

**B I G B L U E U N L I M I T E D**

**LEEWARD MARINA, PROVIDENCIALES  
TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.**

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**DIVING, ECO-ADVENTURES,  
& PRIVATE CHARTERS  
2008**

## **BIG BLUE SUMMARY**

### **SCUBA DIVING**

#### **Two Tank Dive**

Departs daily at 8am with a maximum of 9 divers aboard a 40' catamaran

#### **Courses**

A full range of SCUBA courses including beginner 'try-dives'

### **ECO-ADVENTURES**

#### **Snorkelling**

Join a four hour snorkelling trip on the barrier reef

#### **Kayaking Eco-Tour**

Half day educational trip including mangroves, iguanas, and ecology

#### **Kayak and Cultural Tour**

Explore southwest Provo by kayak and visit local settlement Blue Hills

#### **North Caicos Kayak & Sightseeing Tour**

Kayak in Bottle Creek and visit the local villages & historical ruins of North Caicos

#### **Middle Caicos Bicycling Tour**

Travel by mountain bike to the limestone caves and beautiful beaches on Middle Caicos

### **PRIVATE ADVENTURES**

#### **Private Dive Charters**

Charter any of Big Blue's vessels for a professional dive service

#### **Private Eco-Adventures**

Spend an unforgettable day exploring North and Middle Caicos

#### **Private Boat Adventures**

Customize a half or full day boat adventure aboard a comfortable power catamaran



## SCUBA DIVING

Big Blue specializes in a small group and private dive service catering to all experience levels and diving interests. The main dive boat is a 40ft power catamaran that departs daily at 8.30am for two dives with a maximum of 9 guests. Night dives and 1-tank dives are regularly scheduled. Big Blue is rebreather and technical diving friendly.

### Small Groups

Big Blue's success stems from the intrinsic value and optimum safety of small group diving. Featuring the smallest dive groups on Providenciales, Big Blue minimizes pressure on the reef, and promotes a relaxed diving experience.

### Private Charters

All of Big Blue's vessels are available for private dive charter. Each boat is set-up as a professional dive platform and comes equipped with an experienced captain and dive crew. Whether you're an avid diver or a total beginner, a private charter ensures you will receive the attention you need to enjoy a day both on and under the water. See "*Private Boat Adventures*" for more information.

### Philosophy

Above all there is no rush, no schedule to keep. Big Blue does not dictate dive time or profiles, allowing divers to maximize their underwater experience. With Big Blue, certified divers can confidently and safely explore the reefs and walls of the Turks and Caicos, without total reliance on the dive guide.

### Safety

Dive computers are complimentary, thorough briefings are given, and maps are drawn of the dive sites. An instructor is always in the water and private guides are available if divers would like individual guidance and instruction. Surface markers and dive alerts are also provided free of charge so divers can feel comfortable exploring on their own. Enriched Air Nitrox is available.

### Dive sites

Big Blue's location at the Leeward Marina on the east end of Providenciales allows us to conveniently access the best diving areas on the north and south side of the islands: Grace Bay, Pine Cay, French Cay, West Caicos and North/West Point. We are the only dive and water sports operator that has that capability. Our dive staff and boat captains will choose the most suitable dive location each day according to the tides, the weather, and the previous experience of the divers. Travel time to the dive site ranges from 5 to 60 minutes, and return time is generally between 1.30 and 3.00pm.

### Refreshments

A light breakfast and an array of healthy snacks for lunch are provided on the daily dive boat. Hot and cold drinks are available throughout the day.



## **DIVE COURSES**

Big Blue offers a full range of scuba courses. Recreational courses are primarily conducted through the world-renowned PADI agency, technical courses through TDI. All courses are conducted privately or in very small groups.

### **Discover SCUBA or Beginner Try Dive**

This is a scuba experience course for beginners. It is designed to be safe but not complicated. A Big Blue Try Dive consists of a skill session in shallow water, followed by a one-tank dive to a maximum of 40ft. The course lasts approximately 3.5 hours.

