



For Immediate Release

THE BAHAMAS IS WELCOMING VISITORS: WHAT TRAVELLERS NEED TO KNOW BEFORE THEY GO

Variety of Options for All Travellers Across Islands Of The Bahamas; Visitors Must Present Negative COVID-19 Test and Complete an Electronic Health Visa Form to Be Granted Entry

NASSAU, Bahamas, July 14, 2020 – The Bahamas is pleased to be welcoming international travellers back to the beautiful island nation. Just a short flight or boat ride from the U.S., The Islands Of The Bahamas are perfectly situated to spoil travellers with an unforgettable tropical escape that's close to home. With 16 islands to choose from, there is something to appeal to all interests, no matter how social or distant travellers prefer to be. Visitors will find secluded stretches of beaches and turquoise waters, accommodations to satisfy every type of family, and outdoor adventures like boating, fishing and diving.

The health and wellbeing of both residents and visitors remains the number one priority, and even greater emphasis is being put on ensuring The Bahamas is a safe and clean destination for all to enjoy. When planning a visit, here are a few things travellers need to know before they go:

- **Negative COVID-19 Test Results Required:** All incoming visitors must show proof of a COVID-19 RT-PCR Negative (Swab) Test, taken no more than ten (10) days prior to the date of travel. Upon arrival, any person presenting a test older than ten (10) days will not be allowed entry into The Bahamas. Children under the age of ten (10) do not need a test.
- **Electronic Health Visa Required:** All travellers must complete an electronic Health Visa application form prior to departure at travel.gov.bs where they will upload their test results and provide contact information. Health Visa applications take up to 72 hours to process and should be completed with adequate lead time. An approved Health Visa will receive a green code, and proof of confirmation must be presented at check-in and upon arrival in their destination.
- **Face Mask Requirements:** Travellers will be required to wear a face mask in any situation where it is necessary to enforce physical distancing guidelines such as navigating air and sea terminals, collecting luggage, the full duration of taxi rides and while waiting to be seated at dining establishments.

It is recommended that all travellers review requirements and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) at Bahamas.com/travelupdates before booking to determine what steps need to be taken to be granted entry. For all questions regarding the Health Visa application process, or to check on status of your application, contact healthvisa@bahamas.com.

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WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS IN THE BAHAMAS

An Island-by-Island Guide to Approved Testing Sites

Nassau, Bahamas, November 6, 2020 – With new protocols in place for entering The Bahamas, visitors, returning citizens and residents staying longer than four nights and five days are now required to take a rapid antigen test and receive a negative result before being permitted to continue with their stay.

Following is an island-by-island list of testing sites approved to administer the Day Five rapid test. Important things travellers should know before getting their Day Five test include:

- Travellers will receive a reminder 24 hours prior to the required test with information on where and how to obtain a test.
- All persons taking a rapid antigen test are required to bring and present their Travel Health Visa with QR code. Tests cannot be properly recorded without the QR code that corresponds to each person's individual Health Visa.
- Failure to take a rapid antigen test on the fifth day will result in \$1,000 fine or one month imprisonment.

Day-Five Testing Sites

Nassau

- **Family Medicine Centre:** Rivington Center, Blake Rd, Nassau (242) 702-9310
- **Bonaventure – Centreville:** East Ave (*Near Centreville Food Store*), Centerville, Nassau (242) 328-3518
- **Bonaventure – Sandypoint:** Sandypoint Plaza, Nassau (242) 327-2230
- **Bonaventure – Southside:** Southside Medical Clinic (East Street South and Victoria Blvd), Nassau (242) 392-1328
- **The Island House (guests only):** Mahogany Hill Western Rd, Nassau (242) 698-6300
- **Lyford Cay Hospital:** Western Rd, Nassau (242) 362-4400
- **Nassau Yacht Haven:** 70 E Bay St, Nassau b. (242) 393-8173
- **Doctors Hospital:** #1 Collins Avenue (242) 302-4600
- **Doctors Hospital West:** 17 Blake Road (242) 302-4710

Grand Bahama

- **Grand Bahama Medical Pavilion:** E Sunrise Hwy, Freeport (242) 373-1122
- **Bonaventure – Freeport West:** Mall Drive (*almost opposite the Kidney Centre*), Freeport (242) 352-5220

Exuma

- **Di-Ara Comprehensive Medical Center – Emerald Bay:** Emerald Bay Plaza (242) 358-4042
- **Di-Ara Comprehensive Medical Center – Georgetown:** (242) 358-4042
- **Di-Ara Comprehensive Medical Center – Concierge Service:** (242) 358-4042
 - Available upon booking request
- **Highbourne Cay (guests only):** (242) 427-1003
- **Staniel Cay Yacht Club:** (242) 355-2024
- **Fowl Cay (guests only):** 1 (877) 845-5275

Eleuthera

- **Bahamas Wellness Spanish Wells:** Eagles Landing, Main Street, Spanish Wells (242) 333-4869
- **Briland Medical Centre:** Bay Street, Dunmore Town (242) 699-5451
- **Valentines Resort and Marina (guests only):** 1 Bay Street, Dunmore Town (242) 333-2142
- **Romora Bay Resort and Marina (guests only):** Colebrook St, Dunmore Town (242) 333-2325
- **Family Medicine Centre - Rock Sound:** Queen's Highway, Rock Sound, Eleuthera (242) 334-2500
- **Cape Eleuthera Institute (guests only):** Rock Sound, Eleuthera (242) 334-8552
- **The Island School:** Rock Sound, Eleuthera (242) 334-8551

Abaco

- **Spanish Cay (guests only):** Abacos (242) 807-0317
- **Green Turtle Cay Club Resort & Marina:** Abaco Cays (242) 365-4271
- **Treasure Cay Clinic:** Corbett Medical Centre, Treasure Cay (242) 365-8288
- **Baker's Bay (members only):** Baker's Bay, Abaco Cays (242) 577-0325
- **Integrated Medical Centre:** Marsh Harbour (242) 825-8854
- **Abaco Beach Resort & Marina:** Bay St, Marsh Harbour, Abaco (242) 367-2158
- **Sandy Point Mobile Clinic:** Dr. James Hull (242) 557-0744

Bimini

- **Administrators Complex:** Alice Town, Bimini (242) 347-3222
- **Cat Cay Club:** Cat Cay, Bimini (954) 302-3131

Great Harbour/Berry Islands

- **Chub Cay Club:** Chub Cay Club, Berry Islands (786) 638-3342
- **Great Harbour Cay Marina:** (242) 367-8005

Andros

- **Small Hope Bay Lodge (guests only):** Queens Highway, Small Hope (242) 368-2014
- **Swain's Cay Lodge (guests only):** Mangrove Cay (242) 422-5018

- **Caerula Mar (guests only):** Queen's Hwy, Driggs Hill Settlement (242) 369-151
- **Andros South Lodge (guests only):** #1 Rahming Way, Johnson Bay Dock, Kemps Bay (907) 563-9788
- **Bair's Lodge (guests only):** Queens Highway, Little Creek (307) 200-1747

Cat Island

- **Shanna's Cove Resort:** Shanna Bay, Orange Creek (242) 359-9507

Long Island

- **Stella Maris Resort:** Stella Maris (242) 472-8040

For more information on the latest protocols, please visit [Bahamas.com/travelupdates](https://bahamas.com/travelupdates).

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THE BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM & AVIATION PARTNERS WITH CG ATLANTIC MEDICAL & LIFE TO PROVIDE HEALTH INSURANCE PROTECTION FOR NORTH AMERICAN VISITORS

International Travellers will Opt into Mandatory Insurance when Applying for their Bahamas Travel Health Visa Beginning November 14

NASSAU – November XX, 2020 – The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism & Aviation has selected CG Atlantic Medical & Life, the largest specialist provider of group health insurance and employee benefits in The Bahamas, to provide mandatory COVID-19 safe travel insurance protection for international travellers from North America. The plan from CG Atlantic is being put in place to ensure the safety of all visitors, Bahamians, and to help protect the Bahamas Healthcare System.

