



Competition Details:

Photographs being entered into the calendar competition may be of any subject (animate or inanimate) or a scene, which is a striking example of nature as found in The Bahamas. We draw your attention to the particular areas of interest in The Bahamas listed below. We encourage you to select shots that are vibrant, interesting and original.

Please note that we cannot consider entries that:

- Do not have the photographer's name, photo subject and location of photo written on the reverse of the photo
- Are submitted without the CD
- Are submitted with the CD only and no printed photograph
- Are poorly produced (must be RAW, TIFF or high quality JPEG) in the original color format the camera uses (LAB or RGB)
- Include photos of people (photos should not have individuals)
- Prints are smaller than 8" x 10"

We encourage photographers to explore the islands and capture the beauty we are so blessed to share in. Explore a cave, trek to a blue hole, stroll through the Pine Barrens, take a 'walk down' Bimini Road, feed a swimming pig (they may not fly, but who knew that they could swim!) and capture it all on film! Become inspired by what surrounds us all in nature and take its' portrait – It may just win you \$400!

Here are some locations throughout the islands we encourage you to visit and photograph!

THE ABACOS

A 120 mile-long, crescent-shaped necklace of islands to the north of New Providence, where many of the towns have the atmosphere of New England fishing villages. The islands are particularly noted for their tradition of shipbuilding, the original 200-year-old practice that can still be observed in Man-O-War Cay.

Hope Town Lighthouse, Hope Town, Abaco

Hope Town Lighthouse was built by the British Imperial Lighthouse Service to mark the reef of Elbow Cay during the 1860s. It is one of only two remaining lighthouse beacons saved from automation, thanks to residents, who have vigorously opposed it. Located on Elbow Cay, the historic 120-foot-high candy-stripe lighthouse and the village of neat rows of gingerbread cottages painted varying pastel shades give this settlement plenty of charm.

Abaco National Park, Abaco

The Abaco National Park was a significant addition to the National Park system of The Bahamas. The park renders the northernmost range of the endangered Bahama Parrot protected and conserves it in perpetuity. Unique among New World Parrots, these birds are subterranean nesters, nesting in naturally created limestone cavities on the ground of the pine forest.

Abaco Wild Horse Preserve, Treasure Cay Area, Abaco

For many years the people of Abaco debated the origin of a herd of horses that galloped through their pine forest, but in 1998 they came to believe that they might be "Spanish Barbs." In August of 2002, their identity was finally confirmed through three separate DNA analyses, photos and video records. They were subsequently accepted by the Horse of The Americas Registry as the "Abaco Barbs," descendants of horses brought over at the time of Columbus' explorations. It is believed that Abaco is now the curator of possibly the purest strain of these horses in existence today.

Black Sound Cay National Reserve, Green Turtle Cay, Abaco

This 2-acre mangrove reserve is nestled in the harbor of Abaco's historic Green Turtle Cay. The reserve was established in 1988 to protect a vital waterfront ecosystem and wildlife.



THE ABACOS continued

Pelican Cays Land & Sea Park, (*just North of Cherokee Sound*), Great Abaco

Is a 2,100 acre area just north of Cherokee Sound in Great Abaco that contains stunning undersea caves, extensive coral reefs and is noted for its fish, plant and bird life.

ANDROS

Andros Island is the largest of all the Islands (104 miles long and 40 miles wide) but has the smallest population for its size. It has an abundance of bonefish and the world's third largest barrier reef, which is over 140 miles long and is renowned for its superb diving sites and marine life.

Andros Lighthouse, *Fresh Creek, Andros*

Andros Lighthouse was built in 1892 to mark the southern entrance to the Fresh Creek channel. In 1952, three old cannons were added in front of the Lighthouse and a tower built to the top. The cannons came from the "Cottsac" Schooner, which wrecked on Stanyard Rock in the 1800s.

Guardian Blue Hole, *Andros*

Guardian Blue Hole is an inland blue hole. The surface water is fresh and gets progressively saltier the deeper it goes until it actually reaches ocean salt water. The visibility ranges from 10-30 feet in upper levels due to decaying vegetation but becomes gin clear around 90 feet.

Little Frenchman Blue Hole, *Andros*

The Little Frenchman Blue Hole is an inland blue hole. The surface water is fresh down to approximately 40 feet. This water is also brown in color due to the tannic acid, which is given off from the decaying vegetation, which has fallen into the blue hole. Visibility is sometimes down to 2-feet but once we break into salt water at 50-feet it becomes gin clear.

Star Gate Blue Hole, *Congo Town, South Andros*

Star Gate is a spectacular Blue Hole both above and below the surface. The entrance is hidden inside a grotto; surrounded by tropical scrub trees. The entrance to the water is a 12-foot drop, once inside, stalactites are found hanging from the ceiling.

