



**The 13th Annual
FCCA Caribbean Cruise Conference & Trade Show
Oct. 31 - Nov. 3, 2006**

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Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association

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Message from the FCCA



MICHELE M. PAIGE

PRESIDENT, FLORIDA-CARIBBEAN CRUISE ASSOCIATION

Teamwork...

"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision, the ability to direct individual accomplishment toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

Since the first FCCA Conference in 1994, our goals have remained the same – to establish cooperative linkages between the FCCA Member Lines and our Caribbean Region partners by forging and developing mutual under-

standings while increasing bi-lateral communications. With your help we have made significant strides each following year; and we personally thank all our partners who believed in our efforts from the beginning and continue to work with the FCCA in our attempts to maximize the benefits of cruise tourism.

We extend a special thanks to all our supporters who constantly demonstrate their commitment to the FCCA and the cruise industry by participating in the FCCA Associate/Platinum Membership Programs, advertising in FCCA publications and attending the FCCA Caribbean Cruise Conference & Trade Show.

Today, the FCCA Conference and Trade Show continue to be integral forums for establishing and maintaining cooperative linkages between the cruise industry and our partners. Over the next few days we will all have the opportunity to listen and learn from one another. We will have the opportunity to interact face-to-face with other decision makers in all areas of cruise tourism in the Region. We will have an opportunity to work together, fine-tune our common vision and further our objectives.

Therefore, our message for all our friends and partners in attendance is to take full advantage of this opportunity to gain valuable information and important relationships with the cruise executives from the FCCA Member Lines who are committed to work with you.

*We encourage you to work with us as we continue **"Winning with Teamwork!"***



MICKY ARISON

CHAIRMAN & CEO, CARNIVAL CORPORATION & PLC / FCCA CHAIRMAN

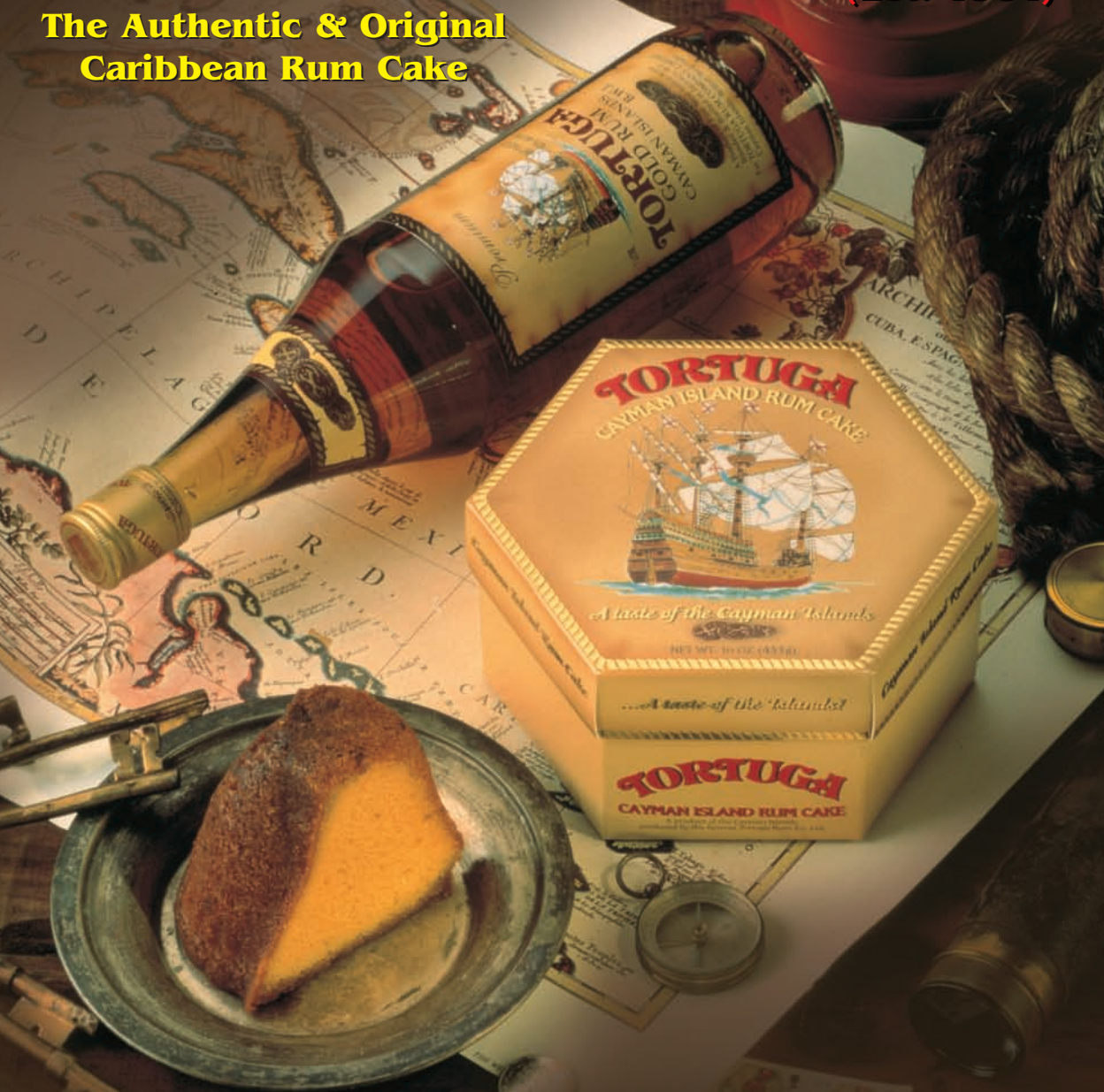
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Message from the Minister of Tourism



On behalf of the people of the Cayman Islands I would like to extend a warm Caymanian welcome to all who are participating in this year's FCCA Caribbean Cruise Conference and Trade Show.

It is an honour to host this important industry event, and a testament to the Cayman Islands' status as a premier Caribbean cruise destination.

Tourism is a vital part of the economy of the Cayman Islands and cruise arrivals play a significant role in this. The Cayman Islands has experienced huge growth in cruise tourism over the last few years, recording well over 1.7 million visitors in 2005.

Through cooperation with the FCCA, our goal is to adopt a sustainable approach to the future growth of cruise tourism – preserving a high quality product for the visitor while presenting a distinctive Caymanian experience.

As a result, the Cayman Islands has recently completed a major cruise development project, the Royal Watler Cruise Terminal. The project, a joint initiative with the FCCA, includes a new tender pier, terminal and retail stores.

While here in Grand Cayman I invite you to get out and visit the many attractions and historic sites that the island has to offer – our new 23-acre adventure marine park Boatswain's Beach which also houses the Cayman Turtle Farm, Hell, Pedro St. James, Stingray City and the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, to name but a few. Our greatest attractions, however, are what make the Cayman Islands truly special – our people, our heritage and our culture.

If you decide to extend your stay beyond the Conference, or perhaps on your next visit, I encourage you to explore all that our two beautiful sister islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman have to offer – Cayman Brac offers the best in nature tourism, and Little Cayman, the smallest of our three islands with a population of approximately 200 people, is a tropical splendour above and below the sea.

Fellow delegates, the FCCA conference gives all of us the ideal opportunity to meet with key players in the industry and I wish you the very best in all of your meetings while here in the Cayman Islands.

Your colleague in tourism,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clifford', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Honourable Charles E. Clifford, JP
Minister for Tourism, Environment, Investment and Commerce
Cayman Islands

Message from the Director of Tourism



Welcome to the Cayman Islands!

We are both delighted and honoured to be your hosts for the 13th Annual Florida Caribbean Cruise Association Conference and Trade Show. To our old friends ... Welcome Back! To those of you who are here for the first time ... What Took You So Long? While the conference programme is packed with informative sessions and a variety of social activities, I challenge you all to find time while you are here to invest in your own 'joie de vie' by seeking out, and claiming for yourself, a unique Caymanian moment which will live with you for years to come.

Renowned for its white sandy beaches, turquoise waters, breathtaking underwater scenery, exceptional culinary variety and some of the Caribbean's best duty free shopping ... two other vibrant patterns which you may not be quite as familiar with add greatly to the richness of our Caymanian tapestry – "arts and culture" and our "national history".