### **Advanced Try Dive**

For those who have been diving before and feel comfortable in the water, take part in the advanced experience program. Depart on the daily dive boat to the outer reef where you will receive personal instruction in basic scuba and can enjoy a two-tank dive under close supervision. This is not a certification course and is conducted at the instructor's discretion only.

### **Refresher Course/SCUBA Tune-up**

For certified divers who have not been diving in a while, a 'Refresher Course' is an excellent idea. An instructor will remind you how to set up your dive equipment, plan a dive, and practise some of those essential underwater skills such as mask clearing, relaxed breathing techniques and buoyancy control. This course is highly recommended for anyone who has not been diving in over a year.

### **PADI Open Water Course & Referral**

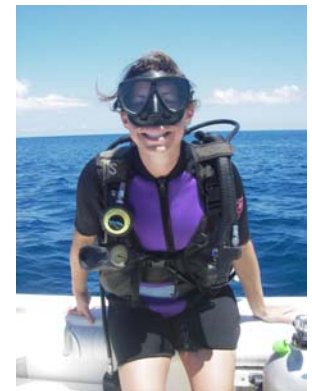
This full certification course offered by PADI takes 4 days to complete. It is divided into academic and confined pool sessions, followed by four open-water training dives. You will receive a course workbook, dive planner and logbook. For those students who have begun their certification at home, as part of a referral, Big Blue can complete the four training dives and finish the certification process.

### **Enriched Air Nitrox Course**

Dive safer and longer with Enriched Air Nitrox. Learn about the benefits of increased oxygen percentage mixtures and how to use them to your advantage. This is a one-day course, and is the prelude to more technical diving.

### **Specialty Courses**

Improve your scuba skills and knowledge by participating in a range of Diver Specialty Courses. Whether you're interested in staying down longer, going deeper or identifying marine life, Big Blue has a specialty course for you. Favourites include 'Underwater Naturalist' and 'Digital Photography'.



## **SNORKELLING**

The Turks and Caicos offer some exceptional snorkelling. The best reefs are slightly offshore, a short boat ride away. There are numerous patch reefs and a long barrier reef that runs parallel to the north shore of the Caicos Islands. Other reefs can be found further away, adjacent to the islands of French Cay and West Caicos. Unquestionably, the Turks and Caicos is a snorkelling paradise and visitors should make at least one trip to the reef during their stay. Big Blue's boutique trips are designed for 4-8 people.

### **Dedicated ½ day snorkel trips**

Half day snorkelling trips are conducted on the reefs that run between Providenciales and North Caicos. Sites are chosen to maximize the snorkel experience and are timed to coincide with the tides for optimum visibility. Reef fish and coral identification books are onboard the boat, and your guide will introduce you to the basics of coral ecology, fish identification, and reef etiquette. The small group size helps guests feel comfortable in the water. Guides will even show you basic free-diving (breath-holding) techniques, allowing the more adventurous snorkellers to explore the labyrinth of coral tunnels which makes up the Turks and Caicos barrier reef.

### **PRIVATE SNORKELLING OPTIONS**

#### **Full-day snorkel adventures**

Spend the whole day exploring the reefs of the Caicos Bank. Destinations vary according to water and weather conditions but include the north shore barrier reef, the west coast of Providenciales, French Cay, and West Caicos. On a full-day adventure you can take time to improve your snorkelling and free-diving technique. Beginners can learn to utilize wetsuits and weight belts to explore the underwater holes and arches where wildlife awaits.

#### **Classes**

1. Snorkelling lessons are available for all abilities and ages. Start in shallow water and learn proper techniques. Instruction begins in shallow water and ends with a trip to the barrier reef.
2. Free-diving workshops are offered to help those who want to dive down and explore the deeper reefs, archways, and tunnels. Learn equalizing, body positioning, and breath-holding techniques.
3. Marine-life identification and coral reef ecology classes teach guests about the fish, corals, and other invertebrates that they encounter. Emphasis is put on identification, behaviour, and reef ecology. Timing is flexible and split between some classroom work and plenty of snorkelling time. Classes are designed for all levels and ages. The class work can be conducted at your condo or villa; the snorkelling is either done from the shore or on a boat.



