

FAQ

WORK IN PROGRESS – Last updated March 4, 2012

These pages contain various questions and answers from previous guests. If you have any additional questions, comments and/or recommendations you feel future guests could benefit from, please email me and I will be glad to respond and include them in future versions of this document.

US money is accepted everywhere on island, but you will receive your change in CI funds. ATMs are also found throughout the island. The exchange is \$1.00 KYD = \$1.25 USD. Almost everywhere prices are in CI dollars (KYD), but some tour operators price in USD funds, be sure to ask. And many restaurants also include gratuity in their bills.

Transportation

- Q. We are planning on renting a car during our stay.
- A. Dollar & Andy's @ the airport. They will offer free pick-up and drop off to Seven Mile Beach if you do not want the car the entire time. Andy's is at the airport and/or across from the resort to the right 3 minutes by foot.
- Q. We have a small baby coming with us and we noticed that you have a car seat in the unit (unit 56 only). How do we get the baby to the condo from the airport, do the cabs have car seats or can you request one?
- A. No car seats in cabs. If you plan to rent a car, you could rent a seat, but they are filthy. You could send somebody to the unit first, only 10 minutes away. With 3 kids, we have always just done the first and last trip without seats. Most don't use them on island, which doesn't make it right, but you are fighting a system that does not work with you on this.
- Q. As far as transportation, can you recommend a certain cab company or driver we could call when we need to go to other locations on the island? Do you suggest we pre-arrange our trip from the airport or are there cabs to catch at the airport? As far as the buses that run along 7 mile beach, what is the furthest distance they travel? Can we take it to Georgetown? How about out to the turtle farm?
- A. As soon as you exit the airport terminal, there is a taxi stand where they dispatch fares – no need to pre-book. All the rates are the same from the airport to the condo. When calling from the condo for a fare, all of them are fine, but ask how much the fare is while on the phone. If it sounds high, try calling another one just to double check and verify how long before they will arrive to pick you up. Some of our guests have used Mike at Red & White Taxi & Tour 917-7723 and been very pleased. Also, they charge extra per person. The bus can get you to most places on the island see [link](#) for \$2.00 per person. George Town all along Seven Mile Beach up to Turtle Farm is very easy. The taxis are usually the large white vans and you can flag them down. Sometimes they will honk if they see you walking along the road to see if you want a ride.
- Q. Can we take bus rides to Sting Ray City and some of the other sites?
- A. Sting Ray city is only by boat. You can take the bus along Seven Mile Beach and get off at various stops along the beach. For Sting Ray City, there are charters that are pay per person (\$25-\$40), or I have a contact that will charter his entire 44ft boat for 3.5 hours just for you for a special rate of \$450US (normally \$600) and it holds up to 10 people. Even if you have 6, \$75 is higher than a local tour, but it really is a treat to have the boat to yourself. He also offers a sunset sail for 2 hours, for a special rate of \$275 (normally \$350). Must be booked via me for the discounted rate.

Condo

- Q. Do you provide beach towels in the unit?
- A. There are six beach towels in each of the 3BR units and four in the 1BR unit.
- Q. Is there a computer available for use?
- A. There is a computer & printer for use in the 3BR units ONLY.
- Q. What is the expectation for when we check out as far as cleaning? Do we need to clean it or remove sheets, etc...?
- A. Taking the garbage out is the big one, it can start to smell very quickly, especially after you leave and the A/C is off and the maid runs a bit behind. If you can pile dirty sheets and towels in a central spot (ie under the mirror at

the base of the stairs or in front of the washer&dryer), that would be great. And last, please make sure the patio door security bolts are engaged and that you lock the top dead bolt on the front door when leaving.

