

Salina Point Lodge
Salina Point • Acklins Island, Bahamas

We are remote, laid back and off the beaten path, but there is no roughing it at Salina Point Bonafish Lodge! Spacious bedrooms with two queen beds, private bath in each room, accommodating up to ten (10) guests per week, in air condition comfort. Dining room for twenty, a large porch, stretching the length of the building, on the beach! Eco friendly, with 2500 amp hours of storage batteries, 40K diesel generator on backup, no power lines and no one in sight! Just bring your gear and personal effects!

BAHAMAS-1-242-535-9510 • USA & Skype: 305-767-2825
Email: refeltoas@yahoo.com or Visit us on Facebook • www.facebook.com/acklinsisland/



Small Hope Bay Lodge
Small Hope Bay • Andros, Bahamas

Small Hope Bay Lodge is an all inclusive resort! Perfect for families, groups, and individuals. We have great diving for all experience levels! Blue Holes, Sharks, Caverns, Walls, Wrecks, and more

Andros, Bahamas | info@smallhope.com
www.SmallHope.com | +1-800-223-6961



Life on the Lee Side
Leeward Yacht Club is the premier marina and resort on Green Turtle Cay in the Abaco.

The marina offers protected, easy access for sailboats, power boats and yachts. Nestled against a lush, tropical, 7 acre resort with a restaurant, bar, pool, tennis court, Pump Out Services, fuel, security cameras, back up generator power to boat slips and homes with luxury accommodations from 3 to 5 bedrooms. Leeward Yacht Club caters to those who want an out island experience and concierge amenities. Only walking distance to the quiet and historical town of New Plymouth, white sandy beaches & numerous snorkeling spots, from deep sea fishing to scuba diving with renowned Dive Master, Brendal Stevens along with paddle boarding, cycling and kayaking, there's something for everyone at Leeward Yacht Club.

Marina, Resort, Restaurant/Bar and Gift Shop
www.leewardyachtclub.com • (P)242-365-4191 (C)242-577-4111



WALKING DISTANCE TO THE BEACH AND ISLAND SEAS RESORT



GRAND BAHAMA Sunn Odyssey
2020 brings 37 years since starting out with one small dive boat. Our present location on the beautiful Silver Cove Waterway has brought us nothing but pleasure!

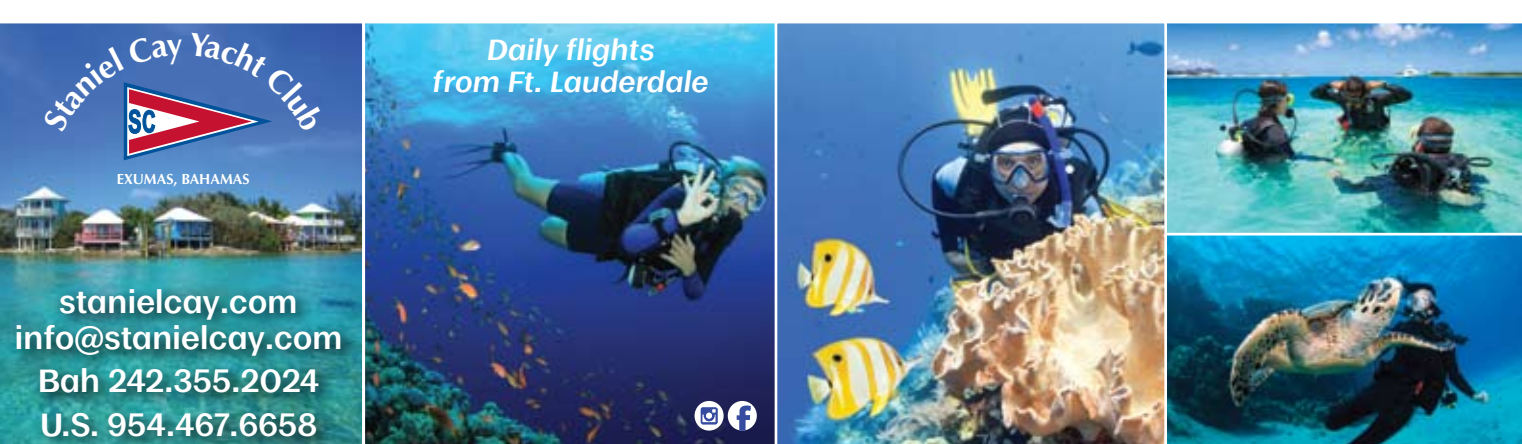
MUST SEE DIVE SITES!
Ben's Cavern • Shark Junction
Pygmy Caves • Fish Farm

Three generations diving! A tribute to a wonderful family!

Karen and Nick Rolfe with his International Legends of Diving award!

