



The Delphi Club

TRIP PLANNING INFORMATION (Last updated January 2016)

The Delphi Club is very well equipped, but these notes are designed to ensure that you have everything you need and that you know what to expect when you get there.

CONTACT DETAILS

The Delphi Club,
PO Box AB-20006, Marsh Harbour, Abaco, Bahamas
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Fax - +1-242-366-2223
Max Woolnough (Lodge Manager): +1-242-577-1698 (cell)
Email – delphi.bahamas@gmail.com

TIME ZONE

Eastern standard time (GMT-5).

CELLPHONE COVERAGE

The Club has cell phone coverage, BUT not all foreign networks have reciprocal agreements with the Bahamas telephone company, so yours might not work. If in doubt, check with your service provider.

CURRENCY

The local currency is the Bahamian dollar, but US dollars are readily accepted everywhere on a 1-for-1 basis.

ELECTRICAL

110 volt, US-style sockets.

INNOCULATIONS

Not required for the Bahamas, but take your own medical advice as to recommended precautions.

VISAS

Visas are not required for citizens of the EU, USA or most Commonwealth countries. For others countries, refer to the official website www.thebahamasguide.com/travel/visa.htm

GRATUITIES

All tipping is entirely discretionary. No automatic service charges are applied. For guidance, it is usual to pay \$100-\$150 per guest per week for household staff and \$50 per boat per day for guides, shared by those in the skiff. But it's all entirely up to you.

PAYMENT & CANCELLATIONS

A 50% deposit is taken on reservation. The balance is normally payable no later than 30 days before the scheduled arrival date, unless otherwise agreed.

All reservations must be secured by a Visa or Mastercard with an expiry date later than the scheduled arrival date. Sorry, but we do not accept American Express cards.

All cancellations incur a \$100 handling fee. If cancelled more than 90 days before scheduled arrival, no further charges apply.

Cancellations within 31-90 days of scheduled arrival will result in forfeit of the deposit. If 30 or less days notice is given, full accommodation package charges apply.

If a planned visit to the Club becomes impossible due to severely adverse weather, guests will be offered a choice of three sets of alternative but equivalent dates within the following 12 months in which to utilize their prepayment.

Guests are strongly encouraged to purchase travel & trip cancellation insurance - with a policy that deals adequately with disruption by storms. Do also consider the possible need for medical evacuation; for this we highly recommend www.globalrescue.com.

PAYMENTS FOR EXTRAS

Guests are actively encouraged to settle their accounts at the end of their stay using cash dollars (to avoid the exorbitant charges levied by Bahamian banks for credit card payments). The Club does, however, accept Visa & Mastercard (but not American Express).

CLUB FACILITIES

- ✓ Eight ocean-view bedrooms
- ✓ Choice of kingsize or twin-queen beds
- ✓ Ensuite bathrooms with showers (2 only with tubs)
- ✓ Fully air conditioned
- ✓ Heated, fresh water swimming pool
- ✓ 1000 yards of sandy beach
- ✓ Excellent food & wine cellar
- ✓ Honesty bar
- ✓ Well-stocked library
- ✓ Satellite TV (in the library)
- ✓ Irons & boards in all rooms
- ✓ Hairdryers in all rooms
- ✓ Telephones in rooms (fair pricing)
- ✓ Guest computer with free internet access
- ✓ Free wi-fi access throughout
- ✓ Rods for hire (top quality Hardy gear)*
- ✓ Tackle shop with local fly patterns
- ✓ Fly-tying equipment
- ✓ Clothing & souvenir store
- ✓ Beach towels
- ✓ Beach kayaks
- ✓ Snorkeling gear
- ✓ Card & games tables
- ✓ Fax
- ✓ Room safes
- ✓ Laundry service
- ✓ Potable water
- ✓ Soap, shampoo & bath gel in bathrooms
- ✓ Scuba diving over pristine reefs*
- ✓ Guided snorkeling*
- ✓ Nature & bird life tours*
- ✓ Visiting masseuse*

* *At extra charge*

WEATHER

A detailed month-by-month weather chart is given on the Club's website at <http://delphi-bahamas.com/weather/>. The Bahamas weather is generally most benign. The summer months can be hot and humid, with occasional heavy tropical rains that, in general, pass over rapidly. Breezy weather in other months can affect fishing quality, as can the occasional cool or cloudy front in the winter. As with any fishing, one can be unlucky with conditions. But bad weather rarely lasts for more than a few days. Hurricanes in Abaco are rare but possible. The official hurricane season is from June to November, but August and September are generally seen as the months of highest risk and the Club is generally closed at that time.

