

Wrecks, Blue Holes and Sharks, Bahamas

7 Nights and 10 Nights Itinerary

- **Embarkation:** 17:00
- **Disembarkation:** 08:00
- **Meeting point:** Bradford Marine, Freeport at 16:45

Transfers to and from Bradford Marine on embarkation and disembarkation days are provided free of charge with specific pick up times from Freeport Airport, Fortuna Beach, Bell Channel and Pelican Bay to arrive at the embarkation point at 17:00.

Bradford Marine, where Bahamas Master will be moored, is approximately 15 minutes drive from Grand Bahama Airport. *Early embarkation is not possible*, and there is no waiting area; therefore *guests are kindly asked not to arrive at the marina earlier than the specified meeting time*.

Marine & Port Fees: (to be paid on board)

- 7 nights: 140 USD per person
- 10 nights: 190 USD per person

Marine and port fees are subject to change without notice. The applicable amount at the time of departure will be added to your onboard extras to be paid prior to disembarkation.

Minimum certification, experience and requirements

Divers must have **Open Water certification** with a **minimum of 50 logged dives**, preferably with experience of diving in currents. However, **PADI Advanced Open Water** certification, or equivalent, is **strongly recommended** to be able to fully participate in all dives.

Minimum age is 18 years for participation in shark dives.

Please refer to our [Bahamas Trip Info](#) document for further important information about shark diving and equipment requirements.

Guests who do not fulfil the minimum certification and experience requirements, 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.

Itinerary Details

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

Number of 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 or even prevent the vessel's ability to reach a specified dive site in good time.

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

The following is an example of the day-to-day schedule.

Day 1: Embarkation at 17:00 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
- Snacks, relaxation period, Dive 4*
- Dinner

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.

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

*Outside of the Tiger Beach area, dives will be scheduled according to the position of the boat. We will schedule a range of dives including deeper reefs and wrecks and, where possible, we may offer a sunset or night dive, if it is safe to do so.

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 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, disembarkation is at **08:00**

Night / Sunset Dives

We do our best to offer sunset or night dives at various sites throughout the itinerary, where safe to do so, depending on weather conditions and where the vessel is moored at any given time. All divers will be issued with a colour-coded beacon to attach to their first stage to ensure our guides can keep track of each diver's whereabouts at all times on the night dive. Our guides will have different coloured beacons for ease of recognition. Underwater torches are also required for night dives and are available to rent in case you don't have your own.

PLEASE NOTE: While we wish to show you the very best diving possible, a number of factors will determine which sites are included on each trip. *Diver experience, weather conditions, tides and currents* are among the considerations which *determine the Cruise Director and Captain's decision of which route the boat takes and which sites are selected* for diving.

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

Depending on your itinerary duration, dive sites that we may visit during your liveaboard diving holiday on Bahamas Master include, but are not limited to:

Andros Island

Andros is the largest island in the Bahamas and boasts the 3rd largest fringing barrier reef in the world, as well as the largest number of blue holes.

The blue holes are best described as entrances to an intricate cave system which was created during the ice age and runs underneath the island and sea floor; Because the ocean holes are connected to those inland they contain fresh and saltwater and are affected by the tides. Beautiful geological formations and unique marine life are what make blue-hole diving here so special.

Andros Barrier Reef

Stretching over 200km (125 miles) Andros Barrier Reef is the second largest reef system in the Caribbean and offers some of the best diving in the Bahamas. Considered to be a globally significant geological feature, two national marine park areas have been created to protect the healthiest parts of the reef and the variety of marine species that can be found here. 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.

Ocean Blue Hole

Also known as The Great Blue Hole or **King Kong's Cavern** because of its size, with the bottom of the deep blue abyss being at around 150 metres (490-500ft), this is the second deepest ocean blue hole in the Bahamas. The entrance is at 12 metres depth (40ft) from where you descend through an ancient waterfall chute and along the rim where you will find the 'skylight room' - a large swim-through where gaps in the overhead limestone rocks allow a breathtaking vista with sunbeams filtering down through the water above. Upon reaching what is known as 'The Big Room' you can look across the centre of the chasm and down into the depths below.

The ocean blue hole will "blow" and "suck" with the movement of the sea, so we make sure we dive at the right time to ensure our guests have the best experience possible.

