



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Note on Administrative Arrangements
New Providence

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas warmly welcomes visiting dignitaries and high-level officials to The Bahamas. This note on Administrative Arrangements is designed to provide diplomatic visitors with logistical information about New Providence Island in advance of their arrival.



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ABOUT US

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for planning, developing, and implementing The Bahamas' foreign policy. It works to promote and protect the country's interests internationally, foster beneficial relationships with other nations and international organizations, and advance The Bahamas' economic, social, and cultural development through diplomatic channels.

Our Mandate

The primary mandate of The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to advance the national interests of The Bahamas globally. We provide policy advice to the government on regional and international issues and collaborate closely with other government ministries, departments, and Bahamas overseas missions. Our officers are dedicated to studying and analyzing international relations, managing diplomatic and consular affairs, and ensuring the provision of consular and passport services.

Leadership And Structure

Under the leadership of the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Mr. Frederick A. Mitchell, M.P.**, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Act of 2014 was established, which formalized our Foreign Service framework, and solidified our role and responsibilities as a disciplined force.

The senior leadership includes:

- **Mr. Darren Pickstock:** Minister of State- Immigration- Foreign Affairs
- **Mr. Melvin Seymour:** Permanent Secretary, the senior-most public officer after the Minister, and the administrative head of the Ministry.
- **Mr. David Cates:** Permanent Secretary, for the Foreign Service, and administrative matters in the Ministry
- **Mr. Eddison Greenslade:** Permanent Secretary, for Immigration
- **Ms. Jerusa Ali:** Director-General, the chief technical officer, reporting directly to the Minister in consultation with the Permanent Secretary.
- **Mr. Kemie Jones:** Deputy Director-General, for Legal Affairs, reporting directly to the Minister in consultation with the Permanent Secretary.
- **Ms. Gian Dean:** Deputy Director-General, Multilateral & Poli

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Overseas Missions

We maintain a strong diplomatic presence worldwide through Embassies, High Commissions, and Consulates General, located in:

- **United Arab Emirates** (Abu Dhabi)
- **United States** (Washington, New York, Miami, Atlanta, Los Angeles)
- **United Kingdom** (London)
- **Canada** (Ottawa, Toronto)
- **Cuba** (Havana)
- **China** (Beijing)
- **Haiti** (Port-au-Prince)
- **Jamaica** (Kingston)
- **Trinidad and Tobago** (Port of Spain)
- **Belgium** (Brussels)
- **Permanent Missions** (Accredited to international organizations, including the United Nations and various international agencies in Geneva, Switzerland and the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., U.S.A.).
- **Bahamas Honorary Consul Corps** (Located worldwide)

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Before you travel to Nassau, The Bahamas, please review the entry requirements to ensure ease of travel. The following link: <https://mofa.gov.bs/accordions/list-of-countries-that-do-not-need-a-visa/> contains information on visa requirements and application for entry to The Bahamas. All visitors **must** be in possession of a passport that is valid **for**

more than six months to enter The Bahamas, and upon arriving in Nassau, all visitors must fill out an immigration form and complete an oral baggage declaration.

a. Customs Regulations

Each delegate is expected to complete a Form No.C17 Accompanied Baggage Declaration only in respect of any goods, which are liable to duty.

The Form No.C17 Customs Declaration is also required for persons carrying monetary instruments in an amount of B\$10,000 or more or foreign equivalent currency.

Participants should review visa requirements prior to travel.

Required documents:

- Passport biographical page
- Official invitation letter
- Delegation registration form
- Hotel confirmation
- Airline itinerary

All visitors must have a passport valid for at least **six months** beyond entry.

Upon arrival, travellers must:

b). Bahamas Immigration Entry Requirements:

Visit the official Bahamas Immigration Website at <https://www.immigration.gov.bs/entry-requirements/before-your-arrival/> for the exhaustive list.

