Beauty and the Beach

These summer trends are ideal for basking in the Cayman Islands sun.



By Christine Borges

Long gone are the days of tankinis and Speedos being *de rigueur* on the beach. You can't just walk onto the sand in a muumuu and call it a day anymore. Swim and resort wear has become as ever changing as couture and ready-to-wear pieces. An entire week is dedicated to perusing swimwear-filled catwalks during Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week Swim, and trends — which change yearly — are easy to bring in to your sun and fun routine.

Bathing beauties are commonplace when walking along the shores of the Cayman Islands. But wouldn't you love to be one of them? You don't need to have a perfect figure to pull off these spring/summer trends. Heed our advice for a colourful, breezy and print-filled escape — and we're not just talking about a siesta on the sand.

Pop of Colour

Colourful palettes were often a trend left to statement makers and fashionistas. But alas, no more, as colours can be as subtle (or as outlandish) as you want them to be in swimwear. The great thing about colour is its endless opportunities for mixing and matching. No real fashion skills are needed, as long as you aim for clean lines and one colour per piece. Cue: Cia Maritima and Dolores Cortes. The South American brands lend whimsy to their collections through bright pastels and neons. Cia Maritima modernises the classic string bikini in bold yellows and fuchsias — which are great colours to show off a new tan, by the way. Dolores Cortes' pieces opt for updates on classic silhouettes, like a neon green knit one-piece or a sweetheart-shaped one-piece with a pink ombre finish. No matter which colour or style you choose for this trend, one thing is key: confidence.

Courtesy of Dolores Cortes









Shop for these trends locally at:

- **The Cabana, A Lilly Pulitzer Via Shop** // *The Paseo, Camana Bay*
- **Funky Monkey** // *Governors Square, West Bay Road*
- **Sand Angels** // *The Paseo, Camana Bay*
- **Kirk Marine** // *454 Commercial Center, Eastern Ave*

Prints, Please

Forget plaids, paisleys and polka dots. Prints are now becoming more versatile and less clichéd. It's a great way to sport colour without being too dramatic and to be fashion forward without stepping too far outside of your comfort zone. Prints are popping up everywhere, thanks to brands like AZ Araujo and Mara Hoffman. The signature of both brands' summer 2013 collections, these bold prints are great for hiding extra curves — and accentuating the right ones. Whether you opt for playful cut-outs, a classic low back one-piece or a matching maxi dress, be sure to keep all other accessories minimal.

Fringe Benefits

Men aren't the only ones who can rock a little fringe on their shoulders. The cowboy culture brought this trend to the forefront, but now swimwear is taking the look in an entirely different direction. And each area where fringe is added serves a different means of accentuating. Fringe is added to the chest area to accentuate and in the waist area to minimise. L*Space by Monica Wise's latest collection is a great representation of that. The brand shredded minimal prints to make for barely-there looks with sass and a little sex appeal. The key to wearing fringe is to find a fabric that won't be too demanding on the figure. No brights or neons here. Sometimes subtlety acts as your best asset.

Go with the Flow

Sometimes frolicking in your bikini just isn't an option while basking in the strong sun of the Cayman Islands. When the occasion calls for daywear with a touch of swim, opt for a flowy caftan. They come in all lengths — from thigh grazing to knee high to even floor length — and offer a great alternative to beachwear. Caffe Swimwear and Lilly Pulitzer offer up a myriad of choices. The latter, known for its pretty-as-punch prints dreamed up by Pulitzer while working at a juice stand, present plenty of eye-catching details, like neckline beadwork and hidden belts. They can be dressed down for a day on the boat with flip-flops or dressed up with sandals for a day gallivanting around town. The prospects really are never ending.

From left to right: Courtesy of Mara Hoffman (2); Courtesy of L*Space (2)