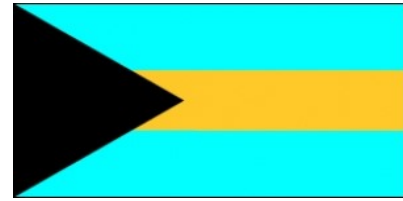




The Bahamas

Joined the Commonwealth 1973 - visited by the Queen in 1994



The nation of The Bahamas lies in the western North Atlantic off the coast of Florida

Pop: (2013) 377,000

Capital: Nassau

Area: 13,939 sq km

The Bahamas is a coral archipelago made up of over 700 islands and 2,000 rocks and cays. About 30 of the islands are inhabited. New Providence, with its capital Nassau, is the most important and lies in the middle of the group. The islands of coral limestone are low-lying, the highest peak at 62 metres being Mt Alvernia on Cat Island. As the limestone is permeable, there are no rivers - water is obtained from wells or rainwater. 51% of the land area is still forested.

The Bahamas is an important financial and ship registry centre being among the most important in the world for gross tonnage registered. There is virtually no individual or company tax, government revenue coming instead from excise duties and fees. Tourism, especially cruise ships, is an important source of revenue.

A tropical paradise in The Bahamas

