



HOTEL FACE-OFF: TURKS & CAICOS

Two new Caribbean stays offer waterfront Zen in quiet pockets of a popular isle

Beach Enclave North Shore

The Shore Club



ON THE OUTSIDE

This gated enclave of nine beachfront and ocean-view four- and five-bedroom villas is set on 10 acres of lush tropical gardens on the north shore of Providenciales, the most-visited part of Turks & Caicos. As of November 2016, the ultra-luxurious residences are available for nightly stays, courtesy of their owners.

The two-story villas are driftwood-toned palaces of contemporary design spanning 6,500 to 7,500 square feet. High-ceilinged, open-concept living spaces open onto outdoor dining areas and private infinity-edge pools (below). Suites have outdoor showers, plus multiple decks and terraces, furthering the sophisticated-yet-barefoot island vibe.



Fully staffed so you won't have to make your bed — or even a latte. The on-property concierge fields requests from in-home spa services to yoga instruction, and it's a short walk to the fitness center and yoga decks. Beach amenities include loungers, umbrellas, paddleboards, kayaks and snorkel gear. The island is home to the third-largest barrier reef system in the world; Big Blue leads weekly snorkeling outings on the villas' beach as well as excursions farther afield for extraordinary diving and fishing (BigBlueLimited.com).

Guests arrive to find the fridge fully stocked and a butler at the ready. For local flavor, hit Da Conch Shack — or the weekly Island Fish Fry to dance off seafood fritters.

Grocery shopping is on par with a corner bodega, and fine dining is limited to Thai. Should you have a deep wallet, opt for the five-star private chef (\$575 a day for six guests; \$2,850 for the week) or a chef for dinner only (\$450 a day).

You can't beat that three-hour direct flight: breakfast in New York, lunch on a pristine private beach. It's the perfect weekend option for small groups, whether family or friends. Everyone has a bedroom, the baby won't wake the neighbors and midnight skinny dips can take place in privacy.

Beach Enclave North Shore's villas are sold and just available to rent. The next phases of the project, Beach Enclave Long Bay and Beach Enclave Grace Bay, are under construction, with villas starting at \$3.95 million and \$5.95 million respectively.

From \$3,000 for a four-bedroom villa; BeachEnclave.com.

THE LURE

The newest offering from The Hartling Group — which developed The Sands (1998) and The Palms (2005) along Grace Bay Beach, the No. 1 beach in the world, according to TripAdvisor last year — is a 2-month-old, 106-suite resort that hugs serene Long Bay, on the south side of the island insiders call Provo.

THE LOOK

The apartment-style accommodations are divided between two white-washed five-story buildings influenced by the architecture of Barbados, and ornamented with columns, arches and oversized windows. Interiors are appropriately nautical, with a blue-gray color palette and spacious marbled bathrooms.

THE AMENITIES

Three pools are better than one: A peaceful, infinity-edge adults-only retreat and a curved family pool (right) face the beach, while a large pool with small waterfalls and plenty of cushy loungers is the property's centerpiece. The 800-plus feet of sand is peppered with deck chairs and umbrellas, but never feels crowded. Breezy Long Bay is a favorite of kitesurfers, who never get in the way of mellow swimming in the shallow clear waters of the Caribbean. Equipment for water sports, from stand-up paddleboards to kayaks to a Hobie Cat boat, is readily available.



BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER?

A buffet breakfast is available to all guests. A-la-carte eats range from fish tacos to the catch of the day at two poolside venues. There's also Asian-inspired fine-dining at Sui-Ren.

THE LETDOWN

Standard resort fare at high prices \$eems to be the norm on Provo. But the hotel offers a free shuttle until about 9 p.m. to its sister properties along Grace Bay, so take advantage in order to try some off-resort eateries.

BOTTOM LINE

The brand-new hotel is filled with couples of all ages; many are New Yorkers bringing children under age 1 for their first overseas trip. The vibe, far enough from bustling Grace Bay to feel remote but close enough to hop over for perks, is beyond blissful for an easy long-weekend escape from the city.

PERMANENT VACATION

On-the-market condos start at \$1.65 million in the two main buildings. Meanwhile, workers are currently erecting a half-dozen six-bedroom villas — with interior courtyards for privacy — along the adjacent beach, priced from \$5.5 million.

DETAILS

From \$700; TheShoreClubTC.com.

— Serena French and Hana R. Alberts



ON THE INSIDE