

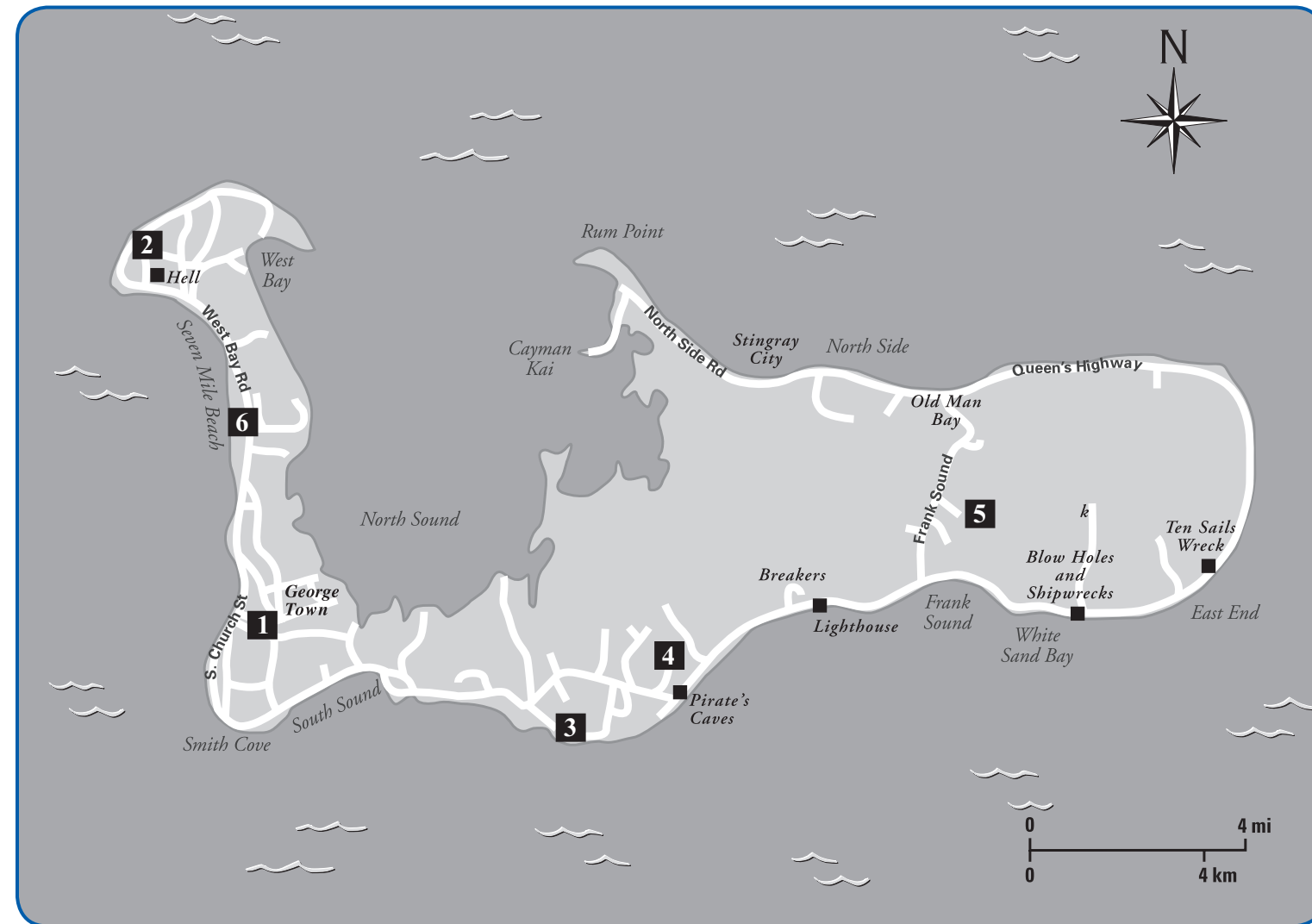


Men were thrown helplessly about the ship. The Convert was not alone. Nine other ships of the convoy, as lemmings to their doom one rapidly following the other, ripped themselves to splinters upon the shallow coral bed. If anyone thought it would become "Every man for himself." they would be mistaken.

Above the power of the storm and pounding of the waves it will perhaps never be known how the few men and women living along the eastern coast of Grand Cayman heard the desperate cries of shipwrecked sailors. But hear them they did. On that dark night and in that terrible storm, merchant seaman together with sailors and officers of the Royal Navy, more than four hundred British lives, hung precariously in the balance. And on shore, who would understand better than another sailor the immediate danger and face it with selfless determination? Time after time the men of the Cayman Islands rowed from the shore and back. Strong, callused hands like leather grasped the

oars. Their backs bowed under the strain as they manned their small boats through the dark and churning sea. They were guided only by the sound of desperate men calling for help.

