

7 APR 1995

For Six Month Period Ending \_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert date)

Name of Registrant

Registration No.

Aaron D. Cushman & Associates, Inc.

2572

Business Address of Registrant

35 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 850, Chicago, IL 60601

I-REGISTRANT

1. Has there been a change in the information previously furnished in connection with the following:

(a) If an individual:

- Residence address Yes  No
- (2) Citizenship Yes  No
- (3) Occupation Yes  No

(b) If an organization:

- (1) Name Yes  No
- (2) Ownership or control Yes  No
- (3) Branch offices Yes  No

2. Explain fully all changes, if any, indicated in item 1.

IF THE REGISTRANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL, OMIT RESPONSE TO ITEMS 3, 4, and 5.

3. Have any persons ceased acting as partners, officers, directors or similar officials of the registrant during this 6 month reporting period? Yes  No

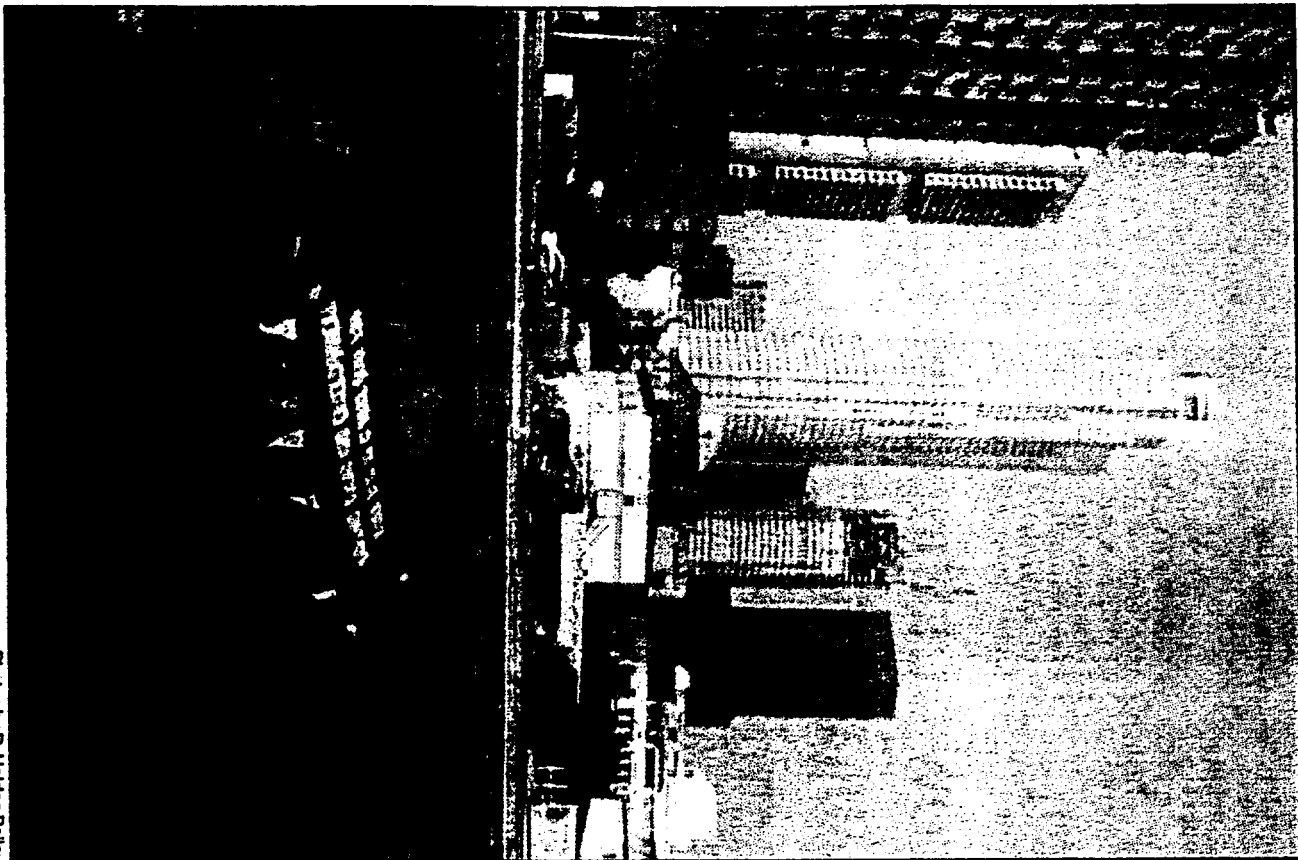
If yes, furnish the following information:

Name

Position

Date Connection Ended

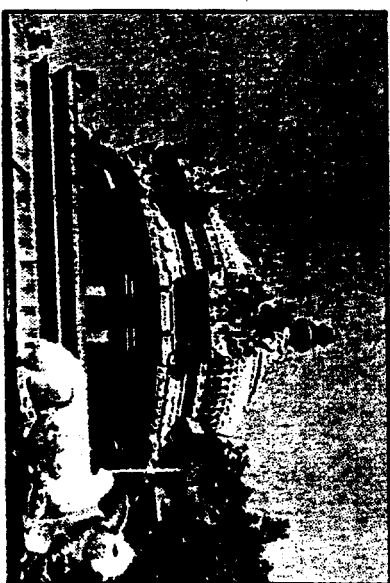
INTERNAL SECURITY SECTION REGISTRATION UNIT  
 95 JUL -6 19:49  
 RECEIVED  
 DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
 CRIMINAL DIVISION



Photos by D. Holden Bailey



The sights of Singapore include, clockwise from left, a tour boat on the Singapore River, an elderly man taking a break in a temple, and a hindu temple.



# Singapore: Eastern city fun destination for traveler

(Continued from Page G4)

The Singapore Zoological Gardens contains more than 1,600 creatures in natural habitats of jungle and streams instead of the outdated cages with iron bars.

The Singapore Zoo is famous for its successful orangutan breeding program. Their most popular orangutan, Ah Meng, often has breakfast or high tea with delighted visitors.

The newly opened Night Safari Park, the world's first, has already become a hit. Visitors can stroll along a jungle trail or ride on a tram to observe the park's 1,200 nocturnal animals at night, when they are most active. The roars of large cats coming out of the sweltering darkness are guaranteed to raise the hackles on the back of your neck.

Sentosa is the Asian version of Disneyland, even down to its monorail. This resort island can be reached from Singapore by ferry or by cable car.

The attractions include the ASEAN village where visitors can discover the cuisine, crafts, and dances of Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and the Philippines; and Underwater World, Asia's largest tropical oceanarium. For sun lovers, there are tropical beaches and watersports galore.

Singapore's multi-cultural population ensures that there is usually a festival of some sort going on.

Ponggal, the Harvest Festival, is celebrated by southern Indians. Thaipusam, a Hindu festival, is a procession of entranced men carrying huge steel arches called kavadis, which are attached to their bodies by steel spikes, hooks, and skewers.

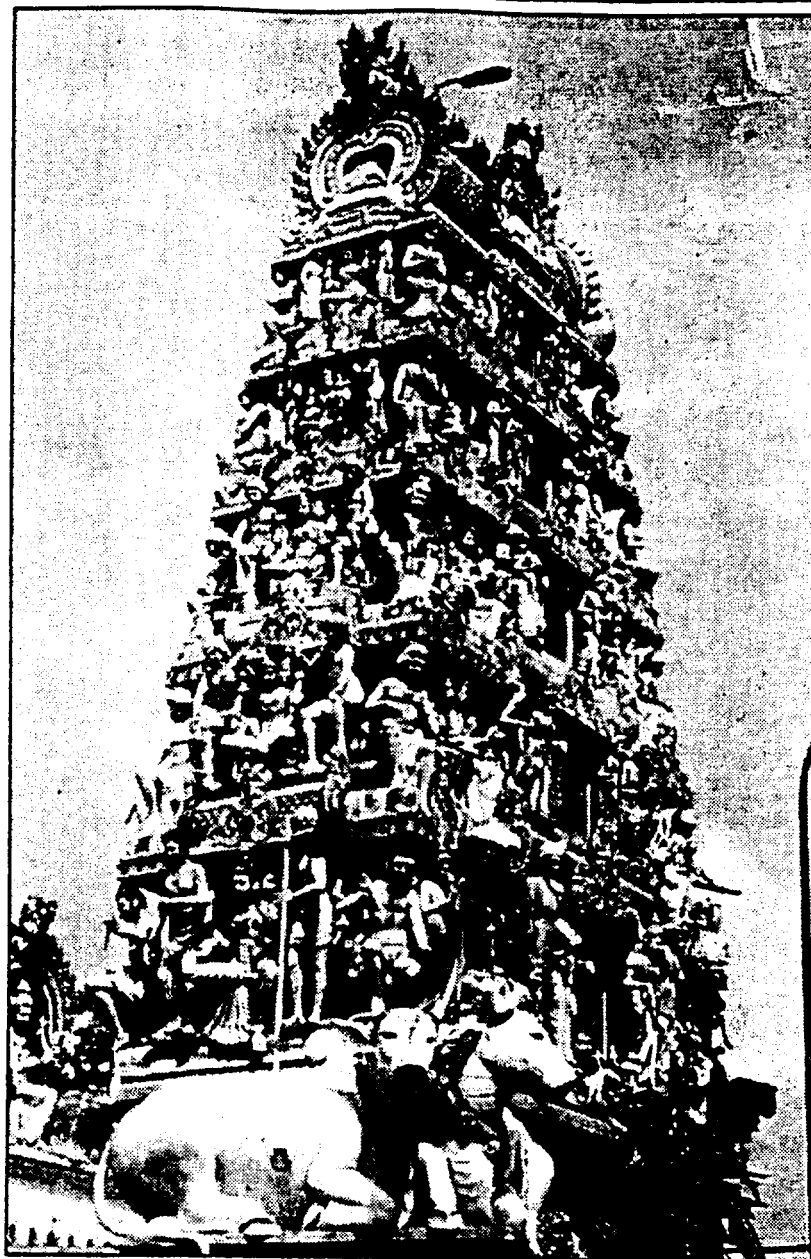


Photo by D. Holden Bailey

The Sri Mariamman Temple, Singapore's oldest Hindu temple, was established in 1827.

## Many celebrations

One of the most colorful celebrations is the Lunar New Year, which is centered in Chinatown. The Dragon Boat Festival is in memory of an ancient Chinese poet and statesman who drowned himself in protest of political corruption and injustice.

Ramadan is a month of daytime fasting and nighttime feasting for the Muslims. Vesak Day is a Buddhist celebration of Lord Buddha's birth and Thimithi is the annual fire walking ceremony.

It is said that the Singaporeans live to eat, and this is reflected in the abundance of gastronomic delights found at every turn. Whether you prefer outdoor seafood stalls, five-star restaurants, or anything in between, you'll find it here.

Try your skill with chopsticks at Chinese restaurants, burn out your taste buds with Indonesia's spicy dishes, gorge yourself on pastrami and rye at New York style delis, or jeopardize your hearing nerves while dining at the Hard Rock Cafe.

Singapore has the well-deserved reputation of being one of the safest cities in the world. Tourists and residents alike wander the streets at all hours.

The waterfront area along the Singapore River is popular for its trishaw rides and sunset cruises.

## Plenty of entertainment

Orchard Road is famous for its fashionable lounges, friendly pubs, and lively discos. Outdoor cabarets and karaoke lounges are found in many areas around town.

The culturally starved can find ballets, plays, or symphonies at many locations, as well as folk dances and other cultural performances put on by the various ethnic groups of Singapore.

From its humble beginnings as a simple fishing village, the city-state of Singapore has meteorically risen to its present position of esteemed international status. It has turned into a popular vacation destination in itself, and its location makes it an ideal base for the exploration of the rest of southeast Asia.

## If you go

**Geography:** Connected to the southern tip of Peninsular Malaysia by a causeway, Singapore consists of the main island, which is 238 square miles in area, and 58 smaller islets.

**Getting around:** The easiest way to see Singapore is by taking one of its 10,000 taxis, all of which offer excellent service at reasonable rates.

Rental cars are available, but parking can be a problem in some areas and they are relatively expensive. The city bus system is sometimes confusing, but is very good and inexpensive.

The Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system is cheap and easy to use. Trishaws are an excellent way to get a close-up look of Singapore. Boat tours are available on the Singapore River, in Singapore Harbor, and around the nearby islets.

**Safety:** Singapore is not a good place to be if you're criminally bent. Laws are strictly enforced and penalties are often relatively severe.

If you're a typical tourist, however, you'll enjoy a feeling of complete safety while walking Singapore's refreshingly clean streets or when using any of the city's public transportation.

**Required documents:** U.S. Citizens need only a valid passport and onward travel reservations.

**Climate:** Average daytime temperature is around 80 degrees, with afternoon highs reaching the upper 80s. The months of June and July are often extremely hot.

The rainy season of November-January is slightly cooler. Torrential rainfalls during this period are common but usually end quickly.

**Currency:** \$1 U.S. is \$1.56 (Singapore dollar) as of 12-9-94.

**Dress:** Casual clothing is the norm in Singapore. Shorts for

both men and women are very acceptable. Ties are usually worn only for formal occasions, and jackets are rarely worn.

**Tipping:** Is usually not required or expected. Most hotels add a 10 per cent service charge to bills.

**Time:** Eight hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. Sports

**Sports:** Besides a plethora of watersports, such as scuba diving, snorkeling, wind surfing, sailing, canoeing and water-skiing, there are tennis, squash, horse racing, several golf courses, and even ice skating to be found in Singapore.

**Lodging:** Singapore has an extremely wide variety of accommodations to offer visitors. Rates run from less than \$20 at small budget hotels up to several hundred dollars at some of the most luxurious.

The elegant Raffles Hotel, one of the most famous hotels in the world, has just undergone a \$160 million dollar restoration. Often called "The Grand Old Lady of the East," this 19th century hotel has long been a favorite resting place for royalty, statesmen, film stars, and authors. The Singapore Sling was born in the Raffle's bar.

The Beaufort Singapore, on Sentosa, is Singapore's first resort hotel. It is surrounded by acres of lush gardens and ponds filled with lily pads and tiny frogs. Semi-tame monkeys roam freely about the grounds.

The Duxton has been called, "a wealthy friend's home masquerading as a discreet hotel." This classy Colonial-style hotel, along with numerous upscale shops, is in restored row houses in the Tanjong Pagar area of Singapore.

**For more information contact:**  
Singapore Tourist Promotion Board, 590 Fifth Ave., 12th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10036; phone: 212-302-4861; Fax: 212-302-4801.

Singapore Tourist Promotion Board, 180N Stetson Blvd., 2 Prudential Plaza, Chicago, Ill. 60601; phone: 312-220-0099; Fax: 312-220-0020.

Singapore Tourist Promotion Board, 8484 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 510, Beverly Hills, Calif. 90211; phone: 213-852-1901; Fax: 213-852-0129.

*(D. Holden Bailey is a freelance travel writer living in Middletown, Ohio.)*

# Singapore is perfect entree to Southeast Asia

By Jerry Morris  
BOSTON GLOBE

Southeast Asia is becoming a hot spot for the cruise industry, which means a lot more people will be discovering Singapore.

The tiny island nation now has a new terminal to handle the growing number of cruise ships that use it as a home port. In December, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line will base its Sun Viking in Singapore year-round.

Singapore itself deserves a few days before or after any cruise. Some

may express concern, and others applaud, the country's laws as expressed in the well-publicized caning of an American last year. Jaywalking with a resident, I suddenly realized that the offense is punishable by whipping, but our Singapore friend assured us they don't whip anyone older than 50.

Singapore is indeed very clean and, with its British background, somewhat proper. But the city also has many exotic touches in its Chinatown, Little India and along Arab Street. You can feel comfortable dining on the wide-ranging delicacies of street vendors

because all the food is monitored for cleanliness.

One place not to miss is Singapore's Night Zoo, with more than 1,000 animals in natural settings. The park, open from 7:30 p.m. to midnight, is popular with families.

There are excellent hotels, including the new Four Seasons and superb Regent to the Hyatt, and, of course, the legendary Raffles, home of the "Singapore Sling."

Information: Singapore Tourist Board, 590 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10036 or call (212) 302-4861.



**The streets of Singapore are safe and clean and there is a near-total absence of fear from crime.**

BOB DEANS / Washington Bureau

Charlotte, NC  
OBSERVER

Charlotte - Gastonia - Rock Hill  
Met Area

Sunday

SUN 299.842

FEB 12, 1995

P3566

**LUCE** PRESS CLIPPINGS

## Now you can cruise into Singapore

By **JERRY MORRIS**  
Boston Globe

One of the newest areas of growth for cruising is in Southeast Asia, which means a lot of people will soon discover Singapore.

Singapore now has a modern cruise terminal to handle the growing number of vessels that use it as a home port. In December, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line will base its Sun Viking in Singapore year round. We sailed from there last summer aboard the Club Med II.

Singapore is an ideal destination in itself and deserves a few days before or after any cruise. Some may express concern, and others applaud, the country's laws as expressed in the well-publicized caning of an American youth last year.

Jaywalking with a resident, I suddenly realized that offense is punishable by a whipping, but our Singapore friend assured us that they don't whip anyone over 50.

Singapore is indeed very clean and, with its British background, somewhat proper, but this only adds to its enjoyment. While the city is very modern, it has many touches of the exotic in its Chinatown, Little India and along Arab Street. It's also a culinary paradise with its wide range of Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese and other dishes. It's also a place where you can feel comfortable dining from the delicacies of street vendors or hawkers, as all the food is monitored for cleanliness. A great introduction to this part of the world.

One place not to miss is the zoo, especially at night. Singapore is home to the world's first Night Zoo, with more than 1,000 animals, all in a natural setting. The park is open from 7:30 p.m. to midnight and is very popular with families. Visitors can either walk the trails or ride a tram.

There are excellent hotels here, including the new Four Seasons and superb Regent to the Hyatt, and, of course, the legendary Raffles, home to celebrities and the "Singapore Sling."

### If you're going

For information about Singapore, contact the Singapore Tourist Board, 590 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10036; (212) 302-4861, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays.

FEB 12, 1995

N4210

**LUCE** PRESS CLIPPINGS

# Modern, exotic Singapore beckons world travelers

By JERRY MORRIS  
The Boston Globe

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For more information, write to the Singapore Tourist Board, 590 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10036; or telephone (212) 302-4861.

# Singapore visitors met with courtesy and charm

Bird-singing contests, afternoon tea ceremonies drive home the fact that this modern economic hub is still distinctly Asian

By VALERIE TAMIS  
Correspondent

The flat-bottomed wooden bumboat cut through the Singapore River, past tiers of stark modern office buildings, under vaulted bridges, along a shore lush with palm trees and magenta bougainvillea. The water taxi's red-and-green prow displayed large black eyes ringed in white. The captain said they spotted dangers and evils. At the tour's end, each passenger received a moist towel for cleaning hands.

"Only in Singapore," a woman whispered.

Only in Singapore could a half-hour river excursion reveal the soul of a city. The steel and glass skyline validates Singapore's clout as the financial hub of south-east Asia. The sanitary coda to the boat ride reminds visitors that tidiness is the *modus vivendi* here, backed with stiff fines for littering, jaywalking and smoking in public.

But beyond the immaculate shopping malls, deeper roots confirm Singapore's toehold on Asia. Once a crossroads for itinerant traders and later a British free port, today the island-city thrums with a potpourri of cultures, religions and lifestyles. It's in those Chinese, Indian and Malay neighborhoods where visitors discover Singapore's other personality.

Start with an adventure that's uniquely Singaporean: the weekly bird-singing contest held at the corner of Tiong Bahru and Seng Poh Roads in Chinatown. Each morning, birding enthusiasts gather here with their pet sharmas, merboks, thrushes and mata putehs, native birds prized for their melodious genes. These Chinese gentlemen drink coffee and swap dietary and training techniques to produce good tonal quality in their birds. Showtime for the birds is 8 a.m. to noon Sundays.

## **Insight into ethnic group**

The birds sing away in hundreds of ornate bamboo cages, embellished with jade and ivory. They are strung on a framework of poles set exactly 22 feet from the ground. Sharmas sing with sharmas, merboks with merboks, while judges roam from group to group, listening to the tuneful cacophony and seeking the Master Chirper, the bird with the perfect pitch.

"It's a healthy sport," participant Johnny Ong admits. "And it requires great patience because preparing these birds for competition can take years of training. But truthfully, it's my only hobby and 'vice.'" It's also an introduction to Singapore's dominant ethnic group, the Chinese.

Roaming through Chinatown's complex of shops, shrines and temples reveals a time-honored way of life. Along the narrow sidewalks, fortune tellers read futures in palms and faces; artisans create masks and lion heads for the upcoming Lunar New Year festival. The vast Wet Market (between Trengganu and Smith Streets; open daily except Monday) houses several floors of individ-

Contra Costa Times  
Walnut Creek, CA  
February 26, 1995  
Circ: 105,674

Valley Times  
Pleasanton, CA  
February 26, 1995  
Circ: 40,387

West County Times  
Pinole, CA  
February 26, 1995  
Circ: 33,761

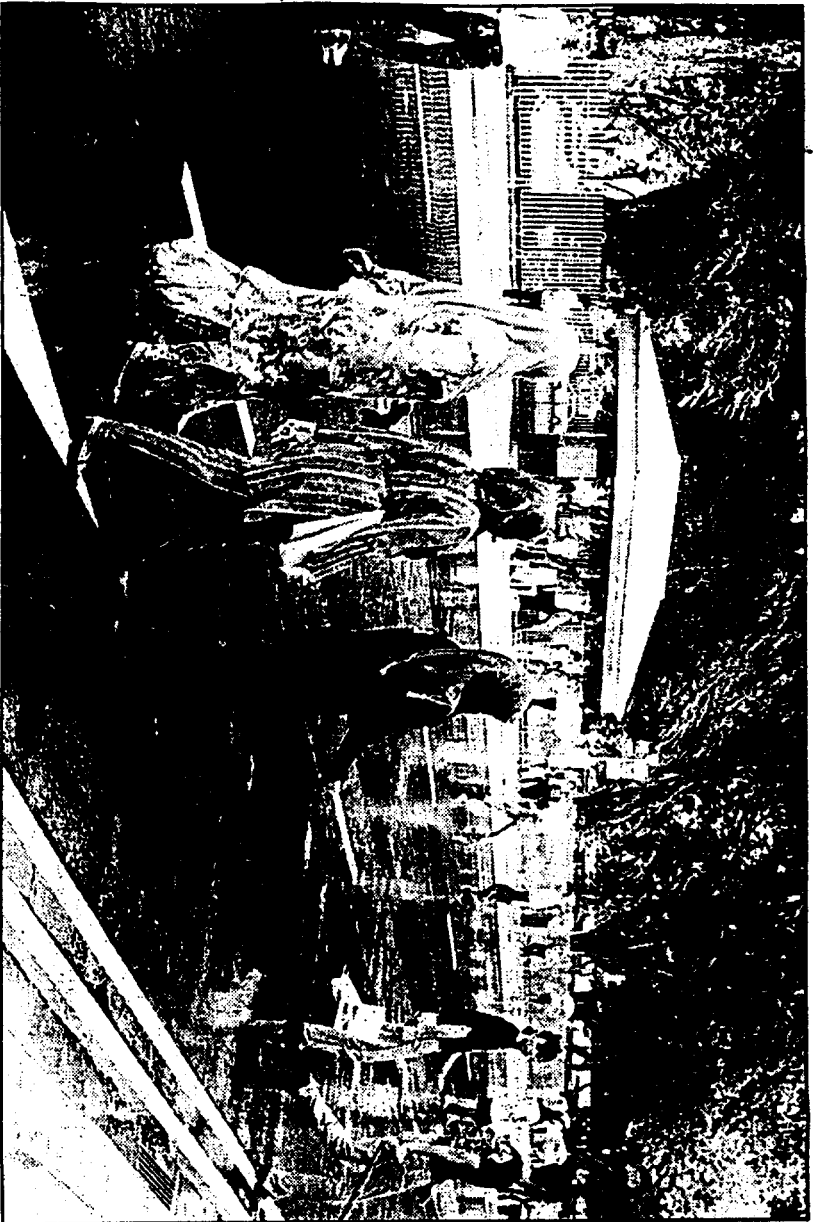
ual stalls where locals come and bargain vociferously to get the best price for orchid leis and exotic fruits, fresh crab and squid, Oriental herbs and faux silk robes emblazoned with tigers and panthers.

Walking through the wrought-iron gates of Thian Hock Keng Temple (Telok Ayer Street; open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily), you immediately recognize the tangy aroma of burning incense and joss sticks. Singapore's oldest Chinese temple is an architectural gem, with a tiled roof supported by black lacquered columns and granite pillars entwined with dragons. Inside, near the carved wooden altar, a lone tradesman charges a few pennies for sheets of painted paper money, which worshippers crumble and toss into a fire. The smoke carries the supplicants' prayers to heaven.

## **Traditional tea ceremony**

Don't leave Chinatown without partaking in the tea ceremony, the Eastern equivalent of an extended coffee break. As Queen Elizabeth II discovered on her visit here in 1989, it's done superbly at the Tea Chapter on Neil Street. Customers leave shoes in an outer hallway before settling in individual booths and nibble on sweet mooncakes while the waitress prepares the tea.

"The way of the tea can take two or more hours," she says, kneeling to pour boiling water over Golden Cassia tea leaves for the sixth time. Multiple infusions "guarantee proper color, fragrance and taste," she explains. Finally satisfied, she pours the tea into square sniffing cups for us to inhale its aroma, then into miniature round porcelain tasting cups.



**THREE MOSLEM** women walk along a street in Singapore, a city of many cultures.

VALERIE TAMIS/Special to the Times



**A WORSHIPPER** burns a paper with a prayer written on it in Thian Hock Keng Temple, Singapore's oldest Chinese temple.

A more boisterous atmosphere prevails at Woodlands Restaurant on Campbell Lane. Singapore's Indians gravitate here every morning to talk, drink chai (black tea laced with cinnamon, cardamom, ginger and milk) and eat *poori bajii* (dough puffs filled with chick peas and vegetables.) This is not a fancy bistro: There are formica tables, metal dishes and a sink in the center of the room for washing hands after the meal. Bring along the Straits, Singapore's excellent newspaper.

Afterward, stroll through Little India, centered around Serangoon Road. Sari-clad women cluster at wooden stalls buying exotic spices, dried beans, prawn crackers and rice. In shop after shop, Sikhs in turbans sell rainbow-hued silks for saris and blouses. "Good price, good price!" they say, then immediately lower it, hoping to initiate bargaining.

Arab Street is the Moslem district's main artery and general name. It's home to Singapore's third major ethnic group, the Malays. Dominated by the golden onion dome of Sultan Mosque, Arab Street is a technicolor warren of shops overflowing with basketry and rattan goods, intricately woven prayer rugs, batiks, brassware, perfumes and spices.

#### **Other spots to visit**

A tonier Arab attraction is the Alkaff Mansion (10 Telok Blangah Green), a short ride from the city. Once the stately home of a prosperous Arab family who dominated the real estate market here in the 1920s, the exquisitely restored mansion now houses one of Singapore's premier restaurants. Ceiling fans slowly rotate

over the dining area, where not two sets of antique tables and chairs are alike. Order a Singapore Sling in the Verandah Bar and enjoy the panoramic harbor vista.

Make no mistake. Numerous other attractions still await the traveler. The world-renowned zoo showcases the Komodo dragon, pygmy rhinos and the world's first Night Safari, which opened last summer. Visitors ride in open-air trams through several different natural habitats re-created as Himalayan foothills, a Nepalese river valley and a tropical African jungle. Looking at the hundreds of wild animals and birds on display verifies the adage that the night has a thousand eyes. At Sentosa Island's Underwater World, visitors walk through a 100-meter-long submerged acrylic tunnel to view sharks, manta rays and tropical fish in an ocean environment. Shopping in this city's multitude of upscale malls can generate an aerobic heartbeat, and most merchandise is duty-free. But it's sampling the rich cultural heritage that validates the entry stamp in your passport. This is signature Singapore.

**More information:** Singapore Tourist Promotion Board, 8484 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 510, Beverly Hills, CA 90211; 1-213-852-1901.

FEB 19, 1995

N27492

**LUCE** PRESS CLIPPINGS

# In Singapore, everything appears clean and controlled

By CATHERINE WATSON  
Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune

I didn't know this until I hit Singapore, but I like my cities a little rough around the edges. A little rough and a little dirty. That's urban reality to me — that's Paris, that's Athens, that's New York.

It's sure not Singapore. Singapore is anything but rough and dirty, which for me made it unreal — an entire city with the feel of a mega-mall.

"Singapore has some pretty stringent quality of life laws," a spokesman told me later. Nicely phrased. And something of an understatement.

I got the message before the plane even landed. Got it the minute I started filling out the customs form that the flight attendants handed out:

"Warning," it said, "Death for Drug Traffickers under Singapore Law."

The form then asked my "alias, if any," whether I had ever been prohibited from entering Singapore, and whether I had "ever entered Singapore using a different passport and name?"