We're rated #1 on TripAdvisor Don't miss a moment! Read it for yourself! TripAdvisor.com

PHONE 242-373-4014 • TOLL FREE 866-OK2-DIVE
info@sunnodysseydivers.com • www.sunnodysseydivers.com



Staniel Cay Yacht Club
EXUMAS, BAHAMAS

stanielcay.com
info@stanielcay.com
Bah 242.355.2024
U.S. 954.467.6658

stanielcay.com
info@stanielcay.com
Bah 242.355.2024
U.S. 954.467.6658

A WORLD OF DIVERSITY & LARGE ANIMALS

Imagine a place with manta rays as wide as garage doors, sea turtles the size of a kitchen table, and giant groupers with mouths big enough to swallow oil drums. What about those rare times when you see a giant tuna, maybe a blue marlin, or even a huge whale in its own oceanic environment -- all once-in-a-lifetime photos waiting to be taken? These are some of the extraordinary encounters with big animals that make diving in The Bahamas an experience shared by few places on Earth.

For nearly two decades dive and travel magazines have recognized this rarity and routinely award The Bahamas as the No. 1 destination for such experiences. And it's not just the abundance of the reserve-sized creatures. It's also the warm, clear waters and high safety standards that diving here such a pleasure, and so safe. This is where ocean waters range from about 73 degrees in the winter, to the mid-80s in summer. Equally appealing is the amazing visibility underwater, sometimes reaching 150 feet. The clear, warm water is ideal for the growth of coral, sponges and other invertebrate life. Thousands of square miles of reefs and coral walls can be found everywhere around the shallow banks, and at the edges walls plunge down more than 5,000 feet.

Better yet, getting to one of our many dive destinations is quick and easy. Some islands are less than 50 miles from Florida. Dive accommodations are as varied as the diving. Whether you choose seaside resort or a quaint bed-and-breakfast, the chance to encounter big sea creatures is never far away. The most popular big creature trips put divers in close proximity with sharks and wild dolphins. Shark encounters are enjoyed throughout the islands. The most common are the Caribbean reef sharks found in nearly every habitat, but several places have large populations of hammerhead species, including great hammerheads that exceed 100 feet. Tiger sharks are often found around the banks. Something the Bahamian shark counters have taught divers everywhere is that sharks are relatively peaceful creatures that feed on animals much smaller than humans. They rarely pose a threat to someone underwater.

Dolphin Encounters... Several dive operators who run trips in open waters specialize in locating schools of spotted and bottlenose dolphins. The Bahamas has some of the best dolphin encounters in the world. Whether you choose seaside resort or a quaint bed-and-breakfast, the chance to encounter big sea creatures is never far away. The most popular big creature trips put divers in close proximity with sharks and wild dolphins. Shark encounters are enjoyed throughout the islands. The most common are the Caribbean reef sharks found in nearly every habitat, but several places have large populations of hammerhead species, including great hammerheads that exceed 100 feet. Tiger sharks are often found around the banks. Something the Bahamian shark counters have taught divers everywhere is that sharks are relatively peaceful creatures that feed on animals much smaller than humans. They rarely pose a threat to someone underwater.

themselves. Sea turtles are long-lived marine reptiles that spend the majority of their lives at sea, and grow to awesome sizes. The history of sea turtles in The Bahamas dates back centuries and four of the world's seven sea turtle species are found in these waters.

A History of Ship Wrecks... The Bahamian people have lived by and from the ocean for centuries. They know the cobalt-blue waters can also be a cruel companion. Reefs and shallows are littered with thousands of shipwrecks, some centuries old. Because most ships perished by running aground on a reef, shallow wrecks within reach of anyone who can swim are easy to find and a lot of fun. And like the coral reefs that snared them, these wrecks soon become covered in marine growth and draw large number of brilliantly colored fish.

Popular shallow water sites include the Sugar Wreck near West End, the Hesperus on the banks of Grand Bahama, the Saponia sitting near Bimini (claimed as one of the best shallow-water wrecks in the world), the Cienfuegos just off Eleuthera and the Frascate, sunk near San Salvador in 1902. More than a dozen wrecks, some in only 15 feet of water, lie just off Nassau. Some were intentionally sunk as underwater movie sets. The latter includes the popular dive site for the James Bond film, "Thunderball" -- now encruste

with a colorful variety of invertebrates and sponges. Not far away sharks roam the ship David Tucker at Shark Wall, and off Paradise Island the "De La Salle," a 120-foot freighter sitting upright like a ghost ship on a forgotten course. Abaco also has interesting medium-depth wrecks such as the "Violet Mitchell" and the British-built steamer "SS Viceroy" which was transporting coal from Philadelphia to Havana in 1896 when it hit a reef and sunk in about 45 feet of water. (Note: some of these wrecks may have shifted or moved during Hurricane Dorian.) Deeper wrecks, which lie below the surge effect of storms, usually are in better condition.

