

7 APR 1996

For Six Month Period Ending _____
(Insert date)

Name of Registrant: Aaron D. Cushman & Associates, Inc.
Registration No.: 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:

- (1) 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

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CRIMINAL DIVISION

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

Los Angeles office located at 2029 W. Century Park East closed
March 31, 1996.

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
Elizabeth Wilson	Vice President	3/14/96
Miriam Trokan	Vice President	11/17/95
Steven Knipstein	Vice President	3/15/96

Irving Garcia, Jr., Associate Producer, *Visionary Entertainment Group*
Michelle d'Eze, Consulting Editor, *Panache*
Susan Campbell, *WBTV Creative Services/"Cruise Adventures"*
Natalie Aristy, Editorial Assistant, *Caribbean Travel and Life*
Natalie Obletc, Editor, *ICW Publications*
Bill Reicherter, *Vicon International/"Active Lifestyles"*
Cathy Lynn Grossman, Travel Editor, *USA Today*
Sara Perez, *Caribbean Travel and Life*
Ryhaan Shah, *Cayman Executive*
Ron Romano, *Sony Trans Com*
Lu Kramer, Worldwide Target Demographic Television/
"Robin Leach's Lifestyles"
Mi-Ai Ahern, Travel Editor, *Chicago Sun-Times*
Brenda Fine, free-lance writer
Russell Gremillot, Location Manager, *Brentwood Pictures*
Al Ristori, *Sport Fisherman*

D. PROJECTS COMPLETED

PIRATES WEEK PRESS TRIP

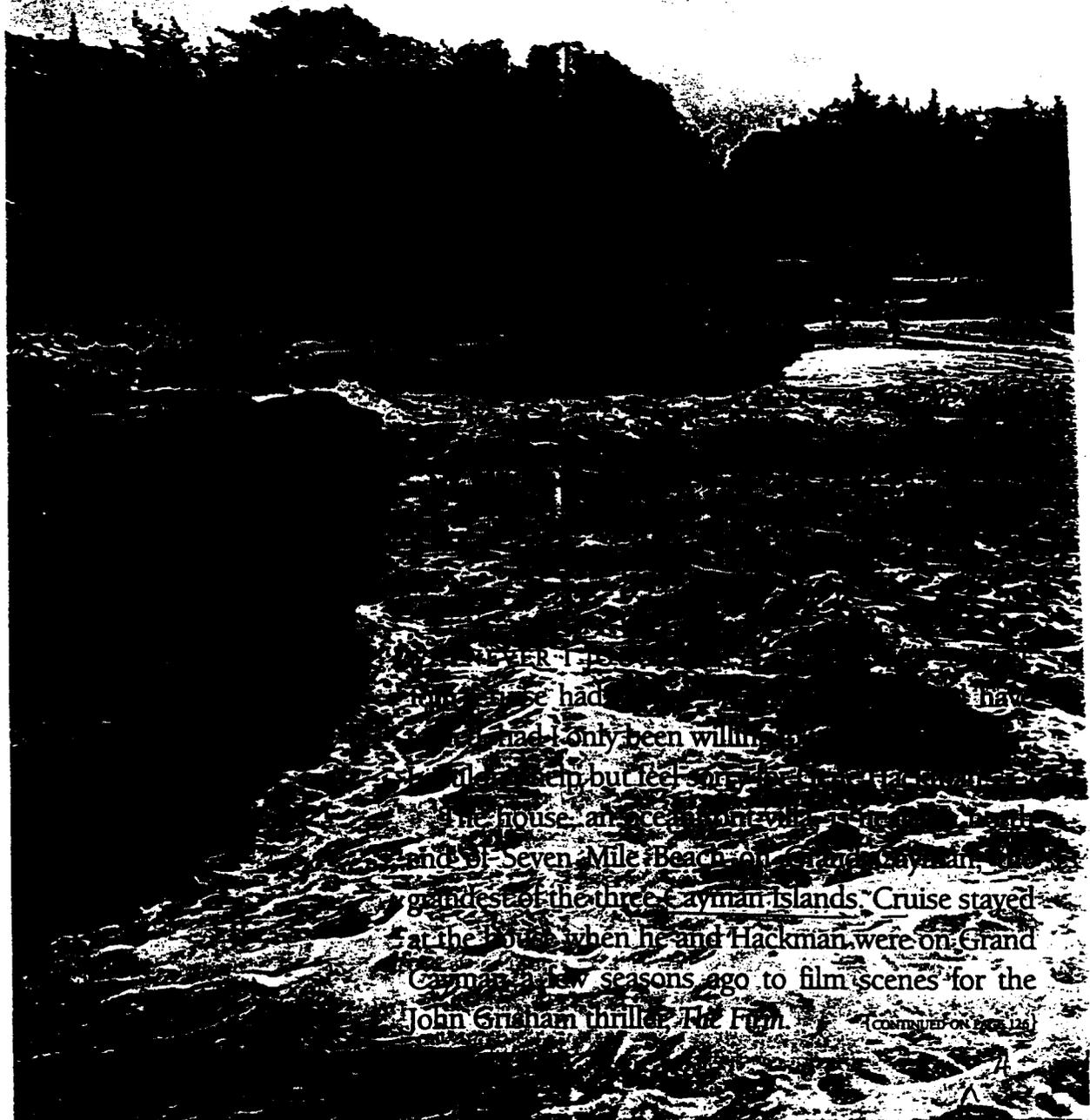
We organized a three-island press trip for consumer writers during Pirates Week October 20-26. The writers included: Lisa Hamman, *Chicago Sun-Times*; Jeff and Lecia Landis, *Relax* magazine; Jordon Simon, *Bride's & Your New Home*, *The Affordable Caribbean* and *Fodor's Travel Guides*; Andrea Ashmore, *The Atlanta Voice*, and Florence Lemkowitz, *St. Petersburg Times*, *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and *ASTA Congress Daily*. Two agency representatives escorted the group to Grand Cayman and the Sister Islands. We anticipate that the media coverage resulting from this press trip will be excellent.

II. PROJECTS UNDERWAY

We are in the process of securing a keynote speaker for the Second Annual Tourism Conference in December.

A 8459 Grand Getaway

Grand Cayman looks (and tastes) like paradise. But it's also



NEVER I'd...
...had...
...had I only been willing...
...but feel...
...the house...
...and of Seven Mile Beach...
...grandest of the three Cayman Islands...
...at the house when he and Hackman were on Grand...
...Cayman a few seasons ago to film scenes for the...
...John Graham thriller *The Firm*.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 126)



ABOVE LEFT: The rocky coastline becomes a table setting for Lantana's grilled tuna with mango salad. ABOVE RIGHT: A pretty sunset colors a romantic meal at The Wharf.

The villa is only one of many luxury homes and condos for rent on Grand Cayman—the island's reputation as a financial safe haven (53+ banks at last count) and as a premier scuba-diving destination has helped transform it in a few decades from one of the poorest in the Caribbean to one of the wealthiest. But because the filming was done during the height of the winter season, a house of equal stature could not be found for Hackman and his wife; and the couple, supposedly much to his wife's distress, was instead put up at the Hyatt Regency. It's a terrific hotel, sometimes ranked among the nicest in the West Indies. But when one of your husband's co-stars has his own private home overlooking the Caribbean, the Hyatt, which is across the street from the beach, is apparently not a residence that can bring true happiness.

I, on the other hand, was happy with almost everything that I found on Grand Cayman. True, the 22-mile-long island, which from the air looks like a cartoon cutout of the world's largest whale, could use some height. There are basketball players who probably have more elevation. But Seven Mile Beach is one of the best in the Caribbean, even if it is actually only 5.6 miles long. The sea is all the shades of green turned by envious friends when you describe it to them.

Each morning of my weekend visit began with a walk on the beach. Each afternoon ended with a sunset in my living room. As for all the time in between, I was able to spend half of it looking for yet

another place to snorkel, and the other half discovering that the level of dining on Grand Cayman has been rising about as fast as the per-capita income. Plus, where else could you call out in a restaurant, without feeling the least bit self-conscious, "Please pass the Hell Sauce"?

Hell is an actual place on Grand Cayman. And I found it only because I was hungry. I had worked up quite an appetite after a morning swim with the turtles in front of my beachfront condo at The Discovery Point Club, and was on my way to lunch at a Caymanian-style restaurant called Liberty's.

"Is this the way to Liberty's?" I asked an old man who was playing dominoes with his cronies in the noon-time shade of a casuarina tree alongside a road in West Bay.

"No, mon," he said. "This be the way to Hell."

So, since I was already on my way...

This Hell is a field of sunbaked limestone sculpted by natural forces into otherworldly shapes. It has become a tourist attraction, according to the Canadian visitor who was standing next to me as we viewed it, mainly because the post office at the site fulfills what he said may be a universal fantasy. "It allows you," he said, "to send home vacation greetings postmarked from Hell."

Hell Sauce was inspired by the site and is one of a number of locally produced hot sauces made from Scotch bonnet peppers, potent enough to raise blisters on the lips of the over-sensitive or

under-cautious. I was at Liberty's when somebody first passed it to me.

Looking for a dining adventure. I had opted for the turtle. "Raised right down the road, at the world's only green-turtle farm," my waitress told me. Maybe it was because I had come to know the turtles in front of my condo so well that we were practically networking, but I found I couldn't eat the greenish, oily meat without first dousing it in hot sauce. Turtle, I concluded, is a meal best saved for special occasions, such as when you find yourself on a life raft.

That evening, after a drink at My Bar in the Sunset House Resort—where people on the island go if they want to talk scuba diving even as they watch the sunset—I treated myself to another kind of special occasion by dining at Lantana's, considered to be one of Grand Cayman's finest, and most creative, restaurants.

"So you tried the local food? Great, isn't it? I could eat it every day," said Lantana's chef-owner Fred Schrock, an Austrian who has lived in the Caymans for 12 years. Schrock's enthusiasm for local dishes doesn't mean, however, that you'll find them on his menu. "It is good stuff," he said. "But turtle's too hard to get, and who's going to come down from the States and order oxtail or cow foot?"

Not me, at least not at Lantana's, where the Caribbean delights I ordered included a carpaccio of Cayman wahoo with arugula salad, chilled mango-orange soup with toasted coconut, and lobster tail with banana fritters and papaya seed

sauce—some of it flavored, my increasingly educated tongue could tell, with none other than Scotch bonnet peppers.

The next day, I had planned to go scuba diving. The waters of the Caymans, especially where they plunge into the blue abyss over nearly vertical walls, make them a goal of everybody who straps on a tank. But a lingering cold I had brought with me made deep diving unwise, so I elected instead to spend the day snorkeling from a boat owned by Ron Ebanks, whose last name is more than coincidentally close to the *Abanks of The Firm's* Abanks' Cayman Diving Lodge.

Ebanks says people still ask him often about the film. But I was much less interested in the risks Tom Cruise's character faced from Mafia hit men than the risks I was convinced Ebanks was about to expose me to. These risks had to do with a sandbar called Stingray City.

The idea was that I would slide off the side of the boat into a school of barb-tailed stingrays I could see circling in the clear water above the white-sand bottom. Once among the rays, I was supposed to bend down to any that looked friendly and rub their bellies.

"Don't worry, mon," Ebanks assured me. "Nobody ever gets the barb." I had no reason to disbelieve him. Still, just to be on the safe side, I waited to see if a six-year-old girl who jumped in from another boat would come out unscathed.

Safely back ashore, and knowing that the next day I would be heading home—probably facing an airline meal that would make stowing a bottle of Hell Sauce in my carry-on bag a good idea—I decided to visit one more dining room where I was likely to be served a meal worthy of a special occasion.

There were some appealing places to choose from: Chef Tell's Grand Old House, presided over, when he is on the island, by television-personality chef Tell Erhardt; Ottmar's, whose owner and chef, Ottmar Weber, has been serving Caribbean-influenced classic cuisine for nearly 25 years; The Wharf, which has perhaps the most romantic setting on Grand Cayman (if only it didn't have to be shared with so many other romantics);



Pappagallo chef Baron Skorish presents sautéed shrimp and lobster on a coppellini cake.

The Lighthouse at Breakers, where the drawback, or virtue, depending on your point of view, is the half-hour drive from Seven Mile Beach; and Ristorante Pappagallo, where it is hard to tell whether the macaws and cockatoos are there for your amusement, or you for theirs.

Or I could just stay home in my condo and finish off the Tortuga Rum Cake in the refrigerator. The rum, local, is five years old; the recipe, somebody's family secret, is a hundred years old. The combination makes you glad that certain indulgences are only to be expected while you're on vacation.

In the end, I decided to go out. Pappagallo was my choice because I figured it had to be good. After all, the place serves northern Italian food in a Caribbean setting, and it's not even on the beach—plus, it has managed to stay open for 10 years.

I was thinking about having something other than seafood for a change, and started to order the *pollo alla scarpiniello*. But a disapproving look from a macaw hanging upside down on his perch close to my table caused me to chicken out on the chicken and go for the *aragosta di buba*, lobster and shrimp sautéed in a tomato-brandied cream sauce and served on a *coppellini* cake.

It was the right choice, one I think even the Hackmans would have liked. As for any disapproval it might cause among my new aquatic friends—well, the next time I got in the water, I would just steer clear of shellfish.

GRILLED TUNA WITH MANGO SALAD

A colorful, delicious dish from Lantana's.

4 SERVINGS

- 1 large mango, pitted, peeled, cut into ¼-inch-wide strips
- ¾ cup chopped red onion
- ½ red bell pepper, chopped
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons olive oil

- + 6-ounce tuna steaks (about 1 inch thick)
- Vegetable oil

Mix first 6 ingredients in medium bowl. Season with salt and pepper.

Prepare barbecue (medium-high heat) or preheat broiler. Brush tuna with oil. Grill or broil until just opaque in center, about 4 minutes per side.

Divide mango salad among 4 plates. Top with tuna and serve.

MANGO, KUMQUAT AND JALAPEÑO CHUTNEY

From Pappagallo, a nice condiment for simple grilled chicken or pork.

MAKES 1¾ CUPS

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 8-ounce jar kumquats in syrup,* drained, thinly sliced
- ¼ cup minced peeled fresh ginger
- ¼ cup distilled white vinegar
- ¼ cup dry white wine
- 1 tablespoon minced seeded jalapeño chilies
- 2 mangoes, peeled, pitted, chopped

Combine all ingredients except mangoes in heavy large saucepan. Cook over medium heat until liquid is amber, stirring occasionally, about 15 minutes. Add mangoes; simmer until mixture is thick, stirring often, about 30 minutes. Cool.

*Kumquats in syrup are sold at Asian markets and some supermarkets.

Bob Payne is one travel writer who will go to Hell and back for a story—as long as it's Hell, Grand Cayman, that is.

Travel

Sunday Star-Ledger

SAFETY AND STABILITY

Clean waters, great beaches

Cayman Islands



Photo by Barbara Currie Dailey

This lovely white house is home to the Cayman Islands National Museum

By **CHRISTOPHER LOFTING**

CAYMAN BRAC, Cayman Islands - Ten years ago I bought an abandoned seaside coconut palm grove on the deserted south coast of this island and built a small house. Why did I choose to settle here - albeit for only part of the year - on this mid-size sister of this three-island British crown colony, rather than in another part of the Caribbean?

I was impressed - as it seems were some 400 international banks and countless offshore corporations with offices in George Town, the capital on Grand Cayman - that the people of the Cayman Islands voted in the early '60s to remain a part of the British Empire.



Photo by Barbara Currie Dailey

Caymanian Wendy Moore examines a green mango on the Mastic Trail

A sound democratic government supported by a prosperous economy that provides full employment for its citizens is in everyone's interest, whether landowner, tourist or banker. In a sense, the Union Jack was, and still is, a sort of Good Housekeeping Seal of Stability.

The Cayman Islands certainly will never win any beauty contest when compared with the high-mountain, jungle-lush islands of the Eastern Caribbean. Grand Cayman is shaped like an oblong pancake, with a large bite taken out of the top left side - the shallow North Sound. This 7- by 22-mile main island, home to more than 29,000 Caymanians, is flat and sandy, with mangrove thickets, tall casuarina pines, palms and low scrub.

An 89-mile airplane flight to the northeast will take you here to

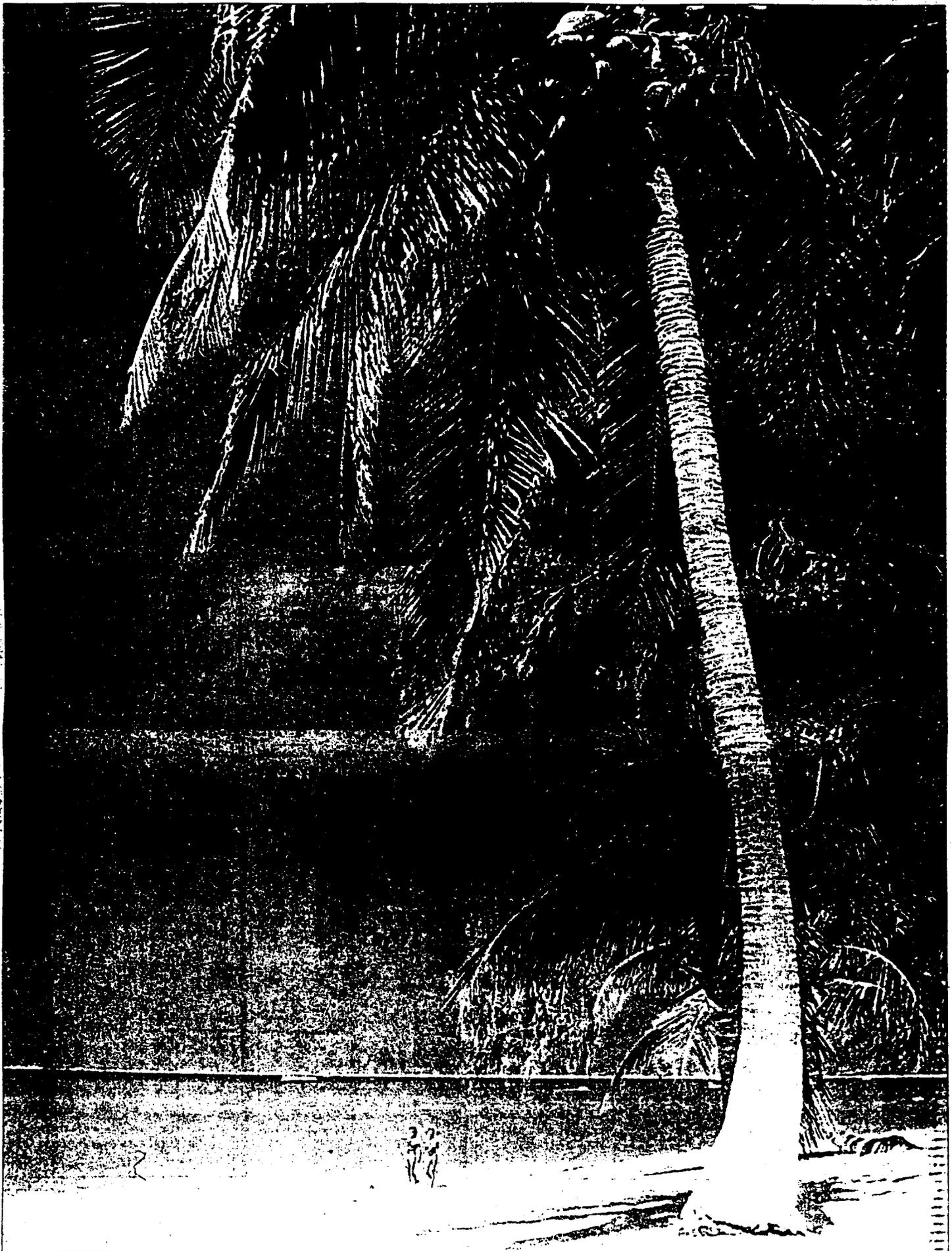


Photo by Christopher Lofgren

The main attraction on the Cayman Islands is the great Seven-Mile Beach, without question the best 5.6-mile stretch of sand anywhere in the Caribbean

Caymans boast Caribbean's clearest water

Continued from Page One

Cayman Brac, with a population of only 1,400.

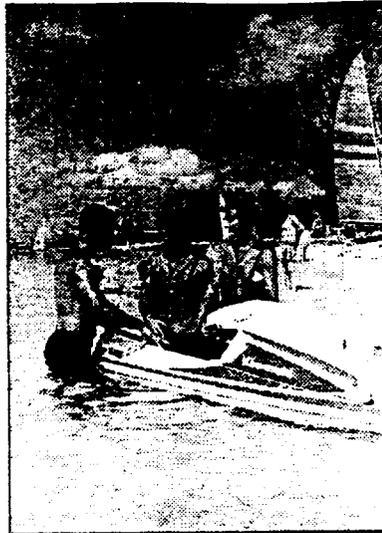
"The Brac," as locals call it, is distinguished by a limestone spine running its 12-mile length and rising to 140 feet at the eastern end. Too far from Grand Cayman to share in the recent tourist boom, The Brac has the feel of a lazy, laid-back Southern town, with coconut palms, casuarinas, oleander, hibiscus, bougainvillea and Baptist churches punctuating villages along the north coast. Immediately to the northwest, Little Cayman has fewer than 100 full-time residents. Here there are more mangroves and swamp edged by gorgeous beaches protected by a barrier reef along the south shore — and the best scuba diving in the world, or so said Jacques Cousteau's son Philippe.

But then most of the Cayman Islands' assets lie hidden from obvious view. The natural ones include extravagant undersea gardens of soft and hard corals bathed by the clearest waters in the Caribbean thanks to the islands' isolation from man-made pollution and no mountains and rivers to spill silt-filled rainwater into the sea.

And as Caribbean port cities go, the capital of George Town, on the west side of Grand Cayman, is not particularly picturesque or colorful. As we learned in Tom Cruise's film "The Firm" this is the offshore banking and corporate headquarters of the hemisphere, the "Switzerland of the Caribbean." And the capital looks something like a small tropical banking city — but with a harbor full of cruise ships anchored beside beautiful reefs.

But it doesn't really matter that George Town is not postcard cute. Other than for a quick look at duty-free shops' crystal and English china, most visitors spend little time in town. Instead they spread out in a selection of handsome resorts and condominiums reaching north along a skinny peninsula known as West Bay. The main attraction here is the great Seven-Mile Beach, without question the best 5.6-mile stretch of sand anywhere in the Caribbean.

But beach and sun alone don't account for the runaway popularity of Grand Cayman. You can find good sun, sand and condos closer and a lot cheaper. The Cayman Islands is not a bargain paradise and doesn't want to be. Nor will you find the secret of its appeal in a travel brochure. Yet the word has obviously gotten around. The Cayman Islands has matured beyond many "have and have-not" islands. This is a well integrated multi-ethnic society so free from racial tensions that it comes tantalizingly close to being color-blind.



Jet-powered ski boats skim Seven-Mile Beach

Translation for concerned travelers: The Cayman Islands is a First World destination that is free of violent crime. This year the continuous good luck that shines over these islands even protected them from the wrath of nature. While the Eastern Caribbean was battered by hurricanes, the Caymans, far to the west, escaped the destructive winds.

When I first visited Grand Cayman, there was only one real hotel, the Holiday Inn, midway along Seven-Mile Beach — and in bad need of repair and a reputation.

Now a totally renovated Holiday Inn has been joined by numerous full-scale resorts. The elegant Hyatt Regency Grand Cayman, with manicured gardens and the adjoining Jack Nicklaus-designed Britannia Golf Club, is the centerpiece of Grand Cayman's new hotels, albeit on the land side of West Bay Road. The Radisson Resort Grand Cayman is a slick new property built in the style of a Spanish colonial village.

And this fall Westin Hotels opened its first new Caribbean hotel on Seven Mile Beach. Called the Westin Casuarina Resort, it has lush tropical gardens, a sophisticated outdoor restaurant, on-site dive shop, two freshwater pools and two whirlpools, and rooms and suites, most with French doors and balconies, facing the sea. In winter, double rates at Seven Mile Beach hotels range upward from \$230 per night.

Sleep Inn, with doubles costing \$105 in summer and \$165 in winter, is a popular, moderately priced hotel close to the beach and within walking distance of George Town shopping and restaurants. Seaview, an older but totally renovated Cayman-style inn with

15 comfortable rooms, charges only \$65 double in summer and \$79 in winter, but it has no nearby beach and is a long walk south of George Town.

Before the hotels were built, most vacationers headed to the condos that line Seven-Mile Beach and are still an excellent option for families or two or three couples who want to share. The top condos are air-conditioned, come with daily maid service and have fully equipped kitchens, a living room, porch, and two to three bedrooms.

The condos up along the north end of West Bay Road have the advantage of facing the best part of the beach and being away from the worst traffic. They are particularly good for families with young children, since the soft sand and easy no-surf swimming are just steps away.

In a decade, Grand Cayman's dining options moved from deep-fried fish joints to sophisticated and cosmopolitan cuisine. Grand Old House is still worth a visit, for the food and the Caribbean plantation atmosphere of screened porches, fan-back chairs and ceiling fans. The colorful Wharf restaurant is the place for steak and seafood, right on the water, with stunning views of the setting sun. The Crow's Nest, a funky and unpretentious little traditional Cayman eatery on the south coast, has its own beach in a stand of seagrass. Try the turtle steak.

DJ's Cafe, in a shopping center, serves the best — if a bit pricey — hamburgers and steaks. The Cracked Conch, a long-time Cayman favorite, has moved to a new seaside location, north of Seven-Mile Beach, near the Turtle Farm. And I hear the hot new place is Casanova's, a classic Italian restaurant on the water in George Town.

While diving was once the sole attraction for the visitors, Grand Cayman now has a panoply of apres-dive activities. If swimming and hanging out on the best beach in the Caribbean are not enough, you'll find just about every other watersport nearby.

Head to the Holiday Inn area to play with all the beach toys, from Sunfish and catamarans to kayaks and sailboards, plus waterskiing and parasailing. Since taxis are expensive, you will want a rental car for further explorations to the far reaches of the island. Pick up a rental at the airport from the usual suspects: Avis, Hertz, Budget, Dollar, Economy and a half-dozen local operators.

When the nearly all-day-and-night buzz of the West Bay area gets to be too much, a slower and gentler island experience lies just a short drive out of town. Head east along the South Sound Road and go backward in time

through the towns of Savannah, Bodden Town and finally to East End. Here you will still find Cayman before the boom, before the banks and offshore corporations, the resorts and the condos, the traffic and traffic lights.

If you go

Travelers need proof of citizenship (passport, voter's registration, birth certificate). There is a \$10 departure tax.

Getting there: The Cayman Islands is served from Miami, Tampa, Houston, Atlanta, Charlotte by Cayman Airways, the flag carrier, as well as American Airlines, Northwest Airlines and USAir.