With our handful of intriguing art galleries, amateur dramatic groups and the Cayman Craft Market, the most seasoned of art lovers will feel at home; if history and nature are more to your liking, go for a walk through Heroes Square in George Town, be sure to visit "Pedro St. James", the birthplace of Caymanian democracy, and finish up with the National Trust where you will learn more about our islands' national history, historic sites and walking tours.

Our three islands – Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman – offer three individual Caymanian experiences, from the tranquil natural island paradise of Little Cayman, to the more traditional, unhurried Caymanian way of life on Cayman Brac and the contemporary scene on Grand Cayman. While you are here, we invite you to get to know the many different faces of the Cayman Islands and hope you enjoy your visit as much as we enjoy sharing our home with you.

This Cayman Islands hosted FCCA Conference has been brought to you by the most intricate cooperation between public and private sectors that I have ever witnessed in our local tourism industry. Elected officials and private entrepreneurs, civil servants and front line staff from the hospitality industry, retired persons and partners of consulting firms – all rolled up their sleeves to work with the Ministry and Department of Tourism to organise this 2006 FCCA Conference. I would like to personally thank each and every person who had a hand – big or small – in making this conference a reality.

We are confident that this conference will allow us to strengthen our network with the international industry partners who work so hard, all year round, to help us achieve high standards – and we encourage every attendee here to be sure that they leave with the same results.

In closing, as the great Hecuba of Greek Mythology is quoted to have once said "Real friendship is shown in times of trouble," and I believe it would be appropriate now to remember that day ...



back in 2004 ... when an FCCA member ship showed up off shore, laden with relief supplies to assist our community after Hurricane Ivan had done its best to devastate our home. To our friends and partners of the FCCA – a sincere thank you.

The Cayman Islands is so very happy to finally be able to host this conference; to all our visiting delegates, we hope this conference will give you a taste of the special brand of Caymanian hospitality that our cruise ship visitors experience; and to our local business partners, volunteers and government, thank you for your support, without you this conference would not have happened.

With warmest regards,



Ms. Pilar Bush
Director of Tourism

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Grand Turk
St Lucia
Fiji
New Zealand

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Government Leaders

The FCCA Member Lines thank the Tourism Leaders of the Caribbean for showing their support of the Cruise Industry through their attendance at this Conference.

Aruba

Hon. Edison Briesen
Minister of Tourism and Transport
Aruba Ministry of Tourism

Bahamas

Hon. Obie H. Wilchcombe
Minister of Tourism
Bahamas Ministry of Tourism

Barbados

Sen. Rudy Grant
Parliamentary Secretary
Ministry of Tourism & International Transport

Belize

Hon. Godfrey Smith
Minister of Foreign Affairs & Tourism
Belize Tourism Board

Bonaire

Hon. Harlton Emerenciana
Commissioner of Tourism, Transportation & Harbour
Tourism Corporation Bonaire

Cayman Islands

Hon. McKeeva Bush
Leader of the Opposition
Cayman Islands Government

Hon. Charles Clifford, JP
Minister of Tourism, Environment, Investment, & Commerce
Cayman Islands Government

Hon. Stuart Jack, CVO
His Excellency The Governor
Cayman Islands Government

Hon. D. Kurt Tibbetts, JP
Leader of Government Business, Minister for District
Administration, Planning, Agriculture & Housing
Cayman Islands Government

Costa Rica

Hon. Carlos Benavides
Minister of Tourism
Costa Rica Ministry of Tourism

Curacao

Hon. Gerrit Schotte
Commissioner of Economic Affairs & Tourism
Curacao Ministry of Tourism

Dominica

Hon. Yvor Nassief
Minister of Tourism, Industry and Private Sector Relations
Ministry of Tourism, Industry & Enterprise Development

Dominican Republic

Magaly Torbio
Vice Minister
Ministry of Tourism - Dominican Republic

Grenada

Hon. Brenda Hood
Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Culture & the Performing Arts
Ministry of Tourism, Grenada

Hon. Keith Mitchell
Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office

Guatemala

Hon. Willi Kaltschmitt
Tourism Commissioner
Guatemala Tourism Board

Honduras

Hon. Dale Jackson
Mayor of Roatan
City of Roatan

Jamaica

Hon. Aloun Assamba
Minister of Tourism, Entertainment & Culture
Office of the Prime Minister

Government Leaders

Martinique

Madeleine de Grandmaison
President of Martinique Tourism Authority
Martinique Tourism Authority

Mexico

Lic. Felix Arturo Gonzalez Canto
Gobernador del Estado de Quintana Roo

Lic. Gabriela Rodriguez Galvez
Secretaria de Turismo del Estado de Quintana Roo

C.P. Carlos Joaquin Gonzalez
Presidente Municipal de Solidaridad
Mayor of Playa del Carmen

Lic. Gustavo Ortega Joaquin
Presidente Municipal de Cozumel
Mayor of Cozumel

C.P. Cora Amalia Castilla Madrid
Presidenta Municipal de Othon P. Blanco
Mayor of Chetumal

Lic. Federico Ruiz Pena
Director de Turismo de Cozumel

Lic. Oralia Rice
Sub-Secretaria de Planeacion Turistica
Department of Tourism, Mexico City

Puerto Rico

Lic. Terestella Gonzalez
Executive Director
Puerto Rico Tourism Company

St. Lucia

Hon. Philip Pierre
Minister of Commerce, Tourism, Investment
& Consumer Affairs
Ministry of Tourism - St Lucia

St. Maarten

Hon. Theodore Heyliger
Commissioner of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Harbor
& Government Information Service
Island Government of St. Maarten

St. Martin

Albert Fleming
Mayor
St. Martin Office of Tourism

Trinidad & Tobago

Hon. Howard Chin Lee
Minister of Tourism
Ministry of Tourism - Trinidad & Tobago

Turks & Caicos Islands

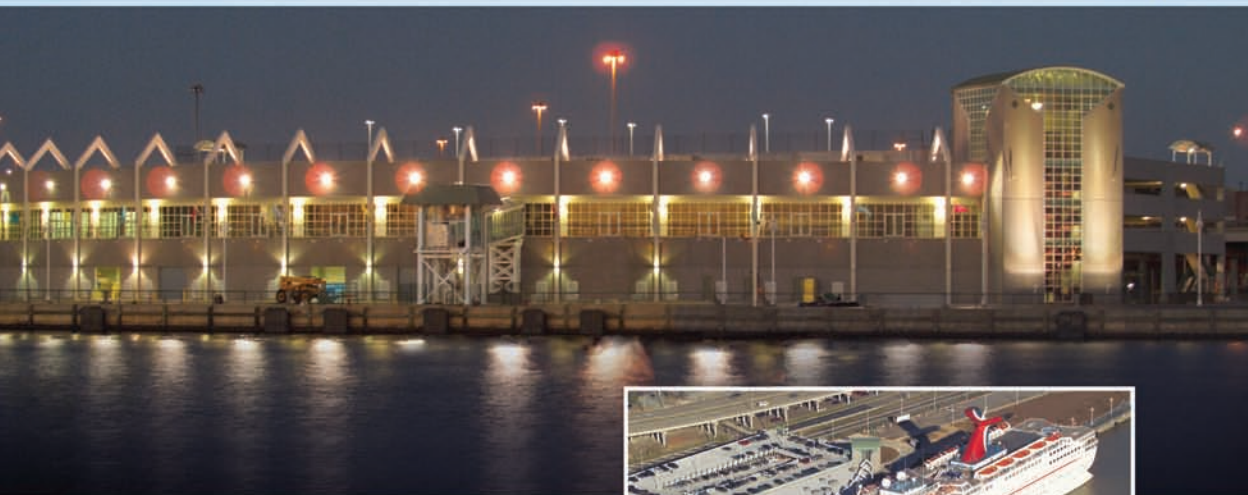
Hon. Michael Misick
Premier
Turks & Caicos Ministry of Tourism

U.S.V.I.

