one to five bedrooms; with incredible panoramic views of the world's best, Grace Bay Beach. Every inch of The Somerset on Grace Bay has been gracefully executed and beautifully brought to life and graced with ocean views, manicured lawns, infinity edge and cross current music pools. Villas are unique in decor, artwork and furnishings that makes you feel at home. The Somerset isn't lacking a lick of luxe as it emphasizes luxurious space and sophistication, and is the ultimate destination for couples, families, weddings and small groups.

[thesomerset.com](http://thesomerset.com)

1 877 887 5722

[reservations@thesomerset.com](mailto:reservations@thesomerset.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## THE SOURCE



The Source collection is the pinnacle of private luxury villa rentals in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Each property is exquisitely designed with quality craftsmanship harmoniously blending indoor and outdoor spaces to showcase the serenity and pristine beauty of the Islands. White sand beaches, crystal clear turquoise waters along with breathtaking vistas can be enjoyed at each of the villas. Experts in anticipating guests' needs, a complement of staff – butlers, chefs, housekeepers and 24HR concierge – ensure a dream vacation. With a genuine desire to provide a memorable and authentic experience the Source defines superior service. Whether a family holiday, honeymoon, romantic getaway, or special occasion there is sure to be the perfect property to suit a traveler's unique needs.

[thesource.tc](https://thesource.tc)

1 888 413 3808

[reservations@thesource.tc](mailto:reservations@thesource.tc)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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## THE STRAND



Opening in 2024, The Strand is an exclusive beachfront resort, beach and racquet club, and marina on almost a half mile of frontage on Cooper Jack Bay. Exquisite architecture, services and amenities combine with an intimate location creating a truly private destination conveniently located within minutes of everywhere in Providenciales. Choose from one-bedroom suites with commanding views of the Caicos Banks or indulge your family and friends in one of 41 spectacular two-to-six-bedroom beachfront homes. The Strand is all about barefoot sophistication with private club activities for the whole family. Relax in your exquisite suite or villa or socialize at the Mediterranean inspired beach club and restaurant - at The Strand it's all about you.

[thestrandtci.com](https://thestrandtci.com)

1 720 691 7169

[sales@thestrandtci.com](mailto:sales@thestrandtci.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## THE TUSCANY



One of Grace Bay's premier oceanfront destinations, The Tuscany Resort, is an award-winning hotel in the Turks & Caicos. With its gorgeous 30 oceanfront three bedroom villas, The Tuscany offers luxury, top-notch service, and most important, privacy, intimacy and a peaceful stay. Located on the eastern side of Grace Bay beach, The Tuscany sits on five beautifully landscaped acres and three hundred feet of Grace Bay beach-front. Directly east is wide open beach for hours of peaceful walks. Steps away from world-class dining, across the street from the Provo Golf Club, the Tuscany offers the best of both worlds. The Tuscany also offers amenities such as daily housekeeping, two lit tennis courts, breathtaking 70 foot pool, complimentary bikes, resort-wide wifi, and a fitness center. The Tuscany welcomes one, two or three bedroom condo rentals.

[thetuscanyresort.com](http://thetuscanyresort.com)

1 866 359 6466

[info@thetuscanyresort.com](mailto:info@thetuscanyresort.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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## THE VENETIAN



Elegant and sophisticated, the Venetian on Grace Bay, in beautiful Turks & Caicos Islands, offers luxury, five star concierge services, and most importantly, privacy, serenity and a peaceful stay. One of Grace Bay's newer premier oceanfront boutique destinations, The Venetian is an award-winning hotel set on the far east side of Grace Bay beach. The resort sits on over four beautifully landscaped acres boasting its own stretch of ocean on one side of the resort. The stylist, designer décor and soothing turquoise hues mimic the gorgeous beach-front views that each condo provides. Of the 27 oceanfront villas, there are two Penthouse Suites, 3100 square feet in size, offering panoramic views of Grace Bay. For those seeking the ultimate in seclusion and relaxation, The Venetian is the perfect resort.

[thevenetianguacebay.com](http://thevenetianguacebay.com)

1 866 242 0969

[info@thevenetianguacebay.com](mailto:info@thevenetianguacebay.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



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The Villas at Blue Mountain is a private community with a star no resort can achieve – privacy. We combine the amenities of a resort with the privacy of a villa to give you the best of both worlds. Concierge services, private pools, luxury amenities, private chef services – let us help you make this the vacation of your dreams! Its unique position on the island affords views of both the East and West Points of Providenciales, the breathtaking panorama of the barrier reef, and the brilliant turquoise waters beyond. Not surprisingly, The Villas at Blue Mountain boast the most enviable amenity to be found on any tropical island: their own secluded beach.

[villasatbluemountain.com](http://villasatbluemountain.com)

1 649 941 4255

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Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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Tides is the newest boutique hotel in Grace Bay, Offering twenty affordable and stylish suites just 150 steps away from the #1 Beach in the World (TripAdvisor's Traveller's Choice Awards 2022) – Grace Bay Beach. Consisting of 20 affordable and contemporary one and two-bedroom suites equipped with a full kitchen, laundry room, and a private balcony with views of the renowned turquoise Atlantic Ocean. Tides Grace Bay provides a haven of unpretentious luxury with gorgeously appointed suites, a fitness centre, free bicycle rentals and parking, high-speed internet access, complimentary beach chairs and umbrellas and a shuttle to the beach.

Wake up to a continental breakfast, hit the pool, or discover the local cuisine at the many nearby restaurants in Grace Bay.

[tidesgracebay.com](http://tidesgracebay.com)

1 833 843 3742

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Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



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Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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## TRANQUILITY PROPERTY MANAGEMENT



Tranquility PM Ltd in the amazing Turks & Caicos Islands is more than just a booking company. We are a luxury property management and vacation rental company handling an excellent portfolio of exclusive vacation rental homes and commercial/long term rental properties. We continually strive to provide exceptional experiences and service for every single guest or tenant. The process of finding the perfect short- or long-term rental can be quite challenging in Turks & Caicos, but our inventory of condos, townhomes, luxury villas and more, simplifies the process. Locally owned and operated with some 60 years of experience between us, our team of specialists will provide you with timely and on point assistance in planning an incredible vacation or help you find a long- term rental fully suited to your needs.

[tcivillarentals.com](http://tcivillarentals.com)

1 649 232 4109

[judy@tcivillarentals.com](mailto:judy@tcivillarentals.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

## TRITON LUXURY VILLA



In 2022, Triton Luxury Villa is expanded with the addition of 4 guest bungalows and a staff house, making it the only 11 bedroom fully staffed villa located directly on Long Bay Beach. Since opening in 2017, Triton has developed a loyal following with a myriad of high-profile guests. From celebrities to politicians, the discerning tastes of the villa's guests are continuously exceeded every year. As featured in the New York Times, Forbes, across television, and various publications worldwide, this quintessential villa will turn you into a Turks and Caicos regular. The estate occupies over 2 acres of lush landscape and more than 12,000 sq. ft. of lavish beachfront living space. With an outdoor movie theater, beachfront hot tub, 2 pools, private chef, butlers, and housekeepers, as well as tennis and bocce courts, there is little reason to leave.

[tritonluxuryvilla.com](http://tritonluxuryvilla.com)

1 888 513 4448

[reservations@tritonluxuryvilla.com](mailto:reservations@tritonluxuryvilla.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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## VILLA DEL MAR



Featuring just 42 beautifully appointed suites, Villa del Mar is an intimate, low-rise condominium property offering a serene enclave away from the active beachfront of Providenciales' famous Grace Bay Beach. One-, two-, and three-bedroom accommodations, as well as one- and two- bedroom luxury penthouse units surround Villa Del Mar's two pools and beautifully manicured grounds. Each unit offers ground level walkouts or large fully-furnished balconies to soak in the sun. Access to Grace Bay is just a one-minute stroll through a lovely garden walkway – where you can also take advantage of Villa del Mar's private beach concierge services. The property is centrally located to some of the top fine-dining restaurants and casual favorites on Providenciales and delivers the full island experience without sacrificing your need for a restful, rejuvenating holiday.

[yourvilladelmar.com](http://yourvilladelmar.com)

1 877 345 4890

[info@yourvilladelmar.com](mailto:info@yourvilladelmar.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## VILLA RENAISSANCE



Beautiful beach front boutique villas located in the heart of Grace Bay, Turks and Caicos Islands. Villa Renaissance was voted #4 of Top 25 Hotels-Caribbean by Trip Advisor for 2019. 28 fully appointed 1, 2 and 3-bedroom ocean front suites and 4 charming poolside suites. Italian style architecture, Juliet balconies, modern kitchens, granite counter tops, marble floors, stainless steel appliances, washer/dryer, US cable TV, Wi-Fi, luxury linens. Featuring Harry's Bar, full service bar with full food menu, beachfront and poolside service and the Teona Spa with highly trained professionals offering massage techniques and beauty treatments. Villa Renaissance is a short cab ride from the airport and is conveniently located within walking distance to many shops, excellent restaurants and a gourmet grocery store. Your dream vacation awaits!

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1 649 941 4358

[villarenaissancetci@yahoo.com](mailto:villarenaissancetci@yahoo.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

## VILLA VIEUX CARIBE



Enjoy Instagrammable ocean views and sunsets at Villa Vieux Caribe. Set on lush grounds on the southern coast of Providenciales, the seven-bedroom villa has traditional stone architecture and panoramic views of Chalk Sound National Park and Caicos Banks. Snorkel just off the property's beach in calm Taylor Bay, sunbathe on one of several decks, and retreat to private, hotel-like accommodations in the evening. Perfect accommodation for family vacations or just friends reuniting in seven ensuite master bedrooms all with ocean views.

[villavieuxcaribe.com](http://villavieuxcaribe.com)

1 649 243 7481

[villavieuxcaribe@gmail.com](mailto:villavieuxcaribe@gmail.com)

Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

## WEST BAY CLUB



West Bay Club blends the warmth and comfort of home with the amenities and service of the finest resorts at our celebrated location on the widest stretch of award-winning Grace Bay Beach. Our all-oceanfront suites and serene setting combine to create the perfect environment for relaxation. Personalized, handmade experiences are crafted each day by our devoted staff, so guests' visits to our luxury boutique property become cherished, lifelong memories. The resort is also located near a selection of restaurants and attractions that bring guests back each year to relax, unwind and enjoy our glorious island.

[thewestbayclub.com](http://thewestbayclub.com)

1 855 749 5750

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Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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Windward has a passion for developing exclusive waterfront communities. With the development team's unique point of view, the firm re-envisioned property to enhance value for all project stakeholders. Current and past projects include South Bank ([www.livesouthbank.com](http://www.livesouthbank.com)), a 90 residence marina and resort community on Long Bay, Blue Cay ([www.bluecay.com](http://www.bluecay.com)), a residential canal and beachfront boating community in Leeward featuring 15 villas, and The Peninsula ([www.emerald-estate.com](http://www.emerald-estate.com)) consisting of 4 luxury beachfront villas on Emerald Point. Caribbean contemporary design executed to the highest standards using leading-edge product concepts as well as ethical and environmental integrity drive our professional development team.

[windward.tc](http://windward.tc)

1 649 946 4300

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Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands



## WYMARA RESORT AND VILLAS



Wymara Resort and Villas is a chic and intimate retreat that captures the pristine beauty and spirit of the Turks + Caicos Islands, blending a contemporary resort design with sophisticated service. The resort is located directly on the most private western end of Grace Bay Beach; offering studios, suites and penthouses. Wymara has also introduced seven spectacular new villas on Turtle Tail Bay, located just 2.5 miles away from the resort. The extraordinary four- and five-bedroom villas are each located on half an acre and feature two private pools, expansive indoor-outdoor living areas, a sunken outdoor fire pit lounge area, over-the-water swimming platforms with direct ocean access. Creative cuisine and bars, Spa services, wellness classes and a stunning 7,000 square foot infinity pool add to the wonderful stay at Wymara.

