



# EXUMA PARK RULES

Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park is a **NO TAKE ZONE**: no fishing, conching, shelling or lobstering – nothing living or dead may be removed from within the boundaries of Exuma Park. There are fines and confiscation of vessels for poaching violations.

Follow these two simple rules and you will have a safe and enjoyable visit to Exuma Park

## **On the Cays**

Take Only Photos – Leave Only Footprints

## **In the Sea**

Take Only Photos – Leave Only Bubbles

## **Exuma Park Regulations:**

- Trash disposal is not available within Exuma park – please take out everything you bring into Exuma Park.
- Please pick up trash you may see on the trails or beaches and ask Park HQ for disposal instructions.
- Anchoring is not permitted in the mooring fields, on coral reefs and certain other designated areas within Exuma Park.
- Please stay on marked trails – use Exuma Park Trail Guidelines.
- All vessels (including dinghies & jet skis) must operate at idle speed in any mooring field or anchorage.
- Jet skis are required to stay at least 300 yards off any moored or anchored vessel.
- The north tidal creek on Shroud Cay is a strict Idle Speed/No Wake Zone. Motorized vessels are prohibited from entering any of the other tidal creeks in Shroud Cay.
- Pets are restricted to beaches only – No pets permitted on trails or in the brush. (*See Pet Policy below*)
- Camping requires a permit. (*See Camping Policy below*)
- Open fires and fireworks are not permitted in Exuma Park.

# Pet Policy

- BNT parks are managed to preserve and maintain a delicate ecological balance between native species. Non-native plants and animals often upset that balance. Domestic dogs and cats are natural predators that may harass or even kill native wildlife which is protected within the Park's boundaries. Many of our parks include trails, and since pets are sometimes hard to control, even on a leash, they may trample or dig up fragile vegetation. Pets retain a primitive instinct to mark their territories with scent and can spread diseases to other wildlife.
- This policy is designed to protect the natural environments of the native species, while recognizing that many visitors to the park are traveling and have pets with them. These guidelines are designed for their pet's protection as well. When a loose pet chases an animal, the wild animal's ability to survive is threatened, and it may react aggressively or leave the area altogether. There are also many deep sinkholes on the cays which pose a danger to loose pets.
- Over the years pets have resulted in the destruction of bird nesting sites, loss of rare or endangered species (Rock Iguanas and Hutia), and the disturbance of native vegetation. Scientific studies have indicated that control of domestic animals should be increased throughout the park owned properties.
- Pets must be leashed or physically restrained from harassing or harming wildlife and vegetation at all times.
- Pet leashes may be no longer than six (6) feet in length.
- Pets may not be left unattended on park property.
- Pets may not be tied to trees, bushes, tables, or shelter facilities even when the owners are present.
- Pets are permitted on the beaches of most cays, however, they are NOT permitted on trails, in the backcountry, or cays designated as prohibited for pets.  
Non-furbearing pets, such as reptiles, birds, or fish, must be confined under the physical control of the owner.
- Captive wild species, whether native or non-native, and barnyard animals are prohibited from park property.
- Areas of the park designated as prohibited for pets shall be determined based on park natural and cultural resources.
- Failure to abide by these rules may result in the visitor being asked to confine the pet to their vessel, remove the pet from the park or to leave the cay/park
- Exuma Park understands that some dogs need a lot of exercise – please ask the Park Office about visiting the sand bar at low tide if you need to exercise your dog.

# Camping & Kayaking Policy

## ***To camp and kayak in the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park you must:***

- Acquire a camping permit \$250 (valid for a maximum of 10 days).
- Pay the prescribed daily user fee. This is collected daily by the Warden or can also be made at Warderick Wells Cay, the location of the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park (ECLSP) Headquarters. The daily user fee for Kayaking & Camping is \$25.00 per person per day.
- Obey all Park Rules and Regulations (By-Laws) and ensure that all persons in your camping party obey all rules and regulations. Copies of the Bye-Laws are available at the Bahamas National Trust (BNT) and ECLSP Headquarters upon request.
- Notify the ECLSP Headquarters at least two weeks in advance of the planned camping date to ensure there are no conflicts with other park users. Notification should be by telephone, fax, or e-mail. The ECLSP Headquarters can be reached by telephone or Email.
- Keep the number of persons camping to within the number outlined in the arrangement made when notifying the park headquarters.
- Remove from the Park all debris/trash resulting from camping activities. You should also ensure that no camping equipment or gear is left behind. The Park should be left in the pristine condition that it was in before your arrival.
- Use portable stoves for cooking purposes only. Any other means of producing fire is prohibited. Open wood burning fires are prohibited. Collection of wood, debris or other materials to use for fires of any type or magnitude are also strictly prohibited.
- Be sensitive to the nocturnal fauna that inhabit the islands and make every effort not to disturb them. This includes, but is not limited to, minimizing the use of lighting.
- Ensure that all camping equipment is in good working condition before entering the park. Tents must be freestanding systems only and should be erected according to the manufacturer's recommendations. If kayaking, a handheld VHF radio is highly recommended for safety.
- Ensure that there are no environmental impacts and minimize any negative visual impacts. In keeping with this requirement, the total useable camping area should be no greater than two times the size of the tent footprint. (This total area includes the footprint of the tent.) Tents should be low profile, for minimal visual impacts, with a sleeping capacity/tent rating of no more than two persons per tent. Battery operated portable tape and CD players can be used at a level that will not be disturbing to or heard by wildlife/marine-life or users of the park.
- Ensure that you are prepared for any minor changes in weather/climatic conditions. There are no assigned campgrounds, bathroom facilities, refuse or refuge areas. Drinking water is available at the park headquarters.
- Ensure that tents are erected on the beaches only.

**Camping is only allowed at Hawksbill, Warderick Wells and O'briens.**