

Bahamas – Wrecks, Blue Hole and Sharks

Itinerary

The following is a sample itinerary of dive sites we may visit during your liveaboard safari on board Bahamas Master. We wish to show you the very best diving possible, however, a number of factors can determine which sites we visit. Weather, tides, currents and many other factors determine the Cruise Director's decision of which route the yacht takes and which sites are selected for diving. Whilst we attempt to ensure the number of dives we have scheduled is fulfilled, bad weather can hinder the yacht's ability to reach a specified dive site in good time. The safety of all on board is paramount and we always do our best in offering diving at alternate locations should we be unable to visit those sites listed below.

The diving day on board Bahamas Master has a typical schedule as follows:

- Light Breakfast followed by Dive 1
- Full Breakfast, relaxation period, Dive 2
- Lunch, relaxation period, Dive 3, then open pool
- Dinner

Whilst at Tiger Beach, dives 1-3 are scheduled baited/shark feeding dives during which divers are strategically positioned on the bottom facing the shark feeder. Extra weights help divers to maintain their position in the water as to fully enjoy the shark action. Outside of the Tiger Beach area, dives will be scheduled according to the position of the boat.

Diving in the Bahamas is comparatively shallow, which allows for 'open pool diving' after the scheduled baited/feeding dives until sunset when we're at Tiger Beach. At other locations, we will offer a range of dives including deeper reefs and wrecks, where possible we will also schedule night dives. For your final day aboard we schedule two morning dives to allow plenty of time for off-gassing before disembarkation and your flight home. Guests are responsible for their own dive profiles and for obtaining suitable dive insurance to cover all diving activities.

Dive sites we visit include but are not limited to:

Berry Islands

Big Whale Cay and **Great Harbour Cay** are beautiful dive areas in the Berry Islands that begin with shallow reefs, but drop off sharply to a stunning wall, home to many a sea creature. Frequent sightings of pilot whales are reported around these islands.

Andros Island

Andros Barrier Reef

This is the third largest barrier reef in the world and second largest in the Caribbean. The Andros Reef stretches 100 miles along the eastern shore of Andros Island, offering some of the best diving in the Bahamas.

Explore coral towers reaching 7 metres (35ft) high and extensive swim-throughs packed with stunning marine life. Swim alongside sea turtles, rays, sharks, tropical fish and much more.

King Kong's Blue Hole

Also known as the Great Blue Hole, this is the second deepest ocean blue hole in the Bahamas. Beautiful geological formations and unique marine life such as white algae, hanging in the cave like cobwebs, is what makes diving here so special. Blue holes can best be described as entrances to the intricate cave systems which run underneath the island and sea floor. Because the ocean blue holes are connected to those inland, they are affected by the tides. The ocean blue holes will "blow" and "suck" so we make sure we dive it at the right time. The entrance to the blue hole is at 12 meters depth (40ft).

Nassau

Around Nassau, there are many dive sites and wrecks to choose from. Given the wide choice of dive sites open to us whilst anchored off New Providence, guests will be given the opportunity to collectively pick our dive sites for the time we remain in the area. We've listed a few of the well-known sites below, but with more than 30 sites, options are plentiful!

James Bond Wrecks - Since their glory days serving as movie props The Tears of Allah ('Never Say Never' and 'Thunderball') and the wreck of a Vulcan bomber mock-up (original 'Thunderball'), both wrecks have become a haven for a wonderful array of marine life, from colonies of beautiful, but invasive, lionfish to turtles, barracuda, and shoals of technicolour reef fish.

DC3 Airplane and Long Island Lady Wrecks - You may recognize the large DC3 airplane from its appearance in the Hollywood Film, Into the Blue, starring screen siren Jessica Alba. This huge aircraft was intentionally sunk specifically for the film. Like the DC3, the Long Island Lady sits in approximately forty feet of water. This seventy foot long fishing vessel was recently sunk by Stuart Cove's dive operation.

Shark Buoy - Out in the middle of some of the deepest, bluest water in the Bahamas and about an hour out from New Providence is the large yellow Shark Buoy. The buoy attracts a lot of marine life, but the main attractions are Silky Sharks!

Grand Bahama Island

Tiger Beach

Tiger Beach is located off the West End of Grand Bahama Island and the best known point for tiger, great hammerhead, Caribbean reef, and lemon shark encounters at a shallow (8-10m/26-33ft) white sandy bottom.

We usually meet pregnant female tiger sharks that remain in these shallow waters for several months on end. Therefore, we are familiar with these ladies and we consider them our friends. During a trip to Tiger Beach, you will not only encounter these impressive sharks, but are likely to get to know and discern the several individuals, like Emma and Princess. The theory is that female tiger sharks, after mating in the deep waters, seek the protection of the shallow sandy plateau to fulfil their pregnancy. Where these ladies give birth is yet to be discovered.

Tiger Beach is the ultimate site for photographers and videographers. Nurse sharks can be spotted, even though they tend to be shy. Bull sharks make an occasional appearance.

Mount Olympus Reef

As the name suggests, this site really is “home of the gods”. High-profile coral starts in about 18 meters (60ft) of water and drops off to over 450 meters (1500ft) with a stair-step at about 40 meters (125ft). Awe-inspiring canyons of coral dwarf the scuba divers, and we occasionally see hammerhead and tiger sharks cruising the wall.

Should you have any questions or queries concerning the dive sites or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team info@masterliveboards.com who will be pleased to assist and advise you.