

TRAVEL TIPS – Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas

Entry Requirements

- a. Effective Oct. 1, 2007, U.S. Citizens traveling by air to Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bermuda must present a passport or other WHTI-compliant documentation to enter or depart from the United States.
- b. To apply for a passport please visit: http://travel.state.gov/passport/forms/forms_847.html
- c. **Do not forget your Passport!**

Customs & Immigration

- a. **Arrival:**
Upon arriving in The Islands of The Bahamas, everyone must fill out and sign an Immigration form, keeping a portion of the card in hand until departing. An oral baggage declaration is required.
- b. **Departure:**
Departures to the US must go through US Customs and Border Protection pre-clearance. US visitors may take home \$800 worth of duty-free merchandise.

Airline Reservations

- a. When booking your airlines reservations, you will want to fly into Nassau. Nassau International Airport is the nearest airport to the Atlantis.
- b. Book early! Nassau is not a big metropolitan airport and flights will sell out. Service is decrease from some airports in the fall.

Communications

- a. Cell phone service on Paradise Island is limited.
- b. You may wish to purchase a prepaid international calling card.
- c. You may also call the local cell phone provider, [BaTelco](#), to obtain additional information concerning roaming charges

Clothing

- a. Casual summer wear can be worn during the day any time of the year; but be sure to bring a jacket or sweater for cooler evenings from December to February. Most restaurants/casinos require jackets for men in the evening, especially in more cosmopolitan areas. Though walking the streets in swim trunks might sound irresistible, beach clothing is inappropriate on the streets, in

churches, restaurants, and casinos. Away from beach or pool areas, you are expected to cover your bathing suit with shorts or a long shirt. In the more laid-back remote areas, the dress-code is more flexible.

- b. Pack some clothing and swim wear in a carry-on bag in case your luggage is lost.
- c. Bring a light sweater or jacket for meetings
- d. Meetings/Contact Booth/Golf/President's Reception: **Resort Upscale** – polo and designer shirts, dress shorts, slacks, sundresses or skirts. No T-shirts or cutoff shorts.
- e. President's Gala: **Resort Elegant** – Dress shirts, polo and designer shirts, slacks, dresses or skirts.

Driving

- a. Rental cars are expensive in the Bahamas and will not be needed.
- b. If you do decide to rent a car, British rules apply, so please drive on the left and be extra careful on roundabouts. Visitors may use their home licenses for up to three months and may also apply for an international driver's license. Pedestrians should remember to look right before crossing streets.

Tipping

- a. Tip according to quality of service. Bellboys and porters usually receive \$1 per bag, while most other servers (waiters, taxis, etc.) receive 15%. Many establishments include the gratuity in their bills.
- b. **15% gratuities are included in all Atlantis food/beverage bills**
- c. We recommend that you take your own bags to your own room upon arrival at the Atlantis. Depending on how busy the hotel is upon your arrival it can take up to three hours for the bellman to deliver your bag.

Food Outlets & Activities

- a. Bring snacks and eat non-GAWDA meals off property. Atlantis restaurants are expensive.
- b. Make reservations for restaurants and tours well in advance of departing for the Bahamas – GAWDA tours will be provided at a later date.

Room Reservations

- a. Call the Atlantis directly to book your reservation for the 64th Annual Convention at 1-800-FUN-4-SUN or 800-386-4786. The Group rate is \$208 single occupancy, plus taxes and fees.* The rate is available three days prior and three days after the conference subject to availability. The GAWDA rate of \$208 will be available through July 20, 2008 or until the block of rooms is sold out, whichever comes first.
- b. * Taxes and Resort levies not included on the room rate: 6% guest room tax, 3% PITDA levy and 3% NPEPE

- c. * Fees note included in room rate: \$4.00/person/night housekeeping gratuity; Bellman \$5.70/person; and \$1.50/person/night for Pool/Beach attendant

Meeting Rooms

- a. Bring a sweater or a jacket.
- b. All rooms for the GAWDA convention will be in the Royal Towers and the meetings will take place in the convention center. Bring comfortable walking shoes. The sleeping rooms are approximately 15 minutes from the convention center.
- c. The resort does offer a shuttle between the tower and the meeting room.
- d. The resort does have sleeping rooms closer to the meeting space. However, these rooms are subject to availability and are of a lower quality in comparison to the GAWDA contract rooms. If you wish to book a room closer to the meeting space, please speak to the Atlantis reservation agent.

Returning to the United States

- a. Depart for airport 3 hours prior to flight
- b. No sidewalk luggage check in or self-service kiosks
- c. Dual Bahamas and U.S. security checks
- d. U.S. Immigration in Bahamas, not at arrival in U.S.

Lastly, be patient. Bahamas sense of urgency is different than the United States.