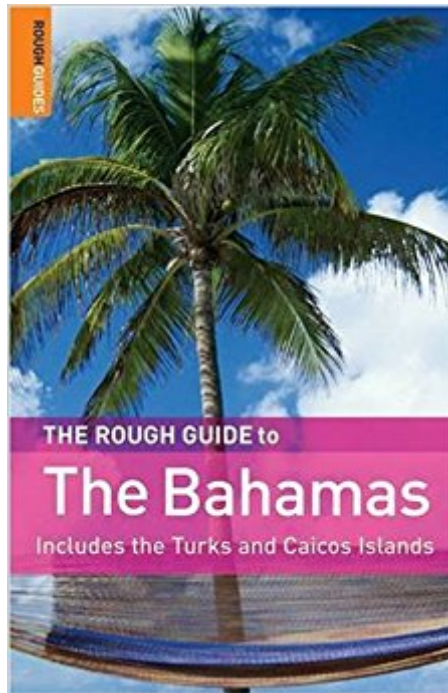




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The Rough Guide To Bahamas 1 (Rough Guide Travel Guides)



Synopsis

An introductory full-colour section features the authors' selected highlights of these beautiful islands. As well as details on hiking, fishing, kayaking and other outdoor adventures, it ventures off the well worn path to cover the finest scuba and snorkelling spots. The authors review the renowned resorts and celebrated hotspots in Nassau, Paradise Island and Freeport, and veers off the beaten track to the Out Islands.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Adam Vaitilingam is author of Rough Guides to Antigua and Barbados and co-author of The Rough Guide to Jamaica and the forthcoming Rough Guide to the Caribbean. A first-time author for Rough Guides, Gaylord Dold wrote the Dominican Republic Handbook (Moon, 1997). The Rough Guide to the Bahamas is Natalie Folster's first travel guide.

WHERE TO GO The islands' most popular destination is New Providence; site of the bustling capital Nassau. With its resort areas in Cable Beach and Paradise Island, the island offers glamorous accommodations, enticing nightlife and casinos, fine restaurants and shopping and, of course, great beaches; Nassau Harbour is also a fixture on the Caribbean cruise circuit. Nearly everyone who visits the Bahamas will pass through the capital, the hub of intra-island travel, and those killing time before journeying on to another island will enjoy a jitney ride through Old Nassau and its stirring British colonial architecture, or even a tour of the Atlantis resort's 34-acre

waterscape on Paradise Island. Almost as popular as New Providence, Grand Bahama has been drawing tourists since the 1950s, when the resort town of Freeport/Lucaya sprung up expressly for that purpose. While the town of Freeport itself is of little interest, its seaside suburb Lucaya features several beaches and some of the most elaborate all-inclusive resort hotels in the country. Many travellers prefer the quiet, remote charms of the Out Islands; essentially all of the Bahamian isles save for New Providence and Grand Bahama. Here the accommodation is often more rustic, the beaches and reefs virtually deserted and the vibe more laid-back. Andros, the largest island in the Bahamas, is fringed by the Androsian barrier reef, which presents wonderful snorkelling opportunities. Besides the reef; the third longest in the world; the island is celebrated for its blue holes and abundance of bonefish. Those who enjoy sport fishing will prefer the deep waters off the even calmer Bimini and Berry islands located due north, whose fishing was immortalized by Ernest Hemingway. While there is certainly no shortage of beaches on the Bahamas, Eleuthera contains some of the very sandiest and most unspoilt of the lot, including the fabled Pink Sands Beach. The most populous of the Out Islands, Eleuthera is relatively untouched by tourism, though Dunmore Town, on Harbour Island just off its northern tip, boasts some of the Out Islands' more cosmopolitan restaurants and finer hotels. Exploring the Abaco and the Exuma island chains is comparatively more difficult yet repays the effort with their peaceful fishing hamlets and quiet, untrammelled cays. The clapboard houses, neat lawns and picket fences on the Loyalist Cays attest to the immigration to the Abacos after the American Revolution of those still loyal to the Crown, while birdwatchers will relish Abaco National Park and its population of endangered Bahama parrots. The Exumas consist of some 365 cays and islets, fifteen of which comprise the Exuma Land and Sea Park, whose sea kayaking in the cobalt-blue Exuma Sound and the Great Bahama Bank is unparalleled. The rest of the Out Islands feel light years away from New Providence and Grand Bahama. Much of isolated Cat Island and San Salvador's interior is dense and impenetrable, though the latter; believed by many to be the site of Columbus's first landfall in the New World; offers great birdwatching if you can brave the mosquitoes. Long Island affords visitors the luxury of a few resorts in the midst of its rustic fishing settlements and untrammelled beaches, while Great Inagua is home to the 127-square-mile Inagua National Park and the West Indian flamingos it was established to conserve. Independent of the Bahamas though of the same archipelago, the Turks and Caicos Islands have only become a tourist destination in the last twenty years. Since then, the majority of vacationers here have flocked to the resorts of Providenciales, most of which take advantage of majestic Grace Bay and its six-mile-long beach. The island is also the perfect springboard for day-trips to the beaches of the