Uh, no. (And why would I admit it if I had?) But even for a visitor with an immaculate slate, these questions set a definite tone. And that tone — of thoughtful and deliberate control — permeates the crannies of this very modern city.

Other Asians have trouble with it, too. As a wealthy young businesswoman in safe but not sanitized Hong Kong complained to me, "In Singapore, you have to get permission if you want to go to the toilet!" She wasn't exaggerating much.

Singapore is, after all, a tropical metropolis whose more than 11,000 elevators are each electronically monitored to make sure no one urinates in them or otherwise misbehaves.

"The well-being of the whole society is more important than the well-being of a single individual," the city-state's long-time leader Lee Kwan Yew once said in an American television documentary on elevator continence.

To keep the society strong, he said, you've got to have machinery to "detect, prove and punish" miscreants.

That's Singapore in a nutshell: a shopping mall with attitude.

Americans are flatly mystified by Singapore's rigidities. Look at the indignant American reaction to the caning of Michael Fay, the youth who was physically punished last year for minor vandalism here.

Many Americans think that such physical punishment is shocking; Singapore thinks it's fair. We think the city's surveillance level is disturbing; residents find it reassuring. We think the rules are petty; they think — along with much of the rest of the world — that we're lawless.

The Singapore government definitely sets a high moral tone. So high that its ban on 10 Beatles songs, including "Yellow Submarine," lasted 27 years and was lifted only last year.

The chewing-gum issue is another example: It's illegal to import gum into Singapore because it's too much of a problem to clean up.

(Americans have snickered about it, but I've changed my mind on that one: A city without wads of gum in the drinking

fountains or under the theater seats is remarkably classy.)

What seldom gets said is that Singapore's rigidity serves another purpose. More than keeping the city safe and tidy, it helps hold together a startlingly diverse population.

In its 240 square miles, the island republic has nearly 3 million people, from three main ethnic groups: Chinese (76 percent), Malays (15 percent) and South Asians (East Indians, Pakistanis, Sri Lankans, 7 percent) plus a pastiche of other nationalities. Three languages from the major ethnic groups are official here, as is English.

This is the kind of ethnic recipe that has boiled over elsewhere. But as long as the three groups live in harmony, the city and the country — which is virtually the same thing — will thrive.

Thriving was always part of the picture.

Singapore was founded — or re-founded, depending on how you feel about colonialism — in 1819, by Sir Thomas Stamford Bingley Raffles, an administrator for the British East India Company.

Raffles — namesake of a number of city landmarks, including the famous Raffles Hotel — was looking for a trading base so Britain would have a crack at the riches of the East, then monopolized by Dutch traders.

He had already learned to speak Malay, and he had studied the history of the region, including the ancient kingdom of Temasek, at the extreme tip of the Malay Peninsula. Legend holds that one of its princes spotted a lion-like sea monster and renamed the place Singa Pura — "Lion City."

But the Lion City was destroyed in the 14th century, and by the time Raffles got there — about the same time that the first American soldiers were shivering through a winter at Fort Snelling — Singapore was only a tiny fishing settlement, 87 miles north of the equator.

A tiny settlement that happened to have terrific anchorages and a strategic location on the Straits of Malacca.

To attract merchants from around the region, Raffles drafted a city plan creating ethnic districts where the different groups could feel comfortable.

And they came: The population jumped from a few hundred to 10,000 in two years. Now it's pushing 3 million, and the city-state is its own country, independent of Malaysia since 1965.

Compensating for Singapore's rigidity — and you'll hear this often from tourists and tour guides — is that "everything works." It's true.

The city is spotlessly, sometimes irritatingly, clean. The transportation system is efficient. The people enjoy the highest standard of living in Asia. Shopping — for both Westerners and its prosperous residents alike — is terrific.

The lovely zoo — with messages about environmental protection at every turn — is one of the best in Asia, if not the world. (When I was there, a prize attraction was the first polar-bear cub born in the tropics. The cub and its mother seemed content, even though their outdoor pool was as frigid as a bubble bath.)

But in one major area — its colorful, cluttered, cosmopolitan past — Singapore

paid a high price for this success.

Like its present, the past has been tidied here. And most of it — old neighborhoods and outlying villages — have been torn down to make way for hundreds of high-rise businesses and apartments towers.

Not all of this tidiness is dismaying. Four of five Singaporeans own their own apartments. And the cleanup of the Singapore River means you can now take a boat ride without holding your breath.

But as the city washed its face after World War II, tourists began calling it bland. By the early 1980s, visitor satisfaction was dropping.

When Singapore officially recognized that "old" could also be "good" — it meant more tourist business, obviously — only fragments of its former self remained.

In the meticulous way it does everything, Singapore turned its attention to saving them. Or rather, some of them.

Old stuff is still going down to make room for new; land is too valuable here to save it all.

But the city deserves credit for the preservation it has done. It focused on several main areas: the still heavily authentic districts of Little India, Arab Street and Chinatown; the nearby shop houses of Tanjong Pagar, and the Singapore River front, including British colonial buildings and the newly opened Clarke Quay. The quay's 19th century godowns, or warehouses, are now a downtown entertainment and shopping zone, boasting a "a heritage-inspired Disney-style adventure ride," according to literature from the Singapore Tourist Board.

There's been some overkill in the spit-and-polish department. I walked down a

street in Tanjong Pagar when only on side of it had been rehabbed, and the contrast was disturbing: Both sides of the street were lined with old 2- and 3-story merchants' houses. The ground floors had held shops and small warehouses, with wide, shuttgr-like doors; the merchant families had lived upstairs.

On one side of the street, the house stood as they were when their last owner moved out, peeling paint, sagging shutters, authenticity and all.

On the opposite side, they'd been restored. The shop houses had never looked this good in their lives. Nor had they held interior decorators, art galleries or immaculate cafes.

All soft pastels and discreet signage the finished side of the street looked like Asia as interpreted by Walt Disney: beautiful, impressive and largely imaginary.

The best — or weirdest — example of planned local color is Bugis Street, a gritty, raucous spectacle once notorious for its red-lit nightlife.

A few years before the anti-blandness movement took root, Singapore demolished Bugis Street to make room for its slick new rapid transit system. Many people lamented the loss. Solution? The city simply recreated it — nicely, of course.

So Bugis Street is back. I think that's good, but I'm not sure. Is sanitized history better than no history at all?

That, remember, was the motive behind the historic theme park that Disney had planned for Manassas, Va., last year. That's also the question every historic district in America is struggling with, from Savannah, Ga., to Galena, Ill., and we aren't going to get it solved here.

SINGAPORE TOURIST PROMOTION

LUCE IMPACT REPORT  
FOR MARCH, 1995

3/26/95

SINGAPORE TOURIST PROMOTION  
SUMMARY OF LISTINGS

PAGE: 1

DESCRIPTION	# OF ARTICLES	TOTAL CIRCULATION	EQUIVALENT AD COST
<b>CONVENTION &amp; MEETING NEWS</b>			
EASTERN NEWSPAPERS	1	113,417	\$173
CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS	1	66,475	\$461
TRADE PUBLICATIONS	1	30,233	\$680
CATEGORY TOTALS:	3	210,125	\$1,314
<b>GENERAL TOURISM</b>			
WESTERN NEWSPAPERS	4	238,652	\$9,811
EASTERN NEWSPAPERS	8	2,520,654	\$67,119
CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS	4	479,043	\$9,867
MAGAZINES	3	182,204	\$352
TRADE PUBLICATIONS	2	38,683	\$966
PUERTO RICO	1	37,852	\$1,619
CATEGORY TOTALS:	22	3,497,088	\$89,734
GRAND TOTALS:	25	3,707,213	\$91,048

3/26/95

SINGAPORE TOURIST PROMOTION

PAGE: 1

CONVENTION & MEETING NEWS

EASTERN NEWSPAPERS

<u>CLIP DATE</u>	<u>PUBLICATION</u>	<u>COLUMN INCHES</u>	<u>CIRCULATION</u>	<u>EQUIVALENT AD COST</u>
1/29/95	MELBOURNE, FL., FLORIDA TODAY	3	113,417	\$173
TOTALS FOR THIS SUBCATEGORY		<u>3</u>	<u>113,417</u>	<u>\$173</u>

3/26/95

SINGAPORE TOURIST PROMOTION

PAGE: 2

CONVENTION & MEETING NEWS

CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS

<u>CLIP DATE</u>	<u>PUBLICATION</u>	<u>COLUMN INCHES</u>	<u>CIRCULATION</u>	<u>EQUIVALENT AD COST</u>
2/12/95	SAGINAW, MI., NEWS	18	66,475	\$461
TOTALS FOR THIS SUBCATEGORY		<u>18</u>	<u>66,475</u>	<u>\$461</u>

## CONVENTION &amp; MEETING NEWS

## TRADE PUBLICATIONS

CLIP DATE	PUBLICATION	COLUMN INCHES	CIRCULATION	EQUIVALENT ADCOST
3/01/95	JAX FAX TRAVEL MARKETING	6	30,233	\$680
TOTALS FOR THIS SUBCATEGORY		6	30,233	\$680
TOTALS FOR CONVENTION & MEETING NEWS		27	210,125	\$1,314

## GENERAL TOURISM

## WESTERN NEWSPAPERS

CLIP DATE	PUBLICATION	COLUMN INCHES	CIRCULATION	EQUIVALENT AD COST
2/26/95	PINOLE, CA., WEST COUNTY TIMES	60	33,761	\$3,116
2/26/95	PLEASANTON, CA., VALLEY TIMES	60	40,387	\$3,116
2/26/95	WALNUT CREEK, CA., CONTRA COSTA TIMES	60	105,674	\$3,116
3/08/95	PALMDALE, CA., ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS	16	58,830	\$463
TOTALS FOR THIS SUBCATEGORY		196	238,652	\$9,811

## GENERAL TOURISM

## EASTERN NEWSPAPERS

CLIP DATE	PUBLICATION	COLUMN INCHES	CIRCULATION	EQUIVALENT AD COST
2/09/95	HAZLETON, PA., STANDARD SPEAKER	12	24,104	\$176
2/12/95	CHARLOTTE, NC., OBSERVER	11	299,842	\$1,248
2/19/95	ATLANTA, GA., JOURNAL CONSTITUTION	15	719,411	\$3,858
2/19/95	TAMPA, FL., TRIBUNE & TIMES	27	376,350	\$5,993
2/19/95	TAMPA, FL., TRIBUNE & TIMES	105	376,350	\$24,529
2/23/95	TAMPA, FL., TRIBUNE	3	275,570	\$509
3/16/95	ATLANTA, GA., CONSTITUTION	65	309,253	\$14,855
3/16/95	ATLANTA, GA., JOURNAL	65	139,774	\$15,951
TOTALS FOR THIS SUBCATEGORY		303	2,520,654	\$67,119

3/26/95

SINGAPORE TOURIST PROMOTION

PAGE: 6

GENERAL TOURISM

CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS

CLIP DATE	PUBLICATION	COLUMN INCHES	CIRCULATION	EQUIVALENT AD COST
2/12/95	CANTON, OH., REPOSITORY	12	80,277	\$481
2/12/95	TOLEDO, OH., BLADE	102	207,487	\$8,181
2/19/95	MANHATTAN, KS., MERCURY	12	13,896	\$108
3/08/95	TULSA, OK., WORLD	18	177,383	\$1,097
TOTALS FOR THIS SUBCATEGORY		144	479,043	\$9,867

3/26/95

SINGAPORE TOURIST PROMOTION

PAGE: 7

GENERAL TOURISM

MAGAZINES

CLIP DATE	PUBLICATION	COLUMN INCHES	CIRCULATION	EQUIVALENT AD COST
2/01/95	ARIZONA SENIOR WORLD	1	164,768	\$72
2/13/95	ADWEEK WESTERN	1	13,436	\$153
2/23/95	DAILY JOURNAL OF COMMERCE-PORTLAND	8	4,000	\$127
TOTALS FOR THIS SUBCATEGORY		10	182,204	\$352

3/26/95

SINGAPORE TOURIST PROMOTION

PAGE: 8

GENERAL TOURISM

TRADE PUBLICATIONS

CLIP DATE	PUBLICATION	COLUMN INCHES	CIRCULATION	EQUIVALENT ADDCOST
2/16/95	TRAVEL MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER	1	N/A	N/A
3/01/95	TRAVEL WORLD NEWS	10	38,683	\$966
TOTALS FOR THIS SUBCATEGORY		<u>11</u>	<u>38,683</u>	<u>\$966</u>

3/26/95

SINGAPORE TOURIST PROMOTION

PAGE: 9

GENERAL TOURISM

PUERTO RICO

CLIP DATE	PUBLICATION	COLUMN INCHES	CIRCULATION	EQUIVALENT AD COST
2/19/95	SAN JUAN, PR., STAR	36	37,852	\$1,619
TOTALS FOR THIS SUBCATEGORY		<u>36</u>	<u>37,852</u>	<u>\$1,619</u>
TOTALS FOR GENERAL TOURISM		700	3,497,088	\$89,734



aaron d. cushman and associates, inc. 52 vanderbilt avenue, suite 1000 new york, new york 10017

(212) 856-0100  
fax (212) 856-9426

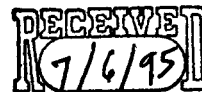
**Public Relations Activities  
Cayman Islands Department of Tourism**

**October 1994**

**I. WORK ACCOMPLISHED**

**A. PUBLICITY RESULTS**

- ***The New York Times*** **Circ: 1,593,100**  
As a result of an agency pitch to Janet Piorko, deputy travel editor at *The New York Times*, the Cayman Islands was featured in "Winter in the Sun: A Wilder Caribbean." In addition, we supplied writer Fran Marcus with the necessary background information for her story.
- ***Modern Bride*** **Circ: 281,346**  
We supplied writer Risa Weinreb with a press kit and additional background information for her story, "The Cayman Islands Dive Paradise."
- ***Stitches*** **Circ: 120,000**  
The agency worked closely with travel editor Stanley Murray on his story, "The Discreet Charm of Cayman." We provided him with background materials and color slides for the article.
- ***Copley News Service*** **250 newspapers**  
***Daily Southtown*** **Circ: 64,000**  
We arranged a diving certification press trip in August for writer Brian Alexander and provided him with a press kit and color slides. Brian's stories, "Cayman visit plunges into other world" and "Caymans celebrate past, present," are just now starting to break and will appear in the 250 newspapers, which are a part of the Copley News Service.
- ***Roanoake Times & World-News*** **Circ: 125,000**  
The agency provided writer Suzanne Murphy-Larronde with a press kit for her article, "Cayman special: liquid assets." On a separate note, we did not provide information for Ozzie Osborne's somewhat negative story, "...but 'progress' is a spoiler." The writer of the latter story is a former reporter for the *Roanoake Times & World-News* who was assigned to do an investigative piece.



- |                               |              |         |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| <i>Apprise Magazine</i>       | <b>Circ:</b> | N/A     |
| <i>Orange County Register</i> | <b>Circ:</b> | 425,139 |
| <i>Sunday Telegram</i>        | <b>Circ:</b> | 139,306 |
| <i>Recommend</i>              | <b>Circ:</b> | 43,021  |

The agency-authored press release on Pirates Week inspired Lisa Diantoniis's three-page story, "The Clearly Remarkable Cayman Islands," which appeared in *Apprise Magazine*. In addition, we supplied *Apprise* with color slides for the article. The press release also was picked up by the *Orange County Register*, *Sunday Telegram* and *Recommend* in October.

- |                    |              |     |
|--------------------|--------------|-----|
| <i>Dive Travel</i> | <b>Circ:</b> | N/A |
|--------------------|--------------|-----|

We provided writer Ellen Sarbone with a press kit for background information on her article, "The Cayman Collection."

- |                |              |         |
|----------------|--------------|---------|
| <i>Gazette</i> | <b>Circ:</b> | 178,529 |
|----------------|--------------|---------|

Rick Sylvain's story, "Caymans' beauty is all below the surface," is still being picked up by Knight-Ridder newspapers.

- |                           |              |         |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------|
| <i>Contra Costa Times</i> | <b>Circ:</b> | 100,156 |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------|

More than 100,000 California readers saw Jay Ireland's photo of a diver at Stingray City, which appeared with the heading, "Grand Cayman: what a dive!" The agency provided the newspaper with a press kit and slides.

- |                                 |              |         |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| <i>Fort Worth Star-Telegram</i> | <b>Circ:</b> | 360,000 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------|

We provided June Naylor Rodriguez with updated information and slides for her article, "There may be no finer place on the planet for undersea exploring."

- |   |              |         |
|---|--------------|---------|
| <i>San Francisco Examiner-Chronicle</i> | <b>Circ:</b> | 707,881 |
| <i>Travel Agent</i>                     | <b>Circ:</b> | 53,327  |
| <i>Travel Weekly</i>                    | <b>Circ:</b> | 50,000  |
| <i>Travel Weekly</i>                    | <b>Circ:</b> | 50,000  |
| <i>(October 3 Caribbean Supplement)</i> |              |         |
| <i>Recommend</i>                        | <b>Circ:</b> | 43,021  |

Our press release on second quarter tourist arrivals was used by these four publications in October.

- |   |              |        |
|---|--------------|--------|
| <i>Travel Agent</i>                     | <b>Circ:</b> | 53,327 |
| <i>Travel Weekly</i>                    | <b>Circ:</b> | 50,000 |
| <i>Travel Weekly</i>                    | <b>Circ:</b> | 50,000 |
| <i>(October 3 Caribbean Supplement)</i> |              |        |
| <i>Recommend</i>                        | <b>Circ:</b> | 43,021 |
| <i>Canadian Travel Press</i>            | <b>Circ:</b> | 14,000 |

These publications picked up our press release on Treasure Island Resort's multi-million dollar renovation program.

- **Recommend** **Circ: 43,021**  
**Canadian Travel Press** **Circ: 14,000**  
**St. Augustine Record** **Circ: 16,800**  
**Travel Week Bulletin** **Circ: 7,400**  
 The agency-authored release on The Links at SafeHaven was used by these publications.
- **Florida Sportsman** **Circ: 100,000**  
 Our press releases "Cayman Islands Million Dollar Month Final Round-up" and "Dolphin Catches Wahoo in the Cayman Islands" were picked up by this publication.
- **Skin Diver** **Circ: 217,795**  
 This dive publication used our Cayman Madness release.
- **Tour & Travel News** **Circ: 56,000**  
 Our press release on the American Express Preservation Award for *Cayman Style* appeared in Peggy Cope's article, "Historic Preservation Gains Caribbean Attention," along with a photograph.
- **Travel Weekly** **Circ: 50,000**  
 The agency supplied writer Joan Iaconetti with detailed information for her "Driving Tips" article.
- **Travel Weekly** **Circ: 50,000**  
 The October 17 issue also featured the agency-authored release on increased air lift to the Sister Islands.
- **Canadian Travel Press** **Circ: 14,000**  
 Our press release on the Botanic Park also was picked up in the October 13 issue of this magazine.

**OTHER OCTOBER PLACEMENTS FOR THE CAYMAN ISLANDS**

- **ABC'S World News Now** **Aud: 846, 880**  
 On October 28, approximately 850,000 *World News Now* viewers saw footage of scuba diving in the Cayman Islands.
- **CNN World Report** **Aud: 451,996**  
 More than 450, 000 of *CNN's* viewers on October 25 watched Pat Bynoe's segment on conch dishes.
- **CNN World Report** **Aud: 407,682**  
 On October 23, Pat Bynoe did a segment on conch dishes that was seen by 407,682 *CNN* viewers.





## C. MEDIA CONTACTS

During October, the agency supplied press kits, photography and/or information to the following journalists:

Joan Iaconetti, freelance, *Bridal Guide*  
Laurel Cardone, associate travel editor, *Modern Bride*  
Dana Williams, senior travel editor, *American Way*  
Don Moser, managing editor, *Smithsonian*  
Eric Harris, managing editor, *Canadian Geographic*  
Paxton Baker, location coordinator, *Black Entertainment Television*  
Gini Kopecky, freelance, *Shape*  
Nick LaPenna, *Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous*  
Jeff Kelly, *KSTU-Fox TV*, Salt Lake City  
Melinda Lewis-Matravers, associate editor, *Islands*  
Tedde Thompson, freelance, Richmond, VA  
Eileen Dassen, *W Magazine*  
Mark Ingebretsen, freelance, Northwest Airline's inflight magazine (Mark also joined the press group one night for dinner in Grand Cayman.)

We also provided slides/video to:

Donna Sullivan, media sales coordinator, Sony Transcom, Irvine, CA (American Trans Air inflight promotion)  
Gary German, vice president of multi-media, The Network Connection, Alpharetta, GA (Request from Olga Jefferson for an advertising program)  
Jim Bailey, producer, Patter Sunset Productions ("Houston Live" travel segment)  
Martin Smith, Jim Gilmore Productions (incentive presentation)  
Fhyllis Hockman, *Senior Digest* (article by Vic Block)  
Melissa Salabsky, *W Magazine*  
Karen Neel, Warner Brothers Studio  
Kate Sharrow, Towne Publishing, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada  
Julie Sincich, Revolver Film, Toronto, Canada

## D. PROJECTS COMPLETED

### CUBAN REFUGEES IN CAYMAN ISLANDS

We concluded our media monitoring of the Cuban refugee situation in the month of October. *CNN World Report* aired "Cayman Islands and Refugees" (2:47 minutes) on October 3 at midnight. We sent the DOT two copies of the taped segment on November 5. It was agreed that a crisis management program will be put into place in early 1995.

## 60-SECOND CITN INFOMERCIAL

The agency drafted a 60-second statement for Minister Jefferson for DOT's infomercial for CITN's new "Discover Cayman" video.

## ARTICLE FOR *CAYMAN EXECUTIVE*

At Dave Martin's request, the agency wrote a short article outlining Aaron D. Cushman's approach to handling public relations for CIDOT.

## FEAST WITH FAMOUS FACES

The agency coordinated a grand prize trip to the Cayman Islands (using Hyatt and Cayman Airways) at this upscale charity event. Top New York chefs and broadcasters prepared the feast which was a benefit for the League for the Hard of Hearing.

## II. PROJECTS UNDERWAY

### MARKETING MEETING

An agency executive attended a planning meeting in George Town on October 10-11 for briefings about the annual marketing meeting and the first annual tourism conference. The agency researched and recommended speakers and prepared a detailed "to-do" list for the conference.

### STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER

An agency executive accompanied Clair Moore to Philadelphia on October 26 to discuss several major Cayman Islands spring promotions with this upscale department store chain. We are in the process of fleshing out the details, gathering collateral materials, and determining whether it is feasible to have a catalogue shoot in Cayman completed by spring.

### RADIO INTERVIEWS FOR RSM'S

We are in the process of arranging radio interviews for the RSM's for November and December.

The New York Times  
October 30, 1994  
Circ: 1,593,100

Sunday, October 30, 1994

The New York Times

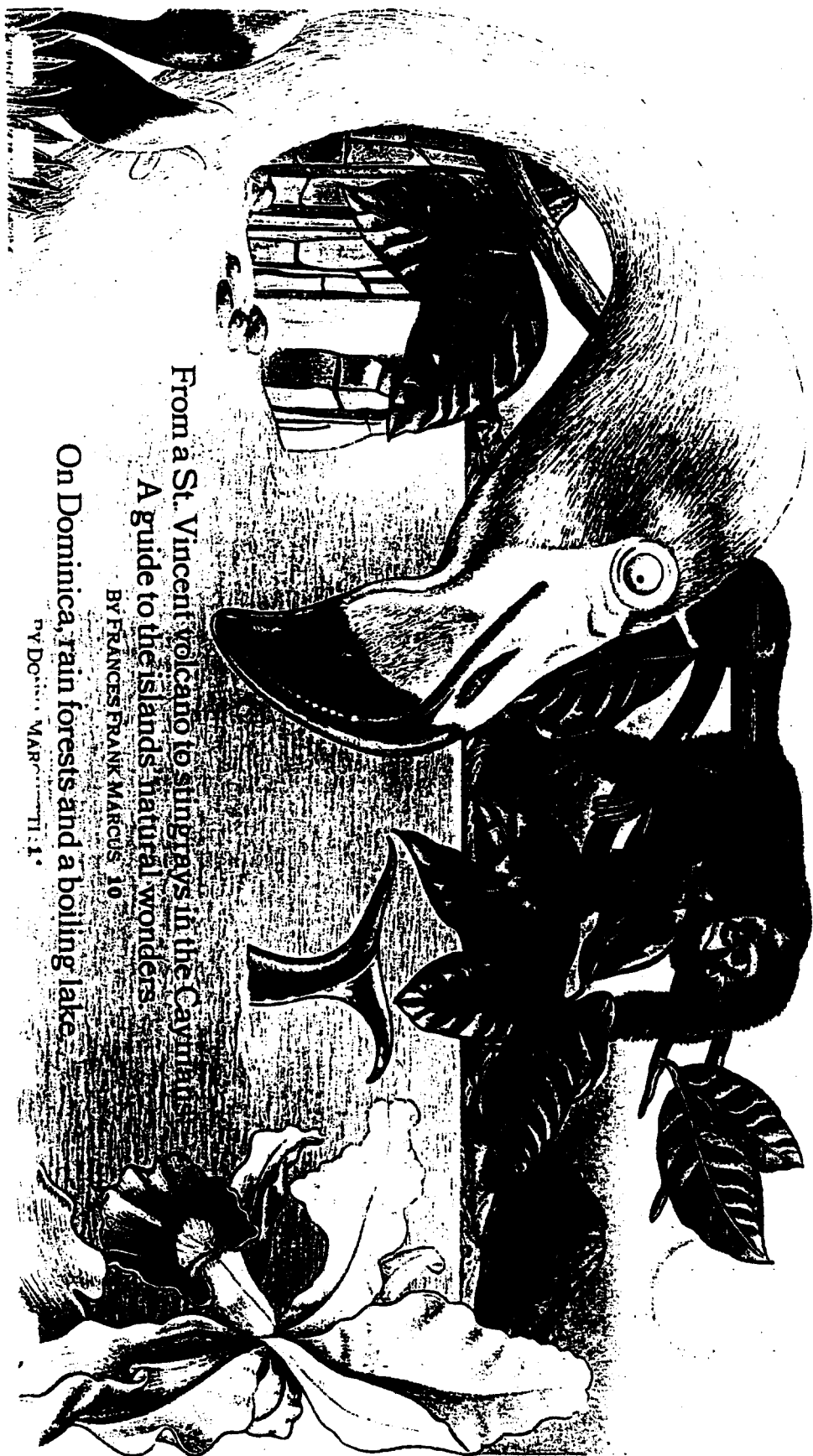
# Travel

Section **5**

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WINTER IN THE SUN

## A WILDER CARIBBEAN



From a St. Vincent volcano to stingrays in the Cayman  
A guide to the islands' natural wonders

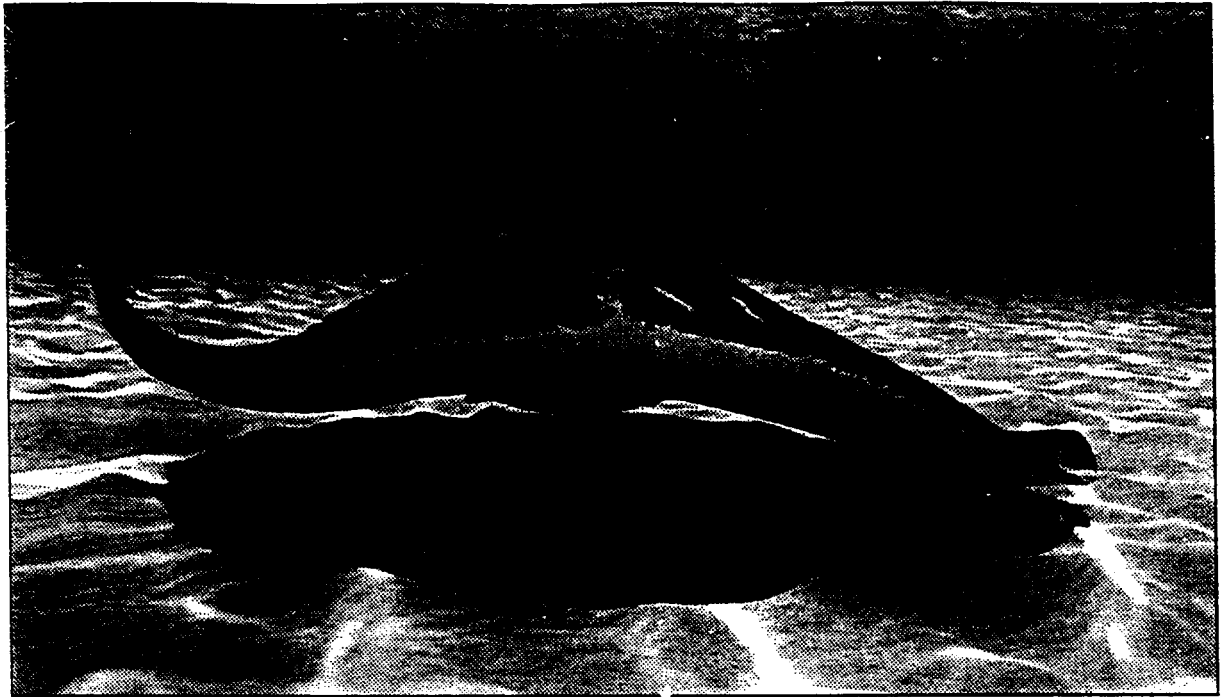
BY FRANCES FRANK MARCUS 10

On Dominica, rain forests and a boiling lake

By Dominic MARCUS

TI: 1

## WINTER IN THE SUN



Kit Kittle

The inhabitants are friendly at Stingray City on the North Sound of Grand Cayman.

