

# LAY OF THE LAND

## Location

The Cayman Islands sits in the Western Caribbean, just 275 miles south of Cuba and 233 miles northwest of Jamaica. This British Overseas Territory is comprised of three very different islands, each offering a different slice of life to visitors.



## Grand Cayman

The capital island of the country is home to the vast majority of the 60,000 Caymanian residents. It's also the number-one spot for visitors, who come to soak up welcoming culture, beautiful beaches and a dining scene unrivaled in the Caribbean. **Seven Mile Beach** runs along the western coast of the island and is considered one of the top beaches in the Caribbean, with five and a half miles of strollable sand edged by lapping waves and backed by numerous resorts, low-rise condo developments and beachfront restaurants. Further south, you'll find the capital city of **George Town**, which is a busy cruise port by day and returns to its sleeper roots at night. Grand Cayman is also home to world-famous **Stingray City**, a natural sandbar where wild southern stingrays congregate and mingle with snorkelers. Don't miss the wild beauty of the Atlantic-facing **East End**, the tony enclave of **Cayman Kai**, and the funky beach bars along the **North Side**.



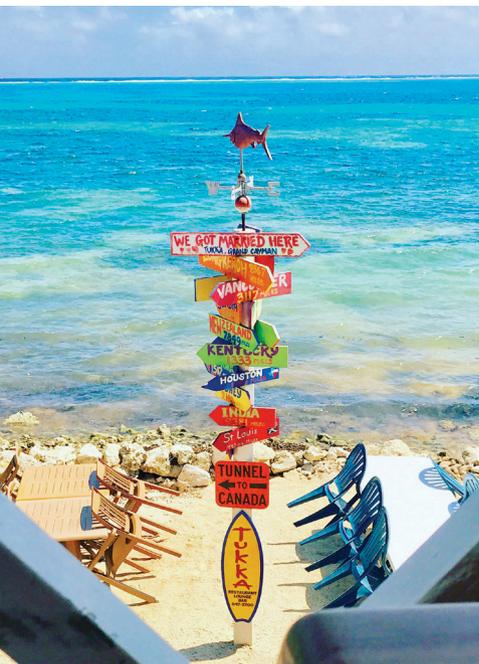
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PHOTO BY JULIE CORSETTI, DEEPBLUEIMAGES.COM

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**Kimpton Seafire Resort & Spa** is the newest hotel in Grand Cayman, with 266 guestrooms and event space, all overlooking Seven Mile Beach.



PHOTO BY CHAD MUNRO. PICTURETHIS.KY



## Most Importantly Marrying Here

The Cayman Islands make having a destination wedding a breeze. Non-residents can wed the day they arrive as long as they have a non-residents marriage license and a letter from the authorized Marriage Officer set to officiate. You'll also need proof of citizenship and age (18 is the minimum legal age) and proof of marital status, plus \$250 for the marriage license itself. The country is home to a host of talented wedding vendors who can work directly with you or with the international wedding planner of your choice.

## Cayman Brac

Only about 3,000 residents call this island home, which is exactly the appeal for visitors. It's a popular weekend-vacay spot for upscale Caymanians and a low-key escape for international visitors looking for sea and sky. This long, skinny isle (approximately 12 by 1 miles) is named after its most notable physical feature, a bluff ("brac" in Gaelic) that at its highest point towers 140 feet above sea level. Cayman Brac is home to a few small hotels, most notably **Soleil D'Or** and **Cayman Brac Beach Club**. Scuba diving is big here, with divers lured by steep drop-offs and the wreck of the **MV Captain Keith Tibbets**. But it's not just water; the bluff has become a popular rock-climbing spot, and birders can sight an estimated 120 species, including peregrine falcons, brown boobys and the local Cayman parrot.

>  
**Soleil D'Or**  
 located in  
 Cayman Brac.



## Little Cayman

Situated 60 miles north of Grand Cayman and five miles west of Cayman Brac, the appropriately named Little Cayman is the smallest of the trio; only about 170 people call it home. Scuba divers come from all over the world to see sites like **Bloody Bay** (a sheer vertical wall) and **Jackson's Bight**, and take in the abundant sea life from sharks to sea turtles. Most stay at **Little Cayman Beach Club** or **Southern Cross Club**, or visit via dive-centric liveaboards that sail around the islands. The island is home to the largest red-footed booby rookery in the Caribbean.

## Getting Here

The Cayman Islands have their own national airline, **Cayman Airways**, which flies to U.S. mainland cities on a seasonal basis, along with Caribbean nations of Cuba, Honduras and Jamaica. The country is also served by numerous major airlines, notably **American, Delta, JetBlue, Southwest** and **United** from the U.S., **Air Canada** and **WestJet** from Toronto; and **British Airways** from London. **Cayman Airways Express** serves the smaller isles with multiple daily flights from Grand Cayman.