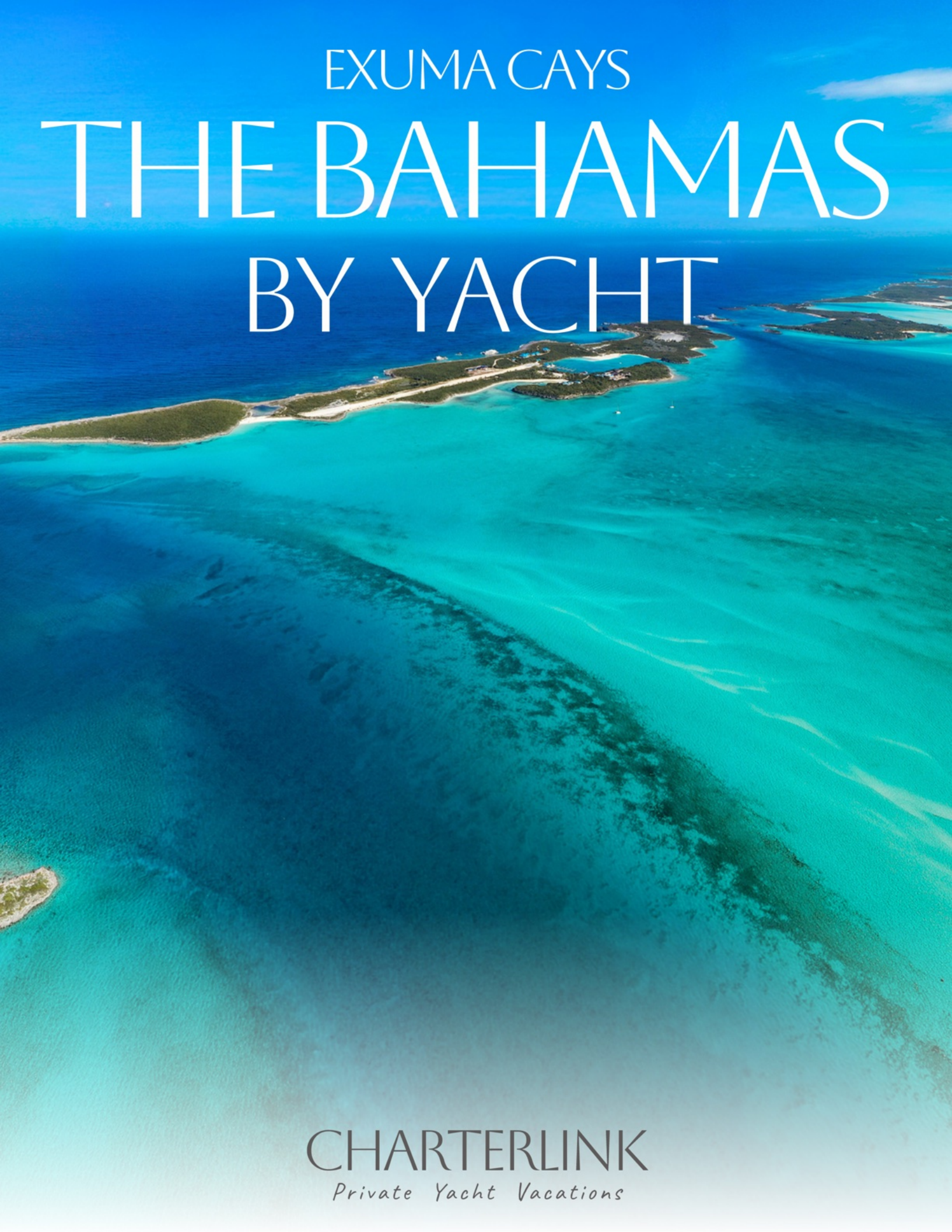


An aerial photograph of a tropical island in the Bahamas. The island is long and narrow, covered in green vegetation and some buildings. The water around the island is a vibrant turquoise, showing the intricate patterns of the coral reef. The sky is a clear, deep blue.

EXUMA CAYS

THE BAHAMAS BY YACHT

CHARTERLINK
Private Yacht Vacations

THE EXUMA CAYS

The Exuma Island chain in the Bahamas offers one of the **most spectacular and unspoiled yacht charter destinations** in the Caribbean. Stretching over 120 nautical miles and made up of more than **365 islands and cays**, the Exumas are defined by **electric-blue waters, powder-white sandbanks**, and a feeling of **total escape**. From lively Nassau to the remote Exuma Cays, this cruising ground is all about **natural beauty, privacy, and effortless island hopping**. A typical 7-night itinerary usually starts and ends in Nassau or Staniel Cay, looping through iconic stops such as Compass Cay, Warderick Wells, Big Major Cay, and Shroud Cay. **Expect longer cruising distances** or opt for power or motor yacht. Enjoy long afternoons swimming over sandbars, snorkeling untouched reefs, exploring mangrove creeks, or simply drifting in water so clear it barely feels real.

