

# Travel Outlook

Around the World

## Freeport: a good choice for sunny vacation

**FREEPORT, The Bahamas** - Five minutes from the noisy fun of a volleyball game on the beach you can stand in the hushed quiet of a pine forest while a tiny bird eats out of your hand.

An hour's drive from the glitter and galmour of topless showgirls and shirring roulette wheels you can sit on a dock in an old rum-runners' hangout, sip cold beer and watch the sun sink into the ocean.

Contrasts like these surprise and delight visitors to Grand Bahama, most of whom probably expected no more than big doses of sun and slot machines. They help explain why the island is a particularly good choice for the first-time visitor to a sun destination.

More than any other place in the 700-island nation, Grand Bahama is a microcosm of Bahamian life. Its major centre, Freeport, doesn't have Nassau's sense of history because it scarcely existed 30 years ago, but Grand Bahama is dotted with charming, slow-paced native settlements.

Freeport, the second biggest centre in The Bahamas, is a modern, well-kept town of 32,000 people with stores and houses that could have been transplanted from Florida. Its broad boulevards, spaciousness and sense of order reflect the fact that Freeport was planned from scratch. Its prosperity reflects the fact that although tourism is the number one dollar-earner, Freeport has an industrial and manufacturing base that is the envy of other islands.

One guidebook calls Grand Bahama the "country club" island because of the range of sports facilities - golf, tennis, fishing, boating, windsurfing, waterskiing, horseback riding, parasailing. How about diving? The Underwater Explorers Society (UNEXSO) is right next to the Lucayan Beach Resort & Casino. For as little as \$59 U.S. you can receive three hours of instruction in a training pool and the very next morning dive with your instructor on a shallow reef. Safe? Skin Diver magazine calls UNEXSO "the most sophisticated and best equipped diving facility in The Bahamas and, in fact, the world."

The International Bazaar is a magnet for shoppers. There are 65 shops on a 10-acre site, a maze of laneways and arcades with architectural styles reflecting the country whose merchandise is featured. You can buy anything from a puppet for \$6.95 (U.S.) at Casa Mexicana to a spectacular emerald at a bargain price at Colombian Emeralds International. Something Bahamian? How about a \$3 bill? They're rarely seen but you can buy a mint condition one for \$5.95. You can eat inexpensively in the bazaar; several places offer "early bird" dinner specials for just \$9.95 U.S.

What you save on bargains you can "invest" at the gaming tables. There are two casinos - The Princess Casino, between the Princess Tower and the bazaar, and Lucayan Beach Casino. Tourists wander in and out of them during the day but they don't really get moving until after dark. Some hotels offer beginner's lessons in gambling. If your hotel doesn't, go to the casino early when the dealers aren't busy and ask one to explain the rules. One



Canadian who did this made a 50 per cent profit in five minutes in his first venture at blackjack.

The Rand Memorial Nature Centre, a \$3 U.S. cab ride from the bazaar, is where the birds will eat out of your hand, provided you aren't squeamish about holding the tiny worms the guide uses to attract them. This sort of close encounter is a highlight of a 90-minute stroll through 100 acres

covered with trees, flowering bushes and a flamingo-filled pond. You'll learn about the jatropa, whose pretty pink flowers will make you nauseous if you sniff them, about berries that are good to eat and about plants the locals claim will heat burns, banish dandruff or stimulate their love life.



**HALTON ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL BOARD**

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### FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM

The Halton Roman Catholic School Board offers an optional French Immersion Program to its English language students entering Grade 5 in September 1987.

A parent information meeting is scheduled as follows:

Halton Hills: Monday, February 9, 1987  
7:30 p.m.  
Holy Cross School  
222 Maple Avenue  
Georgetown

For further information, please contact

Michel S. Lecavlier  
Program Consultant  
632-6300, ext. 214

Please note that this is not a registration meeting.

W. C. Hawken O.C.  
Chairman of the Board

C. G. Byrnes  
Director of Education

### NELL'S DRIVING SCHOOL

Next Course Starts:  
Feb. 16 to March 11  
6:30 - 9:30



For Information About Course or Private Lessons: **PHONE 877-2671**

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# Fiesta-Jamaica

March break  
in Jamaica!

Leave Monday, Mar. 16 and return Friday, Mar. 20

"Super Choice" for the price conscious.

Coral Cliff, Montego Bay	\$539	Service Charges & Taxes: \$87
Winged Victory, Montego Bay	\$559	Service Charges & Taxes: \$87
Doctor's Cave, Montego Bay	\$579	Service Charges & Taxes: \$92

"Super Choice" beach hotels.

Holiday Inn, Montego Bay	\$679	Service Charges & Taxes: \$112
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"Super Choice" All-inclusive.

Club Casa Montego, Montego Bay	\$859	Service Charges & Taxes: \$142
Club Paradise, Montego Bay	\$889	Service Charges & Taxes: \$142

Prices are per person, double occupancy, unless otherwise specified and include airfare from Toronto. Service charges and departure taxes are extra and are fully described in the FiestaSun travel brochure. All bookings are subject to the terms and conditions of Westair Holidays Limited a.k.a. Fiesta Holidays. Prices are subject to change without notice. For further details see the FiestaSun Winter brochure.



**FiestaSun**