



AOPA AIR SAFETY  
INSTITUTE

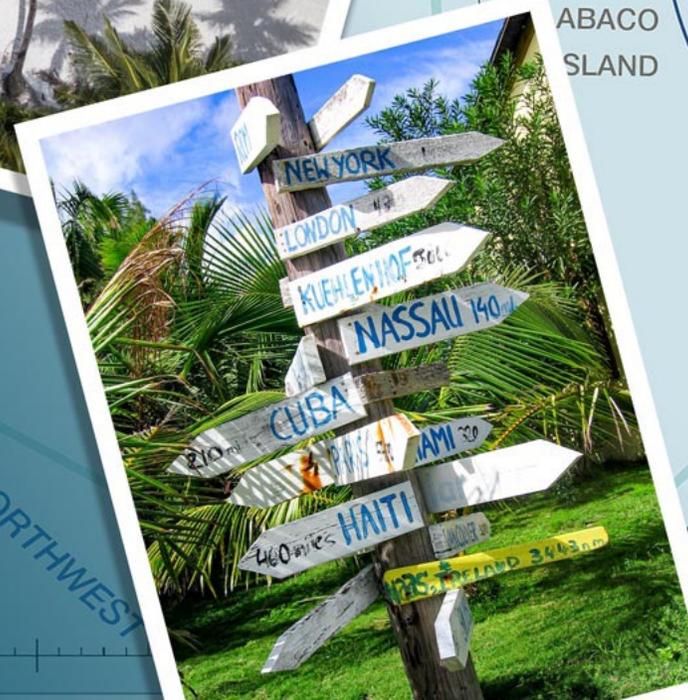


# FLYING TO THE BAHAMAS

Getting There Safely in Your Airplane



CTA/CLASS E  
TREASURE CAY  
SCTR A  $\frac{700 \text{ AGL}}{\text{SFC}}$   
UNICOM 122.8  
SCTR B  $\frac{6000}{700 \text{ AGL}}$   
NASSAU APP 121.0





# AOPA AIR SAFETY INSTITUTE

NOTE TO PILOTS: REFER TO THE SPECIFIC AOPA  
INFLIGHT INFORMATION PUBLICATIONS FOR  
INFORMATION ON U.S. AIRSPACE

CTA/HR  
CLASS E  
MYMA  
CTA - HC  
6000 - 6900  
1200 - 3FC  
RADIO  
128.0 124.2

ALL arriving traffic to  
Bahamian aerodromes shall  
monitor UNICOM 122.8 upon  
reaching a point 20 miles from  
the aerodrome of intended  
landing and when entering or  
departing designated Class E  
airspace

CTA/CLASS E  
LEONARD M THOMPSON  
1500 AGL  
3FC  
UNICOM 122.8

# Welcome!

FLYING BELOW 2000' OVER ABACO ISLAND  
IS RESTRICTED

# Welcome!



## Our panel:

- Valerie Talbot – Skyline Baron Pilot on social media
- Ahmad Williams – Bahamas Ministry of Tourism
- Richard McSpadden – AOPA Air Safety Institute

## Tonight's discussion:

- Upcoming Abaco Fly-in
- Why fly to the Bahamas
- What you need to be safe and legal
- Planning and filing
- Departure, arrival, and post-landing
- Embracing the Bahamas
- Return flight and post-landing in US
- Contingencies





# AOPA AIR SAFETY INSTITUTE

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# The Abaco Fly In

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# The Abaco Fly In – December 8-11



- Exciting opportunity to explore the Abacos
- Dec. 8: Ft. Lauderdale Exec (KFXE) – Marsh Harbor Int'l (MHH)
- Newly renovated waterfront Abaco Beach Resort
- Daily guided tours and activities
- Fabulous dining and cultural experiences
- Depart Dec. 11 back to the US



Image: ForeFlight

# SCAN TO REGISTER

THE ABACO FLY IN  
DECEMBER 8-12, 2022



Scan the QR code to register for the fly in or go to this link:

[bit.ly/FlyBahamas2022](https://bit.ly/FlyBahamas2022)



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# Preflight Planning

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# Why Fly to the Bahamas?

