



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 – turquoise 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
Flying — Variety

Trip Mission — Go where the cruise ships and
airlines aren't



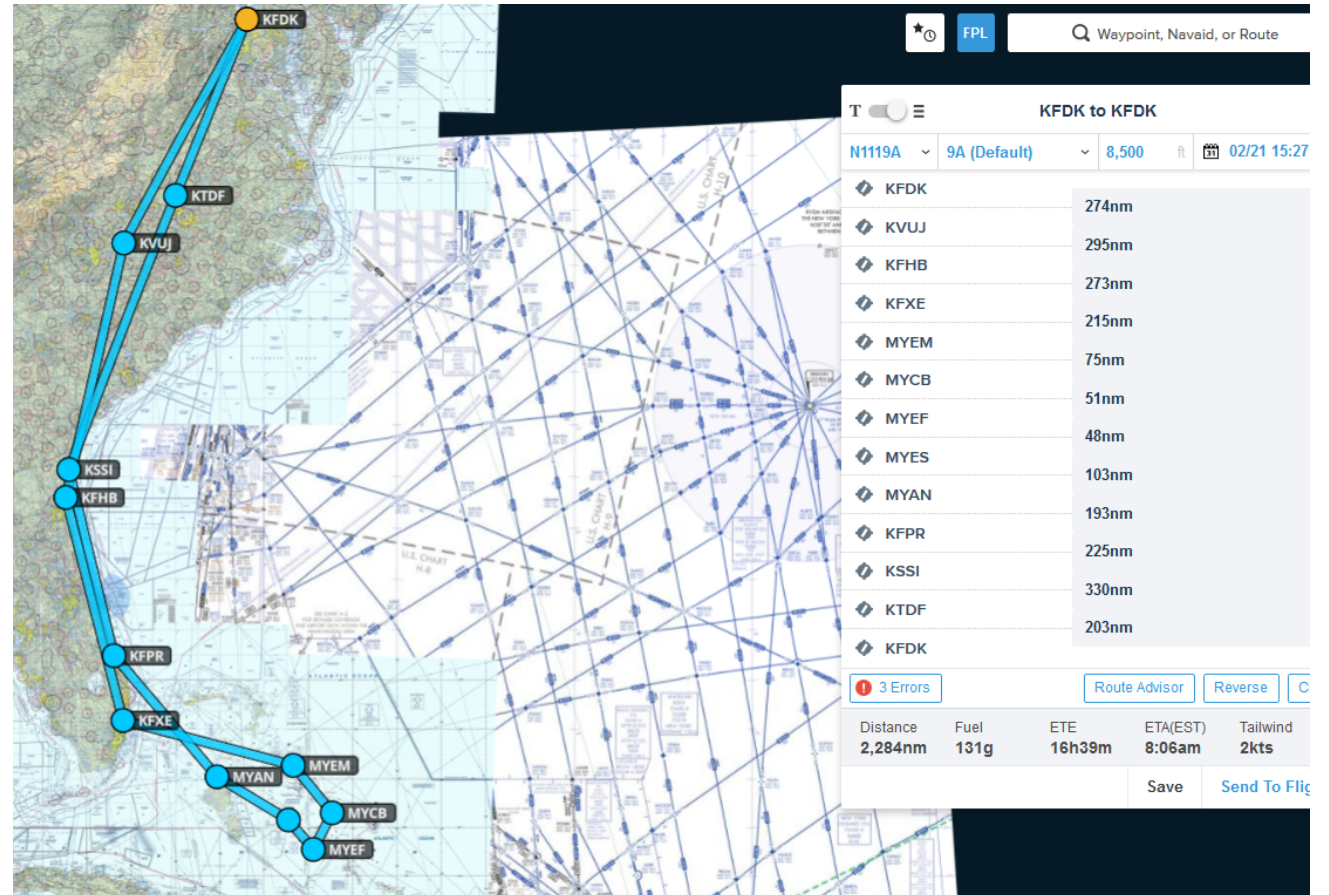


Map of the Bahamas

- 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

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Weather Resources

- Limited airport forecasts – Miami/Nassau – 12 Hour TAF, No MOS
- Briefer cannot help too much – only gives you Nassau
- Alternative weather like WeatherUnderground – www.weatherunderground.com/aviation
- 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.

The Bahamas Hourly Weather Forecast ★ 🏠
NATIONAL AIRPORT STATION | CHANGE ▾

HOURLY 10-DAY CALENDAR HISTORY WUNDERMAP

Hourly Forecast for Sunday 02/23

Sunday 02/23 ☁️ 10% / 0 in
Mostly sunny skies with gusty winds. High 74F. Winds NE at 20 to 30 mph.

