

Let's go to the Islands!

January 22-26, 2023

Great Exuma Island, Bahamas

Departing Ft. Lauderdale January 22

FPA membership feedback is positive and strong with interest about our planned Winter Meeting Saturday, January 21, 2023 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. All members, families and guests are welcome to attend. More information about registration and the Fort Lauderdale KFXE Winter Meeting host hotel are included in this Bulletin.

The schedule begins with Friday afternoon arrival on January 20. A Saturday morning FPA Board of Directors meeting is followed by an optional lunch and afternoon CME Workshop at the hotel near KFXE Airport. An optional group dinner is planned Saturday evening in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea.

The best part is a *planned group Fly-Out to George Town, Great Exuma, Bahamas Sunday morning January 22-26, 2023. (MYEF)*. The last time FPA had an outing to the Bahamas was 2014, and it was outstanding! Start making plans now whether coming solo, teaming up with a fellow FPA member/s or flying commercial.

Hopefully the following information will offer guidance and answer many questions. Please feel free to call my cell or email me. Vince Cell 317-703-9799 email v_ostrowski@hotmail.com

FAQ's

Is there a briefing? Yes, at the end of the meeting Saturday we will go over member questions for last minute planning. Details are included in this email.

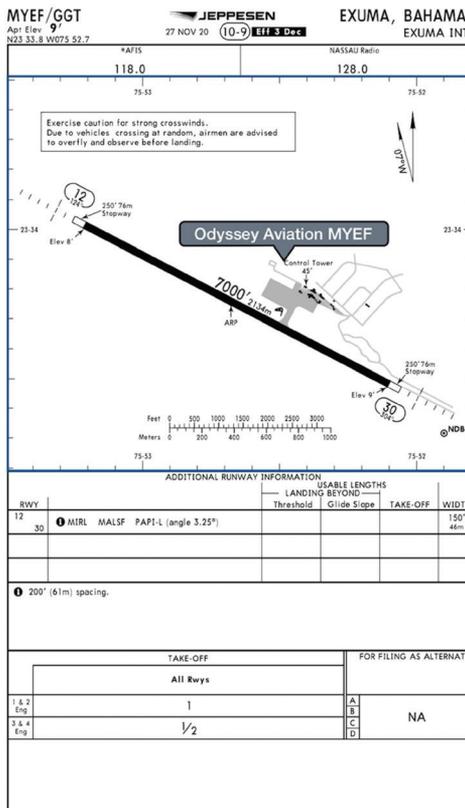
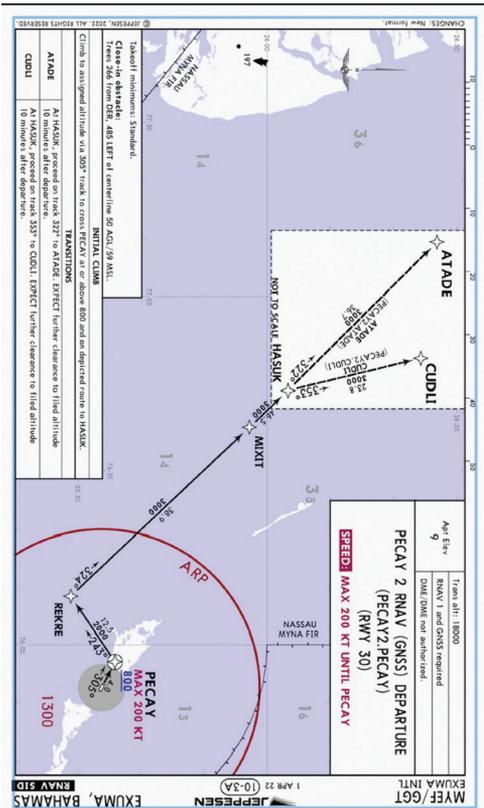
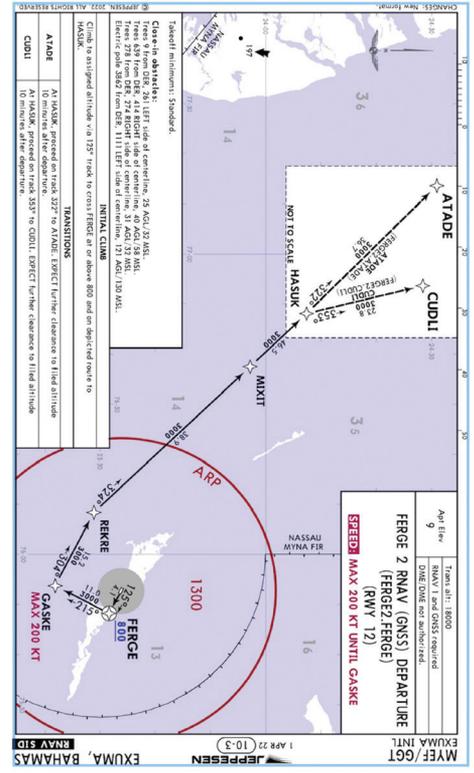
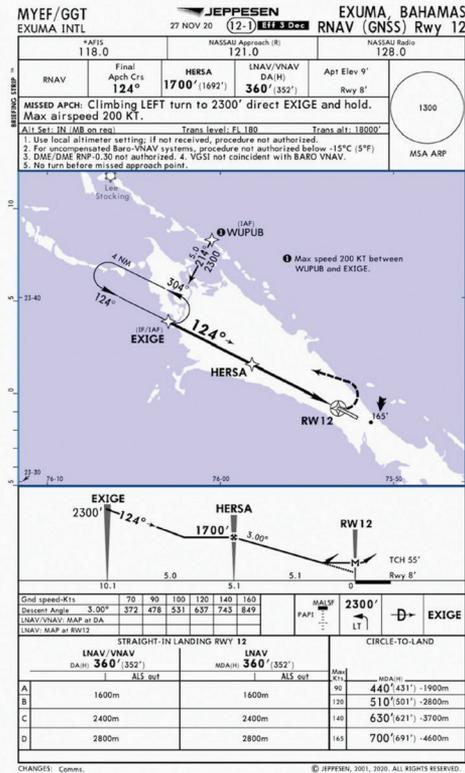
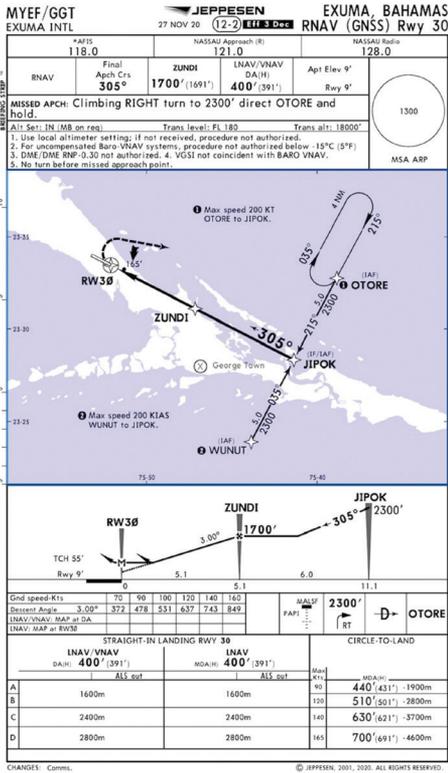
Solo or with a member? This is up to you. If you know of a friend/member/prospective member you wish to travel with, give them a call.

What is the planned time in Exuma? Arrive Sunday January 22, leave Thursday January 26.

What is the Florida FBO in Ft. Lauderdale? Banyan at KFXE. www.banyanair.com. and Atlantic Aviation for overflow: www.atlanticaviation.com.

Do I need a rental car? Highly recommended. There are some car services and a rare taxi on the island. No Uber or Lyft. I have used www.exumacarrental.com They will bring it over to Odyssey or you can walk across the street from the FBO to pick it up. Cars are VERY basic in the Bahamas. (ie: 10 to 15 years old and 1 hubcap) You WILL drive on the LEFT side of the road.

