

FWSA 12th Annual Scuba Dive Trip

Turks & Caicos Islands

3RD Largest Barrier Reef System in the World!

September 16 - 23, 2023



Diver Land Package = \$2211.00 Standard Room - Double Occupancy

Non-Diver Land Package = \$1945.00 Standard Room - Double Occupancy

Single Supplement Standard Room Add = \$527.00

Lodging Upgrades Available – contact Randy Lew for details

(Air transportation not included in above pricing)

Price Includes:

- 7 nights at East Bay Resort in South Caicos – Dbl. Occupancy with all meals daily
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
- Non-motorized water sports and activities
- Resort fees, taxes & staff gratuities. Dive gratuities NOT included.
- 6 days of 2 tank boat dives, 5 days of afternoon boat dives & complimentary use of dive computer
- PADI CDC Center
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Resort Amenities
- Welcome Party and Farewell Dinner



*Enjoy the beautiful
wildlife*



*Create New Memories
with Friends,
Old and New!*



*Dive and enjoy the
wildlife including turtles*



Enjoy a Beautiful Resort



Contact:

Randy Lew

FWSA Dive Trip Leader

829 SE 11th Place

Battle Ground, WA 98604

Cell: 530/304-0802

E-mail: FWSA13Randy@telis.net

Debbie Stewart

FWSA VP of Int'l Travel

430 S. Church St.

Visalia, CA 93277

Cell: 559/737-0882

FWSAIntlTrvl@prodigy.net

You must be a Member of a Far West Ski Assn. affiliated club or a FWSA Direct Member!

CST # 2036983-40

FWSA 2023 SOUTH CAICOS Registration Form

September 16 – September 23, 2023

(If using own air, you must arrive in South Caicos on dates stated)

Please print clearly: *The information you provide is for the exclusive use of FWSA and will not be sold for solicitation.*

Print **LEGAL NAME** as it appears on **Passport:** _____
Exact FIRST Exact MIDDLE Exact LAST

**** It is MANDATORY to SEND a BLACK/WHITE COPY OF YOUR VALID PASSPORT – Valid thru March 23, 2024****

Mailing Address: _____ Nickname: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

PHONE: Home: _____ Cell _____ Work: _____

Date of Birth: Mo _____ Day _____ Year _____ Passport Number _____ Expiration _____

Print E-Mail Address: _____

Male ☐ Female ☐ I am a Scuba Diver ☐ / Non-Diver ☐

Divers Alert Network (DAN) Insurance #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

To be eligible for this trip, you must be a paid member of a FWSA Ski Club or FWSA Direct Member!

I am a **MEMBER** of _____ Ski Club OR a **FWSA DIRECT MEMBER** ☐

FWSA Council (select one):

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

*Emergency Contact – Immediate Family member **NOT ON THIS TRIP** (required for all participants):*

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Contact Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

List Food Allergies and/or drug allergies (optional): _____

Medical Conditions (optional): _____

*I have been advised that the FWSA trip package does not include travel insurance and I understand that I do have the option to purchase my own Travel Insurance. **FWSA DOES HIGHLY RECOMMEND TRAVEL INSURANCE.***

- *I am aware that I am financially responsible for myself whether or not I purchase Travel Insurance.*
- *I am aware it is my responsibility to obtain all legal documents required for travel including passports & visas.*
- *I am aware that my passport must be valid at least 6 months after return of trip (March 23, 2024)*
- *I am aware that all visitors to the Turks & Caicos must be vaccinated and I will be required to show proof.*
- *I have been advised of the CANCELLATION Policy - the deposit is completely refundable until June 16, 2023. See complete CANCELLATION Policy and associated fees listed on the documents. NO REFUNDS after August 15, 2023 unless a compatible replacement is found. There may also be a transfer fee and associated vendor/supplier fees.*
- **NO REFUNDS for Any NO-SHOWS**
- *I have received and read a copy of the FWSA Conduct Policy and agree to comply.*
- *I am aware that I must be a current member of a FWSA Club or a FWSA Direct member. I further certify that I am a current FWSA Club or a FWSA Direct member and that the information I have provided on this form is accurate.*
- *I am aware that all scuba divers MUST use or rent their own dive computer.*
- *I am aware that the culture of the place(s) I am visiting might not be what I am normally accustomed to in the United States.*
- *I am aware that FWSA may use images taken during this trip for marketing and promotional purposes. I authorize and hold harmless FWSA and its agents for the use of my image. I may choose to sign an exemption form to exclude the use of my pictures being used for this purpose.*
- *FWSA Int'l Travel Team will be monitoring any Force Majeure, Acts of God, Government shutdowns etc. and will take appropriate action on behalf of our trip participants. All details will be provided at such time.*

Participant Signature OR Parent/Legal Guardian for Minor

Date

CST #2036983-40

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS – MARK AN “X”

Our goal is to travel effortlessly, seamlessly and use direct flight options when available. Please read all the options carefully before deciding on your transportation choice.

East Bay Resort is located on the island of South Caicos, a beautiful and tranquil island in the Turks & Caicos. It will require a regional flight from Providenciales, the most densely populated island in the Turks & Caicos and home to the Providenciales International Airport (PLS). Providenciales is served by numerous airlines including American, United, Delta, and Jet Blue. East Bay Resort provides charter service from Saturday to Saturday for \$250 per person with a minimum of 10 passengers.

interCaribbean Airways

The easiest way to get to South Caicos is by catching a scenic 15-minute flight with [interCaribbean Airways](#).

Flights from Providenciales (PLS) to South Caicos (XSC) Daily at 8:30 AM and 3:45 PM

Flights from South Caicos (XSC) to Providenciales (PLS) Daily at 9:10 AM and 4:30 PM

To ensure that your travels go smoothly, we recommend booking your preferred interCaribbean flights as soon as your international flights have been arranged. www.intercaribbean.com

- ☐ **Option #1: FWSA Assisted Air departing from:** _____ **Contact Randy Lew**
Air pricing subject to change until tickets are actually issued. Must be paid in full to **Roatan Charter, Inc.**

- ☐ **Option #2 – OWN Air Transportation & FWSA Transfers to/from resort and airport.**
You must arrive in South Caicos early afternoon on September 16, 2023 & provide a copy of your “Own Transportation” itinerary and notify trip leader of any/all changes that occur.

AND...If your flight is cancelled, delayed or you miss your “OWN AIR” flight, it is Your Responsibility and Cost in arranging your own ground transfer to your hotel.

