

TAILWATERS TRAVEL | WORLDWIDE ANGLING DESTINATIONS

# ABACO LODGE

ABACO ISLAND, BAHAMAS



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# ABOUT

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## **OUR TRAVEL SERVICES ARE FREE OF CHARGE!**

***YOU THE CLIENT DON'T PAY A PENNY FOR OUR TRAVEL SERVICES!***

Our destination recommendations, organization, and pre-trip planning services are completely free of charge - and oftentimes less expensive than booking direct with a lodge or outfitter. We can assist with every question, concern, or special request related to your adventure at zero cost!

## **WE HAVE BEEN THERE**

We do not send our clients to any destination we have not visited ourselves. From the remote rivers of the Kamchatka Peninsula, the marshes of Southern Louisiana, to the sandy flats of the Seychelles, we have experienced the travel involved, eaten the food, fished with the guides, understand the seasonality, and exactly what gear and tackle is most productive.

## **FINDING THE DESTINATION THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU**

Whether you are looking for a family holiday, a long weekend getaway, or a hard-core fish camp, we have assembled a catalog of destinations that fits the billing. Super exotic trips to far-off spots like Seychelles, Patagonia, or Bolivia are today's cutting edge epic adventures, while the beachfront home in the Bahamas with tailing bonefish out back may be what you are after. The affordable three-day trip to Louisiana for trophy redfish is a home-run, specialized permit fishing trips may be on the menu, or a mountain destination with loads of non-angling activities for the whole family is an option. We have the first-hand experience and personal relationships in place to send you and your group to the right spot at the right time of year.

## **NOT EVERYTHING TO EVERYONE**

We do not pretend to be the experts on every single fishery or fishing lodge on the planet. Some competing agents will list dozens of lodges or outfitters in a single region. We know from nearly twenty years experience there is no way to maintain a sincere or realistic connection with a specific lodge with such a cumbersome catalog of offerings. Managers, politics, food, travel logistics, guides, the health of the fishery, and personal relationships change at fishing lodges often! Tailwaters takes a less is more approach by choosing to represent the best of the best operators in the business. Tight relationships and legitimate partnerships with our operators ensure our clients are properly paired up with a destination at the top of its game. What's the point of offering two dozen fly-out lodges in Alaska when you can cherry pick the best? We are not the Wal-Mart of the fly-fishing travel industry - and don't want to be.

## **BEST PRE-TRIP PLANNING IN THE BUSINESS**

When you book a trip with us you will receive one of our destination specific pre-trip planner & outfitting guides. These comprehensive packets contain everything from maps to gear & tackle recommendations, information about commercial travel arrangements, lodge policy, country information, itinerary, travel insurance and much more. Our outfitting guides have been meticulously prepared to provide you with the most informative and up to date pre-trip planning reference in the industry. Although we are always on call at the office, our outfitting guides are the ultimate go-to resource for questions or concerns about planning your trip.

## ABACO LODGE // BAHAMAS

**DESTINATION DESCRIPTION****LOCATION: MARSH HARBOUR, ABACO ISLAND****PRICE: \$7,950 / PER PERSON (7 NIGHTS / 6 DAYS)****SPECIES: BONEFISH, PERMIT, TARPON, MORE**

**In September 2019 Hurricane Dorian destroyed much of Abaco Island - including completely leveling the infamous Abaco Lodge. As of the Spring of 2023 the lodge has been rebuilt and is better than ever.**

Located minutes from Marsh Harbour, Abaco Lodge is the perfect destination both for someone getting their feet wet in saltwater fly fishing as well as the veteran angler looking to experience the best of the Bahamas. Abaco's waterfront property couldn't be more idyllic for a relaxing experience in addition to world class service and accommodations. Owner and operator Nervous Waters spares no expense when it comes to making guests feel as comfortable as possible.

It's the only lodge on Abaco directly located on the Marls, which is ideal for accessing the best fishing and shorter travel times. The lodge sits in an oasis of palm trees and faces west, looking out to the expansive flats known as the Marls. Abaco is one of the most accessible islands in the Bahamas with direct flights from the U.S. Don't confuse the convenience in travel as a compromise to the quality of the fishing! Abaco Lodge has an incredible multispecies fishery, and a staff

of veteran and energetic guides that prove to put their guests on permit, tarpon, barracuda, and of course, bonefish.