[wymararesortandvillas.com](http://wymararesortandvillas.com)

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Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands

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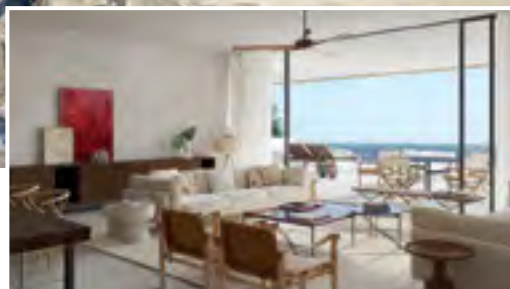
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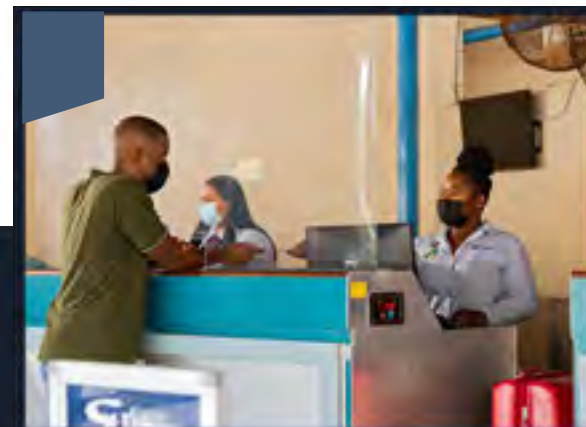
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# Safeguarding Turks and Caicos Islands' Treasures



Written By  
**Bryan Naqqi Manco**  
DECR



*It is with these present and future generations that the benefits of the Protected Areas are and will be reaped.*

### **Role of Protected Areas in Tourism**

Between gargantuan towering reefs that break the surface of the sea, chasms wind down to a sandy floor ten metres below, where silvery plastrons of sennet patrol in precise formation, Hilltops from where not a single anthropogenic fixation can be seen, a rolling thunderstorm pushes westwards, and blossoming canary-yellow Agaves stand tall amongst flamingo-pink Turk's head cacti, a rainbow bounds from the thundercloud over the sea. The naturally saccharine scene continues to play out; below the rainbow's arc, a humpback whale breeches from the sea in mystifying magnificence. These areas, foremost among others, are places few visitors ever get to see. They all share an important status with their delicate fragility and overwhelming beauty – they have no protection, and are subject to loss if care is not taken to safeguard them.

Over the last twenty years, we have seen the loss of natural features that are special or sacred to someone or another. As numbers of visitors rise, there is continued demand for consumption of land to support the vital industry of tourism. But there are limits. The Turks and Caicos Islands, through its National Parks Ordinance, has set aside 35 areas for protection and a further 13 have been approved for joining into the Protected Areas System. At least 20 more areas have been identified for protection as sensitive habitats of traditional cultural importance. The protected areas include National Parks, Nature Reserves, Sanctuaries (which exclude visitation except by permit), Areas of Historic Interest, and Critical Habitat Reserves.

One of the best-known Protected Areas is Princess Alexandra Land and Sea National Park, which sweeps along the eastern half of Providenciales' north coast from Blue Mountain, along the entirety of Grace Bay, and currently to the end of the Half Moon Bay sandbars of Little Water Cay. This National Park protects the coastline from the high-water mark seaward to just beyond the barrier reef, encompassing a spectacular array of reefs, seagrass beds, and sandy shallows, and includes the cays that comprise the enclaved Princess Alexandra National Park.





Visit TCI

Since development of Grace Bay began in the 1970s, we have seen much of the coastal habitats along it become transformed from scrubby palmetto plains to manicured lawns with intensely nurtured garden flowers. The increase in tourism numbers, while driving the Turks and Caicos Islands' secure economy, also threatens the very source of its Beautiful by Nature attraction. Balancing development with protection is vital to continuing to feed the needs of the economy and the people while making sure the industry doesn't love the natural beauty out of existence.

Fortunately, there are well-researched and documented reasons to have a robust Protected Areas System: for example, the Turks and Caicos Ramsar Site, comprises 30% of Turks and Caicos Islands' land area -- although "land" here is somewhat subjective; much of the Nature Reserve is winding intertidal channels, mangrove swamps, and algal mats that feed the Caicos Bank's fisheries but aren't themselves arable land. These wetlands hold globally-significant bird populations, they protect the Grand Caicos

islands from sea surge from the south, and they channel the nutrients onto the banks that sustain the conch, lobster, and fish upon which many people in TCI depend, and which many visitors enjoy. They also put Turks and Caicos Islands somewhat ahead of the global Protected Areas game. The 30x30 goal is an international aim to protect 30% of the world's land and marine areas by 2030, through commitments of party countries to do the same on their scale. And while we are already there, our swiftly increasing population and expanding coastal development make it all the more important to continue setting aside sensitive and culturally important areas for present and future generations.

It is with these present and future generations that the benefits of the Protected Areas are and will be reaped. Their Natural Capital, now under regular annual assessment by the Turks and Caicos Islands Government as Natural Capital Accounts, is now better understood financially. The ecosystem services provided by these special

areas are calculable as financial benefits. The coral reefs of Turks and Caicos Islands alone are valued at adding over \$47 million per year to the economy, in terms of coastal protection, tourism, fisheries, and recreation. Many of the Marine Protected Areas of Turks and Caicos Islands were established primarily to safeguard coral reefs. Threats posed by climate change, ocean temperature rise and acidification, and disease are being carefully tracked and combatted throughout the Marine Protected Areas in TCI. Without them we would be without sandy beaches, calm swimming shallows, abundant seafood, world-class diving and snorkelling, and safety from storms. Similar levels of ecosystem services are being calculated from the mangrove swamps, salt marshes, seasonal wetlands, and tropical dry forests in TCI.

Of course, these habitats are valuable not only to us. The seagrass beds hide secretive seahorses and pipefish, and swarms of miniature electric blue hermit crabs. The coral reefs swarm with colourful fish, charismatic turtles, graceful rays and sharks, and tens of thousands of more cryptic fish and invertebrates. The tropical dry forests are bejewelled by busy woodstar hummingbirds, they shade vireos and bullfinches quietly foraging, they feed hoards of migrating grosbeaks and buntings, and they conceal several species of plants and reptiles found nowhere else on Earth. This is really their place, as they were here long before any people arrived on these shores. Enter any of our Protected Areas and sit still long enough and the cadre of players will perform their shows for you. We cannot guarantee a humpback whale breaching under a rainbow while flowers bloom all around, but perhaps, in the future, that special place will be protected too, and you'll be able to witness a dramatic reprise.





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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF TOURISM

# IN THE TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS



Written By  
**Dr. Carlton Mills**

The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) was a leading producer of salt since its settlement by the Bermudians in 1678. For centuries, salt was the mainstay of the islands' economy with production taking place on only three of the islands namely: Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos earning them the name of the 'Salt Islands'.

Over time, salt production began to experience a rapid decline and production eventually ended in Grand Turk and South Caicos in 1964, and Salt Cay in 1974. It was also during this period that one local political activist, Paul Higgs (snr.) declared that "Salt was the demise of the Turks and Caicos Islands and that the future of the islands rests in developing a viable tourism sector".

If Mr. Higgs' vision of tourism replacing salt were to become a reality, urgent efforts were needed to ensure the implementation of proper accommodations and other necessary tourism related facilities in the Turks and Caicos Islands.



*Pelican Beach Hotel*



### **SOUTH CAICOS**

South Caicos was the starting point for tourism in the TCI, when three stations were constructed by a team from Puerto Rico in 1944 as a tracking beacon station to guide aircrafts flying from the US mainland to Puerto Rico. All indications were that with any tourism development, an airport was essential, and it was taken over by the Government in 1947.

South Caicos was the recipient of a major economic boost when in the mid-1960s, a real estate entity, "The Company", established one of the first hotels on the island. The scenic 14-room Admiral's Arms Hotel & Marina as well as property sales and development initiative in the Belle Sound area with sales agents in the UK and Europe, made major strides in developing the tourism market. In order for tourism to succeed, airlift was of paramount importance. The first licensed airline carrier to operate in the islands was Air Caicos. With this airlift, South Caicos saw an increase in tourism arrivals and overnight stays. Several pleasure yachts also called in at South Caicos on





***South Caicos was the starting point for tourism in the TCI, when three stations were constructed by a team from Puerto Rico in 1944 as a tracking beacon station to guide aircrafts flying from the US mainland to Puerto Rico.***

their way from Florida to the Eastern Caribbean as they could now refuel in the island. The famous lobster cuisine was also another attraction for tourists to visit the island. It was known that the Brazilian pilots on their journey from the USA to South America, made frequent stops at the South Caicos International Airport to feast on Dora Lightbourne's famous lobster sandwich. Pilots and yacht operators spoke highly of the friendly hospitality received during their visits to South Caicos.

Despite its early successes, South Caicos also had its disappointing moments. In the 1970s and 1980s, the island saw the construction of the East Bay Hotel and the High Point Development. The latter was proposed to be a 600-room hotel. None of these projects were ever completed at the time. The High Point development was eventually bought by the Sail Rock group and its buildings are currently being used as residences for their employees. The island is currently the home to two luxurious hotel facilities, the East Bay Hotel and the Sail Rock Luxury Resort.

#### **GRAND TURK and SALT CAY**

Grand Turk and South Caicos seem to have other non-salt related commonalities. The two islands also experienced the development of electricity and tourism at the same time.

The Turks Head Inn, constructed by the Bermudian shipwright in 1869, was the first hotel to operate on Grand Turk. The building was bought by the Turks and Caicos government in 1965 and converted into a six-bed Guest House. The government held onto the property for only a few years, eventually selling it to the Turks Head Inn Ltd group in 1968.

Grand Turk was also home to Evans Inn on the Ridge which was renamed Island House; the Salt Raker Inn, Kittina Hotel; Guanahani Beach Hotel; and the Osprey Beach Hotel later emerged.

Salt Cay was not to be left out of the tourism scene, one of its structures was called "The White House, so named as it was painted white and has the only stone roof in Turks and Caicos. Salt Cay is also home to the "The Brown House" now named the



Salt Cay Sunset House. The Government also built three small houses in the northern section of the island known as the Castaways Beach House. Currently, there are several active rentals including Tradewinds Guest Suites, Star Bright Cottage, Pirate Hideaway Guest Cottage, and Stone House.

### MIDDLE CAICOS

Middle Caicos sported Taylor's Guest House in the early 1970s followed by the Silver Shores in Conch Bar, which was opened in 1983. Guests were able to access these resorts because the government had a ferry service that connected North and Middle Caicos to Providenciales, plus Air Turks and Caicos (the local airline) provided daily services connecting the islands from Grand Turk down to Providenciales. There were also private aircraft operators who provided charter services further enabling guests to travel easily to these islands. Developments in Middle Caicos and North Caicos were further incentivized when between 1969 and 1970; a spine road was built linking Bottle Creek via Whitby with Kew and Bellefield Landing and in Middle Caicos, Linking Conch Bar, Bambarra and Lorimers to Half-A-Creek and Haulover Point.

The famous Middle Caicos Caves located in the settlement of Conch Bar attracts a number of visitors particularly on day excursions. The site that presents this panoramic view is Mudjin Harbour, home to The Dragon Cay Resort.

### PROVIDENCIALES

By the 1960s, Providenciales' population was around 518 (Population Census 1960). Fritz Ludington flew over the island on several occasions as he travelled from Florida to Puerto Rico. This island captivated his interest as he was fascinated by the immense beauty below. Ludington owned the Two Turtles Inn in Georgetown, Exuma, The Bahamas. He was soon successful in attracting several partners eventually developing into a company named Provident Limited.