Sunday Night 02/23 🌙 0% / 0 in
Mostly clear skies. Low 69F. Winds N at 10 to 20 mph.

Sun 🌅 6:33AM 🌇 6:05PM

Moon 🌑 6:44AM 🌑 6:14PM
New Moon, 0% visible

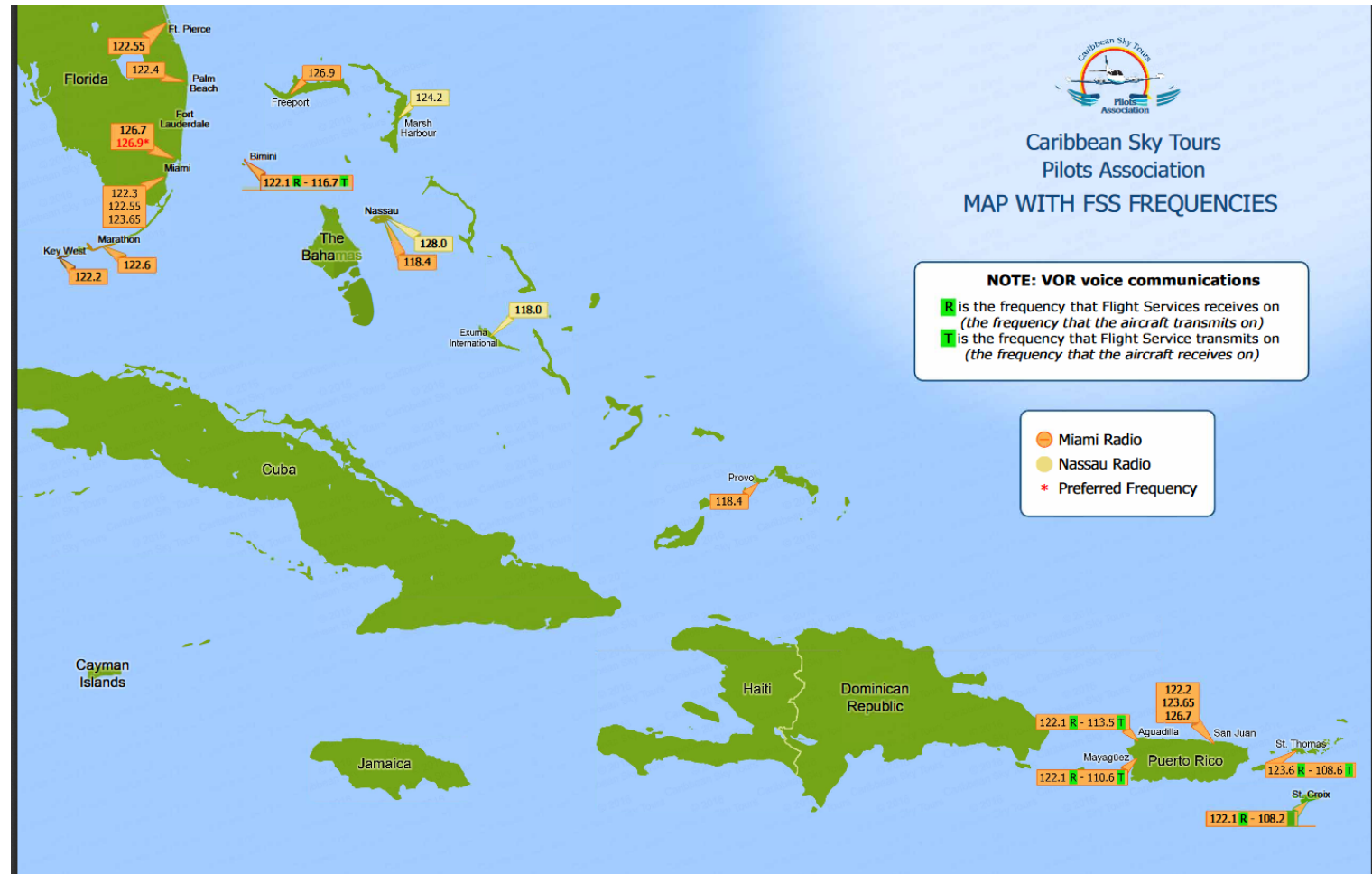
Time	Conditions	Temp.	Feels Like	Precip	Amount	Cloud Cover	Dew Point	Humidity	Wind
12:00 am	☁️ Partly Cloudy/Wind	71 °F	71 °F	<u>19 %</u>	<u>0 in</u>	44 %	63 °F	76 %	20 mph
1:00 am	☁️ Partly Cloudy/Wind	70 °F	71 °F	<u>13 %</u>	<u>0 in</u>	43 %	62 °F	76 %	20 mph
2:00 am	☁️ Partly Cloudy/Wind	70 °F	70 °F	<u>14 %</u>	<u>0 in</u>	39 %	62 °F	74 %	20 mph
3:00 am	☁️ Partly Cloudy/Wind	70 °F	70 °F	<u>15 %</u>	<u>0 in</u>	40 %	61 °F	73 %	20 mph
4:00 am	☁️ Partly Cloudy/Wind	70 °F	70 °F	<u>14 %</u>	<u>0 in</u>	44 %	61 °F	73 %	20 mph
5:00 am	☁️ Partly Cloudy/Wind	70 °F	70 °F	<u>12 %</u>	<u>0 in</u>	38 %	60 °F	72 %	20 mph
6:00 am	☁️ Partly Cloudy/Wind	70 °F	70 °F	<u>8 %</u>	<u>0 in</u>	33 %	60 °F	71 %	20 mph
7:00 am	☁️ Partly Cloudy	69 °F	69 °F	<u>7 %</u>	<u>0 in</u>	30 %	60 °F	73 %	10 mph
8:00 am	☀️ Sunny	71 °F	71 °F	<u>8 %</u>	<u>0 in</u>	29 %	61 °F	72 %	10 mph
9:00 am	☀️ Sunny	73 °F	73 °F	<u>9 %</u>	<u>0 in</u>	27 %	60 °F	65 %	20 mph

