



EXPLORE BEYOND

shipwrecks and secret caverns to swimming with wild dolphins and diving legendary blue no wonder that, year after year, serious divers the best dive destinations in the world.





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Map Key

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It's Bigger In The Bahamas

Since 1994, Scuba Diving Magazine has surveyed thousands of their readers each year to determine their exclusive Top 100 Readers' Choice Awards and Gold List. Year-after-year (in the Caribbean/Atlantic region) The Islands Of The Bahamas not only secured the #1 ranked spot for Big Animals, but also received top awards in many other dive categories. When recents awards were tallied and presented. The Bahamas once again walked away with the #1 spot for Diving with Big Animals and Wreck Diving as well as many other top awards such as

- Canyons
- Photography
- Free Diving Beginner Diving



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is diving in The Islands of The Bahamas better? we also offer the world's third largest barrier reef. It runs parallel to Andros Island and vou can snorkel on one side and "drop off" on the other. We also have 360 blue holes of which 160 are found on Andros. With virtually no runoff, nearly all rainfall is absorbed by porous limestone islands. Sedimentation is minimal creating some of the clearest tropical waters in the world. Divers can expect visibility beyond 150 ft. year-round with the very best visibility often found immediately after a winter or eastern front has moved through. During these periods, the sea can become flat calm and visibility can exceed beyond 200 feet. 2. Do I have to be certified to dive in The Bahamas? No. All BDA operators offer learn to dive courses for non-divers. Certified divers will enjoy more dive sites, but there is great diving 3. What types of dives do The Bahamas offer?

for divers and non-divers alike.

Dolphin Encounters, Wreck Diving, Shallow Reefs, Wall Dives, Blue

Holes, Caverns, Live-aboard Diving & Splendid World-class Drop-Offs, Sharks Encounters - offered in a control environment where feeders are typically fit with a chain mail suit, allowing for close-up feeding. There are various types of encounters, ranging from hand-feeding to pole spear to chum-ball feeds. Check with each dive operator for current style and type of shark encounters offered.

4. Can I go snorkeling off the beach?

5. What is the average temperature range in The Bahamas?

6. Do Bahamian dive operators offer Nitrox dives?

7. Can I go spearfishing in The Bahamas

Hawaiian sling. The use of power spear guns at anytime is against

8. Can divers get their own tanks filled in The Bahamas?

9. Are there any operators geared for handicapped persons? Yes... Many operations offer accommodations for special needs divers, please check with each operation for specific accommoda-

10. Are marriages performed underwater?

11. Do I need a visa to enter The Bahamas? USA and Canadian citizens (and many other countries) do not

require a visa for typical dive vacation. Visit our website at **Bahamas.com** for detailed information regarding your specific country.

MAYAGUANA

ISLAND

LITTLE INAGUA

No, but during the months of November-February a 3 Millimeters neoprene full length wet suit is suggested but not required.

13. Where is the nearest recompression chamber located? pending on your dive location, recompression chambers in Miami.

For Information On Our Instant Air

Credit Visit Bahamas.Com/Diving.

SAN SALVADOR **COCKBURN TOWI**

RUM CAY

CONCEPTION ISLAND

NOTE: This map is not to scale and is intended for use

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JUMENTOS

The Islands Of The

FLAMINGO CAY

SEAL CAY

NURSE CAY

RAGGED

ISLANDS

CAY VERDE

CAYS

ISLAND

COLONEL HILL

HOGSTY REEF

SAMANA

CAY

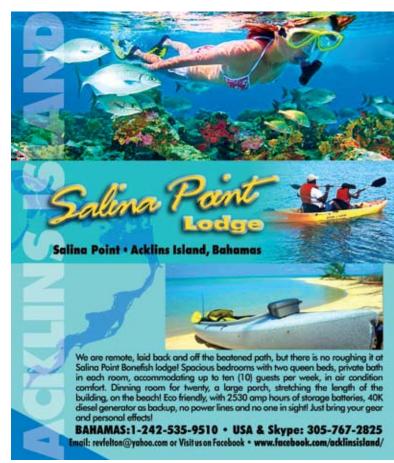
ISLAND

ISLAND

GREAT INAGUA

PLANA

CAY





Perfect for families, groups, and individuals. We have great diving for all experience levels! Blue Holes, Sharks, Caverns, Walls, Wrecks,