The group submitted a proposal to the Turks and Caicos Islands government. They were subsequently granted 4000 acres of Crown Land in Providenciales. In exchange, the company was to construct a 4500-foot coral surface airfield; construct roads linking the three settlements of Blue Hills, Five Cays, and The Bight; construct a small hotel with at least ten rooms (The Third Turtle Inn); dredge Sellars Pond and make a channel from the ocean to the pond so that it would be used as a harbour; construct a small jetty at Gussy Cove South Dock; and provide employment to a certain number of Turks and Caicos Islanders.

These commitments were fulfilled by 1971. This development is believed to have been the spark that ignited the tourism industry in Providenciales. The airport was opened in 1968 and the company completed the construction of the first hotel on the island, The Third Turtle Inn, in 1969.

In order to promote and advance their development, the company shuttled flights from Florida for a real estate buying programme twice weekly using a World War II DC-3 aircraft. The Third Turtle Inn welcomed its first guests, Walter and Lise Thompson. This couple fell in love with the island and later went on to develop what is now Thompson Cove. The construction of the Erebus Inn followed this development.

Mr. Arthur Butterfield constructed a complex of small beach front villas which he named Treasure Beach Villas. Recently, he sold this facility to the Sandals Group. After setting the stage for tourism development in Providenciales, the Third Turtle Inn unfortunately closed its doors in 1989 following the death of its third owner, Prince of Oman.

In the 1970s, Cal Piper obtained a Development Agreement from the Turks and Caicos government which granted him permission to construct the Island Princess Hotel, initially a 50-room resort. He later added 30 more rooms. In the 1980s a small hotel named the Mariner's Inn located in the South Dock area of Sapodilla Bay was built. In 1988 Le Deck Hotel opened and was followed by Turtle Cove Inn.

The Club Med development is believed to have been an integral part of the 'Independence Package' for Turks and Caicos which was negotiated with the British Government by the PDM Administration, led by the late Right Honourable James A.G.S. McCartney. Although he met his unfortunate death before this development came to fruition, other individuals including Hon. Norman Saunders and Hon. Albray Butterfield (snr) are also credited with ensuring that this development came on stream. This major resort was one of the foremost turning points in the tourism history of the islands. Before commencement, the developers were required to lengthen and pave the airport; construct a new terminal building to accommodate a minimum of 200 passengers in the arrival and departure lounge; upgrade and pave the Leeward Highway leading to the Club Med Village site; and upgrade and pave the settlement roads.

The estimated cost for this project was about US \$20m, the largest of its kind for the country. The Club Med Turquoise Village was officially opened

Brilliant Studios



COMO Parrot Cay





in November/December 1984. It is believed that this development provided the impetus to launch Providenciales and by extension, the TCI, into the modern tourist age.

A year later (1985), the construction of a 200-room Sheraton Hotel began. The hotel was renamed Crown Bay Hotel and is now the popular Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort, Villages and Spa. Construction of the Ramada begun in 1988, and opened in 1990. It was eventually sold to the Allegro Group and is now The Seven Stars Resort and Spa. Other developments followed these tourism trailblazers including the Grace Bay Club, and the Ocean Club Resort, formerly known as Casel Mara, which started as one unit with a pool.

The story does not end there. Providenciales has seen unprecedented resort development on the island. With the growth of resorts also came the expansion in the airline industry. Air Florida was the first Jet to come to the islands during the Right Hon. James McCartney's administration.

### NORTH CAICOS

In North Caicos, the Seven Cays Development was engaged with the aim to improve the airport strip in Bottle Creek, build a road and jetty in Sandy Point and complete government housing in Kew.

This group also built the Prospect of Whitby Hotel

which opened in 1973 brandishing ten rooms. The intention was to cope initially with sixty guests. It was also their intention to attract homesite seekers on their land between Whitby and Sandy Point. Years later, the hotel was sold to an Italian company and renamed Club Vacanze.

Mr. Clifford Gardiner built the Pelican Beach Hotel on the beach in Whitby. He was also a pilot and was able to ferry guests from Provo to North Caicos.

On Parrot Cay, the late Count Czemin was one of the first to foresee the possibilities of the Cays as isolated private resorts. He was introduced to the islands by former Governor, Lord Grey. He entered into an agreement with the Government resulting in the pioneering decision to construct the Meridian Club on Pine Cay in the early 1970s.







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# Dining

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*The Farm Restaurant on Grace Bay*



# Farm Fresh, Table Ready



Written By  
**Evangelia Jardine**

Saturdays in Kew Town on the island of Providenciales, local Turks and Caicos farmers congregate with the fruits of their labour in tow. There's lettuce and lemongrass, peppers, pigeon peas and plantains. Bananas, avocados, breadfruit and maize. Mangos and sugar apples. The produce for purchase here may vary with the seasons, but one thing remains the same—it's all grown from Turks and Caicos soil.

Here, you can be sure no one will go hungry on a Saturday. But these local farmers are doing more than feeding the people of Turks and Caicos—they're bringing the people of the islands back to their roots.

"That Farmer's Market is a blessing because it allows us to keep traditional recipes," says Nikita Skipplings, also known as Chef Nik—owner of Crackpot Kitchen on Provo. "You can go anywhere for an iced tea, but have you ever had a fevergrass (lemongrass) iced tea?"

Since the Kew Town Farmers Market opened in July 2022, it's become a go-to for Chef Nik to source ingredients for his restaurant. He gets fresh okra, beans and lemongrass, as well as crab and dried conch from the twin islands of North and Middle Caicos to incorporate into his dishes.

Meanwhile, the fish served at Crackpot Kitchen depends on what's available at the local seafood market. Usually that means snapper, grouper, tuna or mahi. As long as it's local, you'll find it on Chef Nik's menu.





The Farm Restaurant on Grace Bay

The small rooftop garden was just the beginning for Seven Stars Resort. Now, the resort has its own hydroponics garden in a converted container as building commences for The Farm Restaurant on Grace Bay.

While the concept of sourcing local ingredients to create a farm-to-table experience is trending globally, it's certainly not a new concept. Indeed, it is the way people ate for thousands of years prior to the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century.

Foodies have begun to favor farm-to-table dining for a number of reasons. There's the health aspect, for starters—fresh, unprocessed food is better for you, full stop. Then there's the environmental benefit: local food is transported over short distances, which results in less fuel consumption and fewer emissions released into the environment. Care about the local economy? Sourcing local food supports local farmers.

However, for Chef Nik, there's yet another important reason to eat local.

"People have a new sense of pride in showcasing what is traditionally known to the islands," he says.

Above all else, Chef Nik says, eating local is

about preserving Turks and Caicos culture.

"The way you know a country's culture is through their music—and their food."

Meanwhile, the philosophy of farm-to-table dining is slowly spreading throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands, not only influencing the ingredients chefs use in their culinary creations, but also inspiring the vision and concept for new restaurants, such as The Farm Restaurant on Grace Bay.

Headed by Edwin Gallardo—Executive Chef of Seven Stars Resort—the eatery is slated to open in 2023. Inspired by Gallardo's passion for gardening, the ingredients for the restaurant's meals will be sourced primarily from its on-site hydroponics garden.

The concept for The Farm Restaurant began with Gallardo's idea to start a garden on the resort property to grow ingredients for the hotel's restaurants. It all started as a "pandemic project."

**But these local farmers are doing more than feeding the people of Turks and Caicos—they're bringing the people of the islands back to their roots.**





*The Terrace*



*Eye Spice*

Like so many others, Gallardo had more free time than usual in 2020 during the height of the Covid 19 pandemic. To fill his new-found free time, he turned to gardening.

First came the rooftop garden above the resort's fine dining restaurant, Seven. Inspired by the farmers markets widely found throughout his home in the Philippines, Gallardo began to experiment with growing different herbs and vegetables to use in his recipes at the hotel's three restaurants: Seven, The Deck and The Terrace.

Today, the restaurant rooftop remains a dedicated garden that's continually changing and expanding. Here, you'll find mint, Thai basil, kaffir lime, lemongrass, green onions, rosemary and more. And the chef-turned-farmer Gallardo is always experimenting; some of his latest growing experiments include mandarin oranges and Japanese purple sweet potatoes.

As his garden grows, Gallardo has also made a point to reuse as many materials as possible to minimize waste. So when food shipments arrive

at the restaurant in large styrofoam containers, rather than tossing them in the garbage, he's converted them into planters for new additions to the garden.

The small rooftop garden was just the beginning for Seven Stars Resort. Now, the resort has its own hydroponics garden in a converted container as building commences for The Farm Restaurant on Grace Bay.

Two years since he planted the first seeds in his rooftop garden, Gallardo's passion for gardening now matches his culinary passion. He and his team spend hours each day tending to the rooftop and hydroponics gardens as they continue to experiment and harvest their crops.

"Fresh flavors change everything," he says, from the Thai basil added to Seven's curries, to the microgreens added to the restaurant's fresh ceviche. In particular, Gallardo says, he can no longer live without microgreens.

"It's a fulfillment," Gallardo says of growing his own food. "You taste the difference, you see the difference, you feel the difference."







An aerial photograph of a small motorboat moving across clear, turquoise water. The boat is leaving a white wake behind it. In the bottom left corner, a portion of a sandy beach is visible, with a few people standing near the water's edge. The overall scene is bright and vibrant, suggesting a tropical or island setting.

# Activities

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# Every Tour An Eco-Tour!



Written By  
**Jayne Baker**

Eco-Tourism. The very mention of those words invokes images of a placid, natural landscape, protected and unaffected by human impact. The reality is, pressures on the natural and cultural environment are felt world wide as tourism increases. So the question becomes, 'How can tour operators and travellers alike find ways to lessen that impact and make a difference, while enjoying all that the Turks and Caicos Islands has to offer?'

The term 'Eco Tourism' first showed up in the travel landscape in the 1970s and 80s. Since then it has evolved - "Sustainable Tourism," "Conscious or Mindful Travel" or "Green Practices" are just a few examples of phrases you'll see in tourism vernacular today. Regardless of what you call it, a broad definition of Eco-Tourism is widely accepted as the norm: 'Tourism experiences that support and protect local flora and fauna, sustain the well-being of the local community and promote conservation and cultural understanding.'

If you're reading this, you already know that the Turks and Caicos Islands are home to a spectacular natural environment. There's a reason its slogan is 'Beautiful by Nature!' The destination is consistently voted by visitors as having the "World's Best Beach" and there is no shortage of activities for visitors to partake in to explore its white sand cays, beautiful beaches and tantalizing turquoise waters.

So how does the small business tour operator find ways to offer meaningful "Eco-tourism" experiences to their guests? And how does the mindful traveller choose activities that fit the definition of being 'eco-aware'?

There is no 'one' answer, and that's good news. "Sustainable Tourism" can look like many things.





Philip Shearer

From large scale corporate or sporting events that raise funds and awareness to support a certain cause, to coastal clean ups, to smaller (but no less important) efforts by individuals and small businesses, every step counts when it comes to protecting our natural and cultural environment. There's no limit on how to make an impact.

The even better news is that Turks and Caicos is home to a plethora of passionate tour operators and guides that are as excited about the islands as the visitor is. With that passion comes a natural urge to want to protect TCI's natural environment, which is in turn reflected in business practices that fit snugly within the definition of 'Eco-Tourism'.

If you've spent any time on an excursion in Turks and Caicos, you've likely experienced the contagious excitement of your guide. What you might not have considered is the pre-trip briefings contain some very intentional information.



Philip Shearer



If you're on a SCUBA excursion, for example, with one of TCI's dedicated Dive operators (Flamingo Divers, Dive Provo, Aqua TCI and Caicos Adventures on Provo; Grand Turk Diving Company and Salt Cay Divers on Grand Turk/Salt Cay) the trip involves more than just getting you under water! A guide will impart information about responsible marine life interaction, species that may be threatened or endangered, and anything unique or special to look out for. Conversation on the boat may be steered towards marine conservation efforts under way in the islands through the Turks and Caicos Reef Foundation, and ways to help, as well as the natural and social history of the area.

