

# The Bahamas

## Trip Information

**Embarkation:** Bradford Marine, Freeport, Bahamas @ 15:00 pm

**Disembarkation:** Bradford Marine, Freeport, Bahamas @ 10:00 am

**Arrival airport:** Grand Bahama International Airport, Freeport (FPO)

**Departure airport:** Grand Bahama International Airport, Freeport (FPO)

## Flights, Hotels, Transfers, Excursions and Insurance

Traveling to/from and within the Bahamas can be made exceptionally easy when you book with Master Liveaboards. We offer a range of domestic flights, hotels, transfers and short excursions that can be arranged before or after your diving holiday.

### Advice on International Flights

We recommend that you book your international flight to and from Freeport (FPO), which is served by several airlines, such as American Airlines via Miami, Delta Airlines via Atlanta and Bahamasair via Fort Lauderdale. Ideally, you would arrive at the Bahamas one day in advance of your cruise departure so you can start your diving holidays well rested. Normally, embarkation is at 1 pm and disembarkation at 10 am. If you do not remain for any additional nights after your diving holiday, please allow plenty of time for the transfer to the airport and check in.

### Optional Bahamas package

To extend your luxury feeling and pamper you a little extra we can offer you the following package. We will organise your transfers to and from the airport, as well as to and from the Bahamas Master, and book the hotel of your choice in Freeport for your first and last night before and after your diving holiday. Please contact our reservations team at [info@masterliveaboards.com](mailto:info@masterliveaboards.com)



## Excursions

- Swimming with the pigs - Exumas - full day trip incl. lunch and snorkeling in various places: 285 USD pp.
- Jeep safari on Grand Bahama Island - 5.5hr through pineforest, Lucayan caves and Gold Rock Beach: 98 USD pp.
- Lucayan National Park & Kayak nature tour - 4hr, fully guided, suitable for all ages, incl lunch and beach/swim time: 98 USD pp.
- Off-Road ATV, Tropical Garden & Beach Break - 5 hr, curvy trail through natural vegetation. Enjoy a scenic ride along waterway with beautiful vistas. Introduction into the environment and history of the island. Spend some time at the tropical Garden of the Groves and enjoy the beach at a private beach club: 98 USD pp.

## Insurance

Master Liveboards strongly recommend that all guests carry full travel and cancellation insurance as we cannot be held liable for delays which occur during the cruise, nor any delays or cancellations of the flights, accommodation, tours and transfers we organise on your behalf. Master Liveboards works in partnership with DiveAssure and can offer you a selection of competitively priced dive and travel insurance policies, including short term and multiple trip policies. We recommend the comprehensive insurance plan Dive & Travel Plus; which has been specifically developed for diving liveaboard holidays. This insurance covers your trip expenses in the event of missing your liveaboard departure due to (flight) delays. Moreover, it provides coverage for lost diving days if for any reason the boat is required to abort the cruise; for instance, due to a guest injury, mechanical breakdown of the ship, air supply failure, inclement weather conditions, etc. Please consult our webpage: [www.masterliveboards.com/insurance](http://www.masterliveboards.com/insurance) or contact our reservations team at [info@masterliveboards.com](mailto:info@masterliveboards.com).



# General Information

## Visa and Passports

No visa is required for entering the Bahamas for EU countries, Canada and most other Western countries. However, we always recommend to our guests to check for updates and changes with their nearest Bahamas embassy or consulate. If you are transiting through the United States, you may need a visa depending on your nationality. Please check the following webpage: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/> for more information. Ensure that your passport has validity of at least 3-6 months depending on nationality beyond the period you intend to stay in the Bahamas. If you are traveling with medication, please ensure to bring your physician's prescription with you.

## Time Zone

The local time is 4 hours behind UTC (GMT).

## Money Matters

The local currency in the Bahamas is the Bahamian Dollar (BSD) and it is pegged to the US Dollar (1BSD = 1 USD). Most forms of payment are accepted: international credit cards, all legal bank notes, traveller's cheques. There are ATMs on most islands.

## Airport Tax

Passengers travelling out of the Bahamas via Freeport, Grand Bahama Airport (FPO) are charged departure tax of BSD \$ 18.

## Health

In the Bahamas, medical care is generally very satisfactory and medical facilities are comparable to what you would find in most developed countries. The most modern facilities are located in Nassau and Freeport, however, medical facilities can be found on virtually all islands. Please make sure you use insect repellent and cover exposed skin to prevent any insect borne diseases.



