

FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA

**DIVE WEEK
ITINERARY**

JUNE 10TH- 17TH 2023





GRAND BAHAMA DIVE WEEK

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GRAND BAHAMA DIVE WEEK

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

These protocols are subject to change at any time in response to new Covid-19 measures: Please check the website frequently for ongoing updates:

ARRIVAL:

TESTING REQUIREMENT

- As of 20 September 2022, the COVID-19 testing requirement for entering The Bahamas has been eliminated.
- All travelers, regardless of vaccination status, are no longer required to submit to pre-travel COVID-19 testing to enter the country.
- **Please note:** COVID-19 testing is no longer required for persons traveling inter-island (domestic) within The Bahamas, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status (Unvaccinated or fully vaccinated).

DEPARTURE

- All U.S residents and green card holders are not required to test.
- Please check your local government deadlines prior to visit to determine return requirements as some countries may require negative test results for re-entry regardless of vaccination status.

WHAT TO PACK:

- Rain jacket & light sweater
- Casual attire
- Swimwear
- Sunscreen





DAY 1 – SATURDAY JUNE 10, 2023

Welcome to Grand Bahama! Welcome to The Bahamas’ “second city” where beautiful beaches and Island life are just the beginning. Venture beyond The Bahamas’ white sands and turquoise waters to discover an island metropolis full of history, culture, and tasty Caribbean flavors.

1:30PM

Arrive on Grand Bahama Island via Bahamasair flight UP146

2:00PM

Transfer to Pelican Bay Hotel for check-in

Pelican Bay Hotel- *Known as the “Happiest Hotel in Grand Bahama”, Pelican Bay Hotel, located in the heart of Grand Bahama Island, sits in a tropical oasis set against colorful Bahamian architecture, towering palms, and the stunning Bell Channel Bay. It is a true Bahamian treasure for business and leisure guests, as well as groups and events. The property has 186 Hotel rooms & Suites, 3 pools, 2 restaurants and a swim up bar. Meeting & Conference Rooms available for events*

Afternoon at leisure

6:30PM

Welcome Reception at Bones Bar Terrace- *Freshly squeezed cocktails, ice cold draft beer, freshly baked savory pies and the finest sipping rums from around the world served at the bar, next to the water, on the water or in the water*

Evening at leisure



DAY 2 – SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2023

Breakfast at leisure

8:00AM-8:15AM

Meet in lobby for transfer to Reef Oasis Dive Center at Viva Wyndham

8:30AM

Check-in for Customized 2 tank dive

Caves 1 & 2- *Two very interesting sites, well worth the visit. Site is comprised of thick spur and groove coral formations, teeming with life. So many cracks, nooks, crannies and hiding places for fish that it is almost impossible to see everything! Both Moorings are set along a sloping drop-off. Starting at 60' sloping to about 80-90' at the bottom. In the deepest part of this site, it is possible to see a sunken chamber. Groupers, Jacks, Remoras, and sharks, from neighboring Shark alley, are frequent sightings. At both sides of this site, there are various swim-throughs to explore.*

Pretender's Wreck- *This upside-down tug sits at an approachable depth for divers of all levels of experience. This forty-five-foot vessel, the Pretender, rests on the sea floor between two heads of coral. Remnants of a yacht are also strewn about this site as well. Stingrays are often seen gliding along the sandy bottom*

1:30PM

Transfer to host hotel

Afternoon at leisure

6:45PM

Meet in lobby for transfer to Williams Town

7:00PM

Two Dollar Bar, William's Town - *Local rum and beers. This quaint sea view bar has plenty of parking. Sit indoor for music & the company of the friendly staff or on the porch for ocean air. Drinks are poured generously and often. Just to the left is an outdoor conch station. Order fresh conch salad. Locally owned and operated.*

9:00PM

Return to Host Hotel



DAY 3, MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023

Breakfast at leisure

8:00AM-8:15AM

Meet in lobby for transfer to Reef Oasis Dive Center at Viva Wyndham

8:30AM

Check-in for Customized 2 tank dive

Sea star Wreck – *A steel Barge sitting upright on ocean floor. Penetration is easy through open deck. Approximate length is 200 feet with average depth is 65 feet. Even though it is a relatively new wreck, you will find an array of local fish, such as barracuda, amberjack, snappers, groupers and an occasional turtle or shark! This wreck has been changed a lot due to the past 3 hurricanes: Francis, Jeanne, and Wilma!*

Papa Doc Wreck- Once a shrimp boat, this doomed craft was transporting mercenaries and firearms to Haiti during the revolution in that country. The wreck's namesake was the dictator, Papa Doc Duvalier, who was so ruthless that he inspired an uprising. Divers can still salvage ammunition on the sea floor and amongst the coral. This wreck rests in pieces along the shallow reef, with visible engine blocks and machinery still visible at this novice-accessible dive site.

