

evie & marxe go to turks & caicos

pix by marxe and evie



monday, 12 july

plane to taxi to boat to car. a sweet woman named Dedgrie picked us up at the north caicos island ferry landing, took us on a quick tour of its 43 square miles, brought us to the grocery and liquor stores, and dropped us at a very green house about 6pm. nothing open within walking distance, so we enjoyed pb & nutella on potato bread, washed down with some rum shots. all good, though, cause a lady

on the ferry sold us three mangos for \$5. ate 'em right there, biting through the skin, following the lead of others on the boat.

tuesday, 13 july

marxe slept a long while and then worked on



NORTH CAICOS TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

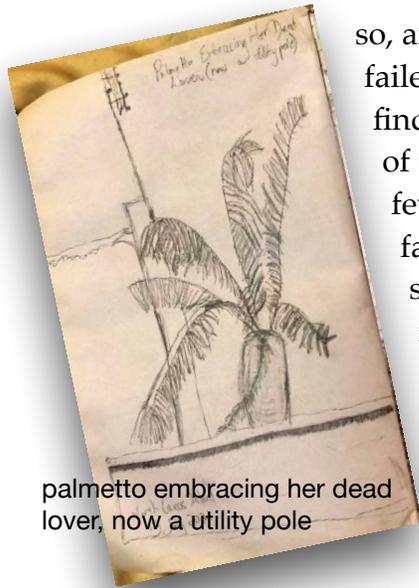
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 - Area Names
 - Attraction Names



his novel (well on his way to 30,000 words for july). couldn't get a car rental today, so we decided to walk to flamingo pond. list of my errors in judgement here: 1) high noon; 2) heat index of 11 (on a scale of 1-10. the weather channel actually had it at 11. never really thought of heat index until my kids. if it's hot, it's hot.); 3) no idea of the true distance. on the positive side, we

did bring sunscreen and two bottles of cold water. changed our minds walking back and forth along a stretch of road a couple times. one very old man, tired of watching us i guess, couldn't hear but wanted to help. told us to "turn at the two big cedar trees" and that it "wasn't that far down the road" and that we'd "see thousands of flamingos." a couple of bored dogs followed us barking for a kilometer or so. and then we happened upon it, with two large pine trees (cedar? huh?) and a little poured concrete house painted bright blue with a viewing platform on the side. saw a big portion of the pond. no flamingos.

nice people in the blue souvenir house. they told us about needing binoculars to see the flamingos. and no, they didn't have any.



palmetto embracing her dead lover, now a utility pole

so, around now, i was feeling that i had failed marxe with this trip. i always try to find cool places to take the kids and most of the time, i hit it. but there have been a few instances (tulum, disney world, that far east city in slovenia) of less-than-success. cause here we were, in the middle of a sparsely populated tropical island, sitting on the porch, happy, but just like home. and i felt badly that i couldn't provide more fun.

anyway, we went back to the green house to hang for a while. i came up with a plan to move to the more touristy island (providenciales) on thursday, where water sports companies abound.

later, walked down the road to a small restaurant on the ocean. fried food and strong drinks. and american country music. don't know what was up with that.



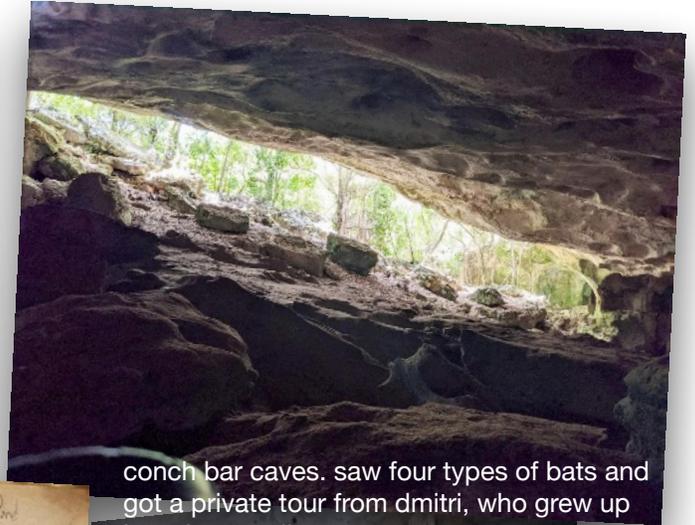
no flamingos at north caicos' flamingo pond

wednesday, 14 july

small hyundai suv left at our front door, courtesy of al's rental car. keys arrived only an hour later! drove the length of north caicos, over the causeway onto middle caicos to visit caves and beaches, then back to north caicos for more exploring.

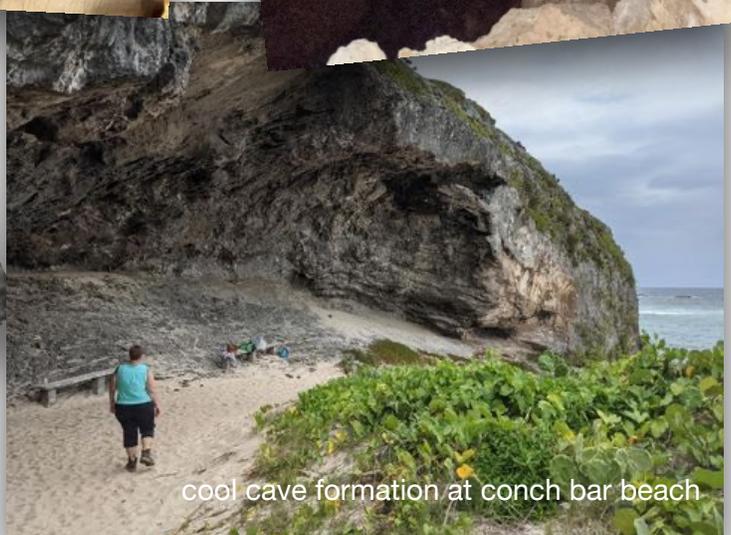


causeway from north to middle caicos



conch bar caves. saw four types of bats and got a private tour from dmitri, who grew up less than a mile away.

finally saw flamingos at the middle caicos flamingo pond



cool cave formation at conch bar beach



back on north caicos, this path was marked as a road on the official island map (see above). drove for 20 minutes through a rutted jungle path that barely fit the car. trees grabbed and scratched and squeaked with all their might over the hyundai paint job, but we made it. rewarded with these gorgeous views of Three Marys Cays.



back at the green house, dedgrie (the local woman who picked us up at the ferry) stopped to check on us and ended up hanging out for a few hours, just talking. super interesting person. marxe made us all a simple pasta dinner and yummy rum/juice drinks.

thursday, 15 july

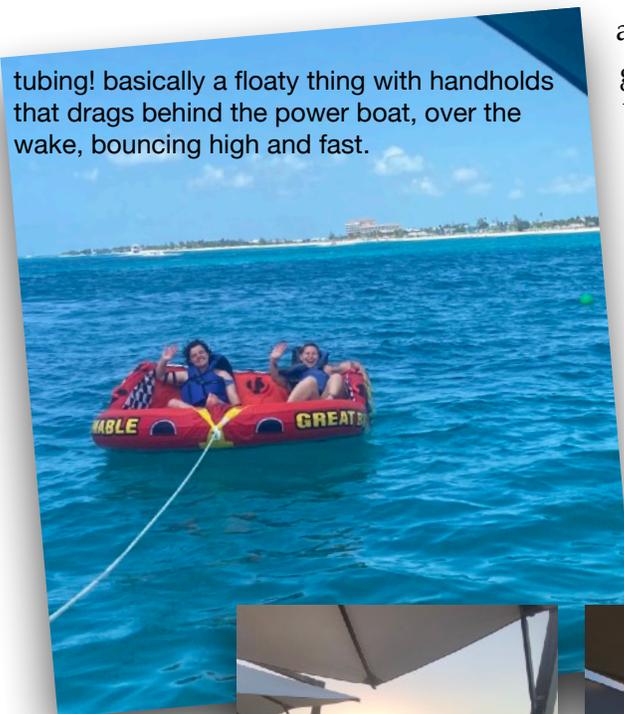
needed a negative covid test to get back into the US, so dedgrie called a friend who called a friend who is the nurse for the island. dedgrie brought this older woman, dressed all in white, to our front door, bright and early. she administered the rapid tests, took a picture with the negative results next to our passports, and promised the needed paperwork would arrive in plenty of time, before our scheduled return on saturday. super nice of them both to make the trip.

after that, we drove to the ferry landing, dropped off the rental car, and joined the group of locals heading over to provo for the day or weekend.

tina, our taxi driver from the airport, picked us up at the provo ferry landing and drove us to our hotel. she gave us her story — sadly, her husband died recently and she was having a hell of a time getting his body released for the burial. long and involved. paperwork and bureaucracy wherever you go.



goodbye north caicos ferry landing



tubing! basically a floaty thing with handholds that drags behind the power boat, over the wake, bouncing high and fast.

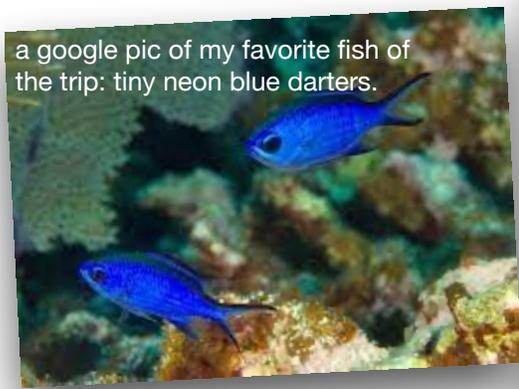
at the hotel, our room wasn't ready, but they gave us bright green towels and a hospitality suite for changing into bathing suits. walked a block to the beach, expecting to parasail. ended up "tubing" instead. the most fun we've had in so long. a splashy, raucous roller coaster.

happy hour back at the hotel, met some super interesting travelers, and eventually ended up at a beach restaurant, watching the sunset. tried a casino later on, not big fans.



friday, 16 july

woke up early to catch a ride to our snorkeling boat. bleached coral, unfortunately, but still loads of pretty, neat fish. also snorkled a shipwreck near long cay and explored iguana island, where the unceasing supply of rum punches from our boat crew made for a very spirited serenade to a not-amused reddish egret.



a google pic of my favorite fish of the trip: tiny neon blue darters.



lotsa iguanas on iguana island!

a convoy of snorkeling boats headed back into provo when the thunder pounded and storm clouds fell into formation. marxe got some really cool video of the storm hitting the cay.



me singing to the reddish egret
Iguana Cay
Singing to the reddish egret

napped back in the room before happy hour again. really enjoyed watching the local guys trying to pick up these beautiful women at the bar. went for a forgettable dinner and then walked the beach after dark. so beautiful and calm. returned to the beach on saturday morning before tina picked us up for the airport. ended up not such a failed trip after all. we actually had a blast.