The Ministry of Tourism worked closely with CG Atlantic to customise the programme that will cover visitors for the duration of their stay in the event they become ill with COVID-19 while in The Bahamas. Coverage includes on-island medical expenses, medical evacuations and vacation interruption due to quarantine requirements that may arise as a result of illness. Beginning November 14, visitors will be required to opt into the COVID Health Insurance coverage at the point of applying for their Travel Health Visa at travel.gov.bs. The cost is included in the fees associated with the Bahamas Health Visa and are paid in advance of travel.

“The Ministry of Tourism reviewed several proposals from health insurance agencies before rewarding the important job of protecting both our citizens and visitors to CG Atlantic,” said Joy Jibrilu, Director General of the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism & Aviation. “The mandatory insurance protection programme is an added level of security, building on the safety protocols already put into place by our government in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism.”

The programme from CG Atlantic will include coverage for:

- Medical expenses incurred on-island due to COVID-19, up to \$50,000 (USD)
- Trip interruption/delay for necessary quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19, up to \$500 (USD) per day/\$7,000 (USD) max
- Medical evacuation due to COVID-19, and subject to medical necessity, up to \$50,000 (USD)

To review current entry protocols for all travellers, including additional details and pricing to obtain a Bahamas Travel Health Visa, visit Bahamas.com/travelupdates.

ABOUT CG ATLANTIC

CG Atlantic Medical & Life is owned by Coralisle Group Ltd. Coralisle Group Ltd. (CG) is a leading regional insurance provider serving Bermuda, the Caribbean, and select international markets. CG is comprised of independently incorporated companies offering property and casualty insurance, employee benefits for pensions and health, and personal life insurance and investment products.

ABOUT THE BAHAMAS

With over 700 islands and cays, and 16 unique island destinations, The Bahamas lies just 50 miles off the coast of Florida, offering an easy fly away escape that transports travelers away from their everyday. The Islands of The Bahamas have world-class fishing, diving, boating and thousands of miles of the earth's most spectacular water and beaches waiting for families, couples and adventurers. Explore all the islands have to offer at www.bahamas.com or on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#) to see why It's Better in The Bahamas.

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NOTHING BEATS THE BAHAMAS: THE TROPICAL DESTINATION LAUNCHES NEW EXTENDED-STAY VISA PROGRAM

Bahamas Extended Access Travel Stay (BEATS) initiative allows visitors to work and study remotely across the country's 16 islands for up to a year

NASSAU – October XX, 2020 – The days of daydreaming of paradise from your makeshift home office or classroom are over. The Islands of The Bahamas announced its new **Bahamas Extended Access Travel Stay (BEATS)** program, a one-year residency visa designed to allow professionals and students to pack their laptop *and* their swimwear as they march to the island rhythm of their own drum, remotely, from The Bahamas.

BEATS applies to those whose workplaces and classrooms have shifted from face-to-face to virtual as COVID-19 has brought unprecedented flexibility to the traditional work from home environment. With 16 islands to choose from and plenty of breathtaking views, visitors can forget about daydreaming about a tropical vacation and start living it.

“What has always been unique about The Bahamas and even more so significant today, is that we are home to 700 islands and cays with 16 unique island destinations viable for travel,” said Joy Jibril, Director General of the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism & Aviation. “This means that you can essentially choose your own work, study and play adventure. If you’re seeking serenity and seclusion, you can head to Mayaguana or San Salvador, or if you’re looking for an off-the-beaten path stay, you can opt in for Grand Bahama Island, Eleuthera or Long Island. The opportunities are endless.”

Not only will visitors be encouraged to enjoy the white sand beaches, incredible blue-hued waters and delicious cuisine, but BEATS will also serve as an opportunity to explore and dive deep into the culture of The Bahamas in ways they have not experienced before.

Remote workers can “backpack” their way through the country, island-hopping throughout the length of their stay. More time allows guests to become fully immersed in the beautiful Bahamian culture as they experience the destination in a much deeper way.

Extra-Curricular Activities and “Overtime” Offerings

- **Learn new skills:** Head to Long Island, home of Dean’s Blue Hole, the second deepest blue hole in the world, where the learning extends far beyond the classroom at diving school.
- **Outdoor Physical Education:** Master the art of bonefishing across the flats of Andros; hike to the top of Cat Island’s Mount Alvernia, which is the highest point in The Bahamas, or snorkel through the shipwrecks of Bimini.
- **Lunch break:** Your remote “cafeteria” gets a serious upgrade on New Providence, where the local Fish Fry at Arawak Cay or Potter’s Cay serves the best seafood in town.
- **Sip Sip at Happy Hour:** Clock out and clock into happy hour with any of the Bahamian staples, from the Bahama Mama and Goombay Smash cocktails to a refreshing Kalik or Sands beer.
- **Make new friends at “recess”:** The swimming pigs, iguanas and nurse sharks on Exuma or the flamingos on Inagua can’t wait to meet you.

“We’re thrilled for travelers to have the opportunity to enjoy a rich Bahamian experience through an extended stay with us,” said Dionisio D’Aguilar, Bahamas Minister of Tourism & Aviation. “Simply put, a workday is better in The Bahamas. At the end of a long day of meetings or classes, you will be rewarded with breathtaking sunsets, a relaxing walk on the beach, or fresh conch salad to feed your soul. It doesn’t get any better than that.”

The BEATS visa is valid up to 12 months from the date of issue. The total cost for individual professionals to apply for the BEATS Visa is \$1,025, while college students wishing to apply will be required to pay \$525, inclusive of the application and permit fee.

For more information on BEATS, or to apply to be the WFH envy of your office/classroom, please visit www.bahamasbeats.com.

All incoming visitors must follow all current COVID-19 government protocols in place to ensure the safety of visitors and residents of The Bahamas. Know before you go and visit Bahamas.com/travelupdates for the most up-to-date information.

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THE ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS SWEEP THE 2020 TRAVEL AWARD CIRCUIT

The Bahamas' Marketing Campaigns, Most Glamour Islands, Resorts and Dive Offerings Named Best in Travel

NASSAU, Bahamas, December XX, 2020 – Despite an unprecedented year, The Bahamas continues to position itself as a leading Caribbean travel destination and received top accolades from consumer, trade and niche vertical award shows. With its unique geography of 16 major islands and hundreds of cays, the islands appeal to travelers eager to get away and indulge in a secluded vacation. As the island nation looks back at 2020, with a number of awards from Travel + Leisure, Condé Nast Traveler and Caribbean Journal under its belt, The Bahamas is determined to have an even brighter 2021.

“We are thrilled to have The Bahamas recognized in so many awards, despite the difficult year our tourism industry faced,” said Ministry of Tourism Director General Joy Jibrilu. “These awards certify that The Bahamas remains a favorite among travelers, and we are eager to continue to welcome them back in the new year.”

Travel Weekly's Magellan Awards Recognizes The Bahamas' Still Rockin' Campaign – The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism & Aviation's Still Rockin' campaign was awarded the best destination advertising/marketing campaign in *Travel Weekly's* [Magellan Awards](#). In the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, the campaign highlighted The Bahamas' 14 major islands unimpacted by the storm, which contributed to the country's record-breaking year of 7.2 million visitors in 2019. Additionally, the Ministry's [From The Bahamas with Love](#) campaign was awarded silver in the Destination Marketing TV Commercial category. The digital campaign was voiced by Lenny Kravitz, with the message that together we can get through difficult times and get back to normalcy. The TV spot brought hope to the homebound with images of The Bahamas' crystal-clear water.

