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## **EDUCATION IS FUN WITH NEW KID'S TOWN AT GRACE BAY CLUB**

### ***Innovatively Designed Children's Program Puts Focus on Eco-Activities***

PROVIDENCIALES, TURKS & CAICOS – Diversity and enrichment set the style for Grace Bay Club's new *Kid's Town*, a children's program conceived with a focus on comprehensive eco-activity. The approach of this newly launched program injects fun and excitement into educational play, with activities on-site at The Villas plus excursions by air, sea and land. All activities are conducted under the fastidious supervision of a dedicated staff of trained and qualified instructors. Schedules are flexible, allowing children to participate in activities at convenient times, and parents are always invited to join their children if they wish.

#### ***Wide Range of Kid's Town On-Site Activities***

Among the specially designed children's activities offered on-site are Hobie cat sailing, kayaking, snorkeling, S.A.S.Y Units, beachcombing, beach barbeques and picnics, sandcastle competitions, beach Olympics, beach soccer and football, tennis, pool games, Frisbee, shell jewelry-making, driftwood sculpture, decorative card making, coloring and art contests, craft demonstrations, kite building, and scavenger and treasure hunts. All these on-site activities are complimentary and available for children aged 5 to 13, with programs offered Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The *Kid's Town Play Room* operates daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., providing a safe and stimulating room for supervised play. Available here are X-Box, children's DVDs, puzzles, play castles, painting and drawing supplies, books and toys, plus Grace Bay Club homemade cookies and fruit punch. Kids of all ages can participate. Accompaniment by a parent or guardian is required only in the case of children aged 4 and under.

#### ***Action-Packed Eco-Adventures***

Off-site excursions for children aged 6 and up promote environmental awareness and provide an interesting range of educational experiences, like flora and fauna identification, geology, and exposure to the principles and etiquette of ecology. Families are invited to participate.

Well-planned trips conducted in conjunction with Big Blue Unlimited, the only diving and eco-adventure company in Turks & Caicos, are offered Monday through Saturday, with half-day trips from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. priced at US\$85 per child, and three-quarter-day trips from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at \$135. Prior booking is required for these exciting excursions, organized with a different focus for each day of the week:

- Monday Kayaking
- Tuesday Snorkeling
- Wednesday Iguana/Coastal Ecology
- Thursday Island Exploration
- Friday Snorkeling
- Saturday Beach Fun Day

**Kayaking (1/2-day):** After transferring to Big Water Cay (a different island) by small motor boat, kids will receive basic kayak lessons in shallow water and a guided kayaking tour of a nature reserve. They will explore the diverse mangrove channels, and learn about the coastal ecology of the area and its wildlife.

**Snorkeling and Marine-Life Identification (1/2-day):** Kids will learn to snorkel or perfect their snorkeling skills in calm and easy waters. They will learn reef etiquette and explore the reef and its inhabitants, which include the hawksbill turtle.

**Iguana/Coastal Ecology Day (1/2-day):** This trip begins with a boat transfer to Little Water Cay, where a National Trust guide provides an educational tour of the rare iguana sanctuary located there. A beach walk leads to a nature pond and osprey nesting area. Children will explore the island's wildlife, birdlife and shells, and take home a pin from the National Trust.

**Island Exploration and Culture (3/4-day):** On the west side of Providenciales, children tour the native settlement of Blue Hills and see craft demonstrations by local artisans, plus locally made sailboats. A trip over to Southwest Bluff includes a hike to remote pirate caves, a picnic lunch, and a swim in the surrounding shallow waters.

**Beach Fun Day (3/4-day):** A boat ride to Half Moon Bay rounds off the week with organized beach activities that include kayaking, swimming, short-tennis, model sailing boats, flying kites, building sandcastles, and a picnic.

Custom-designed trips can be created for small groups.

***Opening December 2006: V.I.K. Club (Very Important Kids Club)***

Specially designed for children aged 3 to 13, the new **V.I.K. Club** adds a new dimension for younger guests. Priced at US\$180 per child, the program includes:

- Personal greeting by GM, Kids Coordinator or Assistant GM
- Fruit punch or milk shake upon arrival
- Kid's Passport
- Grace Bay Club bath robe, cap or shirt
- Welcome ice cream in freezer
- Invitation to Grace Bay Club special on-site program
- Kid's Coordinator service
- Unlimited use of Kid's Town
- Grace Bay Club gift bag, which may include a selection of the following items: kids' newsletter; coloring books/maps of Provo/local animals/fish; crayons/pencil crayons; crossword puzzle/find-a-word; kids' magazine on TCI (from National Trust); VIK card; stickers; underwater camera; sunscreen; kids' soap; kids' toothbrush and toothpaste; kids' shampoo; bath sponge; stuffed toy; candies and chocolates.

***Mini-Scuba for Children Aged 10+***

An excellent introduction to scuba is available to children aged 10 and older with the "Mini-Scuba" program. Subject to approval by a qualified instructor, kids participate in supervised dives of up to 40 feet, using specially sized equipment. A PADI-accredited Junior Open Water course also is offered.