Hon. Pamela Richards
Commissioner of Tourism
U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism

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CUNARD LINE

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Website: www.msccruises.com

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Website: www.ncl.com

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Cruise Executive Listing

Carnival Corporation & plc

Micky Arison, *Chairman & CEO*
David Candib, *Manager, Business Development*
Pamela Conover, *Sr. Vice President, Shared Services*
Tom Dow, *Vice President, Public Affairs*
Giora Israel, *Vice President, Strategic Planning*
David Mizer, *Vice President, Strategic Sourcing*
Francesco Morrello, *Director, Carnival Ports, Inc.*
Carlos Navarra, *Director, Strategic Planning/Port Development*

Carnival Cruise Lines

Andrea Barguez, *Manager, Tour Operations*
Roger Blum, *Vice President, Cruise Programming*
Robert Blythman, *Manager, Tour Operations*
Gordon Buck, *Vice President, Port Operations*
Mico Cascais, *Vice President, Tour Operations*
Brendan Corrigan, *Sr. Vice President, Marine Operations*
Joe Lavi, *Vice President, Purchasing*
Elke Lund, *Shore Excursion Manager/Special Projects, Tour Operations*
Gardiner Nealon, *Director, Port Operations*
Leon Sutcliffe, *Director, Cruise Operations*
Terry Thornton, *Vice President, Marketing Planning*
Domenico Tringale, *Senior Port Captain*

Costa Cruise Lines

Hans Hesselberg, *Vice President, Hotel Operations*

Disney Cruise Line

Russell Daya, *Manager, Marine and Security Operations*
Tom McAlpin, *President*
Larry Stauffer, *Manager, Shore Excursions and Island Recreation*
Bert Swets, *Director, Purchasing & Logistics*

Holland America Line

John Cook, *Shore Excursion Product Manager*
Chris Martin, *Manager, Port Operations*
Matthew Sams, *Vice President, Caribbean Relations*
Linda Springmann, *Director of Marketing*

Holland America Line/ Windstar Cruises

Simon Douwes, *Director, Deployment & Itinerary Planning*

MSC Cruises (USA) Inc.

Richard Sasso, *President & CEO*

Norwegian Cruise Line

Eric Benedict, *Manager, Destination Services*
Alvin Dennis, *Vice President, Purchasing & Logistics*
Alina Juliachs, *Product Development Specialist*
Shannon McKee, *Director of Onboard Revenue Operations*
Colin Murphy, *Vice President, Onboard Revenue/Land Services*
Patrick Powers, *Product Development Manager*

Steve Riester, *Vice President, Planning & Analysis*
Lania Rittenhouse, *Vice President, Hotel Operations*
Joanne Salzedo, *Director of Land Services*
Svein Sleipnes, *Vice President, Port Operations*
Rick Strunck, *Director, Itinerary Planning*
Andy Stuart, *Executive Vice President Marketing, Sales & Passenger Services*
Lily Urrutia, *Product Development Manager*
Colin Veitch, *President & CEO*

P & O Cruises

Joanna Boxall, *Shore Excursions Executive*
Philip Naylor, *General Manager, Fleet Operations*
Martin Young, *Shore Excursions Executive*

Princess Cruises

Donna Barnett, *Executive Assistant*
Dean Brown, *Executive Vice President/CEO, Princess Tours*
Graham Davis, *Manager, Caribbean & Atlantic Shore Operations*
Lisa Jensen, *Shore Excursion Specialist*
Crystal Morgan, *Senior Analyst, Market Planning*
Stephen Nielsen, *V.P., Caribbean & Atlantic Shore Operations*
Robert Pucillo, *Sr. Budget Analyst, Caribbean & Atlantic Region*

Regent Seven Seas Cruises

Mike Pawlus, *V.P., Product Planning & Revenue Management*
Alex Sharpe, *Director, Product Planning & Revenue Management*
Penny Zeilman, *Travel Concierge, Land Programs*

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.

Richard Fain, *Chairman & CEO*
Craig Milan, *President, Royal Celebrity Tours*
John Tercek, *Vice President, Commercial Development*

Royal Caribbean International

Adam Goldstein, *President*

Royal Caribbean International/Celebrity Cruises

Diana Block, *Vice President Deployment & Itinerary Planning*
James Boink, *Manager, Commercial Development*
Joel Davis, *Account Manager, Aquatics*
John Fox, *Vice President, Global Government & Community Relations*
Horace Hord, *Regional Vice President, Global Government & Community Relations*
Andy Horton, *Account Manager, Shore Excursions & Explorations*
Henry Lopez, *Director, Hotel & Corporate Purchasing*
Howard Newhoff, *Manager, Security*
Beth Painter, *Manager, Administration & Finance*
Shore Excursions & Explorations
Michael Ronan, *Regional Vice President, Global Government & Community Relations*
Patrick Schneider, *Account Manager, Shore Excursions & Explorations*

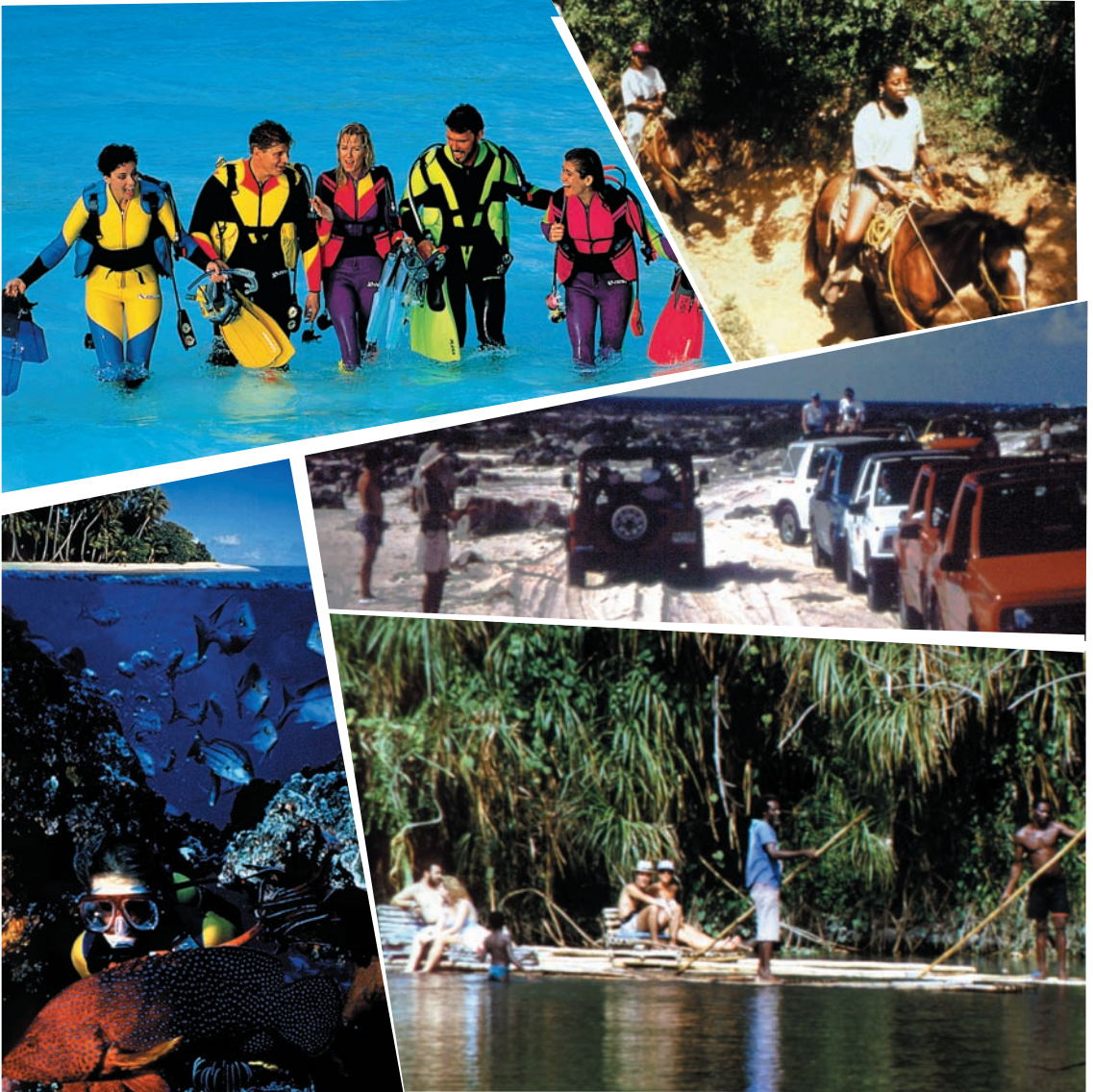


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Session One



Tuesday, October 31
4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Purchasing

Purchasing Q&A

This workshop offers a wealth of information for delegates, as it will revolve around audience participation. Cruise Line executives will be on hand to give their expert advice and answer any purchasing/sourcing related questions generated from the attendees.

