

THE EXUMAS

yacht charter

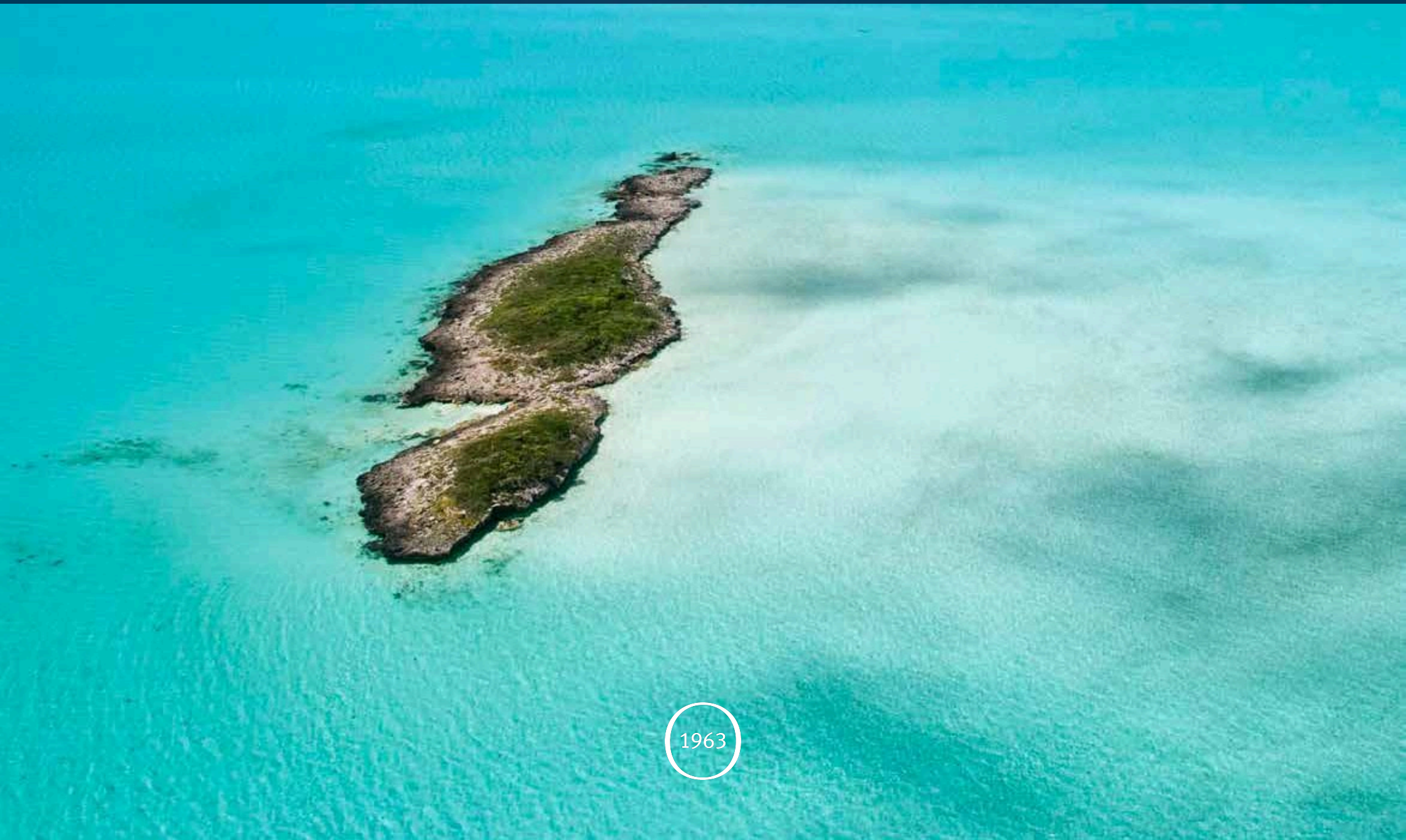
MONCADA 1963

Yachts

ITINERARY

The Exumas are a chain of some 365 cays in the Bahamas, best explored without a fixed plan.

Sandbars appear only at low tide, emerald channels are made for sailing through, and the reefs are full of life to swim over. What follows is a suggested route for a week aboard, and a starting point. We shape the week around the cays and the pace you prefer.



