The Bahamas

Birding the Lucayan Archipelago

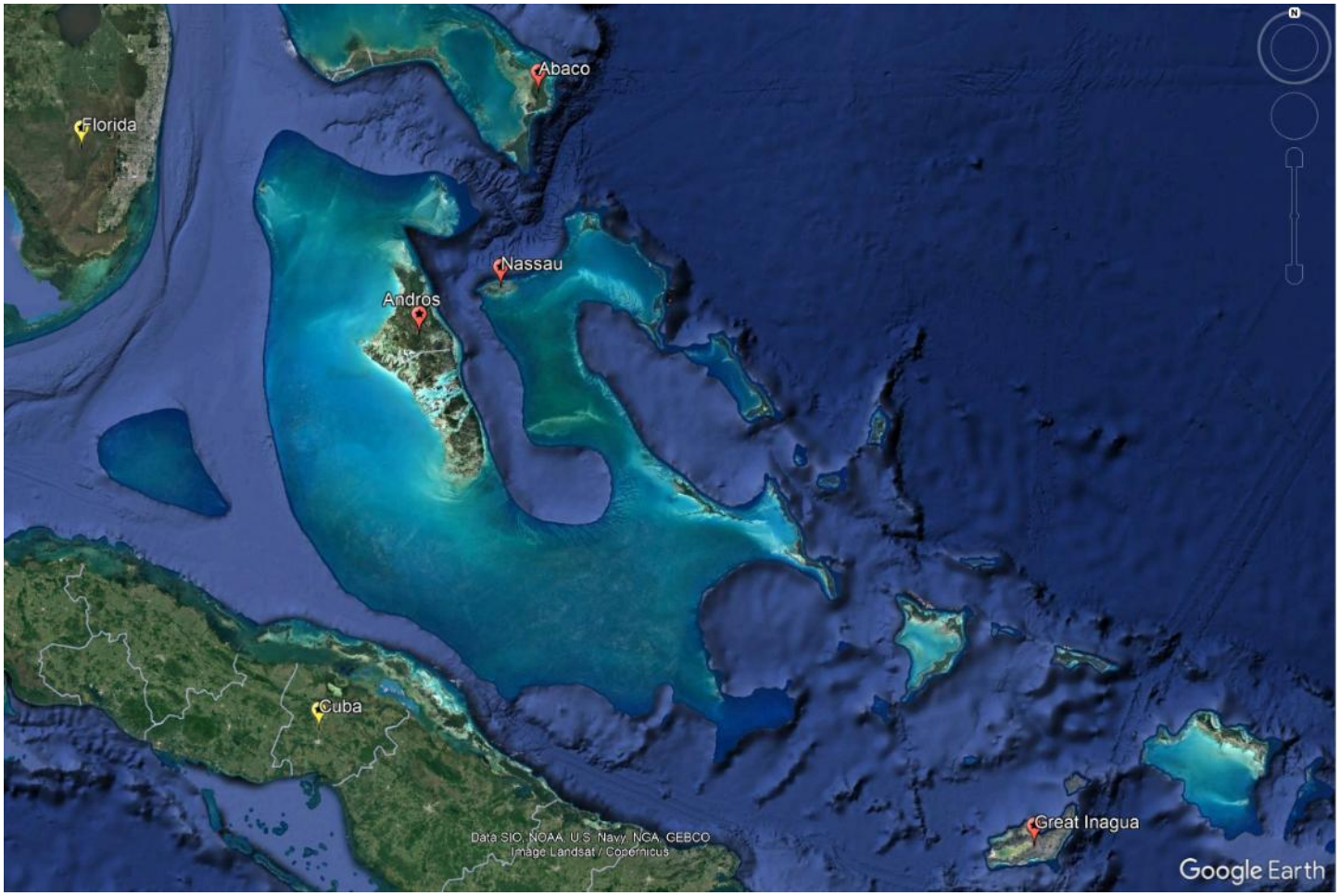


Bahama Woodstar by Rob Williams

Far better known as tourism destination, the scattered low-lying islands of The Bahamas hold the standard beach holiday allure of palm trees, coral reefs, endless miles of white sandy beaches and warm blue waters. Our tour targets the handful of endemics, meaning we need only visit a few of the larger islands for Bahama Woodstar, Inagua Woodstar, Bahama Warbler, Bahama Swallow, Bahama Yellowthroat and Bahama Oriole. Given the propensity for restricted island species to attain elevated species status in the future, we shall also search for Bahaman form of Cuban Amazon, Great Lizard Cuckoo and Clapper Rail. Aside from the endemic and near endemic targets, we can also expect to find a number of more widespread Caribbean species including the spectacle of 60 000 American Flamingo, Key West Quail-Dove, Cuban Emerald, La Sagra's Flycatcher, Bahama Mockingbird, Olive-capped Warbler, Western Spindalis, Greater Antillean Bullfinch, White-tailed Tropicbird and the scarce Kirtland's Warbler on migration.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrival in Nassau, New Providence**
Day 2	**Nassau; flight to Abaco**
Day 3	**Abaco; flight to Nassau**
Day 4	**Nassau; flight to Andros**
Day 5	**Andros, flight to Great Inagua via Nassau**
Days 6 & 7	**Great Inagua**
Day 8	**Great Inagua; flight to Nassau & final departure**



Birding sites in detail

Abaco. The premier birding destination in the Bahamas, boasting a plethora of avian wonders, including Bahama Yellowthroat, Bahama Warbler, and the likely-to-be-split Cuban (Bahama) Amazon, along with several endemic subspecies.



Bahama Mockingbird by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Abaco stands out for its abundant birdlife, harboring more specialties than any other island. The expansive pine woodlands serve as the habitat for Abaco's Cuban Amazon of the endemic Bahamian subspecies, which will almost certainly be split as Bahama Amazon. A highlight is observing these vibrant birds as they head to their roosts. The area also provides ample opportunities to find the endemic Bahama Warbler and Bahama Yellowthroat. Endemic Bahama Swallows nest in dead trees, gracefully feeding over pastures and ponds. The elusive Bahamas Woodstar may also make an appearance, though it is relatively uncommon on this island.

We are sure to also find more widespread Caribbean species such as White-crowned Pigeon, Mangrove Cuckoo, Cuban Emerald, West Indian Woodpecker, Cuban Pewee, Grey and Loggerhead Kingbirds, Red-legged Thrush, Bahama Mockingbird, Thick-billed and Black-whiskered Vireos, Golden and Olive-capped Warblers, Bananaquit, Western Spindalis, Black-faced Grassquit, Greater Antillean Bullfinch, and possibly the alluring yet elusive Key West Quail-Dove. As dusk falls, we hope to see Antillean Nighthawks feeding nearby.