## Language and Religion

The official language of the Bahamas is English. The population is of mixed religion: 35% Baptist, 15% Anglican, 13% Roman Catholic and the final 37% of the population consists of other Christian beliefs and Buddhism.

## Climate and Weather

The climate of the Bahamas is a tropical savannah climate, with temperatures averaging between 25 and 32°C (77-90°F) all year round, with a light cooling down in the evening. The average ambient temperature is 27°C (80°F). November through April features mild temperatures, lots of sunshine and little rainfall, whereas from June through October, the rainy season, it is slightly more humid and warm.

## Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

Water temperatures range from 22°C in January and 28°C (72-84°F) in August. Most guests are comfortable diving in a 3mm or 5mm full wetsuit. However, your thermal protection should be based on your individual sensitivity and comfort. Guests who are more susceptible to cold, especially when doing multiple dives per day, should consider packing a thicker wetsuit and/or bringing a vest/hood.

## Drones

Drones can only be brought into the Bahamas with pre-approved permission. For more information, please visit: <http://www.bcaa.gov.bs>.



# Life on Board

## Food and Drink

All Master Liveboards yachts offer a choice of international and local cuisine, served buffet style, in the indoor air-conditioned dining area. We cater to special dietary requirements; please inform our reservations team prior to your trip to ensure we have plenty of dishes to suit your needs. A range of carbonated soft drinks, fruit juices, black, green and herbal teas are commonly available, as well as instant and freshly brewed coffee. A selection of fresh fruit is readily available, as well as some tasty treats, should you feel peckish in between meal times. Guests may also select beer, wine, or spirits from our cocktail bar for an additional fee.

## Clothing and Footwear

Whilst sojourning on our yacht, we recommend our guests to bring casual and comfortable clothes; swim wear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives. All Master Liveboards vessels are equipped with laundry facilities and our housekeeper is more than happy to launder your clothes during the trip. A nominal fee of 1.00 USD is charged per item irrespective of size/weight. We do request that guests respect the wishes of others by donning clothing for meal times. Most guests prefer to walk barefoot on board of our vessel; however, island visits may require sturdy sandals or cross-trainers.

## Electricity

On board of the Bahamas Master we have 110/60Hz sockets. There are universal adapters available however we do advise guests to bring their own to ensure you have the amount necessary.

## Smoking

Smoking on board is permitted in designated outdoor areas.



# Safety on Board

## Emergency Management & Equipment

All Master Liveboards crew members undergo rigorous training in emergency management procedures. A thorough boat safety briefing will be provided by your Cruise Director at the start of your trip during which all guests will be requested to participate in a life jacket drill. Further practice scenarios may be performed during your cruise to assist our crew in keeping their skills sharp. Each vessel is equipped with modern safety features such as automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication and emergency pumps.

## First Aid

Master Liveboard vessels are equipped with a fully stocked medical first aid kit for treating minor injuries and ailments as well as for assisting trained medical professionals in remote locations. Each yacht has a full complement of medical grade oxygen which can be administered to divers through DAN kits or unit specific attachments. You will also find on board an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which has been proven to greatly increase the survival rate in the eventuality of cardiac fibrillation. Our dive teams are all qualified emergency responders. Should you feel unwell at any point during your cruise, please seek the advice of your cruise director who will be able to assist you.

## Staying connected

We regret that we are unable to provide internet/wifi service on board Master Liveboard yachts. Many of our trips are in remote locations; therefore mobile phone/internet signal is usually poor or intermittent at best. The cost of calls made is determined by your service provider. We do have satellite phone communication on board which can be used by guests in the event of an emergency. Our out of office contact numbers can be found below, should your family need to contact you during the cruise. As previously mentioned however, this number is reserved for emergencies only.



# Payments on Board

## Marine and Port Fees

Marine Park and port fees are USD \$ 100 per person and must be paid on board.

## Optional Extras

Master Liveboards offer a range of services to make your stay on board even more enjoyable. We offer the following services for an additional fee:

- Nitrox - USD \$ 100-150
- Beer
- Wine (750ml bottle)
- Selection of spirits and cocktails
- Dive equipment rental
- Exclusive Master Liveboards merchandise: T-shirts, polo shirts, rash guards, nudi pointers, cargo shorts, etc.

All prices on board are quoted in USD; however, we also accept payment in Euro, GBP, and AUD. Guests are advised to bring from 300–500 USD (or equivalent currency) for any optional extras.

## Tipping

At Master Liveboards we believe that tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel that your crew has made your holiday extra special; then they will certainly appreciate a tip, in cash only please. An envelope will be provided for your convenience by your cruise director and gratuities then divided equally amongst all the crew, including the captain and dive guides.



