

Things to Do on Eleuthera

“Surfer's Beach is for wave riders, but there are also beaches for snorkelers, swimmers and shell collectors. Best of all, you can have one all to yourself. Around midafternoon on New Year's Eve, when nearly all the island's rooms were booked, not a single soul could be spotted on Ten Bay Beach, six miles south of Governor's Harbour, despite a brilliant sunshine and near perfect temperatures.” **New York Times**, February 19, 2006.

It's obvious that the reporter who penned these lines was seeing Eleuthera for the first time. Regular visitors are surprised to find anyone on their favorite beach. With [seventy miles of beaches](#) and a few dozen hotel rooms, Eleuthera is a paradise for beach lovers who enjoy privacy and unspoiled natural beauty.

Beyond the beaches, Eleuthera is surrounded by coral reefs that offer exceptional **diving** and [snorkeling](#). **The Devil's Backbone**, the most famous Eleuthera dive, is a large coral formation off North Eleuthera, notorious for wrecking ships. [The Current Cut](#), a narrow channel with currents that regularly reach 10 knots, has been rated one of the ten best dives in the world. **Buttonwood Beach** has a shipwreck, and there is even a sunken train wreck off the north coast of the island. Shark dives and other guided adventure dives are also available. (See SCUBA below.)

Eleuthera is famous for [bonefishing](#) and [deep-sea fishing](#). **Reef fishing** and **spear-fishing** are also popular. (Guides and charter captains are listed below.) The Caribbean side of the island is usually free of heavy surf, providing excellent conditions for **sailing**, **windsurfing**, and **kayaking**. **Powerboat, sailboat, and jet ski rentals** are available. Trails through the fields and woods are perfect for **jogging**, **hiking**, and **mountain-biking**. You won't find them on a map or in a guidebook, so ask a local resident or watch for trails on the side of the road.

The Atlantic side of the island north of James Cistern offers several excellent beaches for **surfing**, with [Surfer's Beach](#) and **Holiday Beach** being the most famous. **Surfing lessons** are available. For **golfers**, Eleuthera has the only Robert Trent Jones-designed golf course in the Bahamas, once ranked among the best in the world, although maintenance is now haphazard.

Eleuthera offers varied and unique **sightseeing**. The **Hatchet Bay Cave** extends for a mile underground. At [the Cliffs](#), giant ocean swells crash into a coral precipice. The [Rock Sound Ocean Hole](#), said to be bottomless, is an inland salt lake connected by subterranean passages to the sea. Feed the tame saltwater fish miles from the ocean. The **Glass Window Bridge**, painted by Winslow Homer, is the narrowest point on the island, where the calm turquoise waters of the Caribbean almost touch the turbulent deep blue of the Atlantic. The cavernous **Preacher's Cave** provided shelter for the first European settlers of Eleuthera, and served as their first church. The [Queen's Baths](#) are a collection of small pools carved out of the soft rock by wave action. At low tide, the Queen—or anyone fortunate enough to be on Eleuthera—can bathe amongst the little fishes. These sites are all in their pristine state. Don't expect to find a guide booth--or even a paved road.

Eco-tourism is growing on the island. The Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve, the first national park on the island of Eleuthera, opened last year near Governors Harbour: www.levypreserve.org/. Visitors can walk miles of trails through the preserve to view the orchids, food and medicinal plants, and hardwood trees that played an important role in the history of the island. The **Island School** www.islandschool.org and the **Cape Eleuthera Institute** www.ceibahamas.org offer fascinating daily tours of their facilities and their work in tropical and marine ecology, and building strong relationships between people and their environment.

Each of Eleuthera's score of **picturesque villages** deserves a visit. **Gregory Town**, home of the annual Pineapple Festival, is also home to Pam's Island Made Gift Shop, featuring local handicrafts, and Thompson's bakery, creator of Eleuthera's famous pineapple and coconut tarts. **Spanish Wells** is an island fishing village off the north coast of Eleuthera with lovely nineteenth century cottages in pastel colors. **Governor's Harbour** features an historic waterfront, colonial homes, and the recently restored Haynes Library. Governors Harbour also hosts the **Friday night fish fry**, a weekly waterfront street party that brings out locals and visitors alike. [Harbour Island](#), a five-minute water-taxi ride from Eleuthera, offers five-star hotels, shopping, and celebrity sightings. No private cars are permitted on the streets of Harbour Island, so plan on renting a golf cart.

