

## KEY FACTS

**Official name:** Turks and Caicos Islands

**Head of State:** Queen Elizabeth II, represented by Governor Damian Roderic Todd (from 12 Sept 2011)

**Head of government:** Premier Rufus Washington Ewing (PNP) (from 13 Nov 2012)

**Ruling party:** Progressive National Party (PNP) (from 2003; re-elected 9 Nov 2012)

**Area:** 430 square km

**Population:** 39,184 (2011)\*; 31,458 (2012, preliminary census result)

**Capital:** Cockburn Town (on Grand Turk)

**Official language:** English

**Currency:** US dollar (US\$) = 100 cents

**Exchange rate:** US\$1.00 per US\$ (fixed)

\* estimated figure

# Turks and Caicos Islands

The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) had a busy year in 2012. A new constitution came into force on 15 October. Parliamentary elections were held on 9 November, with the Progressive National Party (PNP) winning eight seats (out of 15) and the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) seven; turnout was 84 per cent. A recount was called by Oswald Skipping, the leader of the PDM; it was held on 12 November but the outcome remained unchanged. Rufus Ewing (PNP) took office as premier on 13 November.

In his speech from the Throne at the re-opening of the House of Assembly after the elections Governor Ric Todd announced the government was planning to convene a Commission for Independence mandated to define the process required to achieve independence. Mr Todd said that 'My government holds as one of its greatest charges, the responsibility of readying our islands and our people for the move toward independence.' The commission will outline specific developmental targets. Any decision on independence would be through a referendum, he confirmed.

### Tourism the answer

Governor Todd went on to say that revitalising the economy would become the 'principal thrust' of his government, with a special emphasis on tourism, construction and financial services as the 'principal channels through which meaningful economic growth can be achieved.' He outlined a major push on tourism, looking to new tourism niches and new markets including South America and Asia. He also said the government would review the plans for the expansion of the Providenciales International Airport Terminal to ensure the long-term growth of the tourism sector is provided for.

He also outlined policy on a number of areas including health care and immigration. But it was tourism that was, as he said, the thrust, as tourism and its subsidiaries will 'remain the principal revenue earner in our economy.'

Within the first 180 days in office, the government will convene a Tourism and Investment Conference supported by

marketing and promotional strategies, he said, along with renewed engagement with the financial services industry.

'My government will give focused attention to stalled resort projects in the islands,' he said. 'We will seek to convene meetings with the developers of these projects with a view to reviving those which could be revived.'

He said the government would renew and revise its Tourism Strategic Plan, and align it with the territory's National Development Plan.

It would also look to new markets through promotion of medical tourism, ecotourism, sports tourism and culture and heritage tourism. 'My government will make its utmost priority the exploration of new tourism markets in Europe, Asia and South America to reduce the seasonality of tourist arrivals,' he said.

The government also plans to expand cruise passenger terminals through the construction of a sea port on the island of South Caicos, 'thus enabling the revitalisation of the economy of that island and the lower Caicos Islands of North and Middle Caicos'

In a move to reassure the financial markets, Anthony Arthur Roberts was named the new director of the Turks and Caicos Financial Services Commission. Roberts, who has 40 years of experience in the insurance industry, previously served as a consultant for one of Belgium's largest insurance companies, Assurances Générales.

The move marks the first time that an experienced actuary has been appointed to the Commission's board, according to Kevin Higgins, managing director of the commission.

### Misick arrested

Former Turks and Caicos Premier Michael Misick was arrested at the Santos Dumont Airport in Rio de Janeiro by Brazilian Federal Police, in early December 2012. He was arrested as the result of an international arrest warrant issued by Interpol (and a further warrant issued by the Brazilian Supreme Court) earlier in 2012.

Misick was implicated in large-scale corruption in Turks and Caicos that led to

the suspension of democratic government by the United Kingdom. He faces a number of ‘serious charges’ relating to corruption and maladministration in TCI. UK authorities said they were ‘grateful’ to their Brazilian counterparts for their co-operation, and they would seek Misick’s extradition to TCI.

## COUNTRY PROFILE

### Historical profile

The first residents of the islands were Amerindians. There are claims that Christopher Columbus actually made his first landing (1492) in the Americas on Grand Turk, and not in the neighbouring Bahamas.

