

The Deep Flight Aviator is a submarine vehicle that can travel 1,000 feet below the surface of the sea. Incredible Adventures, operating out of Stuart Cove, near Nassau, Bahamas, offers the thrill of the Deep Flight for daring tourists.

Deep Flight Adventures: Frequently Asked Questions

How fast does the Deep Flight Aviator travel? The Deep Flight Aviator's underwater speed can best be compared to an aircraft flying at 330 knots—the average speed for a small jet. The Deep Flight Aviator will do approximately 10 knots. By comparison, whales and other large animals move at around 6 knots.

How deep will I go? Maximum depth for the flight school will be 1,000 feet. Initial training dives will be at diver depths (under 150 feet) where we will have diver support, good natural light, and will see animal life and shipwrecks (sunk by dive operators). More advanced dives will go deeper, according to the customer's comfort and wishes.

What will I see?

0—100 feet—Looks like what you see on TV (blue water, lots of animals, reefs, shipwrecks).

100—300 feet—Getting dark (twilight at 200) and dark at 300. Water will be black and will be illuminated by sub's powerful lights.

500 feet—No natural light. Completely dark/black. The appearance of the bottom will change from reef to deep ocean. Very few people have been to 500 feet and below. At these depths, 50% of the eyeballs looking back at you are uncatalogued by science.

1,000 feet—Alien environment. Anywhere you go, you will be seeing a piece of the earth no human has seen before. There will be good visibility.

The path will be illuminated by the sub's sophisticated penetration lights and flood lights. We will be flying low and across the bottom.

Do I need to be a diver? You absolutely do not need to be a diver to fly the Deep Flight Aviator. However, if you are a diver, you can certainly take advantage of the world-class dive facilities at Stuart Cove. Or, if you are a nondiver and interested in learning how to dive, Stuart Cove also offers introductory SCUBA lessons.

Do I need to know how to swim? You do not need to know how to swim. However, it is recommended just for extra safety while on the water and for your own comfort with being on the water.

What are hydrobatatics? Essentially, hydrobatatics are acrobatics underwater. The sub is capable of doing extreme maneuvers—all according to the comfort level of the passengers.

Will I be in radio contact with the surface and with the other pilot? You will be in radio contact with the chief pilot at all times. We do have through water communications to the surface, but at certain depths, communications to the surface will not be clear, nor possible.

Are there age, size and health requirements? Age does not matter. However, you should be in good health (no heart/lung conditions or other serious life threatening illnesses). The cockpit space is limited, so anyone over 6'3" or over 220 pounds might be uncomfortable.

Where will the dive take place? We will be operating from Stuart Cove dive facility, located next door to the South Ocean Beach Resort Hotel where we are recommending our customers stay. If you opt to stay in Nassau (on the other side of the island), it is about a 30 minute drive to Stuart Cove, and you will need to rent a car or take a cab. We will be housing the Deep Flight Aviator in a dockhouse at Stuart Cove. You will be climbing into the Aviator, and strapping in on the dock, and then the sub (and pilots) will go down the ramp on a wheeled trolley into the water. From the ramp, the sub will be towed out (on the surface) by a zodiac* to the dive training site (approximately 5—10 minutes from ramp). On site, we will dive down and fly to wall (about 5-10 minutes away). One to two zodiacs will be accompanying the sub, and a larger (40-foot) dive support vessel is available if needed.

How safe is it? This is an incredible adventure. The craft is a prototype, the first of its kind. Therefore, this activity is inherently risky and you assume all the risks of injury or death by participating. However, historically, manned subs have had very good safety records—especially relative to equivalent pioneering with aircraft and spacecraft technology. In addition, Graham Hawkes has built and test-piloted probably more subs than anyone in the world. As far as we know, there have been no deaths in any of his manned submersibles used by scientists and the oil and gas industry.

***zodiac:** type of lightweight, inflatable motorboat

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