1:30PM

Transfer to host hotel

Afternoon at leisure



DAY 4, TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2023

Breakfast at leisure

8:00AM-8:15AM

Meet in lobby for transfer to Reef Oasis Dive Center at Viva Wyndham

8:30PM

Check-in for Customized 2 tank dive

Plate Reef at Blue Hole- Many varieties of hard coral have formed here. Many plate coral overlap above the surge channels. The blue hole here is quite large and comes right out of the side of a high-profile coral. Mahogany and yellow-tail snappers, goatfish, and French grunts are usually seen.

Gale's Grotto- *Sharks and spotted rays are frequently seen here. There is a coral cavern that passes through the reef for about 100 feet. The cavern is inhabited by soldier and squirrel fish.*

1:30PM

Transfer to host hotel

Afternoon at leisure

6:00PM-6:15PM

Meet in lobby for short walk to Port Lucaya Marketplace- *considered the jewel of Grand Bahama Island, featuring authentic Bahamian treasures, including retail shops, restaurants and bars, straw vendors, hair braiders and artisans.*

\$2.00 Tuesday at Agave (Optional)- *Agave, in Port Lucaya, serving pan- Latin Fusion Cuisine with the best Mojitos, Sangria and Margaritas! From Argentine Malbecs, Spanish Riojas to Cuban Themed Mojitos and Mexican Margaritas, they offer an extensive wine and drink list that easily allows multiple pairing combinations for every discerning palate.*

8:30PM

Return to host hotel



DAY 4- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023

Breakfast at leisure

8:00AM-8:15AM

Meet in lobby for transfer to Reef Oasis Dive Center at Viva Wyndham

Shark Alley- *The Western side of shark alley. Connects with hydro Lab to the East and Caves Sites to the south. A very interesting dive with many options for a tour. Named 'pretenders wreck' for the 45' upside down tugboat hull holding down the mooring line. Plenty of Grey Caribbean Reef Sharks circling the area, along with Hugh Groupers, Schooling Jacks and Spade fish, often a stingray or two. And you never know what else!*

Moray Manor- *Known for lots of green moray in the '70s, some can still be seen, as well as sharks. Very good selection of marine life. The coral travels perpendicular to the shore, growing up to 10 ft. high, with heather coral in this area.*

1:30PM

Return to Host Hotel

Afternoon at leisure

5:15PM-5:30PM

Meet in lobby for transfer to Smith's Point

6:00PM

Smith's Point Fish Fry Experience- *A Grand Bahama Favorite; fish fry is an event not to be missed. Enjoy a traditional cookout with fried snapper, lobster, potato bread, conch salad and many more Bahamian dishes. Experience a delicious meal and make new friends as you sip rum punch to the traditional sounds of Bahamian music.*

8:30PM

Return to host hotel



DAY 5- THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023

Breakfast at leisure

8:00AM-8:15AM

Meet in lobby transfer to Reef Oasis Dive Shop at Viva Wyndham

Ben's Blue Hole- *This classic site could be considered our 'house reef' as its right in front of the resort. Mooring is set at about 40-45ft in a coral head, directly south of the pin you can see a large sunken horseshoe shape in the sand, this is bens blue hole. The Blue hole is a funnel, or channel for freshwater to come out into the sea, the water mixing creates an interesting place for fish to hang out. Often you will find a large green moray eel or grouper hanging out under the ledge of the blue hole. We also see loggerhead turtles here regularly. This site is very good for photographers on a sunny day who like to coral head hop.*

Caribbean Reef Shark Encounter -*Dive with Caribbean reef sharks and interact with them in their natural state! The sharks are four to eight feet and at times can be too numerous to count. The location is near an old Recompression Chamber with coral reef surrounding it. There are also large green moray eels, groupers, Hogfish and Angel fish. There is the occasional nurse or hammerhead shark coming around to find out just what is going on!*

1:30PM

Return to Host Hotel

Afternoon at leisure

DAY 6- FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023

Breakfast at leisure

10:45AM-11:00AM

Meet in lobby for transfer to Coral Vita

11:30AM

Coral Vita- *Coral Vita creates high-tech coral farms that incorporate breakthrough methods to restore reefs in the most effective way possible. Coral Vita's land-based farms not only supply corals for restoration projects, but also function as an educational enter for local communities as well as an eco-tourism attraction*

12:00PM

Transfer to Bahamian Brewery

12:30PM

Bahamian Brewery Tour- *Walk through the 25-step process from malt to beer! See the lab quality control, learn about our filtration & kegging process, and watch our staff bottle your beer. Then become a brew master yourself as you taste the sensation Sands, in Jimmy's personal tap room. Once you've sipped a Sands, or two, we'll take you down to the gift shop and the liquor store - and let you purchase all you want - it's all duty free!*

1:30PM

Return to Host Hotel

Afternoon at leisure

DAY 7- SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023

8:45AM-9:00AM

Meet in lobby for transfer to Grand Bahama International Airport

9:30AM

Check-in for Bahamasair flight UP 142 to Ft Lauderdale International Airport

Depart Grand Bahama International Airport