

BAHAMAS

TRAVEL PACKET



The Islands of the Bahamas

Comprised of more than 700 islands, the Bahamas form a 600-mile arc which begins northeast of the tip of Florida and angles southeast to Haiti. The sea occupies over 20 times the surface area of the land in the Bahamas, so it is not surprising that some of the world's best diving is found here. Warm, clear sea water flows between the islands and provide year-round recreation. Under the transparent seas is where the real beauty of the Bahamas is found. (Due to the absence of rivers with their cloudy sediments, Bahamian waters are the clearest in the world.) During your adventure aboard our *Nekton Vessel*, you'll enjoy a marvelous climate, magnificent secluded beaches fringed with palms, and waters teeming with marine life. Above or below the surface of the sea, the diversity is what makes this vast island nation such an exciting destination.

Air

The islands of the Bahamas enjoy a near-perfect climate. During the summer, May - October, air temperatures during the day average between 80 to 90 F. In the winter, it cools off slightly averaging 70 to 80 F.

Water

Summer water temperatures, ranging from the high 70s to 80s. During the cooler months, December - March, water temperatures will drop into the low to mid 70s.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

U.S. and Canadian citizens must carry proof of citizenship, namely a **passport**. **Effective Jan. 1, 2007, only a passport will be accepted.** If you are an alien who is a permanent resident of the U.S., you should check with the Bahamian Embassy or Consulate to find out if you are required to have a green card and/or passport. For further information, check out www.bahamas.com. If you are a non-U.S. citizen, you should have a **valid passport** which contains the necessary visas for travel to and from the Bahamas.

If in doubt, double-check with your respective government agency, embassy or consulate to determine what required documentation you'll need to enter the Bahamas and re-enter the US.

PLEASE REMIT TO NEKTON

IN THE SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE PROVIDED:

- Cancellation/ Insurance Policy Form
- Check/Money Order for cruise balance - made payable to Nekton Diving Cruises
- Credit Card authorization form
- Guest profile sheet

** If you have booked your cruise through a dive shop or travel agent, please remit payment to them.*

** PLEASE NOTE: If you do not have your full airline or transportation details yet, please mail your guest profile sheet and call us with your update arrival details as soon as they've been made.*



Your Travel Packet Includes:

- Liability Release Form Sample
- Cancellation/Insurance Policy Form
- Invoice/Statement with Cruise Details
- Credit Card Authorization Form
- Guest Profile Sheet
- DAN - Divers Alert Network membership/benefits brochure
- DAN Travel Insurance brochure
- Pre-cruise Information Sheet
- Self Addressed Return Envelope
- Contact Card

Airport Transfers and Pickups



A Nekton crew member will gladly meet you at the Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport **on sailing days between 11am and 5pm**. When you arrive in Ft. Lauderdale, just call our mobile van phone at (954) 249-4648.

We'll meet you outside your airport terminal, help you with your luggage and transfer you to the *Las Olas Riverfront* Shopping and Dining Area where you may shop at your leisure, see a movie and have dinner on your own accord. For more information about the Riverfront, check out www.riverfrontfl.com.

For your convenience, you may leave your luggage in the shuttle van and we will ensure that it's put in your respective cabin aboard your Nekton vessel.

The Nekton Shuttle will pick you up at a designated meeting place between 7:00-7:30pm and at this time, you will be transferred to your Nekton Vessel for boarding. A Captain's briefing will begin shortly after boarding.

We have enclosed a reference card that includes our van's mobile phone number. You might like to put it in your wallet so you can quickly reference the number once you arrive in Ft. Lauderdale.



Driving to Fort Lauderdale

If you are driving to meet your Nekton Vessel, you may want to utilize the **Long Term Parking at the Fort Lauderdale Airport - called "Park and Fly"** This parking area is fenced, lighted, disabled accessible with security patrols and presently costs \$7 per day. Please visit: www.pnf.com for directions.

You can coordinate with our shuttle service by calling the mobile phone at (954) 249-4648. Please note that Nekton Diving Cruises does not assume any responsibility or liability for vehicles parked at any location.

If you have a rental car to drop off before your cruise, please call our office prior to your trip for special pick-up directions. For your convenience, enclosed is a "reference card" that includes our van's mobile phone number. You might like to put it in your wallet to quickly reference the number once you arrive at the rental car drop-off.

SAMPLE TRAVEL LOG NEKTON PILOT & RORQUAL

Saturday

If you arrive in Fort Lauderdale earlier in the day, enjoy the Las Olas Riverfront area where you may shop, dine, catch a movie, visit a museum, ride the water taxi and sightsee at your leisure before boarding your Nekton vessel.

7:00 pm Pickups at the Las Olas Riverfront to transport you to your Nekton vessel. On the way, we'll stop by a liquor and grocery store so you may purchase alcoholic and carbonated beverages.

7:30 pm You are welcome aboard your Nekton vessel.

