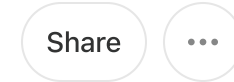


Southern tack

South Bank (Turks & Caicos)

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GETAWAYS • *Caribbean*



The Skinny: While Turks & Caicos may be known for its wide-open beaches and swimming-pool-blue Caribbean Sea, a stay at **South Bank** offers one more piece of paradise: privacy. Part of Grace Bay Resorts — a group with multiple luxury resorts across the island — South Bank spans 31 acres and four “neighborhoods,” each offering its own style of accommodation.

The Rooms: We checked into a three-story villa in The Boathouse neighborhood, which offers residential-style accommodations with oceanfront decks on every level and a private dock (though we got the most mileage out of the rooftop deck, with its own bar and barbecue). For those traveling with large families, South Bank also offers huge standalone Ocean Estates with up to seven bedrooms and more than 6400 square feet of living space.

The Scene: Unlike the reef-protected calm of Grace Bay on the island's northern side, the rocky, conch shell-laden shoreline and choppy, shallow waters give South Bank a rugged, shipwrecked Blue Lagoon appeal. We only saw two other guests on the whole beach when we were there. For calmer waters, there's a protected lagoon with a dedicated swimming area and a small private island. Here, **we borrowed paddleboards and kayaks, sipped piña coladas, and ate lunch as we watched sea turtles bob in the water.**

The Amenities: In a word: plentiful, ranging from a dedicated concierge and butler service to a kids' club, a spa, tennis and pickleball courts, bicycles, paddleboards and kayaks, and (for an added fee) private chefs. Transportation can be arranged when you want to head back toward civilization, as we did on our second day, when we decided to go parasailing at Grace Bay Beach. There's also the laid-back al fresco restaurant **Lua Beach House**. There, service was so warm and personal that on our last night, the waitstaff hugged us goodbye.

Why It's FOUND: For a private paradise and simple pleasures, seamlessly woven together. —*Melissa Heckscher*

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