

Why the Bahamas – General Aviation

- It's easy to get too not too far over water
- English is the native language tourists are welcomed politically stable
- US Dollars are readily accepted w/o exchange penalty
- Customs are easy Fees are minimal
- Island hopping is a breeze over 50 islands w/o cruise ships or commercial air service nice people deserted beaches turquois waters lots of options
- Good phone and internet coverage contact your provider in advance for roaming data
- It satisfies escapist middle age fantasies













Empty Beaches – Beautiful Weather – Easy <u>Flying – Variety</u> Trip Mission – Go where the cruise ships and airlines aren't



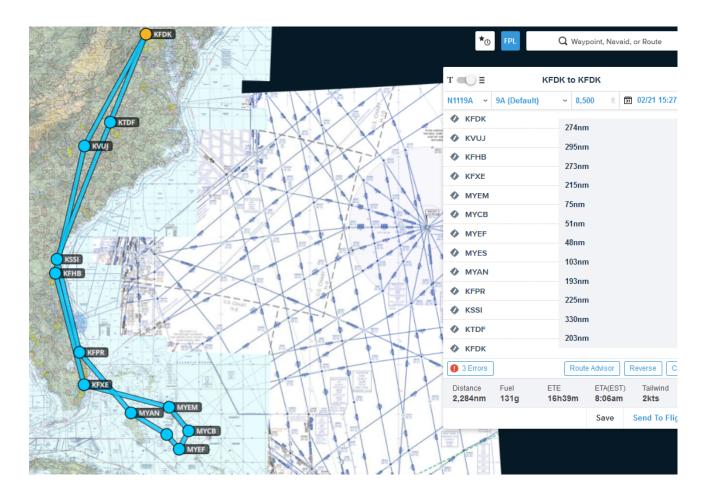


Map of the Bahamas

- Dorian affected islands Grand Bahama/Abaco
- 350K people, on 90 Islands, served by 56 Airports
- 250K on Nassau, 50K on Freeport, 18K on Abaco, 8K on Eleuthera, Exuma, and Andros – 10,000 people spread out on 90+ other islands
- About 60 airports, 10 with fuel, 20 with customs/ports of entry
- Oriented NW to SE 450 miles x 100 miles with the Nassau in the center

Trip Statistics

- 9 Days in Mid January
- 6 Islands
- 12 stops longest leg 330 miles about 2 ½ hours
- Longest transit over water about 195 miles from Andros to KFPR (not planned – directed by ATC)
- Longest transit over water without a boat in sight 0 miles
- About 24 hours of flying Round trip
- 2,600 miles, 125 gallons of fuel fuel prices ranged from \$3.90 to \$7.20
- Average price of lodging \$150/night/room
- Cost of food in Bahamas about \$90/day/person
- Total door to door expense all in for 2 people in separate rooms – around \$3K



Bahamas Detail Routing

Legs:

- 1. Lauderdale over Grand Bahama and Abaco to Eleuthera (1 night stay)
- 2. Eleuthera to Cat Island (2 night stay)
- 3. Cat Island to Exuma (2 night stay)
- 4. Exuma to Staniel Cay (3 night stay)
- 5. Staniel Cay to Andros (customs to leave)



The Airplane – N1119A RV-9A



- LSA are okay you need to bring a medical along or a US Driver's license
- Experimental are okay you need to bring along Standardized Validation Letter (download from the internet)
- Standard US operating documents Airworthiness, W&B, Operating Limitations, ID Plate on A/C (none were ever checked)
- 12" N-Number
- A Radio Station License
- Altitude reporting transponder w/encoding
- ELT 121.5 or 406MHz
- US Customs and Border Protection Decal (\$28/yr)
- Some means to file an Electronic Advance Information System manifest (eAPIS) – I used a FlassPass App on my phone
- Insurance endorsement for operation in Bahamas and Caribbean – usually free

Pilots and Passengers Need to Bring

- Current Passport
- Restricted radiotelephone operators permit (pilot only)
- Letter of Authorization if aircraft is not registered in Pilot's name
- Life jackets for all onboard

Recommended but not required:

- A raft for all personnel (available to rent)
- A floating ditch bag with safety/survival equipment
- Waterproof/floating hand-held VHF
- Individual PKB, Strobe, Whistle, signal mirror for each Life Jacket
- Extra cash very few ATM's





