



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TOURS PRESENTS
IST SPRING BREAK

2020 TRAVEL TIPS & IMPORTANT TRAVEL INFORMATION

Please, **Read the Following & View Your Enclosed Itinerary for Flight Times & Roommates Names**

- ✓ You **must** check-in a **minimum** of 3-hours before your designated departure time on your itinerary. **For boarding procedures and travel process, please refer to the COVID-19 insert.**
- ✓ You **must** have a **valid Passport**, in order to check-in at the airport.
- ✓ **Make sure that you have emailed in your signed copy of the MANDATORY IST Spring Break Release Waiver**, to info@istours.com before your departure date or you will be denied check-in (form included in this packet).
- ✓ Guests who are staying at the Breezes Hotel - Make sure that you have your signed **Breezes Code of Conduct & Related Guidelines Agreement/Acknowledgment Form** that all guests are **required** to fill out and **turn it in to the hotel at check-in**. **If under 18 years of age, a parent/guardian signature is also required.* The hotel will not allow traveler check-in without that signed form.

Getting Ready! - Your passport cannot expire within 6 months of your trips return date. If you are **not a U.S. Citizen** but you are a permanent legal resident, you need to contact the Bahamas Consulate for the most up-to-date requirements. Please call their office at (800) 224-2627 or visit www.bahamas.com/entry-requirements. You will be denied boarding at the airport if you do not have the correct required travel documents and all charges to change your flight will be at your expense. **For additional boarding and travel procedures, please refer to the COVID-19 insert.**

Packing Your Bags! - Be aware that most airlines charge to check luggage and the costs do vary so try to pack light and **visit your airline's website to see baggage fees and weight restrictions**. The enclosed flight itinerary indicates the airline you will be traveling on, flight check-in info and roommates for the trip. **Be aware of the NEW restrictions for items in your carry-on bag** (i.e. – liquids, medications, etc.) **by going to the TSA website at www.tsa.gov**. It is highly recommended that you make a photocopy of your passport, put your name and phone number on it and put a copy inside your checked luggage, but make sure your actual passport is securely in your carry on. To help you know what essentials you need to pack, check the weather in Nassau, Bahamas online a few days prior to your trip.

Spending Money - We recommend using debit cards and to also take a small amount of cash. US dollars are accepted and there is no need to exchange money. It is always advisable to let your bank know when you will be using your debit card outside of the US. If using credit/debit cards, please be aware that most banks charge a service fee, plus a currency conversion fee when traveling outside of the US; so, check with your bank or credit card company prior to travel. Getting around is typically done by Taxi (Uber and Lyft do not operate in the Bahamas) so plan to have cash on hand for this. Traveling in groups is the safest and most economical way to go. How much money you take is up to you, but \$350 to \$500 is recommended for souvenirs, Action Pac, transportation, and meals.

Day of Departure! - **Do not be late! You are responsible for your own transportation to the airport and must arrive at least three hours prior to your scheduled flight time.** We recommend checking the airport's website in advance for directions to the correct terminal to ensure you arrive with plenty of time. **You are required to go to the check-in counter of your listed airline to obtain your boarding pass (online check-in is not available for group flights) and check-in any luggage you are not carrying on.** You can be denied boarding if you are late and/or do not have the required documents and you will be responsible for any charges due to changes in flights. If your flight itinerary requires that you change planes in the US, you will not be required to retrieve your bags until after you arrive at your final destination (Nassau, Bahamas). When you arrive at your destination, make sure to retrieve your luggage from baggage claim and follow signs to exit the building. Look for an IST Spring Break Staff member wearing IST Spring Break shirts & ID Badges. They will direct you to the buses that will take you to your hotel. **Do Not** talk to local vendors trying to sell you a transfer. **Hotel Only Packages** – DO NOT include the airport transfers, so if you are signed up for a HOTEL ONLY package you will be responsible for arranging your own transfers/ride.

IST Spring Break Staff - While our Staff is available only at your destination 24/7, the **Hotel Staff** can help you with daily requests, like more towels, more pillows and any questions about the hotel and nearby shopping, etc. The IST Spring Break Staff is there to ensure the program is running smoothly, coordinate transfers for all the arrivals and departures, present the Welcome Orientation, provide a Destination Guide with area map, 24-hour Staff contact information, rules, as well as information that will assist you with any serious emergencies or roommate situations. If you need assistance while at the resort property, please be patient with both IST Spring Break and Hotel Staff. Rude behavior will not be tolerated. Travelers who lose all or a portion of their vacation due to their poor behavior or damaging hotel property will not be entitled to a refund.

At Your Hotel! - Once you arrive at your hotel, you will be given a full Welcome Orientation by an IST Spring Break Staff member. They will explain any events or activities that may be held during your stay and go over some basic guidelines/rules to make your trip awesome and worry free. There is an Additional Activities flyer enclosed in your Departure Packet that lists the various activities and price options as well as the application form (required to be filled out to purchase). You will be able to **purchase** your Additional Activities **on-site only** at the orientation by CASH ONLY (U.S. dollars). During check-in at the Breezes hotel you will be issued with a wristband for the property. If you lose your wristband or if it goes missing for any reason, you will be subject to a replacement fee of \$100 for the first replacement and \$200 for any additional replacements, per the hotel's policy.

In-room Security - Once you check in to your room, we strongly recommend you use your in-room safety deposit box to store your documents (passport), cash and valuables including cell phones, cameras, etc. This will ensure that the items are always securely locked when not being used.