Moderator: Alvin Dennis, VP, Purchasing & Logistics - Norwegian Cruise Line,
FCCA Purchasing Committee Chairman

Panelists: Bert Swets, Director Purchasing & Logistics - Disney Cruise Line
David Mizer, VP, Strategic Sourcing, Carnival Global Source - Carnival Corporation



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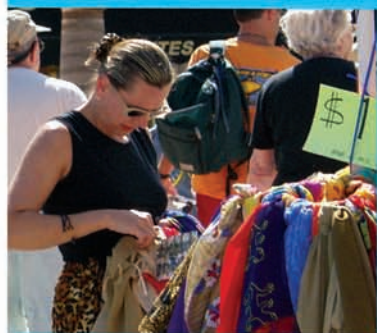
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Session Two

Wednesday, November 1

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Shore Excursion/Tour Operations

Q & A – Part 1

Cruise Line representatives will initiate discussion to the audience posing questions and concerns on various topics such as:

- Training your Tour Guides
- Proper Infrastructure of Organized and Independent Tours
- Communication
- ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) Challenges
- Pre-Sales/Internet Bookings
- Re-investing your Product
- Emergency/Weather Contingency Plans

Moderator: Amilcar Cascias, Vice President - Carnival Cruise Lines, Tour Operations

Panelists: Graham Davis, Manager, Caribbean & Atlantic Shore Operations - Princess Cruises
Robert Blythman, Manager, Tour Operations - Carnival Cruise Lines
Larry Stauffer, Manager, Shore Excursions & Island Recreation - Disney Cruise Line
John Cook, Manager, Shore Excursions - Holland America Line
Patrick Powers, Product Development Manager - Norwegian Cruise Line,
Penny Zielman, Travel Concierge, Land Programs - Regent Seven Seas Cruises
Patrick Schneider, Account Manager, Shore Excursions & Explorations - Royal Caribbean International & Celebrity Cruises

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Session Three

Wednesday, November 1

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Marketing

Effective Strategies in Competing for Consumer Discretionary Spending

This session will discuss branding, marketing/advertising, website distribution and others.

Moderator: Terry Thornton, VP, Market Planning, Carnival Cruise Lines
FCCA Marketing Committee Chairman

Panelists: Andy Stuart, Executive VP, Marketing, Sales & Passenger Services - Norwegian Cruise Line
Linda Springmann, Marketing Director - Holland America Line
Magaly Toribio, Vice Minister, Ministry of Tourism - Dominican Republic
Oneisha Richards, E-Business and Market Research Manager - Cayman Island Department of Tourism
Terestella Gonzalez, Executive Director - Puerto Rico Tourism Company
Terry Dale, President and CEO - Cruise Lines Int'l. Assn. (CLIA)

Shore Excursion/Tour Operations

Q & A – Part 2

As a continuation of Session 2, the audience will initiate the discussion in this open question and answer session posing their questions and concerns to the Cruise Line representatives.

Moderator: Amilcar Cascias, Vice President, Tour Operations - Carnival Cruise Lines

Panelists: Graham Davis, Manager, Caribbean & Atlantic Shore Operations - Princess Cruises
Robert Blythman, Manager, Tour Operations - Carnival Cruise Lines
Larry Stauffer, Manager, Shore Excursions and Island Recreation - Disney Cruise Line
John Cook, Manager, Shore Excursions - Holland America Line
Patrick Powers, Product Development Manager - Norwegian Cruise Line
Penny Zielman, Travel Concierge, Land Programs - Regent Seven Seas Cruises
Patrick Schneider, Account Manager, Shore Excursions & Explorations - Royal Caribbean International & Celebrity Cruises

Panelist in bold are FCCA Platinum Associate Members



martinique

So Much In An Island

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Session Four

Thursday, November 2

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Shore Excursions/Tour Operations

From Ship to Shore Sustainable Stewardship in Cruise Destinations

Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association together with Conservation International will discuss how they are engaging stakeholders and shore excursion providers to support good conservation practices.

Moderator: Michael Ronan, Regional Vice President, Global Government
& Community Relations, Royal Caribbean International & Celebrity Cruises
FCCA Security Operations Committee Chairman

Panelists: Stephen Nielsen, Vice President, Caribbean & Atlantic Shore Operations - Princess Cruises & Cunard Line
Robert Blythman, Manager, Tour Operations - Carnival Cruise Lines
Jamie Sweeting, Senior Director, Travel & Leisure - Conservation International

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Session Five

Thursday, November 2

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Operations

Post Hurricane Response – Lessons Learnt

With the Caribbean region's recent experience with hurricanes, this topic is on the forefront of the business and government sectors mind. While there is no "one fits all" emergency response plan, this workshop will expound on communication, and recovery measures. The panel's purpose is to stress on communication with the destinations post hurricane, safety of life, recovery and developing some "Best Practices" in Emergency Planning process. Examples of the benefits of proper preparedness post hurricane will be shared, and we will show how working together in an Emergency Recovery can benefit all stakeholders in the business of Caribbean Tourism.

Moderator: Gordon Buck, Vice President, Port Operations - Carnival Cruise Lines

Panelists: Angela Martins, Chief Officer, Cayman Islands Government, Ministry of Education, Training, Youth, Sports & Culture
Glenn A. Wiltshire, Deputy Port Director, Port Everglades
Gustavo Ortega Joaquin, Presidente Municipal (Mayor), Government of Cozumel, Quintana Roo, Mexico
Johnson Johnrose, Director of Communications, Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO)
Rick Murrell, CEO - Tropical Shipping
Stephen Nielsen, Vice President, Caribbean & Atlantic Shore Operations - Princess Cruises & Cunard Line

Shore Excursions/Tour Operations

Destination Experience

This topic will answer the question, how does the overall arrival experience in a destination affect the individual guest not participating on an organized tour? Panelists will share their success stories and outline steps taken to assure a positive, desirable port experience for all guests.

Moderator: Michael Ronan, Regional Vice President, Global Government & Community Relations, Royal Caribbean International & Celebrity Cruises
FCCA Security Operations Committee Chairman

Panelist: Honorable Charles Clifford, JP, Minister of Tourism, Environment, Development & Commerce, Cayman Islands
Honorable Theo Heyliger, Commissioner of Tourism, St. Maarten
James Nisbet, General Manager of Operations, Fort Street Tourism Village Ltd., Belize
Cesar Lizarraga, Director of Development - Puerto Costa Maya, Mexico
Bobby Giangisostomi, Senior Deputy Executive Director, Business Development, Canaveral Port Authority





C a y m a n I s l a n d s

Quench your thirst for adventure! Go ahead – take the plunge!



New for 2006, Cayman's largest and most eagerly anticipated tourist attraction - Boatswain's Beach - will open its doors. Pronounced 'Bo-suns' Beach, this one-of-a-kind, 23-acre adventure marine park promises to become one of the most exciting in the Caribbean.

The park offers visitors a unique opportunity to swim and snorkel with fish and other marine life in its 1.3 million gallon salt water lagoon. Guest can also peer into a predator tank and come nose to nose with sharks and eels. For those less adventurous, wander through the beautiful free-flight bird aviary or stroll down an historic Caymanian street complete with porch side artisans. Children and adults alike will delight in interacting with starfish, urchins and crabs at the touch pool. Everyone will enjoy the experience of the finest Caymanian cuisine at a variety of locations throughout the Park – including a full service restaurant.

For those wanting to take a little of Boatswain's Beach home, 18 shopping kiosks are located throughout the park, as well as a 3,500-square-foot Boatswain's Beach retail centre located in the reception building.

As part of the emphasis on Cayman's heritage, the historic Cayman Turtle Farm will make its new home within Boatswain's Beach. The only one of its kind in the world, the Turtle Farm is home to over 14,000 green sea turtles, ranging in size from six ounces to six hundred pounds each. Visitors can tour an actual working farm, which is both educational and entertaining, and turtles are available for guests to hold for an amazing and unique photo opportunity.

