

## Welcome to Calypso!

Whether you are a new or frequent visitor to Elbow Cay, we welcome you to our island home. The following pages contain information about the house and immediate area that will hopefully prove useful during your stay.

We are from New Bern, NC, and honeymooned on Elbow Cay in 1982. After renting for many years, our growing love for the island led us to purchase an older home in 1999 with our good friend, Tom Taft from Greenville, NC. Unfortunately, the original house was severely damaged by hurricane Floyd only a few months later, and subsequently demolished to make room for Calypso, which we designed ourselves and whose construction we personally supervised over a two year period. As the original owners, we take a great deal of pride in Calypso, and are constantly making improvements for your comfort and enjoyment. Owning and maintaining a vacation home in the Bahamas is a continuous challenge, and we thank you, our renters, for making it possible.

We sincerely hope you come to love the island, and Calypso, as much as we do. Have a fabulous vacation!

Your suggestions or questions are always welcome! We may be contacted via email at [calypso@coastalnet.com](mailto:calypso@coastalnet.com). Typically you will receive a same-day response.

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## Your Caretakers

Jamie and Laura Williams are available by calling “Water Baby” on the house VHF radio, or their home at 366-0758. In an emergency, Jamie’s cell is 242-357-6673. They will be glad to assist with any house problems or questions that you may have, but please respect their privacy by only calling if absolutely necessary. While glad to offer suggestions, they are not a concierge service! Most any of the locals that you see at the marinas, in restaurants, in bars, the dive shop, etc. are more than willing to answer your questions about places to go and things to do.

## Security

Elbow Cay is very safe, and one may go anywhere at anytime without concern. Crimes of opportunity (petty theft) are very uncommon, but has occurred. When briefly absent the house, leave on a few lights and music, and lock the doors when gone for a while or at night, especially when out for dinner. Do not invite trouble by leaving valuables in plain sight when the house is unoccupied. There is a hotel style safe above the refrigerator.

## Emergency Medical Care and Fire Department

You can call Hopetown Fire and Rescue at any time at 366-0500, or on channel 16 on the VHF marine radio. The paramedics can provide limited treatment/stabilization and arrange transport to the hospital in Marsh Harbour if

necessary. Most major care is provided in Florida. Be careful and don't put yourself in the position of needing medical care or fire services.

There is a first aid guide and Epi-pens (for anaphylactic shock) in the cabinet to the left of the refrigerator. **Use the Epi-pens at your own risk, and only in the event of a life threatening allergic reaction.**

## House Supplies

Each guest has two bath towels, a face cloth, and a beach towel. Starter supplies of soap, toilet paper, paper towels, dish detergent, and dishwasher detergent are provided. Corkscrews and lighters are known to spontaneously vanish. LVA Grocery is the nearest store for the purchase of additional supplies. (Take a left out of the driveway and follow the "big road" around the bend until you see the sign.) Brooms, dustpans, and a vacuum cleaner can be found in the laundry room. There are some basic cleaning supplies under the kitchen sink.

## The Internet

Calypso currently has a wireless network with internet services using the cellular system. Land lines were destroyed by hurricane Dorian and the infrastructure has not been replaced. The SSID is "Calypso" and the password is located on a sign at the desk area. **Under no circumstances should you tamper with the modem, router, or wires behind**

**the electronics above the desk.** If there is a problem, please contact the caretaker! When the internet is down, the problem is most always with the local cellular service or service provider and not the house, especially after severe thunder storms and/or power outages. If the Calypso internet connection disappears, it may be necessary to reboot the modem and router (above the desk) . Pull the power connector from the back for 20+ seconds and then plug it back in.

Most of the local bars/restaurants, and the coffee shop, offer free internet service to their customers. Ask your server for the password.

Some of the US streaming services, such as Amazon Prime and Netflix, limit what you can stream in the Bahamas. For those with the technical savvy and/or patience, one can spoof your location with a DNS proxy service or VPN. Some companies offer a free trial. (Again, please don't do anything to the house router!)

## House Telephones

~~The land line phone (242-366-0004) is for outgoing local calls, though it will receive all calls. The internet phone (252-296-1060) can be used for calls to/from the US at no charge. These phones are mostly reliable, but occasional outages are a fact of island life.~~ **Land lines have not been restored after being destroyed by hurricane Dorian.** Some guests communicate with

stateside numbers through their cell phone, tablet, or laptop computer using services such as Skype or Viber.