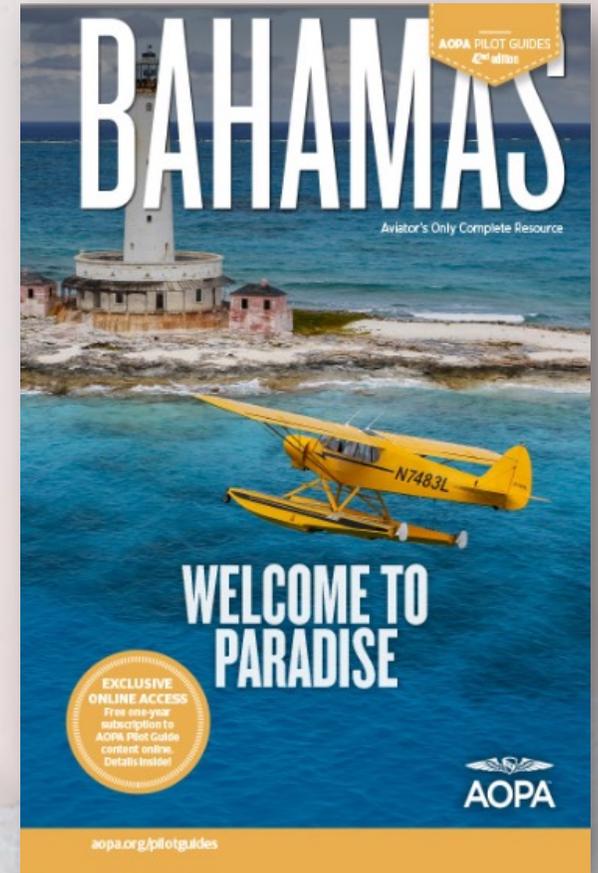


- What to do?
  - Pilot's playground
  - Fishing, snorkeling, diving, golf, etc.
  - Duty-free shopping, casinos
- Aviation infrastructure (runways, tie downs, transportation)
  - 57 landing facilities
  - 28 government owned, others privately owned
  - Get details before you go



# Planning

- AOPA Bahamas guide for airfield, other information
- Available for purchase online at [flytheislands.com](https://flytheislands.com)
- Downloadable forms:
  - Arrival report
  - Cruising Permit
  - Bahamas Transire (not required for private pilots cruising for pleasure)
  - General Declaration



# Other Planning Resources



- AOPA online course – *Understanding eAPIS*  
[airsafetyinstitute.org/courses/eAPIS](https://airsafetyinstitute.org/courses/eAPIS)
- AOPA Cross-border flying guide  
[flytheislands.com/international](https://flytheislands.com/international)
- Flying to the Bahamas guide  
[bahamas.com/getting-here/private-aviation](https://bahamas.com/getting-here/private-aviation)

# What You Need to be Legal and Safe



- Personal ID
  - Passport
  - Visa – not required for US citizens and resident aliens
  - COVID testing – not required for entry, travel, or exit
- Pilot certificate/medical/restricted RTO permit
  - Basic Med/Sport Pilot is welcomed
  - RRTO Permit – FCC Form 605 and Schedule E, file online at [bit.ly/FCC-605](https://bit.ly/FCC-605)
- Customs forms and paperwork and fees
  - 3 copies of C7A Bahamas Cruising Form per person
  - 1 Bahamas Immigration Card per person

 **BAHAMAS CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT** (C7A)  
**INWARD DECLARATION AND CRUISING PERMIT FOR PRIVATE AIRCRAFT ENTERING THE BAHAMAS**

1. This modified form of declaration under the Customs regulations is applicable only to private aircraft not carrying cargo and operated for pleasure and recreation only by a pilot who is not flying for reward or remuneration or for business purposes. Other aircraft must be reported on the General Declaration Form No. C7.  
2. This form should be presented in triplicate at all Ports of Entry other than Nassau, West End and Freeport, where two copies will be sufficient.

Time of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Pilot \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Aircraft \_\_\_\_\_  
Country of Registration \_\_\_\_\_ Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Customs Port of Arrival \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Crew \_\_\_\_\_  
Stores on Board \_\_\_\_\_

List of Arms and Ammunition \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that the above information is correct and that, except for the goods and passengers, no goods are being carried in the aircraft.  
I further certify that -  
(a) The aircraft referred to herein is operated to and within The Bahamas solely for reward or remuneration or for business purposes, and  
(b) To the best of my knowledge no person on board this aircraft is suffering from any known epidemic at my port of Departure.