The following images are for planning purposes only and are not valid for navigation:



The Exumas (MYEF) Exuma International

Runway 12/30 1000 x 150 ft, asphalt
Elevation 9 ft
Variation 8° West
Lights MRL, MALSF (RWY 12), REIL, PAPI (on left), 100LL Jet A
Fuel F80
Location 12 M NW of George Town
Owner Bahamas Civil Aviation Authority (242) 345-0607
Obstructions None
Remarks Year-round Mon-Fri 1400-2200z+ UTC-5(-4h) Landing, Customs, FBO Fees
Fees None
Remarks None

CTAF | 118.0
AWOS-2 | 118.5
ARP | 1210 Nassau
DEP | 1210 Nassau
Nassau Radio | 128.0 (Primary)
Nassau Radio | 124.2 (Secondary)

WHY HERE Convenient and easy airport, friendly FBO

Customs/Immigration Customs and Immigration available all months all days 1400-2200z+ Utc-5(-4h). After hours available by request. Office located adjacent to FBO lobby.
Food Kermis Airport Lounge (242) 345-0002 on field, snacks and vending inside FBO
Transportation Airport Car Rental (242) 345-0000, Thompsons Car Rental (242) 345-0005
Remarks Nassau, FL SVC for LCL, INFO (242) 377-7176/2006, EMERG 1-242-377-2040 Foreign CIV GOVT landing fees and diplomatic CLNC may be RQR. Firefighting equipment on file.

144 The Exumas | aopa.org/pilotguides

Where are we staying? This is flexible. To offer maximum flexibility, accommodations will be up to members. Recommendations include (www.grandisleresort.com www.sandals.com <Emerald Bay> www.peaceandplenty.com www.vrbo.com www.airbnb.com)

Remember, **THIS IS HIGH SEASON**. Please look at these websites to see what would work the best for you. All of these will be around 15 to 20 minutes from the airport. By having members pick, you can see the different amenities offered, locations and price points.

Grand Isle is very nice, high end, lots of amenities, several restaurants but pricier.

Sandals is all-inclusive but adults only.

Peace and Plenty has an older Maine-side hotel. It is older, very capable but has a very small pool and no beach. **HOWEVER**, if you take their free water taxi across the channel, they have additional more secluded lodging options on an out-island.

I personally am reserving a **VRBO** residence. **VRBO** and **Airbnb** have many listings for rent. They offer flexibility to you by being a bit more private and with multiple bedrooms. You can bring other family members, family friends or other FPA members.

Is there commercial service? Yes, Bahamas Air and Silver Airways www.silverairways.com www.bahamasair.com

Can I pick a route over land as much as possible? Yes. VFR flight following is possible (usually above 7000ft). If lower, Miami may hear you but not see you. I have been told that anywhere in the Bahamas you are 20 minutes from an airport at all times.

Do I need a raft? No. Life jackets are required though. If you would like to rent a raft or life jackets, this can be done by calling Johnathan at 1-954-870-4731 or visit the website aviationraft.com. (You will need to return them)

Is there CME planned in Exuma? Possibly. If you are attending and would be willing to speak, let me know. I would be happy to give a talk. I can bring my LCD projector. This will be informal and low-tech. If you would be willing to talk, let me know ASAP so we can submit the talks for CME approval.

Is the airport good in Exuma? Yes. MYEF offers a 7,000ft runway, control tower, 100LL/JetA, Customs, two GPS approaches. We will use Odyssey Aviation. Covid testing and the travel health visa are no longer required.

Do cell phones work? Yes. Check with your provider. Get a cheap international plan. I have Verizon and pay \$10/day for full international cell/internet capabilities.

What is planned in Exuma? RELAXATION! Things run slower in the Bahamas. Trying to get away from a tight schedule. Attendee feedback will be important but possibilities include:

Sunday get together at a restaurant for dinner.