8:00 pm Captain's briefing begins.

9:00 pm The Nekton vessels departs for the Bahamas after receiving clearance from the harbor master.

Saturday

8:00 am Arrive back in Fort Lauderdale by 8:00am. Disembarkation begins immediately after clearance by U.S. Customs and Immigrations which usually takes about 45 minutes. (Non-U.S. citizens should allow one hour for airport transfer. Please plan to disembark no later than 9:30 as the vessel will leave the dock for refueling. We will provide transportation to the Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood Intl airport or local hotels.

Please schedule return flight no earlier than 12:00PM, Saturday

Staying in Fort Lauderdale

Staying an extra day or two? These are some area hotels that offer special rates to Nekton guests. To qualify for Nekton's special negotiated rates, please give us a call to make your reservations.

Holiday Inn Express

Location: 1500 SE 17th Street Causeway
Accommodations: 78 guest rooms
Coffee maker, hair dryer, iron/ironing board
Free high speed internet access
Free continental breakfast buffet
Complimentary Airport Shuttle

Comfort Suites

Location: 1800 S Federal Hwy (near airport and 3/4 mile from intercoastal waterway)
Accommodations: Queen mini-suites
Refrigerator and coffee maker
Deluxe continental breakfast
Outdoor heated pool
Free shuttle to and from airport

COMMUNICATIONS

SATELLITE PHONE SERVICE is available aboard your Nekton vessel. Each Nekton vessel is billed \$6 per minute for Satellite use. You will be expected to pay your phone bill prior to leaving the vessel at the end of the week. Credit cards are accepted.

Persons wishing to reach you aboard your Nekton vessel should contact our Ft. Lauderdale office at (954) 463-9324 between the hours of 9AM and 7 PM EST Monday through Saturday first, in order to save satellite coasts.

INSURANCE

Because unexpected events can occur at any time and cause delays or even cancellation of your vacation, we recommend that you protect yourself by purchasing trip insurance. In the event that it is necessary to cancel or interrupt a cruise due to weather or any matter beyond the control of Nekton Diving Cruises, there will be no refund or credit issued. Information about DAN Trip Insurance is included for your reference. For further information, please visit: www.nektoncruises.com/Reservations/FAQ.aspx

We also highly recommend Divers Alert Network (DAN) insurance which will cover expenses related to a dive accident or injury. Information on joining DAN, a non-profit research organization, and on their insurance is also included in this packet.

BEVERAGE POLICY

The *Nekton Pilot and Rorqual* is provisioned with a wide assortment of complimentary, nonalcoholic and noncarbonated beverages which include fruit juices such as orange, cranberry and apple, as well as ice tea, lemonade, Gatorade and fruit punch. Hot coffee, tea and herbal teas are also available. Over the past few years, we have carefully considered the feedback of our guest regarding our alcoholic and carbonated beverage policy. Based on their feedback, we have developed the following policy:

The Nekton vessels do not impose a corking fee for those who wish to bring along a favorite beverage, whether it be alcoholic or carbonated, etc. We will make arrangements for you to purchase these beverages before boarding the Nekton Rorqual on the Saturday evening of departure. Your beverages may be stored in your cabin - we have a guest cooler on board where you are able to keep your liquor and sodas chilled.

SMOKING

No cigarette, cigar or smoking of any kind is permitted on Nekton vessels except in the designated outdoor smoking area at the rear of the sun deck.

MONEY MATTERS

Although your charter is all-inclusive, you may make onboard purchases, whether from the boutique or for gear rentals. Visa and Mastercard are accepted, as are travelers checks. If your cruise includes an onshore visit to an island, small currency is recommended for local purchases.

WHAT SHOULD I PACK?

Your vacation is designed to be fun, relaxing and very casual. You will be most comfortable in lightweight, casual clothes and beach wear. You will most likely spend most of your days in swim wear, shorts and T-shirts. Light cover-up clothing, sunglasses and wide brimmed hat will protect you from tropical sun. Since the evenings can get cool, we also recommend a wind breaker or sweatshirts and light pair of long pants. A visit to your local dive shop for annual equipment overhaul and inspection is a good idea.

Clothing:

Shorts	Casual shirts or T-shirts
Bathing Suits	Casual outfit
Comfortable walking shoes	"Wet" shoes

If you are sensitive to the sun:

Long-sleeve shirt	Cap / hats
Long pants	Sweatshirt / lightweight jacket

Dive Checklist:

Scuba certification card	Fins
Mask & Snorkel	BCD
Booties	Wetsuit or dive skin
Regulator / depth gauge	Dive Light / cylume sticks
Dive computer	Underwater camera & video

Personal Items:

Toiletries (shampoo)	Sunscreen
Sunglasses	Hat
A good book	Camera, film, accessories
Batteries	Bug spray
Hair dryer	

Medication:

Please bring any prescription medications in original pharmacy containers to smooth your way through U.S. customs.