Emergency Stuff – Planning for the Unexpected

- Enhanced passenger briefing
- Review/briefing of ditch procedures and responsibilities
- Packing for access to ditch bag, life etc
- Wearing life jackets during flight
- EPIRB, PLB's on Life Jackets, Strobes on Jackets, Satellite EL, Spare VHS, Raft, Trauma kit, First Aid kit, 4L of water, multi-tool, signaling/mirror, flashlight

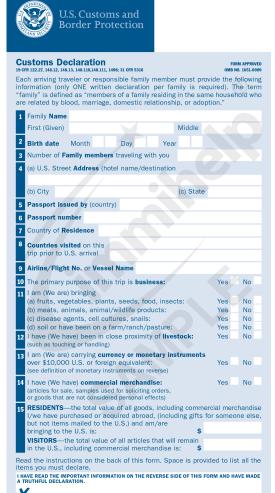
Outward Bound

File a flight plan DVFR or IFR – Filing with Foreflight works – North American map package has the Bahamas	File an e-APIS manifest – multiple Apps for this on your phone	Make sure you have USCG approved life jackets on board and all your documents before leaving the ground
Activate the flight plan before leaving Florida (Miami FSS 1 800 922 7433)	Notify the Airport of Entry (AOE) in the Bahamas that you are coming by phone	Must land at an AOE
Pre-complete triplicate form of C7A – General declaration form	Make sure you bring \$50 — cash — to give to customs with the C7A	If you Fly VFR get Flight Following from Miami Center – and get a squawk

Forms and Fees \$50 to enter \$29/Person to Leave

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- Limited airport forecasts Miami/Nassau 12 Hour TAF, No MOS
- Briefer cannot help too much only gives you Nassau
- Alternative weather like WeatherUnderground <u>www.weatherunderground.com/aviation</u>
- W/U has over 40 reporting/forecasting stations in the Bahamas
- Huge difference in wind/weather from dawn to mid day to dusk
- Highest surface winds were 35. Highest crosswinds were 28. Highest crosswind landed was about 12-15
- Higher winds in winter. Daily thunderstorms in summer Think Southern Florida.

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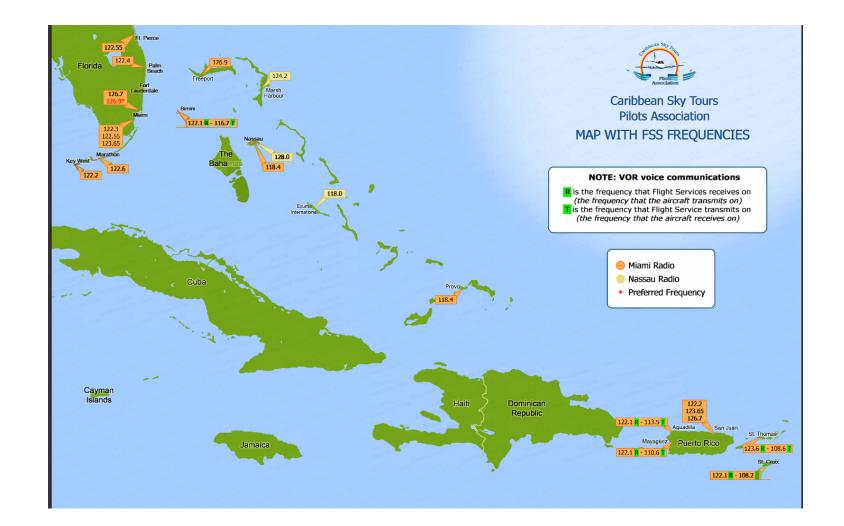
65 %

Radio Frequencies CTAF – 122.8

NO ATC on out-islands below 2500

Nassau 124.2 or 128.0

Miami 126.7 or 122.4 Remote around Nassau 118.4



Runways and Airports

- Plenty of size most are at least 75' wide and 4000+ long
- Almost no obstacles flat terrain
- Most orient east/west along the flow of dominant winds
- Bring good chocks and your own tie downs – not too many places with tie down points
- Plenty of parking no landing fees or ramp fees at the outer airports
- No FBO's to call from the air, few windsocks to see – practice spotting your wind clues (direction of waves
- Some runways are north/south due to island geometry. Practice crosswind approaches. Watch W/U reports for lulls in windspeed.
- Runway surfaces are paved, but rough concrete aggregate surface – I thought I popped a tire twice on landing