Feel free to record a generic message on the answering machine.

## Cell Phones / Smart Phones

Most cell phones work fine, but calls may be expensive. Check with your carrier to determine rates in the Bahamas. It is recommended that cellular data be disabled on smart phones to avoid exorbitant data charges. Connect to the internet through the Calypso wireless network rather than the cell system.

## VHF Radio

The calling channel is "16". This is also the emergency and distress channel, so always switch to a working channel. The protocol is to call "Water Baby, Water Baby... Calypso". When the person/place you are calling answers, they will usually say "go to 12" (or another channel). You say "12", switch channels and establish contact on that working channel. It's easier than it sounds here. Just listen for a while to hear how others do it and you'll have no trouble. There are several working channels and you'll quickly learn which ones are regularly used.

Every morning at 8:15 is the "Cruiser's Net" on channel 68. This "talk radio" gives the weather forecast, brief news and stock market synopsis, special events, and special menus at

the local restaurants. If you miss the live broadcast, it is also available streamed on the Barometer Bob weather website.

## Windows

The windows may get salty if the ocean is rough and there is a strong breeze off the ocean. This is unavoidable.

The distortion around the edges of some windows is a slight delamination of the two thick layers of hurricane resistant glass and is not a functional concern. We are in the process of replacing the glass. Forcing a locked window open can rip the locks out of the vinyl sashes. Closing a window with the lock tab already closed will do the same. Parts can also be broken if the windows are forcefully raised too high. If you have a problem with a window, please don't force it ~ just move to the next window.

Afternoon storms can form quickly, but fortunately dissipate quickly, bringing unexpected rain and shifting wind. It's best to close the windows before you leave for an extended period of time.

The awning windows that open from the kitchen onto the porch are heavy. *Be very careful when opening and closing*

*them.* You may choose to use the step stool, normally under the kitchen desk.

Please turn off the AC while enjoying island breezes with open windows!

## Garbage

Large garbage bags are located in the same cabinet as the trash can, under the “hole” in the kitchen counter. Please use them. Place your bagged trash in the outside garbage cans and place them by the roadside on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning. Critters will tear into trash bags that are not in trash cans and make a nasty mess.

Bahamian beer bottles are recycled if left in a separate container with the trash. When buying cases, save the box and place the empties back in the box.

## Salt and Sand

*Please keep salt and sand outside as much as possible. The salt is very corrosive and the sand clogs drains. Water hoses are conveniently placed to wash away salt and sand from bodies, clothes, and gear. The outdoor shower, rather than the pool, is much preferred for sandy hair and swim suits.*



## Washer/Dryer

Very few rental homes on Elbow Cay allow renters the use of a washer/dryer for several reasons: excessive usage or abuse, high water consumption, and the detrimental effects of salt and sand. The owners feel strongly that a vacation is much more enjoyable with the option of washing one's clothes. Please use the washer/dryer prudently, and remove salt and sand before washing or drying. **REMEMBER TO CLEAN THE LINT TRAP.** (The heat from a clogged vent line can start a fire!)

## Game Room

This is a popular room on rainy days or after dinner! Please do not abuse the game tables. Repairing or replacing them is extremely difficult. **REVIEW THIS WITH YOUR CHILDREN.** There is a limited supply of balls, and no near-by Walmart! Thank you for helping to keep these tables available for others to enjoy.

## Water System

There is no "city water" on Elbow Cay. Most homes collect rainwater, and whatever else comes from the sky, from roofs. ALL Calypso water is "manufactured" with a sophisticated reverse osmosis water maker (referred to as the "RO system") that takes brackish water from a well in the yard and forces it through special membranes to remove salt and impurities. This highly filtered water is perfectly safe to drink.

The RO system is automated and will surely activate during your stay, which is the sound you will hear from the pump room on the ground floor.

The system is designed for normal and responsible usage, and consumes a lot of electricity to make water. Electrical power is costly in the Abacos, so reasonable conservation efforts are greatly appreciated.

