



What is Contemporary Culture?

The current shared themes, beliefs and values of the society. It includes present practices, trends, as well as political and social beliefs.



Roots

The cultures of The Bahamas and southern America share some traditions that suggest an African Past. The distinct Bahamian culture mixes African, British, and American influences. Culturally and linguistically, Eleuthera owes much to Gulfah people who live in coastal islands offshore South Carolina, and Georgia.

MUSIC AND DANCE

Goombay

Earliest indigenous form of music in the Bahamas, songs were used as a form of social commentary and way to hand down traditions. Haunting melodies are played through a goatskin drumbeat rhythm.

Rake 'n' Scrape

Popular folk music that originated on Cat Island where it blended European and African music cultures. Used in various forms including folk musicals, plays, operas. Important instruments used are carpenter saws, pork barrels with sheep skin, accordion and guitars.

Junkanoo

Influenced by calypso as well as funk and soul music. Consists of many colorful costumes, goatskin drums, clanging cowbells, whistles and horns. Junkanoo started off as street dancing turned into a giant parade to celebrate bahamian culture.



FESTIVALS

Junkanoo

Boxing Day (Dec. 26) and New Years Day
Starting at sunrise, the parades 'rush' in organized groups and are judged on costume theme and performance. Goat skin drums, cow bells, whistles, and costumes are all part of the festival that Bahamians prepare for all year.

Eleuthera All That Jazz Festival

April
Brings in prestigious international musicians to the Bahamas with most of the concerts taking place in the Governor's Harbour area. Proceeds benefit the Haynes Library which is a "beacon for the community".

Pineapple Festival

June
One of the biggest events in Eleuthera and the fest is held in Gregory Town to celebrate Eleuthera's famous pineapples and farmers. There is music, food, Junkanoo performances, contests, and pineapples!

Poker Run Bahamas

June
Annual charity event that benefits the Bahamas National Trust. Over 70 boats ride in a convoy departing from Nassau Harbour and traveling to the northern islands of Eleuthera winning prizes along the way.

Fishermen's Festival

Mid-July
Annual event recognizing the importance of the Crawfishing industry to the tiny island community of Spanish Wells. Event bids farewell to those fishermen who would be leaving for the opening of the Bahamian Crawfish Season (1st August).

Green Castle Haulers Festival

July 10-14
Celebrates net fishing for jack fish which is important for food, income and culture. Five days of fun, hard work, and celebration to honor this technique and cultural tradition.

Tarpum Bay Homecoming

July 27 - August 2
"Back to the Bay" features musical performances, unique contests, dances, local cuisine and common Junkanoo activities. A large community gathering to bring together all locals as well as attracting tourists to appreciate Tarpum Bay.

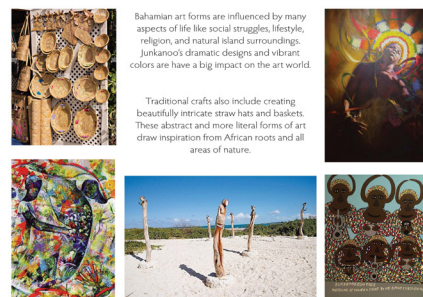


ART



Bahamian art forms are influenced by many aspects of life like social struggles, lifestyle, religion, and natural island surroundings. Junkanoo's dramatic designs and vibrant colors have a big impact on the art world.

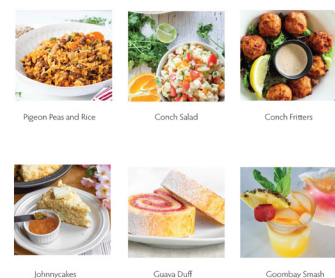
Traditional crafts also include creating beautifully intricate straw hats and baskets. These abstract and more literal forms of art draw inspiration from African roots and all areas of nature.



CUISINE

Food in Eleuthera ranges from seafood, to wings to barbecue dishes.

As the national food, conch is an integral aspect of a Bahamian diet. Conch is used for fritters, salads, stews and more!



RELIGION AND BELIEFS



Bahamians are deeply religious. Christianity is the most common, but freedom of religion is practiced throughout the country.

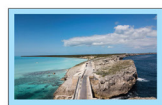


Traditional plant medicine practiced in the Caribbean region which is a cultural mixture of indigenous practices and other influences.

NATURAL ATTRACTIONS AND TOURISM



Excursions Through Outdoor Center in Tarpum Bay



Glass Window Bridge



Ocean Hole



Charters



Tarpum Bay Beach Swing



Tarpum Bay Pier

Eleuthera has many beautiful attractions that make it a unique place to live and work for locals and an alluring place to visit for tourists. The natural beauty and opportunities all contribute to the culture of island.