***Kids Get Special Treatment***

Commenting on Kid's Town, Grace Bay Club General Manager Nikheel Advani said, "A great deal of thought went into the planning this program and we were determined to create something that would

educate children as well as amuse them. The topography and wildlife of our islands clearly offer ideal circumstances to teach them environmental awareness, and to promote eco-friendly behavior from a young age. Our instructors are expertly trained, and I know that their combined talent and enthusiasm will make the resort's younger guests extremely happy. And parents can enjoy a carefree vacation, knowing their children are safe and creatively occupied in this innovative program."

Special amenities for children at Grace Bay Club include:

- Kid-friendly welcome amenities on arrival
- Safety kits designed to childproof guestrooms
- Games and toys, available on request
- Eco-kids program guidebook
- Assortment of delicious, freshly baked cookies
- Round-the-clock availability of a kids' coordinator

***More Family Fun: Performing Conchs, Radiating Glow Worms and Migrating Whales***

Additional attractions for all ages include:

- A visit to a conch farm, where Caribbean queen conchs are raised. Guests learn about the conch farming process and rare conch pearls, and see a show performed by two friendly and highly trained conchs. Visitors may purchase fresh conch for an authentic salad specialty of the Turks & Caicos Islands.
- Sunset cruises to view the extraordinary illumination of the waters by ocean glow worms, when they mate at full moon and radiate a luminescent glow.
- Swimming with JoJo the dolphin, a bottlenose who has lived in the shallow waters since 1980.
- Whale watching boat trips for close-up sightings of humpback whales during migration (late January through early April).
- Trips to North Caicos by air or sea to view flocks of flamingos, vibrant plant life and lakes. Ground travel is by bicycle or taxi, depending on the ages of the participants. Additional options include remote kayaking, local dining and touring the ruins of an 18<sup>th</sup>-century plantation.
- Visits by air to Middle Caicos for nature hikes, biking tours, play with model sailboats, bird watching, and cave safaris. The cathedral-like limestone caves here reach down into underwater lakes and were home to the island's original settlers, the Lucayans. Locally caught seafood is served at lunch.
- Tours of uninhabited East Caicos, where ancient Lucayan petroglyphs have been discovered on cave walls.
- Private catamaran trips, accommodating 6 to 12, to diverse destinations for snorkeling, diving, and exploring deserted islands.

Other activities for all family members also include miniature golf, waterskiing, banana rides, parasailing, submarine tours, jet skiing, private motorboat charters, sail charters, glass-bottom boat tours, deep sea fishing charters, SNUBA, customized family beach picnics and horseback riding trips.

***Highly Qualified Team Leader***

The Grace Bay Club Kids Coordinator, Morgan Luker, helps plan tours and on-site programs for children and their families, and brings to the Grace Bay Club team more than 20 years of living and working experience in the Turks and Caicos Islands. She carries an honors degree in outdoor recreation, parks and tourism, and has been instrumental in designing, implementing and leading numerous children's recreational programs in Providenciales. Ms. Luker holds a bronze medallion for swimming and is a certified PADI scuba dive instructor, a certified ACA kayak instructor, and a level II ski instructor; she is trained in first aid administration.

***About Grace Bay Club***

On the island of Providenciales in the Turks & Caicos Islands, Grace Bay Club is an all-suite boutique resort offering luxury accommodations in two sections: the 22-suite adults-only Hotel and the new 38-suite family-friendly Villas. The Villas includes a beachside swimming pool with a poolside Grill and swim-up bar, the Anani Spa and Fitness Center, and the Kid's Town children's program. The Captain's Bar and an adults-only swimming pool are popular features at The Hotel. The acclaimed Anacaona restaurant, featuring Euro-Caribbean cuisine, has just re-opened after an extensive upgrade and now includes beachside seating "pods." Considered "the" place on the island, the on-the-beach Lounge has also been completely remodeled and offers an exciting tapas and cocktail menu. The hotel will reopen in Spring 2007 after a complete redecoration of its 22 suites.

Now covering 11 acres and 1100 feet of beach frontage, the resort has the lowest guest density of any property on Providenciales. On-site activities include tennis on newly refurbished lit tennis courts, snorkeling, scuba diving, sailing and fishing; championship golf is nearby; excursions are offered to nearby cays.

The new Hotel School at Grace Bay Club is the first ever on Turks & Caicos, now open to staff and soon to island residents and hotel guests. In 2008, the resort will add THE ESTATE at Grace Bay Club, 22 custom residences set on a private area adjacent to the Hotel, with The Cabanas, a limited collection of poolside suites for spa treatments and private lounging.

A member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, Grace Bay Club has set the standard on Provo for personalized service and pampering since 1993. Named repeatedly to *Travel + Leisure's* "World's Best" awards, the "T+L 500" and *Condé Nast Traveler's* "Readers' Choice" and "Gold List," this Five-Star Diamond Award winner is located on one of the world's most luxurious beaches. Provo is easily reached by direct flights from Boston, New York, Atlanta, Charlotte, Philadelphia, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, London, Toronto, Nassau and Montego Bay. Private air facilities are offered at Provo Air Center. For information and reservations: phone (800) 946-5757; fax (649) 946-5758; Web site [www.gracebayclub.com](http://www.gracebayclub.com).

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