Franko's ELEUTHERA ISLAND

Commonwealth of The Bahamas

Adventure Guide

Printed on Durable Waterproof Synthetic Paper

SAINT GEORGE'S ISLAND Now a tourism destination with a full-service marina, groceries, restaurants, bar, beaches, bank, and all other amenities, historically this was the last stop for Spanish sailors to fill up with fresh water for their sojourn back to Spain. A maritime museum here gives you a look at the history of the life on the high seas of the Atlantic and Caribbean. The settlement itself is a delightfully modern Caribbean community.

PREACHER'S CAVE Visit the cave where early settlers sheltered and worshiped after wrecking their ship. A placard says, "William Sayle shipwrecked at Devil Backbone found refuge here. Sermons held 100 years."

THE TRAIN WRECK Here lies the corroded and encrusted wheels and parts of a steam locomotive from the Civil War era at 20' (6m) depth. It was lost when the barge carrying it went down in 1865 during a storm on the treacherous Devil's Backbone reef.

CIENFUEGOS WRECK 292' (89m)-long passenger boat, launched in Pennsylvania in 1883, ran aground in 1895 in heavy winter seas. All survived. Battered by the sea and corroding for over a century, her scattered remnants are in 30'-40' (9-12m) of water.

THE CARNARVON WRECK (1910) An old 186' (57m)-long Welch freighter ran aground here in 1919. She sits on the sand in just 30' (9m) of water. The site is littered the ship's anchors, boilers, engines, and propeller.

BAT CAVE & BONE SINK HOLE Divers plunge into Bat Cave & Bone Sink Hole off limestone platforms near Preacher's Cave. This inland hole is seawater.

STINGRAY HOLE A long fringe reef here has dozens of shipwrecks over a 300 year history. Three wrecks lie atop one another in a heap in one spot. The reef is also excellent for deep-sea fishing.

THE ARCH A giant coral grotto with schools of colorful Caribbean reef fish entertaining divers.

HARBOUR ISLAND Famous for soft pink sand beaches along its eastern shore, this island is accessed by a short water taxi ride from North Eleuthera. Harbour Island is a pristine vacation spot for Americans and Europeans. Known as "Briland" to the locals, Harbour Island is colorful with New England-style buildings and flower-lined streets.

PINK SANDS BEACH One of the most beautiful beaches in the Bahamas, the pink hue comes from a tiny animal called a foraminifera which has a red shell. Pick up a handful of sand & you might find what looks like a tiny strawberry - that's a red foram mixed with the white sand, making the pink color.

PINK HOUSE REEF

THE CAVE

See Side 2 for HARBOUR ISLAND Details

HOT TUBS/QUEEN'S BATH Several small, natural tide pools fill with Atlantic Water, which is warmed by the sun. A challenging hike over sharp limestone (don't go barefoot) is rewarded with a relaxing two-foot deep bath and interesting scnery. There is also a large cave behind the baths.

THE ARIMOROA This 260' (79m) Lebanese freighter was run aground in on Egg Island in 1970 to save the crew after her load of fertilizer caught fire at sea. This killed the surrounding reef, but the rebound of life since then has amazed and even baffled marine biologists. She sits upright in only 20' (6m) of water, looking like an anchored ship.

SEA GARDENS

THE PINNACLE

THE COW & THE BULL One of many land formations on Eleuthera Island, this one is a mile south of the Glass Window Bridge. There are two large boulders. On one side, the boulder looks like a bull with two cows and on the other side, a bull with one cow. Both sets of boulders overlook the sea. When the weather is inclement the wind zips through the rocks making a roar that oddly sounds like bulls.

GLASS WINDOW BRIDGE

THE PLATEAU

LONE TREE Sitting upright and alone on the beach, this dead tree appeared upright as a large piece of driftwood during Hurricane Andrew in 1992. This photogenic and moveable tree is temporarlily "planted" in the sand, but it won't last. Take a photo memory now!