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



Fuel and Services



- 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)



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



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



Get a discrete squawk code



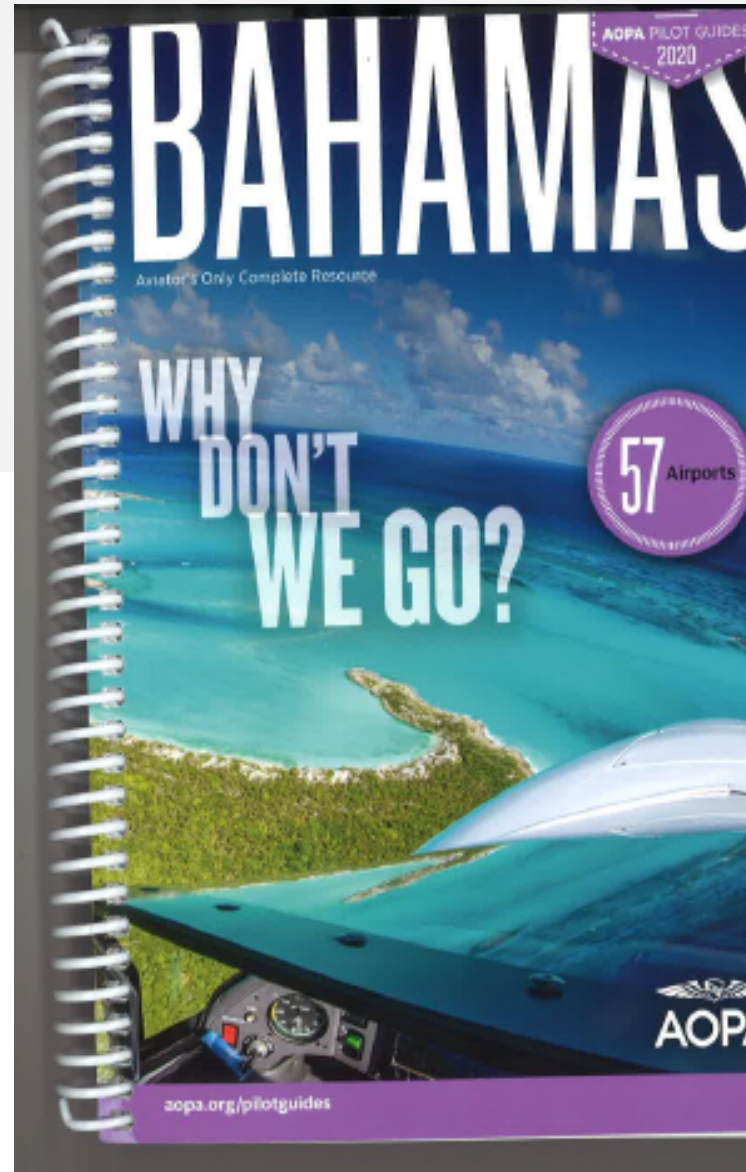
Land and close flight plan



Clear customs in the US

Bahama Resources

- AOPA Annual Bahamas Guide – about \$40
- AOPA Website – Click on: Travel-International – Let's Go - Bahamas
- The Islands of the Bahamas Private Pilot Guide – Free on the Web – 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 [Island Hopping offer](#) 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) 225-7033

