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PREVIEW ISSUE



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Turks & Caicos: New Shades of Winter

Who doesn't yearn for a taste of the tropics when days are shorter, mornings frosty, and summer's healthy glow has gone pale? As the winter season gets underway, the Turks & Caicos are buzzing with news. Here's what you'll want to be doing in a sliver of paradise where the average annual sunshine is a boring 350 days a year.

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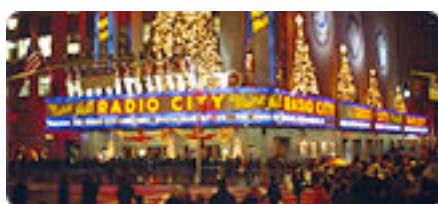
Turks & Caicos Island Adventure

Beaches Turks & Caicos Resort & Spa offers nonstop Caribbean fun. Adults enjoy a luxury room upgrade for 6 all-inclusive nights, with a host of grown-up amenities, while kids splash at Pirates Island.¹

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Get away from the ordinary for a tropical idyll. Stay four nights at The Fairmont Kea Lani Maui and receive the fifth night free, plus daily breakfast for two and more at this Hawaiian showplace.⁴

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GOLD CARD DESTINATIONS

TRAVELOGUE: OCTOBER 2007

Turks & Caicos: New Shades of Winter

Who doesn't yearn for a taste of the tropics when days are shorter, mornings frosty, and summer's healthy glow has gone pale? As the winter season gets underway, the Turks & Caicos are buzzing with news. Here's what you'll want to be doing in a sliver of paradise where the average annual sunshine is a boring 350 days a year.



By Sallie Brady

Slip off to 230 miles of sun-soaked strands in the Turks & Caicos. Just 75 minutes from Miami (What were you doing 75 minutes ago?), these 40 islands that laze just southeast of the Bahamas offer the best of the Caribbean: powdery beaches, world-class diving and snorkeling, and luxurious resorts that cater to couples and families alike.

If you're hearing more about the Turks & Caicos these days, that's because in-the-know travelers have been discovering the British chain that actually consists of eight inhabited islands and dozens of small cays. Repeat guests will remind you that it wasn't all that long ago that the tourism board's slogan was, "Where on earth are the Turks & Caicos?" Mind you, no one is asking that now, as new winter activities are the talk of the tropics.

GET PAMPERED: Jump-start that de-stressing holiday at the new Temple Spa at The Regent Palms. Start with a Zareeba, an indigenous herbal steam detox and purification treatment (regentpalms.com).

DIVE: It's pure Turks & Caicos—free diving for conch. Learn how and then grill it up in a beach BBQ when you take a half-day boat excursion with Silver Deep. The kids can join in, too. (silverdeep.com).

DRINK: Come the cocktail hour, indulge in the new martini menu at the chic Anacana bar at the Grace Bay Club. Look familiar? *Sports Illustrated* shot last year's Maria Sharapova cover here (gracebayclub.com).¹

PLAY: You might be a champion on the grass, but ever played a six-wicket course on the beach? Grab a mallet and try the islands' latest, extremely fun craze, Somerset eXtreme Croquet at The Somerset (649-946-5900).

DINE: Barely a year old, don't miss the season's most coveted reservation, a dinner at O'Soleil, where the Asian tapas, Caicos lobster and tiger shrimp tempura, and citrus crème brûlée will find you booking in for another night (the.somerset.com).

FLY: The Kitehouse, the professional kite boarding instructors and outfitters known throughout Florida and the Caribbean, have finally opened shop here on Provo (kitehouse.com/turks).

WORK OUT: You might not be in the mood to swim a mile, bike 66 miles, then run 13 more, but it sure is fun to watch the world's top athletes do it. The Island Triathlon Series, December 1 (islandtriathlonseries.com).

NIBBLE: Music, mojitos, and conch-blowing competitions are all part of the annual Turks & Caicos Conch Festival, November 23 to 27. Will Simba unseat Beaches this year for best conch chowder? Cast your vote. (conchfestival.com).

GO TO THE MOVIES: It's like Sundance or Tribeca in the tropics. Here at the third annual Turks & Caicos International Film Festival, October 16 to 21, films are screened on the beach (turksandcaicosfilmfestival.com).

SAIL AWAY: Leave the private plane back home. Thanks to the new Leeward Resort and Marina, a deep-water eco-marina and yacht club that opens this season, your mega-yacht can now dock on Providenciales (leeward.com).

Sallie Brady contributes to Conde Nast Traveler, Art & Antiques, The Four Seasons Magazine, and other publications. A former editor at GQ and House Beautiful, Brady covered the Caribbean, Hawaii, and other tropical locales for Bride's magazine, where she was the travel editor.

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