Live music is also popular on Eleuthera, part-time home to Lenny Kravitz and his band, Mariah Carey, and others. There is live music somewhere every night of the week during most of the year. For details, see Entertainment, below.

Eleuthera has numerous [annual events](#), from the **Pineapple Festival** and the **Ride for Hope** to the **International Food Fair** and the **North Eleuthera Regatta**.

For other sights and attractions, try...
<http://eleuthera.com/attractions.html>

Contacts and Resources for Things to Do

BICYCLE RENTALS

Dexter Bootle, Governors Harbour: 242-332-2229

Tom Glucksman: Gregory Town: 242-551-9635 or 335-0349
www.bahamasadventures.com; info@bahamasadventures.com

Forty's, Governors Harbour: Call Pineapple Fields Office: 242-332-2221
Or email Forty at Laton@coralwave.com

For more info: <http://eleuthera.com/bike.html>

BOAT RENTALS AND CHARTERS

For general advice about fishing, fishing guides, and boat charters, contact Paul Mason, bahamabones@gmail.com, (305) 240-4284; (888) 847-0305

Skip Miller Boat Rentals, Governors Harbour: (904) 236-6320; cell: (242) 470-6288
skipmillersailing@yahoo.com.

Power boat: 14' Maritime with a 40-HP Yamaha outboard. \$200/day or \$700/week.

Sailboats: Sunfishes and Opties, \$50/day.

Jet Skis: \$200/day plus fuel.

Eratio's Boat Rental, Governors Harbour: (242) 464-0568

Power boat: 17' Boston Whaler with a 90-HP Mercury outboard. \$140/day.

Sheldon Claridge, 242-468-7785, 242-332-3244, 242-334-2529, sheldonc2004@yahoo.com
21' Mako with a 200-HP Optimax Mercury, seats 8. \$800/day (\$400 half day), \$3500/week.

Forty's, Governors Harbour: Call Pineapple Fields Office: (242) 332-2221

Or email Forty at Laton@coralwave.com

Rents kayaks, sail boats, snorkel gear. Also rents bikes, beach chairs, umbrellas, cribs.

Eleuthera Sailing Charter (Captain Ali), (503) 929-9622, (242) 551-1340. aliwild1@gmail.com. 50' sloop and other smaller boats.

Rodney Pinder Kayak Rentals, (242) 470-4394, (242) 332-1891, rodneypinder@hotmail.com. Clear and regular kayaks are available.

LiL Shan's Watersports, Harbour Island: 242 422-9343; 242 554-5789 www.lswatersports.com

Jet Ski Rentals - ? Hour \$60 / 1 Hour \$120 / Half Day \$350 / Full Day \$450

Boat Rental - 17' Mako: Hourly \$40; Half Day \$125; Full Day \$170

Boat Rental - 17' Whaler: Hourly \$35; Half Day \$110; Full Day \$160

Kayak Rental 1 Seater and 2 Seaters - Hourly \$10-\$15; Full Day \$49-\$59

CAMPING AND KAYAKING TRIPS

Bahamas Out Islands Adventures, Gregory Town: 242-551-9635 or 335-0349,

info@bahamasadventures.com, www.bahamasadventures.com. Tom Glucksman. Camping and kayaking trips. Also a surfing school and board rentals.

CAVING

Calvin Monroe: 242-464-0962

ECO-TOURISM

The **Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve**, the first national park on the island of Eleuthera is located on the Banks Road, 3 miles south of Governors Harbour: www.levypreserve.org. Visitors can walk miles of trails through the preserve to view the beautiful orchids, food and medicinal plants, and hardwood trees that played an important role in the history of the island.

Further south, you'll find The **Cape Eleuthera Institute** www.ceibahamas.org and **The Island School** www.islandschool.org. Both are fascinating, and doing great work on the island and beyond, fostering vital relationships between people and the environment, exploring tropical ecology and sustainability, and researching and teaching about a wide variety of marine ecology issues. Tours are available daily!

ENTERTAINMENT

Fish Fry in Governors Harbour

Friday night from 6 p.m. to midnight on the beach at Cupid's Cay.

Sky Beach Club & The Bistro Oceanview Grill & Bar

Featuring the island most popular sunset Happy Hour 5p-7p daily

Monday-Oldies all day

Tuesday-Island Chill all day

Wednesday-Jamaikin Me Crazy 5-10

Thursday-Karaoke & Open Mic

Friday-Fish Fry Specials

Saturday-Pool Party with live DJ Cordero

Sunday-Reggae & Bahamian Island Music & BBQ Grill

Also enjoy at breakfast locally favored "Stewfish" while it lasts

The Beach House

Monday and Thursday night: Live music from 7 to 11 p.m.

