

Cruising Guide to the Turks and Caicos Islands



Useful Information

The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) are made up of 40 islands and cays, only eight of which are inhabited. The islands are located 550 miles southeast of Miami, Florida; south of the Bahamas; directly east of Cuba; and north of the island of Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti.) The official language is English and the official currency is the US dollar. The islands are on Eastern Standard Time. Electrical service on the islands is 110 volt/60 cycle, similar to that found in the US and Canada.

Climate

Average summer temperatures (May –October) range between 85-90°F (29-32°C), while winter temperatures (November-May) range from 80-84°F (27-29°C). Water temperature in the summer is 82-84°F (28-29°C) and in winter about 74-78°F (23-26°C). Constant trade winds keep the climate comfortable year-round and rainfall averages from 21 to 40 inches annually, depending on location, with the Turks Islands having lower rainfall averages than the Caicos Islands. Local lore boasts that TCI enjoys 350 days of sunshine every year. Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30th.

Economy

The leading sectors of the TCI economy are tourism, real estate development, offshore business services and fisheries. Financial services include 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.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are a United Kingdom Overseas Territory. A Governor is appointed by the Queen and presides over a Cabinet, consisting of an elected local government and appointed members. The main Government offices are located in Grand Turk, with offices on other Islands. The legal system is based on English Common Law.

Marine Services

In the TCI, yachtsmen will find state-of-the-art infrastructure, including a 20,000-pound marina forklift and 75-ton travel lift. Repair and maintenance services include fiberglass work, welding, bottom and topside painting, dry and wet storage, repair and repowering of engines and the rebuild and repair of props, rigging, running gear and transmissions. Our marinas have modern amenities and services with slips from 25 to 220 feet, so yachts of almost any size can be accommodated.

Ports of Entry and Procedures

Private boats are welcome year-round in the TCI. All visitors arriving by sea must clear Immigration and Customs. Ports of entry and contact information are provided in the table below:

Coastal Radar provides 12/7 information for incoming vessels		+1-649-946-4966
PROVIDENCIALES		
Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs (DEMA)	National Environmental Centre, Lower Bight Road	+1-649-941-5122
Caicos Marina and Shipyard	21° 45.667' N 72° 10.500' W	+1-649-946-5600
Blue Haven Marina	21° 49.084' N 72° 08.907' W	+1-649-946-9910
South Side Marina	21° 45.493' N 72° 13.535' W	+1-649-946-4747
South Dock (Sapodilla Bay)	21° 44.545' N 72° 16.860' W	+1-649-941-3662
Turtle Cove Marina*	21° 47.901' N 72° 12.468' W	+1-649-941-3781
GRAND TURK - +1-649-946-1613		
Marine Police Dock	21° 29.478' N 71° 8.440' W	
Cockburn Town Dock	21° 28.178' N 71° 8.964' W	
SOUTH CAICOS - +1-649-946-3735		
Government Dock	21° 29.339' N 71° 31.836' W	
Seaview Marina	21° 29.550' N 71° 32.065' W	+1-649-946-3508

*Coordinates are for Sellars Cut. Turtle Cove Marina recommends that guests wait at this location in order to take advantage of their free guide boat service.

When approaching one of the ports of entry, contact the one of the marinas either on VHF Channel 16 or by phone. You will then be given instructions as to where and how to proceed. You must remain onboard your vessel until a Customs and Immigration officer arrives, which most marina offices will arrange for you. The officers will issue clearance and provide information about regulations for cruising the waters of the Turks and Caicos Islands, as well as information regarding National Parks Regulations.

Vessels wishing to stay for only a few days will be issued a 7-day permit by the marina office for a fee of US\$100 (\$130 on weekends). Vessels wishing to stay longer will have to obtain a Cruising Permit which is valid for 90 days for a fee of US\$300. Cruising Permits can only be issued once for each vessel in any given calendar year but a 90 day permit can be renewed for an additional 90 day period in the same year issued. Clearance with Customs and Immigration is also required prior to departure, which, again, most marina offices will arrange for you.

Anchoring

All vessels greater than 18 meters (60 feet) intending to anchor within TCI territorial waters will require an Anchoring Permit from DEMA. Anchoring Permits cost US\$100, are valid for 30 days and can be acquired directly from DEMA or from ships' agents or Turtle Cove and Blue Haven Marinas.