Travel + Leisure Awards Bahamian Islands in World Best Awards – The Abacos, Harbour Island, The Exumas and Eleuthera were recognized in *Travel + Leisure's* World Best Awards in the [Top 25 Islands in the Caribbean, Bermuda, and The Bahamas](#) category. Andros' Kamalame Cay Resort was awarded in the [Top 100 Hotels in the World](#) and [Top 25 Caribbean Resort Hotels](#) categories.

The Bahamas Awarded in Condé Nast Traveler's 2020 Readers' Choice Awards – Four Bahamian hotels were recognized by *Condé Nast Traveler's* Readers' Choice Awards. Kamalame Cay, Rosewood Baha Mar, Grand Hyatt Baha Mar and SLS Baha Mar were included in the [Top 15 Resorts in the Atlantic Islands](#) category.

Caribbean Journal's Caribbean Travel Awards Recognizes The Bahamas in Three Categories – In *Caribbean Journal's* 7th annual Caribbean Travel Awards, The Bahamas was awarded [Innovative Destination of the Year](#) for its continued flexibility throughout the pandemic and setting a standard for destination entry practices. Additionally, Nassau's Lynden Pindling International Airport was named [Caribbean Airport of the Year](#) and Graycliff was recognized as the [Caribbean Restaurant of the Year](#).



The Bahamas Takes Home 13 Awards in *Scuba Diving Magazine's* Readers Choice Awards – The Islands of The Bahamas was recognized in this year's [Scuba Diving Magazine's Readers Choice Awards](#), with placements highlighting the destination's vast dive offerings across 700 islands and cays. The country was voted number one for Best Big Animals, placed in the top five for Best Overall Destination, Best Cave Diving, Best Snorkeling and Best Value and in the top ten for Best Wreck Diving, Best Wall Diving, Best Advanced Diving, Best Photography, Best Shore Diving, Best Macro Life and Best Health of Marine Life.

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THE BAHAMAS ANNOUNCES NEW HOTEL REQUIREMENTS FOR THOSE VISITING NEW PROVIDENCE OR PARTS OF ABACO

NASSAU, Bahamas, 30 December 2020 – With new hotel protocols in place as of December 29, all guests staying in a hotel in the Second Schedule, which includes New Providence and Abaco (excluding Green Turtle Cay, Grand Cay, Man-O-War Cay and Elbow Cay), must present a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR (swab) test or a rapid antigen test at check-in. Since all travellers entering The Bahamas are required to obtain a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR (swab) test prior to arrival, they will automatically fulfill this requirement.

Non-hotel guests who wish to enter indoor hotel facilities will also need to present a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR (swab) test or a rapid antigen test. If accessing a hotel's outdoor facilities such as an outdoor restaurant, beach or golf course, there is no need to present a negative test. In these instances, observing the usual health protocols are expected like wearing a mask, sanitizing your hands and keeping six feet away from anyone who is not in your party.

Everyone is required to abide by current entry and hotel protocols that help keep the country safe for all to enjoy. An overview of the different categories of islands and cays is as follows:

FIRST SCHEDULE

*A negative COVID-19 RT-PCR (swab) test or a rapid antigen test **does not** need to be presented when checking into a hotel or using indoor hotel facilities.*

- Acklins
- Andros
- Berry Islands
- Bimini
- Cat Island
- Chub Cay
- Crooked Island
- Elbow Cay
- Exuma Cays
- Inagua
- Mayaguana
- Grand Bahama
- Grand Cay
- Green Turtle Cay
- Harbour Island
- Long Cay
- Long Island
- Man-O-War Cay
- Ragged Island
- San Salvador
- Spanish Wells

SECOND SCHEDULE

*All persons **are required** to present a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR (swab) test or a rapid antigen test when checking into a hotel or using indoor hotel facilities.*

- Abaco (excluding Green Turtle Cay, Grand Cay, Man-O-War Cay and Elbow Cay)
- New Providence (including Rose Island)

In order to enter and stay in The Bahamas, all travellers must obtain the following:

- A negative COVID-19 RT-PCR (swab) taken no more than seven (7) days prior to the date of arrival if arriving on or before 5 January 2020 and no more than five (5) days prior to arrival if arriving on or after 5 January
- A valid Bahamas Health Travel Visa
- If staying longer than four (4) nights and five (5) days, all visitors will be required to take a rapid COVID-19 antigen test on the fifth day of their stay

Due to the fluidity of COVID-19, the Government of The Bahamas will continue to monitor cases across the islands and loosen or tighten restrictions as needed. The Bahamas is an archipelago with more than 700 islands and cays, spread over 100,000 square miles, which means conditions and instances of the virus can be different on each of the 16 islands available to welcome visitors. Travellers should check the status of their island destination before travelling, by visiting [Bahamas.com/travelupdates](https://bahamas.com/travelupdates).

For full details on the latest updates, protocols and regulations, please visit opm.gov.bs.

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Essential Workers Mr. and Mrs. Claus Will Kick off Their Boots and Unwind in The Bahamas After Stressful Year, Thanks to Complimentary BEATS Visas

NASSAU, Bahamas, December 15, 2020 - This year has been long and taxing for everyone — even the world’s jolliest. As an essential worker, Santa’s annual duties, this year, came with the added pressure of spreading more cheer than ever before.

As a token of appreciation, The Bahamas is inviting Santa to hang up his suit and hat and spend the next year defrosting on [Stocking Island](#) in the picturesque Exuma Cays. By gifting Santa and Mrs. Claus complimentary [BEATS visas](#) (Bahamas Extended Access Travel Stay), they will be able to unwind and experience The Bahamas' most merry offerings until next Christmas.

Trading snowy boots for bare feet on one of the most beautiful beaches in The Bahamas and where they will feel right at home, Mr. and Mrs. Claus will soak up the sun on Jolly Hall Beach, which is now reserved especially for The Clauses and their elves. And, thanks to the seclusion of the Out Islands of The Bahamas, they can remain socially distant and out of the public eye on Stocking Island, while they relax and enjoy all the outdoor adventures The Bahamas has to offer.

“Santa isn’t the only one working overtime this year; we know that people everywhere need a break and change of scenery,” said Joy Jibrilu, Director General, Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation. “The Bahamas welcomes paradise seekers of all kinds to embrace island-time, and we offer a variety of island escapes perfect to suit each visitor’s unique remote working needs.”

The Bahamas has 16 unique islands for travelers to choose from, each with its own individual personality, seclusion and adventure. In The Bahamas, outdoor activities are aplenty, making the destination perfect for a safe, socially distant getaway. A full list of current travel offers can be found on [Bahamas.com/deals](#).

Given that Santa and Mrs. Claus are immune to COVID-19, and in recognition of their hard work, the Director General is honored to grant them honorary health visas. Travel entry requirements for the rest of Santa’s entourage and all other visitors can be found on [Bahamas.com/travelupdates](#) -- including details specifically related to testing and obtaining The Bahamas Travel Health Visa.

Additional details related to the BEATS program application, such as costs and frequently asked questions, are available at [BahamasBeats.com](#).

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BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM & AVIATION STATEMENT ON NATIONAL LOCKDOWN

NASSAU, Bahamas, August 4, 2020 – In a national address last night, Prime Minister, The Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis updated Bahamians and residents on an exponential increase in positive COVID-19 cases in The Bahamas. With a surge in hospitalizations and demand for ICU beds, a national lockdown has been ordered to curb further spread of the virus, alleviate stress on healthcare resources and ensure services remain available to those in need.

The national lockdown goes into effect on Tuesday, August 4 at 10:00pm, and remains in place for a minimum of two weeks. During this period, quarantine measures will be strictly enforced, with all businesses throughout the country, including curbside and takeaway dining and retail, required to suspend operations. Residents are permitted to leave their homes only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:00am to 5:00pm for the sole purpose of securing essential items, such as groceries, water, medication and gas.

For complete details on the national lockdown, please visit opm.gov.bs.

