



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE ISLAND HOPPING GROUP PRESS TRIP RECAP

6 - 11 JULY 2023



PRESS TRIP ATTENDEES



Meagan Wristen,
Travel Expert/Contributor



Alexis Jackson,
Deputy Social Director



Simone Harvin,
Contributor



Kenny Williams,
Culture Contributor



Noel Walker,
Travel Contributor



ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

Nassau – the vibrant gateway to The Bahamas

- Stays at both **Graycliff Hotel and Grand Hyatt Baha Mar** to experience the variety of accommodations available to travellers
- Intimate press briefing with senior leadership, including the **Deputy Prime Minister and Director General** to discuss the significance of the Golden Jubilee
- Invitation to join locals in celebrating 50 years of independence at the **People's Junkanoo Rush** on Bay Street – media danced to beat until 5:00 AM!



Cat Island – the height of escapism steeped in Bahamian History

- Stay at **Rollezz Villas Beach Resort** to experience the definition of warm Bahamian hospitality, complete with home cooked meals and bonfire farewell featuring **live Rack-n-Scrape music, cultural performances and storytelling**
- Historical heritage tour, stops included a **rejuvenating natural salt bath at the Healing Pond**, plus the Cat Island Museum, Mermaid Hole and Deveaux Plantation
- Guided **experiences with native Cat Islanders** such as a line fishing lesson with Captain Gilbert, People-to-People lunch with Harrison King and basket weaving demonstration with Ms. Ivy Seymour



MEDIA FEEDBACK & SOUNDBITES

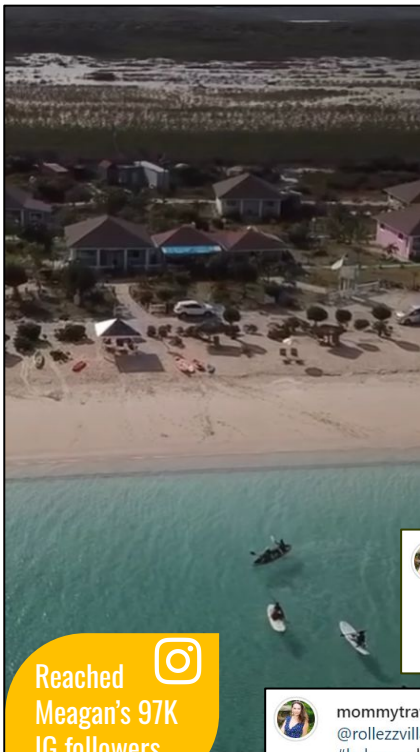
*“Thank you so much for inviting me. Cat Island is such a sacred place and the people were so kind. Junkanoo was unforgettable! Being surrounded by so much **pride, creativity and Black joy** was everything I needed in this moment.”* – **Kenny Williams, Forbes**

*“This itinerary was smart. We experienced **a 360 of experiences**. The breadth of options in The Bahamas is impressive.”* – **Meagan Wristen, USA Today 10Best**

*“I’ve been to The Bahamas before and this trip opened my eyes to entirely new experience. Thank you! Learning about Cat Islands’ historical ties to the Low Country (Carolinas) made me feel so connected. This is a **special place for Black travelers**. I may have family here, who knows?”* – **Alexis Jackson, Refinery29 Unbothered**





SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Reached Meagan's 97K IG followers



 **mommytravels** I learned to line fish today in the #Bahamas near #Catsland. I'm proud to say, I caught 6 fish! No, I am not lying. There were witnesses!! You can see three species of fish I caught in these photos. Turns out line #fishing is fairly easy and definitely worth trying out!! Afterwards I hung out under the boat for some shade! 😊 #linefishing #celebratebahamas

 **mommytravels** Get off the grid by staying at @rollezzvillasbeachresort on #Catsland I was hosted by the #bahamas here and absolutely loved it! It is so secluded and private that you can literally escape the day to day. Plus, the staff was nothing short of amazing. The food is good the multi room villas can accommodate families, and if they happen to host a local bonfire you will get to experience the culture on a whole new level. #celebratebahamas

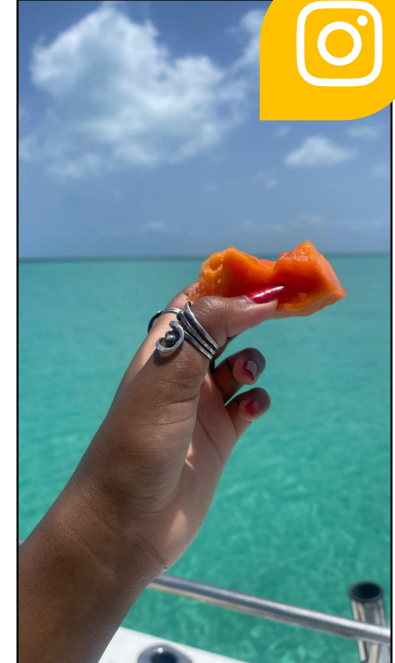
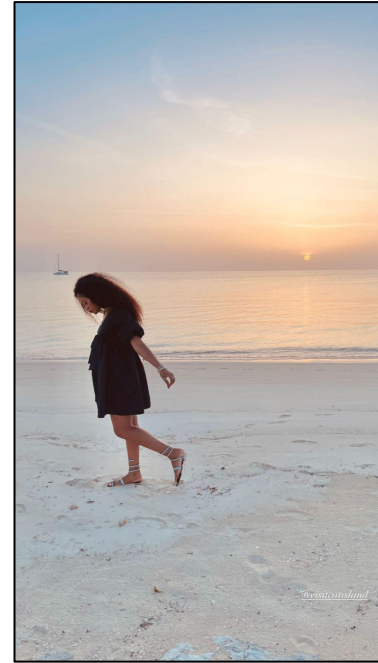


 **kennyonce** Thank you so much @visitthebahamas for the last few days in the beautiful paradise that is The Bahamas bs 🌴

I had an amazing time making new friends, immersing myself in Bahamian culture and exploring Cat Island and Nassau ❤️🏠



SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS CONT.



MEDIA HAD THE ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN LOCALS ON BAY STREET TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE AT THE PEOPLE'S JUNKANOO RUSH

THE VIBRANT CULTURE AND GOLDEN JUBILEE FESTIVITIES WERE COMPLEMENTED BY THE PRISTINE BEAUTY OF THE BAHAMAS' ICONIC BEACHES AND CRYSTAL CLEAR WATERS





Baha Mar Resort a Perfect Bahamas Getaway

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If you're looking for an adventure-packed and luxurious vacation in a tropical paradise with your whole family, then [Baha Mar Resort in Nassau, Bahamas](#) could be an excellent pick for you. This resort is a place where you'll find the ultimate [Caribbean holiday experience](#), and all its facilities are specially designed for guests of all ages. There are plenty of activities to entertain kids and adults, which is why Baha Mar is arguably one of the most family-friendly resorts in the Caribbean.

**Syndicated on MSN
(UVPM: 67M+)**





THANK YOU AND HAPPY 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE!