



MASTER
LIVEBOARDS

PADI Bahamas Shark Diver

Distinctive Speciality Course



Photo credit: Mike Sünder

Course Background & Goals

The Bahamas Shark Diver Distinctive Speciality Course was created by the experienced Bahamas Master dive team and approved by PADI as a speciality certification course meaning, after completing the course as outlined below and PIC submission, you will receive a genuine PADI certification card.

The purpose of the course is to educate Bahamas Master guests of the importance of sharks to the world's oceans, and to empower divers with knowledge and first-hand experience to be able to identify and safely dive with different shark species found in the Bahamas.

The goals of Bahamas Shark Diver training are:

1. To enable basic identification of the 5 big shark species of the Bahamas
2. To ensure divers know the safest way to be in the water with sharks
3. To understand the importance of sharks to the world
4. To empower divers with the knowledge to combat negative stereotypes

Diver Prerequisites

To participate in this course, a diver must:

1. Have PADI Advanced Open Water Diver certification, or an equivalent certification from another training organisation.
2. Have a minimum of 50 logged dives.
3. Be at least 18 years
4. Use dark coloured equipment only (wetsuit, BCD, hood, gloves, fins)

Course Outline

The course consists of knowledge development sessions and four (4) open water training dives providing divers with the knowledge and experience to be able to identify and safely dive with all shark species found in the Bahamas.

Learning Objectives

1. To understand and be able to safely dive with a number of shark species.
2. To recognize the differences between shark species found in the Bahamas.
3. To understand the threats faced by sharks and what we can do to help.

Knowledge development sessions provide divers with information to be able to explain:

1. The key characteristics and behavioural patterns of a:
 - a. Tiger Shark
 - b. Great Hammerhead Shark
 - c. Bull Shark
 - d. Oceanic Whitetip Shark
 - e. Caribbean Reef Shark
2. The major threats to shark populations, and what can be done to protect them.
3. Considerations and methodology for safely diving with shark species found in The Bahamas.
4. Differences between fact and fiction regarding shark behaviour

Open Water Dives

During the Open Water training dives, divers put into practice the skills and information learned during knowledge development, including:

- Follow instructions given during briefings
- Correct use of a safety stick
- Correct use of hand gestures
- Identification of shark species

The course can be pre-booked and paid for in advance, or on board Bahamas Master.