For more information: Cayman Islands Department of Tourism, 420 Lexington Ave., Suite 2733, New York, N.Y. 10017; tel. (212) 682-5582.

Christopher Lofting, who also spends much of his time in Manhattan, is the former travel editor of the Journal of Commerce

CAYMAN ISLANDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Barbara Currie Dailey
Cayman Islands Dept. of Tourism
(809) 949-9182

THE CAYMAN ISLANDS ESCAPES HURRICANE LUIS

GRAND CAYMAN, BWI, September 8, 1995 -- The Cayman Islands has been spared the wrath of Hurricane Luis. The hurricane has been solely concentrated in the eastern portion of the Caribbean. The Cayman Islands, located in the western Caribbean, was not affected by the storm.

"While we are very grateful that the Cayman Islands was not located in the path of Hurricane Luis, we are deeply saddened by the death and destruction it has caused in other Caribbean islands," said Hon. Thomas Jefferson, Minister of Tourism, Aviation and Commerce.

All major carriers, including Cayman Airways, American Airlines, Northwest Airlines and USAir, are offering regularly scheduled service from the United States to the Cayman Islands. All hotels, restaurants, attractions and shops are open for business in Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

More information on the Cayman Islands is available from 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

-more-



"Those who know us, love us."

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=67 Hurricane Luis

CAYMAN ISLANDS

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THE CAYMAN ISLANDS IS OPENING A MAJOR RESORT AND NEW ATTRACTIONS IN TIME FOR THE WINTER SEASON

-- The Island Trio Is Unaffected By Recent Storms Which Have Hit The Region --

GRAND CAYMAN, BWI, October 10, 1995 -- The Cayman Islands is preparing to welcome tourists this winter with a new four-star resort and new additions to its award-winning Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park.

In December, the \$50 million, four-star Westin Casuarina Resort, is scheduled to open on Grand Cayman's Seven Mile Beach. The eight-acre property will be the largest in the Cayman Islands and will feature a fine dining restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating, casual dining restaurant, 700-foot white sand beach, dive shop, tennis courts, two pools, two whirlpools, two bars, fitness facility, gift shops and 2,640 square feet of meeting space.

In February 1996, the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, also in Grand Cayman, will add a two-story Visitor Center which will be designed as a contemporary interpretation of Caymanian architecture and will feature a central reception area offering park information, as well as permanent and changing exhibits. The second floor will be designed as a large, open space for classes, lectures and demonstrations. Other facilities will include a gift shop and a cafe set in a rain garden courtyard. Nearby, the Heritage Garden, set to open in late spring 1996, will feature a restored early 20th-century wooden cottage, surrounded by a variety of blooming plants, including roses, jasmine, hibiscus, crotons, orchids and Crepe Myrtle.

Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman have not been affected by Tropical Storm Roxanne or Hurricanes Luis and Marilyn.

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CI#72 Tropical Storm Roxanne



"Those who know us, love us."

The Caribbean Is Cleaning Up

After the storms, stricken islands recover while others pick up the slack

By FRANCES FRANK MARCUS

MUCH of the island of St. Thomas is decked out in blue these days. Blue is the color of the tarpaulins the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, has supplied to cover the many houses without roofs.

St. Thomas is one of the three Caribbean islands — the others being Antigua and Dutch St. Maarten — that were hardest hit by Hurricanes Luis or Marilyn last month. The hurricanes brushed eight more islands as well, sweeping away seaside terraces and beach cottages, uprooting large trees and shutting down lights, telephones and sewage systems.

The storms also wreaked havoc with the tourism season; some 160,000 hotel rooms were damaged, air service was suspended and tour companies stopped accepting bookings for some of the most affected islands.

FRANCES FRANK MARCUS contributes to The Times from New Orleans.

And tourists seemed to be avoiding even the unaffected islands, at least initially.

By mid-October, daily flights had resumed to all the islands hit by the hurricanes, though in some cases service remains curtailed. American Airlines, the largest carrier from the United States into the Caribbean, has restored jet service from San Juan and Miami to St. Maarten but has canceled its direct winter jet service from Kennedy to St. Maarten through 1995, said Al Becker, an American spokesman.

American has also canceled its San Juan-St. Thomas flights from Nov. 1 through 1995 and its Kennedy-St. Thomas flights through 1995. By Nov. 1, American's only jet service into St. Thomas will be a daily flight on a 757 from Miami. Service will continue on American Eagle, the airline's commuter partner, from San Juan to St. Thomas and other destinations. The 188-passenger 757 that now flies daily from San Juan into Antigua will be replaced on Dec. 14 with a 267-passenger Airbus.

Full resumption of air service to the Caribbean will depend upon the pace of the recovery process, said Horace Ford, Ameri-

can's director of marketing Atlantic-Caribbean.

Continental Airlines will resume twice weekly service to Antigua and St. Maarten in mid-December, said David Messing, a company spokesman, but its four times a week service to St. Thomas is "pending review."

USAir resumed daily flights from Baltimore to St. Thomas on Oct. 5 and will resume service from Baltimore into St. Maarten early next month with two weekend flights. Delta has one daily flight from Atlanta to St. Thomas and St. Croix.

Among vacationers who will not be flying anytime soon to St. Thomas, St. Martin-St. Maarten, Antigua and St. Kitts are those who have booked trips packaged by Apple Vacations, a large travel wholesaler based in Illinois. Apple Vacations has suspended its packages to those destinations, said its communications manager, Mary Z. Bradley, interviewed as she fielded questions about Hurricane Roxanne, which recently hit Yucatan.

"We're concerned about quality," she said, "not just the hotel but the infrastruc-

ture, water and surroundings. We want our clients to be happy." The company has not decided when it will go back.

As vacation travel has dropped to the islands hardest hit by the storms, the islands and resorts that were unaffected are "picking up the slack," says Jeffrey D. Tolkin, co-president of Travel Impressions, a major travel wholesaler specializing in Florida, the Caribbean and Mexico.

"Aruba, Jamaica, Grand Cayman, Puerto Rico, Nassau are all doing extra well," he said in a recent interview. The company's bookings to Jamaica and Puerto Rico, he said, are "30 percent ahead of last year. Aruba and Cayman are up 15 per cent and Nassau is in the 30 percent range." Apple Vacations reports a similar trend.

On the islands most seriously affected by the storms, not only individual hotels but also essential services must be repaired before tourism can return to normal. Here is an overview of each island's status and outlook.

News: Analysis & Commentary



ST. THOMAS: Paradise lost, for now

bookings since August, and other sun seekers are heading toward friendly climates in California. Even if travelers wanted to get to the affected Caribbean islands, they'd find the going tough. On Sept. 20, Continental Airlines Inc. announced it had suspended flights to Antigua, St. Martin, and St. Thomas.

GOING WEST. Still, the hurricanes might not hit the Caribbean economy as hard as some fear. That's because

many travelers are merely rebooking trips to islands not affected by the storms. Cruise line companies Carnival, Royal Caribbean, and Norwegian Cruise Line, for instance, are shifting passengers to other local ports of call. Carnival is diverting passengers to western Caribbean stops such as Cozumel and Grand Cayman. Royal Caribbean's Monarch of the Seas is calling on Trinidad, Barbados, and Martinique. And Norwegian Cruise Line substituted St. Croix after Luis damaged Antigua and St. Martin.

Indeed, as travelers assess their vacation plans, other destinations in the Caribbean—Aruba, Barbados, Curacao, the Cayman Islands, and Jamaica—could benefit, as will the coastal resorts of Mexico, travel agents say. Nadine Hadge had planned for a year to visit St. Martin with her mother and other relatives. Instead, they will travel to the Cayman Islands this fall.

Those islanders looking for reasons to be optimistic should consider the tiny Siboney Beach Club in Antigua. It already is hosting adventurous European travelers who were curious about the aftermath of a hurricane. But unfortunately for the Caribbean, the attitude of Jennifer Castelli is likely to be far more common. The New Yorker spent part of her honeymoon in Antigua surviving the howling winds of Luis. Will she go back to the Caribbean? "Definitely not during hurricane season," she says. After this year's lesson, more travelers will no doubt say the same.

By Gail DeGeorge, with David Swafford in Miami, and bureau reports

TOURISM

8459

WASTED AWAY: MARGARITAVILLE

Already, the Caribbean is suffering winter cancellations

For the past eight winters, Ruth and Marvin Cohn have escaped the cold of New York for two weeks at the Pelican Bay Resort in St. Martin. But after Hurricane Luis lashed the Caribbean island earlier this month, the Cohns cancelled this season's trip. Now they're mulling a long weekend in New Orleans or a trip to the Carolinas. "I love St. Martin," says Ruth Cohn. "We will go back—but not this year."

Hardly comforting words for islanders, who are reeling from one of the worst hurricane seasons in memory. But as the region digs out from the trail of destruction left by Hurricane Luis, which pounded Antigua and St. Martin on Sept. 5, and Hurricane Marilyn, which pummeled the U.S. Virgin Islands on Sept. 16, much of the Caribbean is bracing for another hit—this one economic—as tourists seek sand, sea, and sun elsewhere.

\$12 BILLION STAKE. There's good reason for concern. While Marilyn devastated only St. Thomas, damaging at least 75% of its buildings, and dealt lesser blows to St. John, St. Croix, and some eastern islands near Puerto Rico, many travelers think of "the Caribbean" as a single

destination rather than as individual islands. So when there is bad news about one part of the region, says Jean S. Holder, secretary general of the Caribbean Tourism Organization, a regional tourism group, "inevitably, there is the potential it will have a negative impact on the entire region."

The worst-case scenario? That travelers will avoid the Caribbean altogether this winter. Last year, 14.1 million visitors and 3.3 million cruise passengers spent \$11.7 billion there. And the stakes for the individual island economies are staggering: Some 50% of the gross national product of Antigua and 60% of the gross domestic product of the U.S. Virgin Islands is derived from tourism. With damage from the storms likely to reach over \$1 billion, the region can ill afford to lose tourist dollars.

At this point, though, such a hit seems inevitable. "People are definitely shying away from the Caribbean because of the weather," says George Morris, a travel agent with Gables Travel in Coral Gables, Fla., who says he has seen a downturn in Caribbean bookings since mid-August. Where are people going? Myrtle Beach, S.C., reports an uptick in

The bad news: Tourists tend to think the hurricanes hit every island. The good news: Memories are short

By Barbara Shea
STAFF WRITER

CARIBBEAN UPDATE

A battalion of Caribbean tourism officials flew to New York this past week to spread the word about their islands in the wake of Hurricanes Marilyn and Luis. The word was an earnest, "Come."

Armed with dramatic photos to bolster their vows that winter visitors will find conditions even better than ever (greener, spiffier, friendlier — you name it), members of the Caribbean Tourism Organization fielded questions from tour operators and the media about recovery.

The consensus: It will be business pretty much as usual by the high season, which typically begins Dec. 15 — even for the 12 of the 34 member nations whacked by the storms (islands said to be completely unscathed include Jamaica, Aruba, Barbados, St. Lucia, Puerto Rico, the Caymans, Bahamas, Turks & Caicos).

But only hard-hit Dutch St. Maarten promised price concessions as a lure. Summer rates will be kept through the winter high season, the tourism commissioner said, adding the same policy is likely in French St. Martin, the other half of the dual-nation island. Plane fares to the Caribbean may increase \$25 to \$30 after Jan. 1, according to a representative of American Airlines, the major carrier to the region.

Cruise ships are expected to return Wednesday to St. Maarten, where there's duty-free shopping in the port city of Philipsburg, a variety of shore excursions and clean beaches, officials said. The island airport was scheduled to open today to transit passengers headed for other islands; Dutch St. Maarten will officially reopen Nov. 11 with an anticipated 80 percent of hotels, French St. Martin expects 76 percent of hotels ready by Dec. 15.

In the U.S. Virgin Islands, cruise passengers have returned to St. Croix for the usual shopping and sightseeing; most hotels there and in St. John are expected to open by mid-November. Harder hit St. Thomas expects cruise ships by the end of October and 60 percent of hotel rooms by winter.

See travel agents for the latest specifics on all islands.

SUNDAY STAR-LEDGER

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Caribbean islands promise business as usual this winter

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Newday

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Islands hope tourists won't allow hurricanes to keep them away

NEWSDAY

Caribbean tourism officials are spreading the word about their islands in the wake of Hurricanes Marilyn and Luis. The word is an earnest "Come."

Armed with dramatic photos to bolster their vows that winter visitors will find conditions even better than ever (greener, spiffier, friendlier — you name it), members of the Caribbean Tourism Organization are talking to tour operators and the media about the recovery.

The consensus: It will be business pretty much as usual by the high season, which typically begins Dec. 15 — even for the 12 of the 34 member nations whacked by the storms (islands said to be completely unscathed include Jamaica, Aruba, Barbados, St. Lucia, Puerto Rico, the Caymans, Bahamas, Turks and Caicos).

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Cruise ships are returning this month to St. Maarten, where there's duty-free shopping in the

Jamaica, Aruba, Barbados, St. Lucia, Puerto Rico, the Caymans, Bahamas, Turks and Caicos were unscathed, but even the damaged islands are readying for winter business.

port city of Philipsburg, a variety of shore excursions and clean beaches, officials said. The island airport was scheduled to open last weekend to transit passengers headed for other islands. Dutch St. Maarten will officially reopen Nov. 11 with an anticipated 80 percent of hotels, while French St. Martin expects 76 percent of hotels ready by Dec. 15.

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The best bet for prospective travelers is to consult a travel agent for specifics about individual islands and properties.

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Make your own airline, hotel and car reservations on your computer. Information, Page A2. Members, jump: Travel.

BURRELLE'S

75 EAST NORTHFIELD ROAD / LIVINGSTON / NEW JERSEY 07039
(201) 992-6600 / (800) 631-1160

TV
CLIPS

DATE	October 16, 1995	ACCOUNT NUMBER	11/8459
TIME	5:00-7:00 AM	NIELSEN AUDIENCE	110,000
STATION	KXAS-TV(NBC) Channel Five		
LOCATION	Fort Worth, Texas		
PROGRAM	Texas News 5		

SHELLI LOCKHART, co-anchro:

The stunned Florida panhandle is just beginning to recover from Hurricane Opal. But in the Caribbean, the cleanup is well under way.

JEFF ELIASOPH, co-anchor:

Travel reporter Mike Sanford has the latest on that, and how the cruise companies scramble to save their winter season. And it could mean good deals for a lot of us.

MIKE SANFORD reporting:

They're not the kind of vacation images most people want to bring home.

* * *

(Ms. Peggy McMiller of Blue World Travel says most of the Caribbean was not destroyed and that things will be back to normal soon.)

* * *

SANFORD: Like travel agents, cruise companies are working hard to help repair the Caribbean battered image. In fact, right now cruise lines are going all out to make sure their busy winter season isn't sunk by all those images of devastation coming from the islands. First, all the major lines are dropping St. Thomas as a port of call. Instead, they'll sail to undamaged places like St. Lucia, Granada, Grand Cayman, Barbados, Jamaica, even Cozumel, Mexico. And the advertising blitz is under way urging cruisers not to skip the Caribbean this winter.

* * *

(Sanford talks with other cruise-line representatives and concludes the report.)

21 Clips

BURRELLE'S

75 EAST NORTHFIELD ROAD / LIVINGSTON / NEW JERSEY 07039
(201) 992-6600 / (800) 631-1160

TV CLIPS

DATE	October 12, 1995	ACCOUNT NUMBER	11/8459
TIME	5:00-5:30 PM	NIELSEN AUDIENCE	48.000
STATION	KPHO-TV(CBS) Channel Five		
LOCATION	Phoenix, Ariz.		
PROGRAM	F5VE		

CAROL CAVAZOS, anchor:

Much of the Caribbean is in recovery after a hurricane thrashing, but if you're still longing for a Caribbean vacation, there are many islands where damage is minimal and some places left completely untouched: Aruba, the British Virgin Islands, Barbados, the Cayman Islands, and Jamaica, to name a few.

8 Clips

BURRELLE'S

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TV
CLIPS

DATE	October 16, 1995	ACCOUNT NUMBER	11/8459
TIME	12:00 Noon-12:30 PM	NIELSEN AUDIENCE	34,000
STATION	KWQC-TV(NBC) Channel Six		
LOCATION	Davenport, Iowa		
PROGRAM	KWQC TV 6 News at Noon		

CHARLES KING, anchor:

Well, the Caribbean tourist business has been hurting with the rash of hurricanes this year. But not all the islands are in bad shape. Travel reporter Mike Sanford has the latest on that, and how cruise companies, scrambling to save their winter season, can mean good deals for customers.

MIKE SANFORD reporting:

They're not the kind of vacation images most people want to bring home.

* * *

(Ms. Peggy McMiller of Blue World Travel says most of the Caribbean was not destroyed and that things will be back to normal soon.)

* * *

SANFORD: Like travel agents, cruise companies are working hard to help repair the Caribbean battered image. In fact, right now cruise lines are going all out to make sure their busy winter season isn't sunk by all those images of devastation coming from the islands. First, all the major lines are dropping St. Thomas as a port of call. Instead, they'll sail to undamaged places like St. Lucia, Granada, Grand Cayman, Barbados, Jamaica, even Cozumel, Mexico. And the advertising blitz is under way, urging cruisers not to skip the Caribbean this winter.

* * *

(Sanford talks with other cruise-line representatives and concludes the report.)

20 Clips

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TV
CLIPS

DATE	October 21, 1995	ACCOUNT NUMBER	11/8459
TIME	7:00-10:00 AM	NIELSEN AUDIENCE	N/A
STATION	KTVK-TV(WB) Channel Three		
LOCATION	Phoenix, Ariz.		
PROGRAM	Good Morning Arizona Saturday		

SAMANTHA MOHR, anchor:

If you're looking for an autumn vacation spot, you can still think Caribbean. Reporter Mike Sanford tells cruises are going full steam ahead despite the recent barrage of hurricanes.

MIKE SANFORD reporting:

They're not the kind of vacation images most people want to bring home.

* * *

(Ms. Peggy McMiller of Blue World Travel says most of the Caribbean was not destroyed, and that things will be back to normal soon.)

* * *

SANFORD: Like travel agents, cruise companies are working hard to help repair the Caribbean-battered image. In fact, right now, cruise lines are going all-out to make sure their busy winter season isn't sunk by all those images of devastation coming from the islands. First, all the major lines are dropping Saint Thomas as a port of call. Instead, they'll sail to undamaged places like Santa Lucia, Granada, Grand Cayman, Barbados, Jamaica, even Cozumel, Mexico. And the advertising blitz is under way urging cruisers not to skip the Caribbean this winter.

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(Sanford talks with other cruise-line representatives and concludes the report.)

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TV CLIPS

DATE	October 12, 1995	ACCOUNT NUMBER	11/8459
TIME	5:00-6:00 AM	NIelsen AUDIENCE	N/A
STATION	KTVK-TV(WB) Channel Three		
LOCATION	Phoenix, Ariz.		
PROGRAM	First News 3		

TERRY OUELLETTE, co-anchor:

In today's travel report, as it begins to get chilly in other parts of the United States, the Caribbean is just beginning to heat up. So if you aren't ready to pull out your skis, put your swimsuit back on and go to the islands.

* * *

(The reporter indicates that while many Caribbean islands sustained hurricane damage, others had no damage at all.)

* * *

Reporter:

There are 20 other Caribbean islands that were completely untouched by the hurricanes. (A list of islands is displayed on screen which includes the Cayman Islands.) They include Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Barbados, The Cayman Islands, Jamaica, The Turks and Caicos, the mainland of Puerto Rico. These places are fully operational now.

Fodor's has found that some cruise lines are already rerouting their itineraries. For example, instead of sailing to St. Thomas, Royal Caribbean ships will be heading into ports in St. Croix.

Two of my favorite parts of the Caribbean were untouched by the hurricane: the Cayman Islands and Jamaica. Word of mouth has made the Caymans one of the hottest places in the Caribbean. It's a diver's paradise. Its caves and coves make it a fascinating island to explore.

* * *

(Jamaica is described. Pre-planning is recommended.)

21 Clips

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(201) 992-6600 | (800)631-1160

RADIO CLIPS

DATE October 1, 1995
TIME 1:00-3:00 PM
STATION WRKO 680 AM
LOCATION Boston
PROGRAM Travel Guide

ACCOUNT NUMBER 11/8459

STEPHEN VICKEY, host:

Welcome back to the Travel Guide. I'm Stephen Vickey of Liberty Travel live here from Puerto Rico. Well, we have winners from the Travel Guide and this week we have a winner from last week's sweepstakes.

* * *

(Vickey talks with Marian, the winner of the contest, and he talks more about the Hyatt resorts in Puerto Rico with his guests, who are employees of Hyatt. They take call-in questions about vacationing at the Hyatt resorts.)

* * *

VICKEY: Mike, very quickly, mentioned Hyatt Grand Cayman is in fine shape, fine running.

Mr. MIKE RUDLOFF (Sales Manager with Hyatt Towers and Resorts): Oh, Grand Cayman is.

VICKEY: Hyatt Aruba.

Mr. RUDLOFF: Hyatt Aruba is in good shape. It's down below the hurricane belt so anybody going down to any of the ADC islands is in fine shape. Grand Cayman is in excellent shape, a beautiful, beautiful property. Can't say enough about our properties. They're just gorgeous properties.

* * *

(SUMMARY: Vickey gives advice to travelers about visiting the Caribbean and what some of the flights from Boston and other US cities to the Caribbean are like. He thanks his guests.)

Caribbean Officials Expect Region To Rebound Quickly From Storms

Aruba, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, the Cayman Islands, Curacao, Grenada, Jamaica, mainland Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Turks and Caicos. Those destinations may benefit not only from tourism lost to damaged islands, but also from business diverted from Florida and Mexico, which were hit by hurricanes Opal and Roxanne earlier this month (see story, p. 108).

Storms Fail to Dampen Popularity of Region

Operators: Those With Rained-Out Travel Plans Rebook Other Isles

BY KRISTIN O'MEARA

Read Travel Features

NEW YORK — Although hurricanes Luis and Marilyn dealt a serious blow to several Caribbean islands, tour operators said most clients headed for affected islands are rebooking elsewhere in the region.

Gogo Tours of Rainscy, N.J., registered "a huge increase" in bookings to nonaffected islands, following an "enormous" number of cancellations for affected islands, according to Richard Ellis, the company's marketing senior vice president.

"It doesn't look like clients are canceling completely," he said.

Ellis said his company was redirecting business to Grand Cayman, Aruba, Jamaica, Mexico and Barbados in the Caribbean, as well as to Hawaii and Florida.

Friendly Holidays in Lake Success, N.Y., said bookings are up in unaffected Caribbean islands, and the company has had "some rebooking" to hurricane-stricken islands for travel after Dec. 15, according to Jim Krause, vice president of Caribbean marketing.

Krause said that as soon as the storms hit, staff "immediately began calling people" and offering to rebook them to other Caribbean islands, such as Aruba, the Bahamas, Jamaica and St. Lucia as well as Can-

instate programs to hurricane-stricken islands as soon as possible.

"We are still actively promoting the entire Caribbean, and as soon as the islands are ready to accept visitors, we'll be there first thing," Friendly's Krause said.

He said that most of the properties on affected islands predict they will reopen and be fully operational for the winter season, and "we are taking bookings for properties that will open sooner."

Gogo's Ellis also said the company was "not going to wait for entire islands to come back on line" and will work with individual properties as they reopen.

Although they said their companies will start booking affected islands as soon as they are ready, the executives said that they will evaluate the condition of hotels carefully before going back to them.

Apple, Friendly and Gogo have sent or will send representatives to visit affected islands and properties before accepting reservations.

Gogo's Ellis said company representatives currently are evaluating the status of the tourism infrastructure in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands, St. Martin, Antigua, St. Barts, the Virgin Islands, St. John and Anguilla.

As reports come back, Ellis said, the company will start to set timetables for the reinstatement of travel to those areas.

"We expect some will come back," he said.

Although Apple Vacations of Elk Grove Village, Ill., does not convey large numbers of travelers to the islands affected by Luis and Marilyn, the company has seen "a slight surge in business to unaffected islands," according to executive vice president Ray Daley.

"Most of the inquiries we've had to rebook were from St. Thomas into our other [Caribbean] products," Daley said.

Inter Island Tours' Greg Thorne said that "a lot" of his passengers rebooked to Puerto Rico "once we tell them it was absolutely untouched by Marilyn and Luis."

Thorne, who is vice president of sales and marketing for the New York-based company, said Inter Island also was rebooking clients to Miami and the Dominican Republic.

"There are those people who just love the Caribbean, and you can't send them anywhere else," he said.

All of the operators interviewed said they planned to re-

Continued on Page C8 Col 3

Absolutely Fine

Reed Travel Features

The following destinations were unaffected by the wrath of Luis and Marilyn:

Aruba
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bonaire
Cancun, Mexico
Cayman Islands
Curacao
Dominican Republic
Guadeloupe
Grenada
Haiti
Jamaica
Martinique
St. Lucia
St. Vincent & the Grenadines
Trinidad and Tobago
Turks & Caicos Islands

The following destinations sustained minimal damage and are open for business as usual:

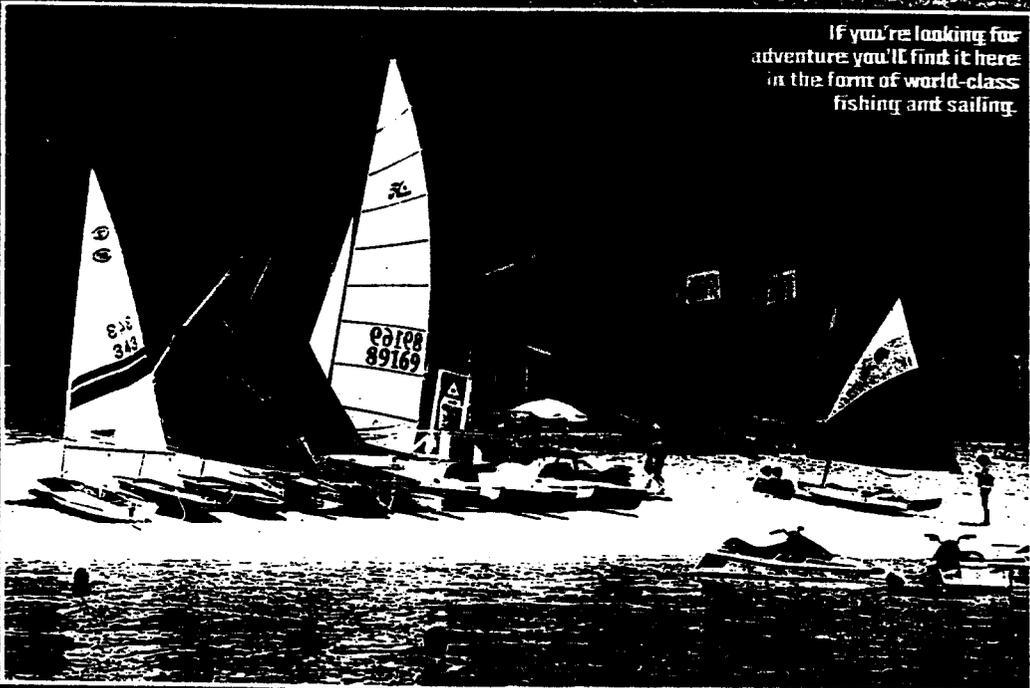
British Virgin Islands
Puerto Rico

The weather's always perfect in the Cayman Islands



Scuba divers will love coming face-to-face with exotic fish like this Nassau grouper.