Abaco's Marls-side headquarters also means no trailering, no fuel stops, and more time fishing. Back on dry land, fine dining, and attentive service ensure ultimate comfort after a full day's fishing. Abaco sets a new standard when it comes to accommodations and guest comfort. The ocean front swimming pool and comfortable lounging area are a perfect place to enjoy a relaxing day. After fishing, guests are pampered with rounds of appetizers, cold Kalik, and cocktails, just before an unforgettable dining experience featuring Bahamian cuisine. Their guide staff also has some of the most seasoned professionals you will find, and Abaco's custom Maverick skiffs ensure access to shallow flats and maximum comfort.





## FISHING PROGRAM

**Abaco's central location and direct launch to the Marls allow access to a vast labyrinth of flats, mangroves, and bonefish in numbers like nowhere else in the Bahamas.** Abaco's guides will fish the Marls as far south as Cross Harbor and as far north as Treasure Cay, with boat runs anywhere from 10-45 minutes. A twenty minute westerly run will put anglers on the outside ocean edge of the Marls. The sheltered Marls are home to tremendous numbers of healthy and unpressured bonefish in the 2-4lb range with the occasional 5-8lb fish. There are LOTS of tailing fish in the seemingly endless shallow water.

While anglers can expect to explore some on the west side of Abaco Island, the majority of the fishing is in the "Marls," a massive wilderness of prime bonefish habitat. This huge flats area is peppered with unpopulated pine forest islands, mangrove cays, and one of the largest and least pressured bonefish populations in the Bahamas. While most fishing is from the bow of the boat, there are some wading opportunities if the tide is right to stalk bonefish on foot.

Permit and juvenile tarpon are a fairly regular sighting, so an extra rod or two rigged for these species isn't a bad idea to have on boat. Barracuda, sharks and mutton snapper are other frequently encountered species that might put a bend in your rod if you are interested in presenting the fly.

Weather dependent, Abaco will utilize their 18ft 115hp powered Maverick to make a quick 1hr run to Moore's Island which can provide consistent shots for enormous bones, freaky sized permit, and surprisingly consistent tarpon action.

The Abaco lodge boats are docked at the lodge and can be launched directly into the Marls or trailered to other locations within 30 minutes of Marsh Harbor. Trailering the skiffs allows for the ultimate in flexibility no matter the conditions. Guides can also drive anglers to various locations in which walk & wade options are available on hard sandy flats.

