

# WILD ISLAND BEAUTY

The Glass Window Bridge, where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Exuma Sound. Photo courtesy of Bahamas Ministry of Tourism

*Eleuthera features unspoiled beaches, gorgeous weather and excellent watersports venues*

BY DIANA KELLY

Eleuthera, one of the Out Islands of the Bahamas, is a destination to consider for clients seeking wild island beauty, pristine pink beaches, serenity and water activities. It's a great venue for fishing, diving, snorkeling, surfing and exploring 18 unspoiled beaches.

The island, which is approximately 100 miles long and no more than a mile-and-a-half at its widest point, features gorgeous weather, with temperatures in the 70s to mid-80s.

Here's a roundup of properties to consider recommending to your clients.

## **FRENCH LEAVE RESORT**

This 270-acre resort in Governor's Harbor recently reopened as a Marriott Autograph Collection resort and features 12 remodeled villas, each with a view of Cupid's

Cay. The resort is scheduled to unveil 22 villas and a spa by the end of 2017.

The oceanfront villas are equipped with covered verandas, vaulted tray ceilings, king-size beds, and a private bathroom with double sinks and a roomy shower. French doors open into the living room areas and fully equipped kitchens with full-size, high-end appliances.

The villas boast iPads for "at your service" requests, luxury linens and bath products, LCD flat-screen televisions, air conditioning and ceiling fans, washer/dryers, Wi-Fi, Bose stereo systems and safes. Villa guests can use golf carts to drive the short distance to the private-access pink-sand beach.

French Leave Resort has an infinity pool, watersports activities and a fitness center.



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Valentines offers suite accommodations and a marina.



An oceanfront suite at The Cove Resort.

During the low season, nightly rates start at \$379 for a one-bedroom ocean-view villa, \$429 for a one-bedroom oceanfront villa and \$629 for a two-bedroom oceanfront villa.

Contact General Manager Jahmed Mills at 242-332-3778, email [jmills@frenchleaveresort.com](mailto:jmills@frenchleaveresort.com) or visit [www.FrenchLeaveResort.com](http://www.FrenchLeaveResort.com).

#### THE COVE RESORT

This 57-room luxury resort feels like it's on its own private island. Set on 40 acres, the property's accommodations include suites, villas and cottages. Amenities include 500-plus-thread-count linens, TVs with movie channels, WiFi and Nespresso machines.

It features two private beaches, a gorgeous infinity pool and an open-air gourmet restaurant with sushi bar. The property offers wedding packages and an on-site wedding consultant.

The Cove is owned and operated by Enchantment Group and is affiliated with Preferred Hotels & Resorts LVX collection. Rates start at \$469 per night for standard rooms.

Contact Grace Kaczowka, corporate director of leisure sales, at 866-644-4452, email [VIPResDesk@EnchantmentGroup.com](mailto:VIPResDesk@EnchantmentGroup.com) or visit [www.thecoveeleuthera.com](http://www.thecoveeleuthera.com).

#### VALENTINES RESIDENCES, RESORT & MARINA

The 38-suite resort on Harbour Island is perfect for sea explorers and boaters, offering custom-made dive boats, full scuba equipment rentals and camera rentals. It has a 51-slip, full-service

sportfishing and yacht marina, and a private pink-sand beach.

For resort stays through Labor Day, Valentines is increasing travel agent commission from 10 to 12 percent (excluding holidays). Rates start at \$350 for a luxury junior villa, \$410 for one-bedroom villas, \$530 for two-bedrooms villas and \$880 for the Governor Dunmore two-bedroom penthouse in the low season.

Call 866-389-6864, email [reservations@valentinesresort.com](mailto:reservations@valentinesresort.com) or visit [www.valentinesresort.com](http://www.valentinesresort.com).

#### LA BOUGAINVILLEA RESORT

The five-star boutique hotel on Governor's Harbour recently reopened following an extensive remodeling. It features five bedrooms and a beautiful restaurant with a modern ambiance evocative of Miami. With its gorgeous infinity pool overlooking the beach, it's an ideal place to host a wedding or event, or visit for drinks and appetizers, even for travelers not staying here.

The entire property can be rented. Call General Manager Namia Ingraham at 242-699-6301, email [info@labougainvillea.com](mailto:info@labougainvillea.com) or visit [www.labougainvillea.com](http://www.labougainvillea.com).

North Eleuthera Airport, Governor's Harbour Airport and Rock Sound Airport serve the island with daily, nonstop flights from Miami and Fort Lauderdale. Pineapple Air flies Eleuthera several times daily from Nassau to all three airports. Recommend that your clients reserve a rental car at least three weeks in advance due to limited availability.

## WHAT TO SEE AND DO

What should you recommend that your clients do on Eleuthera?

Consider suggesting private boat tours for conch fishing, searching for sea turtles and snorkeling. Fishbone Tours offers a four-hour "Adventure Tour" priced at \$600 for up to five people. Captain Julius "Bubba" Rankine demonstrates how to conch fish. Later, visitors will enjoy their catches in a conch salad with drinks on the boat. The company also offers bonefishing and deep-sea fishing tours. For

more information, visit [www.fishbonetours.com](http://www.fishbonetours.com).

Also recommend that clients visit the Glass Window Bridge. It's set along Queens Highway in North Eleuthera at the narrowest part of the island where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Exuma Sound. They'll see the turbulent dark blue ocean on the one side and the calm green sound on the other.

If your clients are interested in surfing, recommend that they head to Surfer's

Beach, located a couple miles south of Gregory Town on the Atlantic side. It features a great left break over a deep reef. Hotel concierges can arrange surf lessons and surfboard rentals, as well as snorkeling, kayaking and cliff jumping. Or, contact Bahamas Out Island Adventures at [www.bahamasadventures.com](http://www.bahamasadventures.com).

For more information on Eleuthera, visit the Bahamas Out Islands Promotion Board at [www.myoutislands.com](http://www.myoutislands.com).