Implications for Travellers:

While The Bahamas is looking forward to safely welcoming visitors to its shore, the health and well-being of residents and visitors remains of utmost importance. All travellers to The Bahamas will be required to adhere to the national lockdown protocols, and must follow all other travel policies as outlined in the most recent [Emergency Powers Order](#).

Requirements for entering The Bahamas include:

- All travellers must apply for a Bahamas Health Visa at travel.gov.bs by selecting the International option and completing all required fields.
- All incoming visitors, as well as returning citizens and residents, must show proof of a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test, taken no more than 10 days prior to the date of arrival. All tests must be uploaded when applying for a Bahamas Health Visa.
 - The only applicants that are **not** required to provide a COVID-19 test are:
 - Children under the age of ten (10).
 - Pilots and crew who remain overnight in The Bahamas.
- All visitors and returning residents are required to quarantine for 14-days upon arrival into The Bahamas.
 - Travellers are permitted to quarantine at a hotel, private club or rented accommodations (like AirBnB), as well as on a private boat.
 - All persons must submit to monitoring and install the **HubbCat APP** on their cellular phones for purposes of contact tracing.
 - After the 14 days, all persons intending to remain in the country will be required to complete another COVID-19 test, at their own expense, to exit quarantine.

Full details on protocols for entry to The Bahamas, including specifics for private aviation and private yachts and pleasure craft, can be found on bahamas.com/travelupdates.

The Bahamas has remained diligent in efforts to minimize the spread of COVID-19 throughout the islands and these measures are imperative to ensure that remains the case. Due to fluidity of COVID-19 situation both in The Bahamas and worldwide, protocols are subject to change. The health and wellbeing of both residents and visitors remain the number one priority, and public health officials are closely monitoring indicators to determine whether more or less stringent measures will be required going forward.

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BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM & AVIATION STATEMENT ON UPDATED LOCKDOWN MEASURES FOR NEW PROVIDENCE

NASSAU, Bahamas, August 18, 2020 – In a national address last night, Prime Minister, The Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis updated Bahamians and residents on more aggressive and comprehensive measures necessary to effectively respond to and control the spread of COVID-19 in The Bahamas, particularly on New Providence and Grand Bahama Island.

Based on the number of new cases and other indicators regularly reported on by the Ministry of Health, these two islands have been identified as requiring greater focus to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the following measures and restrictions are in place, effective immediately:

- **New Providence**, where a surge in cases has put exceptional strain on the island's healthcare system, has been placed under a complete lockdown for a period of seven (7) days. During this period, all business and commercial activity with few exceptions will be closed and employees required to work remotely. No person is permitted to leave their place of residence unless he/she has received proper approval from the police force. Fines will be imposed on anyone found on the street without approval.

In addition, while hotels are permitted to operate with essential staff, no international flights or vessels are permitted to enter New Providence. Exceptions will be considered only for urgent circumstances and require permission granted by the Director General of Civil Aviation or the Chairperson of the Bahamas Maritime Authority.

Domestic travel between New Providence and the other islands of The Bahamas has been discontinued, with the exception of freight and for emergencies.

For additional details and the Prime Minister's full remarks, please visit opm.gov.bs.

- **Grand Bahama Island** will extend its current lockdown for a period of seven (7) days. Quarantine measures will continue to be strictly enforced, with residents permitted to leave their homes only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:00am to 5:00pm for the sole purpose of securing essential items, such as groceries, water, medication and gas. For complete details on the Emergency Powers (COVID 19 Pandemic) (Lockdown) Order 2020, please visit opm.gov.bs.
- **All other islands** throughout The Bahamas will continue to abide by the same national lockdown measures in place for Grand Bahama Island, with the exception of a few islands where there are no cases or suspected COVID-19 indicators. These include Mayaguana, Inagua, Chub Cay, Crooked Island, Acklins, Long Cay, Long Island, Rum Island and Ragged.

In addition, Prime Minister Minnis announced tightened entry requirements for COVID-19 testing. In order to enter the country, all incoming visitors must show proof of a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test, taken **no more than five (5) days prior to the date of arrival**.

Implications for Travellers:

While The Bahamas is looking forward to safely welcoming visitors to its shore, the health and well-being of residents and visitors remains of utmost importance. All travellers to The Bahamas will be required to adhere to the national lockdown protocols, and must follow all other travel policies as outlined in the most recent [Emergency Powers Order](#).

Requirements for entering The Bahamas include:

- All travellers must apply for a Bahamas Health Visa at travel.gov.bs by selecting the International option and completing all required fields.
- All incoming visitors, as well as returning citizens and residents, must show proof of a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test, **taken no more than five (5) days prior to the date of arrival**. All tests must be uploaded when applying for a Bahamas Health Visa.
 - The only applicants that are **not** required to provide a COVID-19 test are:
 - Children under the age of ten (10).
 - Pilots and crew who remain overnight in The Bahamas.
- All visitors and returning residents are required to quarantine for 14-days upon arrival into The Bahamas.
 - Travellers are permitted to quarantine at a hotel, private club or rented accommodations (like AirBnB), as well as on a private boat.
 - All persons must submit to monitoring and install the **HubbCat APP** on their cellular phones for purposes of contact tracing.
 - After the 14 days, all persons intending to remain in the country will be required to complete another COVID-19 test, at their own expense, to exit quarantine.

Full details on protocols for entry to The Bahamas, including specifics for private aviation and private yachts and pleasure craft, can be found on bahamas.com/travelupdates.

The Bahamas has remained diligent in efforts to minimize the spread of COVID-19 throughout the islands and these measures are imperative to ensure that remains the case. Due to fluidity of COVID-19 situation both in The Bahamas and worldwide, protocols are subject to change. The health and wellbeing of both residents and visitors remain the number one priority, and public health officials are closely monitoring indicators to determine whether more or less stringent measures will be required going forward.

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For Immediate Release

**BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM & AVIATION STATEMENT ON
WEEKEND LOCKDOWN HOTEL SPECIALS**

NASSAU, Bahamas, July 28, 2020 – The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and Aviation is aware of possible special offers and/or packages area hotels have designed for Bahamian residents during weekend lockdown periods. Any such specials or packages are not permitted and are considered in violation of the most recent Emergency Order issued by Prime Minister, The Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis.

Weekend lockdowns are being implemented for the sole purpose of curbing further spread of COVID-19. All residents, with the exception of essential workers, are required to remain in their place of residence for the duration of the lockdown period, unless for the purpose of seeking emergency medical care or securing groceries, gas, pharmaceuticals or water.

The health and well-being of the population is of utmost importance and all persons are expected to do their part to protect each other and prevent community spread of the virus. No hotel or resort is permitted to allow any guest – whether an international traveller or a Bahamian resident – to remain within its property without a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test.

The Bahamas has remained diligent in efforts to minimize the spread of COVID-19 throughout the islands and these measures are imperative to ensure that remains the case. Due to fluidity of COVID-19 situation both in The Bahamas and worldwide, protocols are subject to change. Public health officials are closely monitoring indicators to determine whether more or less stringent measures will be required going forward.

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For Immediate Release

BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM & AVIATION STATEMENT ON UPDATED COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

*Weekend Lockdown Lifted for New Providence and Abaco; New Measures in Place for Eleuthera
and Exuma, as well as Domestic Travel from New Providence*

NASSAU, Bahamas, November 12, 2020 – As the national average of new COVID-19 cases continues to decrease, fueled by good progress on both New Providence and Abaco, the Government of The Bahamas has issued updated public health measures effective as of Monday, November 9.

