

The Bahamas

Commonwealth of The Bahamas	
Flag of The Bahamas Flag	Coat of arms of The Bahamas Coat of arms
Motto: "Forward, Upward, Onward, Together"	
Anthem: " March On, Bahamaland "	
Royal anthem: " God Save the King "	
Location of The Bahamas	
Capital and largest city	Nassau 25°4′N 77°20′W
Official languages	English
Ethnic groups (2010)	90.6% Afro-Bahamian 4.7% European 2.1% Mulatto 1.9% Other 0.7% Unspecified ^[1]
Religion (2010) ^[2]	95.8% Christianity —80.0% Protestantism —15.8% Other Christian 3.1% None 1.1% Others
Demonym(s)	Bahamian
Government <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monarch• Governor-General• Prime Minister	Unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy ^{[3][4]} Charles III Dame Cynthia A. Pratt Philip Davis
Legislature <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upper house• Lower house	Parliament Senate House of Assembly
Independence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• from the United Kingdom	
10 July 1973 ^[5]	
Area	

• Total	13,878 km ² (5,358 sq mi) (155th)
• Water (%)	28%
Population	
• 2021 estimate	407,906 ^{[6][7]} (177th)
• 2010 census	351,461
• Density	25.21/km ² (65.3/sq mi) (181st)
GDP (PPP)	
• Total	2018 estimate \$12.612 billion ^[8] (148th)
• Per capita	\$33,494 ^[8] (40th)
GDP (nominal)	
• Total	2018 estimate \$12.803 billion ^[8] (130th)
• Per capita	\$34,102 ^[8] (26th)
HDI (2019)	Increase 0.814 ^[9] very high · 58th
Currency	Bahamian dollar (BSD) (US dollars widely accepted)
Time zone	UTC−5 (EST)
• Summer (DST)	UTC−4 (EDT)
Driving side	left
Calling code	+1 242
ISO 3166 code	BS
Internet TLD	.bs

a. [^] Also referred to as *Bahamian dialect* or *Bahamianese*^[10]

The Bahamas (officially called **Commonwealth of The Bahamas**) are a [group of islands](#) in the [Caribbean Sea](#). The country's capital, [Nassau](#), is on New Providence Island.

The Taino were the first people living there. In 1492, [Christopher Columbus](#) found the Americas by landing on another of the islands, [San Salvador](#). The Eleutheran Adventurers soon came along, making a home in Eleuthera.

The islands' mostly black population speaks [English](#), the country's main language.

The Bahamas are a popular place for people to visit for holidays, the 700 islands and cays attract many visitors from nearby [America](#), as well as [Europe](#) and other countries.

History

[\[change\]](#) | [\[change source\]](#)

[Lucayans](#) were the first people to arrive in the Bahamas. They moved into the southern Bahamas from [Hispaniola](#) and [Cuba](#) around the 11th century AD, having come there from [South America](#). They came to be known as the Lucayan. About 30,000 Lucayan lived the Bahamas when [Christopher Columbus](#) arrived in 1492. Columbus' first landfall in the [New World](#) was on an island named San Salvador, which some scholars believe to be present-day [San Salvador Island](#).

The Spanish forced much of the Lucayan population to move to Hispaniola. They were used for [forced labor](#). This and the exposure to foreign [infectious disease](#) led to most of the population of the Bahamas dying.^[11] [Smallpox](#) alone wiped out half of the population in what is now the Bahamas.^[12]

In 1670, [King Charles II](#) rented out the islands to the [Carolinas](#), along with rights of trading, tax, and [governing](#) the country.^[13] During this time, the Bahamas became a haven for [pirates](#), including the infamous [Blackbeard](#). To restore proper government, Britain made the Bahamas a [crown colony](#) in 1718. The first governor was [Woodes Rogers](#).^[14]

After the [American War of Independence](#), the British resettled some 7,300 [Loyalists](#) and their [slaves](#) in the Bahamas from New York, [Florida](#), and the Carolinas. The first group of loyalists left [St. Augustine](#) in East Florida in September 1783. These Loyalists established [plantations](#) on several islands. [British Americans](#) were outnumbered by the African-American slaves they brought with them, and ethnic Europeans remained a minority in the territory. On [10 July 1973](#) The Bahamas gains full [independence](#) within [British Commonwealth](#).

People

[\[change\]](#) | [\[change source\]](#)

See also: [White Bahamian](#)

Further information: [List of Eastern Caribbean people](#)

Nearly 500,000 people live in The Bahamas. The ethnic groups of the population is:

82% [African](#) descent

15% [European](#) & Mixed descent

3% [Asian](#) and other.

DNA estimates of The Bahamas

Ethnicity

Black African		% approx. 70%
Mulatto		13.8%
White		12.4%
Asian		3.8%

Languages

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The [official language](#) of the Bahamas is [English](#), but they also speak a local dialect called [Bahamianese](#). The Bahamian dialect is based based on the West Country England accents along with South Hiberno English dialects with strong influences from [West African](#) languages.

Geography and climate

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

See also: [List of cities in the Bahamas](#)

In 1864 the Governor of the Bahamas reported that there were 29 islands, 661 cays, and 2,387 rocks in the colony.^[15]

The closest island to the United States is [Bimini](#). The southeasternmost island is [Inagua](#). The largest island is [Andros Island](#). [Nassau](#), capital city of The Bahamas, is on the island of [New Providence](#).