There are several Large Vessel Anchoring Zones, located across the Turks and Caicos Islands:

ANCHORAGE NAME	COORDINATES
*Malcolm Roadstead LVAZ (NW Point, Providenciales)	21° 49.10' N 72° 21.00' W
*South Dock LVAZ (Providenciales)	21° 44.20' N 72° 16.80' W
*Outside Sellars Cut LVAZ (Providenciales)	21° 48.30' N 72° 12.70' W
Inside Sellars Cut (Providenciales)	21° 47.30' N 72° 13.10' W
*Pine Cay LVAZ (Pine Cay)	21° 53.30' N 72° 06.50' W
*West Caicos LVAZ (West Caicos)	21° 41.50' N 72° 28.20' W
*Cockburn Harbour LVAZ (South Caicos)	21° 29.40' N 71° 32.30' W
*Government Dock LVAZ (Grand Turk)	21° 26.08' N 71° 09.06' W
Public Dock (Grand Turk)	21° 28.12' N 71° 09.00' W
Hawks Nest Anchorage (Grand Turk)	21° 25.30' N 71° 07.50' W

* Designates a large vessel anchorage zone (LVAZ) for vessels over 18 meters

Note that even in LVAZs and other anchorages, all vessels are expected to anchor on clear sand. Damage to coral is an offence under the National Parks Ordinance and Fisheries Protection Ordinance, punishable by fines of up to \$50,000 and two (2) years imprisonment.

Immigration

All visitors are required to have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months. Visas are not required for citizens of the US, Canada, UK, and the EU. Visas may be required for nationals of some other countries. The Immigration Office can be contacted by phone at +1-649-941-7792 or

+1-649-941-7793 and by fax at +1-649-941-7794 or +1-649-941-6549.



The Immigration Officer will grant a stay of 7 days for visitors arriving by sea. A 30-day stay can be granted if requested. Visas may be extended in 30-day increments for the duration of a Cruising Permit.

Customs

Upon arrival, a Customs Officer will clear in both the vessel and the crew. The Officer will issue a Pleasure Craft Report of Arrival and Temporary Importation Declaration, which will declare any crew and goods on board. Any guns and ammunition on board must be turned over to the Customs Officer upon arrival and a proper receipt will be provided. Spearguns and Hawaiian slings are also illegal and must be presented to Customs or DEMA upon arrival. Twenty-four hours before departure, when arranging for outward clearance, notice should be given to Customs or DEMA requesting the return of any surrendered firearms and ammunition.

Pets

Before bringing any animal into the Turks & Caicos, you must obtain approval from the Department of Environmental Health. You are to complete this process with the Department and receive your Import Permit at least two weeks before travel.

Application Requirements:

A valid veterinary certificate from your country of origin (if this document is not in English it must be translated and notarised);

A completed import application (must be submitted and approved at least one week prior to travel);

A fee of \$50, per animal, to be paid upon arrival in the country.

The Department of Environmental Health:

Grand Turk (Main Office): (T) +1-649-946-2152 (F) +1-649-946-1984

Providenciales: (T) +1-649-941-5068 (F) +1-649-946-4110

North Caicos: (T) +1-649-946-7235

South Caicos: (T) +1-649-946-3240

Turks and Caicos Islands Marinas

PROVIDENCIALES	GPS Coordinates	Phone	# slips	Fuel?	Depth	Elec?	Water
Turtle Cove Marina*	21° 47.901' N 72° 12.468' W	+1-649-941-3781	65	Y	7.5 ft	Y	Y
Blue Haven Resort and Marina	21°49.084' N 72°08.907'W	+1-649-946-9910	78	Y	13 ft	Y	Y
South Side Marina	21° 45.493' N 72° 13.535' W	+1-649-946-4747	12	Y	6.5 ft (mht)	Y	Y
Caicos Marina and Shipyard	21° 45.667' N 72° 10.500' W	+1-649-946-5600		Y	8 ft (mht)	Y	Y
SOUTH CAICOS							
Seaview Marina	21° 29.550' N 71° 21.054' W	+1-649-946-3508	4	Y	7ft	Y**	Y

*Coordinates are for Sellars Cut. Turtle Cove Marina recommends that guests wait at this location in order to take advantage of their free guide boat service.