There is an apocryphal story still told today that in grateful recognition of the bravery of the Caymanians, for their rescue of all save eight from over four-hundred doomed sailors, King George III forever exempted the islands from paying taxes to the Crown. This is a warmly sentimental yet inaccurate yarn which, even if true would matter little to these brave people. Today or from generations past, the historic character of Caymanians will testify with quiet conviction that all men upon the deep should act as brothers if one be in danger and in need... and all women are sisters who toil and wait in prayer for their men far away to come home. For Caymanians understand ... no amount of gold from the earthly treasury of a mortal king can ever redeem the life and soul of a single sailor lost to the depths of an angry sea.



## PLACES OF INTEREST

**PLACES OF INTEREST** There are a number of exciting ways to view the colorful and abundant marine life in the waters around Grand Cayman. Simi-submersibles like the Nautilus, the Seaworld Observatory and the Cayman Underwater Observatory, as well as the fully submersible Atlantis Submarine all give visitors the opportunity to get a glimpse into the beautiful underwater universe of the Caribbean.

Stingray City and Dolphin Cove provide guests the chance to swim and interact with gentle Sothern Rays and playful bottlenose dolphins. Certified SCUBA divers are probably already aware of Grand Cayman's reputation as one of the most spectacular dive sites to be found anywhere in the Caribbean.

**1** The **Cayman Islands National Museum** is housed in a charming colonial period building at the corner of Shedden Road and Harbour Drive. Visitors can browse through a collection of over 8,000 items and artifacts which relate the island's natural and cultural history. In front of the museum the Cayman Island flag is raised daily to the trumpet of a conch shell.

**2** The **Boatswain Bay Turtle Farm** is a breeding, conservation and research site where visitors have the opportunity to see, touch and learn about the beautiful sea turtles which call the Caribbean home.

**3** The **Pedro St. James Historic Site** is a carefully restored setting overlooking the blue Caribbean. Pedro's Castle is nestled in a tropical park which is a tranquil place to stroll and explore. This site is the first National Landmark of the Cayman Islands.

**4** **Bodden Town** was once the capital and most populated settlement in the islands. Once home to brigands and pirates the town has many lovely buildings dating to the English Colonial period.

**5** The **Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park** is the Cayman Island's most beautiful tropical park. Her Majesty dedicated the site in 1994. The garden has a gorgeous collection of tropical flowers, plants and trees all interlaced with walking paths and lakes.

**6** **Seven Mile Beach**, with the new Tiki Beach area, is one of the most beautiful in the Caribbean. Along with fine white sand, swaying palms and the calm azure blue sea, there are plenty of water sports available as well as full facilities. If you want to spend a day at the beach...and not just any beach...this is the place.

**SHORE EXCURSIONS** To make the most of your visit to George Town and surrounding island we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take with you only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

**LOCAL CUSTOMS** Bargaining: Prices are generally fixed in stores and shops.

Tipping: A 15% service charge is added to most restaurant and bar bills.

Dress: Going topless at local beaches is not practiced in the Cayman Islands. Casual wear (as opposed to just a swimwear) is best when browsing the shops of George Town.

**LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES** It is not surprising that seafood is so popular in the Cayman Islands. Conch Ceviche is a favorite throughout the Caribbean. It is prepared with cilantro, red onions, avocado and fresh lime juice. Conch Stew and Conch Fritters are also very tasty. With a quick look at a map it is easy to understand why Jamaican "jerk" cooking is enjoyed in the Caymans. Turtle meat has long been a staple in the Caymans. The turtles are bred and grown locally rather than hunted in the wild. In fact the local hatcheries annually release hundreds of turtles into the Caribbean. With turtle meat in plentiful supply visitors can enjoy trying some of the local turtle soup or turtle steak.

If the Cayman Islands have a celebrity chief (or two) then it might just be Robert and Carlene Hamaty. From what apparently began as an old family recipe passed down from mother to daughter, one cake, one

oven and one bite at a time, Carlene and Robert's Tortuga Rum Cake has gone from being served friends to being ordered by people around the world. The cakes have become the island's largest export.

A wide variety of rum can be found in the Cayman Islands. Among the local favorites are Tortuga Gold Cayman Islands and George Town Harbor Distillery's Seven Fathoms.

**SHOPPING** The main shopping area in George Town is along the waterfront. Many of the stores are Duty-Free. In addition to souvenirs, shoppers will find perfumes, jewelry and watches from all the famous international designers.

**LOCAL CURRENCY** The official currency of the islands is the Caymanian dollar (CIS - KYD).

**POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE** The main Post Office in George Town is located at #14 Edward Street. In the northwest corner of the island is a place called Hell; so named because of the wicked rock formations. This is actually a rather popular destination due in no small part to the local post office/gift shop & curio emporium. Visitors to Hell have a laugh sending cards and letters back home with the local postmark.

Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card:

AT&T: 1.800.225.5288

MCI: 1.800.888.8000

**TOURIST INFORMATION** A Tourism Information Center is located directly in middle of the Cruise Ship terminal, with an additional office located next to the Customs and Immigration Department on the pier.

**TRANSPORTATION** Taxis and car rental are available at the pier.

**USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES** English is the official language of the Cayman Islands.