## Cayman Islands

Cayman Islands Department of Tourism, 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 2733, New York, N.Y. 10170  
(212) 682-5582

The Caymans' splendid mountains are all under water, surrounding the islands. There are pinnacles, tunnels, arches, caves and coral gardens.

But the islands' most famous single attraction is somewhat less exalted. Stingray City is a spot where visitors swim with the fish, who gather along a sandbar in the North Sound that is protected by a reef. For many years Caymanian fishermen stopped there to clean their catch and dump the scraps. In the mid-1980's a few of Cayman's divemasters learned the stingrays were not averse to human contact. Because the water is shallow, snorkelers as well as divers can enjoy the stingrays. The females can grow to be six feet wide.

Bloody Bay on Little Cayman has some of the most vivid wall diving in the islands, with black coral trees, gargonians, seafans and tropical fish. Snorkelers can enjoy the show from the top; the wall begins at a depth of 15 to 20 feet and drops a mile or more.

All Grand Cayman hotels have dive shops or ties with dive shops. One of the largest independent operators is Bob Soto's Diving (800) 262-7686, fax (809) 949-8731. Rates for a trip to Stingray City, from 2 P.M. to about 4 P.M., is \$45 for divers, \$25 for snorkelers.

On Little Cayman's north shore, near Bloody Bay Wall, Sam McCoy's Dive Lodge, (800) 626-0496, offers four-day dive packages for \$478.50 a person all inclusive.

Little Cayman has one of the largest breeding colonies of red-footed boobies in the western world, thousands of them, and a large colony of frigate birds. They live among the mangroves on the island's north side. Booby Pond, near Sam McCoy's, is a bird sanctuary.

Grand Cayman's new Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, (809) 947-9462, opened recently off Frank Sound Road in East End. The 60-acre park has a nature trail, a 25-minute walk through wetland, cactus thicket, log wood swamp, humid woodland, dry thicket and tall woodland with mahogany trees. There are orchids and bromeliads, Grand Cayman parrots, the anole lizard with a bright blue throat pouch and the rare blue iguana.

The park is open Tuesday to Sunday from 7:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Admission is \$3, \$1.25 for children. Chances of seeing the parrots are best in early morning and late afternoon.

Green sea turtles of up to 600 pounds can be seen at the Cayman Turtle Farm at Northwest Point. The farm, (809) 949-3893, has released thousands of farm-grown tagged turtles into Cayman waters to replenish the wild population. It is open daily from 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. Admission is \$5, \$2.50 for children. The farm is a 20-minute drive from George Town.

A guided four-mile horseback tour of some of Grand Cayman's less visited areas is available through the Blazing Trails riding school, (809) 949-7360. The cost comes to \$35 for a tour of about an hour, which goes through mangroves and country lanes to South Sound Cove.

# The Cayman Islands Dive Paradise

Exotic coral gardens  
and silky sands beckon.



CLOCKWISE  
EYE ANEMONES AND  
OTHER STRANGE  
DENIZENS OF THE DEEP;  
FROLIC UNDER A  
TROPICAL SUN. MEET THE  
RAYS AT STINGRAY CITY.

Wonderful things just seem to happen in the Cayman Islands. Your cab driver might turn the drive from the airport to your hotel into an impromptu sight-seeing tour, pointing out some of his favorite restaurants and night spots. Just walking along the

*(continued on page 384)*



# CAYMAN ISLANDS

(continued from page 383)

beach, you might glimpse two spotted eagle rays spiraling in the wavelets only three feet from shore. The sunset seems to flare a little redder here, the full moon grin a bit wider, than elsewhere in the Caribbean.

Once a best-kept secret of scuba divers, who swoop through thickets of coral and float over barrel sponges three feet across, the Cayman Islands now attract a more diversified clientele. These islands radiate newfound panache, having served as the setting for many scenes in the hit film, *The Firm*. New luxury hotels and resorts are rising, while older properties are renovating and redecorating. In a word, the Cayman Islands are hot.

There are three main islands: Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Part of the British West Indies, they are located just 480 miles south of Miami—about an hour's flight. Each presents a different personality. In its own low-key way, Grand Cayman offers the biggest, the most, the best: top hotels, land-based sports as well as great diving, and a lively night scene. In contrast, Little Cayman is like hiding away on your own island paradise, with just a smattering of small hotels surrounded by a blazing blue sea. Cayman Brac offers a blend of quaint towns, diving-oriented resorts, and plenty of beaches and tranquillity.

We've all heard how most of an iceberg lies below the surface. The same principle applies to the Cayman Islands. Hunkered low into a true-blue Caribbean Sea, the threesome barely poke their profiles above water level (highest point, a mere 140 feet). But the island group is actually the top of a submarine mountain range slit by valleys, forming the famous Cayman walls—coral-bejeweled cliffs that plunge precipitously into the deep. To the southeast lies the deepest part of the Caribbean, the Cayman Trench, where depths exceed 23,000 feet.

The islands have a glamorous history. Discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1503, they were subsequently named Caymanas by Spanish seamen, who mistook the local iguanas for crocodiles. The name stuck when the islands were ceded to Great Britain in 1670.

Soon, the archipelago became a notorious lair for buccaneers plundering Spanish galleons carrying gold. Pirates

## Honeymoon Travel Tips



**GETTING THERE:** AIRLINES SERVING THE ISLANDS FROM THE UNITED STATES INCLUDE AMERICAN, CAYMAN AIRWAYS, NORTHWEST, UNITED AND USAIR. CRUISE LINES ALSO CALL ON A REGULAR BASIS. CAYMAN AIRWAYS AND ISLAND AIR PROVIDE INTERISLAND FLIGHTS. PASSPORTS ARE NOT REQUIRED, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO SHOW A PHOTO ID AND PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP, SUCH AS A BIRTH CERTIFICATE OR VOTER'S REGISTRATION CARD, ALONG WITH YOUR RETURN TICKET. THE DEPARTURE TAX IS \$10.50 PER PERSON.



**GETTING AROUND:** TAXIS ARE AVAILABLE ON GRAND CAYMAN AND CAYMAN BRAC. YOU ALSO CAN RENT CARS, MOPEDS AND BICYCLES. REMEMBER, DRIVING IS ON THE LEFT.



**MONEY:** THE OFFICIAL CURRENCY IS THE CAYMAN DOL-

LAR (ABBREVIATED C\$), ALTHOUGH U.S. CURRENCY, MAJOR CREDIT CARDS AND TRAVELER'S CHECKS ARE ACCEPTED. AT PRESS TIME, THE U.S. DOLLAR WAS WORTH 80 CAYMANIAN CENTS.



### CLIMATE AND CLOTHING:

THE WEATHER IS WARM YEAR-ROUND, WITH TEMPERATURES AVERAGING 75° IN THE WINTER, 80° IN THE SUMMER. ALTHOUGH MOST RAINFALL OCCURS DURING THE SUMMER, THAT'S ALSO WHEN YOU'LL GET THE CALMEST CONDITIONS FOR SCUBA DIVING. CASUAL TROPICAL CLOTHES ARE ACCEPTABLE EVERYWHERE; EVEN THE FANCIEST RESTAURANTS USUALLY DO NOT REQUIRE TIES FOR MEN.



### ABOUT ACCOMMODATIONS:

IN ADDITION TO HOTELS, THE CAYMAN ISLANDS ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR EXTENSIVE CONDOMINIUM ACCOMMODATIONS, WHICH OFFER EXCELLENT VALUE. MOST UNITS ARE FULLY FURNISHED, COMPLETE WITH KITCHENETTE AND DAILY MAID SERVICE. THE MONEY SAVED BY HAVING AN OCCASIONAL BREAKFAST OR LUNCH "AT HOME" CAN GO FOR A SPLURGE AT ONE OF THE ISLAND'S FINE RESTAURANTS.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

SEE THE "BOOKLETS FOR THE TWO OF YOU" SECTION IN THIS ISSUE, OR CONTACT THE CAYMAN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM: 9525 WEST BRYN MAWR, SUITE 160, ROSEMONT, IL 60018 (708)678-6446; TWO MEMORIAL CITY PLAZA, HOUSTON, TX 77024 (713)461-1317; 3440 WILSHIRE BLVD., SUITE 1202, LOS ANGELES, CA 90010 (213)738-1968; 6100 BLUE LAGOON DR., SUITE 150, MIAMI, FL 33126 (305) 266-2300; 420 LEXINGTON AVE., SUITE 2733, NEW YORK, NY 10170 (212)682-5582.

such as Captain Henry Morgan and Edward "Blackbeard" Teach all prowled these waters. Even today, you'll hear legends of buried treasure. And one of the biggest celebrations of the year is the Pirate's Week festival held in October, when islanders and visitors dress up with eye patches and scabbards for parades, treasure hunts and a gala costume ball.

Today, the Cayman Islands are a British Crown Colony. You'll note many ties with the mother country. Pubs feature dart boards and Whitbread ale on draft; driving is on the left. English is the official language, spoken with a distinctive brogue reflecting the Welsh, Scottish and English ancestry of many early settlers.

(continued on page 386)

61

One of the most magical dives is Stingray City, where the gregarious rays crowd around divers like underwater flying saucers, flapping their wingtips in anticipation of a morsel. Since the waters are only 12 feet deep, the experience is perfect for beginning scuba enthusiasts as well as snorkelers. Experienced dive operators include Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. and Quabbin Dives.

You don't even have to get wet to eye Grand Cayman's aquatic wonderland. Explore aboard the *Atlantis XI* submarine, a real, 46-passenger sub that cruises to 100 feet along the Cayman Wall. For an even more incredible voyage, the Atlantis Research Submersibles' two-passenger, deep-diving sub probes to depths of 800 feet and the wreck of the *Kirk Pride*. With the eerie blackness all around you, broken only by the sub's powerful searchlight and the reflected glow of small sea creatures, it's like journeying through outer space.

Other fun choices abound. Cast your line on a deep-sea fishing adventure, angling for blue marlin, tuna and other game fish that abound in these waters. Sail off aboard the *Spirit of Ppalu*, a sleek catamaran with twin, glass-bottom hulls that offers snorkel trips to Stingray City, sunset cocktail cruises, dinner sails and more. Contact Red Sail Sports, across the street from the Hyatt Regency hotel.

Back on land, many hotels and condos offer tennis courts. There's also golf at the new 18-hole championship course, "The Links at Safehaven," and at the Jack Nicklaus-designed Hyatt Britannia course.

At mealtime, partake of an international array of restaurants, ranging from all-American hamburgers to Thai noodles. Be sure to sample some typical Caymanian dishes, incorporating local lobster, conch and West Indian ingredients such as breadfruit, yams, rice and peas.

Probably the most romantic setting is Grand Old House, owned by television personality Chef Tell. You can dine either on the gingerbread-trimmed porch, with a lovely view of the Caribbean, or cozy wainscotted café.

For real Caymanian cookery, both visitors and locals flock to the seaside patio at the Crow's Nest. The menu stars local fish—so fresh, you almost think it will backstroke off your plate.

Hot spots include the nightclub at Treasure Island Resort and the Lone

Star Bar & Grill, which also serves Tex-Mex dishes. Sip drinks at the Garden Loggia Bar at the Hyatt Regency, where parts of *The Firm* were filmed. At the Holiday Inn, George "Barefoot Man" Nowak, a Cayman tradition, entertains at the Pool Bar, while Coconut's Comedy Club headlines talent from the U.S. circuit. Sunset House hosts the big après-dive scene.

## CAYMAN BRAC

Just 1,200 residents, only three taxis and no traffic lights—that describes easygoing Cayman Brac, located less than 80 miles away from ebullient Grand Cayman. Familiarly called the Brac, the island measures just 12 miles long and a scant one and one-half miles wide.

Where Cayman Brac goes big time is with diving, with sites such as the Hobbit, a fairyland of giant barrel sponges and corals thronging with grunts, queen and French angelfish, and schools of snapper that change direction like a precision chorus line. As if that weren't enough, the fabulous dive sites off Little Cayman are only 50 minutes away. Cayman Brac also tempts fishermen to try their luck for tuna, wahoo or marlin, and bonefish off the south coast.

Above the waterline, you'll find interesting things to explore. Rent a car or scooter, and follow Lighthouse Road to the eastern tip of the island atop the Brac (Gaelic for bluff), a coral ridge that plunges 140 feet into the sea. The setting is especially magnificent at sunset, when white heron pose along the shore and jabbering flocks of green parrots roost in the boughs.

The limestone cliffs are honeycombed with caves—a legendary abode of pirate booty. Try poking through Great Cave, located at the end of the road on the southeast side of the island. Be sure to wear old, washable clothes and bring a flashlight.

## LITTLE CAYMAN

Less than 20 years ago, this was a bivouac for dedicated bonefishermen and a few hard-core divers, gung-ho enthusiasts who could tough out back-to-basics rooms with no freshwater showers and no electricity. Now, it's the Caymanian petite retreat, with accommodations ranging from comfortable dive lodges to a modern hotel and charming inn.

Most scuba enthusiasts agree that Little Cayman has the best diving in the island group—in a word, amazing. Many of the best-known sites are along Bloody Bay Wall, which starts at 18 feet before plummeting to 1,200 feet, all with see-forever visibility. Look out for Molly, a sociable 12-foot manta ray who's a regular visitor.

The south side of the island is tops for bonefishing. Pound for pound, these wily "gray ghosts" are considered anglers' greatest challenge because even the slightest move can spook these wary critters.

Returning after a dive trip off Little Cayman, a boat recently encountered a school of wild dolphin eager to play. Several passengers grabbed snorkel gear and jumped overboard. The dolphin hovered some 60 feet below, then made lightning-fast runs to the surface, where they surfed the white, frothy bow wake of the circling boat, then dove past the swimmers. Afterward, one of the women divers sighed, "This wasn't just a great dive—it was one of the best experiences in my entire life." If you honeymoon in the Cayman Islands, you'll probably agree.

—Risa R. Weinreb



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## CAYMAN ISLANDS

(continued from page 384)

You'll enjoy getting to know the friendly, welcoming Caymanians, who have the highest standard of living in the Caribbean (the annual household income is nearly \$47,000) and a sophistication that comes from residing and working in a leading international financial center. Thanks to their tax-free status, political stability, and favorable banking and trust laws, the islands are home to over 500 banks and nearly 400 insurance companies.

Above all, the Cayman Islands are a paradise for water-sports lovers. The islands figure prominently on every diver's "Best in the World" list, with a fantastical seascape of caverns and chasms, filigreed sea fans that undulate with the current, plus a neon-daubed parade of parrot fish, shy butterfly fish and sociable groupers that snuggle up to be petted. Water temperatures average about 80°, and visibility can reach well over 100 feet.

Even if couples have never dived before, most newlyweds quickly become "newly wets," signing on for snorkel day trips or even scuba lessons. The Cayman Islands have over 40 top-notch dive operations, with one of the best safety records in the business. In four or five days, visitors can become certified (you've heard of a driving license—this is a diving license). Meanwhile, inexpensive resort courses allow first-timers to make shallow reef forays following a few hours of instruction. Your first glimpse underwater should set you grinning like kids at your first three-ring circus.

### GRAND CAYMAN

From high-stakes financiers to Hollywood movie stars, everyone's favorite place in the sun is Grand Cayman. Despite the hefty name, the isle is actually rather small, measuring just 22 miles long by eight miles wide, and shaped like a plump fishhook. Grand Cayman is home to over 93 percent of the islands' residents, and destination of choice for 99 percent of its visitors.

Most of the action centers on Seven Mile Beach, a swath of white sand lined with luxury condos, villas and resorts on the west coast. Offshore reefs shelter the waters, and often you can find good snorkeling just a few yards from your room. Shops along the beach

rent out "water toys" such as jet skis and small sailboats; you also can try parasailing or a sunset cocktail cruise.

Located just south of the resort strip, George Town is capital of the Cayman Islands. The harborfront town counterpoints low-rise-yet-sleek office buildings with old-fashioned Caymanian storefronts trimmed with lattice and gingerbread, now restored and housing upscale galleries and boutiques. Because the island is a duty-free port, you'll find low prices on china, crystal, perfume and liquor—generally, costs run about 25 percent less than on comparable merchandise in the United States.

For a special memento, look for pendants and rings incorporating genuine pieces of eight and gold doubloons



Dive into the Cayman Islands.

salvaged from shipwrecks, some coins over 300 years old. Also look for jewelry incorporating pieces of caymanite, a lovely, multicolored stone found only in the islands.

At least one day during your stay, rent a car, Jeep or moped and explore the island, remembering to drive on the left-hand side of the road. It's practically impossible to get lost, since there is only one main road that circles Grand Cayman, plus a single major cross-island traverse.

North of Seven Mile Beach, the district called West Bay still has many traditional Caymanian houses built of wattle and daub, or timber. Head for the area's best-known attraction, the Turtle Farm, where green turtles are raised commercially—the only such facility in the world. Residents range from one-ounce hatchlings to 600-pound behemoths. Many of the turtles

are released back into the sea, helping conserve this endangered species. To bolster conservation efforts, be aware that it is illegal to bring tortoiseshell and other products made from turtles back to the United States.

Looking to send messages home with an unusual postmark? Mail your postcards from Hell—so named because of its expanse of blackened coral, thought to resemble petrified flames. It's located near the Turtle Farm.

Once you drive south and east beyond George Town, you'll pass neat, pastel-painted houses amid stands of coconut palms and flaming poinciana, breaking to reveal the brilliant blue Caribbean. If you love crafts, don't miss Pure Art Gallery and Gifts, just before Grand Old House Restaurant. In this charming Cayman cottage, owned and run by artist Debbie van der Bol, you'll find watercolors, batiks, sculptures, embroideries and more, all created by local artists. Another worthwhile stop is Dr. Carey's Black Coral Clinic, located near the Crow's Nest restaurant. Here, you can select jewelry made from black coral, crafted by Dr. Carey himself.

As the houses get sparser and the sea grapes twine thicker, you'll soon discover that you don't have to go to Cayman Brac or Little Cayman to find peace and quiet: It's here on the north and east coasts of Grand Cayman.

Near the center of the island, visit Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, opened by Her Majesty herself in February 1994. Walking along an interpretive trail, you'll view native island species, including mahogany, orchids, ironwood and thatch palm. As you continue your coastal drive toward sparsely populated East End, watch for blowholes, tubes in the shoreline rocks through which waves spurt like geysers.

The north shore itself unfurls with vistas of sea and sky, terminating at Rum Point. Storms and currents often deposit driftwood and seashells on the shore, so spend time beachcombing.

Most of all, you'll want to plunge into the water sports that tempted you to choose Grand Cayman in the first place. For experienced scuba divers, top sites include The Black Forest, located on the North Wall. Three pinnacles, covered with black coral and gorgonians, come within 50 feet of the surface. Along the Western Wall, Big Tunnels features a pair of shafts slicing downward through the reef that opens on the wall itself.

# BOOKLETS



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## DOCTORS' TRAVELS

BY STANLEY H. MURRAY

# THE DISCREET CHARM OF CAYMAN

If you can't come and play, you can always send your bank account

It's hard to believe that little more than ten years ago Grand Cayman Island — simply Cayman to the cognoscenti — together with Cayman Brac and Little Cayman were nothing more than an obscure trio of cartographers' dots some 730 km south of Miami and 290 km west of Jamaica, virtually undiscovered except by seasoned travellers and serious stamp collectors.

Today, the Cayman Islands, especially 76-square-mile Cayman, the capital and largest island, proudly display an impressive list of sophisticated credentials, including a stable government, state-of-the-art communications and transportation, and an enviable status as headquarters for hundreds of impeccable financial institutions.

The islands have also evolved into one of the Caribbean's top luxury vacation destinations, with unequalled snorkelling and scuba diving, almost all watersports and most recently, championship golf.

Cayman can be called "the Switzerland of the Caribbean" for more than one reason. Just as the Confederation Helvetica has its Alps, the Caymans, flat as they are, have their Sierra Maestra Mountains. The difference is that the Alps rise above the fertile valleys of one of Europe's smallest countries, while the Caymans themselves are actually mountaintops, with the floor of the sea nearly a mile below.

On the slopes of these underwater mountains are some of the most spectacular coral specimens anywhere, and the habitat of thousands of species of marine life.

Financially, Cayman's 600-plus

banks place it third, behind Switzerland and Liechtenstein, in number of financial institutions per capita, making it the largest banking centre in the Western Hemisphere. Its strict observance of financial confidentiality has given hundreds of international banks, insurance companies and other corporations the incentive to obtain licences and establish their headquarters on the island.

Investors have also been attracted

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Cayman's 600-plus  
banks place it third, behind  
Switzerland and  
Liechtenstein, in number  
of financial institutions  
per capita

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by the island's proximity to North America, the absence of property taxes and the availability of excellent professional services. And just as Switzerland has the world's highest per-capita income, the British royal colony — for that's what Cayman is — enjoys the highest standard of living in the Caribbean. All of this makes it one of the world's ultimate tax havens.

Today's islanders are certainly a good deal more legitimate than the first permanent settlers after Spain ceded the islands to England in 1670. In those days, the population was a motley band of debtors, deserters and shipwrecked sailors. Later arrivals were no more distinguished, since after 1730 the islands were almost exclusively the domain of pirates, in-

cluding the notorious Sir Henry Morgan, Edward "Blackbeard" Teach and Neal Walker.

More settlers, primarily Scottish fishermen, arrived in the mid-18th Century, resulting in the present population of English, Scotch, Irish, Welsh and West Indian.

But it was a series of events on a November night in 1788 that would most powerfully affect Cayman two centuries later, turning it into a magnet attracting more divers than any other island in the world.

On that dark, moonless evening, a convoy of Jamaican merchant ships was sailing past Cayman. The lead ship, *Cordelia*, struck a reef on the island's east end. According to local legend, her signal to alert the other ships of the danger was mistaken for an order to come up close. One by one, the remaining nine ships ploughed into the reef.

Almost unbelievably, through the efforts of the Caymanians, as the islanders refer to themselves, not a single life was lost.

These wrecks, along with more than 300 others, all guarded by colourful schools of tropical fish, plus specimen coral reefs, fantastic drop-offs, seemingly endless caves, coral formations of every hue teeming with unique marine life, and clear, warm water, have together inspired the islands' international reputation as a diver's paradise.

Just when the Caymans were "re-discovered" is often debated. Those familiar with the islands' more recent history claim it was after an article in *The Saturday Evening Post* in the 1950s, calling them "The Islands Time Forgot." Back then, the Caymans were under British rule as a dependency of Jamaica. When Jamaica gained its in-

Stanley H. Murray is the travel editor of STITCHES.



As a destination for snorkellers and scuba divers, the Cayman Islands are unmatched. Diving enthusiasts can even stay on special live-aboard dive vessels.

dependence, the Caymans chose to remain a royal colony, and in 1972 were granted their present constitution as a democracy of elected representatives with a governor-general appointed by the Crown. Since then, it's as if they've been making up for lost time.

From the moment the traveller deplanes at Cayman's tidy airport, so convenient to Seven Mile Beach (don't bother measuring it: it's far shorter) where the majority of the island's hotels and condominiums are located, it's apparent that this is the Caribbean's boom island.

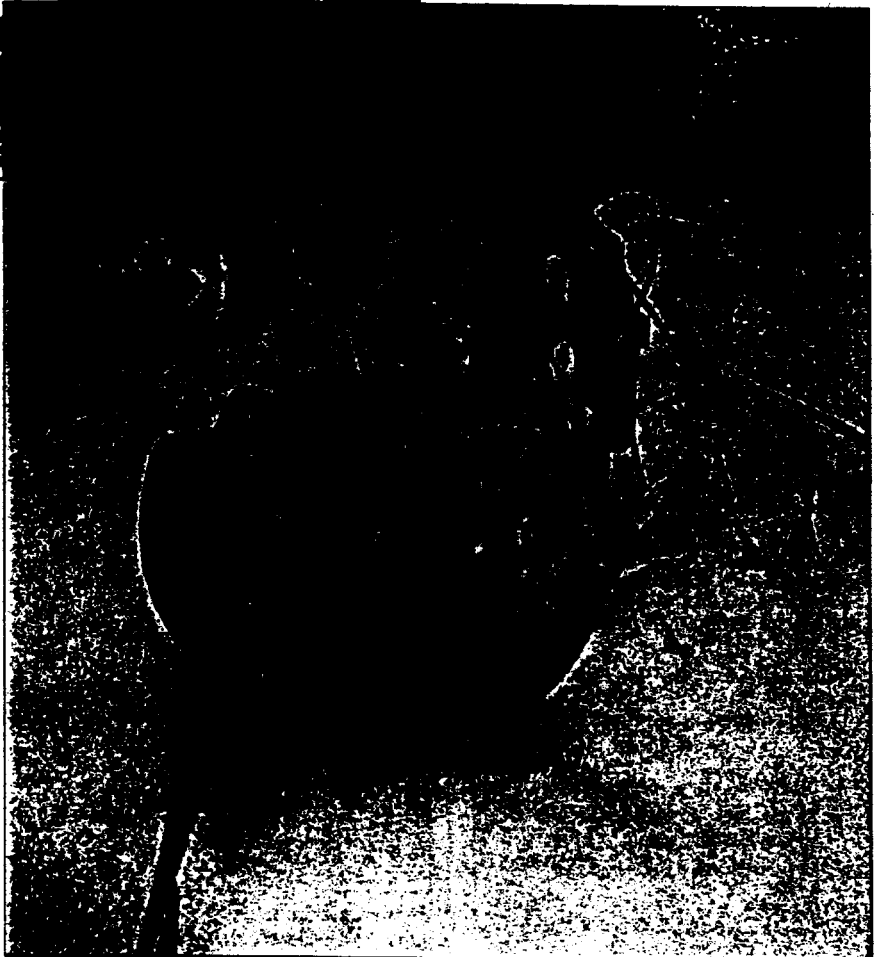
Cayman's numerous restaurants, the diverse night life, the fleet of fish-

ing and dive boats, all add to the bustle. Fortunately, growth and development are tightly controlled. Buildings are limited to tree-top height, which for the indigenous palms equals a maximum of four stories.

Accommodations in the Caymans consist of 22 hotels and 57 condo complexes/villas, in five major categories: luxury, full-service hotels; dedicated dive resorts (generally on their own stretch of waterfront); rental villas; condominiums; and — in case you have any doubts about how seriously they take diving on the island — live-aboard dive vessels.

Most of the luxury hotels are along Seven Mile Beach, the island's hotel row. These include the Radisson, Hyatt Regency, Clarion Grand Pavilion, Holiday Inn Grand Cayman, Treasure Island Resort and the just reopened and completely renovated Cayman Kai Resort. All are either beachfront or across the street, and have their own beach facilities.

Perhaps the most unusual hotel is the elegant Hyatt Regency at the Village of Britannia, with its already leg-



endary Britannia Golf Course. The course, designed with a Scottish flair by Jack Nicklaus, is reminiscent of Royal Troon, Turnberry and Royal Birkdale, though it's built on only 40 acres of former mangrove swamp.

What sets Britannia apart from any other course is that it can be played three ways: as a nine-hole, par-35 championship course measuring 3,202 yards; as an 18-hole executive course that plays to a par of 58; or as an 18-hole "Cayman Ball" course, which has a par of 72, yet measures only 3,157 yards. (The different ways to play it are determined by specific days and times.)

It was the first course in the world designed for the revolutionary Cayman golf ball, which travels half as far as a regulation ball, thus enabling golfers to play a full round in half the time. Developed by Nicklaus' MacGregor Golf Co., the ball weighs just 20 grams, compared to the normal 45 grams. It's the same size as a standard ball, but has convex dimples which create aerodynamic drag to slow it down further. It goes about half the distance of a regular golf ball.

For golfers on holiday, the lighter ball offers several advantages. Play is faster because the holes are shorter, and fewer clubs are required, since the distance variation between clubs is less. A three, six and nine iron, plus a driver and a putter, will be enough for most players.

