

# All the Details

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The Turks and Caicos is referred to as "Beautiful by Nature" which is no rash claim. Providenciales is the main Island in the Turks and Caicos chain which consists of some forty (40) Islands and Cays, only eight (8) of which are inhabited but all of which have a natural beauty and charm. The islands are located at the southern tip of the Bahamas Chain approximately 575 miles southeast of Miami. Providenciales called "Provo" is the most developed of all the Turks and Caicos Islands and the main travel destination with flights arriving from many US and European destinations.

Once on Island you will find wonderful beaches that are unspoiled, crystal clear waters and an abundance of tropical sea life. Providenciales has a variety of world-class resorts, hotels and luxury condominiums, all of which present guests with exceptional dining opportunities and numerous other facilities. Along with world-class scuba diving, Provo also has other excellent on-land sporting diversions such as an 18-hole championship golf course, ranked in the top 10 best Caribbean golf courses by "Caribbean Travel & Life". It is also listed in the top 20 hot spots in the world for billfishing by "Sport Fishing" magazine.

Whilst Provo lacks the large shopping malls common to many other "touristy" Caribbean destinations, there are still many boutique retail spots that draw visitors and since you pay NO sales tax on purchases and many items are duty-free, Provo's shops can be very tempting especially for gold and precious stones.

## Getting here

Providenciales is served by American Airlines with three flights daily in and out of Miami and additional weekly flights from New York and Boston. US Air is flying daily to Providenciales from Charlotte, North Carolina. British Airways serves Providenciales from London once a week and; during the high season (December 15th to April 30) charters are provided from many other major cities in the United States and Canada such as New York, Toronto, etc. Flight time is circa one hour and twenty minutes from Miami to Providenciales. In addition to international flights, internal flights to other islands are available daily from a number of local carriers.

## Local transport

There are many international car rental companies on Provo. The Villa's guests can pre-book through companies like Hertz, Avis, Budget and others or, we can assist at your time of booking or, once you are here through the concierge facility provided by our permanent Island staff. Requirements for renting include that you must be at least twenty one years of age and must hold a valid driver's license. In Provo everyone drives on the left hand side of the road (the same as the US and most of Europe).

## Currency

The currency of the Turks and Caicos Islands is the US dollar. There are numerous Banks offering currency exchange services and in addition, all major credit cards are widely accepted throughout Provo and the Islands.

## Groceries

Access to food, drink and other consumables is easy on Provo – In addition to a large number of your typical smaller grocery stores there are also, two major grocery stores on the island; Island Pride and IGA Supermarket. The two major outlets have a vast array of well priced food with excellent meats from the US, locally caught seafood, a wide choice of fresh fruit and vegetables, the usual stocks of tinned foods and an extensive array of beers, wines and spirits. They also stock locally made fresh bread, cakes and other delicacies!

## Medical services

Provo has a number of general practitioners in private practice and a modern government clinic.

## Language

English is the language of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

## Climate

From June to October the average temperature ranges between 85 to 90 degrees (29 - 32°C) and the water temperature between 82 to 84 degrees (28 - 29°C). From November to May the average temperature ranges between 80 to 84 degrees (27 - 29°C) and the water temperature between 74 to 78 degrees (23 - 26°C). A constant trade wind keeps the climate comfortable all year round. The average annual rainfall ranges from 21 inches in the east of the Turks and Caicos Islands to 40 inches in the west. The Turks and Caicos Islands enjoy an average of 350 days of sunshine per year.

## Customs and Immigration

Duty free goods that may be brought into the Islands include: 50 cigars, 200 cigarettes, 1.136 liters of spirits or wine and perfume for personal use. All US Citizens traveling by air to the Turks and Caicos Islands must have a valid US passport. This is a new US government requirement effective from January 8, 2007. Visitors from other countries also require passports, but no visas are necessary with the exception of some former Eastern Bloc countries. If you have any doubts you are advised to contact the nearest British Consulate Office. All visitors must hold a round trip ticket and will be permitted to stay for a duration 30 days. This duration can be renewed once only.

## Getting Married

In order to be married in the Turks and Caicos Islands you must be in residence for at least twenty four hours before the ceremony takes place. A marriage license costs \$50.00 and can be obtained from the Chief Secretary's office in Providenciales. Once you have your license you can be married in a civil ceremony or, if you prefer, a religious ceremony in one of the Islands many churches. Ceremonies can be performed in a variety of romantic settings which can be arranged with whomever you select to perform the wedding.

## Electricity

110 volt/60 cycle which is suitable for US appliances. Visitors from other areas, particularly Europe, should check their appliances and bring an adapter.

## Time Zone

Eastern Standard Time (GMT -5) and Daylight Saving Time (GMT -4) is observed from April to October.