



Albany Marina - open for business in the Bahamas

Albany is a luxury marina resort community in the Bahamas created by private investment company Tavistock Group and golf icons Tiger Woods and Ernie Els. Completed in October 2010, the resort features one of the largest and most technologically advanced megayacht marinas in the Caribbean. Todd T. Turrell reports

When our firm, Turrell, Hall & Associates, first began this project more than five years ago, I wondered if it made sense to build a marina on New Providence already home to Lyford Cay, Nassau and Paradise Island/Atlantis, all located on the island's north coast. But after some thoughtful consideration, it

became apparent to me that the south coast of the island would serve as an ideal place for a marina.

Albany Marina sits 47 miles from Highbourne Cay, Exuma; 88 miles from Staniel Cay, Exuma; and only 20 miles around the west side of New Providence into Nassau Harbour.

Albany Marina's finger piers are illuminated by efficient LED underwater lights for a spectacular effect at night.

Albany is perfectly positioned for vessels looking to avoid crowded Nassau Harbour and enjoy the serenity of the leeward coast. It is also a convenient port of call for yachts travelling from Florida to the Exuma chain and the wonderful, untouched islands of the southern Bahamas.

Our firm's role in the project was to design a marina that would complement the architectural style of the elegant buildings and marina village that will surround the basin in the future. We were also charged with the task of managing the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the approval process for the entire development, including marina, residential, golf course and various amenity components.

Our firm completed plans for the marine construction and assisted the developers in selecting all the finishing details for the marina, right down to the stainless steel bollards.

Albany Marina features a total of 71 large slips ranging from 50 to 240 feet (15m to 73m). Thirty-two slips accommodate vessels longer than 100 feet (30.5m) in length.

Excavated from solid limestone, the yacht basin covers more than 15 acres and is equipped with an entrance channel that is nearly a mile long with a control depth of -15 feet MLW (mean low water). The outer channel was also dredged from solid rock, bringing the

Each generously proportioned slip supplies electricity, cable and internet.





The 15-acre yacht basin facing south.

total amount of rock excavation and dredging to nearly a million tons.

The docks at Albany Marina are Bellingham Marine's finest. The utilities were carefully designed so that virtually any yacht that can fit into the basin can run on shore power. Providing adequate power to serve the entire marina with the specific requirements of today's large yachts was a design priority. Other notable features include state-of-the-art fire protection and in-slip sewage pump-out.

The marina basin is aesthetically enhanced by a steel sheet pile bulkhead that is clad in concrete from the cap to MLW. While it is visually pleasing, it also serves a functional purpose, preventing damage in the most corrosive area of the inter-tidal zone.

The harbour master's office, also fitted out in steel sheet pile, sits on an island in the middle of the basin connected to the mainland by floating docks. It serves as a hub for the large fuel dock, which has high-speed pumps capable of delivering 60 gallons per minute.

Albany Marina has been constructed to serve the needs of the world's changing fleet of large yachts, providing wider vessel beams, longer slips and an amenity package to suit every vessel.

This premier marina is a reality today thanks to Bahamas Marine Construction and our in-house design

The harbour master's office and fuel dock sit on an island connected to shore by floating concrete docks.

team, which includes a couple of marine contractors who always manage to teach us engineers a thing or two about marine construction.

Beyond the marina, Albany offers an array of spectacular landside features including a well-appointed boutique hotel, an Ernie-Els designed golf course, a full-service fitness centre, a spa, an adult pool and bar, a family water park, a kids' clubhouse and a variety of fine dining and casual restaurants.

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In construction

The Bellingham Unifloat floating concrete dock system at Albany Marina was installed by Shoreline Foundation, Inc (SFI) in conjunction with its Bahamian affiliate, Heavy Marine & Foundation Ltd.

Main walkways measure 12 feet wide and fingers range from eight to ten feet. Docks feature freeboards of 30 inches and gangways are rated for use by golf carts and other service vehicles. A single 12ft wide gangway, rated for use by larger vehicles, has also been installed for access to the central fuel dock and dock master's office.

SFI has been installing marinas on the eastern seaboard of the USA – especially Florida and the Florida Keys – and the Caribbean since the late 1980s. The company installed the marina systems at Cape Eleuthera Marina and Atlantis Marina, both in the Bahamas.

Slips at Albany Marina have been sold via membership with the Albany Yacht Club.