CULTURE

Strong sense of identity and unique traditions. Contributing to authenticity. Promote diversity and individuality.

Better local economy, attracts visitors to experience culture and partake in family of the island. Promotes ecology and preservation essential to keep culture alive.

Lack of community effort to keep traditions thriving can stop future cultural development and make them disappear.

Failing to welcome advantages of tourism and marketing the natural beauty of the island. Lack of signage and direction for visitors.

Protect, preserve, celebrate. Highlight and share culture. Exposure for locals. Widespread promotion of festivals draws more locals, descendants, and visitors.

Making natural attractions more accessible for awareness (signage). More appreciation and awareness.

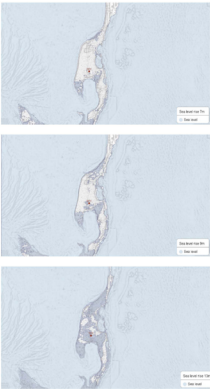
There are threats of disappearance without continuing support for local events and traditions.

New construction leads to declining ecological preservation and natural beauty. Outside influence threatens local culture and unique nuances.

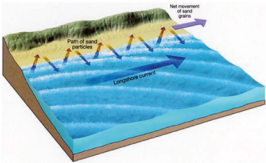
Emma Rocchetti | Alexandra Ligon | LARC 2510 | Yula Nazari | 11 Sept 2023



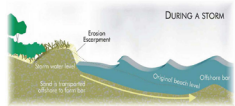
HYDROLOGY



Due to its location on the water, Tarpum Bay is extremely susceptible to flooding. The frequent hurricanes greatly impact the area and the infrastructure of the town. As global warming becomes more of a crisis every day, the effects are seen especially well in the areas around the Bahamas and Tarpum Bay. Sea level and temperatures continue to rise and threaten not only the town and people who live there, but also flora and fauna that reside in the area as well.



Erosion of coastal areas is another problem that the Bahamas currently face. Processes like the Longshore Effect and the erosion of sand dunes deteriorate natural barriers that protect the town from strong winds as well as flooding. Luckily, the planting of sand dune vegetation and the implementation of structures like groynes have helped to negate these effects.



POLLUTION

While the air quality in the Bahamas is considered to be good at an average of 27 AQI, water pollution is unfortunately common. The tourism in the area contributes greatly to plastic washing up on beaches and threatening marine life. It is estimated that by 2025, the Bahamas will have 685 million tons of plastic debris on its



WASTE MANAGEMENT



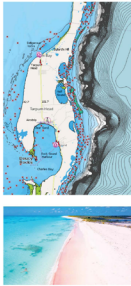
The Bahamas are said to produce about 300,000 tons of solid waste per year. The main strategy of this is to dump the waste in formal sites and then burn the material. However, this can lead to uncontrollable fires and pollution of drinking water.



GEOLOGY

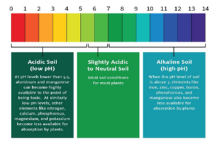


The Bahamas are part of a Oolite Limestone platform that has been raised up over millions of years. Each islands raised are unique, with Eleuthera's taking on a pink color due to the shells of coral insects that live off the coast. Minerals such as Calcite and Aragonite are primarily found on the surface, and Dolomite, Gypsum, and Halite reside underneath the islands.



SOIL

The soil in Eleuthera typically ranges between 7.5 and 8.5 on the pH scale. The soil is difficult to keep fertile and has few nutrients because of how young the limestone is, as well as the fact that the actual soil is lodged between shallows of limestone.



	HYDROLOGY	POLLUTION	WASTE MANAGEMENT	GEOLOGY	SOIL
S	The surrounding water is the Bahamas' most abundant resource	Air quality is considered to be good with little to no pollution	Research has been done on waste management in the Bahamas	Qualities of the limestone provide for unique and beautiful rock structures	Despite limestone presence, soil is still created through the erosion process
W	Because there are no lakes or rivers on Eleuthera, fresh drinking water is difficult to obtain	Water pollution is extremely common	Facilities needed to effectively dispose of waste have been built	The island of Eleuthera is primarily flat and has a very low elevation	The soil contains a lack of nutrients and is lodged in shallows of limestone
O	Coastal erosion due to longshore drift occurs frequently	Plastic debris from tourism washes up on beaches	Management of the facilities is weak and oftentimes expensive	Calcite has more uses than most minerals, including use in construction and soil treatment for agriculture	As limestone ages, its nutrient components increase which means soil quality could get better over time
T	Better methods of gaining access to fresh water such as desalination could greatly benefit the island	New government policies are addressing and fighting use of plastics	Preexisting infrastructure can be revitalized into a more efficient system	Tarpum Bay's location on the coast makes it susceptible to coastal erosion which can lead to flooding	The soil is difficult to grow most plants in and is often easily eroded
	Hurricanes and storms frequently batter the island, threatening humans, plants, animals, and structures	Volunteer cleanups are regularly organized	Current system of dumping and burning trash leads to pollution and uncontrollable fires		

