

TRAVELLING TO THE BAHAMAS DURING COVID-19

We would like to provide the best explanation about the current requirements for traveling to and from the Bahamas. We have updated the COVID procedure for you all, for both coming to The Bahamas and returning to the US. Please know this is still a dynamic process and we will have to continue to update the communication with you all as requirements change and we hope this document helps!

STEPS PRIOR TO DEPARTING FOR THE BAHAMAS



VACCINATED TRAVELLERS

1

Testing Requirements

- Those traveling to The Bahamas from other countries who have been fully vaccinated will be required to obtain a **negative COVID-19 test** (either a Rapid Antigen Test or PCR), taken **no more than three days (72 hours) prior to the date of arrival** in The Bahamas. The name and address of the lab where the test was performed must be clearly displayed on the test result.
- All fully vaccinated travelers wishing to travel inter-island within The Bahamas will be required to obtain a **negative COVID-19 test** (either a Rapid Antigen Test or PCR), taken **no more than three days (72 hours) prior to the date of travel from the following islands:** Nassau & Paradise Island, Grand Bahama, Bimini, Exuma, Abaco, and North and South Eleuthera, including Harbour Island.
- Effective 27 December 2021, **any person presenting test results older than three days (72 hours) will not be allowed entry** into The Bahamas.

2

Bahamas Travel Health Visa Application

- All persons traveling to The Bahamas, and those traveling inter-island, are **required to apply for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa** at <https://travel.gov.bs/>
- Fully vaccinated travelers will be required to **upload negative test results** (either a Rapid Antigen Test or PCR), in addition to **valid proof of vaccination** (such as government-issued or CDC vaccine record card).



UNVACCINATED TRAVELLERS

1

Testing Requirements

- Unvaccinated travelers ages 12 and older entering The Bahamas or traveling inter-island within The Bahamas from New Providence (Nassau), Paradise Island, Grand Bahama Island (Freeport), Eleuthera or Inagua, must obtain a **negative COVID-19 RT-PCR Test** (including PCR, NAA, NAAT, TMA or RNA) **test taken no more than three days (72 hours) prior to the date of arrival**, and present to the operator of the airline or vessel on which they are traveling. The test must return a negative result for entry.
- All children **between the ages of 2 and 11 are required to obtain a negative COVID-19 test** (either a Rapid Antigen Test or RT-PCR Test), taken **no more than three days (72 hours) prior to the date of arrival** to The Bahamas. Children under the age of 2 are exempt from any testing requirements.
- Effective 27 December 2021, **any person presenting test results older than three days (72 hours) will not be allowed entry** into The Bahamas.

2

Bahamas Travel Health Visa Application

- All persons traveling to The Bahamas, and those traveling inter-island, are **required to apply for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa** at <https://travel.gov.bs/>
- All unvaccinated persons, ages 12 and older, will be required to **upload their negative COVID-19 PCR**

- Applications for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa can be submitted **3 days prior to travel**.
- For international travelers, the proof of vaccination must confirm they have passed the **two-week immunity period**.
- At this time, **the Bahamas Government will only be accepting vaccinations by AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria/Covishield), Janseen (Johnson & Johnson), Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty), Moderna (Spikevax), Sinopharm, Covaxin or Sinovac.**
- As part of the Bahamas Travel Health Visa application, travelers will be required to opt-in to COVID-19 health insurance that covers them for the duration of their stay in The Bahamas. **The cost of insurance is included in the Bahamas Travel Health Visa application fee.**
- Bahamas Travel Health Visa **applications take up to 48 hours to process** and should be completed with adequate lead time.
- **The cost of the Bahamas Travel Health Visa is dependent on the length of stay and vaccination status.**
- All travelers eighteen (18) years and older are required to complete an individual Bahamas Travel Health Visa application.
- Persons seventeen (17) years and younger are to add a profile within the account of their parent or guardian.

test results. Tests must be taken no more than 3 days (72 hours) prior to the date of arrival.