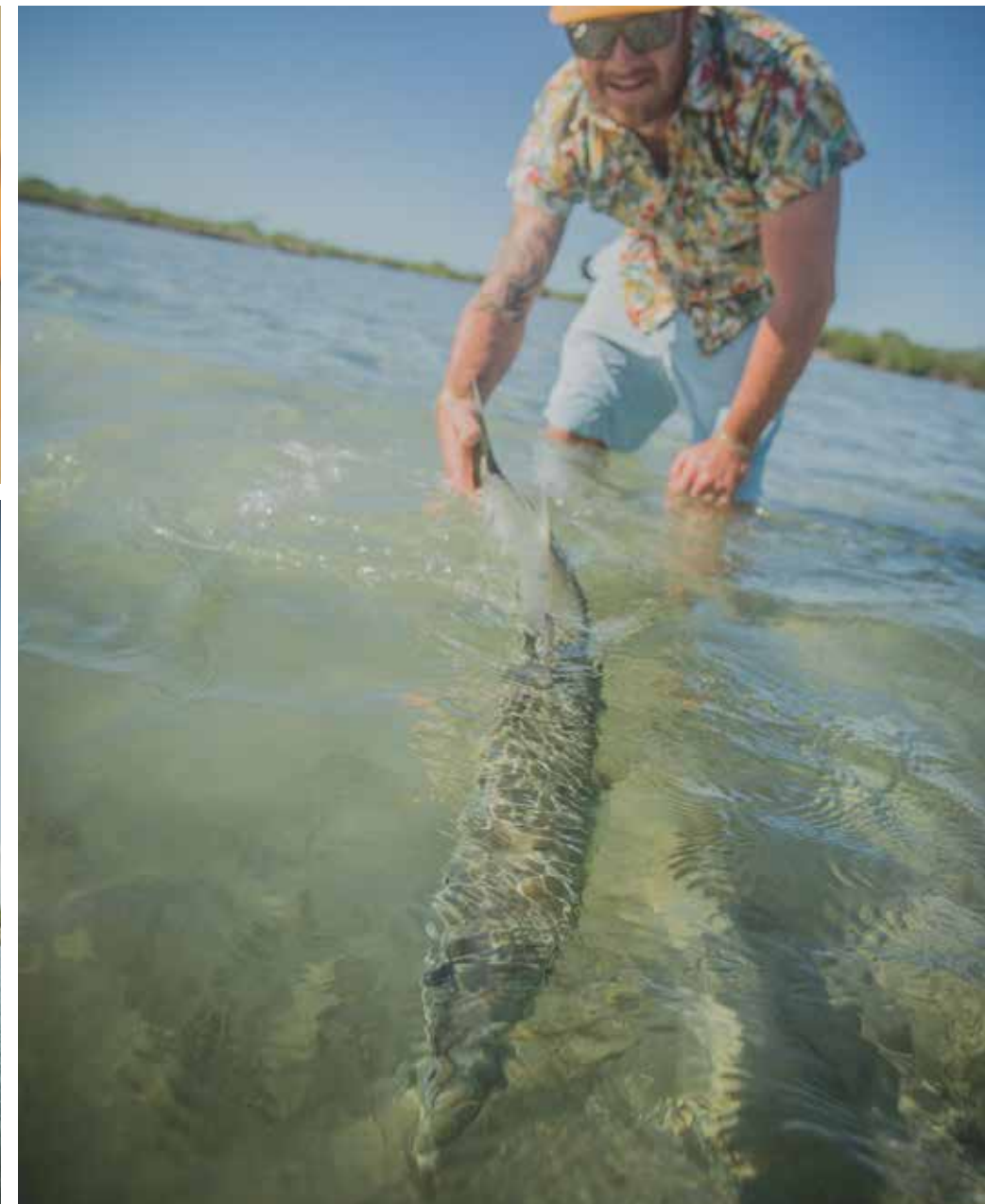
In addition to wonderful flats, Abaco has incredible blue water fishing. We are happy to coordinate a day, or two, with the best captains available. Target species include: marlin, sailfish, dorado, wahoo, and tuna—depending on the season. Arrangements can be made at the lodge, but the best captains book early and we recommend you do as well. There will be an additional charge for offshore fishing.

### | THE BOATS

Abaco has many similarities to the fishing areas around Key West with some areas of open water crossings, some deeper flats for permit and tarpon, and some super skinny areas with technical poling and maneuverability required. Abaco Lodge teamed up with Maverick Skiffs to create a custom boat for the lodge with all these situations in mind.

The bow forms a large casting platform with line mats and leaning posts. The cockpit has a padded YETI cooler and backrest for comfort on boat runs. They're also equipped with first aid kits and an emergency satellite phone. Comfortable running in open water, heavy enough to handle a swell in deeper water, and light enough to pole around shallow for bones - these boats are a huge part of Abaco's success on the water each and everyday.

There are quality fly rods, reels and fly lines available at the Lodge for you to use if needed at no extra cost. Please advise us of your need for a rod/reel prior to arrival to ensure availability. A charge of \$250 will be billed to you in the event a rental rod is broken. This covers the cost of shipping and repair. Flies and leaders are also available for purchase at the lodge.





## ACCOMMODATIONS

### CAPACITY | 12 ANGLERS

Abaco's waterfront lodge is a mini oasis surrounded by palm trees and landscaped with tropical plants and flowers, creating a feeling of ultimate privacy and relaxation. The all inclusive bar opens to a massive outdoor patio situated next to a swimming pool and outdoor fire pit. With views of the expansive flats and epic sunsets, guests can take comfort in huge outdoor couches and chairs as they enjoy a cold beverage of choice and multiple rounds of appetizers before dinner. The rebuilt lodge consists of a separate waterfront building distanced from the main lodge for excellent privacy and solitude.