- Services are very limited Limited FBO services No maintenance
- Plan ahead do oil changes/tire pressure/misc. maintenance before leaving
- Spare parts are 4-7 days away
- Enhanced tool kit, spare tubes, oil, inflator, chocks, cover, windshield washer
- Fuel is supposed to be available at: Abaco, Eleuthera (2), Exuma, Freeport, Inagua, Long Island, New Providence – However, it is not reliably available – Flight plan with a 90-minute reserve
- Most out island locations do not have fuel fill up where you can

Homeward Bound

File an e-APIS manifest

File a flight plan (DVFR or IFR)

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Call US Customs at your Airport of US Entry, and advise of your ETA – Fort Pearce is the least busy

Depart the Bahamas from an AOE – they want your \$29/person

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Activate your flight plan – phone is best – outer island radio coverage below 4000 is spotty (Nassau – 242 377 7116)

Get a discrete squawk code

Land and close flight plan

S C

Clear customs in the US

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Bahama Resources

- AOPA Annual Bahamas Guide about \$40
- AOPA Website Click on: Travel-International – Let's Go - Bahamas
- The Islands fo the Bahamas Private Pilot Guide – Free on the Webb – See Banyan Aviation's Website
- Both provide great general guides for Radio, Weather, Runways, Island info, and other useful stuff



https://www.aopa.org/travel/international-travel/bahamas-and-caribbean-pilots-guides

Free Stuff is almost always good!

Private Pilots: Fly Almost Fee Free

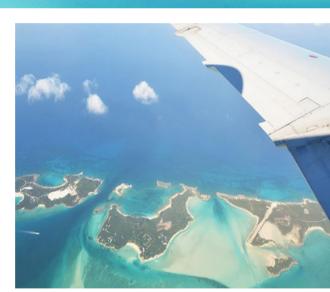
Book a 4-night stay or longer at any participating Out Islands hotel and receive a \$300 fee credit. Special terms and conditions may apply.*

Booking Window: July 1st, 2019 - June 30th, 2020

Travel By Dates: July 1st, 2019-October 31st, 2020

Black-out Dates:

July 4th, 2019 - July 8th, 2019 November 28th, 2019 - December 1st, 2019 December 20th, 2019 - January 1st, 2020 April 4th, 2020 - April 12th, 2020 July 2nd, 2020 - July 6th, 2020 **Looking to explore more of the Out** Islands? View our exclusive <u>Island</u> <u>Hopping offer</u> and receive \$150 fuel credit at multiple resorts.



HOW TO BOOK Directly with participating hotels.

PARTICIPATING PROPERTIES

The properties below accept the Private Pilots: Fly Almost Fee Free

The Abaco Club on Winding Bay The Abacos (242) 225-7 033 Learn more

Chester Bonefish Lodge Acklins Learn more

Dream Villas Andros (242) 368-2106 Learn more

Hilton at Resorts World Bimini Bimini (888) 930-8688 Learn more

Fountain Bay Resort & Marina Cat Island (242) 342-3206 Learn more

Greenwood Beach Resort Cat Island (242) 342-3053 Learn more

Sammy T's Beach Resort Cat Island (242) 354-6009 Learn more

Valentines Resort & Marina Harbour Island (866) 389-6864 Sandpiper Inn The Abacos (242) 699-2056 Learn more

Nathan's Lodge Andros (242) 369-17 07 Learn more

Andros Island Bonefish Club Andros Learn more

Rollezz Villas Beach Resort Cat Island (242) 557-0005 Learn more

The Ocean Dream Beach Resort Cat Island (242) 342-2052 Learn more

Hawk's Nest Resort & Marina Cat Island (242) 342-7050 Learn more

Orange Creek Inn Cat Island (242) 354-4110 Learn more

Greenwich Creek Lodge Long Island (242) 337-6278 Chester's Highway Inn Bonefish Lodge Acklins (242) 357-4 T9 Learn more

