

Official International Tributes to
Princess Diana
Cayman Islands

Location: *Caribbean Sea*

Area: *102 square miles*

Population: *37,700*

Government: *British colony*



The First Day Cover from the Cayman Islands pictures the Princess of Wales in the summer of 1984. She is arriving for a visit at Kings College Hospital in London.

Princess Diana's charitable activities took her to numerous countries on several continents. Everywhere she went, she insisted that hospital visits be part of her schedule. She paid particular attention to patients who looked the most lonely and unloved. In so doing, she earned international respect and was named Humanitarian of the Year in 1994.

Unlike the other women in the royal family, Diana almost never wore gloves. Her style was to get as close as possible to people, embracing children and old people

alike. In Washington, D.C., she helped break down fears and prejudice by cradling an AIDS baby in her arms. In Indonesia, she sat on the beds of patients disfigured by leprosy and gently held their hands. The doctor who led her through the clinic praised her service in "demonstrating that the disease is...contagious only through many years of constant and prolonged contact."

The Princess showed her concern for the afflicted in many thoughtful ways. For example, she learned sign language so that she could be a better patron of the British Deaf Association. "I think it's important to show that you're interested and you're not just breezing in and out," she explained.

Discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1503, the Cayman Islands were first settled by the British in the 1670s. The three coral islands making up the colony are Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, and Cayman Brac.

The Caymans were noted for schooner building in the 1800s. Today, the main industries are tourism and banking. The islands are a tax-free refuge for foreign funds, and branches of many international banks are located there.