The bright, charming lodge welcomes guests with spectacular waterfront views. Enjoy a cold Kalik by the pool, or gather around the fire pit where, under a setting sun the day's fishing stories enter into island lore. The lodge consists of seven double rooms with a capacity of 12 anglers sleeping in king or queen beds. All of the rooms offer air conditioning and a private bathroom. Wireless Internet will keep you connected back home. Phone service is available and there is great cell coverage throughout the island. There is also a large flat screen TV for catching all the games. The lodge's main bar is stocked with spirits, cold beer, soft drinks, plenty of ice, and mixers for cocktails. The lodge also has an on-site fly shop where you can purchase everything from flies, leaders and tippet, and lodge logo-wear.





Food in the Bahamas is the magical encounter between the treasures of the sea, history, culture, and its people. The lodge serves delicious fresh local produce, specializing in fresh fish (Mahi, Tuna, Grouper, and Hog Snapper), conch, and lobster.

Every day begins with a full breakfast featuring a variety of cereals, as well as fresh fruits. Eggs will be cooked to your preference, with bacon, sausages, and grits. Hot cereals are also available to order. Abaco's chef bakes bread, pastries, and cookies daily - and coffee is made from freshly ground beans. A daily lunch menu card allows you to choose the next day's lunch and the contents of the boat coolers. After you return from fishing, you will find cold beers, spirits, and a blender for cocktails, as well as stacks of soft drinks. A wide range of local spirits will be available free of charge at the lodge.

Delicious appetizers are served before dinner on the veranda, so you can sample local specialties such as cracked conch, grouper fingers, and conch salad. Dinner starts with appetizers such as homemade soups or conch ceviche. Our culinary emphasis is on mixing local dishes with light fresh recipes such as snapper with mango salsa, and some barbecued fish. Desserts will vary from chocolate decadence to key lime parfaits.

House wines such as Malbec from Argentina, Chilean Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon will be served with dinner. We can happily cater to special dietary needs. Abaco Lodge has an open bar policy at the lodge and a great selection but if you have a preferred brand of liquor or wine, please be sure to let us know in advance so we can ensure the lodge has it available upon your arrival. Otherwise, you can bring your own bottle.





## TRAVEL

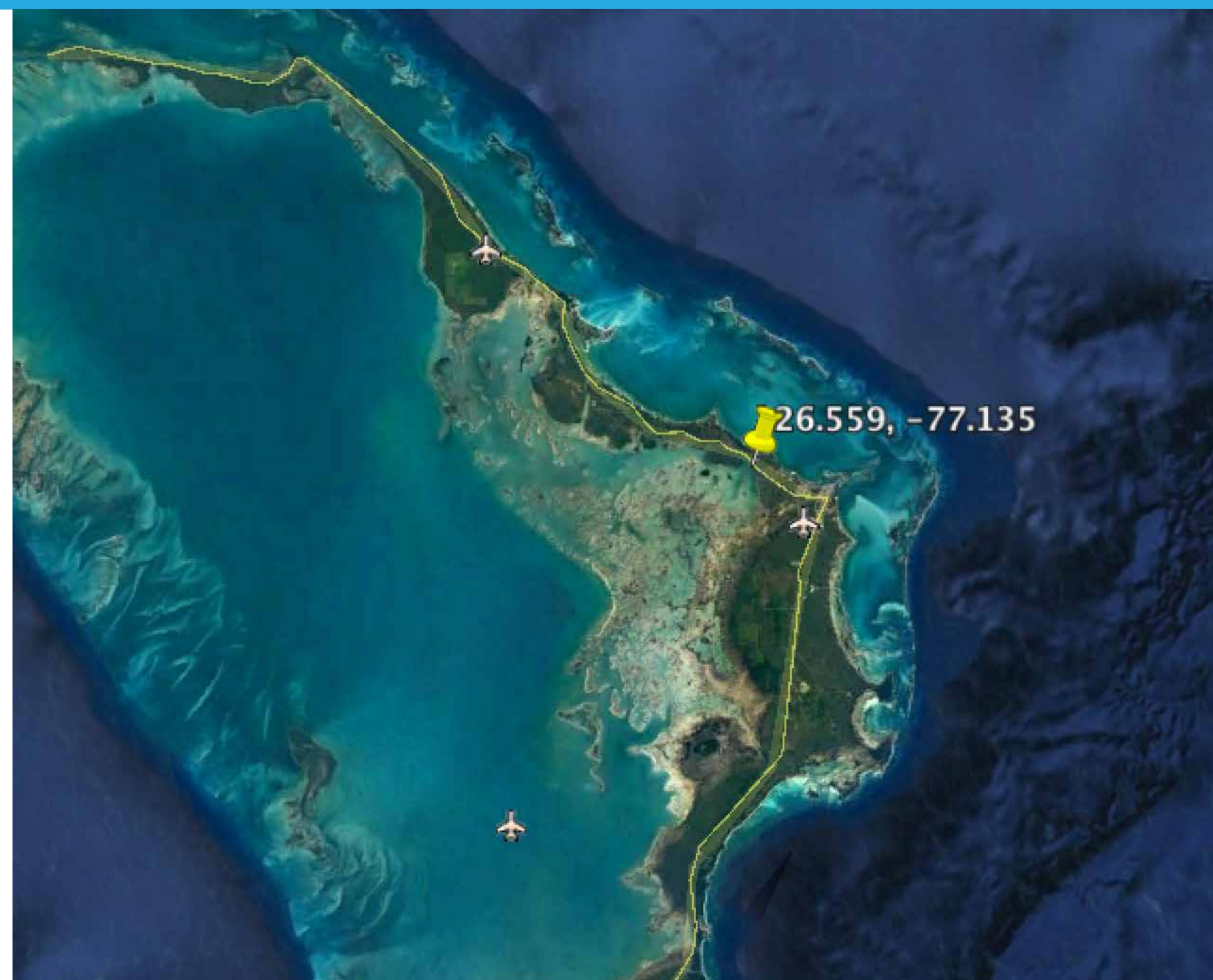
### MARSH HARBOUR, ABACO ISLAND (MHH)

