

Navigating the Bahamas

Entry Procedures

Vice Commodore Ross Hunton

May 13, 2021

Fun with Governments

- Everything presented here is non-official and is compiled from various sources, including government and non-government sites, personal experience and direct reports from recent travelers.
- Rules change quickly – be prepared
- Things are getting much more homogenous, but as always when dealing with Bahamian officials: your mileage may vary.

Fun with Governments

- US Requirements
- Bahamas - Pre-departure
- On Arrival
- Returning
 - Bahamas Stuff
 - US Stuff

US Requirements - DHS

- All vessels 30+ feet are required to purchase a User Fee Decal from DHS
 - <https://dtops.cbp.dhs.gov>
 - Decals are good for the calendar year in which they are purchased. Expire on 12/31
 - If you try to clear in without one, they'll make you get one anyway.
 - ~\$30.

US Requirements - FCC

- “If you travel to a foreign port (e.g., Canada, Mexico, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands), a license is required. Additionally, if you travel to a foreign port, you are required to have an operator permit.” – <https://fcc.gov/bureau-divisions/mobility-division/ship-radio-stations>
- At least one person holding a Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Permit is required aboard stations in the maritime and aviation services when:
 - 1) Making international flights, voyages, or communications....
- “If you have a marine radio with DSC capability, you must obtain a nine-digit maritime mobile service identity (MMSI) number and have it programmed into the unit before you transmit. Each vessel needs only one MMSI number.”
- “If your vessel requires licensing by the FCC after you have obtained an MMSI number from BoatUS, Sea Tow Service, Shine Micro, Inc., or United States Power Squadrons, that MMSI number cannot be used during the application/licensing process when you file FCC Forms [159](#) and [605](#) with the FCC.”

US Requirements - FCC

- Restricted Radiotelephone Operator – PARR
 - Lifetime Permit – Forms 605 and 159. \$70
- Part 80 Ship Radio Service – PASM & PASR
 - Application Fee - \$70 + Regulatory Fee - \$150
- MMSI – FREE!
- File online with the Universal Licensing System –RR & SA
<https://fcc.gov/wireless/universal-licensing-system> (frn=userID)

Bahamas – Pre-Departure

- File for a Health Visa – <https://travel.gov.bs> – allow 24 hours for processing!
 - With Vax – upload photo of vax card, bring it with you. Pay fees. Site is being updated and may not completely make sense.
 - Lab name/address can be Publix, Florida DOH, whatever lines up with your vax card. Don't worry too much; it's the Bahamas mon.

Bahamas – Pre-Departure

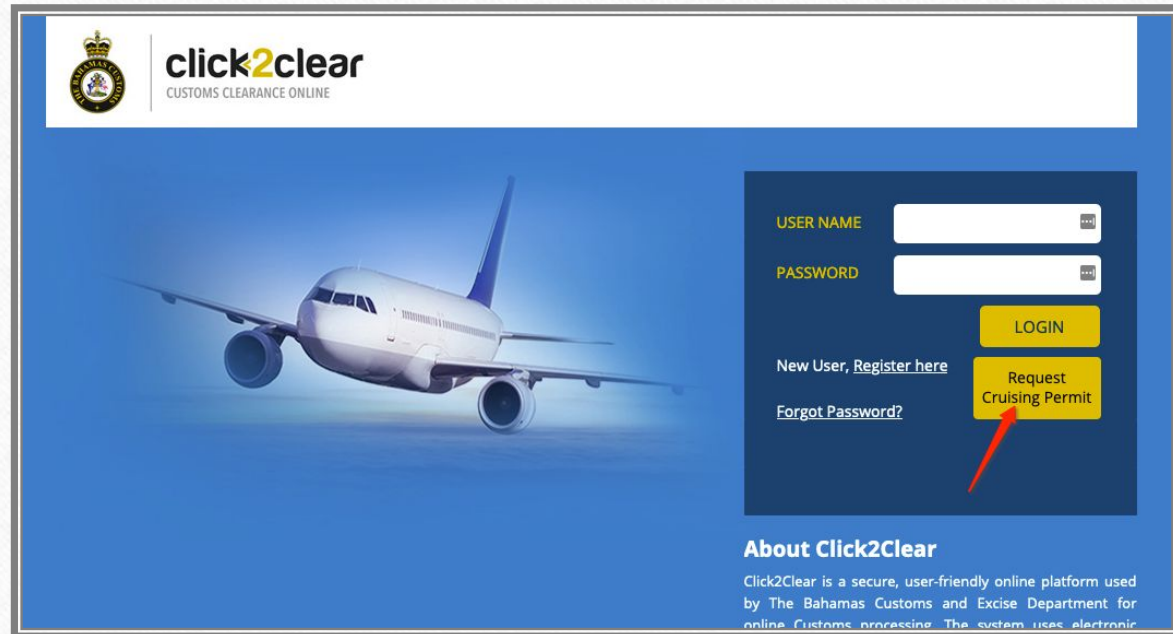
- Health Visa - no Vax:
 - CDC still has level 4 – Do Not Travel in place.
 - Must have RT-PCR test results within 5 days of scheduled arrival.
<https://www.bahamasmarinas.com/post/covid-19-rt-pcr-testing-sites>
 - Allowances can be made if en-route with no intermediary stops (and can prove it)

