



Bahamian Country Guide

Page 1 of 5 Important Information Prior to Travelling to The Bahamas Passport and Tourist Visa Conditions Current DFAT Travel Advice

Australian Passport holders do not usually require a visa to enter the Bahamas as a tourist for a period of up to three months. Passports are recommended to be valid for six months beyond the intended date of departure from the Bahamas.

Travellers must have confirmed accommodation in The Bahamas and should be able to show documentation confirming their ability to financially maintain themselves during their stay, as well as tickets and entry documents for their next destination.

For further information, and to confirm that you are eligible to travel to The Bahamas without a visa, please contact a Bahamian representative on the details provided below. Persons travelling via the US are also reminded of their obligation to comply with US entry and transit requirements.

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise a high degree of caution in the Bahamas because of high levels of serious crime, mainly on the islands of New Providence and Grand Bahama. Pay close attention to your personal security at all times. See [Safety and security](#). Muggings, armed robberies, home invasions and sexual assault targeting tourists are common in the cities of Nassau (New Providence) and Freeport (in Grand Bahama). Cruise ship terminals and resort areas are often targeted, including in daylight hours. See [Safety and security](#). The hurricane season is June to November when landslides, mudslides and flooding may occur. If severe weather warnings are in effect, keep your passport on you, monitor media reports and follow the instructions of local authorities. See [Natural disasters](#).

Travellers are encouraged to subscribe to updates to this advice, read the general advice to Australian travellers and to register their presence and contact details in The Bahamas with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.smarttraveller.gov.au.

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a traveller's individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against Hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to The Bahamas. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against Hepatitis B. Vaccination against Typhoid should be considered particularly if travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene. As there is a risk of dengue fever and the Zika virus in the Bahamas, insect avoidance measures may be necessary depending on your itinerary. The Bahamas is listed as a Zika category 1 country. For information on the risks the Zika virus poses to pregnancy, including up to 6 months following the exposure of either parent, see www.who.int/csr/disease/zika/en/.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations including for influenza. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures.

Australians travelling to The Bahamas should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas, the Zika virus and other issues please visit www.smarttraveller.gov.au/tips.

Bahamian Representation in Australia

Consulate of The Bahamas, Sydney

Level 14, 309 Kent Street
SYDNEY, NSW 2000

Tel: (02) 9994 8066

Web: www.consulate.net.au

Ministry of Immigration, The Bahamas

PO Box N-831
NASSAU, N.P

Tel: (+1 242) 322 8504

Fax: (+1 242) 326 0977

Web: www.bahamas.gov.bs/immigration



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Time Differences between The Bahamas and Australia

The Bahamas is Greenwich Mean Time -5 hours (-4 during daylight saving). The applicable time zone is called Eastern Standard Time (EST) or Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). Daylight saving is observed from the second Sunday in March to the first Sunday in November. The following times in Australia are a day ahead of the time in The Bahamas, for instance if it's Sunday afternoon in The Bahamas, it's Monday morning in Australia.

Bahamas, 12 noon, June = Perth midnight; Adelaide, Darwin 1:30am; Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 2am.

Bahamas, 12 noon, December = Perth 1am; Darwin 2:30am; Brisbane 3am; Adelaide 3:30am; Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 4am.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for the Bahamas:
+1 242

To Dial Australia Call:
011 61 <City> <Number>

Travelex Card Services:
Call the US on +1 954 838 8294

Visa Global Assistance:
1800 847 2911

MasterCard:
1800 307 7309

American Express Travellers Cheques:
(1) 800 452 0713

Bahamas Ministry of Tourism:
302 2000

Emergency Services:
919 or 911

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals, and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in The Bahamas

Australian High Commission,
Trinidad and Tobago

18 Herbert Street
St Clair
PORT OF SPAIN

Tel: (+1 868) 822 5450
Fax: (+1 868) 822 5490

Web: www.trinidadandtobago.highcommission.gov.au

Australian Honorary Consulate,
Bahamas

Lyford Manor
Lyford Cay
NASSAU

Tel: (+1 242) 327 8301

The Honorary Consulate in Nassau can only provide limited consular assistance. The Australian High Commission in Trinidad and Tobago is accredited to this country. Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305.

Australians are encouraged to register their presence and contact details in The Bahamas with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances for The Bahamas and Australia

Duty Free limits when entering The Bahamas:

Alcohol: 1 quart (1.136 litres) of spirits and 1 quart of wine.
 Tobacco: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 450 g of tobacco.
 Other Goods: Up to US\$100 in value.

Duty Free limits when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 L.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting The Bahamas and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For information on Bahamian customs please visit www.bahamas.gov.bs/customs, or for information regarding Australian customs please visit www.border.gov.au.

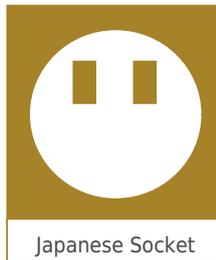
Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Socket type: USA and Japanese

Voltage: 110-120 volts (different to Australia, voltage/frequency converter required).

Modem Plug: USA.