In exceptionally clear waters, there is a real thrill in spotting a large wreck from a distance and swimming to it. Theo's Wreck, a 228-foot freighter in about 100 feet of water off Grand Bahama is an excellent example. The cavernous cargo hold is encrusted with sponges and black corals and is inhabited by a variety of large fish. South near Long Island, the site of the freighter "Comberbach," sits intact and upright in about 100 feet and shows an old bus in the forward cargo hold. It's a superb wreck for photographers. Just off Paradise Island is the graveyard of three spectacular wrecks that also providing excellent photography: the 150-foot supply vessel "Ana Lise," the 95-foot passenger ship "Helena C," and an oil tanker called the "Bahama Shell."

Sharks Encounters... are common around many of these wrecks. Whether your reaction to sharks is the heebie-jeebies or fascination, a Bahamas encounter may offer the most thrilling 45 minutes you'll ever spend underwater. Many sites offer a unique opportunity to observe sharks eye-to-eye in their natural environment. Shark dives vary from casual swims and observation to heart-pounding experiences offering close-up action and amazing photo opportunities. Not all shark dives in involve feeding. Many dives provide viewing encounters with banks. Sharks such as scalloped hammerheads, oceanic whitetails, reef sharks, tiger sharks and huge whale sharks. And if the silhouette of a large shark sets your heart hammering, imagine the excitement of swimming with dozens!

Caverns and Blue Holes... are found throughout The Bahamas. There are hundreds of blue holes caves, forming perhaps the most extensive collection on the planet. The periphery of the archipelago is underpinned by massive platforms of solid limestone, some three to five miles thick. These "banks" were created by sediments and the skeletons of countless numbers of nearly-microscopic marine animals deposited over the millennia. Underneath the surface, these banks can be honeycombed with caves, fissures, tunnels and blue holes -- all the result of water flow and fluctuating sea levels. In some places the chemistry of the water has preserved historic artifacts and skeletal remains. Some caves lead to and connect with blue holes displaying the remnants of stalactites and stalagmites, clear evidence that they once were above sea level.

For those without special cave training, diving in open water blue holes provides a fascinating glimpse into the internal geography of the islands. Found throughout the Little Bahama Bank, the Great Bahama Bank and the Cay Sal Bank, they are visited by numerous dive operators. Your first sight of a blue hole will confirm that it's a perfect name. Usually surrounded by white sand, the hole appears as a circular opening that's a much deeper and richer blue than the turquoise color of the shallower waters around it. The holes are often surrounded by coral heads, and there's usually an abundance of fish, lobsters, crabs and other creatures around the opening. Diving down into one of these huge, vertical holes can be eerie. It's an experience divers never forget.

In addition to record numbers of blue holes, this is where you'll find the world's deepest. Dean's Blue Hole on Long Island plunges down more than 660 feet into an underwater cavern 100 yards wide. Accessible blue holes are sprinkled throughout the islands with the biggest concentration off Grand Bahama and along the coast of Andros, where more than 160 are recorded. Abaco is also celebrated for blue holes and its spectacular, cenote-like underground systems filled with crystal-clear water.

Never Judge A Wall By Its Cover... could apply to The Bahamas. The highest island is just about 100 feet high, not even as high as the tallest trees in some countries. But, these islands sit on top of a huge underwater mesa, and beneath those incredibly blue waters are some of the most dramatic cliffs and drop-offs in the world. Some walls drop more than a mile, and their rugged surfaces offer a nearly infinite number of habitats for marine life. While the deep walls on the edges of the oceanic abyss are the most spectacular, there are many others in shallow water where divers reach the edge at 30 feet or so and then follow the drop down to 50 or 100 feet before coming to rest on a sandy bottom. Other walls fall into a darker infinity, and their surfaces are crusted with spires and pillars of coral, pricked black coral, huge sea fans, and sponges big enough to hide a diver. These masses of invertebrates attract creatures that feed on them or live in the protection of their nooks and crannies. In turn, that draws large numbers of baitfish and colorful reef fish. The smaller fish draw their own predators in steadily increasing sizes, and the outside edges of the walls are good place to find massive grouper, numerous species of sharks. Every wall is similar but the profiles, shapes, size, species and predominant colors vary from site to site.