THE BERRY ISLANDS

Just to the northeast of Andros, on the northeastern edge of the Great Bahama Bank, lie the Berry Islands, a stirrupshaped chain of 30 cays and numerous smaller islets.

The Canyons, *Berry Islands*

The Canyons is located in 45-feet of water and has a variety of swim-throughs, tunnels and large coral arches.

The Chub Cay Wall, *Chub Cay, Berry Islands*

The Chub Cay Wall, which starts at 80 feet and drops to 4000 feet, provides divers with a magnificent look into the deep.

The Eel Garden, *Berry Islands*

The Eel Garden, which starts at 40-feet of water, is home to hundreds of garden eels, southern stingrays and parrotfish.

BIMINI

Bimini is where the waters of Florida's Gulfstream meet The Bahama Banks. For diving fans, don't forget to visit the underwater stone formation rumored to be part of the Lost City of Atlantis.

Bimini Road, *Paradise Point, Bimini*

Lying in about 15 feet of water just off of Paradise Point, an unusual formation of underwater racks appears to form an ancient road, stretching for about a quarter of a mile.



CAT ISLAND

While Cat Island has superb diving off its south shore where there is an abundance of caves and coral canyons to traverse, remote Cat Island is hardly touched by tourism, let alone commercialism. The natural beauty of its rose-colored beaches and dramatic cliffs add to its charm. Most of the historical landmarks are churches, plantation ruins and old buildings.

Mt. Alvernia Hermitage, Como Hill, Mt. Alvernia, Cat Island

Eat a hearty breakfast then hike up the stone staircase of 206-foot Como Hill to Mt. Alvernia Hermitage on Mount Alvernia, the highest point in The Bahamas. This small stone monastery built by hand by the architect hermit, Father Jerome, is at the peak and is worth the trek up this steep rocking incline, as well as the awe-inspiring view.

Just south of the Hermitage are the ruins of Armbrister Plantation.

“Boiling Point” or “Boiling Hole”, Armbrister Creek, Cat Island

Armbrister Creek flows into a clear lake called “Boiling Point” or “Boiling Hole” whose tidal conditions cause bubbles and burps, the conditions, which lead to folklore of a sea monster below its surface. Today, this is a great spot to spy rays and baby sharks and numerous birds that nest along its mangrove fringe.

Mermaid Hole & Big Blue Hole, Bain Town, Cat Island

Located in Bain Town is another lake. This 65-foot wide, 10-foot deep lake called Mermaid Hole is where many believe a mermaid lives amongst the four bed holes within that lead to underground caverns and passageways.

The monster said to live in Big Blue Hole located near Orange Creek, just off of Dickies Road is said to devour horses. This deep blue hole has strong undersea currents that flow through its caverns linking to the sea, where many objects like dead farm animals tossed into the lake ended up. This folklore still scares local fisherman from venturing too far in this freshwater lake.

Griffin Bat Cave, Dickie’s Road, Cat Island

Dickie’s Road goes east to Griffin Bat Cave, once a hideout for slaves.

Deveaux House Mansion, Port Howe, Cat Island

In the Port Howe area of Cat Island, see the ruins of an 18th-century plantation at Deveaux House mansion. In its glory days it was given to Colonel Andrew Deveaux in 1783 for protecting Nassau from Spanish invasion and occupation.

ELEUTHERA

A narrow island 177km (110-miles) long but seldom more than 3km (2-miles) wide. Attractions include the Ocean Hole, Glass Window Bridge, Harbour Island (with Dunmore Town, one of the oldest settlements in The Bahamas), Spanish Wells, off the northern tip of the island, Preacher’s Cave and the underwater caves at Hatchet Bay. Harbour Island itself is three miles long by a half-mile wide and boasts pink sandy beaches.

Glass Window Bridge, Eleuthera

This famous bridge links North Eleuthera to the mainland of Eleuthera. It is notable because on can see the dark Atlantic meeting the aquamarine Caribbean at the thinnest part of the island. Glass Window Bridge, originally the site of an extraordinary natural arch linking the Exuma Sound to the Atlantic, is one of the most impressive sights on Eleuthera.

Hatchet Bay Caves, Hatchet Bay, Eleuthera

One of the largest systems of caves in the Caribbean, Hatchet Bay Caves is hidden in the wide-open space between James Cistern and Hatchet Bay. They give the appearance of a “vaulted cathedral. It is more than a mile long with stalagmites and stalactites the gleam in the torchlight” (Source: geographica.com). It is said that these caves gave shelter to hiding pirates and buccaneers of the Caribbean, in their days.



ELEUTHERA continued

Ocean Hole, *Rock Sound, Eleuthera*

The Ocean Hole is a natural “blue hole” that the locals say is bottomless. It is actually an inland salt-water lake, a mile from the oceans, yet it is filled with salt-water sea life, and rises and ebbs with the tides.

