The Turks and Caicos Islands

Facts, details and more reasons to visit







TURKS and CAICOS ISLANDS



Geography

Where are we, exactly? And why is our name plural? The Turks and Caicos Islands is a British Overseas Territory, that's located in the Atlantic Ocean and considered a part of the Caribbean region. The Head of State is the Queen of the UK and we benefit from their military and economic support.

Our more than 40 small islands and cays are encircled and protected by a barrier reef who's wall drops dramatically, from 40 to 8,000 feet, making it like an underwater fortress protecting the islands from the powerful Atlantic Ocean waves. This unique geography is directly responsible for TCI's beautiful beaches and calm, warm water. Nine islands are inhabited and separated into two island groups:

- The Turks Islands of Grand Turk and Salt Cay, that are to the east
- The Caicos Islands Ambergris Cay, South Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Pine Cay, Parrot Cay and of course, Providenciales, to the west.

The islands are home to over 34,000 full time residents of which 75% live on Providenciales. This brings us to the next question:

Why is Providenciales so popular and why was it chosen the best vacation island in the world?



Imagine a place with an average of 321 days of sunshine, warm, soothing temperatures and crystalclear turquoise water. Now, imagine the relaxed island pace, premium luxury amenities and a safe, spectacular environment where families, couples and friends can enjoy outstanding natural resources.

The TCI islands are known for their natural beauty; powdery white sand beaches, turquoise water, amazing coral reefs and perfect weather. Our official slogan is « Beautiful by Nature » and we live up to it 100%. Did you know that the island of **Providenciales** was TripAdvisor's pick for the world's top island in 2015? Considering the competition, this wasn't a small feat!

Consider beating out major players like Maui, Santorini, Ko Tao, Madeira, Bali, Mauritius, and Bora Bora! It wasn't surprising that the World's Best Island would soon win the World's Best Beach award, and this is exactly what happened: Grace Bay Beach became the traveller's favorite in 2016 and again in 2018.

What's special about Providenciales?

For starters, it's a perfect balance between creature comforts for limitless pampering, while also feeling like a Robinson Crusoe island paradise. There's something intimate, convenient and cozy, yet absolutely extraordinary.

Providenciales fulfills many needs and here are 8 reasons,

that make it absolutely, enticingly perfect.



Proximity

Long flights and transfers defeat the purpose of rest and relaxation. With direct, short flights from major cities like Atlanta, Boston, Charlotte, Dallas, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Toronto or Montreal, you'll unwind sooner than you think.





Having the BEST beach in the World

The North shore of Providenciales is home to Grace Bay Beach, an award-winning stretch of sand that begins in the center of the island and extends for 11 miles all the way to the Northeastern tip. The longest and most popular beach in Turks & Caicos, Grace Bay seduces visitors with powder white sand and calm clear water. With coral reef spots Smith's Reef and Coral Gardens, Grace Bay is also a prime destination for snorkeling.



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Providenciales features numerous exquisite dining venues that are led by talented chefs that combine local delicacies with classic, oceanfront favorites. As opposed to most islands, Providenciales has very little all-inclusive resorts. This means great effort in providing quality dining experiences for thousands of discerning travellers.

Perfect boating, floating and other adventures

TCI is made up of over 40 islands and cays, that are all framed with white sandy beaches. No visit to TCI is complete without a boat excursion. A fishing trip is also a true Caribbean way to experience island life and discover the natural resources. Mahi Mahi, Grouper and Red Snapper are just a few of the fish that makeup the lively ecosystem of the Turks and Caicos.









You won't see buildings any taller than 7 stories, or mass droves of people walking around here. You can even drive from one end of the island to the other within an hour. For travelers that are used to the non-stop city life, Turks & Caicos is pure bliss.

5-star accommodations

The Turks and Caicos Islands caters primarily to luxury travelers and the truth is, everything is modern, because it's mostly new. There's no old town, because just a few decades ago, Providenciales was all salt flats. Providenciales is a villa destination. Peace, quiet and privacy are the ultimate luxury for those who need intimacy, space and crowd-free holiday time.





Pampering you won't soon forget

Disconnecting often translates to reconnecting, with yourself. Providenciales offers world-class spa experiences, delivered by professionals, in all kinds of beautiful settings, even on the terrace of White Villas.



The climate in Turks and Caicos is generally hot and dry, with an average yearly temperature of 80° F (26° C). Average rainfall is only 33" (83 cm). May to October are called the hot months, and November to April the warm months. Note that the hurricane season is between August and November, with most potential activity from mid-August to mid-September.