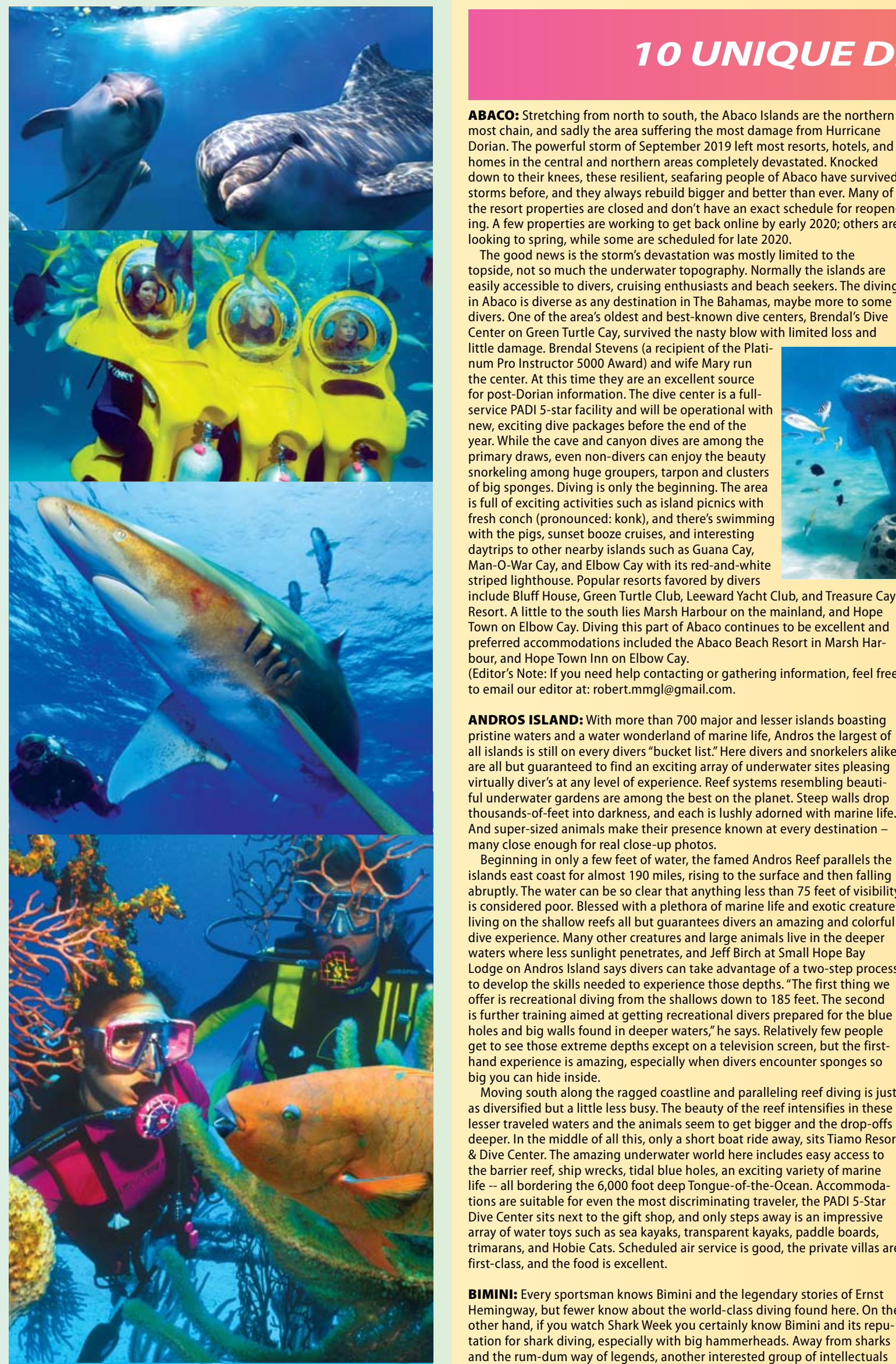
Bahama Divers
NASSAU, BAHAMAS

The Lost Blue Hole
Dive into an Unknown world of wonder....

We Offer...
- Full service dive shop.
- Daily dive classes.
- Half day snorkeling trips AM + PM
- Two-tank dives daily.

Sign up at your local dive shop or call
T. 866/662-1728 • 254/607-7731 • 242/393-5644
Bahamadivers.com (954) 697-7131 bahamadivers@gmail.com

www.bahamadivers.com



10 UNIQUE DESTINATIONS

ABACO: Stretching from north to south, the Abaco Islands are the northern most chain, and sadly the area suffering the most damage from Hurricane Dorian. The powerful storm of September 2019 left most resorts, hotels, and homes in the central and northern areas completely devastated. Knocked down to their knees, these resilient, seafaring people of Abaco have survived storms before, and they always rebuild bigger and better than ever. Many of the resort properties are closed and don't have an exact schedule for reopening. A few properties are working to get back online by early 2020; others are looking to spring, while some are scheduled for late 2020.

The good news is the storm's devastation was mostly limited to the topside, not so much the underwater topography. Normally the islands are easily accessible to divers, cruising enthusiasts and beach seekers. The diving in Abaco is diverse as any destination in The Bahamas, maybe more to some divers. One of the area's oldest and best-known dive centers, Brendal's Dive Center on Green Turtle Cay, survived the nasty blow with limited loss and little damage. Brendal Stevens (a recipient of the Platinum Pro Instructor 5000 Award) and wife Mary run the center. At this time they are an excellent source for post-Dorian information. The dive center is a full-service PADI 5-star facility and will be operational with new, exciting dive packages before the end of the year. While the cave and canyon dives are among the primary draws, even non-divers can enjoy the beauty snorkeling among huge groupers, tarpon and clusters of big sponges. Diving is only the beginning. The area is full of exciting activities such as island picnics with fresh conch (pronounced konk), and there's swimming with the pigs, sunset booze cruises, and interesting daytrips to other nearby islands such as Guana Cay, Man-O-War Cay, and Elbow Cay with its red-and-white striped lighthouse. Popular resorts favored by divers include Bluff House, Green Turtle Cay, Leeward Yacht Club, and Treasure Cay Resort. A little south the lush lies Marsh Harbour on the mainland, and Hope Town on Elbow Cay. Diving in Marsh Harbour is a popular activity. The preferred accommodations included the Abaco Beach Resort in Marsh Harbour, and Hope Town Inn on Elbow Cay.

(Editor's Note: If you need help contacting or gathering information, feel free to email our editor at: robert.mmglog@gmail.com.

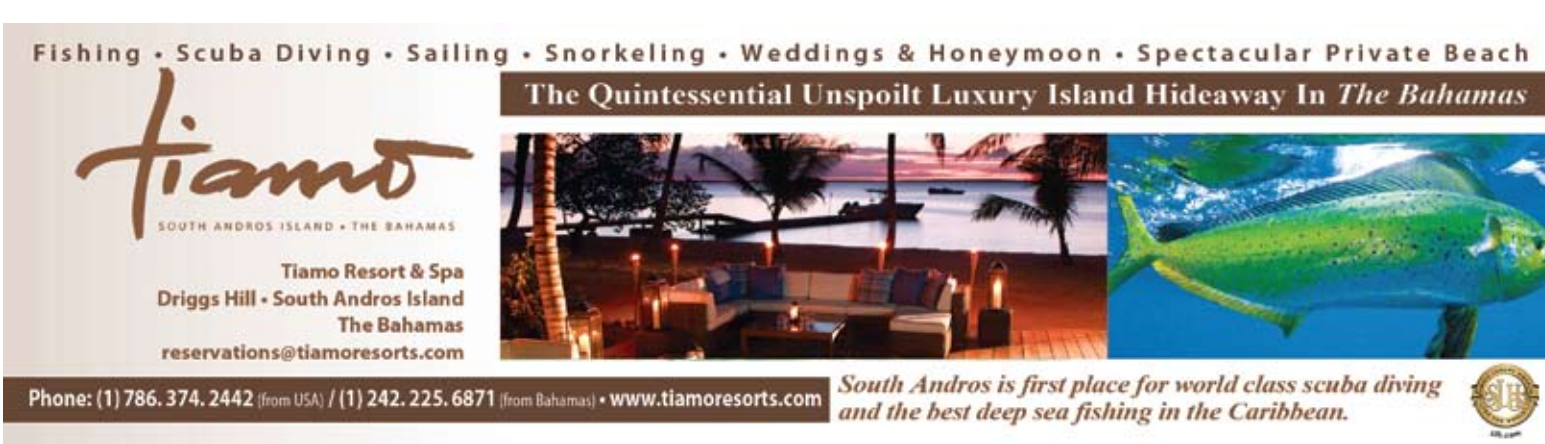
ANDROS ISLANDS: With more than 700 major and lesser islands boasting pristine waters and a water wonderland of marine life, Andros the largest of all islands is still on every divers' "bucket list." Here divers and snorkelers alike are all but guaranteed to find an exciting array of underwater sites pleasing virtually diver's at any level of experience. Reef systems resembling beautiful underwater gardens are among the best on the planet. Steep walls drop thousands-of-feet into darkness, and each is lushly adorned with marine life. And super-sized animals make their presence known at every destination -- many close enough for real close-up photos.

Beginning in only a few feet of water, the famed Andros Reef parallels the islands east coast for almost 190 miles, rising to the surface and then falling abruptly. The water can be so clear that anything less than 75 feet of visibility is considered poor. Blessed with a plethora of marine life and exotic creatures living on the shallow reefs all but guarantees divers an amazing and colorful dive experience. Many other creatures and large animals live in the deeper waters where less sunlight penetrates, and Jeff Birch at Small Hope Bay Lodge on Andros Island says divers can take advantage of a two-step process to develop the skills needed to experience those depths. "The first thing we offer is recreational diving from the shallows down to 185 feet. The second is further training aimed at getting recreational divers prepared for the blue holes and big walls found in deeper waters," he says. Relatively few people get to see these extreme depths except on a television screen, but the first-hand experience is amazing, especially when divers encounter sponges so big you can hide inside.

