



OCEAN CLUB RESORTS

Double your pleasure in Turks & Caicos

With breezes that are reliably hot and dry and water temperatures never chillier than 23° C, the Turks & Caicos chain of islands is a perennial favorite of Canadians who prefer the Caribbean road less-traveled. Charming and compact, Providenciales or Provo, as it is known, is the largest in the chain where cycling is the transportation of choice, English the language of choice and the US dollar the currency of choice.

Fronting one of the finest beaches in Provo, Ocean Club with 87 units and Ocean Club West with 81 units, are twin resorts that

marry seaside décor with casual elegance. Along Grace Bay revered for its white talc sand, spectacular coral reefs and azure waves that lap the shoreline, the two all-suite resorts are within a fifteen minute stroll from each other. Guests at either can enjoy the facilities at both with a 'Stay at One, Play at Both' policy that includes gratis shuttle buses between the pair of properties.

Suites at both resorts – junior to three-bedroom – are deliciously spacious with kitchenettes equipped with coffee makers, dishes and cutlery, two-burner range top, microwave oven and large refrigerator. The multi-bedroom suites have separate dining and living areas, washers and dryers and bathrooms with tubs. All have gratis Wi-Fi access and screened-in terraces or balconies with doors you can leave open at night for a lullaby courtesy of the beguiling beach below.

Friendly front desk staff at both resorts can arrange a myriad of massages either en suite or inside the aptly named Spa Tropique with its warm colors, aromatic scents and a jazzy soundtrack that is never too loud. Massages worth the splurge include the "Turks Island Salt Glow" that uses sea salts

from the flats of Salt Cay and a gentle "Eye Candy" massage that softens weary lines around the eyes. Visit www.spatropique.com

Although the ocean is a seashell away, three freshwater pools appeal to those who prefer not to dip their toes in the sand. For those who enjoy getting out on the waves, there are plenty of options from diving and kayaking to sailing to one of many nearby deserted islands. A trio of lit tennis courts, gratis bicycles and a fitness center cater to the active-minded and with several gourmand grocery stores within cycling distance, the barbecue grills at both resorts are a welcome addition.

Ocean Club is the closest to the Provo Golf Club with 18 holes of championship golf and rugged limestone outcroppings. Dining at the Club includes Opus with an inviting single malt menu, superb seafood entrées and a long winding bar for an island meet and greet. The beachfront Cabana Bar & Grille tempts with a beet mojito and platter of perfectly fried conch fritters. At Ocean Club West, Seaside Café is barefoot on the beach par excellence for conch ceviche and a frosty Turk's Head beer to toast the sun as it lazily melts into the horizon. — MELANIE REFFES

