

# Bahamas – Tiger Beach Experience

## 5 and 7 Nights Itinerary

- 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:

- 5 nights: 75 USD per person
- 7 nights: 100 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.blueotwo.com/terms-and-conditions](http://www.blueotwo.com/terms-and-conditions) .

### Number of scheduled dives:

- 5 nights: Up to 14 dives
- 7 nights: Up to 22 dives

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.

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.**

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.

Day 2-4 (5 nights)

Day 2-6 (7 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 5 (5 nights) or 7 (7 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.

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 always do our best in offering 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 (8-10m/26-33ft) 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.

### Baited / Feeding 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 white 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!

### Open Pool Dives

Our open pool dives are exactly what they sound like. Our dive team will open the dive deck to all guests allowing you to dive at your leisure, when it is deemed safe to do so. Typically, the open pool dives will be at the same site where the vessel is moored for the feeding dives, and will usually take place immediately following a feeding dive meaning there should still be plenty of activity; you can enjoy your diving accompanied by bull, lemon, and reef sharks, although the tiger sharks tend to move on pretty quickly once the bait box comes out of the water.

## Night/Sunset Dives

We will always do our best to offer sunset or night dives throughout the itinerary at a range of sites, depending on weather conditions and where the vessel is moored at any given time. The thrill of seeing the amazing sharks of the Bahamas during the day can only be surpassed by seeing these magnificent creatures switch into hunting mode by night. Bahamas Master carries underwater torches as part of the equipment which is available to rent in case you don't have your own. All divers will also be issued with a colour coded beacon to attach to your first stage to ensure our guides can keep track of your whereabouts at all times on the night dive. Conversely, our guides will have beacons of a different colour for your ease of recognition.

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 600m/2,000ft, although our average dives in these areas are no deeper than 30m/100ft.

## Mount Olympus

The peak of this 450+ metre tall coral-encrusted underwater pinnacle lies at the outer reaches of the Tiger Beach area. Although this site is best explored as a deep or even technical dive, the peak of the pinnacle reaches 18 metres where there is still plenty to see. A range of shark species, sea turtles and dolphins often visit the site.

## Mini Wall

The affectionately named 'Mini Wall', or Shark Ledge as you may find it in some guides, is exactly as it sounds. A beautiful ledge, that drops from around 5 metres to 21 metres (approx. 15 - 70 feet). The site is covered in a mix of healthy soft and hard coral, and is patrolled by multiple Caribbean reef sharks, and large groupers. Occasionally, you will also see turtles and eagle rays here. You may even be lucky enough to spot one of the large great hammerheads that also visit the area.

## Sugar Wreck

Sugar Wreck was an old sailing ship that sank whilst carrying, unsurprisingly, sugar, to the Caribbean. Abundant in fish life, the bones of the ship are now home to congregations of snappers, grunts, wrasse, gobies, angelfish and parrotfish that can be seen all over the wreck. Lying in only 6 metres (20 feet) of water, this is a dive site accessible only with our tender. In addition to the wide array of fish that can be seen at the site, sometimes you will also see reef, lemon, nurse and tiger sharks lingering.

Are you curious which kinds of sharks you could come up close and personal with? Take a look at this exciting video [here!](#)

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 [divingholidays@blueotwo.com](mailto:divingholidays@blueotwo.com) who will be pleased to assist and advise you.