The Marion wreck

The 30 metre (98ft) long, 12 metre (40ft) wide Marion was a construction barge used by the US Navy from the AUTECH base on Andros Island. Sunk in 1987 to create an artificial reef at a depth of 21 metres (69ft) towards the southern end of the Island, interesting features of the wreck include the hull area, a tractor and a crane boom which was part of the vessel's original structure.

New Providence - Nassau

The clear blue waters around New Providence Island provide a wide variety of diving possibilities from shallow natural reefs to walls and drop-offs, blue holes and an abundance of wrecks at depths ranging from 15m (50ft) - 30m (100ft), most of which have been purposely sunk to create artificial reefs.

The majority of the best dive sites are located around the west end of New Providence Island; this is also where you can experience some magnificent wall dives along the drop-off into the Tongue of the Ocean which separates New Providence from Andros Island.

Given the wide choice of dive sites, guests are given the opportunity to collectively pick where we dive while we remain anchored off New Providence. We've listed a few of our favourite, regularly visited dive sites below but, with more than 30 to choose from, options are plentiful.

James Bond Wrecks

Since their glory days serving as movie props, the wrecks of The Tears of Allah tugboat ('Never Say Never') and a Vulcan bomber mock-up (original 'Thunderball'), 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.

The 27m (90ft) *Tears of Allah wreck* was a confiscated drug smuggling vessel which was sold to the producers of Never Say Never Again and sunk to create the back-drop for the scuba diving scenes in the film. Today, almost 40 years after Sean Connery dived on her as Agent 007, the wreck is covered in sponges and corals, and home to large numbers of snapper.

DC-3 Airplane

You may recognise the large DC-3 airplane from its appearance in the 2005 Hollywood film 'Into the Blue', starring screen siren Jessica Alba. This huge aircraft was intentionally sunk for the film then moved to its current location on the edge of New Providence's southern wall once filming had been completed. Sitting in just 12 metres of water with a beautiful reef and dramatic drop-off in close proximity, the wreck is a great site to explore at the end of a dive along the nearby wall.

Pumpkin Patch

Having been given its name in recognition of the abundance of large orange and red sponges that cover the area, The Pumpkin Patch is a spectacular, vast reef system southwest of New Providence. Located close to the drop-off into the Tongue of the Ocean, nutrient-rich tidal water flowing twice a day off the Great Bahama Bank has resulted in an underwater ecosystem that is teeming with life.

Sea Viking wreck

Sunk in 1996, The Sea Viking is an old, 15 metre long fishing boat resting on a sandy patch close to The Pumpkin Patch Wall at a depth of 26 metres (85ft). The wreck has a good amount of coral and sponge wreck and is easy to explore inside and out. Juvenile sharks, turtles, and octopus can usually be found in the area surrounding the wreck and, during the winter months, great hammerhead sharks can sometimes also be seen.

Heineken Wall

So called by our Bahamas Operations Manager because it's 'probably one of the best wall dives I've done, ever', this coral encrusted, vertical drop-off is awash with marine life. Vibrant soft and hard corals and sponges adorn the entire wall playing host to an abundance of fish and other creatures, with a variety of sharks often seen patrolling the blue waters along the way.

The Lost Blue Hole

This particular dive site is truly unique. Located off the southeastern tip of New Providence, the Lost Blue Hole is a deep vertical cave that reaches depths of over 60 metres (200ft). The sea floor around the drop-off into the chasm is approximately 12metres (40ft) with a scattering of coral heads; From there you can go over the edge into the hole itself. The peripheral walls of this huge underwater crater are dotted with large heads of coral and are home to several species of harmless nurse and reef sharks, including the elusive blacknose shark, turtles, rays, moray eels, rock lobsters, and a wide variety of fish.

Twin Sisters wrecks

The Twin Sisters are two relatively small oil tankers, originally owned and donated by Shell, that were deliberately sunk in the year 2,000 to create an artificial reef. Sitting next to each other, but at different depths, and tethered together by rope between their bows, the deeper of the two is at 30 metres (100ft) while the other is at 14 metres (45ft). Holes drilled into the deck allow divers to enter and explore the hold area of the deeper wreck and it is also possible to swim through the wheelhouse of the smaller vessel. Around the wrecks you can often find schools of yellow grunts and batfish as well as juvenile sharks and, if you're lucky, the occasional hammerhead.

