

Bahamas Targets Private Pilots & Aviation Enthusiasts at EAA Air Venture Virtual Show, July 21-25, 2020

Bahamas Borders Remain Open for Private Pilots and Charters Flying From the US and For Commercial Travelers From Canada, UK and The European Union

PLANTATION, Florida – July 20, 2020 -- July 21-25, is declared the “Spirit of Aviation Week” and like all major events taking place during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 51st Annual Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Air Venture Show has pivoted to a virtual platform. The Bahamas, made up of its key government agencies including the Ministry of Tourism and Aviation, Royal Bahamas Police Force (aviation arm,) Bahamas Civil Aviation and Bahamas Customs Department, along with its flying ambassadors, are participating in the world’s largest aviation show.

In the past, the show has attracted, annually in excess of 500,000 pilots and aviation enthusiasts, media and industry professionals from around the world and exhibited more than 10,000 airplanes from home-builts to warbirds.

The number one ranked destination in the Caribbean and eastern seaboard for general aviators, the Bahamas with its more than sixty airports and 16 islands destination, has always been a favorite for private pilots and boaters. Its safety and unspoiled beauty, pristine clear waters, mystique and tranquil environment have all added to the enjoyment and peace of mind for travelers.

The Bahamas opened its borders to private pilots and private boaters on June 15, and to all international commercial flights on July 1. On July 22, The Bahamas will close its borders to international commercial airlines and vessels originating from the United States of America. The borders will remain open to private charters, private pilots and private boaters embarking from the U.S. and for travelers on commercial airlines from Canada, the United Kingdom and European Union. All travelers entering The Bahamas must present a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR (swab) test from a credible, reference lab, taken not more than 10 days old. A completed Bahamas Health Visa Application must be made 24-48 hours, prior to embarkation, via www.bahamas.com/travelupdates.

Located just 50 miles off the coast of Florida, earlier this year, the Bahamas government in conjunction with the U.S. Federal government agencies began pre-clearance global customs and immigration services for private pilots traveling to and from the United States to The Bahamas. The pre-clearance facilities which makes it easier, faster and cheaper for pilots to access the remote Out Islands of the Bahamas and simultaneously, land and return to and from the Bahamas and United States are located at Banyan Air Services, at the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport and Sheltair at the Fort Lauderdale Jet Aviation Center.

Among some of the Bahamas’ specials and incentives being offered to pilots at its booth via <http://www.expocadweb.com/20eaa/ec/forms/attendee/vbooth5.aspx?exhibitorId=13054> are a \$150 credit for hotel stays in the Out Islands of The Bahamas, a \$300 fuel credit, dubbed Fly Almost Fee Free, for hotel stays of 4 nights or more, and a Bahamas FlyAway \$100 avgas gift certificate at Odyssey Aviation, redeemable in Nassau or Exuma.

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