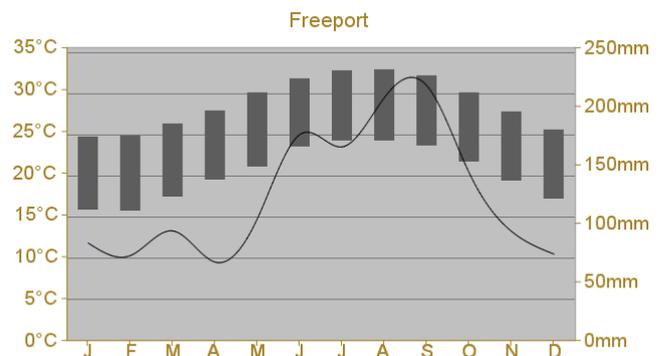
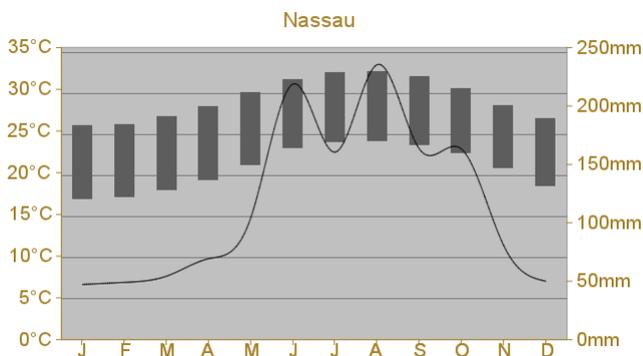
Source: Korjo Travel Products. To purchase electrical adaptors, or for further information, please go to www.korjo.com.au.



Bahamian Holidays 2018

01 Jan:	New Year's Day	10 Jul:	Independence Day
10 Jan:	Majority Rule Day	06 Aug:	Emancipation Day
30 Mar:	Good Friday	12 Oct:	Columbus Day
02 Apr:	Easter Monday	25 Dec:	Christmas Day
21 May:	Whit Monday	26 Dec:	Boxing Day
01 Jun:	Labour Day		

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in The Bahamas



Source: The Bahamas Department of Meteorology. For 5 day local forecasts please go to www.bbc.co.uk/weather.

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Page 4 of 5 Bahamian Currency Information and Cheat Sheet Exchange Rate with Australia

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 0.72 Bahamian Dollars
 1 Bahamian Dollar (BSD) = 1.39 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) will buy 0.69 Bahamian Dollars
 1 Bahamian Dollar (BSD) will cost 1.45 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Currency Cheat Sheet

B\$0.50 = \$0.72 AUD		This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.		B\$100 = \$144.59 AUD	
B\$1	= \$1.45 AUD	B\$10	= \$14.46 AUD	B\$100	= \$144.59 AUD
B\$2	= \$2.89 AUD	B\$20	= \$28.92 AUD	B\$200	= \$289.17 AUD
B\$3	= \$4.34 AUD	B\$30	= \$43.38 AUD	B\$300	= \$433.76 AUD
B\$4	= \$5.78 AUD	B\$40	= \$57.83 AUD	B\$400	= \$578.34 AUD
B\$5	= \$7.23 AUD	B\$50	= \$72.29 AUD	B\$500	= \$722.93 AUD
B\$6	= \$8.68 AUD	B\$60	= \$86.75 AUD	B\$600	= \$867.52 AUD
B\$7	= \$10.12 AUD	B\$70	= \$101.21 AUD	B\$700	= \$1,012.10 AUD
B\$8	= \$11.57 AUD	B\$80	= \$115.67 AUD	B\$800	= \$1,156.69 AUD
B\$9	= \$13.01 AUD	B\$90	= \$130.13 AUD	B\$900	= \$1,301.27 AUD
				B\$1,000	= \$1,445.86 AUD

Banknotes of The Bahamas

The legal currency of The Bahamas is the Bahamian Dollar, which has the currency code "BSD" and is abbreviated using the standard dollar sign or as "B\$" to distinguish it from other dollar currencies. The Bahamian Dollar is pegged to the US Dollar at parity, meaning that both are accepted interchangeably throughout the islands. The following units of currency are the most common in The Bahamas however other versions and denominations are also in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.





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About The Bahamas

Full Name: Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Independence: 10 July 1973 (from the UK).

Size: 10,010 sq km of land (14% the size of Tasmania).

Islands: 700 total islands and 2400 cays. Only 30 of the islands are inhabited.

Population: 320,000.
 New Providence 70%, Grand Bahama 16%.

Ethnicity: African 85%, European 12%, Asian and Hispanic 3%.

Language: English is the official language.

Religion: Protestant 68%, Catholic 14%, other Christian 15%.

GDP Per Capita: US\$31,300 (Australia US\$40,800).

Significant Dates:

- Pre 1492 - Arawak Indian tribes inhabit the Bahamian islands.
- 1492 - Columbus visits San Salvador. Arawaks are decimated by disease and enslavement.
- 1666 - English settlers begin to colonise New Providence Island.
- 1715-25 - Height of pirate activity which flourished in the Bahamas.
- 1717 - The Bahamas become a British crown colony. Piracy is crushed.
- 1776 - 6,000 American loyalists and their slaves settle following the American War of Independence.
- 1834 - Slaves are emancipated.
- 1940-45 - Duke of Windsor -formerly King Edward VIII- serves as governor.
- 1964 - Bahamas is granted autonomy.
- 1967-92 - Lynden Pindling becomes Prime Minister, winning first elections.
- 1973 - Full independence gained.

