



# THE BAHAMAS

A location well renowned for being both an international financial centre and a paradise destination, the islands of the Bahamas lie south east of Miami. They comprise of over 700 small islands that stretch over a vast expanse of the Atlantic Ocean. Nassau, the island's capital is located on New Providence island where the majority of the financial institutions are located. With a diverse calendar of festivals, the Bahamas are a warm and friendly place to live and work.

**Cost of Living:** The cost of living is high but the salaries reflect this and there is an excellent standard of living. While some luxury items such as alcohol and jewellery may be cheaper, common food items can be a little more expensive than at home.

**Accommodation:** Rent ranges from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per month depending on size of property. Most expatriates tend to house-share. There is an active Bahamas Real Estate Association which provides information and referrals.

**Transport:** As in Ireland, traffic drives on the left. You can use your national driver's licence for up to 3 months before getting an international licence. Mopeds are readily available to rent and there is an excellent bus and taxi service.

**Socialising:** Socialising in the Bahamas tends to revolve around outdoor activities such as water-sports, inter-company barbecues, rugby, golf, baseball and basketball. There are also several social clubs.

**Dress Code:** The office dress code is professional.

**Taxation:** There is no income tax but there are income duties which can be high.

**Getting There:** Employers generally pay the cost of relocation and 1 return flight a year. There are regular international flights.

**Visas:** All non-Bahamians must have a working permit visa which will be applied for by the employer, but documents such as medical certificates, police clearance certificates and notarised copies of qualifications and passports will be required to secure this visa.



## KEY FACTS

Population: 330,549

Area: 13,878 km<sup>2</sup>

Capital City: Nassau

Languages: English

Currency: Dollar (BSD)

Time Zone: UTC/GMT -5 hours

## CLIMATE

In general, the weather is good all year and the trade winds ensure that the temperatures remain relatively mild. The rainy season is May to November. Generally, the northern and western islands are cooler while the southern islands can get very hot in summer.