

Calendar of Events

Abaco

Annual Island Roots Heritage Festival

May

Green Turtle Cay

This is a Signature Event of the MOT. The communities of Green Turtle Cay, Abaco and Key West Florida enjoy a common heritage with a similar history. This event is a vehicle to connect familial and historical ties common to residents of these islands across geographical and national lines furthering the "Sister City" concept. Descendants come together to share in cultural activities, games, food, drinks and worship. This festival has tremendous external marketing value for Green Turtle Cay and the Abacos as a destination both for international and domestic tourism promotion.

Sandy Point Homecoming Fest

June

Sandy Point

In addition to "homecoming" activities, this event also promotes the Bahamian sailing sloop, sailing regattas. Usually a mid size competition, the community takes pride in attracting some of the best skippers. Local residents and other visitors from islands of the Bahamas reunite and celebrate in Cultural Activities, Games, Food, Drinks and church services.

Annual North Abaco

Summer Festival & Power Boat Race

June

Regatta Village, Treasure Cay.

This event attracts contestants from throughout The Bahamas who compete for this title. A huge crowd of supporters turn out to cheer on their pick for the fastest boat on the sea.

Participants are able to indulge in cultural activities during the four day event which includes native music, food and games.

Junkanoo Summer Festival

June – July

This Signature Event provides a glimpse inside the Bahamian cultural experience, featuring native music, food & drink, dance, calypso bands, arts and craft, junkanoo parades and the Royal Bahamas Police Force marching and pop bands. It is a Bahamian

Street Festival that captures several elements of our culture on a single stage for a dramatic one-night experience over several weeks of the summer. Authentic Bahamian cultural encounters are the highlight of this event.

Christmas Festival

December

This is a Signature Event. The Ministry of Tourism with business and service clubs of the Abacos host the annual "Abaco Christmas Festival." General activities are: a taste of Abaco's finest cuisine, visit with Santa & free "Toys and games for all Tots;" Arts & Craft, Bazaar, Choirs, Quartets, Soloists, Marching and Calypso Bands, Junkanoo Parades, all day Live Entertainment, concluding with the Marsh Harbour Christmas Boat Parade, and spectacular Fireworks.

Acklins

Acklins Regatta & Heritage Festival

August

This sailing regatta & signature heritage festival is sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism to showcase local culture, arts and craft, live entertainment featuring Bahamian Artists, and lots of food and drinks.

Andros

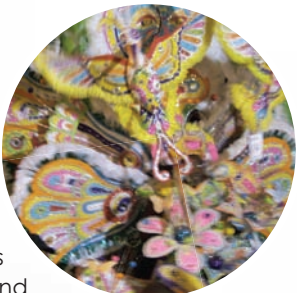
Crab Fest

June

Queen's Park, Fresh Creek

"Crab Fest" is the only Ministry of Tourism Signature Event held in Central Andros. Crab Fest is a cultural/heritage Festival established in Fresh Creek, Central Andros as a collaborative effort between the Andros Tourist Office, Central Andros Local Government Authority and community volunteers in 1997. The Festival was designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Celebrate the positive contributions of crabs to the socioeconomic development of Androsians.
- Create awareness of the need to understand the life-cycle and peculiarities of crabs and the necessity to conserve their habitat.
- Promote the multiple ways in which crab can be enjoyed as a tasty cuisine.
- Boost foreign and domestic tourist arrivals during the traditionally slow summer tourist season.
- Stimulate micro economic activity by empowering local vendors to take advantage of entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Encourage cultural promotion through the co-ordination of first class entertainment and scheduled events.
- Facilitate social exchange and fellowship among Androsians and the wider Bahamian community.



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Crab Fest has evolved from a very humble beginning into a mega tourist event that attracts more than ten thousand domestic and international visitors annually to Andros Island. The event is hosted at Queen's Park, Fresh Creek between the first and second week of June. Here multitudes assemble for social interaction, entertainment, food and drinks from more than forty vending stalls.

Berry Islands

Lobsterfest

August

Berry Islands Lobsterfest consists of a Culinary Competition featuring dishes made from lobster. Entertainment is provided by local Bahamian artists, and consists of games, Junkanoo Rush-out, with lots of food and drinks on sale.



Berry Fest: June - July

Berry Fest includes a fishing tournament, games, crazy sports, arts & craft, cultural displays, entertainment by local Bahamian Artists, a Variety Show, Junkanoo Rush-out, and lots of food and drinks.

Bimini

Festivals and special activities abound on Bimini. These include:

- The Bimini Regatta
- Bimini Street Festival
- Fishing Tournaments
- Repeat Visitors/
Second-Home Owners
Receptions.

Street Festival - U.S & Bahamian Independence, a celebration of our relationship with our US neighbours with cultural displays, performances and food.

U.S. Independence Reception - an appreciation of our visitors who spent this time on the island.

Bimini Native Fishing Tournament – a traditional 'home-coming' week-long fishing event spearheaded by the Bimini Progressive Sporting Club. It was taken over by the Ministry of Tourism after its decline.

Wahoo Tournament – Fishing tournament featuring mainly repeat visitors and long-time competitors.

Hemingway Festival – A memorial tribute to the life and times of Ernest Hemingway and his ties to Bimini.

Bimini Women In Fishing Tournament – Recognition of the contribution of the women of the community to the fishing industry of Bimini. In the first year, honorary plaques were presented, the second year expanded to what is hoped to be an annual fishing tournament.

