



BAHAMAS

Pre-Clearance Program



***A Checklist on What You Need To Know,
To Breeze You through Security, Customs & Immigration in the US.***



Additional Information You Need to Know

Bahamas Pre-Clearance

In recent months, the process of aircraft pre-clearing in the United States by Bahamian Officials before departing to the Bahamas has been studied, and this plan is being implemented with much excitement and support. The close proximity of The Islands of the Bahamas to the United States makes pre-clearance a “game-changer” when it comes to enhancing the customer experience, simplifying the process, increasing safety, cutting aircraft operators’ costs, and making many additional destinations within the Bahamas more attractive to the private pilot.

The Bahamas Customs and Immigration pre-clearance of general aviation aircraft will become available effective March 00, 2020. This service at these two locations is only available for private general aviation flights and general aviation charter operators. It is not available for air carrier cargo or commercial airlines.

Hours of operation at the two locations:

The regular pre-clearance operating hours will be 7:00am to 6:00pm, local seven days a week, at the following Gateway FBOs:-

- 1. Banyan Air Service at FXE in the PILOT SHOP**
Located in: Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport
Address: 5360 NW 20th Terrace, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Phone: (954) 491-3170
- 2. Sheltair Aviation at FLL**
Located in: Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport
Address: 1100 Lee Wagener Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
Phone: (954) 359-3200

eAPIS requirements

All international flights must file the eAPIS (for private) to the Bahamas at least 60 minutes prior to departure.

Bahamas Customs Click2Clear - It's best to coordinate this option with the Bahamas Gateway FBOs.

Our Bahamas Gateway FBOs and Bahamas Customs officers will assist with training all persons and provide all necessary information on Bahamas Customs Click2Clear as well as assist with the various forms needed for entry into The Bahamas.

Pre-clearance process

The Bahamas Clearance process at the two (2) Ft. Lauderdale Airports, FLL and FXE, will be as though you were going through the Bahamas Customs and Immigration clearing process in the Bahamas.

Cost of Pre-Clearance

Cost of pre-clearance at the two (2) Ft. Lauderdale Airports is \$199.00 per flight. Your Bahamas Gateway FBO can provide a breakdown of these fees. Aircraft operators will find the pre-clearance fee a small price to pay in order to avoid landing at another Airport Of Entry (AOE) just to clear Bahamas Customs and Immigration before going onto their final destination.

Pre-clearance facilities

When landing at one of the two (2) Bahamas Gateway FBOs for Bahamas Pre-Clearance, the arriving aircraft will be assigned a parking spot by the FBO ground agent. All travelers will deplane and be escorted to the Bahamas Pre-Clearance processing area. Baggage can remain on board the aircraft. However, all baggage must be visible and accessible to the Bahamas Customs & Immigration officer when they are performing their on board checks. If further inspection is required, the baggage will be taken off and inspected planeside or in the processing area.

Security Screening

The pre-clearance security screening of the crew members and passengers will be performed by hand wand screening only. Security screening should take approximately five minutes in the VIP screening area.

Pre-clearance documentation

Bahamas Customs declarations forms C7A/C7 must be completed for each aircraft, and the Bahamas Immigration form must be completed by each person onboard the aircraft.

Baggage Clearance

In the unlikely event that Bahamas Customs & Immigration require the baggage to be offloaded and inspected at their facility, our Bahamas Customs officers will advise the pilot and a baggage cart will be provided.

Destination Bahamian Airports

After you clear at The Bahamas Customs & Immigration facility located at one of the two Gateway FBOs, you are welcome to land at your destination airport in The Bahamas whether it is a Port of Entry Airport or not.

Pre-Clearance Overview

Currently, aircraft located at certain airports in the Bahamas may use a pre-clearance process by United States Customs and Immigration officials before departing from the Bahamas en route to an official destination airport in the United States, which enables them to no longer have to clear upon arrival in the United States.

Similarly, any aircraft departing from the United States for The Islands of the Bahamas after undergoing the Bahamas Customs and Immigration pre-clearance in the United States, can now land at any official airport in the Bahamas without having to clear upon arrival in the Bahamas.

The Bahamas Customs and Immigration Pre-clearance Operations are strategically located within the two FBOs for the Bahamas law enforcement personnel to inspect travelers prior to boarding Bahamas-bound flights. The pre-clearance procedures conducted by Bahamas officials are the same Immigration, Customs, and Agriculture Inspections that International Air Travelers would experience upon arrival in the Bahamas had they not pre-cleared in the United States.

Currently, the Bahamas has four (4) Bahamas Customs and Immigration officers stationed at the two pre-clearance airport locations.

Pre-Clearance Benefits

All preliminary information indicates that establishment of Bahamas Customs pre-clearance in the United States will have five immediate and positive effects:

1. Busy people and potential Bahamas guests are finding that pre-clearing enables simplicity and convenience which encourages more frequent access to remote Islands and Cays throughout the Bahamas. Visitors, owners, and residents avoid longer flight times and additional costs not having to travel to Bahamas official Ports Of Entry before going onward to their ultimate destinations
2. Many people traveling to remote islands of the Bahamas via private and charter aircraft can now take a more direct route to their destination, which reduces the number of landings and greatly lowering operating costs while increasing safety.
3. For a private pilot, a great deal of stress is relieved before flying to a foreign country because clearing Customs and Immigration is done before departure. For those flying in the islands for the first time, direct access to remote Islands and cays greatly improves the passenger experience and builds confidence for future visits.
4. There is a large reduction in cost to private pilots with savings in fuel, cycles, and wear and tear on the aircraft. It also reduces the congestion caused by small aircraft traffic at the Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA). Pre-Clearance also enables pilots and passengers to exit the airport immediately upon landing in the Bahamas.
5. Pre-Clearance allows both The Bahamas Customs and Immigration departments to operate more efficiently and capture the General Aviation Government's revenues more accurately.

Enjoy Flying to The Islands of the Bahamas