All the islands are low and flat. The highest point in the country is [Mount Alvernia](#) on [Cat Island](#). It is 63 metres (207 ft) high.

Climate

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The climate of The Bahamas is subtropical to tropical. The [Gulf Stream](#) can be very dangerous in the summer and autumn. This is when hurricanes pass near or through the islands. [Hurricane Andrew](#) hit the northern islands during the [1992 Atlantic hurricane season](#). [Hurricane Floyd](#) hit most of the islands during the 1999 Atlantic hurricane season.

There has never been a freeze reported in The Bahamas. The temperature can fall as low as 2–3 °C (35.6–37.4 °F).

Districts

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The Bahamas are divided into 32 districts and the town of [New Providence](#).

The districts are:

1. [Acklins](#)
2. [Berry Islands](#)
3. [Bimini](#)
4. [Black Point, Exuma](#)
5. [Cat Island](#)
6. [Central Abaco](#)
7. [Central Andros](#)
8. [Central Eleuthera](#)
9. [City of Freeport, Grand Bahama](#)
10. [Crooked Island](#)
11. [East Grand Bahama](#)
12. [Exuma](#)
13. [Grand Cay, Abaco](#)
14. [Harbour Island, Eleuthera](#)
15. [Hope Town, Abaco](#)
16. [Inagua](#)
17. [Long Island](#)

1. [Mangrove Cay, Andros](#)
2. [Mayaguana](#)
3. [Moore's Island, Abaco](#)
4. [North Abaco](#)
5. [North Andros](#)
6. [North Eleuthera](#)
7. [Ragged Island](#)
8. [Rum Cay](#)
9. [San Salvador](#)
10. [South Abaco](#)
11. [South Andros](#)
12. [South Eleuthera](#)
13. [Spanish Wells, Eleuthera](#)
14. [West Grand Bahama](#)
15. [Green Turtle Cay](#) (not shown on map)

Military

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The Bahamas does not have an army or an air force. The Royal Bahamas Defence Force (RBDF) is the navy. The Defence Force has a fleet of 26 coastal and inshore patrol craft along with 2 aircraft and over 850 personnel including 65 officers and 74 women.

Related pages

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- [Bahamas at the Olympics](#)
- [Bahamas national football team](#)
- [List of rivers of the Bahamas](#)

References

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

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3. ↑ "*[•GENERAL SITUATION AND TRENDS](#)*". *Pan American Health Organization*. Archived from *[the original](#)* on 2014-04-27. Retrieved 2012-04-04.

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11. [↑](#) Joanne E. Dumene, "Looking for Columbus", *Five Hundred Magazine*, April 1990, Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 11–15
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13. [↑](#) ["Diocesan History"](#). Anglican Communications Department. 2009. Archived from [the original](#) on 10 February 2009. Retrieved 7 May 2009.
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15. [↑](#) Albury:6

Other websites

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The [Simple English Wiktionary](#) has a [definition](#) for: ***Bahamas***.

- [Government official website](#)
- [The Ministry of Tourism's official website](#)

Wikimedia Commons has media related to ***The Bahamas***.

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Independent

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v t e 	<u>Countries and territories in the Caribbean (West Indies)</u>
Independent Countries	Antigua and Barbuda • Bahamas • Barbados • Cuba • Dominica • Dominican Republic • Grenada • Haiti • Jamaica • Saint Kitts and Nevis • Saint Lucia • Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • Trinidad and Tobago
Governed by other countries	Anguilla • Aruba • British Virgin Islands • Cayman Islands • Guadeloupe • Curaçao • Martinique • Montserrat • Navassa Island • Puerto Rico • Sint Maarten • Turks and Caicos Islands • U.S. Virgin Islands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v t e 	<u>Caribbean Community (CARICOM)</u>
Antigua and Barbuda • Bahamas ¹ • Barbados • Belize • Dominica • Grenada • Guyana • Haiti • Jamaica • Montserrat • Saint Kitts and Nevis • Saint Lucia • Saint Vincent and the Grenadines • Suriname • Trinidad and Tobago	
Associate members	Anguilla • Bermuda • Cayman Islands • British Virgin Islands • Turks and Caicos Islands
Observer countries	Aruba • Colombia • Curaçao • Dominican Republic • Mexico • Puerto Rico • Saint Martin • Venezuela
¹ Member of the community but not the Caribbean (CARICOM) Single Market and Economy.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> v t e 	<u>Members of the Commonwealth of Nations</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antigua and Barbuda

Sovereign states
(Members)

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- [Belize](#)
- [Botswana](#)
- [Brunei](#)
- [Cameroon](#)
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- [Cyprus](#)
- [Dominica](#)
- [Eswatini \(Swaziland\)](#)
- [Fiji](#)
- [Gabon](#)
- [The Gambia](#)
- [Ghana](#)
- [Grenada](#)
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Dependencies of Members	Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashmore and Cartier Islands • Australian Antarctic Territory • Christmas Island • Cocos (Keeling) Islands • Coral Sea Islands • Heard Island and McDonald Islands • Norfolk Island
	New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook Islands • Niue • Ross Dependency • Tokelau
	United Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Akrotiri and Dhekelia • Anguilla • Bermuda • British Antarctic Territory • British Indian Ocean Territory • British Virgin Islands • Cayman Islands • Falkland Islands • Gibraltar • Guernsey • Isle of Man • Jersey • Montserrat • Pitcairn Islands • St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha • South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands • Turks and Caicos Islands
Source: Commonwealth Secretariat - Member States		

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