



The Delphi Club

TRIP PLANNING INFORMATION

The Delphi Club is very well-equipped, but these notes are designed to ensure that you have everything you need and that you know what to expect when you get there.

CONTACT DETAILS

The Delphi Club,

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Sandy Walker (Gen Mgr): +1-242-577-1698

Email – delphi.bahamas@gmail.com

TIME ZONE

Eastern time (GMT-5).

CELLPHONE COVERAGE

The Club has cell phone coverage, BUT not all foreign networks have reciprocal agreements with the Bahamas telephone company, so yours might not work. If in doubt, check with your service provider.

CURRENCY

The local currency is the Bahamian dollar, but US dollars are readily accepted everywhere on a 1-for-1 basis.

ELECTRICAL

110 volt, US-style sockets.

INNOCULATIONS

Not required for the Bahamas, but take your own medical advice as to recommended precautions.

VISAS

Visas are not required for citizens of the EU, USA or most Commonwealth countries. For others countries, refer to the official website www.thebahamasguide.com/travel/visa.htm

PAYMENTS FOR EXTRAS

Guests are actively encouraged to settle their accounts at the end of their stay using cash

dollars (to avoid the exorbitant charges levied by Bahamian banks for credit card payments). The Club does, however, reluctantly accept Visa & Mastercard (but not American Express).

GRATUITIES

All tipping is entirely discretionary. No automatic service charges are applied. For guidance, it is usual to pay \$100-\$150 per guest per week for household staff and \$50 per boat per day for guides, shared by those in the skiff. But it's all entirely up to you.

PAYMENT & CANCELLATIONS

A 50% deposit is taken on reservation. The balance is payable no later than 30 days before the scheduled arrival date.

All reservations must be secured by a Visa or Mastercard with an expiry date later than the scheduled arrival date.

All cancellations incur a \$100 handling fee. If cancelled more than 90 days before scheduled arrival, no further charges apply.

Cancellations within 31-90 days of scheduled arrival will result in forfeit of the deposit. If 30 or less days notice is given, full charges apply.

If a planned visit to the Club becomes impossible due to severely adverse weather, guests will be offered a choice of three sets of alternative but equivalent dates within the following 12 months in which to utilize their prepayment.

Guests are strongly encouraged to purchase travel & trip cancellation insurance - with a policy that deals adequately with disruption by storms. Do also consider the possible need for medical evacuation; for this we highly recommend www.globalrescue.com.

CLUB FACILITIES

- ✓ Eight ocean-view bedrooms
- ✓ Choice of kingsize or twin-queen beds
- ✓ En suite bathrooms with showers
- ✓ Fully air conditioned
- ✓ Heated, fresh water swimming pool
- ✓ 1000 yards of sandy beach
- ✓ Excellent food & wine cellar
- ✓ Honesty bar
- ✓ Well-stocked library
- ✓ Satellite TV (in the library)
- ✓ Telephones in rooms (non-extortionate)
- ✓ Guest computer with free internet access
- ✓ Free wi-fi access in public rooms
- ✓ Rods for hire (top quality Hardy gear)*
- ✓ Tackle shop with local fly patterns
- ✓ Small clothing & souvenir store
- ✓ Beach towels
- ✓ Beach kayaks
- ✓ Snorkeling gear
- ✓ Card & games tables
- ✓ Fax
- ✓ Room safes
- ✓ Laundry service
- ✓ Potable water
- ✓ Soap, shampoo & bath gel in bathrooms
- ✓ Scuba lessons in the Club pool*
- ✓ Scuba diving over pristine reefs*
- ✓ Guided snorkeling*
- ✓ Nature & bird life tours*
- ✓ Cycle rental*
- ✓ Visiting masseuse/beautician*

* At extra charge

WEATHER

A detailed month-by-month weather chart is given on the Club's website www.delphi-bahamas.com and a summary is shown opposite. The Bahamas weather is generally most benign. The summer months can be hot and humid, with occasional heavy tropical rains that, in general, pass over rapidly.

Breezy weather in other months can affect fishing quality, as can the occasional cool or cloudy front in the winter. As with any fishing, one can be unlucky with conditions. But in the Bahamas bad weather rarely lasts for more than a few days.

