

2026 TRAVEL TIPS & IMPORTANT TRAVEL INFORMATION

Please, **Read All of The Following Below; Review Your Provided Flight Itinerary for Times & Roommates' Names**

- ✓ **You must arrive at your designated airport** listed on your GradWeek itinerary and check-in **well in advance of your scheduled departure time** (online/mobile check-in is not available for group tickets). **Due to increased travel demand and fewer TSA checkpoints, security lines may be longer than usual. We strongly recommend arriving at least 1-hour earlier than the standard 3-hour recommendation.**
- ✓ All travelers are **REQUIRED** to have a **valid Passport booklet** to check-in at the airport for international travel.
- ✓ **Breezes Hotel Guests** – Make sure that you have **signed** your **hotel Code of Conduct Form** (provided in your **physical and emailed** Departure Packet), which all guests are **required** to fill out and **turn into the hotel at check-in**. ****If under 18 years of age at the time of travel, then your parent/guardian's signature is also required on your form.*** The hotel **will not** allow a traveler to check-in without their signed form.

Getting Ready! – You **MUST** have a current/valid **PASSPORT** to travel internationally (this has been stated on multiple GradWeek documents since registering). If you are **not** a **U.S. Citizen** but you are a permanent legal resident, you need to contact the Bahamas Consulate for the most up-to-date requirements. You **will be denied boarding at the airport if you do not have the correct/required travel documents, and any changes to your flight will be at your own expense.** Per the Bahamas immigration website (<https://www.immigration.gov.bs/entry-requirements/>), for minors traveling with either one parent **or a non-parent/guardian**, a notarized letter of consent from their parent(s)/guardian(s) **who is not traveling with the minor is recommended**, because it may be requested by immigration upon arrival. The letter should state that the accompanying individual (a friend or another traveler who is 18 or older) is authorized to travel internationally with the minor and is permitted to seek medical attention for the minor if necessary. A letter template is available on our website under our [Resources Page](#).

Packing Your Bags! – Be aware that most airlines charge to check baggage, and the costs do vary, so try to pack light and **visit your airline's website to view baggage fees and weight restrictions before you arrive at the airport.** The **enclosed Flight Itinerary** indicates the airline you will be traveling on, flight check-in information, and roommates for the trip. **Be aware of your carry-on item restrictions (e.g., liquids, medications, etc.) by visiting the TSA website at www.tsa.gov.** It is highly recommended that you make a photocopy of your passport, put your phone number on it, and **put that copy** inside your checked baggage, but **make sure your actual passport is securely in your carry-on.** To help you decide what essentials to pack, check [Nassau, Bahamas's](#) weather forecast online a few days before your trip. **Please Note:** Dress themes for this year's Bahamas events are – Double Trouble (dress like your friend), Stoplight Party (dress in green, yellow, or red), and White Out Party (dress in all white). All event themes are optional and subject to change.

Spending Money – We recommend using a debit card **and taking a small amount of cash.** **U.S. dollars are accepted in the Bahamas**, and there is no need to exchange money. It is always advisable to let your bank know when you will be using your credit/debit card outside of the U.S. If you are using a credit/debit card, please be aware that most banks charge a service fee, plus a currency conversion fee when traveling outside of the U.S. Check with your bank or credit card company **before travel** for details. **Getting around is typically done by Taxi.** (rideshares like Uber & Lyft **DO NOT** operate in the Bahamas), so plan to have cash on hand for taxis. **Traveling in groups is the safest and most economical way to go.** Taxis in the Bahamas have fixed rates for most routes. Before you get into your taxi, make sure you are clear about the cost of getting to your destination. The amount of money that you take for your trip is up to you, but \$350 to \$550 is recommended for souvenirs, Action Pac events, transportation, and meals (if you are not registered at an all-inclusive hotel).

Day of Departure to Destination – **Do not be late! You are 100% responsible for your transportation to the local airport. Due to increased travel demand and fewer TSA checkpoints, security lines may be longer than usual. We strongly recommend arriving at least 1-hour earlier than the standard 3-hour recommendation.** **Helpful Tip:** Use the new [MyTSA](#) app to check real-time security wait times and better plan your arrival. We recommend checking your itinerary's assigned airport's website **before your trip** for directions and terminal locations to ensure you know where to go and have plenty of time for flight check-in. **You are required to go to the check-in ticket counter of your listed airline to obtain your boarding pass (online check-in is not available for group flights) and check-in any luggage that you are not carrying on.** After checking in for your flight and passing through security, **please locate your departure gate first** before getting food, using the restroom, or exploring the terminal. This ensures you are in the correct area when it is time to board your flight. You can be denied boarding if you are late and/or do not have the required travel documents, and you will be responsible for any charges due to changes in flights. Once you check-in and go through security, it is recommended to find your gate. If your enclosed Flight Itinerary requires that you change planes, you will not be required to retrieve your checked baggage **until after** you arrive at your final destination ([Nassau, Bahamas](#)). When you arrive at your destination, make sure to retrieve any checked baggage from the Baggage Claim **and follow the signs to exit the building.** Then look for a GradWeek Staff member wearing GradWeek shirts & ID Badges. They will direct you to the buses that will take you to your hotel. **Do not talk to local vendors trying to sell you a transfer.**

Hotel Only Package Travelers – If you are a Hotel Only package, then your trip **DOES NOT** include the group airport transfers. So, **if you purchased a HOTEL ONLY PACKAGE**, then you are responsible for [arranging your own transfers/rides](#) to and from the Bahamas airport to your hotel (unless advised otherwise).

At Your Hotel – Once you arrive at your hotel, you will be given a full [Welcome Orientation by GradWeek Staff](#) members. They will check you in, explain any events or activities that may be held during your stay, and go over basic guidelines, safety, and rules to make sure your trip is great and worry-free.

- **Action Pac** – Enclosed in your Departure Packet, you will find an Action Pac flyer that lists the various activities and price options, as well as the application form (each traveler is required to fill out for purchase). **Action Pacs are available for on-site purchase only, with CASH ONLY (U.S. dollars), during the GradWeek Welcome Orientation.**
- **Breezes Hotel Travelers (this is specific information for this hotel)** – Per the hotel's guidelines, during check-in, **each person** needs to turn in their **signed** Code of Conduct Form and will be issued a wristband for the hotel property. If you have lost your band or it is missing for any reason, you will be subject to a replacement fee of \$200.00 per person, per night for the remainder of your stay. If your band comes off or is broken and you have it with you, the band will be replaced at no charge; if it is broken a second time there will be a \$50 charge.
- **Riu Palace Hotel Travelers (this is specific information for this hotel)** – Please be patient, the hotel will need to check-in each person staying at the resort; upon check-in, **each room** will also be required to provide a personal credit card (all cards must be in your name) in case of any incidentals, room service fees, or for other items beyond the standard all-inclusive package (e.g. spa services, etc.).

GradWeek Staff – While our staff is available at your destination 24/7, the **Hotel Staff** can help you with daily requests, such as more towels, more pillows, and any questions about the hotel, rooming, nearby shopping, restaurants, etc. **GradWeek Staff are NOT chaperones!** The GradWeek Staff are at the

student hotel and available to travelers on-site 24/7 to ensure the program is running smoothly, which includes: coordinating transfers for all the arrivals and departures, Welcome Orientation, going over rules, providing a Destination Guide with an area map, **and, most importantly, assisting with any emergencies or roommate/hotel situations that may occur while on-site.** If a traveler needs assistance while on-site or at the hotel property, they MUST reach out to on-site Staff, and be patient with both GradWeek and Hotel Staff, as rude behavior will not be tolerated.

Calling Home – Parents/Guardians want to know you have arrived safely. So, we encourage you to please make a quick call, send a text, email, etc., home to say you have arrived. It is **highly recommended** to provide them with your room number, so they have it handy in case they need to contact the hotel. However, please keep in mind that not all phone companies charge the same fees when traveling outside of the United States. You will need to contact your service provider before travel to find out what the additional charges will be if calling or texting to/from the Bahamas, and/or if they have international plans available. It is very expensive to make calls from your hotel room. If you do not want to take your cell phone, the next best choice would be to buy a long-distance calling card that can be accessed by any public phone.

Parents/Guardians Wishing to Contact Their Son/Daughter – PLEASE READ THE “HIGH IMPORTANCE” INSERT INCLUDED IN YOUR DEPARTURE PACKET! !

In-room Security Box and Room Inspection – Once you check-in to your room, we strongly recommend that you **use your in-room safety deposit box** (one per room) to store all your valuables, such as your travel documents (including Passport), cash, cell phone, tablet, etc. This will ensure that the items are securely locked away when not in use. Take a few minutes to check that everything in your room is in good shape and working order. Please **contact the GradWeek Staff or the Hotel’s Front Desk personnel IMMEDIATELY IF you see anything broken, damaged, or not working properly, to ensure you will not be held responsible for preexisting damages.** **If the hotel reports any room or property damage from your room, ALL travelers in the room will be held responsible for paying for those damages, regardless of who was in the room at fault. Room doors should NOT be left open and unsecured.** Please be aware that the included travel insurance **DOES NOT** cover you for loss of personal items such as cell phones, tablets, etc. If **ANY** incidents of theft occur on-site, it MUST be reported to the hotel first, and before departure home! While GradWeek will help assist any local authorities if theft or loss occurs, we are not responsible for the cost of any cell phone replacements or other personal items.