For relaxation or a rip-roaring good time, you can't beat the Cayman Islands, where the Caribbean sun shines 365 days a year!



If you're looking for adventure, you'll find it here: in the form of world-class fishing and sailing.

The beautiful beaches seem to go on forever, especially Seven Mile Beach on Grand Cayman.



QUICK TIP

U.S. dollars are accepted in the Caymans—or use Cayman Island dollars. One Cayman dollar currently equals \$1.25 in U.S. funds.

No matter which one of the three Caymans you visit—Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac or Little Cayman, you'll find a family fun for everyone in this British Crown Colony. If you want peace and solitude, there's always a quiet beach. If you're looking for adventure, you'll find world-class fishing, snorkeling and other water sports. If you have a hankering to go on a real deep sea adventure, board an Atlantis submarine in George Town and spend an hour and a half, 100 feet below, observing exotic marine life, sponge bar-

...and in the quiet, you'll find a fun lesson in natural science as they learn colorful facts about the role turtle and other indigenous animals play in local culture.

...Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, located 89 miles from Grand Cayman, and five-mile-long, provide a get-away-from-the-big-island Cayman Brac is popular among bee-

...Elmwood Memorial Church in George Town, Cayman's first concrete block building in 1920, was the first children will enjoy holding a green sea turtle in a petting area, while

...Kids will love the Cayman Turtle Farm on Grand Cayman, Young G-Cayman

...Brooke Come



Visitors to the Cayman Islands will find no shortage of romantic sunsets.

The island that was first settled by shipwrecked sailors and buccaneers is now so peaceful you'll start relaxing the minute you arrive.

Woman's World Getaway



A NICE PLACE TO VISIT...

LOCATION: the Cayman Islands are 480 miles south of Miami and 180 miles northwest of Jamaica.

NEAREST AIRPORT: each island has its own airport, but the biggest one is Robert Owens International on Grand Cayman. It services carriers including Cayman Airways, American Airlines and USAir.

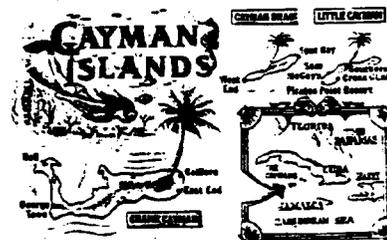
CLIMATE: the weather is balmy and sunny, in the 80s, nearly every day of the year!

LODGING: off season, from April 16 to December 15, expect to pay \$75 to \$250 for a room for two. In season, December 16 to April 15, costs rise slightly. Expect to pay \$85 to \$350.

RESTAURANTS: expect to pay \$15 to \$40 for two for lunch, depending on whether you lunch at a snack bar or an elegant

restaurant. For dinner, you'll pay \$15 to \$100 for two.

WHAT TO BUY: rumcake, black coral sculptures and duty-free perfumes, liquors and cosmetics.



The three faces of the Caymans

Each one becomes your special island, with sights and sounds all its own

BY JOANN MILIVOJEVIC
 Special to the Democrat-Gazette

Order a rum punch at a swim-up pool bar, people-watch on a long silky sand beach, or club hop to the latest Caribbean beat, that's the scene at hip and happening Grand Cayman. But that's only a third of the scene. The Cayman islands are three islands, each one moves to its own beat.

The Caymans are tips of submerged mountain peaks south of Cuba and northwest of Jamaica. They're easy to get to (an hour flight from Miami), easy to understand (they're English-speaking) and easy to enjoy (they're the wealthiest islands in the Caribbean). All you have to do is choose the island that's right for you.

Grand Cayman's famous seven-mile beach is lined with top resorts that cater to every need. Of course, there's the world-class scuba diving available on all three islands. But on Grand Cayman, you can also play tennis, windsurf, golf, jet ski, para-sail, and plunge into the deep blue in a submarine.

You won't have to submerge more than 20 feet to get to a place called Sting Ray City. A shallow patch of sand in the North Sound, it's home to friendly, fluttering sting rays. Tame as horses and just as easy to feed, they descend upon divers who are willing to give them a treat. Their mouths, like smiling vacuum cleaners, suck up food from an open hand. Stroking their bellies feels like petting slippery velvet.

If you've got the kind of friends who must see it to believe it, rent an underwater camera from Cathy Church. She's a world-renowned underwater photographer operating out of Sunset House. Renting a camera from her will include tips on how to shoot underwater. Divers who want to take home more than fish stories should consider taking her week-long underwater photo course. With a master's degree in marine biology, and more than 20 years of underwater photography, Cathy is a true, blue master.

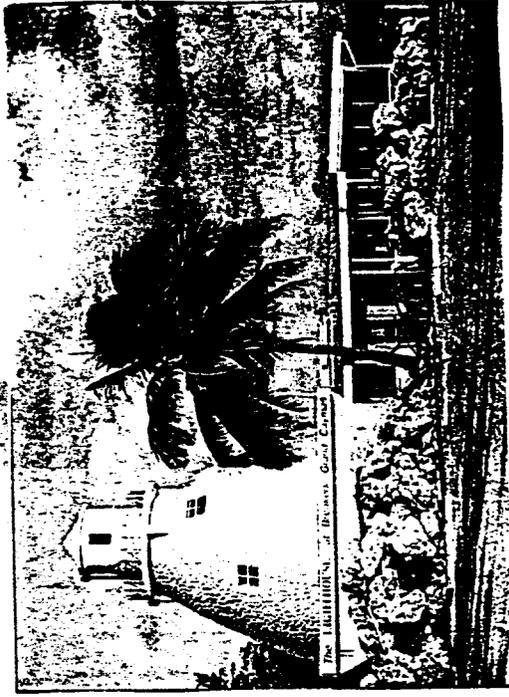
For a hot night under the stars, head out to Rum Point. Local and regional bands rock the night away as dancers get down and dirty with moves that make Patrick Swayze look like an altar boy. It's impossible not to move your feet to the grinding, winding beat. A constant dampness will become a matter of course at this outdoor dance club. Clothes become thin transparent layers on your skin, but don't worry, that will make you fit right in. If air conditioning, flashing lights, and mirrors are preferred, there are several dance clubs along the seven-mile beach strip. But don't wait till the midnight hour, most clubs close by 1 a.m.

In the daylight hours, Grand Cayman is mostly scrub and mangrove swamp — although there are coconut palms, almond and

mango trees. The island opened its first Botanic Park in 1993. Like most things on Grand Cayman, walking the park will be easy. A one-mile gravel trail loops around the grounds, and admission is free. Go early in the morning to avoid the midday heat. The garden has beautiful tropical flowers, plants and trees. It's about what you'd see if you just walked around in the bush. But these bushes are labeled.

If designer labels are what you'd rather see, the duty-free shops in George Town won't disappoint you. They've got everything from Rolex to Gucci. Need a few extra bucks? Finding a bank won't be a problem, either. Grand Cayman is the Switzerland of the Caribbean: More than 500 banks and 200,000 companies are registered here. Along with tourism, off-shore finance is the pillar of the Cayman economy.

The living in Grand Cayman is easy. It hardly feels like you left the States, especially when you drive past the Burger Kings and Pizza Huts. For those who prefer to feel like they really have gotten out of the States, consider Cayman Brac.



Serene, slow, and mellow, "The Brac" has more of that "soon come" pace so often associated with the Caribbean. Shaped like a long, deflated chili pepper (12 miles long, one mile wide), the Brac is home to 1,100 people called "Brackers." No nightclubs here, just plenty of Brackers ready for a chat. To get an overall view of the island, zip around on a scooter. Or consider Elo's taxi service. Elo, a resident Bracker, will tell you all about the land, the sea, and the people as you ramble along the roads. If her mango tree is in bloom, Elo may even have an extra mango for you.

Unlike the other two Cayman Islands, which are basically flat, the Brac has a limestone cliff between its north and south shores. (Brac means bluff in Gaelic.) The craggy bluff rises to 140 feet. Don thick-sole shoes and explore the nooks and crannies as Columbus did.

The Brac was the first of the Caymans to be stooed upon by the European explorer back in 1503. But

he wasn't the only one to have "discovered" these islands. Famed pirates, like Bluebeard, are said to have made their homes on this island. Legend has it that there still may be some loot stashed in the caves. But bird-watchers will be more likely to find treasures here. Nesting-cliff creatures include Cayman Brac parrots; and yellow-bellied sapsuckers.

If you are searching for that last bit of underdeveloped island heaven, then Little Cayman is your piece of paradise. "Little" is an understatement, this piece of sand stretches a mere 10 miles and boasts a yearly population of 40. If that's not small enough for you, Owen's Island, a short swim from Little Cayman, is an uninhabited plot with a pristine beach. Beautiful beaches, a bird sanctuary and bone fishing are the featured attractions on Little Cayman. The is-

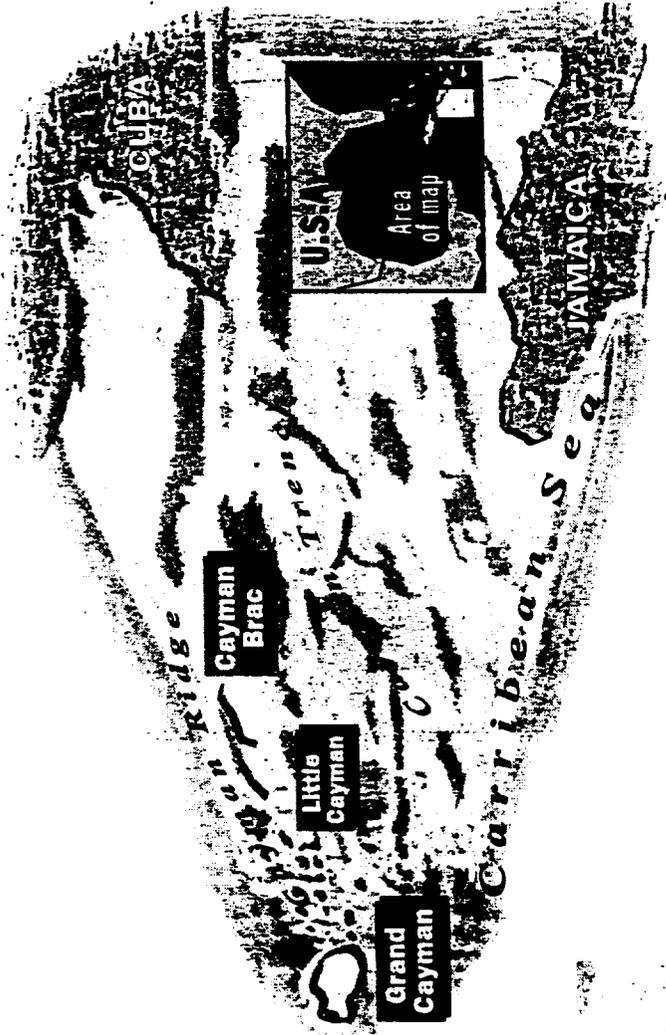
land is best by day, although the nightlife is excellent for those who appreciate celestial bodies.

Little Cayman recently got a paved road. Rumor has it that in the late '80s, there were only two cars on the island. They collided. That's life in the fast lane.

If paradise is calling you, the Cayman Islands may be your answer. Paradise is offered at a fast or slow pace in Caymans. Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman are united by sun, sea and sand but they all have their own distinct rhythms.

Unfortunately, day trips between islands aren't possible due to limited airline schedules. There is, however, plenty to do on each island, and for those who prefer plenty of nothing, there's that, too.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/LIZ ROBERTS



The land of Oz can be found under the sea

Imagine a wall as tall as the Empire State Building. Imagine that wall is alive with spindly-legged creatures, bright puffs of color and polka-dotted fish. The wall lives in warm, salty buoyant water. Imagine immersing yourself in the warm world and floating around with odd creatures and plants. It's like Oz.— you never know who or what you'll see next. But unlike Oz, you don't have to kill a wicked witch to get there.

The three Cayman Islands are easy to get to, they're just 480 miles south of Miami. The islands are the emergent peaks of the subterranean Cayman Ridge which extends from Cuba to the coast of Honduras. On the south side of the range is the Cayman trench, an ocean trough as deep as 24,000 feet, the deepest in the Caribbean. The National Museum in George Town has a 3-D model map that shows what minuscule specks the islands are in comparison to the underwater world below. What lives in the



Photo: CATHY CHURCH
Divers take advantage of Cathy Church's 20 years of marine biology and photography while diving off Grand Cayman and capture proof of the one that got away.

world below is a diver's dream come true. This underwater Emerald City breeds human-size barrel sponges, stingrays, snappers, sea fans and more. It's like swimming in a giant aquarium. Philippe Cousteau ranked the Caymans one of the finest dive destinations in the world.

On Grand Cayman, the North Wall is the dive area of choice.

reasonable price. The dive instructors are quite thorough in explaining how to use them.

The North Walls have vertical drop-offs that plunge into blue infinity. The canyons, cliffs and ledges are bejeweled with waving black coral trees and long purple tube sponges. Curious fish poke out of holes, their eyes like glistening glass marbles. A nurse shark, its gills ballooning in and out like an animated washboard, naps between coral ledges. This is diving Cayman style.

Ninety miles from Grand Cayman are sister islands Grand Cayman and Little Cayman. On land, they are quieter islands, attracting those who seek a simpler, slower-noncommercial island experience. Below the surface, they pulse with life. Because not as many people dive these smaller islands, the dive sights are more pristine than in Grand Cayman.

The Brac and Little Cayman sit side by side. The site of choice between them is Bloody Bay Wall. It begins in 15 feet of water and drops down to 1,200 feet. More critters live in these waters: sea turtles, crab and lobsters are all around. Even manatees have been sighted off these islands.

The Great Walls of Cayman

are a diver's treasure chest open to all. That's why divers the world over say, there's no place like the Caymans, there's no place like the Caymans.

Many state-of-the-art dive shops operate on all three islands. A decompression chamber is also available.

Visitors who are not certified or want to upgrade their certificates will find a variety of courses and operators throughout the islands. Resort courses for those who have never dived before will allow individuals to make shallow reef dives after just a few hours of training. Choose your dive operator carefully. Ask questions like how many divers are on the boats? Where do they go? Do they lead divers or can more experienced divers go their own way? Here are a few recommended dive facilities:

• Grand Cayman: Sunset Divers, (800) 854-4767; Bob Solo's Diving Ltd. (800) 282-7686.

• Cayman Brac: Dive Tiara, (800) 367-3484; Brac Reef, (800) 327-3835.

• Little Cayman: Pirates Point, (809) 948-4210; Little Cayman Beach Resort, (800) 327-3835.

— Joann Milivojevic

Wings in the water

Stingrays and divers share lunch

By Harvey Hagman
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

54.59

The sky is a cerulean blue and the water a shining turquoise as the North Sound's barrier reef protects the water's glasslike surface. Below lies a buff-colored sandy bottom with patches of green, swaying eel grass and occasional coral heads. Southern stingrays, with broad wings and graceful movements, await the descending divers bringing their lunch. This is the world's No. 1 dive site. Welcome to Stingray City.

And the water is only 12 feet deep. The dive boat's motor alerts the rays that food is on the way. Divers don 3 pounds of extra weight as guide Patrick Paulhus, 24, says, "Get ready for the best 12-foot dive of your life."

One by one divers plunge into the watery world, suck in life from their regulators and descend to the sand. We form a circle, kneel on the bottom, and another guide hands us squid and a fish called a ballyhoo.

Whoosh! The stingrays swoop in like stealth bombers, their soft underbellies velvety as they glide over our heads to suck squid and ballyhoo from our closed fists. The gentle, wondrous sea creatures lose their fearsome reputation as we are encircled by their softness.

Although stingrays' top skin feels like sandpaper, their bottoms are silky, polished by the sand over which they glide. We pet and stroke them as they circle, swoop and enfold us in silky caresses. It is truly an otherworldly, transcendental experience, one of the undersea world's most rewarding adventures.

Southern stingrays have discriminating tastes; they prefer squid and ballyhoo. Rays never see the food they eat. Their eyes are atop their heads, their mouths and nostrils underneath. They find their food using electro-sensors and their keen senses of touch and smell.

When rays sense food, they drape themselves over their prey and suck the food into their mouths, where it is crushed by powerful grinding plates. Their wicked

see RAYS, page E4 **I**



Diver Ron Kipp descends to feed stingrays at Stingray City.

On location for The Firm

Filming of the hit movie "The Firm" is in full swing in Grand Cayman. The film's producers, Michael Mann and George Clooney, are currently in Grand Cayman for the following July. The film's producers, Michael Mann and George Clooney, are currently in Grand Cayman for the following July. The film's producers, Michael Mann and George Clooney, are currently in Grand Cayman for the following July.

Island's little sisters

Expanded air service to Cayman Brac and Little Cayman has opened these tranquil isles to travelers. Diving, fishing, bird watching and hiking draw most visitors to these gems of less than 13 square miles.

Accommodations on Cayman Brac include two small, modern hotels and luxury beachfront condos. The 32-room Little Cayman Beach hotel is the only hotel on this island, which also has condos, cottages and villas. Cayman Brac, known for bluff, was settled in the 17th century by Scottish fishermen. About 1,200 Bracians live there. Some 170 caves honeycomb its limestone heights. Fish sales abound. There are no towns, just settlements.

Little Cayman, colonized by 17th-century adventurers, has about 30 permanent inhabitants on its sand and coral. It, too, is associated with pirate tales and has the Caribbean's largest bird sanctuary in its dense interior. Bloody Bay offers a famed sunset view from the surface, a stunning sight for divers and snorkelers. Philippe Cousteau named it one of the world's three top dive spots.

— Harvey Hagman



RAY'S

From page E1

reputation stems from their tails, which whip around, driving serrated, razor-sharp spines into the feet and legs of unfortunate bathers who accidentally step on them.

This venomous spine can cause tissue damage, swelling and pain; in extremely rare circumstances it can induce diarrhea, vomiting and death. So these gentle creatures require caution, divers are warned.

Snorkelers accompany divers. Guide Paulhus, 24, of Bob Soto's Diving, chides them. "After you go over the side, swim directly into the steel cage." He calls the yellowtail, a tasty island fish that vies for the squid, "Cayman piranha" and appoints a "squid master," then warns, "No squidly bits between your thighs, please."

"Swimming your squid above your head and you have a stingray squid pizza," he says.

"Rub squid on your buddy's head and he'll have a stingray hat."

Snorkelers smile uneasily. Then Mr. Paulhus goes over the side with them, luring stingrays to the surface for snorkelers to feed them and feel their velvety presence. Snorkelers dive amid the swooping stingrays, feeding them, petting them and trying to photograph them.

Despite warnings not to thrash in the water or scream, a few yelps and one bloodcurdling yell are heard. But all is well. Guides bring as many as 150 divers and snorkelers daily to the feeding sessions. Ron Kipp, owner of Bob Soto's Diving, estimates that 36,000 people experienced Stingray City and its sister site, the Sand Bar, in 1994. "That's more than any other dive site in the world, and they all go away happy."



Ron Kipp, owner of Bob Soto's Diving

duction to the sport and be hand-feeding stingrays on the second day. We think it will turn a lot of people into divers."

Mr. Kipp says stingrays do not pair off, but travel in packs. He has seen them in bomber formations, diamond formations and flying wing formations.

He can identify two or three rays; one he calls "Hoo-ray." "He is probably the smartest one. The rays are intelligent. I developed a way of feeding them using a mesh bag. ... Because Hoo-ray cannot get all the food out of the bag at one time, he'll keep working on the bag. Then I can move him around and get almost any photo I want."

"But do this three or four times and the rays get ornery. They come

and bite you on the arm. Hoo-ray will come in, and I won't see him, and he'll try to knock my mask off. He's done it to me many times. This is Hoo-ray's way to say, 'Quit fooling around. Let's get on with the food. You've taken enough pictures.'"

Recently, more green and spotted moray eels are moving into Stingray City, and Mr. Kipp takes dive trips to see them.

"They have razor-sharp teeth," says Mr. Kipp, who calls his dive operation, founded in 1959, the world's oldest. "One moray is 7 feet long, 8 or 9 inches across at the head, and lives in 12 feet of water in coral rocks. Eels don't attack, like they did (actress) Jackie Bisset in 'The Deep.'"

"If you feed them, they'll come

out. But they don't see well. Often they can't determine where the food stops and the fingers start. And they don't like to be teased.

"The old green eel, that is nearly blind, offers a great photo opportunity in the morning, but by the afternoon he's full of ballyhoo and tired."

"The little eel is so friendly, he comes out for photos. Psycho is the juvenile delinquent — 2½ feet long, small, fast and likes to terrorize people. He swims into your buoyancy compensator looking for food. I give him a wide berth," says the 6-foot-2 diver.

Recently he was feeding the eels, but the stingrays kept returning. Piqued, he pushed them away.

"Suddenly, two stingrays came in; one knocked my mask off, and

the other got my container of food," Mr. Kipp says. "It was a mugging. They knew exactly what they were doing. The same thing has happened to others."

The Caymans have been recognized for their leadership in marine conservation; marine parks surround the three islands, which have the severest laws against pollution in the Caribbean. Marine life is increasing, not decreasing, according to divers.

The Caymans draw divers worldwide. "Cayman is regarded as the No. 1 diving destination in the world," according to Skin Diver Magazine, Mr. Kipp says. "Dive operators here are proud of that. It is based on the water's clarity and the numerous dives people can make on all four sides of the island. Because of the traditional winds and the island's shape, diving is continuous year-round and almost never halted by the weather."

Diving is riding a wave of popularity. It's now the world's third most popular sport after camping and hiking.

"Today's divers are smarter, younger, better dressed, more affluent and less macho," Mr. Kipp says. "They are here for a good time, their skill levels are high, and they own their own masks and fins, although they may only dive three times a year. More women are diving every year."

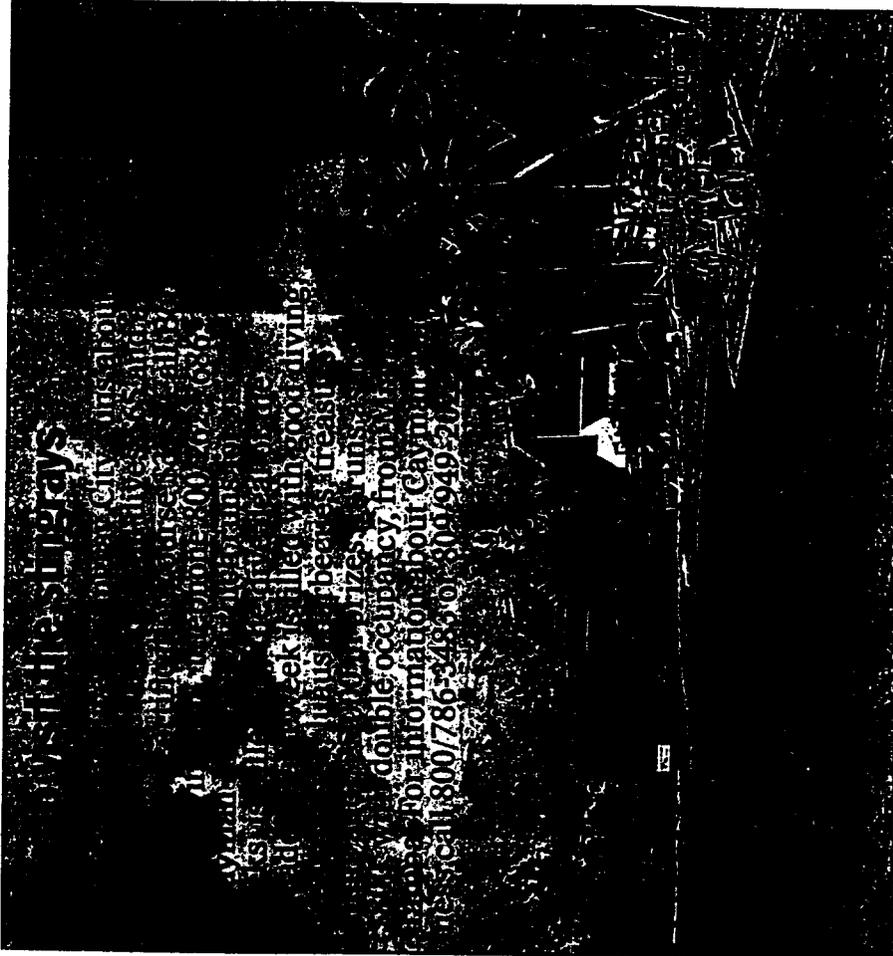
"Divers want professional service, a state-of-the-art dive boat and would like to leave the beach at 9, dive an unexplored shipwreck with whale sharks swimming past and be back at the bar for Bloody Marys at 12:30. The adventure and convenience sometimes collide," Mr. Kipp says, smiling.

About 40 percent of Grand Cayman's visitors are divers. "Diving is good year-round, but the busiest times are June, July and August," Mr. Kipp says. "September and October are the slowest, although diving is idyllic."

"We do a program called Cayman Madness, which drew a thousand divers last year," he says. "We give people a week of diving, parties, events, and it's a great value. We fill out quickly because of the good airline and hotel rates."

The island offers diving for all levels, but only one experience unique in the world: Stingray City.

Left: The beach at Divi Tiara Beach resort.





FIRM

From page E1

while filming at the following spots:

- Hyatt Regency. The Aquas Pool Bar, Garden Loggia Lounge, Reflecting Pool and Regency Club Room.
- Cheeseburger Reef. A popular, shallow west-coast dive site that provides the opening scene of Avery and Mitch scuba diving.
- George Town, Harbor Drive and Cardinal Avenue: At the phone booth here, Avery calls Sonny Capps while Mitch waits in the taxi.
- Hyatt Regency, Garden Loggia Bar: Avery and Mitch meet with problem client Sonny Capps.
- The Great House: The Firm's

condo, "Unit A" is an elaborately furnished \$1.25 million-upstairs beach-front unit. Paramount completely remodeled the unit, which now is privately owned. Here Avery discovers a locked closet filled with boxes of client files and later attempts to seduce Abby.