[Please inform Randy Lew if such situations occur – call or text 530-304-0802]

Travel & Divers Alert Network Insurance

FWSA highly recommends that you purchase travel insurance. Make sure you understand the COVID coverage since it varies between insurance companies. READ the Fine Print!

Roatan Charters offers trip insurance on their website at:

[Trip Insurance – Roatan Charter](#)

Additional travel insurance vendors can be found on FWSA website at:

[Far West Travel Insurance - Far West Ski Association \(fwsa.org\).](#)

Divers Alert Network (DAN) also offers travel insurance: [Travel Insurance - Divers Alert Network \(dan.org\)](#) .

In addition, all **scuba divers will be required** to have diving accident insurance through Divers Alert Network (DAN), the premier dive insurance. You can get their insurance info at: <http://www.diversalertnetwork.org/>

Dive Equipment and Dive Computers

FWSA requires each scuba diving participant to have and use a dive computer on each and every dive. **No Exceptions.** Each diver is responsible for his/her own dive profile, bottom times, nitrogen loading and No Decompression Times. In addition, Nitrox divers are responsible for their own PO2 times. If you do not own your own dive computer, the dive operator at East Bay Resort, Reef Divers, will complimentary provide one for your use.

CST #2036983-40

Is this your First FWSA Dive Trip? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How did you hear about the 2023 Turks & Caicos Dive Trip? Please SELECT one:

☐ FWSA E-mail ☐ FWSA Website ☐ FWSA Newsletter ☐ Council Website ☐ Council Newsletter
☐ Club Website ☐ Club Newsletter ☐ Friend Other- _____

FULL TRIP: 7 Nights DIVE TRIP & LODGING OPTIONS – MARK AN “X”

We are offering **East Bay Resort**, September 16 – 23 for the 2023 Turks & Caicos Dive Trip.

1st, Choose your trip Land Package - Please select one of the following:

☐ **Option DP1:** Dive Package (6 days; 17 boat dives) * \$2,211 pp (dbl occ)
☐ **Option NDP1:** Non-Dive Package \$1,945 pp (dbl occ)

2nd, Choose your Lodging / Upgrade Options – MARK AN “X”

☐ **Option S1:** Single Room Supplement \$ 527
☐ **Option U1:** Beachfront Suite Upgrade (4 available) \$ 341 per person (dbl occ)
☐ **Option U2:** 1 Bedroom Deluxe Beachfront Suite Upgrade (14 avail) \$ 442 per person (dbl occ)
☐ **Option U3:** 2 Bedroom Deluxe Beachfront Suite Upgrade (1 avail) \$ 255 per person (quad occ)

East Bay Resort Includes:

7 night's Standard room (double occupancy)
3 meals daily (à la carte and buffet)
21 drink package (local beer, house liquor & nonalcoholic drinks)
Comp Wifi (public areas only)
Kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, fitness center, tennis courts, and amazing white sand beach
Ground transfers from South Caicos Airport
Resort fees, taxes, and staff gratuities (dive gratuities not included)

In Addition, the Dive Package * includes:

6 days of 2 tank boat dives
5 days of 1 tank afternoon dives
Complimentary use of a dive computer

Standard Garden View Room (5 available)

Queen bed only

Beachfront Suite (4 available)

King bed and sleeper sofa; a large room, and a large balcony overlooking the swimming pool and beach.

1 Bedroom Deluxe Beachfront Suite (4 available)

Queen bed in bedroom and King bed in living area; 992 sq ft of living space, living room, and a large balcony with ocean views

1 Bedroom Deluxe Beachfront Suite (10 available)

King bed in bedroom and sleeper sofa in living area; 992 sq ft of living space, living room, and a large balcony with ocean views

2 Bedroom Deluxe Beachfront Suite (1 available)

King bed in bedroom, Queen bed in bedroom, and sleeper sofa in living area; These 1,268 square foot units feature panoramic ocean views and occupy 32 feet of beach frontage with a large 16-foot oceanfront balcony.

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LODGING/ROOMMATE

<input type="checkbox"/> I HAVE A ROOMMATE	YOUR NAME: _____ ROOMMATE: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT HAVE A ROOMMATE:	<input type="checkbox"/> I Need a Female Roommate <input type="checkbox"/> I Need a Male Roommate Are you a Smoker? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Do you Snore excessively ? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Describe your personality _____ [Ex. Outgoing, quiet, adventuresome, reserved, diver, non-diver...]
[for office use only]	Assigned roommate: _____

PAYMENT METHOD Information

X	<p>** PLEASE mail your completed registration forms & waiver, along with a check for your trip deposit. Subsequent payments may be made online by credit card or by mailing a personal check, cashier check, or money order. Your registration will not be complete, and your spot will not be reserved, until you have submitted your documents (including black/white copy of valid passport) and have paid your initial deposit.</p> <p>**if you choose to pay by credit card, instructions to the online payment system will be provided on your accounting statement, for subsequent payments once we have received your registration.</p>
	<p>Please mark one of the following for making future payments:</p> <p>I will continue to make payments by check, cashier check or money order.</p> <p>I will continue to make payments by PayPal and/or Credit Card via online payment method.</p> <p>Do send me the information in order to pay online.</p>

Send ALL the Registration Forms, Trip & Transportation Options, Waiver, Lodging & Payment Method Form, and a legible BLACK & WHITE photocopy of your Valid passport (good through March 23, 2024), and Check Payment to:

Randy Lew
 829 SE 11th Place
 Battle Ground, WA 98604
 Cell: (530) 304-0802
 E-mail: Fwsa13randy@telis.net

Make check payable to FWSA. *Please note "FWSA 2023 Turks & Caicos Trip on each check".*

There will be a charge of \$25.00 for return checks from your bank.

Deposit Payment Amount: \$ _____ Check # _____ Other: _____

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***FWSA Assisted Air Transportation & Lodging Packages
Payment and Cancellation Schedules***

East Bay Resort

Option DP1 - Dive Package

Option DP1: Standard Dive Package - Payment Schedule & Cancellation Policy

<u>Payments</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>	<u>FWSA Assisted Air Payment</u>	<u>Land Pkg. Payment</u>	<u>Total Payment DUE</u>	<u>*Cancel. Fees</u>	<u>Cancel. Date</u>
<i>Initial Deposit</i>	<i>Due Now!</i>	^	\$700.00	\$700.00	<i>No Penalty up to</i>	June 16, 2023
2 nd Payment	June 1, 2023		\$800.00	\$800.00	\$100.00	Between June 17, 2023 – July 16, 2023
3 rd Payment				0	\$500.00	Between July. 17, 2023 – August 15, 2023
FINAL PAYMENT *A \$100.00 late fee may be applied if payment not made by due date.	July 24, 2023		BALANCE of Land Pkg.	Balance Due	Full Penalty – NO Refund*	After August 15, 2023

^ *Assisted Air – Non-refundable, Cancellation fees 100% after purchase*

**Cancellation Policy is based on the Standard Dive package and fees for the upgrades will vary according to package price.*

Such penalty fees are subject to additional vendor or supplier charges, and processing/handling fees.

