



HOW TO
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HOW TO BEAT THE LONG, COLD WINTERS

How To Beat The Long, Cold Winters...

By Unni Marie Berg



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1. Are you ready for a change?

Is this your problem?

Have you had it with cold and dark winters? Are they getting on your nerves? Are you saying to yourself: “Is this really the best and most enjoyable place on Earth to spend the winter – or could there be other alternatives?”



The solution:

Avoid the cold winters altogether! Invest in a second home in The Bahamas and spend as much time there as you can. It may sound like a fantasy, but it doesn't have to be. It is easier than you might think.

The author of this little report is living a cozy and warm life on Great Guana Cay in the Bahamas today. She emigrated from Norway in 2009, where the winters are long, dark and cold. She loves the island and would gladly show it to you. If she could find her way down there, so can you.



Unni Marie Berg

Author

Videographer/photographer



How would you feel if your life was like this?

Imagine waking up in the mornings to peace and quiet. No traffic, no car horns and no heavy machinery – only the happy chirping of birds and the sound of waves rolling in on the beach. You get up and dress in as little as possible. It's warm enough to wear next to nothing all year round.



You stroll into the kitchen and make your morning coffee. Coffee mug in hand, you walk out on the porch overlooking the mile long, white beach and the clear, blue ocean with cruise ships passing by in the distance.



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A hummingbird is gathering nectar from a flower nearby and the world is at peace. You are at peace. Ready for another day in Paradise.

The sun is rising with amazing colors and the warm breeze caresses your skin. The coconut palm leaves are swaying in the wind and you catch the scent of flowers nearby. You have no worries, no stress. This is your new life.



How are you today?

Are you struggling to get out of your warm bed in the morning? Only to step onto the cold floor – to dress in a bunch of clothes before you go outside – just to freeze your fingers and toes off as you shovel the snow from the driveway? Then you have to brush the snow off your car and scrape the ice off the windshield before you get inside the freezing, cold car in order to drive on those dangerously slippery roads where your life is at stake every minute? Is this you? Well – it doesn't have to be this way for much longer.

Ready for a change?

You design your own life. Whether you are 20, 40 or 60 years old. Are you living the life you want right now, or are you open to discover a different way of life with a second home on a warm and beautiful island?



"Life is a daring adventure or nothing at all. Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature."

- Helen Keller



2. About The Bahamas

I'm not going to write page after page about the Bahamas, because you can find all the information you need online. Here are some places to start:

<http://www.bahamas.com/>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bahamas

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/the-bahamas>

<http://www.geographia.com/bahamas/>

Why The Bahamas?

A more interesting question to ask is why the Bahamas? Here are some great reasons:

- It's close proximity to the US. The location just outside the coast of Florida makes it easy to come and visit.
- Since The Bahamas used to be under British rule before it got independent in 1973, the justice system has its roots in the British system. Bahamas is now regarded as a stable democracy.
- The Bahamian people on the out islands are used to foreigners. They are friendly, respectful and have plenty of time to chat.
- The Bahamians are a very laid-back, sociable and party loving people. Many go to Church every Sunday, all dressed up; the women in bright colors and wide brimmed hats, the men in dark suits.

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- The climate is perfect. Hot – but not too hot in the summers, and never too cold in the winters. The air is humid, so the skin and hair don't dry out. Wrinkles go away...
- You don't need a tourist visa to The Bahamas if you are a US citizen. You can stay for 8 months of the year with no problems.
- If you like living in the Bahamas and you have the means to buy property for US\$500.000 US, you will get a permanent residence and can stay for as long as you like with your family or partner. Note! You do NOT get the right to work with this.

About Nassau – The Capitol

Nassau is a fairly small town on the small island of New Providence. The whole island has no more than 300.000 people. As a major financial center, however, Nassau is populated with ex-pats and people from all over the world. There's always a party going on to cater to the many tourists looking for fun and entertainment.

Four to five cruise ships are normally docked in the harbor and they provide some of the tourists milling about on Bay Street. The shops in the area are competing for the tourist dollars, selling jewelry, liquor and Cuban cigars at “reduced” and duty free prices. The straw market also sells its share of gifts, home made straw products; funny t-shirts and hand carved wooden figures. There are lots of other souvenirs stamped with “Bahamas” but they are – in fact – made in China.

There are a variety of restaurants with Bahamian, Italian, Belgian, French, Greek Creole and Chinese cuisine and bars in all price ranges. The hotels

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vary from the nice and luxurious; like The British Colonial Hilton, The One and Only Ocean Club and Atlantis, to hotels for tourists on a budget.

Paradise Island with The Atlantis Resort is only a ferry ride or a taxi ride away from Nassau. All in all – Nassau is a cool place to visit if you're not looking for peace and quiet. The traffic is ridiculous at times and the busses stop going after six.

There is more crime in Nassau than on any other island in the Bahamas, but if you take some precautions you're normally safe.

