



Bahamas Tourism Re-Entry Landing Page FAQ

What is The Tourism Readiness and Recovery Plan?

- In preparation for the reopening of our borders and the resumption of commercial travel, a Tourism Readiness and Recovery Committee was established among public and private sector partners to develop a collaborative plan for re-opening.
- The committee collected and considered feedback from an excess of 100 public and private sector stakeholders from every type of business and tourism touchpoint - from airline and cruise ports, to hotels, taxi drivers, tour operators, and retailers, to name a few.
- As a result, The Bahamas "Tourism Readiness and Recovery Plan" is an approved, comprehensive guide of health and safety protocol to be followed consistently across the country.
- For more information, or to view the plan in full, please visit: www.bahamas.com/TRRCplan.

When and how will The Bahamas reopen?

The Bahamas' tourism sector will gradually come back online, following a strategic, phased approach that ensures critical health and safety protocols are being adhered to, and that the Health sector remains well equipped and ready to respond as necessary.

- Phase 1, beginning on June 15, will allow for international boaters, yachters and private aviation to return to the destination.
 - These smaller special interest groups will allow a more controlled segment to test the country's new measures.

Also, during this phase, commercial airlines will be allowed to bring in Bahamian citizens, legal residents, home-owners qualifying for economic permanent residency, or the immediate family members or significant others of any of these groups.

- All persons intending to travel domestically within The Bahamas are required to complete a Travel Health Card application prior to departure. Travellers can visit travel.gov.bs to complete the form online. This important step for contact tracing purposes.
- It is anticipated that during this period of time there will be a reduced flight schedule as airlines begin adding The Bahamas to their schedules once again.

Additionally, during Phase 1 hotels will re-open for staff to return to work and put in place all the measures required to ensure they are ready to welcome guests at the onset of Phase 2.

- Phase 2, beginning July 1, allows for the resumption of international travel, including:
 - Commercial airlines, both international and domestic
 - Hotels and vacation rentals, inclusive of Airbnb and HomeAway
 - Transportation ranging from taxis to jitneys and buses

The timing of the other phases and sectors will be announced shortly.

How is The Bahamas monitoring the COVID-19 situation to ensure that it is safe to open on schedule as is planned?



Reopening of borders will continue to be monitored and guided by The Bahamas government and health officials. Dates are subject to change based on COVID-19 trends, if there is a deterioration in improvement or if government and health organizations deem these phases unsafe for residents or visitors.

What about domestic travel for Bahamians prior to June 15?

In accordance with the government's phased reopening plan, inter-island domestic travel has resumed across The Islands Of The Bahamas. Travel by commercial flight, as well as mailboat, passenger ferry, domestic pleasure craft and yachts are permitted across all islands.

All persons intending to travel domestically within The Bahamas are required to complete a Travel Health Card application prior to departure. Travellers can visit travel.gov.bs to complete the form online. This important step for contact tracing purposes.

What preparation and precautions should travelers take/expect when planning to visit The Bahamas?

- Monitor businesses websites (airlines, hotels, attractions, etc.) for changes in protocols
- Follow The Bahamas' "Healthy Traveler Campaign" ongoing practice of
 - Physical distancing measures (6ft)
 - Regularly washing hands
 - Wearing PPE such as face masks when appropriate
- Do not travel when you feel ill

What is the arrival process for travelers entering The Bahamas by air or sea?

- All travelers must wear a face mask when:
 - Entering and transiting air and sea terminals
 - Security and customs screenings
 - Baggage claim
 - Check in and boarding
- All incoming passengers will be subject to temperature screenings by health professionals
 - Travelers who show symptoms of COVID-19 may be transferred to an on-site quarantine area away from other passengers for further testing and evaluation.
- Follow physical distancing directions
- More time will be provided for boarding and exiting
- More distance will be established between active gates at terminals
- Travelers should hold and scan own boarding passes or mobile devices

How should Private Boaters plan for arrival in The Bahamas?

- Prior to arrival:
 - Complete Maritime Declaration of Health (include link to find)
 - Inform marina at least 48 hours prior to vessel's arrival
- On arrival:
 - Wear masks while on marina's premises
 - NEVER shake used or unused clothing, sheets, or cloth items
 - Boats always required to remain 50 feet apart
 - No "rafting" (tying boats together)
 - No "beaching" (running boats ashore in shallow water to disembark)



What about Cruises? What new protocols will be in place for ships calling on The Bahamas?

- All vessels are required to submit its Declaration of Health to the Port Health Control Officer or other designated Government officer in advance of the vessel's arrival in The Bahamas.
- If any passenger or crewmember is presenting COVID-19 symptoms, no disembarkation can take place. No gangway will be attached to the ship, until the ship is given the all clear by Port Health Control Officer or other designated Government officer.
- When guests do disembark, it is contemplated that the ships will install temperature screening equipment in immediate proximity to the disembarkation gangway. A health officer from the Government of The Bahamas will monitor and observe the temperature screening process.
- Once off their cruise ship, all passengers will be required to comply with protocols in place for tour operators and attractions, taxis, restaurants, retail, etc., which in many cases requires the wearing of face masks and respecting physical distancing measures.

What is the Clean & Pristine certification?

- A Certification Agency has been established - representing a collaboration between the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Health, and other regulatory agencies - to enforce a Clean & Pristine certification program.
- **All** tourism related, customer-facing entities in The Bahamas must verify they have in place and are adhering to the Government approved health and safety guidelines to receive Clean & Pristine certification. Adequate signage outlining policies will be clearly displayed at all locations helping to guide staff and visitors.

What does this mean for Taxis and Independent Cars?

- Passengers to wear masks at all times throughout journey
- Passengers should not ride in front seat
- Vehicles reduce the maximum number of people by 50%
 - Sedans = 2 persons
 - SUVs = 4 persons

What does this mean for Hotels, resorts and vacation rentals?

- Extensive health and safety protocols enforced; details will be clearly stated by specific institutions
- Enhanced cleaning for guest rooms
- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant readily available
- Employee health monitoring
- Limiting guests in elevators

What does this mean for Restaurants, Food & Beverage Services?

- Buffets discontinued until further notice
- All meals must be single or prepackaged
- Disposable menus offered or displayed on monitors or chalkboards.
- Seating to accommodate for physical distancing of guests; limiting number of guests

What does this mean for Excursions, tours, local attractions and shopping?

- Maximum number of guests and duration of guest visit limited.
- Guests use personal gear (such as snorkeling gear) as appropriate



- Guests will not be allowed to touch products unless purchasing
- Cashless sales encouraged
- Beach chairs to allow 6ft. physical distancing between family units.
- Cleaning timetable / checklist maintained

What does this mean for vessel and ferry operations?

- Maximum passengers on-board reduced by 50%
- Passenger seating assigned to ensure proper distancing
- Vessel sanitizing:
 - Before any passenger embarks
 - Between all passenger exchanges
 - On high touch surfaces consistently during passage
 - At end of each day