

AOPA

Customs, Arrival

Bahamian Customs



Customs Fees

Pilots of private aircraft flying in the Bahamas on a noncommercial basis are exempted from the payment of attendance fees (overtime) upon signing the declaration located on the [Bahamas C7A Inward Declaration and Cruising Permit for Private Aircraft Entering the Bahamas](#). This declaration certifies that the pilot is not flying for remuneration or reward and that the flight is bona fide recreational and being flown solely for pleasure purposes. Further, Customs service is available every day from 9am-5:30pm (seven days a week as well as Holidays).

Note: An advance phone call will be needed to keep the airport open after hours. Pilots should bear in mind that airport management and immigrations officials might charge overtime fees for after-hour attendance services.

Arrival Requirements

Prior permission to land in or overfly the Bahamas is not needed. Your first landing must be at a designated Airport of Entry to clear Customs and Immigration during normal business hours, which are 9:00 to 5:30 daily. [Airports of Entry](#) are listed online. If you plan to arrive outside of these times, then you must make prior arrangements with the Customs Official at the airport of entry.

Your flight itinerary will determine what forms you will need to complete to satisfy the Bahamian Customs officers. The required forms for entering and departing the Bahamas may be obtained from AOPA (1-800/USA-AOPA), Florida coastal FBOs, or at the Airport of Entry when you arrive.

Most coastal FBOs in Florida don't mind helping pilots with required paperwork, especially if they are also renting you survival gear. Allowing extra time for these necessities eases the travel pressure and allows for a relaxed flight to the islands.

[Inward Declaration/Cruising Permit](#)

If you are planning to "island hop" and will be flying to more than one airport in the Bahamas, you'll need to fill out four copies of Form C7A, [Inward Declaration and Cruising Permit for Private Aircraft Entering the Bahamas](#). Request one copy to be returned to you, stamped by Customs. This allows you free movement from airport to airport in the Bahamas. This form gives a general outline of who you are and where you're from. (The Customs officer will determine the length of time your cruising permit will be valid. Any customs officer can request you to surrender your cruising permit at any time.) Since four copies of this form are needed, completing the static information in advance of your trip can be a real time-saver.

Bahamas Customs Department Aircraft General Declaration Form (C7 Inward/Outward)

Three copies of the General Declaration form need to be submitted if you will not be flying to other Bahamian airports. General Declarations are not required if you submit Form C7A [Inward Declaration & Cruising Permit for Private Aircraft Entering the Bahamas](#).

Transire (Form C38)

The Transire form is specifically for the purpose of cruising the Bahamas with cargo or when operating for compensation or hire and receiving payment for any piloting services (airline/charter pilots). The transire form can be used in lieu of a cruising permit, in case you did not obtain one when you first arrived in the islands. A Customs officer may request you use a Transire form in lieu of the C7A Cruising Permit anyway. If you are told to do this, complete the Transire and proceed—don't make it an issue by trying to talk the Customs Officer out of the requirement. You must designate the specific places you wish to visit when you apply for or are requested to complete the Transire. Remember when you land at each Customs airport of entry, to proceed to Customs first and have the Transire stamped by Customs. Then proceed on your business or pleasure.

Bahamas Immigration Disembarkation/Embarkation Card

You will receive this [card](#) when you arrive at Customs in the Bahamas. Each person on the aircraft must fill out a copy of this immigration card, also referred to as the "[tourist card](#)." It is a permit to remain in the Bahamas for the period of time specified, and your copy should be kept in your possession at all times. The Customs/Immigration official will decide how long you can stay according to the information he obtains from you. This form will be returned to Customs/Immigration officials when declaring outbound from the Bahamas. This form is required for all passengers, including children. It should be noted U.S. Citizens may stay as long as they like in the Bahamas without the requirement to obtain a VISA.

Arrival Report

A written arrival report must be filled out upon arrival only at Nassau and Freeport.

Updated Friday, March 7, 2008