Centre for Training and Innovation

Eleuthera, The Bahamas

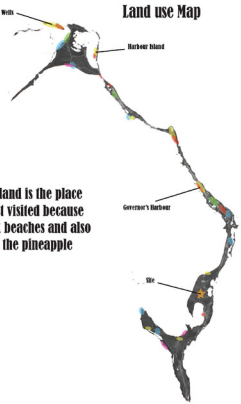
Built Form and Character

Why Is This Important?

- * It's important for us to know about urban form and character because we want to compliment this island instead of totally changing it.
- * It is important to understand the past, present, and future land use so we could make it more advanced. Understanding these things helps with planning and the development of this area.
- * It's important to understand the architecture that is already there, so us as designers will not put something there that does not belong. We want to fit the historical context of the location.

Harbour Island is the place that is most visited because of the pink beaches and also because of the pineapple fields.

Land use Map



LEGEND

- Residential
- Industrial
- Educational
- Resorts/Tourism
- Agriculture
- Site

There is not much of industrial places in Eleuthera, as you can see it is the least represented on the map. You can also tell that this island is very small as well.

Represented in this map are the big islands that are located in Eleuthera. As you look at the map, you can tell there is mostly residential areas in Eleuthera as well as resorts. This is maybe because of all the tourism that goes on in Eleuthera. You can also see that there isn't much agriculture here, there farms are very little in size. There is a lot of education areas here, and most of it is high school education.

Education

- * Eleuthera is home to very little educational institutes, and no school has a higher level of education than just high school.

The Island School



- * Education has become good in Eleuthera as the literacy rate is at 96% and about 92% of students attending school.

- * The government of the Bahamas has taken a more involved role in education. Education here is also free, and between all the schools around the whole Bahamas there are 66,000 students.



North Eleuthera High School

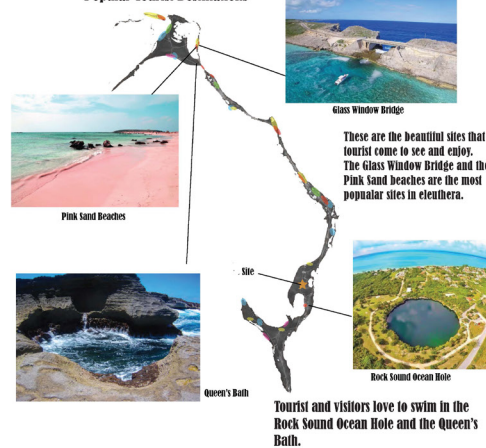


Central Eleuthera High School



P.A. Gibson Primary School

Popular Tourist Destinations



These are the beautiful sites that tourists come to see and enjoy. The Glass Window Bridge and the Pink Sand Beaches are the most popular sites in Eleuthera.

Tourist and visitors love to swim in the Rock Sound Ocean Hole and the Queen's Bath.

Agriculture

Pineapple Farms

- * Eleuthera is known to have the world's sweetest pineapples "sugar-loaf."
- * There is an annual festival named after these pineapples called "Pineapple Fest."
- * Eleuthera are able to produce these pineapples because of their rich clay soil.



Other Farms

- * The farms on Eleuthera are small to mid-size, and most of the labor is done by hand.
- * Besides the famous pineapples, they also grow things like tomatoes, sweet peppers, onions, etc.



Resorts/ Tourism



French Leave Resort



Ramora Bay Resort



Valentine's Resort and Marina

Markelm Smith

Eleuthera is toured a lot, so they offer these nice resorts that are mainly known for their views, to comfort the needs of these visitors.

- * The French Leave Resort is located in the middle of Harbour's Island and Spanish Wells. It is known for its view of the pink sand beaches and turquoise water.
- * Valentine's Resort is one of the best resort companies in the whole Bahamas and is one of the most visited.
- * Ramora Bay Resort is also in Harbour Island, and is known for their nice patio views.

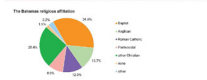


What is culture and why is it important?