SURFER'S BEACH For those who love to surf, Eleuthera has great surfing spots. Surfer's Beach is an awesome beach just two miles south of Gregory Town. Here, the southwest winds blow breakers in from the Atlantic. If you just want to watch, the two-mile beach has some of the best sugary-soft white sand in The Bahamas.

GLASS WINDOW BRIDGE Two miles east of Upper Bogue and north of Gregory Town at the skinniest part of Eleuthera Island, which is just 30 feet wide, is the Glass Window Bridge. Sturdy rock formations make up the Glass Window Bridge. The land here is high on either side and abruptly falls away to nearly sea level almost dividing the island in two. You can stand in one spot and see the gray Atlantic Ocean to the east and Exuma Sound to the west. Note that hiking down to the lower levels here can be very dangerous due to ocean waves and currents.

JAMES POINT Remote and difficult to reach, getting here demands four-wheel drive. You will likely have this absolutely beautiful beach all to yourself. A good place to snorkel, and can be good for surfing as well with a south wind. A shipwreck can be seen from the road.

GREGORY TOWN Set above a steep cove in the Bight of Eleuthera, at one time this town was the center of Eleuthera's pineapple industry. Nowadays visitors stop in Gregory Town to shop for Bahamian-made candles, hot sauces, batik fabic clothing, and local art at Pam's Island Made Gift Shop. You can rent surfboards from Surfer Peter right next door.

AIRPORT BEACH This beach is very long, taking well over one hour to walk it one-way. The north end waters are a bit treacherous with strong currents, and waves that can pound you, so swim only the south end. Bring drink.

SKY BEACH Enjoy Sky Beach Club's pink-sand beach and infinity-edge pool with poolside restaurant service. The spectacular view of Sky Beach and the Atlantic Ocean is from 135' (41m) elevation.

HATCHET BAY CAVE Just south of Surfer's Beach is a mile-long cave filled with stalagmites and stalactites, which will take on the appearance of underground cathedrals in the light of your torch. Centuries-old graffiti of charcoal signatures line the walls. It is recommended to tour with a cave guide.

RAINBOW BEACH This is a favorite Caribbean-side beach, with calm, warm swimming, and good snorkeling at the rocky end. If the Atlantic side is rough, you will find calm water here.

FRENCH LEAVE BEACH/CLUB MED BEACH French Leave is a wonderful new resort replacing Club Med, although most people still remember the beach by its old name. The beach is known for decent body surfing and body boarding, with snorkeling on the south end.

JAMES CISTERN BEACH The waves here sometimes reach 10 feet due to a brisk southerly wind, making this another great surfing site at Eleuthera. There is also a shipwreck just off shore, great for snorkeling when the water is calm.

PINEAPPLE DOCK – Wreckage of a ship that is now home to a myriad of juvenile tropical fish.

GOVERNOR'S HARBOUR One of Eleuthera's larger communities, this town is the islands's geographic center. Cruising boaters and drop anchor here, and the dock allows you to tie up and walk into town for things you need, and there are plenty of places to eat, drink, and shop. Visitors enjoy seeing the churches, an old public library, and other historic buildings.

LEON LEVY NATIVE PLANT PRESERVE Enjoy this 25-acre sanctuary, the first National Park on Eleuthera. A mile-long trail goes to a waterfall, through a mangrove, and past groves of medicinal plants. a climb to a lookout tower offering breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean. You will find 71 species of indigenous plants and more than 34 species of birds.

Bird Cay – Watch for fish feeding and conchs crawling along the bottom.

POPONI BEACH (TIPPY'S BEACH) Good snorkeling and on powder sugar sand walks are available in a relatively calm and deserted beach. It is also called Singing Sands Beach, for the sound of the hard sand beneath your feet when you walk. Located by Tippy's Beach, Bar & Restaruant. Parking located across from Botanical Preserve.

TEN BAY BEACH Located on the Caribbean side, this beach has nice snorkeling at either end. The beach greatly grows and shrinks with the tides, but it is very shallow for a long way out. If you want a better sea breeze, go over to Double Bay.

