

# Deep Blue Adventures

## HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR TRAVEL TO THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

### BANKS:

Although Grand Cayman now has more than 692 licensed banks, only a handful are full-service "A-class" banks providing full customer banking services as visitors know it. These include: Barclays Bank, Scotiabank, Bank of Butterfield, Royal Bank of Canada, Cayman National Bank, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, British American Bank. Regular banking hours are 9:00 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until 4:30 p.m. on Friday. In addition, Automatic Teller Machines accepting VISA and MasterCard with Cirrus affiliation are located at Cayman National Bank and other banks and at Owen Roberts International Airport.

### CURRENCY:

The Cayman Islands has its own currency called the Cayman Islands dollar, first issued in 1972, whose basic unit is the dollar, issued in notes with denominations of CI\$100, 50, 25, 10, 5 and 1 and coins valued at 25 cents, 10, 5 and 1 cent. The CI dollar has a fixed exchange rate with the US dollar \$1 USD equals CI \$.83. There is no need for visitors to exchange their US dollars into local currency. The US dollar is accepted throughout the islands at a rate of CI 83 cents. However, this can be confusing to visitors: for example, a US\$20 note becomes CI\$16. Banks do NOT give a better rate of exchange! Major credit cards (with the exception of the Discover Card) and Travellers checks are widely accepted. Canadian dollars and pounds sterling can be exchanged for CI dollars at local banks.

### CLIMATE:

The Cayman Islands lie in the far Western Caribbean, closer to the equator than a lot of people realize, between latitudes 19° and 20° North. The islands are cooled by prevailing trade winds, but the sun is Hot and you can be easily sunburned. Winter - November to April: 72°F to 86°F during the day. 64°F to 72°F at night. Water temperature ranges between 78°F and 82°F. Summer - May to October: 85°F to 90°F during the day. 73°F to 85°F at night. Water temperature ranges between 82°F to 86°F. Relative humidity varies from 68% to 92%.

### DEPARTURE TAX:

The Cayman islands has a departure tax of \$25 U.S. Dollars that is normally included in the price of your ticket. Please check with your airline or ticketing agent for details.

### DRINKING WATER:

The piped water in the Cayman Islands is completely safe to cook with or drink. All hotels and condos and most restaurants and private homes are connected to the city water supply. The water is originally pumped from the sea and then purified by reverse osmosis.

### DRIVING LICENSE:

British rules apply, so please drive on the left and be extra careful on roundabouts. Visitors may use their home licenses for up to three months or may apply for an international driver's license. Pedestrians should remember to look right before crossing streets.

### ELECTRICITY:

The Cayman Islands use the same electrical standards as the USA - 110 volts, 60 Hz. Most electronics and appliances are imported from the USA, and any travel items such as hair dryers, electric razors and travel clocks will work.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

U.S. and Canadian citizens must have a valid Passport and a return or ongoing ticket.

### TOURISM SEASONS:

The year divides into two seasons, the summer or "rainy" season, generally from mid-May through October, moving into the winter or "dry" season, from November to April. March and April are the driest months and May and October are traditionally the highest rainfall months. Being in a tropical zone, it is not unusual to have brief afternoon showers during the summer, and, at certain times, brief morning sprinkles too. The Atlantic Hurricane season starts June 1st and ends officially on November 30th, but the Cayman Islands have often been spared the full wrath of devastating hurricanes.

### VACCINATIONS:

No vaccinations or preventative medications are recommended for travel to the Caymans. However, we always suggest that you speak to your family physician for a personal recommendation.

### WATER TEMPERATURES AND WETSUITS:

Water temperatures generally range between 78 – 82°F. Most people find wearing a 1mm – 3mm wetsuit keeps them comfortable.

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