Moving south along the ragged coastline and paralleling reef diving is just as diversified but a little less busy. The beauty of the reef intensifies in these lesser traveled waters and the animals seem to get bigger and the drop-offs deeper. In the middle of all this, only a short boat ride away, sits Tiamo Resort & Dive Center. The amazing underwater world includes easy access to the barrier reef, ship wrecks, tidal blue holes, an exciting variety of marine life -- all bordering the 6,000 foot deep Tongue-of-the-Ocean. Accommodations are suitable for even the most discriminating traveler, the PADI 5-Star Dive Center sits next to the gift shop, and only steps away is an impressive array of water toys such as gas kayaks, transparent kayaks, paddle boards, trimarans, and Hobie Cats. Scheduled air service is good, the private villas are first-class, and the food is excellent.

BIMINI: Every sportsman knows Bimini and the legendary stories of Ernst Hemingway, but fewer know about the world-class diving found here. On the other hand, if you watch Shark Week you certainly know Bimini and its reputation for shark diving, especially with big hammerheads. Away from sharks and the rum-drum way of legends, another interested group of intellectuals are convinced the huge underwater structure known locally as The Bimini Road, is actually the remains of the Lost City of Atlantis. Then again, probably the biggest attraction bringing visitors to Bimini is the close proximity to the USA. The simple fact is... the island is only 50 miles east of Miami, and easily accessible by boat and commercial flights.

Beth Watson at the Bimini Big Game Club agrees that all are big attractions, but the resort's most popular excursion is the wild dolphin experience. Neal Watson's Bimini Sub Center is the licensed dive operator here, and it's their dive boats that cruise local waters looking for pods of these marine mammals. Most dolphins encountered are Atlantic spotted dolphins, common near the Gulf Stream and a little smaller than the bottle-nosed dolphins found in captive animal facilities. Dolphin encounters are especially popular with children, who are fascinated by the way the dolphins often mimic the spins, twists and turns of their guests at the club enjoy the cruise to nearby Honeymoon Island for the stingray experience. But for most

