



Best of the Rest



Turks & Caicos (p392)

From posh beachside resorts in Providenciales to the gorgeous remote desert islands of fantasies.

Cayman Islands (p401)

Grand Cayman is one of the Caribbean's top family vacations spots, with one superb beach and oodles of water sports.

Montserrat (p412)

This enchanting and tiny island nation mixes volcanic devastation with pockets of tropical beauty.

Top: Blue iguana (p405), Grand Cayman;
Bottom: Boardwalk, Turks & Caicos (p392)

TOP: VLAFIO VALLENARI/GETTY IMAGES ©;
BOTTOM: JODI JACOBSON/GETTY IMAGES ©

Turks & Caicos



HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 **Grace Bay Beach** (p392) Walk the length of the sand to see if it's really twelve miles long like everyone says.
- 2 **Grand Turk** (p398) Explore a great little colonial town on a great huge beach.
- 3 **Middle Caicos** (p397) Get lost and debate whether to be found.
- 4 **Salt Cay** (p396) Watch humpback whales swim past.

Conch shells, Turks & Caicos

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The Turks and where? That's the reaction most people have when you mention these tropical isles. Although small in size, they offer a range of experiences. Providenciales gets all the noise and has constant construction along its beautiful main beach. It's an ever-more-popular destination for upscale vacationers looking for low-key fun in the sun.

But everywhere else in the Turks and Caicos (population 32,500) makes Providenciales look like Manhattan. On island after island, you'll find few people, endless white beaches and no end of good diving and snorkeling offshore. Even the nominal capital, cute little colonial Grand Turk, seems like a characterful backwater on any day cruise ships aren't in port.

If you're looking for your desert-island paradise, you might find it here.

CAICOS ISLANDS

The fan of islands that form the main landmass of this nation are the Caicos Islands, which range from the nearly uninhabited East Caicos to the condo-sprouting Providenciales.

Providenciales

POP 23,800

Providenciales, or Provo as it's known locally, is the tourism capital of the Turks and Caicos. It's home to a busy international airport, some fairly rampant development and its crowning glory, miles of beautiful white-sand beaches along its northern coast.

Everything is modern and commercial because it's mostly new. There's no old town – just a few decades ago, this was all salt flats.

Sights

Grace Bay Beach

Beach

The biggest attraction on the island is this world-famous stretch of sand, notably long and beautiful even by Caribbean standards. Though it's dotted with hotels and resorts, its sheer size means that finding your own square of paradise is a snap.