



Dancer Fleet

Planning Guide

LiveAboard Excellence

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Carib Dancer

Bahamas Itinerary



EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Dancer Fleet Emergency Cell

305-778-8004

Thank you for choosing Carib Dancer for your live-aboard dive vacation. Our crew looks forward to your visit.

All information contained here is correct at the time of printing, however is subject to change without notice.

Dream, Dive, Discover

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OVERVIEW OF THE BAHAMAS AND THE CARIB DANCER

WHERE ARE THE BAHAMAS?

The islands of The Bahamas are sprinkled over 100,000 square miles of ocean starting just 50 miles off the coast of Florida. The archipelago is an ecological oasis featuring 2,000 breathtaking islands and cays that boasts the clearest water on the planet. Incredible marine diversity



is found right beside breathtaking white and pink sand beaches.

WHAT KIND OF DIVING IS FOUND AROUND THE BAHAMAS?

Scuba divers travel to find three things: dramatic walls, lush coral reefs and exciting animal encounters - and the Bahamas Out Islands offer all this! Warm, turquoise crystal-clear waters and drop-offs close to shore make these island a diver's dream. Mysterious blue holes and caverns, shipwrecks and vibrant living reefs, soaring wall dives and thrilling shark encounters all await both novice and experienced divers.

Embarking in Nassau with its easy access to numerous airlines, the Carib Dancer will cruise through the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park bringing easy access to remote yet premier dive spots. The Exumas consist of an array of more than 350 small islands and cays. The crystal-clear tropical Atlantic pours over the deep cuts between the cays and constantly shifting sand bars. Waters are thick with coral reefs that are alive with every imaginable ocean critter from the living jewels - angelfish and butterfly fish - to the charismatic food-chain toppers like grouper and barracuda - right down to the tiniest living invertebrates. Night diving allows guests to experience an entirely different group of critters and bevy of behaviors not visible during the day.

The Bahamas and her Out Islands offer a distinct blend of international glamour and tropical ease. If you are looking

for an amazing diving experience, you'll find it here in the Bahamian waters where they proclaim "It's Better in the The Bahamas".

IN WHAT TIME ZONE ARE THE BAHAMAS LOCATED?

The time zone is GMT-5 hours with daylight savings time observed .

WHAT LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN ON BOARD?

A broad segment of the Bahamas speak Haitian Kreyol and "Bahamian" English. There are also a few thousand Spanish speakers who also speak English. Add to this a few thousand ethnic Chinese and you have a sizeable group of Mandarin or Cantonese speakers along with hundreds of other languages speakers from Brazil and Europe as well as many Asian states introducing Portuguese, continental French, German, Italian, Hindu, Tagalog and a myriad of other languages. Our crew will converse in English with the guests.

WHAT CURRENCY IS USED?

The Bahamian dollar (\$B) is the unit of currency which is based on the U.S. dollar. As the Bahamian and U.S. dollars are equivalent (1 \$B = 1 \$U.S.), residents and visitors may spend either Bahamian or U.S. dollars in the Bahamas. Major credit cards are accepted by most restaurants, hotels, car rental companies and shops. Travelers checks are accepted everywhere.

WHAT WEATHER CONDITIONS CAN I EXPECT IN THE BAHAMAS?

The climate in The Bahamas consists of just two seasons. Summer is from May through October when rainfall is fairly high. Winter is from November through April. Expect little rainfall and therefore low humidity. Rain mainly comes in short-lived, intense showers accompanied by strong winds which are then followed by clear skies. Air temperatures are in the 72F to 90F range. Water temperature is 72F to 88F depending on time of year. Underwater visibility can be 200 ft. plus.

May-October Air temperatures are likely to range between 76F - 90F. Water temperature is 78F to 84F. The summer months are ideal for a visit. The ocean is warm and most of the time it's calm. The official hurricane season runs from June to November, but the probability of hurricanes striking the Bahamas in June, July and August is relatively low.

November-April Air temperatures can be 72F - 85F. Water temperature is usually 75F to 80F and in late January drops to 72F. Winters are pleasantly warm. Cold fronts sometimes bring strong winds from the north, a bit of rain, and lower temperatures, particularly from mid-January through February.

A light wetsuit is necessary, though some people choose

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more thermal protection (3 - 5mm suit) to ensure continued core temperature warmth throughout their visit.

WHAT DOES MY CARIB DANCER PACKAGE INCLUDE?