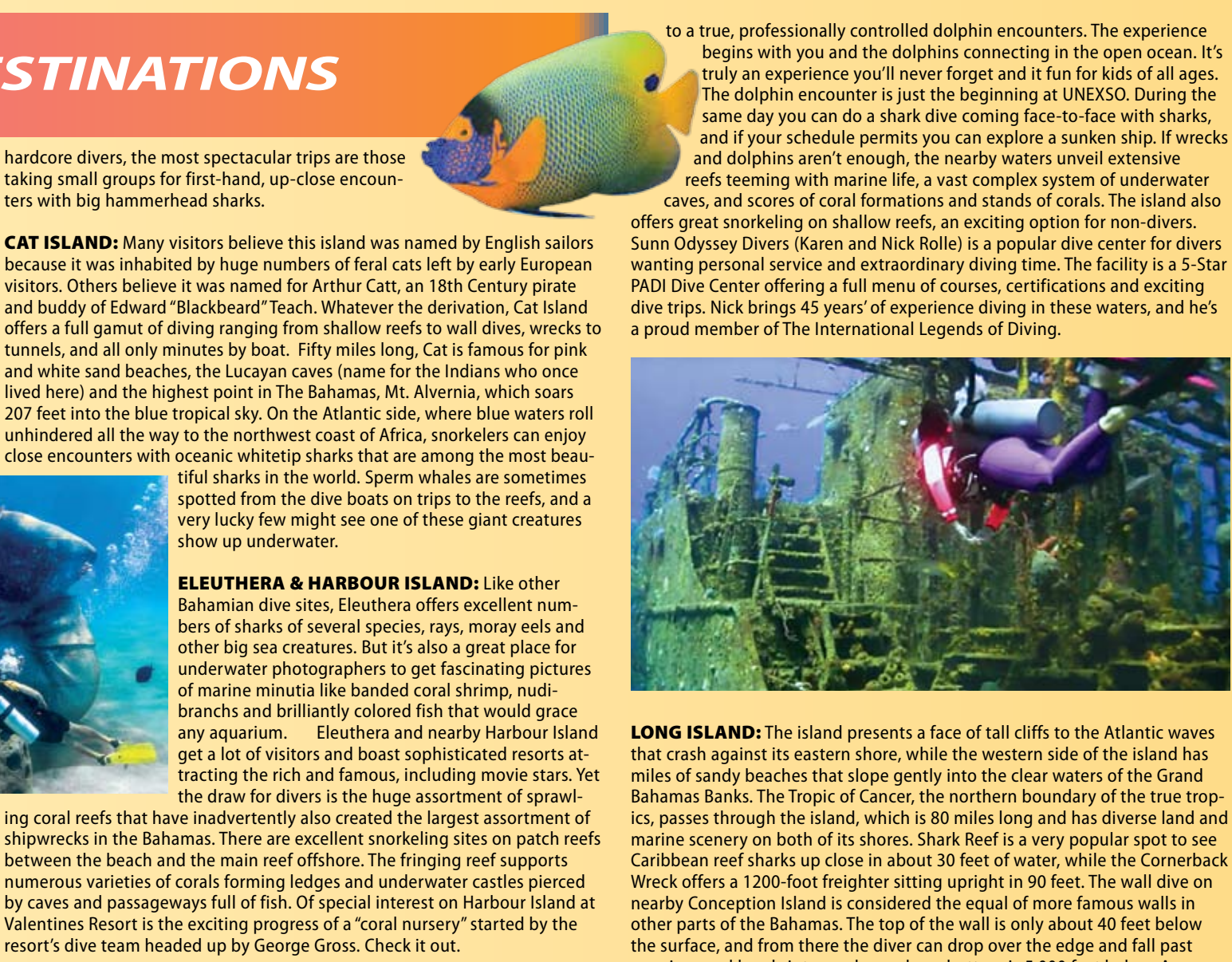


tiamo
SOUTH ANDROS ISLAND • THE BAHAMAS

Tiamo Resort & Spa
Driggs Hill • South Andros Island
The Bahamas
reservations@tiamoresorts.com

Phone: (1) 786.374.2442 (from USA) | (1) 242.225.6871 (from Bahamas) • www.tiamoresorts.com

South Andros is first place for world class scuba diving and the best deep sea fishing in the Caribbean.



10 UNIQUE DESTINATIONS

CAT ISLAND: Many visitors believe this island was named by English sailors because it was inhabited by huge numbers of feral cats by early European visitors. Others believe it was named for Arthur Catt, an 18th-century pirate and buddy of Edward "Blackbeard" Teach. Whatever the derivation, Cat Island offers a full gamut of diving ranging from shallow reefs to wall dives, wrecks to tunnels, and all only minutes by boat. Fifty miles long, Cat is famous for pink and white sand beaches, the Lucayan caves (name for the Indians who once lived here) and the highest point in The Bahamas, Mt. Alvernia, which soars 207 feet into the blue tropical sky. On the Atlantic side, where blue waters lap unhindered all the way to the northwest coast of Africa, snorkelers can enjoy close encounters with oceanic whitetip sharks that are among the most beautiful sharks in the world. Sperm whales are sometimes spotted from the dive boats on trips to the reefs, and a very lucky few might see one of these giant creatures show up underwater.

ELEUTHERA & HARBOUR ISLAND: Like other Bahamian dive sites, Eleuthera offers excellent numbers of sharks of several species, rays, moray eels and other big sea creatures. But it's also a great place for underwater photographers to get fascinating pictures of marine minutia like banded coral shrimp, nudibranchs and brilliantly colored fish that never grace any aquarium. Eleuthera and nearby Harbour Island get a lot of visitors and boast sophisticated resorts attracting the rich and famous, including movie stars. Yet the draw for divers is the huge assortment of sprawling coral reefs that have inadvertently also created the largest assortment of shipwrecks in the Bahamas. There are excellent snorkeling sites on patch reefs off the beach and the main reef offshore. The fringing reef supports numerous varieties of corals forming ledges and underwater castles pierced by caves and passageways full of fish. Off special interest on Harbour Island at Valentines Resort is the exciting prospect of a "coral nursery" started by the resort's dive team headed up by George Gross. Check it out.

EXUMA ISLANDS: About half of all cays and islets in The Bahamas are found in Exuma, and all are surrounded by some of the clearest waters on Earth. Visitors (especially celebrities) love this area because of its seclusion and a laid-back atmosphere. For divers, the attraction is the enormous areas of unspoiled coral reefs packed with dense populations of fish. Angel



Cave, Mystery Cave, and nearby blue holes only make it better. Jacques Cousteau and his team were here too. They proved Mystery Cave is connected through underwater tunnels to a terrestrial sinkhole, but penetrating its great depth is only for experts. Pillar Wall is excellent dive for the less adventurous, and Amberjack Reef is a popular spot to see large groupers and other species in various shapes and sizes. Not far away, Flat Rock Reef is alive with fantastic numbers of small, colorful fish.

Staniel Cay Yacht Club is absolutely well worth a visit, maybe for a few days. The club's dive center offers amazing dive and snorkeling trips, available for kids and adults. But the real draw here is discovering all the activities and natural beauty enjoyed by non-divers and families traveling together. Stand-up paddle boarding is currently one of the hottest sports on the water at Staniel. Other popular excursions include swimming with the docile nurse sharks around Staniel Cay, and kids are fascinated to see pigs swimming in the ocean at Big Major Cay. For divers and experienced snorkelers the big attraction is the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park -- one of the largest protected areas of ocean reefs on the planet. While here make sure to see the famed Thunderball Grotto -- the same beautiful formation which was featured in the James Bond movie Thunderball. Bring your camera!

