

DESTINATION INFORMATION - BAHAMAS

Named from the Spanish “baja mar” (shallow sea), the Bahamas are home to ancient shipwrecks and a rainbow of coral reefs teeming with fish. The landscape is dotted with colorful houses and exotic blooms. There are over 700 palm-fringed islands to explore with excellent snorkeling, diving, fishing and safe swimming.

COORDINATES	24°15N, 76°00W	
LANGUAGE	English (official), Bahamian patois (widely spoken)	
CAPITAL	Nassau	
WEATHER	A constant temperate climate prevails thanks to refreshing, cooling trade winds. September-May is freshest at 21C-24C (70F-75F), with 27C-29C (81F-84F) throughout the rest of the year. June-November is hurricane season.	
BEST TIME TO CHARTER	December-April (although a year-round destination)	
AIRPORTS	Nassau International (NAS) and Grand Bahama International (FPO) are the main airports.	
TIME	UTC-5 (winter), UTC-4 (summer)	
CURRENCY	Bahamian Dollar (BSD); USD also accepted. Major credit cards are widely accepted, except in some smaller establishments. ATMs located mainly in Nassau and Freeport.	
ELECTRICITY	120 V, 60 Hz	
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS	1 Jan	New Year's Day
	10 Jan	Majority Rule Day
	Mar/Apr	Good Friday
		Easter Monday
	May/June	Whit Monday
	1 st Fri in June	Labor Day
	10 Jul	Independence Day
	1 st Mon in Aug	Emancipation Day
	12 Oct	National Heroes' Day
	25 Dec	Christmas Day
	26 Dec	Boxing Day
MAIN PORTS AND MARINAS	Abacos: Green Turtle Cay, Marsh Harbour, Treasure Cay Eleuthera: Governor's Harbour, Harbour Island Exuma: George Town Grand Bahama: Freeport Harbour New Providence: Nassau (over dozen marinas)	
RECOMMENDED BEACHES	Cable Beach- New Providence Island; Cabbage Beach- Paradise Island; Pink Sands Beach- Eleuthera; Saddle Cay- Exumas; Stocking Island- Exumas	
CULTURAL	Bahamian pace of life is chilled out, and “island time” is a relaxed approach to time-keeping and describes the locals' laidback attitude. Dress is casual and beachwear is accepted in resorts. While out in restaurants, clubs or casinos, dressing up is expected.	

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