All deluxe staterooms are air-conditioned and fitted with private toilets, showers and sinks. The quad cabin has private facilities located just outside the stateroom. Breakfast (cooked to order), buffet lunch and an elegant meal at dinner with table side service are served daily in addition to fresh mid-morning and mid-afternoon snacks. Beverages (including soft drinks and local beer and wine) are complimentary while onboard. Bathrobes and some toiletries are available for your use onboard. The yacht is equipped with hair dryers in each stateroom. Linens are changed mid-week and fresh towels are placed in each stateroom daily as needed. Filled tanks, weights and weight belts are included. Round trip airport transfers are provided for guests arriving on the day of embarkation and departing on the day of disembarkation.

FOR WHAT ADDITIONAL EXPENSES WILL I BE RESPONSIBLE?

No air transportation is included in the Dancer package. An airport departure tax must be paid at the airport when leaving. Dinner on Friday evening is not included and will be on your own in town. Dive instruction, dive and photo equipment rentals and "Boatique" purchases must be settled onboard prior to departure. Acceptable methods of payment include: US Dollars, local currency, Traveler's Checks, or Credit Cards (Visa or MasterCard). Personal checks are not accepted. Crew gratuities are not included.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BAHAMAS

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas consists of 700 islands and nearly 2,500 cays. About 30 of these islands are inhabited. The capital city of Nassau is located on New Providence island. Close by is Paradise Island which is accessed by bridges from Nassau. The closest island to the U.S. is Bimini, about 55 miles off the coast of Florida. The islands and cays sprawl across nearly 100,000 square miles of ocean, beginning at the northern point east of Palm Beach, Florida and spanning practically 750 miles to the southeast where there come inside 50 miles of Cuba and Haiti.

In the 10th century, Lucayan Indians (a branch of the Arawak) settled in The Bahamas. The Lucayans had fled the Lesser Antilles to avoid the Carib Indians, who were their enemies, astute warriors and cannibals. The Lucayan Indians were a very peaceful people, who farmed, lived in thatch huts, used stone tools and made their own pottery. They were politically, socially and religiously advanced. Christopher Columbus arrived in 1492 on San Salvador. He enslaved them and coupled with new diseases brought by Columbus and crew, wiped out the entire tribe within 25 years.

The Bahamas were a favored hunting ground for privateers, pirates and wreckers from the late 1600's through the early 1700's. This was largely due to the ineffective governors and the many inlets, islands, islets, shoals and channels and was a main passageway for merchant ships and Spanish Galleons.

The Bahamas became an independent nation on July 10, 1973. They are a member state of the Commonwealth of Nations and have retained the British Monarch as the head of state. The Queen of England is represented by the Governor-General of The Bahamas.

The three main income producing areas in The Bahamas are tourism, financial/real estate (includes banking) and manufacturing construction.

CARIB DANCER - TRAVEL INFORMATION

HOW DO I GET TO NASSAU?

All passengers arrive into Nassau by air. Nassau International Airport (airport code NAS) is open daily.

If you need assistance with your flight arrangements, be sure to contact LiveAboard Vacations, the Dancer Fleet's in-house travel specialist; at 1-800-9DANCER or 305-669-9391 for the most competitive airfares.

WHAT TRAVEL DOCUMENTS WILL I NEED?

You are required to possess a passport valid for at least six months from the date of arrival and have proof of return or onward ticketing.

You may also require a Visa. You may qualify for a free Visa or a Visa on arrival depending on your citizenship. Please contact your local Embassy or Consulate for your destination or review the requirements one of the many travel visa information websites.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION?

At the airport, customs formalities are usually quick and trouble free. Tourists are allowed articles for use during their stay. These include items of personal adornment, wearing apparel, toilet requisites and any portable articles which someone can reasonably be expected to use during their stay.

WHAT ARE THE EMBARKATION AND DISEMBARKATION TIMES?

Guests may board the Carib Dancer any time after 4pm on the first day of the charter. All guests will disembark at 8:00 am on the final day of the charter. Carib Dancer usually leaves the dock located at Hurricane Hole on Paradise Island Saturday between 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm ,

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though times may vary due to flight schedules.

If your travel plans are delayed please see our "Late Arrival Procedures" document found on the Carib Dancer web page at www.DancerFleet.com.

HOW DO I GET FROM THE AIRPORT TO CARIB DANCER ?

Round Trip airport transfers are included in the Carib Dancer package when you arrive and depart on the charter dates. Should you arrive at any time other than Saturday, it is your responsibility to arrange transportation to the Carib Dancer at your own expense.