1512 Spanish explorer, Juan Ponce de León, arrived.

1678 British settlers came from Bermuda and set up a salt-panning industry.

1766 Having overridden French and Spanish claims to the islands, Britain appointed a colonial resident.

1799 The islands were annexed to the Bahamas.

1874–1962 The islands were administered from British ruled Jamaica, after which they became a Crown colony and were ruled from the Bahamas.

1972 When the Bahamas gained independence the islands gained their own governor.

1976 A constitution was adopted and the first independent elections were won by the pro-independence People’s Democratic Movement (PDM).

1980 The PDM lost the general election to the Progressive National Party (PNP) which was committed to maintaining the status quo.

1982 Plans for independence were reversed.

1985 Chief Minister Norman Saunders, the minister for development and commerce, and a PNP member of the Legislative Council, were arrested and subsequently convicted in the US on drug trafficking charges.

1986 The constitution was suspended following allegations of corruption in local government and a commission of inquiry found the chief minister, Nathaniel Francis, and two of his ministers, unfit to govern. The governor assumed direct control of government and the Executive Council, and ruled through a special Advisory Council.

1988 The constitution was reinstated with revisions.

2002 Jim Poston became governor.

2003 The ruling PDM won the parliamentary election, but in two by-elections, won by the opposition, the PNP gained a majority in parliament. Chief Minister Taylor

resigned and Michael Eugene Misick was sworn in on the same day.

2004 The EU’s Savings Tax Directive was implemented.

2005 Richard Tauwhare was sworn in as governor.

2006 A new constitution revised the title of the chief minister to premier. A new minimum wage, for all workers, was introduced.

2007 In general elections the ruling PNP won 60 per cent of the vote (13 out of 15 seats); the DPM 40 per cent (two). Michael Misick continued as premier.

2008 Governor Tauwhare resigned and Deputy Governor Mahala Wynns became acting governor. The governor announced he had appointed a Commission of Inquiry (Col) into allegations of corruption and other serious dishonesty in relation to past and present elected members of the House of Assembly. Gordon Wetherell became governor.

2009 The Col reported that there were ‘clear signs of political amorality and immaturity and of general administrative incompetence’ and ‘a high probability of systemic corruption or serious dishonesty’ in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) government. Prime Minister Misick resigned. The constitution was suspended and power and responsibility for government business reverted to the governor and an advisory council and consultative forum for a minimum period of two years.

Galmo Williams and six other members of the House of Assembly were sworn into office as premier and cabinet ministers respectively, although all legislative and executive power remained the responsibility of the governor. The Col’s final report was published and recommended that criminal investigations into the activity of five cabinet ministers, including the former premier, be undertaken by the police.

2010 The Bank of Providenciales was closed down and liquidated by order of the TCI supreme court, at the behest of the official Financial Service Commission (FSC) when it was confirmed that there were insufficient funds to cover withdrawals and the bank was unable to obtain additional financial support. In the first legal actions to be undertaken by the Special Investigative Prosecuting Team, writs of corruption against three businesses that allegedly bribed the former premier Misick and a former cabinet member were filed.

2011 In February, the UK government agreed to provide a financial support package of US\$260 million, which included a bridging loan of US\$170 million and a five-year loan of US\$30 million to shore up the TCI treasury. In March the new, draft TCI constitution was published by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The final 2008–09 Col report was

published in May, following the last dismissals of legal challenges to the conclusions in the report. It reiterated its initial recommendations that criminal investigations should be undertaken into the activities of former ministers, premier Michael Misick, minister of finance Floyd Hall, minister of natural resources McAllister Hanchell, minister of works Jeffrey Hall and minister of health and education Lillian Boyce. Lack of financial support from the UK government to fund the investigation team delayed prosecution. In July, the UK minister responsible for Overseas Territories announced that as much as US\$5 billion was missing from the TCI treasury due to the fraudulent activities of the Misick administration. The draft constitution was negotiated with civic leaders and the UK government in June and an agreement achieved in July. In September, Damian Roderic Todd took office as governor.

2012 An international arrest warrant was issued for former prime minister Michael Misick on 19 March. On 20 March, Misick announced that he would seek asylum in a third country (suspected of being Dominican Republic) due to his claims of political persecution in TCI. On 19 July a new value added tax (VAT) was enacted to come into force on 1 April 2013. Exemptions will include fresh foodstuffs, hurricane supplies, water and electricity and published materials. On 4 September, a new political party was announced, called the People’s Progressive Party (PPP). A new constitution came into force on 15 October. In parliamentary elections held on 9 November, the PNP won eight seats out of 15 and the PDM seven; turnout was 84 per cent. Oswald Skipping, the leader of the PDM called for a recount, which was held on 12 November and the outcome did not change. Rufus Ewing (PNP) took office as premier on 13 November.