BONE-FISHING RATINGS

Bonefishing is a year-round activity in the Bahamas, although the Club usually closes for the height of the hurricane season in August & September:

Jan	Good/Variable	May	Good/Excellent	Sep	Good/Variable
Feb	Good/Variable	Jun	Good/Excellent	Oct	Good/Excellent
Mar	Good/Excellent	Jul	Good/Excellent	Nov	Good/Excellent
Apr	Good/Excellent	Aug	Good/Variable	Dec	Good/Variable

FISHING NOTES

The main target is bonefish. For these wonderful sporting fish the Club generally applies a fly-fishing only rule, on a catch-and-release basis using barbless hooks. Exceptions are sometimes made for complete beginners

There are some permit at various times of year and occasional small tarpon. Fishing for shark, barracuda & other species is also popular and the fly-only rule does not apply, although flyfishing is encouraged for them too.

Fishermen leave the lodge at 8.00am and are normally back by 4.30pm (or 1.30 on half days). Fishermen are provided with a picnic lunch cool box and their selection of drinks, whether full or half days.

Fishermen normally fish in pairs with a guide. Single occupancy of a boat may be available at extra charge.

The Club boats (Dolphin 16ft skiffs with 40hp Yamaha motors) have padded seats, a leaning bar on the casting platform and dry storage lockers, as well as radios & GPS locators.

The great majority of the fishing is from boats, but there may be opportunities for wading, especially at Cherokee Sound. Most of the fishing, however, is normally on the west side of Abaco in the famous Marls, where wading is less easy. Bonefish and other species are sometimes also caught right off the Club beach.

The Club guides – and the launch points for the boats – are rotated during the week to provide maximum diversity of scenery and opportunity. It is not possible to reserve specific guides, but all the Club's guides are highly competent professionals. Boat launch points are normally just 10-20 minutes away from the Club, although we sometimes range further afield.

The Club shop has plenty of local fly patterns but no monopoly of wisdom, so bring all your bonefish and other saltwater flies.

We have rental gear – mostly Hardy saltwater rods & reels - available at \$25 per day

OTHER ACTIVITIES & DAY TRIPS

Unlike some other bone-fishing destinations, Abaco has a very good tourism infrastructure and offers a wealth of attractive options for day trips, many of them involving boat rides. The outer cays, with their charming colonial settlements such as Hope Town and Green Turtle Cay, are easily reached by ferries from Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay respectively and make for pleasant day trips.

Big game fishing charters are available in Marsh Harbour and golf is available at Treasure Cay and sometimes, by special arrangement, at the superb Winding Bay course. The Club has close links with excellent scuba diving instructors and snorkeling guides. Abaco has some wonderful reefs.

There is an excellent guide for birding and nature tours who is a mine of information about Abaco's bird life, flora and fauna. Advanced booking is recommended. For more information on the local wild life, see our fascinating sister website <http://rollingharbour.wordpress.com>.

TRAVEL CHECKLIST

FISHERMEN

- Rods - Bones: 9ft, 8-9 wt*®
- Rods - Permit/other: 9ft, 10-11wt
- Reels (with very good drag system)*
- Lines (floating WF)*
- Leaders (10-15lbs)*
- Flies (see notes)*
- Poppers & steel traces for other species*
- Brimmed hat (with dark underside)*
- Sunglasses (top quality polarized, 2 pairs)*
- Fishing pliers*
- Snippers/scissors*
- Small floating fly box*
- Wading shoes (or old trainers)
- Boat socks (to prevent burnt feet)
- Fingerless stripping gloves
- Bandana/face buff*
- Small tape measure
- Band aids (for line burns!)
- Lightweight long fishing trousers
- Lightweight shirts, long sleeved*
- Small waterproof boat bag

* Available in the Club shop.