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

A WORLD OF DIVERSITY & LARGE ANIMALS

Imagine a place with manta rays as wide as garage doors, sea turtles the size with a colorful variety of invertebrates and sponges. Not far away sharks roam of a kitchen tables, and giant groupers with mouths big enough to swallow the ship David Tucker at Shark Wall, and off Paradise Island the "De La Salle," oil drums. What about those rare times when you see a giant tuna, maybe a 120-foot freighter sitting upright like a ghost ship on a forgotten course. a blue marlin, or even a huge whale in its own oceanic environment -- all Abaco also has interesting medium-depth wrecks such as the "Violet Mitchell" once-in-a-lifetime photos waiting to be taken? These are some of the ex- and the British-built steamer "SS Viceroy" which was transporting coal from traordinary encounters with big animals that make diving in The Bahamas Philadelphia to Havana in 1896 when it hit a reef and sunk in about 45 feet an experience shared by few places on Earth.

rarity and routinely award The Bahamas as the No. 1 destination for such ally are in better condition. experiences. And it's not just the abundance of the super-sized creatures. where 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 bedand-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 ter. Many sites offer a unique opportunity to observe sharks eye-to-eye in most common are the Caribbean reef sharks found in nearly every habitat. their natural environment. Shark dives vary from casual swims and observabut several places have large populations of hammerhead species, includion to heart-pounding experiences offering close-up action and amazing ing great hammerheads that exceed 10 feet. Tiger sharks are often found photo opportunities. Not all shark dives in involve feeding. Many dives proover the banks. Something the Bahamian shark encounters have taught divide viewing encounters with large sharks such as scalloped hammerheads, ers everywhere is that sharks are relatively peaceful creatures that feed on oceanic whitecaps, reef sharks, tiger sharks and huge whale sharks. And if the animals much smaller than humans. They rarely pose a threat to someone silhouette of a large shark sets your heart hammering, imagine the excite-

Dolphin Encounters... Several dive operators who run trips in open waters specialize in locating schools of spotted and bottlenose dolphins, animals that have fascinated humans for thousands of years. Many of these dive operators can put people in contact with dolphins in waters so shallow that snorkeling can be a more effective way to interact with them than scuba gear. On Grand Bahama and Paradise Islands, the uncertainty factor in finding dolphins is eliminated by operators who offer a Trained Open Water Encounters, Divers, snorkelers and even waders are introduced to dolphins that have been taught to enter a controlled environment that allows one-on-one encounters. Advanced training programs even give students the opportunity to qualify as assistant dolphin trainers. With more than 700 islands,

2,000 islets and cavs and 1,000 charted dive sites. The Bahamas offer nearly unlimited opportunities to get face-to-face with some of the largest sea-going animals on the planet. Goliath grouper, the largest species of their kind, often exceed 600 pounds. And while they aren't encountered on every dive, The Bahamas does have good number of whale sharks that can exceed 30 feet and 20 tons. Diving the 5,000

imes brings sightings of huge blue marlin nd eagle rays with wingspans exceeding six feet. And if you're one of those very lucky divers you might encounter gigantic sperm whales, some exceeding 60 feet, loafing near the surface where divers can listen to the amazing collection of clicks, buzzes and whistles as themselves. Sea turtles are long-lived marine reptiles that spend the

foot-waters in places such as the Tongue Of The Ocean

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.

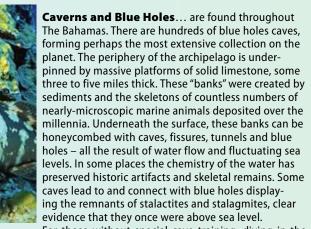
A History of Ship Wrecks... The Bahamian people have lived by and from the ocean for centuries. They know the cobalt-blue waters can also be a cruel companion. Reefs and shallows are littered with thousands of shipwrecks, some centuries old. Because most ships perished by running aground on a reef, shallow 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 Sapona sitting near Bimini (acclaimed as one of the best shallow-water wrecks in the world), the Cienth the protection of their nooks and crannies. In turn, that draws large numbers fuegos just off Eleuthera and the Frascate, sunk near San Salvador in 1902. of baitfish and colorful reef fish. The smaller fish draw their own predators in More than a dozen wrecks, some in only 15 feet of water, lie just off Nassau. steadily increasing sizes, and the outside edges of the walls are good place to Some were intentionally sunk as underwater movie sets. The latter includes find massive grouper, numerous species of sharks. Every wall is similar but the the popular dive site for the James Bond film, "Thunderball" -- now encruste profiles, shapes, size, species and predominant colors vary from site to site.