- Q. Your website mentions that there are sand toys. We have two five year olds and wondered what type of sand toys you have -- we are considering whether we need to buy additional sand toys. If we do, we will just leave them in the unit for others to use, if that's okay with you.
- A. The sand toys tend to fluctuate. Sometimes we have lots, because previous guests have left some behind, and other times there are only a few sand toys. Sometimes the toys are left under the sand and lost at sea. Shovels seem to be the ones that disappear the most. I would suggest bringing a small pack of sand toys to be safe. Feel free to leave them for the next group if you do not want to take them back home with you – they will be appreciated.
- Q. Are there beach activity items in the unit, such as boogie boards?
- A. The only beach activities available are for unit #56, there are two single person kayaks with paddles. Please clean and dry them before bringing them back into the unit.
- Q. Are we expected to complete the check list(s)?
- A. No, they are for reference. Our maids complete them before and after your stay, should you notice something missing, like the TV when you walk in, please contact us immediately. Many guests will still run through the check sheet(s) just to ensure nothing is missing.
- Q. Do we need to bring converters for our curling irons, shavers, etc?
- A. No, electric is the same as in the US & Canada.
- Q. Is the water safe to drink?
- A. Yes, the water out of the tap is safe to drink. The water out of the fridge has an extra filter on it as well. And unit 56 ONLY has a RO system for the tap on the right of the sink as well as the water from the fridge.
- Q. What do you recycle?
- A. Sadly, Cayman does not currently recycle. Hopefully this will change soon.

Fitness

- Q. What options do we have for working out?
- A. There are a few fitness facilities nearby. The original Gold's Gym looks like they did a name change, it is now World Gym in the same place, upstairs island complex (across the street a bit behind Wendy's) <http://www.worldgym.com/grandcayman> .There is also Anytime Gym <http://www.anytimefitness.com/gyms/2232/grand-cayman-cayman-islands-gc-ky1-1201>

Both are few minute walking warm-up away. World gym never replied to my emails, but Anytime replied same day with rates ranging from \$60 per week to \$150 per month and options in between.

Food

- Q. Are there grocery stores nearby? Also, are there regular department stores and/or a Wal-Mart?
- A. There are two main grocery stores nearby. From the condo, Fosters (IGA) is north and Kirks is south. Both are about the same distance, a good solid 20 minute walk. We usually walk there and take a cab back for \$8. There are no Wal-Mart type stores, but they do have some building hardware stores such as COX, Kirks and Home Depot (not the same Home Depot in the US and Canada). All stores, including grocery are closed Sunday. The gas station and convenience stores are open Sunday, they sell the basics, but are considerably more expensive.
- Q. Do you have any opinions about restaurants that are child-friendly, economical and serve good food?
- A. Almost all the restaurants welcome children and have great food, especially those listed below.
- Q. We would love some recommendations of local restaurants.
- A. For [restaurants](#), we personally enjoy;
\$\$ (these two work well for young kids and are less than a 5 minute walk)
Chicken Chicken (across the street)
Cimboco (across the street to the right, just past the lights)
\$\$\$
Casanova
Ragazzi Ristorante & Pizzeria ***Our personal favourite restaurant on the entire island***

Pappagallo's Ristorante
Lighthouse Restaurant
Luca
Dolce Vita
Reef Grill

- Q. Along the lines of grilling, have you ever brought meat with you on dry ice? We had heard of a family doing that before so we were wondering if you had ever tried it.
- A. They will not let you bring meat and fruits into the island.
- Q. Is there a barbeque grill for use in the complex?
- A. No, but our units have private electric BBQs on their balconies.
- Q. Is liquor cheap?
- A. No, it is very expensive here on the island.

Communication

- Q. Can we purchase disposable type cell phones for use on the island for communication with our family? If so, where?
- A. Yes, they have LIME stores that sell these. The closest one to the condo is about a 10min walk north in the next plaza. Note: you also have a North American landline in the condo with FREE calling.
- Q. For verification, can we use the phone line in the villa to call the states free of charge? If so, do you mind if we give the number to our family at home so that they can call us if they need something?
- A. There is a Cayman phone line in all units, Line 1. Long distance going out is barred on the Cayman line, but you can receive international calls. You can use calling cards and/or credit cards. All units also have VOIP on Line2 that acts like a normal phone in Canada or the US with FREE long distance, but is dependent on the internet. Please do not depend on Line2 as the VOIP service can be intermittent, best to give family and friends both numbers in the unit.
- Q. Can we use our SKYPE?
- A. Yes, there is wireless internet connections in all units.

