

Things to Do on Eleuthera

Compiled by Matthew Simon, owner of [Buttonwood Reserve](#)

New York Times, February 19, 2006... “[Surfer's Beach](#) is for wave riders, but there are also beaches for snorkelers, swimmers and shell collectors. Best of all, you can have one all to yourself.

Around mid-afternoon on New Year's Eve, when nearly all the island's rooms were booked, not a single soul could be spotted on Ten Bay Beach, six miles south of Governor's Harbour, despite a brilliant sunshine and near perfect temperatures.”

It's obvious that the reporter who penned these lines was seeing Eleuthera for the first time. Regular visitors are surprised to find anyone on their favorite beach. With sixty [miles of beaches](#) (view this satellite photo) and a few dozen hotel rooms, Eleuthera is a paradise for beach lovers who enjoy privacy and unspoiled natural beauty.

Photographs and directions to the [best beaches](#) of Eleuthera.

Beyond the beaches, Eleuthera is surrounded by coral reefs that offer exceptional **diving** and [snorkeling](#).

[Buttonwood Beach](#) has a shipwreck, and there is even a sunken train wreck off the north coast of the island.

[The Devil's Backbone](#), another popular dive, is a large coral formation in northern North-Eleuthera, notorious for wrecking ships.

[The Current Cut](#), a narrow channel with currents that regularly reach 10 knots, has been rated one of the ten best dives in the world.

Eleuthera is famous for [bonefishing](#), and [deep-sea fishing](#), **reef fishing**, and **spear-fishing** are also popular.

The Caribbean side of the island is usually free of heavy surf, providing excellent conditions for **sailing**, **windsurfing**, and **kayaking**.

Trails through the fields and woods are perfect for **jogging**, **hiking**, and **mountain-biking**. You won't find them on a map or in a guidebook, so ask a local resident or watch for trails on the side of the road.

The Atlantic side of the island north of James Cistern offers several excellent

beaches for **surfing**, with [Surfer's Beach](#) and Holiday Beach being the most famous.

For **golfers**, Eleuthera has the only Robert Trent Jones-designed golf course in the Bahamas, once ranked among the best in the world, although maintenance is now haphazard.

Eleuthera offers varied and unique sightseeing...

The [Hatchet Bay Cave](#) extends for a mile underground.

At [The Cliffs](#), giant ocean swells crash into a limestone precipice.

The [Rock Sound Ocean Hole](#), said to be bottomless, is an inland salt lake connected by subterranean passages to the sea. Feed the tame saltwater fish miles from the ocean.

The [Glass Window Bridge](#), painted by Winslow Homer, is the narrowest point on the island, where the calm turquoise waters of the Caribbean almost touch the turbulent deep blue of the Atlantic.

The cavernous [Preacher's Cave](#) provided shelter for the first European settlers of Eleuthera, and served as their first church.

The [Queen's Baths](#) are a collection of small pools carved out of the soft rock by wave action. At low tide, the Queen—or anyone fortunate enough to be on Eleuthera—can bathe amongst the little fishes.

These sites are all in their pristine state. Don't expect to find a guide booth—or even a paved road.

Each of Eleuthera's score of ***picturesque villages*** deserves a visit.

[Gregory Town](#), home of the annual Pineapple Festival, is also home to Pam's **Island Made Gift Shop**, featuring local handicrafts, and Thompson's bakery, creator of Eleuthera's famous pineapple tarts.

[Spanish Wells](#) is an island fishing village off the north coast of Eleuthera with lovely nineteenth century cottages in pastel colors.

[Governor's Harbour](#) features an historic waterfront, colonial homes, and the recently restored Haynes Library. Governor's Harbour also hosts the Friday night fish fry, a weekly waterfront street party that brings out locals and visitors alike.

[Harbour Island](#), a five-minute water-taxi ride from Eleuthera, offers five-star

hotels, shopping, and celebrity sightings. No private cars are permitted on the streets of Harbour Island, so plan on renting a golf cart.

Live music is also popular on Eleuthera, part-time home to Lenny Kravitz and his band, Patti Labelle, Mariah Carey, and others. For more information, see Entertainment, below.

Eleuthera has numerous [annual events](#), from the Pineapple Festival and the Ride for Hope to the International Food Fair and the North Eleuthera Regatta.

[Other sights and attractions](#)

Contacts and Resources for Things to Do

ENTERTAINMENT

Friday Night: [Fish Fry](#) street party in Governors Harbour. Great Bahamian food and drink, and dancing on the street to DJ music. Locals and visitors alike love this event.

Tuesday and Friday Nights: Open mic at [Elvinas](#), Gregory Town. Lenny Kravitz and his band can be found there when they're on the island.

Saturday Afternoon: Live music [poolside at the Bistro](#) at Sky Beach Club, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday Night: Open mic at [Rainbow Inn](#), Hatchet Bay. Another spot frequented by Lenny and his band.