A paddle through the mangroves with Big Blue Collective will leave you not just in awe of the natural beauty of the area, but likely find you engrossed in discussion with the guide about the vital role that mangroves play in the health of our oceans. You'll come away from the experience having had a great day on the water, with a new appreciation for how important it is that these eco systems are protected.

You may be surprised to learn on a sailing trip with Atabeyra Sun Charters or Beluga Charters Ltd, or a snorkel trip with Silly Creek Watersports or Island Roots Tours & Adventures, that TCI waters are home to a huge barrier reef system that not only provides great snorkelling opportunities, but without it there wouldn't be the beautiful, white sand beaches that brings visitors to our shores.

And if being on the water isn't your thing, there are plenty of other ways to engage in 'mindful travel' here in Turks and Caicos. Consider a visit to the TCI National Museum for instance, with locations both in Grand Turk and Providenciales. There you can learn about the rich cultural history of the Turks and Caicos Islands, or even purchase a guide to take a self-guided birding tour on Grand Turk.

No matter how you're getting out and exploring Turks and Caicos, you'll find passionate guides with a common goal; to get travelers engaged, excited, and wanting to learn more about the natural and cultural environment of TCI.

As a traveller interested in 'conscious tourism' there are plenty of 'tiny' ways to make a difference. From an environmental perspective, avoid disposable containers and bottles where possible, and don't harvest shells from the beach or waters to take home. From a cultural perspective, take time to learn some of the island's history and ask questions of your guides. They carry vast knowledge and experience that will only enhance your time in the islands.

You'll also find operators making sustainable efforts on their excursions such as using reusable drinking cups and food containers in place of disposable ones, not serving bottled water, and encouraging guests to bring their own refillable drinking bottle. It may sound like a drop in the bucket, but when you consider the long term impact on landfill on a small island nation it quickly adds up to something meaningful.

So while an activity may not be specifically labelled as an 'eco tour', excursion operators on land or sea engage in mindful tourism practices each day and promote learning and awareness of the environment in ways you may not be consciously aware of.

And after all, shouldn't that be the goal and the norm? That 'sustainable tourism' practices shouldn't be an 'add-on' to a tour operator's business model but the very foundation upon which it is built. That all tours are inherently 'eco-tours'. Finding new ways to engage with and protect our environment will ensure that the Turks and Caicos Islands stay 'Beautiful by Nature' for generations to come.



*'How can tour operators and travellers alike find ways to lessen that impact and make a difference while enjoying all that the Turks and Caicos Islands has to offer?'*





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Eye Spice

# Fishing Green to Sustain



Written By  
**L. T. Bourne**

I grew up in East Harbour (originally named), popularly known as the “The Big South”, and now called South Caicos. Each of those names triggers nostalgia for many Turks and Caicos Islanders given South Caicos’ popularity during the ‘80s when the fishing industry was thriving and providing employment opportunities throughout the nation. I can recall my grandmother talking about her days “working at the fishing plant, peeling conch to feed the family”. Fishing plants were the largest employers on the island of South Caicos during those times.

Growing up I was not allowed to partake in the fishing industry because my generation’s (Millennials) primary focus was the achievement of academic success. Therefore, participating in the fishing industry during my era was something that came



under a plethora of scrutiny. I can recall teachers and parents saying “if you don’t perform well in school, you will end up becoming a fisherman” which was equivalent to being told, “you will be a garbage collector”. Nonetheless, our parents and elders had good intentions to raise a multi-career generation of professionals capable of aspiring to any career path that the previous generations could not hold.

Although participation in the fishing industry was condemned during my formative years, I always viewed fishermen as one of the hardest working and most dedicated individuals in our community. In the early hours of the morning, while the rest of the island slept, they were firing up their engines, loosening their boats from the docks, and heading out to sea. As they say on land, the early bird catches the worm, and you indeed need an early start to get the best catch of the day. I was fortunate to witness this throughout my teenage years. One can learn a wealth of life lessons from observing the fishing profession.

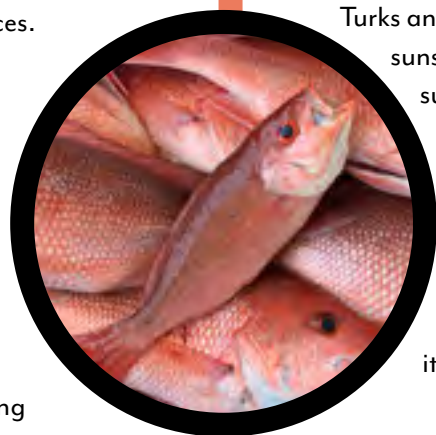
I once read that “a day without fishing is like a day without sunshine.”. It made me think about the Turks and Caicos Islands without the fishing industry. Many will agree with me when I say that there would be no Turks and Caicos Islands if fishing was nonexistent. I would argue that it is our most precious commodity. New research suggests that climate change could wipe out 60% of all fish species. If average global temperatures rise by five degrees Celsius, almost two-thirds of global fish species could be eradicated by 2100. Being raised in the Turks and Caicos Islands’ fishing capital propels me to advocate for sustainable fishing.

Recreational fishing is a major tourism activity in the Turks & Caicos Islands. In ensuring that this activity does not become obsolete in the foreseeable future, visitors will also have to be advocates for preserving marine life. In cooperating with local fishing companies who are actively involved in reducing the impact their fishing trips have on the island, Turks and Caicos can lead the region in sustainable fishing practices.

In the words of Howard Zinn “small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world” and in this case, preserve our fishing industry.

Okeanos Charter is owned and operated by Captain Josh, a Turks Islander, who grew up exploring and enjoying the stunning Turks and Caicos water and its marine wildlife. The operator is an advocate for the sustainable fishing

*In the words of Howard Zinn “small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world” and in this case, preserve our fishing industry.*



practice. Offering a variety of charters for those who want to explore Turks and Caicos by boat, the company advises their guests on which sunscreen lotions to use during their trips. Some chemicals in sunscreen threaten the coral reefs that are most important to people — those that are focal points of tourism as well as fringing reefs that are critical for protecting coasts from erosion. They also threaten the capacity of local subsistence fishermen to access the abundance of food that healthy nearshore reefs once provided. Not only does intense sunscreen pollution threaten the survival of these reefs, but it can also prevent the recovery and restoration of already-



degraded reefs. The small act of packing sunscreen that is not harmful to marine life is an act of advocacy for the preservation of the fishing industry.

I resonated with the sentiments of Leonardo Di Caprio when he said “our planet’s alarm is going off, and it is time to wake up and take action!” Offering customizable deep sea fishing, bottom fishing, snorkelling, and beach-hopping trips, Grand Slam Fishing Charters has taken action by eliminating plastic from all of its fishing trips. Among all the threats to the marine environment, the threat from plastic is one of the most dangerous. Garbage in the ocean disrupts the entire bio-geo cycle causing unwanted problems to the marine ecosystem. When guests step onboard Grand Slam they are offered boxed water instead which has a natural biodegradability paper and card. Plastics can take thousands of years to break down. The Turks and Caicos Islands welcomed a total of 1,598,557 visitor arrivals in 2019. The

impact of travelling with eco-friendly reusable water bottles can contribute significantly to the sustainability of the marine ecosystem throughout the islands. The items you pack can leave a lasting impact.

The highlight of many guest experiences is the attainment of fish, conch and lobster while on a boating excursion. Panoply Sport Fishing & Luxury Charters offers a number of sport fishing options here in Providenciales, including deep sea fishing, bottom fishing, and bonefishing. To ensure that travellers always have an opportunity to catch a “trophy fish” Panoply Sport Fishing and Luxury is enrolled in the Billfish Foundation’s tag and release program for billfish. Working worldwide, the Billfish Foundation programs provide a basis for advocacy and education efforts to ensure that fish stocks are protected and ample sport fishing opportunities are available for future generations.

Fishing methods such as bottom trawling, gillnetting and longlining are destructive to the environment and result in lots of bycatch and habitat destruction. Many commercial fisheries sustainably gather fish. Some methods are target specific and do not result in bycatch, such as cast netting, rod and reel, and traps. All these are essentially negating bycatch as guests get what they want without affecting the other aspects of the ecosystem. A traveller simply asking a tour provider “what method of fishing does your company use?” can help with the sustainability of the marine ecosystem.

Overall, companies are becoming environmentally conscious of their day-to-day operations’ impact on the marine ecosystem. Irresponsible and unsustainable fishing practices, destructive fishing methods and overfishing have disastrously impacted the ocean and the entire environment. To save the ocean, there has to be a global shift towards environmentally responsible fishing practices and sustainable fishing methods. As a consumer, you can do your part by using boxed water, wearing reef-friendly sunscreen and releasing juvenile fish back into the water when caught. If you are a fisher, you can also do your part by protecting the ocean against destructive fishing behaviours such as bottom trawling, gillnetting and longlining.

In the words of Elaine S. Dalton, “Each one of us has a part to play, and no matter how small or how insignificant you think your part is, it matters to the whole. We have something very important to do. We were born to lead and change the world.” Let’s all play a part in the sustainability of our fishing industry!



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# Eco Tourism 25 Years In... A Reflection



Written By  
**Philip Shearer**  
**Big Blue Collective**

Philip Shearer

In a quarter of a century much has changed. Much has not. Yet the need for 'tourism directed toward exotic, often threatened, natural environments, intended to support conservation efforts and observe wildlife' has never been more vital.

The Turks & Caicos Islands is now firmly established as one of the world's leading tourism destinations, winning countless Trip Advisor awards, as post-Covid real estate and construction markets continue to break quarterly records. Still the foundation on which these islands were built on, sold for, and indeed rely upon, ultimately requires our utmost focus, dedication, and attention.

That foundation and its cornerstone is the environment. Our environment. For it makes these islands what they are. Unique. Breath-taking. Magical. "Beautiful by Nature". Blink,

and you will miss it. Blink again and only memories, stories and photos will be there to remind us of how things used to be.

## **Reality check.**

In truth and sadly, much of what we had is disappearing all too quickly. An estimated 70% of the Earth's wildlife populations are gone since the 1970s. The Caribbean sits at the top of this list. The decimation of the Queen Conch is perhaps the clearest example of an unsustainable practice wrought on a species that literally crawled across every square foot of the Turks and the Caicos banks less than 50 years ago. These high protein grazers, victims of their own delicious meat, are easy to collect and harvest. Magnificent schools of Eagle Ray whose primary prey are juvenile conch have consequently dwindled to tiny groups and individuals.

The same dark fate is falling on our lobsters, Nassau Groupers, snappers and now most seriously, the reefs. The reality is harrowing and sobering in equal measure.

Beautiful by nature. Shifting baselines. Mind blowing sunsets, white powder sand beaches and our turquoise seas rightfully and continually stir the soul, seduce our imagination and boggle the mind. It would be folly and equally sad to continue to assume that things will remain the same. They will not. A fundamental problem for these islands is that the new arrivals are just as awed by the splendour as those of us who laid eyes on these islands twenty, thirty, forty and fifty years ago. Perspectives and memories differ. This is the shifting baseline where incremental changes seem subtle over weeks, months, and years. Still those changes are significant when the lens of time is





zoomed out and one sees the larger picture over a longer timescale.

The good news is that nature is resilient. She will recover but only under the right conditions.

These conditions include care and good leadership, stewardship, management and governance. Without them our magnificent natural resources cannot possibly thrive or even continue to survive today's onslaught, due in large part to a massive increase in sheer numbers. The increase in numbers of people, more and more houses, larger hotels, condos, resorts, roads, more and more boats, is a testament not only to the hard work of the men and women of our country, but also to just how exceedingly 'Beautiful by Nature' our Island nation is. And was.

