



## The newest port in the Caribbean

by: Howard Moses, The Cruise Authority

As cruising has matured, the addition of new ports is becoming something of a rarity.

In 2006 a number of lines (Carnival, Holland America, Princess, Crystal, Radisson, Silversea and Oceania) will call at Grand Turk, located just north of Puerto Rico.

Grand Turk, basically undeveloped, is what the Caribbean was like 25 years ago. There will be a cruise center, featuring a Margaritaville Cafe and giant swimming pool with swim up bar, slide, cabanas, and infinity edge view. It' open to the public and should be a great place to spend with young kids, as its deepest depth is just 3.5 feet.

It has an advantage over many islands--no tenders, and can pull up impossibly close to the shore-- just 400 ft. away--and you can step directly from the pier to the beach.

And what a beach! Part of what makes Grand Turk so grand is that just a few hundred yards from shore the shallow continental shelf drops off. The coral reefs on this undersea wall, along with the pristine, waters and great weather, make GT one of the top diving destinations in the world. It is also a fantastic and safe area for snorkeling.