Dining in the Exumas is relaxed, authentic, and deeply tied to island life, with fine-dining options found mainly on the island of Nassau. The food experience is one of barefoot luxury, fresh flavors, and unforgettable settings. Expect just-caught lobster, conch salad prepared right on the dock, cracked conch, grilled snapper, and rum-soaked desserts served steps from the sea. **Freshly caught fish is absolutely a possibility** during your yacht charter, so many consider onboard dining one of the highlights, with private chefs crafting divine meals from your fresh catch.

On the main island of Nassau, visitors will find a vibrant, polished nightlife scene with **glamorous casinos, stylish clubs, live entertainment**, and high-energy venues that rival any major resort destination. Atlantis is often recommended as the final night of a charter, or as an add-on after cruising, allowing guests to enjoy its glittering nightlife, dining, and entertainment offerings. Down in the Exuma Cays, **evenings take on a more relaxed rhythm**; sunset cocktails on deck, a cold Kalik beer on the beach, **barefoot dinners**, and easy conversations with your fellow cruisers.

Crystal-clear visibility reveals **thriving coral reefs**, vibrant tropical fish, rays, turtles, and some of the healthiest shark populations in the Caribbean, including reef and nurse sharks that glide effortlessly through the blue. The protected waters of the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park offer **world-class snorkeling and scuba diving**, with dramatic drop-offs, caves, and untouched reef systems that feel truly wild. Whether drifting over shallow coral gardens or diving deeper offshore, the Exumas deliver some of the most pristine and exhilarating underwater experiences in the Caribbean.

Dec – April: Peak season, warm and dry with cooler water (75° – 82°F with water temperatures from 74° – 78°F)

May – June: Warm, quieter shoulder season. (78° – 86°F with water temperatures from 77° – 80°F)

July – Oct: Hotter and more humid, with higher chance of storms. (82° – 90°F with water temperatures from 80° – 84°F)

Language: **English**

Time zone: Eastern Standard Time (**EST**), UTC-5 (summer: UTC-4)

Electricity: **120V**, plugs type A and B

US Dollar is the currency.

Intl. Flights in/out **Nassau** or hop flight into **Staniel Cay**.





NASSAU

NEW
PROVIDENCE

THE EXUMAS

7 NIGHTS (RETURN)



ALLEN'S CAY



HIGHBORNE CAY



NORMAN'S CAY



SHROUD CAY



WARDERICK WELLS



COMPASS CAY



STANIEL CAY



THE EXUMAS



OPTIONAL
7 NIGHTS (ONE WAY)

FLY IN OR OUT OF STANIEL CAY
(MAKER'S AIR)





HIGHBORNE CAY

Step off your flight into Nassau International Airport and into the warm Bahamian air, where your Exumas charter begins. After clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you'll be transferred to the marina to meet your luxury crewed yacht, who will be hosting you for the week ahead. Once on board, your captain and crew will provide a safety briefing and yacht orientation, walk you through the itinerary, and help you settle in to your cabins and enjoy refreshments.

With everyone comfortable on board, the yacht departs Nassau Harbour and sets course for the Exuma Cays. The passage to Highborne Cay is approximately 30 nautical miles across the shallow Bahama Banks, including the Yellow Bank, an area known for its crystal-clear water and scattered coral heads just below the surface. This daylight crossing showcases the striking colors of the Bahamas, with endless shades of blue surrounding the yacht as your captain carefully navigates these beautiful but intricate waters.

By late afternoon, you'll arrive at the protected anchorage of Horseshoe Bay at Highborne Cay, where the yacht will drop anchor for the night. Here, the calm waters invite you to swim, paddle board, or kayak around the bay, or wade ashore to explore the beach. The marina offers hammocks on the sand, a relaxed bar, and a charming gift shop, and opportunities to explore ashore. After a full day of travel and exploration, you'll spend your first night at anchor, relaxing after your journey.





SHROUD CAY

Start the morning with a relaxed breakfast on deck with fresh fruit, coffee, and warm pastries, enjoying the stillness before setting sail to Shroud Cay. The leeward side of the Exuma Cays offers calm waters and steady trade winds that make for a beautiful, easy sail. As you approach Shroud Cay, anchor on the white sand near its distinctive maze of mangrove lined waterways and pristine beaches. Take a refreshing swim off the stern before lunch is served alfresco, with the yacht gently settled in clear shallow water.