Discourage playing with the water hose, leaving faucets on for prolonged periods, taking long showers, etc. or you will deplete the reserve supply and/or the water maker will not be able to keep up.

If there is a water leak or a “running” toilet, **TRY STOP IT, AND NOTIFY THE CARETAKER IMMEDIATELY!!!** One running toilet can deplete the water reserves in a single day – this has happened – and is a great inconvenience to all.

If you see a red light above the single ground floor window on the right side of the house as you pull up to the cart parking area, or hear a siren emanating from the pump room, call the caretaker immediately as this indicates the water tanks are extremely low and running out of water is imminent.

## Toilets

Calypso has some of the most effective low-flush toilets available, but they can still be clogged. There is at least one

plunger in the house, usually residing in whichever bathroom last needed one.

Unfortunately, guests must be charged for non-edible objects that can only be extricated by the disassembly of the toilet. (Experience has proven that sun glasses, small toys, driftwood, and sunscreen bottles do not flush!)

## Power Outages

Calypso has a very sophisticated automatic whole house generator to supply power in the event of a system outage. It takes a few minutes to start and warm up, and will automatically shut off when grid power is restored. No attention or intervention is required. You can hear it running in the small building at the drive entrance. If there is no power and you don't hear the generator, give the caretaker a call. In the mean time, minimize the opening of the refrigerator so food will stay cool.

## Grill

**DO NOT LIGHT WITH THE LID CLOSED.** (Yes, it has already happened. Fortunately, the injuries only required minor medical care.) Please follow the detailed lighting instructions attached to the grill. **Be careful. Fire service and medical care on the island are rudimentary at best.**

## Boating

Please rely upon your boat rental agent for charts and other information necessary for safely operating your boat. They usually give renters a nice chart of South Abaco Sound, with enlargements of the various harbours and danger areas. Don't hesitate to ask advice. The Cruising Guide to the Abacos, a copy of which should be in the living room, is also useful and is readily available for purchase in town.

## The Dock

Calypso has a reserved slip, marked with a sign, on Nigh Creek. The creek parallels the road between town and Calypso, and the dock is located at the pink gate. The Calypso website, [www.calypsobamahas.com](http://www.calypsobamahas.com), has a blog under "NEWS", and one of the blogs addresses the best way to secure your boat at the dock.

## Furniture

There are lightweight folding chairs in a box on the deck suitable for the beach. If you leave them on the beach when not in use, they may blow, wash, or walk away!

Kindly refrain from taking the living room cushions outside, or sitting on the furniture while wet, or when covered with sunscreen (which stains fabrics).

## Beach

The Calypso beach is mostly fine sand with some coral. There is very little current or undertow, however, it can be quite rough in stronger winds. Use good judgment!!!

Sometimes tar washes up on the beach. Check your feet when returning. Cooking oil is an effective remover.

Thank you for using the provided beach towels rather than bedroom blankets and quilts on the beach!

## Snorkeling

There are some very pretty coral heads loaded with reef fish, sea fans, and other soft corals within an easy swim of Calypso guests. Look for the darker circular spots about 150-300 feet off the beach in front of the yellow house two houses north (toward town) of Calypso. The heads are about 40' in diameter and are best seen at mid-day from the upper deck on a bright sunny day. The area directly in front of Calypso has some small ledges and coral heads, but is not nearly as interesting. Do not be surprised or alarmed (Easier said than done!) if you are followed at a distance by a reef barracuda. They are harmless and just curious. Still, it probably is not a good idea to be wearing a watch or jewelry that might flash like a wounded fish.

Many outstanding snorkeling spots are easily accessible for guests with boats. Again, the Cruising Guide to Abacos is an excellent source of information.

## Sun

The sun can be very intense in the Bahamas. One can be severely burned in a short period of time. Use sunscreen liberally and cover thoroughly. Young children (and some adults) will miss spots. No one has ever had a vacation ruined from wearing too much sunscreen. Make it a ritual with children at the start of the day, and at regular intervals. Hats, sunglasses, and lightweight outdoor wear with long sleeves are a good idea.

## Swimming Pools

Calypso has the two best pools on the island - the Atlantic Ocean and the deck pool. Both are to be used at your own risk. For a change of pace, the Abaco Inn, and Hope Town Inn and Marina have freshwater pools with associated bars and restaurants. Please do patronize the bar or restaurant while enjoying their pools.