While lockdown restrictions have eased for New Providence and Abaco, additional measures are being implemented on Eleuthera and Exuma in effort to curb spread of the virus. Details are as follows:

New Providence and Abaco

- The 24-hour weekend curfew has been lifted; the weekday curfew has been updated to 9 p.m. to 5 a.m., Monday through Friday, while the weekend curfew has been changed to 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Businesses are able to resume increased services and operating hours. Monday through Saturday, retail shops can open for in-store shopping, while restaurants and Fish Fry establishments may now resume outdoor dining. Hotel restaurants can offer indoor dining, and grocery stores may open to the public on Saturdays.
- Beaches and parks will continue operating from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, and can now open on Saturdays and Sundays from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Residents and visitors travelling inter-island from New Providence to any other island will be required to submit to a mandatory quarantine upon arrival for a period of 14 days or the duration of their stay – whichever is shorter.
 - A person who has entered The Bahamas and is transiting through New Providence to an Out Island, within a period of less than 24-hours, shall not be required to quarantine.

Eleuthera (excluding Harbour Island and Spanish Wells) and Exuma (excluding Exuma Cays)

- A weekday curfew is in effect from 6 p.m. to 5 a.m., Monday through Friday. On weekends, a 24-hour curfew will be implemented, beginning 6 p.m. on Friday through 5 a.m. on Monday.

- During weekend curfew hours, businesses, grocery stores and restaurants will remain closed.
- All bars on Eleuthera and Exuma will be closed, including restaurants connected to bars.
- At this time, no domestic inter-island travel into or out of Eleuthera or Exuma is permitted.
- Anyone traveling from Exuma or Eleuthera to any other island in The Bahamas will be required to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 RT PCR test.

Due to the fluidity of COVID-19, the Government of The Bahamas will continue to monitor cases across the islands and loosen or tighten restrictions as needed. The Bahamas is an archipelago with more than 700 islands and cays, spread over 100,000 square miles, which means conditions and instances of the virus can be different on each of the 16 islands available to welcome visitors. Travellers should check the status of their island destination before travelling by visiting [Bahamas.com/travelupdates](https://bahamas.com/travelupdates).

For full details on the latest updates, protocols and regulations, please visit opm.gov.bs.

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For Immediate Release

BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM & AVIATION STATEMENT ON UPDATED ISLAND RESTRICTIONS

Changes Impact Abaco, Grand Bahama Island, New Providence, Eleuthera and Harbour Island; Additional Islands Remain Accessible Per Entry Protocols as of November 1

NASSAU, Bahamas, October 28, 2020 – In a national address this evening, Prime Minister, The Most Hon. Dr. Hubert Minnis updated Bahamians and residents on measures necessary to effectively respond to and control the spread of COVID-19 in The Bahamas, particularly for the islands of Abaco, Eleuthera, Grand Bahama, Harbour and New Providence.

Based on the number of new cases and other indicators regularly reported on by the Ministry of Health, these islands have been identified as requiring more aggressive and comprehensive action to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the following restrictions are in place, effective immediately:

- **Abaco, Grand Bahama Island, Eleuthera and Harbour Island:**
- **New Providence:**

Entry Protocols for all other islands

The Bahamas recently announced that beginning November 1, visitors, returning citizens and residents traveling to all destinations that do not have enhanced restrictions in place, will no longer have to abide by the mandatory “Vacation in Place” requirement, enabling everyone to move about and explore the destination beyond the confines of their hotel or other accommodations.

In order to enter the country, all incoming visitors arriving via commercial flights, as well as by private planes, private boats, yachts or pleasure craft, are required to apply for a Bahamas Health Visa and upload a **RT-PCR (swab) test, taken no more than seven (7) days prior to their date of travel to The Bahamas.**

In addition, and to ensure that travelers remain COVID free, a **rapid antigen test will be conducted upon arrival, and then again four days (96 hours) after arrival in The Bahamas.**

A fee for the visa will be dependent on length of stay, ranging from \$50-75 USD, and include expenses for required COVID Health Insurance and rapid antigen testing.

Full details on the latest protocols for entry to The Bahamas, including specifics for private aviation and private yachts and pleasure craft, can be found on bahamas.com/travelupdates.

The Bahamas has remained diligent in efforts to minimize the spread of COVID-19 throughout the islands and these measures are imperative to ensure that remains the case. Due to fluidity of COVID-19 situation both in The Bahamas and worldwide, protocols are subject to change. The health and wellbeing of both residents and visitors remain the number one priority, and

public health officials are closely monitoring indicators to determine whether more or less stringent measures will be required going forward.

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BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM & AVIATION STATEMENT ON TRAVEL HEALTH VISA

NASSAU, Bahamas, November 5, 2020 – The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism is aware of some confusion regarding the cost and elements of the Travel Health Visa required for entering The Bahamas, specifically related to the differences between visas for a visitor as opposed to a returning citizen or resident.

All Travel Health Visas include standard administrative costs, such as the application fee for the Health Visa, as well as relative IT and distribution costs. The final price of an individual Health Visa for visitors, returning citizens and residents is dependent on length of stay and any applicable testing, healthcare related costs, or insurance requirements. Specifics are as follows:

- \$40 (non-refundable) for international visitors staying up to four nights and five days. Cost includes:
 - Administrative costs outlined above
 - COVID-19 travel insurance
 - Note: the cost does not include a day five rapid test, as the test is not required for visitors departing on day five

- \$40 (non-refundable) for citizens and returning residents. Cost includes:
 - Administrative costs outlined above
 - A rapid test on the fifth day they are in The Bahamas
 - Note: the cost does not include COVID-19 travel insurance, which is not required for returning citizens and residents

- \$60 (non-refundable) for visitors staying longer than four nights and five days. Cost includes:
 - Administrative costs outlined above
 - Both the COVID-19 safe travel insurance AND a rapid test on the fifth day they are in The Bahamas.

- Free - Children 10 years and under

All persons applying for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa are required to upload a COVID-19 RT-PCR (swab) test, taken no more than five (5) days prior to their date of travel to The Bahamas. Full details on the latest protocols for entry to The Bahamas, including specifics for private aviation and private yachts and pleasure craft, can be found on bahamas.com/travelupdates.

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For Immediate Release

GOVERNMENT OF THE BAHAMAS STATEMENT ON U.S. TRAVEL ADVISORY

NASSAU, Bahamas, November 24, 2020 – The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Tourism of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas have taken note of the travel advisory issued by the U.S. Department of State, 23 November 2020. The Bahamas is among a large number of countries, including several Caribbean destinations, for which the CDC has issued a Level 4 Travel Health Notice specific to COVID-19 risk.

Travellers should be aware that The Bahamas joins the United States and countries around the world in aggressive efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19. The wellbeing of all persons who live in or visit The Bahamas is of paramount importance, and a number of public health measures, such as mask wearing, physical distancing and hand sanitization, are strictly enforced to protect citizens, residents and visitors alike.

The Bahamas remains open and ready to welcome visitors who comply with travel and entry protocols, and abide by the health and safety regulations that protect the common good. A negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test and a Bahamas Travel Health Visa must be secured prior to travel, and upon entry all persons are required to undergo mandatory monitoring and testing where necessary.

Of note, The Bahamas is not one individual island, but an archipelago with 16 islands available to welcome visitors. This means conditions and instances of the virus, as well as public health measures and restrictions, can vary by island.

Travellers are encouraged to check the status of their island destination, as well as the latest updates, protocols and regulations, by visiting [Bahamas.com/travelupdates](https://bahamas.com/travelupdates).

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For Immediate Release

THE BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM & AVIATION LAUNCHES REVAMPED BAHAMAS.COM

With New Features and Functionalities, Bahamas.com Ensures the Ease of Planning a Bahamas Getaway

NASSAU, Bahamas, December 17, 2020 – As The Islands of The Bahamas continues to welcome back international visitors ahead of the holiday season, the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism & Aviation has relaunched Bahamas.com with new features and functionalities allowing consumers to easily plan their next vacation. The new, user-friendly interface includes tools to promote key passion points for travellers, such as romance, meetings and events and adventure.