An advertisement for Odyssey Aviation Bahamas. At the top, a yellow banner reads "Voted #1 Caribbean FBO 2021, by The Professional Pilot Magazine!". Below this is the Odyssey Aviation Bahamas logo, which includes a stylized blue 'O' and the text "ODYSSEY AVIATION BAHAMAS". To the right of the logo is a small image of a jet airplane. Below the logo, the text reads "World Renowned Destination" and "World Renowned Service". At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a list of services: "Exuma International MYEF", "FBO Excellence at Odyssey Aviation Exuma MYEF!", "Superior Concierge Service", "Highly Qualified Line Service Team", "The Only FBO at MYEF", "Large Capacity Fuel Farm", and "On-Site Customs & Immigration". The advertisement also includes a photograph of a group of people standing in front of a white van and another photograph of an airport terminal. At the very bottom, the website "www.odysseyaviation.com" and the phone number "242.702.0200" are displayed.

A CME morning.

An afternoon at "The Chat and Chill" bar on Stocking Island. www.chatnchill.com

Sightseeing. Possible all-day "Fast-Boat" tour to visit the Pig Beach, Iguana island, swim with the sharks, snorkeling in Thunderball Grotto (from 007) www.swimmingwithpigs.com

Wednesday dinner at an out-island by water taxi.

As is always the case in the Bahamas, plan for a very low-key, no-pressure outing. "Island Time" is sorely missed in our hectic days so relax and unwind. Being able to fly to the Bahamas is one of the unique perks to flying your own airplane. There are a few steps to go through but it is a rewarding adventure you will remember forever. I am positive it is on the bucket list of many FPA members. Expect high ceilings and VFR weather.

Some Notes:

BasicMed is accepted. MYEF has a control tower but it does not have radar. NexRad and ADSB usually do not work past Bimini. The Bahamas recognizes Experimental and LSA aircraft. A notarized letter is needed if the aircraft flown does not belong to the pilot (rented). 12 inch N-numbers are needed. Also, be sure to check your Registration is still valid and has not timed-out. Night VFR is not allowed in the Bahamas.

US to Exuma: (These steps are required)

Make sure your aircraft documents are present and up to date. (ARROW)

Make sure your insurance policy covers the Bahamas. Most already do but check.

Order a US Customs sticker for your plane. <https://dtops.cbp.dhs.gov/>

File eAPIS manifests for both outbound and inbound flights. <https://eapis.cbp.dhs.gov>

Life jackets for all on board.

U.S. Passport

File a flight plan (DVFR or IFR) Activate plan ASAP after takeoff.

Must land at a Bahamian Airport of Entry AOE. Great Exuma MYEF qualifies.

After landing in Exuma and clearing BHS Customs, you will need to fill out a C7A Bahamas Cruising Permit and one immigration card per person.

Possible items:

Portable GPS personal locator beacon.

Life raft.

Exuma to the US: (These steps are required)

One copy of the Bahamas Customs C7 Outward Form.

Return Bahamas Immigration card.

File flight plan to US Airport of Entry. (Must have a squawk code prior to passing the ADIZ)

File eAPIS manifest to the U.S. (I recommend doing the eAPIS outbound and inbound entries several weeks prior to the trip).

Call U.S. Customs office on the field of your chosen U.S. AOE to advise them of your arrival no less than 1 hour but no more than 24 hours prior to your arrival. (I recommend calling them the afternoon prior to the departure day) They will give you a "code" over the phone. This is usually the initials of the Customs officer you spoke to.

Pay Bahamian departure tax \$29.00 per person.

Must depart the Bahamas from a Bahamian AOE (Exuma qualifies)

Usually, US Customs wants you to take all luggage out of the plane to go through a scanner and leave all doors/hatches open or unlocked.

Helpful resources

AOPA Bahamas Pilot Guide

www.aopa.org/travel/international-travel/bahamas-and-caribbean-pilots-guides

ForeFlight has Bahamian airport information

Current instrument approaches can be purchased from Jeppesen.