



Army Cadet Exchange (Cayman Islands)



General Information

Cayman Islands
Australia
Canada
United Kingdom
United States of America
The Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

Welcome to the Cayman Islands as a participant in the Army Cadet Exchange. This year, the Cayman Islands has entered an exchange with Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom the USA and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Your hosts here are the Officers and Cadets of the Cayman Islands Cadet Corps.

If this is your first trip to the Cayman Islands, the information contained herein can be very useful, if you have visited before; you may use your local knowledge and compare it to the information here to maximize your experience in the Cayman Islands.

Three Islands

Nestled in the calm, turquoise waters of the western Caribbean, lies the peaceful British Overseas Territory known as the Cayman Islands. Consisting of three islands just 480 miles south of Miami, Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, and Little Cayman remain our little piece of paradise.

Government

The Cayman Islands highest official is the Governor, His Excellency, Mr. Stuart Jack, CVO, who is the appointed representative of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. He presides over Cabinet, the ruling body of the country. Mr. Jack succeeded Mr. Bruce Dinwiddy, CMG. The Governor's term is four years. The existing constitution of the Cayman Islands, introduced on August 22, 1972, provides for the government of the Cayman Islands as a British Overseas Territory. It established a governing body called the Cabinet, which consists of three officials and five elected members, the latter being selected from the 15 elected representatives of the Legislative Assembly.

Currency

The Cayman Islands has its own currency, first issued in 1972, whose basic unit is the dollar, issued in notes with denominations of CI\$100,

50, 25, 10, 5 and 1 and coins valued at 25 cents, 10, 5 and 1 cent. The CI dollar has a fixed exchange rate with the US dollar of CI\$1.00 equals US\$1.25. Or, the US dollar equals CI \$.80. There is no need for visitors to exchange their US dollars into local currency. The US dollar is accepted throughout the islands at a rate of CI 80 cents. However, this can be confusing to visitors: for example, a US\$20 note becomes CI\$16. Banks do NOT give a better rate of exchange! Major credit cards (with the exception of the Discover Card) and traveller's checks are widely accepted. Canadian dollars, Euro dollars and pounds sterling can be exchanged for CI dollars at local banks. In addition, Automatic Teller Machines accepting VISA and MasterCard with Cirrus affiliation are located at Cayman National Bank and other banks and at Owen Roberts International Airport as well as a few other locations such as the grocery stores.

Geography

Size Isn't Everything!

The total land mass of the three islands is 100 square miles. Grand Cayman occupies 76 square miles; Cayman Brac, 14 square miles and Little Cayman, 10 square miles. Grand Cayman is approximately 22 miles long and 8 miles at its widest point, reaching a maximum elevation of 79.77 feet in North Side.

Cayman Brac is 14 miles long and 2 miles wide and has the most dramatic topography of the trio. Its majestic Bluff rises west to east along the length of the island to 151.75 above Spot Bay. Many mysterious caves are carved throughout this awe-inspiring natural attraction.

Little Cayman, only 10 miles long and a mile wide, is flat, reaching a maximum elevation of 55.75 ft. Its famous Bloody Bay wall Marine Park has been called one of the world's best dive sites. Inland, the 203 - acre Booby Pond Nature Reserve is a RAMSAR site and nesting ground for the Caribbean's largest population of Red Footed Boobies.

National Song/Symbols

National Song: Beloved Isle Cayman

National Tree: The Silver Thatch Palm

National Bird: The Grand Cayman Parrot

National Flower: The Wild Banana Orchid

Local Knowledge

For information on local knowledge, take some time to visit these helpful websites and talk with cadets and other locals:

www.cicadetcorps.com

www.caymanislands.ky

www.caycompass.com

www.caymannetnews.com

There are no poisonous snakes or other poisonous animals in the Cayman Islands per se. If you see a snake, its harmless and will wiggle its way away once it sees you. There are also a number of iguanas that may be seen from time to time roaming freely even in built up areas...

In the "wild" you need to beware of "**Maiden Plum**" (*Comocladia dentata*) its sap is very acidic and can cause severe itching. Though it can be quite an annoyance, there are no immediate life-threatening effects, excepting if an individual may have acute allergies etc. For more information see: www.caymanwildlife.org

Dress:

For most activities all you will need are your casual clothes (Jeans etc). There are other activities for which you will require camouflage and your dress uniform (e.g. survival camp; Annual Camp Closing Parade and the Church Service; visit to government officials). The weather is very hot so your casual outfit should suit HOT (tropical) conditions.

Watermanship

There are a number of watermanship activities scheduled. You may take along your own snorkeling/dive equipment if its available, as this will facilitate your ease and comfort. We are prepared however to facilitate those who may not have their own.

Field Kit

On the survival camp take along your webbing and sleeping bag. Again, we have made preparations for you and you can check with the Stores Sgt and he will issue the necessary kit. The field kit we issue is very basic and may not be as comfortable for you though... so pack according to your flexibility and need for comfort under adverse conditions.

Accommodation

ACE cadets and escorts will be accommodated at Sunshine Suites. Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman. You will however spend 48 hours in an improved shelter. Meals for this exercise will be provided by Camp HQ.

Transportation

Transportation has been arranged by the Cayman Islands Cadet Corps for all activities. While the community has a very low crime rate, we encourage all guests of the Corps to abide by the provisions of the schedule. Persons wishing to site see or venture on their own should consult the Coordinator before doing so. Escorts are to ensure that cadets follow the rules of the exchange. You may familiarize yourself at www.armycadetexchange.com

Other Notes

1. THE ACE (Cayman Islands) OR ITS ESCORTS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY STOLEN, LOST OR MISSING MONEY OR PERSONAL ITEMS. Monies should be handed to CI ACE Coordinator at the introductory brief.
2. A laundry day has been arranged for 18 Jul 07 & 25 Jul 2007. Persons requiring assistance other than those times may request this from the staff at Sunshine Suites at their personal expense.
3. All visiting cadets should be prepared to do diving. Persons who cannot dive for personal or medical reasons should notify the Coordinator upon arrival

Useful Contact Information

Cayman Islands ACE Coordinators

Lt. Col. O'Garro, Commandant:

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CI Cadet Corps Headquarters

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Annual Camp Adjutant

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