The Cayman Turtle Farm has held a long-standing tradition of releasing some of the turtles that have been bred at the Farm. This tradition was initially inspired by the Cayman Turtle Farm's commitment to both its conservation initiatives of ensuring the continuation of the species and of the on-going research that will help biologists learn more about turtle migration and nesting behavior. Visitors to the island can have the opportunity to actively participate in an annual turtle release. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience and those interested in participating should send an email to info@boatswainsbeach.ky for more information.

The Turtle Farm breeds the green sea turtle, named for the green color of the fat deposits inside its skin. Other turtle species exhibited on the farm include the loggerhead turtle, the kemp's ridley, and the beautifully patterned hawksbill turtle.

The new expanded facilities at Boatswain's Beach will ensure visitors continue to learn more about these amazing sea creatures as well as our new additions including the predators, birds, crocodile, and other exciting creatures. The new Park will house a world-class research and educational facility that will focus on the conservation of sea turtles.

Some interesting facts and figures for turtle watchers include

- It takes 15 – 50 years for a Green Sea Turtle to reach maturity
- After several years, male turtles begin to develop longer tails
- Green Sea Turtles will hatch 60 days after the eggs are laid
- An adult Green Sea Turtle can stay under water for 12 hours while sleeping
- Only female Sea Turtles will come ashore to nest
- Male Sea Turtles rarely return to land after crawling to the sea as baby turtles
- At nesting time, females will travel thousands of miles to the beach of their birth to lay eggs
- Sea Turtles have sharp, sometimes serrated jaws, but no teeth
- Sea Turtles may live to be 100 years old
- Sea Turtles are the world's largest reptile (by weight)
- Sea Turtles can migrate thousands of miles in the course of a year

Until the new Boatswain's Beach opens in 2006, tours of the Cayman Turtle Farm continue. They are self-guided and take approximately 20 - 30 minutes to complete. The Farm is wheelchair accessible. The Farm is open seven days a week, from 8am to 5pm. Cost: Adults US\$7.50 and Children US\$4.00. The Farm is located on Northwest Point Road in West Bay just 8 miles from George Town.

Boatswain's Beach will launch its membership club in the near future providing everyone with the opportunity to receive continuous updates, discounts, travel opportunities, and many other exciting membership-only activities at the Park. For information on the club, and to receive updates and press releases on the Park, contact marshaebanks@boatswainsbeach.ky.

For more details on the Cayman Turtle Farm, visit www.turtle.ky
For more details on Boatswain's Beach, visit www.boatswainsbeach.ky

Sequence of Events

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

Conference & Trade Show Registration (Cayman Islands Ballroom Foyer - Ritz-Carlton)	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Trade Show, Exhibitor Move-in (Governors Ballroom - Westin Casuarina).	5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Conference & Trade Show Registration (Cayman Islands Ballroom Foyer - Ritz-Carlton)	7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

FCCA Golf Tournament & Luncheon/Awards (Blue Tip - Ritz-Carlton)	6:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Trade Show Exhibitor Move-in (Governors Ballroom - Westin Casuarina)	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Conference & Trade Show Registration (Cayman Islands Ballroom Foyer - Ritz-Carlton)	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tours (Ritz-Carlton & Westin Casuarina Hotel Lobby)	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Cocktail Reception @ Trade Show (Governors Ball Room Lawn - Westin Casuarina)	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Conference & Trade Show Registration (Ballroom Foyer - Ritz-Carlton)	2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Trade Show Grand Opening (Governors Ballroom - Westin Casuarina)	2:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Informal Breakouts, One-on-One Meetings ~ Session 1 (Grand Cayman Ballroom/Wilson/Kirk B - Ritz-Carlton)	4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
<i>Cruise Executives & Delegates ONLY</i>	
Workshop - Session 1 (Rembro - Ritz-Carlton)	4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Business Card Exchange Cocktail Party (North Sound Pool - Ritz-Carlton)	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
<i>Cruise Executives & Delegates ONLY</i>	
Welcome Party @ Beachfront - Ritz-Carlton	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

Breakfast (Ritz-Carlton & Westin Casuarina).	7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
Late Registration ~ Conference & Trade Show (Cayman Islands Ballroom Foyer - Ritz-Carlton)	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Conference Grand Opening (Cayman Islands Ballroom - Ritz-Carlton)	8:45 AM - 9:45 AM
Ceo/Presidents & Ministers Meeting Welcome Reception (Blue Restaurant - Ritz-Carlton)	10:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Ceo/Presidents & Ministers Meeting (Blue Restaurant - Ritz-Carlton).	10:30 AM - 12:00 AM
Coffee Break @ Trade Show (Governors Ball Room Lawn - Westin Casuarina).	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
Trade Show (Governors Ballroom - Westin Casuarina).	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Workshop ~ Session 2 (Galleon - Westin Casuarina)	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Lunch (Ferdinands Restaurant & Lawn - Westin Casuarina)	12:15 PM - 1:30 PM
Member Lines CEO Fireside Chat Luncheon (Cayman Islands Ballroom - Ritz-Carlton).	12:15 PM - 1:30 PM
Delegates Only (Space is limited, on a first come, first served basis)	
Workshops ~ Session 3 (Galleon A & B - Westin Casuarina)	1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Trade Show (Governors Ballroom - Westin Casuarina)	1:30 PM - 5:30 PM
Coffee Break @ Trade Show (Governors Ball Room Lawn - Westin Casuarina).	3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Press Conference (Galleon - Westin Casuarina).	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Informal Breakouts, One-on-One Meetings ~ Session 2 (Grand Cayman Ballroom/Wilson/Rembro - Ritz-Carlton)	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
<i>Cruise Executives & Delegates ONLY</i>	
Exclusive Cocktail Party @ Boatswains Beach	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
<i>Cruise Executives & Ministers ONLY</i>	
Grand Cayman's Night Extravaganza @ Boatswains Beach	8:00 PM - 11:30 PM

Sequence of Events

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND

Breakfast (<i>Ritz-Carlton & Westin Casuarina</i>)	7:00 AM - 8:30 AM
Exclusive FCCA Auction Donors Breakfast (<i>Blue Restaurant - Ritz-Carlton</i>)	7:00 AM - 8:30 AM
<i>CEO/Presidents & Invited Donors Only</i>	
Informal Breakouts, One-on-One Meetings ~ Session 3	
(<i>Grand Cayman Ballroom/Wilson/Rembro - Ritz-Carlton</i>)	8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
<i>Cruise Executives & Delegates ONLY</i>	
Trade Show (<i>Governors Ballroom - Westin Casuarina</i>)	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Workshop ~ Session 4 (<i>Galleon - Westin Casuarina</i>)	9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Coffee Break @ Trade Show (<i>Governors Lawn - Westin Casuarina</i>)	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Exclusive Lunch & Meeting (<i>Ristorante Pappagallo</i>)	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
<i>Cruise Executives & Platinum Members ONLY</i>	
Lunch (<i>Ritz-Carlton & Westin Casuarina</i>)	12:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Trade Show, Exhibitor Tear-Down (<i>Governors Ballroom - Westin Casuarina</i>)	12:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Informal Breakouts, One-on-One Meetings ~ Session 4	
(<i>Grand Cayman Ballroom/Wilson/Rembro - Ritz-Carlton</i>)	2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Coffee Break @ Workshops (<i>Ballroom Foyer - Ritz-Carlton</i>)	4:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Workshops ~ Session 5 (<i>Cayman Brac & Little Cayman - Ritz-Carlton</i>)	4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Conference Closing Party @ George Town Cruise Terminal	7:30 PM - 11:30 PM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

Tours (<i>Ritz-Carlton & Westin Casuarina Hotel Lobby</i>)	9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Exclusive Tour & Lunch (<i>Boatswains Beach</i>)	9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
<i>Cruise Executives & Platinum/Associate Members ONLY</i>	

~ PLEASE NOTE ~


TRANSPORTATION: Complimentary transportation will be provided to and from all Conference hotels and events. Specific times and details for shuttles will be posted in participating hotel lobbies. **You must wear your Conference badge to utilize these services.**

BADGES: All Conference participants are asked to wear their badges at all times during the FCCA Conference. Badges will be required for admission to all social functions, business sessions and to utilize complimentary transportation services. **Only Conference DELEGATES will be admitted to the business sessions (Workshops, Business Card Exchange and Informal Breakouts).**

DRESS CODE: Business attire is requested for the Conference Grand Opening Ceremony (Wednesday) and business casual attire is suggested for all business sessions. Casual attire is recommended for the Welcome Party (Tuesday), and the Conference Closing Party (Thursday). Elegantly casual/smart casual is requested for the Grand Cayman Night Extravaganza (Wednesday).