■ East End: The brief road scene en route to Abanks Dive Lodge depicts a stretch of seaside road just west of East End, where the real Cayman Diving Lodge, the inspiration for Abanks lodge, is located.

■ Abanks Dive Lodge: The thatched-roof bar and dock was really a \$40,000 set constructed on North Sound in Savannah. The lodge site still stands, but unfortunately has been vandalized. Paramount donated it to the island after two days of filming.

■ Holiday Inn Pool: Barry Avery and Mitch might cruise the town's best place here, The Barrfoot. Man and Band provide the musical score.

■ Seduce Mitch: The island girl seduces Mitch just north of the Great House, not far from the Avalon condominium project.

■ Cayman Airways: A Cayman Airways 737 was used in these scenes, including the inter-airplane shots.

■ Hyatt Regency Aquas Pool Bar: Abby stuns Avery when she appears at the Hyatt, accepting his invitation after she leaves Mitch.

■ Owen Roberts: An international Airport. The firm's things arrive in Cayman by Lear jet.

■ North Sound: Ray and Flanny sail away against the sea wind back-drops of Grand Cayman's North Sound.

Harvey Hagman

Illustration Courtesy: The Washington Times

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON, DC
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FRIDAY
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Briefly . . .

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► Expect tighter security in France this month at airports, train stations and tourist attractions in the wake of a string of bombings. In recent months bombs have gone off or been defused at train stations, the subway and at the Arc de Triomphe.

► Casinos are now the most popular spot for weekend travel, ahead of ocean resorts, theme parks, cruises and cities, says a new Caravan Wagon-It travel agent poll.

► World's largest wine will be the first to be bottled in the U.S.

► On Oct. 20, rates for the first time since 1980 will be lower than the rates for the same period last year.

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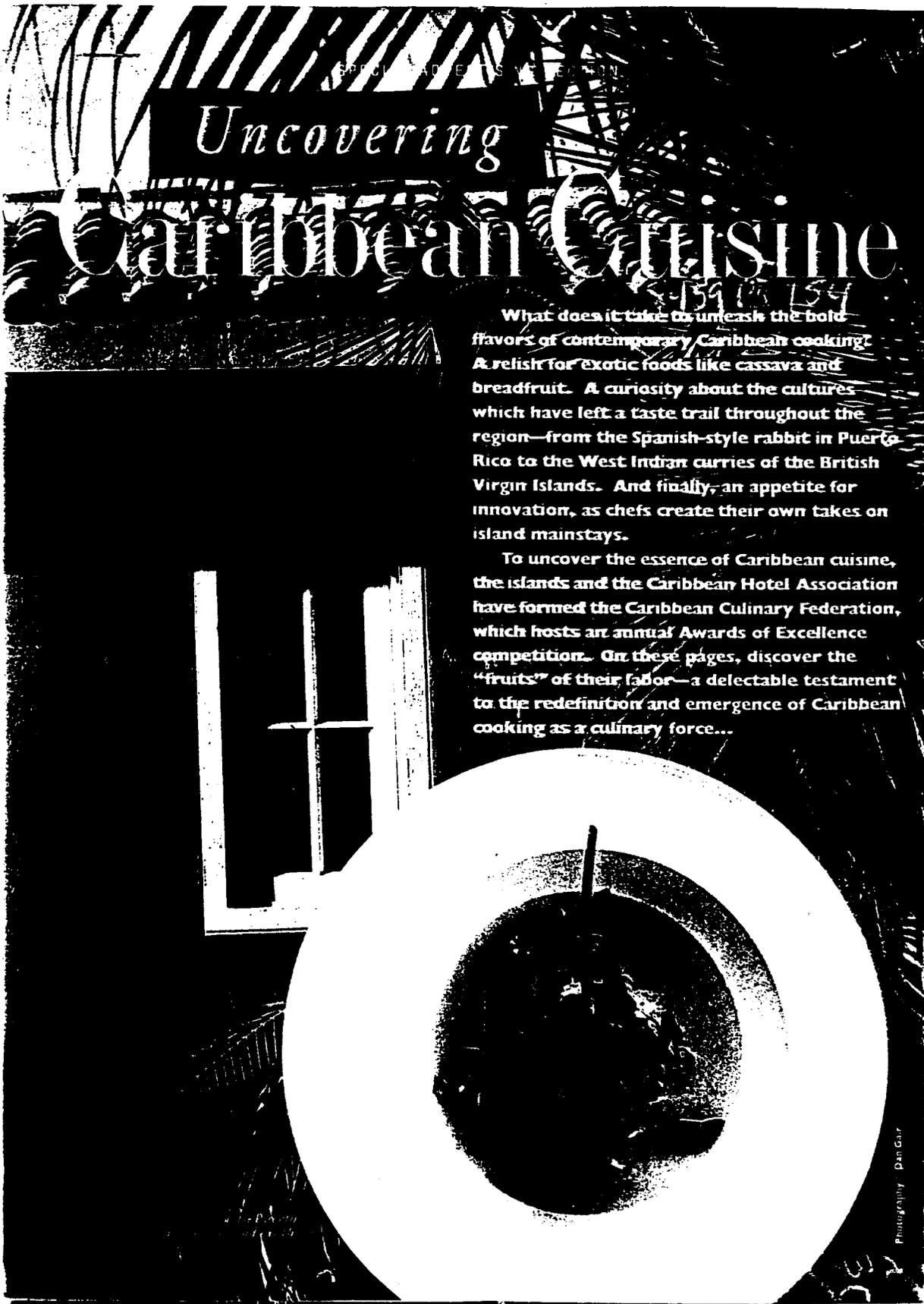
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Uncovering Caribbean Cuisine

What does it take to unleash the bold flavors of contemporary Caribbean cooking? A relish for exotic foods like cassava and breadfruit. A curiosity about the cultures which have left a taste trail throughout the region—from the Spanish-style rabbit in Puerto Rico to the West Indian curries of the British Virgin Islands. And finally, an appetite for innovation, as chefs create their own takes on island mainstays.

To uncover the essence of Caribbean cuisine, the islands and the Caribbean Hotel Association have formed the Caribbean Culinary Federation, which hosts an annual Awards of Excellence competition. On these pages, discover the "fruits" of their labor—a delectable testament to the redefinition and emergence of Caribbean cooking as a culinary force...

Uncovering

Caribbean Cuisine

W2
CAYMAN ISLANDS

From conch fritters to turtle soup, the Cayman Islands offers its own delicious spin on Caribbean cooking.

The Cayman Islands—Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman—

provides a tantalizing introduction to Caribbean cuisine. Lush and peaceful, this magnificent British Crown Colony entices the traveler with its quiet beauty and world-class food.

The Cayman Islands food scene has changed dramatically in recent years. Beyond preparing local specialties, restaurants serve up international fare hailing from the U.S., China, France, Germany, India, Jamaica, Mexico and Thailand.

In 1993 and 1994, the Cayman culinary team (right) reinforced this dynamic trend by taking home the "Team of the Year"

award at the Caribbean Hotel Association's Annual Culinary Awards. This year, the team claimed the silver medal, and

Andreas Kittner, a chef at The Wharf, won the bronze.

"Food has influenced our history, mythology, religion—our very way of life," team Chef Randall Burns explains. This philosophy is seen throughout the award-winning menu, which integrates indigenous ingredients and European techniques. One sumptuous example: an appetizer of a warm seafood terrine with tricolored pepper coulis and ginger tempura garnish.

In the Islands, conch is immensely popular, whether made into crispy fritters or spicy chowder, marinated in lime juice, or sautéed with tomato, onion and pepper. Turtle is another hallmark dish and the inspiration for the

is actually red beans with rice, coconut milk, ham bone or bacon and spices. Rum cakes are a hit with residents and visitors alike, using one of the two brands of rum available, Tortuga or Captain Morgan's.

Those in search of contemporary versions of traditional recipes should venture to Chef Tell's Grand Old House for gourmet Caribbean dishes. The lively Lantana's delights stateside visitors with its Southwestern twist. A continental menu can be found at Ottmar's, named for Austrian-born Chef Ottmar Weber, who has been creating gourmet fare in the Islands for twenty-five years. Little Cayman is home to Cordon Bleu Chef Gladys Howard, owner of Pirates Point Resort, who adds an elegant touch to island favorites.

The vast visibility of surrounding waters and a multiplicity of marine life make the Cayman Islands a water wonderland. Dramatic coral reefs, sheer drop-offs and winding tunnels are easy to spot; blue marlin, yellowfin tuna, dolphin and wahoo are always biting in the waters off the Islands.



Neptune's Fantasy, a warm seafood terrine with tricolored pepper coulis and ginger tempura garnish

Several seaside restaurants use these waters as their breathtaking backdrop, including The Wharf and Hemingway's in George Town. Exquisite French/Caymanian food can be sampled at The Edge in Bodden Town. Those with a penchant for pasta and a great view will enjoy the Italian selections on the menu of the Lighthouse at Breakers. In Grand Cayman, Crow's Nest, Hog Sty Bay Cafe and Whitenail Bay offer dining by the sea, as does Aunt Sha's at the Coral Inn in Cayman Brac.

Delve into a new Caribbean journey in the Cayman Islands, where place and taste combine—with mouthwatering results.



original name given the islands by Columbus in 1503: Las Tortugas, after the wealth of turtles he sighted. Other island staples include the potato-like breadfruit, the root vegetable cassava and a tropical squash called cho cho. Another ubiquitous dish: rice and peas, which



CAYMAN ISLANDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(809) 949-9182*

CAYMAN ISLANDS' 19TH ANNUAL PIRATES WEEK SET FOR OCTOBER 20-29

**-- Swashbuckling Visitors Will Find A Treasure Chest Of "Cayman Fun & Games"
Focusing On "Olde Tyme" Caymanian Traditions --**

GRAND CAYMAN, BWI, July 25, 1995 -- "Cayman Fun & Games," the theme of the Cayman Islands' 19th Annual Pirates Week Festival, invites all children and kids at heart to discover "olde tyme" Caymanian pastimes, from catboat racing to lively games of dominoes. Combined with an exciting program of sporting events, Cayman-style playtime will offer more than a week's worth of entertainment for visitors. The fun will last long after Blackbeard and his buccaneers lay siege to George Town and parade the "Governor" of the Cayman Islands away in shackles on October 21, during the opening Pirates Landing in George Town Harbour.

According to Pirates Week Chairman Mike Lockwood, Cayman's national festival offers visitors more activities than ever. The celebration begins with a fireworks display and "Pirate Lookout" on October 20 and officially opens with the colorful Pirates Landing and float parade on October 21.

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.

During the District Heritage Day fairs, visitors can learn about the fascinating traditions which have formed Caymanian culture. The Caymanian people and their islands' attractions are

-more-



"Those who know us, love us."

the real treasures you'll discover: from snorkeling, scuba diving and golf to exploring the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, Mastic Trail, National Museum and Cayman Turtle Farm.

Pirates Week 1995 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, turtle stew and cassava heavy cakes at the District Heritage Day fairs to participating in an underwater treasure hunt, golf tournaments and triathlons.

The action begins on October 20 -- even before the pirates arrive -- with the popular Pirates Week 5K Run, which draws athletes from all over the world. But save some energy for 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.

On Saturday afternoon, October 21 at 4:00 p.m. George Town will be under siege when pirates invade, arriving on vessels which can range from a replica of Spanish galleon to the Atlantis XI submarine and custom dive boats. The colorful spectacle spills ashore with the capture of the "Governor" of the Cayman Islands, followed by a float parade through the streets of George Town depicting this year's theme, "Cayman Fun & Games." Accompanying the floats will be local steel bands comprised of talented school children and costumed troupes.

The siege continues with a street dance and food festival from 8:00 p.m. until midnight featuring local Cayman bands.

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 in the fun.

Piratical antics prevail throughout the week until Saturday night, October 29 at 7:30 p.m., when order is restored to the Cayman Islands during the public "Trial of the 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 or watch the many competitions and sporting events including:

- **Pirates Week 5K Run** (October 20)
- **16th Annual Pirates Week 3-Mile Swim** (October 21)
- **Underwater Treasure Hunt for snorkelers and divers** (October 22). Calico Jack's Watersports Centre on the waterfront, North Church Street
- **Johnnie Walker golf tournament** at Britannia (October 22) **and Bacardi golf tournament** at The Links at SafeHaven (October 29)
- **Mickey Mouse Doubles Darts** (October 29)
- **Adult Triathlon** (October 29)
- **11th Annual Sailboard Race** (October 28 & 29), Sailboards Caribbean
- **Auto Cross Action car racing** (October 29)

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

- **SafeHaven Children's Fun Fair and Costume Contest** (October 22)
- **Children's Triathlon** (October 27)
- **Annual Children's Swim Meet sponsored by Foster's Food Fair** (October 28)

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 customs. 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 Heritage Day schedule includes:

- **October 23** **East End**
- **October 24** **West Bay**
- **October 25** **North Side**
- **October 26** **George Town and Savannah/Newlands**
- **October 27** **Bodden Town**

For a copy of the complete Pirates Week program or further information on any event, contact: Pirates Week Committee Office, P.O. Box 51GT; PH: (809) 949-5078; FAX: (809) 949-5449.

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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MIAMI HERALD

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Travel briefs 8459

(travel)

Federal health officials have added hepatitis A to the list of vaccinations many international travelers should obtain before leaving the United States. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the vaccine for people going anywhere other than Canada, Western Europe, Scandinavia, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. . . "Fun and Games" is the theme of the Cayman Islands 19th annual Pirates Week Festival starting Friday. Among events are a pirates' invasion, street dances, sports competitions and fireworks. Information: (809) 949-5078. . . Club Med has received approval from the Bahamian government to build a casino at its Columbus Isle (San Salvador) property. The casino will have 35 slot machines, two blackjack tables and a roulette table. . . Buckingham Palace in London was ranked the worst value for tourists, money and the Royal Pavilion in Brighton the best in a survey of 14 popular British sites by Britain's Consumer Association.

TRAVEL WEEKLY'S GUIDE TO THE CARIBBEAN AND THE BAHAMAS

Cayman Isles Slate Pirates Week

Reed Travel Features

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands — The 19th annual Cayman Islands Pirates Week Festival Oct. 20 to 29 is a treasure chest of old-time Caymanian traditions and events.

Visitors can sample traditional Cayman dishes and

take part in an underwater treasure hunt, golf tournaments and triathlons.

Caymanian customs will be demonstrated, and colorful swashbuckling characters will appear in Grand Cayman.

For information, call (809) 949-5078.

TRAVEL

A week of pirates

Cayman Fun & Games, the theme of the Cayman Islands' 19th Annual Pirates Week Festival, invites all children and kids at heart to discover "olde tyme" Caymanian pastimes, from catboat racing to lively games of dominoes. Combined with an exciting program of sporting events, Cayman-style playtime will offer more than a week's worth of entertainment for visitors. The fun will last long after Blackbeard and his buccaneers lay siege to George Town and parade the Governor of the Cayman Islands away in shackles on October 21, during the opening Pirates Landing in George Town Harbour.

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Pirates Week 1995 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, turtle stew and cassava heavy cakes at the District Heritage Day fairs to participating in an underwater treasure hunt, golf tournaments and triathlons.

The action begins on October 20 — even before the pirates arrive — with the popular Pirates Week 5K Run, which draws athletes from all over the world. But save some energy for 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.

On Saturday afternoon, October 21 at 4:00 p.m. George Town will be under siege when pirates invade arriving on vessels which can range from a replica of Spanish galleons to the Atlantis submarine and custom-built boats. The colorful spectacle spills ashore with the capture of the "Governor" of the Cayman Islands, followed by a float parade through the streets of George Town depicting this year's theme: "Cayman Fun & Games".

Accompanying the floats will be local steel bands comprised of talented school children and costumed troupes. The siege continues with a street dance and food festival from 8:00 p.m. until midnight featuring local Cayman bands. Throughout the week, colourful 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 their perennial appearance by the Seafaring Pirates. Together, they will hold surprise island "decks raids" on restaurants, shops and other public places providing excitement and photographic opportunities. Visitors are urged to bring their own costumes and join in the fun. Practical antics prevail throughout the week until Saturday night, October 29 at 7:30 p.m. when orders are restored to the Cayman Islands during the public "Trial of the Pirates" on the law courts (Building Steps and 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.

Cayman's heritage and culture are spotlighted during the District Days. Visitors can sample favourite Caymanian dishes from each district, such as stewed conch, fish tea and coconut "rundown" and see demonstrations and displays of traditional dress, techniques and custom. In the past these have included a re-enactment of an old time Caymanian wedding, cat boat building, turtle ranging, that 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.

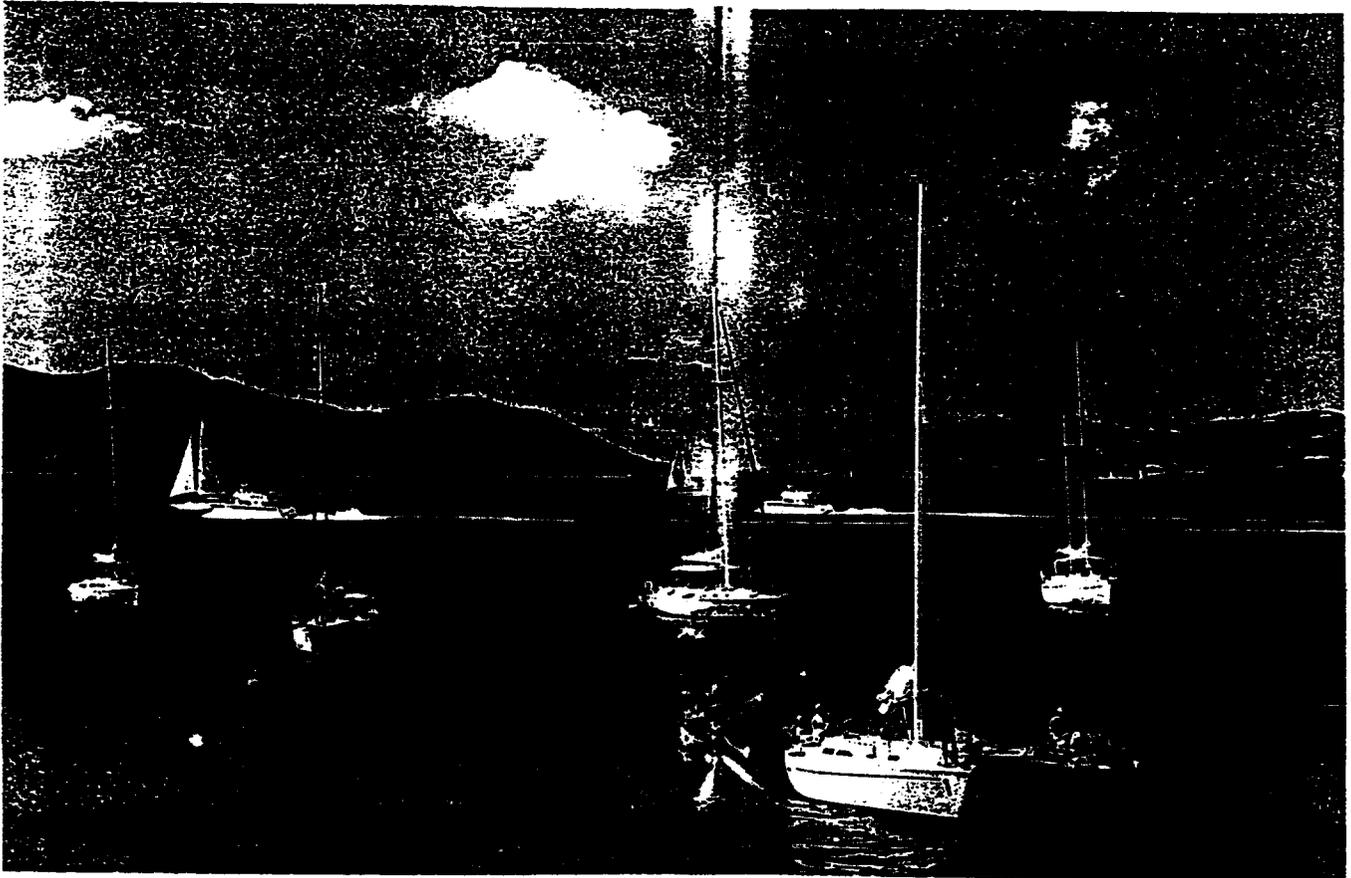
CARIBBEAN

SuperClubs has opened two new resorts in the Caribbean, Breezes Bahamas in Nassau and Breezes Montego Bay in Jamaica. The super-inclusive properties are designed for the more value-conscious guest, but still deliver quality and value, says the literature.

Cayman Islands 19th Annual Pirates Week Festival is set for Oct 20-29, promising lively activities for every member of the family. Traditional island pastimes such as catboat racing and dominoes will be among the events, as will such activities as fireworks, a parade, street dancing, golf tournaments, underwater treasure hunts and sailboard racing. For a schedule, fax the organizing committee at 809-949-5449.

ECOWINNERS

THE 1995 HONORS • BY MELINDA LEWIS-MATRAVERS



Bob Kist

FOR ITS LONGSTANDING EFFORT – AND OUTSTANDING RESULTS – in protecting the marine resources of the British Virgin Islands, the reef protection and moorings system of the B.V.I. National Parks Trust has won the Fourth Annual ISLANDS Ecotourism Award.

Co-sponsored by the Caribbean Tourism Organization and American Airlines and American Eagle, the award recognizes projects in the Caribbean that preserve fragile island environments while promoting tourism.

Boating and diving are cornerstones of B.V.I. tourism, and as the

number of visitors increased dramatically over the last 15 years, so had local concern that the reefs were being damaged by anchors. The response was a system of artificial moorings – 190 are currently in place – and marine park legislation.

“We thought the B.V.I. project was noteworthy for several reasons,” said Joan Tapper, editor of ISLANDS. “First and foremost, it highlighted islanders’ awareness that it was crucial to preserve what visitors were coming to see.”

But also impressive, she pointed out, was the cooperation among the private sector – the dive operators



A boater's dream, the British Virgin Islands acted to ensure its marine environment did not become a nightmare.

who first noticed problems – the government, and the trust.

Finally, she added, “the project also had in place the other important elements of a successful program: a widespread push for education and the institutions to collect fees and enforce park regulations.”

A representative of the British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust will receive a check for \$1,000 and the winner’s plaque at the annual meeting of the Caribbean Tourism Organization, in the Bahamas.

A RECORD TOTAL OF 37 PROJECTS ON 23 islands were considered for the award. Three of the projects, representing a wide range of current ecotourism – from public to private ventures, and from broad-based works to small community campaigns – were also named finalists:

Royal Mt. Carmel Falls, Grenada – for a



Local treasure: Royal Mt. Carmel Falls.

“Then the rains came and washed it all away,” remembers Joseph. But the villagers were undaunted. They went back, put in a proper drainage system, and started the process all over again.

The trail, a 15-minute wooded walk to the once-hidden falls, opened to the public in February 1995. There are now handrails, botanical labels, bench-

community effort in identifying a hitherto unacknowledged natural re-

source – a waterfall – and establishing and promoting it as a worthy attraction for visitors to the “Spice Isle.”

Mastic Trail, Grand Cayman – for restoring a 200-year-old footpath through swamps, farms, and woodlands that are home to the largest variety of native flora and fauna in the Caymans.

Guana Island, British Virgin Islands – for blending a scientific research program and the reintroduction of indigenous West Indian species with a low-key, ecologically oriented private island resort.

es, latrines, picnic tables, and a booth with a uniformed attendant who collects the fee – one dollar.

“The locals are really having a ball,” reports Joseph. “They bring their picnics up, and their guitars. There’s lots of singing.” Near the picnic tables stands an “autograph area”: Picnickers can etch their names into the soft bark of cochineal trees with a bamboo stylus. Tourists are adding their inscriptions, too. Approximately 2,500 visitors have come since the trail opened, some from as far as the Canary Islands.

Residents have responded by setting up stands along the road to sell handcrafted straw hats and baskets, homemade mauby and sea-moss juices, and honey. (“We are trying to get the honey man to label and bottle properly,” Joseph says.)

Planting trees is next. The terrain could benefit from the stabilizing roots of spice and fruit trees. Visitors could

benefit from coconut trees. “You get thirsty up there,” Joseph says, “and

it’s sure nice to have a refreshing drink of waternut (green coconut).”

Joseph, who oversees several projects on Grenada, is particularly enthusiastic about this one. “It’s the kind of place that makes you want to hold someone’s hand,” she says, “and just talk, relax, or write poems. In fact, we’ve already had a poem published in the paper about the falls.”

St. Andrew’s Development Organization, Ben Jones Street, Grenville, St. Andrew’s, Grenada; (809) 442-6493.

Mastic Trail, Grand Cayman

TRAIL THAT ONCE LINKED THE north and south coasts of Grand Cayman is now linking Caymanians with their past. The new Mastic Trail, set up by the National Trust for the Cayman Islands along a 200-year-old pedestrian right-of-way, introduces resi-

dents and visitors to the rich history of an astonishing area that includes karst pinnacles, mangrove swamps, and vintage woodlands.

"This land really is a window onto the way Caribbean islands once were," says Fred Burton, a scientist who manages various trust projects. "We have plants no one knew were here."

Until very recently, much of the flora was unidentified and unrecorded. And Burton points out that these discoveries are important "indicators," keys that could unlock a lot of botanical secrets.

The two-mile trail, named for the massive mastic tree, crosses through primary dry- evergreen forest now rare throughout the Caribbean.

"There is precious little land like this left," he says. "Similar woodlands along coastal areas have been developed."

The human history of the area began a couple of hundred years ago, when settlers along the north coast cut a trail into the woodlands to search for timber.

"Not only did they export hardwoods like mahogany and West Indian cedar," says Burton, "they also built ships. These men went into the woods looking for trees to use for their boats."

At the same time farmers on the south coast were cutting a path north, clearing land to grow fruit trees and graze cattle. The trail now runs past mango and tamarind trees, remnants of old farms, as well as through old buttonwood swamps. It also incorporates an old causeway that crossed a mangrove swamp, evidence of "stupendous effort" at the turn of the century.

"Five men hauled in mahogany logs," says Burton, "laid them down next to each other, and then brought in rocks and coral rubble to smooth out the sur-

face." Though the coast is at least two miles away and the terrain rough, the causeway eventually ran for 1,000 feet.

"Remember, agriculture was much more important then," says Burton, noting that banking, real estate development, and tourism are better bets in today's island economy.

But the trust is betting that many visitors will be fascinated by the Mastic Trail. They expect 3,500 people a year to join the guided tours, thus supporting trust efforts to buy the land and insure its biodiversity into the next century.

Mastic Trail, P.O. Box 31116, Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands; (809) 949-1996.