# Diving Information

## Guests' Level of Diving

Master Liveboards welcomes everyone from non-divers to seasoned divers. Each destination has different diving conditions based on the season and time of the trip. Depth limits given by the Cruise Director must be followed. Whilst most of our trips are suitable for each and every experience level, there may be some dives offered that are not suitable for beginners. Your cruise director will be able to advise you whilst on board, however, if you have any concerns regarding the conditions of the destination you wish to visit then please contact your agent or the Master Liveboards reservations team.

## Scuba Equipment

Since some of the domestic airline carriers in the regions we operate have strict check-in luggage limits, all Master Liveboards vessels provide the rental equipment listed below for an additional fee. Please pre-book rental equipment upon booking your cruise, as it is subject to availability.

- Aqua Lung Wave BCD – not weight-integrated
- Aqua Lung Calypso Regulator - complete with alternate air source and depth/pressure gauge console
- Wetsuits – 3mm shorty
- Mask
- Fins - full foot or open heel and boots depending on destination
- 15 litre cylinder
- Underwater torch
- SMB (safety sausage) \*
- Dive computer\*

**\* Please note that the use of a dive computer and SMB is compulsory on our vessels. For your safety, Master Liveboards asks all guests to always dive within the limits of their dive computer and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.**

12 litre tanks, weight belts and weights are provided free of charge.





## **Underwater Photography and Videography**

Our vessels offer specialised features for underwater photographers and videographers, such as ample storage space, individual storage drawers for cameras and peripheral items and designated charging areas. Our crew is thoroughly trained in the handling of delicate camera equipment and will bring your cameras to/from the tenders for you.

## **Diving Health**

### **Flying after Diving**

Current studies show that you should wait at least 24 hours after multiple repetitive dives before you fly. Please bear this in mind before you book your onward international or domestic flights.

### **Diving Insurance**

Diving insurance is mandatory aboard all Master Liveaboards vessels, irrespective of destination. Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving and snorkeling activities, including the costs for recompression chamber treatment and emergency air evacuation.

Whilst many general travel insurance companies will cover scuba diving activities, they often fall short on recompression treatment or evacuation. Master Liveaboards strongly recommends purchasing diving-specific insurance and is working with DiveAssure to offer policies that cover everything our guests need. You can find more details at the following link on our website: [www.masterliveaboards.com/insurance.html](http://www.masterliveaboards.com/insurance.html).

### **Diving Emergencies**

In the unlikely event a dive accident occurs, there are two hyperbaric centres in the Bahamas; both are located in Nassau. We strongly urge that all guests dive well within recognised limits, follow Dive Guides' advice and, of course, purchase specific dive insurance before their trips.

Master Liveaboards can offer short-term diving insurance coverage (1-4 weeks), though we recommend that you contact our reservations team regarding insurance at least 1 week prior to your cruise departure date to ensure adequate time for arrangements.



## FAQs

If there are any questions that have not been answered then please visit our website at [www.masterliveboards.com/about-us/faqs](http://www.masterliveboards.com/about-us/faqs) or contact our reservations team at [bookings@masterliveboards.com](mailto:bookings@masterliveboards.com).

### Head Office

Worldwide Dive and Sail International

10/512 Moo 3

Tambon Vichit, 83000

Muang Phuket, Thailand

T TH: +66 (0) 76 367 444

F TH: +66 (0) 76 367 134

T UK: +44 (0) 208 099 2230

T USA: (Toll Free): +1 866 258 6398

W: [www.masterliveboards.com](http://www.masterliveboards.com)

E: [bookings@masterliveboards.com](mailto:bookings@masterliveboards.com)

Bahamas contact info



## What to Bring

The following is a check list of items that you should ensure to bring with you for your trip aboard a Master Liveaboards vessel.

### Passport

6 month validity & at least 2 empty pages for visa stickers and stamps

### Travel Documents

Flight tickets - International & Domestic; hotel booking; excursions

### Cash & Credit Card for emergencies

Recommended amount (additional to park & port fees): 250 - 500 USD

Airport Departure Tax in local currency

### Diving Certification & Logbook

Including Nitrox Card if certified & intending to use Nitrox

### Travel and Diving Insurance Documents

To include emergency medical evacuation

### Essential Diving Items

Dive computer with full battery

### Toiletries & Medications

Including sunscreen & insect repellent

Inform booking team of medical conditions

### Essential Clothing Items

Swim wear, hat and lightweight jacket

*Guests are strongly advised to carry essential items in hand luggage in case of lost or delayed luggage through International or Domestic Flights.*