“We are excited to bring the new and improved Bahamas.com to consumers right now and provide them with a streamlined way to plan their next trip to The Bahamas,” said Minister of Tourism Dionisio D’Aguilar. “The new features will help future travellers discover the hidden gems of our islands.”

WHAT’S NEW ON BAHAMAS.COM

- **Itinerary Planner** – Travellers eager to make the most of every minute of their time in The Bahamas can utilize the Itinerary Planner on Bahamas.com. While planning their itinerary, users can view sample itineraries to inspire their own. Through the trip planning software, HipTraveler, future travellers can select favourite hotels, restaurants and attractions on the website to build out their itineraries and book experiences.
- **Discover Your Next Adventure** – Throughout Bahamas.com, consumers will see the “Discover Your Next Adventure” function, which highlights experiences similar to their interests. The function serves to encourage travellers to explore more of The Bahamas’ islands and cays. Additionally, users will find blog content providing an inside look at the experience or destination.
- **Experiences** – The Experiences function introduces consumers to a detailed list of The Bahamas’ offerings. From fishing and diving to culture and landmarks, potential travellers can learn more about activities specific to their interests and add those experiences to their itineraries.

“Bahamas.com provides consumers with a first look at all that our islands have to offer,” said Director General Joy Jibrilu. “We are thrilled to introduce the relaunched site and share our islands and stories with the world.”

In addition to the new features found on Bahamas.com, consumers will also find more user-friendly versions of previous functions, including island overviews, information on hotels and activities and current deals.

Through new and streamlined functions, travellers can easily plan how they’re getting to The Bahamas, whether that is by plane or sea. Travellers should check the status of their island destination before travelling, by visiting [Bahamas.com/travelupdates](https://bahamas.com/travelupdates).

ABOUT THE BAHAMAS

With over 700 islands and cays, and 16 unique island destinations, The Bahamas lies just 50 miles off the coast of Florida, offering an easy fly away escape that transports travellers away from their everyday. The Islands of The Bahamas have world-class fishing, diving, boating and thousands of miles of the earth's most spectacular water and beaches waiting for families, couples and adventurers. Explore all the islands have to offer at www.bahamas.com or on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#) to see why It's Better in The Bahamas.

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THE ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS SOLIDIFIES ITS REPUTATION AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING DIVE DESTINATIONS

The Bahamas Dive Offerings Attract Divers Of All Levels

NASSAU - October 28, 2020 - The Islands of The Bahamas have long been a diver's paradise with some of the world's best dive sites just 50 miles off the Florida Coast. As The Bahamas reopens to international travelers, the Ministry of Tourism & Aviation is showcasing all that the country has to offer for divers of all levels. Along with The Bahamas' recent recognition in Scuba Diving Magazine's 2021 Readers Choice Awards, the country's array of dive experiences will be highlighted at upcoming trade shows and through the Ministry's new Diving Ambassador Program.

NEWS & EVENTS

DEMA Show (November 17 - 20) - The Islands of The Bahamas will be participating in the virtual [DEMA Show](#) November 17 - 20, 2020. The annual trade show is the largest trade-only event for those in the scuba diving, ocean water sports and adventure/dive travel industries.

New Diving Ambassador Program - The Ministry of Tourism & Aviation is hand selecting dive professionals to represent the country as official Diving Ambassadors. The ambassadors will work with the Ministry's Communications and Dive Vertical team to further position the country as the ideal dive destination. The selected ambassadors will be fully trained on the destination and its offerings before representing The Bahamas at dive trade shows and FAM trips. They will promote the variety of dive experiences within the islands to fellow divers interested in discovering the country's 25 different diving destinations with accessible drop-offs close to shore and visibility exceeding 200 ft. at some locations.

Scuba Diving Magazine's 2021 Readers Choice Awards - The [Readers Choice Awards](#) highlighted The Bahamas vast dive offerings across 700 islands and cays. The destination was voted number one for Best Big Animals, placed in the top five for Best Overall Destination, Best Cave Diving, Best Snorkeling and Best Value and in the top ten for Best Wreck Diving, Best Wall Diving, Best Advanced Diving, Best Photography, Best Shore Diving, Best Macro Life and Best Health of Marine Life.

PROMOTIONS AND OFFERS

For a complete, up-to-date listing of deals and packages for The Bahamas, visit www.bahamas.com/deals-packages.

Out Island Air Credit - The Bahamas Out Islands Promotion Board is offering U.S. and Canadian residents a [\\$250 air credit](#) when booking a vacation package of four

nights or more at a participating hotel or resort. Book by November 16, 2020 and travel by April 30, 2021. Blackout dates apply.

The Bahamas has remained diligent in efforts to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and reopened its tourism sector October 15. Beginning November 1, The Bahamas will remove the mandatory "Vacation-in-Place" requirement for all visitors, returning citizens and residents, thereby enabling everyone to move about and explore the destination beyond the confines of their hotel or other accommodations. For further information, visit Bahamas.com/TravelUpdates.

ABOUT THE BAHAMAS

With over 700 islands and cays, and 16 unique island destinations, The Bahamas lies just 50 miles off the coast of Florida, offering an easy fly away escape that transports travelers away from their everyday. The Islands of The Bahamas have world-class fishing, diving, boating and thousands of miles of the earth's most spectacular water and beaches waiting for families, couples and adventurers. Explore all the islands have to offer at www.bahamas.com or on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#) to see why It's Better in The Bahamas.

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THE BAHAMAS TAKES HOME 13 AWARDS IN SCUBA DIVING MAGAZINE'S READERS CHOICE AWARDS

*The Islands Of The Bahamas Received 13 Top 10 Awards Highlighting The Destination's
Extensive Dive Offerings*

NASSAU – August XX, 2020 – The Islands of The Bahamas has been recognized in this year's Scuba Diving Magazine's Readers Choice Awards with placements highlighting the destination's vast dive offerings across 700 islands and cays.

The country was voted number one for Best Big Animals, placed in the top five for Best Overall Destination, Best Cave Diving, Best Snorkeling and Best Value and in the top ten for Best Wreck Diving, Best Wall Diving, Best Advanced Diving, Best Photography, Best Shore Diving, Best Macro Life and Best Health of Marine Life.

"We are thrilled to have The Bahamas' dive offerings recognized by Scuba Diving Magazine's Readers Choice Awards," said Bahamas Ministry of Tourism & Aviation Director General Joy Jibrilu. "The Islands Of The Bahamas offer some of the world's best dive sites just 50 miles off the Florida Coast. From coral reefs and gardens to shipwrecks and maybe even sunken treasure, these awards highlight the natural beauty and authentic experiences awaiting both novice and experienced divers."

Scuba Diving Magazine's Readers Choice Awards recognize the world's best in scuba diving, including best dive destinations, operators, resorts and more. Award recipients are determined by popular vote amongst Scuba Diving Magazine readers.

ABOUT THE BAHAMAS

With over 700 islands and cays, and 16 unique island destinations, The Bahamas lies just 55 miles off the coast of Florida offering an easy fly away escape that transports travelers away from their everyday. The Islands of The Bahamas have world-class fishing, diving, boating and thousands of miles of the earth's most spectacular water and beaches waiting for families, couples and adventurers. Explore all the islands have to offer at www.bahamas.com or on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#) to see why It's Better in The Bahamas.

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The Bahamas Campaign Featuring Lenny Kravitz Shines Bright in Top Travel Trade Awards

Still Rockin' Wins Best Destination Advertising Campaign of The Year

NASSAU, Bahamas, November 23, 2020 – As The Bahamas reopens its borders, recent awards in top travel trade publications prove the island nation hasn't missed a beat. The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism & Aviation's Still Rockin' campaign, narrated by Bahamian-American rock legend Lenny Kravitz, was awarded the best destination advertising/marketing campaign in this year's Travel Weekly Magellan Awards, the premier awards for the travel industry. The Ministry's From The Bahamas with Love campaign, which was launched at the height of stay-at-home orders, was awarded silver in the destination marketing tv commercial category. The annual Magellan Awards honor the top players in the travel industry and set the baseline for excellence in the year to come.

