

# **Adventurous Options In Turks And Caicos**

by Jessica Festa (RSS feed) on Apr 8th 2012 at 3:30PM

While many people think of Turks and Caicos as being a relaxing beach getaway, the islands have a lot more to offer than just that. In fact, adventure enthusiasts will feel right at home with an array of daring options in a beautiful setting.

# **Barefoot Waterskiing**

Forget skis and boards; barefoot waterskiing lets you feel completely free during your adventure.



Because the coral reef system runs the length of the north shore beach, the water remains calm and creates the perfect conditions for the sport. Also known as "barefooting," you'll get the chance to zoom over the water at 40 mph.

#### **Eco-Kayaking**

In the Turks and Caicos Islands, kayaking is an excellent way to explore the unique flora and fauna of the area. As you paddle through lush mangroves, keep your eyes peeled for Lemon Sharks, Pufferfish, Snappers and Bonefish in the sea, and Herons, Oystercatchers and Brown Pelicans overhead. Feeling adventurous? Pre-dawn bird watching and secluded island camping can be added to a multi-day kayaking itinerary.

## Kiteboarding

Kiteboarding, a combination of windsurfing and snowboarding, is a unique adventure that is rapidly growing in popularity. The Turks and Caicos Islands are a great destination for kiteboarding, as the area features warm waters and cool winds that help to propel boarders at quick speeds.

Because kiteboarding poses inherent risks, it is wise to get acquainted with the sport through a professional tourism company. Big Blue Unlimited's Kite Safari is a three- to four-hour action packed adventure for anyone who wants to get their adrenaline pumping.

## Scuba Diving

The Turks and Caicos Islands boast the world's third largest barrier reef with some amazing sheer drop walls. Divers will be able to spot rays, turtles, sharks, exotic shoals of fish, beautiful coral and sometimes Humpback whales and dolphins. While the islands host a multitude of diving companies, it is best to choose one that offers small diving groups so you can get the most out of the experience as well as minimize your effect on the local eco-system.

# Snorkeling

For those interested in exploring marine life who are not interested in scuba diving, snorkeling is a great option. You'll be able to spot tropical fish without the burden of gear or needing to take a diving course.

#### Stand Up Paddleboarding

While the Hawaiian's have used paddleboards for years, it wasn't until recently that Big Blue Unlimited brought them to the Turks and Caicos Islands. Stand up paddleboarding (SUP) allows you to view what's over as well as what's under the water while also getting a great workout.

#### Horseback Riding

While many destinations offer the chance to go horseback riding, not many allow you to do it quite like this. With Provo Ponies, you'll get the chance to trot through clear ocean water while enjoying four miles of private, white sand beach.

# Sailing

Because the Turks and Caicos Islands are surrounded by water, sailing is a popular adventure option in the area. Instead of simply boarding a boat as a passenger, why not learn how to sail the boat yourself? Or choose a tour that combines sailing with other adventures such as diving, snorkeling or hiking.

#### Biking

While many of Turks and Caicos adventure options put thrill-seekers in the water, biking makes for an exciting land excursion. Because the islands offer both rugged terrain and flat land, the adventure is great for people of all abilities.

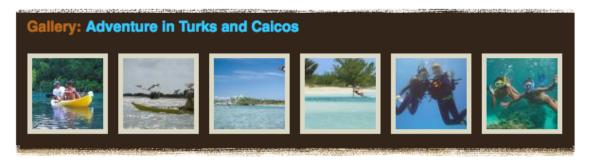
#### Queen Conch Salad

Along with daring activities, there's adventurous food as well. Head over to the Grace Bay Beach Club and order the Conch Salad, which features fresh ingredients from the local waters. Want to go diving for your own lunch? You can, as the Turks and Caicos Islands are home to the world's only Conch Farm.

#### Drink Like a Pirate

According to the legend, Pirate Calico Jack Rackham used the Turks and Caicos Islands to hide from authorities, and he may have left some of his rum behind. If you head to the Regent Palms' Green Flamingo Bar they will prepare you a rum punch cocktail with a kick. Bambarra Rum, which is locally produced, is named after a shipwreck that freed captive African slaves on Bambarra Beach.

To get a better idea of these adventurous options, check out the gallery below.



Filed under: Biking, Arts and Culture, Paddling, Scuba Diving, Skiing, Surfing, Food and Drink, Photos, United Kingdom, Caribbean

