

# Important Shark Diving Information

## The Bahamas

The Bahamas offer world class diving with a huge variety of sharks including hammerhead, tiger, lemon, bull & Caribbean reef sharks. Sharks are wild animals and should be treated with respect. Contrary to popular belief, sharks are not the ferocious killing machines they are perceived to be, they are simply curious about their environment and the things in it. Although we will do our best to minimise any risk involved, there is of course an inherent factor of unpredictability when dealing with wild animals.

The safety of our guests is paramount and we therefore adopt the following rules when diving with sharks in the Bahamas:

- Ensure you are facing the sharks at all times as well as keeping an eye on the safety diver in the water. He/she watches for sharks approaching the divers from behind, and warns divers by clearly pointing out the sharks; all divers should then point at the animal too to ensure everyone is aware of all the sharks in the immediate vicinity.
- In order to maximise shark interactions we will chum the water and offer limited baiting/feeding. Keep your distance from both the bait and from chum boxes.
- Photographers, place your emphasis on the sharks and not on your camera or checking out the photographs you have taken. Use your viewfinder as sparingly as possible.
- Ensure you do not swim away from any sharks that are in close proximity.
- Do not try to entice the sharks in any way but wait for them to approach you.
- Maintain a kneeling position on the bottom and a vertical position in mid-water.
- Minimise any time spent on the surface; when entering the water, descend as quickly as possible.
- When finishing your dive, remain vigilant and surface next to the boat.
- Do not surface next to any sharks.
- Most importantly, please remain vigilant and follow the directions of our dive crew at all times.

In addition to the above, we also require all divers to have the following equipment for diving:

- Dark coloured (black or dark blue) full length wetsuit
- Dark coloured buoyancy aid, hood and gloves - cover as much skin as possible
- Black or dark blue fins
- Dark coloured housing for cameras

It is not permitted to dive with bright coloured equipment during shark dives. Should equipment be deemed unsuitable, we offer a range of rental equipment onboard, though in some cases, we can use masking/duct tape to cover certain things.

If at any time during the dive you feel uncomfortable then please return to M/V Bahamas Master with your buddy and end the dive safely.

Divers must be adults (minimum 18 years old) with minimum AOW certification. Divers must be confident underwater and comfortable in a variety of diving conditions. Shark diving is not suitable for inexperienced or novice divers.

Should you have any questions or queries concerning shark diving, equipment requirements, or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team [divingholidays@blueotwo.com](mailto:divingholidays@blueotwo.com) who will be pleased to assist and advise you.