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The Honeymoon Travel Blog

BAHAMAS RETURNING TO KAMALAME CAY: "I tell my husband they look like two very well-known celebrities - a Hollywood actress and her rockstar husband..."

"We must really like this place," I thought as I gripped my husband's hand on the teeny tiny propeller plane making its way from Nassau to Andros island in the Bahamas. After a week in the [Turks & Caicos](#), we'd decided to return to [Kamalame Cay](#) - a place I'd once reviewed and loved.

I'd conveniently forgotten about the trip to get there. Not a particularly nervous flyer, but still with my little superstitious rituals on take-off, I was feeling the heat (literally) and a little stress as the captain took a handful of us up in the air for the (thankfully) very short flight.

Twelve minutes later we landed. Another half an hour and we were picked up by the barge that nips across to the private island hideaway of Kamalame Cay. I have really fond memories of this place - the people we met, the staff, the setting. I loved everything about it.

As soon as we set foot on the barge a very friendly Denise welcomed us and suggested a cheeky fresh orange juice and rum. I took the juice without the booze, and eagerly awaited docking. Within minutes we were in our beach house - an octagonal piece of paradise. Right on the beach, with its two pink Adirondack chairs, hammock and twin sun loungers - it was just as I remembered it. Inside a few more surprises - a bathroom with an elevated bathtub that looks out through a window (over the bed) and across to the beach!

Everywhere vases of greenery and hibiscus flowers stood. The style is definitely a little rough around the

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edge or shabby chic: the resort has been around over a decade and some of the furniture needs a little TLC but the important things are just perfect: the side table lamps (gorgeous chrome pineapples) the sheets five-star hotel perfect, the idyllic view - and those little touches that made me love this place, like the cookies in a jar and the worn paperbacks on the shelves...

What's more, one of the best things about Kamalame is that you get your own golf buggy. I am a sucker for golf buggies. Not the sport - but the buggies are brilliant. One day I shall have my own private island with buggies aplenty. Last time we were here, we raced our buggies through the rain with a couple from Arizona who were on their honeymoon. Now that we're on ours, we're hoping we find another crazy couple who might be tempted.

At dinner on our first night I'm on the lookout for racing candidates. I spot a couple from a distance, and tell my husband they look like two very well-known celebrities - a Hollywood actress and her rockstar husband. Only I think they look younger, better - perhaps they are lookalikes? I suggest to my husband who thinks perhaps he shouldn't have bought me a copy of People magazine at Miami airport.

As we sit down to dinner at the table next to theirs I check them out and realise it's actually the real McCoy. Slightly unnerved I forget to be polite and say 'Good evening' but luckily my husband gives them a cheerful greeting - he had no idea who the husband was but couldn't fail to recognise the A-list wife. Surreal.

I doubt they'd be up for the buggy racing.

There are only six tables at dinnertime. And that's what we love about Kamalame Cay. It's small, intimate and cosy. Before we head to bed, Brian, the owner calls across that we ought to have a tippie of rum. We oblige and next thing we know we're sitting at his table, with a handful of his friends and a young couple from London. Two hours later, after a raucous evening we finally hit the sack.

This morning, the sun was up and a miraculous Breakfast Basket appeared on our doorstep at 8am - complete with thermos of coffee, homemade breakfast cake, a jug of freshly squeezed orange juice and a couple of hard boiled eggs. To me, the excitement of that breakfast in bed goes far beyond any five-star gadgets - as does the option of making my own cup of tea with a quaint little jug of milk from my mini-fridge (which might have seen better days but works just fine and is stocked to the hilt with Kalik beers, white wine, ginger ale, coke and other assorted complimentary drinks - obviously when it's there and all included, you don't go mad and binge but it's so nice to have the option!).

The weather on the island seems to change every hour. We've had an amazing thunderstorm, rivers of rain and stunning sunshine in a day which means we were able to test a range of activities - from going out kayaking on the crystal clear waters, spotting fish, starfish and spiky sea-creatures to testing the massive bathtub for a long soak with a pile of magazines while the rain came down outside and getting through a few more pages of Harlan Coben with a cup of tea and a glorious cookie from the daily cookie drop. We also went for a run. Well, my husband ran, and I provided moral support until the buggy's battery threatened to die out and I high-tailed it back to the room.

I don't know what I love most about this place. Obviously it's beautiful, in a gorgeous setting with the whole Caribbean thing going on. But there's something about it. Perhaps its lack of perfection makes it seem like a comfortable old friend? The motto is 'help yourself and make yourself at home' - there's always someone to serve you but at breakfast you can grab your own coffee and at the pool's Tikki hut you just help yourself in the fridge (if you're not on the all inclusive deal, you leave a note as it's an honour bar system). I think this freedom is part of what I really appreciate.

I'm also charmed by that worn elegance, and the genuinely friendly staff. I've said it before and it may sound corny, but the guys who run the place and work there make it - Sampson, Wesley and Janet always there with a (real) smile. Being comfortable and happy with those around you is paramount. Too many lovely places suffer from having the wrong people.

Last time we came, three years ago, I remember some of the staff in tears as guests were leaving. There's real fondness there and you can feel it. I'm glad to recognise many faces this time around and just wish we were staying longer. We'll just have to come back in another three years time...

What we loved: French chef, Jacques' food, the golf buggies and the cookie delivery

Don't miss: Did I mention the cookies?

If only we could stay longer

What to wear Whatever you like

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Spot On Review! Would only add that Colette, the hostess/on-duty manager for Kamalame adds character, class and Carribbean authenticity to the resort stay. My husband and I felt right at Shabby-Chic Home with her delightful personality, as she shared her loves for both Five-Star Hopitality and Kamalame as well as the closeby rustic Andros Island. Her words were hi-lited seamlessly by her warmth, sassy sense of humor, and lovely Jamaican-Bahamian accent! Rounded out the Heavenly stay perfectly! Thank you for letting my husband and I comment! All the Best!

Anne 21 Jul 2012

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