Bahamas – Pre-Departure

- Health Visa - Children:
 - Children 18 and up require separate health visa. Under 18 can be added to parent/guardian visa.
 - Children <10 not required to have test results.

Bahamas – Pre-Departure

- Once you have approved health visas, get your cruising and fishing permits online at click2clear SEW
<https://www.besw.gov.bs/TFBSEW/CustomsLogin/signin.c>
 - Submit vessel registration, health visas, Passenger documentation (passport images), pet permits, stores, firearm info
 - Make payment, print your forms, bring them with you.
 - Be sure to record your rotation number
 - Another site: gooutdoorsbahamas.com is listed as an authorized vendor as well



click2clear
CUSTOMS CLEARANCE ONLINE

USER NAME

PASSWORD

LOGIN

New User, Register here

Forgot Password?

Request Cruising Permit

About Click2Clear

Click2Clear is a secure, user-friendly online platform used by The Bahamas Customs and Excise Department for online Customs processing. The system uses electronic

Bahamas – Fees

- All boaters entering The Bahamas are required to pay an entry fee.
Up to 34': \$150 for 3 months; \$300 annually
35' – 100': \$300 for 3 months; \$600 annually
100' – 150': \$500 for 3 months; \$1,000 annually
150' – 200': \$800 for 3 months; \$1,600 annually
Over 200': \$1,000 for 3 months; \$2,000 annually
Fees Subject To Change

The fees will cover:

- 1) Cruising Permit
 - 2) Fishing Permit
 - 3) Departure Tax for up to three (3) persons. Each additional person above three will be charged a \$20 departure tax. This fee is good for a second re-entry within a 90-day period.
- If you plan to stay longer than 12 months, special arrangements must be made with Bahamas Customs and Immigration. Bahamas Customs and Immigration office hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Officers are on call during holidays and weekends.
 - There is no overtime charge.

Bahamas – Pre-Departure

- When asked which marina you will be arriving at, don't worry overmuch if the list doesn't include yours.
- FAQ's, videos,
<https://www.bahamas.com/getting-here/boating/boat-regulations>

Bahamas – On-Arrival

- Fly your Q flag until cleared in.
- Wear your masks when off the boat – only Captain is allowed off until cleared.
- You still need to fill out Immigration cards.
- In ports where you must check in with an office, go to Immigration first.
- Take all paperwork – Cruising permit, fishing permit, boat registration, passports, health visas, vax record/test results, immigration cards

Bahamas – On-Arrival

- No Vax and staying more than 4 nights/5 days? You'll need to take another PCR test on day 5 (cost included in health visa).
- No Vax – required to fill out a daily health questionnaire
- No additional restrictions/permits required for inter-island travel.
- Local regulations vary (curfews/business hours)
- WEAR YOUR MASK

Bahamas – Returning

- Use Click2Clear to create an outbound clearance.
 - Copy/modify your inbound clearance
 - Check out at your last port – return immigration cards

US – Returning

- On arrival in the US –
 - The SVRS System is discontinued.
 - Fly your Q flag until cleared.
 - For a really painful experience, clear in via phone at 800-432-1216
 - Alternately, download and clear in via the CBP ROAM mobile app.
 - SVRS/LBO ID's are recognized
 - Can use the app to establish Verified Traveler status for expedited clearance.
 - The CBP officer will likely want to do a video call with you. Wear clothes.

Thank You

- Questions? rhunton@gmail.com