(Substitutions may be made with associated change fees applied – details will be on a case-by-case basis)

***FWSA Assisted Air Transportation & Lodging Packages
Payment and Cancellation Schedules***

East Bay Resort

Option NDP1– Non-Dive Package

Option NDP1: Standard Non-Dive Package - Payment Schedule & Cancellation Policy

<u>Payments</u>	<u>DUE DATE</u>	<u>FWSA Assisted Air Payment</u>	<u>Land Pkg. Payment</u>	<u>Total Payment DUE</u>	<u>*Cancel. Fees</u>	<u>Cancel. Date</u>
<i>Initial Deposit</i>	<i>Due Now!</i>	^	\$700.00	\$700.00	<i>No Penalty up to</i>	June 16, 2023
2 nd Payment	June 1, 2023		\$800.00	\$800.00	\$100.00	Between June 17, 2023 – July 16, 2023
3 rd Payment				0	\$300.00	Between July. 17, 2023 – August 15, 2023
FINAL PAYMENT *A \$100.00 late fee may be applied if payment not made by due date.	July 24, 2023		BALANCE of Land Pkg.	Balance Due	Full Penalty – NO Refund*	After August 15, 2023

^ *Assisted Air – Non-refundable, Cancellation fees 100% after purchase*

**Cancellation Policy is based on the Standard Non-Dive package and fees for the upgrades will vary according to package price. Such penalty fees are subject to additional vendor or supplier charges and processing/handling fees. (Substitutions may be made with associated change fees applied – details will be on a case-by-case basis)*

FWSA TRIP CONDUCT POLICY

This policy applies to all persons participating on a Far West Ski Association ski week or trip. It is intended to maximize the enjoyment for all trip participants and provide guidelines for the FWSA Travel Staff, Council Trip Leaders, and assigned Trip Assistants. All trip participants are requested to observe common courtesy and generally accepted standards of social and moral behavior.

In accordance with Federal and State laws, the Far West Ski Association will enforce a "Zero Tolerance Policy" on illegal drug use at any FWSA sponsored event or trip. Failure to observe this policy will automatically remove you from participation in future FWSA events.

Participants shall adhere to the requirements of FWSA trip packages and participants agree not to transfer, resell, or barter all or portions of that package. Only FWSA, or the issuing agency may compensate the participant for the unused portion or permit transfer. Failure to comply may result in exclusion from future FWSA events.

Alcohol and tobacco use is allowed in moderation and where permitted by law. FWSA Travel Staff, Council Trip Leaders, or assigned Trip Assistants, will ask a participant to cease any loud, obnoxious, or offensive behavior. Participants who refuse to cooperate will be reported to local security or local police.

Far West Ski Association maintains a strict policy prohibiting sexual harassment and harassment because of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, medical condition, marital status, sexual orientation, age, or any other basis made unlawful by any applicable law or ordinance or regulation. Prohibited harassment in any form, including verbal, physical and visual conduct, threats, demands, and retaliation is unlawful and will not be tolerated. If, after a request to refrain from this behavior, the participant continues, FWSA Travel Staff, Council Trip Leaders, and assigned Trip Assistants may contact local security or local police. Please stop the offensive behavior if asked by another participant, FWSA Travel Staff, Council Trip Leader, or assigned Trip Assistant.

Parents/Legal Guardians of minor children under the age of 18 are responsible for the supervision and behavior of their children. Children under 12 years will be under the direct supervision of their parents/legal guardians at all FWSA events. Parents/Legal Guardians are responsible for providing supervision of their children under 12 years of age during the time that they are attending a FWSA function without their children (e.g., children under 12 will not be left alone in the lodging rooms).

FWSA Travel Staff, Trip Leaders, assigned Trip Assistants, and/or FWSA Board of Directors will attempt to resolve problems in a mutually beneficial manner. When resolution cannot be achieved, FWSA Travel Staff, Trip Leaders, and assigned Trip Assistants have the authority to call on-site security or local police to resolve the problem. Participants may be excluded from a trip at their own expense and without reimbursement of trip expenses.

FWSA 2023 TURKS & CAICOS SCUBA DIVE TRIP

September 16 – 23, 2023

PARTICIPANT RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT.

Please read and be certain you understand the implications of signing.

Express Assumption of Risk Associated with Sport, Venue Use and Related Activities.

I, _____ do hereby affirm and acknowledge that I have been fully informed of the inherent hazards and risks associated with all activities of FWSA Turks & Caicos Scuba Dive Trip including but not limited to scuba diving, snorkeling, certain additional risks, dangers, and hazards including, but not limited to transportation of equipment related to the activities and traveling to and from activity sites in which I am about to engage.

Inherent hazards and risks include but are not limited to:

1. Risk of delays, inconveniences, theft, terrorism, crimes, personal losses, and mechanical problems.
2. "Acts of God" or other actions taken by governments or their civil authorities, or common carriers that would impede FWSA's delivering any or all of the contracted services, may result in injury, inconvenience, travel deviations, or unexpected cancellations relating to such risks or event, and are not within FWSA's control.
3. Risk of injury from the activity and equipment utilized is significant including the potential for broken bones, severe injuries to the head, neck, and back or other bodily injuries that may result in permanent disability and death.
4. Possible exposure to and illness from infectious diseases including but limited to MRSA, influenza, and COVID-19. While rules and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious illness and death does exist.
5. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary terms and conditions for participation as protection against infectious diseases. If, however, I observe any unusual or significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest official immediately.
6. Possible equipment failure and/or malfunction or misuse of my own or others' equipment.
7. **I AGREE THAT I WILL WEAR APPROVED PROTECTIVE GEAR AS DECREED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE SPORT I AM PARTICIPATING IN.** However, protective gear cannot guarantee the participant's safety. A dive computer is required.
8. Variation and/or depth of the dive locations, underwater hazards including but not limited to shipwrecks, hazardous sea life, caves or tunnels, variation or changes in surfaces including but not limited to water, docks, dive boats, other persons, and other natural and man-made hazards.
9. My own negligence and/or the negligence of others, including but not limited to operator error and guide decision making including misjudging depth, terrain, weather, or other obstacles.
10. Exposure to the elements and temperature extremes may result in heat exhaustion, heat stroke, sunburn, hypothermia, and dehydration.
11. Dangers associated with exposure to natural elements include but are not limited to rock fall, inclement weather, thunder, and lightning, severe and or varied wind, temperature, and other weather conditions.
12. Accidents or illness occurring in remote places where there are no available medical facilities.
13. Fatigue, exhaustion, chill, and/or dizziness, which may diminish my/our reaction time and increase the risk of accident.
14. Impact or collision with other athletes, spectators, facility employees, pedestrians, motor vehicles, boats, and cyclists.
15. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others and assume full responsibility for my participation.