Guests travel to Marsh Harbour (MHH) commercially from numerous major airports including Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, W. Palm Beach, Orlando and New Smyrna. Abaco could not be easier to get to from the U.S. with daily and affordable flights on board major U.S. carriers such as American and United. There is also daily non-stop service from Nassau to Marsh Harbour with multiple carriers. It's only a quick 10 minute drive to the lodge from the airport.

With a quick transfer of only a few minutes from airport to the lodge, Abaco is likely one of the easiest lodges in the Bahamas to get to. Direct flights to Nassau are also available with connections on to Marsh Harbour. Airlines servicing that route are Bahamas Air, Sky Bahama, Lynxair and Cherokee Aviation.

### | JSX CHARTERS FROM DALLAS

Dallas based charter airline, JSX now offers non-stop flights to/from Marsh Harbour and Dallas Love Field (DAL).



# SAMPLE ITINERARY

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## TRAVEL DAY

Travel to Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, W. Palm Beach, Orlando or New Smyrna and make a commercial connection to Marsh Harbour. No need for expensive charter flights!

Upon arrival at the Marsh Harbour Airport, guests are driven ten minutes to the lodge by a representative from Abaco Lodge. You will then get situated in your room, and prepare yourself for cocktails, dinner, and the next few days of fishing.

## FISHING DAYS

6:30 am Coffee at the buffet table

7:00 am Breakfast

8:00 am Depart dock

4:00 pm Return to Lodge

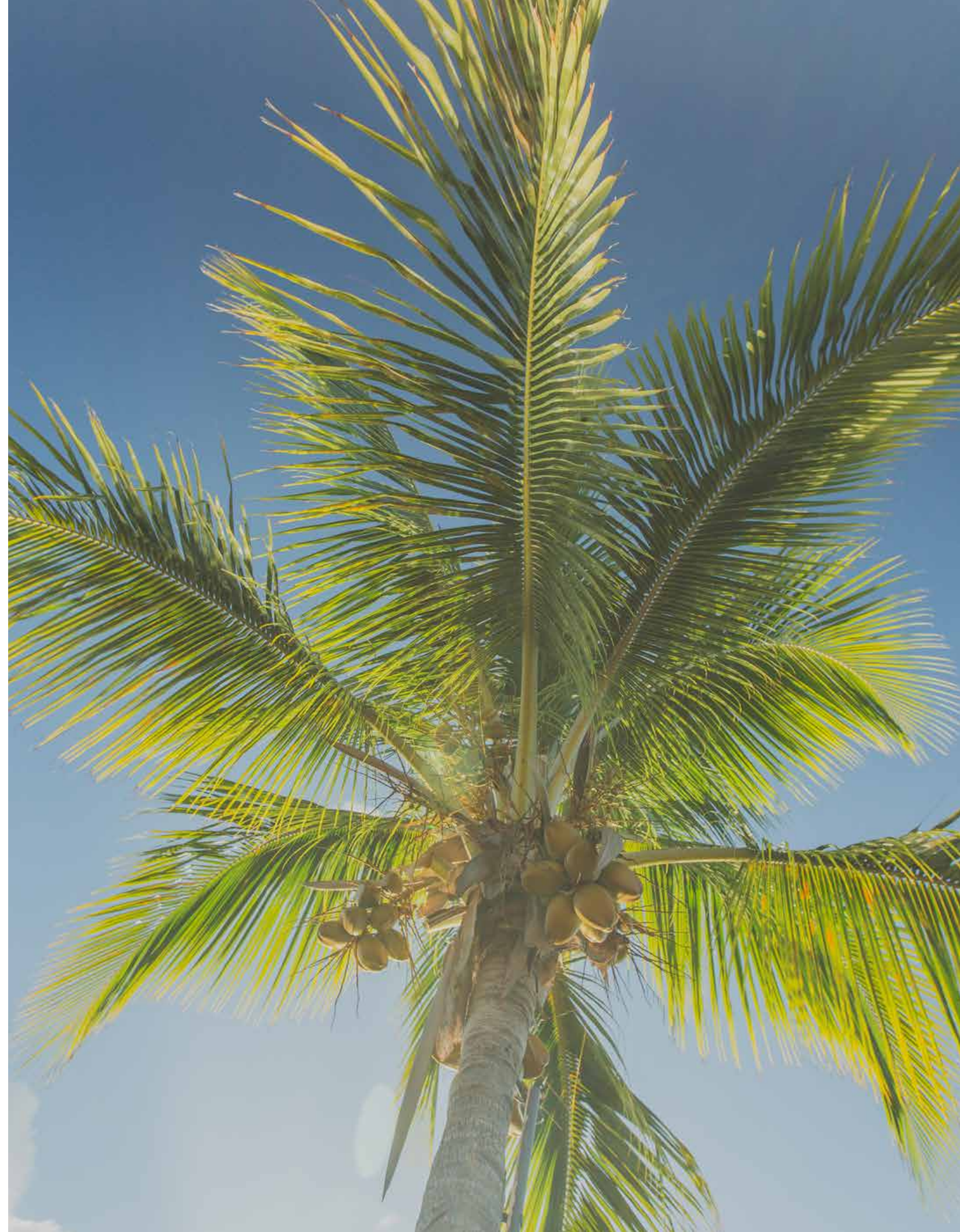
4:15 pm Cocktail Hour

5:30 pm Appetizers

7:00 pm Dinner

## DEPARTURE DAY

Transfer to the Marsh Harbour airport for your commercial flight.





## WHEN TO GO?

### ABACO LODGE IS OPEN OCTOBER - JULY

One thing people often neglect when considering a trip to the Bahamas is the weather. The Bahamas are actually in the Atlantic Ocean, not the Caribbean Sea. As a result the islands are more susceptible to northerly cold fronts than their Caribbean neighbors to the south, as well as being susceptible to tropical storms during hurricane season. Abaco Lodge is CLOSED August - September. There are a few loose weather guidelines you must consider.

#### MARCH - JULY

The prime spring months to fish the Bahamas. Consistently warm (not too hot) weather dominates the forecast. There is typically less wind as well.

**AUGUST - SEPTEMBER:** Peak Hurricane Season! Lodge is closed.

#### OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

The best time to fish in the fall. Conditions are very similar to March - April type conditions.