largely uninhabited Caicos Cays or more demanding jaunts to North Caicos or Grand Turk. WHEN TO GO The southern Atlantic high-pressure system and constant trade winds make Bahamian weather consistent throughout the year, with temperatures in the mid-70s° F during the dry winter season from December to May, and 5°-8 degrees warmer in the summer rainy season. Just as a steady cooling breeze moderates the hottest hours of the day, nights in the Bahamas are temperate and, in the northern islands, even cool. Late summer and fall comprise hurricane season, delivering the occasional menacing tempest as well as less destructive tropical storms. Luckily, the Bahamas are rarely in the direct paths of hurricanes, which usually bypass the islands to the south before hitting mainland North America directly. Predictably, winter travel is a major draw, with December-to-May prices as much as 25 percent higher than during the rest of the year. Late spring and early summer travel are popular with bargain hunters, divers, and anglers and sailors drawn by the summer round of fishing tournaments and regattas. Travelling during the Christmas holiday season can be bustling and wearisome, with tourists thick on the ground and many locals taking trips to the North American mainland. Likewise, college students often crowd the major resorts during Spring Break in February and March, while other travellers escape to the Bahamas during late summer and autumn to enjoy a respite in that relatively tranquil period, the odd hurricane notwithstanding.

For vacationers, serious travellers, business people and "residents" of The Bahamas, this is the best book that I have used for informational purposes. The facts are accurate, it's easy to interpret and will be the best resource for an individual needing relevant information while spending time, or living in The Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Lived there for 3 years. This book was a real jewel.

I bought this right before my trip to the bahamas (Nassau). I learned a lot about the islands. It came in handy on knowing where to go and things to do. Perfect size for your carry on. I will use it each time I travel there.

I wish I could be certain that this book wasn't stolen from a library and then resold, but according to the sticker on the inner page, it's property of the Oxfordshire Library; I'm not too happy about that.

This book is my favorite bahama guide for several reasons. First, it has a tremendous amount of

information. Best ways to get to different islands, what you can do while you are there, etc. Second, it tells you where to stay and eat for less. Third, it has more detailed information on the lesser known islands in the bahamas. I like to do a lot of research on where I'm travelling too and this book did not disappoint. Some of the other guides use similar information, but this one seems to be unique.

This is the absolute worst guide book I have ever used! I purchased this one because it was revised in 2003 and assumed that the information would be current and up-to-date. Quickly, I found out how mistaken I was. As far as the information on New Providence/Paradise Island goes, 75% of the restaurants listed we tried to go to were closed, and had been for some time. The names of hotels were wrong, the prices of buses and taxis were dated, it failed to give any kind of review on smaller hotels and we ended up staying a few scary nights in a dump... It lacked on reviews of any kind for that matter, hotels, food, beaches, transportation; the information was either not there or seemed to always be incorrect. This book would be more helpful duct taped shut and used to prop up a leaning bookshelf.

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