



In the know with TOURISM

Impressive 4 Weeks Of Junkanoo Summer

They came by cars, they came by boats and they even came by foot all to experience Bahamian culture at its best.

On Friday, June 12th the Abaco Tourist Office opened Junkanoo Summer Festival to a huge crowd of locals and visitors that gathered at Goombay Park to celebrate Bahamian way of life through music, food and craft.



The festival was opened by performances from the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Marching & Pop Bands, the New Wave Dancers, the Treasure Cay Explorers Junkanoo Group and other cultural expressions that fully engaged and entertained all in attendance.

Abaco Tourist Office
Marsh Harbour, Abaco
www.abaco.bahamas.com
242.367.3067

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LOOK OUTS

September 26th

Bird Watching

Abaco National Park

Miss. Universe Visits The Abacos

On June 10th the reigning Miss Universe, Dayana Mendoza visited the Abacos where she was greeted with warm smiles and wonderful Bahamian hospitality.

During her visit, Miss Mendoza was able to participate in both onshore and offshore activities that allowed her to take away sev-

eral different experiences from this destination. Some of those experiences included taking in a breathtaking view of the quaint settlement of Hope Town from the top of the Candy-striped Lighthouse,

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October 2nd - 3rd, 2009

Abaco Open Water Swim

Marsh Harbour

November 7th, 2009

Annual Guy Fawkes &

Bonfire Celebrations

Green Turtle Cay

Abacos got talent!

Who is Nadine Rolle?

Mrs. Rolle, who is a native of Abaco, became interested in craft making at the early age of 10 when she learned how to crochet. She vividly remembers her aunt and grandma crocheting and sewing masterpieces that would grab the attention of

anyone who was fortunate enough to receive any of the finished products.

Even though she inherited the gift naturally, she decided to expand on her craft making abilities by engaging herself in several of the craft

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December 5th, 2009

Abaco Christmas Festival

Marsh Harbour

December 2009

North Abaco Christmas Celebrations

Treasure Cay

Abaco Is Proactive In Protecting Its Image

The Abaco Tourist Office received a great response from persons and organizations within the various communities when asked to serve on a committee that would focus on addressing the safety needs of The Abacos.

This collective interest formulated the Abaco Tourism Safety and Security Committee that would serve to establish initiatives and awareness on procedures to take during events such as hurricanes, accidents and any illegal activity.

Communities are also re-

mindful of the old adage of 'being its brothers' keepers' and to always share activities that might be suspicious or unusual with the appropriate authorities. In addition, the committee will raise awareness amongst residents, visitors and business owners on all of the safety and security measures that are available to them during all cases of emergency.

The committee will foster this relationship by staging public meetings and seminars that will allow information to be shared and ex-



Bernadette Hall presenting ideas and concerns to committee members on safety issues.

changed. The first item on the agenda for the committee will be a presentation made on hurricane preparedness that will take place on August 13. This will be followed by several other presentations.

Keep Abaco Beautiful Awards

For the second year in a row the Abaco Tourist Office and Friends of the environment will recognize individuals and organizations that have positively impacted their environment in an awards ceremony.

Last year the organizing committee held the first Annual Keep Abaco Beautiful Awards where they were able to honour several Abaconians for their significant contribution towards the protection and sustainability of their environment.

Those successful last year were: Hope Town Primary who won the Education Award; Tom Hazel of Hope Town Harbour Lodge who won the Volunteer Leadership Award and the community of Cherokee who won the Friends of the Environment Award.

The awards ceremony is tied to the Keep Abaco Beautiful Program, which was officially launched in the Abacos in September of 2007 in an effort to engage individuals and organizations in activities that would

improve their community environment. Keep Abaco Beautiful is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, an environmental organization based out of the United States that focuses on litter prevention, waste reduction and community beautification.

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Junkanoo Island Festival-St. Augustine

The participants representing the Island of Abaco were well received by Florida's oldest city when they took over the historic Plaza de la Constitucion in St. Augustine during the Junkanoo Island Festival on May 16th.

The festival, which began in 2007, was built on the premise of a shared heritage between the two communities that dates back to 1783 when the loyalists, who resided in St.

Augustine at the time, decided to migrate to the Abacos.

The Junkanoo Island Festival featured a vibrant junkanoo parade for the huge crowd of spectators, which surely awakened the city's ancient streets through the brilliant colours of the costumes and the melodic sounds that came from the goat skin drums & cowbells.



Abaco Students' Study-Visit To Costa Rica

On July 5th several Abaco students embarked on a four week study abroad, to Costa Rica where they will complete the final phase of the Ministry of Tourism's Foreign Language Cadet Programme.