® Rental rods are available

ALL GUESTS

- Sun block (high protection)*
- Sunglasses*
- After-sun*
- Swimming gear
- Rain jacket*
- Light fleece jacket*
- Bug repellent *
- Antihistamines & after-bite cream*
- General clothing
- A light sweater
- Medications
- Toiletries
- Spare spectacles/lenses
- Books
- Passport
- Driving licence
- Credit cards
- Cash
- Camera & charger
- Laptop & charger
- Mobile phone & charger
- iPod/iPad & charger
- US plug adaptors
- Travel insurance documents
- Air tickets
- All relevant contact numbers

DRINKS NOT INCLUDED

Note that, unlike some fishing lodges, we do not include any drinks in our accommodation package prices. Why not? Well there are three main reasons:

1. We see no reason why non-drinkers should subsidize those who do drink – and boy, do some people drink. Nothing in life is really “free”- you can be sure that “inclusive” lodges have priced in some estimate of average consumption into every package, which seems fundamentally unfair on the light drinkers or non-drinkers.
2. We believe in offering a very wide range of wines and drinks to suit every taste and price point. At most “inclusive” lodges, they tend to serve only basic liquor brands, local beers and mass-market wines. But we have over 50 wines to choose from, ranging in price from \$40 to \$1,000 a bottle. And we have over 50 different spirits and liqueurs, some costing upwards of \$20 a shot. It is impractical to try to identify which are basic brands and which should be extra. It’s just far easier to go a la carte.
3. This policy enables us to keep our prices lower. And our prices *are* lower than almost *all* the leading fishing lodges in the Bahamas.

We even charge for bottled water, except when on board the fishing skiffs. How come? Two more good reasons:

4. Bottled water in the Bahamas is a scam. Read the small print and you find it's *all* RO stuff – reconstituted seawater. And it's not cheap. But on Abaco we are blessed with a delicious supply of good, clean water from limestone aquifers underneath the pine forests. This is available throughout the lodge – for free. Why would anyone drink anything else? Well, if you're on a boat and don't have access to a tap or faucet, then we'll give you bottles for free. But only then.

The inclusive policy adopted by many lodges has its roots in history. Many of the early lodges were in far off places that did not have good quality water supplies, and maybe none at all. Even though this may no longer be the case in many lodges, the policy has become established.

5. A walk along any oceanfront beach in the world will reveal the huge amount of plastic waste brought in on the tide, including vast numbers of discarded water bottles. We would like to do our little bit to help save the planet from this ghastly mess. If you're paying for it, you might think twice.

For people who still find our policy controversial and want to be able to compare apples with apples when assessing lodge prices, the average charge for wines and drinks at the Club last year was \$27 per person per day or \$190 per week.

GETTING TO THE DELPHI CLUB

FROM THE USA/CANADA

Direct to Marsh Harbour

From Miami – American Eagle

From Fort Lauderdale – Silver Airways

From West Palm Beach – Silver Airways or Bahamasair

From Orlando – Silver, or Air Unlimited (Cessna 421 - \$598 round trip) **NEW!**

From Atlanta – Delta **NEW!**

Private charters

There are also many private charter companies that fly from a variety of Florida (and other US) airports direct into Marsh Harbour. For further information, please contact The Delphi Club office.

Via Nassau

Many US carriers fly into Nassau, including American, Continental, Delta & Jet Blue. Air Canada flies in daily from Toronto & Montreal.

Nassau to Marsh Harbour

Bahamasair (bookable online)

SkyBahamas (bookable online)

FROM EUROPE

Via Nassau

The only direct flight into the Bahamas from Europe is with British Airways from London Heathrow to Nassau, five days a week (not Mondays or Thursdays). From Nassau guests then connect with a local flight to Marsh Harbour with Bahamasair or SkyBahamas.

Via USA

There are countless ways of getting to Abaco via the USA - specifically through major hubs such as New York, Newark, Atlanta, Miami or Orlando, with a long list of international carriers, linking to one of the Florida airports, Atlanta or Nassau that in turn link with Marsh Harbour. But most of these options will entail a 3-legged journey with an overnight in the US.

GROUND TRANSPORTION

Transfers from Marsh Harbour airport are normally by taxi. If your package includes free transfers (most do), the taxis will be booked through the Club and we will need your flight details. Otherwise, taxis are generally plentiful at the airport – expect to pay c. \$100 for the 35-minute trip.

For those who prefer to be independent and free ranging during their stay, car hire is also available at the airport. To pre-book, contact seastar@coralwave.com.

The Club also has its own car for guests aged over 25, which is used for day trips.

We greatly look forward to welcoming you to the Delphi Club. If you have any questions, please feel free to ring me at the Club or on my cellphone 1-242-577-1698.

Max Woolnough, Lodge Manager