Shroud Cay is famed for its intricate mangrove creeks that run through the island, acting as a nursery and shelter for the abundant marine life in the area. Spot baby sea turtles and rays as well as baby reef sharks and adult nurse sharks, all enjoying protection from the open water. These creeks invite you to load up in the tender and let your captain guide you through this watery labyrinth, or kayak and explore on your own. For the best experience, wait for the tide to change and have your captain drop you at the top with your own inflatable and float gently through as a group.

Then it is out with the paddle boards and snorkels, with space to linger, watch wildlife, or simply chill and unwind. This is a place where the afternoon drifts effortlessly into evening, music and conversation flows in the background. Enjoy it, this is what you're here for.





COMPASS CAY

Arrive at Compass Cay Marina, one of the true highlights of the Exumas, famous for its resident nurse sharks and unforgettable up close encounters. Tender ashore into the marina, where pristine white sand and crystal clear water form a natural swimming pool between the docks. Follow the guidance of your captain as you wade into the shallow, waist deep water and come face to face with the curious and gentle nurse sharks that glide calmly through the marina.

Swimming alongside them is both exhilarating and surprisingly peaceful. With the help of your captain, you may have the chance to gently hold a nurse shark, feeling just how soft and vulnerable their underbelly is beneath your hands. Look closely and you will notice the remarkable coloring that makes each one unique; iridescent purples, greens, gold and bronze shimmering beneath the surface. Look out for their striking turquoise eyes as they brush past, unhurried and friendly, turning what feels like a thrill into something deeply humbling and memorable.

Afterwards, linger ashore with a cold local Kalik beer and wander around the quirky marina buildings and beach shack on stilts, covered in handwritten signs and mementos left behind by visiting sailors from around the world. Eventually, return to the yacht, keeping an eye on the water below. With a bit of luck, one may even glide past the stern of the yacht to say a final goodbye.





STANIEL CAY

Sail around to Big Major Cay, home to the world famous swimming pigs. It is important to arrive early, before the pigs are too well fed and lose interest in you! This is one of the most iconic experiences in the Exumas. As you approach the beach, the pigs (and sometimes piglets!) trot down from the sand and paddle out to greet the tender, snouts high, creating a moment that is completely surreal.

Spend time on the beach watching the piglets dart through the shallows while the larger pigs lounge on the sand or swim out between boats. Once everyone is happily pigged out, sail a short distance to Thunderball Grotto, made famous by a James Bond 007 film. Entering at slack tide, swim through the submerged openings into the cavern, where shafts of sunlight pierce the water and illuminate swirling schools of tropical fish, creating one of the most magical snorkelling experiences in the Bahamas.

In the evening, go ashore to legendary Staniel Cay Yacht Club, that has played host to some of the most glittering celebrities, still showcasing it's authenticity with absolutely no airs or graces. Play a game of pool, swap stories with fellow travellers, watch nurse sharks cruise the shallows beneath the dock, and see everything from tiny runabouts to gleaming superyachts coming and going from this compact marina.

If you are doing a one way itinerary, Staniel Cay is also the perfect departure point, with golf carts whisking you to the small airstrip for hop flights into Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.





WARDERICK WELLS

Arrive into Warderick Wells, the heart of the Bahamian Land and Sea Park. This area of untouched beauty is one of a kind. Plan to get there early so you can secure one of the highly coveted mooring balls right on the inside of the shallow turquoise sandbanks. Step ashore and wander up to the park headquarters, where you will find informative displays and artifacts covering early settlers, historic wrecks, and the natural history of this remarkable sanctuary. The park protects over 7,000 square miles of exceptional marine habitat, and exploring the shoreline and shaded trails feels like walking through a living museum.

From there, lace up your shoes for a hike around the island. While most Bahamian islands are very flat, the trails here still will still reward you with views out across the ocean on the windward side of the island. On the main beach, you will find the bleached white skeleton of a sperm whale, measuring just over 50 feet in length, offering a rare glimpse into the scale of the marine life protected within the park.

Head back to the yacht for a relaxed lunch, then make your way out to play on the sandbars. Wallow in waist deep water, look for sand dollars, and float lazily in unforgettable shades of blue. Soak up the sun, chat with friends, and make memories.

Enjoy a fine dining evening or themed night designed and planned by your crew, whether its to celebrate a special occasion or simply the joy of it! Dress to impress, whilst your chef spoils you with delicious courses and learn new table games with your friends and family.