***I understand the description of these risks is not complete and unknown or unanticipated risks may result in injury, illness, or death.**

Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims, and Indemnity Agreement

In consideration for being permitted to participate in the above described activity (ies) and related activities, I hereby agree, acknowledge, and appreciate that:

1. **I HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, ILLNESS, DISABILITY, DEATH,** or loss or damage to person or property, **WHETHER CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE,** the following named persons or entities, herein referred to as releasees: **Far West Ski Association (FWSA) and their directors and officers, FWSA Ski Councils and their directors and officers, FWSA Ski Clubs and their directors and officers, and their successors and assigns.**
2. To release the releasees, their officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, and volunteers from liability and responsibility whatsoever and for any claims or causes of action that I, my estate, heirs, survivors, executors, or assigns may have for personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death arising from the above activities whether caused by active or passive negligence of the releasees or otherwise. By executing this document, I agree to hold the releasees harmless and indemnify them in conjunction with any injury, illness, disability, death, or loss or damage to person or property that may occur as a result of my engaging in the above activities.
3. By entering into this Agreement, I am not relying on any oral or written representation or statements made by the releasees, other than what is set forth in this Agreement. FWSA is not responsible for trip information typographical errors.
4. This agreement shall apply to any and all injury, illness, disability, death, or loss or damage to person or property occurring at any time after the execution of this agreement.

This release shall be binding to the fullest extent permitted by law. If any provision of this release is found to be unenforceable, the remaining terms shall be enforceable.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP LEGAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND I SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

S/ _____
Signature of Adult Participant **Name of Adult Participant (Please Print)** **Date**

FOR PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE: *This is to certify that I, as Parent, Guardian, Temporary Guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree not only to his/her release of all Releasees, but also to release and indemnify the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to his/her involvement in these programs for myself, my heirs, assigns, and next of kin.*

S/ _____
Signature of Parent or Adult Legal Guardian if Participant is a Minor **Name of Parent or Adult Legal Guardian (Print Clearly)** **Date**

"The Voice of the Western Skier"



FWSA TURKS & CAICOS SCUBA DIVE TRIP

September 16 - 23, 2023

Basic Cost excluding air travel:

6 Day (17 boat dives) Dive Package	\$ 2,211
Non-Dive Package	\$ 1,945
Single Supplement	\$ 527

Price Includes: East Bay Resort

7 nights Standard Room at East Bay Resort – based on 2 per room
All meals daily (à la carte and buffet)
21 drink alcohol / non-alcohol package
All non-motorized water sports and activities
Resort fees, taxes & staff gratuities (dive gratuities not included)

Dive Package Includes:

6 days of 2 tank morning & 5 days of 1 tank afternoon boat dives
Complimentary use of dive computer

Add-On Costs:

Beachfront Suite	\$ 341 per person (dbl occ)
1 Bedroom Deluxe Beachfront Suite	\$ 442 per person (dbl occ)
2 Bedroom Deluxe Beachfront Suite	\$ 255 per person (quad occ)

Payment Schedule:

Initial deposit	Immediately	\$ 700 per person
2 nd payment	June 1, 2023	\$ 800 per person
Final payment	July 24, 2023	\$ balance

Cancellation Penalties:

Prior to June 16, 2023	\$ 0 per person
June 17, 2023 – July 16, 2023	\$ 100 per person
July 17, 2023 - August 15, 2023	\$ 300 - \$ 500 per person
August 16, 2023 – departure date	no refunds

Travel on this FWSA trip to Turks & Caicos requires a valid Passport. Your Passport must be valid until March 23, 2023 (six months after your return). It is your responsibility to ensure your required travel documents are in order and with you.

DIVE and TRAVEL INSURANCE

FWSA highly recommends that you purchase travel insurance. Roatan Charters offers trip insurance on their website at [Trip Insurance – Roatan Charter](#). Additional travel insurance vendors can be found on FWSA website at <http://www.fwsa.org/Travel/insurance.html>. In addition, all scuba divers will be required to have diving accident insurance through Divers Alert Network (DAN), the premier dive insurance. You can get their insurance info at <http://www.diversalertnetwork.org/>

Location/Geography

Commonly referred to as “The Big South”, the island is a marine paradise best known as the fishing capital of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The 18 square mile island has a brilliant blend of luxury and quaint accommodations

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.

Water Temperature

Warm water averages 82-84° F in summer and 74-78 °F in winter. The water is usually clear with visibility 80-130 feet.

Currency

The U.S. Dollar is the official currency. Credit cards widely accepted.

Electricity

120-volt U.S. style plugs / 60 cycle

Documents

All visitors to Turks & Caicos must present valid passports. Your passport must be valid until March 23, 2024.

Entry Requirements

All visitors to Turks & Caicos must be vaccinated. All visitors 18 and older must show proof of vaccination.

Time Zone

Eastern Standard Time (EST) as the year-round time observed in Turks and Caicos.

Language

Officially English

U.S. Consular Agency

Venture House, Grace Bay Road, Grace Bay, Providenciales
(649) 946-5713

The Turks and Caicos is a British Overseas Territory, located in the Atlantic Ocean and considered a part of the Caribbean region. With more than 40 small islands and cays, the eight inhabited islands are separated into two island groups; to the east of the Turks Island Passage are the Turks Islands of Grand Turk and Salt Cay and the west are the Caicos Islands South Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales, Pine Cay and Parrot Cay. The islands are located 575 miles southeast of Miami, Florida, south of the Bahamas and east of Cuba and the country of Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti).

The islands are home to over 31,000 full time residents, and attract more than 1 million tourists annually.

A dive vacation in Turks & Caicos is for those who want pristine turquoise seas, year-round sunshine, and a really good chance of swimming with sea turtles, who can be found in abundance here. Two main features define the diving here: the third largest barrier reef in the world, and excellent sheer walls.