Once you have claimed your luggage and cleared customs and immigrations, please look for an agent holding a Carib Dancer sign or a sign with your name on it. A transfer company has been hired to meet and greet our Carib Dancer guests and transport you to the vessel.

HOW DO I GET FROM THE HOTEL TO CARIB DANCER IF I ARRIVE EARLY?

Guests that arrive a day or more early can make arrangements through LiveAboard Vacations to stay at the British Colonial Hilton Hotel and arrange a transfer.

WHAT DO WE DO ON THE DAY WE DISEMBARK?

The Carib Dancer returns to port early Friday afternoon (between 12 pm – 1 pm). Lunch will be served on board and upon arrival in Nassau, guests will be at their leisure to relax on board or take a day tour of the nearby Straw Market. Our crew can arrange these and other land excursions to coordinate with your schedule. Your package includes the Captains Cocktail Party on Friday evening followed by dinner on your own in town. Our crew will happily assist you with reservations and recommendations. You will stay onboard Friday night.

Local tours are highly recommended and if not booked in advance, our crews can easily help arrange them for you. Final disembarkation will occur at 8 am on Saturday. Transfers are provided to the airport for guests departing this day.

For guests departing later in the day you may even have time to enjoy one of our shore excursions in the morning.

HOW DO I ARRANGE FOR PRE AND POST CHARTER HOTELS AND TRANSFERS?

LiveAboard Vacations, the Dancer Fleet's in-house travel agency has already done the legwork for you and created several packages that will fit most of your needs. Custom packages are also available. Please inquire with us if your schedule will permit.

DO I NEED TRIP INSURANCE?

We strongly recommend that each guest purchase comprehensive accident, medical, baggage and trip cancellation and interruption insurance when space is reserved.

Trip insurance will protect you from financial disappointment if you are prevented from making your scheduled trip due to illness or family illness, or in the event that unforeseen circumstances prevent the airline or yacht from making its scheduled trip. In an event where it is necessary to cancel or interrupt a charter due to weather or any matter beyond the control of the Dancer Fleet, there will be no refund or credit issued. We also recommend diving accident insurance. Please inquire with our reservation office for assistance.

CARIB DANCER - THE ON-BOARD EXPERIENCE

IF I AM TRAVELING AS A SINGLE, WILL I HAVE A ROOMMATE?

All rates are quoted on a share basis; therefore, unless you require a guaranteed single room and pay an additional supplement, it is very likely that you will be sharing your stateroom with one other guest of the same gender.

WHAT TYPE OF FOOD IS PREPARED?

Meals prepared by our onboard chef consist of an international mix with a local flair. If you have any special dietary requirements, please advise our US office as soon as possible so we can adequately prepare to meet your needs. Certain special dietary and beverage requests may not be available on a consistent basis due to the remote nature of this location.

WHAT KINDS OF BEVERAGES ARE AVAILABLE?

The Dancer Fleet's selection includes fruit juices, soft drinks, plenty of iced water, tea and coffee and a limited selection of local beer and wine. Fresh milk may not be available, although UHT long life milk is provided onboard. We recommend that you purchase any special brands of alcoholic beverages that you may want to consume onboard the Dancer at the Duty Free Shop at any airport. We encourage you to consume lots of non-alcoholic liquids during the week to avoid dehydration. **REMEMBER: ALCOHOL AND DIVING DO NOT MIX.** For your safety, we recommend that the consumption of any alcoholic beverage be delayed until your dive day is complete.

WHAT ELECTRICAL CURRENT IS AVAILABLE?

The electrical current on the Carib Dancer is 110 volts including cabin outlets (American standards).

HOW MUCH SHALL I PACK?

Please plan to travel light, as on all live-aboard dive yachts, space is limited. We recommend that you pack your gear in soft luggage such as duffel bags for easy stowage and to add to your comfort in your cabin, leave those large, rigid suitcases at home. Clothing should be lightweight, comfortable sportswear and bathing suits are a must. A light sweater or jacket is ideal for the evenings. Dress aboard is always casual. Light clothing that reflects

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the sun is best and a hat is recommended. Evening dress is informal. Additional items you may want to bring are sunscreen, sunglasses, walking shoes for your time on shore. Hair dryers are provided in each cabin. We recommend you pack your regulator, dive computer, mask, bathing suit and change of clothes and essential items in your carry-on bag. This will make it easier in the event your luggage is delayed. Please check with your airline as to what weight restrictions will apply to your carry-on and checked luggage.

WILL THERE BE ANY OPPORTUNITIES TO GO ASHORE DURING THE CRUISE?

