

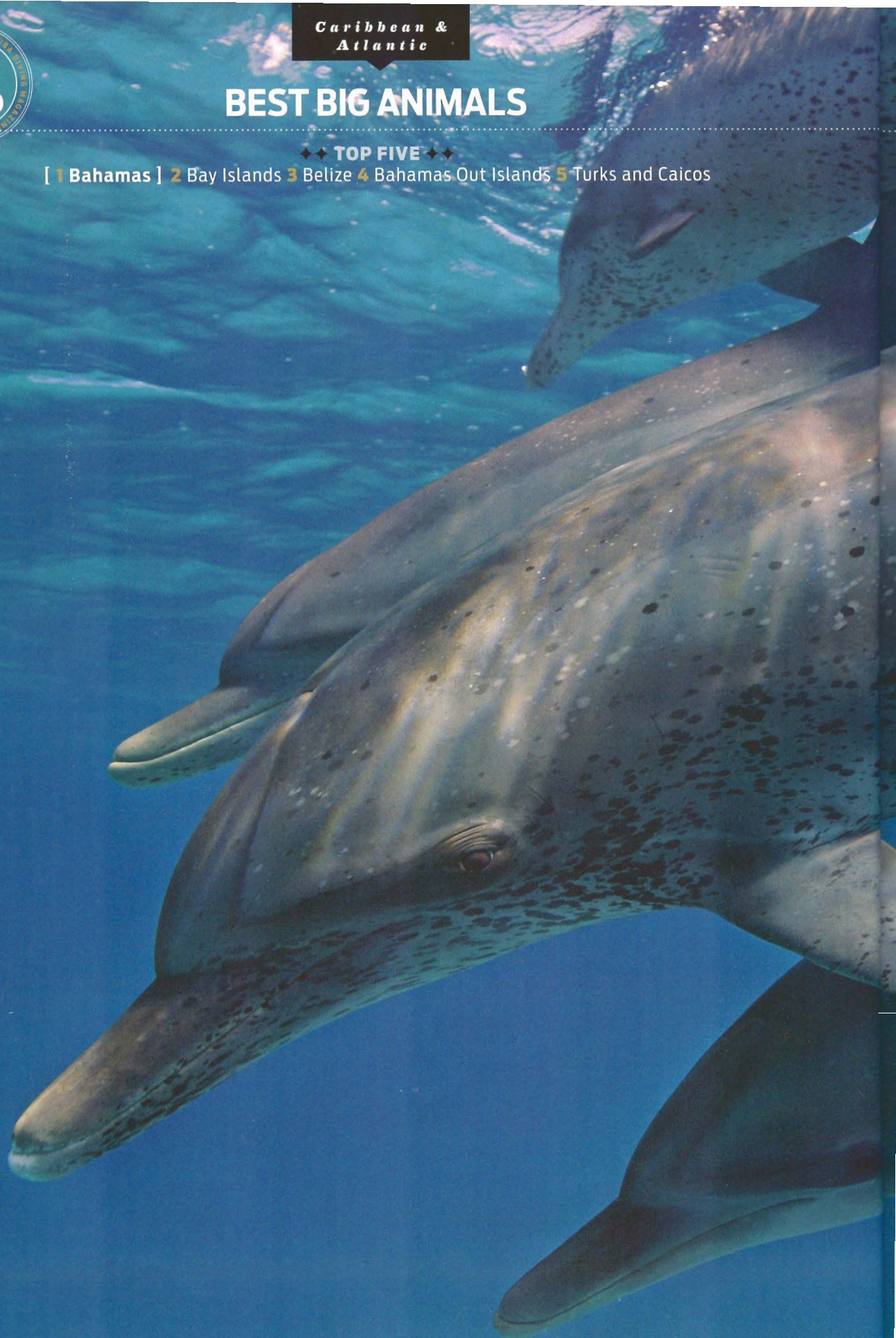


Caribbean &  
Atlantic

## BEST BIG ANIMALS


◆◆ TOP FIVE ◆◆

[ 1 Bahamas ] 2 Bay Islands 3 Belize 4 Bahamas Out Islands 5 Turks and Caicos



BRANDON COLE





Atlantic spotted dolphins are a big draw for divers and snorkelers in the Bahamas.

Hear that? It's not just the sound of your heart pounding against your chest but the thud of sharks hitting your shoulder as they muscle past to get to the chunks of fish swirling in the water column. Operators on New Providence, Grand Bahama and Andros islands offer shark-feeding encounters guaranteed to put you in the water with Caribbean reef sharks. Ready to amp up the excitement? Try a tiger-and lemon-shark encounter off Grand Bahama's West End. If the shark-feeding experiences don't appeal, you've got a decent shot of seeing sharks in the wild off every island in this chain, as well as wild spotted dolphins on Little Bahama Bank. [▶Go Now [scubadiving.com/bahamas](http://scubadiving.com/bahamas)]

No. 1

# BAHAMAS





## BEST BEGINNER DIVING

### ◆◆ TOP FIVE ◆◆

[ **1** U.S. Virgin Islands ] **2** Belize **3** Bahamas (New Providence and Grand Bahama) **4** Aruba **5** Bay Islands



The U.S. Virgin Islands feature excellent reefs and good diving for everyone.

## No. 1] U.S. Virgin Islands

This trio of easy-to-get-to islands is perfect for new divers. Off St. Thomas, in 45 feet of water, Cow & Calf Rocks offers colorful swim-throughs, including the whimsical "Champagne Cork," where the surge expels divers from the interior reef in a shower of bubbles. Off St. Croix, the *Northwind* can be explored in 45 feet of water. Inside the protected waters of St. John's Pillsbury Sound are two vast fringing reefs, the tops of which are just 10 to 20 feet deep. The preferred hangout for fish that flit between the corals, it's an excellent introduction not just to diving in the U.S. Virgin Islands but to diving itself.

► **Go Now** [scubadiving.com/usvi](http://scubadiving.com/usvi) ]

## BEST WRECK DIVING

### ◆◆ TOP FIVE ◆◆

**1** Grenada [ **2** Bermuda ] **3** New Providence, Bahamas **4** British Virgin Islands **5** Aruba

## No. 2] Bermuda

Listed as one of the best places for wreck diving in the Atlantic for as long as we've been tabulating Top 100 results, Bermuda is where hundreds of vessels — from 16th-century Spanish galleons to deliberately sunk freighters — met their fate. Scores of diveable wrecks include the 165-foot U.S. Coast Guard buoy tender *Hermes*, one of Bermuda's most popular wrecks.

Explore the engine room and even visit the captain's bathroom. Get a two-for-one dive on the *Constellation* and *Montana*, the former a Civil War blockade-runner that inspired *The Deep*. At 500 feet long, the luxury liner *Cristobal Colon* is Bermuda's biggest wreck, and definitely worth adding to your itinerary. ► **Go Now** [scubadiving.com/bermuda](http://scubadiving.com/bermuda) ]

Scores of ships met their fate in Bermuda's waters.