**110 can be run by cord.

Safety Equipment Requirements

All vessels cruising in the waters of the TCI must have the following safety equipment onboard:

- Functional lifejackets for all passengers onboard
- A first aid kit
- VHF Radio
- Parachute, Orange and Para-rocket flairs (flair guns are illegal in TCI)
- Flashlight
- Anchors
- Tools

Waste Handling

Treated sewage and bilge are not to be discharged from a ship, unless the ship not in port and is underway, at least 12 nautical miles from shore, and is proceeding at a speed of not less than 10 knots.

The discharge of treated sewage and bilge should not result in visible floating solids and should not discolor surrounding waters or result in a visible sheen.

Sewage sludge must be landed ashore for disposal.

Solid waste (trash), garbage, oil and noxious liquids are not to be discharged into the marine environment at any time.

TCI Fishing Regulations

Any person wishing to fish in the Turks and Caicos Islands must possess a valid fishing license. One-day and 30-day licenses are available for US\$10 and US\$30 respectively. They can be obtained from DEMA, local marinas and sport fishing operators.

Fishing in any Protected Area of the Turks and Caicos Islands is expressly prohibited.

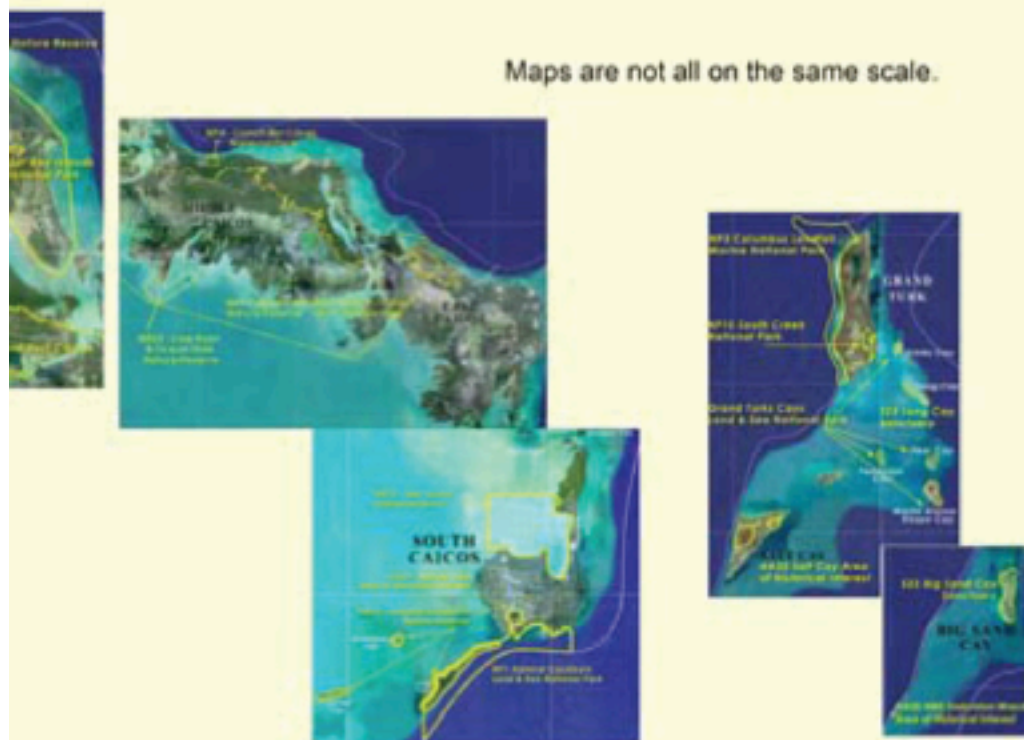
Lobster

Lobster season runs from August 1 – March 31 each year. Fishing for, or possessing lobster out of season is an offence punishable by up to US\$50,000 in fines. Additional prohibitions against the taking of lobster include the following:

- No device that will cause harm to the lobster, such as a hook, may be used. Lobsters must be landed in a condition whereby they can be returned unharmed to the sea.
- It is unlawful to possess any lobster bearing eggs.
- It is unlawful to strip or molest any egg-bearing lobster for the purpose of circumventing the above provision.
- It is unlawful to possess soft-shelled or moulting lobsters.
- It is unlawful to possess a lobster in the early stage of spawning, known colloquially as "tar-spotted."
- All lobster must be retained in whole condition until prepared for consumption.
- All lobster must, when whole, have a length of 3.25 inches, measured from the front of the groove between the horns directly above the eyes, along the middle of the back, to the rear edge of the carapace of back shell or when the tail has been separated, a tail weight of 5 ounces, whether processed or not.

