

The Radisson Cable Beach Resort: A Honeymooner's Paradise

Like brilliant tropical flowers, love blooms along Cable Beach in the Bahamas. With aquamarine waters, balmy tropical breezes and sugar-fine sand beaches, it's an ideal destination for romantic travelers and honeymooners to luxuriate in each other's company.

Cable Beach received its name after a Nassau to Florida submarine cable was laid in the area. This marked the end of the island's isolations and put it in touch with the rest of the world via telephone.

While the traveling public is generally familiar with the Bahamian vacation spots of Nassau and Cable Beach, many people are not familiar with the name of New Providence, although New Providence Island is the most popular and most populous island in the Bahamas. Nassau is actually New Providence's main city and the capital of the Bahamas. Cable Beach is the fashionable resort area located on New Providence's northern coast, ten minutes to the west of Nassau, and all its great duty-free shopping.

New Providence has been the bustling hub of the Bahamas since the shipwrecking days of the legendary pirate Blackbeard. Prized for its sheltered harbor, the island made history and preserved it beautifully in British-colonial and Victorian mansions, cathedrals, 18th-century fortresses and a Queen's Staircase whose 66 steps lead to a view not to be missed. The island is also home to weather-beaten, ancient forts; elegant, noble architecture; fine local crafts and international goods. The Bahamas' past and present are both evident as one tours about the island. In Nassau there are charming, pastel-hued historic buildings, while Cable Beach boasts modern, mega-resorts.

Cable Beach features many luxury resorts. The Sandals Royal Bahamian Resort and Spa, with its own picturesque offshore Sandals Cay Island, is an all-inclusive, couples only, AAA Four-Diamond facility with an award-winning European-style spa. Sandals has also earned Best in the Caribbean honors as the finest all-inclusive resort in this part of the world.

SuperClubs Breezes Bahamas is another all-inclusive resort, for adults 16 years and older. Known as offering guests "the playful side of paradise," it offers a wide range of activities.

Other world-class Cable Beach resorts include: the Radisson Cable Beach Casino and Golf Resort, which is also an "all inclusive" property popular with families; the Nassau Beach Hotel which has 3,000 feet of beachfront and is across the street from the Cable Beach Golf Club; plus the Nassau Marriott Resort & Crystal Palace Casino with 12 restaurants and lounges, health club, casino and Rainforest Theatre.

When in the Bahamas, a variety of activities await anyone who wants to do more than spend the day relaxing on lovely Cable Beach. Sports fanatics can choose from golf, tennis, fishing, diving, snorkeling, or volleyball. Lately, there's been an expansion of visitor choices in sports, sightseeing, eco-tourism and day trips. There's something to do that meets every taste and pocketbook. From bird watching to shark dives, Bahamians keep up with the latest trends in sports of all sorts. Marine sports are big, as one is never more than a few miles from the seashore. Diving, swimming, golf, and water-skiing lessons are all available for the athletic guest who wants to tone up and tune into the more physical aspects of Bahamian fun.

While a vacation to the island is sure to involve lots of water sports, there are historic sites to visit as well. Parliament Square has a statue of a young Queen Victoria...Visitors can climb the 65 steep steps of the Queen's Staircase toward Fort Fincastle...There are also two other forts located on the island: Fort Montagu and Fort Charlotte. For local wildlife, a visit to the Ardastra Gardens and Zoo is recommended, where one can enjoy a flamingo show.

There are many cultural attractions too. Junkanoo is the Bahamian version of Mardi Gras. Travelers can witness the festivities of Junkanoo in person by visiting on either Boxing Day (December 26) or New Year's Day. To get a taste of Junkanoo on one of the other 363 days of the year, visit the Junkanoo Expo. It houses a variety of the costumes worn by celebrants during Junkanoo. While their bright colors and

complex designs are impressive, it's really the size of these costumes which is most amazing. Many are nearly as big as small parade floats, yet they are worn and carried by one person.

For vacationers looking to hit the jackpot after hitting the beach, try a visit to the Crystal Palace Casino at the Marriott Resort on Cable Beach. This casino dwarfs the casinos found on most other Caribbean islands and could easily be mistaken for a major Las Vegas casino.

The Cable Beach area of the island is fast becoming noted as a gastronomical happening place. Much of the fine dining can be found at the five Cable Beach resorts, but stand alone restaurants also offer great Bahamian and international cuisine.

With its location about 160 miles from Miami, it is not surprising that Nassau and Cable Beach are popular destinations for cruise ship passengers too. They offer both the great duty-free shopping and beautiful beaches needed to satisfy during a trip ashore. Some of the best duty-free shopping on the island is in Nassau with such designer shops as Gucci, Fendi and Cartier. There are also stores like John Bull with cameras, electronics and crystal, as well as independent vendors selling locally made crafts and just about anything that can possibly be made from straw.

Vacationing in the Bahamas is not only enjoyable and reasonably priced, it's quite simple. There is frequent air service from Chicago to Nassau. And, unlike when returning from other international destinations, United States citizens, can go through U.S. Customs Pre-Clearance before even boarding the plane in Nassau. In fact, before leaving the islands, visitors simply will present the disembarkation card received on arrival, pay a small departure tax of \$15, then, you're on your way home!

When it's time to have fun in the sun, it's time to take a trip to the Caribbean. And there's no place better than Cable Beach and Nassau.

For package information call 1-800-BAHAMAS.