## KAYAKING

Kayaking is an ideal way to observe the tropical wildlife and experience the numerous islands of the Turks and Caicos. Big Blue maintains a fleet of modern single and double kayaks featuring comfortable seats, back rests, and rudders. Double kayaks can include a jump seat to accommodate small children. The following trips are scheduled from Providenciales and accommodate a maximum of 8 people:

### ½ Day Kayak Eco-tour

This is Big Blue's signature eco-adventure and is suitable for the whole family. The tour explores the Princess Alexandra Nature Reserve. Guests paddle the serene channels of Mangrove Cay, visit the iguana sanctuary on Little Water Cay, and take a walk along a spectacular beach. During the tour Big Blue will introduce you to the coastal ecology of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and point out marine and bird life along the way. Beginners are welcome and basic kayaking instruction is provided. This tour lasts approximately 4 hours.

### Kayak and Cultural Tour

This tour begins in the remote southwest region of Provo at picturesque Southwest Bluff. Guests travel by kayak through the network of mangrove channels which make up Frenchman's Creek Nature Reserve, before arriving at an isolated beach on the west coast of the island. Removed from human influence, Frenchman's Creek is a great place to observe marine life and tropical birds. After kayaking, guests pay a visit to the settlement of Blue Hills to sample the fresh sea-food cuisine at a local watering hole. Blue Hills is also home to the Turks & Caicos Crafts Shop, where genuine high quality handcrafts can be viewed and purchased. This tour lasts approximately 7 hours and includes lunch and land transport.

### Kayak Rentals

All kayaks are available for rent by the hour, day or week. The waters and islands in the Nature Reserve adjacent to the Big Blue base can be explored at your own pace with the help of the maps and dry bags provided. Kayaks can also be delivered to your rental villa.

Adventurous paddlers can ask about pre-dawn bird watching, overnight camping, and the opportunity to take part in a full-day, guided kayak trip along the coast of the Caicos Cays.

### Kayaking on North Caicos

Kayaking is also available on the east coast of North Caicos. Tours explore the Bottle Creek/East Bay Cay Nature Reserve region which is exceedingly peaceful and seldom explored. Kayak rentals are also available on North Caicos. See "*Eco-Adventures on North and Middle Caicos*" for more information on guided kayaking in this area.



## **ECO-ADVENTURES ON NORTH AND MIDDLE CAICOS**

North Caicos is 30-minutes by boat from Providenciales and boasts a very different style. It has a resident population of around 2000 and is locally known as the ‘garden island’ of the Turks and Caicos. Middle Caicos is the largest island in the chain, but has a population of less than 300, and is located adjacent to North Caicos. Both are relaxed and fascinating islands where you can experience authentic Caribbean living. Big Blue keeps a collection of kayaks on North Caicos and a fleet of mountain bikes on Middle. Trips to these islands can be taken with one of our scheduled eco-tours, or customized as part of a full day private adventure.

### **Guided “Kayak and Sightseeing Tours” on North Caicos**

Big Blue's full-day eco-adventure explores North Caicos by kayak and vehicle. Guests can paddle the tranquil waters of Bottle Creek, tour Wade's Green historic plantation ruins, and spot the flamingos at Flamingo Pond Nature Reserve. Along the way, enjoy a delicious lunch in the home of local matriarch, and accomplished chef, Susan Butterfield and soak in the relaxed atmosphere found in the picturesque village of Kew.