Visit the official Ministry of Foreign Affairs Website at <https://mofa.gov.bs/evisa-online-services/> to apply for a Bahamas visa and check visa requirements for your country **Visa and Entry Requirements**

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Kindly note that many countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region may enter The Bahamas on a visa-free basis. **For persons holdings passports from any country not on the above referenced list, kindly contact the Consular Section of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at telephone number: 1(242)397-9300, 1(242)397-9308, 1(242)397-9319 or email enquiries to: evisaoffice@bahamas.gov.bs or perrydavis@bahamas.gov.bs**

c). Direct Flights to New Providence (Lynden Pindling International Airport- NAS)

The Ministry is pleased to inform that the following airlines fly directly into Nassau, New Providence, The Bahamas.

AIRLINE	ORIGIN	FREQUENCY	TYPICAL SCHEDULE
AMERICAN AIRLINES	Miami (MIA)	Multiple daily	Various times
	Charlotte (CLT)	Daily	Morning and afternoon
	Philadelphia (PHL)	Daily	Afternoon
	Washington D.C. (DCA)	Daily	Afternoon
DELTA AIR LINES	Atlanta (ATL)	Daily	Morning and afternoon
	New York (JFK)	Daily	Morning
UNITED AIRLINES	Newark (EWR)	Daily	Morning
	Houston (IAH)	Daily	Afternoon
JETBLUE	New York (JFK)	Daily	Morning and evening
	Boston (BOS)	Daily	Afternoon
SOUTHWEST AIRLINES	Fort Lauderdale (FLL)	Daily	Afternoon
	Baltimore (BWI)	Daily	Morning
	Fort Lauderdale (FLL)	Daily	Afternoon
AIR CANADA	Toronto (YYZ)	Daily	Morning
	Montreal (YUL)	Weekly (seasonal)	Afternoon
WESTJET	Toronto (YYZ)	Weekly	Afternoon
BRITISH AIRWAYS	London (LHR)	3-4 times weekly	Evening
COPA AIRLINES	Panama City (PTY)	Daily	Afternoon
BAHAMASAIR	Miami (MIA)	Daily	Morning and afternoon
	Fort Lauderdale (FLL)	Daily	Afternoon
	Orlando (MCO)	Daily	Afternoon
CARIBBEAN AIRLINES	Kingston (KIN)	2-3 times weekly	Evening

For rates, current schedule, and booking, see website:

- American Airlines: www.aa.com
- Delta Air Lines: www.delta.com
- United Airlines: www.united.com
- JetBlue: www.jetblue.com
- Southwest Airlines: www.southwest.com
- Air Canada: www.aircanada.com
- WestJet: www.westjet.com
- British Airways: www.britishairways.com
- Copa Airlines: www.copaair.com
- Bahamasair: www.bahamasair.com
- Caribbean Airlines: www.caribbean-airlines.com

c). Hotel Accommodations

For official delegations, it is recommended to book through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Protocol Division, or the local embassy for potential diplomatic rates and appropriate security arrangements.

- **Atlantis**
Address: 1 Casino Drive, Paradise Island
Phone: +1 242-363-3000
Email: reservations@atlantisparadise.com
- **Baha Mar** (includes Grand Hyatt, SLS, and Rosewood)
Address: 1 Baha Mar Blvd, Nassau
Phone: +1 242-788-8000
Email: info@bahamar.com
- **Margaritaville Beach Resort Nassau**
Address: The Pointe, Nassau
Phone: +1 242-603-8500
Email: info@margaritavillebeachresortnassau.com
- **The Ocean Club, A Four Seasons Resort**
Address: One Ocean Drive, Paradise Island
Phone: +1 242-363-2501
Email: reservations.oceanclub@fourseasons.com
- **Sandals Royal Bahamian**
Address: West Bay Street, Nassau
Phone: +1 242-327-6400
Email: royalbahamian@sandals.com
- **British Colonial Hilton Nassau**
Address: 1 Bay Street, Nassau
Phone: +1 242-322-3301
Email: nassau.info@hilton.com
- **Comfort Suites Paradise Island**
Address: Paradise Island Drive, Paradise Island
Phone: +1 242-363-3680
Email: reservations@comfordsuitespi.com
- **Warwick Paradise Island Bahamas**
Address: Harbour Drive, Paradise Island
Phone: +1 242-363-2560
Email: info.wpib@warwickhotels.com
- **Goldwynn Resort & Residences**
Address: 1 Goldwynn Avenue, Cable Beach, Nassau
Phone: +1 242-788-2500
Email: info@goldwynnresorts.com
Website: www.goldwynnresorts.com

