



**Girlguiding UK**  
*girls in the lead*

# Branch Associations

## Cayman Islands



**Capital – George Town, Grand Cayman**

### Geography

Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, and Cayman Brac lie 268km Northwest of Jamaica in the Caribbean Sea. Grand Cayman is 35km long and is between 6 and 13km wide. The islands are low-lying, rock-bound and protected by coral reefs. The total land area is 259km<sup>2</sup>. There are no rivers.

### Climate

The tropical climate is tempered by cooling north-east trade winds from November to March. It is warm from May to October, with prevailing east-south-east winds. The hurricane season is June-November. The last serious hurricane was in September 2004.

### History

The Cayman Islands were colonised from Jamaica by the British during the 18th and 19th centuries. Administered by Jamaica from 1863, they remained a British dependency after 1962 when the former became independent.



### Economy

With no direct taxation, the Islands are a thriving offshore financial centre. More than 76,000 companies are registered in the Islands. A stock exchange was opened in 1997. Tourism accounts for about 50% of GDP. A very large percentage of the islands food and consumer goods must be imported. Caymanians enjoy one of the highest outputs per capita and one of the highest standards of living in the world. The currency is the Caymanian dollar.

### Government / Legal

Cayman Islands is a British Dependent Territory with a representative government. The Governor presides over the Cabinet. The judicial system is based on English common law, with local statutes.

### Transport / Travel Information

GMT minus 5 hours. Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac have 436km of surfaced road between them. Little Cayman has a motorable track. Vehicles keep to the left and an international driving permit or tourist driving licence is required. Buses, taxis, and car hire are all available. George Town is a port of registry for shipping. There are international airports on Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac.

## How Guiding Started

Guiding originally started on Grand Cayman in the 1930s, when the Cayman Islands were a dependency of Jamaica, but did not restart in 1946 after the war. It was the Girls' Brigade that attracted young people. Guiding as a Branch Association began in 1986, when Sister Cecelia, a teacher who had been a Guider in other parts of the world, realised that there was a demand for guiding among the young people. She wrote to the Island Governor, who made contact with Commonwealth Headquarters in London. Shortly after this the Commissioner for Branch Associations, Mrs Margaret Banks, visited Cayman to assess the situation. During her visit Brownies of the first Brownie pack made their Promise. Within twelve months there were four Guide Units and nine Brownie Packs.



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| 1987 | First Units were registered.   |
| 1988 | HRH Princess Alexandra visited Cayman. Guides were chosen to open the doors of the official limousine.   |
| 1989 | Cayman Guides celebrated the 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Founder's birth with an indoor candlelight camp fire, as rain spoiled plans for an outdoor event!  |
| 1990 | The first Guide Camp was held.<br>A Local Association, "Friends of Guiding", was formed.   |
| 1997 | Cayman Guides were featured in Guiding magazine, showing the girls taking part in a full range of activities. They also produced the first edition of their own publication.                                       |
| 2010 | A patrol of guides from B.V.I. came over with their Leaders to join in with the Centenary Camp and then onwards to "Branch Out" at Waddow for a special Centenary Branch Association gathering for Branch members. |
| 2012 | A patrol joined Carricamp run by the Caribbean Link Guide association in Antigua   |



## Guiding Today

Many girls of 11+ travel to either the USA or UK for secondary education, so there are a good number of Rainbows and Brownies, but fewer Guides and no Senior Section.

Girls follow the UK programme. Special parades are attended, such as the Queen's Birthday Parade and Remembrance Day. The Guides enjoy camping and hiking.

Uniform is similar to the UK, but all members of the Cayman Islands wear a neckerchief made especially for them, which has a turtle motif printed on the fabric.