



BAHAMAS



Easy Guided Private Pilot COVID Safe Checklist

From The United States to The Bahamas

Before Leaving The US:- Phase 1, June 15-30, 2020.

- ***All Travelers must submit a Travel Health from online at <https://travel.gov.bs/>***
 - The form must be filled out prior to travel
 - Users will receive an automated response
 - Failure to comply with the test requirements and health form submission will result in denied entry.
- ***COVID-19 PCR Swab Test with a Negative Result.***
 - No longer than 10 days old
 - Test results must be presented upon arrival
 - Children under the age of two not required to have the test.
 - Private pilots who do not deplane, are not required to take the test.

No quarantine required

Before Leaving The US: Phase 2, After July 1, 2020.

- ***All travelers will be required to submit an electronic health declaration form (TBA)***
- ***NO COVID-19 PCR test required***
- ***NO quarantine required***

Bahamas Gateway FBO facilities

When leaving the United States, pilots have the opportunity to use any of our Bahamas Gateway FBO's along the East Coast of Florida. Whether they are Looking for information on services such as fueling, hangar, tie-down and parking, aircraft rental, aircraft maintenance, flight instruction, or need guidance to walk you thru the procedures to enter The Bahamas. Our Gateway FBO can assist you.

<https://www.bahamas.com/faq/fbos>

Leaving The US for The Bahamas:- COVID Safe

REQUIRED (must be done):

1. File a Flight Plan (VFR or IFR)
2. File an e-APIS manifest outbound (we recommend doing the inbound at the same time)
3. Must have a Coast Guard approved life jacket for each person onboard.
4. Activate Flight Plan before leaving Florida. Radio frequencies:
 - a. Palm Beach 122.40
 - b. Miami/Fort Lauderdale 122.20
 - c. Fort Pierce 122.55
5. Prior to landing, close your flight plan with Nassau radio on 124.2 or 128.00. In order to close you may call 1-800-WXBRIEF or Nassau 1-242-377-7176. You can also use the blue phone at your disposal at your airport of entry free of charge.

Required Procedures:-

1. Flight plan filing – call 1-800-WXBRIEF and file your flight plan over the phone. Computer based systems are also valid such as www.fltplan.com.
2. File the e-APIS manifest – before filing the e-APIS manifest you need to enroll in the e-APIS manifest program. See attached index. At least one hour prior to departure AND receive an email from DHS clearing you for departure.
3. Navigate the e-APIS program to enter pilot and crew information as well as airplane information. This needs to be done ahead of time but at least one hour prior to departure. You need to submit a notice of departure. All of these first three items are described on the attached index below.
4. You do not need to depart from a US Airport Of Entry (AOE).
5. Close the flight plan.
6. Clear Bahamian Customs.

Bahamas Arrival:- COVID Safe

Prior to landing, close your flight plan with Nassau radio on 124.2 or 128.0. In order to close you may call 1-800-WXBRIEF or Nassau 1-242-377-7176.

Ongoing Practice of :

- *Physical distancing measures (3 ft-6 ft)*
- *Regular handwashing*
- *Wearing PPE such as face masks when appropriate*

Clear Bahamas Customs AOE:- COVID Safe

Clearing Bahamas Customs at Family Island Airports Health and Safety protocols:

- One person per aircraft is permitted in the Customs Office
 - Pilot and guests are required to wear masks inside the Customs Office
 - Hand Sanitizer points outside the Customs Office and in the vicinity
1. Must land at an airport of entry (AOE) to clear customs and immigration.
 2. Need to turn in 3 copies of the C7A general declaration form as well as a Bahamas immigration card – 1 per person.
 3. By cooperating with customs and immigration they will be happy to help you.

Bahamas Hotel Arrival:-

Prior to arrival, Pilots should have confirmed hotel reservation, upon arrival, pilots and their guest can take a Taxi, which will be sanitized after each use, to the hotel.

Each Hotels will have established Safety protocols guidelines. Please check with the hotel for more information.

- All hotel physical distancing & hygiene guidelines will be followed, once on island.
- The assigned workers will record customers' contact details, presumably to enable contact tracing if necessary.

Leaving The Bahamas for the US:- COVID Safe

REQUIRED (must be done)

1. File e-APIS manifest
2. File a Flight Plan (VFR or IFR)
3. Call US Customs at Your Airport of Entry on the East Coast
4. Depart Bahamas from an Airport of Entry
5. Activate Flight Plan
6. Get Discrete Squawk Code (for VFR and before penetrating ADIZ)
7. Clear Customs in the US
8. Close VFR Flight Plan

PROCEDURE (how to do it):

1. File e-APIS manifest:

You need to file the e-APIS manifest to return to US at least one hour prior to departure. This can be done one day or many weeks ahead of time. See attached index for more details.

