

**The Turks and Caicos Islands**  
Planning an *Unforgettable* Incentive Travel Program  
By Tim Cotroneo



**The Regent Grand's convenient location is like paradise within walking distance.**

**T**he *right* destination is the number one consideration for employers when presenting an incentive travel program to an employee, customer, or vendor. In the incentive travel world, one of the best kept destination secrets is the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Located 38 miles southeast of the Bahamas, the Turks and Caicos Islands are comprised of 40 islands and cays, eight of which are inhabited. Providenciales or "Provo" is the most populated of these islands. Provo's main attraction is Grace Bay Beach. *Conde Nast Traveler* rates Grace Bay's 12-miles of powdery white sand and turquoise water as one of the "top 10 beaches in the world."

For companies seeking a Caribbean dream location where English is the spoken language and the dollar is the currency, here is everything you need to know about a destination that was *also* discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1492.

**Getting to the Turks and Caicos Islands**

Currently, Delta, American, US Air, and Air Canada all have regular flights to the Providenciales airport (PLS.) Flights from Miami to Providenciales take one hour and 15 minutes. Remember to bring your passport.

## **Transportation**

Almost all the major rental car and multitude of taxi companies can be found at the Provo airport. It is recommended to book your rental car in advance. Your hotel can also arrange for a rental car or transfers. For the purpose of convenience, this article focuses on a hotel where most of your company meetings and entertainment can be reached *on foot*.

## **Hotels, Resorts, and Villas**

During the past decade, a rather unique development has occurred in Turks and Caicos regarding hotel accommodations. Most upscale properties now offer villas or suites as a standard form of accommodation.

The hotel profiled in this article was chosen due to the extraordinary amenities it provides for guests. Elaborate kitchens with granite countertops, living areas resplendent with island décor, spacious bathrooms, an air-conditioned workout area, a European spa, and free tennis court are all at a guest's fingertips. This hotel is also just a short stroll from Provo's restaurant row. Read on for details regarding the Regent Grand Resort and Spa.



**The Regent Grand is a tranquil, luxurious setting for your next incentive travel meeting.**

## The Regent Grand Resort and Spa

The Regent Grand splashed on the Providenciales hotel scene in 2007. The Regent Grand is an all-suite luxury destination featuring two, three, and four bedroom options on Grace Bay Beach's most desired piece of real estate.



Why would the Regent Grand be the perfect site for your incentive travel destination? To borrow from the real estate industry's most time honored phrase, "location, location, location." The Regent is positioned on the approximate 50-yard line of Grace Bay.

### **Making a Memory on Grace Bay Beach**

Upon entering the Regent Grand lobby, guests are welcomed with a refreshing Turks and Caicos rum punch while reveling in the Regent's elegant pool area. The far-reaching view beyond the pool carries all the way to the turquoise ocean.

(← Balcony view from Regent Grand)

On an incentive travel winner's first full day at the Regent Grand, they will awaken to a complimentary continental breakfast of croissants, fresh fruit, juice, and locally brewed coffee. With your morning java in hand, sit and relax on the deck of your private balcony. From your eye-opening perch, stretch your peripheral gaze while basking in the ambiance of the ocean view. This scenic wake-up call says, "Check your baggage and problems for today. Life is good on Grace Bay."

If beach walking is your diversion of choice, then Grace Bay is heaven on earth. The beach's white sand feels like a cushion of clouds underfoot. As part of your official Turks and Caicos welcome, perhaps you'll get lucky and witness Provo's most famous resident, JoJo the dolphin, swimming off shore.

### **Meeting Rooms and Entertainment – Your Travel Destination Checklist**

A few hundred feet from the Regent Grand entrance is the sparkling new Regent Village. This high-end plaza is comprised of dining, artwork, jewelry, banking, and real estate businesses that your employee or customer can check out at their leisure. For incentive travel employers looking to combine business with pleasure, the Regent Village's brand-new conference center is the answer.

This 2,000 square-foot facility offers seating for up to 150 people, as well as private dining or full scale catering. The conference center also features state-of-the-art audiovisual and teleconferencing services. For those employees or customers who *fall in love* with the island, the facility will also host weddings.

### **Bermuda Greens with your Turquoise Sea**

An added bonus to staying at the Regent Grand is their affiliation with Provo Golf and Country Club. This 6,700-yard track of lush Bermuda grass is an environmental refuge surrounded by hundreds of palm trees and abundant bird life. Provo was ranked by *Golf Magazine* as one of the “Top 10 Courses in the Caribbean.” Guests at the Regent Grand can play Provo at a discounted rate, even in high season.



**Provo Golf and Country Club is a gorgeous Caribbean natural setting.**

### **Free Time on the Island**

There is an old Turks and Caicos saying that states, “You better slow down because we can’t hurry up.” A week or less hardly seems like enough time to enjoy paradise. So, while in Provo, make the most of what Grace Bay Beach *and beyond* has to offer.

If Turks and Caicos turns out to be a once in a lifetime escape, then an excursion to one of the outer islands will give you a memorable taste of island life. One option is to arrange for a half of full-day excursion of snorkeling and conch shell diving.

The Regent Grand concierge can arrange for a boat tour that includes cruising by the spectacular home of Bruce Willis on Parrot Cay or the boat owned by Johnny Depp at Nikki Beach. Top off your day by diving for a conch shell. Then, kick back on your very own private island while devouring the conch salad you snared yourself. The beautiful conch shell souvenir you bring back home will be a lifetime reminder of your day living like an islander.

### **Sunsets on Grace Bay - Saving the Best for Last**

If you thought the water surrounding the Turks and Caicos Islands was the Caribbean Sea, you would not be alone. In fact, the Atlantic Ocean is the source of turquoise water embracing Grace Bay’s shores.

On most days, the ocean embracing Grace Bay Beach and its coral reef is as remarkably calm and clear as any you’ll find in the world. The main thing to remember about this water is the brighter the sunshine, the more vibrant the ocean color.

Morning and afternoon aren’t the only times when Grace Bay struts her stuff. Just past 6:00 in the evening, vacationers begin rotating in the direction of the western edge of

the beach. As the sun sets on the ocean horizon, be prepared for an unforgettable photographic moment.

### **Measuring Incentive Travel Success in Turks and Caicos**

How does one measure the success of an incentive travel program? Obviously, the front-end goal is to positively impact your company's bottom line. But to get a long-term incentive travel gain, your travel destination (and all that goes with it) should create a memory that lasts a lifetime.

A vacation or meeting at the Regent Grand in Providenciales is the best of both worlds. The site is an island getaway with unforgettable views, and a luxurious retreat with all the comforts of home. The Turks and Caicos Islands will give you waves of reasons why turquoise is your new favorite color.

[www.regentgrandresort.com](http://www.regentgrandresort.com)

[www.provogolfclub.com](http://www.provogolfclub.com)

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