Identification:

Valid Passport (proper visa if required - see page 1)

Luggage:

Packing in soft luggage or a collapsible duffle bag will maximize your space aboard the Nekton Rorqual.

NOTE: Nekton supplies the following on-board:

Separate dive and cabin towels and soap in each cabin
Tanks and soft lead-shot weights/weight belts

NOTE: Don't forget your Passport and C-card

WAIVER

Nekton Diving Cruises requires that each guest sign a complete liability release prior to the vessel's departure and diving. For your convenience, a copy of Nekton Diving Cruises Liability Release is enclosed in this packet for your review. You will be asked to sign this release upon boarding your Nekton vessel.

SCUBA EQUIPMENT

Tanks, air-fills, weights, weight belt and professional assistance on the dive deck are all provided at no additional charge.

Equipment Available for Rental

Item for Rental	Daily Rate	Weekly Rate
Regulator with octopus/computer	\$30	\$125
BCD	\$30	\$125
Personal Dive Computer	\$25	\$100

Item for Rental	Daily Rate	Weekly Rate
Regulator w/oct, BCD & computer	\$55	\$250

Cylume Sticks available for purchase	\$3	
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To ensure availability, please reserve equipment in advance

THE DIVING & OUR DIVING POLICIES

The Bahamas are well known for their beautiful reefs and walls. The diving is truly spectacular and the following guidelines will give you an idea of our diving procedures and policies:

- Unlimited diving available based on individual profiles. This means you are basically free to dive as you like during the times the dive deck is open as long as you stay within the bounds of recreational diving and use our sign-in / out board
- In keeping with the teachings of the major training agencies, the 130' maximum diving depth limit is observed.
- Conservation laws do not permit spear fishing or collection of any marine life while on scuba. Please do not bring spear guns or Hawaiian slings onboard.
- Nekton support DAN's position that alcohol consumption prior to and after a dive encourages physiological changes that increase the risk of decompression sickness. We enforce the policy that "your first drink of the day marks your last dive of the day." Ultimately, final responsibility for alcohol consumption belongs to each passenger.
- We also advocate the buddy system.
- If you plan to take a certification course including Open Water, Advanced, Nitrox or any specialty, you will need to complete a medical release signed by your doctor. Please request the Medical Statement form from our booking office.
- Fun is Mandatory!

In general, Nekton Diving Cruises follows and enforces the accepted diving standards and guidelines of the major U.S. dive agencies like PADI, NAUI and Divers Alert Network. If there is any question or problem on your cruise, please let a crew member know immediately so we can resolve it to your complete satisfaction.



ONE LAST TIP...

In addition to safely navigating your vessel, the crew will be serving you as waiters, dive masters and stewards during your week-long vacation. Consistent with cruise industry practice, Nekton Diving Cruises does not include gratuities in our cruise fares. The crew depends on tips as do others who work in the service industry. To thank those who have made your cruise vacation better than you could have imagined, we suggest the following tipping guideline for each guest. Please remember that gratuities are shared equally by each of the crew members.

\$ 35 per person per day

We believe that Nekton Diving Cruises has the best crew in the industry and we strive to exceed your expectations in every way. If for any reason you are not satisfied with the service you receive, we encourage you to contact the Captain while onboard. This will allow us to address your concerns in a timely and in an appropriate fashion. At your discretion, you may adjust the gratuities at any time.

CERTIFICATION COURSES

Your dive vacation is an excellent time to learn to dive or enhance your knowledge and skill.

Resort Course\$150

An introduction to diving. This course includes personal instructions, in water training and two dives with an instructor.

Open-Water Check-Out DivesFREE*

When you participate in our Learn to Dive program, we place you with a local dive shop for a Referral Course. Upon arrival onboard our vessel, you will complete the final open-water training dives with one of our instructors. You'll earn a PADI Open-Water Certification upon completion. *Does not include \$20 for PIC Card.

All necessary medical Statements must be completed by your local physician and Official Referral forms must be completed by prior instructor.

Open-Water Certification\$500

If you decide upon arrival that you would like to learn to dive, it may be possible to complete the entire Open Water Certification course during your cruise (depending upon sea conditions for the "pool" sessions). The Course includes academic instruction, in-water training and all scuba equipment.

Advanced Open-Water Diver\$225

This course introduces you to four popular specialty-diving activities including underwater navigation, night diving, deep diving and two specialty dives.

Underwater Photographer (with own camera)\$175

Learn the basics of underwater photography and take home underwater memories to last a lifetime! The Photo Course includes three days of individual instruction.

Rescue Diving Course\$250

Dive Master Course\$400

Nitrox\$200

Specialties\$175

Courses available include Environmental, Night Diver, Deep Diver, Wreck Diver, Navigation, Search/Recovery and more! Please ask your crew for more specialties information.