

Turks & Caicos (Just Started – Still Under Construction)



Grand Turk is one of the islands that form the Turks and Caicos archipelago, located 575 miles southeast of Miami, Florida, and 30 miles south of the Bahamas. The Island is seven miles long and 1.5 miles wide. The average temperature ranges between 85-90 degrees (29-32 degrees Celsius) from June to Oct., sometimes reaching the mid 90's (35 degrees Celsius), especially in the late summer months. From Nov. to May the average temperature is 80-84 degrees (27-29 degrees Celsius). A constant trade wind keeps the climate at a very comfortable level. In an average year, Grand Turk has 350 days of sunshine. Approximately 3,700 inhabitants make Grand Turk their home. The island's primary language is English. There are certain phrases that vary from the English language and certain terms that give a Turks & Caicos flavor to the spoken word. The U.S. dollar is the official currency of the Island. Most hotels, restaurants and shops accept traveler's checks that can be cashed at local banks. Most credit cards are accepted and banks offer ATM's as well as cash advances on

<p>credit cards. Grand Turk is on EST. Daylight Savings Time is observed from April to October.</p>
<p>The Turks and Caicos Islands consist of 40 islands and cays, eight of which are inhabited. The islands are located 550 miles southeast of Miami, Florida, just below the Bahamas chain and just to the east of Cuba and the island of Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti.) Technically, the Turks and Caicos are located in the Atlantic Ocean, not the Caribbean Sea. The islands are home to roughly 30,000 full time residents, and welcome more than 200,000 tourist annually.</p> <p>Language - English</p> <p>Currency - The US dollar is the official currency of Turks and Caicos. Most hotels, restaurants and taxi services accept traveler's cheques, which can be cashed at local banks. Most credit cards are accepted and banks offer ATM's as well as cash advances on credit cards. Tipping is normally paid to waiters, taxi drivers, maids and porters at 15%.</p> <p>Time Zone - Eastern Standard Time and Daylight Savings Time is observed from April to October.</p> <p>Electricity - 110 volt/60 cycle, suitable for U.S. appliances.</p> <p>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 350 days of sunshine. Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30th.</p>
<p>People - Turks & Caicos Islanders are mostly descendants of Africans who were brought in to work the salt pans or the cotton plantations. The expatriate population consists of British, Canadians, Americans, French, Bahamians, people from Hispaniola and virtually everywhere in the world.</p> <p>Economy - The economy of the TCI relies on the tourism industry, real estate development and the exportation of seafood. A wide variety of financial services are available, including company formation, offshore insurance, banking, trusts, limited partnerships and limited life companies. The Financial Services Commission regulates, develops and promotes the industry in major world markets.</p> <p>Government - The Turks & Caicos Islands are a British Crown Colony. A Governor is appointed by the Queen and presides over an Executive Council formed by an elected local self-government. Government offices are located in Grand Turk, with branches on other Islands as needed. The legal system is based on English Common Law.</p>
<p>If you have cell service in the USA please bring your phone with you because if you have International Roaming service with a cellular carrier that has a roaming agreement in the Caribbean then your phone will be able to make and receive calls</p>

whilst in the Turks and Caicos. If you do not have roaming then you will be able to make calls using the credit card platform.

Postal Service - Post Offices are located on all inhabited islands. All mail is transported by air. There are many different issues and denominations of stamps for enthusiasts to collect. Philatelic Bureaus are located on both Provo and Grand Turk.

Driving 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, located on Good Street, Grand Turk and at the office on the Old Airport Road, Providenciales.

Crime - These Islands boast one of the lowest crime rates and highest crime-solved rates in the Caribbean. We cannot, however, let down the guard against opportunist-type theft. Do not leave valuables unattended. Lock doors and windows. Use the hotel safe for storage of valuables. These simple precautions should prevent the loss of cash, jewelry and identification. Confrontation and violent crimes are extremely rare. Any problems should be reported immediately to the Royal Turks and Caicos Police.