WINDING BAY BEACH This wonderful crescent beach is dead calm and beautiful. Bring a picnic and some cold drinks up from Rock Sound, 7 miles away, and enjoy an afternoon walking on a photogenic beach. In the summer the shallows are full of huge starfish.

BAHAMAS ADVENTURE TOURS For all of your adventures in Eleuthera, see www.bahamasadventuretours.com. You can learn about or book adventures in scuba diving, snorkeling, ATVs, bikes, golf carts, charter boats, fishing expeditions, sand bar excursions, kayaking, and island tours. You will also find that all kinds of water sport rentals are available. Call 334-8500 Daytime, 470-8242 Evenings.

SCHOONER CAYS Cape Eleuthera offers excursions to these Cays. A vast, shallow, sandy sea extends from Schooner Keys far to the North-west. Adventure some kayakers paddle out to enjoy seclution on a beach that might only be there at low tide.

ELEUTHERA ADVENTURE TOURS To become a real Eleutheran Adventurer be sure to enjoy a tour. Locals guides will give you with the inside story and history of the "Island of Freedom". See www.eleutheraadventuretours.com or call 334-2356. Located in Rock Sound.

TARPUM BAY This early settlement is a fishing village, featuring plentiful seafood and turquoise water scenery. It has a grocery store and a hardware store.

ROCK SOUND Eleuthera's largest community has banks restaurants, a petrol station, and grocery stores that stock fresh fruits and vegetables from Rock Sound Farms. Boats find a large, protected bay to drop anchor and come ashore for supplies. Here, an 1830's Mission has recently been restored to become a cultural centre, library, internet café, reading room and museum.

OCEAN HOLE Local people claim that this beautiful inland blue hole is bottomless. It is filled with tropical fish and turtles who greet visitors. The sea water raises and lowers with the ebb and flow of the tides.

WHITE BEACH A dirt road referred to as "White Beach Road" takes visitors from the airport right to this classic Eleuthera beach.

THE SANDBAR At low tide a mile-long sandbar breaks the surface. Explorers snorkel the surroundings, find conch, sea stars, sea biscuits, and sand dollars,or sit in the shallow moving waters for an ocean massage. Cape Eleuthera Resort offers excursions to The Sandbar.

ROCK SOUND HEALING HOLE People seek the healing powers of what is locally called a "boiling hole". Early Arawak and Caribe Indians made a sanctuary out of caves here. For an expert tour, contact Lyle Brathwaite at Bahamas Adventure Tours.

CORAL CITY Coral rise toward the surface from 35' (11m) depth. Tidal currents limit the timing of this dive.

WONDER WALL Divers peak over the wall at 70' (21m) into the deep blue Exuma Sound abyss. Corals outcrop from the wall's edge.

CAPE ELEUTHERA The end of The Cape has been developed into beautiful new neighborhoods, a marina, harbor and public beaches. It has become the center of fun and nature for Eleuthera. The area has great snorkeling and dive operators to take you to at least 26 dive sites. The Cape offers fantastic scenery, sunrises and sunsets, and is also good for conch diving.

See Side 2 for CAPE ELEUTHERA Details

ISLAND SCHOOL FISH CAGE Anchored at 84' (25m) depth, this open water aquaculture cage is used for marine biology research. Fish Cage has the greatest fish aggregation in all of Eleuthera, including pelagics like African pompanos, amberjacks, bull sharks, hammerheads, and giant groupers. This is a great dive!

TIDE REEF DRIFT Tide changes zip around Cape Eleuthera making this a swift drift dive, which is timed for exhiliarating speed.

TWIN PEAKS Two huge coral heads rise from just 30' (9m) depth to form a natural fish nursery, also full of colorful invertebrates.

CHUB ROCK This site is only 15' (5m) deep, but it is so filled with Bermuda chub, French grunts, angelfish and parrotfish, that it is a highly rated snorkeling spot, and a great first dive experience.