Postcard weather

TCI has practically flawless weather year-round. In fact, Provo registers roughly 320 days of sunshine annually. Add gorgeous white sands, lush surroundings and the most beautiful, crystal-clear water you've ever seen, and it's easy to see why the Turks and Caicos is the best of the best, in terms of natural surroundings and ideal conditions in the Caribbean.



The People

Our local population consists mainly of natives islanders, mostly from African descent, working in the hospitality or construction fields. TCI's citizen are known as 'belongers', they enjoy an enviably stable democratic government as a British Crown Colony and live in calm and relaxed Caribbean space, despite the influx of tourists.

What about the other islands?

Providenciales is the main touristic center, but there are also quiet and tranquil islands in North and Middle Caicos and the historic Capital Island of Grand Turk. Though the overall experience varies, all offer an amazing year-round climate and beautiful beaches.



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North Caicos

Roughly 1,300 people live in the greenest of all TCI islands, North Caicos. Because they get the most rain, many fruits and vegetables are grown here, and shipped to other islands. The island is home to Wade's Green Plantation ruins, what used to be the largest cotton plantation in the country. Traditional straw crafts are produced in North Caicos and a wide variety of bird life, especially flamingos and osprey, also live there. It's main city is called Bottle Creek.

Middle Caicos

Although Middle Caicos is the largest island in the TCI, the population is only around 170 people. A very green island with beautiful beaches, dramatic cliffs, swamplands and tidal flats, the island is also home to Conch Bay Caves; the largest cave system in the TCI and Bahamas archipelago, with a population of over one million bats. Numerous artefacts and evidence of past life have been found on Middle Caicos.



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East Caicos

At 150 feet, East Caicos has the highest elevation point in the TCI. Though humans no longer live on the island, it's home for lots of wildlife. It happens to be one of the main places for turtles to nest in the TCI.



South Caicos

South Caicos, population 1100, is the premier spot for most of the country's fishing. Lobster, conch and fish are processed in South Caicos, prior to exportation. Many local residents are highly skilled fishermen and free-divers. In times past, South Caicos was the biggest producer of salt in the island chain. Today, flamingos flock to the old salt plans. A curiosity: many wild horses and donkeys roam its quiet streets freely.

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Grand Turks

Grand Turks is home to Cockburn Town, the nation's capital which, by any standard, is small with a population of 5,000. On his return journey, American astronaut John Glenn landed here, after becoming the first man to orbit planet Earth. The island became a popular tourist destination after a new cruise centre opened in 2006. On busy days, two ships will port, off-loading nearly 7,000 people. It's also home to the National Museum, which is the best place to learn about the history of the TCI.

The smaller islands around Providenciales are simply known as the Cays. Most have incredible beaches and offer total isolation. Salt Cay and Ambergris Cay aside, you can only access the cays by private boat.

Salt Cay

Salt Cay is home to roughly 100 people but played a big part in the salt industry. The center of the island still has remnants of windmills, salinas and a salt house. Today, you can spot more donkeys than cars on the island. It's popular for whale watching, and its waters host one of the only diveable shipwrecks in the TCI, the Endymion.

7 French Cay

Located south of Providenciales, this tiny island is a former pirate's hideaway, that's now visited by migrating birds. Just offshore, waters teem with stingrays and Nurse sharks gather here over the summer.



The following Cays are very close to Providenciales and can easily be visited by boat in an afternoon.

Little Water Cay

Little Water Cay famous for its population of Turks and Caicos rock iguanas. This species used to be common on the islands, but now thrive only here, thanks to conservation initiatives.

Pine Cay and Parrot Cay

Pine Cay and Parrot Cay are privately owned islands and home to exclusive resorts: Parrot Cay Resort and Spa, and the Meridian Club.

Fort George Cay

Here you can visit the remnants of an 18th-century British-built fort.

Dellis Cay

Dellis Cay got its name from the Dellis family who lived on the island and earned their living from sponge farming in the 1950s.

Dellis Cay is also famous for its large collection of island shells. An ambitious real estate project called "The Residences at Mandarin Oriental Dellis Cay" went bankrupt in early 2010, and construction was halted.

Quick Facts



Local language - English

Currency – The US dollar is the official currency of Turks and Caicos. Most hotels, restaurants and taxi services accept travelers cheques, which can be cashed at local banks. Most credit cards are accepted and banks have ATMs, as well as offering cash advances on credit cards.



Tipping is normally paid to waiters, taxi drivers, maids and porters at 15%.

Time Zone – Atlantic Standard Time (AST) is the year round time observed in Turks and Caicos.



Electricity – 110 volt/60 cycle, suitable for U.S. appliances.