As the country's name suggests, they have two island groups: the *Turks Islands* of Grand Turk and Salt Cay to the east, and the larger *Caicos Islands* archipelago of Providenciales, North Caicos Middle Caicos, East Caicos, South Caicos and West Caicos to the west. The 20-mile wide and 5000-foot deep Columbus Passage divides the two island groups.

The Turks and Caicos had an elected government similar to the structure of the United Kingdom, with the title of Premier being the highest local elected office. As a British Overseas Territory, King Charles III is head of state, and is represented by a Governor appointed by the United Kingdom Crown.

The majority of the population of Turks and Caicos resides on the island of Providenciales. Grand Turk supports the second greatest population, as well as the nation's capital city of Cockburn Town.

Unlike many Caribbean countries, the Turks and Caicos has one of the lowest annual rainfall averages in the region, and consequently a high percentage of sunny days and great weather.

The islands in the Turks and Caicos are generally quite small, with low-elevation terrain. Drought-resistant tropical dry forest and marine mangrove wetlands make up the majority of vegetation in the country.

EAST BAY RESORT

East Bay Resort is located in the Turks and Caicos on the quintessentially Caribbean Island of South Caicos. It is a beachfront resort, and the vast majority of their 86 beachfront suites feature views of the Caribbean Sea and the sugar-white sands of East Bay Beach.

The peaceful setting makes East Bay Resort an ideal place to unwind, rejuvenate, and enjoy effortless relaxation. Adventurous guests have no shortage of options though, and their location within the Admiral Cockburn Land and Sea National Park provides easy access to diving, snorkeling, kayaking, and fishing.

East Bay Resort is located minutes from world-class dive and snorkel sites, and their guests enjoy exclusive access to their PADI dive center, the only dive operation on South Caicos. The renowned South Caicos Wall, known for its dramatic drop from 35 to 7000 feet, is a short boat ride away. The Aquarium, where guests can snorkel in the clear blue waters and experience diverse wildlife firsthand, is minutes from the resort.

In addition to being located on the most beautiful white-sand beach South Caicos has to offer, East Bay Resort offers an abundance of services and conveniences: a beachfront pool, swim-up bar, open-air restaurant, spa, fitness center, tour desk, PADI-certified dive shop, tennis court, free Wi-Fi throughout the property, free airport transfers and more. On East Bay Beach guests have access to free kayaks, paddleboards, and snorkel equipment.

Perched on the most stunning beach in South Caicos, all rooms at East Bay Resort feature breathtaking views of their expansive, private 1.5 mile long beach. East Bay Resort has all the amenities for a great worry-free vacation: private entrances, private balconies, fully-equipped kitchens, AC and free Wi-Fi.

Standard Queen Rooms (5 available) - Modern and comfortable, these 288 square foot air-conditioned rooms feature a queen size bed, bathroom with walk-in shower, coffee maker, microwave, mini-fridge, flat screen TV with cable, complimentary Wi-Fi, and a safety deposit box. These are not beachfront rooms, and they do not have a balcony or kitchen.

Beachfront Suite (4 available) has astonishing ocean views with a full kitchen, beach front living room, and a large balcony overlooking the swimming pool and the beach. These 592 square foot rooms feature:

- King size bed
- Queen size pullout bed in the living room area
- 16-foot ocean front balcony with breathtaking ocean views
- Beautiful patio furniture
- Full bathroom with marble top vanity
- Dining area
- Kitchen equipped with stove, microwave, dishwasher and refrigerator
- Air Conditioning
- Complimentary Cable TV and high-speed internet

One Bedroom Deluxe Beachfront Suites (4 available) include astonishing panoramic ocean views, 992 square feet of living space with full kitchen, ocean front living room, and a large balcony overlooking the swimming pool, beach and the ocean. Maximum occupancy 2 adults and 2 children.

- Queen size bed with a panoramic ocean view and private bathroom
- King size bed in the living room
- 32 feet of beach frontage with breathtaking ocean views
- 16-foot ocean front balcony with beautiful outdoor furniture
- 1 powder room
- Fully equipped kitchen including dishwasher
- Air Conditioning
- Complimentary Cable TV and high-speed internet

One Bedroom Deluxe Beachfront Suites (10 available) include astonishing panoramic ocean views, 992 square feet of living space with full kitchen, ocean front living room, and a large balcony overlooking the swimming pool, beach and the ocean. Maximum occupancy 2 adults and 2 children.

- King size bed with a panoramic ocean view and private bathroom
- Queen size pullout bed in the living room
- 32 feet of beach frontage with breathtaking ocean views
- 16-foot ocean front balcony with beautiful outdoor furniture
- 1 powder room
- Fully equipped kitchen including dishwasher
- Air Conditioning
- Complimentary Cable TV and high-speed internet

Two Bedroom Deluxe Beachfront Suite (1 available) this 1,268 square foot unit features panoramic ocean views and occupies 32 feet of beach frontage. The large 16-foot

oceanfront balcony flows seamlessly to the living area, blurring the line where indoor living ends and outdoor living begins. The grand open concept living area includes a fully equipped kitchen with modern appliances, a dining area, and comfortable living room complete with a queen size sofa bed and flat screen TV with cable television service.

- King size bed in master bedroom with a private bathroom and ocean view
- Queen size bed in second bedroom with a private bathroom
- 32 feet of beach frontage with breathtaking panoramic ocean views
- 16-foot ocean front balcony with beautiful outdoor furnishings
- A large fully equipped kitchen
- A powder room and laundry facility
- Complimentary cable TV and high-speed internet in the living room and the master bedroom
- Air Conditioning
- Hair dryer, iron and ironing board
- Laptop size safety deposit box
- 4'X6' private storage locker

East Bay Resort's culinary vision is a blend of simplicity and sophistication. **BLU Bar & Grill** features an internationally inspired menu incorporating island flavors. The restaurant is open daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and features à la carte and buffet dining options. What better way to start the day than breakfast and an ocean view? At night, their talented culinary team presents a wide selection of dishes including fresh-caught seafood, choice cuts of meat, vegetarian options and more.

A delicious selection of libations can be found at **BLU Bar**, which is also located on the main level of the resort and presents equally impressive Caribbean views.

Their beachfront swimming pool is located front and center, and offers stunning views of our two-mile long beach and the turquoise ocean. The pool deck is furnished with comfortable loungers, umbrellas, chairs and tables. It's easy to spend the day here with a good book, in the company of friends and family, or simply to enjoy a leisurely nap.

