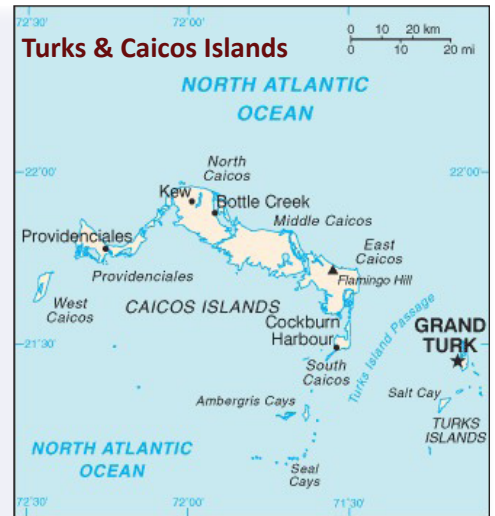




KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ❑ Driving is on the left.
- ❑ Drivers are required to carry a valid license, International Driving Permit (IDP), vehicle documents and proof of insurance. An IDP is valid for up to one month from arrival.
- ❑ The national currency is the United States Dollar (USD).
- ❑ There is little police enforcement of traffic laws.
- ❑ Traffic crashes are increasing, especially at night on the main island of Providenciales. Many are fatal.
- ❑ Most rental vehicles are imported left-hand drive cars and Jeeps, limiting driver vision, particularly on corners and winding roads.
- ❑ School buses and hotel shuttle buses generally have left-hand steering with doors that unload passengers into traffic lanes.
- ❑ Avoid walking alone, particularly at night or in isolated and poorly lit locations, including beaches.
- ❑ Legal blood alcohol limit is below 0.08 g/dl. Despite legal limits, alcohol is a major factor in many road crashes.
- ❑ Pedestrians are at high risk from drivers under the influence of alcohol, particularly in popular bar/club zones.
- ❑ There are no official statistics on road traffic deaths. The country's national tourism agency reports there are an estimated 12.7 road deaths per 100,000 people in Turks and Caicos Islands, compared to 2.2 in Sweden and 2.3 in the UK.



Source: CIA Factbook

ROAD CULTURE

- **Driving standards** are poor. Many motorists engage in reckless driving with a disregard of traffic safety rules.
- **Speeding** is common.
- **Drivers often** fail to signal for turns or other traffic maneuvers.
- **Many motorists** fail to use headlights at night.
- **Motorists** frequently disregard the presence of pedestrians.
- **Drivers often** operate unregistered vehicles without license plates, including motorcycles and motorbikes. Many motorists are uninsured.
- **Drivers of** unlicensed “jitney” taxis may stop suddenly and without warning to pick up or drop off passengers, even on highways.
- **Motorbike** and motorcycle drivers generally ignore safety rules and may weave through traffic or pedestrians.
- **In areas** with bars and clubs, many pedestrians and motorists may be under the influence of alcohol.
- **There are** many cyclists. Bicycles may not be equipped with reflectors, headlights or taillights.

ROAD CONDITIONS

- **There are** 121 km (75 miles) of roads; 24 km (14.9 miles) are paved and 97 km (60.2 miles) are unpaved.
- **The country** is made up of eight main islands.
- **Road conditions** vary widely. Main roads are generally in good condition.
- **Most** secondary and rural roads are narrow, unpaved and lack shoulders.
- **Paved roads** often become dirt or gravel; changes in surface conditions are frequently unmarked.
- **Many** roads have potholes, especially rural roads and unpaved roads in towns.
- **The islands** have no traffic lights. There are many roundabouts and blind intersections.
- **Large speed bumps** are common. Most are unmarked.
- **Addresses** generally do not include street numbers.
- **Roundabout** signs can be confusing, and are usually marked with the names of prominent citizens, rather than with destinations.
- **There is** frequent road construction. Work areas may not be sufficiently marked or lit.
- **Public** demonstrations are infrequent, but may occur. Avoid all public gatherings, which have the potential to become confrontational.
- **When demonstrations** take place, road travel and public transport may be disrupted.
- **Pedestrian** infrastructure is underdeveloped. Many areas lack sidewalks.
- **Zebra crossings** and pedestrian traffic signals are non-existent in most areas.
- **On some** roads, large, painted speed bumps serve as pedestrian crossings.