## Groceries

Harbour View, Vernon's, and LVA stock basic groceries, and can be found on the map at the desk. Marsh Harbour has much larger stores with better selections and lower prices, but the travel time and transportation costs are difficult to justify unless you must

have a particular item, are purchasing in quantity, or have other reasons to be in Marsh Harbour.

## Adult Beverages

Wine, beer and liquor are readily available on Elbow Cay at Lighthouse Liquors and Captain Jacks –identified on the map at the desk.

## Restaurants

The restaurants range from take out “fast food”, usually an oxymoron in the Bahamas, to candlelit gourmet dinners. The food overall is good to sometimes superb. Local specials or fresh seafood typically are best. Reservations are recommended at Abaco Inn, Hope Town Inn and Marina, and Firefly, all of which may sometimes provide transportation.

Captain Jacks are walk-in only.

Mackey's Take Away offers some very good and reasonably priced local dishes (a big thumbs up on the grilled snapper) when you are not in the mood to cook or eat out.

Pete's Pub in Little Harbour is a great lunch spot and a Calypso favorite, especially after stopping at Sandy Cay for a snorkel or Pelican Cay for some beach exploring. Their fish sandwiches are excellent.

## What's Behind the Locked Doors (for those that are insanely curious)

The big room in the basement contains tools, supplies, the owners' golf cart and skiff, and personal items. The locked cabinets likewise contain personal items and/or supplies for the use of the caretaker.

## Things to Do

The Cruising Guide to Abaco, by Steve Dodge, is an excellent source of information on the surrounding islands and waters. There is usually a copy or two in the living room (please leave for other guests). It is also available at several stores on the island.

The Barometer Bob website is the best source of local weather, plus there's a link to the live Calypso web cameras. Be sure to wave! Listen to the "Cruisers Net" on channel 68 at 8:15 am for announced special events and local weather. You can stream it from the Barometer Bob website.

Following are some suggestions for activities. Consider them as a starting point for your planning. *Make your plans according to the weather.* If it's calm today, you cannot count on it being calm tomorrow. Take advantage of the here and now. If the weather is nice (sunny and calm), plan longer trips.



## Highly Recommended All Day activities for Sunny, Calm Days

- Boat trip south to Sandy Cay Preserve for snorkeling, (drop off non-divers at nearby Pelican Cay, a beautiful, unspoiled cay to explore), on to Little Harbour for a late lunch at Pete's Pub, visit Johnson Gallery. Stop to dive for star fish (can't keep) on Tilloo Bank. (You should really do two days checking out these places, if the weather is nice.)
- Boat trip north to Guana Cay for lunch and exploring
- Snorkel trip north to Fowl Cay Preserve, with a stop at Man-O-War Cay (visit Albury Sail Shop and gift stores).
- Kayak with Abaco Outback
- Snorkel or Dive trip with Dive Guana
- Offshore fishing for mahi, tuna, wahoo, and marlin

## Highly Recommended Activities Anytime

- Tour Man-O-War Cay
- Tour the Wyannie Malone Museum
- Visit Boat Harbour Marina and shop in Marsh Harbour
- Swim and/or lunch at any of the Elbow Cay pools
- Explore Snake Cay (must be comfortable operating boat in shallow water)
- Charter Robert Lowe for offshore fishing trip

- Visit Lighthouse, climb to top for great panorama  
**(DO NOT MISS)**
- Swim/picnic at Tahiti Beach
- Visit local gift shops
- Get fresh bread and pies at Vernon's Grocery
- Snorkel at one of many nearby spots (see Dodge's Guide) There are several good windy day locations.
- Bicycle riding
- Exploring by boat
- Golf cart cruising
- Walk/jog/bike to the "north end" of the island

### Highly Recommended Evening Activities

- Grill out on the rear deck
- Sunset cocktails/dinner at Abaco Inn or Firefly
- Abaco Inn band/dancing
- Cocktail golf cart ride south to Tilloo Cut
- Pizza night at Harbours Edge
- Enjoy one of many board games – kitchen pantry
- Ping pong, or pool in game room
- Movies via streaming