When it's time to cool off, order a refreshing tropical cocktail from Splash, their swim up pool bar. It is named after an ancient mermaid that was sighted by pirates who visited South Caicos centuries ago. Light meals and snacks can also be ordered and enjoyed poolside.

Whether you are a fitness enthusiast or finally finding time for a long-overdue workout, East Bay Resort's fitness center has the equipment needed to stay active while on vacation.

Enjoy beautiful views while you work out at the resort's gym. Equipment includes exercise bikes, an elliptical machine, fitness stations, and free weights. Why not take your workout outside, and enjoy a game of tennis on our private court? There is no shortage of ways to stay in shape on your vacation! And if none of these options appeals, there is always their two-mile-long stretch of beach for walks or morning runs, and the pool and ocean await if you prefer to swim or snorkel.

Another way to have a relaxing vacation is to visit the **Ayur Spa Turks and Caicos** at the resort. They offer relaxation massages in their treatment room, in the privacy of your own suite, or at the beach where you can listen to the soothing waves.

Their spa therapist will help you choose the right massage treatment to soothe sore muscles or simply to unwind and enhance your Turks and Caicos spa resort experience.

East Bay Resort is located on the island of South Caicos, a beautiful and tranquil island in the Turks & Caicos. Providenciales is the most densely populated island in the Turks & Caicos and home to the Providenciales International Airport (PLS).

The Turks and Caicos are served by numerous airlines, with over 70 flights weekly into Providenciales from North America and Europe.

interCaribbean Airways

The easiest way to get to South Caicos is by catching a scenic 15-minute flight with [interCaribbean Airways](#).

Flights from Providenciales (PLS) to South Caicos (XSC)
Daily at 8:30 AM and 3:45 PM

Flights from South Caicos (XSC) to Providenciales (PLS)
Daily at 9:10 AM and 4:30 PM

To ensure that your travels go smoothly, we recommend booking your preferred interCaribbean flights as soon as your international flights have been arranged.

REEF DIVERS

REEF DIVERS is a full-service scuba diving operator, based at the East Bay Resort on South Caicos. The company is the sole diver operator on South Caicos, and likewise the only company regularly visiting the spectacular reefs off South Caicos, East Caicos, and Ambergris Cay. Reef Divers has a team of PADI and SSI certified dive professionals, and is dedicated to ensuring the safety of divers and protecting the environment, while providing memorable diving adventures and exclusive valet diving services.

Reef Divers offers daily diving to many excellent dive sites on the eastern side of the Caicos Islands, as well as scuba diving instruction and courses, equipment rental, and snorkeling charters. The site most frequented by Reef Divers are those in the incredible [Admiral Cockburn Land and Sea National Park](#), which is right at the doorstep of the dive shop. Upon special request, it's also possible to visit the shear walls of Grand Turk, or the more remote and majestic reef of [East Caicos](#) and *Philips Reef*.

Divers will have great opportunities to see large marine life year-round including several species of Sharks, Turtles, Rays, Eels and Large Schools of Jacks in addition to other diverse reef creatures and fish.

Reef Divers operates custom Newton dive boats, with 42' to 46' length vessels with 16' beams, which are safe, stable, comfortable, and spacious.

Their valet-style service takes the hard work out of your diving experience by handling the heavy lifting and care of your boat dive gear—from your first dive with them through your

last dive. They rinse, dry, and store your BCD and regulator daily, so they're set up and ready for your next day's diving. The only finger you'll have to lift is the one to point out your gear as you relax in the boat, ready to go diving.

Equipment Rental

Reef Divers offer a full array of dive and snorkel gear available for rental on a daily basis. Tanks, weights, and weight belts are included in all Dive Packages.

Nitrox: \$10 per tank / \$170 for 17 boat dives

All prices exclude tax.

Equipment Rental	USD
BCD & Regulator Only (per day)	\$ 35
Shorty Wetsuit (per day)	\$ 10
Wetsuit (per day)	\$ 15
Mask / Fins / Snorkel (per day)	\$ 15
Dive Computer (REQUIRED)	Complimentary

PLEASE NOTE that if your last dive was longer than 6 month ago and less than 2 years, we highly recommend you to do a **Pool Check** > \$40 USD.

If you do at least 6 dives, we offer you the pool check free (even if you have been diving in the past year), so you can check your weights etc. in the pool.

> Depending on your experience and date of your last dive, you might be required to do either a Shallow dive first or do an assessment at the start of the dive.

Scuba Dive Safety

Every diver should carry an audible signal device such as a whistle or Dive Alert horn, along with devices capable of being seen from far away in the day or night, such as a flashing strobe, mirror or dive light, and an inflatable signal tube ("safety sausage").

Every diver is also **required** to have and use a dive computer on each and every dive. Each diver is responsible for his/her own dive profile, bottom times, nitrogen loading and No Decompression Times. In addition, Nitrox divers are responsible for their own PO2 times.

Divers Alert Network:
001-919-684-9111

PROVIDENCIALES

Providenciales is the third largest island in the Turks and Caicos chain and the hub of tourism activity. More commonly known as Provo, the 38 square mile island is home to Grace Bay Beach, recipient of the [World's Best Beach award](#) year after year from several travel and tourism publications. Your vacation experience will begin with your arrival at the

Providenciales International Airport and you can choose to stay in one of the many ultra-luxurious [villas](#), [resorts and hotels](#) throughout the island.

Providenciales Public Beaches

While Grace Bay Beach is renowned for its powder like sand and crystal clear waters, the island also boasts additional unspoiled beaches worth exploring such as Long Bay, Sapodilla Bay, Blue Hills Beach, Pelican Beach, Taylor Bay, amongst others.



Grace Bay Beach, Providenciales

For the discerning traveler, Providenciales guarantees exclusive opulence and luxury as well as serene solitude and unspoiled nature. Whether it's a round of golf at the 18-hole Provo Golf Club, Thursday's Island Fish Fry, indulging in rejuvenating spa treatments, sampling our culinary delights, snorkeling at Smith's Reef or swimming with Jojo the dolphin and his friendly counter parts, there is no shortage of ways to relax and unwind.

SOUTH CAICOS

Commonly referred to as "The Big South", the island is a marine paradise best known as the fishing capital of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The 18 square mile island has a brilliant blend of luxury and quaint accommodations that includes Ocean & Beach Resort, East Bay Resort and the island's only five-star property – Sail Rock Resort.