Guana Island, British Virgin Islands

HEN GLORIA AND Henry Jarecki bought Guana Island in 1974, they knew they had an unspoiled

piece of the Caribbean. The 850-acre island just north of Tortola, home to a Quaker sugar plantation in the 18th century, had been turned into a small resort in the 1930s.

When the Jareckis took over, they modernized the hand-built stone cottages and limited the guests to 30. Though they had no particular interest in conservation, the Jareckis nevertheless wanted to protect Guana's ecology. They soon learned how special their private island was.

In 1982 James (Skip) Lazell, an American scientist working in Anegada, came to meet the Jareckis and see the island he'd heard so much about.

"He spent a month biologizing, and he was just overwhelmed," recalls Henry Jarecki.

Guana has "the richest flora and fauna known for an island of its size anywhere in the West Indies, and prob-



Cayman Islands Dept. of Tourism/Barbara Curran Duhay

Along the trail an old mastic tree dwarfs guide Albert Hines.

ELEGANT BRIDE
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BI-MONTHLY 150,000

OCT-NOV 1995

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Isles of Adventure

8459 p111



Charlaine Fields

Tulum, Mexico

Many of today's couples, physically fit and ready for some new outdoor experiences, are finding worlds to explore in the Caribbean. Just about every sport that doesn't require snow and ice is there for you year-round, on land, on the water and beneath it. But you can also climb a waterfall, hike through a rain forest or explore an unspoiled wetland; you can go in search of a rare, exotic parrot or find history in the stones of a ruined fort.

For those dedicated to an active lifestyle, here's a sampling of Caribbean destinations, and some of the adventures waiting there.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

If you're staying on Grand Cayman, largest of the three islands in the group, don't miss Stingray City: as you snorkel off a boat, the rays come by to be fed and patted, but not to sting. In the new Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, a mile-long self-guided trail takes you through the islands' natural environment, rare parrots and orchids, great mahogany trees and all. Over on Cayman Brac

there are wonderful opportunities for cavers and hikers along the island's mountainous spine — with a secluded white sand cove at the end of the trail. Little Cayman caters to bird-watchers and outdoor types wanting to get away from it all. The three islands share some of the finest diving on the planet —

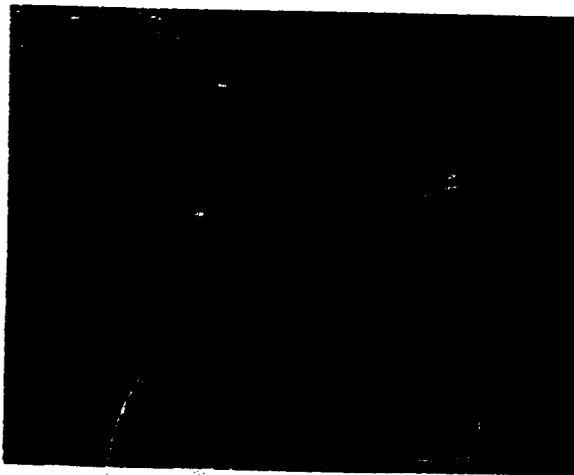
and for postcards home, there's a post office called Hell.

sportscast

STINGRAY CITY

the stingray settles on your head like a giant pancake, embracing you with its wings and soft velvet touch. Meanwhile, a dozen more of these graceful swimmers circle around you. You can only be in one place: Stingray City, off the shore of Grand Cayman, the largest of the Cayman Islands.

This feeding ground, 12 feet underwater, is an hour's catamaran ride across the island's North Sound.



For decades the rays were drawn to the area by local fishermen who, after cleaning their catch, would throw the remains overboard. Today, stingrays—most with wingspans of more than five feet—still “fly” in whenever they hear a motor.

Part of the thrill of this close encounter is overcoming your fear of such huge creatures. These are not your average antisocial stingrays—they're the friendly variety, found only in the Caymans. Offer them a little diced squid and you can pet them like puppies. Scuba dive or skin dive using a snorkel; underwater visits last about an hour—too short for this rare experience. For information, call 800-422-9626 and ask for the Cayman Island Tourist Office.

ALESE AND MORT PECHTER

—Joan Iaconetti

CAYMAN ISLANDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Aaron D. Cushman & Assoc.
(212) 856-0100
Barbara Currie Dailey
Cayman Islands Dept. of Tourism
(809) 949-9182

CAYMAN ISLANDS MILLION DOLLAR MONTH FINAL ROUND-UP

-- Missouri Angler Takes Top Honors For Landing A 478-pound Atlantic Blue Marlin --

GRAND CAYMAN, B.W.I. July 11, 1995 -- Thomas Terril, a real estate developer from St. Louis, is the winner of a fantastic prize -- a weeklong vacation for 99 years at an award-winning resort in Grand Cayman -- the top honor in the 12th Annual Cayman Islands Million Dollar Month International Fishing Tournament. Terril also received \$5,000 in cash plus other prizes for landing a 478-pound Atlantic blue marlin on June 23.

In addition to the grand prize stay at Morritt's Tortuga Club in Grand Cayman and the cash prize for the Heaviest Fish Caught by a Visiting Angler, Terril received the following honors: the Cayman Islands Government Trophy for the Angler Landing the Largest Atlantic Blue Marlin over 300 pounds and an original art award sponsored by Carey Chen, and the Angler Landing the High Point Blue Marlin award and perpetual trophy sponsored by Florida-based sculptor Randy Buck.

The final Million Dollar Month Scoreboard included 200 anglers (fishing on 70 boats) who caught three blue marlin, one white marlin, 85 yellowfin tuna, 65 wahoo and 35 dolphin fish. A total of 67 blue marlin were released. The month-long tournament carried a 300-pound minimum for blue marlin, except during sanctioned tournaments, when the weight limit was 200 pounds and a 10-pound minimum for other eligible species of yellowfin tuna, wahoo and dolphin. For the first time this year, fishermen were required to submit photographic evidence of billfish releases, using disposable cameras supplied during the tournament.

-more-



"Those who know us, love us."

Other top winners included:

- Capt. Hevard Smith of Grand Cayman, the owner of *Cayman Sunset* which was used by Terril, won the \$25,000 prize for the Boat Owner Landing the Heaviest Blue Marlin and the award for Captain of the Boat Landing the Largest Eligible Fish.
- Judy Billeter, *Island Spirit*, Registered Boat Owner Landing the Largest Yellowfin Tuna (78 pounds), \$5,000 cash prize
- David Alberga, *Belle Esprit*, Registered Boat Owner Landing the Largest Wahoo (57 pounds, four ounces), \$5,000 cash prize; Registered Boat Owner Landing the Largest Dolphin (46 pounds, eight ounces), \$5,000 cash prize; Registered Boat Owner Landing the Heaviest Grand Slam (combined weight of three fish: 75-pound, two-ounce yellowfin tuna, 57-pound, four-ounce wahoo and 46-pound, eight-ounce dolphin).

For more 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.

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Cayman Islands Million Dollar Month

June 1-30, Cayman Islands, BWI 51220

Thomas Terril, a real estate developer from St. Louis, captured the Cayman Islands Million Dollar Month grand prize — a weeklong vacation for 99 years at an award-winning resort in Grand Cayman — plus \$5,000 in cash and other prizes for landing a 478-pound Atlantic blue marlin on June 23.

The final Million Dollar Month scoreboard included 200 anglers (fishing on 70 boats) who caught three blue marlin, one white marlin, 85 yellowfin tuna, 65 wahoo and 35 dolphin. A total of 67 blue marlin were released. The month-long tournament carried a 300-pound minimum for blue marlin, except during sanctioned tournaments, when the weight limit was 200 pounds. For the first time this year, fishermen were required to submit photographic evidence of billfish releases, using disposable cameras supplied during the tournament.

Other top Million Dollar Month winners included:

Award	Boat	Owner	Weight
Top Boat	Cayman Sunset	Hevard Smith	478
Top Yellowfin	Island Spirit	Judy Billeter	78
Top Wahoo	Belle Esprit	David Algerga	57
Top Dolphin	Belle Esprit	David Algerga	46.5
Top Grand Slam	Belle Esprit	David Algerga	178.5



CAYMAN ISLANDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: *Deborah Bernstein/Kelly Reed
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Barbara Currie Dailey
Cayman Islands Dept. of Tourism
(809) 949-9182*

GRAND CAYMAN'S QUEEN ELIZABETH II BOTANIC PARK ADDS VISITOR CENTER, HERITAGE GARDEN AND LAKE

-- Future Additions Include Garden Of Islands And Garden Of Flowering Plants --

GRAND CAYMAN, BWI, September 6, 1995 -- This winter, visitors to Grand Cayman will be able to amble among colorful roses, orchids, hibiscus and jasmine and glimpse green back herons when a new Visitor Center, Heritage Garden and lake open at the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park. The new attractions are being added as part of the Park's \$1.75 million, second-phase expansion program.

"The Botanic Park is a shining example of the Cayman Islands' commitment to the preservation of our terrestrial environment. The new additions to the Park will offer residents and visitors alike the opportunity to enjoy and better understand the country's diverse flora and fauna which have played an important role in Caymanian culture," said Hon. Thomas Jefferson, Minister of Tourism, Aviation and Commerce. "In addition, the Botanic Park provides the perfect setting for relaxing and enjoying the tropical scenery of the Cayman Islands."

The two-story Visitor Center, scheduled to open in February 1996, will be designed as a contemporary interpretation of Caymanian architecture. The Center will feature a central reception area offering park information, as well as permanent and changing exhibits. The

-more-



"Those who know us, love us."

second floor will be designed as a large, open space for classes, lectures and demonstrations. Other facilities will include a gift shop and a cafe set in a rain garden courtyard.

Nearby, the Heritage Garden, set to open in late spring 1996, will feature a restored early 20th-century wooden cottage, complete with a porch, cistern, natural well and fences. In front of the house, visitors will find a variety of blooming plants, including roses, jasmine, hibiscus, crotons, orchids and Crepe Myrtle. In back of the cottage, tea bushes and medicinal plants will be grown, and bread fruit, tamarind, plum, cherry, ackee, chella mella and thatch palm trees will be planted on the grounds.

The Heritage Garden will add an important historical and educational element to the Botanic Park by showing visitors how early settlers lived and depended heavily on their land for survival. In addition, the Garden will serve as a valuable source of traditional plants and trees which are rapidly disappearing as new varieties are favored by Cayman residents.

In late 1996, nature lovers will have the opportunity to view the native plants of the Cayman Islands, Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, South Florida, The Bahamas, Virgin Islands and Lesser Antilles in nine individual areas planted in a "sea" of lawn in a location known as the Garden of Islands. This will be an ongoing project, developed and expanded over many years as the collection of plants from around the Caribbean and tropics increases. The latter will serve as an important gene pool for future cooperative propagation and reintroduction programs, as well as a laboratory for botanists who will be able to study a variety of plant species without having to travel a great distance from the Cayman Islands.

Located near the southern end of the Botanic Park is a lake, which was completed in August 1995. It has three small islands which serve as an important habitat and breeding area for native birds that live near large bodies of water. Visitors can view tri-color herons, cattle egrets, green back herons, common moorhens, whistling ducks, black necked stilts and pied-billed grebes in this three-acre setting. This area is not yet open to the public but is expected to open in late 1996.

On the southern edge of the lake, visitors will see native wetland vegetation mingled with Caribbean plants. The Garden of Islands and a flowering tree collection, planted on the southwestern edge, will provide a colorful backdrop for the lake. Eventually, the eastern

portion of the lake, adjacent to the buttonwood swamp, will have a boardwalk where visitors can take leisurely strolls to the bird-watching tower and lookout.

Overlooking the lake, the Garden of Flowering Plants, also scheduled to open in late 1996, will feature trees, shrubs, vines, perennials and lilies from throughout the tropical world. The plants will be grouped according to four color schemes: cool, hot and light red; pink, orange and salmon; white, yellow and gold; and blue, lavender and purple.

At the garden, visitors will be able to relax in a rustic wooden gazebo and enjoy a view of a waterfall cascading off an elevated freshwater reservoir filled with water lilies. The pavilion also will provide an excellent view of the lake.

Commonwealth Historic Resource Management Ltd., based in Canada and the Cayman Islands, is in charge of the Botanic Park project. In addition, the firm is directing the Pedro St. James Castle restoration project in Savannah, Grand Cayman.

The Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park is a project of the Cayman Islands Government and the National Trust for the Cayman Islands. The Park is administered by the Department of Tourism, Aviation and Commerce.

Located on Frank Sound Road, the Botanic Park was officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on February 27, 1994. The park, which is about a 40-minute drive from downtown George Town, is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission fees are \$3 for adults; \$1.25 for children ages six to 12, and free, under six.

For more information on the Botanic Park, call (809) 947-9462 or fax (809) 947-7873.

More information on the Cayman Islands is available from 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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Tourism Numbers Up In the Cayman Islands

WHILE MANY OF THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS HAVE REPORTED STAGNANT tourism numbers in 1995 thus far, the Cayman Islands are reporting a significant increase for the first half of the year. This increase comes on the heels of an 18 percent gain in visitors from 1993 to 1994.

Air arrivals are up 8.5 percent for the first and second quarters of 1995. Close to 191,000 visitors flew to the Cayman Islands during this time, an increase of 14,902 over the same period last year.

Cruise ship arrivals showed a 10.65 percent increase during the same period. A total of 355,180 cruise passengers traveled

rooms will be available; the resort's main restaurants and meeting facilities will also be completed by then.

The full-service hotel will cater to a mix of incentive meeting groups and upscale leisure travelers. More than 2,650 square feet of flexible meeting space will be available for groups of up to 400. Two boardrooms can accommodate groups of up to 55, and a spacious pre-function area will be available for exhibits or breaks.

Facilities on the eight-acre site include two large free-form pools and two whirlpools, a swim-up pool bar, two tennis courts and a fitness center. The dive shop, operated by Red Sail Sports, will offer "Discover Scuba" programs and certification courses. A watersports center will feature sailing, windsurfing, water skiing and parasailing.

The entire resort is slated to open by the end of the year; introductory double rates range from \$180 to \$290 per room per night through Dec. 15.

Several packages are being offered through Dec. 15. A three-night dive package is priced from \$1,028 per person double. Included are accommodations, one daily two-tank dive, one night dive and one sunset dive.

A seven-night honeymoon package is priced from \$1,699 to \$2,626 per couple. The package includes accommodations, a welcome bottle of champagne, breakfast in bed the first morning, one day's Jeep rental, a sunset cruise and a his-and-hers massage. For more information, call 800-228-3000.

Clients visiting Grand Cayman this winter will be able to see a new Heritage Garden, visitor center and lake at the Queen

Elizabeth II Botanic Park. The new attractions are being added as part of the park's \$1.75 million second-phase expansion program.

Set to open in December, the Heritage Garden will feature a restored East End cottage, complete with a porch, a cistern, a natural well and fences.

NATURE EXHIBITS

The two-story visitor center, slated to open in February, will be designed as a contemporary interpretation of Caymanian architecture. A reception area will offer information, as well as both permanent and changing exhibits. The second floor will host classes, lectures and demonstrations.

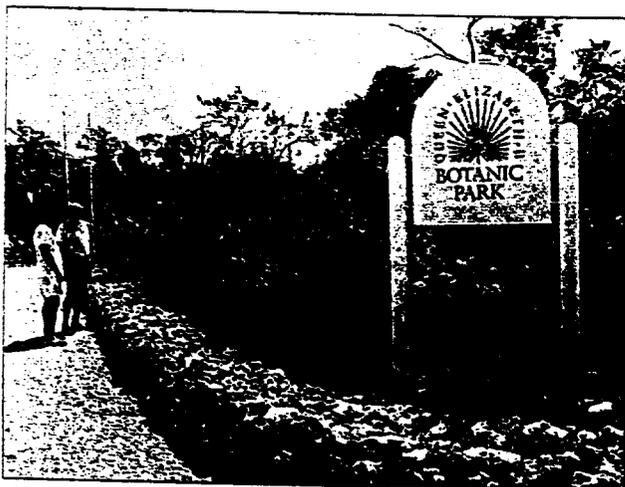
In March, nature lovers will see the native plants of the Cayman Islands, Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola (the island that comprises the Dominican Republic and Haiti), Puerto Rico, South Florida, the Bahamas and the Virgin Islands in individual areas planted in a "sea" of lawn in a location known as the Garden of Islands.

The Garden of Flowering Plants is slated for a May 1996 opening date and will have shrubs, vines and lilies from throughout the tropical world. The plants will be grouped according to four color schemes.

The park is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission fees are \$3.12 for adults and \$1.25 for children 6 to 12; those under 6 are admitted free.

For more information on the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, call 809-947-9462 or fax 809-947-7873.

—Stacy H. Small and Martin Elder



The \$1.75 million expansion of the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park will add the Heritage Garden and a visitor center.

to the Cayman Islands from January through June 1995, compared to 302,916 during the first six months of 1994.

"We are looking forward to another banner year in 1995," says Thomas Jefferson, the minister of tourism, aviation and planning. "We are focusing on sustainable growth and continuing our efforts to target the upscale traveler, as well as selected niche markets such as families, honeymooners, divers, nature lovers and history buffs."

Grand Cayman is preparing to welcome its newest luxury property. The 340-room Westin Casuarina Resort is located directly on Seven Mile Beach, next to the governor's mansion, and it will be ready for a soft opening on Oct. 26. Half the guest

TRAVEL AGENT

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

FACTS ABOUT THE CAYMAN TURTLE FARM

The Cayman Turtle Farm Ltd. (established as Mariculture LTD in 1968) became a government-owned operation in 1983. It is the only commercial green sea turtle farm in the world. It falls under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Agriculture, Natural Resources, Communication and Works, Hon. John McLean, O.B.E. The Farm serves three purposes:

- as a commercial operation raising captive-bred green sea turtles, a certain number of which are used for food in the Cayman Islands, preserving a cultural tradition;
- as a scientific-based attraction to educate visitors and residents about sea turtles, and
- as a scientific project, continuing research about sea turtles and releasing a number of young green sea turtles into the sea each year in an attempt to replenish the wild population.

As of March 1995, the Farm has 14,536 green turtles, including 323 mature adult breeders, 477 Atlantic ridleys, one loggerhead and two hawksbill turtles.

Green turtles live to the ripe old age of 100 years. The mating season begins in March and lasts through May. Their nesting season is May through October. Turtles at the Farm dig their nests and lay eggs on the man-made sand beach created west of the large adult pools. The eggs hatch 60 days after being laid. The turtles are fed Purina Turtle Chow, a special mixture of nutrients developed for the Farm.

The Cayman Turtle Farm has an important annual release program, established in 1981, which has released more than 30,000 green turtles into the Caribbean Sea off Cayman's coastline. Although the exact number varies from year to year, yearlings and hatchlings are released annually, usually around the second week in October, in an attempt to repopulate the region's waters. During the last two years, 1,775 young turtles have been released into local waters. Anyone may sponsor a release turtle for a fee of (U.S.)\$5 and will receive a certificate confirming their sponsorship.

During 1994, the Cayman Turtle Farm received more than 260,000 visitors and predicts an increase in that figure by the end of 1995. The Farm has a staff of 23 Caymanian employees headed by Mr. Attlee Ebanks, Managing Director. Four staff members have been with the Farm more than 20 years.

Other species of fauna which are part of the Farm collection include a North American crocodile, endemic hickatees (fresh water turtles), Grand Cayman iguanas, Cayman parrots, indigenous agouti and non-indigenous blue and gold macaws. In the near future, the Farm is planning to add an aquarium, which will contain many species of fish found in the Caribbean Sea. During 1995, special shaded rest areas will be added and a new line of Caymanian crafts will be available for sale.

Turtle meat served in restaurants in the Cayman Islands comes only from the Cayman Turtle Farm. The meat is made available to the community in limited quantities, since it was once the national dish and plays an important part of the heritage of the Cayman Islands. Cayman's traditional "national" dish is turtle stew.

Due to the CITES law enacted in 1978 by the United States Government, visitors from the U.S. are prohibited from taking home any sea turtle products, nor will the U.S. Customs authorities permit the transshipment of any turtle products in the U.S.



"Those who know us, love us."

SELLING THE CARIBBEAN AND THE BAHAMAS

Green Sea Turtle Farm Is Cayman Islands' Leading Attraction

BY GAY NAGLE MYERS
Reed Travel Features

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands — It's the Cayman Islands' most visited attraction, toured by more than 275,000 visitors last year.

The Cayman Turtle Farm, the world's only green sea turtle farm, spotlights the important role that turtles have played in the history of the Cayman Islands, once one of the largest nesting rookeries for sea turtles in the Caribbean.

Visitors can view the farm's 16,000-plus green turtles, which range in size from hatchlings to giant specimens weighing 400 pounds; the turtles swim in giant cement cisterns. Four sea turtle species inhabit the offshore waters: the green sea turtle, the loggerhead, the hawksbill and the more rare giant leatherback.

The Cayman Turtle Farm opened in 1968 and became a government-owned operation in 1983.

The farm's collection cur-



GAY NAGLE MYERS

Anyone for turtle soup?

rency includes a North American crocodile, many hickatees (fresh water turtles), Grand Cayman iguanas, Cayman parrots and blue and gold macaws.

The population of the Cayman Turtle Farm changes constantly, but the most recent census report found 16,324 green turtles, 477 marine turtles, two hawksbills and one loggerhead.

Through the Cayman Turtle

Farm's release program, begun in 1980, more than 30,000 green turtles have been set free into the Caribbean waters off the coast of Grand Cayman. Yearlings and hatchlings are released annually to help repopulate the region's waters.

Research programs conducted at the farm include a tag and recapture program to study the migratory and health patterns of the green turtle in the region.

Shaded rest areas were added to the perimeter of the farm this year, and a new line of Caymanian crafts is for sale in the gift shop.

Expansion plans at the farm include an aquarium that will display species of fish found in the Caribbean.

The Cayman Turtle Farm, on West Bay Road about a 20-minute drive north of George Town, is open daily. Admission is \$5; children 6 to 10 are admitted for half price, and kids under 6 are admitted for free.

For information, call (809) 949-3893.

They Hatch 60 Days Later, Eat Purina Chow and Live to 100

Reed Travel Features

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands — Some facts about the residents of the Cayman Turtle Farm:

- Green turtles live to the ripe old age of 100.
- The mating season begins in March and lasts through May, followed by the nesting season from May through October.

Turtles at the farm dig their nests and lay eggs on the man-made beach west of the large adult turtle pools. Eggs hatch 60 days after being laid.

- The turtles are fed Purina Turtle Chow, a special mixture of nutrients developed for the farm.
- Turtle meat served in restaurants in the Cayman Islands comes from the Cayman Turtle Farm. Once the national dish of the Cayman Islands and still an important part of the islands' heritage, turtle meat also is made available to the community for use by the locals. More than 48,000 pounds were donated last year.

U.S. citizens cannot import anything made from these endangered critters. Keep that in mind when browsing through the gift shop at the Cayman Turtle Farm.

Sea turtles are featured on the Cayman Islands' newest stamps, which range in denominations from 10 cents to \$2 and feature six species: green, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, leatherback, loggerhead and Pacific ridley.

The National Trust's Eco-Efforts Thrive

CLIENTS INTERESTED IN EXPLORING A DIFFERENT SIDE OF GRAND CAYMAN CAN ENJOY A SELF-GUIDED EDUCATIONAL tour of West Bay, the island's second largest district. The National Trust recently published a 37-page booklet titled *An Historical Walking Tour of Central West Bay*, available free of charge to all visitors.

According to the book's author and historical programs' director for the National Trust, Arthurlyn Pedley, "The tour provides the chance to see homes built in the traditional architectural style (timber, bungalow and manor houses) and meet some of the people of West Bay."

Pedley notes that the book is divided into three separate tours, each of which can be completed in under an hour. Clients can pick up a copy of the guidebook at the on-island National Trust Office, the Museum Shop in George Town or the Department of Tourism. For more information, call 809-949-0121.

• A unique view of Grand Cayman's history is on display at

the **Old Savannah Schoolhouse**, a 55-year-old school located right off the main road to Bodden Town. The one-room building and surrounding yard have been restored and house interesting displays of antique furnishings and memorabilia. Opening hours will be available soon.

• Eco-friendly development continues on Little Cayman at the **Booby Pond Nature Reserve**. Home to more than 3,500 nesting pairs of red-footed boobies and 100 pairs of frigate birds, the area is the only large seabird breeding colony in the Cayman Islands and one of the largest in the entire Western Hemisphere.

More than two-thirds of the 202-acre sanctuary has been turned over to the National Trust as the first tract of land on the tiny island



Among Treasure Island's packages are dive programs in the Cayman Islands.

to become fully owned and protected by the organization. Obtaining the remaining portion of the reserve is a primary objective of the trust, which is working on a plan to create a conservation-education interpretative center for visitors to Booby Pond.

Construction is now under way for an adjacent Caymanian-style building that will house an information center, reference library, meeting room and observation deck. The center is located adjacent to the nature reserve. For more information on this and other National Trust projects, call 809-949-0121 or fax 809-949-7494.

• Through Dec. 21, **Treasure Island Resort** is offering travel agents a 15 percent commission on all rooms and packages booked directly through the property. In addition, the resort has announced plans to freeze its current room rates through the end of 1996. The nightly summer rates, in effect from April 9 through Dec. 20, will remain at \$155 for a standard double room, \$170 for a pool view and \$190 for a room with a partial ocean view. During the winter, double rates will range from \$220 to \$260 per night per room.

More than 115 of the hotel's 280 guest rooms have been completely renovated and refurbished so far as part of a \$3.1 million overhaul launched in November 1993.

Treasure Island offers a "Golf Package" in

conjunction with The Links at SafeHaven, Grand Cayman's 18-hole championship course. A three-night program includes standard room accommodations, breakfast daily, a welcome drink, T-shirt, airport transfers and two 18-hole rounds of golf, including transportation to and from the course. Through Dec. 20, the rate is \$525 per person double. Dive, honeymoon and wedding packages are also available. Call 800-203-0775.

• Little Cayman's oldest resort, the 10-unit cottage-style **Southern Cross Club**, is currently closed for renovations and plans to reopen by the end of the month. The overhaul includes general property upgrades, including new plumbing in all of the cottages, a complete renovation of the resort's main kitchen and a new swimming pool. A grand reopening special, from Nov. 1 through Jan. 15, features seven-nights' accommodations in a beachfront cottage, six 2-tank dives, one night dive, all meals, a welcome rum punch and airport transfers on Little Cayman. The dive package is priced at \$689 per person double; a non-diver's package is \$364. For more information, call 800-899-2582 or 317-636-9501.