Clothing - Shorts are worn in town as well as the beach during the day, it is advisable to also wear sunhats and sunscreen. In the evenings, light sweaters and jackets may be occasionally needed in the winter. Dinner is usually not formal, most restaurants accept dress shorts while others require pants with a collared shirt for gentlemen and dress slacks or dresses for the ladies.

Public Nudity is illegal throughout the islands.

<http://www.turksandcaicostourism.com/>

Excursions

<http://www.grandturkcc.com/shoreexcursions.aspx>



Blue Water Divers-- the only PADI Gold Palm 5 Star Resort in Grand Turk, has kept true to its word of maintaining it's 'personal service' with an eye on education of our eco-system. Our boats are never crowded, and our staff is extremely knowledgeable and environmentally aware. <http://www.grandturkscuba.com/>

Chukka Caribbean-- Horseback riding in the sea. Jeep safari. Dune buggy tours <http://www.chukkacaribbean.com/TurksandCaicos/>

The Grand Turk Cruise Center, with direct beachfront access, is a first-class facility nestled among nearly 14 acres of landscaped grounds. With convenient changing rooms, showers and lockers for cruise line guests, cruise center visitors also can swim either in the ocean's sparkling waters or in one of the largest pools in the Caribbean, stroll along the idyllic beach, relax in a chaise lounge or covered beach chair, and even rent a private cabana for the day and enjoy a massage. The cruise center is also home to a Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville, a fun and exciting place the whole family can enjoy. In the coming year, visitors to the cruise center will have the opportunity to peruse through a 45,000 sq. ft. shopping center which includes a 10,000 sq. ft. Dufry duty-free shop, and 35,000 sq. ft. of high end jewelry stores, an array of unique and world-renowned apparel and t-shirt stores, locally crafted souvenirs and gifts, and food and beverage facilities <http://www.grandturkcc.com/>



The Grand Turk Cruise Center, with direct beachfront access, is a first-class facility nestled among nearly 14 acres of landscaped grounds. The cruise center's location and the island's geography offer vessels a safe approach and berthing year-round. The short walk from the berthed ships to the cruise center (approximately 390 feet) allows guests ease of embarking and debarking at their leisure.

Visitors can either swim or snorkel in the ocean's sparkling waters or in one of the largest pools in the Caribbean, stroll along the idyllic beach, relax in a chaise lounge or covered beach chair and even rent a private cabana for the day and enjoy a sea side massage. The cruise center is also home to a Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville, a fun and exciting place the whole family can enjoy.

Visitors to the cruise center have the opportunity to peruse through a 45,000 sq. ft. shopping center which includes a 10,000 sq. ft. duty-free shop, and 35,000 sq. ft. of high-end jewelry stores, an array of unique and world-renowned apparel and t-shirt stores, locally crafted souvenirs and gifts, and food and beverage facilities. This includes merchants such as Dufry, Goodmark Jewelers, Ron Jon Surf Shop®, Piranha Joes, Dizzy Donkey, Silver Emporium, Del Sol, Rasta Pasta, Bonefish Charlie's, Starfish Oils, Royal Jewels, Indigo Pearls, Goldsmith, The Trading Post at Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville.

Within the cruise center, there is a four-acre transportation hub that provides rental cars, taxis, vans and buses for all land-based departures/excursions. For water borne excursions, we have constructed a small pier to easily accommodate those excursions right from within the welcome center.



Your visit to Gibb's Cay starts at the cruise center where you board the boat for your short cruise to the unspoiled and uninhabited Gibb's Cay. The luxurious white sand beach beckons...enjoy a relaxing time on this exquisite beach. Or, you may choose to start your adventure by wandering around the island, exploring nature; venturing about 50 yards from the beach into the beautiful coral reef, alive with a multitude of colorful tropical fish and sea animals; or swimming with the graceful stingrays that frequent this special spot. If you choose to

spend your time snorkeling, the crew will provide you with snorkeling equipment and a lesson. Your crew also can assist in handling the gentle, affectionate stingrays that may start snuggling up to you when they discover that you've come to visit. Before long, it will be time to enjoy a complimentary beverage on the beach before re-boarding your boat for the relaxing return to the cruise center. (Duration: 2 hours)