When the location is suitable, there is swimming, snorkeling and beach combing.

WHAT IF I AM PRONE TO SEA SICKNESS?

Currents and winds may cause moderate movement of the yacht at times. If you have a tendency toward seasickness we strongly urge you to bring some over-the-counter motion sickness medication or consult your doctor about prescription brands, such as the trans-dermal patch or Scopace tablets. Chewable ginger tablets or capsules of powdered ginger have also proved to be effective.

WHAT IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY ONBOARD?

All Dancer crews are trained in first aid and diving accident management. Each yacht is equipped with a complete first aid kit and a high capacity oxygen system. Each yacht also has direct contact with the closest hyperbaric chamber. Since emergency transportation and treatment cost is the responsibility of each guest, we strongly recommend that you dive conservatively and obtain special insurance for divers from Divers Alert Network, Dive Assure or similarly ranked company.

HOW CAN MY FAMILY CONTACT ME IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY AT HOME?

Your family may contact you in the case of a medical emergency by calling our Miami office at 1-800-932-6237 or 305-669-9391 during business hours. If outside of our operating hours, you may call our emergency cell phone number, 305-778-8004. Please reserve calling this number for emergencies only.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS, MAIL AND E-MAIL

Check with your local cell phone provider for service while visiting The Bahamas. The Carib Dancer is equipped with Satellite based phone and email for emergency communications.

IS SMOKING PERMITTED?

A designated area on the back of the outdoor lido deck is available for smoking. Smoking is not permitted in any other area for any reason.

IS THERE ENTERTAINMENT ONBOARD?

The Carib Dancer has a multi-system TV/Video unit for video camera playback, a compact disc player, a DVD

player and stereo in the main salon. If you have a favorite movie, slide show or a video to share, we encourage you to bring it along! You may also bring your own favorite music CD's or DVD's. A small library of "books for exchange" is maintained onboard, as well as marine life identification books for reference.

HOW CAN I CELEBRATE A SPECIAL OCCASION?

Our crew is delighted to help you celebrate any special occasion onboard including birthdays, anniversaries, honeymoons or weddings. Kindly advise our US office at least 30 days prior to departure so that we can adequately prepare.

IS IT CUSTOMARY TO OFFER A GRATUITY TO THE CREW?

Aboard Dancer Fleet yachts, gratuities are not included. We prefer that our guests reward our crew based on performance. If the crew performs to your expectations, we suggest that a gratuity of approximately 10% of the published package price be considered normal aboard a live aboard dive yacht. Payment of gratuities is entirely at the discretion of the guest. Payment of gratuities can be by cash, traveler's checks, or credit card (Visa or MasterCard). The crew greatly appreciate cash as local banking fees and government taxes for traveler's checks and credit card processing reduce the amount of gratuity left on a credit card up to 35% in some destinations.

HOW CAN I PAY FOR MY EXPENSES AND PURCHASES ONBOARD?

Each Dancer yacht has a small, onboard "Boatique" which sells a selection of logo clothing, custom jewelry, sundries, diving accessories, batteries, logbooks, etc. A crew member will gladly assist you with your purchases at any time during the week. The US Dollar, local currency, traveler's checks or credit cards (Visa or MasterCard) are accepted onboard. Personal checks are not accepted.

CARIB DANCER - DIVING OPERATIONS

HOW MANY DIVES WILL WE DO EACH DAY?

We will offer up to five dives per day (2 on the last day) including night dives.

WHAT PAPERWORK WILL I NEED FOR DIVING?

Remember to bring your c-card or proof of certification. The divemaster requires proof of certification before the first dive. You will be required to complete our Cruise Application and Waiver agreement prior to departure for The Bahamas. Our The GIS (Guest Information System) allows guests to complete all required paperwork on-line including the cruise application, waiver agreement, special requests and travel information. If you haven't received a link to access the GIS, please contact a Dancer Fleet

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agent. Passengers who fail to complete the GIS registration process will be denied boarding. Please remember, many Dancer destinations require complete passenger information prior to departure for itinerary approval by government agencies.

HOW WILL WE DIVE FROM THE CARIB DANCER?

All dives will be made from the dive deck on the Carib Dancer. Our experienced crew will happily provide assistance to divers with special needs. Our crew will hand down cameras and other peripheral equipment and to re-board the boat, guests may remove their gear in the water and hand it up to our staff and simply climb onboard by way of a ladder.