of water. (Note: some of these wrecks may have shifted or moved during Hur-For nearly two decades dive and travel magazines have recognized this ricane Dorian.) Deeper wrecks, which lie below the surge effect of storms, usu-

In exceptionally clear waters, there is a real thrill in spotting a large wreck from It's also the warm, clear waters and high safety standards that diving here a distance and swimming to it. Theo's Wreck, a 228-foot freighter in about 100 such a pleasure, and so safe. This is where ocean waters range from about feet of water off Grand Bahama is an excellent example. The cavernous cargo 73 degrees in the winter, to the mid-80s in summer. Equally appealing is hold is encrusted with sponges and black corals and is inhabited by a variety the amazing visibility underwater sometimes reaching 150 feet. The clean, of large fish. South near Long Island, the site of the freighter "Comberbach," warm water is ideal for the growth of coral, sponges and other invertebrate sits intact and upright in about 100 feet and shows an old bus in the forward life. Thousands of square miles of reefs and coral walls can be found everythe 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 underwament of swimming with dozens!



For those without special cave training, diving in the 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 experi-

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 point on any Bahamian island is just above 200 feet, 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, prized 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

10 UNIQUE DESTINATIONS

ABACO: Stretching from north to south, the Abaco Islands are the northern hardcore divers, the most spectacular trips are those 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 ing. 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 Plati-

num 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 fullservice 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 Club, Leeward Yacht Club, and Treasure Cay Resort. A little to the south lies Marsh Harbour on the mainland, and Hope Town on Elbow Cay. Diving this part of Abaco continues to be excellent and 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.mmgl@gmail.com.

ANDROS ISLAND: 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 s 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 those extreme depths except on a television screen, but the firsthand 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 here 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 sea 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-dum 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 bring 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 Scuba 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, twirls and dives of snorkelers. Other quests at the club enjoy the cruise to nearby Honeymoon Island for the stingray experience. But for most taking small groups for first-hand, up-close encounters with big hammerhead sharks.

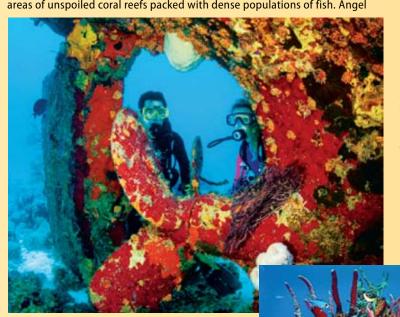
CAT ISLAND: Many visitors believe this island was named by English sailors because it was inhabited by huge numbers of feral cats left by early European the resort properties are closed and don't have an exact schedule for reopen-visitors. Others believe it was named for Arthur Catt, an 18th Century 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 Lucavan 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 roll 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 would 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 sprawl-

ing coral reefs that have inadvertently also created the largest assortment of shipwrecks in the Bahamas. There are excellent snorkeling sites on patch reefs between 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. Of special interest on Harbour Island at Valentines Resort is the exciting progress 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 varied 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 Cav. 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

to a true, professionally controlled dolphin encounters. The experience begins with you and the dolphins connecting in the open ocean. It's truly an experience you'll never forget and it fun for kids of all ages. The dolphin encounter is just the beginning at UNEXSO. During the same day you can do a shark dive coming face-to-face with sharks, and if your schedule permits you can explore a sunken ship. If wrecks and dolphins aren't enough, the nearby waters unveil extensive reefs teeming with marine life, a vast complex system of underwater caves, and scores of coral formations and stands of corals. The island also offers great snorkeling on shallow reefs, an exciting option for non-divers. Sunn Odyssey Divers (Karen and Nick Rolle) is a popular dive center for divers wanting personal service and extraordinary diving time. The facility is a 5-Star PADI Dive Center offering a full menu of courses, certifications and exciting dive trips. Nick brings 45 years' of experience diving in these waters, and he's a proud member of The International Legends of Diving.