Rainbow Inn

Monday: Woodfire pizza with live music from 7 p.m. until closing.

Wednesday: Live music with Dr. Seabreeze from 7 p.m. until closing.

Friday: Open mic night from 7 p.m. until closing.

Saturday: The Mojo Show with live music from 7 p.m. until closing.

Tippys

Live music every Wednesday & Saturday night from 8 to 11 p.m.

Unique Village(Palmetto Point)- Tuesday nights 8p-11p

Princess Movie Theater

Every night except Thursday: Princess Movie Theater, Governors Harbour. Current popular movies. 8:15 pm only. 242 332-2735. (Closed during the summer.)

EXCURSIONS & TOURS

Andrew Demeritte Island Tours

Guided tours of Preacher's Cave, Glass Window Bridge, The Cliff's, Rock Sound Ocean Hole, Hatchet Bay Caves and more.

babydrew_104@hotmail.com

242-448-1001; 242-335-6104

A Taste of Eleuthera

Luxury bus tour including meals. Leaves every Tuesday from Governors Harbour. \$89/person. For more information: 242.334.2356, info@eleutheraadventuretours.com.

<http://www.eleutheraadventuretours.com/thetour.pdf>.

Island Hopping Excursion

Includes trips to the Exumas, Thunderbolt Cave, the National Park of the Bahamas, Rose Island, etc. Maximum of 10 people.

Gladstone and Paul Petty, Governors Harbour: 242-332-2993 or 242-332-2963 Call 6:30-7:00 am eastern and after 9-9:30 pm eastern. <http://www.eleuthera.com/petty.html>

Day Trip to Harbour Island

This is a do-it-yourself day trip. To get to Harbour Island, drive 45 minutes north from the Governors Harbour airport to the Three Islands Dock, then take a short water-taxi ride to Dunmore Town on Harbour Island. The taxis run continually and the fare is \$5. Once on Harbour Island, rent a golf cart for

about \$40 for half a day and explore. Harbour Island has excellent shopping, many fine restaurants, celebrity sightings, and a long beautiful beach. Write to us for a more detailed guide to this trip.

FISHING EQUIPMENT RENTALS

Clearwater Dive Shop, Governors Harbour: 242-332-2146
Also snorkel and scuba equipment rentals.

FISHING GUIDES

For general advice about fishing, fishing guides, and boat charters, contact Paul Mason, bahamabones@gmail.com, (305) 240-4284; (888) 847-0305

FISHING, SPEAR-FISHING, AND SNORKELING CHARTERS

For general advice about fishing, fishing guides, and boat charters, contact Paul Mason, bahamabones@gmail.com, (305) 240-4284; (888) 847-0305

Gladstone and Paul Petty, Governors Harbour: 242- 557-7269, 242-332-2993, 242-332-2963 Call 6:30-7:00 am eastern and after 9-9:30 pm eastern.

Captain Z, Gregory Town: vacation@rainbowinn.com cell phone: 242-470-7766. Land line: 242-335-0294. "We take you beyond and back safely. We specialize in family adventures, and also satisfy the serious outdoor angler." Fishing and diving charters.

Captain James McCartney, Palmetto Point: 242-332-3393
Fly-fishing, spear-fishing, and reef fishing; snorkeling; picnic cruises (include cruising, snorkeling, beach lunch).

Ocean Fox Cotton Bay, Davis Harbour Marina, 242-334-6300
Email: al@oceanfoxcottonbay.com
Website: www.oceanfoxcottonbay.com; www.overtthewalldiving.wordpress.com
Diving, fishing, snorkeling, and sightseeing excursions

Captain Irwin. Davis Harbour. 242-422-9312, 242-334-0111, 242-334-2253. Has a large boat and Specializes in deep-sea fishing.

Captain Ali, (503) 929-9622, (242) 551-1340. aliwild1@gmail.com. 50' sloop and other smaller boats.

Unique Charters, S. Palmetto Point: 242-332-1830 or 888-820-8471 Uniqvill@batelnet.bs;
<http://www.bahamasvacationguide.com/uniquevil2.html>
Fishing and diving charters.

Kelsey or Danny Rankine: 242-332-6035 or 242-332-6616
Fishing and diving charters out of Savannah Sound.

Ryan Neilly: 242-359-7894

Fishing, boating and diving charters out of North-Spanish Wells.

Scott Bethel: 242-468-1426

Fishing and diving charters out of Governors Harbour.

Capt Zev: 242-421-8218

Fishing and boating or snorkeling charters out of Rainbow Bay. He Specializes in bone and bottom fishing.

HORSE BACK RIDING

Oceanview Farm Now Open, Governors Harbour-Banks Road South of Tippy's: (242) 332-3671 or 242-357-4258

Two beach and lake rides, First Trail leaves at 9:30am and the second at 11:30am Monday-Saturday

GIFT SHOPS

Almond Tree, Rock Sound, Eleuthera

Bank's Deli, Governors Harbour: (242) 332-2221

The Beach House Boutique, Govenors Harbour: 242-332-3387

Brenda's Gifts & Souvenirs, Governors Harbour

Frank's Art Gallery & Souvenirs, Harbour Island

Island Farm, South Palmetto Point: 242 332-1921

Pam's Island Made Gift Shop, Gregory Town: 242 335-5369

Rebecca's Beach Shop, Gregory Town

Clipper Imports Shop Da Island, Governors Harbour

Sugar Mill, Harbour Island <http://buy.indiahicks.com/>

GOLF

Cotton Bay Club

The only Robert Trent Jones-designed golf course in the Bahamas, once ranked among the best in the world. Course maintenance is currently haphazard, so call for more info. 242-334-6101

New Providence, where Nassau is located, is another excellent location for golfing. It's just 20 minutes by air from Eleuthera, and flights are frequent and inexpensive. Guests often choose this option.

GROCERY STOCKING/DELIVERY AND GROCERY STORES

The Market, Rock Sound

Phone: 242-334-2280; Email: provisions@rsp1976.com

Website: <http://rsp1976.com/marketplace.html>

For more information about grocery stores on the island, following this link:

<http://www.discover-eleuthera-bahamas.com/grocery.html>

JET SKI RENTALS

Skip Miller Boat Rentals, Governors Harbour: (904) 236-6320; cell: (242) 470-6288
skipmillersailing@yahoo.com.

Power boat: 14' Maritime with a 40-HP Yamaha outboard. \$200/day or \$700/week.

Sailboats: Sunfishes and Opties, \$50/day.

Jet Skis: \$200/day plus fuel.

LIBRARY

Historic Haynes Library, Governors Harbour: 242 332 2877 hayneslibrary@coralwave.com
<http://www.hayneslibrary.org/>

Membership to borrow books: \$5. Internet access: \$5 per hour.

Arts and crafts for children Sat morning at 10 a.m.

MARINAS

French Leave Marina, Governors Harbour: 242-332-3616

Runaway Bay Marina, S. Palmetto Point: 242-332-0400

Hatchet Bay Marina, Alice Town: 242-332-0186

Davis Harbour Marina, Rock Sound: 242-334-6303

Cape Eleuthera Marina, Cape Eleuthera: 242-334-8500

MASSAGE

Eleuthera Freedom Spa at Sky Beach Club: Tasman Munroe, Certified and Licensed Massage Therapist Specializing in Deep-Tissue & Swedish Massage. Also offers superb facials. 242-470-5248 or Email Islandgirlt@hotmail.com This visiting masseuse is also available by reservation at your vacation rental or resort.

MEDICAL AND EMERGENCY NUMBERS FOR GOVERNORS HARBOUR

Police/Fire: 242-332-2111 or 242-332-2117

Ambulance: 242-332-3178 or 242-557-7006

Levy Clinic: 242-332-2774

Located in a pink building just north of Governor's Harbour. If the clinic is not open, a nurse is on call at 242-332-3400. If you can't get through, call police, and they will get another nurse on call.

Dr Baccus: 242-332-2902

A medical doctor in private practice whose wife is a dentist. Located near Quality Inn Cigatoo in Governors Harbour.