[Learn more](#)

Chester Bonefish Lodge

Acklins

[Learn more](#)

Dream Villas

Andros (242) 369-2106

[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

[Learn more](#)

Sandpiper Inn

The Abacos (242) 699-2056

[Learn more](#)

Nathan's Lodge

Andros (242) 369-1707

[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

[Learn more](#)

Chester's Highway Inn Bonefish Lodge

Acklins (242) 357-4179

[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) 331-2631

[Learn more](#)

AIRPORT INFORMATION

ISLANDS	RUNWAY LENGTH/WIDTH	FUEL	PORT OF ENTRY	AUTHORITY	CONTACT
Abaco					
Conde Cay - MYAG	3,000 x 50	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 361-1354
Paradise Island - MYAP	5,000 x 100	No fuel	Yes	GOVT	(242) 361-1354
Proctor's Island - MYAG	2,600 x 100	No fuel	No	GOVT	(242) 361-1354
Sandy Point - MYAS	4,500 x 100	No fuel	Yes	GOVT	(242) 360-4044
Staniel Cay - near closed	3,500 x 110	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 361-1354
Sussex Island - MYAX	5,000 x 50	No fuel	Yes	PVT	(242) 360-4044
Treasure Cay - MYAT	3,000 x 150	No fuel	Yes	GOVT	(242) 360-4044
Walkers Cay - MYAW	2,500 x 60	No fuel	Yes	PVT	CLOSED
Acklins					
Spring Point - MYAL	4,000 x 60	No fuel	No	GOVT	(242) 364-0888
Andros					
Andrew Town - MYAP	4,000 x 100	No fuel	Yes	GOVT	(242) 365-2020
Canaan Town - MYAK	5,500 x 100	No fuel	Yes	GOVT	(242) 365-2840
Clarence Run - MYAN	5,000 x 75	No fuel	No	GOVT	(242) 360-0083
Sea Anson - MYAN	5,025 x 100	No fuel	Yes	GOVT	(242) 329-2140
Berry Islands					
Crook Cay - MYBO	5,000 x 80	No fuel	Yes	PVT	(242) 325-1935
Great Inland Cay - MYEG	4,800 x 80	No fuel	Yes	PVT	(242) 367-4526
Little Inland Cay - MYEK	3,200 x 50	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 338-2467
Big White Cay - MYBW	4,200 x 60	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 338-2467
Bimini					
South Bimini - MYBS	4,000 x 100	No fuel	Yes	GOVT	(242) 342-1803
Queen's Cay - MYBQ	1,950 x 90	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 342-1803
Carl Cay - MYBL	1,100 x 80	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 342-1803
Cat Island					
Antigua Town - MYCA	7,000 x 150	No fuel	No	GOVT	(242) 342-2036
Charles Cay - MYCX	2,450 x 60	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 342-2036
Acadia Head - MYCH	3,100 x 95	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 342-2036
New Republic - MYCN	5,050 x 75	No fuel	Yes	GOVT	(242) 342-2036
Cay Sol					
Cay Sol - MYCS	2,000 x 100	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 342-2036
Crooked Island					
Crooked Hill - MYCI	4,150 x 60	No fuel	No	GOVT	(242) 344-2595
Pitts Town - MYCT	7,070 x 60	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 344-2595