2013 On 1 May the Turks and Caicos Islands, along with Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and Montserrat, signed a tax sharing agreement with the tax authorities of France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK.

### Political structure

#### Constitution

The constitution was suspended on 25 March 2009 with power and responsibility for government reverting to the governor and an advisory council and consultative forum for a minimum period of two years. The 1976 constitution was suspended in 1986, restored and revised in 1988 and amended in 1993. It provided for the exercise of a ministerial type of government, through a governor appointed by the

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British monarch, an Executive Council (ExCo) which had general control of government, and a Legislative Council (LegCo). A new constitution of August 2006 replaced the legislative council with a unicameral house of assembly of 21 members, 15 of whom are directly elected for a four-year term, four nominated from the cabinet, one ex-officio (the attorney-general) and the speaker. The cabinet consists of two ex-officio members (the financial secretary and the attorney-general), the premier and other ministers. The British monarch continues to be head of state, represented by a governor.

Voting: universal suffrage 18 years and over.

## **Independence date**

25 November 1975

## **Form of state**

Caribbean dependency status: overseas territory of the UK.

## **The executive**

The head of state, Queen Elizabeth II, is represented by an appointed governor. The cabinet consists of two ex-officio members (the financial secretary and the attorney-general), the premier and other ministers.

## **National legislature**

21 members, 15 of whom are directly elected for a four-year term, four nominated from the cabinet, one ex-officio (the a).

The unicameral house of assembly is composed of 19 seats; 15 are directly elected of which 10 are seats elected in single member constituencies and five are 'at large'. In addition four seat are appointed by the governor (including the posts of attorney-general and the speaker), two candidates are nominated by the premier and two by the leader of the opposition.

## **Legal system**

The legal system is based on laws of England and Wales, with a small number of laws adopted from Jamaica and The Bahamas.

## **Last elections**

9 November 2012 (parliamentary)

**Results:** Parliamentary: Progressive National Party (PNP) won eight seats (out of 15), People's Democratic Movement (PDM) seven; turnout was 84 per cent.

## **Next elections**

2016 (parliamentary)

## **Political parties**

### **Ruling party**

Progressive National Party (PNP) (from 2003; re-elected 9 Nov 2012)

### **Main opposition party**

People's Democratic Movement (PDM)

### **Political situation**

Prime Minister Michael Misick resigned in March 2009, perhaps before he could

have been sacked, following the critical report by the Commission of Inquiry into allegations of corruption and other serious dishonesty. The commission reported that there were 'clear signs of political amorality and immaturity and of general administrative incompetence' and 'a high probability of systemic corruption or serious dishonesty' in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) government.

While Misick was trenchant in his denunciation of the accusations and declaration of his innocence, the UK government took over control of the government of the TCI, through its governor Gordon Wetherell.

Legal action began against Michael Misick and his brother, and former attorney-at-law, Chalmers (Chal) Misick for corrupt transactions, in 2010

## **Population**

39,184 (2011)\*; 31,458 (2012, preliminary census result)

There are approximately 7,000 European expatriates and illegal migrants, mainly from Haiti and the Dominican Republic, living in the Turks and Caicos. Their numbers are increasing as the upmarket tourism sector recruits overseas, and the island's higher living standards and public services attract migrants from more impoverished locales.

The legal population is referred to as 'Belongers'.

About two-thirds of the total population lives on Providenciales island.

**Last census:** August 2001: 19,886

**Population density:** 53 inhabitants per square km.

**Annual growth rate:** 3.2 per cent (2003)

### **Ethnic make-up**

Afro-Caribbean (95 per cent)

### **Religions**

Baptist (41 per cent), Methodist (19 per cent), Anglican (18 per cent), Seventh-Day Adventist (2 per cent).

## **Education**

The school system is constrained by insufficient infrastructure and is poorly equipped to deal with children of immigrants for whom English is not a first language.

The UK government has a number of projects, which it is working on through the Department for International Development (DFID). By improving teaching methods, the government hopes that around 80 per cent of children will achieve levels in reading and mathematics acceptable to their age.