Hurricanes in Abaco are rare but possible. The official hurricane season is from June to November, but August and September are generally seen as the months of highest risk and the Club is generally closed at that time.

WEATHER AVERAGES

Month	High	Low	Sun	Rain
	Temp	Temp		
	F	F	Hours	Inches
Jan	77	66	7.1	2.0
Feb	77	65	7.6	1.6
Mar	78	67	8.3	1.4
Apr	81	69	9.2	1.6
May	82	70	8.7	4.3
Jun	82	70	7.7	4.3
Jul	87	75	8.8	3.8
Aug	88	76	8.6	4.4
Sep	88	75	7.1	6.2
Oct	84	74	7.2	7.4
Nov	81	71	7.4	2.6
Dec	79	67	6.9	2.2

FISHING RATINGS

	<i>Bonefish</i>	<i>Permit</i>
Jan	Good/Variable	Occasional
Feb	Good/Variable	Occasional
Mar	Good/Excellent	Fair/Good
Apr	Good/Excellent	Good
May	Good/Excellent	Good
Jun	Good/Excellent	Good
Jul	Good/Excellent	Good
Aug	Good/Variable	Good/Variable
Sep	Good/Variable	Fair/Variable
Oct	Good/Excellent	Fair
Nov	Good/Excellent	Occasional
Dec	Good/Variable	Occasional

FISHING NOTES

The main target is bonefish. For bonefish the Club has a fly-fishing only rule, on a catch-and-release basis using barbless hooks.

There are some permit at certain times of year and occasional small tarpon. Fishing for shark, barracuda & other species is also popular and the fly-only rule does not apply.

The fishing day starts at 8.00am and finishes at 4.00pm. Half days end at 1.00pm. Fishermen are provided with a picnic lunch cool box and their selection of drinks.

Fishermen normally fish in pairs with a guide. Single occupancy of a boat may be available at extra charge.

The Club boats (Dolphin 16ft skiffs with 40hp motors) have padded seats, a leaning bar on the casting platform and dry storage lockers, as well as radios & GPS locators.

FISHING (continued)

The great majority of the fishing is from boats, but there may be opportunities for wading, especially at Cherokee Sound. Most of the fishing, however, is normally on the west side of Abaco in the famous Marls, where wading is less easy. Bonefish and other species are sometimes also caught right off the Club beach.

The Club guides – and the launch points for the boats – are rotated during the week to provide maximum diversity of scenery and opportunity. It is not possible to reserve specific guides, but all the Club's guides are highly competent professionals. Boat launch points are just 10-20 minutes away from the Club.

The Club shop has plenty of local fly patterns but no monopoly of wisdom, so bring all your bonefish and other saltwater flies.

OTHER ACTIVITIES & DAY TRIPS

Unlike some other bonefishing destinations, Abaco has a good tourism infrastructure and offers a wealth of attractive options for day trips, many of them involving boat rides. There are also reasonably-priced powerboat and sailing charters for cruising in the beautiful Sea of Abaco between Great Abaco and the outer cays.

The outer cays, with their charming colonial settlements such as Hope Town and Green Turtle Cay, are easily reached by ferries from Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay and make for pleasant day trips.

Big game fishing charters are available in Marsh Harbour and golf is available at Treasure Cay and sometimes at Ritz Carlton's superb Winding Bay course.

The Club has close links with excellent scuba diving instructors and snorkeling guides. Abaco has some wonderful reefs.

There is an excellent guide for nature tours who is a mine of information about Abaco's bird life, flora and fauna. Eco-tours by cycle or kayak are also possible. For more information on the local wild life, see our fascinating sister website <http://rollingharbour.wordpress.com>.

Marsh Harbour and Hope Town have some reasonable craft shops, although sophisticated shopping opportunities are generally a little limited.