Permission is hereby granted for the above described Aircraft to cruise The Bahamas

Official Stamp \_\_\_\_\_

We welcome you to The Bahamas and trust you will have a pleasant cruise through our Islands.  
This Cruising Permit should be retained until application is made for clearance from Customs at your Port of Clearance. It should be produced on request of the Customs Commissioner or Customs Officer as requesting will initial, stamp and return it to you upon departure.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**WELCOME TO THE ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS**  
Government of The Bahamas  
Immigration Arrival/Departure Card

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY IN INK USING UPPERCASE CHARACTERS, LIKE THIS: ABC123 ✓

Surname/Family Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_  
Country of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Country of Citizenship \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_ Arriving By \_\_\_\_\_  
HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_  
Country \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
TRAVEL INFORMATION \_\_\_\_\_  
Purpose of Visit (check one only) \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Accommodation \_\_\_\_\_  
Hotel Name or Intended Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Intended Stay (Nights) \_\_\_\_\_  
IMMIGRATION OFFICER'S STAMP \_\_\_\_\_  
OFFICIAL USE ONLY \_\_\_\_\_  
128317286

# What You Need to be Legal and Safe



- Airplane documents and registration
  - 12" N numbers
  - Transponder
  - ELT – 121.5 MHz okay per US/Bahamas agreement
  - Aircraft insurance policy valid for the Bahamas
- More than standard AROW?
  - Annual US Customs decal at [bit.ly/DTOPS-Main](https://bit.ly/DTOPS-Main)
    - Allow a few weeks for delivery
    - \$32.62 per year and per decal
  - Radio Station License (second R in AROW)
    - FCC Form 605 – must be filed electronically



Image: Meow Meow LLC, KBFI

# What You Need to be Legal and Safe



- Survival gear – required
  - Flotation – USCG approved life jackets for each person
  - One two-way communication radio
- Survival gear - suggested
  - PLB/EPIRB
  - Life raft sufficient to carry all occupants of aircraft
  - One VHF marine band radio in a waterproof container
  - One aviation band handheld radio
  - Portable GPS with spare batteries
  - Rations/water





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# Arriving and Departing

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# Filing



- IFR
  - Easiest way to cross international border
  - Required in Bahamas if landing beyond official sunset
- VFR
  - DVFR Flight Plan using ICAO form
- EAPIS – must be filed no less than 60 minutes prior to departing US
  - Enroll in program – [eapis.cbp.dhs.gov](http://eapis.cbp.dhs.gov)
  - May take a week to get enrollment confirmation
  - Must include Airport of Entry (AOE) in electronic form when filing
  - Print confirmation (or at least note confirmation number)
  - Must comply with Customs one-hour notification rule

**Electronic Advance Passenger Information System**  
CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY



# Departure – Inward Bound to Bahamas



- Use checklist in AOPA Cross-Border Flying document
- Activate flight plan before leaving US
- VFR flights, get transponder code from Flight Service 15 minutes before penetrating ADIZ
- En route radio and clearance expectations
  - Flight following optional – you can stay with Miami Center until transfer to Nassau Approach
  - Remember to close flight plan in the air with Nassau Radio on 124.2 or 128.0 MHz



# Arrival



- Ports of entry
  - Must land at an Airport of Entry (AOE)
  - Plan to arrive before 4 pm
  - Airports close at sunset – no night VFR
- Terminal procedures
  - 2 towered airports – Nassau and Grand Bahama (Freeport)
  - All others nontowered
- Weather and wind information
  - Nassau Radio 128.0 or 124.2 MHz
  - Miami Radio (remote) at Nassau 118.4 MHz
- Local procedures (VFR mirror US traffic procedures)
  - left traffic, CTAF is 122.8 MHz, TPA 1,000' MSL



# Arrival



- Close flight plan in the air on 124.2 or 128.0
  - If unable to close in the air call 1-800-WX-BRIEF
- Customs and Immigration
  - Prepare general declarations or cruising permit, immigration cards, and pay customs processing fee (\$50)
  - Be cooperative, they'll be happy to help
- Transportation and lodging
  - Ground transportation may be difficult to arrange after 4 pm
  - Many lodging options listed in AOPA directory
  - Always taxis outside airport during the day
  - Bahamas.com has information and deals for pilots

# Aircraft Parking, Tie down, Hangar



- Most airports do not have tie down ropes, bring your own
- Bring your own chocks or use rocks
- Hangars not available at most airports
- Tie-down fees at government airports are \$4 up to 4,000 lb.
- Private airports may impose higher fees



# Embracing the Bahamas



- The best part of your trip
- Join the vibe...slow down...appreciate the casual culture
- Patience, politeness