#### **A beginning.**

25 years ago, these islands had already gripped us firmly in the hands of her natural bounty. Like a fever, her salty water coursed our veins infecting us with an insatiable desire to adventure and explore all her four corners. We needed to see every island, every reef, paddle every mangrove channel and dive all the time. While mosquitoes ran riot, we had been bitten by a different bug altogether. Hardly a day passed when we were not on the sea. And so, our journey began.

What was clear to us then, was how these translucent coastal seas, stacked to the brim with conch, lobster, eagle rays, turtles, sharks, dolphins, whales and so much more, needed and would need serious protection. Through education and adventure, we remained steadfast to the idea that one protects best what one loves the most. We wanted to share that passion. And so, in 1997, ours and TCI's first ever eco tour was born.

Sitting in an aptly named boat the 'Natural Mystic', our early guests peered over the side into the flat calm waters of the mangroves to learn about our coastal ecosystems.

#### **Dependency.**

90% of the world's marine life live in its coastal seas. These seas, surprisingly only make up 10% of the world's oceans. Bathed in essential warm sunlight, our coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass meadows are habitats that have for centuries nourished people with an abundance of seafood protein.

Reefs and mangroves protect us from the lashings of hurricanes, absorbing waves and storm surges that would otherwise wash us away. They are also nursery grounds for all forms of life. In a time of rising global temperatures, the ability of seagrass beds and mangrove swamps to sequester up to thirty-five times more carbon dioxide than the equivalent size rainforest only highlights their local, regional, and worldwide importance.

'Without protecting the water and life that covers 71% of our planet, life on earth will surely perish'. Nowhere is this truer than in the TCI. For here, like it or not, we are utterly dependent on our tropical seas.

#### **The power of the paddle and small groups. Less is more.**

Within months of our first guided trips, it became obvious that we needed a different way to see these mangroves. We needed to be quieter, stealthier. We were running aground, and we needed to go shallower, go deeper and to go further into these unique saltwater forests, which make up one third of our island land mass.



Mind blowing sunsets, white powder sand beaches and our turquoise seas rightfully and continually stir the soul, seduce our imagination and boggle the mind. It would be folly and equally sad to continue to assume that things will remain the same. They will not.

*Brilliant Studios*





TCI's first waterman, Mike Rosati, lent us our first kayaks. It was awesome. Mangroves and kayaks. They were and still are a match made in heaven. In paddling channels, we felt like original pioneers. And we were. Not long after, sitting in those kayaks with paddles in our hands, The Kayak Ecotour™ became the foundation upon which we laid our whole ecotourism exploration and vision. We also ran small group diving, inspired by scuba pioneer Cousteau and his ocean explorations. Our dives with only four to six people allowed us more time underwater, to see more and get closer.

Season after season we weaved our new experiences and newfound knowledge into our eco tours and adventures to share them with our guests. TCI's first paddleboards arrived ten years later. Standing tall on the shoulders of our now iconic kayaking tours, paddleboarders were afforded different perspectives while gliding through our stunning creeks. The cooling trade winds, so often the bane of our existence during

winter's westerly fronts, brought another way for us to explore. In harnessing the wind, we could introduce our more active-minded travellers to kiteboarding. This low impact eco sport allows for endless hours of exhilaration and a new way to experience the natural beauty surrounding us.

Everything we did, everything we do, centres on education through adventure. Reducing our impact became an obsession. Introducing biodegradable sunscreen and shopping bags, reusable utensils and water bottles was never not an option. It was and still is necessary.

#### **The Heart of the Islands™ - true ecotourism.**

Our tours on North, Middle and South Caicos crafted over the years that perhaps best embody true eco-tourism are some of our proudest and best moments. In forging relationships and deep friendships in our out-island communities, we helped bring Provo's tourist market off the beaten path and an essential cultural island authenticity to the visitor.

Through networking and by using the local services provided; boats, vans, cooks, and guides, rather than our own resources, allowed us to share tourist dollars with our partners and at the same time share our vision for a sustainable environmental future.

#### **The Future.**

The future requires prioritizing, positive thinking and above all, action. Putting our environment, health and education at the top of the agenda can allow great things to happen. If the motivation and commitment is there, it is often the small things that make the biggest difference. Thinking about one's choices and the impact those choices have on our natural world has consequences. What we eat, where we anchor matters. Can we reduce, reuse and recycle? Yes, we can. Supporting local NGOs like the Reef Fund and our National Trust and other conservation efforts can only help preserve our natural heritage. Understanding the rules of our National Parks and Nature Reserves and then actually respecting those rules will benefit us all. Choose the right operator. Experience the difference. Be the change you want to see in the world today. One thing is for sure, action will speak louder than words.

Let's see what the next 25 years brings. For the future, is in our hands.



Philip Shearer





# Business

Hospitality can often immediately be associated with accommodations, dining, and activities providers, but it does not stop there. The supporting services essential to driving these businesses forward make up a large part of the hospitality industry as well.

Financial services, shipping and logistics agencies, grocers, investment groups, all play an integral role and are a lifeline to the success and vitality of the sector.

In Turks and Caicos, the investment in local businesses is ripe. Funding and support to position small business to scale and prosper is healthy and will no doubt lead to the continued authenticity and sustainability of the TCI experience.









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# REDISCOVER

## *Turks and Caicos*



“Beautiful by Nature” Turks and Caicos Islands are perhaps one of the World’s best kept secrets. The islands offer something for everyone, from those seeking the ultimate in luxury and seclusion to those who simply want a relaxing, no-frills holiday. There’s exquisite dining, unparalleled service, superb white sandy beaches, enviable natural reserves and sanctuaries, and a vibrant culture.

With excellent weather year-round, a vibrant economy, a safe environment for tourists and residents, this country is indeed a paradise. Visitors can rediscover Turks and Caicos now, while they remain among the most protected and untouched in the Caribbean.

### KEY FACTS

Language: English	Time Zone: Eastern Standard Time (EST) (GMT -5 hours)
Current: US Dollar	Humpback whales migration period: December to April
Population: 50,000	Gibbs Cay to swim with manta rays
Island Fish Fry every Thursday	Ripsaw the music of the Islands



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Business Services



# Building Sustainability



Written By  
**Sonia OMEGA  
Simmons**

The make-up of the Turks and Caicos business community has been revitalized thanks to the country's MSME empowerment initiatives.

In 2016, the Turks and Caicos government launched a Micro Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) program which has since been managed by Invest Turks and Caicos - the local agency tasked with the facilitation of inward investment - and backed by the Centre for Entrepreneurial Development. The program has been revolutionary in empowering local entrepreneurs to begin and build brands that provide services and merchandise native to these islands.

In the tourism sphere, MSMEs make up the activity vendors, restaurants, artisans, and even the accommodations providers in the sector. Tailored to the advancement of the lesser-tapped areas, the MSME program has focused

on priority areas. This is the gateway to visitors' tourist dollars being a boost to the local economy and provides more avenues for those looking to engage with the local community and experience the authentic side of the country's culture.

Since its start, the program has disbursed millions in financial and technical assistance and concessions, empowering start-ups to compete and enjoy success in the larger markets. Applicants are positioned for success through the support of one-on-one consultations with representatives of the Invest TCI and CED agencies. Assistance with formulating business plans and fulfillment of the application requirements is provided, and the results are astounding.

Boutique accommodations, hand-crafted items made with local materials, home grown fashion brands and more are the result of this effort. Fashion house







Invest Turks and Caicos







“Willique” is rising to the top as one of Turks and Caicos’ most popular local luxury brands. The bespoke leather goods brand provides classic modern designs referencing a Caribbean heritage. A limited number of pieces is produced in each of Willique’s collections, which lends to a truly bespoke investment for the buyer, and each piece is handmade and unique.

Anya Willique Pratt, a young Turks and Caicos designer, is the visionary and Atelier behind the brand. She made the bold move to establish Willique in 2016 and nurtured it in London, England. Returning to Turks and Caicos, The MSME program gave her the injection she needed to move toward brand growth.

Willique has since launched the Resort Collection, expanding the brand from handbags to clothing and accessories.

Stories like this are a nod to the success of the Turks and Caicos MSME program and there are many more. The program has funded small businesses providing services in fish processing, commercial cleaning, art, custom embroidery, vacation rentals, market gardening, technology, music, and even hair manufacturing.

Small and medium businesses play a significant part in any country’s economy and are integral to its development and sustainability. As the country experiences record numbers and outstanding success in its tourism and real estate sectors, the

initiative has helped many to fulfill their entrepreneurial aspirations.

There is more to come in locally owned and grown businesses. Invest Turks and Caicos is committed to the growth of Agro-business and Financial Services in the country and the building of an optimal business environment for Turks and Caicos Islanders.

When visiting Turks and Caicos, take a look at these locally owned cottages, stores, brands, and services. There is no better version of cultural exchange than the investment in a country’s best and most vital product...it’s people.



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# *Let's Walk And Talk History At Cheshire Hall Plantation*



Written By  
**Jonathan Sayao**  
**Turks & Caicos National Trust**



Turks & Caicos' beaches are breathtaking, but there is more to explore!

Imagine having the opportunity, rather privilege, to walk into the ruins of the past and learn about the complex history of slavery and forced servitude at a plantation. Imagine meandering through the ruins of a place that has so many stories to tell. Imagine opening a whole 'Pandora's box' of relics that dates back for centuries.

Where in Turks & Caicos is it? Right in the heart of Downtown, Providenciales. It's a place called Cheshire Hall Plantation.

Named after the English county of Cheshire

where the original owners, Thomas and Wade Stubbs were from, it is considered the best preserved set of plantation-era ruins on Providenciales and thus the most important site for cultural heritage on the island.

The walls around the plantation are the original walls built by the slaves.

The ruins of the main house are prominent atop the ridge. This structure was once the residence of the plantation owner. It appears as though it had a veranda on both the north and south sides. In common with most plantation houses, and indeed with most present-day traditional local settlements, this one was built at

an elevation. Thereby, it receives cooling breezes, overlooks the plantation and its surroundings, and unlike many modern beach-side developments, is well away from storm surges and coastal erosion.

The ridge is composed of several lines of fossilized sand dunes lying behind the reef edge and a sandy beach to the north. The view from here to the south slopes down to the marshes stretches to the Cheshire creek, now being surrounded by modern built development. This creek was probably an important access point to the plantation by ship and boat from the Caicos bank and the open sea beyond. The red mangroves in the Creek are an important roost for Cattle



Egrets (*Bulbulcus ibis*) and other birds. The natural plants and animals of the land and marshes of TCI are of world importance, with many species found only in TCI and, in some cases, in a few nearby southern Bahama Islands or Cuba.

At the time, Providenciales was two separate islands, with the sea “cut” just west of Cheshire Hall, extending from the marshes at the head of Cheshire creek. The cut was later filled by sand movement during hurricanes. It is sobering to think that Downtown Provo rests on such a temporary base!

Beside the main house is what is believed to be the remnant of a fireplace, which means that the kitchen was probably located on this spot. Various kitchen herbs of the period have been planted here including Basil, Lemon Grass, Catnip, and Bird-pepper.

The well, located adjacent to the master’s kitchen, was a source of water on the plantation. It is 30ft (10 m) deep and was dug manually.

Around the plantation are some cotton plants – specifically Sea Island Cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*) – typical of what was grown in the fields. This was considered the best quality cotton in the world and, as a result, commanded the highest prices. Its name arose after being taken in 1786 from the West Indies (where it was native) and planted on the barrier islands of the Carolinas in the United States. After only a few years, the plantation was producing large yields of Sea Island cotton preferred by the expanding textile industries of England.