Cadets: Shaquille Jones, Abaco Central High School; Shannon Paul, Abaco Central High School; Joy Archer, St. Francis de Sales; Chamon McIntosh, Forest Heights Academy and Stephanie Sweeting of Forest Heights Academy are the students who have been enrolled in the language immersion sessions at Centro

Panamericano de Idiomas in Costa Rica. The students were inducted into the programme as Cadets in February of this year.

The Cadets have been preparing themselves for this trip by successfully completing the first two phases of the program that had each of them engaged in Spanish speaking workshops and working voluntarily in a tourism re-



Abaco Cadets Performed In Costa Rican Attire

lated establishment. The final phase of the programme will not only have them enrolled in Spanish speaking courses, but would also have them engaged in excursions and cultural activities.

While in Costa Rica, each Cadet will be accommodated by a host family and will be chaperoned by Millie

Dawkins of the Abaco Tourist Office.

Miss Universe Visits The Abacos

a boat ride that saw the variation of blues in the Sea of Abaco and the opportunity to tee off on an 18th hole Scottish-style tropical links golf course.

Abaco's beauty and diversity will also be shared with other international beauties, as 20 of the 86 contestants who are vying for the title of Miss Universe 2009, will be given the op-

portunity to discover Abaco's charm and island lifestyle on their own. The contestants are set to arrive on Abaco August 11 and will be swept away by other amazing and authentic experiences that are being organized by the Abaco Tourist Office.

The new Miss Universe will be crowned on Sunday, August 23 at the

Atlantis Resort on Paradise Island. The pageant will be aired on NBC beginning at 9:00pm.

"The contestants are set to arrive on Abaco August 11 and will be swept away by other amazing and authentic experiences"

Impressive 4 Weeks Of Junkanoo Summer Festival

The Abaco Tourist Office was also successful in staging this festival on June 19th, 26th and July 3rd at Goombay Park in Marsh Harbour. Each offering of Junkanoo Summer Festival presented a different and exciting experience to the Abaco community, which was made possible through its star line up of various Bahamian entertainers, its dinner menus, craft

stalls and trivia games.

Some of those entertainers included Geno D, KB, Therez Hepburn, New Entry Band, Impact Band, Denton's Dance Group, Youth Groups, T-Time Rake n Scrape and other various junkanoo groups.



Defence Pop Band Put On A Spectacular Show At The Junkanoo Summer Festival



KAB AWARDS

The categories to which individuals and organizations can be nominated are as follows:

The Educational Award: (Geared towards a school)

This award is the highest honor given by Keep Abaco Beautiful and is presented annually to one or more Schools who built and sustained an environmentally conscious program with exceptional success.

Friends of Environment Award:

Geared towards a business either- civic, government, youth groups or private

This award is for a group who has helped build Abaco in the area of environmental consciousness through beautification, litter prevention, and promoting awareness.

The Volunteer Leadership Award: (Geared towards an individual)

This award honors an individual who is given of themselves and goes above & beyond to improve and beautify their communities

Applications for nomination can now be picked up at the Abaco Tourist Office or Friends of the Environment during normal business hours. The deadline for nomination is Friday, August 31st.

Abacos got talent! continued...

training workshops organized by the Bahamas Agriculture and Industrial Corporation.

Today her designs includes bags, dolls, jewelry, ornaments, hats and placemats that can be outfitted in crochet, straw, sand, shells, raffia or the coconut bark.

In December '08, Mrs. Rolle participated in her first craft show when she attended the 14th Annual Bahamian Christmas Craft and Souvenir Show that was held at the Wyndham Resort in Nassau. Her designs were so unique and attractive that she quickly sold out her entire inventory and placed 2nd in the Christmas Ornaments Category.

When asked what keeps her motivated, Nadine's response was, "when someone takes a look at my work and comments on how exquisite and neat my items are, I am deeply moved and happy that they appreciate what I am doing.

In May of this year, Mrs. Rolle was hand picked by the Abaco Tourist Office to display her items at the 2nd Annual Junkanoo Island Festival in Saint Augustine, Fl. Once again her items were popular, as residents of this Florida city flocked to her craft booth in admiration of her creativity.



Pictured: Nadine and Authentically Bahamain Cordinatar from The Abaco Tourist Office

Recently, a competition was held among various agencies in Abaco to depict national pride as apart of the 36th annual Independence Celebrations. Nadine's office, National Insurance Board, was able to capture the 2nd place prize. The display showcased much of Nadine's creation.