Conch

- All harvested conch must have a minimum shell length of 7 inches, measured from the spiral tip to the foremost edge.



Parks Ordinance can be downloaded from the Government website at www.gov.tc/environment. Note that the following are prohibited in all TCI Protected Areas:

- The taking of any plant, animal or artifact.
- The destruction of or damage to any plant, animal or coral (living or dead).
- Anchoring of vessels greater than 60 ft., other than in an anchoring zone.
- The use of jet skis or hovercraft.
- Water skiing, except in a water-ski zone.
- The dumping of any refuse, abandoned vehicles, toxic or other waste or unsightly items.
- Playing any musical instrument, radio, cassette player, etc. to the discomfort of other persons.

The Turks and Caicos Islands have four wildlife sanctuaries, including the French, Bush and Seal Cays, Great Sand Cay, Long Cay and Three Mary Cays. It is an offence to enter these Protected Areas, without a Sanctuary Permit issued by DEMA.

Park Etiquette

Dive and snorkel boat moorings located in the Marine National Parks are identified by a 12 inch or 18 inch white buoy with a blue stripe. Watersports operators have first entitlements to moorings, but when unoccupied, they can be used by private yachts. None of these moorings should be used for extended stays.

The TCI motto for behavior in a Protected Areas is "take only pictures, leave only footprints (or bubbles)." Please abide by this rule.

Yacht Moorings

There are a limited number of permanent moorings for large vessels located around Providenciales and West Caicos. To occupy one of these moorings, please contact the appropriate organization listed below:

LOCATION	SPONSOR	LOCATION	CONTACT INFO
NW Point, Providenciales	Amanyara Resort	N - 21° 49.120'N, 72° 20.762'W S - 21° 47.350'N, 72° 20.325'W	Amanyara +1-649-941-8133
Children's Park (Inside Sellar's Cut)	Turtle Cove Marina	21° 47.350'N, 72° 13.104'W	Turtle Cove Marina +1-649-941-3781
Pine Cay, Providenciales	Blue Haven Marina	21° 53.112'N, 72° 06.745'W	Blue Haven Marina +1-649-946-9910
Grace Bay	Grace Bay Club	21° 48.194'N, 72° 10.441'W	Grace Bay Club +1-649-946-5050

The large vessel moorings that have been installed consist of a three point sea floor anchor (either epoxied rock pins or Helix sand anchors) with a 5/8 inch chain harness leading to 10 feet of 5/8 inch chain to which is attached a 2 inch nylon 3-strand mooring line. The nylon line attaches to a 24 inch buoy at the surface and is also attached to a 2 inch polypropylene pickup line (approximately 30 feet in length) to which a small white surface float is attached near the free end. Each mooring is located in between 15 and 30 feet of water. The moorings are inspected at least twice a year by the Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs staff or their designee. Please use your best judgment to determine if this mooring setup is adequate for your vessel. We also recommend that a visiting yacht have a crew member go into the water to inspect the mooring before tying up to it to ensure no damage has occurred between inspections.

Toxic Waste Management

Boaters are welcome to enjoy the waters around the TCI, but they are also asked to help preserve and protect the marine environment that makes these islands "Beautiful by Nature."

When cleaning your boat, please use products that do not include toxic ingredients such as chlorine, phosphates and ammonia. Please use environmentally friendly cleaning methods and products. Baking soda and vinegar can be used in place of many alternative cleaners and they are not toxic to the marine environment. Here are some examples:

- Use baking soda in place of scouring powders (such as Comet)
- Mix a cup of vinegar in two gallons of water to clean floors
- Mix a cup of vinegar in a quart of water to clean windows
- Mix a half a cup of vinegar with a half a cup of water to clean varnish
- Use baking soda and a brush to clean the heads
- Use baking soda and a scouring cloth to clean showers
- Make a baking soda paste to remove stains from fiberglass
- Mix two tablespoons cream of tartar with one quart hot water to clean aluminum
- Use cider vinegar to clean chrome and baby oil to polish it
- Make a paste of equal proportions of lemon juice and salt to remove mildew