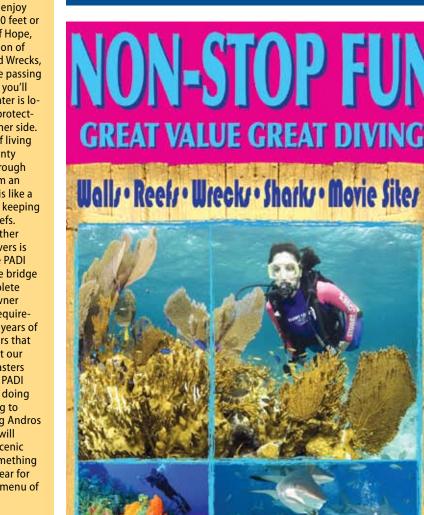
LONG ISLAND: The island presents a face of tall cliffs to the Atlantic waves that crash against its eastern shore, while the western side of the island has miles of sandy beaches that slope gently into the clear waters of the Grand Bahamas Banks. The Tropic of Cancer, the northern boundary of the true tropics, passes through the island, which is 80 miles long and has diverse land and marine scenery on both of its shores. Shark Reef is a very popular spot to see Caribbean reef sharks up close in about 30 feet of water, while the Cornerback Wreck offers a 1200-foot freighter sitting upright in 90 feet. The wall dive on nearby Conception Island is considered the equal of more famous walls in other parts of the Bahamas. The top of the wall is only about 40 feet below the surface, and from there the diver can drop over the edge and fall past massive coral heads into an abyss whose bottom is 5,000 feet below. Anyone who likes diving in the blue holes will find Dean's Blue Hole a must. The deep est known of these amazing underwater sinkholes, Dean's Blue Hole is more than 660 feet deep, the site of numerous free diving record attempts.

NASSAU & PARADISE ISLAND: The heart of the Bahamas is the national capitol of Nassau on New Providence Island. Both divers and snorkelers enjoy this island because so many of the nearby reefs are in shallow water -- 20 feet or less. But serious divers will be more interested in sites such as the Ray of Hope. large freighter that sits in 40-60 feet off water with a resident population of sharks, jacks and grouper. There's also the Cessna wreck, the James Bond Wrecks, and plenty of walls along the Tongue of the Ocean where divers may see passing tunas or billfish wandering through the abyss-like tongue. This is where you'll find the internationally known Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas. The dive center is located on the lee side of the island meaning many nearby dive sites are protected from winds and storms that occasionally stir up the waters on the other side. The center also has dedicated snorkel excursions to undersea gardens of living corals, reefs alive with tropical marine life, and sites where you'll see plenty of sharks. Non-divers can also enjoy deeper, more interesting depths through Cove's unique SNUBA system where air is supplied to your regulator from an overhead support raft... or for real fun-seekers, book a mini-sub which is like a self-contained underwater motorcycle with a large two foot clear dome keeping your head perfectly dry throughout your ride around the underwater reefs. Across the island, within walking distance of Paradise Island, sits another

excellent dive center. Servicing divers for almost 45 years, Bahamas Divers is one of the oldest dive operators in all The Bahamas. The PADI Dive Center it's located on East Bay Street just across the bridge om Paradise Island. This is a full-service center is complete rith a well-stocked boutique and lots of rental gear. Owner Matt Whitehead says: "We try our hardest to meet the requirenents of all our valued guests and have turned 40-plus years of iving into a family of avid divers and satisfied customers that return year-after-year. We strive for safety and insist that our "Dive Team" members are industry trained PADI Dive Masters or equivalent." Offering a full range exciting diving and PADI courses, Bahama Divers also is one of the few operators doing egular dive trips to the eerie Blue Holes, and is planning to offer overnight trips to the famed barrier reef paralleling Andro Those wanting a fun, easy activity for the whole family will njoy one of their half-day snorkel trips to a variety of scenic tes found in shallow, protected waters. If you need something special, the retail dive shop offers last minute repairs, top-of-the-line gear for sale, and a nice array of beach and boating apparel, and an interesting menu of

SAN SALVADOR: There's an underwater monument that claims to be the spot where one of Columbus' ships dropped her first anchor. No one but Columbus can confirm the claim about the first landing, but sayvy divers know San Salvador draws a lot of big hammerhead sharks through the winter months. Although they look intimidating and spooky, they're not normally aggressive. A wonderful place to see large numbers of big rays of various species is at Vicky's Reef. But what really draws most divers here are more than 50 well-known wall dives, and most of them are along San Salvador's 12-mile leeward side. That's important, because it means that divers here rarely encounte rough water, and the boat trips to most dive sites are measured in minutes. The top of the wall here is often only 35 feet deep, and the meandering corals create about 20 miles of underwater architecture for divers to explore. Divers will find more than 30 moored dive sites along the 12-mile leeward coastline; each offering some of the most underrated wall diving on the planet

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