

# MAYAGUANA BAHAMAS

## TRAVEL PACKET



### The Islands of the Bahamas - Mayaguana

Nekton's itinerary development team has discovered an outpost in the Bahamas that just blew us away! It is less than 40 miles from the Turks & Caicos. Known more for the legend that pirates dug a fresh-water well there, Mayaguana island has turned out to be a special and undisturbed dive destination. You can be among the first to discover what her bountiful waters have to offer.

Our new itinerary team and some lucky Nekton past guests while there, reported rich marine life, healthy reefs, huge basket sponges, breathtaking swim through's, caves and deep spectacular walls dropping into the Atlantic Ocean. Check out some of the pictures of the Mayaguana Exploration Trip.

The 300+ residents of the island, who subsist on fishing and farming (the mail boat only comes to the island once a week), are so happy to have us visit that they insist we come over for dinner. They have arranged a tour of the island and dinner for us during the week (they ask that we help defer some of the costs and pay a small fee).

### 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](http://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



## SAMPLE TRAVEL LOG NEKTON PILOT & RORQUAL

### Saturday

Your adventure begins by arriving in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands. The Nekton Rorqual will be docked at Niki Beach Marina on the East side of the Island. A taxi ride from Providenciales to Niki Beach Marina should be less than \$50 one way. Once at the marina, please enjoy dinner ashore as dinner will not be served Saturday evening.

**7:00 pm** You are welcome aboard your Nekton vessel.

**8:00 pm** Captain's briefing begins.

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

### Sunday - Friday Morning:

After clearing customs in Mayaguana, exploration begins in the waters around the island. The diving here ranges from shallow water reef dives to deep blue water drop-offs. There are quite a few impressive swim throughs as well. The reefs along the wall are very healthy and have lots of colorful sponges, corals, and tunicates. Small shrimps and crabs are attached to many of these corals, which provide an excellent site for macro photographers. You will also find colorful tropical fish, schools of blue tangs, hawksbill turtles, large grouper, reef sharks, nurse sharks and many more.

Enjoy at least 4 - 5 dives per day, including a night dive. A typical day goes something like this:

- 6 - 8 a.m. Breakfast Buffet
- 8:00 a.m. Dive briefing on sundeck followed by open diving
- 10:00 a.m. Mid-morning snack
- 11:45 a.m. Back onboard
- noon While lunch is Served, boat moves to afternoon dive site
- 1:00 p.m. Dive site briefing on sundeck followed by open diving
- 3:00 p.m. Mid-afternoon snack
- 5:45 p.m. Back onboard
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner is served followed by evening slide presentation
- 8:00 p.m. Dive deck opens again for night dive
- 10:00 p.m. Depart for tomorrow morning's new dive site.



### Friday Afternoon:

Enjoy an evening ashore where the friendly locals will pull out the red carpet and show Nekton's guests their charming towns. A guided tour will be given of the main settlements. Dinner will be served at the Baycaner. Please bring \$25 cash for the guided tour and dinner. Alcoholic beverages are not included in the \$25 fee. (Please note: Bring cash with you. There are no banks or ATM's on the island. Credit cards are not accepted.)

### Mayaguana Settlements

#### Betsy Bay

*Located on the West Coast; Enjoy the scenery of quaint pastel cottages, secluded wild corn plants, saucy hummingbirds.*

#### Pirate's Well

*Located on the North Coast; hear the tales of the buried treasure lost on the island. Enjoy dinner at Baycaner - directly across the street from Pirates Well.*

#### Abraham's Bay

*Located on the South coast; is the main town where you will find the harbor; (Quick fact: the main form of communication is mail boat once a week)*

#### North Beach

*Enjoy the stunning ocean flats scenery. Where you will see tropical birds such as the West Indian Flamingo and the Brown Booby.*

#### Mayaguana Airport

*The 11,000 foot runway was part of a former US missile tracking station used during the NASA Project Mercury and Apollo programs to help keep the astronauts on course.*

### Friday night:

The boat makes the passage back to Turks and Caico Islands.

### Saturday

The Nekton Rorqual will arrive back at Niki Beach Marina at 8 in the morning. After clearing customs, local taxi service is available with dock side pickup for transfers to the airport.

**Please schedule flights AFTER 12 PM to allow time for arrival back to the airport and REMEMBER DAN's recommended waiting period between repetitive diving and flying.**



## 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 costs.

## 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](http://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 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 Dives .....FREE\*

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.