Seascape Inn Andros (242) 369-0342 Learn more

Bimini Big Game Club Resort & Marina Bimini (800) 867-4764 Learn more

Shannas Cove Cat Island (242) 354-4249 Learn more

Pigeon Cay Beach Club Cat Island (242) 354-5084 Learn more

Cape Eleuthera Resort and Marina Eleuthera (844) 884-1014 Learn more

Riding Rock Resort and Marina San Salvador (242) 3312631

Some More Useful Stuff – Airports and Contacts

	INFOR	RT MA	TION	Į	
ISLANDS R	UNWAY LENGTH/WIDTH	FUEL	FORT OF ENTRY	AUTHORITY	CONTACT
Abaco					
Gorda Cey - MYAG	\$ 909 • 50	No tue	NC	PVT	OWNERS US
Marsh Herbour + MYAM	5 000 × 100	lei.t\001	Yes	COVT	(242) 367-358
Moonest stand - MYAC	2.640 x 130	NO THE	No	COVE	المحالفة فيلعن
Sandy Peint - MYAS	4,500 x 100	No fue	Yes	COVT	(242) 506-404
Stotlar / Cay - restricted	3.000 × 100	NO THE	No	EVT.	(242) 367-257
Spanish Cay - MYAX	5,000 × 50	No fuel	Yes	÷VT	(242) 565-005
Treasure Cay - MYAT	5 800 x tao	let ruel	Yas	COVT	(242) \$65-690
Walkers Cay - MYAW	3,500 x 63	- No ruși	A92	EVT	CLOSE
Acklins					
Soving Point - MVAP	a036 x 53	No CH	10	GOVE	(242) 344 366
Andras					
Andres Lown MYAE	4.000 x 100	ne fuel	1 cr	66.7	(747) 365-203
Canao Town MYAK	5,500 × 100	No Fiel	Yes	60 VT	(242) 347 264
Clarence Baun, MYAB	5.000 x 75	No fuel	12	60.9"	(242) 360 008
Sali Anaros I MYAN	5 025 × 100	ICO/Fuel	Y'es	GOV-	(145) 329 214
Berry Islands					
Club Cay - MYBC	5,000 k BC	No hie	Yes	PVT	(242) 325-576
Great Halbour Cay - NYEG		Nothin	YES	PNT	(242) 367-852
ILL Where Cay - MYDX	3 200 x 50	Nortur	No	EV.T	(242) 359-346
R ⊴ Witele Cay - M≌BW	4.200 x 60	No futi	No	PVT	(242) 359-34b
Bimini					
South Birth - MYRS	a.600 x 100	No fuel	Yes	GOVT	1(242) 242-00
Ocean Cay - MYBO	1,650 × 60	leut of	Nu	PV"	(242) 342-269
Cat Cay - MYUL	1,003-50	No feel	No	PV ⁻	(*42) (47 358
Cat Island					
Arthurs Liven - MYCA	7.034 x I50	No fael	10	GCVT	(242) 542-201
Cotless Bay MYCX	2.450 x 60	No Fuel	10	PVT	(242) 255-553
Howks Net: MYCH	3.100 x 80	No fuel	15	PVF	(712) 347-705/
Naw Right MY,19	5.050 × 75	No Fue:	Yes	60VT	(2/2) 3/2-301
Cay Sol					
Cay Sal - MYCS	2.000 × 100	No file	No	PVT	OWNER US
Crooked Island	d				
Colonial Hill - MYCL	4.050 x 60	Noricel	Na	GOVE	(242) 344 259
	7.070 < 60	Volcel	144	515.75 F	12 miles - Contra 17 1/2

