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The Telegraph

Travel | Destinations



View gallery

The Abaco Club on Winding Bay

Great Abaco, Bahamas



Rooms from
£432 per night

8/10

Telegraph expert
rating

" The Abaco Club sits on one of the most stunning locations in the entire Bahamas, owing to the combination of its striking beachfront cliffs and its exclusive, crescent-shaped beach cove. Its 18-hole golf course remains the centrepiece of the property. "

10/10 **Location**

When you fly into Marsh Harbour, the largest settlement in the Abacos, you must drive 32 km (20 miles) to the remote southern part of Great Abaco to find The Abaco Club at Winding Bay. The drive is not particularly scenic as the entire stretch is lined by miles and miles of pine forest. However, the dramatic contrast between the rugged interiors of Abaco and the stunning coastline creates a dramatic and invigorating contrast when arriving behind the gates. The resort sits on a private crescent-shaped beach cove that is best appreciated in its fullness from the elevated view of the Cliff House restaurant.

Below, the white sand beach stretches for miles. The shallow cove with its calm waters is carpeted in turquoise blues. A small cay sits just ahead of the horizon, close enough to motivate you to paddle board or kayak to its private beach.



9/10

Style & character

The Abaco Club is not a typical resort. As the name suggests, it is a private members' club, though non-members can stay in any of the houses or suites (but note that they have a limit of three visits to the property before they are asked to pay membership). The upscale property prides itself on exclusivity. Most accommodation options are not actually on the beach although beach access is always close by: across the street or down the wooden, hillside stairway. Dozens of luxury estate homes sit hillside, overlooking the beach.



Service & facilities

It has all of the facilities of a large resort with service that is personalised and attentive. Since the property is designed like a residential community, guest travel the paved roads by golf cart. The roads run parallel to the beach, winding through tropical foliage, and up on the hillside. The 18-hole golf course, designed by golf architects Donald Steel and Tom McKenzie, has stunning views of the coast, and features a short game practice area. Fitness enthusiasts will feel at home with tennis courts, a gym and water sports. There's also a spa.

Note that membership provides full access to all facilities. Non members have to pay for access to the golf course (18 holes is \$206/£154 per person), and for spa treatments (massages range from \$65-225/£49-168).

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Bar | ✓ Beach |
| ✓ Fitness centre | ✓ Golf course |
| ✓ Laundry | ✓ Parking |
| ✓ Pool | ✓ Restaurant |
| ✓ Room service | ✓ Sauna |
| ✓ Spa | ✓ Steam room/hammam |
| ✓ Tennis court | ✓ Wi-Fi |

8/₁₀

Rooms

The beach houses vary in size and grandeur. The standard beach cabanas are one-bedroom residences with modern interiors: think mosaic-tiled bathrooms, sleek and regal wooden bed frames and sofas. There are cabanas that sleep up to eight people and estate homes that sleep up to 10. They are all designed with tropical style: open-air concepts with large glass windows and French doors. The common spaces are illuminated with natural light and open onto sun decks or balconies.

8/₁₀

Food & drink

The Cliff House restaurant, which overlooks Winding Bay, is the primary dinner spot. The blackened grouper is an excellent choice, but be sure to enquire about specials as the restaurant has occasional visiting guest chefs from the owner's other international clubs. Breakfast and lunch is served at Buster's Beach Bar, which is so close to the beach you are sure to get sand in your toes when dining outside under the open-air gazebo. Breakfast is American style: omelettes, pancakes, fruits and oatmeal.

Private dining is a feature you should take advantage of when staying here. The resort's Private Catering Chef will design a menu especially for you, using fish caught locally and fresh produce from the nearby Driftwood Farm in Schooner Bay.

6/₁₀

Value for money

One-bedroom cabana suites from BSD 582 (£432). Two-bedroom cottages from BSD 1,761 (£1,308). Four-bedroom estate homes from BSD 2,584 (£1,920). Rates include daily housekeeping, the resort fee and one golf-cart rental. Free Wi-Fi. Membership initiation fees range from BSD 5,000 (£3,715) to BSD 100,000 (£74,304) depending on membership category.

Access for guests with disabilities?

No specific facilities.

Family-friendly?

Many of the rental options are suited for families of varying sizes: there are two to four-bedroom cottages and estate homes with four to six bedrooms. There are many sporting and water-based activities to keep children entertained. Educational activities are available as well, such as classes in sand castle techniques and kite making. It is common for teenagers to roam freely on the property on golf carts.

📍 Cherokee, Great Abaco, Bahamas.

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