Ray of Hope wreck

The Ray of Hope wreck is a 61 metre (200ft) general cargo vessel that was built in Germany in 1958 and was registered as a Haitian freighter when she became the property of the Nassau Port Authorities. She was scuttled close to the wreck of the Bahama Mama in July 2003 to create an additional dive site and artificial reef. The wreck sits upright in 18 metres (60ft) of water and is fully intact allowing divers to penetrate her large cargo hold and explore her cabins and gangways. With her resident population of Caribbean reef sharks and near perfect stature she is a delight for wreck and shark lovers alike and offers some fantastic photo opportunities.

The ***Bahama Mama*** was a small (29m / 95ft) pleasure boat that was sunk close to the edge of the Tongue of the Ocean Wall in January 1995. Resting on sand at around 15 metres (50ft), most of her hull has collapsed but her wheelhouse is still intact and easily accessible.

In addition to reef sharks, other sightings around the Ray of Hope and Bahama Mama wrecks include lobsters, moray eels, stingrays, and a variety of reef fish.

Port Nelson wreck

The Port Nelson was the last ship commissioned by the Royal Bahamas Defense Force, before the Bahamas gained independence in 1973. The wreck of this 40 metre (130ft) cutter, whose deck guns still stand proud and ready, sits upright on the bottom at 22 metres (75ft) facing the Tongue of the Ocean. With Bacardi Bar Reef off to her starboard side, this artificial reef and the surrounding area is a vibrant and lively ecosystem with thousands of fish in residence. From snapper to grunts to barracuda carpet the reef system.

The large outcrops of rock and coral around the Port Nelson wreck provide shelter for moray eels, scorpionfish and large groupers, while it's quite common to see African pompano, mackerel, barracuda and larger pelagics cruising the currents along the nearby reef edge.

Willaurie wreck

The Willaurie is probably one of the most iconic and most photographed wrecks in the Bahamas. Built in the Netherlands in 1966, the 39 metre (130ft) steel freighter operated as an inter-island mail vessel around the Bahamas in the 1980s. Suffering several misfortunes during her working life, she eventually succumbed to her fate in 1988 and now rests on the white sand seabed just off the western tip of New Providence at a depth of 15 metres (50ft).

One of the most unique, and most photographed features of the wreck is the cargo compartment on her deck which held the letters and packages she was transporting. Today, only the metal framework of the cargo compartment remains intact which looks like a huge cage sitting on top of the main deck. Coral and sponge growth on the structure have created a diverse and colourful artificial reef where large numbers of fish linger inside and between the bars.

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

Grand Bahama Island is best known for Tiger Beach which is located off the West End area of the island. However, there is so much more to experience around Grand Bahama including wrecks, walls and swim-throughs, many of which are located along the southern shore line of the island.

Tiger Beach

Tiger Beach is a 52 km² (20 square mile) area located around 30 nautical miles off the West End of Grand Bahama Island and the best known point for tiger sharks, Caribbean reef and lemon shark encounters, as well as the occasional appearance of great hammerheads. At a depth of around 8-10m (26-33ft), and average visibility of 25 metres (80+ ft), this white sandy bottom area is the ultimate site for photographers and videographers to get their dream close up shots. 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 area around Tiger Beach is also home to a multitude of reef networks, pinnacles, and of course the continental shelf with drop offs to more than 600 metres (2,000 ft), although our average dives in these areas are no deeper than 30 metres (100 ft).

Baited / Feeding Shark Dives

We have various mooring/ anchor points throughout the Tiger Beach area at relatively shallow depths where we will stop for these breath-taking dives. Guests will be invited to dive in groups of 8 where they will form a 'V' formation kneeling in the sand, with one of our expert shark divers at the apex of the 'V'. The tiger sharks typically arrive soon after we enter the water, at which point the show will begin. An average dive can bring as many as 6 (sometimes many more) tiger sharks into the area. The majestic tigers will swim from the outer limits of your 'V' formation to the apex where our feeder will be waiting with the bait box. After feeding, the sharks will be redirected back down the middle of the 'V' allowing for some amazing close encounters and jaw dropping photograph opportunities. In addition to the tiger sharks, there are good chances of seeing bull sharks, black tip reef sharks, lemon sharks and, if you're lucky, you may even see a great hammerhead!

For details of other dive sites around Grand Bahama that may be included on the Wrecks, Blue Holes & Sharks liveaboard itinerary, please refer to the [Grand Bahama Adventure itinerary](#).

Berry Islands (10 night itinerary only)

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 a wide variety of sea creatures. Frequent sightings of pilot whales are reported around these islands.

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