

The Bahamas is an immersion in color: a place where sand shimmers pink and waters radiate electric blue . . .



Pink Sands and Kamalame Cay

Capturing the perfect secluded Bahamian vacation

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There's a white horse on the beach, galloping along a shimmering pink shore, while turquoise waves gently lap a rhythm of pure serenity. Time pauses while you're lulled in a Bahamian sun's embrace and tickled by its tropical breezes.

Few destinations capture the secluded Caribbean vacation experience as well as The Bahamas. Pink Sands and Kamalame Cay are two resorts of such sensual splendor, both are frequent vacation spots of A-list Hollywood actors and chart-topping music superstars.

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Whereas Pink Sands is a colorful collage of Caribbean fun, Kamalame Cay is a quiet immersion into a secluded, tropical setting

Kamalame Cay is a 96-acre sliver of solitude located off the Andros Island coast. The resort, which opened in 1998, is a private island with a three-mile, soft-white sandy beach. It is only accessibly by private ferry.

Andros, the largest of The Bahamas' 700 islands, has a rugged, largely undeveloped interior. For all of its secluded ambiance, it is just 20 miles west of Nassau, a one-hour hop from Miami or Fort Lauderdale airports.

At other resorts, you'll usually hear the incessant clatter of sandals clapping tile, as guests move herd-like to and fro. However, at Kamalame Cay, only a maximum of three-dozen guests are on the island.



Guests at Kamalame Cay can enjoy a private lunch on a private island.



Room at Kamalame Cay resort

The primary gathering place is Kamalame Cay's Great House, where gourmet meals are served, and where guests can share tales over a cocktail from the open bar.

Cottages are a short stroll down a groomed sand road. Our luxury beach house had 20-foot-high, wood-beam ceilings. French doors led out to the veranda with a view of the sea, creating an overall elegance that invited lazy lounging. The resort provides in-room, complimentary

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Conch, the local delicacy, is found in many dishes

snacks, beverages and daily fresh-baked cookies. If there's something special required, contacting the staff prior to your arrival will help ensure that it's available.

Back at the lodge, the meals were a tantalizing array of fresh cuisine, incorporating fresh, mouth-watering fish or fine meats. The dinners are candlelit, gourmet events; a fine respite from spending an afternoon slashing the air with a fly fishing rod. You'll be encouraged to try the local delicacy, conch, which can be found in almost every meal: tossed into salads, barbecued or curried.

Breakfasts are made to order, and lunches can either be boxed for excursions. Special arrangements can be made for a linen-table, seated picnic feast on a secluded beach.

Kamalame also offers villa suites that have the same luxurious amenities of the cottages, but which can be configured to accommodate larger parties.

For those who want to be able to say they once lay in the same bed as Mick Jagger, the Kamalame Cove House is nestled adjacent to the resort, offering an ultra-private immersion into tropical luxury. Last year, Jumpin' Jack Flash himself vacationed at the 7,500 square-foot villa, which overlooks the sea on three sides.

Sport fishing and undersea delights

At Kamalame Cay, snorkelers and scuba divers will encounter some of the finest undersea vistas anywhere. We snorkeled amongst a family of southern stingray gliding about us like a slow-motion dream.

We also hovered over a "blue hole," which is an undersea cavern. Many blue holes offer amazing landscapes of coral and undersea life.

Fishermen will find that the Bahamas present plenty of memorable opportunities. Here the fleet and flashing bonefish is the
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The bonefish just looked at him and laughed

coveted prize in shallow waters. The bonefish is reputed to fight harder than any other sport fish.

Kamalame Cay room prices range from \$510-\$1,480 per night between May and December, to between \$740-\$2,380 during the peak season. More information is available online at www.kamalamecay.com.

Pink Sands Resort

Given the breadth of our Caribbean experience at Kamalame Cay, I was elated to discover that Pink Sands was anything but redundant.

Pink Sands is comprised of 25 colorful cottages on 18 acres of lush, tropical grounds. Most striking is the personal pride and attention to detail placed on the resort's design. Whereas the cottages are in cheerful pastels perfectly suited for beach life, the open-air lobby feels like a journey into another time and place. From the eye-opening raspberry sherbet-colored walls of the dining room, to the



Pink Sands is a colorful collision of decor

ornate fabrics and carved wood, the resort is a comfortable collision of Indonesian, Moroccan, Indian and Caribbean décor.

Pink Sands' eclectic attitude comes from Biba founder Barbara Hulanicki, who designed much of the resort.

“The design concept is like the home of someone’s who is a world traveler and collector,” Hulanicki explained. She said that keeping the look fresh in the tropical weather requires constant care.

Pink Sands is a known destination of entertainment luminaries. The resort recently played host to a variety of celebrities such as Harrison Ford, Julia Roberts, Gene Hackman, Elle MacPherson, Christy Brinkley, Richard Gere and Jagger.

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Barbara Hulanicki



Pink Sands cottage room

Whether famous or anonymous, the locals understand the need for relaxation in their paradise. “We’re very friendly, but we allow people to vacation undisturbed,” said Clemens von Merveldt, Pink Sands manager.

A quaint little town

Located on Harbour Island, Pink Sands is a 20-minute drive from the North Eleuthera International Airport, which has flights from Nassau and others by scheduled and charter service. Harbour Island has two marinas:

Valentines with 80 slips and the Harbour Island Marina with 50 slips.

Harbour Island exudes a wealth of quaint charm and, unlike Kamalame Cay, it a town where visitors can stroll and duck into shops. It has a long history as well, with homes dating back to the 1800s along its downtown waterfront. Just a half-mile wide and three miles long, Harbour Island is famous for its pink sand beach and friendly island ambiance.

Pink Sands also offers a full range of activities including all types of fishing scuba diving and snorkeling, boat rentals, picnics and excursions to nearby Eleuthera Island.

Dining at Pink Sands is an exciting event due to its new, exuberant

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The Blue Bar at Pink Sands

Italian chef, Manfrede Mancini. He concocted dazzling feasts of pastas and fish of such majesty one wished they could consume the entire menu.

To ensure good, consistent service, Clemens explained that the resort limits restaurant seating to about 80 people. Another more casual option is the Pink Sands' Blue Bar, which sits on a hill overlooking the sand and sea. Another excellent dining option off the resort in town is the Sip-Sip, a name derived from the Bahamian term for gossip.



Manfrede Mancini

The resort has plenty of modern amenities, including Internet access and televisions in the rooms. Room prices range from \$525-\$1,400 per night between May and December, to between \$655-\$2,100 during the peak season. For more information, log on to www.islandoutpost.com/PinkSands.

Why the sand is pink

However, the resort's namesake is its gorgeous expanse of shimmering pink beach. Curious as to how sand could exude such a mesmerizing hue, I discovered it isn't sand, but rather the "end" product of undigestible organisms consumed by tropical fish.

I think I'd rather believe it was kissed by ruby-lipped mermaids.

