

# Wrecks, Blue Holes, and Sharks, 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:**

Divers are recommended to 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 liveaboard itinerary is subject to acceptance of our Terms & Conditions as outlined here: [www.masterliveboards.com/terms-conditions](http://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.

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. These dives are comparatively shallow, which allows for 'open pool diving' after the scheduled baited/feeding dives. Guests can jump in the water and watch the action as the mood takes them, up until sunset.

Outside of the Tiger Beach area, dives will be scheduled according to the position of the boat. We will offer a range of dives including deeper reefs and wrecks and, where possible, we will also schedule night dives

**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 itinerary.

**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

\*Depending on weather conditions and where we are, we will always try to offer a sunset, or night dive.

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 the dive sites we may visit during your liveaboard on Bahamas Master.

While we wish to show you the very best diving possible, 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 boat 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 the sites listed below.

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

## 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 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 metres depth (40ft).

## New Providence - 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 where we dive 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 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.

### DC3 Airplane and Long Island Lady Wrecks

You may recognise 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 12 metres (40 ft) of water. This 21 metre (70 ft) 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

Located off the West End of Grand Bahama Island, Tiger Beach is best known for tiger shark, great hammerhead, Caribbean reef, and lemon shark encounters at shallow depths (8-10 metres/26-33ft) on a 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 metres (60ft) of water and drops off to over 450 metres (1,500ft) with a stair-step at about 40 metres (125ft). Awe-inspiring canyons of coral dwarf the scuba divers, and we occasionally see hammerhead and tiger sharks cruising along 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 [dive@masterliveboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveboards.com) who will be pleased to assist and advise you.