



corporate incentives

W hat if your work week began with the following itinerary?

11:45 a.m. — Arrive direct from JFK, greeted with cold hand towels and rum punch.
Check-in, relax and lounge on the world's best beach, white sand between your toes.
7:00 p.m. — Attend "Under the Sea" tented beach dinner, flip-flops required. Live band and great food followed by a beach bonfire and fireworks to finish.

You would love the boss or the supplier who had just sent you on the greatest corporate incentive trip of a lifetime. Offering the perfect balance between luxury and modern amenities with a flare of the exotic, the Turks & Caicos is becoming a favorite destination for companies looking to reward their employees or wine and dine their customers.

"It is on the top of everyone's wish list right now," says resident event planner extraordinaire Teresa Brunner of Tropical Destination Management. Brunner knows the corporate event business; after all, she has hosted more than 500 events in the islands in her decadelong career. She recently hosted one of her favorite events to date, pulling out all the stops.

"It is about offering something they have never experienced before," says Brunner, "that is part of the attraction to the islands."

For her latest fete, Brunner transformed

island assets pay big dividends for high-level business events



a tent on the beach to an Under Water World. With a fully draped tent, complete with a custom-made, 20-foot-long, white glow bar imported designer linens from Miami with coral fabric, and hand-made coral and shell centerpieces, her clients were impressed. With the addition of floral arrangements that mimicked sea life, and lounge areas filled with embroidered fish themed pillows — the look was complete.

Privacy, convenience of travel to the islands and a wide variety of high-end properties to host events are also boxes that companies can check off when considering the Turks and Caicos for an incentive trip. "It's the unique package of what the islands have to offer that is drawing more and more corporate events here," says Brunner.

It also helps having a small island, where vendors from start to finish understand the corporate philosophy. "From the airport transfer to the hotel staff, we work together to ensure the perfect flow for each individual client," she says.

Guests also have the chance to enjoy the local flavor of the islands, which expands beyond fantastic food. "From musicians to artisans," Brunner says, "we can impress any group with our plethora of local talent."

There can be only one thing that completes this week's itinerary: Return home, make all friends and acquaintances jealous with tales from the corporate incentive trip to Turks & Caicos — and returning soon and often.



teresa's top tips

- Make each event different try to vary colors and locations so your guests can experience all aspects of the islands.
- Create themed events and tie them to food choices, such a Moroccan theme night with olives, hummus and pita.
- Entertainment ensure that each evening has a different vibe. For a black-and-white night, think saxophone player. Bring in a steel drum band for beach night. Or wow them all on the final night with fireworks under an island sky!

