



For Immediate Release:

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**THE CAYMAN ISLANDS' LUXURY COTTON TREE
WELCOMES FAMILIES THIS SUMMER WITH SPACIOUS
ACCOMMODATIONS AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES
FOR KIDS AND PARENTS ALIKE**

The Cayman Islands' only luxury boutique cottage hotel is all about Family Fun this summer with once-in-a-lifetime activities for the entire family

Grand Cayman (May 2011) – Let's face it: Big Ben and Winsor Castle probably aren't most kids' idea of a fun summer trip. But what about swimming alongside sting rays and playing with dolphins, or taking a painting class on the ocean and enjoying fried fish cooked inside an authentic Caymanian wood-burning "caboose?" This summer, families are sure to be "wowed" with the many fun-filled, family activities offered at the Cayman Islands' only boutique "cottage" hotel, Cottage Tree.

Families staying at Cotton Tree, which was recently accepted into the Small Luxury Hotels of the World and is recommended by *Conde Nast Johansens*, can enjoy a host of family "adventure" activities, including:

- Visiting a *Turtle Farm* where families can play with and learn about the Cayman Islands' Sea Turtles.
- *Horseback Riding*, including walking, trotting and cantering along miles of undeveloped beaches and nature trails.

- Visiting *Stingray City* where families can literally swim along side (and even pet) stingrays that can be found in shallow sandbars. Beautiful coral formations and colorful fish can also be seen.
- Enjoying a *Movie Night* at the Caymana Bay on West Bay Road. The Caymana Bay movie theaters are affiliated with “Hollywood Theaters” in the U.S.
- *Swimming with Dolphins* and enjoying various activities with the dolphins including a dorsal pull, a foot push and the magical thrill of riding a dolphin belly to belly.
- *Kayaking with a Bio-Bay Tour* where families can witness “bioluminescence” - the phenomenon where light or glow is created by living creatures in the water.

And the fun doesn't end there. Cotton Tree also has on-site sketch classes led by local artist John Broad, a West Bay artist born in England, educated at the Edinburgh College of Art and a resident of Grand Cayman. Adults and kids alike can let their “inner painter” go wild as Broad teaches his drawing skills, including pencils and water brushes. Classes are conducted at various points of interest throughout Cotton Tree's property where the verdant gardens, jewel-toned Caribbean seas and the architectural details of the hotel's collection of pastel-hued Caribbean cottages serve to inspire and stir the creative senses. There is also the opportunity to practice Still Life drawing using objects found on Cotton Tree's natural beach and in its gardens. Self-critique and discussions, as well as suggestions for development and practice points conclude every session. Visiting sketchers are given their own sketchbook to take home as a keepsake of their experience and as a memento of their time at Cotton Tree.

Another unique activity at Cotton Tree is cooking authentic Cayman dishes with a traditional cooking structure called a caboose. Similar to a barbecue grill but constructed from local hardwoods, a Caymanian caboose is a wood-fire grill that uses local hardwoods like the sea grape tree, which produce less smoke and yield a taste better than charcoal, as well as a pleasant scent of fruit flavor to the food. Cotton Tree has partnered with Chris Christian, a local artist, to design and build a special caboose, complete with a thatch wattle and roof, to fit amongst the grape trees on Cotton Tree's grounds. Just steps away from the beach, local chefs serve up fried fish, fritters wrapped in sea grape leaves, limeade made from local limes and other Caymanian delicacies. Families can also partake in cooking demonstrations that reveal the techniques used in Caboose cooking allowing guests a chance to try old-time Caymanian cooking at home.

Among the many amenities offered at Cotton Tree includes plenty of outdoor space for kids to play; sandy beaches to build sand castles on; a fresh water pool for swimming; and recreational activities, available daily, including bicycling, water sports, hiking, biking and bird-watching. For children with a creative side, on-site art classes are held on Saturdays and Sundays with Gab Wheaton, a professional artist who has lived in the

Cayman Islands for almost 30 years. Wheaton's two-hour classes include water coloring, creating crafts using Thatch Palm leaves, and making coconut boats out of coconut shells.

Other hotel amenities include Cotton Tree's 400-foot stretch of secluded Caribbean Sea coastline; the hotel's lush garden filled with tropical flowers and avocado, guava, mango and cotton trees for which it was named; spa treatments in Cotton Tree's spa pavilion nestled among the sea grape trees just a few feet away from the ocean or in the privacy of a cottage; an air-conditioned gym with state-of-the-art LifeFitness cardio equipment, including elliptical machines, treadmills and free weights; a personal trainer for beach workouts, toning and stretching classes and yoga sessions (by appointments only); and a library with books.

Cotton Tree's upscale accommodations, which are spacious for families and their children, include Caymanian-inspired, plantation-style two-bedroom beach cottages, each featuring 1,600 square feet of comfortable, beautifully-decorated living spaces with French doors opening to sea and garden vistas; 42" plasma TVs; iPod docking stations; spa bathrooms with rainforest showers, Jacuzzi tubs and Elemis bath products; 600 thread count Egyptian cotton sheets; fully-equipped gourmet kitchens with state-of-the-art Kitchen Aid appliances, granite countertops, French press coffee makers, and a selection of gourmet teas and coffees, assorted cereals, orange juice and bottled water, all restocked daily; plasma TVs; and complimentary Wi-Fi, local calls, daily housekeeping and turn-down services upon request. A personal chef is also available to make gourmet family meals in the privacy of the cottage. All meals can be accompanied by wines selected by Cotton Tree's sommelier.

Cotton Tree's low-season rates allow families to enjoy a luxurious island getaway at an affordable price. Unforgettable family fun and relaxation at Cotton Tree starts at \$470 per night, May 1 – October 31, 2011, for a garden view cottage and \$625 per night for an ocean view. Call 345-943-0700 for reservations or visit Cotton Tree's website at <http://www.caymancottontree.com>.

About Cotton Tree:

The Cayman Islands' new luxury hideaway, Cotton Tree offers four pastel-hued, plantation-style beachfront cottages in a lush garden setting of tropical flowers and avocado, guava, mango and cotton trees for which the hotel was named. Owner Heather Lockington, a global traveler who was born in the Cayman Islands, built her dream property in West Bay, the northernmost point on Grand Cayman. Four 1,600-square-foot, two-bedroom cottages resemble fully equipped houses featuring "Caribbean chic" décor, classic contemporary furnishings, French doors overlooking the sea, plasma TVs, state-of-the-art Kitchen Aid appliances, and more. Additional amenities include a freshwater swimming pool, fitness center and yoga and spa pavilions nestled among seagrape trees, perfect for a sunset massage. A personal chef can whip up gourmet meals accompanied by wines chosen by a sommelier, or Cotton Tree is a quick drive to Grand Cayman's best restaurants. Hotel services such as a reception/concierge, bellhop, housekeeping and turndown on request are also featured. Cotton Tree is recommended by Conde Nast Johansens and was recently accepted into Small Luxury Hotels of

the World, an exclusive group of more than 500 of the finest small independent hotels in more than 70 countries.

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Photos Available Upon Request