

CARIBBEAN TRAVEL

Insight

Small properties a big deal on Out Islands

By Gay Nagle Myers / April 14, 2015

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Size matters, but bigger isn't necessarily better, at least in the Bahamas Out Islands, which is home to numerous small, boutique properties that offer an alternative to the large resort complexes in Nassau and elsewhere in the Caribbean.

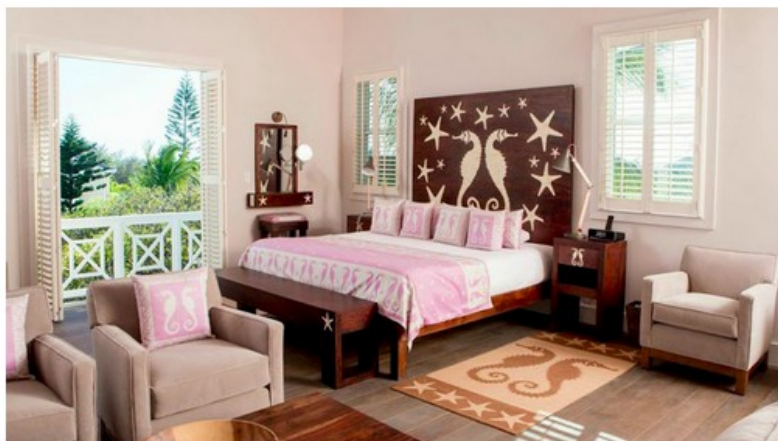
A case in point is the 39-room Coral Sands on Harbour Island, 50 miles east of Nassau. Guests fly into North Eleuthera Airport, take a 15-minute boat ride and step out on the secluded pink/coral sand beach. Three-hour ferry crossings from Nassau also are an option.

"We're not large, but we are big on service and style, and we continuously upgrade our property," said co-owner Silma Sherman.

Coral Sands recently completed a multimillion-dollar property-wide refresh that included a revamp of the entrance and lobby, construction of a new gift shop, expansion of the restaurant, an upgrade of all bathrooms and the addition of 12 guestrooms and suites.

Even small properties do not stint on amenities. Coral Sands offers in-room refrigerators; walk-in showers with a rain head; room service; a game room and library; access to kayaking, bone-fishing and snorkeling; and French-themed organic and natural foods with locally sourced ingredients in its Latitude 25 restaurant.

Rates at **Coral Sands** start at \$295 per room, per night, double from May through August. The resort closes from Sept. 1 through Oct. 14.



A room at Coral Sands.

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Pink Sands, another boutique property on Harbour Island, stays true to the ambiance of the Out Islands

Its 25 cottages overlook a pink sand beach, and several are two-bedroom units to accommodate families. Facilities include the beachside Blue Bar and the Garden Terrace restaurant.

Room service is available with meals served on private patios in the cottages. Low season rates start at \$525 per room, per night, double with breakfast. The resort is closed from Sept. 1 through Oct. 7.

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