



Seven Mile beach has white sand, turquoise water.



A beachcomber displays his treasures.

Stay in a Condo Right on Cayman Island's Seven Mile Beach

By Chris Higgins & Margo Malcolm

Any country that has a turtle in pirate garb as its logo should be a fun place for families to play.

It's the same mixture of animals and adventure that Disney movies have weaned us on for generations. But the Cayman Islands are the real thing.

Grand Cayman Island's Seven Mile Beach is famous for its crescent of pearly white sand blending into the almost blinding "Cayman Blue" water. The famous beach (which is 5.2 miles long) was recently named "the Caribbean's Best Beach" by *Caribbean Travel and Life Magazine*. And the little remaining shoreline land left is currently selling for over \$30,000 U.S. per foot.

Cemetery Reef, among others, lies just offshore making the water calm, and excellent for snorkeling, swimming and lazing in the sun. The average temperature of the water is 80° F in winter.

At the island's south end, Georgetown, the capital of the Cayman Islands, is a charming community of 20,000. Georgetown is a jewelry shopping Mecca and is lined with funky restaurants where you can sample some local Caymanian cuisine, such as lip-smacking barbecued jerk ribs and chicken.

The fish market right on the beach is where charismatic locals spin sea-yarns and sell fresh-that-day mahi mahi, snapper and wahoo. It's fun meeting the overwhelmingly friendly locals, and nothing will make you feel immersed in the culture quicker than shopping for, and making your own, culinary creation. A feast of shrimp and mahi mahi with Cayman lime butter, or honey rum snapper along with key lime or coconut pie will have you fantasizing about moving here.

The easiest way to get this "home away from home" feeling, is to stay in one of the many fully equipped condos along Seven-Mile Beach.

Home Away from Home

While Seven Mile Beach is home to some of the biggest hotel and resort chains in the world, there is another option that fits most families much better—the condo. Along with full sized fridges where you can stock snacks and drinks, most have washers and dryers, TVs and DVDs, as well as separate bedrooms. Couples can even share a unit and the cost.

One of the most well appointed and secluded examples of a condominium resort is the Aqua Bay Club, located on the western end of Seven Mile Beach. The resort has the feel of an isolated island setting, yet it's located just minutes away from all the services anyone could need. And the sea view is spectacular; the name is certainly appropriate.

Cell phones and free wireless internet access are provided. But before it starts looking a little too much like home, Aqua Bay provides something we all wish we could have at our own house—daily housekeeping services. It is a vacation after all.

Aqua Bay also provides an on-site manager to help arrange many activities, including weddings, golfing, diving, and local tours. The Heart of Cayman Tour, for example, includes Pedro's Castle, an old-style Caymanian house, Queen Elizabeth Botanical Gardens, Pirates Cave, CayBrew (a local brewery) and an exclusive residential area.

But downtime isn't forgotten here; thatched huts and palm trees on the beach provide shelter from the sun and a perfect place to read a book, relax or take a nap.

IF YOU GO:

Cayman Islands Dept. of Tourism
www.caymanislands.ky
Aqua Bay Club
Reservations 1-800-825-8703
Website: www.aquabayclub.com
E-mail: abc@candw.ky

Masters of Harmony to Perform In Long Beach May 17

The Masters of Harmony, the Barbershop Harmony Society's six-time international championship men's chorus, will perform Saturday, May 17 at Carpenter Performing Arts Center in Long Beach. Led by director Mark Hale, the 130-voice chorus will sing memorable songs to warm your heart as well as upbeat songs to get your toes tapping.

The featured guest quartet will be Max Q, the current international gold-medal champions. They were recently selected by NASA to serenade the crew of the Space Shuttle Discovery to aptly named Harmony module to the International Space Station.

Also joining the Masters are The Crush, a young foursome currently the international silver medal college

quartet, and the newest sensation, Masterpiece, a quartet of gold-medal performers. Both of these groups come from within the ranks of the Masters of Harmony.

Two performances on May 17 are at 2 and 8 p.m. Ticket prices are \$30 and \$35. To order, call 562-699-2496 or e-mail tickets@mastersofharmony.org

How to Win Tickets To Masters of Harmony Concert

Readers can enter a drawing for two tickets to the Masters of Harmony concert on May 17. Simply mail in your name, address and phone number to Masters of Harmony, c/o NBY!, 4805 Alta Canyon Rd., La Canada, CA 91011. Entries must be received by April 30.



Masters of Harmony
The Barbershop Harmony Society's Six-Time International Championship Chorus in concert

Saturday, May 17, 2 and 8 p.m.
Carpenter Performing Arts Center
CSU Long Beach Campus, 6200 Atherton
Also features championship barbershop quartets

\$35 and \$30
Call 562-699-2496 or e-mail tickets@mastersofharmony.org