# Return Flight to U.S.



- Prior to departure from the Bahamas
  - File International IFR or DVFR Flight Plan
  - File notice of arrival and passenger manifest through eAPIS
  - Surrender cruising permit to Customs (best done at an AOE)
  - Complete one General Declaration
  - Surrender immigration cards of all pax and crew
  - Pay \$29 departure tax for all outbound pax and crew over 6 y/o
  - Advise US Customs 1 hour prior to arrival – note initials of Customs official you speak with
- Filing
  - How to file – 1-800-WX-BRIEF, 124.2 or 128.0 Nassau Radio
  - Must enter at a US AOE
  - File eAPIS online no less than 60 minutes prior to departure

# Return Flight to U.S.



- Picking up a clearance
  - IFR Clearance from Tower at towered airports
  - From Nassau Radio 124.2 or 128.0
- Radio communications enroute
  - Nassau 121.0 or above 6,000' MSL Miami Radio 126.7
- Re-entering US ADIZ
  - Obtain discrete XPDR code 15 minutes prior to penetrating
  - IFR may be issued in original clearance, write it down in case other codes are issued enroute



# After Landing Back on U.S. Soil



- Customs and immigration rules
  - Land at an AOE
  - Take all baggage and proceed directly to customs
  - Arrival report no longer needed, complete Customs Declaration card (1 per family)



# Contingencies



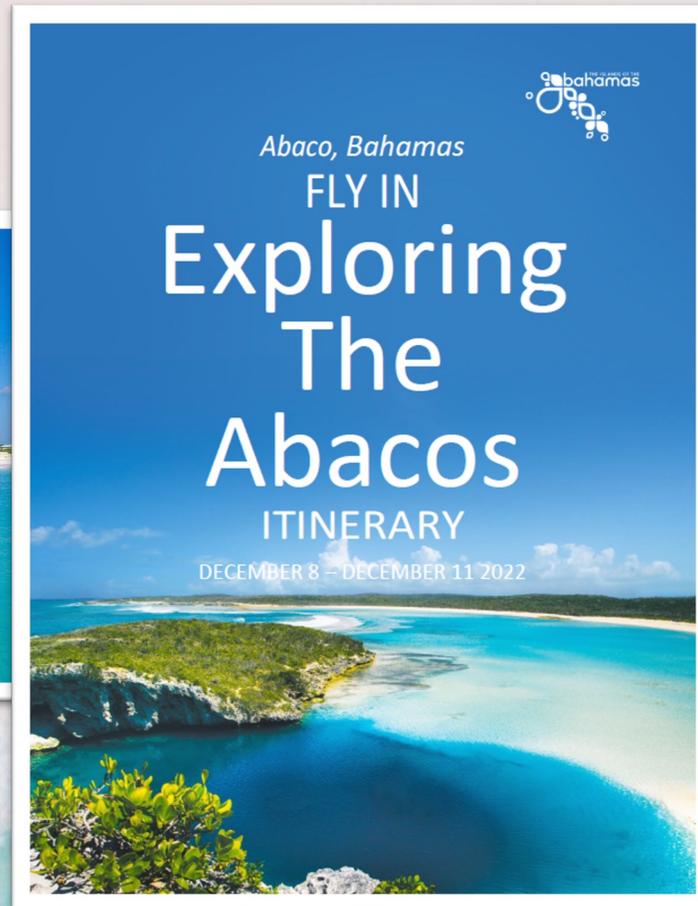
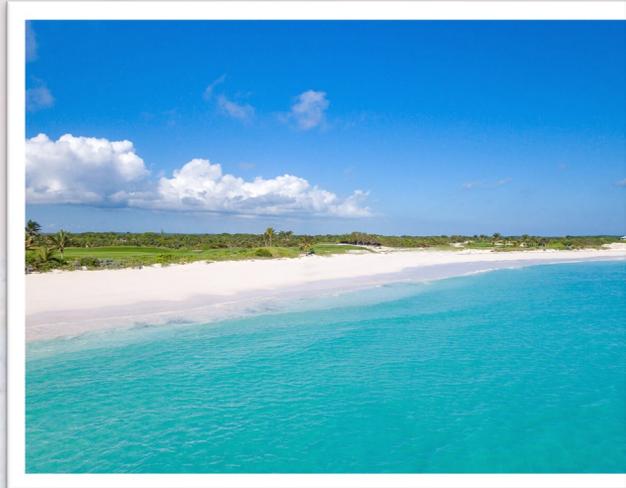
- Legal issues rare, but just in case...
  - US Embassy in the Bahamas
    - (242) 322-1181 or (242) 376-4028
    - American Citizen Services Section  
[acsnassau@state.gov](mailto:acsnassau@state.gov)
- Aircraft trouble
  - Government owned airports have A&P's
  - Regular maintenance services available
  - Parts may not be readily available
  - Contact information in AOPA Pilot's Guide