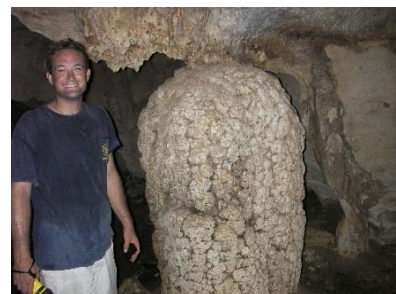
### **Middle Caicos Biking Eco-Adventure**

An unforgettable bike ride awaits visitors to Middle Caicos on this full-day eco-adventure. The bike route follows a rugged road through the hills and pinelands to the south, and then loops back along an easier coastal road to the north. The ride begins with the impressive limestone caves near Conch Bar and finishes with a swim at the famed Mudjin Harbour. A native lunch is served in a local Bambarra home, and is followed by a tour of the recently completed Bambarra Eco-Centre. This energetic day covers both North and Middle Caicos. It features approximately 15 miles of bike trails.

## **PRIVATE ECO-ADVENTURES ON NORTH AND MIDDLE CAICOS**

Utilize Big Blue’s experience and infrastructure to design a full-day eco adventure across North Caicos, Middle Caicos or both. See below for a list of some of the activities available and remember, you can always incorporate kayaking or mountain biking into your private adventure.

- Explore the islands, visit the iguana sanctuary, and snorkel the reefs on the way to North Caicos.
- Visit Flamingo Pond Nature Reserve and Cottage Pond, a deep freshwater sinkhole.
- Tour the various 18th century plantation ruins and learn about the history of the TCI.
- Experience a taste of island life whilst you walk through the local villages and towns.
- Swim in the cooling turquoise waters at some of the spectacular and often deserted beaches.
- Walk along the coastal and interior trails and learn about the medicinal uses of the plants.
- Explore the impressive limestone caves which are the largest in the whole Caribbean.
- Enjoy some excellent seafood and local fare at Daniel’s Café and other native establishments.
- Take a peaceful ride down Bottle Creek in a custom made wooden longboat. (Max. 3 persons).



## **PRIVATE BOAT ADVENTURES**

Big Blue Unlimited have a network of guides, facilities, and transportation which connect the islands for you. Explore off the beaten path and see more of the islands, reefs, and local culture. Private guides and trips are available for all activities. The boat adventures highlighted below are merely suggestions; Big Blue will design a day-out to suit your interests. Combine boating, diving, snorkelling, kayaking, biking, island exploration and more.

### **The Caicos Cays Eco-tour**

Explore the string of cays and turquoise waters that run between Providenciales and North Caicos. Snorkel different spots along the coral reef as you travel up the coast. Spend time on the deserted beaches and learn about the marine life, bird life, and island geography. Stop at the iguana sanctuary on Little Water Cay and the Caicos Conch Farm to learn about two of the most important animals in the TCI. Half and full-day trips are available.

### **West Caicos**

Enjoy the fun journey and truly amazing scenery on the island of West Caicos. Guests will experience some of the bluest waters in the island chain, snorkel the coral reefs, and jump from the cliffs into the deep pools below. Hike inland to historic Yankee Town and Lake Catherine. The lake is connected to the ocean via a labyrinth of underwater caves hidden beneath the island. Learn the unique geology of the island and explore the fossil reefs high above the waterline. It's a full day adventure that will leave you exhausted and satisfied. Pick-up by boat along Provo's south coast is possible.