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Grand Cayman • Cayman Brac • Little Cayman



The History:

Three jewels glistening in the Caribbean Sea, rising up from the blue depths, Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman lie south of Cuba and northwest of Jamaica. The history of these islands dates back to 1503 when Christopher Columbus, voyaging to discover the new world, sighted Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. Columbus named the islands "Las Tortugas" after the thousands of sea turtles that dotted the waters. Subsequent maps referred to the islands as "Las Caymanas", from the Carib word for the marine crocodiles that were also found around the islands at the time.

By the early 1600s there were still no permanent settlers, but the islands became a popular port of call for Dutch, English and French sailing vessels to restock their meat, vegetable and water supplies.

The islands came under British control in 1655 after the Governor of Jamaica was instructed to take charge of several neighbouring islands. Thus began the long association between these

two countries and the initial migration of settlers from Jamaica to the Cayman Islands.

Permanent settlement probably began in the early 1700s. The first residents moved to the Cayman Islands from Jamaica and began constructing their own schooners and buildings. They also established commercial activity primarily by trading turtles. By 1790 Pedro St. James in Savannah was constructed as a private home, but it soon became the islands' first community and government meeting place.

The core of sustenance for these islands, for the next 150 years, was fishing, turtling, ship-building and rope making.. Residents were constantly busy with visiting merchants and became successful at exporting local products including various food items and raw materials such as cotton and mahogany.

Primary census records reveal that the population in 1802 was almost 1,000 inhabitants with approximately half being slaves. Early in the 1830s, missionaries from Anglican and



Wesleyan churches were regular visitors and they began building churches and schools, establishing a strong Christian heritage.

By 1834 Britain had abolished slavery and slaves in the Cayman Islands became free citizens – many migrated to the Bay Islands of Honduras or back to Jamaica. Over the next few decades the population hit another growth spurt being well over 4,000 in the 1890s.

Most young men worked the seas as merchant marines while women stayed home to raise the children and weave thatch products such as baskets. The women also developed their culinary skills by preparing unique local meat and vegetable dishes. Coconut was included in most recipes, and cakes were often made from local produce such as cassava, pumpkin and yam.

Due to Cayman's close links to the sea, the national motto: "He hath founded it upon the seas" was adopted by legislature in the early 1900s. 1937 marked the launch of a thriving

cruise industry when the SS Atlantis called into port carrying 450 passengers. Soon after, hotels and banks began appearing to cater to the increasing number of guests and private investors.

Cayman's first hotel, the Galleon Beach Hotel, opened for business in 1950, closely followed by the opening of Grand Cayman's Owen Roberts Airport in 1953.

When Jamaica became independent in 1962, the Cayman Islands chose to remain a British Overseas Territory. This was a landmark year for the Cayman Islands as it also received its first written constitution.

Both the financial and tourism industries began to thrive and both have become a vital part of today's Cayman Islands economy contributing to the quality of life and raising the profile of the islands on the international stage. Today, the Cayman Islands is recognized as a sophisticated, experienced and diverse financial centre, and the islands play host to around two million guests each year.



Cayman Islands Today:

Since the existing cruise terminals were constructed over a decade ago, cruise arrivals have grown from 620,000 in 1992 to 2.3 million anticipated in 2006. And as the numbers of visitors have grown, so has Cayman's investment in infrastructure. The Cayman Islands is currently engaged in a major cruise development project. This includes the Royal Watler Cruise Ship Terminal which opened in September and resulted in almost three acres of reclaimed land being used for discharging and loading cruise passengers. The facilities include retail stores, customs and immigration offices, a medical station, restroom facilities and taxi and bus parking.

The Cayman Islands Government is also looking at providing berthing facilities for four ships which will raise the standard of our cruise product immeasurably.

"Welcome Back!" is the phrase thousands of cruise ship passengers hear as they take part in Cayman's Cruise Conversion programme. Hand-in-hand with Cayman Airways, Cayman Islands Tourism Association (CITA) and Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA), the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism works to entice cruise ship passengers who have experienced a wonderful day in the Cayman Islands to consider returning as a stay-over guest.

Cruise ship passengers alight in George Town, Grand Cayman, capital of the Cayman Islands and home to many local traditions and world class attractions. Here passengers may board local transport – buses, taxis, rental cars – or set off on-foot to begin their exploration of the island.

Cayman enjoys some of the Caribbean's clearest and warmest waters, with underwater visibility often exceeding over 120 feet. Add vibrant coral reefs and spectacular seascapes, and you have the ideal conditions for diving and snorkelling. Of course, it's possible to enjoy the sparkling waters of the Cayman Islands without a mask or a tank. Right from the beach, you can rent a wave runner or sailboat, go parasailing, windsurfing or water skiing ... or even just set out for a swim. Fish the deep seas for the big catch or the shallow flats for bonefish. Take a ride in a submarine or semi-submersible craft, or experience the ultimate adrenaline rush on an offshore racing boat which speeds alongside one of the most beautiful beaches in the world – Seven Mile Beach.

Travel by boat to personally encounter friendly southern Atlantic Stingrays at Stingray City in Grand Cayman's North Sound. Once you've felt the tingle of excitement as these fascinating creatures approach, you'll see why it's one of the world's most popular attractions.

There is also a host of other land-based attractions in which cruise ship visitors can immerse themselves. In George Town itself duty free shops and office buildings jostle for position, and merchandise from Versace, Tiffany, Gucci, Lalique, Cartier, Rolex, Nikon, Louis Vuitton and other well-known brands at duty free prices beckon to be bought.

At least 15 historic and cultural sites dot the capital. These remnants of Cayman's past lie scattered between the office buildings that preserve George Town's position as a thriving financial hub.



Located at the waterfront in the heart of George Town, the National Gallery has become synonymous with the synergy of the Cayman Islands' embryonic art scene. By offering local and international art, the National Gallery continues to set the stage for the development and success of artists in the Cayman Islands.

Just a few steps from the Harbour you'll find the National Museum, one of Cayman's few remaining 19th century structures. During its 150+ years, it has served as a jail, a courthouse and a place of worship. The Museum's collection contains over 2,000 items, including a 14-ft traditional hand-made catboat, old coins, documents and rare natural history specimens.

Boatswain's Beach (pronounced "Bo-suns" Beach) is Cayman's largest and most eagerly anticipated tourist attraction. The brand new 23-acre adventure marine park in West Bay offers visitors a unique opportunity to swim and snorkel with fish and other marine life, peer into a predator tank and come nose to nose with sharks and eels, stroll down a historic Caymanian street complete with porch side artisans, or view the free flight bird aviary and walk the nature trail.

The park is also home to 11,000 green sea turtles at the historic Cayman Turtle Farm. With turtles ranging in size from six ounces to six hundred pounds, nowhere else can you see an endangered species so successfully raised for conservation.

Step into a tropical garden teeming with butterflies from around the globe and prepare to meet some of the world's most colourful creatures at

the Butterfly Farm opposite Seven Mile Beach. Take a guided tour and learn about the miracle of metamorphosis; arrive early and witness new butterflies emerging from the chrysalis and taking their first flight. A visit to the Butterfly Farm is an unforgettable encounter with nature in all its beauty and diversity.

At a time when most people lived in tiny, thatch-covered houses, a wealthy Englishman created an astonishing 3-storey building called Pedro St. James that was so impressive it was given the honorary title of "castle". Set on dramatic Pedro Bluff overlooking the Caribbean Sea, Pedro Castle has come to symbolize the birthplace of democracy in Cayman. Enjoy the multi-media programme on the rich history of the islands.

A must for photographers, the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park in North Side features 40 acres of flora and fauna. Wind your way through historical Heritage Park, a breathtaking 2.5-acre tropical and sub-tropical Floral Colour Garden, and a large freshwater lake attracting a fascinating range of bird life. And if you've got a sharp eye, you just might spot a rare Grand Cayman blue iguana.