The Family Islands

All the other populated islands are referred to as The Family Islands, or The Out Islands. Away from Nassau life is totally different. The lifestyle is more tranquil, pleasant and informal. People are more sociable and easier to talk with. Everyone seems to have time to stop and chat. Life is good on the family islands.

Each island has its own, special charm. If you want to be thorough, you should consider flying from island to island to see which one you love the most. You can choose between (in alphabetical order):

- The Abacos,
- Acklins & Crooked Island
- Andros
- The Berry Islands
- Bimini
- Cat Island
- Eleuthera and Harbour Island
- The Exumas

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- Inagua
- Long Island
- Mayaguana
- Ragged Island
- Rum Cay
- San Salvador

You will find information about each and every one of these, with videos and photos at <http://www.bahamas.com>

The Abacos

The Abacos consist of one large island and several charming cays. The main island is called Great Abaco. That's where Marsh Harbor (the 'capitol' of the Abacos and the self-proclaimed sailing capitol of the world) and the airport are located. The most popular cay for tourists to visit is Elbow Cay, featuring charming and historical Hope Town. This island can get quite busy in the spring and summer. Then there is Green Turtle Cay, Man-O-War Cay and Great Guana Cay, all of them unique. We are going to focus on Great Guana Cay from here on.



The ferry



Hope Town street

3. Great Guana Cay in Abaco, The Bahamas

On Great Guana Cay the bars and restaurants are open from early in the morning to late at night. One of them is the famous Nipper's Beach Bar & Grill, known for its beautiful location overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and the magnificent beach, the Barefootman concerts and the Pig Roast Sundays. They have two pools for those who don't want to venture into the crystal clear ocean, and you'll always find friendly people to party with at Nipper's.



Nipper's Beach Bar on the Atlantic Ocean side

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Then there is Grabber's Bed, Bar and Grill at Sunset Beach, which is located on a beautiful beach on the more protected Sea of Abaco side of the island.



Grabber's Beach Bar on the Sea of Abaco side

Sunset at Grabber's



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Great Guana Cay has amazing, pristine beaches and crystal clear water. This is because there are no rivers carrying dirt into the ocean. Snorkeling is great, since there are live coral reefs easily accessible from the beach.



Miles and miles of white beach in Great Guana Cay

Great Guana Cay is one of the most pristine and beautiful cays in the Bahamas. If you're looking for peace and quiet – it's there. If you're looking to socialize or party – that's right there too. Guana has miles and miles of white, sandy beach – just waiting to be explored. Perfect for walking, running, swimming, snorkeling, surfing, tanning or collecting shell, sea glass or sea beans. Maybe you'll even find an antique glass ball that has floated ashore. When you go strolling down the beach, you'd be surprised if you meet anyone else.

Here's a video about investing in Great Guana Cay: <http://youtu.be/jNva6vzAiro>



Here's a video showing what to do in Great Guana Cay: <http://youtu.be/icekl86ayeE>



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Sunset in Great Guana Cay



The beach

4. Can YOU get away from the cold?

Maybe you're asking yourself: "Can I really do this?"

Sure you can. Anyone can do it. If you're single – you can do it. If you are a couple – you can do it. If you are a whole family, you can bring the kids, grandparents and all.

Some reasons for doing it:

- You've had it with cold winters
- You need time off from home – to reignite your spark
- You are looking for a stress-free lifestyle
- You want more adventure and joy in your life
- You love walking on the beach with next to nothing on
- Living part of the year in a tropical climate is on your "bucket list"
- You are looking to find a second home where you, your family and friends can spend vacations together
- You are looking to retire to a warmer climate
- You are looking for a little Bed & Breakfast type business you can run
- You need a change from your usual environment
- You are looking to find new friends and have more fun
- You feel that you deserve a better life
- You want to make your family and friends happy



5. The mental part of making this kind of decision

Buying a second home in the tropics will have an impact on the rest of your life. Will you stay up North in the cold forever, or will you venture South to find somewhere warmer and nicer to live for a few weeks or months a year. How about your retirement? Have you thought about that?

Are you worried that your new home will be too expensive considering the short time you are able to spend in it at this time? Don't worry about it. The rentals are great in Guana Cay, so even if you can't spend all the time you want in your new home, you can earn money renting it to tourists. That is what a lot of other second homeowners do, and they are successful at it.

Are there obstacles in the way for you? Set all the practical matters aside for a moment. Find out what YOU really want. The practical things can be dealt with. It is not as hard as you think.

What does your heart tell you?

Do you think you would feel happy walking in the warm sunshine on miles and miles of white sand, while contemplating life in total peace? How would it make you feel if you could escape the cold winters, the running nose and the scraping of ice on your vehicle?

If you like a tranquil, stress free, informal and sociable lifestyle where you get to know almost everyone – then choose Great Guana Cay.

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Lots and lots of happy second homeowners love the lifestyle here. They go back and forth between their real home and their second home and are totally happy and content with their life.

Here's what Sterling Hayden says about taking risks in life.

"To be truly challenging, a voyage, like a life, must rest on a firm foundation of financial unrest. Otherwise, you are doomed to a routine traverse, the kind known to yachtsmen who play with their boats at sea... cruising, it is called.