Road Conditions, continued

- **Bicycling** is a popular form of transport. There are few bike paths.
- **Drivers may** ignore cyclists and fail to provide adequate space on shared roadways.
- **Loose animals** on roads present hazards throughout the islands, particularly at night.
- **Wild donkeys** and horses are present on roads on Grand Turk Island.
- **The following roads** may present particular challenges to motorists:
 - » **Leeward Highway** on the island of Providenciales is the largest highway in Turks and Caicos. It connects Long Bay to “Downtown” (the central area of the island), and is 5.5 miles (8.9 km) in length. There are two lanes in each direction. This road has the country’s highest rate of serious and fatal crashes; many are caused by reckless driving by taxi and jitney drivers, speeding and misuse of roundabouts. Large transport trucks in poor repair may have tire blowouts while traveling at speed. Road surfaces have deteriorated in many areas. There are large potholes.
 - » **South Dock Road** in the southeast region of Providenciales links Downtown to the industrial port area, and has many crashes. The road has multiple junctions and side roads. Speeding is common among visitors and drivers of heavy vehicles. There are many large, overloaded trucks carrying bulk materials; and trucks pulling trailers of construction equipment from the port area.
 - » **Roads on North Caicos and Middle Caicos** are a mix of paved and dirt/gravel surfaces. After rain, roads in low-lying areas flood. Potholes on paved roads may become filled with water and are often deep. There are few road signs. Many visitors staying at hotels and rental accommodations travel on foot or by bicycle. There are no bike paths. Motorists should be alert to the presence of pedestrians and cyclists on or near roads.

REGIONAL AND SEASONAL CONDITIONS

- **The islands** are subject to heavy rains, strong winds, tropical cyclones and hurricanes.
- **Rain and storm** conditions may result in road flooding. Do not enter flood waters or drive onto roads with standing water, which may obscure deep potholes or other road hazards.
- **Strong winds** may result in road blockages including fallen trees and large branches.
- **Hurricane** season is generally from June to November. Even small storms may develop quickly into major hurricanes.
- **Be familiar with emergency procedures.** The Red Cross provides a website and free, downloadable emergency app: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies>

TRANSPORTATION





- **Transportation options** include rental cars, luxury car services, taxis, motorcycles, motorbikes, electric mopeds (called scooters), golf carts, bicycles and boats.
- **There is no** public transportation.
- **Luxury** car services with a local driver can be booked prior to travel, or at desks in local airports.
- **Taxis** include private cars and shared vans.
- **Use only** official, licensed taxis. Be sure that vehicle is fitted with working seatbelts.
- **Avoid** unregistered “jitney” taxis, which are generally unlicensed and uninsured older-model sedans.
- **Attacks** have occurred against passengers in jitney taxis.

Maximum Speed Limits

| Type of road | Maximum speed |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Urban areas | 20 mph (32 kph) |
| Rural roads | 20 mph (32 kph) |
| Highways | 40 mph (64 kph) |

Always adjust speed according to signage, hazards and weather conditions.

Signs are generally pictorial and may not follow European Union conventions.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Main roundabout | Mini-roundabout | Junction with priority over traffic on left | Shelter evacuation route | Yield to traffic on main road | Speed bump | Low-flying aircraft | No overtaking | Example of speed limit sign in mph |



Transportation, continued

- **Taxis** on the main island of Providenciales have set fares. Charges may be applied to each passenger; verify price with driver prior to travel.
- **Most taxis** only accept cash.
- **There are** large numbers of motorcycles, motorbikes and electric mopeds/scooters. Many are driven by visitors unfamiliar with road conditions and traffic regulations.
- **Riding** bicycles and rental scooters is regarded as dangerous and is not advised, particularly on the island of Providenciales and outside of the Grace Bay area.
- **Golf carts** are the main form of transportation on some small islands including Salt Cay.
- **There is** no ride-hailing.
- **Boat services** are available. Operators, including those offering private boat charters, are often unlicensed and uninsured.
- **Passenger-only** ferries operated by multiple companies provide routes between main islands. Condition of vessels varies. Adequate life-saving equipment may be unavailable. If traveling by ferry, bring your own life preserver, and do not travel during inclement weather or rough seas.
- **Boat operators** often behave recklessly and disregard swimmers and snorkelers, and may come very close to crowded beaches. Many small craft are piloted by visitors with no experience.