South Caicos is a quick and impeccable island getaway as it is only a ninety-minute ferry ride or short twenty-minute flight from Providenciales. The close proximity makes the Island ideal for dual island vacations in Turks and Caicos. Visitors are drawn for its fishing, snorkeling and scuba diving along the wall. Go bone fishing in the flats guided by expert fishermen or snorkel right off the immaculate beaches. Head to the heart of the town to enjoy a down-home island meal or treat yourself to a gourmet meal in a restaurant. Experience superior diving at Amos' Wall, Eagle Nest and The Arch.

Ditch your flip flops and prepare to unwind and unplug while making personal connections with the friendly Harbonians (a colloquial term for natives of the island). Spend a day on the water catching seafood for your dinner or visit one of the popular plants to purchase fresh fish for a proper 'sea to table' dining experience. Catch, tag and release turtles with

local tour operators then end your evening with exotic cocktails and dancing to the sound of ripsaw music.

South Caicos is geographically the last island to the east in the Caicos Islands group. The terrain largely consists of low hills and dry bushland vegetation, with central saline wetlands and salt flats.

Due to being bordered on the northern side by the uninhabited East Caicos, and separated from the Turks Islands by the twenty-mile wide *Turks Island Passage* on the other, South Caicos feels a bit more isolated than the rest of the country.

The main settlement on South Caicos is Cockburn Harbour named in 1840 after an official visit by the then Governor of the Bahamas—Sir Francis Cockburn. Many of the older buildings in Cockburn Harbour reflect the British Colonial heritage of the country, with Bermudian architecture and cut limestone block construction.

Currently, the main economic income for South Caicos comes from the fishing industry. Conch, lobster and fish are caught, processed, packed and shipped to the international market.

South Caicos is also home to The School for Field Studies' Center for Marine Resource Studies, which currently occupies the old *Admiral's Arms* hotel building.

South Caicos has had a varied history. According to the theory that Columbus first made landfall on Grand Turk (on his historic 1492 voyage to the New World), South Caicos was probably the second island sighted by him. The island subsequently got its heads start from the fact that it has a sheltered natural deep water harbor, something the other islands in the country really don't naturally offer.

Along with Grand Turk and Salt Cay, South Caicos produced salt by evaporating seawater in shallow ponds. This industry was begun on South Caicos in 1850 when the output from the rest of the country failed to meet global and regional demands. Due to its larger acreage of wetlands, South Caicos eventually came to produce most of the salt exported from the Turks and Caicos. Today, dividing walls, windmills and sluice gates can still be seen in the salinas, along with the Boiling Hole, a unique and natural subterranean tidal passage that was utilized to supply the salinas with seawater for evaporation.



The water catchment area at the abandoned United States Coast Guard LORAN Station, South Caicos.

Over the years, several different ventures were started on South Caicos. Sea sponge farming was tried in the 1930s and was initially somewhat successful, yet a fungus blight disease killed off the sponges and put an end to it. A lobster cannery was also tried. In the 1950s, a Canadian businessman started exporting conch shells to the United States for ornamental purposes. None of these attempts lasted long, and South Caicos has generally experienced a downturn over the last few decades.

The United States Government also used to have an interest in South Caicos. In 1944, the US established an anti-submarine base on the island, along with the first airstrip in the country. Later, the U.S. Coast Guard constructed a [LORAN station](#) on the north end of South Caicos. This site was completed in 1959 and was part of the low-frequency radio signal navigation system that was eventually replaced largely by satellite GPS. Both bases have long been decommissioned, although much of the LORAN station facilities still exist.



South Caicos has many historical buildings, such as this old warehouse from the days of salt production.

A thorough history of South Caicos would have to include the unfortunate mention of narcotics smuggling. In the 1970s and 1980s, the Caribbean was plagued by drug runners on the sea and in the air, and the Turks and Caicos was no exception. Because the Turks and Caicos lies about halfway between Colombia and the United States, and due to the seclusion, the island proved to be a popular refueling stop. Many planes and ships were confiscated by the authorities and it was during this period that South Caicos picked up its nickname of *The Big South*.

One annual event that temporarily swells the population on the island is the *South Caicos Regatta*. This [Caicos Sloop](#) sailboat race is a tradition that commemorates Queen Elizabeth's visit to South Caicos on 1966.

The [Admiral Cockburn Land and Sea National Park](#) is a designated National Park protecting a large portion of the sea and parts of the coast.

CLIMATE

The Turks and Caicos experiences great weather year-round. The climate in the Turks and Caicos perfectly complements the beaches, with sunny days and temperatures ranging from 75° F (24° C) to 90° F (32° C).

Rainfall and cloud cover is statistically low, ocean temperature ranges from 79° F (26° C) to 85° F (29° C), and wind conditions usually vary from calm days to breezy conditions from the eastern trade winds.

BIODIVERSITY

CLOTHING

Clothing at the Caribbean coast is very casual no ties are required anywhere. Some upscale restaurants do have a medium dress code. During the winter months, we suggest you bring light sweater with you. Comfortable, flat-heeled walking shoes, such as sneakers, are recommended all year round so that you can safely explore the archeological zones and islands

CUISINE

As a small archipelago nation, it's no surprise that the traditional cuisine of the Turks and Caicos is centered on seafood.



Until relatively recently, Turks and Caicos was generally a very poor country, and food imports were quite limited. Most of the ingredients that factored into local dishes were caught or raised in the islands. Conch, lobster, fish, and turtle was collected from the ocean, and maize, beans, okra, squash, and plantains were grown in small farm plots. These products were used to create

stews, soups, *johnny cake* cornbread, and fish with *peas n' grits*, which was hominy with legumes.

As trade into the Turks and Caicos increased, the maize hominy was largely replaced by imported rice, which led to peas and rice being the quintessential side for most dishes. Neighboring countries such as the Bahamas and Jamaica have influenced many of the modern popular foods in the Turks and Caicos today, such as deep-fried conch fritters, and jerk chicken.

CULTURE

The Turks and Caicos share many cultural elements with the Bahamas, as many local residents have Bahamian ancestry and have lived or were born in the Bahamas. The Turks and Caicos Islands are geographically part of the Bahamas, and a loose union was proposed in 2009 to link the two countries.

Attempts have been made to encourage the preservation of local culture, such as through cultural awareness programs and the creation of the Chief Cultural Officer post. In 2003 the annual Conch Festival event was also created, which along with a food festival atmosphere incorporates elements of the local culture (through live music and Junkanoo).

