



Southern Bahamas

TELEPHONE CODE: 242 / POPULATION: 4957 / AREA: 1179 SQ MILES

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Best Beaches

- » True Blue Beach (p191)
- » Farquharson Beach (p194)
- » Shell Beach (p190)
- » Cape Santa Maria Beach (p185)

Best Places to Stay

- » Chez Pierre Bahamas (p186)
- » Cape Santa Maria Beach Resort (p185)
- » Long Island Breeze Resort (p187)
- » Beach Bungalow (p186)

Why Go?

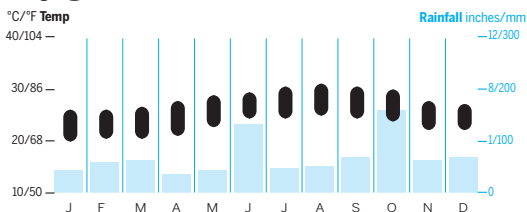
Tear up what you think you know about the Bahamas when you come to the remote islands of the south. Yes, the sand is just as white, the water the same extraordinary blend of blues and the welcome just as friendly (if not more so) – but the simple difference here is that of development. No megaresorts or fast food restaurants blight the coastline, seeing another person on a beach is a crowd, and traffic is virtually nil.

The largest island in the Southern Bahamas is aptly named Long Island, though it's hard to imagine anywhere less like its New York namesake. While it is lined with great beaches and enjoying some beautiful scenery, there are just a handful of small resorts on the island and finding total seclusion is never a problem.

The other islands in the south are Crooked and Acklin Islands, both near-wildernesses with some of the country's best bonefishing, and the truly remote Inaguas, famed for salt production and flamingos. Look no further if you're seeking the off-the-beaten-path Bahamas.

When to Go

Mayaguana



May Watch
sloops from all over the country take part in Salt Pond's Long Island Regatta.

February & March
This is the best time to see the flamingos at the Bahamas National Trust Park.

December Great Inagua's annual Junkanoo parade has lively dancing, music and great costumes.

LONG ISLAND

POP 2978

At over 80 miles from top to bottom and just a few miles across at its widest point, Long Island certainly lives up to its name. It's one of the most attractive islands in the Bahamas, boasting plantation ruins,

stunning white and sky-blue Gothic churches, lush greenery, attractive villages and miles of virgin scrub forest.

You'll also come to a myriad of magnificent bays, blue holes, and miles and miles of beach. The island's inhabitants live in about 35 settlements, growing bananas



Southern Bahamas Highlights

- 1 Dive Crooked Island's wreck, the **Million Dollar Mistake** (p191), where maybe the odd quarter still lies
- 2 Birdwatch and flamingo count in the haunting landscapes of the **Bahamas National Trust Park** (p194)
- 3 Eat and sleep like a very comfortable Robinson Crusoe in a beach hut at **Chez Pierre Bahamas** (p186)
- 4 Head for Long Island's gorgeous **Guana Key Island** to see the snoozing resident iguanas (p187)
- 5 Hike up to the **Christopher Columbus Monument** (opposite) honoring the explorer's arrival in the new world
- 6 Charter a boat and enjoy a picnic on Shell Beach and a visit to **Long Cay** (p191), Crooked Island
- 7 Swim at incredible **Dean's Blue Hole** (p188), the 660ft-deep entrance to one of the world's largest underwater caverns