- **Jet skis** are popular with visitors. Operators may endanger swimmers and snorkelers.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

- **Drivers must** be at least 25 years of age to rent a car, and 18 to rent a motor scooter. Some rental agencies may have other requirements.
- **Seat belt** use is mandatory for driver and passengers.
- **There is no** national child safety seat law. For safety, children should be secured in child seats or car restraint systems appropriate to age and size. Bring your own child safety seat.
- **Child safety** seats may be available from larger car rental agencies on Providenciales, but should be reserved in advance.
- **Helmets** are not required for drivers or passengers on scooters, motorcycles, bicycles or three-wheeled motorbikes. Some agencies may provide helmets with rental. For safety, bring your own helmet.
- **Speed limits** are posted in miles-per-hour.
- **On** multi-lane roads, overtake only on the right.
- **Turn signals** must be used at roundabouts, unless traveling straight through.
- **Drivers must** yield to traffic on their right at roundabouts, and to vehicles already within the roundabout.

Cockburn Town (Capital)

- » Located on Grand Turk Island.
- » Transportation options include rental cars, luxury car services, taxis, motorcycles, motorbikes, electric mopeds (called scooters), golf carts, bicycles and boats.
- » There is a large cruise port terminal. Traffic increases when ships are in port.
- » There is no public transportation.
- » Taxis include private cars and shared vans.
- » Use only official, licensed taxis. Be sure that taxi is fitted with working seatbelts.
- » Do not use unregistered “jitney” taxis. These vehicles are usually older sedans which are unlicensed and uninsured. Passengers in jitney taxis have been assaulted.
- » Taxis have set fares and generally accept cash only. Verify rates before travel.
- » There are many motorcycles, motorbikes and electric mopeds/scooters; these vehicles are often driven by visitors who are unfamiliar with road conditions and traffic regulations.
- » Bicycles and rental scooters are regarded as dangerous, and their use is not advised for transport.
- » Cycling infrastructure is undeveloped. Bicycles are generally required to share narrow roads with motorized traffic.
- » Pedestrian infrastructure is lacking. In some places, large painted speedbumps serve as pedestrian crossings.
- » Drivers often disregard pedestrians and cyclists.
- » Golf carts are often used by staff and guests at resorts. Golf carts may be present on some roads.

Cockburn Town, continued

- » Operators of boat services are frequently unlicensed and uninsured.
- » Boat pilots often behave recklessly in the presence of swimmers and snorkelers, and may come very close to crowded beaches. Many small craft are piloted by visitors with no experience.
- » Jet skis are popular with visitors. Operators may endanger swimmers and snorkelers.
- » Passenger-only ferries operated by multiple companies provide routes between main islands. Condition of vessels varies. Adequate life-saving equipment may be unavailable. If traveling by ferry, bring your own life preserver, and do not travel during inclement weather or rough seas.
- » JAGS McCartney International Airport/Grand Turk International Airport is 2 miles (3.2 km) south of city center.
- » Official licensed taxis are available outside of the arrivals terminal. Be sure that taxi is licensed and offers a flat fee from the airport. Do not accept rides from unlicensed jitney taxis.
- » Car services with a local driver can be arranged prior to travel, or booked at the airport.
- » Some resorts may provide shuttle transfers. Check with hotel in advance of travel regarding transportation to and from the airport.
- » Most major rental car companies are represented at the airport. Some vehicles may be in poor condition and lack standard safety features. Check vehicle carefully.