The primary and secondary curriculum is also under review with plans that it will be standardised.

**Compulsory years:** Four to 16

**Enrolment rate:** 94 per cent primary enrollment of relevant age group, 80.2 per cent secondary enrollment.

## **Health**

The UK government has designed an ongoing programme of reforms to improve the health care system. Priorities include human resource development, greater access to financial resources and the prevention and control of HIV/Aids.

The hospital on the island of Grand Turk serves as a referral centre for all of the islands. There are nine community health care clinics throughout the islands.

## **HIV/Aids**

**HIV prevalence:** Less than 1 per cent in 2004

**Life expectancy:** 77.7 years (estimate 2003)

**Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate:** 4.61 births per woman

## **Welfare**

There is a reciprocal health and welfare agreement with the UK, which entitles nationals of the Turks and Caicos islands to benefits such as income support, housing allowances and child benefits.

## **Main cities**

Cockburn Town (capital, on Grand Turk island, estimated population 1,174 in 2012), Five Cays (4,821), Honda Road (4,322), The Bight (4,165) Wheeland (3,210).

## **Main islands**

Grand Turk (business centre), Providenciales (most tourism facilities), South Caicos (fishing and sailing), Salt Cay, Middle Caicos, North Caicos (natural bird sanctuary), Pine Cay and Parrot Cay.

Eight out of 30 islands are inhabited.

## **Languages spoken**

**Official language/s**  
English

## **Media**

### **Press**

There are no dailies but three weekly newspapers all published in . Turks and Caicos Weekly News ([www.tcweeklynews.com](http://www.tcweeklynews.com)), Turks and Caicos Free Press ([www.tcfreepress.com](http://www.tcfreepress.com)) and the Turks and Caicos Sun ([www.suntci.com](http://www.suntci.com)). There is an online community newsletter (<http://enews.tc>). Times of the Island ([www.timespub.tc](http://www.timespub.tc)) is a quarterly magazine.

### **Broadcasting**

**Radio:** Radio Turks and Caicos (RTC) (<http://tcimall.tc/rtc>) broadcasts three channels. Private stations include the religious Radio Vision Christina ([www.radiovision.net](http://www.radiovision.net)) and Power 92.5 (WIV) ([www.power925fm.com](http://www.power925fm.com)).

**Television:** The Turks & Caicos Television, is based in Grand Turk, while WIV-TV is based in Providenciales, both are cable television services. Multi-channel satellite television is received from the US and Canada.

### **Economy**

The economy is wholly dependent on its service sector, with tourism and financial services providing the major share of foreign exchange and GDP growth. The 2008/09 budget announced the Turks and Caicos Islands' (TCI) biggest budget deficit ever. The country was US\$36 million in deficit forcing the government to introduce heavy tax hikes to pay for what the government called a 'culture of over-spending' in government departments; the premier's office alone was shown to have spent US\$11 million. The UK government became increasingly perturbed at allegations of corruption and mismanagement and launched a Commission of Inquiry. In 2009, the resulting report for the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) into the financial dealing of the Michael Misick administration concluded 'that there was a high probability of systemic corruption in the former Turks and Caicos Islands Government.' In August 2009 the constitution was suspended and power and responsibility for government business reverted to the UK-appointed governor and a locally-drawn advisory council and consultative forum for a minimum period up to 2011.

On 10 April 2010, the Bank of Providenciales was closed down and liquidated by order of the TCI supreme court, at the behest of the official Financial Service Commission (FSC) when it was confirmed that there were insufficient funds to cover withdrawals and the bank was unable to obtain additional financial support.

The first legal actions, to be undertaken by the Special Investigative Prosecuting Team, filed writs of corruption on 30 April 2010 against three businesses that had allegedly bribed former premier Misick and a former cabinet member.

By 2011 the FCO had concluded that the 'fiscal picture in Turks and Caicos Islands represents an unacceptable collapse in the fiscal governance of the Territory', which needed urgently to be addressed. It appointed a chief financial officer tasked with addressing the structural deficit and developing a strategy for putting the economy on a course towards a sustainable fiscal surplus by the financial year 2012/13. On 9 February 2011, the UK government agreed to provide a financial support package of US\$260 million, which included a bridging loan of

US\$170 million and a five-year loan of US\$30 million to shore up the TCI treasury.