- **Courtyard by Marriott**
Address: West Bay Street, Nassau
Phone: +1 242-603-2600
Email: cy.nascy.frontdesk@marriott.com
Website: www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/nascy-courtyard-nassau-downtown-junkanoo-beach
- **Sandyport Beach Resort**
Address: Sandyport Drive, Cable Beach, Nassau
Phone: +1 242-327-4279
Email: reservations@sandyportresort.com
Website: www.sandyportresort.com
- **Orange Hill Beach Inn**
Address: West Bay Street, Nassau
Phone: +1 242-327-7157
Email: orangehill@batelnet.bs
Website: www.orangehill.com
- **A Stone's Throw Away**
Address: Tropical Gardens Road, Nassau
Phone: +1 242-327-7030
Email: info@astonesthrowaway.com
Website: www.astonesthrowaway.com
- **Ocean West Boutique Hotel**
Address: West Bay Street, Nassau
Phone: +1 242-327-6400
Email: reservations@oceanwestbahamas.com
Website: www.oceanwestbahamas.com

IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE:

- I. **Currency and Economy:** Tourism and Financial services are the main drivers of the Bahamian economy.
 - a. The **Bahamian Dollar (BSD)** is maintained at parity with the **US Dollar (USD)**, and both currencies are accepted throughout the islands.
 - b. The country offers various investment opportunities and has a business-friendly environment for international investors.
 - c. **ATMs + PLUS and Cirrus** are in banks on Nassau/Paradise Island, Grand Bahama Island, and most major Out Islands.

- d. While certain places do take credit and debit cards, it's advised that you carry cash if you're exploring the Out Islands.
- II. **Local Attractions and Culture:** The Bahamas has a rich tradition in music (Goombay, Rake-n-Scrape, Calypso), art, and literature. **It is known for its Junkanoo parade** and hosts a series of popular food and cultural festivals and regattas throughout the year.
- III. **Language:** The official language of The Bahamas is **English**.
- IV. **Climate:** Year-round, **the weather is generally warm** with winter lows averaging 70°F (21°C) and summer highs ranging from 80 to 90°F (26 to 32°C).
- V. **Transportation:** In New Providence and Grand Bahama islands, public buses (jitneys) are the main form of public transportation for residents. The Ministry respectfully advises the use of registered taxis/tour car companies or car rentals, which are available on all of the major islands. Driving is on the left side of the road. ***Dignitaries travelling to The Bahamas on official visits will be informed about specific transportation arrangements by the Protocol Division.***
- VI. **Telecommunications:** The Bahamas has modern telecommunication services, comparable to those of developed countries, with **GSM roaming available**.
- VII. **Electricity:** Electrical power is based on 60 cycles/120 volts, compatible with American devices. **Adapters may be needed for British and European appliances.**
- VIII. **Business Hours and Shopping:** Normal business hours for the public sector and most private businesses is ***Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*** The Bahamas operates on ***Eastern Standard Time***, and switches to daylight saving time at the same time as the eastern United States.
- IX. **Security and Health:** The Bahamas is generally safe for diplomatic visitors, with the Royal Bahamas Police Force working closely with diplomatic security teams. Health insurance is recommended, and high-quality medical facilities are available in major cities.

USEFUL WEBSITES

- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs:** www.mofa.gov.bs
Official site for diplomatic affairs, consular services, and international relations.
- **Official Bahamas Government Portal:** www.bahamas.gov.bs
Official website of the Bahamian government, providing information on various ministries and services.

