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Unspoiled beauty

The Bahamas' Exuma chain is the hot spot for high-end investors

Imagine being surrounded by endless miles of turquoise waters, perpetual sun, a home outfitted with the latest conveniences and complete privacy.

As many have already discovered, the Bahamas' Exuma chain, a 90-mile long string of unspoiled cays, is not just an abstract concept but a real paradise that has time and again been recognized for its extraordinary beauty, mesmerizing blue waters and an acclaimed location for diving, bone fishing and cruising.

Just a short hop from the eastern coast of the United States, Great Exuma is the largest in the Exuma chain and consistently earns a spot among the most desirable international locations. Traditionally known as a sleepy fishing village, Great Exuma has attracted

individuals looking for an investment or a place to call home in an unpretentious yet classy setting.

Close to Great Exuma's capital of George Town - in itself a quaint throwback - is February Point Resort Estates, an upscale gated community on a private, 80-acre peninsula overlooking tiny inlets, coves and pristine beaches on Elizabeth Harbor.

A concierge team arranges everything from children's activities to a round of golf at the nearby Greg Norman-designed course at the new Four Seasons Resort Great Exuma at Emerald Bay.

The private custom villas and fractional ownership units represent a new model in the Bahamas that encourages lavish developments,

which preserve and respect the Bahamian spirit and natural habitat.

February Point and similar developments have become the catalyst for unprecedented growth and critical change on the main Family Islands that have until now lived in the shadow of the fast tourism trade of the Bahamian capital of Nassau and Freeport. These types of investments not only give the Exumas and other Family Islands a much needed economic boost but also help upgrade essential infrastructure from water facilities to telecommunications.

The Exumas, in the center of the Family Islands, benefit from an international airport that is just 130 miles from Nassau and less than an hour's flight from Miami. ■