

# Bahamas

## Medical Summary

*The health risk information presented here is summarized from Shoreland Travax<sup>®</sup>, a decision-support tool used by health care providers to perform a detailed health risk analysis based on specific locations, individual travel styles, and traveler risk behaviors. Travax provides practitioners current, independently researched malaria risk and prevention recommendations in a map-based format that goes beyond the annual WHO and CDC statements included here. Not included here are current reports from Travax of disease outbreaks or environmental events that may pose elevated risks to travelers' health and safety. The Providers section of this site offers a directory of health care providers who utilize Shoreland Travax for travel health counseling. Learn more about the detailed reports and maps available from these practitioners (includes links to samples).*

## General Information

The Bahamas is a developing nation classified as high income. Located in the Atlantic Ocean (southeast of the U.S. and north of Cuba), the climate is classified as humid equatorial (long dry season).

## Immunizations

### Yellow Fever

Although yellow fever does not occur in Bahamas, an official yellow fever vaccination certificate may be required depending on your itinerary.

- *Requirement:* A vaccination certificate is required for travelers aged  $\geq 1$  year coming from countries with risk of YF transmission. This also applies to airport transit stops (no exit through immigration checkpoint) longer than 12 hours in risk countries.

### Other Vaccines

Depending on your itinerary, your personal risk factors, and the length of your visit, your health care provider may offer you vaccination against hepatitis A, hepatitis B, influenza, measles, mumps, rubella, rabies, or typhoid fever. Routine immunizations, such as those that prevent tetanus/diphtheria or "childhood" diseases, should be reviewed and updated as needed.

## Malaria

The following is current information as reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

### WHO—*International Travel and Health* (current online update, Country List)

No statement given.

### CDC—*Health Information for International Travel* (current online edition)

Areas with malaria: None.

Drug resistance: Not applicable.

## Other Concerns

### Travelers' Diarrhea

Moderate risk exists throughout the country, with minimal risk in deluxe accommodations. Food and beverage precautions may reduce the likelihood of illness.

Travelers should carry loperamide for self-treatment of diarrhea and, if risk is moderate to high, an antibiotic to add if diarrhea is severe. Consult a knowledgeable health care provider regarding which antibiotic is appropriate for you and most effective

for your destination.

### Other Food-Borne Illnesses

Precautions to prevent seafood poisoning may be needed.

### Insect- and Arthropod-Borne Diseases

Chikungunya, dengue, West Nile virus may pose a risk. Personal protective measures are important.

### Other Disease and Health Risks

Additional concerns include helminths, marine hazards, sexually transmitted infections.

## Consular Advice

*The material below includes information from the U.S. Department of State (DOS), U.K. Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), as well as from additional open-source material. Standard safety precautions that apply to all international travel can be found in the Library article Safety and Security.*

### Terrorism Risk

No intrinsic risk of attack by terrorist groups exists, but unforeseen attacks are possible.

### Crime

High risk of violent crime (armed robbery, sexual assault, home invasion, and murder) exists on New Providence Island (including Nassau and Paradise Island) and Grand Bahama (including Freeport).

Moderate risk of petty crime exists in Nassau and Freeport, including cruise ship ports and popular resort areas.

Risk exists of robberies and/or assaults occurring after consuming intentionally drugged food or drink; tourists are frequently targeted.

### Unsafe Areas

Piracy (involving private, leisure vessels) may occur.

### Water Safety

Basic safety standards for recreational water activities (including scuba diving, snorkeling, jet-skiing, kayaking, and tubing) are often not in place. Rent water sports equipment from reputable operators. Scuba dive only with personnel certified by PADI or NAUI and use equipment only from PADI- or NAUI-certified dive operators.

### Transportation Safety

High risk of traffic-related injury or death exists. The road-traffic death rate is 12 to 24 per 100,000 population. The rate is less than 10 in most high-income countries. Speed laws are poorly enforced. Driving at night is not advised. Seek local advice before traveling on roads outside urban areas after dark.

Traffic flows on the left-hand side of the road. Travelers (including drivers and pedestrians) accustomed to traffic moving on the opposite side should be vigilant when navigating traffic.

Many taxis are unsafe. Use taxis from official ranks or dispatched via smart phone app or radio from a reputable company and ascertain the license or identification number of the dispatched vehicle.

### Airline Safety

U.S. Federal Aviation Administration has determined that the civil aviation authority of this country oversees its air carriers in accordance with minimum international safety standards.

### Natural Disasters

The hurricane season is from June through November. Floods may occur.

## Consular Information

## Selected Embassies or Consulates in the Bahamas

- | United States: [+242] 322-1181; [bs.usembassy.gov](http://bs.usembassy.gov)
- | Canada: [+242] 393-2123; [travel.gc.ca/assistance/embassies-consulates/bahamas](http://travel.gc.ca/assistance/embassies-consulates/bahamas)
- | United Kingdom: The U.K. does not have an embassy or consulate in The Bahamas.
- | Australia: [+242] 327-8301; [trinidadandtobago.embassy.gov.au](http://trinidadandtobago.embassy.gov.au)

## The Bahamas' Embassies or Consulates in Selected Countries

- | In the U.S.: [www.bahamasembdc.org](http://www.bahamasembdc.org)
- | In Canada: [+1] 613-232-1724
- | In the U.K.: [www.bahamashclondon.net](http://www.bahamashclondon.net)
- | In Australia: [www.consulate.net.au](http://www.consulate.net.au)

## Visa/HIV Testing

HIV testing is not required to obtain a tourist, work, or residence visa.

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