On 19 July 2012, a new value added tax (VAT) was enacted by parliament to come into force on 1 April 2013. Exemptions will include among other things, fresh foodstuffs, hurricane supplies, water and electricity and published materials.

### **External trade**

As a UK Overseas Territory the Turks and Caicos Islands is a member of the European Union's Association of Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT Association). It is also an associate member of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and Common Market but does not operate within the single market (Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME)), which became operational in 2006.

Foreign earnings derived from the offshore financial sector, tourism and fisheries. All capital goods and foodstuffs are imported.

### **Imports**

Principal imports are food and beverages, tobacco, clothing, consumer goods, manufactures and construction materials.

### **Main sources: UK and US**

### **Exports**

Principal reported exports are lobster, fish, dried and fresh conch, and conch shells.

### **Main destinations: UK and US**

### **Agriculture**

The agricultural sector is limited to small-scale production for domestic consumption and accounts for around 2 per cent of GDP. The growing tourism sector has encouraged production of fruit and vegetables for hotels and restaurants. Farming is confined to the rearing of livestock and the growing of maize, beans and some fresh fruit. A hydroponics facility has been developed at Providenciales.

The fishing industry grew as the salt industry declined. Over-fishing, low prices and better paid jobs in the growing tourism industry in the 1990s led to a decline in fishing. However, as export prices started to improve, particularly for conch, and the government started to improve conservation techniques and encourage value-added processing, so the industry has rebounded.

Fishing for lobster and conch production accounts for just under 2 per cent of GDP. There is a commercial conch farm on Providenciales.

The typical total annual fish catch is over 1,300mt; shellfish, molluscs and cephalopods account for another 1,000mt per annum.

### **Industry and manufacturing**

The manufacturing sector accounts for less than 1 per cent of GDP. Activity is

confined to fish processing (mainly lobsters and conch) and construction work. A rice-milling and packaging plant, supplied with rice from Guyana, is the only significant industrial enterprise.

Construction activity has increased with new tourist and residential developments. The Turks and Caicos Investment Agency is promoting the islands as a location for manufacturing electronic goods.

### **Tourism**

The TCI have all of the Caribbean attributes (even though they lie in the Atlantic Ocean) to offer a visitor, with sun, sea and service. They are closest to the US-Florida coast and receive daily, direct flights from Miami and other US cities, Canada and Europe as well as other Caribbean destinations. The islands are noted for the wildlife on land and offshore in the coral reef. Fishing tournaments and yachting regattas are held regularly during the tourist season (November– May). In August 2011, the extension to the main runway of the Providenciales International Airport was completed, allowing larger passenger aircraft to land. This work was the first phase in a US\$100 million expansion, which will include an enlarged terminal and improved access to the airport. Tourism is the principal component of GDP, and the islands expect typical visitor numbers of 250,000 staying over, of which the overwhelming number are from the US. The marked growth in cruise liner business was encouraged by the completion of the Carnival Cruise Centre on Grand Turk, which is a large dock and recreation facilities for cruise ship passengers including a serviced beach, shops and restaurants. Cruise liners began visiting TCI in 2004; before this private yachting accounted for around 20,000 visitors each year, by 2007, around 380,000 passengers disembarked from 185 commercial liners. In 2009, 509,172 cruise passengers landed, which was a rise of 64 per cent on the 2008 figure. In the first half of 2010 322,012 passengers were landed and the year was predicted to be the industry's best.

### **Hydrocarbons**

There are no known hydrocarbons reserves, all energy needs are met by imports. The Islands do not import either natural gas or coal.

### **Banking and insurance**

Under an EU tax directive introduced in July 2005 in a number of associate and dependent EU countries, the Turks and Caicos began imposing a withholding tax to be passed to the relevant EU depositor's country but retaining the anonymity of the saver. Withholding taxes began at 15 per cent, and rose to 35 per cent

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2011. Turks and Caicos has also agreed to supply information on tax fraud, for criminal or civil trials, and notify EU member states about additional malpractices. On 1 May 2013 the Turks and Caicos Islands, along with Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and Montserrat, signed a tax sharing agreement with the tax authorities of France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK.

## **Central bank**

There is no central bank.

## **Main financial centre**

Cockburn Town, Grand Turk.

## **Offshore facilities**

The Financial Services Commission is an independent statutory body responsible for licensing and supervising all finance-related entities and registering companies.

