

Bahamas

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Hello, everyone! Happy Friday and welcome back for another English Extravaganza! This week, I will tell you about the English-speaking country of the Bahamas!

The Bahamas are a bunch (集まり) of islands in the Atlantic Ocean (大西洋), near Cuba and the United States. In fact, the Bahamas are very close to my home state of Florida, and many Floridians love to spend their vacations in the Bahamas. They have warm weather, blue waters, and white sandy beaches. The temperature is never below 15 degrees. It's a tropical paradise!

Because of the warm weather, you can find many turtles, parrots (オウム), iguanas, and pink flamingos in the Bahamas. The warm water surrounding the islands have colourful fish such as the blue tang, like Dori from Finding Nemo. The islands also have coral reef (珊瑚礁), so many people go snorkelling or scuba diving to see all the different fish.

The people of the Bahamas are called Bahamians – and, boy, can they throw a party! On the December 26, each year, they celebrate Junkanoo, one of the most entertaining carnivals in the world! People in colorful costumes parade through the streets to the sounds of drums, horns, cowbells (牛の首についている鐘の形をした打楽器の一種) and whistles (ホイッスル).

Have you seen the movie “Pirates of the Caribbean”? Well, a long time ago, pirates (海賊) like Blackbeard and Calico Jack live in the area and looted (略奪した) cargo ships (貨物船) sailing in the waters. The islands were ruled (支配されていた) by the British for centuries until the Bahamas gained (手に入れた) their independence (独立) in 1973. Today, the Bahamas is a popular destination for tourists. Over five million people visit each year to check out the wildlife, culture, and beautiful beaches. Well, that's all for this time! See you next week!