TRAVEL CHECKLIST

FISHERMEN

- Rods - Bones: 9ft, 7-9 wt*®
- Rods - Permit/other: 9ft, 10-11wt
- Reels (with very good drag adjuster)*
- Lines (floating WF)*
- Leaders (10-15lbs)*
- Flies (see notes)*
- Poppers & steel traces for other species*
- Brimmed hat (with dark underside)*
- Sun glasses (good quality polarized, 2 pairs)
- Fishing pliers
- Snippers/scissors
- Small floating fly box
- Wading shoes (or old trainers)
- Boat socks (to prevent burnt feet)
- Fingerless stripping gloves
- Bandana/neckerchief*
- Small tape measure
- Band aids (for line burns!)
- Lightweight long fishing trousers
- Lightweight shirts, long sleeved*
- Small waterproof boat bag

ALL GUESTS

- Sun block (high protection)*
- Sun glasses
- After-sun
- Swimming gear
- Rain jacket*
- Light fleece jacket*
- Bug repellent *
- Antihistamines & after-bite cream*
- General clothing
- A light sweater
- Medications
- Toiletries
- Spare spectacles/lenses
- Books
- Passport
- Driving licence
- Credit cards
- Cash
- Camera & charger
- Laptop & charger
- Mobile phone & charger
- iPod/iPad & charger
- US plug adaptors
- Travel insurance documents
- Air tickets
- All relevant contact numbers

* Available in Club shop.

® Rental rods available

GETTING TO THE DELPHI CLUB

FROM THE USA/CANADA

Direct to Marsh Harbour

From Miami – American Eagle
From Fort Lauderdale – Continental
From West Palm Beach – Continental
From West Palm Beach - Bahamasair

Private charters

There are also many private charter companies that fly from a variety of Florida (and other US) airports direct into Marsh Harbour. For further information, please contact The Delphi Club office.

Via Nassau

Many US carriers fly into Nassau, including American, Continental, Delta & Jet Blue. Air Canada flies in daily from Toronto & Montreal.

Nassau to Marsh Harbour

Bahamasair (bookable online)
SkyBahamas (bookable online)
Abaco Air (book by email)

FROM EUROPE

Via Nassau

Ex London Heathrow – British Airways
Then Nassau to Marsh Harbour (MHH), see above. This is the only airline flying direct to the Bahamas from Europe. But....

Via USA

There are countless ways of getting to Abaco via the USA (specifically through New York, Miami, Orlando or several other US cities on a variety of carriers), but many of these may require an overnight in the US. Some popular routes include:

Via Miami to Marsh Harbour

Ex London – British Airways or Virgin Air
Ex Paris – Air France
Ex Frankfurt - Lufthansa
Then American Eagle to MHH.

Via Newark then FLL or West Palm

Continental fly to Newark, New Jersey from a variety of European cities, including London, Edinburgh, Dublin & Shannon. From Newark it is easy to connect to Fort Lauderdale or West Palm Beach and then direct to Marsh Hbr, all with *Continental*.

Via New York & Nassau

Fly with any airline to JFK then take Jet Blue or one of several other US carriers (see above) to Nassau. Then on to Marsh Harbour.

AIRLINE WEBSITES

Abaco Air – www.abacoaviationcentre.com
Air Canada – www.aircanada.com
Air France – www.airfrance.com
American Airways – www.aa.com
American Eagle – www.aa.com
BahamasAir – www.bahamasair.com
British Airways – www.ba.com
Continental – www.continental.com
Delta – www.delta.com
Jet Blue – www.jetblue.com
Lufthansa – www.lufthansa.com
SkyBahamas – www.skybahamas.net
Virgin – www.virgin-atlantic.com

GROUND TRANSPORT

Transfers from Marsh Harbour airport are by taxi. If your package includes free transfers, the taxis must be booked through the Club and we will need your flight details. Otherwise, taxis are generally plentiful at the airport – expect to pay c. \$100 for the 35 minute trip.

For those who prefer to be independent and free-ranging during their stay, car hire is also available at the airport. To pre-book, contact seastar@coralwave.com.

The Club also sometimes has one of its own cars available to guests for day trips.

*

We greatly look forward to welcoming you to the Delphi Club. If you have any questions, please feel free to ring me at the Club or on my cellphone 1-242-577-1698.

Sandy Walker, General Manager