Take a few minutes to check that everything in your room is in good shape and in good working order. Please contact the IST Spring Break Staff or the Hotel's Front Desk personnel immediately if you see anything broken, damaged or not working properly, to ensure you will not be held responsible for preexisting damaged items. If the hotel reports any room or property damage from your room, all travelers in the room will be responsible for paying for those damages (including any cleaning fees) regardless of who in the room was at fault. **Room doors should NOT be left open and unsecured.** Please be aware that travel insurance **DOES NOT** cover you for loss of personal items such as Cell Phones, Tablets, etc. If **ANY** incidences of theft occur on-site, it MUST be reported to the hotel first! While IST Spring Break will assist you with any local authorities if theft or loss occurs, we are not responsible for the cost of any cell phone replacements or other personal items.

Calling Home - Parents want to know you have arrived ok. So, a quick call, text, or e-mail home to say you've arrived and to provide them with your room number is highly recommended. Not all phone companies charge the same fees when traveling outside of the U.S. So, you will need to contact your service provider prior to travel to find out what the additional charges will be if calling to/from the Bahamas, and/or if they have international texting plans available. It is very expensive to make calls from your hotel room. If you do not want to take your cell phone, the next best thing is to buy a long-distance calling card that can be accessed by any public phone.

Ahhh...Paradise! - This is your time to relax and have a good time. **This does not mean you can do anything you want.** All local laws are strictly enforced in and outside of the hotel. They will not tolerate disorderly conduct or any property damage. You will be required to pay for any damages (i.e. - loss of hotel security deposit and paying for any overages) and risk being evicted from your hotel at your own expense, no exceptions! IST Spring Break is not responsible for travelers that lose all or a portion of their vacation due to their behavior issues or damages and will not be entitled to a refund. Be smart, behave appropriately and stay safe by traveling in a group whenever leaving your hotel. **We highly recommend using the buddy system!** Please go out in groups, especially when going back to your hotel at night. Always remember that there is safety in numbers, and it does not hurt to always tell a friend if you are leaving the hotel or an event/activity before everyone else.

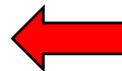
Returning Home – **IST Spring Break staff will post the time you need to be ready to board the bus for your flight home in the lobby of the main hotel (Breezes) the night prior to departure.** Before you leave for the airport make sure you have checked out of your room and have paid for any incidental charges not included in your package price. Prior to checking out of your room take a quick look around to make sure you have all your belongings. Check with the front desk to make sure you have paid for any incidental charges not included in your package price. Before leaving the hotel, your room must be picked up and cleared of all trash. All registered guests in that room must wait until IST Spring Break Staff or Breezes Staff have inspected the room for any damage. Should there be any hotel/room damage, you and your roommates will need to proceed to the hotel front desk to take care of the damage costs. Once this is done you will be given the ok to board the bus for the airport. **IMPORTANT - Have your mask and gloves in hand** for the bus check-in to the airport (as well as for the airport/flight) or you may be denied boarding. If instructed, you must wear them while traveling on the bus to the airport and for the flight. Make sure your luggage always gets loaded on your bus and always keep your valuables with you. IST Spring Break is not responsible for any items left behind. Double check that you have all your belongings before deboarding. Do not bring back any alcohol if you are under 21, it is against the law in the U.S.! Once you have cleared Immigration and Customs in the Bahamas, your checked luggage will be automatically transfer at your connecting city and will be available for pick-up at your final destination.

Policy on Alcohol Consumption – The legal drinking age in the Bahamas is 18 and many clubs require a Photo ID upon entry. **IST Spring Break does not promote or condone the use of alcohol to its tour participants!** IST Spring Break is aware that many events and activities in the Bahamas have alcohol and non-alcoholic beverages available. Each participant chooses for themselves whether to consume alcohol or not. All local and federal laws are strictly enforced, and you will be held responsible if caught violating those laws.

Money Wire Transfers - Should you run out of money at your destination, IST Spring Break provides a money wire transfer service for those travelers who may need additional funds on-site. This service is **only available Monday through Friday from 8:30 am-3:00 pm PST.** If you need this service, have someone in the U.S. go to our website at www.istspringbreak.com and print out the Wire Transfer Authorization form located under ABOUT US, then click on RESOURCES (Brochures & Forms) on our website. Please print and fill out the form completely and **EMAIL** it to info@istours.com **BEFORE 3:00 PM** Pacific Standard Time, **Monday through Friday.**

The traveler receiving the money can pick up the cash with a photo ID from our 24-hour IST Spring Break staff room at their hotel after 7:00 pm (Nassau local time). The limit is \$300 and there is a \$25 service charge per wire transfer.

Parents wishing to Contact their Son/Daughter - PLEASE READ HIGH IMPORTANCE INSERT!



Informational Documents - Please visit our website at www.istspringbreak.com under ABOUT US, then click on Resources (Brochures & Forms) to view all the valuable travel information and forms we provide including "Preparing for Travel" letter, Travel Tips, Destination Guides and Additional Activities. ***REMEMBER** – You can always reprint a copy of your Trip Itinerary by logging into your online account at www.istspringbreak.com and click on TRIPS.

Hotels:

Breezes Resort & Spa

Atlantis Casino Resort

Melia Resort Hotel

Phone Numbers and Web Sites

1 (242) 327-5356 www.breezes.com

1 (242) 363-3000 or 1 (888) 877-7525 www.atlantisbahamas.com

1 (242) 327-6000 www.melia.com