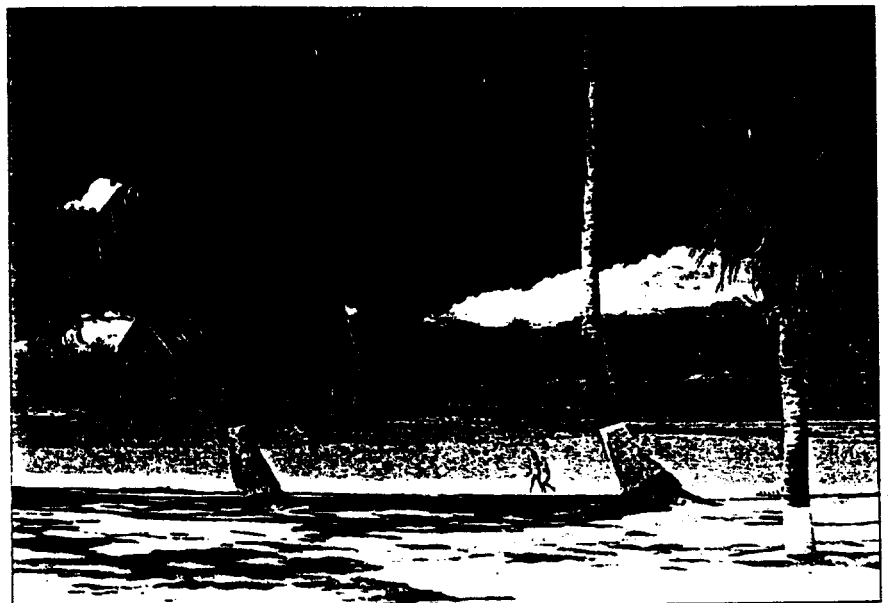
However, purists who insist on a regulation course need not fret. That's now a reality on Cayman with the opening last year of the 6,500-yard, par-71 Links at SafeHaven. Designed by Roy Case, the championship course is reminiscent of the links courses in Scotland, with fairways of extremely fine grass.

Unique, too, are the dedicated dive resorts. All are right on the shore, but not necessarily on a beach, since divers are obviously more interested in having a coral reef in front of their hotel than a sandy bottom.

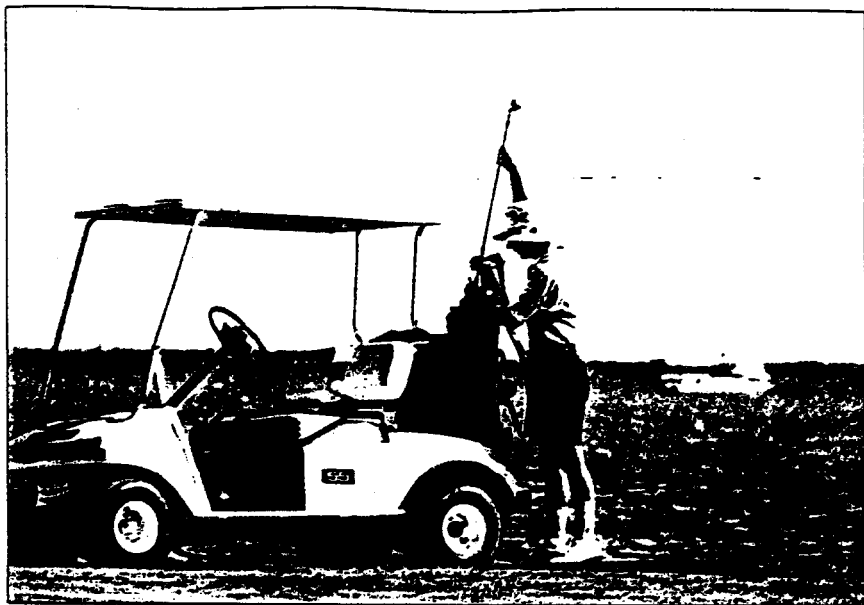
Almost all these resorts have their own on-premises dive centres, piers from which the dive boats depart and return, and practically everything else a serious diver might require. The best-known among them are Spanish Cove, Sunset House, Cayman Diving Lodge, Coconut Harbor and Tortuga Club.

While not for everyone, the Cayman live-aboard dive boats afford their 12 to 18 guests the opportunity to dive, dive, dive from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., allowing up to four dives a day, with equipment and the dive platform just steps from one's cabin. They also offer the ability to reach and explore isolated sites quickly.

A word of caution, however. These aren't pleasure yachts, but serious diving machines whose purpose is to provide hassle-free sport, with an em-



In the Cayman Islands, appearances and place names can be deceiving. This is Seven Mile Beach, near the airport — and it isn't nearly seven miles long.



The new Links at SafeHaven is a full-size, par-71 course. "Cayman Balls" not required!

phasis on convenience rather than service or comfort. Such cruises range from four to seven days.

It should be noted that it isn't necessary to be a certified scuba diver to witness the unparalleled splendour of Cayman's reefs. The 28-passenger submarine *Atlantis* regularly descends to 150 feet, complete with banks of lights for spectacular night dives.

Getting around the island is easy, using rental cars (expensive and hard to come by), motorcycles, bicycles, buses, limos (remember the extensive financial community) or, of course, taxis. Just remember that throughout the Caribbean, taxi drivers are known as "land pirates." Be sure to negotiate and firmly agree on the cab fare ahead of time, since some taxi drivers, while jovial and informative, are also inclined to take advantage.

Also, be sure of what currency is being used. The official rate of exchange for the Cayman dollar is US\$1.25 — approximately at par with the Canadian at present.

A free port known for its excellent duty-free shopping, the colony's capital, George Town, population about 5,000, offers best buys in crystal, black coral and treasure coin jewellery, and local handicrafts.

Once again, a word to the wise. The local shops are loaded with items carved from turtle shells, many of which are considered by the U.S. Cus-

toms Service to be from endangered species, and won't be allowed to enter the United States even if their final destination is Canada. Don't believe what the local vendors tell you!

Pedro's, formerly St. James Castle, is a popular tourist haunt, and said to be the oldest remaining building on the island. Once again, don't believe it! The present building, now a bar and restaurant with a commanding view, was built on the ruins of an earlier castle, which was destroyed in the last century.

In the same vein, the old cemetery on the south side of Bodden Town Road is said to be the final resting place of the island's pirates. Not so. The graves are those of early, law-abiding settlers.

Not to worry: there are genuine pirate caves in Bodden Town. Actually, they're a series of tunnels in which pirates hid their plunder during the 17th and 18th Centuries. Not far from the caves, in the picturesque village of Breakers, is another favourite stop, The Lighthouse Club. As its name implies, it has an excellent view, and serves local dishes and grog.

Nearer the East End are holes in the bedrock limestone, appropriately called "The Blow Holes," which, due to incredible build-ups of pressure, spew roaring plumes of seawater skyward. The roar is so intense that conversation is impossible.

Just a short distance away is the site



*"If you must smoke, please go into the garbage can."*

of another "Cayman tall tale" — this one concerning an old anchor embedded in the shore. You'll be told that it's from one of the ten ships that were wrecked off the point that fateful night in 1788. If you believe that, be prepared to take "the bridge" to Cayman Brac or Little Cayman!

One of Cayman's best attractions is the Cayman Turtle Farm, where more than 4,000 turtles are hatched annually, then released to the sea. The farm was started to protect the native green sea turtles, using imported eggs, but since 1973 the hatchlings have come from "domesticated" turtles which now lay in captivity. The farm's turtles range in size from six ounces to 600 pounds, and besides assuring the replenishment of wild turtles, are used for such Cayman specialties as turtle meat, leather and cosmetics.

Obviously, there's one hell of a lot to see and do on Cayman, and this becomes literally true doing a stop at the tiny village of Hell, named for the eerie black limestone spires found there. Most visitors go just for the fun of mailing home postcards. (Yes, there's a special "Hell" postmark). Leaving the small post office, they then head over to the Club Inferno to have a drink. After all, they've been to Hell and back!

Which is an accurate description of the jarring sensation one often feels when venturing beyond the confines of Switzerland to less orderly parts of Europe. It's the same at the tiny Caymans. Just substitute a passion for diving for the Swiss love of skiing, and the key similarity is obvious: both Cayman and Switzerland offer some of the most memorable vacation possibilities on the planet. ●

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#### A SLIP OF THE WORD PROCESSOR, PERHAPS?

The title of a lecture given by William Henry Alton, of New York, at the First Church of Christ Scientist, High Wycombe, was incorrectly given in last week's Free Press as "How to bore and be bored." In fact Mr. Alton spoke on the subject of "How to love and be loved." The Free Press regrets the error which was a misreading of contributed copy.

*(Bucks Free Press)*

# Cayman visit plunges into other world

By Brian Alexander

GRAND CAYMAN, Cayman Islands — Maybe it was the way the instructor, Joss, talked about those gas bubbles expanding in my blood, or the idea of handing my life over to my "buddy" Russ, who seemed to spend an inordinate amount of time regaling me with stories of his legendary drinking.

I was beginning to have some doubts about learning to scuba dive. I also started having visions of massive embolisms, of exploding lungs.

But in the Cayman Islands, three islands just south of Cuba that are renowned for crystal sapphire water and lots of living reef, the vision is supposed to be of floating in inner space and communing with undersea creatures.

That is what I had in mind, of course. It is why, given the choice of learning to dive near my home on the Pacific or in the Cayman Caribbean, I chose the latter.

Diving friends had told me that in the waters off Southern California good visibility might be 10 feet or so and that undersea life is often sparse.

The Caymans, on the other hand, were supposed to have water so clear one could see forever and a reputation of so much life swimming around, it seemed like a zoo.

Until then, the only thing I knew of the Caymans was that the three islands sported hundreds of banks, making the tiny country of about 30,000 people a kind of sunny Switzerland for people with money to hide.

But, I was assured that the islands are a diving mecca, and if I was going to be there anyway, I should get myself certified.

Which is how I found myself listening to Joss describe the horrors of nitrogen bubbles careening through my bloodstream.

(Joss is with Red Sail Sports, one of the larger diving outfits on the island and affiliated with the



Copley News Service

Divers can swim among great southern stingrays just inside the reef surrounding Grand Cayman Islands in the British West Indies.

Hyatt Hotel.)

A man who was a pioneer in diving in the Caymans, recalled that back in the 1950s, a few Americans arrived via Cuba.

They dove at a time when nobody did so except Jacques Cousteau and a few navy frogmen. They discovered a watery private paradise.

They found walls, the edges of the reefs that plummeted to depths measured in thousands of feet. They found great beach dives, dives that did not require a boat, just stepping off the sand and into the water. There were shipwrecks and caves, all of it surrounded by teeming life.

The secret got out, but it took a while. For in the 1950s, almost nobody outside the Caribbean had even heard of the Caymans; the islands did not even have electricity.

But in the 1960s, the country began developing and has not stopped since. Now, there are dozens of diving operations, and the sport, the second biggest industry next to banking, is responsible for the bulk of tourism in the country.

On the second day of my dive training, I still could not see the attraction. The water was gorgeous, as advertised, it's just that we had not entered it. Not so much as dipped our big toes in it. Instead we watched videos and listened to Joss's class lectures and heard about blood bubbles.

Joss was not trying to scare us. In fact, the affable Brit seemed to be reassuring about the whole enterprise.

He had discovered diving while traveling around Australia after leaving the British army. He had joined the army because they promised to show him the world. They showed him Ireland and Germany. Then, on his own in Australia, he saw the Great Barrier Reef and was hooked.

Now he trains others, who, like himself, had never so much as worn a flipper before taking a course.

"I get a tremendous buzz out of seeing people learn to dive," he

said. "Just looking at their faces, you can tell what a great experience it is for them."

I had to take him at his word, even when we did finally get wet in the swimming pool next to the Red Sail dive shop. We sat under 4 feet of water performing drills to demonstrate our ability to stay alive in a variety of situations. It was fun, but gee, this was diving?

No. The following day, our fourth of the course, we made it into the Caribbean just off the Hyatt beach. We did more drills. And we actually saw some fish.

Two boat dives followed, each one a little longer and with more freedom to explore after our underwater assignments. I began to enjoy the feeling of floating in space, the weightless never-never land, surrounded by odd-looking fish and coral formations. I was beginning to catch Joss's buzz.

And the sea was as clear as advertised. According to Joss, our visibility was about 80 feet. It was like swimming in an enclosed, but infinite tank. And Russ, my buddy, had caught the buzz, too. We made a good team, and I knew I wouldn't hesitate to put my life in his hands if necessary.

On our final course day, we reviewed all of our underwater skills. At the end of the dive, Joss shook our hands and congratulated us on becoming certified divers. He was proud, really, of enrolling more divers into the ranks, so proud, he treated us to a dive at a place called Stingray City.

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# Caymans celebrate past, present

By Brian Alexander

Diving is the main attraction for tourists coming to the Caymans, but there is a little history scattered about the island and a few good day excursions.

The flat, sandy islands were virtually ignored for much of their existence. Columbus sighted them in 1503 and kept sailing. In the 16th and 17th centuries, they became a base for provisions for British ships passing by.

The legend goes that two British sailors arrived from Jamaica in 1655 and settled on Grand Cayman. Others followed, fishing and building ships to create a basic economy. A few Africans arrived as slaves and some came from other Caribbean islands.

Today, the Caymans, a British Crown Colony, are prosperous, thanks largely to the banking and tourism industries.

In the rush to modernize, though, some of Grand Cayman has come to look like South Florida, with strip malls and Burger Kings. But driving to either end of the island can open a door to the way Caymanians have lived for generations.

The national museum located on the waterfront in George-

town is a good place to start. The museum is tiny but offers a brief background of how the Caymans were founded and what brought people to the islands.

West Bay features fine examples of the old "wattle and daub" style of construction in which workers built a building's skeleton of wattle — sticks attached to long beams — and then applied daub — a kind of cement made from the lime in the soil. Many wattle and daub homes in West Bay are still occupied.

Hell is located near West Bay. It is a coral formation that looks desolate but teems with small life forms. One may send a letter postmarked from Hell and even drink at Club Inferno.

On the other side of the island, toward East End, is the new Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, well worth a visit.

Drivers continuing around the road past East End, will eventually wind up at Rum Point, the literal end of the island on the east side. There is a bar and restaurant there, hence the name, and the local cocktail favorite, the Mudslide, is served in great quantities.

The Caymans also offer a few special events like deep sea fish-

ing tournaments and Pirates Week, Oct. 21-30, which has become the largest festival in the country.

The week begins with the ceremonial kidnapping of the governor by pirates, and continues with fireworks displays, a float parade, the Pirates Look-out Dance and the crowning of the 1994 Pirate King and Queen. It concludes with the public "Trial of the Pirates" on the steps of the law courts and another dance.

## IF YOU GO:

Getting there: The Cayman Islands are served by the national carrier, Cayman Airways, as well as USAir, American, Northwest and United. From the airport in Georgetown, cab fare to the Seven Mile Beach area (where most hotels are located) is about \$11.50.

Where to stay: The Hyatt Resort's room rates start at about \$120. Some dive and accommodations packages are available.

For more information: Contact the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism Offices in Miami, New York, Houston, Los Angeles or Toronto.

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## TRAVEL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1994

CARIBBEAN AND MEXICO



SUZANNE L. MURPHY

Legions of scuba and snorkeling fans find the Caymans the ultimate in water-sport vacations.

# Cayman special:

*NIGHT LIFE in the Cayman Islands is apt to take place, not in a disco, but under the sea, in the company of hordes of exotic beings.*

## liquid assets

By SUZANNE MURPHY-LARRONDE

**W**hen people bring up the subject of night life in the Cayman Islands, the discussion doesn't usually turn to gaming casinos, discotheques or Las Vegas revues. Evening spectacles in this Caribbean hideaway are indeed a popular attraction, but the action is likely to take place, not topside, but beneath the ocean's surface, where exotic denizens of the deep perform for an audience equipped with face masks and air tanks.

Apart from its welcoming citizenry, who number about 25,000, abundant, watery natural wonders are the country's premier attraction: mile upon mile of easily accessible coral forests, sheer canyons plunging thousands of feet to the ocean's floor and colorfully painted populations of marine life, all awash in the greatest of liquid assets, clean cerulean waters where visibility can reach up to 200 feet.

Together, these stunning attractions have won this British Crown Colony a place in the spotlight as one of the world's outstanding dive destinations. In just a few short years, that reputation has drawn legions of scuba and snorkeling aficionados, deep-sea anglers and other outdoor enthusiasts to the area's sandy shores for a sampling of what many consider to be the ultimate in water-sport vacations.

The Caymans are a chain, albeit a short one, of three diminutive coral and limestone islands anchored on the western fringes of the Caribbean, some 480 miles south of Miami. Grand Cayman, with its thriving financial and political capital of

Georgetown, is the largest and liveliest of the trio, followed by its smaller siblings, rugged Cayman Brac and tranquil Little Cayman. All told, they add up to about 100 square miles of picturesque but increasingly pricey West Indian real estate.

While Cayman Brac and Little Cayman are drawing a growing number of visitors for game fishing and diving forays, it is 78-square-mile Grand Cayman that remains the focus of most vacation activity. Its famed Seven Mile Beach, a stretch of powdery white sand, is home to many island hotels, condominiums and restaurants, plus a good sampling of the more than 20 dive operations.

On one recent morning, in what has become something of a Caymanian ritual, scuba instructor Sabah Benson of Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. put a half-dozen eager novices through the paces of a resort course in the pool of the Holiday Inn at Seven Mile Beach. Several hours later, the group was prepared to make an afternoon excursion to one of the area's most popular sights, Stingray City. Here, participants, from a seated position on the ocean floor, can actually pet and hand-feed the enormous, butterfly-like stingrays that circulate in these waters.

Relative to their other Caribbean neighbors, the Caymans staged a somewhat late entry onto the vacation destination scene, but today they rank second only to the Florida Keys as a water-sports destination, with more than 200,000 visitors a year.

Paralleling the colony's meteoric rise in the tourism industry is its equally astounding growth as a world-class, offshore financial center that processes millions of dollars annually. Over the past 25 years, its reputation for stability and strictly enforced secrecy laws has attracted scores of banks and other registered corporations.

This low-lying region was first settled in the mid-1600s by shipwrecked sailors and army deserters, but their numbers dwindled under the relentless assault of Spanish buccaneers. For the next century, although ostensibly under British control, the Caymans became the unofficial domain of roving pirates. Tales of fabulous treasure awaiting discovery in limestone caves and interior swamplands continue to be passed down from generation to generation and are told with great gusto by tour guides in their lilting island accents.

Caymanians demonstrated their loyalty to the British Crown in 1962, choosing to retain their colonial affiliations even after Jamaica, to which they were administratively annexed for centuries, opted for independence. Today, the democracy's racially mixed inhabitants (by the 1800s, a majority of the population was African) live in harmony as their sunny haven has flourished over the passing decades, in growing prosperity.

With its remarkable range of dive opportunities, from close-to-shore reefs and shipwrecks to the 6,000-foot drop-offs along the dramatic Cayman Wall, this trio of islands has something to fit the needs of every diver and every pocketbook. To introduce the novice to scuba diving, for example, many dive operations offer preliminary lessons covering equipment operation, basic safety rules and pool run-throughs topped off by an actual ocean dive. With their newly won certification, resort course graduates are free to continue diving, but always in the company of an instructor. The more ambitious sportsman also can take the week-long NAUI, PADI or other internationally recognized certification courses that confer the all-important "C-card", allowing bearers to rent equipment anywhere in the world.

A relatively new and increasingly popular venue for the serious diver is the live-aboard dive boat that comes staffed with its own divemaster and in some cases with such amenities as on-board dark-rooms for the immediate processing of underwater pictures. To preserve those golden vacation memories, dive operations also provide videotaping services of visitors' subterranean forays.

For snorkelers, several outfits organize boat excursions for an in-depth look at splendid formations of elkhorn and brain coral, plus schools of angelfish, parrot fish, turtles and other marine life found along the north shore reef. Passengers can dive for conch in shallow waters and enjoy them for lunch along with other fresh fish delicacies at a beachside picnic, all for about \$30 per person.

Other sports include game fishing, windsurfing, small boat and catamaran sailing, water skiing, aqua triking, jet skiing, paddle boating, parasailing and swimming, to name a few. And for landlubbers, there is tennis or golf at the Jack Nicklaus-designed Britannia Club on Seven Mile Beach.

Those who prefer to dive without getting their feet wet can go for a ride on the world's first passenger submarine, the 50-foot, 49-ton Atlantis, carrying 28 passengers past tropical reefs and shipwrecks, to depths of up to 150 feet. For a still deeper plunge, Research Submersibles Ltd. operates a research sub that carries a pilot and two passengers to depths of 750 feet along the Cayman Wall and past shipwrecks.

With visitor attention focused mainly on the sea, it's not surprising that Caymanians are taking increasing pains to protect the health and beauty of their natural resources. In 1986, a system of marine parks was established throughout the colony, along with strict regulations prohibiting the mutilation, destruction or collection of most forms of subterranean life by residents and visitors alike. "Take only pictures, leave only bubbles," advises a popular slogan.

Topside, you can take a drive to the island's interior for a visit to the Botanic Garden's new nature trail, with its variety of plants and birds.

Then head off to West Bay for a look at two attractions, the Cayman Turtle Farm and a roadside hamlet called Hell, both favorites with visitors.

The farm is actually a research center for the preservation of several endangered turtle species. Hell was so christened in the 1930s to commemorate a barren one-acre plot of jagged limestone and coral spires

that lies behind its tiny post office. This is the place to buy and send custom-made postcards with corny messages such as: "You always said I'd go to Hell."

# ... but 'progress' is a spoiler

By OZZIE OSBORNE

For decades, Caymanians loved to say they lived "on the islands that time forgot."

No more, though.

For the Caymans — I found on returning after a 15-year absence — have been "discovered" and so-called progress has firmly taken hold.

Now there are traffic jams on Grand Cayman, the largest and most highly developed of the three islands, and the two-lane road next to Seven Mile Beach — often called one of the world's most beautiful — looks like an upscale strip mall.

The cost of living is shockingly high, partly because of the duty of roughly 20 percent imposed on most imports. But Caymanians pay no personal or real estate taxes. Businesses enjoy the same tax advantages.

Because most items sold in grocery stores must be imported, prices there are easily 50 percent more than in the Florida Keys, which have the highest cost of living in Florida. Booze costs dearly; a case of Old Milwaukee light beer is \$28; Budweiser is \$35.

This does not keep Caymanians from drinking; for the most part, they are dedicated party people, but some apparently are trying to quit, because Grand Cayman has four Alcoholics Anonymous chapters.

Reid Dennis, who worked for the old Roanoke World-News before joining the Marines, came to the islands in 1969 — one of the numerous U.S. expatriates to settle on Grand Cayman.

"Obviously, I like this place," said Dennis, a native of Warrenton, Va., who lost a leg in Vietnam while he was a Marine officer and now owns Dirty Reids restaurant and bar. "But the duty [on beer, wine and liquor] is killing me."

He and his wife, Dorothy, member of

PLEASE SEE **PROGRESS/F7**

**Ozzie Osborne**, former reporter for the Roanoke Times & World-News, is the Key correspondent for The Miami

# Progress

FROM PAGE 18

a large Caymanian family and a one-time Miss Cayman, have two children, Wes, 16, and Davina, 13. Because of this — and the friendly feeling toward U.S., Canadian, and other expatriates — he feels totally at home.

Most startling to those who've been away from Grand Cayman for several years is the large number of beautiful homes, some costing a half-million dollars and more, that have been built in the past few years. Elegant developments dot the island and there are many beach-front condominiums in the million-dollar class.

Still, there are many people living in century-old homes in small communities such as East End. And some of the residents have never been off the island. They still rake their sandy yards to perfection at Christmas, while some of the affluent people decorate every stone, shrub and tree in their yards so elaborately they would attract attention anywhere.

Expectedly, progress has brought petty crime. Once people never locked their doors; now barred windows are commonplace.

"When I came here in 1969 [from Jamaica], I could leave my car unlocked all day in town," said business consultant Spencer Marshall.

Lawyer Keith Collins says most of the crimes are committed by repeat offenders in their late teens who are on drugs.

"And the government is not doing enough," he said.

To get away from it all, real estate agent Johnny Merren and his wife, Milly, and businessman Steve Foster and, his wife, Thalia, and others have bought second homes on nearby Cayman Brac. People are buying on Little Cayman, too. Land prices are escalating on both islands.



Reid Dennis, a former Roanoke newspaperman, operates a restaurant on the Caymans.

Grand Cayman's emergence as one of the world's great off-shore banking centers with nearly 600 banks (only a few of them full-service banks), together with a real estate and tourist boom, has given Caymanians prosperity unmatched in the Caribbean. (The islands have more faxes per capita than any place in the world, Marshall said.)

The islands' image was smudged a bit when the Tom Cruise movie, "The Firm," told of alleged money laundering and other skull-duggery involving Georgetown banks and the U.S. underworld.

"But banks actually must maintain a high standard and meet strict requirements before opening," said Dwight Merren, administrator at Midland Bank Trust. "You can't just come in and put down, say, a million dollars and open a bank."

and even has a water

**DUTTY Reids**  
**PALACE... A BEANERY**  
**WARM BEER • LOUSY**  
**AMERICAN STOUTS BAR**  
**SURLY HELP**

**FOOD SERVED 10 P.M.**

slowed because of the worldwide recession, real estate developers say.

Johnny Merren recalls that many people have bought real estate and sold it within a year for two, three, or four times what they paid for it.

"But that was some years ago," he said. "There are not many bargains left. What land that's left on Seven Mile Beach is \$10,000 to \$15,000 a foot. But there's still plenty of room for development elsewhere on the island."

Commerce hums and shops are busy, since the islands got 287,000 stay-over tourists last year, many coming to dive on the pristine reef in the unbelievably clear waters.

Shopping in Georgetown, capital of the Caymans, once was chancy. Some shop owners took hours-long lunches leaving signs on their doors: "Sorry. We're closed."

English is spoken in this British crown colony, but with a difference. A writer describes it like this: "Their speech is a mixture of American Southern drawl, with a Scottish lilt to end a statement, all combined to fall charmingly on the ears."

Progress has not changed one thing in the Caymans: the enduring charm of its wonderfully friendly people, who are highly partial to people from the United States. Once we had a flat tire and, when a group stopped to help, we asked them to our hotel for drinks. They came — every day for the two weeks we stayed.

Certainly, the Cayman Islands have never had an image problem as some islands in the tropics have.

The challenge here seems to be to keep the islands as they are.

# CAYMAN ISLANDS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WELL, SHIVER ME TIMBERS...**  
**CAYMAN ISLANDS CELEBRATES ITS CULTURAL HERITAGE WITH 18TH**  
**ANNUAL PIRATES WEEK SET FOR OCTOBER 21 - 30**

**— Swashbuckling Visitors Will Find A Treasure Chest Of Caymanian Heritage, Sports  
And Cultural Activities During Cayman's Week-Long Celebration —**

**GRAND CAYMAN, BWI.** August 8, 1994 -- Although the days of marauding, swashbuckling pirates on the open seas are long gone, a bit of the past comes to life during Pirates Week, the Cayman Island's annual national festival, which celebrates the exciting history of Caymanian culture. The theme for Pirates Week 1994 is "Cayman Adventure," and it promises excitement and action for visitors long after Blackbeard and his buccaneers lay siege to George Town and parade the "Governor" of the Cayman Islands off in shackles on October 22.

According to Pirates Week Chairman Mike Lockwood, this year's festival offers visitors more activities than ever. The fun begins with the fireworks display and "Pirate Lookout" on October 21 and officially opens with the colorful Pirates Landing and float parade on October 22.

Don't let that swashbuckling theme fool you. In spite of its title, celebrating Cayman's unique seafaring heritage and variety of natural and sporting attractions is the real focus of Pirates Week.

-more-



**“Those who know us, love us.”**

During the District Heritage Day fairs, visitors can learn about the rich tapestry of traditions which have formed Caymanian culture. The Caymanian people and their islands' attractions are the real treasures you'll discover, from snorkeling, scuba diving and golf to exploring the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, the Cayman Islands National Museum and Cayman Turtle Farm.

Pirates Week 1994 offers visitors a wide variety of cultural and athletic activities throughout the week. This year's exciting program offers experiences ranging from sampling traditional Cayman dishes like conch stew and cassava heavy cakes at the District Heritage Day fairs to participating in an underwater treasure hunt, golf tournaments and triathlons.

The fun begins on October 21 even before the pirates arrive. If you're not up to competing in the annual Pirates Week 5K run, then save your energy until after dark. The festival kicks off with a fun-filled evening featuring a fireworks display over Hog Sty Bay followed by the Pirates Lookout Dance, the Miss Hawaiian Tropic Contest and the crowning of the 1994 Pirate King and Queen.

On Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. George Town will be under siege when pirates invade, arriving on vessels which can range from a replica of a Spanish galleon to the Atlantis IX submarine and custom dive boats. The colorful spectacle spills ashore with the capture of the "Governor" of the Cayman Islands, followed by a huge float parade through the streets of George Town depicting this year's theme, "Cayman Adventure." Accompanying them will be local steel bands whose musicians are talented school children and costumed troupes with the year's newly crowned Pirate King and Queen presiding.