Past the cotton patch is a layout of



stones which was probably the base for the windmill. The cotton gin was powered by wind energy. The invention of Eli Whitney’s cotton gin in 1793 revolutionized the textile industry. The gin mechanically separated cotton fibres from the seeds. After the cotton was cleaned, they were packed into bales using the cotton press.

A well-built structure stands by the gate which may have served several purposes. It was refurbished in the 1960s to serve as an administrative Centre for the then small village communities of Providenciales. The slots in the wall indicate there were quite a number of shelves utilized, perhaps used for storing records to facilitate the management of the estate.

Additional features on the site are the plaque marking Queen Elizabeth’s Jubilee adjacent to another stone structure, possibly a drying floor for the crop; a

cannon and replicas of the slave cabin and smokehouse.

A cornerstone from the ruins, inscribed “W. Stubbs 1810”, is an important archaeological find and can be seen displayed at the main gate. This commemorates the selling of the estate by Thomas to his brother Wade, in 1810.

Aside from the ruins and the rich stories they tell, the National Trust offers an opportunity for nature enthusiasts to observe many species of plant, insects, and birds which are attracted to the flowering and fruit-bearing plants.

There is a local craft shop within the plantation where straw-product merchandise, ceramics and souvenirs are for sale.





Eye Spice



Turks & Caicos National Trust



Turks & Caicos National Trust

*The walls around the plantation are the original walls built by the slaves.*









# Shopping

Genuine works of art and inspired handicrafts. Fashion lines that are ready for any runway, anywhere. The finest jewellery from your favourite global brands. The range of shopping indulgences found in Turks and Caicos is nothing short of impressive.

There is something to be said for acquiring a curated piece of work that will forever remind you of a special time and place. From the use of local sea glass to hand-beaten sisal, shopping for the perfect gift or souvenir lands you in a sea of retail satisfaction.

You will want to take a piece of Turks and Caicos with you. A trinket, a canvas, garb, anything that will harken back to this place that has won your heart each time you look at it, hear it, or smell it.

Look around while you are here. Visit the shopping centres, the boutiques, the stand-alone shacks, and the markets. Talk with our artisans and shop owners. Often the stories behind the treasures you will find here are the perfect complement to the pieces you will now call your own.





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Shopping



# Earth Friendly Shopping In The TCI



Written By  
**Lavern Skippings-Reynolds**

Shopping means so much to so many different people. For an eco-conscious traveler shopping may appear to be a daunting task. How do I purchase goods and services that leave the least amount of carbon footprint and are earth friendly enough to be consistent with my everyday living and lifestyle? Is this at all possible in the islands? My answer is, yes, absolutely! Look around, you have chosen to visit the Turks and Caicos Islands, a country that is beautiful by nature and is wonderfully naturally exotic. With forty islands and cays, each island has a plethora of varied wildlife, marine reserves and exotic eco systems that have sustained themselves for centuries.

Being Eco friendly while traveling encompasses an entire experience. Purchasing an item during your travels stimulates the local economy and can have a positive effect on the environment. Shopping responsibly not only means that you are an ethical traveler, it also means that your small effort of respecting the new environment will make a greater impact once you encourage others to follow suit.

After traveling from home to paradise you can check into your new vacation space and your adventure begins. One of the first things to do is open your door and inhale the clean fresh air that the island experience has to offer. Next, get ready to explore the beach, the water and the shopping.

Nothing can be more relaxing than walking on the world's best beach and basking in the sun. If you are from the north and forgot your swimsuit, fear not because some of the local gift shops have eco-friendly options that are just right for you. I call it "guilt free shopping". The colors of the islands can be seen in almost every store front window.

The local gift shops have everything you need to enhance your sunny vacation. A t-shirt, beach cover- up, flip flops, sunglasses and beach towel are the main ingredients for an enjoyable day. No look would be complete without local accessories. Add in a splash of colour with items "made in the TCI". Community artisans have toiled to make basket weaves out of indigenous plants such as the sisal plant

fibres. Straw hats, beach bags and jewelry are all elements that will perfect your island savvy look.

Local jewelry with colorful shells highlight the unique beauty and simplicity of the Turks & Caicos Islands. Beach shells and conch pearls are often entangled in jewelry to make eye-catching bracelets and earrings. If diamonds, gold and silver jewelry are your preference, then try one of our local jewelry stores like Jais. They carry a wide array of international jewelry brands at their store in Grace Bay. You can shop to your heart's content and stroll away with a biodegradable shopping bag.

Eco shopping with the kids could also be an enjoyable experience. While walking the Grace Bay strip you can find something for everyone. After shopping at Mama's gift shop, cool down your little ones with a scoop of ice-cream from Giggles ice cream shop, one of the many options for the 'sweet tooth' the islands have to offer. Sweet tropical flavors derived from native fruits are a must-try on your Turks and Caicos vacation.

When in the TCI, you must do as the locals do! The locals carouse "down at the Fish Fry". The weekly island fish fry has a fun and energetic vibe, with a wide selection of local food, island music, souvenir vendors and a Junkanoo band. Come eat, drink, listen and immerse yourself in the island culture. Magnets, key rings, candles, artwork or even jewelry are options from community artisans. Some local vendors have made it a work of art to incorporate local sand, shells, reclaimed beach wood and sea glass into their creations.







Don't forget to keep an eye out for the national symbols of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Our coat of arms, national flag and national dress are all a part of what makes these islands so different and unique.

After a long day of shopping, you can eat and drink sustainably. Fresh local produce can be purchased for the tasting. Stimulate your palate with fresh greens or organically grown mushrooms. The island of North Caicos is very lush and has a local farm with fresh organic produce. Imagine picking local fruits and vegetables straight from the trees and having a fresh farm to table experience. Some of the fresh produce are sold at local grocery stores.

Food can make the perfect souvenir. The choices of organic salts, teas, coffees, spices and pepper sauces are yours for the choosing. They are often packaged responsibly and they travel easily with you. Take advantage of having a local chef prepare a meal for you and your guests while teaching you to make island dishes that you can replicate at home.

An evening of calm could easily be complimented with a fresh Turks Head Brew. Turks Head Brewery is the only local distillery in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Currently there are 4 types of beer that you can try; the Lager, Amber Ale, IPA and Light brews. The brewery offers a complete tour of its operations which culminates at their bar room and souvenir shop. These brews have the best names that emanate from local tales and dialect. There you can have a refreshing; "I-AIN-GA-LIE Lager", "GON-TA-NORTH Amber Ale",

"DOWN-DA-ROAD Ipa" or an "I-SOON-REACH Light Lager". Ask any local person what these names mean and you are sure to hear a whale of a tale.

If you are spending the Christmas holiday season with us, you would love to experience the annual Maskanoo™. This event is a grand street fair held on Boxing Day. It is a celebration of the history and culture of the Turks and Caicos Island complete with lights, music and action. With over 30 vendors selling local food, beverages, arts and crafts, this is an excellent location for taking your photos, the perfect eco-friendly take home souvenir.

So you see, there are many choices separate and apart from mass produced souvenirs and shopping items that all look the same. The locally produced items have stories that are far more interesting that you too can share. While shopping, look at the labels, ask a few questions or even do some research before traveling. A quick Google search will help to educate you on the history and culture of these islands, the things that you should look for and items that you should not remove from its natural habitat like coral reefs.

When visiting the Turks & Caicos Islands, you have the opportunity to drive less and walk more to many gift shops, restaurants and bars around the islands. The opportunity to reduce, reuse and recycle is your choice everywhere you turn. After all, you are visiting paradise with many different islands and landscapes to explore.



Brilliant Studios

*There you can have a refreshing; "I-AIN-GA-LIE Lager", "GON-TA-NORTH Amber Ale", "DOWN-DA-ROAD Ipa" or an "I-SOON-REACH Light Lager." Ask any local person what these names mean and you are sure to hear a whale of a tale.*



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Wellness



# Wellness That Works



Written By  
**Lorraine M Kenlock**  
CHIA | CNC | CWC



# Wellness lies in our food, our way of life, and our holistic offerings that cater to wellness of the body.

The beauty of the Turks and Caicos experience is that its growth has not changed the way of its people and the connection to a simpler way of life with the tenants of Wellness at its core.

If you're familiar with Providenciales, then you know that compared to its Sister Islands, its 'the big city'. But that term carries a different meaning here. Despite the island being the tourist capital of the country, it has still preserved its laid-back nature. There is very little "night life" - not even a movie theatre - which, in a post-pandemic era, is certainly not wanting. These islands can genuinely boast the words "Rest", "Rejuvenation", "Family Time", "Reset", and "Wellness". So, if you have been wondering what the secret is, this is it - "You come to the Turks and Caicos to Reset and Exhale."

When it comes to the idea of "Wellness" it is found in the expected and unexpected forms here and is all-encompassing. It begins with the love and warmth you feel in the greeting given to you by those that live in these islands. It continues in the discovery of



The Ital Lifestyle



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even quieter and more unadulterated ways of life found in each of the islands, all unique and all a breath of fresh air and food for the proverbial soul.

It is said that Grand Turk was once considered “for the newlywed and the nearly dead”, but it harkens back to a time when leaving one’s doors open and heading to the office for a workday without a second thought or worry was commonplace. That is a version of Wellness we would all be grateful to experience today.

Whether you are a part of a family, girls’ trip, or even a corporate group, the one thing that a Turks and Caicos trip guarantees is the feeling of exhalation. This is where you will rediscover the joy of spending time with your loved ones or yourself without distractions.

Wellness can be a day at the beach, exploring the mangroves, horseback riding or a quiet, ‘zen’ Yoga session at golden hour. For a true escape, venturing to the Sister Islands on a day trip will make you feel as though all you need is a swing, a chair and a great book to take you away and bring your imagination to life.

Wellness lies in our food, our way of life, and our holistic offerings that cater to wellness of the body. While on island, there is no lack of access to health and wellness solutions; Grace Bay Integrative Medical, Associated Medical Practices, Omnicare Medical, and FamilyCare Medical all provide services that range from traditional checks to and outpatient care. If you need access to medicines, Flamingo Pharmacy covers all your pharmaceutical needs, while Physiologic and Caicos

Chiropractic can attend to your adjustment and physical therapy needs.

If you are looking to incorporate the islands’ natural Wellness ingredients in your routine while here or want to ensure your vacation does not interrupt your clean eating habits and routines, The Ital Lifestyle is the premier choice. The Wellness brand specialises in creating sumptuous meals for anyone wanting healthy options. Growing from its beginnings of providing nutrition-packed lunches to the general public, The Ital Lifestyle has since expanded to providing entire dining experiences for the growing private villa market in TCI. The brand’s promise is “Wellness that Works” and visitors can request a full experience; coaching, meal preparation and remedies. Coaching sessions can be done in person or virtually from the





*The Ital Lifestyle*

comfort of your hotel or villa. They also provide a variety of holistic wellness products. Their candles utilise the power of therapeutic grade essential oils and plants. Loose tea blends and wellness shots are one hundred per cent natural with no preservatives. This makes them the perfect choice for your island rejuvenation regimen.

Welcome to our Turks and Caicos, where we promise you will be Revived, Rejuvenated, and Reconnected to yourself. These islands are abundant in natural remedies that grow wild and abundant. From Moringa trees to Neem, you will find many locally sourced and made products that support your Wellness.

Your memories will be about reconnecting with yourself and your loved ones. From unique spa experiences to exploring the caves of Middle Caicos, you will find yourself returning to the “you” you knew before the stress and responsibilities of life took control.

So, go whale watching, visit Iguana Island, and go diving off the barrier reef on Grand Turk. Whatever your version of Wellness may be, Turks and Caicos delivers it all.