Western Spindalis by SD

Andros. We spend our time focusing on the rare and localised Bahama Oriole, Bahama Woodstar (more readily seen here than on Abaco), Great Lizard Cuckoo, the endemic subspecies of Clapper Rail and the generally scarce West Indian Whistling Duck.

We should also see Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue, Little Blue, and Green Herons, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill and Spotted Sandpiper.

Great Inagua. Over the course of time here we will primarily target the endemic Inagua Woodstar, which is normally easily found. We have sufficient time to head to the largest colony of American Flamingos (+- 60 000 individuals) and have further chances for Cuban Amazon. This population is likely a different race to that of Abaco and Cuba. The island boasts the best wetlands in the Bahamas, and we'll spend time seeing and photographing the likes of Roseate Spoonbill, Black-necked Stilt, Snowy Plover and a wide variety of migrant shorebirds, warblers, and waterfowl.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Reasonably easy to moderate (due to travel). Suitable for all birding / wildlife interest levels.
Birding Ease		Undemanding. Most species provide good visuals.
Accommodation		Very comfortable.
Walking / Trails		Easy to moderate walking, mostly around lodge gardens, along roads or on beeches. Level walking for the most part.
Vehicles / Roads		Limited amount of driving, generally space is cramped.
Photography		Good to very good. No dedicated hides, some feeders.
Annoyances		Cramped vehicles can be hot to very hot.

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

This tour is made available through our Tailor-made tours department. To explore this offering further for pricing, precise day to day itinerary, inclusions & exclusions, or to tailor the tour to your personal requirements, please contact our Tailor-made team on tailormade@rockjumper.com

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- To ensure your comfort and that of your companions, please limit yourself to one medium-sized suitcase or duffel bag (20 kg / 44 lb) and one carry-on bag.

Arrival and Departure Details

Day 1 of the tour is an arrival day into Nassau. The tour concludes here after a short flight from Great Inagua on the morning of day 8.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

Lynden Pindling International Airport, Nassau (IATA: NAS), is the main port of entry and departure for international flights into the Bahamas and is well serviced by most international carriers.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.