

Calypso Travel Suggestions and Arrival Instructions

Money

Large sums of cash are unnecessary. Most every business accepts credit cards. Cash is mainly needed for the taxis and the take away food vendors.

Clothing

Casual comfort is the general rule, with no need to “dress to impress”, unless you want to. Shorts with flops/sandals/boat shoes are always appropriate. Truthfully, most people bring far more clothing than they will need or use.

A lightweight rain jacket or windbreaker is useful for rainy, breezy, or cooler days. Lightweight long sleeved shirts and long pants are good if it's a bit chilly and for evenings out. In the winter months, rarely is more than a fleece or lightweight sweater necessary.

Things to Bring

Chargers, sunscreen, more sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, books, e-reader, comfortable walking shoes/flops, good snorkel gear, wetsuits in cooler months, lightweight rain gear, favorite music, cards, games, laptop, smart phone, tablet, **downloaded movies**. Calypso has hair dryers in every bathroom. An iron and portable ironing board are located in the laundry room.

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Groceries and the Kitchen

The kitchen is well stocked with cookware for most all routine cooking efforts, and there is usually a good selection of basic spices, oils, etc. Bring any special ingredients that you can't live without, or stop at Maxwell's grocery in Marsh Harbour, which is comparable to a mid-sized US grocery store. Taxis will wait (for a charge) during a grocery stop on the way to the ferry dock.

Sometimes splitting the party makes sense – sending some to the ferry dock with bags and others assisting with groceries – especially if you have two taxis.

There are 3 grocery stores on the Elbow Cay that stock the basics. For additional thoughts and suggestions regarding groceries, visit the Calypso website blog at www.calypsobahamas.com.

You cannot bring in any fruits or raw vegetables from the states.

You can bring frozen foods, such as higher quality meats.

Adult Beverages

Wine, beer, and liquors are readily available on Elbow Cay. The selection is basic but adequate. Marsh Harbour has a better selection, though prices are similar on Elbow Cay.

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House Telephone

The house number is 242-699-2393 and is for local calls only. Please use your cell phone or an online service such as Skype, Viper, or WhatsApp for long distance calls.

Cell Phones / Smart Phones

Most cell phones work fine, but voice calls can be expensive. Check with your carrier for rates in the Bahamas and to see if an international plan makes sense. Connect to the internet through the faster Calypso wireless network rather than the cell system for data.

In-house Entertainment

Calypso has fiber optic internet for TV, telephone, and internet, with an excellent wireless network. Smart TVs that are internet connected are in the upstairs TV room and game room. In addition to the cable channels, you may log in to your personal Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney Plus, or Apple accounts. (Be sure you have your user names and passwords.)

The game room has a ping pong table, pool table, and sound bar that is Bluetooth enabled to stream from your own device.

The living room has a Bluetooth enabled sound system with XM satellite radio, Bose speakers, and a cable that will connect to any device with a mini headphone jack. (You may want to bring an

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adapter.) Pandora and some other music streaming services do not work in the Bahamas.

There is a selection of puzzles and board games in the living room closet, but the quality and completeness of either are not guaranteed. Bringing your own is best.

Sun Dried T's in town has a modest selection of beach toys, and sometimes rents surf boards. There is a limited selection of donated floats and beach toys at the house, which varies considerably.

If you are planning to do a lot of snorkeling or diving, bring your own gear. The dive shop on the island was destroyed (totally) by hurricane Dorian.

Airport Arrival and Customs/Immigration

You will not be allowed to board your flight to the Bahamas without a current passport.

Your flight attendant should give you a Bahamas immigration card to complete, usually just prior to arrival. Fill it out in advance, one for each person, so the line can move rapidly through immigration. (Bring a pen!)

Taxis from Airport to Ferry Dock

Taxis are readily available just outside the customs exit at the airport terminal, and will take your party to the ferry dock, or the boat rental office if you are renting in Marsh Harbour.

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At your request, the taxi will stop by the liquor or grocery store and wait. (Check the ferry schedule!) Adult beverages and basic groceries are available in Hopetown, but the selection is better in Marsh Harbour. There is a published taxi rate schedule dependent upon the number of people, bags, wait time, etc., but nobody pays attention to it. A fully loaded taxi with a modest wait should run \$35-\$50 in cash.

Cold beverages and light snacks for the 20-minute ferry ride are sometimes available at the ferry docks.

Ferry from Marsh Harbour to Elbow Cay

The ferries actually operate on a dependable schedule! Tickets can be purchased at the ferry office or while underway if time is limited. At the ferry dock, the crew will take your bags to the boat to load. Make sure you get on the correct ferry. Enroute, ask the captain to call the caretakers, Jamie and Laura Williams (call sign is "Water Baby"), and let them know that the Calypso party is on board. Enjoy the ride, and let that internal clock start to slow down to a Bahamas pace. Upon arrival at the dock, be sure to account for all of your bags. Depending upon the number in your party, it may take multiple trips to get all your people and bags from the dock to the house.

The ferry can be privately chartered if you do not want to wait for the scheduled ferry, or arrive after the last scheduled ferry. It's best to arrange this in advance. There may be other people from your flight interested in sharing a charter.

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Please visit the G and L Ferry or The Ferry Limited websites for current schedules. The following schedules are subject to change.

The Ferry at the Crossing

Leaving Marsh Harbour to Hope Town

6:15 am* | 7:15 am | 9 am | 12 pm | 3:30 pm* | 4:30 pm

* not on Sunday

G and L Ferry

Leaving Marsh Harbour for Hope Town

6:30AM*, 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30AM, 1:00PM, 2:00PM*,
3:30PM, 4:30 5:45PM*

* not on Sunday.

The Caretaker and Arrival at the House

All guests should have already provided Elbow Cay Properties an arrival time. Usually, the caretaker will meet you either at the old Lodge Dock, or the Calypso dock if you are arriving by rental boat out of Marsh Harbour or your own boat. (If arriving by boat, you will need to establish contact with the caretaker either by cell phone (242-357-6673) and/or VHF radio as previously described.)

The walk-through of the house with the caretaker is your best opportunity to ask questions. Please see the House Guide, usually residing on the living room coffee table, for more details about the house and area.

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Securing Your Boat

The Calypso slip is located between the house and town on Nigh Creek, at a dock with about 10 boat slips and a pink gate. The house slip is the one next to the end slip on the right (facing the dock from the water) and is clearly identified with a sign that can best be seen from the water.

Secure your boat the way you will almost everywhere else - with an anchor out the stern at least a boat length or two out (depending on water depth) and a bow line to the dock. Tighten the stern anchor line sufficiently to prevent the bow from getting under the dock, and leave enough slack in the bow line for the tide changes. If you have these two lines properly adjusted, you do not need lines to the pilings on either side of the boat, which are troublesome and serve no real benefit. The dock is very well protected from the wind, and there are no boat wakes, so it's perfectly okay for the boat to rub against these side pilings, which will also keep your boat out of the adjacent slip. Please visit the Calypso blog for pictures at www.calypsobahamas.com.