TUNNEL ROCK The tunnel here is a cavern, which begins at 55' (17m) depth, and goes through a big coral head, letting out at 70' (21m). Look for maroon algae and colorful sponges.

SMUGGLERS PLANE WRECK A 4-seater drug smugglers plane sits at broken in two at 70' (21m) adorned with marine life.

CAVE ROCK A massive coral mound at 50' (15m) is surrounded smaller coral heads, and there are caves where you can swim from one side to the other. The colorful variety of corals and fish is amazing.

HOLE IN THE WALL A large swim through that takes you in at 70' (21m), and lets you out on the wall at 110' (33m). Advanced.

IKE'S REEF Shallow, scattered corals reach rise to just 8' (2.5m) depth, for snorkelers and beginners scuba divers.

CUT THRU CITY Just above the drop-off there is a fantastic array of swimthroughs, some of which lead to the drop-off itself. The mooring is at 55' (17m) depth, where you enter the fissures, holes and channels.

HIGH ROCK This spot is popular amongst snorkelers, and it is also a fun cliff jumping spot. Scuba divers might also enjoy the boulders here in this wind-protected spot.

MONOLITH The mooring is a 65' (19m), with a slope to 110' (33m), and then a drop-off into the abyss. Sea turtles including loggerheads are seen here, and greater hammerheads cruise the deep.

KNUCKLEHEAD REEF Classic tongue and groove reef system just 25-35' (7-10m) in depth, with photogenic, fish-filled overhangs.

ELEUTHERA WALL To the west of the mooring is an awesome wall beginning at 50' (15m) depth, to the east is a monstrous coral head with swimthroughs, with tons of fish and corals. This is two dives.

SHARK DIVE Hide out at 60' depth and watch as sharks glide above you, attracted to a tasty 5-gallon "chumsicle".

SPLIT CORAL HEAD A huge 100' (30m)-wide coral head is split, with a big chunk missing in the middle. It is rich with sea fans and fish, plus hefty hermit crabs walking about in the surrounding sand.

ROCK SOUND BLUE HOLES A trio of blue holes begin at 20' (6m) and descend to over 100' (30m). It is not known if they are somehow interconnected via subterranean caves.

MAGGIES REEF

CATHEDRAL REEF

PREDATOR COVE

THE CLIFFS

PREMO WALL

CAVERN WALL

DAVIS HARBOUR

WHITELAND BEACH Romantic pink sand beach just 5 miles from Rock Sound. Secluded and lovely. North of the beach there is a spectacular arch in the eroded sand-stone called "The Blue Window".

JACK'S BAY Lovely arching pink sand beach. Almost as pretty as Lighthouse Beach, but smaller and mor easily reached.

ELEUTHERA POINT With perhaps Eleuthera's most beautiful waters and beaches, reaching this point requires a four-wheel drive vehicle, or a good walk. The views from the cliffs are stunning, and the beaches will likely be deserted. Also, this is a superb place to go snorkeling.

BAMBOO POINT 60'-100'+ (18-30m+) The drop off at this boat dive plunges into the abyss over 1000' below. White-spotted eagle rays and southern stingrays abound.

LIGHTHOUSE BEACH Maybe the best beach in The Bahamas - even better than Pink Sands! This hidden blush-rose sand beach is on the Atlantic side of Eleuthera Point behind some sand dunes. With great snorkeling just a walk off the beach, this is a great place to pack a picnic basket and spend an entire romantic afternoon or sunset stroll with your better half. Make sure to be self-sufficient, with plenty of drinking water and whatever else you need.

