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## Government

The Bahamas is an independent commonwealth recognizing Elizabeth II as its Chief of State.

The capital is Nassau, New Providence.

## Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Jan. 1, New Year's Day; Good Friday; Easter Monday; June 7, Labor Day; Whit Monday; July 10, Independence Day; August 5, Emancipation Day; and October 12, Discovery Day.

## Industries

The main industries are tourism, banking, cement, oil refining and transshipment, salt production, and rum.

## Languages

English is primarily spoken, with Creole being the language of the Haitian immigrants.

## Time Zone

The Time Zone description is ROMEO (+5).

## U.S. Embassy

The embassy is situated in the Mosmar Building, Queen Street, Nassau. The mailing address is P.O. Box N-8197, Nassau.

## General

The Bahamas is an extensive chain of islands located in the Caribbean Sea SE of Florida.

The climate is tropical maritime and moderated by the warm waters of the Gulf Stream.

The terrain consists of flat coral formations with some low, rounded hills.

## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region B) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the Bahamian dollar, consisting of 100 cents. United States currency is also in common use.