The Ultimate Snorkeling adventure begins right at the cruise terminal, where your friendly crew will greet you. Board the snorkel boat for a short cruise to your first destination – a pristine coral reef. Your crew will provide the snorkeling equipment, a lesson and safety briefing. With myriad colorful fish passing right before your eyes, this is your chance to get “up close and personal” with the underwater life. Next, depart for beautiful Gibb's Cay, only minutes away. Shortly after you arrive the resident stingrays will appear. Touch them... hold them... even take a swim with these gentle, soft creatures. Your crew is always ready to assist you in handling these endearing sea animals. Later, you may choose to explore the uninhabited island. Before re-boarding the boat enjoy a refreshing beverage. (Duration: 2.5 hours)

This exciting new way to snorkel uses a special underwater handheld power unit with a propeller that enables you to experience the spectacular beauty of the coral reefs in a whole new way. To begin your power snorkel adventure, your friendly crew will meet you at the cruise center and lead you to the transportation that will take you to your destination at one of Grand Turk's world class beach snorkel sites. They also will provide you with the power snorkel equipment and safety and use instructions, so that you can get started right away. Light, compact and portable, the power snorkel unit allows you to cover more distance than you might otherwise. When your power snorkel adventure is finished, the transportation will return you to the cruise center. (Duration: 2 1/2 hours. Minimum age for participation is 12 years)

Escape to famous Governor's Beach on this relaxing beach tour that includes roundtrip transportation from the cruise center. Sunbathe, swim, snorkel or relax on a complimentary beach chair as you listen to traditional island music. Snorkeling equipment is included. Additional food and beverages are available for purchase.



Your sailing catamaran adventure begins at the cruise center when you meet your crew and board the beautiful catamaran. Set sail for a fantastic deserted beach and stop for snorkeling along the way. Marvel at the variety of tropical fish and the colorful corals and sponges. After snorkeling enjoy some time on the beautiful beach prior to your sail back to the

cruise center. On the way back savor a complimentary beverage. (Duration: 3 hours)



This amazing and unforgettable excursion lets you explore Grand Turk's natural beauty on horseback – both on land and in the ocean. To start this incredible adventure board your air-conditioned transportation for a scenic 20-minute ride to the Grand Turk Indigenous Horse Shelter, where your tour begins. During a quick tour of the horse shelter, learn how the local wild horses and donkeys evolved over time from being the main means of transportation during the height of the salt industry, to becoming wandering, homeless animals until

the horse shelter was built for. Once safely mounted on your horse and after an orientation period enjoy a leisurely guided ride on the bluff overlooking the beach. Return to the beach where your guide will unsaddle the horse and prepare it for the swim. Next, remount your horse and enter the ocean for one of the most exciting experiences ever – a swim in the ocean with your horse! Afterwards, you can take a shower and relax before being transferred back to the ship. (Duration: 2.15 hours. Minimum age for passengers is 6 years. Maximum weight is 250 lbs.)

Horseback Riding on Grand Turk - Call Gail 649-946-2277
Provo Ponies - Horses on Providenciales - 649-946-5252
Providenciales - Contact Philip Outten 649-941-3610



Relax at the Grand Turk Cruise Center in your own private pool cabana. Take in the beautiful view of Grand Turk Cruise Center's magnificent swimming pool and Jimmy Buffett's world-famous Margaritaville restaurant and bar from the shade and comfort of your own poolside cabana, complete with outdoor shower and private waiter service. (The cabana can accommodate up to 4 guests) Duration: varies.

Grand Turk Lighthouse--The lighthouse was brought in pieces from the UK where it had been constructed in 1852. It has been restored and still works guarding the northern tip of Grand Turk, the capital island of the Turks and Caicos. The lighthouse and lighthouse keeper's house is a prized historic site and is protected by the National Trust. The Lighthouse provides some shade, a picnic area and an excellent viewing spot for the whales in February and March. The lighthouse hill overlooks North Creek, an inland body of water or lake that a growing number of historians argue is the closest fit to the description that Columbus gave for the island that he first encountered on his 1492 voyage to the New World.
http://www.tcmuseum.org/landmarks/grand_turk_lighthouse/