Ripsaw is a local music genre developed during slavery times. It consists of scrapping an instrument, such as a screwdriver, over a saw blade to create a scrapping sound. Playing ripsaw is called *ripping the saw*. Common accompaniments are the guitar, drums and triangle. Junkanoo, a Bahamian music genre, was brought back to the islands by returning Turks and Caicos Islander who left to find work in nearby Bahamian Islands.

“Ripsaw Music”. Another name for this type of music is ‘Rake ‘n’ Scrape’. The basic instruments used are the saw, the goatskin drum, the hand accordion, also known locally as the Constentina, hand-made maracas and the acoustic guitar. The main instrument featured is the ordinary carpenter’s handsaw found in any hardware store. The saw is held with either end in a number of ways to produce a bend in the center of the blade. A metal scraper, usually a long nail, a fork or knife or a screwdriver, is raked and scraped over the teeth of the saw to produce a unique percussive scraping sound, this action is called “Ripping the Saw”. Bending the body and ripping the saw in time with the beat of the music produces a wobbled overtone. This gives you the characteristic sound of ripsaw music. Lovey Forbes and his son Corry Forbes are the fore runners in composing and recording

Ripsaw music in the Turks and Caicos.



Lovey Forbes came up with the name “Combina Music” to describe the new mix of Ripsaw and popular foreign music. Jamaican Reggae, Bahamian Calypso and Eastern Caribbean Soca all play a major role in the local music scene. Another popular form of music emerging in Turks & Caicos is Junkanoo.

The exact origin of Junkanoo is not known, but it dates back to the early days of slavery, when the Christmas and New Years holidays were the only times slaves were given any recreational freedom. In the early days, Islanders would wear old clothes painted with bright colors or they would tie colorful strips of ribbons and cloth to their clothes along with other costumes made from cardboard and crepe paper.



In these costumes they would dance to the rhythm of the goatskin drums, cowbells and other handmade percussion instruments, they went house to house singing songs and performing for money, food, candy and drinks.

These days Junkanoo is more organized. Groups from different settlements would compete against each other for the most outrageous costumes or the best drummers and rhythm section. The costumes have become elaborate, depicting different themes and characters.

Junkanoo happens throughout the year for public holidays and local events. Visitors can see the biggest Junkanoo celebrations on the early morning of New Years Day in particular.

The most popular dance style in the Turks & Caicos is “winin” also known as “Wine-up” or “The Wine”. To “wine” is to gyrate the hips from the waist in a circle in time to the beat of the music being played, usually Rip-Saw, Soca or Calypso. More stylized dances such as the “Shati,” which is a waltz dance and the heel and toe polka combine a mix of European and African heritage and are preferred by the older generation. The “Conch Style” is a local dance that is done by stepping and hooking one foot behind the ankle of the other in time to the ripsaw music.

GEOGRAPHY

The Turks and Caicos consists of 40 different islands and cays, only 9 of which are inhabited. The islands of the Turks and Caicos are almost as diverse as its people. From the main tourist center of Providenciales to the quiet and tranquil islands of North and Middle Caicos to the historic Capital of Grand Turk; each one offers a different experience and a unique character but all offer year-round great climate, beaches and underwater activities.

Many small islands and cays found throughout the Turks and Caicos, most of them uninhabited, and some are popular like: Ambergris Cay, Parrot Cay, Pine Cay, Little Iguana, Water Cay and many more.

HISTORY

Turks and Caicos Islands History begins long before Christopher Columbus first set foot on the capital island of Grand Turk during his discovery voyage of the new world in 1492, the islands of the Turks & Caicos were inhabited by Taino and Lucayan Indians. These

original settlers left a rich heritage of seafaring, salt raking and farming, which still lingers on today. Words such as “canoe”, Caribbean and “caicos” are derived from the Arawak language. Even the name of the country comes from these earliest inhabitants. Turks is a reference to the indigenous Turk’s head cactus and Caicos is from the Lucayan term “caya hico” meaning string of islands.



Another peculiarity that has been passed down through the generations is a love of shellfish, particularly conch – which is actually available in abundance to this day, thanks to the work of the Caicos Conch farm, the only commercial conch farm in the world.

For almost 700 years, the Taino and Lucayan Indians were the sole residents of the islands, settling mainly in Middle Caicos and Grand Turk. They lived peacefully and were skilled in

farming, fishing and gardening. They cultivated almost 50 types of plants, some of which can still be found on undeveloped sections of the islands.

Shortly after Columbus arrived in 1492, the Lucayan civilization disappeared and the islands remained sparsely populated for about 30 years. During this time, the salt making industry was born. Bermudians came to Turks & Caicos to rake the salt and take it back to Bermuda. Salt was a precious commodity back then as it was used not only for flavoring food but for preserving it as well. The shallow waters surrounding the islands were ideal for salt raking but treacherous for nautical navigation and more than 1000 ships were wrecked during the journey to and from.



In 1706, the French and the Spanish briefly captured the Turks & Caicos Islands from the Bermudians. Four years later the British reclaimed the islands for Bermuda but in subsequent years the place became primarily a haven for pirates and British Loyalists fleeing the American Revolution. Ultimately, Britain retained the island country by the end of the century as part of the Treaty of Versailles. In 1766, after being controlled by the Spanish, French and British, Turks & Caicos became part of the Bahamas colony and was placed under the Bahamian government. Attempts to integrate the two distinct communities failed and in 1874 after “the Great Bahamas Hurricane” devastated much of the chain of islands, the Turks & Caicos Islands became dependencies to the British Crown Colony of Jamaica.

Jamaica won independence from Britain in 1962 and so Turks & Caicos then became a British Crown colony on its own and still is one today. It was not until the early 1980’s when Club Med Turquoise Resort opened that Providenciales – and Turks & Caicos in general – started to become a viable tourist destination. Since then, increasingly more development has taken shape, and the small, salt raking island country of Turks & Caicos has grown into what is quickly becoming recognized as one of the world’s premier beach destinations.

Though the days when the Lucayans fished and sailed the turquoise waters of Turks & Caicos have given way to live-aboard dive boat operators, commercial fishing and off-shore financial services, their gentle temperament and love of nature can still be felt today, after almost 1200 years. Turks & Caicos is quickly becoming a leading international investment center for the offshore investor. The islands are a “zero tax” jurisdiction and therefore have no taxes on income, capital gains, corporate profits, inheritance or estates.

Today, Turks & Caicos stands on the threshold of an exciting future boasting the fastest growing economy in the Caribbean coupled with strictly controlled development to protect the islands heritage as a pristine sanctuary for both local residents and tourists to enjoy for the next thousand years.