1963



Nassau, the capital of The Bahamas, and Paradise Island, to its north, are the usual starting point for an Exumas charter. Both marinas are close to shops and restaurants.

Your charter begins at Paradise Island, where you board at Atlantis Marina or Hurricane Hole. If you arrive early, Nassau is across the bridge, with its pastel colonial buildings, rum distilleries and craft markets. Otherwise the first afternoon is for settling in, a swim off the beach and a first evening on deck.

DAY 1 (1963) PARADISE ISLAND



Allen's Cay is one of the few places where the endangered Bahamian rock iguana lives in the wild. Highbourne Cay, at the top of the island chain, has eight beaches and a marina.

The first sail takes you out of Nassau to Allen's Cay, where the endangered Bahamian rock iguanas come down to the beach. They are best watched from a distance, as the grapes visitors offer are known to harm their health. From there it is a short sail to Highbourne Cay, the gateway to the Exumas, with eight quiet beaches and shallow reefs for snorkelling. Dinner is on deck as the light goes.

DAY 2 1963 ALLEN'S CAY AND HIGHBOURNE CAY



Shroud Cay is uninhabited and lies within the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park, a protected area managed by the Bahamas National Trust.

Certified divers can begin the day at the Exuma Wall, a vertical drop off Highbourne Cay on the edge of the Exuma Sound, while everyone else snorkels the shallows. The yacht then sails to Norman's Cay, once a base for smugglers, where you can snorkel over the wreck of a plane from those days. By evening you reach Shroud Cay, uninhabited, and dine on deck with no lights but your own.

DAY 3 (1963) NORMAN'S CAY AND SHROUD CAY



The Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park was created to protect the cays, their reefs and their wildlife. Fishing and collecting are not allowed, and the park has no supplies of any kind, water included.

Start with a tender through Shroud Cay's mangrove creeks, a nursery for conch, lobsters, turtles and fish. Then continue to Warderick Wells, headquarters of the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park. The trail up Boo Boo Hill ends at a pile of driftwood signs left by visiting boats, and the skeleton of a sperm whale lies on the beach below. Everything in the park is protected, so nothing is taken from it.

DAY 4 (1963) SHROUD CAY AND WARDERICK WELLS



Compass Cay is known for its nurse sharks. Staniel Cay, close to the centre of the chain, has a small settlement, a yacht club and local shops.

After a morning swim at Warderick Wells, sail south to Compass Cay, where nurse sharks gather around the marina and can be watched, or swum with, from the water. By evening you reach Staniel Cay, the small settlement at the centre of the chain, with colourful waterfront cottages and a yacht club from which to watch the sunset.

DAY 5 (1963) COMPASS CAY AND STANIEL CAY



Big Major Cay and Thunderball Grotto are a short tender ride from Staniel Cay, and there are shallow cays nearby that larger yachts cannot reach.

A day to stay put. Big Major Cay is close by, and its swimming pigs come out to meet visitors in the shallow water. Thunderball Grotto, a cave featured in the James Bond film of the same name, is best visited around low tide, when light falls through the roof onto the fish below. The tender can reach cays too shallow for the yacht, and the crew sets up lunch on a sandbar.

DAY 6 1963 STANIEL CAY



Paradise Island is joined to Nassau by a bridge, which makes flights and transfers on the last day straightforward to arrange.

The longest sail of the week returns you to Paradise Island, around 70 nautical miles from Staniel Cay. An early start leaves room for a last swim and the water toys on the way, weather permitting. You arrive by evening, with dinner ashore near Atlantis, and disembark the following morning.

DAY 7 1963 BACK TO PARADISE ISLAND

THE EXUMAS

A suggested route, seven nights



Day 7: return from Staniel Cay to Paradise Island

Schematic map, not for navigation

International airport

The Lynden Pindling International Airport

Language

English

Currency

Bahamian Dollar
American Dollar is also accepted

Average air temperature

21° C to 27° C
November to April

Average water temperature

22° C to 26° C
November to April

Distances (approx.)

Day 1: embark
Day 2: 34 nm
Day 3: 11 nm
Day 4: 13 nm
Day 5: 17 nm
Day 6: Staniel Cay
Day 7: 70 nm
Day 8: disembark

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Yachts

Speak with our charter team when the time is right.

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This itinerary is a suggestion. The final route depends on the yacht, the weather and the wishes of your guests.