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ORVIS TRAVEL



Bahamas Fly-Fishing & Adventure Guide



Welcome



Orvis President Perk Perkins releases a bonefish in The Bahamas



Perk Perkins, Orvis President

Orvis has gone and done something really exciting and truly revolutionary — we've partnered with The Islands Of The Bahamas to create a network of Orvis-Certified Fly-Fishing Guides, and put together an Orvis-approved Bahamas Fly-Fishing & Adventure Guide that will help you plan your ideal Bahamian getaway. Whether you're traveling solo, with a fishing buddy, or making it a family

vacation, you've got access to the best The Bahamas has to offer and the confidence that comes with our seal of approval.

When you book an outing with an Orvis-Certified Fly-Fishing Guide, you can rest assured that you will have an exceptional experience on the water, a result of local expertise paired with world-class customer service and the finest quality Orvis gear. Earning the Orvis approval is no easy feat, so you can bet these guides are truly the best of the best in The Bahamas.

I'm really excited to announce this partnership between Orvis and The Islands Of The Bahamas, not only because the islands have been one of my favorite fly-fishing destinations for decades, but because we're able to pass that experience on to you so your next (or first) trip to The Bahamas is everything it should be.

Perk Perkins
Orvis President



**The Honorable Obie Wilchcombe,
Minister of Tourism**

Welcome to The Bahamas Fly-Fishing & Adventure Guide. We are very excited to partner with Orvis, a sporting lifestyle leader. This incredibly complementary pairing will present you with the finest adventures in The Islands Of The Bahamas and the best gear to pursue your dreams.

The Islands Of The Bahamas has long been recognized as one of the premier places in the world to pursue the elusive bonefish, but that is just one reason to visit our 700 islands. We've created this guide to help you decide which of our many islands is right for your interests. From kayaking to diving, snorkeling to shelling, there is a place for you in The Islands Of The Bahamas.

We invite you to browse our special catalogue of experiences and then visit us for a trip you will not soon forget.