The siege continues with a street dance from 8:00 p.m. until midnight featuring Caribbean and local Cayman bands headlined this year by popular Jamaican performer Pluto Shervington.

Throughout the week, colorful swashbuckling characters appear in unexpected places throughout Grand Cayman. Look for a modern Blackbeard, realistic in detail down to red ribbons in his beard, once again portrayed by Plymouth, North Carolina actor Ben Cherry. Joining him will be Cayman's own hospitable buccaneers and the perennial appearance by the

Seattle Seafair Pirates. Together, they will hold surprise island-wide "raids" on restaurants, shops, and other public places, providing excitement and photo opportunities. Visitors are urged to bring their own costumes and join the fun.

Piratical antics prevail until Saturday night, October 29 at 7:30 p.m., when order is restored to the Cayman Islands during the public "Trial of Pirates" on the Law Courts Building steps in George Town. Immediately following is the final street dance with plenty of music and local food on sale in celebration of the Governor's return.

During the week, visitors are welcome to participate in the many competitions and sporting events including:

- **5K Pirates Run** (Oct. 21)
- **Underwater Photo Competition** (Oct. 14-30) Cathy Church/Sunset Underwater Photo Centre
- **Underwater Treasure Hunt for Snorkelers and Divers** (Oct. 23), Surfside Watersports
- **15th Annual Pirates Week 3-Mile Swim** (Oct. 23)
- **Johnnie Walker Golf Tournament** (Britannia) and **Bacardi Golf Tournament** (The Links at SafeHaven) (Oct. 23 and 30)
- **Pirates Week Cycle and Wheels Race** (Oct. 23)
- **Mickey Mouse Doubles Darts** (Oct. 29)
- **Adult Triathlon** (Oct. 30)
- **10th Annual Sailboard Race** (Oct. 30), Sailboards Caribbean

Pirates Week offers a great family vacation with challenging activities for children as well, including:

- **SafeHaven Children's Fun Fair and Costume Contest** (Oct. 23)
- **Children's Triathlon** (Oct. 28) Lions Centre Pool
- **Annual Children's Swim Meet** sponsored by Foster's Food Fair (Oct. 29)
- **Family Beach Day** (Oct. 30)

Cayman's heritage and culture are spotlighted during the District Days. Visitors can sample favorite Caymanian dishes from each district, such as stewed conch, fish tea and coconut "rundown" and see demonstrations and displays of traditional dress, techniques and costumes. In the past these have included a re-enactment of an old time Caymanian wedding, cat boat building, turtle ranging, thatch craft and rope-making and outdoor "caboose-style" cooking. In addition, Cayman's traditional quadrille dancing and music and folkloric and comic skits are highlights of evening Heritage Day programs.

This year's District Day schedule includes:

- **Oct. 24**                    **West Bay**
- **Oct. 25**                    **North Side**
- **Oct. 26**                    **Savannah/Newlands**
- **Oct. 27**                    **Bodden Town/George Town**
- **Oct. 28**                    **East End**

For more information about Pirates Week and the Cayman Islands, contact the nearest Cayman Islands Department of Tourism office: **in Miami**, 6100 Blue Lagoon Drive, Suite 150, Miami, FL 33126-2085, tel. (305) 266-2300; **in New York**, 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 2733, New York, NY 10170, tel. (212) 682-5582; **in Houston**, Two Memorial City Plaza, 820 Gessner, Suite 170, Houston, TX 77024, tel. (713) 461-1317; **in Los Angeles**, 3440 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1202, Los Angeles, CA 90010, tel. (213) 738-1968; **in Chicago**, 9525 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 160, Rosemont, IL 60018, tel. (708) 678-6446; **in Canada**, 234 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 306, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 1K5, tel. (416) 485-1550.

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# Cayman Islands Pirates Week

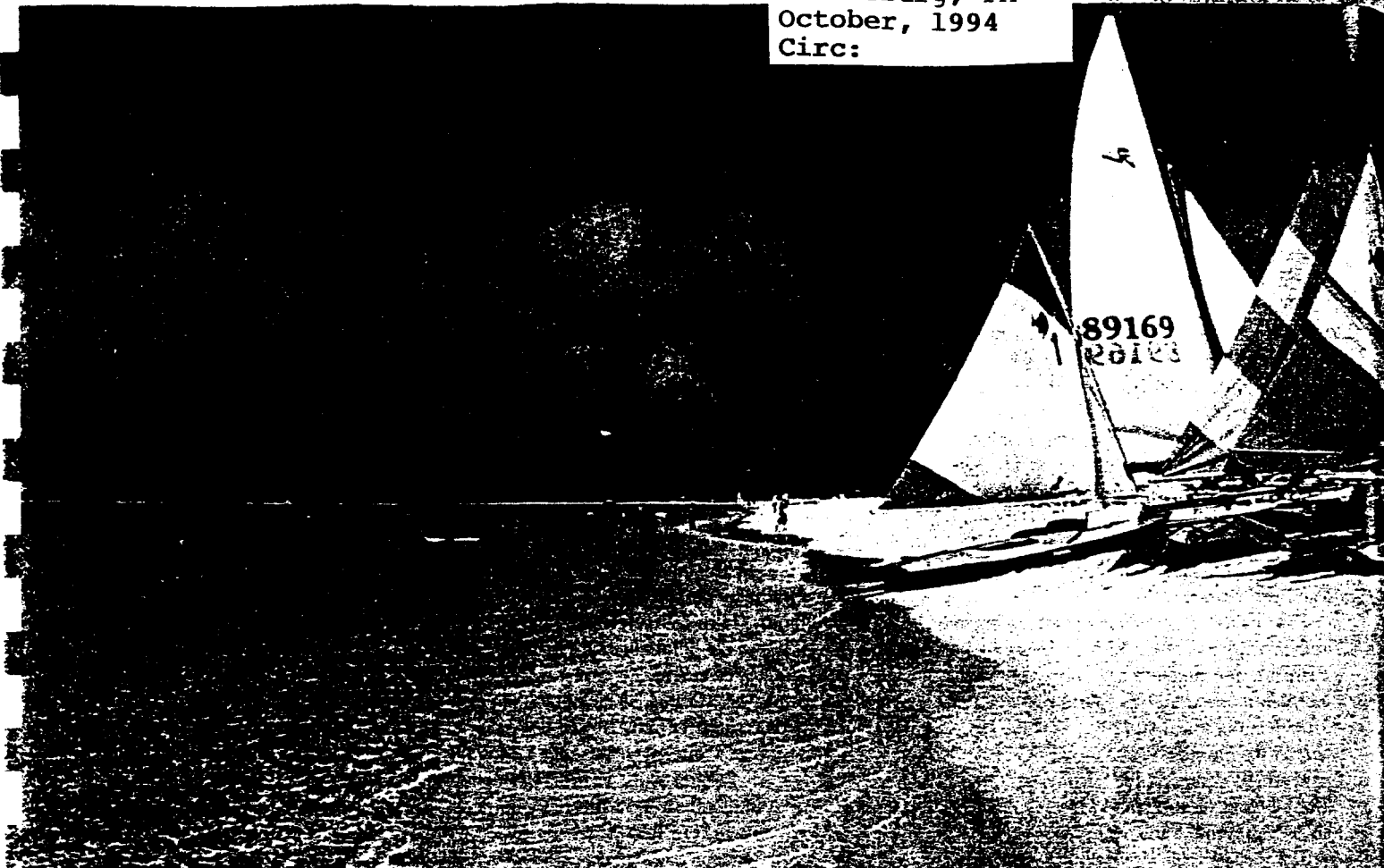
"Cayman Adventure" Oct. 21-30, 1994

## Tentative Schedule of Events

<b>21 October FRIDAY</b>	5:00pm - 6:45pm 7:00pm - 7:30pm 8:00pm - 12:30pm 8:30 p.m.	5K Pirates Run. Contact Evelyn Rockett, CIAAA, 949-9488 Fireworks, Hog Sty Bay, George Town Pirates' Lookout Dance / Miss Hawaiian Tropic Show Crowning of Pirate King & Queen at dance
<b>22 October SATURDAY</b>	10:00am -all week  4:00pm - 5:00pm 5:00pm- 6:00pm 6:00pm -Midnight	Underwater Photo Contest, Cathy Church/Sunset Underwater Photo Centre, 949-7415 <b>PIRATES LANDING</b> , Hog Sty Bay Float Parade Street Dance featuring Pluto Shervington and local bands George Town
<b>23 October SUNDAY</b>	8:00am- 2:00pm 8:00am- noon  1:30pm- 4:00pm  3:00pm- 4:00pm 4:30pm- 6:00pm	Johnnie Walker Golf Tournament, Britannia Golf Course 15th Annual Pirate's Week 3-mile Swim, CI Amateur Swimming Association, 949-8644 Children's Fun Fair and Pirate costume contest SafeHaven, 947-4155 Underwater Treasure Hunt, Surfside Watersports, 949-7330 Pirates Week Cycle and Wheels Races, George Town CI Cycling Association, 949-2412
<b>24 October MONDAY</b>	12:00pm- all day	<b>WEST BAY DISTRICT HERITAGE DAY</b>
<b>25 October TUESDAY</b>	12:00pm - all day	<b>NORTH SIDE DISTRICT HERITAGE DAY</b>
<b>26 October WEDNESDAY</b>	12:00pm- -all day	<b>SAVANNAH/NEULANDS HERITAGE DAY</b>
<b>27 October THURSDAY</b>	11:00am - 1:30pm 12:00 pm - all day 1:00pm- -1:30pm  8:00pm- 10:30pm	George Town Fun Day, Town Hall <b>BODDEN TOWN DISTRICT HERITAGE DAY</b> School Children's Costume Competition, followed by Trophy presentations for costumes and art contests presented by H.E. the Governor Mr. Gore, Town Hall, George Town Adult Costume Contest (TBA)
<b>28 October FRIDAY</b>	8:00am - 1:00pm 12:00pm - all day	Children's Triathlon, Lion's Pool (Middle School) <b>EAST END DISTRICT HERITAGE DAY</b>
<b>29 October SATURDAY</b>	8:30am- 1:00pm 10:00am- noon 7:00pm- 7:30pm 7:30pm - 8:00pm 8:00 pm- midnight	Foster's Food Fair Children's Swim Meet, Lion's Pool Mickey Mouse Doubles Darts Fireworks, Hog Sty Bay <b>TRIAL OF THE PIRATES</b> , Courts Building steps, George Town Street Dance Finale, George Town
<b>30 October SUNDAY</b>	7:00am- 12:00pm 8:00am- 4:00pm 11:00am- 1:00pm 11:00am- 4:00pm 11:30am- 3:00pm	Adult Pirates Week Triathlon, North Side Public Beach Bacardi Golf Tournament, The Links at SafeHaven 10th Annual Windsurfing Race, Sailboards Caribbean, 949-1068 Family Beach Day, Public Beach AutoCross action, Jay Bodden marl pit

For further information, contact the Pirates Week Office, (809) 949-5078/ FAX: (809) 949-5449

Harrisburg, PA  
October, 1994  
Circ:



**C**olumbus landed on the Cayman Islands in 1503 and dubbed the shores "Las Tortugas" (The Turtles) after the large sea turtle population.

Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman are known as one of the finest dive destinations not only in the British Caribbean, but also the entire world. The crystal clear waters have a visibility range of more than 100 feet and are filled with fascinating shipwrecks and winding tunnels.

Unique is the only way to describe the underwater life -- the most vibrant living coral reef systems and an abundant variety of amazingly friendly marine inhabitants.

**GRAND CAYMAN** -- The largest of the Caymans, the island is the site of George Town, the capital. Eighty percent of the town is made up of duty free stores and local souvenir shops. But you'll also find the Cayman Maritime and Treasure Museum, containing salvaged treasure (coins, jewelry, etc.) taken from wrecks off Cayman's shores. Seven Mile Beach (which is actually 5.6 miles), just north of George Town, is one of the best beaches in the Caribbean and the location of most of the island's tourist hotels and condominiums.

Make sure to stop by the Cayman Green Sea Turtle Farm, where thousands of turtles are raised for commercial purposes (as well as for release to repopulate the waters surrounding the islands). And how would you like to send a postcard from Hell? The district features a black, algae-covered, jagged rock outcrop. The outcrop is estimated to be 1/2 million years old.

**LITTLE CAYMAN** -- Good beaches and excellent snorkeling and diving among the coral reefs are big attractions at Little Cayman. In the winter, you can birdwatch and bonefish -- some of the best in the world. Diving is usually done at the 6,000-foot vertical wall (hence the name "wall diving"), which

lies just 18 feet below the surface. Jacques Cousteau ranks Little Cayman as one of the three best dive areas in the world.

**CAYMAN BRAC** -- Cayman Brac, a short flight from Grand Cayman, offers an abundance of deep-sea fishing (bonefish, marlin, wahoo, bluefin and barracuda) and diving/snorkeling along a jagged coral coastline. If you're interested in caves, there are hundreds on the island, some of them still unexplored. And while visiting, you can see the Bluff, which rises west to east along the length of the island to 140 feet at the eastern tip. But don't get too close; it ends in a sheer cliff!

#### PIRATES WEEK

A long time ago, the tiny island trio was frequented by bands of pirates who stopped to "make merry" and bury their treasures. (It is said that Blackbeard himself buried his treasures in the darkened island caves.)

During the last week in October, you can sample a bit of the swashbuckling days of marauding pirates during Pirates Week, the Cayman Islands' annual national festival.

Visitors can participate in the fun, too. There are underwater photography competitions, treasure hunts and costume contests; golf and swimming tournaments; crafts and food fairs; a mock invasion of George Town Harbor, in which bands of pirates arrest the Governor and his loyal subjects; and a parade of floats through the streets of George Town depicting each year's theme.

Adults can also take part in the annual 5K Pirates Run, the adult triathlon and the annual sailboard race. But children are not left out of the fun. They, too, can join in a costume contest, the children's triathlon and the children's swim meet.

You may also be able to witness the annual crowning of the

— Lisa D. Diantoniis  
is associate editor for  
Central Pennsylvania's APPRISE.

# GOING PLACES

by Lisa D. Diantoniis

## The Clearly Remarkable Cayman Islands



King and Queen, and "pirates" arriving on vessels ranging from a replica of a Spanish galleon to the *Atlantis IX* submarine and custom dive boats.

Throughout the week, colorful characters appear in unexpected places throughout Grand Cayman. Look for a modern Blackbeard, realistic in detail down to red ribbons in his beard. And don't be surprised if you're caught in one of the pirates' island-wide "raids" on restaurants, shops and other public places. Visitors are urged to bring their own costumes and join in the fun!

**OFFICIAL NAME:** Colony of Cayman Islands

### MAIN ATTRACTIONS

Scuba diving, snorkeling, deep-sea fishing, and beaches are the main attractions of the Cayman Islands. There are approximately 40 dive and watersport operations available. Of course, it's a great place for good food, relaxation and shopping.

Cayman is a duty-free port, offering visitors a selection of watches, china and crystal, perfumes, and fine jewelry in George Town shops and a few stores on Cayman Brac.

### DOS AND DON'TS

- Don't expect to see any casinos or flashy nightclubs. All restaurants must close by 11 p.m., but do expect high cover charges in the clubs.
- Do tip 10 to 15 percent on hotels and restaurants — if it has not already been added to your bill, which is often the practice.
- Do expect a 6 percent hotel tax, a \$10 airport departure tax, and a fee for changing travelers' checks.
- Don't plan to bring your pet. It's not allowed for nonresidents.
- Do expect almost everything to be more expensive than at home. Almost everything is imported, and the imports are heavily taxed. Bring what you know you'll need.

### WHEN TO GO

You'll enjoy "perpetual summer" in the Caymans, tempered by cooling northeast trade winds.

Just about any time of the year is good to vacation, but November-June is best. The average day temperature ranges from 70° F to the mid 80s, with highs ranging from 85° to 90° F during July and August.

There is little rain, except during hurricane season (July-October). Although it may be a bit cloudier then, it's still a fine time to go — unless a hurricane is near. Temperatures are coolest in February, ranging from 64° to 86° F.

### LOCATION

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.

Cayman Brac and Little Cayman lie approximately 80 miles east-northeast of Grand Cayman and are separated from each other by a channel about seven miles wide.

### TIME ZONE

The islands remain on Eastern Standard Time year-round and do not change to Daylight Saving Time in April. So make sure to set your watch accordingly!

### LANGUAGE

English is the official language.



PHOTO BY GUY LAWRENCE

We gratefully acknowledge Joanne Conneilan of Trindle Travel for her research assistance, and the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism for the photographs.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES H. HARRIS

#### POPULATION

At the end of 1993 the population of the Cayman Islands was estimated to be 29,500. The population of Grand Cayman is about 28,000; Cayman Brac, 1,450; and Little Cayman, 50.

#### CURRENCY

The Cayman Islands has its own currency, the Cayman Dollar (CID), issued in notes with denominations of CI \$100, 50, 25, 10, 5 and 1; and coins valued at 25 cents, 10, 5 and 1 cent.

The U.S. dollar is widely accepted throughout the islands at a rate of CI 80 cents. U.S. credit cards and travelers checks are widely accepted.

#### VISA

For a visit up to three months, U.S. citizens need proof of citizenship (passport, birth certificate or voter registration card — no driver's licenses alone), a photo ID, and return/onward ticket for their stay. Canadian citizens need only proof of citizenship and return/onward passage.

#### HEALTH ADVISORIES

There are adequate hospitals in George Town and on Cayman Brac, plus several clinics on Grand Cayman. Food and tap water are safe. No vaccinations are required.




#### DRIVING

Driving is on the left, and most rental jeeps and vans are right-hand drive, left-hand stick shift. Visitors 17 and over can obtain temporary driver's licenses from the police station or car rental agency upon presenting a valid driver's license and payment of US \$5.

#### MARINE CONSERVATION LAWS

Strict marine conservation laws are enforced by marine parks and marine police officers, assisted by all members of the Cayman Islands Watersports Operators Association (CIWOA) in all three islands.

These prohibit harming or collecting any marine life, including hard corals in designated marine park zones. Many of them are endangered species. The taking of any allowed limit of conch, lobster or fish in season is prohibited while using scuba gear.

In June 1993 the Cayman Islands introduced the Caribbean's most severe penalties for marine pollution. The government amended the Marine Conservation Act of 1978, raising the maximum fine to international standards (CI \$500,000 or US \$625,000) for any vessel convicted of polluting in Cayman's territorial waters. 



## CALIFORNIA AND THE WEST

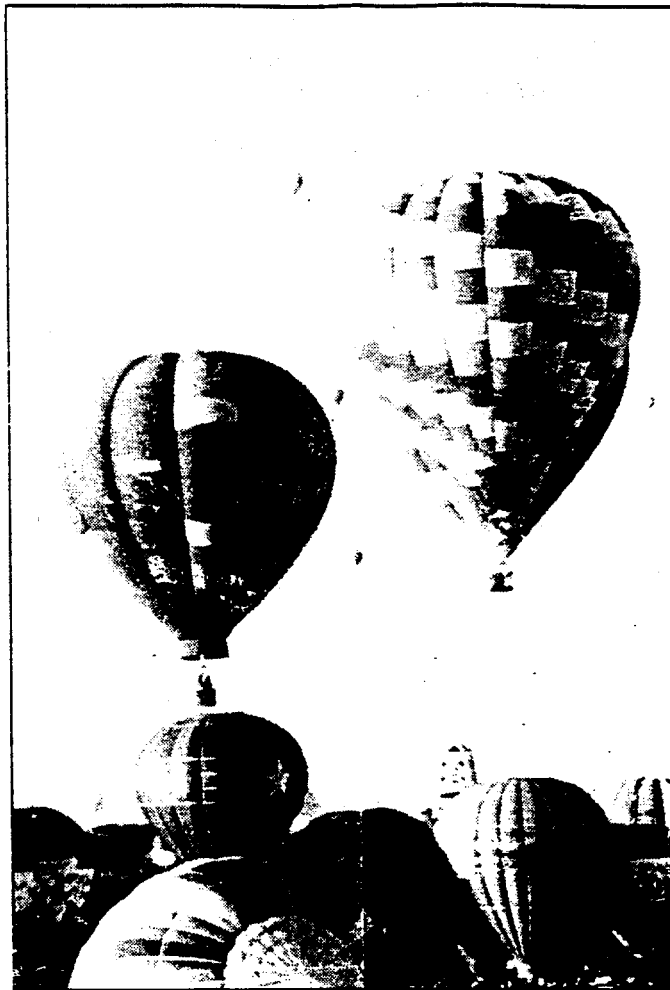
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► **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, through Oct. 9.** The eighth World Gas Balloon Championship and mass ascensions each day. Special-shape ascension Thursday. Call (800) 284-2282.

► **Whole Enchilada Fiesta, Las Cruces, N.M., Friday-Oct. 9.** World's largest enchilada will be cooked on an industrial-sized griddle and flipped with a giant crane as the city celebrates the fall chili harvest with Mexican cuisine, musical entertainment, arts and crafts. Call (505) 524-1968.

► **Columbus Day Parade, San Francisco, Oct. 9.** Festivities will begin at 1:30 p.m. With producer/director Francis Ford Coppola leading the way, the celebration will start with the U.S. Navy's Blue Angels squadron flying over North Beach and also include a marching band, clowns, horses, and floats. Other events will include bocce ball tournaments, historical exhibits, continuous entertainment, fireworks and Italian cuisine. Call (415) 434-1492.

► **Celebration of Harvest, Santa Barbara, Oct. 15, 1-4 p.m.** Featuring wines from Santa Barbara County's 30 wineries and foods emphasizing locally-grown ingredients prepared by area chefs. There will be exhibits of local products, vineyard tours, music and dancing. In conjunction, many wineries will hold open houses and special events on the weekend of Oct. 14-16. Tickets are \$50 and must be purchased in advance from the Vintners' Association. (800) 218-0881.

► **1994 Catalina Island Jazz Trax Festival, Catalina Island, Friday-Oct. 9.** Jazz Packages include: two nights filled with cool jazz, champagne at midnight and non-stop entertainment. For tickets and lodging packages call (800)-866-TRAX.



Scores of beautiful hot-air balloons will ascend at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta

free. Food extra. Call (203) 572-5315.

► **Taste of D.C., Washington D.C., Saturday-Oct. 10.** Cuisine from 50 of Washington's best restaurants. Two stages of live entertainment by two dozen artists and a third stage of children's activities featuring storytellers, musicians, mimes, clowns, dancers, magicians, face painters and interactive games. Call (202) 724-4091

► **Grand Opening of the Green Room at Rosenberg Palace, Copenhagen, Denmark, Saturday.** New permanent exhibit of 16th and 17th century heirlooms belonging to the Danish royal family and encompassing more than 700 objects of European and Asian applied art. The Green Room is adjacent to the new subterranean Treasury, where the crown jewels are displayed. Call (212) 949-2322.

► **18th annual Pirates Week, Cayman Islands, Oct. 21-30.** Cayman culture is celebrated with excitement and action. The fun will include fireworks, a colorful pirates' landing and a float parade. Call (213) 738-1968

## BERRY INTERESTING

Facts you should know for the Massachusetts Cranberry Harvest Festival, Oct. 8-10:

- Americans consume 340 million pounds of cranberries per year.
- Tradition holds that cranberries were served at the first Thanksgiving, in 1621.
- They were called "sassamanash" by Indians in the Massachusetts area. Because the blossom resembles a crane's head, settlers called them "craneberries," which became "cranberries."
- Cranberries are found naturally in wetlands. Source: Cranberry World

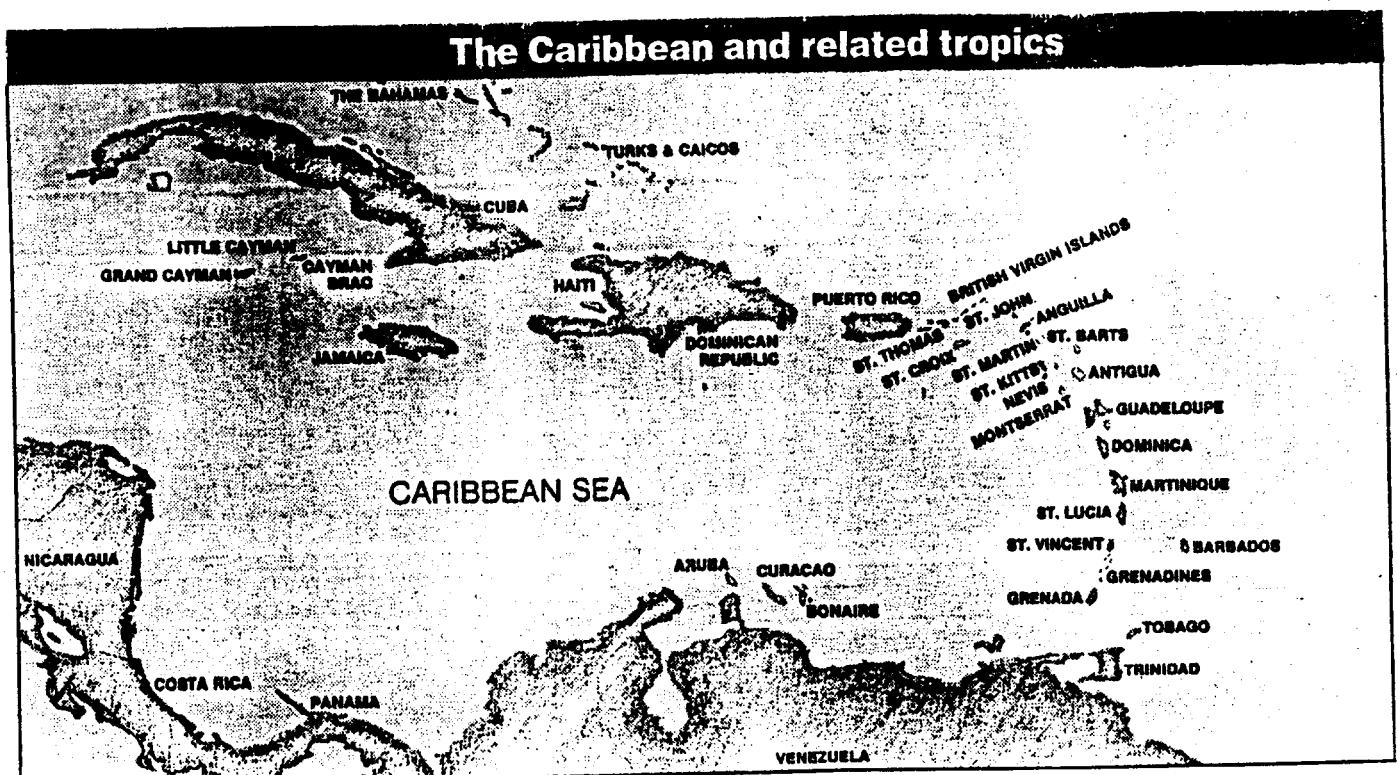
## AROUND THE WORLD

► **Massachusetts Cranberry Harvest Festival, South Carver, Mass., Saturday-Oct. 10.** Feast your eyes on the sea of cranberries at the second annual festival. Exhibits and displays trace the history of cranberry cultivation. Arts and crafts, helicopter rides and live entertainment will be scheduled throughout. Visitors may sample free Ocean Spray juice drinks and harvest muffins. Free. Call (508) 747-2350.

► **Chowderfest, Mystic, Conn., Saturday-Oct. 10.** Chow down on apple fritters, clam chowder, cider and beer. Proceeds from the food will benefit local charities. Museum admission \$15, adults \$7.50 for 6-15 year olds. 5 and under

# Festivals on the islands

During Pirates' Week in October in the Cayman Islands, you not only have the chance to compete in numerous sporting competitions in golf, tennis, swimming and fishing, but you are thrust back into the swashbuckling age of the pirates as a fleet of "marauding" ships drops anchor in Hog Sty Bay and buccaneers prowl the streets in search of pretty maidens who flee in terror. This is the islands' national festival



# THE CAYMAN

BY ELLEN SARBONE

**T**here's a certain excitement about the Cayman Islands and I felt it immediately when I looked out the window of my Cayman Airways flight and watched the descent toward the shimmering, translucent turquoise waters surrounding Grand Cayman. This would be home for a mere week—fabulous reefs and walls that have been at home here for millennia.