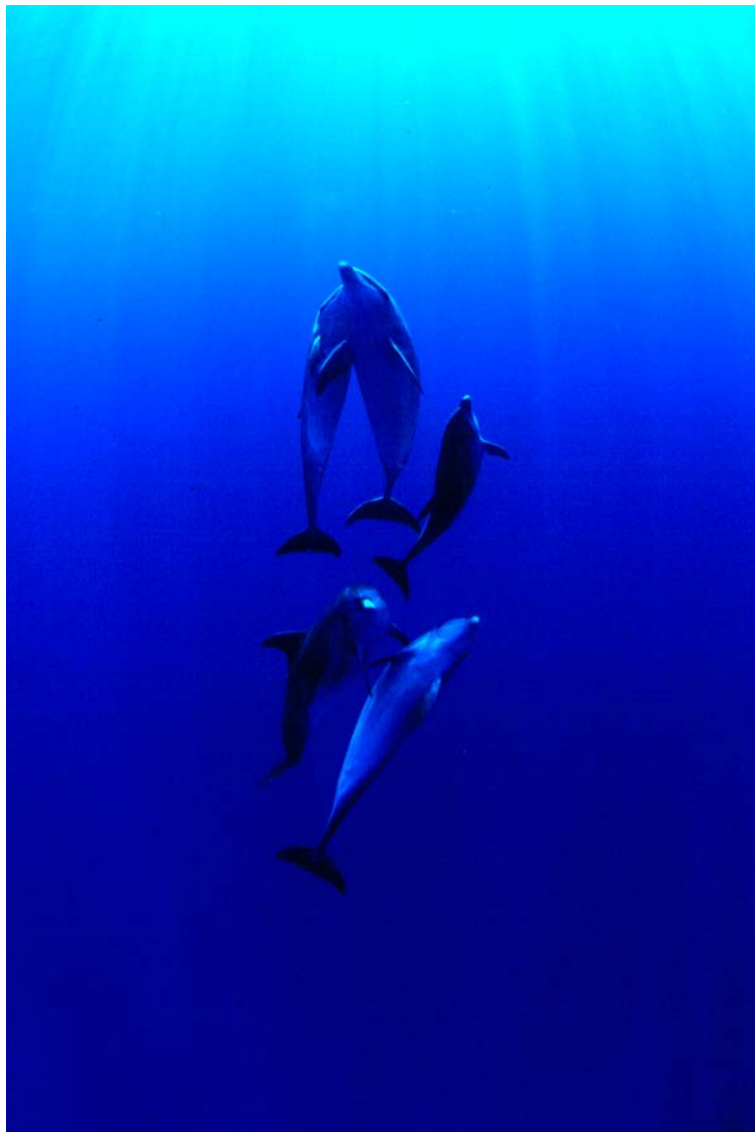
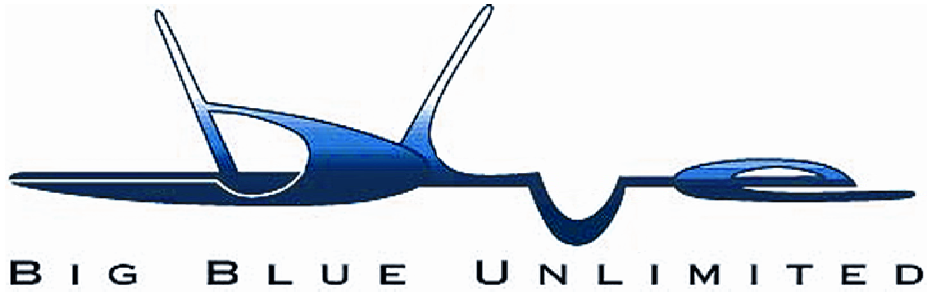
### **French Cay & West Sand Spit**

French Cay lies 15 miles to the south of Provo. The small island is a wildlife sanctuary near the edge of the wall featuring an abundance of bird life and pristine coral reefs in the adjacent waters. If the sea conditions are favourable it is possible to continue south to West Sand Spit, a small sandbar that emerges at low tide on the edge of the Caicos Bank. In the middle of nowhere, it's an incredible natural phenomenon that has to be seen to be fully appreciated. Snorkel or dive along the top of the underwater wall that marks the return to the Atlantic Ocean. Enjoy lunch while you relax on your very own, albeit temporary, private island.

## **SCUBA DIVING**

Private dive charters are available on all of Big Blue's vessels. Diving can be the main theme of the day's agenda or just part of the charter for some of the guests. Basic training for beginner divers can easily be included during the day if required.





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