Following Hurricane Dorian, the Ministry of Tourism released the multi-channel campaign revealing the resilience of the Bahamian people. Kravitz's participation in the campaign and support of The Bahamas' recovery demonstrated the spirit of the Bahamian people and their appreciation of the islands. Through his authentic storytelling, Kravitz showed travelers why The Bahamas is still rockin' and urged them to add the destination to their 2020 travel plans. Set to the lyrics of Kravitz's hit song *Fly Away*, the [television commercial](#) and supporting marketing campaign captured his deep personal connection to The Bahamas, as well as the pure adrenaline rush of exploring the archipelago's 100,000 square miles by boat and plane.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, the campaign highlighted The Bahamas' 14 major islands unimpacted by the storm, which contributed to the country's record-breaking year with 7.2 million visitors in 2019. The Still Rockin' campaign underscored the diversity of The Bahamas' islands and the many options available to travelers eager to support the destination's recovery.

The Ministry of Tourism's [From The Bahamas with Love](#) campaign was awarded silver in the Destination Marketing TV Commercial category. The digital campaign was voiced by Kravitz with the message that together we can get through difficult times and get back to normalcy. Kravitz recorded the narration while quarantining at his home on Eleuthera and has remained there since March through the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic and global stay-at-home orders. The TV spot brings hope to the homebound with images of The Bahamas' crystal-clear water.

With over 700 islands and cays, and 16 unique island destinations, The Bahamas lies just 50 miles off the coast of Florida, offering an easy fly away escape that transports travelers away from their everyday. The Islands of The Bahamas have world-class fishing, diving, boating and thousands of miles of the earth's most spectacular water and



beaches waiting for families, couples and adventurers. Explore all the islands have to offer at www.bahamas.com or on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#) to see why It's Better in The Bahamas.

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For Immediate Release

WHAT'S NEW IN THE ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS THIS WINTER

NASSAU, Bahamas, November XX, 2020 – *It's Better in The Bahamas* this winter as the country welcomes international visitors to enjoy the sun, sand and sea. From hotel reopenings with exciting deals to the Bahama Out Islands Promotion Board's \$500 air credit, The Bahamas is the perfect destination for travelers seeking an escape from the cold this holiday season.

NEWS

Ministry of Tourism Launches Interactive Island Guide – In an effort to make planning a safe, much-needed Bahamian getaway more seamless, the Ministry of Tourism introduced an [interactive map](#) that provides visitors with an island-by-island guide of the most up-to-date guidelines, including business hours of operations, beach access and more.

Hotel Reopenings Across The Bahamas – [Atlantis Paradise Island](#) is scheduled to reopen on December 10, 2020, and Eleuthera's French Leave Resort is set to reopen December 15, 2020. [Grand Hyatt Baha Mar](#) and Exuma's [Grand Isle Resort & Spa](#) are both scheduled to reopen December 17, 2020. [Sandals Royal Bahamian Resort](#) will reopen January 28, 2021, while [Sandals Emerald Bay](#) will reopen February 1, 2021.

Exuma and Long Island Airport Expansions – Exuma International Airport is getting a major upgrade. The project, which is slated to begin next month, will expand the terminal from 2,000 square feet to 60,000 square feet. The country is planning additional airport expansions for Long Island, which is expected to be completed in March 2022. The project will expand the airport's runway from 4,000 feet to 6,500 feet.

PROMOTIONS AND OFFERS

For a complete, up-to-date listing of deals and packages for The Bahamas, visit www.bahamas.com/deals-packages.

Out Island Black Friday Air Credit – The Bahama Out Islands Promotion Board is offering a [\\$500 air credit](#) this Black Friday to help travelers plan their next Bahamian vacation. Credit is applicable when pre-booking an air-inclusive 7-night package at a participating Bahama Out Islands Promotion Board member hotel. Travelers must book by November 30, 2020 and travel by January 31, 2021. Blackout dates apply.

Atlantis First Night Free Package – In celebration of the resort's reopening, Atlantis is offering guests their [first night free](#) with a two-night minimum stay. Bookable between November 10 – 22 and valid for stays between December 10 – 17.



Baha Mar Dream Away and Getaway Package – Grand Hyatt Baha Mar is offering guests [20 percent off](#) just in time for the resort's December 17 reopening. Book by December 6, 2020 for stays through April 4, 2021.

Coral Sands Resort Credit - The beloved Harbour Island resort is offering a [\\$100 resort credit](#) inclusive of daily continental breakfast for two and access to all non-motorized water sports when staying for a minimum of two nights. The offer is valid through December 15, 2020.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Travel Weekly's Magellan Awards Recognizes The Bahamas' Still Rockin' Campaign – The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism & Aviation's Still Rockin' campaign was awarded the best destination advertising/marketing campaign. In the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, the campaign highlighted The Bahamas' 14 major islands unimpacted by the storm, which contributed to the country's record-breaking year of 7.2 million visitors in 2019. The awards also recognized the Ministry's From Bahamas With Love campaign, which was awarded silver in the destination marketing TV commercial category.

ABOUT THE BAHAMAS

With over 700 islands and cays and 16 unique island destinations, The Bahamas lies just 50 miles off the coast of Florida, offering an easy fly away escape that transports travelers away from their everyday. The Islands of The Bahamas have world-class fishing, diving, boating and thousands of miles of the earth's most spectacular water and beaches waiting for families, couples and adventurers. Explore all the islands have to offer at www.bahamas.com or on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#) to see why It's Better in The Bahamas.

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For Immediate Release

WHAT'S NEW IN THE ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS

Nassau, Bahamas, November XX, 2020 – The Islands of The Bahamas have officially reopened borders to international travellers. With a new extended-stay program, which allows visitors to island hop throughout The Bahamas for up to 12 months, and hotels reopening just in time for the holidays, there is no better time to visit the island nation. Recent awards in both Condé Nast Traveler and Scuba Diving magazine's Readers Choice Awards as well as Travel Weekly's Magellan Awards, prove The Bahamas hasn't missed a beat.

NEWS

The Bahamas Launches BEATS - The Islands of The Bahamas announced its new **Bahamas Extended Access Travel Stay (BEATS)** program, a one-year residency permit designed to allow professionals and students to pack their laptop and their swimwear as they march to beat of their own island drum, remotely, from The Bahamas. For more information on BEATS, please visit www.bahamasbeats.com. To apply to be the WFH envy of your office/classroom visit <https://portal.immigration.gov.bs/>.

Bahamian Hotels Reopening for the Holidays – [Warwick Paradise Island – Bahamas](#) is set to reopen to travellers November 21, 2020. Nassau Paradise Island's [Grand Hyatt Baha Mar](#) is scheduled to reopen December 17, 2020. The reopening is part of the resort destination's phased reopening, which will later include Rosewood Baha Mar and SLS Baha Mar.

New Diving Ambassador Program - The Ministry of Tourism & Aviation is hand selecting dive professionals to represent the country as official Diving Ambassadors. The ambassadors will work with the Ministry's communications and dive vertical teams to further position the country as the ideal dive destination. The selected ambassadors will be fully trained on the destination and its offerings before representing The Bahamas at dive trade shows and FAM trips.

PROMOTIONS AND OFFERS

For a complete, up-to-date listing of deals and packages for The Bahamas, visit www.bahamas.com/deals-packages.

Out Island Air Credit - The Bahamas Out Islands Promotion Board is offering U.S. and Canadian residents a [\\$250 air credit](#) when booking a vacation package of four nights or more at a participating hotel or resort. Book by November 16, 2020 and travel by April 30, 2021. Blackout dates apply.