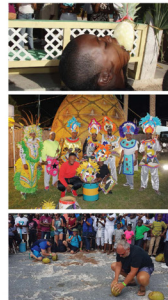
Culture is defined by Boston University as the way of life including arts, beliefs, and institutions of a population that are passed down from generation to generation. It has been called "the way of life for an entire society." This includes codes of manners, dress, language, religion, rituals, art, norms of behavior, laws and morality, and systems of belief. Culture is something that enhances our quality of life, bonds us with our neighbors and surroundings, and increases overall well-being for both individuals and communities. Culture is such a precious and fragile aspect of human life that must be fostered and preserved for us, our ancestors, and our future generations.



Bahamian Roots, Language, and Religion



The Bahamas have variety of cultural influence spanning Britain, Haiti, the coastal Carolina islands, and predominately, West Africa. English is the official language of The Bahamas, but they have regional and class related dialects. Bahamian Dialect and English Creole are spoken widely on Eleuthera. There is no difference in the linguistic structure of Gullah and the Sea Island Creole that is spoken in the Caribbean and in Africa. Along with their language itself, the southern Gullah culture and the Bahamians also share a great story telling tradition. The Bahamas host one of the largest collection of folk-tales in the hemisphere that speak to an African origin and pass down lessons from generation to generation. Not only does the Gullah community share their language, cuisine, and folklore, they also share and expertise in basket weaving, 90% of the nation profess a religion, 70% of them protestant.



Cuisine



With 100,000 square miles of water, the country as a whole consumes seafood regularly and they know how to prepare it well. It is commonly fried, baked, stewed, steamed or boiled. The national dish of The Bahamas is conch, also known as hurricane ham, because it can outlast any preserved meat and are good in an emergency.

Music



Goombay is the traditional music of the Bahamas. It consists of musical traditions from African and European influences blended together. One form is called "rake and scrape" and uses goombay goatskin drums and scrapping saws. Another style of music in the Bahamas is calypso, which is an Afro-Caribbean music that uses drums, Latin percussion guitars, trumpets, trombones, and vocalists.

Traditions

Junkanoo is the most popular folk art expression in The Bahamas. It originated from an African tribal chief who demanded the right to celebrate with his people after being captured into slavery, and after emancipation, it evolved to a massive parade with costumes, themed music, and dance. Eleuthera Pineapple Festival is another widely celebrated festival that originated in Eleuthera. It originated from the tradition of old captains placing a pineapple on their gatepost when they arrive home from sea. It is now celebrated as a homecoming event for descendants to return home and for farmers to display their hard work. Another tradition is Coconut Festival that began in 1998 and is now held as a homecoming event similar to pineapple festival. It uses the nations abundant coconut supply to make culinary dishes, drinks and crafts. There is also music, dancing, and coconut barking contests.

Art

There are little remains of the native Lucayan art work, but in the 18th century art reemerged and landscape painting became very popular. It wasn't until the second half of the 20th century that native Bahamian artists gained recognition for their work. This emergence stemmed from improvements in education and economics after declaring independence from Britain. Since independence, Bahamians have attempted to define national vernacular in art. Expressionists are dedicated to raising awareness of the Bahamas' African heritage and culture. In the last several years, The National Art Gallery of the Bahamas has encouraged local artist to create engaging public murals. A recent theme was "telling our story" that served to inspire young artist to create murals that focus on historically significant events from The Bahamas. The goal is to inspire the community and revive the area through the color, life, and story-telling abilities of the art.



STRENGTHS

- A vibrant and diverse cultural heritage.
- Deep respect for and encouragement of the arts.
- Collective respect for the beauty of their environment and nature.
- Connection to our roots in South Carolina gives us a familiarity and a sense of a common ground.
- A younger generation who is excited to learn and create art.
- This is the birth place, history goes back to the beginning.

WEAKNESSES

- The island and its community may be lacking the public space it needs to practice its traditions and celebrate its holidays.
- Eleuthera is lacking the same amount of art appreciation space, whether that is gallery location or artists themselves compared to the inner islands.
- Decline in pineapple production.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Massive opportunity to incorporate meaningful art and murals into our design.
- Opportunity to create spaces for festivals, celebrations, religious worship, etc.
- Potential to create a craft area where students can learn cultural practices like basket weaving and wood carving.
- Potential for a space where community members can fish and learn how to traditionally prepare food.
- Possibility to reintroduce the pineapple crop that has declined in recent years.

THREATS

- Without the public space for gathering, traditions may be lost.
- Awareness of the culture risks fading without the resources to hold events, practices, and gatherings.
- A lack of artwork means an opportunity to bring life and meaning into our spaces.

