



★ *Proposed* ITINERARY ★

# Cruising The Exumas

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#### **NASSAU AIRPORT**

Airport Code: NAS

The main international gateway for all Bahamian islands, US citizens can conveniently transition through US Customs and Immigration before leaving the Bahamas.

### **DAY 1:** *Nassau... Highbourne Cay* (35NM)

Arrive at The Atlantis Marina at Paradise Island, where your Captain and crew are ready with a warm greeting and a cool, tropical beverage. If time permits, venture onto the grounds of the adjacent Atlantis Resort complex. The variety of activities here is impressive, including a water park with river tubes and giant slides, expansive aquarium, shops, restaurants, spa and flashy casino. Get underway as lunch is served on deck and marvel at the gorgeous views during the two-hour passage across the Yellow Banks to the northern Exumas. First stop is Allan Cay, famous for remarkably tame, sunbathing Bahamian Rock iguanas. Continue to Highbourne Cay, a private island favored by a high profile clientele for seclusion, powder white sand and first-class marina. The anchorage, which is close to the cut, is ideal for deep water fishing. Saddle Cay is fun to explore by tender. Launch all the yacht toys to splash it up until the sun comes down.

#### **ATTRACTION**

Atlantis Paradise Island — <http://www.atlantis.com/thingstodo.aspx>

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While only the ruins of drug kingpin Carlos Lehder's house and hotel remain, the 3,300 foot private airstrip he built is still in use and an attractive selling point to buyers interested in purchasing a residential lot on Norman's Cay.

## DAY 2: *Highbourne Cay... Norman's Cay... Shroud Cay* (11NM)

Cast the lines for some offshore fishing en route to Norman's Cay. Thirty-five years ago this island was a notorious transshipment base and party playground for Colombian drug smugglers. Today, in part thanks to the Medellín Cartel's sunken Douglas DC-3, the island offers especially amazing snorkeling for novice and expert alike, and the tranquil surf is ideal for small children. Explore Shroud Cay, where tropical birds perform aerobatic courtships and the river, teeming with aquatic infants, is nicknamed "The Babies". Snorkel, paddleboard, kayak or tender across the island on the rapidly flowing mangrove river teeming with baby birds, conch, crawfish, sea turtles, stingrays and sharks. Hike to the top of Camp Driftwood for spectacular views. The eastern side of the island is ideal for kite surfing on a windy day. Fresh caught seafood with perfectly paired wine is on the chef's dinner menu tonight, followed with a decadent dessert and a nightscape featuring a billion twinkling stars.



Much of the green turquoise water over the Bahama Banks is less than 30ft deep, with the best cruising in waters 6–8ft deep. The dark blue waters reach depths up to 6,000ft.



### DAY 3: *Shroud Cay... Waderick Wells Cay* (8NM)

Warderick Wells Cay, headquarters of the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park, is not to be missed. The powder white beaches, diving and snorkeling reefs and inland sanctuary are uniquely beautiful and fascinating. Seven miles of nature trails with historical markers crisscross the island over rocky bluffs and sand dunes, mangrove creeks and sand flats. The island is a source of countless pirate and ghost stories. In fact, there are so many tales of swashbuckling drama that the island is locally known as Pirate's Lair. Legend has it that every pirate worth his salt holed up at Waderick Wells, including Blackbeard. On moonlit nights scale Boo Boo hill to hear the ghostly wail of shipwrecked souls and leave an offering for King Neptune to bring good luck. Spend an enchanted night at anchor, encircled by beautiful reefs in a bay so calm there is rarely a swell, with moorings so close to shore you can literally jump from the swim platform to the beach.

#### **ATTRACTION**

Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park — <http://www.exumapark.org>

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The Bahamas has the highest concentration of celebrity-owned private islands anywhere in the world, a majority located in the Exumas.

**DAY 4:** *Waderick Wells Cay... Halls Pond Cay... Compass Cay* (10NM)

Indulge in a refreshing swim or stroll on the beach before heading out for some blue water fishing en route to Halls Pond Cay. Go with the flow on a drift snorkeling adventure in transparent waters over immense coral reefs. Have a gourmet picnic lunch on the mile long sandbar at Osprey Cay. Spend the rest of the day at the intimate Compass Cay Resort and Marina. Rachel's Bubble Bath, at the island's north end, is a little lagoon with a dramatic demeanor. Hike the island's vast trail system to the Bat Cave and Low Tide Airport; search for shells along the half mile crescent beach or flora and fauna on the "jungle walk" to the west. Compass Peek, the highest point of the island, affords spectacular views of the Exumas Land and Sea Park.

**RESORT**

Compass Cay Marina and Resort — <http://compasscaymarina.com>



PHOTO © STANIEL CAY YACHT CLUB



The Bahamas comprises over 700 islands and 2000 cays made of calcium carbonate (lime) precipitated from sea water by plants and animals.

