



Vacationing Families and Other Sun-Lovers Discover That Grand Cayman Is Just Seven Miles to Paradise

Grand Cayman Island's Seven Mile Beach is a crescent of pearly white sand along magical "blue" beach water, and at the Aqua Bay Club, right, it feels like an isolated island setting.



Seven Miles to Paradise: Grand Cayman Is Seventh Heaven for Families Other Sun-Lovers

By Chris Higgins and Margo Malcolm
(The Aqua Bay Club's pool, above, sits right next to the blue waters of the Caribbean)

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 (think Pirates of the Caribbean meets The Little Mermaid). 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, 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 US 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 (27°C) in winter. At its south end, Georgetown, the capital of the Cayman Islands, is a charming community of 20,000.



(Children playing on the beach on Cayman Island)

With privacy, space and convenience, families can spread out and relax in their own little oasis in paradise. Couples can even share a unit and the cost.

The Aqua Bay Club

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.

At Aqua Bay Club, it's the little things that make a vacation condo feel like home. They provide cell phones and free wireless internet access so their guests can stay in

touch if they want. 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.

Lovers...and Other Loafers

Grand Cayman can also be a good place to start families. Many couples come to the Caymans to marry or honeymoon, often bringing their friends and relatives. The island has many exotic beach locations as well as quaint chapels and churches for weddings. One location, the Grand Old House Gazebo, is set up so that ceremonies can be transmitted back home via the Internet.



(A colorful painted turtle, designed by an artist, adorns a Cayman Island beach)

Aqua Bay also provides an on-site manager to help arrange many activities, including weddings, golfing, diving, and local tours. But down-time 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.

But don't be surprised if Jack Sparrow is looking a little green with envy in your dreams.

When You Go:

Contact the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism at www.caymanislands.ky

Aqua Bay Club: Toll free (reservations only) (800) 825-8703

Visit: www.aquabayclub.com, or email to: abc@candw.ky

The family package, based on 2 adults and 2 children (under 12) in a two bedroom oceanfront condo for seven nights, rental car and all activities: Stingray City, Boatswain Beach, Dinner at Rackams, Heart of Cayman Tour (Pedro's Castle, Old Style Caymanian House, Queen Elizabeth Botanical Gardens, Pirates Cave, CayBrew (Local Brewery), Exclusive Residential area) from as low as \$899 USD taxes included.