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Paradise Photography





# Sun, Sea & Wildflowers



Written By  
**Levenia Bishop**

Today, I opened my eyes to paradise.  
The breeze sashayed across my skin as linen curtains flowed to the cadence of the wind.  
Listerine blue waters mirrored a breathtaking sky, was it real or a painted canvas?  
I could not discern.  
Nonetheless, it was perfection personified.  
The sun came out in all her glory to say hello.  
She was dressed in hues of gold; her presence was illuminating.  
Her warmth hugged my skin in a tight embrace; it was the closest I'd ever been to a star.  
As I stepped onto the bay, sands of pinks and pearls clustered around my feet.  
They travelled with me as I explored the seaside and seized the memories of my footprints.  
I followed the current of the tide and was led to a hidden tropical oasis.  
I steered into a pond as clear as a looking glass.  
In it, I saw the reflection of my soul, weary and worn.  
Then I saw her in the distance, seated with a sarong wrapped about her,  
slumped over a palm tree stump crushing something in a bowl.  
An aroma perfumed the air with a fragrance that lured me closer.  
I watched as she shattered conch shells and pressed them  
in her vessel filled with natural oils.  
Who was this woman of wonder?  
"Welcome to the Palms, I am Mother of Pearl", she declared.  
I never anticipated meeting Mother Nature on my journey,  
but of course, the beautiful by nature would be her abode.  
"Prepare to indulge all of your senses", she expressed.  
Indulgence, just what I needed...  
She held my hands and poured the substance into my palms.



It felt like velvet on my skin.  
 She rubbed it over the entirety of my body and confidently resounded:  
 “The sun is beautiful, but even she will envy your glow as the crushed shells from the Queen Conch polish your skin to perfection”...  
 Indeed, my skin glistened in the sunlight.  
 The aroma of Wildflowers filled the air  
 as oils from the Royal Poinciana perfumed my physique.  
 Who knew paradise had a fragrance?  
 The scent of a floral garden; I became a bouquet of local flora.  
 This was an escape from reality, this quiet space that transcend beauty.  
 The Palms, her palms, provided a healing touch...  
 There was rhythm in her movements as she trailed my spinal cord like a piano,  
 it was grand.  
 Deep into my muscles, she massaged indigenous herbs and oils...  
 Cerasee to purify my blood, fever grass for my aches and pains and lignum vitae,  
 which poetically translates as “Tree of Life”, to strengthen me joint by joint.  
 This was natural magic... from the very palms of Mother Nature.  
 She wrapped several vials in a kerchief, a gift for different areas of my body.  
 She folded one in my hand and pointed me further up the bay.  
 “Walk until your body beckons you to stop  
 and when you arrive give your body a holiday”, she whispered.  
 I journeyed further along the seaside and just as my feet began to tire,  
 I saw a cabana in view.  
 I stumbled closer to the haven and saw a bed prepared;  
 my exhaustion gestured that it was just for me.  
 I closed my eyes to rest for a while and when I awoke,  
 I was greeted by the most beautiful smile.  
 I started to apologize but the warmth in her eyes told me  
 that I was right where I needed to be.  
 “Welcome to Body Holiday!” a soothing voice proclaimed.  
 “Are you ready for a Tropical Touch?”  
 Following her words,  
 the scent of Eucalyptus and lavender burst into the atmosphere  
 as she snapped the vial that was given to me in two.  
 I watched the rise and fall of my chest  
 as I inhaled the essence lingering in the atmosphere.  
 I surrendered to the call to unwind  
 as the murmurs of her calming voice ushered me into relaxation.  
 “Kim”, I learned her name to be from the embroidery in her garb.  
 The sounds of the waves coupled with the gentle sea breeze was soothing.  
 Her hands glided across my skin like a potter molding clay.  
 How she knew which curve to follow and which groove to touch, I would never know.  
 Who told her of the years of tension that I carried around my neck?  
 Or the pains at the soles of my feet from years of standing in ER’s.  
 Not I. Yet she knew.  
 A former nurse of people’s health being nursed back to health, poetic justice.

She exfoliated my skin with sugars from the cane field and sands  
 from the shoreline.  
 She purged my pores with sea salt from the waters of Grace Bay  
 and sealed them with a serum from the garden of Wildflowers.  
 She lifted a covering from my eyes  
 and the colors appeared more vivid.  
 I felt rejuvenated.  
 As I thanked her profusely for her services,  
 she still saw fit to pour more into my refilled cup.  
 Her parting words of encouragement being,  
 “Don’t just take a holiday, give your body a holiday”.  
 My journey back to my room felt like floating, I was lighter.  
 Who knew that Turks and Caicos was so therapeutic?  
 Beyond its turquoise waters and open blue skies,  
 it provided me with physical and aroma therapy,  
 skincare, and exercise.  
 It is not just limited to the #1 beaches in the world,  
 it is a gift that keeps on giving.  
 Today, I experienced paradise...  
 It was more than just a pebble on the map.  
 It is home to the sun and the sea;  
 a paradise of relaxation and rejuvenation.









A full-page background image showing a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and water. The foreground features a rocky coastline with low-lying vegetation. The word "Photography" is written in a large, white, cursive script across the middle-right portion of the image.

# Photography

Imagine an exotic vacation to The Turks & Caicos Islands with your very own paparazzi in tow! A bit much? Well, even if you aren't in need of a photographer on retainer, a vacation in TCI is one to be forever memorialized and celebrated. Your death-defying jump from the famous Long Bay shipwreck, your solo photo "for 'the Gram'" on a see-through kayak atop crystal clear waters, the day you say "I do" to your soul mate under a cotton candy sky on Grace Bay Beach or commemorating your joyous family vacation...they will be wherever you need them.

Our photographers are award-winning masters in their field and are the curators of the electrifying images that have enticed you to our shores. The stunning images throughout the pages of this magazine are evidence of their handiwork, as they move about our islands capturing its beauty through their lenses. Take a look and give them a call. You won't be disappointed.



## AGILE LEVIN - VISIT TCI

visittci.com | 1 649 347 2121 | info@visittci.com

Visit Turks and Caicos Islands is the largest dedicated online travel guide for the Turks and Caicos, with over 1000 unique pages and 4000 original photos of the beaches, resorts, activities, and attractions that make our country one of the top tourism destinations in the world. The Turks and Caicos is undeniably one of the most beautiful destinations on the planet, and we've striven to reflect that with bright and vibrant photos.



### AGILE LEVIN

Agile LeVin grew up in the Turks and Caicos Islands and has always had a keen interest in exploring the archipelago, with its countless landscapes, caves, wildlife and historical sites. Enthusiasm for outdoor photography was a natural outcome of visiting the many remote and beautiful locations in the TCI, and Agile's work has appeared in many local and international publications and websites.

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## EYE SPICE

eyeSpice.com | 1 649 343 2470 | nicksonphoto@gmail.com



### JON NICKSON

Jon Nickson traded his Los Angeles studio for Provo's world-class beaches several years ago and has never looked back. Jon's photo and design company, eyespice.com keeps him busy on island and around the world. He says, "I've been to India, Nepal and Ecuador but nothing beats coming home to the beauty and community of the Turks & Caicos."



## BRILLIANT PHOTOGRAPHY

**brilliantstudios.com | 1 649 946 4059 | anita@brilliantstudios.com**

The company was born under water in 1999 when David and Anita moved to Turks & Caicos and would shoot video and photography for divers. As the islands grew in popularity, it developed into a destination for luxurious weddings and a great place for family vacations. Brilliant made the move to wedding videos and in April 2019, 20 years' worth of island imagery gave birth to the first fine art photography gallery in the Turks & Caicos Islands, Brilliant Studios.



### DAVID GALLARDO

Hailing from Barcelona, Spain, David has lived in Turks and Caicos Islands since 1999. Formerly a scuba diving instructor, David has a passion for the ocean and underwater photography. He has traveled to remote places around the world such as the Galapagos Islands, Indonesia, and French Polynesia to photograph coral reefs, sharks and crocodiles. David is a two time finalist of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year, an award given by the Natural History Museum and the BBC Worldwide. He also loves photographing waves here in Turks and Caicos. In July 2016 Anita and David bought Brilliant Studios and in April 2019 started their Fine Art Gallery on the island.



### ANITA MARCUS

Anita worked as a bank manager but always dreamt of exploring other countries and cultures. In 1995 she moved to Boracay in the Philippines, worked there for a year, and became an underwater photography and videography instructor. She then moved to live and work in the Cayman Islands before moving to Turks & Caicos in 1999. Anita has photographed scores of celebrities with her work published in Condé Nast Traveler, Martha Stewart Weddings, and more. In 2001 she joined Brilliant Studios as a full-time photographer. In July 2016, Anita, along with David Gallardo, bought Brilliant Studios and in April 2019 opened their fine art gallery.



## PARADISE PHOTOGRAPHY

[myparadisephoto.com](http://myparadisephoto.com) | 1 649 232 7776 | [info@myparadisephoto.com](mailto:info@myparadisephoto.com)

We LOVE the Beach and All Things Turks and Caicos! The team of Paradise Photography specializes in custom-tailored photography designed to capture the special moments that belong to you. The friendly photographers of Paradise Photography believe that having your picture taken should be a fun and enjoyable experience!



With nearly two decades of photographing portraits, weddings, and real estate in Turks and Caicos, their goal is to create images better than you could have imagined. Paradise Photography believes in giving back to the community and educating local youth about careers in the arts/photography. As the only Master photographers in Turks & Caicos, they developed a photo intern and assistant program that helps mentor young people about photography. Paradise Photography also supports local charities such as the Salvation Army, AIDS Foundation, Cancer Society, and Edward Garland Youth Center, to name a few.



### CHRISTINE MORDEN AND JAMES ROY

Meet Christine and James, a husband-and-wife team and owners of Paradise Photography. Their love of photography and the Turks and Caicos brought them together!

Christine left her legal professional career in Washington, DC to pursue her passion for photography. This path led her to meet Master Photographer James Roy, owner of a successful Maryland-based photography business. They fell in love and followed their dream of living on an island and building a successful photography studio together.



### ALEX FOSTER

Hailing from the UK, Alex holds a love of the ocean which stems from growing up in a seaside village where she became a sailing instructor at a young age. Always inspired by being on or near the water, she has a unique understanding of beach portraits. Having lived in Turks and Caicos for nearly a decade, Alex previously worked as a Wedding and Event Planner for a major resort in Turks and Caicos helping couples plan their dream weddings. Therefore, it was a natural transition for her to photograph weddings. Alex loves photographing people. Being a mother of two beautiful daughters, she's an inspiration to all moms who pursue their true passion.





BRILLIANT STUDIOS

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Photography









# Weddings

You live thousands of miles away and have never visited Turks & Caicos 'til now, yet you find yourself on the powdery white sands of Grace Bay Beach staring into the eyes of the one you love about to say “I do”. What a wonder, right?

Every year, hundreds of destination weddings are masterfully planned and executed in our islands. Brides (and grooms) trust the most important day of their lives to people they haven't met and won't come face to face with until they set foot on our shores just days before their big event.

As you can imagine, this is not something taken lightly by these professionals who are expected to deliver a celebratory weekend that is nothing short of perfection. And this, they do expertly. They correspond for months or even years fine-tuning the requests and desires of these anxious couples. They arrange accommodations, venues, photography, and learn the needs of the family members and friends that will accompany the blushing bride and groom. They put every intricate piece of the puzzle together to fulfill the fantasy and they are there on that big day pulling all the strings and ensuring all anyone sees is the magic.

They are the reason so many have chosen to start their journey to forever in the Turks and Caicos Islands.





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Wedding and Event Services







# Ethically Ever After



The Ital Lifestyle



Written By  
**Sonia OMEGA  
Simmons**

Destination weddings are an unmatched experience. Since their rise in popularity, blushing brides have found unique ways to incorporate the culture, cuisine, and surroundings of their chosen locations into their special day. Often choosing a vacation spot they've come to cherish and even consider a second home, these couples choose to take their nuptials to the next level inviting family and friends to join them as they become one in a place that holds special meaning.