Climate – The average temperature ranges between 85 and 90 degrees (29-32 degrees) Celsius) from June to October. sometimes reaching the mid 90's (35 degrees Celsius), especially in the late summer months. From November to May, the average temperature is 80 to 84 degrees (27-29 degrees Celsius). Water temperature in the summer is 82 to 84 degrees (28-29 degrees Celsius) and in winter about 74 to 78 degrees (23-26 degrees Celsius). A constant trade wind keeps the climate at a very comfortable level. There is an annual rainfall of 21 inches on Grand Turk and South Caicos, but as you go further west the average rainfall could increase to 40 inches. In an average year, the Turks and Caicos has 321 days of sunshine. Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30 each year, the peak of the season being September.

- People Turks & Caicos Islanders are mostly descendants of Africans who were brought in to work the salt pans or the cotton plantations. The expat population mostly consists of British, Canadians, Americans, French and Bahamians.
 - **Economy** The economy of the TCI relies primarily on the tourism industry, but also real estate development and the exportation of seafood. A wide variety of financial services are available, including company formation, offshore insurance, banking and trusts.

Government – The Turks & Caicos Islands are a British Overseas Territory, and Her Majesty the Queen appoints a Governor as her representative based in the islands. Having an internal self-government structure, the head of the Turk and Caicos Islands government is the politically elected Premier. The Premier heads up the slate of elected officials serving as representatives of constituencies and Ministers of key sectors in the country. Elections are held every four years. The House of Assembly is located in the capital island, Grand Turk, and government offices and departments are found throughout the islands. The legal system is based on English Common Law.

- Courier Service Daily delivery service is provided by FedEx, with offices on Provo and Grand Turk. Service is also provided by DHL and UPS.
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Cable Television – Satellite television service is provided throughout the islands, with most major American networks available.

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Water – As on many Islands, fresh water is precious, and dependent upon rainfall or desalinated water produced by reverse osmosis for the supply.

Telephone Service – Local and international telephone, internet and cellular services are available through local companies FLOW and Digicel. The country code is 649. If you have cell service in the USA, you may enable International Roaming which would allow you to place and receive calls whilst in the Turks and Caicos. You are also able to rent or purchase a chip or a telephone from one of the local services providers.



Drivers License Requirements -

Visitors from the British Commonwealth Countries, The United States of America, Canada and holders of International drivers license are permitted to drive for 30 days on their respective license. Visitors from all other countries are required to possess a Visitors Permit, which can be obtained at the Road Safety Department. - **Crime** – These Islands boast one of the lowest crime rates and highest resolvedcrime rates in the Caribbean. It's important, however, to be vigilant against opportunisttype theft. As you would anywhere in the world, do not leave valuables unattended, lock doors and windows and use the hotel safe for storage of valuables. Any problems should be reported immediately to the Royal Turks and Caicos Police or call 911.

Public Nudity is illegal throughout the islands.

Customs and Immigration – Duty free goods that may be brought in to the Islands include: 50 cigars, 200 cigarettes, 1.136 liters of spirits or wine and perfume for personal use.

All visitors traveling to the Turks & Caicos Islands must have a valid passport. Visas are necessary from some countries of the former Eastern Bloc.

All visitors must hold a round trip ticket. Visitors are allowed to stay for 90 days.

Health Care – There is a modern hospital system comprising two state-of-the-art medical centres, managed by InterHealth Canada; Cheshire Hall Medical Centre on Providenciales and Cockburn Town Medical Centre on Grand Turk. Health services provided at the centres include: emergency care, dental, dialysis, internal medicine, surgical, orthopedic, obstetric and endoscopic procedures, physiotherapy and diagnostic imaging.







Fun Facts

Our name

When the Spanish arrived in Grand Turks, they noticed an odd cactus with a red top that looked like a turkish fez. They named this cactus the Turks Head.

Caicos comes from the word Cay, which means a sandy island formed over a coral reef. Cay has its origin from the Lucayans, the first inhabitants of the Turks and Caicos Islands, over 1200 years ago.

Our brewery

Just like the cactus, our local beer is called Turk's Head. Brewing on island since 2001, the brewery produces 3 beers: I-AIN-GA-LIE LAGER; GON-TA-NORT AMBER ALE and DOWN-DA-ROAD IPA. Strange names? They're derived from popular local expressions. A case of these beer will run you \$36 USD at the brewery, vs the \$44 USD at grocery stores.

Our flag

The Turks and Caicos Islands are an overseas territory of the United Kingdom, which is why Union Jack appears on our flag. The shield has a conch shell, a lobster and a Turks Head Cactus, representing Turks and Caicos nature.