2. and 3. Flight Plan & Customs:

Either a VFR or IFR international flight plan must be filed. It is recommended to include ADCUS (Advise Customs) in the Remarks box. Additionally, you **MUST** call the customs facility at your airport of entry on the EAST Coast of the United States at least 1 hour in advance to your estimated arrival and give them your tail number, departure point and Zulu estimated arrival time. Occasionally they will ask for the number of crew and passengers and how many are non US. The agent receiving your call will normally give you his two-letter call sign (his initials) which you should record. If he forgets, be sure to ask him for them since they could be your only proof that you did comply by calling and would save you a hefty fine. There are different ways to go about all this:

- a. **SIMPLEST** (no waiting in line and better audio): From your hotel room call Miami FSS 1-800-992 7433 or Nassau FSS (242) 377-7116 and file.
- b. **ACCEPTABLE** (possible line and poor audio): AOE airports in the Bahamas, which are the only ones we may depart from, have direct "Speed Dial" to the Nassau FSS (#31) as well as to the Customs facilities in the East Coast. This would be your last chance to call Customs!
- c. **NOT RECOMMENDED** (too much congestion and hassle): File in the air with either Nassau Radio 124.2 / 128.0 or with Freeport Radio 122.3. Not valid if departing from Nassau or Freeport; there you must file before taking off.

4. Departing The Bahamas:

At the Customs and Immigration Office of your departure AOE:

Clearing Bahamas Customs at Family Island Airports Health and Safety protocols:

- One person per aircraft is permitted in the Customs Office
 - Pilot and guests are required to wear masks inside the Customs Office
 - Hand Sanitizer points outside the Customs Office and in the vicinity
- a) Submit your stamped C7A form (Cruising Permit also known as Transire).

- b) For each person onboard (including the pilot) you must pay \$29.00 Departure Tax and submit the pink copy of the Bahamas Immigration Card (under 6 - NO tax)
- c) Submit two C7 General Declaration forms; 3 if you want a stamped copy to prove that you were in the Bahamas.

5. Activating Your Flight Plan:

Once clear of the airport and at altitude, you can activate your flight plan with:

- a) Nassau Radio on 124.2 or 128.0
- b) Freeport Radio on 123.0 if you are in their vicinity (back from Abaco)
- c) Miami Radio 126.7 Or 122.4 - Miami Remote around Nassau 118.4 and around Freeport 126.9.

If you are departing from Bimini you may activate your Flight Plan and get your ADIZ Squawk Code (step number 5) on the ground before starting up by transmitting on Miami Remote 122.1 and receiving (listening) on the Bimini VOR 116.7.

6. Getting a Discrete Squawk Code: (from FSS)

Unless you are on an IFR flight plan, you need to get a discrete squawk code before penetrating the ADIZ (around Bimini its only 7 miles west). The sooner the better since it has to get relayed to Customs. When you activated your Flight Plan you probably got a frequency for this purpose. Normally 126.7 / 126.9 will do it.

Since ATC might request other codes as the flight progresses, it is good practice to write down the original one and keep it if need arises. If no new squawk code was assigned or no contact with ATC, you are expected to cross the ADIZ using the original one given by FSS.

Flight Following is not mandatory but recommended. Depending on location and altitude go to: Nassau 121.0; above 6,000' you are in Miami FIR so Miami 125.7 should work.

Closing Flight Plan (VFR) in the air is a sure way of not forgetting to do it with the Customs distractions after landing. 126.7 works for most locations; around FPR - 122.55; PBI - 122.4; FXE and FLL - 126.7.

7. Clearing US Customs:

Must be done immediately after landing (all facilities have bathrooms). Take your entire luggage out of the airplane into customs leaving all aircraft doors open. No photography or cell phone calls are allowed.

Documents always required:

- a) Blue Customs form – one per family is enough.
- b) Passports.
- c) If you are not a US or Canadian citizen or if you are not a US resident (green card): one I-94 form per person.

Documents sometimes requested:

- a) Aircraft Registration
- b) Airworthiness Certificate

9. Close Flight Plan: (VFR)

Unless done previously in the air, call 1-800 992 7433 (WX BRIEF). International IFR flight plans like other IFR flight plans do not require to be closed by the pilot.