MOVIE THEATER

Princess Movie Theater, Governors Harbour: 242 332-2735
8:15 pm only. Closed Thursdays.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Brian Hanna, 242-470-6562, brian@coldwellbankerbahamas.com

RESTAURANTS

For fine dining in the Governors Harbour area, try the following:

The Bistro at Sky Beach Club: 242-332-3422; www.skybeachclub.com

Tippy's: (242) 332-3331; www.pineapplefields.com

The Beach House (242) 332-3387

For local cuisine in the Governors Harbour area, try:

Buccaneer Club Restaurant (salads/burgers/wraps): 242-332-2000

Da Perk (coffee shop, bakery, salads, sandwiches, pizza): 242- 332-2620

Mate & Jenny's Pizza Take-away (pizza and Bahamian); 242-332-1504

Cigatoo (Chinese and Bahamian); 242-332-3060

Sunset Inn (local cuisine); 242-332-2487

Stubbs' famous Barbecue, every Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 242-335-6111

Unique Village Resort-Palmetto Point (local cuisine); 242-332-1830, Live entertainment Tuesdays

A bit farther north, try:

The Rainbow Inn: (242) 335-0294; www.rainbowinn.com (located in Hatchet Bay)

Laughing Lizard: (242) 470-6992; www.laughinglizardcafe.com (Gregory Town)

To the south, try:

Pascals: (242) 334-2778 (located in Rock Sound)

For a complete list of restaurants on the island, including descriptions and contact information, click here: <http://www.discover-eleuthera-bahamas.com/eleuthera-restaurants.html>

SAILING LESSONS

Skip Miller, Governors Harbour: (242) 470-6288. skipmillersailing@yahoo.com

SCUBA AND SNORKELING

Ocean Fox Diving Cotton Bay, Davis Harbour Marina, 242-334-6300

Email: al@oceanfoxcottonbay.com

Websites: www.oceanfoxcottonbay.com www.overthewalldiving.wordpress.com

Diving, fishing, snorkeling, and sightseeing excursions

Ocean Fox Diving Harbour Island, 242-332-2323

Email: fish@oceanfox.com Website: www.oceanfox.com

Dive excursions, training, and equipment. Also fishing charters.

Valentine's Dive Center, Harbour Island: (242) 333-2080

Dive excursions, training, and equipment. Also fishing charters.

<http://www.valentinesdive.com/dive.html>

LiL Shan's Watersports, Harbour Island: 242 422-9343; 242 554-5789

Snorkel Trips, Scuba Trips, PADI Scuba courses

www.lswatersports.com

Clearwater Dive Shop, Governors Harbour: 242-332-2146

Snorkel and scuba equipment rentals. Also finishing equipment rentals.

Captain Z, Gregory Town: vacation@rainbowinn.com cell phone: 242-470-7766. Land line: 242-335-0294. "We take you beyond and back safely, specializing in creating unforgettable family adventures."

Snorkeling, Fishing, and Diving charters.

Surfer Pete, Gregory Town: 242-335-5436

Diving and fishing equipment rentals. Also surfboard rentals, bike rentals.

Forty's, Governors Harbour: Call Pineapple Fields Office: (242) 332-2221

Or email Forty at Laton@coralwave.com

Rents kayaks, small sail boats, snorkel gear. Also rents bikes, beach chairs, umbrellas, cribs, etc.

SHELLING

For detailed information on shelling and shelling beaches on Eleuthera, read this article:

<http://www.eleuthera-map.com/shelling-eleuthera-1.htm>.

SPA

Eleuthera Freedom Spa at Sky Beach Club: Tasman Munroe, Certified and Licensed Massage Therapist. 242-470-5248 or Email Islandgirlt@hotmail.com. Tasman is our Resort's visiting Spa Therapist who will come to the comfort of your guest accommodation with an advance reservation.

SURFING

Bahamas See Excursions Out Islands Adventures, Gregory Town: 242-551-9635 or 335-0349, info@bahamasadventures.com, www.bahamasadventures.com Tom Glucksman, manager. Surfing school, and board rentals. Also camping and kayaking trips.

Surfer Pete, Gregory Town: Call Rebecca's Beach Shop, Gregory Town: 242-335-5436. Surfboard rentals, long and short. Also diving and fishing equipment rentals, bike rentals.

TENNIS

The Cigatoo Resort, Governors Harbour, 242-332-3060. Ask for Annie.

Memberships to use the Cigatoo courts are available for \$15/hour, \$50/week, or \$75/month.

The Rainbow Inn also has a beautiful seaside tennis court, 242-335-0294.

TENNIS LESSONS

Sammy Sands, Pro, North Palmetto Point: 242-332-1632, sammy.s@batelnet.bs

<http://sammysands0.tripod.com/index.html>

TOURS

For Tours, see **EXCURSIONS & TOURS.**