Voyaging belongs to seamen, and to the wanderers of the world who cannot, or will not, fit in. If you are contemplating a voyage and you have the means, abandon the venture until your fortunes changes.

Only then will you know what the sea is all about.

"I've always wanted to sail to the South Seas, but I can't afford it."

What these men can't afford is not to go. They are enmeshed in the cancerous discipline of security.

And in the worship of security we fling our lives beneath the wheels of routine – and before we know it our lives are gone.

What does a man need – really need?

A few pounds of food each day, heat and shelter, six feet to lie down in – and some form of working activity that will yield a sense of accomplishment.

That's all – in the material sense, and we know it. But we are brainwashed by our economic system until we end up in a tomb beneath a pyramid of time payments, mortgages, and preposterous gadgetry, playthings that divert our attention for the sheer idiocy of the charade.

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The years thunder by, the dreams of youth grow dim where they lie caked in dust on the shelves of patience.

*Before we know it, the tomb is sealed. Where, then, lies the answer?
In choice.*

Which shall it be: bankruptcy of purse or bankruptcy of life?"

- Sterling Hayden

Since this might well be one of the major decisions in your life, you should check it out thoroughly. Come and visit the islands of Abaco and get a feel for the lifestyle there.

A note about friends and family... Some of them will try to warn you about all the dangers of investing in a foreign country and try to discourage you now, but later, if you go through with your plans and invest in a second home, they will find any occasion and opportunity to come and visit...



6. Come and see for yourself

Come and visit Great Guana Cay and Abaco for a few days or a week. A week is great, because it takes time to discover the whole island and get a feel for it.

You also get to talk with other second homeowners and “expats” about their experiences. If you fall in love with the island, you can start looking for property to invest in. You don’t necessarily have to buy an already finished home, although there are some really nice homes on the market for less than a million. If you want to invest in a lot, you can build your own home. Or you can have it built for you. There are very competent construction companies on the island. They can work with you and do all the job, or parts of it. Maybe you will find a house you love already on your first trip! Others have done it before you!



We will help you

We can help you find accommodation for your trip to Guana Cay at no extra cost for you. This is what we do. You can check our website for yourself:

<http://www.rentalsguanacay.com>

Of course there will be no strings attached. You pay for your own trip and your own accommodation. You have no obligation to look at properties. This is not a timeshare gig... You do things at your own pace. No one will push you around.

But – we will be here to help you if you like us to. You just tell us when you would like to come, and we will send you suggestions for rental homes at different price levels. When you are here, we will take good care of you and show you the island. At your request we will show you the available properties and homes for sale. If you need help finding out how to get here, we can help with that as well.

When you check airlines, the airport you would want to fly directly into is Marsh Harbour (airport code MHH). Check out <http://www.cheaptickets.com> <http://www.orbitz.com> and <http://www.ebookers.com>.

Plus the airlines themselves. See the list with links below.

Airlines

Air Canada fly directly to Nassau (airport code NAS). Many of the US airline companies do too.

www.aircanada.com

www.jetblue.com

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www.united.com

www.aa.com

www.bahamasair.com

www.skybahamas.net

From Nassau you can take a local plane to Marsh Harbour.

www.flyabacoair.com

www.westernairbahamas.com

www.skybahamas.net

You can fly directly from many cities on the US East coast to Marsh Harbour (airport code MHH). Fort Lauderdale, Miami, West Palm Beach and Daytona and New Smyrna. Here are some of the airline companies:

www.aa.com – 1.800.433.7300

www.bahamasair.com – 1 242.367.2095

www.united.com – 1 800.864.8331

www.skybahamas.net – 1 242.377.8993

www.flyairgate.com – 1 242.367.3636

US Reservations: 1 386.478.0600

www.silverairways.com – 1 242.367.3415

US Reservations: 1 800.231.0856

www.cherokeeair.com – 1 242.367.1900

www.craigaircenter.com – 1 242.367.3522

www.flybahamasexpress.com – 1 242.225.7931

US Reservations: 1 954.365.1540





See more of what you can do in Great Guana Cay while you're here:

<http://www.where-is-abaco.com/what-to-do-in-guana-cay-abaco.html>

If you don't want to go home...

If you have money to invest, a world of options is open to you.

You can invest in anything for tourists. You can build or buy a small resort, a bed & breakfast, a bar, or a coffee shop or a shop. You are allowed to run it yourself as long as you hire Bahamians to do the rest of the work. In many cases you need a Bahamian partner to open a business.

The Bahamian government encourages foreign investment that creates Bahamian jobs.

Are you ready to check it out?

Give us a call today!

For questions about your trip to Great Guana Cay, call
Unni Berg, Ph: 1 242 445 7511,
Email: post@rentalsguanacay.com



To take a peek at Real Estate available in Great Guana Cay, check out:
<http://www.realestateguanacay.com>

For questions regarding Real Estate, call Real Estate Agent Bill Thompson.

See you in Great Guana Cay soon!!!

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