# Closing



- Great time of year to fly to Bahamas
- Join us Dec 8-11 with options to extend



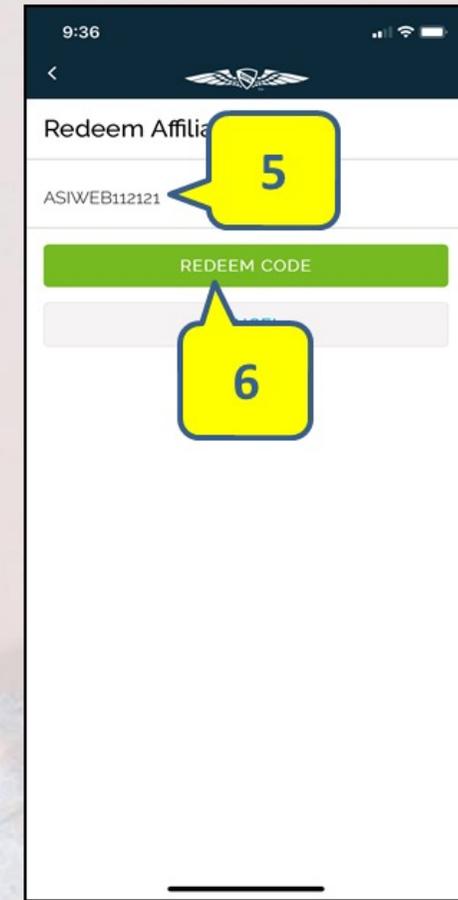
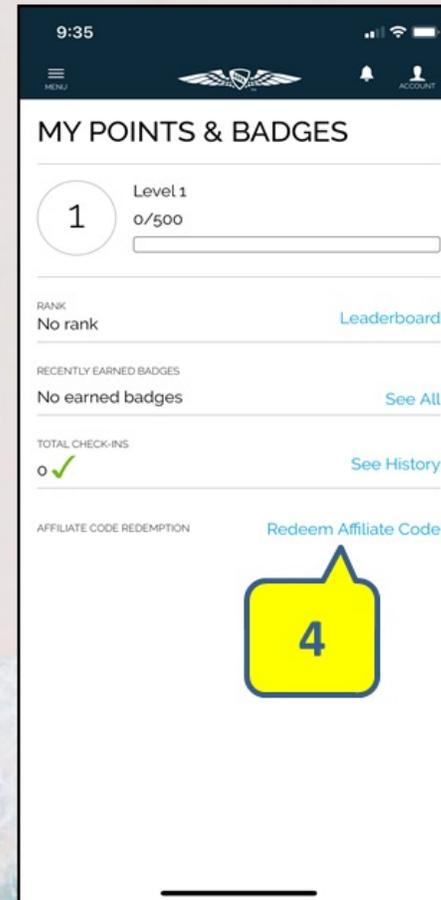
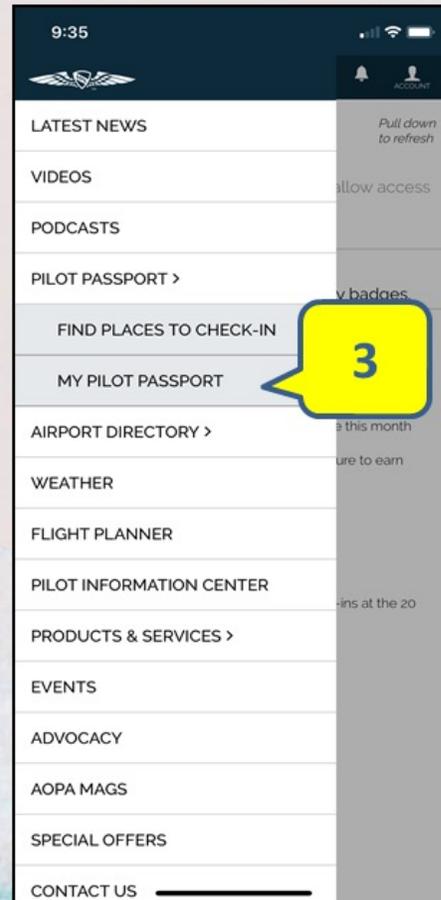
# AOPA Pilot Passport Badge Redemption



## ASIWEB111022

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**Thank You!**

AOPA Pilot Information Center  
1-800-872-2672