—Stacy H. Small

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

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LITTLE CAYMAN'S BOOBY POND GETS VISITOR CENTER

**-- Rookery Is Cayman's First RAMSAR Site And Only Tract Of Land
On Little Cayman Under National Trust Protection --**

GRAND CAYMAN, BWI, August 3, 1995 -- Earlier this year, one of the Cayman Islands' most important wildlife habitats, the Booby Pond Nature Reserve on Little Cayman, moved closer to achieving permanent protection from development through ownership by the National Trust for the Cayman Islands.

The saltwater pond and surrounding mangrove habitat is a natural rookery, home to an estimated 3,500 nesting pairs of red-footed boobies (one of the largest breeding colonies in the Western Hemisphere) and 100 pairs of magnificent frigate birds. Boobies mate for life and nest from February through July in the mangrove trees within the sanctuary. Each pair produces only one downy white chick at a time, and the parents share in the care of the young bird -- a challenging task, since the chicks have a voracious appetite.

Now the National Trust's Little Cayman District Committee has achieved another important goal. On July 22, ground was broken for a Cayman-style building adjacent to the Booby Pond Nature Reserve, which will serve as an information center, complete with a reference library, meeting room and observation deck with a high-power telescope overlooking the Reserve for viewing birds and other wildlife.

-more-



"Those who know us. love us."

Spearheaded by the National Trust's Little Cayman District Committee Chairman Gladys Howard, owner of Pirates Point resort, this project has been the focus of fund-raising efforts by the island's Trust members for the past two years.

His Excellency the Governor of the Cayman Islands, Mr. Michael Gore, a keen naturalist, wildlife photographer and bird-watcher, turned the ceremonial first spadeful of earth, officially launching the project which is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Mr. Gore also unveiled a colorful pink, white and blue National Trust sign, declaring the Reserve an official Trust site.

The Governor was instrumental in finalizing the 1995 land transfer which furthered efforts toward environmental protection of this vital wetlands and waterfowl nesting area in the Cayman Islands. As a result of Mr. Gore's efforts, two tracts of Government-owned Crown Land totaling 135 acres within Little Cayman's Booby Pond Nature Reserve were transferred to the Cayman Islands National Trust on April 12. Two-thirds of the Nature Reserve's 202 acres are now under National Trust protection, with 67 acres still privately owned.

This is the first tract of land on Little Cayman to become owned and fully protected by the National Trust. Formerly known as the Booby Pond and Rookery, this area is the only large sea bird breeding colony in the Cayman Islands and one of three areas in the Cayman Islands declared an Animal Sanctuary which is protected under the Animals Law of 1976. That law prohibits disturbing any form of plant or animal life in any way within the boundaries of designated wildlife sanctuaries in the Cayman Islands. By transferring the Pond to Trust ownership, its legal protection is secured under the country's National Trust Law passed in 1987. This protection is over and above that guaranteed by the Animals Law.

A key concern of the National Trust is ensuring that remaining privately owned land surrounding the pond itself also is acquired and protected. Progress towards this goal was achieved in March 1994, with the announcement that the British Government had given the Cayman Islands a grant of (US)\$15,500, earmarked for the National Trust's Booby Pond Nature Reserve project. Part of this funding has been used for property signs and demarcation costs for the area.

The Trust is now working to acquire the remaining 67 acres of privately owned land to bring the entire breeding colony and Reserve boundary under the full legal protection of the National Trust's parent legislation. In addition, Trust officials are working on a plan to create an section of the Reserve designated as a conservation-education "interpretative" area.

Further protection for the rookery came last year when the Booby Pond Nature Reserve was designated as an international RAMSAR site. The designation falls under the United Nations convention which protects wetlands of critical international importance as waterfowl habitats. To achieve RAMSAR recognition, a site must meet strict environmental criteria and also must be protected by local legislation, which in this case is the Animals Law of 1976 and National Trust Law of 1987.

Additional support for this Trust project came from Mr. Gore, who donated (US)\$25,000 from the Governor's Fund for Nature to the Little Cayman District Committee of the National Trust in April 1995. These funds were earmarked for the construction of the Visitor Center, which will also serve as headquarters for the National Trust's Little Cayman district committee.

Anyone who would like to contribute to the Governor's Fund For Nature should contact the Office of the Governor, Government Administration Building, Grand Cayman, BWI; tel. (809) 949-7900.

For further information about the Cayman Islands National Trust, contact P.O. Box 31116 SMB, Grand Cayman, BWI; tel. (809) 949-0121; fax (809) 949-7494.

For more 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.

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

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CAYMAN ISLANDS HEADED FOR ANOTHER BANNER YEAR

-- Air Arrivals For First Half Of 1995 Up By 8.47 Percent --

GRAND CAYMAN, BWI, September 6, 1995 -- The Cayman Islands experienced another tourism record during the first six months of 1995, with air arrivals up 8.47 percent over 1994, it was announced by Hon. Thomas Jefferson, Minister of Tourism, Aviation and Planning, at a press conference held during the 19th Annual Caribbean Tourism Conference (CTC-19) in Nassau, The Bahamas, today.

First and second quarter non-resident air arrivals to the Cayman Islands were up by 8.47 percent for a total of 190,774 -- an increase of 14,902 over the same period last year. Cruise ship arrivals showed a 10.65 percent increase during the same period, with a total of 335,180, compared to 302,916 during the first six months of 1994. Total arrivals to the Cayman Islands, from January through June 1995, reached 525,954 compared to 478,788 through the end of June 1994.

"As visitor arrivals to the Cayman Islands continue to increase at a steady pace, we are looking forward to yet another banner year in 1995. We are focusing on sustainable growth and continuing our efforts to target the upscale traveler, as well as selected niche markets such as families, honeymooners, divers, nature lovers and history buffs," said Minister Jefferson. "While our country is famed for its crystal clear waters, the Cayman Islands has a wealth of land-based attractions, including the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, the Mastic Trail and

-more-



"Those who know us. love us."

Pedro St. James Castle, which is undergoing a major restoration set for completion next fall. In addition, the Cayman Islands will celebrate the opening of the new four-star, 340-room Westin Casuarina Resort this December."

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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Cayman Islands Seeking Upscale Travellers

5459
The Cayman Islands is headed for another banner year, with air arrivals up some 8.5 per cent during the first half of the year.

The strong showing follows a record-breaking tourism performance in 1994, according to Thomas Jefferson, Minister of Tourism, Aviation and Planning.

The number of first-half, non-resident air arrivals was up by almost 15,000 to 190,774, while cruise ship arrivals showed a 10.65 per cent boost to more than 335,000 during the same period.

Total arrivals to the Cayman Islands from January through June this year topped the half-million mark for the first time ever.

"As visitor arrivals to the Cayman Islands continue to increase at a steady pace, we are looking forward to yet another banner year in 1995," said Jefferson. "We are focusing on sustainable growth, and continuing our efforts to target the upscale traveller, as well as selected niche markets such as families, honeymooners, divers, nature lovers and history buffs," he explained.

The minister noted, "While our country is famed for its crystal clear waters, the Cayman Islands has a wealth of land-based attractions, including the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, the Mastic Trail and Pedro St. James Castle, which is undergoing a major restoration set for completion next fall."

The first-half result for 1995 is building on a stellar performance last year, when the three-island chain recorded an 18.87 per cent increase over 1993. If the second-half figures for 1995 follow the early year trend, tourism officials predict that the Caymans will play host to more than one million visitors by year's end.

Jefferson noted, "The Cayman Islands has become established

as a world-class tourism destination in less than a decade. While our country is world-renowned for diving, the word is spreading that we have a great deal to offer other markets."

He pointed out that the destination's department of tourism had demonstrated its commitment to quality tourism by sponsoring an annual tourism conference, which attracted some 250 participants the first time it was held.

The conference was designed to encourage local representatives of the airline, cruise, hotel, restaurant, attractions and ground transportation sectors to become more involved in developing and promoting the islands' tourism product.

*'We are focusing on
sustainable growth...'*

"The Cayman Islands' tourism industry has made tremendous strides and in less than a decade, our destination has become known as a world-class vacation spot," said the minister. "To give visitors a truly Caymanian experience, more Caymanians need to be involved in the tourism industry."

That's why the government has formed a special committee in which the private and public sectors are co-operating by arranging for leaders in the tourism industry to serve as role models and mentors for young Caymanians, he explained.

In addition, stated Jefferson, the tourism department has held discussions with local hotel general managers to develop a tourism training program designed to improve career prospects in the industry.

At the conference, former Governor Michael Gore told delegates, "1994 has marked another year of impressive gains for the Cayman Islands' tourism industry, and I am hopeful that all members of the industry will forge partnerships that will not only enhance the experience of our visitors but also benefit us for many years to come."

CAYMAN ISLANDS Fast Facts

Language: English.

Entry Requirement: Canadian citizens need a passport or proof of citizenship.

Principle Destinations: George Town and Bodden Town.

Currency: the Cayman Island dollar.

Credit Card Usage: Major credit cards are widely accepted.

Air Service: Canadian, Cayman Airways, American Airlines, Northwest and United Airlines are among those carriers providing service to the Cayman Islands.

Contact Number: (416) 485-1550.

Oct 2, 1995

Circ: 10,000

Cayman traffic up

Air arrivals to the Cayman Islands in the first half of 1995 were up 8.47% over the same period last year. Cruise ship arrivals also increased, from 302,916 to 335,180.

Cayman Islands set new half-year record with 525,000 arrivals

It looks like another banner year for the Cayman Islands as the destination continues to target the upscale traveller along with selected niche markets such as families, honeymooners, divers, nature lovers and history buffs, according to minister of tourism Thomas Jefferson.

The first 6 months of this year established a record with air arrivals up 8.47% - an increase of 14,902 over 1994.

Total arrivals January-June reached 525,954, the first time arrivals have exceeded half a million.

"While our country is famed for its clear waters, it has a wealth of land-based attractions including the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, the Mastic Trail and Pedro St. James Castle, which is undergoing a major restoration," said the minister.

Late this month, the islands' newest hotel, the 4-star Westin Casuarina Resort will open on famed Seven Mile Beach.

The 5-storey, 340-room resort is 5 miles from George Town and is set in lush tropical gardens, fountains and waterfalls.

The 18-hole championship golf course, The Links at SafeHaven is nearby.

Survey: The Top 20 Domestic and International Vacation Places

Thousands Polled in Effort to Determine Which Destinations Would Best Satisfy Different Personality Types

	DOMESTIC	TYPE OF TRAVELER *				INTERNATIONAL	TYPE OF TRAVELER *		
		DEPENDABLES	CENTRICS	VENTURERS			DEPENDABLES	CENTRICS	VENTURERS
1.	Hawaii	10+	10	10	1.	Ireland	10+	10+	10
2.	Alaska	7	10	10	2.	U.K. countryside	10	10+	10
3.	Colorado	10	10	10	3.	British Columbia	10+	10	10
4.	Northern California	10+	9	8	4.	Costa Rica	1	10	10
5.	Maine	8	10	10	5.	Australia	10	10	10+
6.	Las Vegas	9	9	6	6.	Bermuda	10	10	10
7.	Washington state	7	9	10+	7.	New Zealand	5	10	10
8.	Vermont	8	9	9	8.	Switzerland	7	10	10
9.	Oregon	5	9	10	9.	Israel	7	10	10
10.	Arizona	9	9	8	10.	London	10	9	10
11.	Montana	6	8	10	11.	Austria	8	9	9
12.	Central Florida	8	8	6	12.	U.S. Virgin Islands	9	9	9
13.	South Carolina	9	8	8	13.	Germany	7	9	8
14.	Southern California	8	8	10	14.	Rome	10	8	8
15.	Wyoming	7	7	10	15.	France	6	8	10
16.	North Carolina	7	7	9	16.	Cayman Islands	7	8	10
17.	Massachusetts	7	7	6	17.	Aruba	10	8	6
18.	Washington, D.C.	7	7	8	18.	Scandinavia	10	8	8
19.	New Hampshire	6	7	6	19.	Ontario	7	8	8
20.	South Florida	7	7	7	20.	Greece	7	8	8

Source: "Vacation Places Rated" by Stanley Plog, based on a survey of more than 13,500 Americans who have traveled to at least one of these destinations.

* See story above for descriptions of these types of travelers.

Note: Destinations are rated on the percentage of visitors who say they "especially like" a particular destination. For example, a score of 10 indicates that 50% or more of the respondents who visited that destination especially liked it. A destination's ranking also is based on the portion of those surveyed who have traveled there. For example, Costa Rica received a low ranking by Dependables because very few Dependables have traveled there.

TRAVEL WEEKLY

C A R I B B E A N & B A H A M A S

Caribbean Connection

*The list of Congress participants
includes some new names this year*

■ **The Cayman Islands Department of Tourism** will have an exhibit booth in the shape of a Caymanian-style cottage. The department is expected to be represented by David Shields, assistant director of tourism in Grand Cayman; Clair Moore, regional sales manager-Northeast, based in New York; Olga Jefferson, manager of promotions in Miami; and Ana Doble, manager of special markets in Miami.

Diving With Disabilities • Inflatable Diving • Dolphin Myths & Legends • Scorpionfish

DISCOVER DIVING



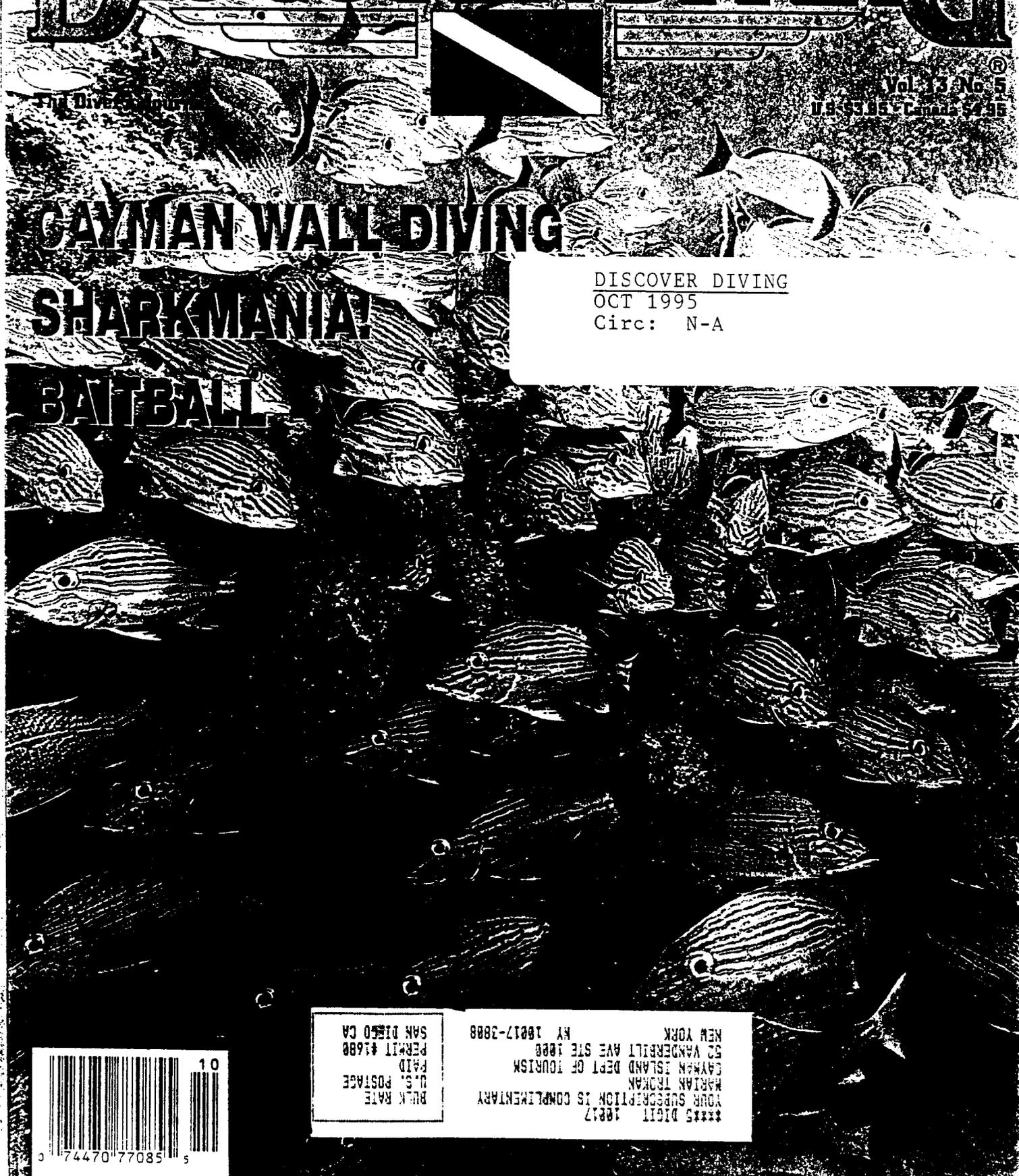
Vol. 13 No. 5
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BATBALL

DISCOVER DIVING
OCT 1995
Circ: N-A



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the British
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Colony of
the Cayman
Islands



THE WATER IS BATH-WARM, the sky a deep afternoon azure as we lie on our backs, BCs half-inflated. With our cameras lying on our chests like a sea otter's abalone lunch, we kick lazily away from the slim sand beach just west of Jackson's Point. Now and then we glance back to check our bearings and, each time, Little Cayman shrinks to a thinner slice of green.

We swim into a shadow and look up to see *Cayman Aggressor* hulking whitely over us at one of its regular moorings. Up top, people are hanging wet diveskins, laughing, having a happy post-dive chat. A sun-shaded figure peers down over the railing, obviously wondering who we are.

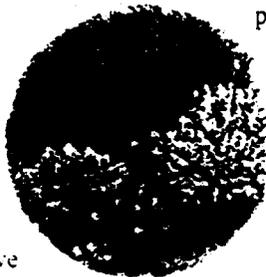
"Pardon me," we call up. "Would you have any Grey Poupon?" This elicits a startled pause, followed by a wide, white grin and a friendly get-out-of-here wave of the hand. Excellent advice. We vent our air, jackknife into a surface-dive, and slip quietly under the swells, where a barracuda sentry

checks our credentials before admitting us into the deeper blue below. At thirty feet, stingrays glide effortlessly across the sand before settling their flapping skirts into billowing clouds of powder. Our breathing settles into the smooth, relaxed pace of the hopelessly contented.

It's a fascinating place, but we leave it for now — plenty of time to explore the shallows on our safety stop. Another five minutes brings us to coral—first fingers, then thickets, and finally a profusion which ends suddenly and dramatically in a brink.

It looks like the end of the world and, without hesitation, we pass over it, pointing fins toward a fading sky as we make our way down into a nether-world of tube sponge and sea lace and a deep, untouchable margin of ink-blue, velvet darkness.

It's a long swim out from the beach to **Jackson Reef** and, in an island nation where world-class dive operations are far more numerous than grocery stores, and live-aboard diving was practically invented, it's hardly a matter of necessity. But



TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEAN PIERCE & TOM MORRISEY

The Cayman Islands... if you Go

CURRENCY: Currency is the Cayman Island's dollar (CIS), which trades at about U.S. \$1.25. This "instant inflation" factor comes atop the fact that (thanks to a tax-free status) the British Crown Colony of the Cayman Islands is a fairly

wealthy place, and the combination of import tariffs and shipping makes imported goods (which is just about everything) expensive. Translation—this can be a pricey trip unless you plan ahead, buying inclusive meal-and-transportation plans, seeking out inexpensive restaurants (there are some...), and buying any necessary dive gear, film; and the like before you leave home. Diving is discussed in your choice of feet or meters, PSI or bars—all crews are entirely conversant in both systems. While boat crew people are called "divemasters" by custom, actual experience is that the vast majority are certified instructors. Recommended crew tip is CIS\$4 (US\$5) per tank—i.e., after

a good two-tank dive, a diving couple should tip the captain twenty dollars American and let him divide it up among the crew. If you're diving with the same crew each day, it's acceptable to tip at the end of your trip.

DOCUMENTS: Documents needed by Americans for travel to the Cayman Islands are proof of citizenship (a passport is preferred, but a voter's registration card or official birth certificate are acceptable). The departure tax is CIS\$8.

DRIVING: Driving is on the left, often in a right-hand drive car. About the only time this is likely to throw you is when you pull into median-divided driveways (left—not right!), and when you try to use the turn signals (ten to one, you'll hit the wipers instead). A temporary drivers license, required of all driving visitors, is provided with rental cars upon proof of a valid home license.

ELECTRICITY: Electricity is to U.S. standards—you can recharge strobes and divelights here without fear of frying 'em.

LANGUAGE: Language is English. When locals talk about "Cayman," they change pronunciation to indicate place: "CAY-man" is Grand Cayman, while "Cay-MAN" means Little Cayman.

LOCATION: Location is south and west of Jamaica, and definitely tropical—bring sunscreen. All three islands are worthy of at least a day of land touring.

a fifteen-minute trip from beach-grass to abyss is one of the best ways to recognize the Cayman Islands for what they really are — the tips of



Grand Cayman, more intimate opportunities await.

Trundling our gear into our CICO Avis-rental, a manual-shirt, right-hand-drive Daihatsu Rocky, we met

Aquanauts Diving at their slip near the Grand Cayman Yacht Club marina.

The "boatload" here consisted only of ourselves, five other divers, and a two-person crew headed by a delightfully sassy Australian named Anny. "I'm always hesitant to tell people what to expect," she confessed as we tried to decide between wide-angle and macro for a dive on the northside's Leslie's Curl. "I mean, with bluewater so nearby, we see everything from eagle rays to the odd shark, but as soon as I mention the big stuff, it seems like we spend the whole dive looking at sergeant majors, and I'm down there thinking, 'Oh, dear...'" Anny kept mum, and we were rewarded near the dive's end with a hawksbill turtle who, feeding on sponge near the wall's verge, obligingly swam languidly near us on his way up for a breath, inspecting his new dive buddies with somber, sagacious eyes.

For those looking for something halfway between the party-boat and the smaller, semi-private charter, Grand Cayman offers dozens of choices. Sunset Divers, while boasting the most modern dive boat in the Caymans, was operating during our visit with a brace of seasoned, mid-sized craft which carried about twenty divers apiece. K2, a skier-turned divemaster, listened to one diver's question about where to find a particular grouper, and commented, "You know, we've tried stapling these guys in place, but they don't seem to like it..." Then, grinning broadly, he sketched out a site map and indicated the best crannies to inspect for shy undersea life.

Once at Big Tunnels, K2 shepherded those who wanted it and left



DIVING ON THE MIXING BOWL IN LITTLE CAYMAN, THE NORTHSIDE'S WORLD-FAMOUS JACKSON AND BLOODY BAYS. WE DESCENDED TO 80 FEET AND METICULOUSLY EXPLORED FIELDS OF CORAL FINDING ELUSIVE SEAHORSES.

undersea mountains that fall abruptly away on all sides. Add in the fact that they are relatively remote (no island in the Caribbean is more distant from its neighboring land masses than Grand Cayman), and a confluence of nutrient-rich, yet warm, currents and you have the perfect recipe for wall diving. The diversity of sites, and the plethora of diving operations around Grand Cayman and the two Sister

Islands, has made it possible to dive the Cayman walls in myriad ways.

Bob Soto's Diving literally ran their boat aground on a broad resort beach and dropped a ramp, landing craft style, to take on us and a double-decker boatload of vacationers. After a thorough briefing on the sun-deck, we splashed in to enjoy a long, perambulating glide just under the lip of Marty's Wall, a westside dive site off Grand Cayman's famous Seven-Mile Beach. Coral-encrusted verticality rolled past us like the Grand Canyon gone suddenly aquatic. At one point we looked up to see a pair of spotted eagle rays flapping steadily along toward some distant bluewater appointment.

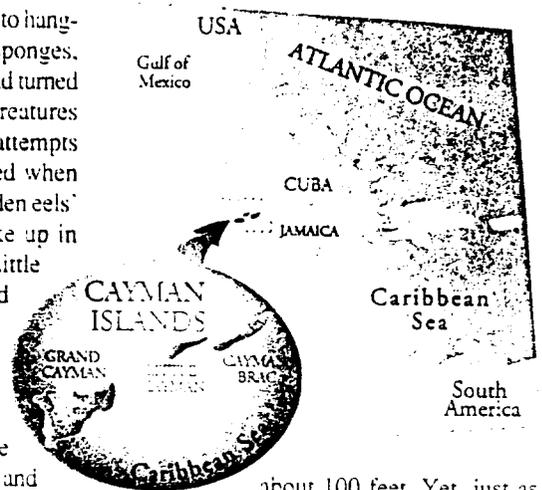
Such grandeur-oriented diving certainly whets the appetite, and we chatted afterwards with couples who came back every year, doing their diving only around Grand Cayman, and always with the same operator. But even on (relatively) bustling

the rest of us happily alone to explore a convoluted site dotted with picturesque swim-throughs. Afterward, we went to the top of the reef and watched our bubbles filtering up through the coral-like champagne on a magnificent scale.

The Sister Islands

Cayman Airways now serves Cayman Brac direct from the United States, and even sleepy Little Cayman enjoys service from both Grand Cayman and the Brac via Island Air, although the island's sole paved road still doubles as a taxiway for the aircraft. On the Brac, Reef Divers dive crew Cheryl and Dave picked our gear up at the door in the morning and dined with us in the evening, quickly becoming pals while going to great lengths to give us the best dive experience possible. They, like we, were critter-freaks, so they picked sites which would give us good fish-watching both on the wall and in the shallows. **Garden Eel** wall, in particular, was a memorable combination of the macro-and-micro-cosmic:

after soaring in limitless space next to hanging gardens of sea fans and tube sponges, we went to the sand atop the wall and turned our attention to fields of elusive creatures no bigger than nightcrawlers. All attempts at breath-holding stealth collapsed when we got close enough to see the garden eels' comic little alien faces and broke up in delighted laughter. But it was on Little Cayman, diving with Gay and Ed Morse off **Pirate's Point's Yellow Rose II**, that great and small merged in one glorious underwater symphony. Diving on **Mixing Bowl** and **Coconut Grove**, in the northside's world-famous **Jackson and Bloody Bays**, we descended to 80 feet and meticulously explored fields of vertical coral, looking for—and finding—elusive gobies, seahorses and even a somber, well-camouflaged frogfish. Later, on the deeper southside, **Patty's Place** offered a spectacular swimthrough—down through a slot in the seafloor and out over the wall at



about 100 feet. Yet, just as we were taking in the enormity of the surroundings, we caught a rare glimpse of a sea goddess crawling home across a patch of brain coral. It would give us lots to talk about that evening in Pirate's Point's dining room, as we enjoyed owner Gladys Howard's Cordon-Bleu-cultivated cooking. Wall diving and warm company—it

was clear to us why the divers come in droves to the Caymans every year.

Love 'Em to Death?

