



## Hidden Bahamas

Very few places in the world allow you to unplug completely in order to recharge. Kamalame Cay is such a place, as discovers **Simone Girner**.



Co-directors Michael King and David Hew infused the tropical resort with style, including helping design the residences (right and above) that are great for families.



COURTESY KAMALAME CAY

It sounds a little ridiculous to claim that a Bahamian island resort that has been open to guests for nearly twenty years and that has famously hosted Hollywood celebrities remains a hidden gem, but that is precisely what Kamalame Cay, in Andros, feels like. The Hew family purchased the 96-acre cay, a short ferry ride from northeastern Andros, in the 1970s and slowly developed it into a dreamy island retreat. It displays touches of other laid-back beach havens—a dose of Mexican Tulum bohemia, a dash of Harbour Island flair—but Kamalame Cay is also an incredibly personal testament to one family's love for the Bahamas.

Arriving at the dock of the cay after the four-minute ferry from Andros proper, guests can barely make out a manmade structure in the lush jungle of palms, casuarina and sea grape trees. Kamalame is designed to help the guests—kept to a small, intimate number—meet one another, and new friends often choose to have lunch or dinner together. Accommodations include the simple but comfortable Marina Suites overlooking the bay and the mangroves; and the Beach Villas and more sumptuous Residences, ranging from cottage-style structures tucked into the palms near the beach to six-bedroom extravaganzas.

Thanks to the relatively large size of the cay, which stretches for more than three miles, and the privacy-enhancing landscaping, the resort never feels crowded. The accommodations stress comfort above all. The day beds might not be brand-new, and the bedside lamps might not be the most stylish, but the Beach Villas immediately feel like home. All have supremely cozy beds, stone floors, stone-tiled walls and an eclectic mix of custom-made furniture in rough wood and wicker. They also contain kitchenettes and mini fridges stocked with thoughtful goodies, like fresh fruit, cheese and crackers. Not

that you have to make a meal yourself—from the morning breakfast hamper delivered to your door to dinner featuring lots of local seafood, the food at Kamalame is fabulous.

What do you do once you've abandoned your shoes and changed into your sarong/bikini uniform? Most guests choose to lounge. There's a small pool and a glorious beach, as well as a lovely spa with treatment rooms directly above the turquoise water. More adventurous types can go diving with the activities director or take advantage of the bone and deep-sea fishing that draws anglers to this part of the Bahamas.

At Kamalame, city faces and make-up are soon abandoned, as well as watches and a general sense of urgency. You zip around on your coral-colored bike or in your golf cart (every room comes with one), and the fact that you haven't checked your email in over eight hours barely registers. In sum, like your hair after a dose of sun, saltwater and sea breeze, you feel wild and—finally—free. [Read Indagare's review.](#)

### Who Should Go:

Avid bone fishers; laid-back couples and groups of friends who want to unplug and recharge. If you bring the kids, know that you will be the one entertaining them.

### Who Should Not Go:

Travelers seeking marble bathrooms, a scene and hovering service. This is not the Four Seasons, and it doesn't want to be.

### Getting There:

Fly to Nassau (2.5 hours from New York), then charter a 15-minute seaplane or helicopter. You can also charter a private prop plane to the Andros Airport, from which it's a 30-minute taxi ride (down a badly paved road) to the Kamalame dock. The ferry ride takes four minutes.