Get the full picture and bring home some breathtaking souvenirs when you tour the island with Cayman Islands Helicopters. Visitors can choose from a short Seven Mile Beach tour to an hour-long Island tour.

The Cayman Islands offers a variety of experiences that will satisfy even the most discerning visitor. For more information please visit www.caymanislands.ky or call 949-0623.

FCCA Silent Auction

All Conference attendees are invited to participate in the 2006 Silent Auction. The FCCA Member Lines have graciously donated the following vacations, which will be offered to the highest bidder at a fraction of their retail value. At the conclusion of the Conference, the person who submitted the highest bid for each cruise becomes the winner of that cruise. You will have the opportunity to submit and increase your bid throughout the Conference. Please remember that all proceeds from this Silent Cruise Auction will benefit the FCCA Foundation for the Caribbean.

Carnival Cruise Lines

The most popular cruise line in the world. Carnival ships have everything you need for your kind of fun, bright lights, lavish shows, glamorous Las Vegas style Casinos and a friendly international staff to fulfill your every expectation.

3, 4 or 5 -Day Cruise-for-Two in the Owner's Suite. Choose from various vessels and ports of calls.

Valid through – October, 2007.

Estimated Value - \$ 1,000 per couple per day.

Celebrity Cruises

Every imaginable luxury awaits you from state-of-the-art state-rooms, the latest therapies and treatments the famous AquaSpa, their signature Five-Star service and the world-renowned cuisine of Master Chef Michel Roux.

10 or 11 - Night Caribbean Cruise-for-Two onboard one of Celebrity's luxurious vessels in an outside cabin. Choose from various ships sailing from Miami, Florida or San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Valid dates: November 2006 – April 2008.

Estimated Value - \$ 2,550

Costa Cruise Lines

Caribbean Cruise-for-Two onboard a breathtaking beautiful cruise ship that reflects the spirit and warmth of Italy. Costa offers a modern masterpiece offering every comfort, convenience and amenity for your enjoyment.

7-Night Caribbean Cruise-for-Two in an outside cabin - Select from various dates and vessels.

Valid through: April 2007.

Estimated Value - \$ 2,500

Disney Cruise Line

You are about to begin a fantasy unlike anything you've imagined, a Disney Cruise Line vacation. Adults find excitement and indulgence and children have the time of their lives. Families unite and make memories to last a lifetime.

7-Night Caribbean Cruise-for-Two in an ocean view cabin - aboard the *Disney Magic* sailing from Port Canaveral, Florida. Choose from select dates.

Valid through: October 2007.

Estimated Value - \$ 2,500

Holland America Line

The Cruise of your dreams; warm attentive service, relaxed refined surroundings with an extra measure of personal space...enticing ways to discover the world's special places, as leisurely or as actively as you wish.

7-Night Cruise-for-Two in an outside cabin - select from Alaska, Caribbean and Mexican itineraries. Select dates and vessels.

Valid through: November 2007.

Estimated Value - \$ 3,000

MSC Cruises (USA) Inc.

We look forward to introducing you to the distinct style of an MSC cruise. From the world-famous Italian cuisine to the personal attention and friendliness of an Italian crew, our guests are treated to the finest Italian hospitality afloat.

11-Night Caribbean Cruise-for-Two in an outside cabin, on the *Lirica* or the *Opera*.

Sailing from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Valid through: November 2007.

Estimated Value - \$ 3,000

FCCA Silent Auction

Norwegian Cruise Line

Discover the world of Freestyle Cruising in an outside cabin on one of Norwegian Cruise Line's ships to the Caribbean. This innovative new vacation concept transforms the traditional cruise into a far more personal unique experience.

7-Night Hawaii Cruise-for-Two in an outside cabin. Select from various vessels and dates sailing from select Hawaiian ports of call.

Valid through: December 2007.

Estimated Value - \$ 3,000

Princess Cruises

Sail from one fabulous port to another and experience "Personal Choice" dining, a unique and exciting option as well as the traditional dining experience. Relax and pamper yourself because Princess' ships are destinations in themselves, equal in amenities and services to any land-based resort.

7-Night Caribbean Cruise-for-Two. Select from various vessels and dates. Sailing from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Galveston, Texas or San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Valid through: November 2007.

Estimated Value - \$ 2,099

Regent Seven Seas Cruises

There is a place where luxury is comfortable and simplicity is elegant. Extreme luxury awaits you aboard the 6-star ships of Regent Seven Seas. The highlights are as endless as the pampered moments in between. Cross the threshold and experience the thrill of indulging mind and body in renowned luxury of Regent.

7-Night Cruise-for-Two (Space Available) onboard the Seven Seas Voyager, Navigator or Mariner. Sailing from various ports.

Valid through November 3, 2007.

Estimated Value - \$ 8,000

Royal Caribbean International

Step aboard any of Royal Caribbean's newest floating masterpieces and you'll know you are in for a totally unique cruise experience. The amenities, staterooms and service will exceed all of your expectations.

10 or 11-Night Caribbean Cruise-for-Two in an outside cabin onboard one of the many world class Royal Caribbean ships. Sailing from a variety of embarkation ports.

Valid through: November 2007.

Estimated Value - \$ 2,600

Location & Hours of Bidding: Bids can be placed at the FCCA Silent Auction table located at the FCCA booth in the Trade Show.

Tuesday, October 31, 2006
Wednesday, November 1, 2006
Thursday, November 2, 2006

2:30 pm - 5:30 pm
10:30 am - 5:30 pm
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Don't forget to check your bid throughout the day to see if you are the highest bidder.

Announcement of Winners: Winners will be announced at the closing of the Trade Show at the FCCA booth.

Note: All cruise awards are based on space availability. Port charges, transportation to/from the port of departure are not included. All proceeds benefit the **FCCA Foundation for the Caribbean**. The Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization to benefit humanitarian causes in the Caribbean Region.



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FCCA Trade Show Exhibitors

Antigua & Barbuda Cruise Tourism Association 24, 25

8 Redcliffe Quay
St. John's, Antigua
Tel: 268-562-1746
Fax: 268-562-2858
E-mail: abcta@candw.ag
Cameron Fraser

Bahia Cruise Services39

Gustavo Mejia Recart No# 100
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Tel: 809-227-3939 ext. 111
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8940 N. Kendall Drive # 601E
Miami, FL 33156 U.S.A.
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Kathleen Tuitt

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Joyce Gibson

FCCA Trade Show Hours

Tuesday:

Grand Opening
2:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Wednesday:

10:30 am - 12:00 pm
1:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Thursday:

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

FCCA Trade Show Floor Plan

Booth Legend

Standard Booths



8' x 6'



10' x 6'

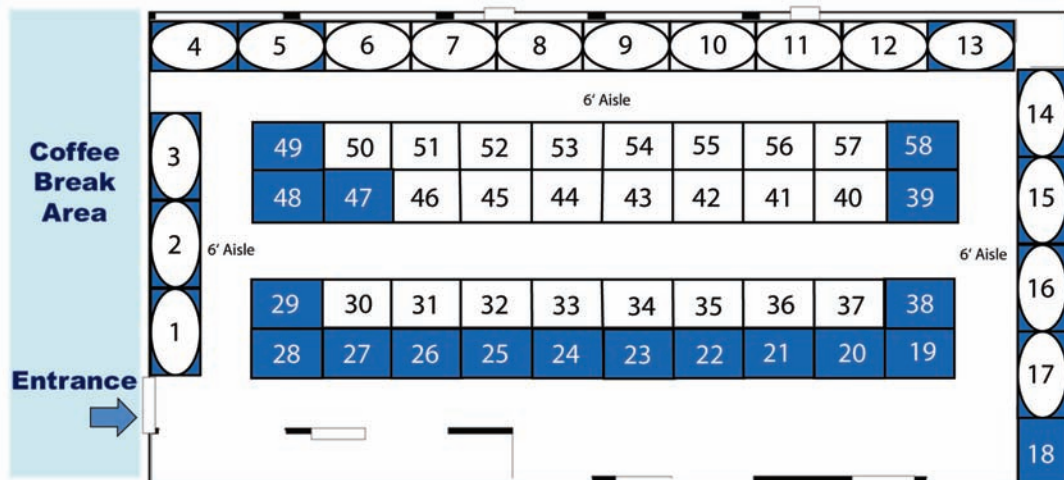
Premium Booths



8' x 6'



10' x 6'



Booth Information

1- Draped table, Wastebasket, Company ID Sign 2- Side Chairs

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FCCA Foundation for the Caribbean

As a natural continuation of the cruise industry's commitment to its Caribbean destination partners, the Member Lines of the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association established the FCCA Foundation for the Caribbean in 1993. The Foundation serves as a tangible vehicle for the cruise industry to participate in the effort to improve the lives of Caribbean citizens through its funding of humanitarian and social causes.

