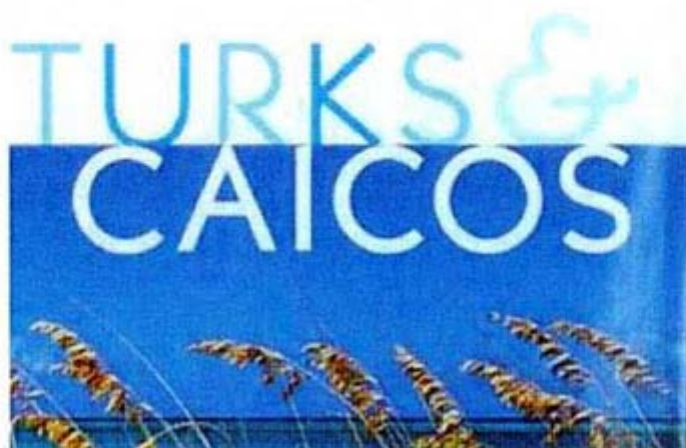


THE NEXT WAVE  DOMINICAN REPUBLIC LUXE

# CARIBBEAN

NOVEMBER 2006

## TRAVEL & LIFE



Go to the Turks and Caicos Islands and you'll need to pack a color chart along with your swimsuit. How else to identify the dozens of variations of blue that radiate out from the islands' beaches? First, you wade through inch-deep aquamarine. Then you splash through cerulean, pale turquoise, light jade and cyan, before reaching a 7,000-foot-deep coral wall bathed in Prussian and cobalt blue.

Drag yourself out of the water and you have vast stretches of beach to choose from: 230 miles of confectioners' sugar sand line the 100-mile-long, 40-island archipelago. With a population of just 21,000 inhabiting only eight of the isles, there really are beaches you can call your own.

Getting here and getting around are a breeze. This British Overseas Territory makes up the tail end of the archipelago that includes the Bahamas, and it's only a 90-minute flight from Miami. Traveling between the main islands is easy via charters and scheduled flights on SkyKing ([skyking.tc](http://skyking.tc)) and Air Turks & Caicos ([airturksandcaicos.com](http://airturksandcaicos.com)). Trips between neighboring islands by taxi and tour boats can be arranged at every local marina, providing further opportunities to sort out the myriad shades of blue.

### PROVIDENCIALES

Most international flights arrive on "Provo," as the most populous of the islands is known. The 38-square-mile island offers the greatest concentration of resorts, restaurants and activities, and is in the midst of a red-hot, real-estate-driven growth spurt.

### GRACE BAY

Grace Bay Beach is the best-known place in the Turks and Caicos, with 12 uninterrupted miles of picture-perfect coastline. The beach is lined with luxury resort condo-hotels (and cleared lots where new ones are going up), and there's no sign of the building boom losing steam.

■ **Where to Stay:** The Somerset on Grace Bay (from \$300 in low season, \$450 high; 649-946-5900; [thesomerset.com](http://thesomerset.com)) opened in June. It has the islands' longest lap pool, complete with an underwater audio system.

Opposite, top left and bottom: Everything's Zen at Amanyara's pool. Top right: Grace Bay sea oat.