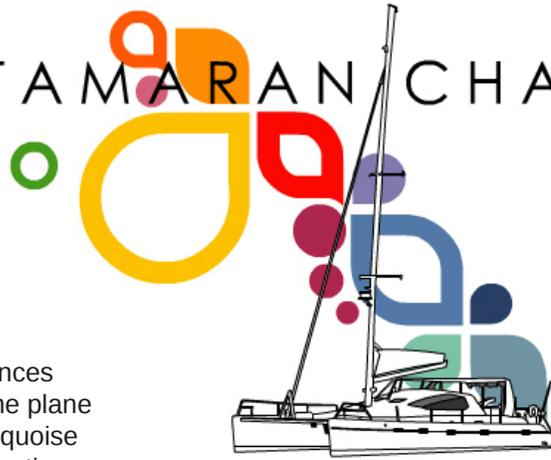


BAHAMAS CATAMARAN CHARTERS



7 day Exuma Catamaran Charter Itinerary Staniel to Nassau

Day 1 Flying into Staniel Cay has to be one of the most amazing, unforgettable experiences anyone can have when you look out the window of the plane and see thousands of small islands floating in the turquoise sparkling waters of the Bahamas. Let your sailing vacation begin! When your plane lands in Staniel Cay we will be there to pick you up. A short ride by golf cart will bring you to Staniel Cay Yacht Club. Here your catamaran will be waiting for you, fully stocked for a week in the pristine islands of the Exumas. Once you have settled into the boat, you'll begin to relax and enjoy the island life. Staniel Cay Yacht Club has a fresh water pool where you can cool off and relax. Take the golf carts for a ride and explore the island and find a secluded beach. In the evening the yacht club is open for socializing and is one of the two great restaurants to dine at in the Exumas.

Day 2 After breakfast we leave the dock for a short ride to Thunderball Grotto. This hollowed out cay is an exceptional snorkel spot and is the name sake and filming spot for the James Bond movie, "Thunderball". A short ride north and we get to Big Major. This island is home to the swimming pigs. We can feed them from the dinghy as they swim out to meet us. Our first night on anchor is the southern end of the Exumas Land and Sea Park just off the beach of Cambridge Cay.

Day 3 From the south end of the Park we arrive at some of the best snorkeling and beaches in the Caribbean. One of my favorites is a short dinghy ride through the cays to a site, named for the diverse multitude of fish, the "Aquarium", which certainly lives up to its name. It's a very colorful reef teeming with life in the sanctuary of the park. There are several great beaches to explore, numerous snorkeling opportunities, and, if you would like to feed the sharks at Compass Cay, we can take you to its famous marina. A short trip north will bring us to the Warderick Wells Land and Sea Park headquarters. The Park headquarters is located at the island of Warderick Wells and is a great place to put on your hiking shoes and explore the well marked trails. Two points not to miss are the sperm whale skeleton and Boo Boo Hill.

Day 4 There are two things the Exumas surpass almost anywhere in the Caribbean: beaches and marine life in crystal clear water. Our next stop is Hawksbill Cay. Traveling north by dinghy, we go over the northern cut where the landscapes open up, and for miles all you see is shallow water and white sand beaches. Many clients say all we needed to do was take them here every day and they would have been happy and content. As the tide comes and goes the sun reflects on small pools of water with ever changing contrast of blues. After lunch we set off to Shroud Cay. This cay is home to a large mangrove estuary. The water enters from small creeks on the east and west. One creek is navigable. We enter it by dinghy and cross through the cay, navigating through the shallow winding creek. On the east side is again a beautiful beach, which on a falling tide, has a narrow cut where the falling water will rush you out to sea. A shallow delta lies just outside where the current dissipates and the water is just a couple of feet deep.



Day 5 So far we have mostly been in the Park where fishing, lobstering, and conching is not allowed. By the middle of the day we will be in great water to catch a fish or lobster for dinner. For guests who are certified divers this is also a great place to dive. As we head north we can take a cut bringing us out to the deep water and wall of the Exuma Sound. The drop off is an area rich in large fish. We can drop the lines in the water or drop in the water on scuba. It's common to catch mahi mahi, tuna, and with any luck a wahoo. Eight miles north and we are at Normans Cay. Normans has a plane wreck in shallow water. Over the years it has become covered in coral. It's a great place to snorkel and because it is so shallow it's a great place for taking quality underwater pictures. From the anchorage we can follow the ledges in shallow water with the dingy and free dive to catch our own lobsters. It's great to catch them but even better to serve them up on the boat as the sun sets.

Day 6 Our next stop is Highbourne Cay. Highbourne Cay has great anchorages and also a very nice marina. By dinghy we can catch conch, scuba dive, snorkel, kayak and explore the beaches. Many guests like to stay at the dock for the night and dine at one of the best restaurants in the Bahamas. "Exumas" restaurant has an outstanding view and some of the best food and service in all the Bahamas.

Day 7 Allen's Cay is actually several cays which form a protected lagoon. In the morning we anchor the catamaran in very shallow water just off the beach. Two of the islands are home to endangered iguanas. They like to be fed, so we take them a little fresh fruit and get a photo opportunity. During the afternoon we stop at Ships Channel Cay for another snorkel and lobster opportunity. If you like we can have a bon fire on the beach or we can sail further north closer to Nassau for an evening on the town. If choosing the former, sailing northwest, we'll travel 38 miles back to Nassau across the Yellow Bank. The bank is shallow and midway has many coral heads. In calm weather it's nice to stop and have a final snorkel on one of these coral heads. If we are lucky finding conch we'll make a nice conch salad on the way back and recap the week.

Last Morning on the boat: After a awesome week it's good to take some time after breakfast to recap the week. I like to open up the charts one last time and go over all the places we've experienced. Every week is a little different. Each group goes their own direction, and although we have an idea of where we would like to go, the weather, group, and journey lead us on a slightly different path each week. There are more than 300 cays in the Exumas and each trip we find something new. It's why you'll keep coming back!

