BAHAMAS CATAMARAN CHARTERS

The Florida Keys offers great snorkeling, awesome fishing, and family oriented sunset dining. One way to experience the Keys while keeping the family together with personalized service, is aboard the charter catamaran Amazing Grace.

This itinerary allows for just that. In a four day weekend we sample the best snorkeling, marinas, and sunset celebrations!

A two hour drive south from Ft Lauderdale brings you to Mile Marker 100 and the diving capital of North America, Key Largo. Amazing Grace can meet you there at Marina Del Mar (www.marinadelmarkeylargo.com) in Key Largo. Lets say you end your work commitments early at 4pm on Thursday afternoon, you could be having dinner poolside at the marina by 7pm.

After we eat a leisurely breakfast on board, we set out Key Largo Canal for a short trip to our first snorkeling destination, Molasses Reef. Key Largo has numerous sites to snorkel and is a great place to relax and enjoy the best reefs in North America. In the afternoon we continue south to Islamorada (purple island). A windy trip through Snake Creek lets us cut across to the backside where we anchor off shore of the Lorelei Restaurant, a place where many of the best Bone Fishers in Florida call home. It's also where they pull their boats out and have a beer or two after fishing the flats all day. If you ever wanted to give flats fishing a try, Jimmy Lozar (www.youtube.com/ watch?v=Ea6yxeB6Sig) is one of the Keys best guides and can be hired for a half or full day. There are several great places to have dinner in Islamorada, my favorite is Uncles owned by fishing legend Joe Lepree. Every fish served at Uncles is hook caught by a local fisherman and some of the best anglers in the world frequent Joe's establishment. If you have any energy left we can stop by Morada Bay. Located on Florida Bay, it is one of the most tasteful and family friendly places in the Keys to listen to wonderful live music in all the Key's. Rolling walkways take you through gently bent palm trees and Old Florida architecture.

From Islamorada we could pull anchor and head out to snorkel Hens and Chickens reef then Chica Rocks. In the afternoon we might explore the uninhabited island of Indian Key for some local history. A short dinghy ride from the island takes us to Robbie's where you can hand feed the Tarpon. Saturday night could take us to Duck Cay and Hawks Cay Marina (www.hawkscayresort.com), where if you like, we could arrange a swim with the dolphins on Sunday morning. Hawks Cay has great restaurants but I also like to use there complementary grills for a charcoal grilled New York Strip Steak. They have wonderful pools and the secured island is very family friendly.

Sunday afternoon we could snorkel Coffins Patch and my favorite reef in the Keys, Looe Key. Home of a giant goliath grouper. Sunday night we could anchor off of the seven mile bridge, watch the sunset, and have dinner in Marathon or onboard.

Monday we sail back to Key Largo fishing our way up the gulf stream. This is our big fishing day. The Gulf Stream helps us on our way back north. It's also a great place to hook up with a Mahi Mahi. Later Monday night we are back to Key Largo. A quick dip in the pool to cool of and we say our goodbyes till next time......Bahamas?

