

# Definitions starting with N: Names (place names)

The names of many Bahamian islands and settlements go back hundreds of years and serve as reminders of earlier periods of the islands' history. The Lucayan Indians had their own name for each island and many of these were preserved by the Spanish and later the British, such as [ABACO](#), [Bimini](#), [Exuma](#), and [Mayaguana](#). Other Lucayan names, such as [Cigatoo](#), [Ciguatea](#) and [Guanahani](#), were changed. The Spanish left their name for the [Bahamas](#) and certain of its islands such as [San Salvador](#), [San Sa](#) and perhaps [Inagua](#). Later the British settlers brought names that served as reminders of everything from their piety ([Eleutheria](#)) to their pirates ([Watling's Island](#)), kings ([Charles Town](#)), royal houses ([Nassau](#)), governors ([Gambier](#)), soldiers ([Nicholls Town](#)), and earlier settlements else-where ([Andros](#), [New Providence](#)). Bahamians' African roots are reflected in informal names like [Congo Town](#) and [Nango Town](#), or historical names like [New Guinea](#).

Bahamians sometimes have their own pronunciation for certain place names ([Brilan](#), [Lutra](#), [Miamuh](#), [Bermooda](#)) or the names of their inhabitants ([Cubian](#), [Coobian](#), [Hitian](#), [MERICANS](#)). Their nicknames for the inhabitants of various Bahamian islands and settlements are usually good-natured insults referring to occupations ([Crab-catcher](#), [Hog-catcher](#), [Goat-catcher](#), [sheep-runner](#)) Or to reputed Customs ([Shark](#), [Shark-Eater](#), [Obeah People](#)) or purported characteristics ([first picker](#)). Although the source of some such names is clear such as [Conian](#) or [Green Turtle](#) - other nicknames are more cryptic, such as [Cigillian](#), [Fire-Bug](#), [Crab](#) or [Soldier Crab](#). However, no one would miss the insult of being called a [JC Mosquito](#) or [Hatchet Bay Fly](#).

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Author: Holm and Shilling, DBE, 1982

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