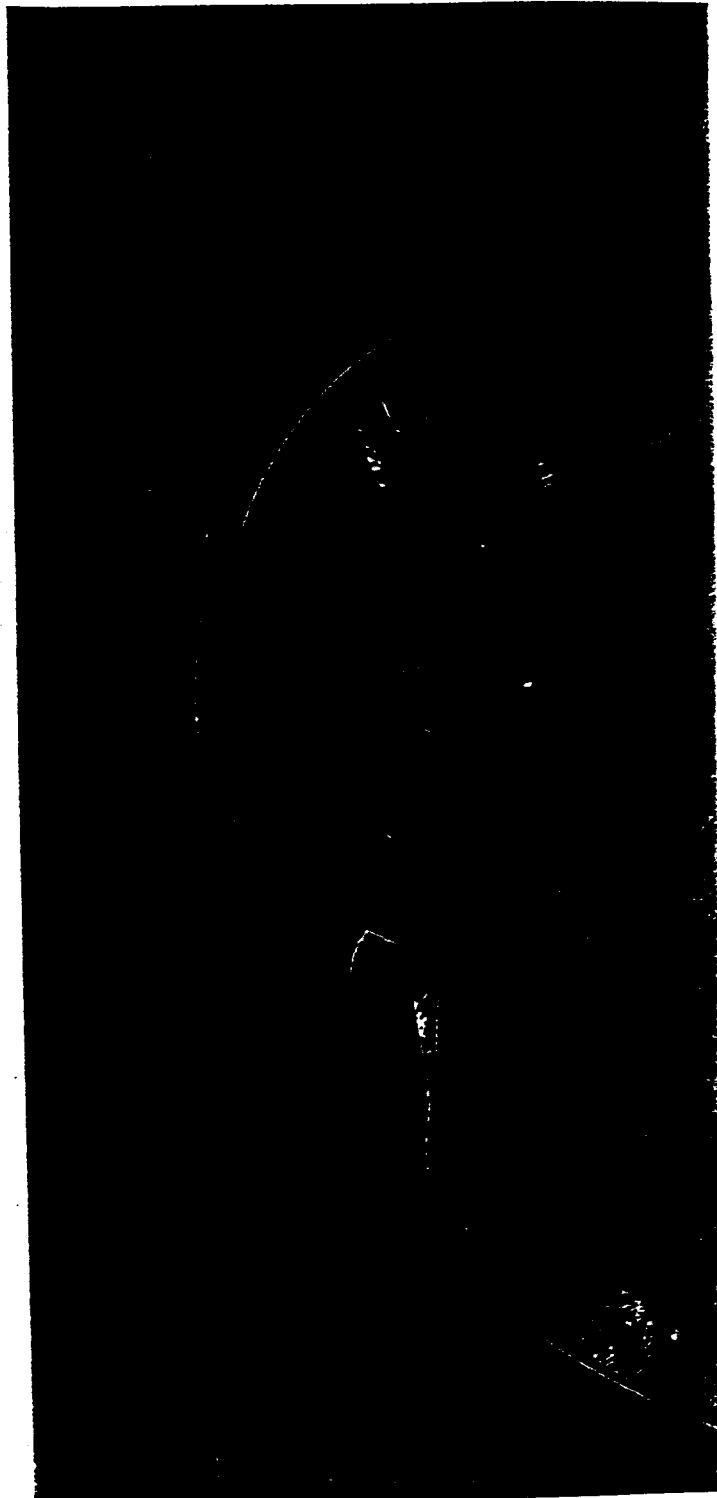
Formalities to enter the Caymans were brief and polite, only a passport or other proof of citizenship is needed. Within a few minutes I was in a Charlie's Super Tours van as Charlie himself whisked me to Sunset House and gave me an overview of the three Cayman Islands. The Caymans are a British Crown Colony about 480 miles southwest of Florida, and 150 miles southeast of Cuba. The islands are the tops of an ancient undersea mountain chain. They're not volcanic, but a combination of coral and limestone rock known as "ironshore."

Grand Cayman is the most developed, largest island at about 76 square miles, and most populous with about 25,000 people. The sister islands, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, are 89 miles to the northeast.

Cayman Brac is a mere 14 square miles and hosts a population of less than 2,000. Little Cayman is only 10 square miles. Its permanent population was only 25 until last year. It's about 40 now.

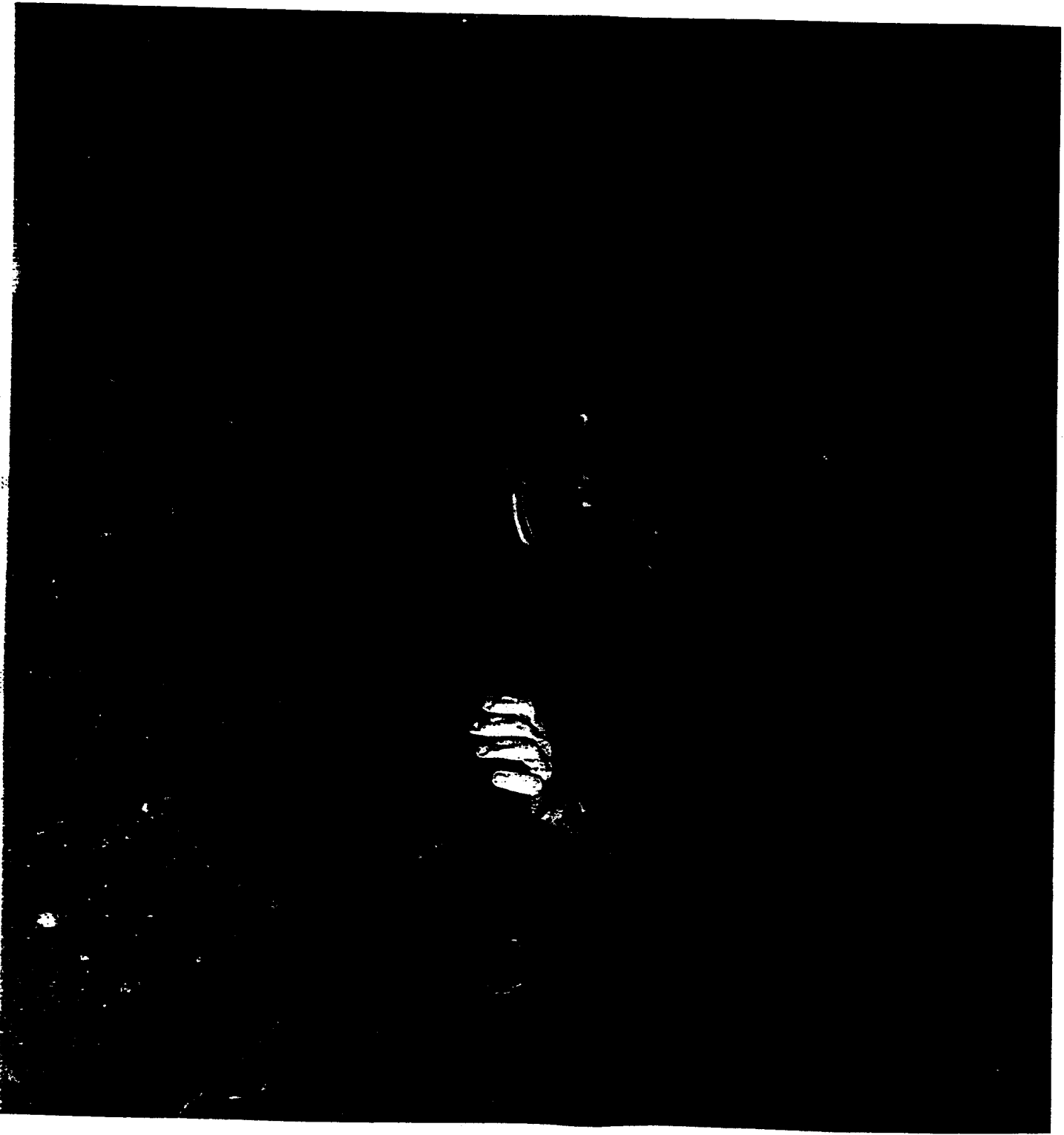
Each island has its own unique personality, yet all offer such a variety of dive sites and sheer underwater excitement that many divers return yearly. excellent dive sites are only a short trip, 10 to 20 minutes, from any point of departure. The Cayman government is actively involved in preservation of its underwater legacy, establishing

Amos Nicholson



3

# COLLECTION



44  
13  
marine parks, no-diving areas and regulations on fishing in replenishment zones. All dive sites have moorings which have helped to bring the reefs back from the heavy toll of anchor damage incurred during the 1980's.

Numbers and varieties of fish and invertebrates, breathtaking walls and passing pelagics are the main draw. All three islands feature narc-inducing walls that drop off precipitously to deep canyons. Grand Cayman's start at 60-80 feet, Cayman Brac's start at 40-60 feet, and those near Little Cayman start at 20-40 feet.

Some Cayman reefs have black coral forests and a riot of orange elephant ear sponges. Others multitudes of sea fans and gorgonians, colorful bright yellow tube sponges and huge barrel sponges that could easily hold two people.

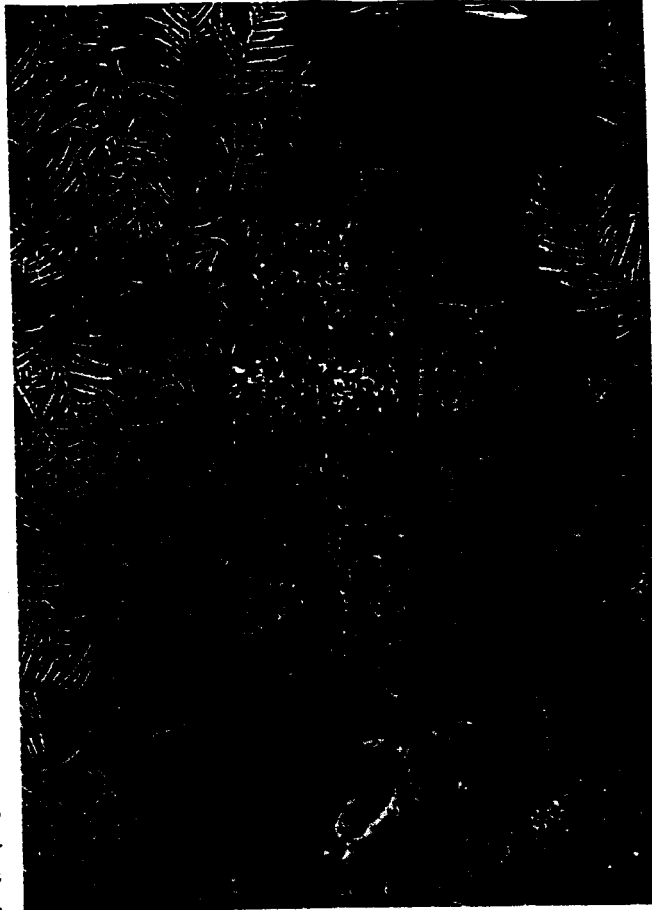
You can expect to see huge schools of fish on any dive—silversides, goatfish, jacks, snapper, grunts, even tarpon. french and gray angels, queen triggers, cowfish, filefish and blennies are also plentiful. Occasional include rays, sharks and turtles. Cayman Islands Watersports Operators Association (CIWOA) has instituted a 100-foot maximum depth. The second dive is usually 50 feet maximum.

Dive gloves are banned and buoyancy control is *de rigueur*, so practice, practice, practice. By the time I left I was so spoiled by the bath-warm 80-85 degree water and startling clarity that I never want to dive at home in California.

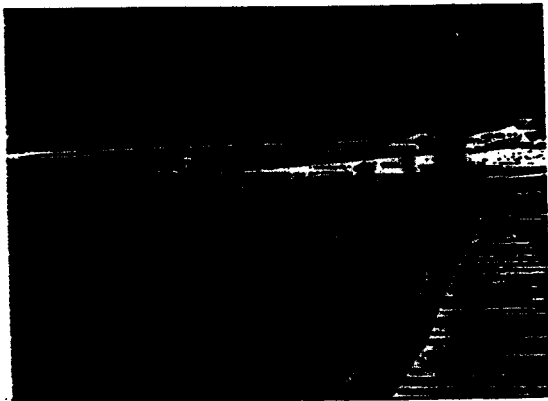
queen triggerfish and my logbook lists too many other species to mention. The many cuts and swim-throughs yield more of Caymans hidden treasures—lobsters, banded coral shrimp, golden coneys, scorpionfish, neon tube tunicates. Even shallower dives like Aquarium and Pageant Beach Reef boast a proliferation of marine life.

There's plenty of excellent, easily accessible shore diving on the westside, too. The many caverns at Devil's Grotto often have light streaming through their openings and are great for photographing the abundant schools of Silversides. Parrots Reef ranges from 20 to 40 feet. Plentiful sea fans, tube sponges, barrel sponges and coral support schools of french grunts, parrotfish and yellowtail snapper.

Northside underwater attractions include wall sites like Tarpon Alley, Lemon Drop Off, Ghost Mountain, and Stingray City. Outstanding sites on the East End and South Wall include Cinderella's Castle, Three Sisters, Lighthouse Wall, Tunnels of Love, and Wreck of the Ten Sails where, one hundred years ago, a fleet of ships misread warning signals and was destroyed. According to legend, not a life was lost because the good citizens of Grand Cayman braved the storm to save passengers and cargo. Because of this heroism.



Ellen Sarbone



Ellen Sarbone

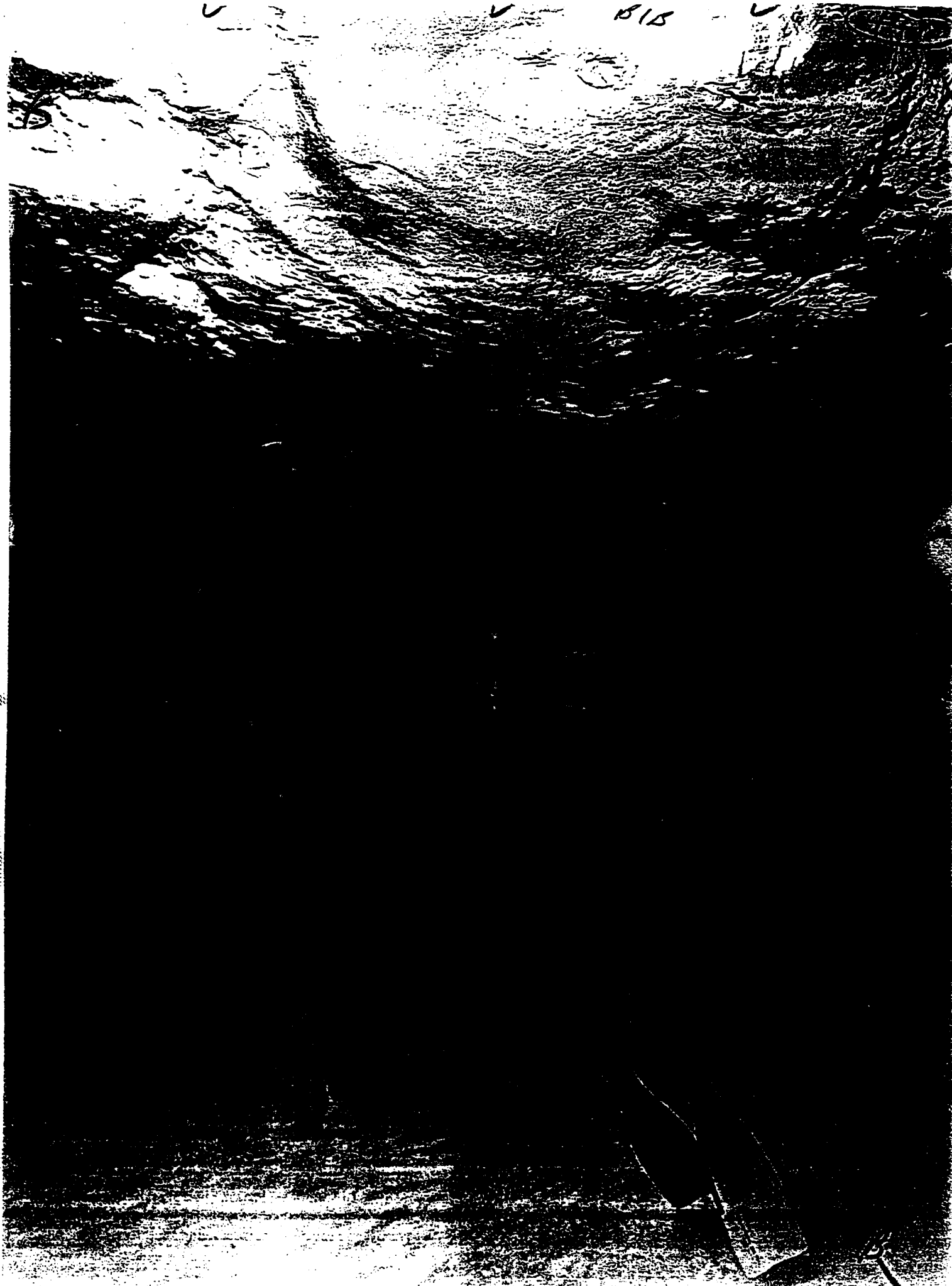
## GRAND CAYMAN

was home to the first live-aboard dive boat and many still dock here, for good reason. There are over 120 dive sites ranging from steep walls to what may be the best shallow dive in the world—Stingray City, at 12 feet.

Settled by the British in 1734 the Caymans early economy was based on Mahogany export, but the islands were isolated for the most part. The first wireless station in 1935 broke the island's isolation, but real growth only began when the airport opened in 1954. The banking and tourism industries were developed during the 1960's. Today George Town is one of the world's largest offshore financial centers.



✓ ✓ ✓ 1515 ✓



the Caymans received tax-free status.

You needn't be a diver to enjoy a stay in the Caymans. Grand Cayman keeps non-diving folks busy with visits to the Turtle Farm on the northwest coast, prowling George Town, the national museum in the historic old courts building, shopping and just relaxing in the many charming cafes. There's even a cinema if you're sunburned or simply seeking a cool place to rest. A sight-seeing tour is always popular and worthwhile. Rent a car to explore the new botanical garden on Frank Sound Road on your way to deserted beaches around the east and north coasts. Atlantis Submarines takes non-divers for a tour of the reefs, and divers will thrill to an 800 foot descent in a two-passenger sub. You can even send a postcard home from hell, or at least something that looks like it. It's really a large outcropping of the



Amos Nachoum



Ellen Sorbone

ironshore that looks like it could have come up from the inferno.

Evening entertainment is provided by a plethora of restaurants, clubs and night spots in George Town and Seven Mile Beach—including a duplicate bridge club and weekly square dance.

June is Million Dollar Month in Cayman. Named for the rich prizes awarded to winners of the famous international fishing tournament. Other dates to keep in mind are Carnival, around Easter, and Pirates Week at the end of October. A special diving event, Cayman Madness, runs from September 8, to October 22. An 8-day/7-night package starting at \$799 including hotel, diving, and air is available from Cayman Airways gateway. It's sponsored by Bob Soto's Diving, Ltd. and Caribbean Dive Tours. Ecology-minded divers will also be interested in a new PADI course, Underwater Naturalist, offered by Hyatt and Red Sail Sports.

## CAYMAN BRAC,

larger of the two sister islands, is treasured by divers who find Grand Cayman a little too busy. I flew there Island Air, the new airline providing connections between the three islands. As we approached the airstrip, I could see reefs beckoning below the clear shimmering sea. I was ready to grab my mask and fins and jump right out. Fortunately, they were packed in my suitcase so I had to wait until we landed.

Days on The Brac are paradise, in or out of the water. A

3  
warm, friendly and close-knit community in concert with calm, aquamarine waters lapping at sandy beaches perfect for shore dives and sunbathing. Most of Brac's excellent sites are only a short boat ride away. Columbus discovered Cayman Brac on his fourth voyage and called it Las Tortugas because of the many turtles. These days it is known by the name of the rugged bluff rising 140 feet from the sea. The island's early economy was based on turtling, then on boat building. Good, fertile land fostered agriculture and cattle ranching.

## **YOU CAN EVEN SEND A POSTCARD HOME FROM HELL, OR AT LEAST SOMETHING THAT LOOKS LIKE IT.**

The Brac has two hotels with dive operations—Divi Tiara Beach Resort and Brac Reef Beach Resort. There are also several condos, time shares, and guest houses. Divi Tiara's dive operation is home to the Nikonos Shootout each July.

Brac diving is as good as it gets. There are at least 20 terrific wall dives starting at 40-60 feet. Cemetery Wall, Rock Monster at Chimney Wall, and Manta Canyon to name just a few. They all have deep cuts and tunnels emptying out on the drop offs. Turtles and pelagics are often spotted here. There are three wrecks and another 30 shallower dives amid Tongue and Groove reefs teeming with fish and invertebrates. These include Charlie's Reef, Grunt Valley, Elkhorn Forest, and Shark Alley.

Nature lovers have a wealth of onshore activities to keep them busy on Cayman Brac as well. These include hiking and exploring the fascinating limestone bluffs with many mysterious caves where pirates are said to have left hidden treasures. The Brac is on a flyway for migrating birds and has several endemic species. My charming unofficial guide, Mr. Platt, a volunteer with the National Trust, showed me all the new trails and park facilities that are going in, and I added several new birds to my list, including the Cayman Parrot. Brac features great bicycling, shelling, and some interesting Brackers in places like Edd's Place and La Esperanza Restaurant.

## **LITTLE CAYMAN**

is home to approximately 40 residents all of whom are dedicated to diving activities and preserving their pristine environmental heritage. It's a low-lying island. A naturalist's haven covered with by tangles of Mangroves and thick bush right up to the water's edge, except for the fringe of long, powdery-soft sand beaches.

The name Little Cayman has long been synonymous with Bloody Bay Wall, a mecca for serious divers. A 10-

minute flight from Cayman Brac dropped me right at the jeep that drove me across the airstrip and to the lodge, just 5 minutes away. From the lodge I boarded a truck for transfer to the dive boat. Nearly everything on the island is transported by truck. Mike, our very professional instructor and guide, regaled us with Little Cayman tales and gossip and made sure each of us had a buddy. One giant stride, and there I was, in the warm waters, descending down Great Wall West, admiring huge yellow and brown tube sponges growing on brilliant red barrel sponges hanging off the wall. My buddy pointed to his depth gauge—100 feet already! But that's the magic of diving in Cayman—time simply melts away.

It is difficult to describe the awesome diving, both deep and shallow on Little Cayman. Shallower dives like Mixing Bowl, at the juncton of Bloody Bay Wall and Jackson's Wall on the northwest coast, or Paul's Anchor, and Meadows are just as exciting in their way as deeper dives at Bloody Bay Wall sites like Lea's Lookout and Great Wall, or those on Jackson's Bay Wall like Mike's Mountains, and Blacktip Boulevard.

A sandy bottom (itself full of fascinating creatures) leads up to either a tongue and groove reef system in the shallower areas, or caverns and tunnels emptying out on the walls. Here it is common to see turtles lumbering toward you, large eagle rays and dolphins cruising by. Fish with all the hues of the rainbow sweep by everywhere. My only disappointment was that I didn't get to meet Molly, the Manta, who often visits divers in this area.

The fresh water Pirates Well was just rediscovered last April after years of searching. Dive trips are soon to be conducted in the caverns branching off it, promising more exciting diving to add to the Little Cayman repertoire.

A few days Little Cayman are all too brief. In addition to spectacular diving there are plenty of other activities including visits to nearby uninhabited Owen Island, snorkeling trips, birdwatching, bicycling, and chatting with other guests and the friendly locals like friendly and very informative Little Cayman District Officer, Bruce Eldemire.

Little Cayman is one of the finest spots in the world for bonefishing and has a landlocked lake full of tarpon. A birdwatcher's paradise, newly-declared Governor Gore Bird



Ellen Sarbone

Sanctuary has the largest colony of red-footed boobies in the western hemisphere. I saw endangered whistling ducks, brown boobies, magnificent frigatebirds, black-necked stilts and others species too numerous to list. There are many hiking trails—a showcase for Indigenous flora and fauna—orchids and large Iguanas can be admired on a leisurely stroll.

Sunsets on Little Cayman are unequalled anywhere. Suddenly the blood red sun is bidding us adieu and reminding us of our place in the greater scheme of things. Another perspective of the stressful world we usually inhabit can be seen from the shores of Little Cayman. I recommend that you get there soon.



Alan Sabin

## THE CARE AND FEEDING OF A REEF

by Gerard and Cindy Braud

While the Cayman islands continues to develop in popularity as a Caribbean playground of the rich and powerful, so do the number of resorts that service the growing tourism industry. One of the groups trying to preserve the island's natural beauty is the Cayman Island Water Sports Operators Association, an organization committed to conservation, education and tourism marketing. It is not always an easy task to strike a balance between business and environmental interests, but the organization is aware that most visitors come to Cayman because of its natural beauty.

To divers and dive operators one of the most precious natural resources are the surrounding reefs. The reefs surrounding Grand Cayman support more than 1,000 species of fish, plants and animals and nearly all of these animals are interdependent, existing in delicate balance.

Cayman has been a pioneer in tough environmental laws to protect its fragile marine environment. Three different types of underwater zones have been established. Environmental zones have been designated as refuges for marine life. Fishing is off limits here year round. Anchoring here is prohibited and so is everything from snorkeling to water skiing. In Replenishment zones conch and lobster are off limits year round, although local fishermen are allowed to fish with lines. Marine Park zones control fishing and no marine life can be taken on SCUBA. Spear fishing is prohibited in Marine Parks as is the importation of spear guns into Cayman although the limited use of spear guns is allowed in some areas with a license from the Marine Conservation Board.

The Department of Natural Resources enforces the laws in protected zones with regular patrols and stiff penalties. Maximum fines can reach \$5,000 and one year in jail. If you are convicted of breaking the environmental protection laws in Cayman you might forfeit your diving gear and your boat.

"I think the management and environmental zones are one of the best things the Cayman government has ever

Jone," says Bunny Foster, who, along with his brother Ronnie and wife Mary, runs Indies Divers. The curious thing is that, of the three, only Mary dives. Bunny and Ronnie prefer the working end of a rod and reel, but all three are concerned about the future of Cayman's marine environment and have been active in promoting the placement of mooring buoys. More than 200 have been placed at dive sites in the past 15 years.

"Anchors were really tearing up the reef," says Ronnie. "Every site had three or four boats on it, four times a day. You can imagine what that was doing."

Large white scars can still be seen on brain and star corals at many of the sites.

The Fosters instruct their dive crews to scrupulously observe all the environmental rules, especially when it comes to mooring.

"We get good cooperation from the other dive boats as well," says Mary. "If a buoy is taken, you simply move to a dive site where there is a buoy rather than throwing an anchor out on the coral."

Everyone who dives, snorkels or fishes puts stress on the marine environment. Indies encourages each of their clients to minimize his or her environmental impact. One strategy is to discourage the use of gloves.

"If you have gloves on, you're more likely to want to touch the coral. If your hands are bare, you'll take greater care about where you put them," Mary adds.

Buoyancy control is another factor the Fosters try to make divers aware of. Careless diving can destroy in an instant what it took tiny reef creatures years to build. Star coral, for example, grow less than one half inch per year. As little as a 2 percent reduction in live coral cover will significantly reduce both the total number, and variety of fish living on the reef as well as invertebrates like crab, shrimp and octopus.

The Fosters believe it is important to set a good example for visiting divers.

"By the end of a week of diving most divers are very conscious of what they do underwater. If they see somebody touching the coral they'll motion for them to back off. Everyone wants to make sure the beauty is still there on their next visit."



Ellen Sabone

# CRUZIN' FOR A BRUSIN'

by Gerard and Cindy Braud

Because it is an Island, nearly everything of value still lives in Cayman on ships. Containerized vessels unload at the cargo dock in George Town Harbor. Cruise ships wait offshore with another valuable commodity, tourists.

On Cayman there is an ongoing battle over whether a pier should be built for visiting cruise ships. Currently these huge floating hotels anchor in a designated zone just off George Town. Tenders then ferry the tourists from the ship to a Port Authority dock.

Merchants and politicians have suggested constructing a cruise ship dock in George Town Harbor, since it already has a deep channel. Merchants feel it would give tourists more time on the island for shopping. It is estimated that the average tourist can lose up to two hours of shopping time waiting for tenders to arrive from shore to ferry them to the land and back.

But operating tenders to ferry tourists to and from the cruise ships is a big business in Cayman and the tender operators don't want to forfeit their slice of the tourism pie, and don't want a George Town cruise ship terminal.

Members of the Cayman Island Water Sports Operators Association have suggested that mooring buoys be anchored in the harbor, on to which cruise ships could tie up. At present each cruise ship drops anchor, causing constant damage to a reef that by all accounts has been virtually destroyed.

"The local gossip is suggesting they are going to put moorings in George Town by August," says former CIWSO president Adrian Briggs.

While permanent buoys near George Town would prevent the damage done by cruise ship anchors, they won't solve all the environmental problems created by cruise ships—namely garbage and sewage.

"Because they don't have a dock there is no way to dump the garbage. The boat may be loaded down from the last port, whether it's Cozumel or Jamaica," says Ronnie Foster of Indies Divers. "The Department of Natural Resources sends divers under the cruise ships to look for illegal dumping of sewage and bilge, as well as garbage," Foster says. "And they've issued fines to several cruise

CRUZIN', continued from page 37  
lines."

International law prohibits most dumping at sea, especially plastics. While it's easy for governments to catch violators in port, tight enforcement there sometimes encourages dumping at sea.

A new dock was proposed several years ago on the southwest side of the island to service cruise ships. A deep channel would have been required and that would mean lasting several reefs. Not only would those reefs have been destroyed, but sediment during construction would have smothered other reefs in the area. The idea was defeated, but the battle has moved to a new location.