To Do

- Q. Is there a reasonably priced place to rent snorkel equipment?
- A. There is a place two doors up on the beach, but I think you are paying \$5 - \$10 per day per set. I would suggest buying a set @ home.
- Q. Do you know anything about the Dolphin Discovery? Is it worth the money, do you know where to get any discounts, etc...?
- A. I personally have not done it, but my brother did and loved it. He got a free pass to it via one of those timeshare seminars.
- Q. Where do we find some discount coupons?
- A. When you arrive at the airport, just after passing customs but before you get your bags, there is a kiosk with tons of pamphlets, here is where I would load up. Many spots on the island have some racks with similar products but it will just be a few of what you see at the airport. The main one to get is the Activity Guide; they also have a website that will have tons of info <http://www.caymanactivityguide.com/>
- Q. For activities, we have a group of newly certified divers :-)! Are there any deals on dives through Red Sail or is it all pretty comparable?
- A. I typically use Cayman diving school (tell them Marc sent you for a 10% discount) but I am always adding to my certifications (it almost cost the same to get something certified as it does to go pleasure diving). The Activity book will be good for coupons here. For non-boat dives, I would recommend Eden rock in George Town (the non-divers can hit the shops) and then everybody can meet at Paradise for lunch. Also, there is a new dive outfit just before Turtle Farm; you can swim to the wall from shore.
- Q. Can you recommend any good snorkel sites?

- A. Right of our beach the snorkeling is good, but if you want great snorkeling, try Eden Rock down in George Town (the non-snorkelers can sit and relax at Paradise Beach Bar directly on the ocean) or head the other way to Cemetery beach.
- Q. Do you have a recommendation for going to see the String Rays? We went a couple years ago on a wonderful catamaran but I can't remember the company name. It was not crowded and rather reasonable.
- A. They all run a pretty good service, try some of the coupons and call around. If you want something really special, but slightly more money, you can call Neil at Sail Cayman 916-4333. Mention Marc @ Cayman Reef Resort and he will offer you some great discounts. You can rent his sail boat and he will take everyone out to Sting Ray City for \$450USD for a half day. If you have enough people going, you may get near this amount anyway based on \$35 per person, but with Neil you have the boat to yourselves.
- Q. The husbands would like to do a half-day fishing trip. Is there anyone you would recommend?
- A. Maybe ask Neil if he would take them on the half-day trip or at least recommend someone.
- Q. Can you recommend anyone who takes professional photos of families on the beach?
- A. Try Jim Gates @ 345 325 6938, Cathy Church is the big Photo Shop on island, more underwater, but they should know somebody.
- Q. Is there a place to surf or skate board on the island?
- A. There is Black Pearl Skate & Surf Park <http://www.blackpearl.ky/index.php>
It is a 20 minute ride by car, located in Cayman Grand Harbour.
- Q. Can you comment on the Turtle farm?
- A. It is a very neat experience. They have observation tanks where you can look and even hold the turtles. They also have two swimming options. One is a chlorinated pool that looks like a lagoon with a water fall and walk in beach area. The other is a salt water lagoon with tropical fish in the lagoon. In the center of both swim areas is a shark tank, you can dive under and see the sharks underwater from either side, they are divide by a pane of glass. You can get within a few inches of a shark without really being in the same water. Pictures underwater here can make it look like you are swimming with the sharks 😊.

Note: for a smaller turtle experience, walk down the beach to the Marriott, four or five complexes towards George Town, and they have a pond with turtles in their court yard. They also serve a nice buffet brunch on the weekends.

- Q. What can we do at night?
- A. There are many options, take a look through some of the magazines to see what is happening. You may also want to take a walk to Camana Bay (nice in the day too). They have stores, restaurants, movie theatres, ice cream shop, book store and lots of nice stuff to see. Make sure you check out the tower. You can also check out Royal Palms two doors north of us, they often have something going on.

Security

- Q. Is Cayman Islands safe?
- A. Yes, the last thing I want to do is put a damper on your holiday, but it is better to be safe than sorry. Cayman Islands is one of the safest islands in the world, but if the opportunity exists, you will always have individuals who take advantage of unsuspecting guests. The condo has an alarm system, we have installed security pins for all the patio doors and we have a dead bolt on the front door. I can provide an alarm code upon request, but I strongly urge you to ensure that the patio door pins and dead bolt are engaged when out of the unit or during the night. Any reported instances of trouble have found that either (or both) these extra devices were not engaged. On a positive note, I have been going to Cayman since mid 90's, and visit many times a year, and have never had any issues, but I have always practiced what I have noted above.
- Q. Does 911 work in Cayman?
- A. Yes. If calling from any of the units, YOU MUST USE LINE 1 for 911. Line 2 is a VOIP service and it will not work.