Graycliff Workcation – The Graycliff Hotel on Nassau is offering guests a [Workcation special](#), with a 50% discount on hotel rates when staying for 14 nights or more.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS



DEMA Show (November 17 - 20) - The Islands of The Bahamas will be participating in the virtual [DEMA Show](#) November 17 – 20, 2020. The annual trade show is the largest trade-only event for those in the scuba diving, ocean water sports and adventure/dive travel industries.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Travel Weekly's Magellan Awards Recognizes The Bahamas' Still Rockin' Campaign – The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism & Aviation's Still Rockin' campaign was awarded the best destination advertising/marketing campaign. In the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, the campaign highlighted The Bahamas' 14 major islands unimpacted by the storm, which contributed to the country's record-breaking year of 7.2 million visitors in 2019.

The Bahamas Awarded in Condé Nast Traveler's 2020 Readers' Choice Awards – Four Bahamian hotels were recognized by *Condé Nast Traveler's* Readers' Choice Awards. Kamalame Cay, Rosewood Baha Mar, Grand Hyatt Baha Mar and SLS Baha Mar were included in the [Top 15 Resorts in the Atlantic Islands](#) category.

The Bahamas Takes Home 13 Awards in Scuba Diving Magazine's Readers Choice Awards – The Islands of The Bahamas has been recognized in this year's [Scuba Diving Magazine's Readers Choice Awards](#), with placements highlighting the destination's vast dive offerings across 700 islands and cays. The country was voted number one for Best Big Animals, placed in the top five for Best Overall Destination, Best Cave Diving, Best Snorkeling and Best Value and in the top ten for Best Wreck Diving, Best Wall Diving, Best Advanced Diving, Best Photography, Best Shore Diving, Best Macro Life and Best Health of Marine Life.

ABOUT THE BAHAMAS

With over 700 islands and cays and 16 unique island destinations, The Bahamas lies just 55 miles off the coast of Florida, offering an easy fly away escape that transports travellers away from their everyday. The Islands Of The Bahamas have world-class fishing, diving, boating and thousands of miles of the earth's most spectacular water and beaches waiting for families, couples and adventurers. Explore all the islands have to offer at www.bahamas.com or on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#) to see why It's Better in The Bahamas.

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Story Idea: 55th Anniversary of *Thunderball*: Discover James Bond's Bahamas

Hi XX,

Ahead of the 55th anniversary of *James Bond: Thunderball* on December 22nd, and in honor of the late great Sir Sean Connery, we wanted to share the locations of some of the film's most iconic scenes in case you might be working on any stories or round ups for the anniversary. From diving Thunderball Grotto to an attempted assassination at the British Colonial Hilton Nassau, film fanatics can uncover The Bahamas' hidden gems featured in the James Bond series.

- **Thunderball Grotto** – Located in the Exuma Cays, [Thunderball Grotto](#) is a dive experience unlike any other. Named after the film, the underwater cave is easily accessible from another famed Bahamian dive site, Staniel Cay. After diving the spot made famous by the *Thunderball* fight scene, Bond fans can jet over to Staniel Cay Yacht Club for their annual Casino Royale night.
- **Junkanoo** – The Nassau street chase in *Thunderball* takes Connery's Bond through one of The Bahamas' most highly anticipated cultural events of the year - [Junkanoo](#). From 2:00 AM – 10:00 AM on New Year's Day, Junkanoo rushers can be found dancing to the hypnotic beat of goatskin drums and whistles through the streets of downtown Nassau in colorful costumes they created on their own. While the event is going virtual this year, check out Bahamian-American rock star, Lenny Kravitz's Junkanoo-rendition of [Fly Away](#).
- **British Colonial Hilton** – Sean Connery's last appearance as James Bond in the 1983 *Never Say Never Again* featured an assassination attempt at the [British Colonial Hilton Nassau](#). Travelers can experience the historic property firsthand following its reopening on December 15.



Images can be found [here](#).

Let me know if any of the above is of interest and I'm happy to share more!

Best,

XX

SUBJ: Here's How You Can WFH (and play) in The Bahamas

Hi XX,

Everyone is overdue for a stress-free getaway and The Bahamas is just the place for it. Whether you're looking for a quick getaway, or a long-term extended stay – *It's Better in The Bahamas*. With a number of different island personalities to choose from (see further below) there's something to satisfy every type of vacation you might be craving:

- **Short term Adventure Awaits:** Island time not on your side? Use up the last of those unused 2020 vacation days for a work and play Bahamian getaway. Examples of recent offers include:
 - [Coral Sands Resort](#) (Harbour Island): Offering \$100 resort credit (including daily continental breakfast for two and all non-motorized water sports when staying for a minimum of two nights).
 - [Cape Santa Maria Resort](#) (Long Island): Luxury Villa Vacation offer includes four days/three nights stunning waterfront villa accommodation, complimentary use of kayaks, paddle boards and bikes and much more.
- **BEATS long term stays:** With the flexibility to work (or school) from anywhere, The Bahamas' extended-stay work visa program, BEATS, welcomes students and professionals to trade in the four walls of their office for one with views of stunning turquoise waters and breathtaking sunsets. Please find more details in the press release [here](#) or on the BEATS [website](#).

The Bahamas offers the seclusion so many travelers are looking for when planning their next vacation. Please find our favorite socially distant escapes across The Bahamas below.

Best,
XX

Secluded Bahamian Escapes at Your Fingertips

- **Harbour Island:** This Bahamian gem of an island is known for its pastel-hued buildings and famous pink sand beaches – with sand as colorful as the always-trending “millennial pink”. Harbour Island is perfect for those looking for a more intimate, laid-back island affair. It's the ideal oasis for total relaxation and privacy.
- **Andros: The Bonefishing Capital of The World** – The largest island of The Bahamas is covered with vast areas of wetlands that create channels perfect for bonefishing. Disconnect from all that is 2020 and spend the day out on the water.
- **Long Island:** Turn on your OOO and dive the world's deepest blue hole, Dean's Blue Hole, explore Hamilton's Cave and snorkel through hidden limestone caves of Cape Santa Maria.
- **Cat Island:** Disconnect and recharge on Cat Island. From learning about the unique practice of bush medicine to hiking to the highest point of The Bahamas, visitors will get a one-of-a-kind Bahamian experience.
- And much more - visit [Bahamas.com](#) to learn more about all of our unique islands.
- For up-to-date information on booking travel to The Bahamas visit [Bahamas.com/TravelUpdates](#)

Subj Line: The Bahamas Invites Santa to Stay on Stocking Island Post-Holiday

Hi [XX],

2020 has been long and taxing on everyone -- even the world's jolliest. With countries across the globe deeming him an essential worker, Santa is tasked with spreading more cheer than ever before. And like the rest of us, after this year, he and Mrs. Claus deserve a break.

As a token of appreciation, The Bahamas is inviting Santa to hang up his suit and hat and spend the next year defrosting on [Stocking Island](#) (yes - it's a real Island located in The Exumas!). By extending Santa and Mrs. Claus complimentary [BEATS visas](#) (**B**ahamas **E**xtended **A**ccess **T**ravel **S**tay) they will be able to unwind and enjoy the seclusion of the Out Islands and The Bahamas' most merry offerings until it's time to prepare for next Christmas.

The Bahamas welcomes all paradise seekers to embrace island-time in whatever capacity they need. A diverse number of secluded escapes can be found throughout 16 islands and over 700 cays, perfect to suit each visitor's unique remote working/learning, relaxation, or socially distant vacation needs (see Out Islands offers [here](#)).

Full press release below and assets available for download [here](#). Happy to answer any questions!

Cheers,
[XX]



The Fine Print

- While it has been confirmed that Santa is immune to COVID-19, all of the necessary precautions and travel requirements for the Claus' and visitors alike can be found [here](#).
- BEATS visa application information is linked [here](#).

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The Bahamas Invites Santa for an Extended Stay on Stocking Island