

It's Better in the Bahamas...

I had the pleasure of travelling to the Bahamas hosted by Travel Week and Yellowbird Foundation to participate in the Susan G Komen-5km Run for the Cure, and attend the Marathon Bahamas, Jan 12 - 16, 2012.

The Yellowbird Foundation is a non-profit corporation developed out of a basic feeling in the Canadian Travel Industry that the beaches and hotels we see as tourists to the Caribbean and Latin America are not the true picture of what life is really like in 'paradise' and that we can do something to help. The Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to the development of some of the communities of our favorite travel destinations and is committed to: Improving the lives of children in the Caribbean and Latin America by supporting local education and school programs Promoting local education programs within the Caribbean and Latin America Providing financial, consultative training and infrastructure support to schools and educational organizations in the Caribbean and Latin America.

I started my journey with the convenient flights on WestJet Airlines via Toronto to Nassau Bahamas.

Lynden Pindling International Airport

Upon arrival I noticed the new airport being built for a 2013 opening. The facility was designed in co-operation with the Vancouver Tourist Authority. I could see the very similarities with the Vancouver airport architecture.

The expanded and modernized capacity of the Lynden Pindling International Airport will be capable of servicing an expected 5.2 million travelers every year by the year 2020. Renovations aside, the Pindling International Airport boasts some of the most lavish guest accommodation in the region. Some of the Bahamas most famous resorts are situated within five miles of the Lynden Pindling International Airport grounds. Some of these resorts include the following: the Blue Water Resort at Cable Beach, the Marley Resort and Spa, and the Causarinas Hotel.

Sheraton Nassau Hotel – Cable Beach

Every guest room and suite boasts a large private balcony or patio where you can enjoy breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean, lush gardens, or waterscape. After a long day of travelling you can experience The Sheraton Sweet Sleeper™ Bed, with its plush mattress and feather-down pillows. It's a great way to end a busy day. The room also includes High Speed Internet Access, 32-inch flat screen LCD TV, dual-line phones, and generous workspace in every room, which are completely smoke-free. The beach boasts a beautiful beach front with white sands, and a multitude of water sports to enjoy.



Day Trip to Georgetown, Exuma - Sandals Emerald Bay Resort

Arriving at Moss Town Airport, we travelled a short 10minute drive to Sandals Emerald Bay Resort. Many locals prepared us to expect the most pristine, mile long beaches that the Bahamas has to offer. We were not disappointed to find paradise. The brand new Sandals Emerald Bay all inclusive resort in the Bahamas brings unprecedented luxury, Bahamian-style architecture of elegant villas and suites, including a half-acre, zero-entry pool with dramatic fire pit in the middle and five exceptional restaurants. Enjoy championship golf on a Greg Norman-designed course. For people who like to be pampered, visit the first-ever 29,000 sq. ft. Red Lane® Dermalogica, an Exuma luxury spa. This property has a unique blend of seclusion and sophistication. Sandals Emerald Bay is worth the short trip from Nassau, to experience unbelievable luxury and relaxation. I had the opportunity to learn how to paddle surf, and it was a fantastic to enjoy the calm ocean and un-crowded beach. Sandals provides superior service, food and hospitality.



Atlantis Paradise Island Resort - Paradise Beach

A unique ocean-themed resort destination, Atlantis offers a variety of accommodation choices:

- The Beach and Coral Towers**, relaxed tropical ambience
- The Royal Towers** – Simply royal.
- The Cove** - Luxury and contemporary style all-suite property.
- The Reef** features all the comforts of home in spacious studios and one-bedroom suites.
- The Harbourside Resort** offers a home-away-from-home with spacious, private villas.

Regardless of where you choose to stay, you will enjoy full access to explore the wonders of Atlantis.

There are not enough adjectives to describe Atlantis. This property is sprawling with beautiful hotels, restaurants and shopping, water activities, culture and entertainment, to suit everyone's taste and age group. This resort truly caters to the whole family. I would suggest no less than 5 days to fully experience all that Atlantis has to offer. There is no shortage of activities to keep children, teens and adults engaged.



British Colonial Hilton - Downtown Nassau, the site of Old Fort Nassau,

The British Colonial Hilton in the Bahamas has undergone a multi-million renovation throughout all areas of the hotel, and has restored the island's rich history, along with some of the most modern amenities for both business and vacation travelers. This hotel offers the convenience of downtown, yet situated on downtown Nassau's only private beach. In my opinion, this downtown hotel is my preferred choice in Nassau. The location of this property is convenient to shopping, restaurants, and of course the private beach. It is the ideal blend of business and pleasure.



Superclubs Breezes Bahamas - Cable Beach



Everything you could possibly want in a tropical getaway is at your fingertips, and it's all included. All your meals, drinks and entertainment. You'll find spectacular water sports in the clearest Caribbean waters you've ever seen. There's a rock-climbing wall, tennis and beach volleyball. There's even a circus school complete with flying trapeze to help take your vacation to a whole new level. Some renovations have been done to the common areas of the property, and some guest room wash-rooms. The guest rooms are clean and provide great value for your money. In my opinion, the rooms could be updated with newer and modern décor.

Sandals Royal Bahamian - Spa resort & offshore island

Rich in history, this property was famed as the Balmoral Club of the 1940s, hosting the elite Duke and Duchess of Windsor. The transformation into the Sandals Royal Bahamian, it remains an oasis of European grandeur, and is considered to be the most elegant resort in the Bahamas. And only Sandals gives you two vacations in one: Included is an exotic escape to Sandals' romantic offshore Island just minutes away with two secluded coastlines, a chic beach club, signature pool with swim-up bar, the exquisite Red Lane Spa*, and the region's best seafood house.



This property exudes elegance in every aspect and has everything you need on your perfect holiday. The Royal Bahamian has 10 specialty restaurants, and 9 bars, that will impress any food critic. Each venue is unique, special and customized, that will only enhance your Sandals experience. Many hours were spent at the Piano Bar, enjoying the company of other guests, new friends, and superb bar staff and Piano man.

The Islands of Bahamas are worth the journey, to see the most beautiful waters in the Caribbean. The people are warm, friendly and charismatic. I have been to many Caribbean Islands, and I personally would rank this at the top. Each island possesses a unique feel, lifestyle and experience. I can't wait to go back.....

Nestley Santiago
Farlie Travel Ltd.