

[ The Dish ]

# Conch If You Love to Eat

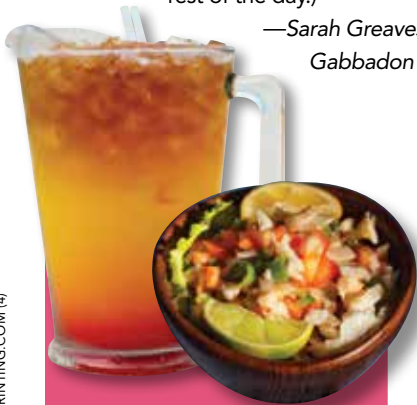
If you're in the Turks and Caicos Islands, it'd be rude not to sample conch, the scrumptious sea snail that thrives in the islands' warm, shallow waters. At

**Da Conch Shack and Rum Bar**, an iconic beachfront restaurant on the main island of Providenciales, the meaty mollusks reside in an ocean pen that's mere steps from the kitchen. And it's the best place to get your first taste.

Da Conch Shack serves the gastropod myriad ways: "cracked" (dusted with flour and fried), curried, stewed, in chowder, or folded into a batter and deep-fried to make hush puppy-like conch fritters. But true aficionados go for the traditional island dish, conch salad.

First thing to know: Despite the salad moniker, you won't find a single lettuce leaf in this ceviche-style preparation of raw conch. First, the shell is plucked from the shallows and "knocked" on the beach (a hole is pierced in the shell and the flesh removed and cleaned). In the kitchen, the chef adds diced green peppers, tomatoes, and onions; tosses it all together with lime juice, salt, and pepper; and *voila!* The freshest, most flavorful conch salad this side of paradise arrives at your beachfront bench, going from shore to plate in less than five minutes. Pair your conch salad with a cup of Jan's Infamous Rum Punch and you'll be good to go. (Or, more likely, to blissfully linger under a coconut palm for the rest of the day.)

—Sarah Greaves-Gabbadon



## DETAILS

A small conch salad costs about \$7; large is \$12. [daconchshack.com](http://daconchshack.com).



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