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# You Can Still Visit The Bahamas If You Arrive By Private Jet

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Travel

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The big news is the Bahamas is closing its border to commercial airline flights from most countries, including the U.S., at midnight today. However, that doesn't mean you can't fly to the Bahamas from its biggest market for visitors.

In making the announcement, Prime Minister Hubert Minnis said there is an exception for private jet arrivals. However, the exemption comes with several requirements.

Here's what you need:

- A valid COVID-19 test with a negative result from an accredited lab. The Bahamas currently does not accept Rapid Antigen or Antibody (IgG/IgM).
- The test must have been taken within 10 days of your arrival date.
- You'll need to apply for a Travel Health Visa. The application can be found [here](#).

When you apply for the visa, you'll need to upload your test. Exemptions for American vacationers include children under 10 years old and your flight crew, if they will be in the country for less than 24 hours.



**International commercial flights are NOT permitted to enter The Bahamas**, except commercial flights from the United Kingdom, European Union and Canada, effective **midnight Wednesday 22 July 2020**.



**Sea vessels carrying commercial passengers are NOT permitted to enter The Bahamas**, effective **midnight Wednesday 22 July 2020**.



**Private international flights and charters** from all countries are permitted to enter The Bahamas.



**Private pleasure crafts and yachts** from all countries are permitted to enter The Bahamas.

***\*Not applicable to Grand Bahama.***

Despite a ban on airline flights from the United States, private jet arrivals are still welcome.

BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM

Once you are there, you'll need to comply with rules about mask wearing. The penalty for disobeying them includes a fine of \$250 or up to a month in jail, or both!

Rules on wearing masks include when you are at the airport, checking into or out of your hotel, until you are seated in a restaurant, and other places such as taxi lines. You don't have to wear a face mask at the beach, but you do need to when you arrive and depart. While exercising you need to have a mask visible, but you only need to wear it before and after.

Creating a bubble for private jet arrivals makes sense. [Average spend](#) per private jet arrival is over \$80,000, excluding refueling and other airport fees and services. Passengers arriving on the airlines average spending

about [\\$1,500 per head](#). In other words, one private jet delivers as much revenue into the local economy as over 50 people arriving a commercial flight.

The Bahamas isn't alone in looking to attract private jet arrivals. A top official from the Tourism Authority of Thailand recently said plans call for a [travel bubble](#) that would allow private jet travelers to visit without quarantine restrictions. A recent analysis by European private jet operator GlobeAir showed the risk of COVID-19 exposure is [30 times lower](#) for private fliers.

One private aviation provider may have a jump on the Bahamas exemption. Earlier this week, Virginia-based charter and jet card broker [Paramount Business Jets](#) announced a partnership allowing its customers to complete [at-home COVID-19](#) testing.

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