

Crooked Island Bahamas

The Best Things to See & Do



© backpackandsnorkel.com

Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide

Table of Contents

<u>1. Overview of Crooked Island, Bahamas</u>	5
<u>2.1 Disclaimer</u>	7
<u>2.2 Copyright</u>	7
<u>3. General Information about Crooked Island</u>	8
<u>3.1 How to get to Crooked Island?</u>	8
<u>3.2 Is there public transportation on Crooked Island?</u>	8
<u>3.3 Where do people live on Crooked Island?</u>	9
<u>3.4 Police Station</u>	9
<u>3.5 Post Office</u>	10
<u>3.6 Bank</u>	11
<u>3.7 Clinics</u>	11
<u>4. What accommodation options are there in Crooked Island?</u>	12
<u>4.1 Casuarina Pines Villas</u>	13
<u>4.2 Crooked Island Lodge</u>	19
<u>4.3 Nature's Delight Lodge</u>	21
<u>4.4 Airbnb</u>	21

Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide

Table of Contents

<u>5. What stores are on Crooked Island?</u>	22
<u>5.1 Supermarkets</u>	22
<u>5.1.1 Supermarkets and Grocery Stores in Landrail Point</u>	23
<u>· Green Valley Food Store</u>	23
<u>· Scavella's Convenience Store</u>	25
<u>5.1.2 Supermarket in Major's Cay</u>	26
<u>· Bonnie's Variety Store and Car Rental</u>	26
<u>5.2 Gas stations on Crooked Island</u>	28
<u>5.3 Car rentals in Crooked Island</u>	28
<u>5.3.1 Sharon's Boutique</u>	29
<u>5.3.2 Bonnie's Variety Store and Car Rental</u>	29
<u>5.4 Other stores on Crooked Island</u>	30
<u>5.4.1 Sharon's Boutique</u>	30
<u>5.4.2 Crooked Island Lodge</u>	31
<u>6. Restaurants on Crooked Island</u>	32
<u>6.1 Casuarina Pines Villas</u>	32
<u>6.2 Gibson's Restaurant #2</u>	33

Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide

Table of Contents

<u>7. Beaches on Crooked Island</u>	34
<u>7.1 Beaches in the west of Crooked Island</u>	35
<u>7.1.1 Seahorse Shores Beach</u>	35
<u>7.1.2 Bathing Beach</u>	39
<u>7.1.3 Occasional Beaches</u>	40
<u>7.2 Beaches in the north of Crooked Island</u>	41
<u>7.2.1 Pitts Town to Gun Bluff</u>	41
<u>7.3 Beaches on the northeastern side of Crooked Island</u>	44
<u>7.3.1 Moss Town beaches</u>	44
<u>7.3.2 Colonel Hill Bay</u>	45
<u>7.3.3 Major's Cay Bay</u>	46
<u>7.4. Best snorkeling on Crooked Island</u>	47
<u>8. Lagoons of Crooked Island</u>	48
<u>8.1 Salt Lagoon</u>	48
<u>8.2 Turtle Sound</u>	49
<u>9. What to bring to Crooked Island</u>	50
<u>10.1 How to minimize the risk of shark attacks on Crooked Island 's beaches</u>	51
<u>10.2 How to survive a shark attack</u>	52
<u>11. Closing Remarks</u>	53

Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide

1. Overview of Crooked Island, Bahamas

Crooked Island is the best guarded secret of the Bahamas. If you are looking for the true Bahamas with endless white sand beaches, palm trees, turquoise waters, excellent swimming, snorkeling and diving, fishing and especially bone fishing, solitude and some of the friendliest people on the planet, look no further. Crooked Island is calling your name.