- **Department of Immigration:** www.immigration.gov.bs
Official site providing information about entry requirements, visitor extensions, work & resident permits, and citizenship
- **Bahamas Department of Statistics** www.bahamas.gov.bs/statistics
Offers official statistical data on population, economy, and social indicators.
- **Central Bank of The Bahamas** www.centralbankbahamas.com
Provides economic reports, monetary policy information, and financial statistics.
- **Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers' Confederation**
www.thebahamaschamber.com
Offers insights into the Bahamian business environment and economy.
- **Bahamas Investment Authority** www.bahamas.gov.bs/bia
Information on investment opportunities and policies in The Bahamas.
- **National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)**
www.bahamas.gov.bs/nema
Provides updates on natural disasters and emergency management procedures.
- **Bahamas Maritime Authority** www.bahamasmaritime.com
Information on maritime affairs and ship registration
- **Bahamas National Trust** www.bnt.bs
Details on national parks, conservation efforts, and environmental issues.
- **Nassau Paradise Island Promotion Board** www.nassauparadiseisland.com
Tourism information specifically for New Providence and Paradise Island.
- **The Official Site of The Bahamas** www.bahamas.com
Comprehensive tourism information, including cultural events and attractions.
- **Nassau Airport Development Company** www.nassaulpia.com
Information about Lynden Pindling International Airport, including flight updates.

TOURISM ACTIVITIES

- **National Art Gallery of The Bahamas**
Showcases Bahamian art and culture in a historic villa.
Address: West and West Hill Streets, Nassau
Phone: +1 242-328-5800
Website: www.nagb.org.bs

- **John Watling's Distillery**
Historic estate offering rum tastings and tours.
 Address: Delancy Street, Nassau
 Phone: +1 242-322-2811
 Website: www.johnwatlings.com
- **Clifton Heritage National Park**
Archaeological and historical site with nature trails.
 Address: Clifton Bay, New Providence
 Phone: +1 242-362-5121
 Website: www.cliftonheritage.org
- **Graycliff Chocolatier**
Luxury chocolate-making experiences in a colonial mansion.
 Address: 8-12 West Hill Street, Nassau
 Phone: +1 242-302-9150
 Website: www.graycliff.com/chocolatier
- **Ardastra Gardens, Zoo and Conservation Centre**
Zoo featuring flamingo shows and native Bahamian wildlife.
 Address: Chippingham Road, Nassau
 Phone: +1 242-323-5806
 Website: www.ardastra.com
- **Educulture Bahamas - Junkanoo Museum**
Museum dedicated to the history and art of Junkanoo.
 Address: Virginia Street, Nassau
 Phone: +1 242-328-4800
 Website: www.educulturebahamas.com
- **Bahamas National Trust Retreat Garden**
11-acre protected area showcasing native flora.
 Address: Village Road, Nassau
 Phone: +1 242-393-1317
 Website: www.bnt.bs
- **Pompey Museum of Slavery & Emancipation**
Museum exploring the history of slavery in the Bahamas.
 Address: Bay Street, Nassau
 Phone: +1 242-356-0495
 Website: www.ammc-bahamas.com/pompey-museum
- **Bahamas Reef Environmental Educational Foundation**
Marine Conservation and Environmental Education.

Email: breef@breef.org
Phone: +1-242-327-9000
Website: www.breef.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

For the most current information, please contact:

Mr. Kemi Jones
Deputy Director General
Head of Legal Affairs
kemijones@bahamas.gov.bs

Mrs. Celest Evans-Williams
Chief of Protocol (Acting)
celestevans@bahamas.gov.bs

Ms. Heather Sutherland
Head of Advance Team/Protocol
heatherlavettesutherland@bahamas.gov.bs

Mr. Dariq Pople
Head- Communications and Relationship Management Desk
dariqpople@bahamas.gov.bs

Ms. Lorraine Major
Head- The Americas and Caribbean States Desk
lorrainemajor@bahamas.gov.bs

Protocol Division
mofaprotocol@bahamas.gov.bs

Office of The Director General
dgmfa@bahamas.gov.bs