Ahhh...Paradise! – This is your time to relax and have a fun time. **This does not mean you can do anything you want!** All local laws are strictly enforced in and outside of the hotel, and they **will not tolerate illegal activity, disorderly conduct** (including underage drinking), or property damage. Travelers caught doing any of the above will be required to pay for any incurred damages and risk being evicted from their hotel at their own expense, with no exceptions! GradWeek is not responsible for travelers who lose all or a portion of their vacation due to their behavior issues, violations, illegal actions, or damages, and will not be entitled to a refund. Be smart, behave appropriately, be respectful to the locals and other guests, and stay safe by traveling in a group whenever leaving your hotel. **We highly recommend using the buddy system!** Please go out in groups, especially when going back to your hotel at night. Always remember that there is safety in numbers, and it is best to always tell a friend if you are leaving the hotel and/or an activity before everyone else. ***No traveler can leave the trip early without checking out with one of the on-site GradWeek Staff Members.**

Policy on Alcohol Consumption – The legal drinking age in the Bahamas is 18, and many clubs require a Photo ID upon entry (recommended using your driver’s license and keep your passport secure in your room safe). GradWeek does not promote or condone the use of alcohol by its travelers! GradWeek is aware that many events and activities in the Bahamas may have alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages available. Each participant chooses whether to consume alcohol or not. All local and federal laws are strictly enforced, and you will be held responsible if caught violating those laws.

Returning Home – GradWeek Staff will post the time you need to be ready to board the airport bus for your flight home in the lobby of the student hotel(s) the night before departure. However, before leaving the hotel, your room must be picked up and cleared of all trash. Upon check-in a trash bag will be provided to each room for this purpose. Per hotel policy, all registered guests in that room must wait until GradWeek Staff or Hotel Staff have inspected the room for any damage. Should there be any hotel/room damage, you and your roommates will need to proceed to the hotel front desk immediately to take care of the damage costs and pay for any other incidental charges not included in your package price. Before checking out of your room, take a quick look around to make sure you have all your belongings. Once this is done, you will be given the “Ok” to board the bus for the airport. Make sure your baggage gets loaded on your bus and always keep your valuables with you. **GradWeek is not responsible for any items left behind.** Double-check that you have all your belongings before deboarding the transfer bus. If you have a connecting flight, there will be an airline representative available to assist you with gate information to board your next flight home. Do not bring back any alcohol if you are under 21, it is against the law in the U.S.! Once you have cleared Immigration and Customs in the Bahamas, your checked baggage will be automatically transferred to your connecting city and will be available for pick-up at your final destination (home) airport.

How to use the Emergency Medical Coverage – Even though over 95% of our travelers do not encounter any sickness or injury, it still may occur. If sickness or injury occurs that requires medical attention, GradWeek or Hotel Staff can direct you to the medical facility at your destination. The travel insurance plan through Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) helps provide coverage for medical emergencies, sickness, and emergency medical evacuation. **For policy questions or to receive assistance while traveling, you must call (800) 303-8120 or email claimhelp@mycisi.com and provide policy # GLM-N18221767-IT.** The insurance agent will guide you through the policy, and if needed, help you file a claim for reimbursement for your approved medical costs up to the limits of the plan. **Please Note:** all travelers received an email from CISI (enrollments@culturalinsurance.com) containing all policy details and forms.

Money Wire Transfers – Should you run out of money at your destination, GradWeek provides a money wire transfer service for those students who may need additional funds on-site. This service is only available Monday through Friday from 8:30 am–3:00 pm (PST), and the required form can be accessed from our website at www.gradweek.com. The Wire Transfer Authorization form is located under the **ABOUT US** section, then click on **RESOURCES**. Please print and fill out the form completely and **EMAIL** it to info@istours.com **prior to 3:00 pm** Pacific Standard Time (PST), Monday through Friday. The traveler receiving the money on-site can pick up their cash with their photo ID from our 24-hour GradWeek Staff **after 7:00 pm (Bahamas local time)**. The wire limit is \$300.00, and there is a \$25.00 service charge per wire transfer.

Informational Documents – Please visit our website at www.gradweek.com under the **ABOUT US** section, then click on **RESOURCES** to view all of our valuable travel information and forms we provide, including Preparing for Travel Letter, Travel Tips, Destination Guide, Action Pac, and Travel Protection Insurance. ***REMEMBER** – If you misplace your **GradWeek Itinerary**, you can always reprint a copy by logging in to your online account at www.gradweek.com and clicking on TRIPS >> **TRIP ITINERARY.**

HOTEL CONTACT INFORMATION

Breezes Resort
W Bay St, Nassau, Bahamas
+1 (242) 327-5356 |
www.breezes.com/amenities

Baha Mar Grand Hyatt
1 Baha Mar Blvd, Nassau, Bahamas
+1 (242) 788-8000 |
www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/thebahamas/grand-hyatt-baha-mar/

Riu Palace Paradise Island
6307 Casino Drive, Nassau, Bahamas
+1 (242) 363-3500 |
<https://www.riu.com/en/hotel/bahamas/paradise-island>