Sunday Night: Live music at [Cocodimama](#) Resort.

Wednesday and Friday Nights: [Dr. Seabreeze](#) (local Bahamian music star) at Rainbow Inn, Hatchet Bay.

Thursday Night: Live music with talent dropping in to jam at The Beach House on [Club Med beach](#) in Governors Harbour.

Monday Night: Monday Night Football at [Cocodimama](#). (242) 332-3150

Everynight Except Thursday: Princess movie theater, Governors Harbour. Current popular movies. 8:15 pm only. (242) 332-2735.

There's more information about [live music](#) on Eleuthera.

RESTAURANTS

Here's a [complete list of restaurants](#) on the island, including descriptions and phone numbers.

In the **Governor's Harbour area**, try the following...

The Bistro at [Sky Beach Club](#), Atlantic side: (242) 332-3422.

[Cocodimama](#), charming resort, Caribbean side: (242) 332-3150.

[Tippy's](#) Atlantic side, between Governor's Harbour and North Palmetto Point: (242) 332-3331.

[The Rainbow Inn](#) Caribbean side: (242) 335-0294; located in Hatchet Bay.

The Beach House [Restaurant & Tapas Bar](#), Governor's Harbour, Atlantic side: (242) 332-3387.

FISHING, SPEAR-FISHING, AND SNORKELING CHARTERS

[Gladstone and Paul Petty](#), Governor's Harbour: (242) 557-7269, (242) 332-2993, (242) 332-2963. Call 6:30-7:00 am eastern and after 9-9:30 pm eastern.

Captain James McCartney, Palmetto Point: (242) 332-3393
Fly-fishing, spear-fishing, and reef fishing; snorkeling; picnic cruises (include cruising, snorkeling, beach lunch).

Captain Z, Gregory Town: (242) 335-5185 or (242) 551-0641
[Fishing and diving charters](#) and/or capt.z@coralwave.com

Unique Charters, South Palmetto Point: (242) 332-1830 or 888-820-8471.
Fishing and diving charters.

Crazy Pete, Gregory Town: (242) 551-0995.
Fishing and diving charters. Pete is also a skilled seafood chef.

Kelsey or Danny Rankine: (242) 332-6035 or (242) 332-6616.
Fishing and diving charters out of Savannah Sound.

Scott Bethel: (242) 468-1426
Fishing and diving charters out of Governor's Harbour.

FISHING EQUIPMENT RENTALS

Clearwater Dive Shop, Governor's Harbour: (242) 332-2146
Also snorkel and scuba equipment rentals.

SCUBA AND SNORKELING

Ocean Fox Diving, Harbour Island: (242) 332-2323
Dive excursions, training, and equipment. Also fishing charters.
Email: fish@oceanfox.com

Valentine's Dive Center, Harbour Island: (242) 333-2080.
Dive excursions, training, and equipment. Also fishing charters.

Lil' Shan's Watersports, Harbour Island: (242) 422-9343; (242) 554-5789.
Snorkel Trips, Scuba Trips, PADI Scuba courses

Clearwater Dive Shop, Governor's Harbour: (242) 332-2146
Snorkel and scuba equipment rentals. Also finishing equipment rentals.

Surfer Pete, Gregory Town: (242) 335-5436
Diving and fishing equipment rentals. Also surfboard rentals, bike rentals.

Forty's, Governor's Harbour: Call [Pineapple Fields Resort](#),
Office: (242) 332-2221
Rents kayaks, small sail boats, snorkel gear for use on the Club Med beach. Also rents bikes.

EXCURSIONS

Island Hopping Excursion or...

Gladstone and Paul Petty, Governor's Harbour: (242) 332-2993 or (242) 332-2963. Call 6:30-7:00 am eastern and after 9-9:30 pm eastern. Includes trips to the Exumas, Thunderbolt Cave, the National Park of the Bahamas, Rose Island, etc. Maximum of 10 people.

Day Trip to Harbour Island

This is a do-it-yourself day trip.

To get to Harbour Island, drive 45 minutes north from the Governor's Harbour airport - past North Eleuthera airport - to the Three Islands Dock. Then take a short water-taxi ride to Dumore Town on Harbour Island.

The taxis run continually and the fare is \$5. Once on Harbour Island, rent a golf cart for about \$40 for half a day and explore. Harbour Island has excellent shopping, many fine restaurants, celebrity sightings, and a long beautiful beach.

SURFING

Bahamas Out Islands Adventures, Gregory Town

Phone: (242) 551-9635 or (242) 335-0349, Tom Glucksman, manager. Surfing school, and board rentals. Also camping and kayaking trips.

Surfer Pete, Gregory Town: Call Rebecca's Beach Shop, Gregory Town: (242) 335-5436. Surfboard rentals, long and short. Also diving and fishing equipment rentals, bike rentals.