For your safety, it is recommended for each diver to carry an emergency SMB (safety sausage), Dive Alert or audible signaling device and mini-strobe light or night signaling device on all dives. If you do not bring any one of these devices with you they are available for rent on board, however, quantities may be limited. If you do not possess these items, please notify our office prior to departure.

ARE THERE ANY LIMITATIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE DIVING?

All diving on board the Carib Dancer should be within the limits and standards of the training agency who certified you. All dives should be planned no-decompression dives.

CAN I EARN ADVANCED DIVING CERTIFICATIONS OR SPECIALTIES ONBOARD?

Several diving specialty courses are offered on the every Dancer yacht, but it is necessary to give at least one month notice to the reservation office in advance of your charter date to ensure that an instructor will have the time available and that all required paperwork is complete. **IMPORTANT:** If you intend to receive diving instruction onboard, you must complete a medical statement in advance and return it to the Dancer Fleet prior to the departure date. A doctor's note will be required if you answer yes to any of the questions on the medical statement. A list of available courses and prices is located on our website.

ARE NITROX FILLS AVAILABLE?

Every Dancer is equipped with Nitrox facilities. Nitrox fills of up to 32% are normally available to all certified Nitrox divers for an additional charge. Nitrox Dive Profiles must be planned and executed with a Nitrox compatible computer. It is recommended that the planned PO2 level be set within the limits of your certifying agency. All Nitrox fills must be analyzed by the divers using the mix and logged prior to each and every dive. Nitrox certifications are usually available onboard to all certified open water divers for an additional charge.

WHAT DIVING EQUIPMENT WILL I NEED TO BRING?

Equipment provided aboard the Carib Dancer includes tanks (80 cu. ft. aluminum with yoke style "K" valves), weights and weight belts. Divers will also need the following equipment:

Basic Required Diving Equipment for Each Diver

- Regulator with alternate air source
- Depth and pressure gauge
- Dive computer
- Buoyancy Compensation Device (BCD)
- Mask / fins / snorkel
- Night Dives: we require at least two light sources on a night dive.

Recommended (Additional) Dive Equipment

- Battery operated tank marker light.
- Dive light w/ extra batteries/charging source

WHAT SAFETY EQUIPMENT DO I NEED TO HAVE?

We suggest that you bring your own to ensure compatibility with your personal equipment. The Carib Dancer has a limited supply available for rental by our guests.

Recommended Surface Safety Equipment For Each Diver

- Audible Surface Signaling Device such as a Dive Alert (Air Horn) or an Emergency Whistle of superior quality.
- Visual Surface Signaling Device (Daytime) such as an Inflatable Safety Sausage or similar device.
- Visual Surface Device (Night or Dusk) such as a Personal Mini-Strobe or similar device.

Additional Recommended Surface Safety Equipment

- Signaling mirror
- Whistle

ARE DIVE GEAR AND PHOTO/VIDEO GEAR AVAILABLE FOR RENT?

Every Dancer has a limited amount of diving equipment available for rent, so it is critical that you advise our US office staff in advance if you decide you want to rent gear. We offer Aqua Lung BCD's and Aqua Lung regulators. The photo shop offers Sea and Sea digital cameras and strobes. We do not provide wetsuits for rental.

I AM A PHOTOGRAPHER – WHAT CAN I EXPECT

Photo opportunities are abundant no matter what system you have. Guests who are shooting digital photography may view their images on the yacht's computer located

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in the salon.

Camera Tables: Every Dancer has a camera table built into the dive deck for your use.

Charging Stations: There is a charging station for your use with 110V power available.

Rinse Buckets: There is a "cameras only" rinse bucket for the exclusive use of photographers onboard.

All divers are required to have a buddy with them at all times.

CAN I FISH OR SPEARFISH?

Fishing and spear fishing are not available. Spear fishing equipment is prohibited onboard the diving yacht.

SAMPLE ITINERARY

SATURDAY:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guests are met at the airport and transferred to the Carib Dancer. • Embarkation is at 4:00 and snacks are served upon boarding followed by the Captain's briefing and dinner later that evening.
SUNDAY through THURSDAY	Experience the best that The Bahamas has to offer with up to 5 dives a day delivered in Dancer Fleet style in and around Nassau and the Out Islands of the Bahamas.
FRIDAY:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diving ends Friday morning. • At approximately 12:00 p.m. the Carib Dancer returns to port. The afternoon is spent on excursions or sightseeing and shopping in town. • A cocktail party is hosted for you by the Captain around 6:00 p.m. (depending on tour schedules) followed by dinner on your own in town at a local restaurant.
SATURDAY:	Checkout time 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Guests are transported to the airport.

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