



MELIÁ NASSAU BEACH ALL-INCLUSIVE, THE BAHAMAS

By: Kelly Magyarics, DWS

The crystal blue water takes center stage at this all-inclusive resort on Nassau's Cable Beach. Specifically, that incomparable turquoise, no-Instagram-filter-needed hue of the Atlantic Ocean, with its gentle lapping waves and soft sugary sands. The Bahamas, after all, regularly makes its appearance on the list of the best beaches in the world.

Sure, there's a pool--several actually--and you may find yourself paddling over to a stool in the swim-up bar to order a signature Bahama Mama. Head for a dip in the ocean, test your paddleboarding skills, or just lay there and do nothing on one of several large tethered floats.

Thankfully, the islands of the Bahamas came through this past hurricane season unscathed--meaning they should be at the top of your list for tropical getaway destinations. Need more reasons to go? The Meliá Nassau Beach All-Inclusive recently completed a \$19 million renovation, and now shares amenities at the adjacent newly opened Baha Mar, including the 18-hole Championship Jack Nicklaus Golf course and Golf Club, and the Baha Mar Casino, which is the largest in the Caribbean.

The resort has 694 guestrooms including 32 suites, which have views of the ocean, pools, gardens, beach or island. You'll want to book a room in the Level, where rooms offer upper-level ocean views to bask in all that blue. Level guests also have access to a separate beach area with beach beds and upgraded lounge chairs, an exclusive restaurant and a lounge stocked with food and beverages throughout the day and evening.

Seven restaurants appeal to a wide range of tastes and experiences. For lunch, grab a table at O'Grille overlooking the beach, and order the ceviche and freshly grilled fish, or head next door to The Market Place for a buffet of international fare (Sunday brunch offers the best spread, including an expansive raw bar with jumbo chilled prawns, crab legs, and oysters). Signature restaurant Aqua offers approachable Italian fare including pizza, zuppa, insalata and lots of Italian vino. Cilantro transports you to Mexico, with Margaritas prepared tableside, Nikkei offers fun and interactive teppanyaki tables, and the sleek Estavida in the resort's lobby has tapas and a killer Gin Peel Tonic. Estavida is also the spot for late-night drinks and dancing to the sounds of the house deejay.

It's Black Angus that offers the most memorable dining experience. Sure, there is a supplemental charge for dinner here, but the massive seasoned grilled shrimp cocktail, perfectly cooked cowboy ribeye and well-prepared sides and sauces make it well worth it. The whimsical, airy cones of basil and cinnamon cotton candy presented after dessert will tantalize your sweet tooth.

No matter if you turn in after dinner or dance the night away you'll no doubt find yourself again drawn to a gently swaying hammock on that stunning beach the next morning. With a Lime in Da Coconut in hand (Hey, it's almost like a breakfast smoothie, right?) and a view of the blue you won't ever want to leave.

