



Image from www.googleearth.com

THE DEEPEST ROUTE TO THE BARCADERE THROUGH GRAND CAYMAN'S NORTH SOUND

Remain at least 200 yards away from the reef at all times and be on the lookout for dive mooring buoys that line the edge of the wall, where the shelf surrounding the island drops off from around 100 feet to several thousand feet deep.

1. MOORING BUOY JUST OUTSIDE OF THE MAIN CHANNEL: 019°23.033'N / 081°19.514'W

There is a mooring buoy about 600 yards outside the channel right at the edge of the “drop-off”, this buoy lines up with the approach through the channel almost perfectly and has about 30 feet of rope hanging off of it. If you are waiting for a pilot or guidance through the channel this is the best place to moor. The coordinates for the Main Channel are as follows:

2. CENTER OF MAIN CHANNEL OUTER MARKERS: 019°22.7899'N / 081°19.6332'W

Approach the channel at a heading of **205°** and maintain that heading all the way through the channel.

3. CENTER OF MAIN CHANNEL INNER MARKERS: 019°22.4433'N / 081°19.7953'W

Continue for a hundred yards on the same heading in order to completely clear the channel before turning to a heading of **139°** and steering to the next waypoint **1.8 miles** away, just Northwest of Booby Cay, keeping a lookout for Marine Park buoys*. Vessels with a draft of less than 5 feet (1.5m) may go directly from waypoint 3 to waypoint 5 at high tide.

4. BOOBY CAY WAYPOINT: 019°20.665'N / 081°18.150'W

Upon reaching the Booby Cay waypoint you will need to turn to a heading of **232°** immediately to avoid going into shallower water and maintain the **232°** heading for the rest of the approach, about 4 nautical miles, again remaining on the lookout for buoys*. This heading will take you directly to the Barcadere channel.

5. CENTER OF BARCADERE CHANNEL ENTRANCE: 019°18.4298'N / 081°21.1733'W

There are four markers for the Barcadere channel, two outer and two inner markers. They are fixed PVC markers and stand approximately 4 or 5 feet above the surface of the water, depending on the tide. They are taped with the requisite red and green reflective tape and also lit accordingly. When passing through them you will see a 40 foot high lighthouse painted orange and white, with a BLUE flashing light, 0.5 nautical miles dead ahead, it is situated on the North side of the marina entrance. There is a shallow bar directly off of this lighthouse, extending out towards the direction of approach, but as long as you keep the lighthouse off to Starboard, and stay on the same heading, you will clear it. (NB: the inner red fixed marker has been damaged and temporarily replaced with a red floating channel marker)

6. CENTER OF BARCADERE MARINA ENTRANCE: 019°18.1694'N / 081°21.5260'W

The marina entrance itself is 100 feet wide and there are currently red and green buoys in front of the entrance canal as well as red and green lights on either side of the canal wall to assist with arrival at night.

Please note that there is at least one other buoy to the immediate North of the area that are taped with black and yellow reflective tape and are only there to mark an underwater pipe. These are to be completely ignored and will be passed on the Starboard side. This is very important to remember as the water to the North of these two buoys is very shallow, and these buoys can easily be mistaken for navigational buoy, especially in low light conditions.

Once inside the marina, vessels should tie up at the marginal dock on the Starboard side near the travel lift piers, to await Customs and Immigration clearance prior to proceeding to a slip. If you have already cleared Customs and Immigration, and know what slip has been designated to you, please feel free to proceed accordingly. We are standing by on VHF channel 16 and will be happy to assist with securing your vessel upon your arrival.

** There are several lines of buoys that dissect the North Sound. Some denote the extent of Marine Parks, while two mark submarine power cables. Approximately 1 nautical mile into the first leg of the approach to the Barcadere, after passing through the Main Channel and turning to a heading of 139°, you will pass through the first line of marine park buoys running North-East to South-West. You will pass through this same line of Marine Park buoys again, this time running North to South, 1.8 nautical miles after reaching the Booby Cay waypoint and turning to the 232° heading on the second leg of the approach. Continuing on this heading you should be able to see another line of buoys less than a mile off of your Port side running approximately East-North-East to West-South-West, this line of buoys mark a submarine power cable, which actually comes ashore at the Barcadere property, and, will be on your Port side the rest of the way as you continue towards the marina. There is also another line of buoys, running from North to South, marking a submarine power cable that intersects this East-North-East to West-South-West line just to the South of the Barcadere channel. This area can become a little confusing, particularly at night, but these second and third lines of buoys are lit and can actually serve to locate the Barcadere channel very well, now that you know what to look for.*

Disclaimer: Please note that this is a good faith attempt to provide the deepest and safest route possible for a vessel with a draft not exceeding 8 feet (2.4 meters) and is not intended as a substitute for, or in place of official navigational charts. For details of depths of Cayman Islands waters and Grand Cayman's North Sound, please refer to official charts. We also recommend that any vessel with a draft of more than 7' should only enter or leave the marina on a high tide.