Pink Sand Beach, *Harbour Island, Eleuthera*

Sometimes called “Three Mile Beach” or “Pink Sand Beach”, this gorgeous beach is world-famous. It is the main attraction of this small 3-mile long cay off North Eleuthera. In addition, the entry to the water is pristine, and completely sandy, with no drop-offs.

Preacher’s Cave, *Opposite Gene’s Bay, Spanish Wells, Eleuthera*

Preacher’s Cave, on the North end of the island, has both a natural and historical appeal. It was in this large, blueshadowed cave that the Eleutheran Adventurers sought shelter after shipwrecking nearby. They had fled Bermuda in search of religious freedom, and it was in this cave that they held their first services in what would become their permanent home.

Queen’s Bath, *(just South of the Glass Window Bridge), Eleuthera*

Rock pools etched out by the wave action; a cave is behind them. You can go down there at low tide when the weather is calm and float around in the pools, which are filled with live shells and little fish.

Ten Bay Beach & Cave, *Savannah Sound, Eleuthera*

One of the most popular beaches with soft white sand and low tides perfect for wading. An open cave is located near the beach; there are no stalagmites or stalactites there - only bats.

THE EXUMAS

The waters surrounding this 100-mile-long chain of islands have been described by yachtsmen as being the finest cruising region in the world. There are also pristine cays and spectacular reefs protected by the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park, accessible by boat only. It is a 176-mile park of beauty, with outstanding marine life. Inland, several once-great plantation houses now stand ruined and deserted, although the names of their owners still live on in many local family surnames.

Bahamas National Trust, *Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park, Exuma*

This park is one of the largest underwater and land preserves, Exuma is a nature lover’s paradise kept in its original pristine setting. The rarest living creatures of the park are stromatolites, blue-green, reef-forming algae, which are the oldest living evidence of life on Earth; some of them on Exuma Island and Stocking Island are believed to be 2,000 years old. Fossil stromatolites date back 3.5 billion years.

The Hermitage, *Little Exuma, Exuma*

The Hermitage estate ruins are just one reminder of the cotton plantation days on Little Exuma, which did not survive long. Visitors to The Hermitage can see the foundations of the main house and some old tombs that date back to the 1700s. Hermitage Tombs are the only three marked graves on the small settlement of Hermitage, which was settled by the Ferguson family from the Carolinas after the American War of Independence. Each of the tombs has a different inscription: to the memories of George Butler (1759-1822), Henderson Ferguson (1772-1825) and Constance McDonald (1755-1759). The unmarked grave is believed to be that of an unnamed slave.

Mystery Cave, *Stocking Island, Exuma*

A must-see for divers and snorkelers just south of Stocking Island is Mystery Cave, a 400-foot-deep blue hole, which begins at 15-feet below the surface, but rapidly drops to 100-feet. Stocking Island is lined with talcum powder white beaches and is a great day trip from George Town.



THE EXUMAS continued

Staniel Cay, Swimming Pigs, *Tiny Major Cay (off of Staniel Cay), Exuma*

Not only is it a great place for snorkeling and beach bumming, it's a hoot to frolic in the surf with the pigs. Remember to bring a snack for the swimming swine.

Three Sister Rocks, *Mt. Thompson, Exuma*

Thunderball Grotto, *Staniel Cay, Exuma*

Weave through the grotto's many entrances and passageways, escape to the outside through its holes. Gaze skyward when inside the amphitheater to see light streaming through the roof where rain has eroded natural skylights.

GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND

Only 52 miles off the Florida coast, this island is perennially popular. Lucayan National Park (there are 40 acres to sample here) and Peterson Cay National Park are both worth visiting. The Rand Memorial Nature Centre offers an excellent nature walk and the Garden of the Groves has exotic flowers, waterfalls and colorful birds. A highlight of any trip here will be to watch the semi-wild dolphins gliding and soaring in Sanctuary Bay.

Bahamas National Trust, *Rand Nature Centre*

The Bahamas National Trust Rand Nature Centre is a 100-acre nature preserve.

Eight-Mile Rock Boiling Hole

The Boiling Hole is well known for its occasional swirling movement of water in the cave-area, which flows beneath the roadway.

Garden of the Groves

The Garden of the Groves has more than 10,000 species of flowers, shrubs, trees, and exotic plant life, and because of such, attract many birds and butterflies. Along its shaded, winding paths are several waterfalls, and an old-fashioned chapel on the hill a favorite place for weddings, prayer or meditation has received a face-lift, new doors and new chairs will be arriving soon. Further, The Garden of the Groves is now the home of the Grand Bahama Labyrinth.

