

Bimini - A romantic long weekend in the Bahamas 4 day Itinerary



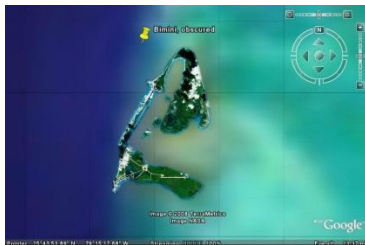
Sudami cruising in Bimini

If you're looking for a romantic getaway, spending a long weekend on a yacht in the Bahamas is just the ticket, with its stunning beaches and crystal clear waters.

The Bahamas are perhaps the best kept secret when it comes to yacht charter vacations. From breathtaking white sand beaches to crystal clear waters, to shipwreck snorkeling and dive sites and some of the best fishing in the world, the islands of the Bahamas are simply awe inspiring.

Located to the southwest of Grand Bahamas Island is the Bimini chain of islands, best known as being the Bahamas' best fishing and diving grounds.

Because the islands are situated at the edge of a sheerwater cliff on the edge of the Gulf Stream, their coral reefs are teeming with undersea life and the Stream itself serves to bring a variety of monster game fish, wild Atlantic spotted dolphins and sea turtles to its waters.



Aerial of Bimini showing deep water on one side, where game fishing is popular

It was these islands that also inspired Ernest Hemingway in the 1930s, where he spent much time chasing big game fish and throwing back more than a few rums with the locals.



Fountain of youth: Bimini's mystic Healing Hole in the mangroves
Strata Smith

Day 1

Make an early crossing from Florida to Bimini, or fly in and meet your yacht. Explore Alice Town, North Bimini on foot or golf cart, sample fresh conch salad, or perhaps head over to South Bimini to visit the Shark Lab, an outpost owned and operated by Dr Samuel H Gruber that researches Bimini's Lemon sharks.

Those looking for rejuvenation could visit Bimini's famed 'Healing Hole', a mystical pool amongst the mangroves, which is said to cure the ailments of those who dip in its waters – a mix of salt and freshwater that includes magnesium and lithium sucked up from the hole by each outgoing tide cycle and sulfur from the mangrove roots. Once restored, enjoy a relaxing dinner onboard.



A juvenile lemon shark shelters among mangrove roots in the nursery waters of Bimini
Oceans Image/Photoshot



Sabor Restaurant at Bimini Bay Resort

Day 2

Meet with Bill Keefe from Bimini Undersea to go on a wild dolphin swim. Keefe and his expert team head out to the ‘dolphin grounds’ and run a pattern, waiting for the wild dolphins to show up. No illegal artificial sounds or feeding is used to entice them, so it’s a waiting game, but an

enjoyable one, running in the spellbinding waters off Bimini. When a pod of dolphins appears, slide into the water to frolic with them.

Those who prefer to cast a line should head out for world-class blue marlin or bonefish hunting. Later, have Bimini Bay arrange for a masseuse to come to your yacht, and enjoy dinner ashore at its restaurant Sabor, where you could try the sesame-crusting yellowfin tuna with local treat guava duff for dessert.



Tail fins of Atlantic spotted dolphins as they swim away at the surface



Big game fishing for blue marlin is a Bimini speciality

Day 3

Depart Bimini and head for the SS Sapona, a steamer that was wrecked during a hurricane in the 1926 and then used for target practice by the US military in World War II. Today, the wreck sits in 5 metres of water and attracts both snorkelers and divers. Then set course for the crescent-shaped anchorage of Honeymoon Harbor on the north end of Gun Cay.

This normally picturesque spot can get busier on the weekends or when a fishing tournament is going on. If this is the case and true serenity is desired, head to the deserted Dollar Harbor on South Cat Cay. Enjoy the night at anchor, basking in the glow of millions of stars visible in the sky.



The wreck of the steamer SS Saponais fun for snorkelers



The private island of Cat Cay
Cat Cay Club

Day 4

Pull into the marina at the Cat Cay Club and enjoy the protected marina on this idyllic private island. Dine at the Nauticat Restaurant and sip a tropical beverage at Bu's Bar. The crew can grill

up the day's catch at the barbecue area and stock up on provisions in the market.

Visitors are welcomed for 24 hours at the marina, or up to three days on the island if sponsored by a member. Alternatively, those who crave more time in Bimini could use today to head back and enjoy its offerings.

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Even stranger than the Fountain of Youth are Bimini's mysterious 'Steps' or 'Bimini Road,' large rectangular stone formations found off the coast at a depth of about 30 metres. The formations appear to be man-made and some speculate that they were once located on the shoreline of the mythical continent of Atlantis. For those who are interested in seeing these stones up close, diving charters can be arranged.