In addition to the assistance and grants it has provided to various charities and organizations, the Foundation has implemented a number of ongoing core programs such as the Children's Environmental Poster Competition, Children's Essay Contest and the Holiday Gifts Project.

In its fourteen years of existence, with the support of organizations like yours, the FCCA Foundation for the Caribbean has impacted the lives of thousands of Caribbean citizens providing over \$3 million in funding to such organizations and causes as:

*Caribbean Special Olympics
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Labories Community Early Childhood Education Centre
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Sister Borgia Elementary School - St. Maarten
John Gray High School PTA - Grand Cayman*

*If you would like to learn more about the **FCCA Foundation for the Caribbean**, or if you are interested in lending assistance, please contact us. Thank You.*

FCCA Essay Contest Winner

Why Should Your Destination Be On A Cruise Ships' Itinerary?



Theron Honore
*11 Years Old,
Paix Bouche,
Dominica*

A cruise ship's itinerary is certainly incomplete without this dream location – Dominica, known to our indigenous Caribs as Waitukubuli which is nestled between Guadeloupe and Martinique and washed by the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

On arrival at the Cruise Ship Berth visitors stepping into Roseau are welcomed by our warm sunshine, clean fresh air and pulsating rhythm of local Caribbean music. A short distance away, one gets a glimpse of the Museum and Old Market where artifacts, fresh tropical fruits and delicacies are displayed and aromas of our national dishes may be too tantalizing to resist.

On approaching Fort Shirley at the Cabrits Cruise Ship Berth, nature and historical lovers are completely engulfed by nature. The smell of the warm Caribbean Seas mingled with the aroma of the lush green tropical forests reserve and fort ruins are certainly enough to send them rushing to experience the thrill and serenity of nature and discover historical artifacts and unspoiled beauty.

Our isle of splendor is blessed with crystal clear rivers, a river for each day of the year' make Dominicans proud. In fact water is found everywhere. Cascading waterfalls, lakes, volcanic hot springs, gorges and above all, the world's second largest boiling lake which is in the Morne Trois Pitons National Park – a world heritage site. What more can one ask for when visiting this nature –filled destination?

With a population of about seventy thousand, one cannot escape the hospitality of the people which is just as warm as the sunshine an attribute which is embedded into our cultural practices.

Our island's uniqueness hinges on the indigenous or Kalinago people, who possess an extremely rich cultural heritage artistic skills and refined craftsmanship. A trip to the Carib Reserve is always a memorable one.

The taste, fragrance and beauty of our fruits and vegetables supply one with sufficient vitamins. In addition one cannot resist the taste of our natural spring water and nutritious, mouth-watering dishes which vary from the exotic Mountain Chicken delicacy to a simple smoked meat and red bean soup or steamed fish. These compliment our healthy living and longevity.

A visit to Waitukubuli means basking into a healthy, beautiful and well-maintained environment such as our unique Botanical Gardens where huge species of flora and fauna are displayed. Rare species of birds namely the Jaco Parrot and the Majestic Sisseron parrot - our national bird. This place can be compared only with the Garden of Eden.

Nature lovers can take a row-boat ride up the tranquil Indian River in Ports mouth where this serenity will be disturbed only by the chirping birds and fellow passengers gasping in awe at majestic trees and sites. This is enough to send your adrenaline pumping!

Our under water beauty is second to none being one of the world's top five dive destinations. The idea of whale watching, dolphin watching, turtles and beautiful coral reefs is enough to lure one straight to the Soufriere – Scottshead Marine Reserve where you will be enticed by the beautiful marine life.

FCCA Essay Contest Winner

Just as Dominica is famous for its outstanding diving and snorkeling we are also rightly known as having one of the most pristine tropical rainforests. Although mountainous, most of rain forest is easily accessible by way of some exciting trails. River rafting, monkey bars through trees, tree climbing and a lot more stimulate reactions from every nerve in your body whether adult or child. The beauty of our island can only be compared to "Cinderella of the Caribbean".

Dominica displays a very rich cultural diversity especially during its Independence Anniversary. Nationals proudly highlight dances, our unique traditional wear, varied dances and exquisite cuisine. Our creole language Patois forms an integral part of this blend. We showcase the only World Creole Music Festival and the world's most spontaneous and original carnival celebration crowned with gaiety, colour and splendor!

One visit to Dominica will imprint happy memories for a long time living one with a nostalgic feeling to return to this unspoiled island.

My nature isle, Dominica, is truly a paradise therefore excluding it from a cruise ship's itinerary would be depriving the visitor of this melting pot of culture, natural features and lots of excitement.

Junior Division Finalists:

2nd Place - Ferre Cambridge, Bahamas

3rd Place - Jouanka De Randamie, St. Maarten

Destinations that participated in the 2006 essay contest:

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Step aboard the future

FCCA Essay Contest Winner

Why Should Your Destination Be On A Cruise Ships' Itinerary?



Abby Salazar Timmons
13 Years Old,
Colegio Cozumel,
Mexico

The island of Cozumel, Mexico, very probably is the favorite port of many cruisers due to its abundant activities. Choices range from water activities to history, archeology, shopping, dining and experiencing a genuine taste of Mexican culture. If I were on a freestyle cruise, my idea of a super great day on the island of Cozumel would be to get up early, have breakfast, and be one of the first people off the ship, for there is so much fun waiting.

Water is Cozumel's biggest attraction and water-related activities are numerous. Diving among the famous Cozumel reefs is considered among the best diving in the world. Snorkeling in beautiful turquoise water that is clean, safe and very clear is exciting. You never know what funny sea creatures you'll see. Or you might choose to view the underwater world from a submarine that goes as deep as 50 meters. Perhaps renting a sailboat and venturing to a remote part of our island will be your choice. Or choose to go to a beach club where you'll find white powdery

sand and lots of toys - banana boats, jet skis, parasailing, water skiing, boat rides, etc.

Additionally there is a wealth of non-water activities available in Cozumel such as horseback riding on the beach or in the jungle, dune buggy tours along the beach, jeep tours which circle the island, and carriage rides around the town. The island's history is interestingly depicted in the local museum and at San Gervasio Mayan ruins.

One of my favorite activities as a Mexican teenager living on the island of Cozumel is going to the plaza! It also happens to be a favorite activity of many of our island visitors who arrive on a ship.

The plaza is always alive with the sounds of music of our country and folkloric dance exhibitions, the wonderful smells of Mexican dishes being prepared in restaurants around the plaza, and the warm welcome from shopkeepers offering unique handicrafts and clothing of Cozumel and all of Mexico.

Take a walk into the area surrounding the plaza to get the flavor of local life. Go a block north to watch the hammock maker across from the panadera (bakery) with its wonderful smells. Go a block east to Avenida 5 to view one of the pretty churches in the community. Proceed north five more blocks to Avenida 30 which is the hub for local shoppers. Here you'll find Festidulce, a huge pinata and Mexican candy shop with lots of unique typical candies of our country (myi mother's shop!). Go south of the plaza a couple blocks to watch tortillas being made and receive a "hot off the press" sample.

Our people of Cozumel realize the economic importance of cruise visitors to our island. To not only support our economy but also to share our culture, we warmly welcome visitors to our slice of tropical paradise and say, "Mi casa es su casa." My house is your house.

I am a 7th grade student at Colegio Cozumel. I was born in Puebla, Mexico, but have lived in Cozumel for eleven years. I understand what cruisers expect when visiting a port as I have been to several ports. I have found that in Cozumel, we welcome cruise passengers with our great Mexican friendliness and always offer our famous hospitality.

Senior Division Finalists:

2nd Place - Rachael Zimmer, Cayman Islands

3rd Place - Joanne Beatrice Golib, Belize

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