Coming in droves, while not yet a problem for the Sister Islands, has caused some concern around Grand Cayman. The two North Sound divesites known collectively as **Stingray City** are still the most popular in the Caymans—attracting a staggering 36,108 divers a year—but wall dives are the next most popular. According to a 1994 survey sponsored in part by the Cayman Islands Watersports Operators Association (CIWOA), **Big Tunnels** was visited by 16,157 divers in a single year, and **Trinity Caves** got 14,688 divers. Better than a dozen Grand Cayman wall dives saw more than 5,000 visitors apiece during the survey year.

This, the CIWOA survey admits, runs contrary to a 1993 Bonaire Marine Park study, which established 5,000 dives per year as the maximum a typical divesite

can carry without showing signs of wear. "There's a difference, however, between a Bonaire divesite and a Grand Cayman divesite," says Richard de la Penha, CIWOA president. "The fact that we have mostly wall diving here means that dives are generally deeper, which limits bottom times, and the vertical nature of the wall discourages divers from scraping against or standing on the coral. But we are doing our own studies, including photographic surveys by the Department of the Environment, to determine the carrying capacity of our Cayman Islands divesites."

CIWOA is also studying diver economic impact on the Caymans, partly to prove to the government that divers contribute substantially more to the economy than cruise-ship passengers. One underlying purpose of this is to shut the door on any possibility that cruise ships will be permitted to moor near Grand Cayman's northwest point—in the vicinity of several of the island's most-dived walls. ●

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Natural Wonders

Above the Surface

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY
BY BARBARA DAILEY

Blue iguana—Grand
Cayman's Botanic Park

Hell—West Bay, Grand Cayman

If you're a veteran Cayman diver your logbook is filled with entries ranging from Grand Cayman's Devil's Grotto and Little Cayman's Marilyn's Cut to Cayman Brac's Wilderness Wall. You may have dived Stingray City so often you know the rays by name.

But, have you ever explored the Cayman Islands topside?

During your next visit, take at least one long surface interval and your camera and discover what makes this Western Caribbean island trio as fascinating to nature lovers as it is to divers.

Topside, the Cayman Islands are as colorful and exciting as the reefs and walls in their surrounding waters. Yet comparatively few travelers know about their unusual natural attractions and the seafaring heritage of the Caymanian people. Combined, these qualities distinguish Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, not only from their Caribbean neighbors but also from each other.

What really lies within these three limestone mountaintops that are too often dismissed as barren of natural beauty?

If you explore these islands as if you were a photographer you'll quickly discover a new world. But, you must think small, know where to look and understand what you're seeing. While the Cayman Islands lack the obvious dramatic scenery of Jamaica or the jungles and rain forests of Central America, they have hidden natural beauty.

Exploring is easy on each island thanks to the availability of modern rental jeeps and cars and excellent radio systems on Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. Even Little Cayman has reliable rental jeeps and vans and a road covering most of the coasting. Throughout the islands, an atmosphere of friendliness and personal safety makes exploration a vacation activity that will reward you with many adventures.

All you need is a map, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, hat and some good binoculars. You will also need some reliable information about where to go.

GRAND CAYMAN

Each island in the Cayman trio has distinct terrestrial features and attractions—and these vary not only according to season but also by district or village. On Grand Cayman you can take a photo safari along the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park's Woodland trail to see local birds, crimson-cheeked emerald Grand Cayman parrots and exotic busy blue iguanas—both found only on Grand Cayman. You can touch a year-old Green Sea Turtle in the Cayman

Turtle Farm or hike into a dense, mysterious forest along the Mastic Trail, a little known 200 year old cattle path. Or, if you're visiting during a local festival, sample the fish rundown and cassava heavy cake and learn the extraordinary versatility of an ordinary thatch palm.

With more than 150 resident and migratory bird species in the Caymans, each island also offers its own unique opportunities for birdwatching. On Grand Cayman, the Cayman Islands Bird Club, which has more than 50 members and welcomes visitors, meets each month and plans weekend field trips.

Grand Cayman's Turtle Farm, Hell and East End's blowholes are among the best-known attractions—but, as you now know, they aren't the only ones.

CAYMAN BRAC

Cayman Brac's rugged 14 square miles offer the country's most dramatic scenery. "Brac" is the Gaelic word for bluff and the bluff is the Brac's most dominant natural attraction. A limestone ridge that rises gradually from the west along the center of the island to 140 feet at the eastern tip, it plunges as a sheer, dramatic wall into the indigo Caribbean below. It sculpts the landscape into unexpected rocky vistas, covered with a variety of tree and plant life.

Cayman Brac and its population of fewer than 1,300 retain the charm and friendliness of a traditional seafaring community. Bracker culture is showcased in the Cayman Brac Museum in Stake Bay. Small towns have names such as West End, Watering Place, Creek and Spot Bay. The Brac's special peacefulness refreshes—but the tranquility conceals a terrain that challenges. Startling contrasts await discovery. The island is a photographer's dream.

An abundance of seasonal native tropical flowers thrive year-round in carefully tended yards surrounding quaint Caymanian cottages. Spectacular scarlet canopies formed by royal poinciana trees illuminate the Brac during late May and June. Clusters of pink and yellow hibiscus and cascades of vivid multi-colored bougainvillea flourish year-round.

Most startling of all, the plateau atop the bluff ridge reveals a biodiversity unknown below. There is lush pastureland shaded by mango and hardwood trees, fertile plantations (small garden farms) and rocky plains dominated by cacti and agave. The bluff also rewards those who venture across the island with its rich bird life, including glimpses of an

(Continued on Page 68)

Salt Rocks Nature Trail—Little Cayman



The Bluff—Little Cayman



Bat Cave—Cayman Brac



Bluffs—Grand Cayman's East End

Brackery—Cayman Turtle Farm

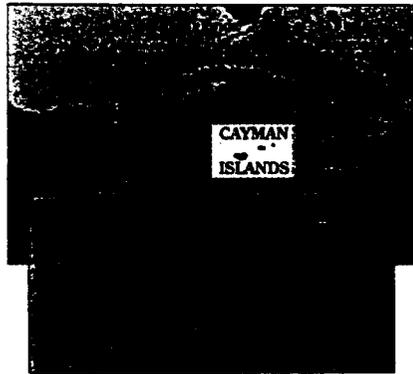


Watering Place—Booby Point Nature Reserve, Little Cayman

A tlement of Blossom Village and its nearby shopping plaza (more like a commissary with a bank, video store, jeep rental and small supermarket/hardware store), civilization is confined to the small resorts, cottages and airport.

Coastal flats, shallow, reef protected lagoons and the inland brackish Tarpon Lake have attracted serious sportfishermen for more than 20 years. Flyfishing and light tackle action with small Bonefish, Tarpon and Permit make this a favorite of anglers who seek the thrill of catching and releasing three kinds of gamefish on any given day.

Little Cayman has long been known as the Cayman island for birdwatching, primarily because of the Boccoy Pond Nature Reserve, a 202 acre natural rookery near Blossom Village. Until recently, the critical importance of this area was underestimated. This inland mangrove area is home to more than 3,500 pairs of red footed boobies, 200 magnificent frigate birds and other species of resident and migratory bird life. It is one of few RAMSAR sites within the Caribbean



(wetland areas that are key waterfowl habitats and therefore cited with international importance under the RAMSAR treaty and protected from development).

Little Cayman's biodiversity is also fascinating. A good introduction is offered free every Sunday morning, weather permitting, by Little Cayman National Trust district committee chairman Gladys Howard, owner of Pirates Point. She leads a two hour hike along the old Salt Rocks Nature Trail, pointing out the flora and fauna seen along the way, from orchids and bromeliads to edible delicacies such as large blue land crabs, prickly pear cacti fruit and mangos, while also explaining the history of Little Cayman. At the end of the hike small donations are accepted to aid the work of the National Trust and visitors are invited to join—for only \$10 U.S. per year they can become supporting overseas members.

Surprising to many are the iguanas frequently seen along the road. A 1994 research project estimated this tiny island supports a population of 2,000 Little Cayman rock iguanas, which grow to

THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

(Continued from Page 31)

A demic Cayman Brac Parrots in the 180 acre Brac Parrot Reserve. The reserve also features rugged hikes, brooding caves and nature walks with enthralling views, especially from the highest point at the eastern edge, near a small working lighthouse.

And, if you take time to meet the Brackers, they will share their history and often welcome you to their homes to learn about their resourceful lifestyle and independent spirit.

Cayman Brac is also a haven for birdwatchers, more than 120 species have been sighted here. The combination of the rocky bluff, with its varied woodland and arid terrain, and low-lying saltwater ponds in the west creates a variety of natural habitats for birds. These include brown boobies, which nest in the southern face of the bluff in May and November, peregrine falcons and graceful, whitetailed tropic birds. Salt Water Pond, on the southwest coast, is the roosting site of many waterfowl, including Cayman's endangered native West Indian whistling duck.

LITTLE CAYMAN

Little Cayman, with a permanent population of fewer than 100, remains the least developed of the Cayman trio. Only ten miles long and one mile wide, it offers exceptional solitude and miles of undeveloped tropical wilderness. Although modern amenities, including electricity, satellite TV and expanded telephone service, have arrived and new resort and dive services have tripled tourism, many parts of Little Cayman still offer the *Robinson Crusoe* isolation that makes it so special.

Tranquility and nature are still abundant and alluring Little Cayman trademarks. Other than the tiny, charming set-

WASHINGTON POST
WASHINGTON, DC
SUNDAY 1.215.021

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Scuba diving in the Caymans.

THE CARIBBEAN FOR SINGLES

*The Single Traveler Newsletter
recently named its top destinations
with appeal for singles, rating them
according to:*

1. **Beaches:** Antigua, Barbados.
2. **Scuba diving:** Bonaire,
Cayman Islands.
3. **Snorkeling:** Virgin Gorda,
Turks.
4. **Cuisine:** Martinique, Curacao.
5. **Most upscale:** St. Martin.
6. **Culture:** Puerto Rico.
7. **Shopping:** St. Thomas (U.S.
Virgin Islands).
8. **Nature** (hiking and camping):
St. John (U.S. Virgin Islands).
9. **Carnival:** Trinidad.
10. **Night life:** Jamaica.

WEDDING BELLS PROMOTION



FROM THE
FRANKY
STINKY'S PLAY
WITH A DIVER IN
THE CAYMAN
ISLANDS.

Destination profiles

DESTINATION PROFILE: THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

GEOGRAPHY: The three islands - Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, and Cayman Brac - are actually low lying tops of submerged mountains. Rugged terrain with some tropical flora.

CURRENCY: The American dollar is accepted everywhere.

WEATHER: Beautiful summer-like weather year-round, averaging in the upper 20s C.

TRANSPORTATION: MIGHTY THREE Buses, taxi, bicycle, motor cycle, scooter, and car rentals. Drive on the left.

ACCOMMODATIONS: A wide range of choices from luxury to budget is available. You won't find any high-rises here. Budget accommodations are everywhere. Resorts, motels, apartment rentals, and cottages are all available. The highest concentration of tourists is on Grand Cayman's west coast, along Seven Mile Beach. Cayman Brac has a couple of small hotels and Little Cayman's beachfront has about two dozen budget residences. There's a selection of lodges that are popular with divers.

CLIMATE: A strong Bermuda influence with a quirky history of diving (and every other) craze: the Pirates Week celebration attracts the know vacationers; a month of travelling, parties, and costume parties and related activities.

ACTIVITIES: The Cayman Islands are a diver's paradise, offering very good facilities because of the popularity of this sport. Even if you're a first-time snorkeler, there's plenty to see and do with helpful advice from very competent instructors and great equipment-rental operations. Certified divers will find the best diving anywhere in the world just off all three islands. In particular, divers love the Cayman Islands for spectacular coral reefs, underwater cliffs, diverse sea life (including a renowned group of friendly stingrays), and ancient shipwrecks. At night, Grand Cayman jumps with discos, restaurants, and bars. The two smaller islands are much quieter.

BEACHES: Seven Mile Beach on Grand Cayman is just that: seven miles of gorgeous white sand. Little Cayman and Cayman Brac boast pretty pocket beaches well worth a trip.

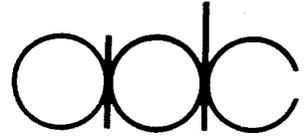
ROMANTIC NOTES: Island-hop to Little Cayman for uncrowded beaches with powder-fine sand, tropical flowers, and incredible diving. Forget about TV, telephones, bars, or shopping! This little paradise will feel like your own treasured island. You can walk (the water's only chest-deep) or take a boat from Little Cayman to Owen Island, with its beautiful nature trails, deserted beaches, and mangrove forest.

For more information, contact:
Earl B. Smith - Travel Marketing Consultants
254 Eglinton Avenue East
Suite 306

Toronto, ON M4P 1K5
(416) 485-1550

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Public Relations Activities
Cayman Islands Department of Tourism

December 1996

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INTERNAL SECURITY
SECTION
REGISTRATION UNIT

I. WORK ACCOMPLISHED

A. PUBLICITY RESULTS

- ***Boston Herald*** **Circ: 317,361**
The above publication ran this very informative article about Grand Cayman's Sister Islands. The agency arranged for Terese Loeb Kreuzer's visit to the Cayman Islands and worked very closely with her in fact-checking this article. In addition, the agency supplied the paper with updated information for its "If you go..." sidebar.
- ***Modern Bride*** **Circ: 323,608**
The above publication ran this diving in the Caribbean article. The agency assisted the author in fact-checking the article and providing updated information about the Islands and diving in Grand Cayman.
- ***Islands Magazine*** **Circ: 185,000**
The above magazine included the Cayman Islands Marine Parks in its December island-by-island guide of "The Natural Caribbean." The marine parks are noted to be "one of the most sophisticated marine protection systems in the Caribbean" and the article describes two of the four park zones. The agency arranged a visiting journalist trip for Bob Payne; who contributed to the article.
- ***Pasaporte*** **Circ: 250,000**
Daily Challenge **Circ: 79,540**
The above publication ran our tourism arrivals release.
- ***Chattanooga Free Press*** **Circ: 115,000**
The agency supplied the above publication with slides to accompany their "Island in the Sun" article.

chicago: 35 east wacker drive, suite 850 • chicago, illinois 60601 • (312) 263-2500 • fax (312) 263-1197

st. louis: 7777 bonhomme, suite 900 • st. louis, missouri 63105 • (314) 725-6400 • fax (314) 725-0432

los angeles: 2029 century park east, suite 1010 • los angeles, california 90067 • (310) 551-2877 • fax (310) 551-2875

- ***Skin Diver*** **Circ: 217,795**
The above magazine used information from our CIWOA Safari Raffle Release in their round-up report on the raffle.
- ***Dive Training*** **Circ: 65,000**
Information provided to Dive Training's reporter about the new Westin resort appeared in this month's issue.
- ***Scuba Times*** **Circ: 37,000**
The above magazine included the Cayman Islands as a "star" among the "World's Best Marine Parks." The agency arranged for Nick Lucey's trip to the Islands.

TRAVEL TRADE PRESS COVERAGE

- ***Tour & Travel News*** **Circ: 48,000**
The agency confirmed details for Sue Smith Juliano's article on Cayman Airways' Orlando Service.
- ***TravelAge East*** **Circ: 28,697**
The Cayman Islands was included in this article focusing on Certified Vacations' Caribbean Trends Program.
- ***Travel Weekly*** **Circ: 21,198**
This article featured the new Rum Pointer Ferry Service launched by Hyatt Regency and Red Sail Sports.
- ***TravelWeek Bulletin*** **Circ: 9,500**
Information from CIDOT's Friday Fax was picked up by this publication.

OTHER DECEMBER PLACEMENTS FOR THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

- ***The New York Times*** **Circ: 1,770,504**
The author writes about her volunteer experiences with Cedam and their squid-research expedition off the coast of Little Cayman.
- ***The Wall Street Journal*** **Circ: 749,547**
This article features New Year's eve in the Cayman Islands.
- ***Hartford Courant*** **Circ: 323,084**
Cayman's Christmas stamps are discussed in this article about holiday stamps from around the globe.
- ***Wild Bird*** **Circ: 82,000**
Birding in the Cayman Islands is featured in this article.

- **Scuba Times** **Circ: 37,000**
Reaction from readers to Scuba Time's Sept./Oct. article on the "Cayman Cowboys" article appeared in the "Letters" section.
- **Skin Diver** **Circ: 217,795**
The December issue of this publication featured Grand Cayman's Aqua'nauts

B. VISITING JOURNALISTS

Ladies' Home Journal ~ The agency finalized the details for Margery Rosen's visit to Grand Cayman. We developed an on-island itinerary for her family destination feature and provided Margery with background information on the Islands and detailed information on family travel to the Cayman Islands. In addition, we supplied Margery with detailed information for her itinerary.

C. MEDIA CONTACTS

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

Sara Perez, photo editor, *Caribbean Travel & Life*
 Terese Loeb Kreuzer, freelancer, *Boston Herald*
 Laurel Cardone, associate travel editor, *Modern Bride*
 E. Mark Young, publisher, *Dive Training*
 Karen Manville, manager special sections, *The New Yorker*
 Griffen Miller, editor, *Corporate Meetings & Incentives*
 Laura Bly, editor, *USA Today*
 Solomon Herbert, editor, *Black Meetings & Tourism*
 Michelle Turcyn, editor, *Skin Diver*
 Dennis Wood, travel editor, *Halifax Herald*
 Celya Lister, executive producer, *Caribbean Sizzle*
 Cheryl Alters Jamison, author, *Best Places to Stay in the Caribbean*

D. PROJECTS COMPLETED

THE CAYMAN ISLANDS ANNUAL MARKETING MEETING

Agency representatives attended the Cayman Islands annual marketing meeting, December 1 - 3. Prior to this conference, the agency arranged for the keynote speaker and planned his on-island itinerary. In addition, we prepared a public relations presentation for David Shields. We compiled a showcase of major media placements that appeared during 1995, and we assembled three "window" pieces for the "old-tyme" Caymanian home.

JACK HANNA'S ANIMAL ADVENTURES

We liaised with the producers of "Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures" and finalized filming details for their trip to Cayman. We also arranged an on-island itinerary and provided assistance during their stay. In addition, two agency representatives hosted Jack Hanna and his group for dinner in Grand Cayman, and provided them with additional assistance. We also sent a complete press kit and b-roll to the production company, prior to filming.

CAYMAN ISLANDS/USAIR VACATIONS

The agency liaised with Peter Shiels and arranged for a photographer to attend the Cayman Islands/USAir Vacations training seminar in Tampa. We distributed the Cayman Islands/USAir Vacations announcement release to trade and consumer publications and distributed a photo release to trade publications.

CHA MARKETPLACE PRESS BOOK

The agency provided Kahn Travel Communications with three press releases to be included in the CHA Marketplace Press Book.

II. PROJECTS UNDERWAY

DEMA

The agency liaised with Ana Doble on Cayman's participation in DEMA. We obtained an international listing of media who attended DEMA in '94 and supplied CIDOT with a regional media list.

CARLSON WAGONLIT TRAVEL/98Q RADIO PROMOTION

The agency liaised with Carlson Wagonlit Travel, 98Q Radio and Clair Moore about a potential promotion in the Fairfield, Conn. area. We evaluated promotional value and contacted various suppliers to gauge their interest in participating. The agency advised that CIDOT should proceed and upon Clair Moore's decision, we contacted all parties to ensure agreement to all promotional details.

A Little

From Page 49

preneur — produces three gourmet meals a day. This entails flying in 1,000 pounds of groceries a week on a chartered plane and improvising when some key ingredient fails to arrive.

Down the road — there is only one road on Little Cayman — at the 32-room, year-old Little Cayman Beach Resort, guests can sun themselves by a fresh-water swimming pool next to a cabana bar.

Across the road is a bird sanctuary where magnificent frigates with their 5-foot wing span and spectacular courting displays bully red-footed boobies into disorging part of their day's catch.

Humans on this unspoiled island are usually more neighborly.

They keep track of each other's comings and goings, drop in for a little chat when time permits and see each other once a week in the one-room church whose preacher flies in from nearby Cayman Brac.

Life on the island requires constant resourcefulness. As recently as five years ago, all electricity was supplied by generators.

It is prudent, when driving around Little Cayman, to take a cellular telephone in case of emergency.

There is only one gas pump, one small grocery store and one bank, which is open most Wednesdays for a few hours in the afternoon.

A year ago when both of its tellers were indisposed, it failed to open for several weeks.

For anyone who wants to get away from it all, this is the place.

That was also what a number of well-known pirates

2053 F

Cayman's grand

thought in the 17th and 18th centuries, when they put up here to escape the law and to repair their ships.

A natural cistern in the porous limestone that provided the pirates with fresh drinking water, long a legend on the island, was discovered recently a few hundred yards away from an overgrown trail known to have been used by the pirates.

The first divers to venture into this cistern returned with fragments of a large, hand-blown glass vessel and expect to find more artifacts as they continue to explore the site.

The cistern and other attractions are on view every Sunday when Gladys Howard

leads a nature walk down the pirate trail — past Century plants and wild orchids, past the pretty but poisonous manchineel tree, past the rusted remains of a track once used to haul phosphate from the interior of the island to the sea.

Howard, who is chairman of the National Trust for Little Cayman, is a passionate conservationist.

As increased air transportation makes the island more accessible, she campaigns vigorously to keep it from becoming overdeveloped.

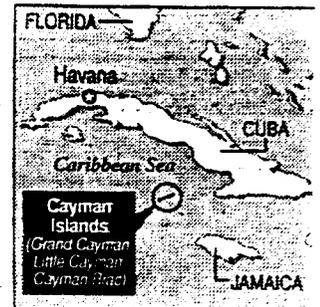
She hopes it will remain, as it has been, a haven from the modern world for man, bird and beast.

If you go...

GETTING THERE: Cayman Brac and Little Cayman are accessible from Grand Cayman via Island Air, which schedules two flights a day to each destination on its 19-seat Twin Otters, and two flights daily back to Grand Cayman. The round-trip fare is \$122 for adults. A day trip can be booked for \$99. Call (800) 922-9626.

Cayman Airways flies Boeing 737s from Miami to Grand Cayman and then to Cayman Brac six days a week, with return trips every day except Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

STAYING THERE: On Little Cayman: Pirates Point resort, (809) 948-1010; Little Cayman Beach Resort, (800) 327-3835;

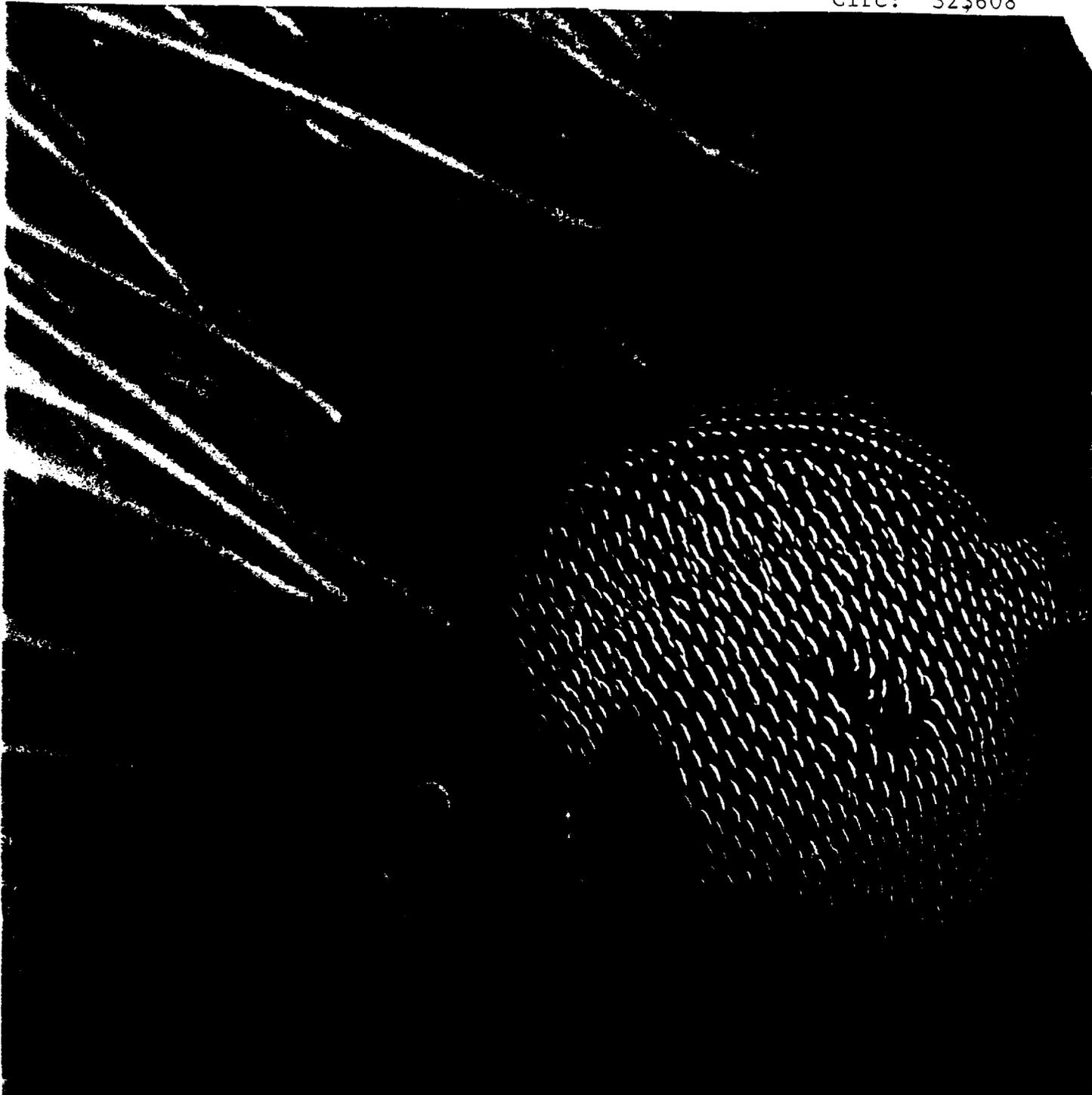


Southern Cross Club, (800) 899-2582; Condos: McLaughlin Enterprises Ltd., which also rents cars and jeeps, call (809) 948-1000.

On Cayman Brac: Divi Tiar Beach Resort, (800) 367-3484; condos: Brac Caribbean Beach Village, (809) 948-2265.

INFORMATION: Cayman Islands Department of Tourism, (212) 682-5582.

MODERN BRIDE
DEC.1995/JAN.1996
Circ: 323608



DIVE INTO THE
caribbean
AND DISCOVER A WORLD
OF UNDERSEA WONDERS

Cayman Islands. This island trio, known for its legendary walls (the islands are actually a submerged mountain range) and see-forever visibility (often over 200 feet), heads practically everybody's "10 best" diving lists.