A cruise ship dock has been proposed in the community of West Bay

toward the north end of Grand Cayman. Conservationists are outraged.

"The Florida Cruise Ship Association and the West Bay politicians want to see more cruise ship business in their community," says Briggs. "The best dive sites on the island are in the West Bay area. Dive sites such as Orange Canyon and Trinity Cave would be destroyed, or severely impacted by construction. It's the same fight we waged on the south end of the island."

*"The best dive sites on the island are in the West Bay area. Dive sites such as Orange Canyon and Trinity Caves would be destroyed."*

The greatest impact could be on the people who flock to Cayman for its unspoiled diving. The trick will be for the island people to see that their island treasure is neither stolen by visitors, nor pirated by their own.

B pg 69

# Caymans' beauty is all below the surface

## Prices on the islands are high, but government makes vacations less taxing

RICK SYLVAN  
KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

\$459

**G**ORGE TOWN, Grand Cayman, British West Indies—Not 10 feet offshore and it starts.

A dozen parrot fish in rainbow colors are drifting past my snorkel mask.

Here come sergeant majors, hanging like black-and-white ornaments in water too clear to be believed.

Beautiful blue tangs dance in the current, wriggling up from maybe 12 feet below me. Yellowtail snappers are close enough to touch.

Wetter is better in the Caymans. It's hard to sink your flippers into Cayman waters and not feel a rush. One of the great centres of the world for diving, snorkeling and sportfishing didn't get that way by accident.

And how's this for exciting? Out on a sandbar on North Sound you can snorkel or dive with friendly stingrays.

The surge in soft adventure has turned the Caymans hot, hot, hot for tourism.

Scenes from the hit movie *The Firm* were filmed here. Now, said my guide Shirly Dilbert, visitors want to see the Hyatt and Holiday Inn where filming was done. Also the white-gated beachfront villa over on West End where Tom Cruise stayed.

But water is still Cayman's star attraction. To sample abundant marine life you don't have to be in serious depths, either.

Sites for shore diving are strung along the coast. The mystery

popular with near-shore snorkelers, and just up the beach you can hand-feed sea turtles.

Eden Rock Diving Centre, where I snorkeled, is a five-minute walk from George Town, the capital city.

The big-time diving and fishing takes place along the barrier reef that encircles Grand Cayman like a frothy necklace. Boats can reach the reefs and coral gardens in about 10 to 15 minutes.

The Wall plunges 6,000 feet to the ocean floor. At the Cayman Trench the drop-off is staggering: 38,000 feet.

Pushing depths of 140 feet, Ruben Menay of Miami dove the walls, shipwrecks and living reefs.

"Fantastic!" he said of the West Wall. "Better than the Bahamas, Key West or Cozumel. We saw eels and barracudas, tarpon in cave openings that looked like torpedoes. Beautiful coral."

Waist-deep on a sandbar—or at a 12-foot dive site—you can actually pet and feed stingrays. Boat excursions to Stingray City can be booked through hotels, dive shops or your cruise ship.

Atlantis Submarines takes wide-eyed visitors to Cayman's undersea realm. But the ultimate trip to the briny depths is aboard a two-passenger, deep-diving submersible dropping 800 feet down the Cayman Wall.

Fishing here is world class. Marlin is prized, and big blues regularly top 300 pounds or they're thrown back (by law). Strikes are common on wahoo, dolphin and sailfish.

The sea washes up on Grand Cayman at famed Seven Mile Beach. We're long who

counting?)

Resort hotels, condos and homes owned by Americans and Canadians are strung along the beach. Sands are at their whitest and the surf at its brightest around the Holiday Inn, the huge Radisson resort and the Island Pine Villas (where a one-bedroom condo that cost \$24,000 in 1974 will now set you back \$125,000).

Jack Nicklaus sculpted the Hyatt's unique Britannia golf course, a versatile layout that can be played to nine-hole, par-35 regulation length or 18 holes on the Cayman course.

For this, golfers use the Cayman ball, a bumpy ball that goes half the distance of a regular ball. (Think I've played this ball all my life!) First-timers to Cayman are in for a surprise. As Caribbean sales go, it is an ugly duckling, flat as a sand dollar. Palms, grasses and other tropical adornments for the big resorts had to be imported. "The satellite dish is our national flower," Dilbert said.

On Cayman's scrubby backside are mangrove swamps good for little more than breeding mosquitoes.

If the pests don't sting you, the prices will. Bargains are few on Grand Cayman, but at least you won't hear the t-word. Grand Cayman collects no sales, income, property, capital gains, corporate or inheritance taxes. It has been a tax haven since 1966.

That means your bill at seaside restaurants like the Wharf or at Chef Tell's will be less taxing. Same for Liberty's, an inland hangout popular with locals. Outfitters like Job's and Sail won't tax

you for dive excursions. And the price you see is the price you pay for a jeep rental.

When a turtle farm draws the biggest crowds, you know Grand Cayman is not awash in tourist attractions. From hatchlings to big 600-pounders, green sea turtles are raised here to help repopulate waters in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico.

Bummer of a life these turtles have. To be stuck in cement holding tanks and fed Purina livestock pellets is hardly the wilds. Forty per cent don't leave the farm alive. They get "processed" for meat, shell jewelry and turtle oil for cosmetics.

It was Christopher Columbus who, discovering the islands in 1503, dubbed them Las Tortugas for the turtles he found.

About the only other big draw is Hell. Tourists go to Hell, in West Bay, to see the blackened limestone and dolomite formations that inspired its name and to send postcards postmarked "Hell." At night, the action is hot in the Inferno nightclub.

Ivan Farrington, a character who likes dressing in a Satan suit, owns the Devil's Hangout gift shop in Hell. And yes, Farrington knows about Hell, Mich.

"How are the two Hells different?" "That Hell," he says, "freezes over."

Sunday, October 23, 1994



The Times Travel-5

# Grand Cayman: what a dive!



JAT IRELAND/Special to the Times

A SCUBA DIVER plays with the creatures at Sting Ray City at Grand Cayman Island.

## There may be no finer place on the planet for undersea exploring

By JUNE NAYLOR RODRIGUEZ  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Two things to know up front about this flat patch of sand in the Western Caribbean between Cuba and Belize: The locals call it "kay-MANN," and they want to know when and where you'll be diving tomorrow morning.

Barely off the plane and only a minute into dinner one recent Thursday evening, the moment of confession is here. Time to tell the dinner hosts, two American expatriates who've made Grand Cayman home for several decades, that this traveler hasn't been scuba-certified. A moment's hesitation, then they say that's not a problem.

No one even knew where the Cayman Islands were until its extensive barrier reef — legendary for the Wall, a 6,000-foot-drop to the ocean floor — gained fame among divers about 20 years ago; now this orderly, tidy and very wealthy British crown colony is considered the Caribbean's best place for underwater vacations. So how can these folks claim it's possible to appreciate this liquid paradise without diving?

First, they say, it's essential to book a snorkeling trip with one of the long-established Cayman captains, whose small- to medium-size charter boats offer something better and more personal than the standard tours. After that, sign on for a half-day resort dive, which provides basic instruction allowing novices to explore depths at around 40 feet.

### Modest decision

Friday after lunch, the boat captain is waiting for his group at Ron Ebanks' Charter Boat Headquarters, whose shop is at a busy retail enclave called Coconut Place. Everyone gets fitted for mask and fins, then boards the Sun Light, a modest, open-air boat.

The boat is captained by Allan Ebanks — half the population on Grand Cayman is named Ebanks or Abanks, as was the Cayman dive master in the book and film "The Firm." Allan and cohorts Merlin and George all prove to be soft-spoken

but conversational.

It soon becomes clear that it was the right decision to tour with one of these older, more established boats, rather than the newer outfits that transport a mob of people in a mass tour. Allan and the guys are pointing out landmarks, and explaining later sights.

At North Sound we don snorkel gear and jump in the swimming pool-blue water. Allan and Merlin try to explain how to dive to the bottom while still wearing snorkels. It's about 10 feet deep here, and a couple of people get the hang of it, but not long enough to stick around on the ocean floor. Merlin dives, then returns with 11 big, pink conch shells. Then he's gone again, and a few minutes later he brings up a hefty striped spiny lobster, writhing in protest.

As George steers the boat next to a coral garden for more snorkeling, Allan demonstrates conch cleaning. He makes it look easy.

### Friendly stingrays

This coral garden visit seems every bit as good as those reported off Cozumel, St. John or Key West, and the water is as crystal-clear as that in a bottle of Evian. Just a few feet below the surface are plenty of fan coral and school after school of pretty parrot fish.

But the greatest thrill still lies ahead: a place called Sting Ray City, marked by a long, wide, pearl-white sandbar immediately beneath this patch of Caribbean Sea.

In waves of underwater flight are large, gray stingrays, almost as flat as — but mostly larger than — man-hole covers. In the water, a moment is needed to conquer initial nervousness at being so near creatures usually considered dangerous, then we thrill to their closeness and apparent lack of fear.

Allan and the guys demonstrate feeding the rays bits of the leftover conch meat, and the rays become quite friendly, letting us swim with them.

Allan feeds and strokes one ray, working gently to coax the disc-shaped fish into sort of a bear hug. The ray flaps and struggles briefly, then gives in and finally lets Allan hold him. Allan turns and slowly shifts the ray into my encircling arms. Amazingly, it snuggles, very sweetly and unfishlike.

Back on our boat, George toils over a big bowl of conch salad — not unlike ceviche, and eaten on sal-tines — marinating it with lemons, onions, tomatoes, bell peppers and Tabasco. The dinner appetizer is served as we leave Sting Ray City.

### Fresh-caught treat

Riding back in the late afternoon, the guys cook the spiny lobster over a portable grill, then crack the shells and pull out the tail meat. Soon a platter is offered, piled with thick chunks of lobster in melted butter. Those party-boat passengers aren't getting this fresh-caught, fresh-grilled lobster.

Early next morning, the resort dive experience begins at a shop called Aquanauts, one of a legion of dive outfitters on Grand Cayman. Before getting near the water, however, prospective divers read a lengthy list of health conditions to not have in order to do this resort dive. Given snorkel, fins, mask and an instructor, Josh, a friendly twentysomething instructor relocated from Fort Lauderdale, we're off to the beach for lessons.

By 9 o'clock, we're on a soft, sandy stretch of Seven Mile Beach reviewing a third-grade-level chart covering basic diving do's and don'ts, and afterward, wearing tanks and masks, we walk into the surf. In shallow water Josh teaches use of the regulator (breathing apparatus), how to clear water from the mask, the necessary hand signals. This and the chart together take up about an hour.

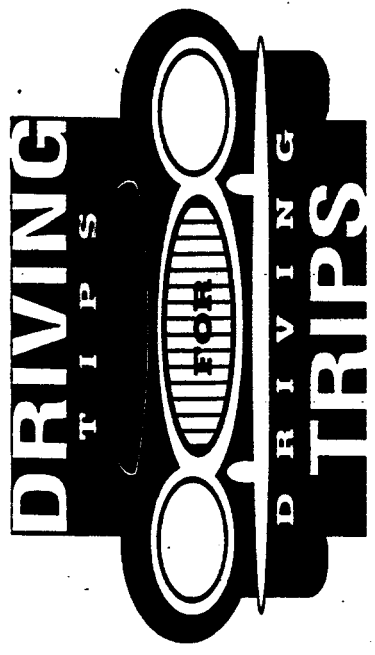
Into the dive boat, out to open water, on with the gear (the tanks are heavy), and then we're in the sea, going down and down, stopping momentarily to clear our ears. Looking at objects in the distance, the world 40 feet down is an intense blue, but everything close up is seen in true colors.

There are dry alternatives to exploring this submerged world. — one is to book a seat on the Atlantis Submarine, which takes 46 people on day and night dives to a depth of 100 feet, cruising along the top of the Wall.

■ More information: Cayman Islands Department of Tourism, Two Memorial City Plaza, 820 Gessner, Suite 170, Houston, TX; 1-713-461-1317.

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**International: Grand Cayman Island**

*Grand Cayman is the largest of the Caribbean's Cayman Islands. Driving here is on the left side of the road.*

**Rental procedure.** At Owen Roberts airport, which is about three miles from George Town, the capital, cars can be rented in or right across from the terminal.

Companies can deliver cars to the hotels; some larger hotels have rental desks.

**Requirements.** Clients need a valid license, credit card and a temporary driving permit, which is issued for \$5 by all companies. Minimum age varies by company.

**Returns.** Cars may be returned at the airport, hotel or rental company. Keys also may be dropped in airport boxes.

**Vehicles.** Companies offer all models, including full-size cars, jeeps and vans. Most are recent Japanese models with air-conditioning and automatic shift.

**High-season daily rates** range from \$35 to \$60.

**Fuel.** The Cayman Islands use the imperial gallon, which is 25% larger than a U.S. gallon. The cost per gallon is \$4. The U.S. dollar exchanges for about 80 Cayman cents.

**Parking.** Lots are readily available at all properties, malls and shops along Seven-Mile Road.

Parking is somewhat more

**CLIPBOARD**

difficult in George Town, but public lots are available.

**Roads.** The island is about 20 miles long and 10 miles wide and can be covered in less than two hours.

The one major road that follows the shore is well-marked; it is lighted at night along the hotel area facing Seven-Mile Beach. Even side roads are free of potholes.

**Safety.** The collision damage waiver costs less than \$10. Because of left-side driving and its risks, clients may feel secure buying the waiver and personal accident insurance.

Suggest taking a taxi tour so that clients can learn the roads and get a feel for left-side driving.

Grand Cayman's few roads are flat, well marked, uncrowded and well maintained. Accidents are rare.

Groups of young people and families on mopeds or motorbikes use the road, so extra caution may be required.

Outside of town, an occasional goat may be on the roadside.

Crime is rare, but caution clients to lock cars and keep valuables hidden anyway.

**Speed limits.** They range from 25 to 50 mph and must be observed, although country roads often are deserted.



*Pappagallo, an Italian restaurant, is a recommended stop during a Grand Cayman driving itinerary. It is in Barkers, a 15-minute drive from George Town.*

**Note:** It is virtually impossible to get lost on Grand Cayman, as there are only two smaller roads (to the airport and to a fishing village called Batabano) off the main highway; both are marked clearly.

**Scenic routes.** George Town, the Turtle Farm and a village called Hell are reached easily by car.

A longer tour of the entire island might start from the hotel area and proceed north along Seven Mile Road to the Turtle Farm and the village of Hell, back south to West Bay and east toward Batabano.

Backtrack south to George Town for shopping, then continue south on South Sound

Road, along the scenic coast route, to the Blow Holes, which consist of seawater shooting into the air when waves hit the coral rocks.

Continue around the coast road north and west to the tip of north central Grand Cayman and the Cayman Kai area.

Backtrack to Frank Sound Road (the north-south road) and turn right (south). Midway on the island are the new Botanical Gardens.

Backtrack along the South Sound Road through George Town until the hotel area is reached.

*Compiled by Joan Iaconetti.*

# CAYMAN ISLANDS

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## CAYMAN ISLANDS HEADED FOR ANOTHER RECORD YEAR

### **-- Tourist Arrivals Set Second Quarter Record --**

GRAND CAYMAN, BWI, August 3, 1994 -- The Cayman Islands just completed its best spring season ever, with second quarter air arrivals up 22 percent over 1993, it was announced by the Hon. Thomas Jefferson, Minister of Tourism, Environment and Planning, at the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism's quarterly marketing meeting held last week in Houston, Texas.

During the first six months of 1994, non-resident air arrivals to the Cayman Islands were up 18.92 percent for a total of 176,872 -- an increase of 27,986 over the same period last year. Cruise ship arrivals showed a 4.03 percent increase during the same period, with a total of 327,371 compared with 314,676 during the first six months of 1993. Total arrivals to the Cayman Islands, from January through June 1994, reached 504,243, compared with 462,582 through the end of June 1993. Air arrivals in June 1994 alone were up 30 percent over 1993.

"These numbers attest to the fact that the momentum is continuing in 1994, as we look forward to another banner year for Cayman Islands tourism," said Minister Jefferson. In 1993, non-resident air arrivals surpassed all previous years with an increase of 19 percent, for

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**"Those who know us, love us."**

a year-end total of 287,277. Cruise arrivals totaled 605,715 for a combined 1993 figure of 892,992.

For further information, contact the nearest Cayman Islands Department of Tourism office: **in Miami**, 6100 Blue Lagoon Drive, Suite 150, Miami, FL 33126-2085, tel. (305) 266-2300; **in New York**, 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 2733, New York, NY 10170, tel. (212) 682-5582; **in Houston**, Two Memorial City Plaza, 820 Gessner, Suite 170, Houston, TX 77024, tel. (713) 461-1317; **in Los Angeles**, 3440 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1202, Los Angeles, CA 90010, tel. (213) 738-1968; **in Chicago**, 9525 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 160, Rosemont, IL 60018, tel. (708) 678-6446; **in Canada**, 234 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 306, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 1K5, tel. (416) 485-1550.

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## TREASURE ISLAND RESORT ON GRAND CAYMAN COMPLETES FIRST PHASE OF MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR RENOVATION

**-- Three-Night Golf Packages Available For \$525 Per Person --**

**GRAND CAYMAN, BWI**, August 8, 1994 -- Treasure Island Resort has a bright new Caribbean look and upgraded facilities for guests after completing US \$700,000 of a planned US \$3.1 million renovation program begun late last year. Renovations began in November 1993 on the 281-room resort, located on the southern end of Grand Cayman's Seven Mile Beach, following its purchase by Toronto-based Winfair Hospitality Management.

Immediate improvements to the resort include the complete renovation and repainting of the hotel lobby and exterior in attractive Caribbean colors and new exterior decor of hand-crafted wooden gingerbread trim.

According to General Manager Randy Pringle, the hotel's main building from the lobby to the third floor was completely redesigned by a local architect, greatly improving the appearance of the main public area. The new centrally located Tradewinds lobby bar was added in June, creating a social center for guests with steel band music every night except Sunday.

According to Pringle, the resort has made tremendous progress so far during 1994, and offers a "fresh, clean and truly Caribbean atmosphere." Treasure Island posted an 85% occupancy for 1994 through July 31.

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**"Those who know us, love us."**

"Half the hotel is only a year old, following the first stage of our refurbishing program," said Pringle. "Just under half of all room air conditioning units have been replaced and all rooms have undergone 'soft refurbishing' with new drapes and bedspreads in bright tropical colors. Every room now also has a convenient amenity: a small refrigerator."

Guest rooms are being completely renovated and refurbished on an ongoing basis in blocks of 10 rooms at a time. So far, 10 rooms have been completed, with 80-100 expected to be finished by the beginning of the winter season. Room renovations are expected to be complete by the end of 1995. In addition to new soft goods, this includes replacing all furniture; removing carpeting and installing new tile floors; new air conditioning units; new bathroom fixtures, and expanded closets with full length mirrors. (Mr. Pringle assured that because all renovations are being carried out on blocks of rooms at a time there is minimal inconvenience to all guests.)

"We are targeting the middle market. Our strategy is to concentrate on that niche and provide guests with the best possible value in that range for a Cayman Islands vacation," Pringle said.

Entertainment and dining facilities include the new lobby bar; 350-seat Silvers nightclub offering live music by local, Caribbean and US bands and dancing nightly except Sunday; the Top of the Falls Rustic Restaurant, open daily for breakfast and dinner daily specializing in Swiss and German cuisine and Captain Flint's poolside swim-up bar and cafe featuring breakfast, light lunch and budget-priced all-you-can-eat buffet dinners three nights each week, including steak and fish on Tuesday, Fajita Frenzy on Thursday and Oriental Stir Fry on Saturday.

A well stocked six-unit shopping arcade off the main lobby features a beauty salon, small take-out deli, newsstand and sundries shop, and art, jewelry and tropical clothing boutiques.

The resort can provide conference or banquet facilities for up to 250 people.

For the sports buff, the beachfront resort features a protected cove in the designated Marine Park area with marked underwater trail and excellent snorkeling immediately offshore; scuba diving with Treasure Island Divers; a full-service PADI training facility next door; a variety of watersports; two tennis courts. and two large fresh water pools.

Treasure Island is one of the resorts offering GOLF PACKAGES with The Links at SafeHaven, Grand Cayman's new 18-hole championship golf course. The three-night package includes standard room accommodation, three breakfasts, welcome drinks, T-shirt, airport transfers, and two 18-hole rounds of golf at The Links, including transportation to and from the course (cart and club rental not included) for US \$525 per person, dbl.

Dive packages with Treasure Island Divers begin at \$499 pp/dbl. for three nights through January 1995; \$779 from February through April 21, 1995.

Honeymoon and complete wedding packages are also available.

Winfair recently opened a sales office in Miami headed by Sharlene Brenes, formerly of Ramada International (Caribbean). Reservations are being handled by the Cayman Islands Reservations Service (1-800-G-CAYMAN) and Robert Reid Associates: (800) 327-8777 or (800) 223-6510. For more information, contact the sales office at: 6100 Blue Lagoon Drive, Suite 160, Miami, FL 33126; (305) 265-0775; FAX: (305) 265-7969.

For more information about the Cayman Islands, contact the nearest Cayman Islands Department of Tourism office: **in Miami**, 6100 Blue Lagoon Drive, Suite 150, Miami, FL 33126-2085, tel. (305) 266-2300; **in New York**, 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 2733, New York, NY 10170, tel. (212) 682-5582; **in Houston**, Two Memorial City Plaza, 820 Gessner, Suite 170, Houston, TX 77024, tel. (713) 461-1317; **in Los Angeles**, 3440 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1202, Los Angeles, CA 90010, tel. (213) 738-1968; **in Chicago**, 9525 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 160, Rosemont, IL 60018, tel. (708) 678-6446; **in Canada**, 234 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 306, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 1K5, tel. (416) 485-1550.

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## FORE...THREE...TWO...ONE... THE LINKS AT SAFEHAVEN OFFICIALLY OPENS

**-- Cayman Islands' First 18-Hole Championship Course Receives USGA Rating of 71.8 --**

GRAND CAYMAN, BWI, August 10, 1994 -- On an island known more for diving and snorkeling, visitors to the Cayman Islands can now add "teeing off" to their list of vacation activities. Golfers can test their skill at **The Links at SafeHaven**, Cayman Islands' first 18-hole championship golf course. Located five miles north of George Town, the recently opened 6,500-yard, par 72 course cost \$8.5 million to develop and complete.

Designed by Roy Case, and built by Gregori International SARL of France, The Links at SafeHaven was created according to rigorous U.S. Golf Association standards. SafeHaven Ltd. Chairman Owen Matalon noted the challenges his international team of developers overcame in completing the project. More than 60 acres of the 103-acre course were planted with hybrid Bermuda grass, cultivated under difficult conditions through a spraying technique called "hydromulching," used successfully for the first time in the Caribbean.

"The Cayman Islands is especially pleased that The Links at SafeHaven took great care to incorporate and embrace the natural beauty and uniqueness of our environment," remarked the Hon. Thomas Jefferson, Minister of Tourism, Environment and Planning.

The landscape is planted with more than 4,000 indigenous tropical trees and shrubs, including coconut and thatch palms, mahogany, cordia, oleander and mahoe.

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**"Those who know us, love us."**

The Links at SafeHaven recently received a USGA rating of 71.8, which assesses a course's degree of hazards posing difficulties to golfers, including topography, number of bunkers, tees, water, out-of-bounds, speed of the greens and prevailing winds. USGA course rater Tony Hebel, who has evaluated more than 1600 golf courses for the USGA, called The Links at SafeHaven a "terrific course with a marvelous layout."

Roy Case has designed more than 50 courses throughout the Caribbean and southern United States, including the Cobblestone course in Palm City, Florida, cited as one of the 50 most distinctive courses in the U.S. He noted that, because of the original "hostile" environment, The Links at SafeHaven provided critical information about the problems of growing grass in soil-less, salt laden material. "It's by far the most difficult project I have ever undertaken," remarked Case, "and I am extremely proud of the results."

The Links' resident golf pro is Scotsman Derek Nash, a PGA Class A Pro for more than 30 years, who came to the Cayman Islands from London where he was Course Manager at Ruislip Golf Course for 17 years. He was also Chairman of the PGA National Executive for three years and a member of the Ryder Cup Committee. "The Links will challenge even top golfers. The course offers five tee positions at each hole to allow golfers to play only as much of the course as they want," said Nash.

"The Links at SafeHaven is an important addition to the Cayman Islands' tourism product, particularly in its effort to appeal to upscale visitors," noted the Hon. Thomas Jefferson. "Since our islands are well known for outstanding water sports, we're especially excited to now offer travelers activities on land as well as under water," he continued.

The Links Clubhouse features the pro shop, changing rooms and showers, patio bar and upstairs restaurant open for lunch and dinner daily. Private lessons and golf club memberships are available. The first tee-time is 8:00 AM and last is 2:30 PM for 18 holes. Golfers can practice on the unique Aquarange, where they hit balls into the man-made lake with distance measured by targets.

The Links golf course is the centerpiece of the 680-acre resort community of SafeHaven, which includes condominiums overlooking the course. SafeHaven's Chairman Matalon has also announced plans for a 200-room luxury hotel to complement the resort community.

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CI#26 Links

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## CAYMAN ISLANDS MILLION DOLLAR MONTH FINAL ROUND-UP

### **-- Visiting Anglers Sweep MDM Awards; Florida Angler Wins Top Prizes For 399-LB Blue Marlin --**

GRAND CAYMAN, BWI. July 5, 1994 -- Lake Worth, FL, angler Fred Dillon's first blue marlin turned to gold today. His June 10 catch of a 399-pound blue marlin off Grand Cayman won him the \$5,000 prize for Heaviest Fish Caught by a Visiting Angler in the 11th Annual Cayman Islands Million Dollar Month (MDM) International Fishing Tournament. Dillon's catch also claimed the \$25,000 prize for Boat Landing Heaviest Blue Marlin for Cayman attorney Norman Hill, the owner of *JURISPRUDENCE*. Mr. Dillon's fish -- the only qualifying billfish (blue marlin minimum: 300 pounds) of this year's Tournament and the first major MDM win by a visiting angler since 1988 -- won him a total of five top angler prizes, including a lifetime ownership of a week's vacation at Morrirt's Tortuga Club, Grand Cayman.

The final MDM Scoreboard included 151 anglers (fishing on 40 boats) who released 89 blue marlin and caught one blue marlin, 65 yellowfin tuna, 20 wahoo and 18 dolphin fish. According to MDM Chairman Bill Rewalt, it was the best MDM ever for visiting anglers: more than half of those competing were visitors who captured many of the top awards.

Other top MDM winners included:

~ Jocelyne Knoppers, an attorney from Montreal, Quebec, who boated the top yellowfin tuna, an 87.6 pound fish, from the deck of the visiting *SINTRA*

- more -



**"Those who know us, love us."**

- during her first saltwater deep sea fishing experience. That fish set a new Cayman Islands women's line class record and won her awards for: Angler Landing Largest Yellowfin Tuna; High Point Tuna; Female Angler Landing High Point Fish; Angler, Second Most Marlin Release Points (five releases totaling 2400 points); the KODAK Award for Female Angler Catching Largest Eligible Fish; and top awards in the Texaco Blue Water Sportfishing Challenge.
- ~ Houston, TX, angler Jeffrey Swearer's 45.6 pound wahoo, caught from the *LAZY LADY*, won him two awards for Heaviest and High Point Wahoo.
  - ~ Floridian Michael Strassel, a yacht broker for Hatteras/Tiara of Lauderdale, won the prize for Second Largest Wahoo for his 42.2 pound fish caught off the *JURISPRUDENCE*.
  - ~ Dr. Stephen Mallon, a Miami, FL, cardiovascular surgeon, won the Osprey Alaska award for Angler, Most Marlin Release Points, with 2700 points for six releases, while fishing from the visiting *TEMPTATION* from Jamaica.
  - ~ Ibrahim Al Rashid of Austin, TX, and Justin Black, from York, PA. claimed Junior Angler awards for Most Marlin Release Points and Second Most Release Points, respectively.

For further information regarding next year's Million Dollar Month International Fishing Tournament, contact the nearest Cayman Islands Department of Tourism office: **in Miami**, 6100 Blue Lagoon Drive, Suite 150, Miami, FL 33126-2085, tel. (305) 266-2300; **in New York**, 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 2733, New York, NY 10170, tel. (212) 682-5582; **in Houston**, Two Memorial City Plaza, 820 Gessner, Suite 170, Houston, TX 77024, tel. (713) 461-1317; **in Los Angeles**, 3440 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1202, Los Angeles, CA 90010, tel. (213) 738-1968; **in Chicago**, 9525 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 160, Rosemont, IL 60018, tel. (708) 678-6446; **in Canada**, 234 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 306, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 1K5, tel. (416) 485-1550.

