

FREEPORT

Freeport Tourism Picture

Daytime sun-seekers and nighttime fun-seekers find Freeport/Lucaya the perfect holiday setting.

Freeport/Lucaya's vacation scene focuses on outdoor fun by day and the glitter of dancing girls, casinos and elegant dining by night.

This combination is expected to draw increasing numbers of North American and European tourists to this island resort, just 80 miles off the coast of Florida, during the coming winter months.

The daytime sun-seekers will find a wide variety of pursuits to occupy his vacation in Freeport/Lucaya. In addition to the standard sports of fishing, golf, boating, swimming, water skiing, horseback riding and soaking up the sun on the beach, there are diverse pastimes ranging from underwater exploration to parachute riding behind a high-powered boat.

A fine fleet of deep-sea charter boats is available for the fisherman. Visiting anglers also can rent small fishing boats, or they may fish from shore, for the pan-size

fish. Bonefishing in the shallows of the Little Bahama Bank attracts sportsmen from around the world. Other varieties of fish common to the waters surrounding Grand Bahama Island are amberjack, barracuda, bonita, dolphin, grouper, kingfish, mackerel, marlin, sailfish, snapper, tuna and wahoo.

Six championship 18-hole golf courses make Freeport/Lucaya a golfer's paradise. These include the Lucayan Country Club, The Shannon Golf and Country Club, Bahama Reef, and the Emerald and Ruby courses at King's Inn and Golf Club. Fortune Hills opened its first nine holes this past summer.

A lighted nine-hole, par-3 layout, a nine-hole pitch-and-putt course, and a 36-hole putt-putt course round out golf activities.

Grand Bahama is living up to its "Golf Island" title with a series of winter tournaments: International Golf Writers Championship, The Shannon, December 5-6; Bahamas National Open Pro-Am, \$5,000 in prizes, The Lucayan, December 6; \$130,000 Bahamas Na-

THE 400-ROOM INTERNATIONAL is now a wing of the King's Inn and Golf Club, bringing the resort's total room count to 1,200.



THE HOLIDAY INN of Grand Bahama, on beautiful Lucayan Beach, the area's resort focal point, is the world's largest Holiday Inn, with 614 luxury rooms and suites.

tional Open, final event on the P.G.A. tour, The Lucayan, December 7-12; Oceanus Pro-Amateur Team Championship from Canada, The Lucayan or Shannon (not yet decided), December 13-19; Grand Bahama International Open, The Shannon, January 6-9; BOAC Pro-Amateur Championship (by invitation from BOAC), The Shannon and Lucayan, January 10-16. It has been said, "If one owns a sailboat, the only place to be is in the Bahamas." However, the sailor without a boat has not been overlooked, sail or power boats for charter are available for a half-day, a day, a week or month trips to the many islands of the Bahamas.

The Southern Ocean Racing Circuit's Miami-Lucaya yacht race is an annual February event, which attracts yachtsmen from all over North America and the Caribbean.

Almost without exception, visitors to Freeport/Lucaya take to the beaches (even the golfers get there eventually) and there is plenty of room for everyone. The leading hotels have their own spacious beaches, but for the more adventurous, the island has miles of uncrowded white expanses that are free for the asking.

The unusually clear water around Grand Bahama makes swimming a joy and lends itself to a more thorough examination of the mysteries of the underwater world. There are two excellent methods by which to pursue this interest. The more daring approach begins

with a visit to the Underwater Explorers Club, a \$750,000 facility that includes the Jacques Cousteau museum, a marine biology laboratory and an 18-foot-deep tank for training fledgling scuba divers. For those who prefer to keep their feet dry, there is the world's largest glass-bottom boat, which makes two trips daily to the offshore reefs.

For those who like to be on the water as well as in it, water skiing is available at the larger hotel beaches. The more daring may wish to sample parachute skiing. In this unique sport, the skiers use the wind and motion of the boat to climb on the lift of a parachute and soar perhaps a hundred feet in the air for a thrilling ride.

Horseback riding is coming to the fore on the Freeport/Lucaya vacation scene. Gentle, well-groomed horses are available at reasonable rates, and it isn't uncommon to see whole groups of holiday-makers taking the equestrian route to the beaches.

Freeport/Lucaya shopping is a globetrotter's delight. With its foreign alleys, butterfly-glazed roofs and gilded domes, the International Bazaar offers merchandise of more than two dozen nations from five continents. "Thailand Nid," the newest addition to this retail version of the United Nations, specializing in ready-made, made-to-order and by the yard textiles of Thailand, is located in the Asian section of the Bazaar. In this multi-million-dollar complex of shops and restaurants, vaca-

FREEPORT TOURISM PICTURE

tioners can savor the sights and sounds of many lands, sample their wares, and enjoy their foods.

As the sun goes down, the action on the entertainment scene picks up to a toe-tapping tempo.

Larger hotels present entertainment in their dining rooms and lounges. Discotheques attract the swingers, and the two casinos feature in their show lounges lavish productions direct from Europe.

Excellent restaurants and supper clubs offer a variety of dining—from Bahamian seafood dishes, to prime American beef cuts, to elegant gourmet dinners in the continental fashion.

Freeport's three pubs complement its British flavor—The Pub On The Mall, Britannia, and the newest, the Sir Winston Churchill. All three serve English beer and ale on-tap, and dinners include old country favorites such as English fish and chips, roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, and bangers and mash.

Freeport winter hotel rates vary upward from \$15 daily, single occupancy, European plan. Package and

group rates are available on request or through a travel agent or a stateside hotel representative.

Freeport is a popular cruise-ship port-of-call. Chandris America Lines' R.H.M.S. Atlantis and R.H.M.S. Amerikanis are frequent Freeport visitors. Other lines calling at Freeport are Eastern Steamship Lines' S.S. New Bahama Star and S.S. Ariadne; Norwegian-Caribbean Lines' M.S. Starward; Greek Line's T.S.S. Olympia; Costa Line's T.S. Flavia; Inces Line's M.S. Victoria; Holland-America Cruises' S.S. Rotterdam; and the luxury liner M.V. Freeport, that cruises from Miami to Freeport five times a week.

There are numerous direct jet services by several carriers between Freeport and New York, Boston, Toronto, Montreal, Mexico City, London, England and major Florida cities.

Freeport's modern road system—most main thoroughfares are dual carriageways (four-lane highways)—and the availability of rental cars and motor bikes, plus doubledecker London buses operating from the main hotel areas to the downtown shopping centers, make Freeport/Lucaya a get-around place. ■

CORAL BEACH CONDOMINIUM-HOTEL is reminiscent of Habitat '67 at Expo '67, in Montreal, Quebec.