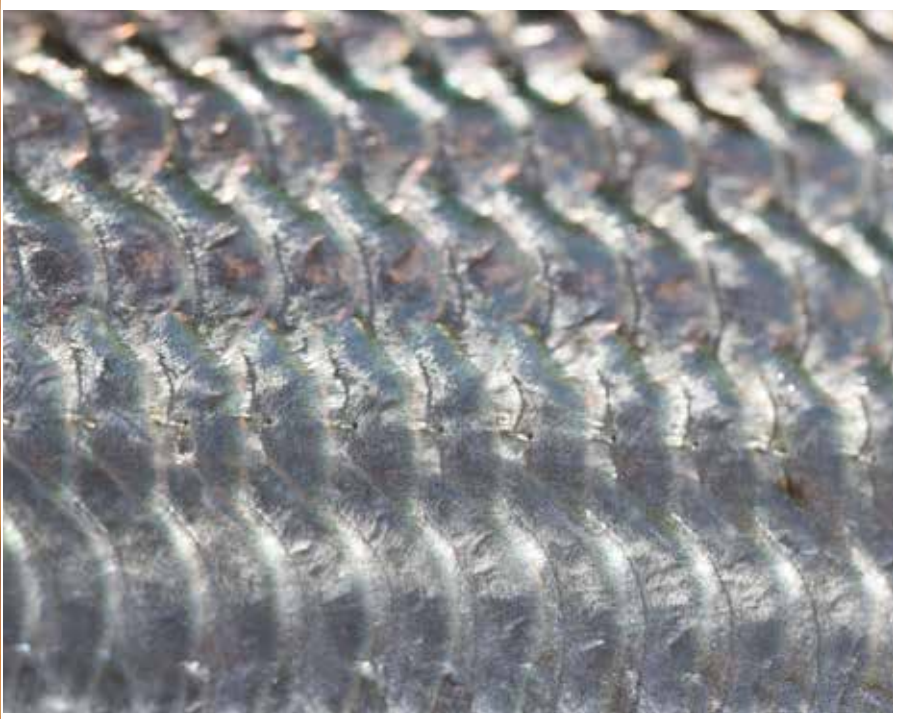
#### DECEMBER - FEBRUARY

Cool weather and windier conditions can be a factor. The fish are of course always there, but you run the risk of getting cooler weather from the States. However, it is equally as possible to have 80-degree days and little wind. Some of the best bonefishing occurs following the passing of a cold front when water on the flats warm inviting rested bones back on to feed. This is a great time for trophy bonefish.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Fishing is the primary activity as a guest at Abaco, but Abaco Island has loads of adventurous activities for non-fishing guests to tackle. A naturalist can be hired to give tours around Schooner Bay, and the beaches are stunning. Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay are not too far north and both offer nightlife, restaurants, and shopping. Abaco can assist in organizing snorkeling and diving excursions around other parts of the island as well.







## 2024 RATES

### (SHARED ROOM / SHARED BOAT)

**7 NIGHTS / 6 DAYS FISHING - \$7,950 PER PERSON**

**6 NIGHTS / 5 DAYS FISHING - \$7,350 PER PERSON**

**5 NIGHTS / 4 DAYS FISHING - \$6,750 PER PERSON**

**4 NIGHTS / 3 DAYS FISHING - \$5,650 PER PERSON**

**3 NIGHTS / 2 DAYS FISHING - \$4,275 PER PERSON**

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

Lodging, meals, open bar, guided fishing, fishing license, transportation between Abaco Lodge and Marsh Harbour Airport and loaner fishing equipment (rods, reels and lines)

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Commercial Airfare to Marsh Harbour, Abaco Island, transfer from Treasure Cay to the lodge, flies, gratuities and government taxes, laundry service

**\*\*\* Single room and guide: 75% surcharge (when available)**

**Full day fishing on arrival and departure:** \$950 per boat (1 or 2 anglers) + government taxes + fishing license

**Half day fishing on arrival and departure:** \$800 per boat (1 or 2 anglers) + government taxes + fishing license

**Non-Anglers:** \$650 / night + government taxes

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Tailwaters Travel must adhere to the cancellation policies of the guides, outfitters and lodges which it represents. **Abaco Lodge's policy follows:**

A 50% deposit of the total package cost for each trip/angler is due within 10 days of booking to secure the reservation. Full payment is due 120 days prior to departure. All deposits and/or final payments are non-refundable under any circumstances. Refunds of deposits/payments made on credit cards will be charged a 3.5% service charge to fully compensate Tailwaters Travel for all bank charges incurred. Receipt of deposit and/or final payment is acknowledgement that registrant has read and accepts the cancellation, refund and responsibility clauses.





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