In Grand Cayman, Trinity Caves leads off the underwater attractions—canyons decked out with coral, sea fans, and sponges as big as armchairs. Don't miss Stingray City, where these gregarious fish hover around divers like underwater flying saucers (great for snorkelers, too—it's only 12 feet deep). In addition to cruising in the *Atlantis* submarine, aquanauts can voyage to a depth of 800 feet down aboard one of the two-person Research Submersible vessels. The Hobbit, a fantasyland of corals and sponges just off Cayman Brac, lives up to its name. Little Cayman dazzles with its Bloody Bay wall, which starts at 15 feet below the surface and plummets to 6,000 feet. Try Charlie's Chimneys, where you can drop like Santa Claus down a 30-foot chute.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

IN THE OLD DAYS, ABOUT THE only difference between conch fishing in Grand Cayman's North Sound and in a fishmarket was how wet you got. So abundant were the slow-growing delicacies that the only challenge was making up your mind

which to bring up from the shallow water.

But not long after divers started coming up empty-handed, the Cayman Islands set up one of the most sophisticated marine protection systems in the Caribbean.

From North Sound off Grand Cayman to Bloody Bay off Little Cayman to West End on Cayman Brac, some of the islands' most intensively used areas (and also its most beautiful and bountiful) have been turned into a patchwork system of parks called the **Cayman Islands Marine Parks**.

Among the most protected areas is part of North Sound known as Little Sound. It includes a portion of the largest mangrove swamp in the Caymans, says Cordelia Hislop of the Na-



Pillar coral.

tional Trust for the Cayman Islands, and has been declared an "environmental zone," meaning all fishing and in-water activities are forbidden.

The eastern part of North Sound is a marine park replenishment zone - a shallow place of lush sea grass

beds teeming with birds, turtles, and conch, and "good for free diving and snorkeling," according to Hislop.

Behind the reef, at the mouth of the sound, is famed "Stingray City," where divers can "play" with these graceful creatures.

"Though many questions remain to be answered, the replenishment zones appear to be working," says Gina Ebanks-Petrie, of the Cayman Islands Department of the Environment. "We are finding more conch, as well as larger conch within the closed zones."

For more information: National Trust for the Cayman Islands, P.O. Box 31116, Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, British West Indies; (809) 949-0121, fax (809) 949-7494.

CURAGA

"I LOVE THE WINDY, OPEN north coast," says Chris Schmitz, manager of Curacao's **Christoffel National Park**. "A lot of visitors come to the park

Passajourte

SAN JUAN, PR
DAILY & SUNDAY 250,000

SUNDAY
DEC 31 1995

BURRELLE'S

RECORD DE VISITANTES EN CRUCEROS

Cifras oficiales de Caribbean Tourism Organization, CTO, revelan el número de pasajeros de cruceros en varios puertos del Caribe para el año 1994. La información indica que Islas Bahamas estuvo en primer lugar, con 2,100,000, seguido de U.S. Islas Virgenes, con 1,242,000; Puerto Rico en tercer lugar, con 980,220; St. Maarten, con 718,666; Islas Caymán, con 599,387; Barbados con 425,630; Martinica con 419,992; Aruba, con 257,138; Antigua, 222,936; Grenada con 200,808; Curazao, con 161,000; Dominica, con 125,541.

DAILY CHALLENGE

NEW YORK, NY
DAILY & SUNDAY 79,540

WEDNESDAY
DEC 6 1995

BURPELLE'S

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Tourism growth continues at record pace

3454
GEORGE TOWN — Cayman Islands, Dec 5, Cana - Tourist arrivals in the Cayman Islands continued at their record-setting pace through October, increasing by 13.31 per cent, according to figures just released by the Department of Tourism.

Stay-over visitors for October stood at 27,535, compared with 24,300 in October 1994.

Air arrivals from the United States were up by 8.2 per cent, Canada by 22.4 per cent and the United Kingdom 27.2 per cent.

Non-resident air arrivals from Jamaica recorded the largest percentage gain (up 34.7 per cent), with 615 more arrivals compared with the 1,772 that visited during the same period last year.

For the year-to-date, stay-over tourist arrivals totalled 299,596 through October, a 6.3 per cent increase over the 281,972 recorded

for the same period last year.

The largest number of air arrivals for the year has been from the US, with 221,391, followed by Jamaica with 23,739, the UK at 23,369 and Canada with 10,806.

At the current pace of arrivals, the Cayman Islands, is expected to surpass the stay-over tourist record of 341,191 set last year.

The cruise ship sector also reported gains for October and for the year-to-date. In October, 53,787 cruise ship passengers came here, a jump of 9,154 over last year's period. Cruise arrivals for the year are also on pace to eclipse the 1994 record of 599,601.

For the first 10 months of the year, 533,121 cruise visitors were reported, an increase of 62,032 arrivals compared with the same period last year. However, industry officials say that over the past few months, cruise lines have diverted a number of passengers from eastern Caribbean cruises to ships plying the western Caribbean.

SKIN DIVER
LOS ANGELES, CA
MONTHLY 207,735

DECEMBER 1995

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BURRELLE'S
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CIWOA RAFFLE GRAND PRIZE

Since December 1994, the Cayman Islands Watersports Operators Association has given more than \$60,000 (CI) in prizes to winners of the monthly Come On a Safari With Us raffle. Created by Greg Merren of Parrots Landing, the promotion brought together more than 60 local businesses, including 10 restaurants, 9 hotels and condos, plus nearly 30 watersports operations for the culminating grand prize.

Cayman Kai's Alan Darville was recently chosen at random from the hundreds of raffle ticket stubs. The retired Oklahoman has been living on the island for one and a half years. As a supporter of most of Cayman's local promotions, Darville bought 20 raffle tickets, the winning one coming from Surfside.

Darville won a free snorkel trip the first month and the grand prize the final month. What did Alan receive for his last \$2 entry? A three island dive vacation for two with flights, accommodations and dives; a day of underwater video and still camera use; six meals for two; scuba equipment; and more.

The second prize winner, also selected by CIWOA's president, Richard Delapenha of Aqua'nauts, was Marie Hensick, a visiting diver from Colorado. The dive store employee came to the island for a quick weekend and bought just one

ticket at Dive Inn. The \$2 surcharge netted Hensick a week-long dive vacation for two on Grand Cayman with three local dives, lessons, a lunch and numerous dive accessories.

The Cayman Islands Watersports Operators Association raffle was the first in the organization's 15 year history but its success and response suggest it won't be the last.



By W. Lynn Seldon Jr.

DIVE INTO CYBERSPACE

Now you can not only surf the Net, you can dive it too.

When Mike Herndon, president of Dive Tours in Houston, Texas, signed on to a commercial on-line service recently, he discovered a disgruntled customer had a complaint about his company's service. Herndon wasted no time in correcting the misinformation and solved the issue immediately. This prompt and knowledgeable resolution impressed a number of other divers in cyberspace, who booked their upcoming trips through Dive Tours, citing that one on-line encounter as the reason they contacted the company. Despite the impersonal feel of the computer links, it was still good old-fashioned customer service — that personal touch — that made the difference to the people behind all those computers.

With all the current Internet hype, divers are right to ask how much solid or credible information is actually floating out there and whether or not it's faster to do your business or travel research through conventional methods. Like everything else in life, it's really a matter of knowing where to look.

One novice diver recently signed on to an on-line service and spent five hours over the course of two days trying to find useful materials to help enhance her knowledge of technical issues and dive destinations. It seemed like a waste of time until she found decent guides, directories and other reference materials to help her sort through the barrage of scuba postings. After that point in her learning curve, surfing the Net did seem like a wonderful convenience — information from around the world delivered to you in the comfort of your home — even if it required the patience of Job to

wait as the various computer sites were contacted.

As of this writing, the Webcrawler, a popular search "engine" that will find information on the World Wide Web specific to certain subjects, lists nearly 500 Web sites referencing scuba diving alone. "There are quite a number of dive sites on the Web right now," agrees Richard Stewart, executive editor of DIVE DESTINATIONS.em (<http://www.w.empg.com>), an on-line dive publication that debuted this past June. "When we first started producing materials last year for the on-line magazine, there were maybe 25 scuba sites listed. A lot of companies have gone on-line, however, without knowing why they're doing it. As time goes on, they're going to find it increasingly difficult to maintain a presence without that knowledge."

Nothing is more frustrating than waiting for a Web site to be contacted and then discovering it hasn't been maintained for months or that it is only the equivalent of a roadside sign on the surging information highway — an advertisement with no useful information posted. To avoid these frustrations, divers in cyberspace can save time by starting their searches with popular comprehensive guides such as the Yahoo (<http://www.yahoo.com>) or McKinley (<http://www.mckinley.com>) Internet directories. Both will search out Internet sites related to the desired topic and provide a short description of what is posted. The McKinley directory has a bonus: a one- to four-star rating system that grades other Web sites on how complete, well-organized and up-to-date they are.

Even better are the resources specific



Dive Destinations

The Official NAUI Home Page



Divers looking for travel tips, destination updates, or recreation news can find it all on-line at the click of a mouse.

to the sport. The Dive Travel Industries Association, working with emPG, Inc., electronic publishers, has developed a Web page with a comprehensive menu of resources and publications, including the *Dive Travel Planner*, the *Dive Travel Agent Directory*, a dive images collection, and *The Snorkeler* magazine — all of which were created in the wake of DIVE DESTINATIONS.em (electronic magazine).

In addition, emPG, Inc. has developed the Scuba Diving Navigator, a search engine function that lists all the scuba Internet sites in the world and provides a 20-word description of their posted materials. "We design and put on 10 to 15 new resort home pages a month just for *Dive Travel Planner* members," says Stewart, who is also president of emPG, Inc. "The idea of having your stuff on-line is not to get viewers to call your business on the phone and ask for information, because it costs money to fulfill those requests and take those calls. These sites are to supply that information over the computer. It's not quite the same strategy for

our members as stimulating sales. We're not in the business to provide advertising, but rather information about a directory of suppliers."

Bob Denton, created and maintains the Boynton Beach, Fla., scuba home page (<http://www.emi.net/~bdenton/scuba.html>). This Web page obviously draws Florida-based cybernauts, but the majority are from the rest of the U.S., with a smattering of international viewers from such countries as Norway and Finland. The site is updated daily for the dive conditions in Boynton and the classified ads change every day or so.

Other kinds of information are available through the commercial on-line services, such as America Online, Prodigy or Compuserve. If you are already on line, here's a small sample of on-line scuba sites to consider:

PADI's home page (<http://www.PADI.com>) provides all you need to know about its retail association, resort association, travel network and 3,000 worldwide PADI establishments, in addition to general information on recreational diving. If you are wired to the Microsoft network through Windows 95, you can find Scuba On-line, of which PADI is a major sponsor.

The Pacific Offshore Divers home page (<http://www.thesphere.com/PODI/>) provides information about dive adventures, classes, scuba festivals, dive sites and favorite scuba links. The McKinley directory gave it four stars.

Boynton Beach Scuba Diving home page (<http://www.emi.net/~bdenton/scuba.html>) greets you with colorful underwater pictures and interesting details about this Florida area's history and dive conditions. A daily dive conditions report, dive bookings information, DEMA and equipment information are among the items posted here. The McKinley Guide gave this site three stars.

The NAUI home page (<http://204.101.75.170/naui.html>) lists all you would ever need to know about NAUI membership, retail centers and equipment. It also links you to the NAUI Adventure Guide, which tells all about NAUI programs for the snorkeler, skin diver, passport scuba diver, advanced

SEE YOU IN CYBERSPACE

When planning your next trip, take a tour on-line and check out See & Sea Travel's home page (<http://www.batnet.com/shichia/see&sea>). This Web site supplies the travel news, booking information and discounts appropriate for the travel agency exclusively devoted to dive travel. The McKinley directory rated it three stars for its breadth of information. Browsers can find out how to get travel discounts, get answers to frequently asked questions, discover live-aboard diving opportunities or book a diving adventure.



PHOTO CREDIT: KEN BOKIUY

DESTINATIONS

scuba diver, master scuba diver, specialty scuba diver and more.

The Saba Deep Scuba Diving Center (<http://www.digimark.net/dundas/sabadeep/>) links the browser with Saba, "The Unspoiled Queen of the Caribbean," an island in the Netherlands Antilles. Readers can find a picture gallery, map, accommodations information, and dive facilities and rates here.

The Underwater Photographer's home page (<http://dorothy.as.arizona.edu:3008/uw-photo/>) lists underwater photo equipment, vendors and techniques, as well as a photo gallery.

Aquanaut Magazine (<http://www.terra.net/aquanaut/>) claims to be the first Internet magazine dedicated to the recreational and technical scuba community, although other on-line publishers dispute its claim to be a publication, as opposed to a reference page listing other sites. Nevertheless, it provides lots of destination, technical and diving clubs information.

Robert Hole's Diving Bermuda (<http://turnpike.net/emporium/D/diving/>) site also merited four stars from McKinley. Bob provides information about dive shops, equipment vendors, dive sites, the Bermuda Aquarium and the Maritime Museum, the Bermuda Sub-Aqua club, the Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute and more.

The DAN (Divers Alert Network) home page (<http://www.dan.ycg.org/>) provides its mission statement and directory, a link that takes browsers to the DAN medical line, a frequently asked questions section (decompression illness, frontal headaches, etc.) and other diver information.

TravelBase Scuba Guide (<http://www.travelbase.com/activities/scuba/>) is a comprehensive guide to scuba diving and includes a directory of many dive shops in the U.S. (over 1,000), which browsers can search by town, state, zip code or area code.

DIVE TRAVEL NEWS:

GRAND CAYMAN GETS WESTIN

The Westin Casuarina on Grand Cayman's Seven Mile Beach is the first new Westin hotel in the Caribbean. Lush

tropical gardens and the soft sands and blue waters of one of the world's best beaches make the Westin Casuarina the perfect setting for a winter island dive getaway. The Westin Casuarina Resort occupies more than 700 feet/213 meters of beachfront and features Red Sail Sports, one of the island's most experienced dive operators. The dive package includes a daily two-tank dive, one-night dive and one sunset sail. Rates for this three-night package start at \$1,028 per diver. Call Westin Hotels & Resorts at (800) 228-3000.

NIKON MAKES THE GRADE

The Nikon School of Underwater Photography is taught by some of the world's top professional photographers at many of the world's finest tropical dive destinations. Instructors include Marty Snyderman, Rick Frehsee, Scott Frier, Stephen Frink, Frank Fennell and Al Hornsby. Locations include Bonaire, Cayman Brac, Key Largo and the *Cayman Aggressor* live-aboard. For registration and reservations, call (800) 272-9122 or (305) 451-2228.

SPICY DIVING

If you're interested in diving off the beaten track, you should consider Grenada and Purvitis Dive Travel. John Purvitis specializes in personalized escorted dive trips, and his Spice Island Scuba Safari is typical of his unique offerings. Grenada diving (and travel) is the way much of the Caribbean used to be. This exclusive all-inclusive seven-night tour includes airfare to and from Miami, accommodations, diving, meals, beverages and much more. This means five nights in a private island home, five days of boat and shore diving (including Carriacou), a jeep safari tour and much more. The tours, limited to seven persons (plus escort), cost just \$1,399 per person. Call (800) 852-5898.

NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT

Dive travelers should never leave home without their e-cards, but they may not want to forget their American Express cards either. Recreational scuba

divers who are also American Express credit card users will have the opportunity to take advantage of several special programs by visiting their nearby PADI Dive Center. By simply making a minimum purchase with their American Express card at participating PADI Dive Centers, divers will receive a free Dive Travel Passport. The Dive Travel Passport features a wide range of coupon specials valued at more than \$1,000. These bonus offers include extra nights' accommodations at PADI resorts, discounts on specialty courses, reduced rates on rental cars and equipment, and free t-shirts. In addition, many travelers who try PADI's Discover Scuba Diving program will receive a special Learn to Dive offer from American Express and PADI following their vacation. To find your nearest PADI Dive Center, call (800) 729-7234, ext. 563.

MORE DIVES FOR YOUR DOLLAR

Red Sail Sports Aruba just announced its latest dive package, called "Dive, Dive and More Dives." This package features five tanks at the unbelievably low price of \$125. Guests can also add a sunset sail aboard the 53-foot/16-meter *Balia* catamaran. Call (800) 255-6425 for reservations and information.

THAR SHE BLOWS!

In the Turks and Caicos Islands, humpback whales and winter diving provide a perfect tandem. During the months of January, February and March, dives are augmented by the likelihood of seeing humpback whales migrating through the Turks Island Passage. Located just 575 miles/943 km southeast of Miami, divers exploring the wall reefs surrounding the islands report hearing the eerie and melodic songs of the male humpback, as well as seeing dramatic breaching, tailing and blowing, antics that create lasting memories of these impressive mammals in their natural habitat. Contact the Turks and Caicos Tourist Board at (800) 241-0824. *The Turks & Caicos Aggressor* live-aboard, at (800) 348-2628, also offers a whale of an adventure during this time.

Marine parks—sacred spaces where humans pay homage to their marine heritage and life-giving force. Fortunately, our C-cards allow us to enjoy these places while others only dream about them. Landlubbers have their Yellowstone and Yosemite—we have our Bonaire and Bunaken.

Sounds fair enough, until you have to choose the world's finest and most sacred, which is no easy task. There are some remote parks that are as pristine as the day our species first trampled on this planet. And there are others that are fighting the good fight to keep their heads above water.

To narrow it down, we chose marine parks that meet three criteria. The park must be diveable, offer spectacular underwater scenery, and enjoy effective enforcement of marine conservation laws to keep it that way. Drum roll, please.

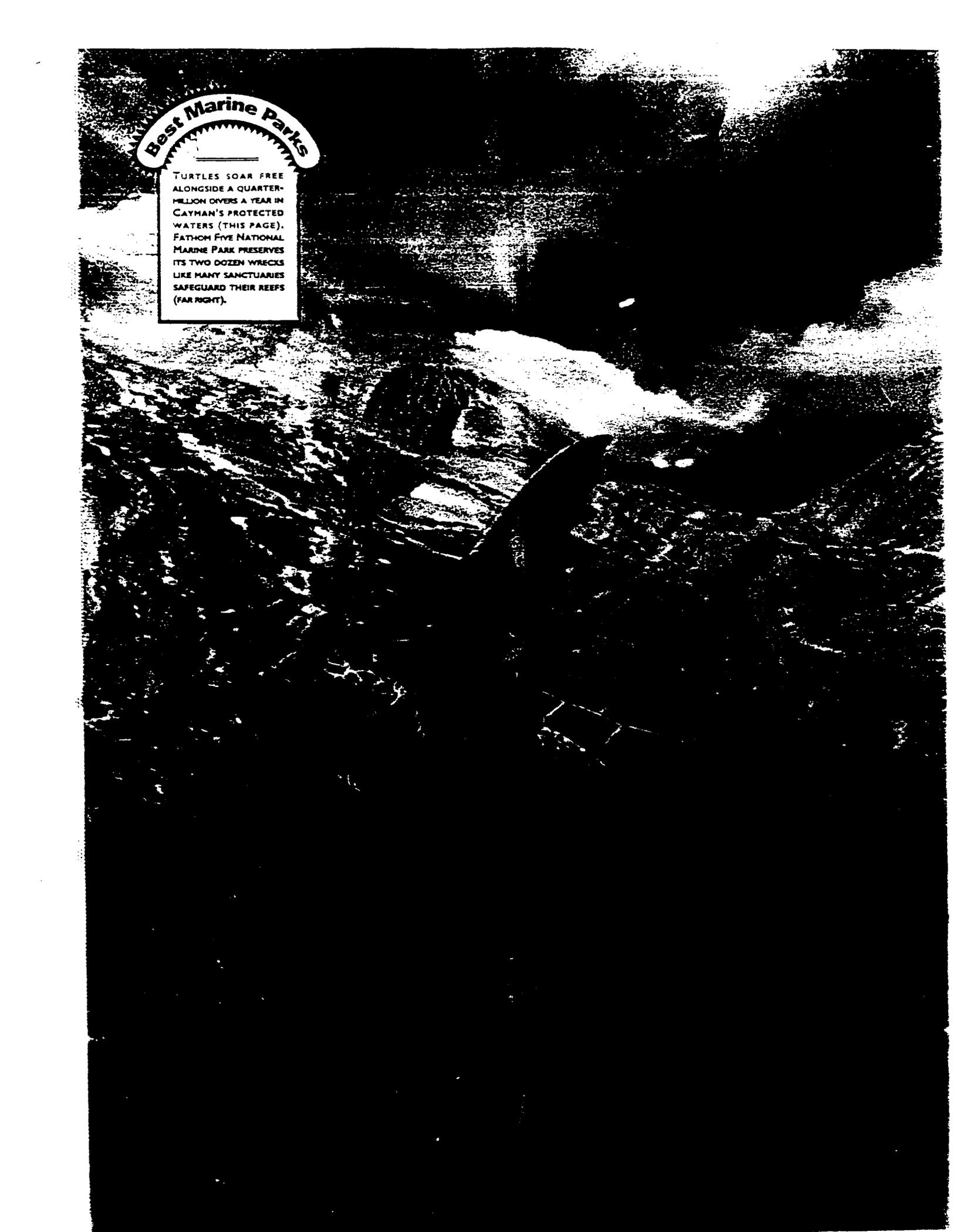
RSD Guide to

9059 199103

WORLD'S BEST

SCUBA TIMES
DEC/95 - JAN/96
Circ: 37,000

BY NICK LUCEY



Best Marine Parks

TURTLES SOAR FREE
ALONGSIDE A QUARTER-
MILLION DIVERS A YEAR IN
CAYMAN'S PROTECTED
WATERS (THIS PAGE).
FATHOM FIVE NATIONAL
MARINE PARK PRESERVES
ITS TWO DOZEN WRECKS
LIKE MANY SANCTUARIES
SAFEGUARD THEIR REEFS
(FAR RIGHT).

Environmental Alert: Sedimentation from the island's steep shoreline is the biggest threat to Saba's reefs.

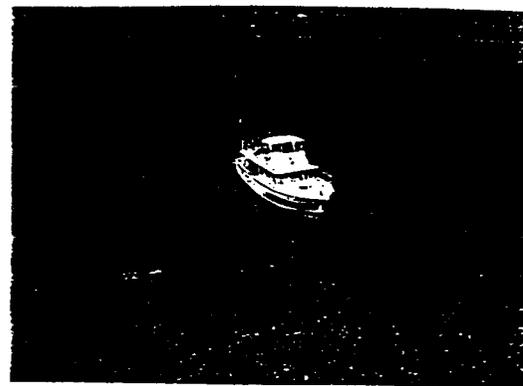
For you it means: Diving with blacktip reef sharks, schooling jacks and turtles on pinnacles covered in hard corals, gorgonians and sea fans.

Prepare to pay: \$2 per person, per dive.

Don't even think about: Spearfishing,

conch or turtle collecting. All boats must use one of 32 mooring buoys and sportfishing is not allowed in the recreational diving zone.

Who's in charge: Saba Marine Park and the Saba Conservation Foundation, a nongovernmental organization • tel: 011-599-463295; fax: 011-599-463435.



DOUG FARRINE

ALSO STARRING

BUNAKEN-WANADO TUA

National Parks

Indonesia

The waters of the double park system harbor every species of reef fish that inhabits the 13,700-island Indonesian archipelago, the world's largest. The 236,626-acre park system was designated in 1986, thanks to the persistence of Loky Herlambang of the Nusantara Dive Center. Nutrient-rich waters from the depths of the Sulawesi Sea flow over the reefs. Expect to see steep coral walls covered with an array of soft corals. The surfaces of the walls are crowded with hard and soft coral, whip coral, sponges and clinging filter-feeders like crinoids and basket stars. Schools of pyramid butterflyfish and black triggerfish and schools of anthias swarm around the reef edges and the upper parts of the walls. Sharks, schools of barracuda, rays, moray eels, Napoleon wrasse and sea snakes are relatively common. Visibility hovers around 75 feet. Park law and tourist visits have encouraged fishing to stop in one sanctuary area on Bunaken Island. The taking of fish, coral or shells is punishable by a six-month imprisonment.

Environmental Alert: Overfishing, including dynamite fishing, poses a threat to the area's reefs.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Marine Park

British West Indies

A series of marine park and replenishment zones cover about half of the Cay-

mans' shoreline. Marine park zones include offshore Seven Mile Beach, North West Point and Rum Point, Grand Cayman; the northwest, southwest and southeast shores of Cayman Brac; and Bloody and Jackson Bays and the southwest coast of Little Cayman. In these zones, the export of live fish or other marine life, damaging coral by anchor, chains or any other means and the dumping of raw sewage is strictly prohibited. Violation of these laws carries a maximum penalty of \$5,000 and one year in jail.

Environmental Assessment: A well-protected park that manages to support the large number of divers (250,000) who visit here each year.

FLORIDA KEYS

National Marine Sanctuary

United States

The Florida Keys NMS surrounds the second-longest protected reef system in the world after the Great Barrier Reef. The Keys are a meeting place for many warm-water and temperate species of fish.

The Key Largo and Looe Key national marine sanctuaries were the building blocks for the creation of the 220-mile-long, 3,674-square-mile sanctuary in November 1990. Sanctuary initiatives include education programs, research and monitoring, and volunteer programs. Visibility hovers just under 100 feet; higher when the Gulf Stream makes a close pass. Water temps range from the low 70Fs in winter to the low 80Fs in summer.

Environmental Assessment: Park management plans have yet to be finalized. Increased nutrient levels and water

quality issues are being addressed.

FLOWER GARDEN BANKS

National Marine Sanctuary

United States

More than 100 miles south of Texas's Gulf coast, the Flower Garden Banks are the northernmost coral reef community in the United States. The 500-acre sanctuary supports 12 species of reef-building coral, 175 fish species and 253 varieties of invertebrates. The sanctuary is an open-water fish magnet, providing rare relief in the flat expanse of the Gulf of Mexico and drawing hammerheads January through March, manta rays and turtles in summer, and the occasional whale shark. Corals here spawn eight days after the August full moon every year.

Over the years, overfishing and anchor damage inspired the grassroots Gulf Reef Environmental Action Team to take action. They installed 12 mooring buoys without permission and, with support from the Houston dive community, helped the Banks gain designation as a national marine sanctuary on Jan. 17, 1992. Anchoring is allowed only for boats under 100 feet in length over sandy areas where no moorings are available. Boats longer than 100 feet can't anchor or moor anywhere. Conventional line and hook fishing only; spearguns, nets and longlines are strictly prohibited, and violators will incur a \$100,000 fine per infraction, per day. The best time to dive here is May through October, when seas are calmest and vis climbs to 150 feet. Water temps range from 64F to 72F.

Environmental Alert: Anchoring and overfishing (Continued on page 115)