## **Time**

GMT minus five hours (daylight saving, April to October, GMT minus four hours)

## **Geography**

The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) are a group of around 40 islands in the North Atlantic Ocean, split into two groups by a deep channel, which combined covers 500 square km of land. They are situated in the north of the Caribbean, 48km south of the Bahamas and 145km north of Haiti. The islands are limestone plateaux, no higher than 75 metres, most with lush green vegetation. Off their northern shore, TCI has the world's third largest coral reef system.

## **Hemisphere**

Northern

## **Climate**

Tropical, tempered by trade winds. Winter nights sometimes cool, summers are hot. Mean temperature range from 25–29 degrees Celsius.

## **Entry requirements**

### **Passports**

Required by all except visitors from North America who require birth certificate (or, a notarised copy) and photo ID (all US and Canadian nationals require a passport for re-entry to their country from January 2007). Proof of onward/return passage is required.

### **Visa**

Not required except by citizens not found within the list given in [www.turksandcaicotourism.com](http://www.turksandcaicotourism.com) – Facts and General Information – Visas and Immigration. Further local information can be found at [www.tcimall.tc/government](http://www.tcimall.tc/government) or from the nearest British consulate.

### **Currency advice/regulations**

The import and export of local and foreign currency is unrestricted.

## **Prohibited imports**

Illegal drugs and pornography; firearms require a permit from the commissioner of police prior to arrival.

## **Health (for visitors)**

### **Mandatory precautions**

Yellow fever vaccination certificate required if arriving from an infected area.

### **Advisable precautions**

Typhoid and polio vaccinations. Water precautions.

## **Hotels**

Accommodation is available on Grand Turk, South, Middle and North Caicos, Salt Cay, Pine Cay, and Providenciales, reservations are necessary. There is an 8 per cent room tax and 10–15 per cent service charge added to bills.

## **Public holidays (national)**

### **Fixed dates**

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 12 Jun (Queen's Birthday), 25–26 Dec (Christmas).

### **Variable dates**

Commonwealth Day (second Mon in Mar), Good Friday and Easter Monday (Mar/Apr), National Heroes' Day (last Mon in May), Emancipation Day (first Mon in Aug), National Youth Day (last Fri in Sep), Columbus Day (second Mon in Oct).

## **Working hours**

### **Banking**

Mon–Thu: 0830–1430; Fri: 0830–1230, 1430–1630.

### **Business**

Mon–Fri: 0830–1600.

### **Government**

Mon–Thu (winter): 0800–1230, 1400–1630; Fri: 0800–1230, 1400–1600.

Mon–Thu (summer): 0700–1130, 1300–1530; Fri: 0700–1130, 1300–1500.

## **Telecommunications**

### **Mobile/cell phones**

A GSM 850 service is available.

## **Electricity supply**

120/240 V, 60 cycles

## **Getting there**

### **Air**

**International airport/s:** Grand Turk (GDT); South Caicos International (XSC); Providenciales (PDS), duty-free shop, car-hire.

**Airport tax:** Departure tax: US\$35.

### **Surface**

**Water:** Cruise ships visit regularly.

**Main port/s:** Cockburn Harbour (South Caicos), Grand Turk, Providenciales.

## **Getting about**

### **National transport**

**Air:** Air Turks and Caicos serves Providenciales, South, Middle and North

Caicos, Salt Cay and Grand Turk. Other scheduled and charter companies operate between the islands.

**Road:** Main roads on Grand Turk, South Caicos and Providenciales are surfaced.

**Taxis:** Taxis are unmetered and can be hired for the day, agree a price before travelling.

**Water:** There are scheduled ferries and island hoppers operating between most of the islands.

## **Car hire**

Available on Grand Turk, Providenciales and South Caicos. National driving licence required, a flat tax of US\$10 is levied on all hirings. Driving is on the left.

## **BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

## **Telephone area codes**

The international direct dialling code (IDD) for Turks and Caicos Islands is +1 649 followed by subscriber's number.

## **Chambers of Commerce**

Grand Turk Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 148, Grand Turk (tel: 946-2324; fax: 946-2504).

## **Banking**

Bordier International Bank and Trust Ltd, PO Box 5, Caribbean Place, Providenciales (tel: 946-4535; fax: 946-4540; email: [enquiries@bibt.com](mailto:enquiries@bibt.com)).

