



## **THE BAHAMAS CHIEF FAMILY OFFICER HELPS FAMILIES PLAN MEMORABLE VACATIONS**

*Whether You're the Swiss Family Robinson or the Griswolds, The Bahamas Has it All*

How many islands are in The Islands Of The Bahamas? More than 700. Which islands are best for families? Just ask Ava Thompson, Bahamas Chief Family Offer. Ava helps families choose the perfect island for their personality. Her YouTube video provides family-friendly travel tips and families can ask her specific questions on [The Bahamas Facebook page](#).

### **So what Bahamas island is best for your families' vacation style?**

- Nassau & Paradise Island is the place to go for amenities provided by larger-scale resorts such as kid's clubs and spas
- Eleuthera & Harbour Island, Cat Island and Long Island are best for laid-back vacations spent lounging on uncrowded beaches
- Grand Bahama Island is perfect for families who like to explore nature with kayak, horseback and jeep eco-tours
- The Exuma Islands (home of the swimming pigs and gentle iguanas) or The Abaco Islands are a good fit for adventurous families looking for exciting water sports and excursions

**Speaking of [excursions](#), The Bahamas offers diving, snorkeling, fishing, boating and picnics on sand bars, where guides will round up fresh conch and lobster straight from the ocean. For outfitters without websites, hoteliers are a great resource.**

### **Popular family excursions include:**

- Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas, Dolphin Encounters at Blue Lagoon and the Pirates Museum on Nassau
- UNEXSO (Underwater Explorer's Society), Pine Tree Stables and East End Adventures on Grand Bahama Island
- High Seas Bahamas or Powerboat Adventures to The Exuma Cays
- Snorkeling or boat outings with Valentine's Dive Center on Harbour Island
- Lincoln Jones Island Adventures on Green Turtle Cay in The Abaco Islands

**When not on an excursion, your family may want to learn more about the history and culture of The Bahamas. The best way to do that is to start exploring.**

- Bahamians are friendly and storytelling is a way of life. The dive masters, fishing guides and charter captains aren't just working; they are pursuing their passion and are eager to talk about the rays and reefs and Blue Holes and their islands history and culture.
- The People-To-People Program gives families an authentic taste of island life by matching them with Bahamians for an activity from shopping at an outdoor market to attending a local school to joining them for a traditional meal of fried fish, Peas 'n Rice and Guava Duff

**An important factor for many families when planning a vacation is the budget. There are many affordable options in The Bahamas and tips to help families save.**

- Selecting all-inclusive resorts such as Wyndham on Nassau or Small Hope Bay on Andros helps families budget prior to their vacation so there are no surprises
- Families who want the Atlantis experience can stay at Comfort Suites right next door, which allows guests full use of Atlantis pools, private beach, water slides, Kids Camp and more
- Many hotels offer meal plans, which are a great option for budgeting; however, remember that snorkeling, boating and fishing excursions often include lunch
- Special offers can always be found on [www.Bahamas.com](http://www.Bahamas.com), though it's a good idea to also visit the websites of individual hotel properties for more travel deals

**When is the best time to visit The Bahamas? Honestly, it's a matter of personal choice as there is beautiful weather year-round and the islands never feel overrun, even during peak times.**

- The Bahamas is not a typical spring break choice for college students, rather popular among families during spring break, one of the busiest times. Fall is the least busy time to visit and many great deals can be found.
- Weather wise, the average temperature during the "winter months" of January and February is 77 degrees and by July the average is 89 degrees
- September and October boast spectacular weather, though they do fall into hurricane season. The risk for hurricanes is small and many hotels participate in the Bahamas Hotel Association hurricane policy, which protects consumers when storms develop.

**Last, but not least, The Bahamas is easily accessible for families as its only 55 miles off the coast of Florida and many major cities offer direct flights.**

- For a listing of commercial airlift from U.S. cities to the various islands as well as private plane or boat service from South Florida, visit [www.Bahamas.com](http://www.Bahamas.com).
- Thousands of cruise ships arrive in Nassau's Port of Call each year. Families on a cruise can check out the '[Nassau, Bahamas for Day Trippers](#)' video for tips on what to do with their eight hours in Nassau.

- The Balearia [Bahamas Express](#) ferry connects travelers between Port Everglades, FL. and Freeport, Bahamas in two and a half hours with future service planned to Bimini. The ferry runs daily, except Wednesday, with capacity for 450 passengers and 80 vehicles.

The Islands Of The Bahamas have a place in the sun for everyone from Nassau and Paradise Island to Grand Bahama to The Abaco Islands, The Exuma Islands, Harbour Island, Long Island and others. Each island has its own personality and attractions for a variety of vacation styles with some of the world's best scuba diving, fishing, sailing, boating, as well as, shopping and dining. The destination offers an easily accessible tropical getaway and provides convenience for travelers with preclearance through U.S. customs and immigration, and the Bahamian dollar at par with the U.S. dollar. Do everything or do nothing, just remember It's Better in The Bahamas. For more information on travel packages, activities and accommodations, call 1-800-Bahamas or visit [www.Bahamas.com](http://www.Bahamas.com). Look for VisittheBahamas on the web on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#). To purchase one-of-a-kind items from The Bahamas, visit [www.eshopbahamas.com](http://www.eshopbahamas.com).

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**Media Contacts:**

Jessica Parker  
Weber Shandwick  
(212) 445-8263  
[jparker@webershandwick.com](mailto:jparker@webershandwick.com)

Anita Johnson-Patty  
Bahamas Ministry of Tourism  
(954) 236-9292  
[ajohnson@bahamas.com](mailto:ajohnson@bahamas.com)