ISLANDS N	UNWAY LENGTH/WIDTH	PVEL	PORT OF ENTRY	AUTHORITY	CONTACT
Eleuthera					
Cope Electrom - MYEC	5.500 × 150	No fue	Nu	1971	DLOX-
Gaverhor's Hanpour - MYE	M 5.450 x 50	00/fue	Yes	GOVE	(242) 332-242
North Flexiblera - MYEE	3 0 0 1 2 10 0	00/"ue	Yes.	GOVI	(542) 342-262 (542) 342-1074
Reak Sound MYER	7,220 × 150	No fael	res	GGYT	(242) 334-217
Exuma					
examplicity MYEE	8.000 × 160	100/Jet	Yes	dov-	(242) 545 007
Darby island	1000 x 100	Notio	No	FVT	OWNER USE
Black Point MMEET	2.5C0 x 80	No fue	Nu	GOVT	(242) JUB 2060
Lot, Cay - MYEY	2,800 x 60	No fusi	Nu	EV-	(342) 356 2103
Lee Stocking MYEL	6.000 × 75	No fuel	No	177.7	(242) £ 99 +557
Listic Carby Island	10:10 × '00	So fuel	No	PVI	OWNERUSE
Norman's Cay MYEN	S(C)C x 50	No fuel	No	SCV ⁺	(242) 557 88-6
Rudder Cur Cay	2100 x 60	No fuel		2901	(242) 566 26KD
Sampson Chy	2 000 x 30	No fuel	NC NC	101	OWNER US-
Staniel Cay - MYES	5.0.50 x /5	Ne fur	No.	GOVE	(242) 355 2024
Earning Cay	2,500 ¥ 50	No fur	No	GOVE	(242) 355 2074
,		1417 141	(4)	0001	(242) 355-4000
Grand Baham	a				
-reopert MMGE	11.000 × 130	100/at) es	PVT	(242).857 5020
West Had - MYGW	6,000 x 150	Ao tiel	50	PVT	C DSED
Inagua					
Matthew Town - MYIG	7,0 5 % 59	100/Jet	Yes	COVI	(242) 239-1254
Long Island					
Descriptions Conv. MYLD	4,000 × 80	No f.,cl	22	BCV 1	
Diamond Roses MY_R	3,000 x 60	No fuel	30	201	(242) 337(0877
Stellz Maris MVLS	4,000 x /5	ICC/Jet	Yes	3071	(242) 337-3000
Ospe Santa Moria - MYLM	214C x 60	Ng fue	NC NC	-921	(242) 338-rol/
	2,000,000	NG NG	NC	201	(212) 338-5274
Mayaguane					
Mayagi ang MYMM	7,700 × 150	No hiti	No	GOVT	(242) 339 3100
New Providen	ce				
Nebice - MYNN	2,000 × 801	10-07 Jet	Yas	SOVE	(742) 377-6-00
Ragged Island					
00					
Duracin Town, MVPD	$5,800 \times 75$	No fue	No	GOVT -	(242) 344(1855
Rum Cav					
Port Neison - MYRP	4.500 x 100	Avrifuel	35	257	(242) 357 1600
Con Caluad					
San Salvador					
Cockburn Lown MVEN	8 0.00 × 150	No fue	245	GOVE	1242) 33 -21.5°

Note the only official algorits that have lights for high tilght-gave Newsea and Proceeds. A few Qui i dend algorits have lights for emergencies only. For complete information on algorits and provedures, you can purchase an only of the Bahamas & Caribbeer Pilate Suide.

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION FACILITIES-AIRPORTS OF ENTRY

OCATION	IDENT	HOURS	TELEPHONE	SPEED DIAL
Fort Party	TPR	10:50 18:03	(772) 48 - 733 (305) 575-7155'	H28
West Faim Deach	198	08:00 - 900 Sunday 11 20:00	(561) 237-1080	#48
Ft. Lauue/da e Tsett	-×=	98:00 - 54 00	(354) × 91-567 / (354) 771-361	ಸ
-t. Launorda d. 11	TL.	24 h/s / / days	(4a4) Mis-740 ((4a4) Mis-7847	#37
Opo Locka	C=-	00:00 2500	(305) 687-6474 (300) 975-2867	844
Y'ami	MA	24 b/s / / dbys	(40b) tizo=455	ed'
Lanciant	TMB	00001 - 200F	(305) 969-751	#4 5
Key West	EYW	24 hts77 days Colta , seed ht notio	(305) 295-54	π× C

150 M	10.05	Integration	н

US CUSTONS AND BORDER PROTECTION WWW.CBP.GOV

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Number of passengers who are US, of zers
 Point of last departure
 Settineled films of animat
 Name of the United States airport of first lamining

Selection Speed D'al & Telephone Numbers

SELECTION	NUMBER	SPEED DIAL	SELECTION	NUMBER	SPEED DIAL
Westner	(27.2) 377-7.18	#.SC	Presport FSS	(242) 352-2205	#10
Flight Plan	(212) 377-716	# 11	International FSS	(800) 997-7133	15.57
U.S. Customs Facilities					
FLL Executive	(95-1-40)-5647	10.5%	After Hours	(786) 255-5620	#45
FLL Hellywood	(90:4) 856-741	#37	Memilikende Temierni	(305) 969 1578	#40
After Hours	(785) 265-5540	4.20	West Palm Beach Int'l	(557) 285 1060	#4-
Fort Alerte	(770) 46 - 735	Π28	AT&T	28000 972 2881	#44
Key West	(305) 296-540	V40	MCI	18000 448 2008	0 4540
Misir Internationa	(30.); 520-1755	U.4.	Sprint	1.25199-10038	#3)
Merr. Obe Looka	(30E) 687-5475	#44			

It the blue chone does not work, welk to any PTC plotter in the visibility of the aligner. You will be able to dial directly and you will not be charged for the call.