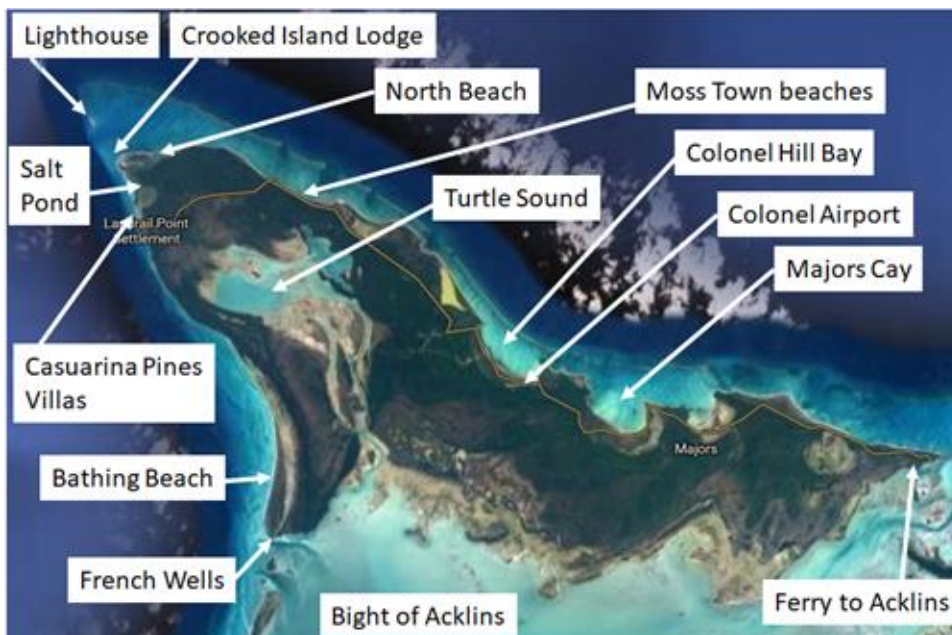
With a size of 57 square miles (148 km²), Crooked Island is about 70% of the size of New Providence Island where Nassau is located. But its population of 330 people is only a tiny fraction and makes for a population density of only 6 people per square mile (2 people per km²). So, if you want to get away from it all, look no further. Crooked Island is calling your name.



On a cloudless night, you can enjoy gazillions of stars as there are only few artificial light sources.

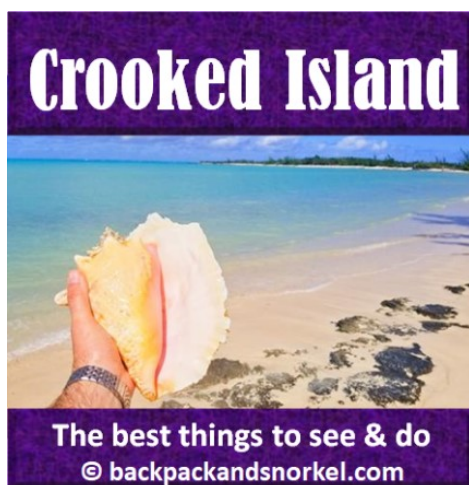
If you stay on the beaches on the west side of Crooked Island then you will see the occasional cruise ship far away on the horizon and realize that you have found your place in paradise.

Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide



As to the pronunciation: The “e” in “Crooked” is not silent and pronounced as in “footed”.

We have made two videos about Crooked Island. The “Snorkeling in Crooked Island” video (16 min) is an excerpt of the “Crooked Island – Hidden Paradise in The Bahamas” video (34 min).



Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide

2.1 Disclaimer

In this guide I am doing my best to give you the most accurate information. Over time, however, prices, times, and even attractions are subject to change. Therefore, I and backpackandsnorkel.com cannot be held responsible for the experiences of users while traveling. I strongly suggest that you write or call the attractions you plan to visit for confirmation when you make your travel plans.

Also, please stay alert, be aware of your surroundings and keep an eye on your belongings. Pickpockets and other criminals can easily ruin even the best planned vacation.

2.2 Copyright

This website and its content are copyright of "Backpack and Snorkel". All rights reserved. Any redistribution or reproduction of part or all of the contents in any form is prohibited. The content on this site (including photos) may not be sold, reprinted, or used for commercial purposes without the written consent of "Rudy at Backpack and Snorkel". You may not, except with our express written permission, distribute or commercially exploit the content. Nor may you transmit it or store it in any other website or other form of electronic retrieval system.

Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide

3. General Information

3.1 How to get to Crooked Island?

Crooked Island is off the beaten track and only very few tourists find their way to this remote island in the Bahamas.

The only options to get to Crooked Island are:

- two weekly flights (Wednesday and Saturday) from Nassau with Bahamas Air
- pre-Covid: the mail boat from Nassau which also brings supplies and typically arrives on 3 Fridays per month after a multi-day voyage
- private yacht or plane
- pedestrian ferry from Acklins Island

3.2 Is there public transportation on Crooked Island?

There is no public transportation on Crooked Island.

Ask your hotel if they can get you a rental car and expect to pay \$65 per day. Remember, cars drive on the left side of the road like in England and Australia. There are almost no road signs, so make sure to download the Crooked Island map to your favorite GPS.

Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide

3.5 Post Office on Crooked Island ([map](#))

Located in the administrative office across the street from St. Michael Anglican Church, behind the door closest to the main road is the post office.

It also offers some banking services for locals who have accounts with it, but visitors cannot get any cash on Crooked Island, so make sure to bring enough money with you.

The first post office in The Bahamas used to stand in Pitts Town, but it is long gone.



Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide

4.1 Casuarina Pines Villas ([map](#), [reviews](#), [website](#), [facebook](#))

Named after the pine trees in front of the property, we loved Casuarina Pines Villas. It is located on a white sand beach on the west side of the island where you have turquoise water just a few feet outside your cabin. There is little current, so swimming is good and the rocks in the water make for real good snorkeling as the rocks provide lots of hiding places for fish.

The hotel is close enough to the Landrail Point settlement so that you can easily walk the 0.5 miles (1km) to e.g. the supermarket in town and far enough away that you can have nearly total solitude.

The road into town that google maps shows does not exist; the existing road is actually only half the distance into town. Don't worry; it is the only road here, so you cannot get lost.

Casuarina Pines Villas are managed by Hylene Moss and her husband Ellis. They are some of the nicest people and Hylene constantly managed to exceed our expectations.

One day I told her that I need to make an appointment for our Covid test and asked her about the clinic. The next thing I know is that she had made appointments for us.

Hylene is pronounced like "Eileen" with an "H", so like "Hi-lean".

The best way to reach here is by WhatsApp (+1-242-457-7005), but she responds promptly to Messenger (Casuarina Pines Villas) too.

Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide

All villas face west and you can see the beach and turquoise ocean waters you're your bed. The villas have a deck that is facing the beach and has with 2 chairs. About half way from the green villa to the beach is a covered area with a hammock and beach chairs and loungers for all guests to use. Wifi from our pink cabin (house #3) reached all the way out there. Next to the covered area is an outdoor shower.



Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide

5. What stores are on Crooked Island?

Crooked Island with its small population of 330 people has only a few stores. These stores do not have long opening hours. As an example, the [Green Valley Food Store](#) is open 7:30am-5pm, Sunday through Friday. It is important to note that the Landrail Point settlement is mostly settled by Seventh Day Adventists and that means that you cannot buy alcohol or tobacco and that everything is closed from sunset on Friday until sunset on Saturday for Sabbath.

Also, if the owner is sick or has other things to do, then the stores may temporarily close at any time during normal business hours.

5.1 Supermarkets

We have found 3 supermarkets stores on Crooked Island and there may be more.

The supermarkets here are basically one room in which food items and non-food items like home and vehicle repair items, over-the-counter medicine, body care and other items are sold.

Crooked Island is supplied by ship three times a month. The ship arrives Friday's at around 2pm and we found that the new supplies make it to the stores by about 4:30pm, shortly before the stores close and remain closed on Saturday.

Don't be surprised to see empty shelves and no fresh fruits or vegetables on Thursday or Friday before the ship comes in.

Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide



Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide

Scavella's Convenience Store ([map](#))

Scavella's Convenience Store is a grocery store with a small selection only a few hundred feet to the west of [Green Valley Food Store](#).

We found that some items there are a bit cheaper. A gallon of water is \$2 vs \$2.50 at Green Valley Food Store.

If the store has the “Open” sign in the window but is locked during business hours then just knock on the door of the blue house next to it and wait for the owner to come and let you in the store.

They can take credit cards but strongly prefer cash.

The store is not air conditioned.



Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide

5.4 Other stores on Crooked Island

5.4.1 Sharon's Boutique ([map](#))

Sharon's Boutique is the largest clothing store on Crooked Island. You can also buy souvenirs, some housewares and beauty products here and rent a car.

Sharon is a nice lady and fantastic sales person.

She has another daytime job and therefore only opens Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-9pm.



Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide

7.1 Beaches in the west of Crooked Island

7.1.1 Seahorse Shores Beach ([map](#))

This 1.75 mile (2.8 km) long beach goes from Landrail Point to Pitts Town in the north west of Crooked Island.

It is one of the best beaches on Crooked Island. It features white sand and fantastic turquoise water and very little current.

Except for the northern part, where there is all sand, much of the transition from the beach into the water has flat rocks that you can walk over, even without water shoes, to get into the water.

Alternatively, there are sandy breaks between the rocks that allow you to enter the water without walking over the rocks.

As the rocks provide good hiding places for fish, you will see plenty of colorful fish just a few feet into the water.