- Children **between the ages of 2 and 11** will be required to **upload their negative Rapid Antigen Test or PCR test results.** Tests must be taken **no more than 3 days (72 hours) prior to the date of arrival.**
- Applications for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa can be **submitted 3 days prior to travel.**
- As part of the Bahamas Travel Health Visa application, travelers will be required to opt-in to COVID-19 health insurance that covers them for the duration of their stay in The Bahamas. **The cost of insurance is included in the Bahamas Travel Health Visa application fee.**
- Bahamas Travel Health Visa **applications take up to 48 hours to process** and should be completed with adequate lead time.
- **The cost of the Bahamas Travel Health Visa is dependent on the length of stay and vaccination status.**
- All travelers eighteen (18) years and older are required to complete an individual Bahamas Travel Health Visa application.
- Persons seventeen (17) years and younger are to add a profile within the account of their parent or guardian.

To learn more about the requirements please click on the following link <https://travel.gov.bs>. This is the website you must visit in order to obtain a Travel Health Visa to The Bahamas and purchase a Voucher for the return Antigen test to the US.

FOR ALL TRAVELERS TO THE BAHAMAS

1

Apply for Travel Health Visa

- First-time travelers will need to **create a profile**. You will need to upload your passport and vaccination card in addition to providing basic information. Once a Profile is created, you can then **Add a Trip**. **You can add your trip up to 3 days before your arrival date.**
- Returning travelers will need to **log in** to their account and **Add a Trip**. Creating a Profile can be done anytime. To Add a Trip, **flight information** is required **and Negative COVID test results** must be uploaded.

2

Select International and follow instructions

- **Address of Bair's Lodge:** Queens Highway
- **Destination Island:** Andros

Purchase a Voucher, this is important!

- You must purchase a **voucher for a Rapid Antigen to return to the US**. We will administer the tests onsite at Bair's.
- You need to bring your original Vaccination card to The Bahamas. Customs will not accept a photocopy or copy on a cellphone.
- You need to bring 2 printed copies of your Travel Health Visa and 1 copy of your return test Voucher to The Bahamas. Customs will not accept a copy on a cellphone. Bair's Lodge needs the Voucher in order to perform and upload the test results.

SOME OTHER ITEMS TO NOTE

- Please know this is still a dynamic process, so these may change with little warning. Before you travel, make sure to check [The Bahamas' COVID-19 Status page](#). Monitor that page for the latest updates and stay in touch with us for any travel information.
- We highly recommend guests fly **directly to Congo Town** and not go through Nassau. Traveling through Nassau requires 2 Travel Health Visas (one international and one domestic) and an additional COVID test to depart Nassau for Congo Town.
- Our recent experience is that the visa is approved somewhere between a few minutes and a few hours, but last season it took several days. We highly recommend applying for the visa **as soon as the COVID test results are received**.
- **For all travelers to the US:** You will present Bair's Lodge manager with Voucher purchased with Travel Health Visa.
- Rapid Antigen test will be performed the **day prior to returning to the US**. Return documentation will be uploaded to the airline and a hard copy will be given to you.
- We recommend our clients to live chat with a representative at the website below. The representatives have been very helpful in answering specific questions regarding the travel protocols for The Bahamas: <https://www.bahamas.com/>
- **IMPORTANT:** It will also be extremely helpful to remember your username and password for <https://travel.gov.bs/>. We can solve a lot of problems on the ground when you are at Bair's Lodge, but you need to be able to log into your account.

BOTTOM LINE

We have a safety system in place and feel comfortable operating in these trying times. That does not eliminate the risk. We have operated quite successfully but understand that if you travel to the Bahamas and contract COVID-19, you could be responsible for a great personal expense, whether it is a quarantine or a medical charter home.

We reserve the right to close Bair's Lodge at any time and move your reservation forward. In this context, we strongly encourage our clients to purchase medical insurance with comprehensive cover for coronavirus, including hospitalization and the costs of self-isolation if required. Customers are solely responsible for purchasing medical, travel, or trip insurance.

We would love to host you for great fishing, please consider the above information carefully. Let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to another successful season!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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