Downtown and Grace Bay

- » The island's central area is referred to as "Downtown;" the nearby resort area is known as Grace Bay. These are the main locations on Providenciales Island.
- » Transportation options include rental cars, luxury car services, taxis, motorcycles, motorbikes, electric mopeds (called scooters), golf carts, bicycles and boats.
- » Road conditions and driving practices are poor.
- » There are few roads. Most are paved, but surfaces are often in poor condition.
- » Navigation of the island is generally straightforward. A four-wheel drive vehicle is necessary to access remote beach areas.
- » New road signs have been installed across the island.
- » Downtown is subject to frequent flooding, which may follow heavy rain or storm surges along the coast.
- » There is no public transportation system.
- » The use of motorbikes, motorbikes and electric mopeds is popular but not recommended.
- » Taxis include private cars and vans carrying multiple passengers.
- » Use only official, licensed taxis.
- » Check that taxi is fitted with working seatbelts prior to travel.
- » Avoid informal unregistered "jitney" taxis. These vehicles are generally unlicensed and uninsured older-model sedans. Passengers in these taxis have been attacked and robbed.
- » Taxis have set fares. Separate charges generally apply to each passenger; verify price with driver prior to travel.
- » Most taxi drivers only accept cash.
- » Motorcycles, motorbikes and electric mopeds/scooters are popular, and may be driven by visitors unfamiliar with road conditions and traffic regulations.
- » Most roads have concrete sidewalks, but pedestrian crossing areas are underdeveloped.
- » Where crosswalks exist, they are frequently ignored by motorists, cyclists and scooter drivers.
- » Many people travel by bicycle, but there are no bike lanes. Bicyclists are expected to share sidewalks with pedestrians, or may be forced to ride on busy roads where traffic is undisciplined.
- » Bicycles and rental scooters are regarded as dangerous. Their use is not advised, particularly outside of the Grace Bay area.



Downtown and Grace Bay, continued

- » Golf cart transport is common on roads in and around resort areas.
- » Be alert to golf carts. These vehicles do not have seat belts.
- » There are many recreational boaters who may be reckless and disregard swimmers and snorkelers. Small craft are often piloted by visitors with no experience who come close to crowded beach areas.
- » The use of jet skis is popular with visitors. Operators may endanger swimmers and snorkelers.
- » Operators of public boat services and private charters are often unlicensed and uninsured.
- » Passenger ferries operated by multiple companies offer routes between this island and other main islands. Condition of vessels varies. Adequate life-saving equipment may be inadequate or unavailable. If traveling by ferry, bring your own life preserver, and do not travel during inclement weather or rough seas.
- » Providenciales International Airport is located 7.5 miles (12.1 km) from the town center.
- » Taxis are available outside of the arrivals terminal. Most airport taxis are shared vehicles and small vans. Use only licensed taxis offering a flat fee.
- » Some resorts may provide shuttle transfers. Check with hotel regarding transportation to and from the airport.
- » Luxury car services with a local driver can be booked prior to travel, or at desks in the airport.
- » Most major car rental agencies are represented in the arrivals hall.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND INCLUSIONS FOR MOBILITY CHALLENGED

- **Accommodations** and provisions are limited for persons with mobility, sensory or other challenges. Wheelchair accessible rental vans are not available from agencies represented within the islands.
- **Few buildings** are accessible for persons with mobility challenges.
- **Sidewalks** are non-existent in most areas.
- **Road surfaces** are often uneven and damaged, and may have large potholes.
- **Dirt road** surfaces may be inaccessible to wheelchair users following heavy rain.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- **Pre-program** emergency numbers into your phone before departure.
 - » Police: 911
 - » General emergency: 999
- **Responses** to emergency situations are limited. Ambulances and first responders may be unable to reach injured persons beyond major urban areas. Serious illness or injury may require medical evacuation.
- **The lack** of road signs may create difficulties or delays for emergency personnel responding to calls for assistance.
- **Two hospitals** located on Providenciales and Grand Turk islands are managed by InterHealth Canada. These facilities are equipped to handle non-life threatening medical situations.
- **Other islands** have medical clinics, but are unable to assist with serious illness or injury.
- **Medicines** prescribed in the US or other countries may be illegal in Turks and Caicos. Verify legal status of any medications prior to entering the country.
- **If involved in a crash:**
 - » Call police.
 - » Contact rental car agency.
 - » Remain at crash scene unless personal medical care is required.
 - » Take photos if possible.
 - » Obtain insurance information from other driver(s) and details of all vehicles involved, including license plate number, vehicle make and model.
 - » Exchange contact information with other driver(s) and any witnesses.



ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR SAFE INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRAVEL (ASIRT)

ASIRT is a non-profit humanitarian organization established in memory of Aron Sobel, age 25, who was killed along with 22 other passengers in a Pamukkale Bus Company crash on the roads of Turkey.

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