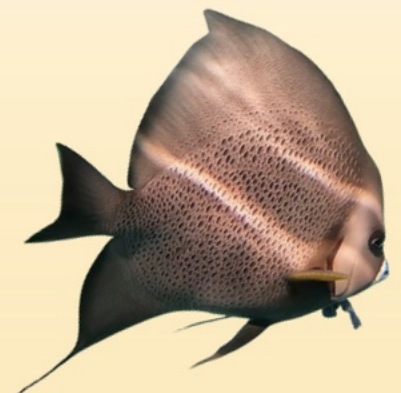
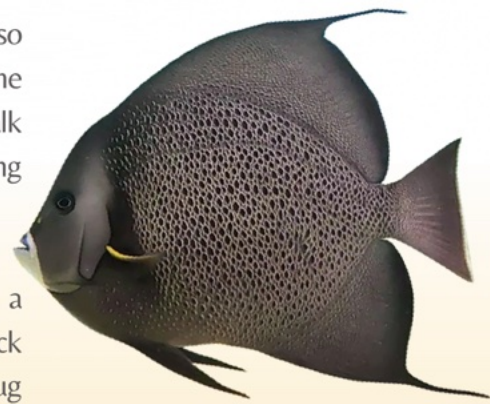


NORMAN'S CAY

In the morning head north toward Hall Pond Cay to snorkel the renowned “Aquarium” so named because a snorkel here truly feels like you are swimming in an aquarium! The tame tropical fish are plentiful here with Angelfish, Parrot fish, Trumpet fish and many more. Walk or wade the nearby lagoon with its sandbar shelf and enjoy a picnic ashore before heading back to the yacht and setting the lines for fishing as you cruise through to Norman Cay.

One of Norman's Cay's most intriguing snorkel sites is the famous sunken plane wreck, a striking reminder of the island's colorful and notorious past. The aircraft, a DC-3, dates back to the late 1970s and early 1980s when Norman's Cay served as a major hub for drug smuggling operations led by Carlos Lehder. The plane was allegedly seized or abandoned during that era and now rests in shallow, crystal-clear water just offshore. Over time, it has become an artificial reef, attracting schools of fish and marine life that weave in and out of the fuselage.

Later in the day, your captain will ferry you by tender to Twinkie Beach, a beautiful stretch of sand marked by its iconic lone palm tree. This quiet beach is ideal for shell collecting, swimming, or simply soaking up the scenery. For keen anglers, nearby flats offer excellent bonefishing opportunities, and local guides can be arranged for those wanting to experience one of the Bahamas' most prized fishing traditions.





ALLEN'S CAY

Continue the trip north to Allen's Cay, a quiet and scenic stop in the northern Exumas known for its shallow anchorages and laid back feel. This area is home to the endangered Bahamian rock iguanas, one of the most unique wildlife encounters in the Bahamas. These iguanas exist only here in the Exumas and on a handful of nearby cays, nowhere else in the world. The population is carefully protected, and the iguanas have lived on these islands for thousands of years, adapting to a dry, rocky environment and thriving along the shoreline.

Head ashore with your crew to feed the iguanas, who are particularly fond of fresh green grapes. Spend time on the sandy beach alongside these incredible creatures, watching them gather and interact just feet away.

Head over to a nearby bay for a competitive game of "keepy uppies" (volleyball's lazy cousin) and see if your group can beat the previous guests' score. Or head over to Barracuda Shoal for an epic drift dive through superbly preserved coral reef with possible sightings of sharks, rays, turtles and local Spiny lobsters.

Enjoy your last night on board the yacht in the beautiful alleyway between these scattered islands, with a glowing sunset over turquoise waters and later beneath the stars. With minimal light pollution, this is one of the most pristine places in the world for stargazing, offering a peaceful and memorable end to the day.





NASSAU

Enjoy yoga on deck before your last leisurely breakfast and then it's time to head back across the banks toward Nassau, New Providence. Keep an eye on the horizon for Atlantic Spotted "Spinner" Dolphins as these small, energetic, and often playful dolphins can occasionally be seen here leaping and spinning out of the water. Stop over at Rose Island for lunch "Footprints" bar and restaurant and try some real Bahamian Sky Juice.

After lunch, continue on toward Paradise Island and dock at the world renowned Atlantis Resort and Casino. The marina itself is a spectacle, designed to resemble the lost city of Atlantis, with dramatic architecture, carved stonework, and water cascading through the structures. Step ashore and head into the water park, where different slides and tubes carry you through ancient style step pyramids, past aquariums, and through clear tunnels surrounded by sharks and tropical fish, a thrilling contrast to the quiet anchorages of the Exumas.

Choose to spend your final night aboard the yacht in Atlantis Marina or extend your stay with an additional night or two in the resort hotel and enjoy everything this glittering resort has to offer. Spend the evening exploring nightclubs, lively bars, and first class restaurants, sip cocktails beside glowing aquariums filled with luminescent jellyfish, or try your luck in the iconic casino.

Then it's goodbye for now from your crew, and until next time!