Hawksbill Creek

The Hawksbill Creek, named for the once frequent visitor (now critically endangered) the Hawksbill Turtle. This area showcases the contrast between the natural and industrial landscape of Grand Bahama, and also the resilience and importance of our mangrove system.

Hydroflora Gardens

Lucayan National Park

Nature trails and boardwalks lead to a variety of ecosystems. Two large caves are open to the public — part of one of the largest underwater cave systems in the world. Swimming in the caves is prohibited; diving requires a special permit. Picnic tables are located on the beach.

Peterson Cay National Park

It is a mile offshore. Active coral reefs surrounding the cay provide excellent opportunities for snorkeling or diving. This is a protected area.



INAGUA

The third largest and the most southerly island in the Bahamas, Inagua is also the hottest and the driest. Home to a plant of the Morton Salt company it is the source of nearly a million pounds of salt annually. It is also home to one of the largest flamingo bird sanctuaries in the world.

Union Creek National Park, *Great Inagua*

The park covers about 50% of the island and is a sanctuary for Flamingos and a variety of other bird species.

Little Inagua National Park, *Little Inagua*

Little Inagua, designated a National Park by the Bahamas Government in 2002, is the largest uninhabited island in the Wider Caribbean and exists in a remote, natural undisturbed state. It is a documented nesting location for critically endangered species.

LONG ISLAND

This island certainly lives up to its name, being almost 100km (60-miles) long but rarely more than 5km (3-miles) wide. The landscape consists of rugged headlands dropping sharply down to the sea, fertile pastureland, rolling hills and sandy beaches washed by surf. At Conception Island, divers can explore over 30 shipwrecks and tours are arranged from the Stella Maris Resort Club at the north end of the island. The Long Island Regatta at Salt Pond takes place here in May. Attractions include Hamilton's Cave, and the deepest blue hole around, Dean's Blue Hole, at 660-feet into the ocean floor, lying just offshore.

Cape Santa Maria Bay & Beach, *Cape Santa Maria, Northern Long Island*

Cape Santa Maria is located on the northwest coast of Long Island, in the temperate southern Bahamas. The main geographical feature is a shallow, sheltered bay lined by white sandy beaches and lush green plant life.

Christopher Columbus Memorial, *Northern Long Island*

On the northernmost tip of the island, North Long Island, there is a 15-foot tall stone obelisk memorial erected to Christopher Columbus.

Dean's Blue Hole, *Dean's (just North of Clarence Town), Long Island*

Dean's Blue Hole is located in Dean's just north of the capitol Clarence Town. It's the world's deepest blue hole plunging to a depth of over 660-feet. Its' unique location is semi-inland with towering cliffs half way around. There is a beach beside it with shallow water and then a sudden plunge into the abyss.

Dunmore Plantation, *Dunmore Town, Long Island*

Dunmore Town on Long Island offers authentic craft and artwork stands and centuries-old churches. Named after a plantation—aptly named Dunmore Plantation—you can tour the ruins and relics of the old estate and the former slave plantation house built of limestone.

Hamilton's Cave, *Hamilton, Long Island*

Lucayan artifacts were discovered in this cave system in 1935.

Indian Hole Point Cave, *Thompson Bay, Northern Long Island*

NEW PROVIDENCE

Botanical Gardens, *Chippingham Road*

Enjoy 18-acres of tropical flora covering over 600 species, including the national flower, the yellow elder.



NEW PROVIDENCE continued

The Caves, *West Bay Street*

Lucayans, the former residents who lived on The Islands Of The Bahamas from around the 10th century to Christopher Columbus' time, once used these caves. They are located a little west of Cable Beach.

The Retreat Gardens, *Village Road*

The Retreat Garden National Park is an 11-acre oasis of rare and exotic palms and native coppice in the heart of residential Nassau, New Providence.

Acquired in 1985, The Retreat Garden contains one of the largest private collections of palms in the world. It is known internationally for having some of the most spectacular and rare palms - over one hundred and seventy-six species! These palms flourish amidst an excellent collection of native trees and hardwoods, including horseflesh, Madeira, gum elemi, logwood, and tamarind.

The Versailles Gardens, *Paradise Island*

Stroll through these spectacular gardens, a popular spot for weddings. Bronze and marble statues — like a life-sized Hercules sculpted in Greece in the 12th century — as well as fountains, reflecting pools and waterfalls are scattered throughout.

Be the first to submit a photo of **stromatolites!** (Hint: found in Exuma)

Take a photo of large **white mountains!** (Hint: found in Inagua)

Swim with **world famous pigs** and live to tell it! (Hint: found in Exuma)

Look through a **natural skylight** and swim with **rainbow fish!** (Hint: found in Exuma)

The photo opportunities are endless!

Information from www.Bahamas.com

For more Bahamian destinations visit www.Bahamas.com or www.bnt.bs