GRAND BAHAMA: If you're a wreck junkie, this is the place to be. It's one of the best destinations for wreck diving, and most provide good photo options in clear waters. If not wrecks, there are plenty of other big attractions for both divers and snorkelers. Perhaps the biggest attraction on this island is the real opportunity to come and interact with dolphins. Located in the Port Lucaya area, UNEXSO is considered the industry leader when it comes



visit biminiscubacenter.com (242) 473 8816 to book

GRAND BAHAMA Expedition
Safari HAMMERHEAD Bimini Grand Bahama
two lifetime dives, same great operator



visit biminiscubacenter.com (242) 473 8816 to book

GRAND BAHAMA Expedition
Safari HAMMERHEAD Bimini Grand Bahama
two lifetime dives, same great operator



SWIM WITH DOLPHINS
the dolphin experience
UNEXSO
Grand Bahama Island

At our facility or in the open ocean or participate in our close encounter



DIVE INTO THE BLUE
UNDERWATER EXPLORERS SOCIETY
UNEXSO
Grand Bahama Island

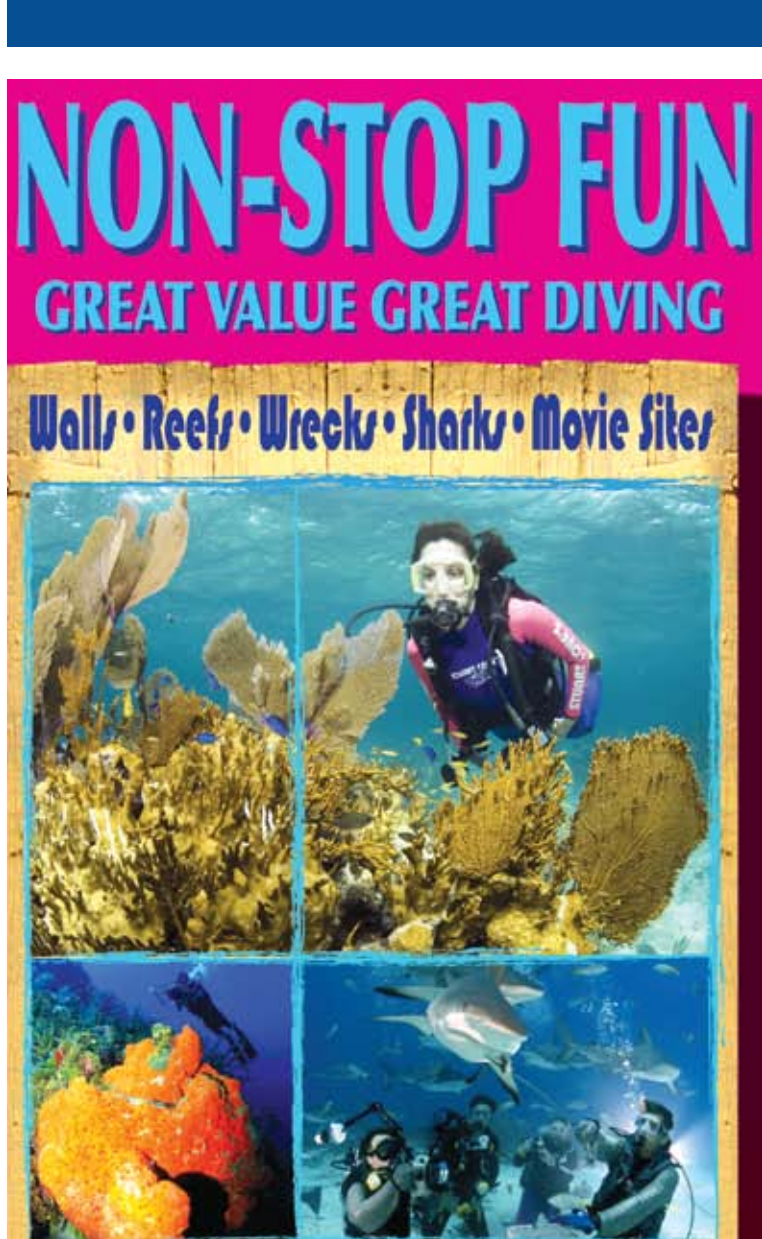
With our world renowned dive crew; explore wrecks, reefs and marine life



SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP
Sun & Sea
OUTFITTERS

Largest selection of swimwear, resort wear and souvenirs in Freeport

WE'VE GOT IT ALL AT UNEXSO



NON-STOP FUN
GREAT VALUE GREAT DIVING
Walls • Reefs • Wrecks • Sharks • Movie Sites



WE HAVE IT ALL IN NASSAU!
Stare Into the Eyes of a Shark
Slide Down a Vertical Wall
Explore Shipwrecks
Be James Bond for a Day

STUART COVE'S DIVE Bahamas
800.879.9852
www.stuartcove.com
info@stuartcove.com
Be/ou • Bahamas