



Kuoni has a week at Atlantis Paradise Island, from £2,440, for May 2017. kuoni.co.uk

Hayes & Jarvis offers a week at Melia Nassau Beach Resort from £1,899, departing November 24, 2017. hayesandjarvis. co.uk

Prices are all-inclusive and include BA flights from Heathrow with transfers. of comfort. The Bahamas can be sold as a twin-centre with Florida, less than an hour away, or an add-on to city breaks in New York and other US hubs.

The peak season is December to May, avoiding rainy summer months and the possibility of tropical hurricanes.

COAST, CUISINE & CULTURE

For such a small destination, there's a surprising amount to see and do. Tru Bahamian Food Tours offers a fantastic three-hour walking tour through Nassau, stopping off at six places for generous tastings of conch fritters, rum cake, ice cream, chocolates and more (\$69 for adults, \$49 children). trubahamianfoodtours.com

One of the tastiest stops is Graycliff Chocolatier Factory, in the grounds of the historic Graycliff Hotel, where sweet-toothed visitors can sign up for chocolate-making workshops.

And don't miss Arawak Cay, with its inexpensive fish fry restaurants, and colourful beach bars pumping out music on Junkanoo Beach.



Highlights aren't just of the edible variety: fancy meeting a dolphin, or being a keeper for the day?

The highlights aren't just of the edible variety: fancy meeting a dolphin, or being a keeper for the day? Atlantis Paradise Island has its own Dolphin Cay, offering a variety of encounters, with a 30-minute shallow water experience for \$118.

Plus there's the ever popular Aquaventure water park, which is free to guests or \$129 for adults and \$99 for children who aren't staying in the hotel and want to buy a day pass.

Other top sightseeing tips include the Junkanoo Educulture Tour, a hands-on, fun activity for all ages where visitors learn about the annual



Junkanoo festival and have a go at making masks and playing music (from \$10).

educulturebahamas.com

Farther afield, take a boat trip to tranquil Rose Island with Sandy Toes, and swim, snorkel or simply chill on its idyllic beach. Packages, including lunch and drinks, start from \$89 for adults and \$49 for children. sandytoesbahamas.com

Whether clients want to indulge in a James Bond moment, join an impromptu Junkanoo party or soak up the sights and sounds of the lively street scene, there are plenty of ways to enjoy the rhythm of life in Nassau.

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

From all-singing, all-dancing resorts to a new adult getaway and a Robinson Crusoe villa hideaway on Rose Island, accommodation options are on the up.

The big news from the vast oceanthemed resort Atlantis Paradise Island is that two of its six properties - the deluxe Royal Towers and laid-back entry-level Beach Tower - are being sold on an all-inclusive basis and all properties now include free Wi-Fi.

With its 141-acre water park filled with slides and pools, amazing marine

exhibits, interactive dolphin experience and sophisticated Asian-themed Cove property with an adult-only beach club, Atlantis is a non-stop playground

For those seeking a quieter

for all ages.

all-inclusive option, there's the 694room Melia Nassau Beach Resort,
set on the pristine sweep of Cable
Beach, six miles outside Nassau. With
expansive public areas and family
rooms with access to the pools and
gardens, the hotel boasts seven
excellent restaurants, including Italian,
Asian, Mexican and Spanish.

Traditionalists who want to be in the centre of town can opt for the 'grand dame' 288-room British Colonial Hilton, the island's oldest resort: the current building dates back to 1922 and is set on Nassau's only private beach.

Slightly out of town is the 20-room boutique property Graycliff, built by a pirate in 1740 and oozing history. Creaking stairs lead to ornately-decorated rooms and foodies are spoilt for choice as the immense restaurant wine list represents the world's third-largest wine collection.

An exciting newcomer is the adultonly all-inclusive Warwick Paradise
Island overlooking the harbour. The
top-to-toe transformation of an existing
property has resulted in 243 cool rooms
and suites, contemporary public areas
inspired by the sea and a 6,000sq ft
terrace with an outdoor steak and
seafood restaurant. Operators featuring
the property include Funway, Hayes &
Jarvis and Gold Medal.



ASK THE EXPERT

66

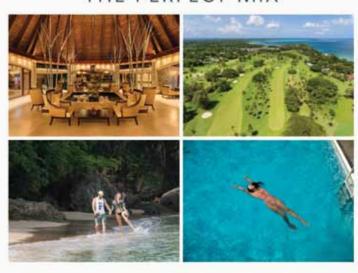
Miya Gilritchie, regional account manager, TravelCube

"Nassau has

that captivating, Caribbean charm that just grabs you from the get-go. Choose to stay at a heachfront hotel on the white sands of Cable Beach, or Downtown Nassau close to the buzz of Bay Streets' shops and Straw Market, or stay on Paradise Island, home to the mega-resort of Atlantis. Fab for families or for adults who want to live it up, you can $now\,pack\,more$ value into a stay at Atlantis with the all-inclusive option Recommend a local culture tour where vou'll see how the costumes and music of the Bahamas native Junkanoo festival come to life.

24 November 2016 travelweekly.co.uk 51

THE PERFECT MIX





The best of Tobago, West Indies.

With its wide open spaces, lush greens, private beach, and old-world charm, Mount Irvine Bay Resort is the perfect Caribbean destination.

FOR RESERVATIONS +1 868 639 8871 | Info@mtirvine.com | mtirvine.com DIRECT FLIGHTS TO TOBAGO, WEST INDIES FROM LONDON GATWICK AND MANCHESTER AIRPORT





50 travelweekly.co.uk 24 November 2016