Cat Island

Cat Island Rake & Scrape Festival

June

The Cat Island Rake & Scrape Festival is the Signature Event for Cat Island and is sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism. It features a Gospel Concert, Children's corner with games and bouncing castle, Miss & Little Miss Rake & Scrape Beauty Pageant, Battle of the Bands, Live entertainment with local Bahamian Artists, Fun Run/Walk from Bennett's Harbour to festival site in Arthur's Town, Story Telling, Quadrille Dancing, Rake & Scrape Training in the schools, Closing Ceremony and Awards presentation. Lots of food and drinks on sale. Part proceeds from the festival are used to provide a scholarship to a deserving local high school graduate from Cat Island to attend the College of The Bahamas.



Eleuthera

Annual Pineapple Festival

June

This Festival is held in Gregory Town, Eleuthera. It was first introduced in 1988. Jacqueline Gibson of The Ministry of Tourism's Governor's Harbour BTO conceived the idea. The purpose of the Pineapple Festival, firstly, was to honour the many pineapple farmers for their outstanding contributions to the community. Secondly, to bring together Bahamians and visitors from all walks of life to enjoy and participate in pineapple events such as pineapple eating contests, pineapple cooking contests, old time pineapple crazy sports, plaiting of the pineapple pole, Little Miss Pineapple Pageant and non-stop food and drinks made from the pineapple. It also includes the Annual Continental Airlines Cycling Race (a 40 mile bike race) sponsored by Continental Airlines.



Exuma

Bahamian Music & Heritage Festival

March

This event has become the benchmark for festivals throughout the country. It showcases Bahamian music,

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food, boat building, arts and craft, Junkanoo and a deep sense of cultural and heritage aspects of island life. The rich island culture is seen through the rake n' scrape dance competition, children's' games, old time religion singing, and so much more. It brings together thousands of Bahamians and visitors to experience the opportunity to be entertained, and educated at the same time. This first class event boosts domestic tourism while allowing foreign visitors to fully experience the Bahamian culture.

Junkanoo Summer Festival

June - July (6 Saturdays)

This annual event is held in conjunction with the Independent Fish Fry Committee. The event is held for six Saturdays, June through July. The festival is based on all things Bahamian. Great emphasis is placed on culture, heritage and Bahamian entertainment. Locally grown fruits and vegetables, pastries, food, games, and "old fashion" competitions incorporate the essence of the festival which increases domestic tourism during this otherwise soft period, and is an excellent Bahamian experience for the visitors.



National Family Island Regatta

In 2009 The National Family Island Regatta will celebrate 56 years of existence. It is the largest event on the Exuma BTO's calendar. Cultural activities include entertainment with local and national performers, police/defence force bands, display of local arts & craft, straw work, kids' corner, manning of information booth, and assistance with the skippers reception.



Farmers Cay Festival

February

The Farmers Cay Festival Regatta is held each year during the first weekend of February. Now in its 21st year, the event actually started as a family reunion, where families travelled back home for a weekend of fun, games, and to visit family members. Nine years ago a regatta was added to the festival. Today at least 15-20 "C Class" native sloops compete for the top three positions. Among other activities during the festival are the swing the ring, pass the Egg, and the soldier crab races. The festival brings together natives and visitors alike, as that time of the year is when yachters are plentiful in the Exuma Cays.

Harbour Island

Briland Back Yard Festival

April

This festival is a delightful evening of Junkanoo and Bahamian music in a

very classical and tasteful setting. Native Bahamian cuisine, along with local art work and fashion, delights the festival participants as they enjoy the pulsating songs of various musicians while they perform. This festival is on the calendar of all winter residents/ second home owners of the island.

Inagua

Inagua Saltyfest

August

This festival features an Opening Ecumenical Church Service, Gospel Concert, Inagua Idol Talent Competition, Story Telling, Games, Marching Bands, Live entertainment with Bahamian Artists, Karate Demonstrations, The Salty Dancers, Tours of Morton Salt Company, Inagua National Park, Inagua Lighthouse, Miss & Little Miss Inagua Beauty Pageant, a Culinary Competition (Main dishes wild boar and donkey), Inagua Bush Tea Party, Pin Skiff Boat Race, Junkanoo Rushout, lots of food and drinks and Fireworks.



Long Island

Long Island Cornfest

April

Long Island Cornfest is the Signature event for Long Island and is sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism. This festival features an opening Church Service, Family Fun & Game-Night, Culture & Talent Night, Farmers Honorary Banquet, Fun Run/Walk from Life Center Oasis to McKann's, An Agricultural Seminar, Corn Festival at Regatta Park and a Gospel Concert at Beulah Baptist Church, Corn competitions, Kid's Corner, a Livestock display, Miss & Little Miss Cornfest Beauty Pageant, with lots of corn dishes, food & drinks on sale.

San Salvador

San Salvador Discovery Day Festival

October

This festival is the Signature Event for San Salvador and features a Music Festival, showcasing local Bahamian Artists, Gospel concert, Gamalamee Boat Race, Crazy Sports, Heritage events including shooting marbles contest, jump rope, hop scotch, crab race, hoola-hoop, top spinning. Schools are included in an effort to get the kids in the Primary Schools to participate in an essay competition, whilst the High School students are included in a debate competition, spelling bee and talent show. A special Senior Citizens Luncheon is held at Graham's Harbour. A Cultural Show is held followed by Battle of the DJ's, Closing Ceremony, Performance by the Royal Bahamas Police Force Pop Band and Fireworks. Lots of food and drinks on sale.