###

**CAYMAN ISLANDS' MILLION DOLLAR MONTH**

**FINAL ROUND-UP**

**MDM SCOREBOARD**

ANGLERS	151
BOATS	40
BLUE MARLIN	1
BLUE MARLIN RELEASES	89
WAHOO	20
DOLPHIN	18
YELLOWFIN TUNA	65

\*\* The minimum weight for non-billfish species this year was 20 lbs.

**BLUE MARLIN**

JURISPRUDENCE	399 Lbs.	Fred Dillon	Capt. Norman Hill
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**YELLOWFIN TUNA**

SINTRA	87.6 Lbs.	Jocelyne Knoppers
SEA TIME	80.10 Lbs.	Dawson Ebanks
GUNNER	78.14 Lbs.	Russell Panton

**DOLPHIN**

SONROSE TOO	36.2 Lbs.	Horace DuQuesnay
SONROSE TOO	35.12 Lbs.	Horace DuQuesnay

**WAHOO**

LAZY LADY	45.6 Lbs.	Jeffrey Swearer
JURISPRUDENCE	42.2 Lbs.	Michael Strassel

# CAYMAN ISLANDS

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## DOLPHIN CATCHES WAHOO IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

GRAND CAYMAN, BWI, June 21, 1994 -- Proving that a Dolphin is mightier than a wahoo -- at least in Cayman Islands waters -- Miami Dolphins running back Mark Higgs displays his 18-pound prize wahoo which he reeled in last week during Super Fish Bowl IV. The fourth annual sportfishing competition was held June 14 - 18 during the Cayman Islands' 11th Annual Million Dollar Month International Fishing Tournament, which draws fishing enthusiasts from around the world who compete for cash and merchandise totaling nearly \$1 million.

During Super Fish Bowl IV, Higgs and six other million-dollar NFL superstars, had a chance to flex their muscles in the Cayman Islands while angling for wahoo, marlin, dolphin (fish, not football players), allison (yellowfin) tuna, blackfin tuna and rainbow runner. Joining Higgs in the Cayman Islands were: Marcus Allen, running back for the Kansas City Chiefs; Tim Brown, wide receiver with the Los Angeles Raiders; Michael Haynes, wide receiver with the New Orleans Saints; Sean Jones, defensive end for the Green Bay Packers; Hardy Nickerson, linebacker for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers; and Junior Seau, inside linebacker for the San Diego Chargers.

Higgs, who ranks 51st in the AFC and 15th in the NFL in rushing yards, finished last year with a career-high, team-leading 915 yards rushing on 256 carries. Playing his sixth season in the NFL, the running back also holds two of the Dolphins' top eight single season rushing figures.

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**"Those who know us, love us."**

In addition to the world-famous Million Dollar Month, and other special events, the Cayman Islands offers a wide range of watersports, including snorkeling and diving, a host of on-shore activities such as golfing and tennis and duty-free shopping in Grand Cayman.

For further information, contact the nearest Cayman Islands Department of Tourism office: **in Miami**, 6100 Blue Lagoon Drive, Suite 150, Miami, FL 33126-2085, tel. (305) 266-2300; **in New York**, 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 2733, New York, NY 10170, tel. (212) 682-5582; **in Houston**, Two Memorial City Plaza, 820 Gessner, Suite 170, Houston, TX 77024, tel. (713) 461-1317; **in Los Angeles**, 3440 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1202, Los Angeles, CA 90010, tel. (213) 738-1968; **in Chicago**, 9525 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 160, Rosemont, IL 60018, tel. (708) 678-6446; **in Canada**, 234 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 306, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 1K5, tel. (416) 485-1550.

###

CI#17 Wahoo

# CAYMAN ISLANDS

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## "CAYMAN MADNESS" MAY STRIKE OVER 1,500 DIVERS THIS FALL

**-- Bob Soto's Diving, Ltd. and Caribbean Dive Tours Team Up To Offer  
Caribbean's Biggest Dive Vacation Event Ever --**

GRAND CAYMAN, BWI, March 14, 1994 -- Divers shopping for one of the Caribbean's best 1994 vacation buys are catching "Cayman Madness," causing more than 400 divers to date to book week-long getaways well in advance in Grand Cayman between September 8 and October 22.

The reason: Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. and Caribbean Dive Tours have created what is being called the biggest and most ambitious vacation event in recreational diving history using the Cayman Islands for the setting.

Their plan to dispel the post-Labor Day doldrums for divers offers a week's "dive and party package" at 1970's prices. This outstanding value features diving as well as a full program of activities, social events and chances to win hundreds of prizes. Prices for the eight day/seven night package begin at US \$799, per person double occupancy, and include:

- Round-trip airfare on Cayman Airways from any CAL gateway (Miami, Tampa, Atlanta, Houston).
- Seven nights' accommodation at participating "Cayman Madness" properties including Cayman Islander, Holiday Inn Grand Cayman, Treasure Island, Seaview Hotel, Seven Mile Beach Resort (condos).

-more-



**"Those who know us, love us."**

- Six days of diving with Bob Soto's, including 4 two-tank boat dives; 2 night boat dives and unlimited shore diving available at Bob Soto's Scuba Center and Seaview Hotel.
- All social activities including: Welcome underwater slide show by Sunset Underwater Photo Center; underwater treasure hunt and barbecue; Friday evening dance under the stars at Seaview; luau beach party and barbecue; volleyball competition at Lone Star Bar and Grill, limbo contest with steel band at Treasure Island; poolside rum punch party at the Holiday Inn and many other opportunities to meet other "Cayman Madness" participants and win prizes donated by Cayman restaurants, stores and equipment manufacturer sponsors.
- DACOR has joined as a major sponsor and representative Jim Dailey will be on hand each morning to demonstrate the latest DACOR dive equipment, which will be available for participants to try during the week. Cathy Church is offering a special discount on half-day Nikonos underwater photography courses during the week.
- Coconut Car Rental is offering low weekly discount rates for all "Cayman Madness" participants.

Ron Kipp, President of Bob Soto's Diving Ltd. and Ron Grzelka, President of Caribbean Dive Tours, one of the largest dive vacation wholesalers in the U.S., devised the six-week value-packed "Cayman Madness" program based on last year's successful pilot program, "Fall Madness," a low-priced dive package which attracted over 400 divers during the same period. "Cayman Madness" hopes to attract over 1,500 divers during the six week period, and if this year's promotion proves successful, it will become an annual event.

Although being promoted primarily through Caribbean Dive Tour's "Dive Travel Cartel" with over 200 dive shop affiliates throughout the U.S., the organizers emphasize that **this program is fully commissionable at 10% to travel agents and other dive stores.**

For more information about "Cayman Madness," contact your nearest Caribbean Dive Tours, 1-800-786-3483.

###



# CAYMAN ISLANDS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: *Miriam Trokan/Kelly Reed*  
*Aaron D. Cushman & Assoc.*  
*(212) 856-0100*  
*Barbara Currie Dailey*  
*Cayman Islands Dept. of Tourism*  
*(809) 949-9182*

## CAYMAN ISLANDS WINS SECOND AMERICAN EXPRESS PRESERVATION AWARD

-- Cayman Style Project Recognized --

GRAND CAYMAN, BWI. September 20, 1994 -- Grand Cayman architect and preservationist John Doak won the Special Merit Award in the Fourth Annual American Express Preservation Awards competition for the Caribbean.

The first person to receive this award for an unpublished project, Doak was honored for *Cayman Style*, a body of text and illustrated in-depth work about traditional Caymanian architecture. Doak spent seven years researching the project, which contains pen and ink drawings, pencil sketches and mixed media works that illustrate the history of building developments in the Cayman Islands.

The text will serve as a basis for a national policy and preservation plan, educational tool and field guide for surveyors who are establishing a National Historic Registry of buildings in the Cayman Islands.

Commenting on the award, the Hon. Thomas Jefferson, Minister of Tourism, Environment and Planning, said, "The Cayman Islands is dedicated to preserving its cultural heritage, which includes the unique type of architecture featured in *Cayman Style*. This important work will help to insure that the islands' architectural treasures are preserved for future generations of Caymanians and visitors alike."

-more-



**"Those who know us, love us."**

Doak was honored at the *Islands Magazine* and American Express Awards Luncheon September 8 at the 18th annual Caribbean Tourism Conference in Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

This is the second American Express Preservation Award for the Cayman Islands. In 1990, the restoration of George Town's Old Courts Building, now the Cayman Islands National Museum, received an award for architectural preservation.

For more information about the Cayman Islands, contact the nearest Cayman Islands Department of Tourism office: **in Miami**, 6100 Blue Lagoon Drive, Suite 150, Miami, FL 33126-2085, tel. (305) 266-2300; **in New York**, 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 2733, New York, NY 10170, tel. (212) 682-5582; **in Houston**, Two Memorial City Plaza, 820 Gessner, Suite 170, Houston, TX 77024, tel. (713) 461-1317; **in Los Angeles**, 3440 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1202, Los Angeles, CA 90010, tel. (213) 738-1968; **in Chicago**, 9525 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 160, Rosemont, IL 60018, tel. (708) 678-6446; **in Canada**, 234 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 306, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 1K5, tel. (416) 485-1550.

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CI #29 - Amex Awards

# CAYMAN ISLANDS

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(809) 949-9182*

## **CAYMAN'S SISTER ISLANDS NOW ISOLATED ONLY IN ATMOSPHERE**

**-- Improved Air Service Boosts Accessibility, Visitor Arrivals to Tiny Islands --**

GRAND CAYMAN, BWI, August 8, 1994 -- Expanded air service to the Sister Islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman has greatly improved access to these tranquil gems, located 85 miles northeast of Grand Cayman. Three airlines now serve the islands including Cayman Airways, Island Air and Miami-based Gulfstream International Airlines. In addition, Island Air, Cayman's locally-owned airline based at Owen Roberts International Airport, provides several daily inter-island flights between Grand Cayman and the Sister Islands, as well as international charter and air ambulance services.

Excellent diving, light tackle and deep sea fishing and land-based nature-oriented activities such as bird-watching and hiking are the big attractions here.

Both islands measure less than 13 square miles. Accommodations on Cayman Brac include two small modern hotels, the Brac Reef Beach Resort and DIVI Tiara Beach Resort and luxury beachfront condominiums apartments at Brac Caribbean Beach Resort. On Little Cayman, the 32-room Little Cayman Beach Resort is the largest of the island's properties which include the Southern Cross Club and Pirates Point with 10-rooms each and 8-room McCoy's Dive & Fishing Lodge. Condominium apartments, cottages and villas are also available.

-more-



**"Those who know us, love us."**

**Gulfstream International Airlines Begins Miami-Cayman Brac Service**

On April 30, Miami-based Gulfstream International Airlines began direct Miami-Cayman Brac service three days a week (Wed/Sat/Sun) using 19-passenger Beach 1900 aircraft. Service has been cut back to one weekly flight on Saturday night at 6:00 p.m., with a Sunday morning return at 7:00 a.m. The flight is an hour and 50 minutes with a refueling stop in Grand Cayman.

The round-trip airfare, including departure taxes, is US\$257.95 and luggage allowance per person is 50 lbs. Each additional pound costs 50 cents and will be loaded only if weight restrictions for the small aircraft permit. Gulfstream's reservations number in the USA is (800) 992-8532; in Miami, (305) 871-1200.

**Cayman Airways Adds Friday Afternoon Flight to Cayman Brac**

Cayman Airways, the Government-owned national carrier of the Cayman Islands, has added flight #203 from Grand Cayman to Cayman Brac at 12:45 p.m. on Fridays this summer. The flight becomes #108 upon return, departing the Brac at 2:00 p.m. The flight originates in Tampa.

**Island Air Expands Fleet with Twin Otter in October**

Island Air's service to the Sister Islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman has made these islands much more accessible this year. The carrier now offers four scheduled round-trip flights daily, including two each (early morning and late afternoon) between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. In addition, the expanded service now allows visitors to enjoy day trips to both Little Cayman and Cayman Brac, with early morning departures and late afternoon returns. Roundtrip fare is only US\$99 with a three-island special fare of US\$119.

The fleet includes a 15-passenger Beech-99; a seven-passenger Islander and a even-passenger Navajo Chieftain. A six-passenger Lear jet B-20 is available for charter. In addition, the airline is adding a 19-passenger Twin Otter aircraft in October, which will be able to land in both Little Cayman and Cayman Brac.

All scheduled Island Air flights depart from and return to the main passenger terminal at Owen Roberts International Airport. The ticket counter is located across from Cayman Airways in the main terminal.

In addition, Island Air provides a full range of services for visitors arriving in their own aircraft. General aviation facilities at Owen Roberts International Airport now include Island Air's 12,000 square ft. hangar; handling services; storage; maintenance and refueling and a spacious and comfortable new passenger terminal with Immigration and Customs facilities and duty-free delivery by Tortuga Rum Co. for departing flights.

Reservations phone numbers are open from 9:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. EST Monday - Saturday. The USA toll-free number is (800) 922-9626; in the Cayman Islands, (809) 949-5252; FAX: (809) 949-7044.

For further information on the Cayman Islands, contact the nearest Cayman Islands Department of Tourism office: **in Miami**, 6100 Blue Lagoon Drive, Suite 150, Miami, FL 33126-2085, tel. (305) 266-2300; **in New York**, 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 2733, New York, NY 10170, tel. (212) 682-5582; **in Houston**, Two Memorial City Plaza, 820 Gessner, Suite 170, Houston, TX 77024, tel. (713) 461-1317; **in Los Angeles**, 3440 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1202, Los Angeles, CA 90010, tel. (213) 738-1968; **in Chicago**, 9525 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Suite 160, Rosemont, IL 60018, tel. (708) 678-6446; **in Canada**, 234 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 306, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4P 1K5, tel. (416) 485-1550.

###

CIDOT#25 Isle Air

# CAYMAN ISLANDS

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(212) 856-0100  
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## HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II OFFICIALLY OPENS CAYMAN ISLANDS' FIRST BOTANIC PARK

GRAND CAYMAN, BWI. February 27, 1994 -- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II today formally opened **The Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park** during an official visit to the Cayman Islands with His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Recognized for its leadership role in marine conservation, the Cayman Islands pioneered the concept of marine parks and, through the efforts of the Cayman Islands National Trust, has brought this concern for protection of natural resources ashore.

The Cayman Islands' first Botanic Park is the result of a long-term community effort and thousands of hours of volunteers' time. The park serves as a botanic showcase and natural laboratory with an ultimate purpose of fostering appreciation of the natural flora and fauna of the Cayman Islands through a variety of applications in education, display, recreation and conservation research.

"We are extremely proud of our preservation and conservation initiatives," said Hon. Thomas Jefferson, Minister of Tourism, Environment and Planning. "The Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park will serve as a tool to educate Caymanians and visitors alike about the natural beauty of our Cayman Islands."



**"Those who know us, love us."**

Her Majesty dedicated a plaque at the entrance to the Botanic Park, while Prince Philip made the first official inspection tour of the park's loop walking trail. The 60-acre site of rugged, wooded interior land, located off Frank Sound Road in Grand Cayman's East End district, has preserved a collection of endemic flora and fauna in their natural environment and is the first major project developed by the Cayman Islands National Trust.

The Cayman Islands National Trust's Botanic Park project won the ISLANDS Magazine 1993 Ecotourism Award -- prior to its completion -- as the year's best Caribbean ecotourism project, described as "a new garden on an island known for underwater attractions." The park embodies the award's twin goals of preserving the environment and encouraging tourism.

The Cayman Islands -- recognized as one of the world's prime dive destinations -- in cooperation with the National Trust has managed to emphasize the terrestrial aspects of Grand Cayman, in addition to its marine treasures. Created in 1987, the National Trust is a statutory, non-profit, non-governmental organization established to protect Cayman's natural and historic heritage.

The Botanic Park was born four years ago, when a plot of wooded land near the center of Grand Cayman became available to the National Trust. Trust members first conducted a thorough survey of the area, with volunteers walking the 60 acres and documenting the plants for a master plan which was drafted in 1991. By early 1993, the nearly one-mile-long loop Nature Trail was open, with more than 200 plants labeled. More than a thousand visitors walked the loop trail in the first few months.

Visitors to the Botanic Park can expect to see a wide variety of indigenous flora and fauna, including: the Grand Cayman Parrot; the endangered Grand Cayman Blue Iguana; hickatees (fresh water turtles found only in Cayman); the Northern Flicker woodpecker; the Vitelline Warbler; the Zenaida Dove; the Bananaquit bird; the Cayman Anole lizard; the large Cuban Treefrog; harmless snakes; over a dozen species of orchids; and a variety of historically significant trees, including mahogany, ironwood, thatch palm, red birch, logwood and whitewood.

The Botanic Park is part of a much larger plan for a network of preserves in the Caymans. There are an additional 680 acres on Grand Cayman and a bluffside tract on Cayman Brac that are currently under development.

The Cayman Islands is one of five remaining British Crown Colonies in the Caribbean region, comprising three small islands occupying less than 100 square miles. Grand Cayman is the capital and most populous, with 28,000, while Cayman Brac has about 1,700 and Little Cayman fewer than 100 residents.

Tourism and the offshore financial industry form the base of Cayman's economy. Last year, the Cayman Islands welcomed 892,992 visitors, including 287,277 air arrivals, a 19 percent increase over 1992. This small country is also recognized for its political stability and prosperity -- residents enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the Caribbean with an average household income of CI\$37,700 (US\$46,875).

###

# Caribbean ports: Highlights, lowlights and precautions

## Tips on the top 12 cruise destinations of the West Indies and the Bahamas

By Shirley Slater and Harry Basch  
SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER

**F**OR MOST CRUISERS, particularly first-timers, not just any old port in a storm will do — a cruise may be selected largely or entirely on its ports of call. In the Caribbean, the most popular cruise destination in the world, here are 12 of the most-visited ports, along with the highlights of each and, unfortunately, some inescapable lowlights and cautions:

With one of the world's great yachting centers at English Harbour, Antigua is a favorite port of call for yachtsmen. Sunlovers like the island's beaches ("one for every day of the year"), but the roads are heavily potholed and unmarked, cabs are expensive and getting there is far from fun for a one-day visitor. A half-day tour to Nelson's Dockyard at English Harbour is the best shore excursion to buy.

Beach and street vendors are fairly aggressive on this feisty island, but despite an occasional flash of attitude, we've never felt uncomfortable here. Check the is-

land-made sportswear at West Indian Sea Island Cotton Shop or Coco's, both in the raffish capital, St. John's. Its smaller sister island, Barbuda, can be reached by a short flight from St. John's, but cruise ships don't call there.

Since this former member of the Dutch Leewards trio of islands began to distance itself from the other two (Curaçao and Bonaire), it's been actively pursuing tourism and cruise ship calls. With one ship home-based there year-round and 20 or so calling annually or seasonally, it gets a lot of visitors from the United States, who like the fact that English is spoken and U.S. dollars are accepted everywhere.

The flat, dry island, raked ceaselessly by trade winds that sculpt its distinctive divi-divi trees into weird shapes, has some top-quality beaches and duty-free shops, but little else to distract the day visitor.

Most shore excursionists find the island tour less than riveting, but diving, windsurfing, beach-going and shopping are all satisfactory. Cabs are fairly expensive, with drivers sticking to set rates rather than negotiating.

### Cayman Islands

The Cayman Islands reported a total number of tourist visitors at 296,641 for the first quarter of

1994, with a whopping 206,756 of them arriving by cruise ship. Beach-goers love the island's Seven Mile Beach, easily accessible by taxi from the cruise ship tender area, and windsurfing instructors here are rumored to be the handsomest in the Caribbean.

The island's biggest festival is Pirates Week, set this year for Oct. 21-30 (yes, we know that's longer than a week), with fireworks, street dancing, parades and underwater treasure hunts.

Sometimes called "the Switzerland of the Caribbean" for its banks, cleanliness and high standard of living, Grand Cayman is a major port of-call on all western Caribbean itineraries. Ships anchor offshore and take passengers into dock by tender.

### CARIBBEAN PORTS

Here's where to call for tourism information about each of the destinations mentioned in this article:

- ▶ Antigua: (212) 541-4117
- ▶ Aruba: (800) GO ARUBA
- ▶ Bahamas: (800) 422-4262
- ▶ Barbados: (800) 221-9831
- ▶ British Virgin Islands: (800) 835-8530 or (415) 775-0344
- ▶ Cayman Islands: (800) 348-3313
- ▶ Cozumel: (800) 44-MEXICO
- ▶ Jamaica: (800) 223-4582
- ▶ Puerto Rico: (800) 223-8530
- ▶ St. Maarten: (212) 989-0000
- ▶ U.S. Virgin Islands (St. John, St. Thomas): (800) USVI-INFO.

— Shirley Slater  
and Harry Basch

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## THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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# 22% Increase in Air Arrivals Reported for Second Quarter

GEORGE TOWN — It was a sunny spring for the Cayman Islands, which reported a 22% increase in air arrivals during the second quarter over the year before.

The surge peaked in June, when air arrivals soared 30%

over the same month in 1993, according to Thomas Jefferson, minister of tourism, environment and planning.

During the first six months of the year, nonresident air arrivals to the Cayman Islands were up 19% for a total of

176,872, he said.

According to Jefferson, cruise ship arrivals showed a 4% growth during the same period for a total of 327,371 passengers who disembarked in George Town.

In other news, airlines serv-

ing Cayman Brac and Little Cayman announced several schedule changes:

- Island Air, a Caymanian airline that provides several daily inter-island flights between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac and Little Cayman,

offers four scheduled roundtrip flights daily, including two each between Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. Roundtrip fare is \$99.

A three-island fare, which allows visitors to take a day trip to both Cayman Brac and Little

*Cruise ship arrivals at George Town showed a 4% increase.*

Cayman, is \$119.

Island Air plans to add a 19-passenger Twin Otter aircraft this month.

- Miami-based Gulfstream International Airlines has cut its service from Miami to Cayman Brac to one weekly flight on Saturday night at 6 p.m., with a Sunday morning return at 7 a.m.

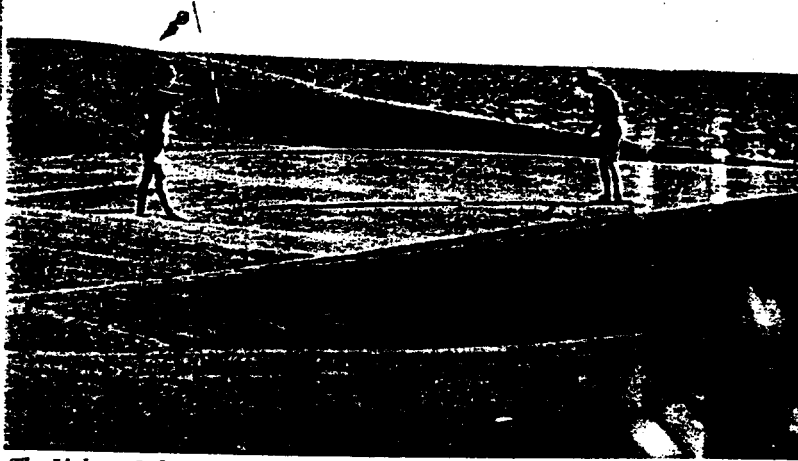
Roundtrip air fare, including departure taxes, is \$257.95.

- Cayman Airways, the government-owned national carrier, has added a flight from Grand Cayman to Cayman Brac at 12:45 on Fridays. It returns from Cayman Brac at 2 p.m.

# CAYMAN ISLANDS

## FROM SWASHBUCKLERS TO DIVERS, AND NOW GOLFERS!

Cayman Islands Department of Tourism



The Links at SafeHaven, the Cayman's first 18-hole championship golf course.

**C**olumbus, admittedly one of history's more confused navigators, stumbled across the trio of islands after being blown off course in a storm. He first named them Las Tortugas, after the sea turtles who covered the two small islands.

Later, in the latter half of the 16th century, Sir Francis Drake—who at the time was engaging in a little politically correct pirating against Spanish shipping—came across the islands and reported sighting "great Caymanas (the Carib word for marine crocodile), large like lizards, which are edible." And so they changed species and names, taking on their modern-day namesake, the Cayman Islands.

### THE CAYMAN TRIO

Today, the Caymans are a thriving, three-island country with a total land mass of 100 square miles situated about 150 miles south of Cuba and 180 miles northwest of Jamaica. Grand Cayman, the largest and most populous of the trio, is approximately 22 miles long and eight miles across at its widest point. Its sister islands—Cayman Brac and Little Cayman—lay about 80 miles east-northeast and are separated from one another by a seven-mile-wide channel.

Cayman Brac, 12 miles long

and just over a mile wide, has the most dramatic topography of the group. It's marked by a bluff rising west to east along the length of the island to a height of 140 feet, ending in a sheer cliff. Little Cayman—seven miles across the channel—is the baby of the island trio, measuring just 10 square miles, covered by flat scrub and limited to a maximum elevation of just 40 feet.

But while the Cayman Islands themselves may be small, they're enjoying giant appeal as a vacation and resort destination. So far this year, the **Cayman Islands Department of Tourism** reports that second-quarter air arrivals were up 22 percent over 1993, a year that had already posted record visitor figures of nearly 900,000 tourists frolicking on its shores.

The Islands growing appeal continues to show major strides in the first six months of 1994, with 176,872 nonresident air arrivals—an increase of 27,986 over 1993—and 327,371 '94 cruise-ship arrivals, as compared to 314,676 during the first six months of '93. Total arrivals to the Cayman Islands, from January through June 1994, reached 504,243, compared to 462,582 for the same period in '93—a 30 percent increase.

"These numbers attest to the fact that the momentum is continuing in 1994," says the Hon.

Thomas Jefferson, the Cayman Islands' minister of Tourism, Environment and Planning, "as we look forward to another banner year for Cayman Islands tourism."

### "X" MARKS THE SPOT

Despite the fact the Caymans left a heritage of piracy to legend, there's plenty of treasure for all, much of which can still be found at the Seven-Mile Beachfront **Treasure Island Resort**. Purchased by Toronto-based Winfair Hospitality Management, the property no longer flies the Ramada banner, but it does have a new sparkle.

Its exterior is now decorated with handcrafted wooden gingerbread trim, the Tradewinds Bar has blown into the lobby and Caribbean colors brighten public areas—all completing the first quarter of a \$3.1 million renovation. Of its 281 rooms, inconspicuous blocks of 10 will be renovated at a time, including refurbishment and replacement of all soft goods, amenities and fixtures.

The middle market continues to enjoy Treasure Island's nightclub entertainment and Top of the Falls Rustic Restaurant specializing in Swiss and German cuisine. And its protected cove makes for abundant watersports, with a marked underwater trail just offshore for a day of snorkeling. Two pools and tennis courts, swim-up bar and on-site dive operation are a few other amenities guests "resort" to. Dive, honeymoon, wedding and golf packages are available.

### GROWING GOLF DESTINATION

That's right, Grand Cayman has officially entered the Caribbean golf circuit. And while "the links" may have meant one thing to a red-handed pirate, it means quite another to club-wielding vacationers at The Links at SafeHaven, the Cayman's first 18-hole championship golf course. It's about time clients dried out their div-

ing equipment and took to the green on a course praised for its marvelously hazardous layout and landscape of indigenous trees and shrubs. Water-logged golfers can practice on the Aquarange, where they hit balls into a manmade lake with distance measured by targets.

Plans for a 200-room luxury resort on SafeHaven's 680 acres have been announced, but for the time being, Treasure Island's golf package includes a 3-night stay & breakfast, airport and golf course transfers and two rounds of golf for \$525 per person double through Dec. 1. Call Cayman Islands Reservation Service, (800) G-CAYMAN.

Clients bound for the Caymans at the end of October should be aware of Pirate Week, a celebration of the island's cultural heritage with treasure chest full of outdoor activities and events, Oct. 21-31. Contact your nearest Cayman Islands Department of Tourism. And while you've got them on the phone, ask for their map on snorkeling sites. There's a dozen gems on the island.

And for a little more gold in your pocket, take note of the **Clarion Hotel Grand Pavilion** boosted commission structure on rack rates, now 12.5 percent. Once an agent reaches 20 room nights, enrollment in *Absolute Hospitality* assure earnings of 15 percent on all future reservations. This is an ongoing promotion. (800) 4-CHOICE.—Rick Shively & Nina Smith.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS  
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM  
OFFICES**  
Miami  
(305) 266-2300  
New York  
(212) 682-5582  
Houston  
(713) 461-1317  
Los Angeles  
(213) 738-1968  
Chicago  
(708) 678-6446  
Canada  
(905) 485-1550

## contents



**2**

**Jamaica**  
Hotels Upgrade  
and Expand



**10**

**Virgin Islands**  
St. John Prepares  
for Busy Winter



**14**

**Puerto Rico**  
Westin Building First  
Caribbean Property



**18**

**Bahamas**  
Major Resort Planned  
for Exuma in 1996



**20**

**St. Maarten**  
Inspection Report:  
Port de Plaisance



**22**

**Cayman Islands**  
New Look for Treasure  
Island; Improved Air  
Service Hailed

*Cover:*  
*Relaxing on St. John*