Mangroves

The tree-like plants growing out of the ocean water are called mangroves. They commonly grow along coastlines, in shallow slow-moving water, and only in warm climates. Their tangled roots give them the strength to handle the daily rise and fall of the tides, plus mangrove forests reduce erosion from storms, currents and waves. Their incredible underwater root system converts them into perfect nurseries for marine life and help feed birds. They're best visited on a SUP (stand-up paddle board) or kayak!

Coral Reef

The Turks and Caicos Islands are located by one of the largest coral reef systems in the world, with a reef that's 65 miles wide, and 200 miles long. As mentioned higher in this document, the reef is vital to our shores, because it serves as a big underwater fence that keeps out the pounding waves of the ocean.

Bight Reef and Smith's Reef offer great snorkeling and they're super easy to access. Both spots offer a fascinating array of marine wildlife that includes fish, spiny lobsters, spotted moray eels and the charming green and hawksbill turtles that glide peacefully. If you travel with younger swimmers, Bight Reef is more suitable.







Queen Conch

On the south side of Providenciales, you can spot empty shells with a hole in them. This indicates the snail has been pulled from its shell. It takes 3-4 years for a conch to grow to about 7 inches and be ready for reproduction. The TCI annual conch festival held in November encourages local restaurants to compete for the best original conch dishes, which are judged by international chefs.

Potcakes

Dogs of mixed breed found in the TCI are called Potcakes. Their name is derived from the food that local residents traditionally fed stray dogs. Basically, it was hard peas and rice, caked at the bottom of cooking pots. To help these stray dogs find homes, a local organisation (<u>www.potcakeplace.com</u>) connects them with families that wish to adopt.

Ocean life

A flourishing population of bottle-nosed dolphins lives in the TCI waters, and, between February and March, roughly 7,000 North Atlantic humpback whales use the Turks Island Passage as their winter breeding grounds. You can spot manta rays during the spring plankton blooms, off of Grand Turk and West Caicos.



Jojo - the Dolphin

Covering 38 square miles, Provo boasts eight national parks, nature reserves and historical sites. Princess Alexandra Marine Park is home to Jojo, the famously interactive bottlenose dolphin often seen on Grace Bay.



Glow Worms

Oh! And this is very magical: for a few days after a full moon, around fifty minutes after sunset, small marine glow worms rise from the ocean floor and light up the water with a greenish glimmer. This usually occurs on the ebbing tide and is best observed in the shallow waters of the Caicos banks that are south of Providenciales. It's a phenomenon caused by a fluorescent photoprotein released by the female worm, with its egg mass.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are amazing, and great local advice, takes it up another notch. We hope this document helps sway you into visiting a destination, you won't soon forget. Living up to its motto 'Beautiful by nature', TCI doesn't produce much, but certainly exports happy travelers. We hope you'll become one of them. The Turks and Caicos Islands. Facts, details and more reasons to visit

A unique villa resort on the world's most beautiful island

Everything you could possibly want

There's literally nothing like it on the island: a unique 10-villa resort with absolute privacy, on-site owner management, plus all the inhouse services and amenities you would enjoy in an all-inclusive resort. Design your tailor-made vacation, with the experiences you love, and purchase in just a few clicks. We cover all the stops:

- 12 rental vehicles for all our guests
- A 25-foot Yamaha jet boat for boat tours
- Spa services
- Exquisite meals prepared onsite by our talented chef, then served in your villa by our team; table setting, dishes and clean up all included!
- Preferred rates for kitesurfing lessons and Jet Ski rental

Complimentary onsite services and amenities include:

- Chairs on Long Bay and Grace Bay beaches
- SUP at the beach
- Indoor gym
- Outdoor playground
- Lit pickleball court
- Lit bocce ball set-up
- Lit Mini Golf
- Outdoor movie theater
- Bicycles
- Accommodations for late check-outs





Owner hosted

Greetings! We're Simon (and Pina) and Karim.

Being from the North, we dreamed of an outdoor living lifestyle. After visiting 15+ Caribbean destinations, the soft sands of Long Bay Beach sealed the deal and Providenciales became our new home. After building our first villa in 2016, we continued to expand, guided by the conversations we had with the many guests that visited our ever-growing site.

Today, our 10-villa resort boasts over 100+ 5-star reviews, we're Superhosts on AirBnB, and listed as Premier Hosts on VRBO. Living in the White Villas resort gated community ourselves means we react quickly to any issues and are always there to answer our guests' questions.

Make our little paradise yours. Come down and we'll help you create long-lasting, positive memories for the best villa vacation ever :)