

Hammerhead & Tiger Shark Experience, Bahamas

Itinerary - 7 Nights and 10 Nights

- **Embarkation: Port Lucaya Marina at 17:00**
- **Disembarkation: Port Lucaya Marina at 08:00**
- **Meeting point for embarkation: Lighthouse Pointe lobby at 16:45**

Lighthouse Pointe is a short walk from Port Lucaya Marina, where MV Bahamas Master will be moored. Our crew will meet guests at the hotel and escort them with their luggage to the boat at the designated embarkation time. Early embarkation is not possible, and guests are kindly asked not to make their own way to the marina.

Transfers between Freeport Airport or local hotels and Lighthouse Pointe are guests' own responsibility.

Guests arriving into Freeport on morning or early afternoon flights on the day of embarkation can purchase day passes from Lighthouse Pointe reception to use the hotel facilities, including luggage storage.

Marine & Port Fees:

- 7 nights: 100 USD per person
- 10 nights: 150 USD per person

Marine park fees can be paid in advance, or on board.

Minimum dive certification and experience:

It is recommended that divers have PADI Advanced Open Water certification*, or equivalent, with a minimum of 50 logged dives. Minimum age for participation in shark dives is 18 years.

*Advanced Open Water course can be completed on board in some cases.

Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience recommendations, or who the crew have insufficient experience in certain conditions, may be denied participation in some or all dives.

It is a mandatory requirement for all divers to have insurance which covers scuba diving activities, including emergency evacuation and recompression chamber costs.

Participation in this liveboard itinerary is subject to acceptance of our Terms & Conditions as outlined here: www.masterliveboards.com/terms-conditions.

Number of scheduled dives:

- 7 nights: Up to 22
- 10 nights: Up to 34

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 following is an example of the day-to-day itinerary.

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 to fully enjoy the shark action.

The feeding dives are comparatively shallow (10-15 metres), which allows for 'open pool diving' in the afternoon up until sunset. During 'open pool' periods, guests are welcome to jump in the water and watch the action as the mood takes them.

A comprehensive safety briefing will be given before the shark dives outlining expected shark behaviour and the do's and don'ts of observing the shark activity.

Safety and dive briefings are conducted in English. If you or any of your group do not speak or understand English, please contact us.

Day 1: Meet our crew at Lighthouse Pointe at 16:45 for embarkation at 17:00. Embarkation is followed by introductions, boat and safety briefings and dinner. There is no diving on embarkation day.

Days 2-6 (7 nights)

Days 2-9 (10 nights)

Typically, the full diving days will be scheduled as follows:

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

*After the scheduled baited/feeding dives, guests are free to jump in at their leisure, up until sunset.

Guests are responsible for their own dive profiles and for ensuring they have suitable dive insurance to cover all diving activities.

Day 7 (7 nights) / Day 10 (10 nights): For your final full day on board we schedule two morning dives* before the boat heads back to Port Lucaya after lunch.

*We kindly request that guests check their flight departure times to ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their final dive and their flight home.

Disembarkation Day: After breakfast, disembark at Port Lucaya Marina at 08:00

The following is an overview of some of the dive sites we may visit during your liveaboard on Bahamas Master.

We wish to show you the very best diving possible, although a number of factors can determine which sites we visit. Weather, tides and currents, amongst others are considerations which determine the Cruise Director's and Captain's decision of which route the yacht takes and which sites are selected for diving.

The safety of all on board is paramount and we will always do our best to offer diving at alternate locations should we be unable to visit those sites listed below.

Dive sites we visit include, but are not limited to:

Grand Bahama Island

Tiger Beach

Tiger Beach is a 20 square mile area located around 30 nautical miles 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 white sand bottom. This is the ultimate site for photographers and videographers.

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 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 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.

As well as being world famous for its crystal-clear waters and powdery, white sandy bottom, the Tiger Beach area is also home to a multitude of reef networks mini walls, and of course the continental shelf with drop offs to more than 600metres/2,000ft, although our average dives in these areas are no deeper than 30metres/100ft.

Fish Tales

Very close to Tiger Beach, this is another great location for shark spotting: Caribbean reef, lemon, nurse and tiger sharks. It is a little deeper with patches of seagrass, but provides the same shark action.

Bimini Islands (10 night itineraries only)

The westernmost island group of the Bahamas, these are truly 'islands in the stream' as they are situated southwest of Grand Bahama Island on the edge of an underwater cliff that drops hundreds of meters into the blue abyss. The most famous spot for great hammerheads and bull shark encounters; best season is January-March.

Bimini Road

this wall plummets more than 1,300 metres (4,000ft) beneath the sea, alluringly claimed to be part of 'the lost city of Atlantis'. While most of the 'paving' stones are well hidden by powdery white sand being moved by the occasionally strong current, our guides will show you the area and you can have a go at being an underwater Indiana Jones in uncovering these ancient stones.

Hawksbill Reef

This reef runs roughly from north to south and parallel to North Bimini's shoreline. This stunning shallow reef (max 15 metres / 50ft) is made up of vibrant coral heads scattered upon an impeccably white sandy bottom. The main stars here are usually the reef's namesake - the Hawksbill Turtles resting on the bottom, but also expect to see angelfish, Bermuda chubs, French grunts, Creole wrasses and moray eels.

Alice Island

Dive with over 50 plus stingrays and experience the fast and agile blacknose sharks. This is a small island located offshore, where we will spend a morning feeding and playing with these beauties.

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 dive@masterliveboards.com who will be pleased to assist and advise you.