Hon.
Obie Wilchcombe
Minister of Tourism

**At right,
Harbour Island**



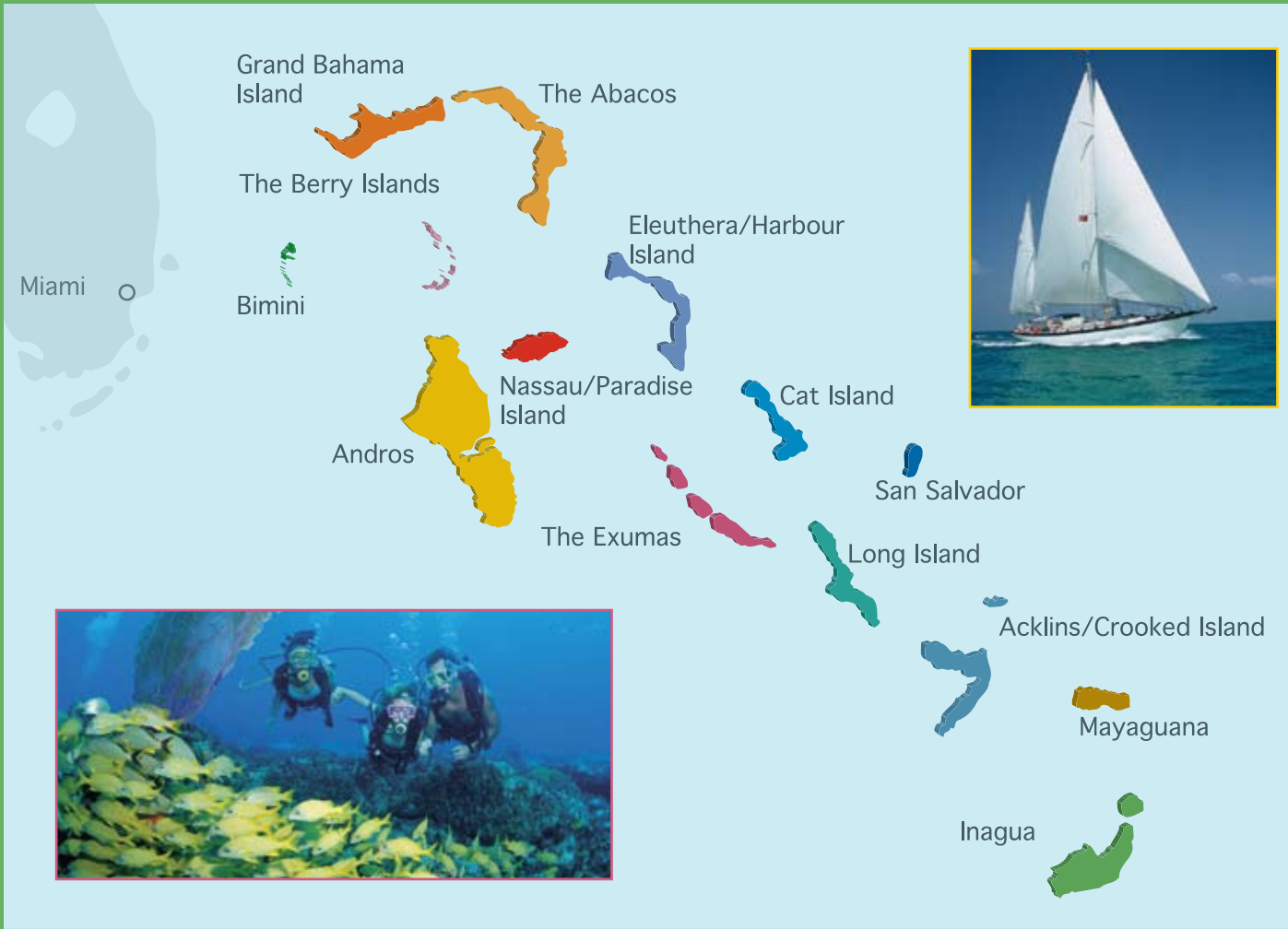
Where to Go

The Islands OfThe Bahamas is a 650-linear-mile archipelago that extends over 100,000 square miles of the clearest water in the world. The 700 islands and 2,500 cays — some inhabited, some not — total an estimated land area of 5,382 square miles, and register a peak land elevation of 206 feet. With a population of 300,000 people, the islands are home to some 1,370 species of plant life, dozens of rare bird species, and 909 square miles of pristine coral reef — the third

largest reef system in the world — which houses a diverse and rich array of fish and marine life. Whether you want to fly fish, sail, dive, bird watch, or look for seashells on a sandy beach, there is an island that's right for you and your travel group. The map on the following pages has keys for eight different activities and includes the best destinations for every passion and type of traveler. Just pick your favorites to create the perfect Bahamas adventure.



Fernandez Bay Beach,
Cat Island



The Islands Of The Bahamas



Master Key

Just pick your favorite activities using this key to start planning your ideal Bahamas adventure!



Bonefishing



Kayaking



Diving



Sailing



Motor Boating



Hiking



Birding



Deep Sea Fishing



Grand Bahama Island Activities:



Bonefishing



Diving



Kayaking



Bimini Activities:



Bonefishing



Diving



Motor Boating



The Abacos Activities:



Bonefishing



Diving



Sailing



Andros Activities:



Bonefishing



Diving



Hiking



Kayaking



Birding



The Berry Islands Activities:



Bonefishing



Deep Sea Fishing



Motor Boating



Eleuthera/Harbour Island Activities:



Bonefishing



Diving



Hiking



Birding



Cat Island Activities:



Bonefishing



Deep Sea Fishing



Sailing



The Exumas Activities:



Bonefishing



Hiking



Kayaking



Sailing



Nassau/Paradise Island Activities:



Deep Sea Fishing



Diving



San Salvador Activities:



Diving



Mayaguana Activities:



Bonefishing



Inagua Activities:



Birding



Bonefishing



ORVIS

BAHAMAS FLY FISHING CERTIFIED GUIDE



2006/07 Orvis Bahamas Fly-Fishing
Certified Guides



Certified Fly-Fishing Guides

The Bahamas is known the world over as a top-notch bonefishing destination and the demand for the best guides is increasing every year. Orvis wants to provide a world-class Bahamian fly-fishing experience for our customers. While each Certified Guide has his or her own character, all share the same high standards. When you choose

an Orvis Bahamas Fly-Fishing Certified Guide, you can be confident that you will have an excellent fishing experience with a highly qualified, skilled, and professional guide.

Visit www.orvis.com/certified for a complete list of guides and contact information.



"I fish out of an 18-foot Hell's Bay, and all of the fishing I do is out of the boat. We get a lot of trout fisherman who come to The Bahamas, but bonefishing is a totally different ball game. If you can have a lesson before you come here, you'll have a much more enjoyable trip. We fish all day from about October

until June, depending on the temperature. From June through August, we go in the morning, and the fishing slows down in the afternoon. I'm a native islander. I have been to a lot of the other islands in The Bahamas, but I always fish right off my own island. If you've got it your backyard, why go anywhere else?"

— Buddy Pinder, Orvis-Certified Guide on Abaco

Fly-Fishing Calendar Peak Seasons

There's good fishing year round in The Islands Of The Bahamas. Below are the peak seasons; keep in mind that you should book early.

Bonefish | October-June

Tarpon | May-June

Permit | April-July

Barracuda | June-August



“You really need a guide in The Bahamas because of the vastness of the area. They know all the nuances of the tides and wind conditions — all of that influences where you can find fish. What sets Orvis-Certified Guides apart from the rest is their level of customer service, professionalism, and attention to detail.

The fishing is good pretty much year round. Some of the best fishing can be found in February, March, and April for the bigger fish. But we went fishing on Abaco in July and the fishing was fantastic. The best-known area for bonefish is Andros. Andros has a lot of fish and you can wade for them or fish from a boat. The best overall wading area would be Exuma. It’s all catch-and-release fishing — the Bahamian government is protecting the bonefish population quite well.

My final tip: Practice your casting in windy conditions before you go to get the most out of your trip. It’s one of the biggest things I hear from the guides — you can catch a lot more fish if your casting is strong.”

—Truel Myers, Head Fly-Fishing Instructor for the Orvis Fly-Fishing Schools



Bonefishing, Andros

Boating & Diving



Deep sea fishing, Exuma



Diving, Andros

“The Bahamas are just 50 miles off of the coast of Florida. The Bahamas Flotillas (boating flings) are escorted trips recommended for novice boaters who are a little apprehensive about making the crossing by themselves. We give boaters a yachtman’s guide, “the bible to the Bahamas,” they can use to look up maps and information about every channel to make it easier for them to return on their own using GPS technology. We also have sailing events throughout the year, and our own regattas in Bimini, Abaco, Eleuthera, Cat Island, and more. Plus, there’s kayaking in the Banks. Bimini is great for deep sea fishing. The Bahamas is a true fisherman’s paradise.”

—Richard Treco, Bahamas Ministry of Tourism

“Pretty much any place in The Bahamas you fly fish, you also have quality diving. A lot of anglers take an afternoon, take a resort course, and dive for a day or two. We have 30+ land-based diving operators throughout the islands and eight of them live aboard their dive boats. All offer incredible dives for experienced or beginning divers. A beginner can spend an hour in the pool and be ready for a safe reef dive. We have so much healthy coral you could spend a lifetime of diving vacations here and still not see it all. There’s still plenty of uncharted territory. Pick your island first, then pick your dive operator for world-class quality diving in The Bahamas.”

—Neal Watson, President of the Bahamas Diving Association, World-Record Holder in SCUBA diving and underwater swimming