Today's brides- and grooms-to-be want the picture-perfect day they have always dreamed of but are conscientious in their quest to create an experience that is responsible and honours the destination. Couples with a focus on eco-consciousness have found unique and awe-inspiring ways of taking the traditional idea of a destination wedding and curating an event that is both unforgettable and meaningful.

While the idea of planning a wedding thousands of miles away can already be a daunting task, deciding to embark on a green wedding can add another level of anxiety and uncertainty for the most well-meaning couples. Luckily, the event and wedding service providers in Turks and Caicos are experts at incorporating the most genuine elements available for

a fully inclusive fairytale experience that is aesthetically pleasing and delivers the requisite bells and whistles while keeping the theme of social responsibility front and center.

There is no better location for a five-star experience that incorporates non-traditional elements and versatility than the Turks and Caicos Islands. Whether looking to have a micro-wedding to reduce the footprint and food wastage of a traditional wedding or hosting a large destination wedding that incorporates opportunities for Voluntourism, your nuptials can be just as meaningful and magical as you wish.

Event management companies like Tropical Destination Management and



Nila Destination Management have customized weddings for all group sizes and exceeded expectations for thousands of happy couples bringing their visions to life down to the finest details. Surprise engagements, intimate weddings, glamorous rehearsal parties and receptions, and tear-jerking vow renewals have been executed around these islands making use of our natural landscapes and features.

Celebrating sustainably does not mean compromising your picture-perfect day in any way. Imagine opting for a drone-captured proposal on a kayak amidst mangroves, or standing on an elusive sandbank that appears only for a short period of time each day over the usual restaurant proposal. An engagement – whether surprise or planned – can be taken to new levels when incorporating the many unspoiled areas of the Turks and Caicos’ coastlines and terrain.

An event’s décor provides unlimited possibilities for a focus on sustainability using reusable items and trinkets made

from eco-friendly materials. Couples looking to incorporate the country’s flora are choosing native flowers like bougainvillea or hibiscus over imported ones for their bouquets, boutonnieres, and tablescapes. Brides are gifting their parties with customized hand-made items for an authentic Turks and Caicos takeaway. Locally made sweets and treats are a part of the welcome baskets and turn-down service for guests.

Traditional practices that have been staples in the destination wedding trend are being reimagined and adapted. Socially conscious couples are doing away with gift-giving to members of their bridal party entirely, encouraging them instead to make a socio-economic impact in the destination through donations to charitable organizations. Taking eco-conscious efforts to another level, wedding groups are engaging in Voluntourism, lending their time and expertise to youth programs, or even packing with a purpose and bringing much-needed items to the islands to assist local schools.

Having a sustainable wedding in Turks and Caicos allows the perfect variety of five-star luxury, unmatched eco-adventures, picturesque venues, and truly inspired moments. There are limitless ways to lessen your footprint and have a thoughtful wedding experience that embraces all the dynamics of the destination.

The providers listed here are seasoned curators, and all possess a vast knowledge of the islands, placing any couple in the very best hands. You only need make your goals and visions known, and they will build the unforgettable event you desire leaving no stone unturned.

As the destination wedding is being revolutionized and modernized to include a sustainable approach, Turks and Caicos tops the list for imaginations yet unexplored. There’s no wonder we’ve won the award for the Best Caribbean Wedding Destination, and why we are the premier choice for couples who want to be sustainably wed!











# Turks & Caicos

Whether you are a novice to these islands, a regular visitor, or excitedly planning your first jaunt to Turks and Caicos, our country is full of pleasures and surprises at every turn. Though our award-winning Grace Bay Beach is what has catapulted us to the centre stage of the travel industry, those who touch these shores soon learn that Grace Bay Beach, in all its resplendence, is only one of the magnificent and note-worthy experiences that captivate.

With 40 islands and cays to explore, these shores provide a whirlwind of experiences that connect you to the heart and soul of Turks and Caicos; its history, culture, beauty and uniqueness. Imagine, just as easily as you can lay on a powdery-sand beach and watch the endless hues of blue that make our ocean enviable, you can have close encounters with dolphins and whales and even experience the life of Turks and Caicos yesteryear.

The food, the music, the people and the spirit of Turks and Caicos is emblazoned on the hearts and minds of every visitor that has traversed our shores. Each island has a unique story and with it comes very distinct experiences. Try them all!

When you visit, travel to as many islands as you can. Explore the land as well as the sea. Try the indigenous food. Grab a hold of local handiwork and music. Immerse yourself in all that makes Turks and Caicos a premier destination; the luxury, the lifestyle, the natural habitat and the culture.

These pages are your direct link to everything you need to know and see in Turks and Caicos. We ask that as you travel through these islands you are mindful of your impact on our environment and support us in taking care of this special piece of the Earth that we call home.



## WHERE

The Turks and Caicos Islands are 575 miles southeast of Miami, with The Bahamas 30 miles to the northwest and the Dominican Republic 100 miles to the southeast. These islands have a total land mass that measures 166 square miles of land area on eight islands and 40 small cays, and are encircled by one of the most impressive barrier reefs in the world.

## TRAVEL

Providenciales International Airport is the main point of entry for air travelers. Direct flights are available via major carriers from Atlanta, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas (seasonal), Fort Lauderdale, Miami, New Jersey, New York and Philadelphia in the U.S., and from Halifax (seasonal), Montreal, Ottawa (seasonal) and Toronto in Canada. There is a connection via Antigua to London/Gatwick, as well as direct flights to Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Nassau and Puerto Rico. There are regularly scheduled inter-island air and ferry services, as well as FBOs to cater to private planes.

## LANGUAGE

English is the official language; however, a few other languages are spoken by a multi-cultural resident population.

## TIME

Eastern Standard with Daylight Savings Time observed.

## CURRENCY

US dollar. Travelers' cheques, American Express, MasterCard and Visa cards are welcomed at many locations.

## TEMPERATURE

The average year-round temperature is 83°F (28°C). The hottest months are September and October, when the temperature can reach 90° to 95° F (33° - 35°C). Steady easterly trade winds temper the heat. The average annual rainfall is 40 inches.

## GOVERNMENT

The Turks and Caicos Islands is a British Overseas Territory, with a King-appointed Governor, His Excellency Nigel Dakin. The elected ministerial government is led by the Honourable Dr. Charles Washington Misick, the country's Premier.



*Paradise Photography*



*InterCaribbean Airways*



*Philip Shearer*





Paradise Photography



Brilliant Studios



Philip Shearer











### THE FLAG

The National Flag is blue with the Union Jack in the top right-hand corner and the Coat of Arms of the Turks and Caicos Islands centre, right. It has a shield of a Queen Conch shell, a Spiny Lobster and a Turks Head Cactus.

### GETTING IN

Passports are required, along with a valid return ticket for non-residents. Visitors can stay up to 90 days and must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to enter. (Subject to change)

### CUSTOMS

Visitors may bring in duty-free one carton of cigarettes or cigars, one bottle of liquor or wine and some perfume. Importing firearms, spear guns, Hawaiian slings, controlled drugs and pornography are illegal.

### TRANSPORT

You can use a valid driver's licence from home when renting vehicles. Driving is on the left-hand side of the road. 'Give way' at roundabouts; give way to any vehicle approaching from your right. Seatbelt laws are strictly enforced. Taxis are abundant throughout the islands but are not metered. Community Cabs are available and are distinguishable by a white body and blue stripe.

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

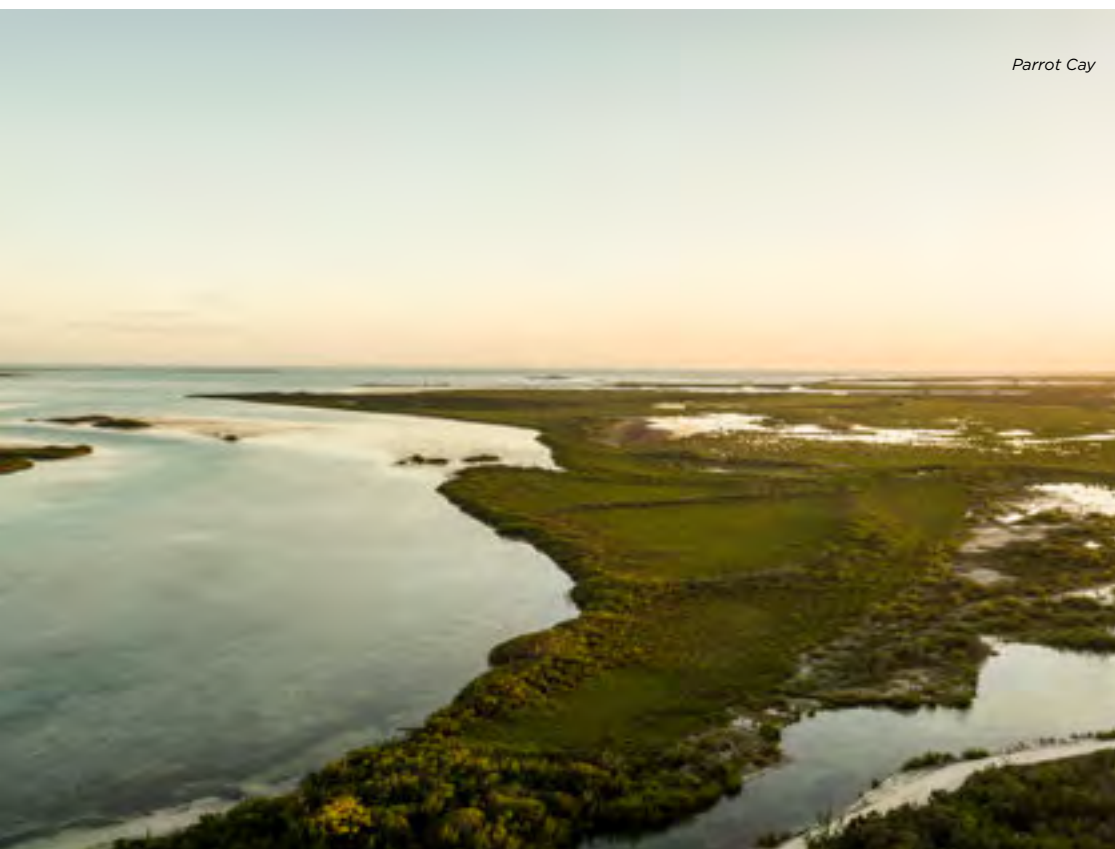
FLOW and Digicel are telephone, internet and television service providers. PTV is the local television broadcasting network. Radio Turks and Caicos is the official Government-operated radio service.

### ELECTRICITY

120/240 volts, 60 Hz as in the U.S.

### BANKS

Local banks are open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday and from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays. ABMs are accessible 24 hours at most banking locations.



Parrot Cay



Maskanoo



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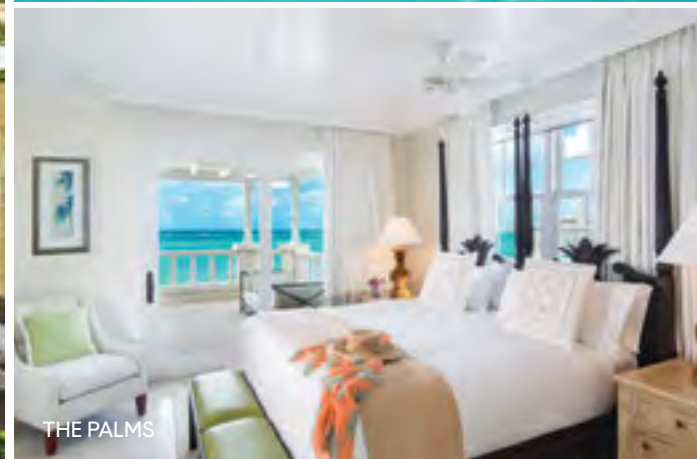
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