



BIMINI *Fact Sheet*

City/Settlement: Alice Town

Location: North Bimini and South Bimini lie just 50 miles east of Miami; the entire chain of the Biminis stretches 28 miles long

Size: Hook-shaped North Bimini is 7 1/2 miles long, and combined with South Bimini, it makes up a landmass of only nine square miles

Population: Approximately 1,600

History:

The history of Bimini dates back to Ponce de Leon's visit to the area in 1513 during his quest for the Fountain of Youth. Settled in the early 1920s, Bimini once served as a base of operations for rumrunners from Nassau. Once Prohibition took effect in the United States, the economy began to prosper. And when famed author Ernest Hemingway found his way here in 1935, Bimini began to develop its own tropical vacation allure.

Shopping:

Although The Bimini Islands are not known for shopping, a few local shops and a small straw market dot King's Highway. Bimini bread, a famous local treat, is found at many of the shops and stands.

Activities:

Bimini offers dives to reefs and wrecks, swimming with the island's wild dolphins, snorkeling, kayaking, and bicycle rentals. While hardly considered crowded, most of Bimini's beaches lie on the west side of North Bimini. The most popular beach is in Alice Town off Queen's Highway, named Radio Beach.

Airline Service:

Regional Air (242-352-7121) flies twice a week Freeport/Lynden. **Sky Bahamas** (242-327-6032) flies twice a week Nassau/Lynden. **Western Air** (242-329-4000) flies twice a week Nassau/Bimini.

Accommodation options on Bimini include:

Bimini Bay Resort and Marina (866- 344-8759), **Bimini Blue Water Resort Ltd** (242-347-3166), **Bimini Sands Condominium Resort & Marina** (242-347-4500)

Attractions:

Bimini Boat Building: "The Bimini Bonefisher," a custom handcrafted work of art, is the latest creation of Ansil Saunders, a fifth generation boat builder. His boats have been shown at the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show and in Nassau. Mr. Saunders builds four boats per year, and construction usually takes about 10 weeks.

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Lost City of Atlantis: In 1968 the discovery of huge limestone blocks off the coast of North Bimini led many to believe this was once an undersea road to the Lost City of Atlantis. Many divers have examined this half-mile stretch of neatly aligned relics, and everyone seems to have an opinion of what this may, or may not be.

The Fountain of Youth: A spot said to be the fountain can be seen near the airport in South Bimini and is of great pride to locals – many claim to have undergone a revival due to the medicinal forces of the water throughout the islands. It is said that the Healing Hole, a special pool on South Bimini, holds the magical powers of rejuvenation and healing.

Bimini Museum: The Bimini Museum offers visitors a tour through Bimini's history and has become one of the major tourist attractions on the island. It contains many items of interest, including a copy of the Bahamas Constitution, signed by Prime Minister Lynden Pindling; the immigration card of Dr. Martin Luther King, who visited Bimini in 1964; a number of exhibits, such as the Bimini Fishing Hall of Fame; and countless old photos and artifacts that depict the island's heritage.

Other Information:

U.S. currency is accepted and is interchangeable with the Bahamian dollar. In September through May, the temperature on the Island averages 70 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit; the rest of the year is warmer, with temperatures between 80 and 85 degrees. Nighttime temperatures are generally cooler by 5-7 degrees. All U.S. citizens and foreign nationals traveling to/from the United States to/from The Bahamas are required to present a valid passport, passport card or WHTI-compliant document to re-enter the United States. All Canadian citizens traveling to/from Canada to/from The Bahamas are required to present either a valid passport, an official birth certificate or an original naturalization/citizenship certificate. For more information please visit Bahamas.com.

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