I found one fantastic snorkeling spot ([map](#)) by the lonely palm tree about 150ft (50m) south of the abandoned shipwreck which lies on the shore south of Casuarina Pines Villas.

This is an area that is partially enclosed by volcanic rocks. It is excellent for snorkeling at low and high tide and there are plenty of colorful and not-so-colorful fish.



Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide



Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide

7.3 Beaches on the northeastern side of Crooked Island

7.3.1 Moss Town beaches ([map](#))

The beaches here are mostly deserted and there are only few houses near the beach. The water is turquoise and the strip of white sand is very narrow at high tide in some areas.

The water was hazy when we were there.



Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide

7.3.3 Major's Cay Bay ([map](#))

This is a beautiful mostly deserted bay with some of the most beautiful turquoise water I have ever seen and a wider strip of white sand compared to Colonel Hill Bay. We even saw 2 sea turtles swimming in the water.

The water was calm but much too hazy to snorkel.



Crooked Island, Bahamas, Travel Guide

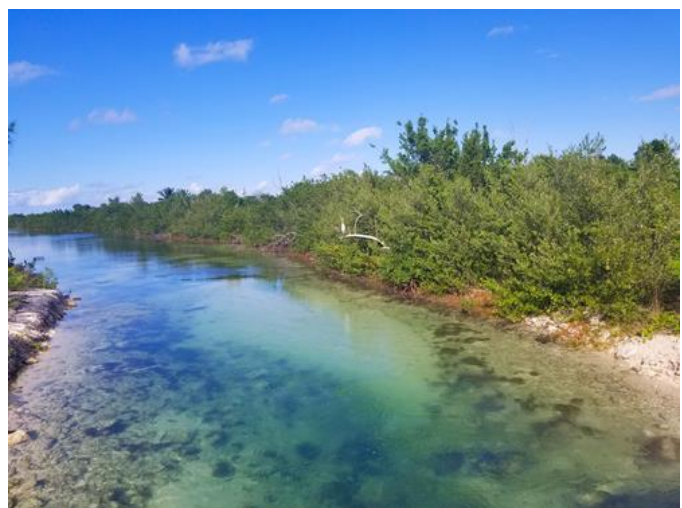
8. Lagoons of Crooked Island

8.1 Salt Pond ([map](#))

The salt pond is an inland lake that was used in the past to extract salt from ocean water. This industry was abandoned on Crooked Island but is still practiced on nearby Inagua Island.

Nowadays, Salt Pond with its mangroves is a paradise for sea birds and, during certain times of the year, for flamingoes.

Salt Pond starts at the bridge near [Casuarina Pine Villas Hotel](#) and ends near the eastern end of [North Beach](#).





11. Closing Remarks

ABOUT RUDY FROM BACKPACK & SNORKEL

I was born in Germany and emigrated to the US in 2003. My wife and I are a truly multinational couple: I, with my German background, and she with her Chinese heritage. Both of us live in the USA.

Sadly, working in the US means we have much fewer vacation days compared to other countries like e.g. Germany and thus we cannot travel very frequently.

Through a lot of trial and error, we have found our ideal travel and vacation style. **Making Memorable Moments** by focusing on important destinations, planning time for meeting the locals and, of course, for relaxation are our priorities.

We have also learned to appreciate local foods and try to eat as many local dishes as possible. Just for fun, we try to eat at one Chinese restaurant in each country we visit. It is absolutely amazing how different Chinese food is all over the planet.



MAKING MEMORABLE MOMENTS

You may take 10,000 photos during your vacation, rush from one attraction to the next, but what you will remember in your heart is how you were **Making Memorable Moments**.

For me, that was e.g. Spider Rock in Canyon de Chelly (ever heard of this US National Park?). When I first saw it, I was blown away by this majestic natural obelisk and the beautiful canyon that it sits in. I have been there two more times and still feel the same.

Or think of Isla Mujeres, a small island outside Cancun, Mexico. On the surface, Playa Norte is supposedly Mexico's most beautiful beach and it is always crowded and the boats that anchor there play loud music. Below the surface, Isla Mujeres is very relaxed, quite walkable and it has friendly locals, good authentic Mexican food and good international cuisine and is often very affordable.

Isla Mujeres is our personal paradise!



PACK YOUR BACKPACK & SNORKEL AND LET'S GO

Our travel style has evolved over the years. We are packing light these days when we travel and typically only need a small backpack per person - see my [Traveling Light Guide](#).

With this guide, I want to provide value to you and help you plan your own relaxing vacations with the goal of **Making Memorable Moments!**

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments.