

Cayman Confidential

Sightseeing, golfing, diving, snorkelling, fishing, hiking, shopping...and much more! Although the Cayman Islands are relatively small, there is an amazing variety of things to do if you choose to tear yourself away from our beautiful, serene beach and property at London House. Check here often for ideas and suggestions and for useful links to other Cayman websites to help you plan your visit.



Quick Facts

- The Cayman Islands are located in the western Caribbean, 480 miles south of Miami, 150 miles south of Cuba, and 180 miles northwest of Jamaica. Flying time from Miami is about 90 minutes. From the U.S., the Cayman Islands is one of the closest Caribbean destinations to reach.
- Grand Cayman is the largest of the three islands, approximately 22 miles long and 8 miles wide at its widest point. The population is about 40,000, a third of whom are expatriots. The capital, George Town, is a clean and modern city, more like a small town by other country's standards.
- U.S. and Canadian citizens are required to have proof of citizenship, either a passport or a notarized birth certificate along with a matching photo id, plus a return airline ticket. Citizens of the EU, the UK or the Commonwealth, Israel and Japan need passports and return tickets, but not visas. Entry is granted for up to six months. Voter registration cards are no longer accepted.
- English is the official language of the Cayman Islands.
- The average winter temperature is 80 degrees F, in summer it's 86 degrees F. Temperatures seldom drop below 70oF or rise above 90oF and the annual average humidity is 83 percent. The rainy season is May to October. Hurricane season is from June to November.
- With over 500 banks and ATMs across the island, it's always easy to find one. Operating hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays to Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays. The U.S. dollar is widely accepted but the official currency is the Cayman Island dollar (CI).

London House, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

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Quick Facts (page two)

- Upon your departure from the islands, a sum of CI \$10 will be collected at the airport by your airline (unless it has already been charged on your ticket).
- The island is a duty free port and you will find low prices on china, crystal, perfume, jewellery and liquor.
- Electricity is 120 volts at 60 cycles. UK appliances will need an adapter, but US ones are fine
- If you plan on renting a car, you must get a visitors driver's licence from the car rental agency by presenting your valid drivers license. And don't forget . . . you'll be driving on the left side of the road, and the seatbelt law is in effect. But, you won't need a licence to charter a boat for the day.
- Taxis are readily available. Mini-buses marked "omnibus" constantly shuttle along main routes, including West Bay Road on Seven Mile Beach; they can be boarded at pick-up points by responding with a wave to the "toot-toot" of the driver's horn.
- Mopeds, scooters and bicycles are also available. Both 10-speed and mountain bikes are available for rent in numerous locations for about CI \$10 and \$12, respectively. Riders of mopeds and scooters are required by law to wear helmets.
- Postage rates from the Caymans are a real bargain. A postcard to the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean or Central America is only 20 cents; to the U.K. it's only 25 cents. [Sharon: correct?]
- No daylight savings time here. In the Caymans, it's Eastern Standard Time all year round.
- A brochure entitled "Getting Married in the Cayman Islands" and containing complete guidelines and information is available from Government Information Services, Cricket Square, Grand Cayman. Ph: (345) 949-8092; Fax: (345) 949-5936.
- The area code is 345, followed by a seven digit local number beginning with 94. Prepaid phone cards can be purchased at most service stations and at the Cable and Wireless Office, George Town.

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Quick Facts (page three)

- Internet cafés can be found at the O'Bar Queens Court, PD's Pub Galleria and Cafe Del Sol near the cinema.
- Emergency phone numbers:
Police 911
Fire 911
Ambulance 911
- Medical facilities include a 128-bed Cayman Islands Health Services Complex in George Town, supported by District Clinics, which provide comprehensive health care, including dental and eye care. Miami's Baptist Hospital provides tertiary level care for Cayman residents under an arrangement put in place by the Government. A recompression chamber is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Radio Stations:
Radio Cayman (89.9 & 105.3FM; 91.9 & 93.9FM Little Cayman & Cayman Brac).
Radio ICCI-FM (a non-commercial training station; 101.1FM)
Z99.9 (99.9FM)
Heaven 97 (97.9FM)
Vibe 98.9 FM
- Television stations: There are an estimated 4,500 satellite dishes throughout the country. Many hotels offer programming that includes popular U.S. daytime and evening shows broadcast by network-affiliated U.S. stations, as well as CNN and other major U.S. cable stations. Local stations include:
CITN, channel 27 and Westar (a 35-channel cable service available by subscription, with a reduced service to the Sister Islands).
CTS, channel 24.
CCT (Cayman Christian Television).
- Newspaper:
The Caymanian Compass is published daily from Monday to Friday. Friday's issue also provides information on entertainment venues.

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Did You Know?

Cayman Islands trivia.

- The Caymans lack rivers and streams because of the porous nature of the limestone rock that forms their base. The lack of runoff gives the surrounding Caribbean Sea exceptional visibility – often well over 120 feet!
- Seven Mile Beach is actually 5 ½ miles long.
- The national symbols are the Silver Thatch Palm Tree, the Wild Banana Orchid and the Cayman Parrot.
- Over 30,000 turtles have been released into the waters around Cayman by the Turtle Farm since its conservation program began in 1980.
- The Cayman Island's tackle record for Blue Marlin is 584 lbs!
- The Cayman Islands are recognized as the "birthplace" of recreational diving in 1957, when Bob Soto opened the Caribbean's first dive shop in Grand Cayman.
- Due to the number of families on the islands with the same name, locals are often called by their first name as in Miss Jane, or Mr. Tom, leaving the last name redundant.

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The Top 10!

Things you don't want to miss.

1. Take the Local to [Stingray City](#), a dive site that provides the only opportunity in the world to swim with more than two dozen "tame" Atlantic Southern Stingrays.
2. Taste the flavors of Cayman, such as conch fritters, a local Stingray beer, or a slice of key lime or coconut pie. At numerous restaurants serving island cuisine, try the farm-raised turtle steak or conch stew with coconut milk.
3. Explore the fantastic array of underwater life. Take your best shot at underwater photography. Classes and equipment are offered everywhere. Visitors who are not accomplished divers can access this marine treasure trove with a submarine ride, located at George Town harbor.
4. Run away to [Little Cayman](#), the smaller sister-island of Grand Cayman. Hop on an [Island Air](#) flight and disembark in an oasis where the whistling ducks, frigatebirds and red-footed boobies outnumber humans.
5. Spend an afternoon at Rum Point, on Grand Cayman's quiet North Side. Experience the best island atmosphere the way it used to be in a scenic spot known for its clear, calm waters and tall pines.
6. Head into history and visit the [National Trust](#) offices, located on Courts Road in George Town. Obtain one of the information sheets and tour brochures. Also visit the [National Museum](#), and restored sites such as the Bodden Town Guard House, Old Savannah Schoolhouse and Watlers Cemetery.
7. Dive the M/V Captain Keith Tibbetts, a 330-foot Russian frigate, at [Cayman Brac](#). The warship is now used for artificial reef diving and enables divers to explore the missile launcher, machine gun turrets, and swim-through access of the bridge and upper decks.
8. Live the legend of the [Barefoot Man](#), George Nowak. His music is a Cayman tradition, mixing calypso, reggae, soca and country and includes hundreds of original songs that you can take back home on CD or cassette.
9. Walk on the wild side of the [Mastic Trail](#), a hiker's paradise. Traversing the island from its south coast to the north, it passes through mangrove swamp, palm savannah and rocky outcroppings. The National Trust in George Town books morning and afternoon walks.
10. Take a 25-minute narrated aerial tour of the islands using [Island Air's](#) 19-passenger Twin Otter aircraft. Tours can be arranged through Seaborne Flightseeing Adventures at 949-6029. Cayman Helicopters Ltd. (345-949-4400) also offers a flightseeing tour aboard a six-passenger vehicle.

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Annual Events

April – [Cayfest](#) and [International Fishing Tournament](#)

May – [Batabano Carnival](#)

June – [Aviation Week](#)

July – [Taste of Cayman](#)

October – [Pirates Week & Heritage Days](#)

December – [The Parade of Lights](#)

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