

Bimini, Bahamas

The Bahamas consist of more than 3,000 islands and 180,000 square miles of ocean. Discovered in 1492 by Columbus, the first English arrived in 1648, becoming a British colony in 1718. The Bahamas was granted independence on July 10th, 1973.

History

Bimini is the closest island to the US sitting 50 miles east of Miami. Bimini consists of three islands; North Bimini (Port location), South Bimini, and East Bimini. There are also a number of small cays. Bimini is a popular diving and snorkeling location due to its many shipwrecks.

Food

- Conch Salad - fresh, diced conch, onion, bell pepper, cucumber, and tomato; seasoned with salt, pepper, fresh lime.
- Cracked Conch - conch, onion, bell peppers, celery, salt, and pepper; fried. (Cracked = coated in batter and deep fried.)
- Johnny Cake - a cross between bread and a cake; baked until golden brown.
- Conch Stew - conch boiled and a sauce of tomatoes, tomato paste, chopped potatoes, onions, salt, and pepper.
- Peas n' Rice - Salt pork, bell peppers, onion, and thyme are fried. Then salt, pepper, tomato paste, canned pigeon peas, and coconut milk are stirred in and brought to a boil, then rice is added.
- Goombay Smash - orange and pineapple juice, coconut-flavored rum, and light, gold, and dark rums. Garnished with slices of pineapple or orange.



Culture

Junkanoo is one of the most well known examples of Bahamian culture; a festival with music, dance, and colorful costumes.



Animals

Animals unique to the Bahamas are: bahamian rock iguanas, green sea turtles, bahamian oriole, collared peccary, guppies, harpy eagle, bahamian hutias, gecko, funnel eared bats, and flamingos. Animals unique to Bimini are: the Bimini Boa, Bimini Ameiva (last moving lizard) and one of the rarest fish in the world, the Smalltooth Sawfish.

Business

Tourism accounts for 70% of the Bahamian economy and brings 5.8 million visitors, most on cruise ships. Offshore banking accounts for 15% of the economy with the Bahamas holding the most offshore entities and/or companies in the world. Agriculture accounts for 7%, though 80% of the food supply is imported. Bahamians raise limes, lemons, grapefruit, oranges, tomatoes, sugar cane, cucumbers, sweet potatoes, onions, and okra.



Language

English is the official language, though you'll notice a creole influence.

Currency

The Bahamian Dollar, which is equivalent to the US Dollar. The USD is widely accepted. Major credit cards are accepted in many locations.



Cell Service

Widespread, strong in the more populated areas, fair in less dense areas.

Internet

Frequently available free with a purchase at restaurants and pubs.

Drive

On the left hand side of the road. Cell phone use is prohibited. Your US license is valid here.

What to see and do?

Popular attractions within walking distance of the port:

- Public beach; at the base of the pier. Food trucks and vendors set up in this area.
- Golf cart rentals; explore the island on your own!
- Shopping; Alice Town is a 20 min walk from the port.

Excursion or transportation needed attractions:.

- Diving
- Snorkeling
- Clear Boat or Glass Bottom Boat Tours