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Source: Air Transport

ISLANDS	RUNWAY LENGTH/WIDTH	FUEL	PORT OF ENTRY	AUTHORITY	CONTACT
Eleuthera					
Cape Eleuthera - MYER	6,576 x 150	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 336-1100
Samuel's Harbor - MYER	8,480 x 50	200 Gal	Yes	GOVT	(242) 336-2427
North F. d. d. - MYER	3,000 x 100	200 Gal	Yes	GOVT	(242) 334-1038
Rock Sound - MYER	7,270 x 150	No fuel	Yes	GOVT	(242) 334-1177
Exuma					
James Hall - MYER	8,000 x 100	100 Gal	Yes	GOVT	(242) 448-3071
Derby Island	1,000 x 100	No fuel	No	PVT	OWNERS USE
Black Point - MYER	2,400 x 80	No fuel	No	GOVT	(242) 448-2780
Long Cay - MYER	2,800 x 60	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 448-7321
Lee's Hooker - MYER	6,000 x 75	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 448-4357
Little Johnny's Island	10,000 x 300	No fuel	No	GOVT	OWNERS USE
Worms Cay - MYER	6,000 x 40	No fuel	No	GOVT	(242) 448-4446
Rudder Gun Cay	2,100 x 40	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 448-3840
Jumping Cay	2,000 x 30	No fuel	No	PVT	OWNERS USE
Sand Cay - MYER	6,340 x 75	No fuel	No	GOVT	(242) 448-2074
Farmer's Cay	2,400 x 80	No fuel	No	GOVT	(242) 448-4000
Grand Bahama					
Freeport - MYER	11,000 x 150	100 Gal	Yes	PVT	(242) 467-5020
West End - MYER	6,000 x 150	No fuel	No	PVT	OWNERS USE
Inagua					
Matthew Town - MYER	7,000 x 50	100 Gal	Yes	GOVT	(242) 338-1214
Long Island					
Seaside City - MYER	4,000 x 80	No fuel	No	GOVT	(242) 337-1807
Diamond Beach - MYER	4,000 x 40	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 337-1300
Shells Harbor - MYER	4,000 x 18	No fuel	Yes	PVT	(242) 338-1214
Cape Serrano - MYER	2,400 x 60	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 338-1214
Mayaguana					
Mayaguana - MYER	7,700 x 50	No fuel	No	GOVT	(242) 448-2100
New Providence					
Nassau - MYER	7,000 x 80	100 Gal	Yes	GOVT	(242) 377-6000
Ragged Island					
Black Point - MYER	5,800 x 75	No fuel	No	GOVT	(242) 444-1551
Rum Cay					
Port Needham - MYER	4,800 x 100	No fuel	No	PVT	(242) 377-1600
San Salvador					
Cockburn Town - MYER	8,000 x 70	No fuel	Yes	GOVT	(242) 333-2161

Note: The only official airports that have lights for night flying are Nassau and Freeport. A few small island airports have lights for emergencies only. For complete information on airports and procedures, you can purchase a copy of The Bahamas & Cayman Islands Guide.

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

FACILITIES—
AIRPORTS OF ENTRY

LOCATION	IDENT	HOURS	TELEPHONE	SPEED DIAL
Fort Pierce	FPR	3600 - 1800	(888) 461-7333 (888) 525-7584	838
West Palm Beach	PAH	3600 - 2400 5 days; 11:20-60	(561) 277-0800	848
FL Lauderdale	LAX	3600 - 2400	(352) 431-5677 (352) 431-4031	849
FL Orlando	ORL	24 hrs / 7 days	(407) 350-2411 (407) 350-7847	850
Spa Locket	SLT	0900 - 2100	(407) 350-2411 (407) 350-2867	851
Yankee	YAA	24 hrs / 7 days	(408) 326-0050	847
Yankee	YMS	24 hrs / 7 days	(408) 369-7271	842
Key West	KWV	24 hrs / 7 days Cuba, Spain, Portugal	(888) 296-0646	876

*All times Eastern Standard Time

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

WWW.CBP.GOV

The preceding is a complete list of authorized Airports of Entry. All private aircraft arriving from the United States must stand at the ramp. Passengers must notify U.S. Customs & Border Protection at least one hour prior to arrival. The aircraft must arrive at a designated CBP office nearest to the point of crossing the U.S. coastline.

THE REQUIRED CUSTOMS NOTICE SHALL INCLUDE:

1. Aircraft registration number
2. Name of the aircraft pilot
3. Number of passengers who are U.S. citizens
4. Point of last departure
5. Estimated time of arrival
6. Name of the United States airport of first landing

Selection Speed Dial & Telephone Numbers

SELECTION	NUMBER	SPEED DIAL	SELECTION	NUMBER	SPEED DIAL
Weather Flight Plan	(800) 527-6738 (800) 737-7718	830 831	Resport FSS	(840) 352-2008	840
U.S. Customs Facilities			Internat'l FSS	(800) 559-7737	847
FL Lauderdale	(954) 436-5443	849	After Hours	(786) 255-5690	844
FL Hollywood	(954) 456-7411	857	Midnight - Sunrise - Customs	(850) 969-1039	840
After Hours	(888) 461-5540	830	West Palm Beach Int'l	(888) 255-5690	844
Fort Pierce	(888) 461-7333	838	AT&T	(800) 942-2860	844
Key West	(800) 296-0646	840	MCI	(800) 688-8000	840
Miami International	(800) 226-0755	847	Sp. Int.	(800) 981-1111	841
West Palm Beach	(888) 667-5476	848			

If the blue phone does not work, call in any STD phone in the vicinity of the airport. You will be able to do so directly and you will not be charged for the call.