## DAY 5: *Compass Cay... Staniel Cay* (8NM)

Enjoy breakfast on deck as you pass by emerald islets floating on a sea that spans a hundred shades of blue. Staniel Cay is a favorite yachting port of call with excellent marina facilities, many protected anchorages and famous attractions. Of the many awe-inspiring locations for underwater cave diving, Thunderball Grotto claims superstar status. The moniker comes from the classic James Bond flick 'Thunderball', the first of several Hollywood movies filmed here. Being in the spotlight has tamed schools of aquatic cave dwellers, who willingly exchange a close up for a piece of bread. This is also true of the photogenic swimming pigs at Big Majors Cay, so bring your camera and some table scraps to both locations. Anchor for the night at Big Majors or dock at the Staniel Cay Yacht Club. The iconic bar and restaurant, festooned with vintage photos of movie stars and film crews crowding the walls, is the island's social nexus. Chat about great Bahamas adventures with fellow yachtsmen and friendly locals, Kalik beer in hand.

### RESORT & MARINA

Staniel Cay Yacht Club — <http://www.stanielcay.com>

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Islanders attribute longevity to bush medicine and access to about 100 plants that are reputed to cure indigestion, muscle pain, coughs, arthritis, headaches and apparently aging.

**DAY 6:** *Stanuel Cay... Bell Island... Hawksbill Cay* (25NM)

The area around Cambridge Cay, the southernmost island in the Exuma Land and Sea Park, is a destination of near endless intrigue. Jump on the Jetskis or commandeer the tender to discover secluded coves, reefs and cuts, beaches and caves. Cruise around the corner of Cambridge Cay to O'Brien's Cay, where there is an offshore rock 150 feet long that is a dive site called the "Aquarium." This stunning miniature wall is home to a wide variety of friendly fish and offers an amazing experience to both divers and snorklers. Nearby, Rocky Dundas is considered cave diving at its finest, with stalagmite, stalactite and other stunning cave formations unique to the area. Head north to anchor at Hawksbill Cay, an uninhabited cay and part of the Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park. Particular highlights include soft sand beaches on both the western and eastern shores, a trail to the site of an 18th century Loyalist settlement, and a delightful expanse of sand bar off the north end.

**MAP**

Hawksbill Cay — [http://www.exumapark.org/Portals/0/Snorkeling\\_Guide - Hawksbill v1.pdf](http://www.exumapark.org/Portals/0/Snorkeling_Guide_-_Hawksbill_v1.pdf)

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Nassau's dynamic art scene includes fine art galleries concentrated off West Bay Street that feature local, traditional and avant-garde works and market to serious international collectors.

## DAY 7: *Hawksbill Cay... Paradise Island* (20NM)

Embark from Hawksbill Cay northward along the Exuma Island chain. Cast the lines for some deep-sea fishing up to Highborne Cay in anticipation of a fresh seafood feast. Proceed through Highborne Cay Cut onto the Great Bahama Banks. Anchor for a reef swim and snorkel, visit the Iguana Beach on Allens Cay and do a bit of shark spotting around Roberts Cay, a nurse shark nursery in spring. Return to the docks at the Atlantis Resort on Paradise Island in time for a sunset aperitif. Spend your final evening on board the yacht savoring a gourmet dinner on deck and recounting the highlights of your adventures. For nightlife ashore, the Atlantis Resort and Casino offers a glitzy array of nightlife options. See performers at Atlantis Live and Jokers Wild Comedy Club, or dance to DJ rhythms at the glass-floored Aura Nightclub.

### **NIGHTLIFE**

Atlantis Live — <http://www.atlantis.com/thingstodo/entertainment/atlantislive.aspx>

Aura Nightclub — <http://www.atlantis.com/thingstodo/entertainment/auranightclub.aspx>

### **GALLERIES**

D'Aguilar Art Foundation — <http://daguiarartfoundation.com>

Popopstudios International Center for the Visual Arts — <http://www.popopstudios.com>

National Art Gallery of the Bahamas — <http://www.nagb.org.bs>

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**OFFICIAL CURRENCY**

Bahamian dollar but United States dollars are accepted everywhere, currently at 1:1 exchange rate.

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:** English

**TIME ZONE**

UTC/GMT – 4 hours/Eastern Daylight Time.

**DRESS CODE**

Dress is casual, but proper attire (shirts and shoes) should be worn in public areas. Bathing suits are worn only at the beach or pool.

**DRIVING**

Bahamian motorists drive on the left side of the road as in the UK and British rules apply. Driving is considered challenging in urban centers.

**ECONOMY:** Tourism, Finance



**ELECTRIC CURRENT:**

Outlets are 120V 60Hz, which is identical to the U.S. and Canadian standard. There may be some non-grounded and non-polarized outlets that will require an adapter. British and European appliances require a flat two-pin adaptor and 220-volt converter.

# When to visit:

The Bahamas averages between 75°F and 84°F and is a year around destination. Peak season is December to April; June to November is hurricane season with increased precipitation especially in September and October. March through mid-April attracts throngs of spring-breakers, particularly to Nassau resorts.

**REQUIRED**



CLIMATE DATA FOR THE BAHAMAS													
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	YEAR
Average High °F	77	77	79	81	84	87	89	89	88	85	82	78	83
Average Low °F	64	65	66	69	72	76	77	77	76	74	71	66	71
Average Rainfall (inches)	1.9	1.7	1.6	2.6	5.2	7.0	6.0	6.7	7.1	6.7	2.8	1.7	50.6





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The Bahamas beckons...