Monthly Rainfall: 1.90" (4.83cm) 1.60" (4.06cm) 1.60" (4.06cm) 2.10" (5.33cm) 4.60" (11.68cm) 9.20" (23.37cm) 6.20" (15.75cm) 8.50" (21.59cm) 6.80" (17.27cm) 6.90" (17.53cm) 2.20" (5.59cm) 2.00" (5.08cm) Total Rainfall: 53.6" (140.21cm)

Annual Eleuthera Air Temperature & Precipitation

Annual Eleuthera Water Temperature and Color

Annual Eleuthera Water Visibility (Clarity)

Fabulous Guides of Favorite Places

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Atlantic Ocean

Exuma Sound

Bight of Eleuthera

Cape Eleuthera

Rock Sound

Schooner Cays

Finley Cay

Green Sea Turtle · Hawksbill Turtle · Nassau Grouper · Green Razorfish · Clown Wrasse · Spanish Hogfish · Puddingwife · Hogfish · Trumpetfish · Great Barracuda · Mahogany Snapper · White Grunt · Tobacco Fish · Barred Hamlet · Yellowtail Snapper · Foureye Butterflyfish · Creole Wrasse · Elkhorn Coral · Juvenile · Balloonfish · Striped Burrfish · Blue Tang · Coral Crab · Spanish Lobster · Sea Rod · Brown Tube Sponge · Sea Horse · Basket Sponge · Jawfish · Brain Coral · Sea Cucumber · Yellow Stingray · Spotted Goatfish · Sand Tilefish · Yellowstriped Goatfish · Sand Diver · Bluehead Wrasse · Yellowhead Wrasse · Coney · Black Grouper · Graysby · Red Hind · Scrawled Filefish · Tiger Grouper · Bar Jack · Grey Snapper · Spotted Scorpionfish · Tarpon · Blue Chromis · Schoolmaster · Sergeant Major · Spotted Trunkfish · Palometa · Bermuda Chub · Horse-Eye Jack · Bluestriped Grunt · Brown Chromis · Orange-spotted Filefish · Juvenile · Glasseye Snapper · Smooth Trunkfish · White-Spotted Filefish · Cero · Spotted Drum · Highhat · Tomtate · Redlip Blenny · Spotted Moray Eel · French Grunt · Arrow Crab · Beaugregory · Black Durgon · Queen Triggerfish · Queen Angelfish · Yellowfin Damselfish · Spotfin Butterflyfish · Reef Butterflyfish · Banded Butterflyfish · Caribbean Reef Shark · Cushion Sea Star · Fairy Basslet · Longspine Squirrelfish · Sea Fan · Squirrelfish · Mountainous Star Coral · Gorgonian Fan · Orange Sponge · Octopus · Green Moray Eel · Sargassum Triggerfish · Ocean Triggerfish · Midnight Parrotfish · Princess Parrotfish · Giant Brain Coral · Cleaning Goby · Glassy Sweepers · Smooth Star Coral · Branching Vase Sponge · Sheet Coral · Long-spined Sea Urchin · Fire Coral · Porcupinefish · Sea Anemone · Yellow Tube Sponge · Staghorn Coral · Orange Tube Sponge · Bi-color Damselfish · Peacock Flounder · Spiny Lobster · Flying Gurnard · Nurse Shark · Queen Conch · Queen Parrotfish · French Angelfish · Gray Angelfish · Blue Angelfish · Juvenile · Stoplight Parrotfish · Triton's Trumpet · Rainbow Parrotfish · Southern Stingray · Blue Parrotfish · Rock Beauty · Garden Eel · Hermit Crab · Lionfish · Honeycomb Cowfish

Osprey · Common Tern · Herring Gull · Long-tailed Tropicbird · Belted Kingfisher · Magnificant Frigatebird · Great Blue Heron · Common Egret · Plover

Shark Dive · Fish Cage · Gully Hole · Cotton Bay Beach

CARIBBEAN SEA · ELEUTHERA · The Bahamas

N · W · E · S

SCALE: 0–5 Nautical Miles; 0–5 Miles; 0–5 Kilometers

76°50' W · 76°40' W · 76°30' W · 76°20' W · 76°10' W · 25°30' N · 25°20' N · 25°10' N · 25°00' N · 24°50' N · 24°40' N