

## **TURKS & CAICOS FACT SHEET**

The Turks & Caicos Islands are a British Overseas Territory located 575 miles south of Miami. There are 40 islands that comprise the territory, of which eight are inhabited.

Providenciales (Provo) is the primary tourism island in the country. World acclaimed Grace Bay beach is located on Provo, as well as the international airport that receives most of the international flights arriving in the destination.

Grand Turk (one of the 40 islands) is home to the capital and the Carnival Cruise line port.

### **Weather:**

The Turks & Caicos Islands boast 350 days of annual sunshine. A tropical marine climate with low humidity makes visiting Turks & Caicos a pleasure in every season. Easterly trade winds are refreshing and unlike the neighboring Bahamas islands, the Turks & Caicos rarely experiences cold fronts.

Average temperatures range between 85 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit from June until October, and from November until May temperatures range between 80 to 84 degrees Fahrenheit.



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## **Currency:**

Monetary transactions are conducted using U.S. dollars in the Turks & Caicos Islands. International banks include Scotiabank, Royal Bank of Canada, and First Caribbean (CIBC). ATM's are located at all banks, and most merchants accept Visa and MasterCard. American Express is no longer accepted at many businesses.

## **Driving:**

Driving is on the left side of the road. There are no traffic lights on the islands, only roundabouts and stop signs. The majority of visitors find the islands' roads easy to navigate. Most major car hire companies are located in Providenciales, and locally owned car hire agencies are available on other islands (i.e. North Caicos and Grand Turk). In peak season it is recommended that visitors reserve rental cars prior to arrival. International driving licenses are valid for 90 days.

## **Health Care:**

There are two new hospitals located in Providenciales and Grand Turk, both accredited by Interhealth Canada. Internationally trained medical professionals who provide service in English staff these hospitals. In addition, there are a number of well-managed local health clinics that offer walk-in service. Air ambulance service to Miami and Bahamas is also available.

## **Government:**

The Turks & Caicos Islands are a British Overseas Territory. The islands enjoy an autonomous government system and have had a constitution since 1976. The legal system is based on English common law. According to preliminary Census results from 2012, approximately 31,500 people reside in Turks & Caicos Islands.

## **Air Transportation:**

The major international airport is located on Providenciales (PLS). The airport receives direct international flights from New York City/New York, Newark/New Jersey, Charlotte/North Carolina, Miami/Florida, and Toronto/Canada on a year round basis. Seasonal direct flights also originate from Boston, Dallas, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Houston, Montreal and Ottawa.

Regional carriers provide direct flights to Bahamas, Haiti, Jamaica and Dominican Republic.

British Airways features a direct flight each week from London, England, with a stop in Nassau, Bahamas.

There is also a busy private terminal (FBO) on Providenciales featuring integrated customs and immigration offices, which will be expanded in 2013. Work is underway to expand the terminal and parking space at the Turks & Caicos International Airport.

Visitors can also fly to other islands in the Turks & Caicos using one of two local airlines - Air Turks & Caicos, and Caicos Express Airways.

## **Shopping:**

Providenciales offers modern conveniences and some lovely carriage trade shops. Grocery stores, pharmacies and hardware stores offer the same range of products found offshore. Carriage trade shops feature art and duty free items such as jewelry and sunglasses. Unlike other Caribbean destinations, the Turks & Caicos is not a mecca for retail indulgences, however there are enough stores for holiday shopping and to find essentials.

**Visit our web site to view more images of Grace Bay in  
Providenciales, Turks & Caicos Islands.  
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