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**38** Turks and Caicos Get lost in the Caribbean's undiscovered treasure.





**W**hite sand beaches. An ocean of water so calm and refreshing you'd swear it was a backyard pool. And some of the best gourmet food you've ever eaten. This isn't your typical Caribbean vacation. Even if you've been to Jamaica or the Bahamas, or cruised through the region on a ship the size of a small city, until you've stayed in the chain of West Indian islands known as Turks and Caicos, until you've walked along the shoreline without another soul in sight, you've never really seen the best of what true island life has to offer.

IT'S PROBABLY NOT THE FIRST PLACE YOU THINK OF WHEN TRAVELING TO THE CARIBBEAN, BUT IT SHOULD BE **By Brian Good**

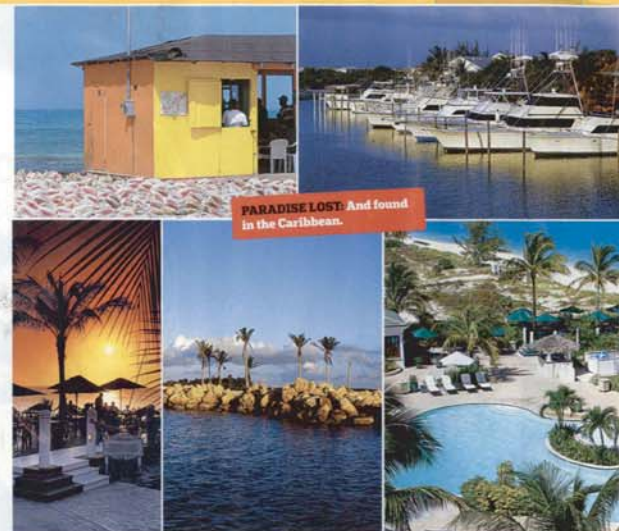
# Turks and Caicos

## What to Do

**Go scuba diving:** It doesn't matter if you're going on your first dive or your 100th, the water surrounding Turks and Caicos holds so much aquatic life, you'd swear you were swimming in a zoo exhibit. And Alan and Clare Jardine will help you see it all. As the owners and operators of Dive Provo for about 15 years, they and their staff seemingly know the ins and outs of every reef on the island. Always wanted to go scuba diving but never had the time to get certified? Sign up for Dive Provo's resort certification course. They'll have you learning to scuba in a hotel pool in the morning, and looking for barracuda and sea turtles 40 feet below sea level later that afternoon. [diveprovo.com](http://diveprovo.com)

**Hit the links:** The Provo Golf and Country Club is home to one of the Caribbean's top-rated courses—18 holes of immaculately maintained greens containing more than 4,500 palm trees that are ideal for players of any level of expertise. This is one course where you may even want to hit your ball into the water hazards, just to get an up-close look at the flocks of pink flamingos you'll see hanging out within them. [provogolfclub.com](http://provogolfclub.com)

**Explore the past:** If the relative bustle of Provo is too much for you, take the 30-minute flight to Grand Turk, and from there hop a ferry to the tiny island of Salt Cay. Here, aside from a few modern conveniences, life for the 80 men and women living on the island is much like it was more than 100 years ago. Visit the island's salt production facilities—created in the 1600s—or, between the months of January and April, watch the migration of whales, which come so close to the island, they're visible from any room with an ocean view. [www.teimall.tc/saltcay](http://www.teimall.tc/saltcay)



PARADISE LOST: And found in the Caribbean.

## Where to Stay

**The Sands at Grace Bay:** This plantation-style resort features sophisticated rooms and easy access to everything from water sports and fishing to shopping and horseback rides along the beach. Finish your day with a meal at Hemingway's—possibly the best restaurant on the entire island. And, when you tire of the ocean, take advantage of the hotel's spa services (the sports massage is world class), or just take a dip or steal a kiss with that special someone in the hotel's free-form chain of interlocking swimming pools. [thesandstc.com](http://thesandstc.com)

**Bohio Dive Resort:** Imagine if, instead of joining the workforce, a handful of your partying friends from college had packed up, moved to the Caribbean, and opened their own dive shop. That's the vibe you get the second you walk into this resort on the island of Grand Turk. Located just steps off the beach, this is a beach bum's paradise. Dive during the day, eat spectacular food at night. Bohio is the kind of place we'd all want to create, if we had the guts to pack it all in and move to the islands the way its owners did. [bohioresort.com](http://bohioresort.com)

**POPULATION:** 20,000, spread over nine islands.

**HISTORY:** Located 575 miles southeast of Miami, the island chain of Turks and Caicos was first discovered by Columbus in 1492. After passing through the hands of Spain, the Bahamas, and Jamaica over the years, the islands are now considered a British territory.

**CLIMATE:** Average temps range from 80 degrees in the winter to 90 in the summer. The islands get little rainfall, so most days are sunny.