In addition to cleaning supplies, cruisers have many other chemicals onboard that can be harmful to the marine environment. These include petroleum products (fuel, oil, etc.), paints and related supplies, and batteries. Please use caution when working with any of these items to ensure they do not end up in the marine environment. Some suggestions include:

- Place used oil or other potentially toxic liquids in a container that cannot fill with rain and overflow into the environment. Dispose of at facilities with proper waste handling procedures in place
- Trade in used batteries for a possible credit on a new battery. Never dispose of them by throwing them overboard.
- When possible, use paints that are not solvent based
- Use bilge pump switches that do not contain mercury

Limiting the Environmental Impact of Vessels

Boaters of all types can have an adverse impact on the marine environment if they are not careful. Underwater plants and corals can be accidentally damaged and, if that happens, the damage can take years to heal. Here are a few simple rules that boaters of vessels of any size should follow:

- Avoid disturbing vegetation with outboard motor props
- Read navigation charts to identify locations of potentially sensitive areas and areas that may be too shallow for your vessel
- Use only designated cuts to pass through coral reef areas – they are on your navigation charts
- Dispose of all waste properly
- Report any accidental boat contact with coral reefs to the TCI Government's Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs
- Request assistance when navigating unfamiliar channels and marina entrances

Important Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

TCI Customs and Immigration	Providenciales	+1-649-946-4241	Tccustoms@tcway.tc
TCI Customs and Immigration	Grand Turk	+1-649-946-2993	Customs_GDT@gov.tc
TCI Dept. of Environment and Maritime Affairs	Providenciales	+1-649-941-5122	cnvironment@gov.tc
Emergency Services	All Islands	911	
Cheshire Hall Medical Center	Providenciales	+1-649-941-2800	ctaylor@interhealthcanada.tc
Cockburn Town Medical Center	Grand Turk	+1-649-941-2100	ctaylor@interhealthcanada.tc

About the Sponsors

The Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs (DEMA) is the governmental agency in the Turks and Caicos charged with the responsibility to ensure sustainable utilization of the natural resources of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and to protect and promote biodiversity and economic prosperity through a sustainable fishing industry, a protected areas system and improved maritime affairs.

The Turks & Caicos Reef Fund (TCRF) was founded in 2010 and is an all volunteer-run organization that provides funding for education, research and conservation programs to individuals, organizations and agencies that help to preserve and protect the environment of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Their goal is to have at least 85% of all funds raised through voluntary contributions from divers, snorkelers and other visitors to the Turks & Caicos Islands directed to the Fund's programs.

Turtle Cove Marina is Providenciales' oldest and most centrally located marina in Turtle Cove. Turtle Cove Marina is a full service marina and a port of entry.

Amanyara - Set on the beautiful island of Providenciales in the Turks and Caicos Islands, Amanyara is a secluded haven embracing the untrammelled elements of the Caribbean. Bordering the pristine reefs of Northwest Point Marine National Park, acclaimed for some of the world's best wall and reef diving, the resort draws its name from the Sanskrit-derived word for 'peace' and yara, the word for 'place' in the language of the Arawak Amerindians. Offering 40 timber-shingled Guest Pavilions tucked along the coast and a number of Aman Villas, our luxury Caribbean beach resort enjoys a contemporary layout and design, open to the sights and sounds of the turquoise sea.

Blue Haven Resort and Marina in Turks and Caicos is ideally located to explore and experience the true Turks and Caicos Islands while having all of Providenciales' amenities and conveniences only minutes away. They provide the best for everybody, whether you are a lover of water sports, dining, golfing, shopping or simply lounging around and taking in some well-earned rest and relaxation.

Since 1997, Big Blue Unlimited has developed the most comprehensive, innovative and "small group" water sports and eco-adventure programs in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Based on Providenciales, whether scuba diving, kayaking, kiteboarding, kitesurfing, snorkeling, swimming or relaxing on the beach, their trips span the width and depth of the Turks and Caicos Islands.




Department of Environment
and Maritime Affairs



Turtle Cove
MARINA
Providenciales - Turks and Caicos Islands

AMANYARA



an  IGY destination



BIG BLUE UNLIMITED