

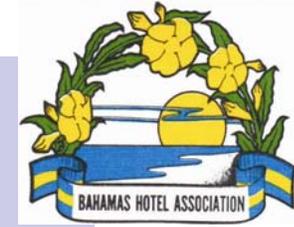
#9 Myth: All tourism jobs pay minimum wage.

Fact: Like many industries, entry-level positions in tourism may pay minimum wages; however, there are opportunities to supplement one's income with commissions, gratuities, or other benefits such as free or discounted accommodations, scholarships, education and training, free meals and uniforms. Tourism positions above entry level often pay well in comparison to other industries.

Many factors determine what you'll earn, such as job location, type of operation and your education and training.

#10 Myth: All people who work in tourism travel the world for free.

Fact: Most people in tourism do not usually receive free travel as an employment benefit. While some careers may involve travel (e.g. flight attendants and travel consultants), employees usually travel on business and work hard during these trips. Although some employers offer discounts on airfare or accommodation.



**BAHAMAS HOTEL ASSOCIATION
MISSION STATEMENT**

The Bahamas Hotel Association (BHA) serves the needs of its members by facilitating the profitability, quality, and sustainability of tourism for The Bahamas.

**Workforce Development
Core Value**

***"Broaden Your Horizons—Strengthen
Your Knowledge"***

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IS TOURISM FOR ME?

TOP 10 MYTHS & FACTS

Myths & Facts



Top 10 Myths & Facts

#1 Myth: Tourism jobs are found only in hotels, airlines and travel agencies.

Fact: The variety of occupations found within each area is as diverse as the sectors themselves. The nature of the work varies from working on a golf course to developing marketing strategies for an international organization to preparing gourmet meals. Tourism offers something for everyone, with varying levels of responsibility.

#2 Myth: Post-secondary education and training are not needed for employment in the tourism industry.

Fact: Most entry-level positions in the tourism industry do not require a university degree, but other forms of education and training are usually necessary. Many occupations require skills that must be learned and practiced. There are many routes to learning and, depending on the occupation you choose, you may achieve a management position through on-the-job training, a college or university degree, and/or through an apprenticeship program. Once employed, tourism professionals have the opportunity to achieve nationally recognized Professional Certification for many tourism occupations.

#3 Myth: A university education in tourism will secure you a management position in the industry.

Fact: In today's economy, few people, even

those with a university degree, step into a management or executive position. Most industry leaders want their employees to gain practical experience on-the-job first. A university degree indicates your background and demonstrates your ability to learn, think and organize yourself to complete tasks. A degree can help you move more quickly into supervisory and management positions.

#4 Myth: Changes and advances in technology do not have an impact on tourism careers.

Fact: Changes and advances in technology have had a major impact on the world. The tourism industry is no exception. For example, travel writers use various software programs, and front desk agents use computerized reservation systems. As well, the industry needs people who can use technology to develop websites and conduct research on the internet. This knowledge also assists in meeting global needs of the tourism industry.

#5 Myth: All tourism jobs involve working face-to-face with the public.

Fact: Many tourism occupations involve working with the public, particularly in front-line positions. There are, however, numerous jobs behind the scenes in tourism where employees have little direct contact with guests. People in research, marketing, technology, or cooking positions may deal with outside clients but not necessarily guests.

#6 Myth: Tourism provides only temporary jobs for students until they start their careers.

Fact: The tourism industry offers the first work experience for many people. Although employment in tourism exists for students, challenging careers with more chances for promotion also exist.

#7 Myth: Tourism jobs are only seasonal.

Fact: While there are many employment opportunities available in the summer, there are on a permanent basis. Tourism is a 12 month, year-round industry. By diversifying their skills most tourism professionals are employed on a continuous basis.

#8 Myth: Tourism jobs only offer part-time employment and shift work.

Fact: Work is changing in all sectors of the economy. More people are working non-traditional hours because of flexible hours and life style choices. Some people may have one or more part-time jobs. Depending on the tourism job, work may be part-time or full-time. Individuals who cross-train for several occupations increase their chances of finding full-time employment. Tourism jobs offer flexibility and opportunity for those who want to work part-time only. Individuals in supervisory positions often work more traditional schedules.

People who have a job in the tourism industry may work weekends, holidays, or nights; just as community doctors, nurses, lawyers, bankers, engineers and graphic designers do!