First Caribbean Bank, PO Box 258, Grand Turk (tel: 946-2831; Fax: 649 946 2695; email: [care@firstcaribbeanbank.com](mailto:care@firstcaribbeanbank.com)).

Scotiabank International, Cherokee Road; PO Box 15, Providenciales (tel: 946-4750; fax: 946-4755; email: [bns.turkscaicos@scotiabank.com](mailto:bns.turkscaicos@scotiabank.com)).

Turks and Caicos Banking Co Ltd (private international banking services), PO Box 123, Harbour House, Front Street, Grand Turk (tel: 946-2368; fax: 946-2365; email: [ajbf@turksandcaicosbanking.tc](mailto:ajbf@turksandcaicosbanking.tc)).

## **Central bank**

None

## **Travel information**

Air Turks and Caicos, PO Box 191; 1 Interisland Plaza, Old Airport Road, Providenciales, (tel: 941-5481; fax: 946-4040; email: [fly@airturksandcaicos.com](mailto:fly@airturksandcaicos.com)).

SkyKing Airlines, PO Box 398, Providenciales (admin tel: 941-5464 ext 200 / 504; fax: 941-4264; email: [cservices@skyking.tc](mailto:cservices@skyking.tc); reservations:

941-3136; fax: 941-5127; email: [res@skyking.tc](mailto:res@skyking.tc); internet: <http://skyking.tc>.

Spirit Air (regional flights) 2800 Executive Way, Miramar, Florida 33025, USA (tel: (+1-954) 447-7965; fax: (+1-954) 447-7979; internet: [www.spiritair.com](http://www.spiritair.com)).

**National tourist organisation offices**  
Turks and Caicos Tourist Board, Front Street, PO Box 128, Grand Turk (tel: 946-2321/2; fax: 946-2733; email: [tci.tourism@tciway.tc](mailto:tci.tourism@tciway.tc); internet: [www.turksandcaicotourism.com](http://www.turksandcaicotourism.com)).

Turks & Caicos Islands Tourist Board, Stubbs Diamond Plaza, Providenciales (tel: 946-4970, 491-5746; fax 941-5494).

#### **Ministries**

Governor's Office, Government House, Waterloo, Grand Turk (tel: 946-2309; fax: 946-2903; e-mail: [govhouse@tciway.tc](mailto:govhouse@tciway.tc)).

Main Government Offices, Cockburn Town, Grand Turk (tel: 946-2801).

Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Women's Affairs (tel: 946-2801, ext 142; fax: 946-1337; e-mail: [tci.sports@tciway.tc](mailto:tci.sports@tciway.tc)).

Ministry of Finance, Commerce and Development (tel: 946-2935, 946-2937; fax: 946-2557; e-mail: [fsc@tciway.tc](mailto:fsc@tciway.tc)).

Ministry of Health and Education (tel: 946-2801; fax: 946-2722).

#### **Other useful addresses**

Development Board, PO Box 105, Hibiscus Square, Pond Street, Grand Turk (tel: 946-2058).

Financial Services Commission, Harry Francis Building, Pond Street, Grand Turk (tel: 946-2802; fax: 946-2821).

General Trading Company (Turks & Caicos) Ltd, PMBL, Cockburn Town, Grand Turk (tel: 946-2464).

Government Information Service (GIS), Government Square, Grand Turk (tel: 946-2301 ext 40505/40506; fax: 946-1120).

Immigration And Work Permits, Director Of Immigration, Immigration Department, Southbase, Grand Turk (tel: 946-2939/2700; fax: 946-2924; email: [iam@tciway.tc](mailto:iam@tciway.tc)).

TClInvest, Hibiscus Square, Box 105, Grand Turk (tel: 946-2058; fax: 946-1464; email: [tcinvest@tciway.tc](mailto:tcinvest@tciway.tc); internet: [www.tcinvest.tc](http://www.tcinvest.tc)).

Turks & Caicos Hotel Association, Third Turtle Inn, Providenciales (tel: 946-4230).

Turks Islands Importers Ltd (TIMCO), Front Street, PO Box 72, Grand Turk (tel: 946-2480).

#### **Internet sites**

Gateway Sites: [www.turksandcaicos.tc](http://www.turksandcaicos.tc)

Local Information: [www.tc/info.htm](http://www.tc/info.htm)