CAMPING AND KAYAKING TRIPS

Bahamas Out Islands Adventures, Gregory Town

Phone: (242) 551-9635 or (242) 335-0349, Tom Glucksman, manager. Camping and kayaking trips. Also a surfing school and board rentals.

MARINAS

French Leave Marina, Governor's Harbour: (242) 332-3616

Runaway Bay Marina, South Palmetto Point: (242) 332-0400

Hatchet Bay Marina, Alice Town: (242) 332-0186

Davis Harbour Marina, Rock Sound: (242) 334-6303

SMALL BOAT RENTALS

Forty's, Between Governor's Harbour and North Palmetto Point:

Call [Pineapple Fields Resort](#) Office: (242) 332-2221

Rents kayaks, small sail boats, snorkel gear for use on the Club Med beach. Will soon have power boats for fishing and water skiing. Also rents bikes.

Island Watercraft Rentals, Palmetto Pointe: (242) 332-0380. Ask for Albert Archer. Email: aarcher@islandinsuranceab.com. Boats for rent include:

- 13' Boston Whaler with 50HP E-Tec Evinrude engine: \$150.00 per day includes a full tank of gas.
- Two jet skis: \$130.00 per hour per jet ski.
- Two Kayaks: \$40.00 per day per kayak.

Cape Eleuthera Marina, Powell Pointe: (242) 334-8500

16ft Carolina Skiff Rentals - 35 Horsepower

Full day - \$350 / half day - \$200

Includes life vests, full tank of gas, oil & vhf radio. Up to 3 persons.

Lil' Shan's Watersports, Harbour Island

Phone: (242) 422-9343 or (242) 554-5789

Jet Ski Rentals - ½ Hour \$60 / 1 Hour \$120 / Half Day \$350 / Full Day \$450

Boat Rental - 17' Mako: Hourly \$40; Half Day \$125; Full Day \$170

Boat Rental - 17' Whaler: Hourly \$35; Half Day \$110; Full Day \$160

Kayak Rental 1 Seater and 2 Seaters - Hourly \$10-\$15; Full Day \$49-\$59

SAILING LESSONS

Mark Adams: Palmetto Point, (242) 554-6950

Sailing lessons on the Caribbean side of Eleuthera near Palmetto Point.

WINDSURFING

Jethro Armstrong, Tarpum Bay

BICYCLE RENTALS

[Dexter Bootle](#), Governor's Harbour: (242) 332-2229

Forty's, Governors Harbour: Call Pineapple Fields Office: (242) 332-2221

CAVING

Calvin Monroe: (242) 464-0962

TENNIS

[The Cigatoo Resort](#), Governor's Harbour, (242) 332-3060. Ask for Annie. Memberships to use the Cigatoo courts are available for \$30/month.

TENNIS LESSONS

[Sammy Sands, Pro](#), North Palmetto Point: (242) 332-1632

GOLF

Cotton Bay Club

The only Robert Trent Jones-designed golf course in the Bahamas, once ranked among the best in the world. Although course maintenance is currently haphazard, it is still a very enjoyable course with an oceanfront hole.
(242) 334 6101

MOVIE THEATER

Princess Movie Theater, Governor's Harbour: (242) 332-2735
8:15 pm only. Closed Thursdays.

LIBRARY

Historic [Haynes Library](#), Governor's Harbour: (242) 332 2877
Membership to borrow books: \$5. Internet access: \$5 per hour.
Arts and crafts for children Sat morning at 10 a.m.

GIFT SHOPS

Almond Tree, Rock Sound, Eleuthera

[Bank's Road Deli](#), Between Governors Harbour and North Palmetto Point.

The Beach House Boutique at the **[Tapas Bar](#)** on Club Med Beach,
Governor's Harbour: (242) 332-3387

Brenda's Gifts & Souvenirs, Governors Harbour

Frank's Art Gallery & Souvenirs, Harbour Island

Island Farm, South Palmetto Point: (242) 332-1921

Pam's Island Made Gift Shop, Gregory Town: (242) 335-5369

Rebecca's Beach Shop, Gregory Town

Rose Manor, Governors Harbour

Sugar Mill, Harbour Island

MEDICAL AND EMERGENCY NUMBERS FOR GOVERNORS HARBOUR

Police/Fire: (242) 332-2111 or (242) 332-2117

Ambulance: (242) 332-3178 or (242) 557-7006

Levy Clinic: (242) 332-2774

Located in a pink building just north of Governor's Harbour. If the clinic is not open, a nurse is on call at (242) 332-3400, or call Dr. Thompson at (242) 332-2774. If you can't get through call police, and they will get another nurse on call.

[Dr. Baccus:](#) (242) 332-2902

A medical doctor in private practice whose wife is a dentist. Located near Quality Inn Cigatoo in Governors Harbour.