The National Trust plays a vital role in safeguarding the cultural heritage of the Turks & Caicos Islands (TCI). During your stay you should visit at least one of the captivating sites that the Trust is custodian of. Your support is greatly appreciated and you are invited to take a step further and become a member or Friend of the National Trust. It is easy to do at www.tcnationaltrust.org. Among other benefits, members can take advantage of complimentary access to all the heritage sites where both guided and self-guided tours are available.

The Turks and Caicos National Trust is a non-profit organization run by a small but dedicated group of staff and a volunteer council. It contributes to youth education and ensures that many of the key historical and environmentally important sites are held in trust for present and future generations of the TCI, and that these are accessible for the enjoyment of all. This includes a number of the 18th century cotton plantation sites such as Cheshire Hall, on Providenciales (located adjacent to the hospital), Wade’s Green Plantation on North Caicos, and Haulover Plantation on Middle Caicos. The charming limestone buildings and the shaded walk lined roads belie the harshness that the loyalist refugees would have faced when they arrived on these shores in the 1790s to start a new life. Not to mention that much of the hard work was done by the slaves that accompanied them and whom ultimately inherited the islands becoming the Turks & Caicos Islanders of today.

The Rock Iguanas are indigenous to the TCI but their numbers are under threat from land development and predation from feral cats. Little Water Cay, which is a small island adjacent to the east end of Providenciales, is one of the iguanas’ strongholds and this sanctuary is carefully managed by the National Trust. Many of the water-sports operators include a visit to the beautiful island as part of their tours and your entrance ticket is a crucial aspect of the nature reserve’s conservation funding. The Trust has installed raised walkways and carefully marked trails to ensure no damage is done to the underground iguana burrows and feeding them is strictly forbidden. Ask your operator to stop by the visitor’s centre on the north side of the island where there is also a small gift shop.

The Conch Bar Caves on Middle Caicos are arguably the most dramatic of the sites that the Trust manages. To find the caves drive past the turn off to the village of Conch Bar and follow the dirt road a short distance past the old airport. Guided tours with reputable tour providers or with staff from the National Trust take you deep into the interior of this limestone holomoth. No helmets are required and lights are provided but solid foot wear (i.e. not flip flops) and steady legs are essential. If you prefer to stay nearer the sunlight you can take an easier stroll around the large cavernous entrance of the cave and admire the multitude of stalagmites and stalactites on grand display.

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