

## **CINMAR ADVENTURE TO ELLIOTT KEY, FLORIDA JULY, 2007**

Hello! We hope you have enjoyed your summer and are feeling well. Sounds like most of the country has had more than their fair share of extreme weather-heat, wind and or rain. We waited for quite a while for "good weather" and it paid off. Let us hear from you about your summer also!

We wanted to share our local mini vacation with you. We cruised to a new destination-ELLIOTT KEY. It's part of Biscayne National Park and the northern most part of the Florida Keys. No land nor population around except for a small park area accessible by water only. It's about 35-40 miles south of our marina in Hollywood and a 4 hour leisurely, slow bell ride floating down the ICW (Intracoastal) waterway. Seven (7) bridges along the way, of which 2 had to open for us and 5 we ducked under nicely. We passed many beautiful waterfront homes, gorgeous landscape, the Port Of Miami including the cruise ships and several other marinas. A family of dolphin greeted us and were frolicking in Biscayne Bay. They are so much fun to see and watch. This is all local for us. We love living in south Florida-both on the boat and on land. It's naturally so beautiful here!

Elliott Key attracts boaters of all ages, size boats and kinds on most weekends. What a neat collection to see. The area is so vast that it easily hosts the 4,000 + annual Columbus Day regatta with plenty of space for everyone, we are told. Our dinghy is our water taxi and a must for this area. We anchored and then explored in the shallow waters of the park, beach and nearby Sand Key.

All the boaters gather at Sand Key to swim, relax, picnic and collect shells. In ankle to knee deep clear water, people play under their tents and umbrellas. They set up tables and chairs as well as BBQ. That's all part of the daily fun at Sand Key. We sat, dug and combed the sandy bottom for shells while enjoying the pristine waters. Even the captain enjoyed shelling for the very first time! A gra-8 variety of small shells and fun gifts from the sea. We spotted a nerf shark, bait fish and a manta ray. Exciting critters! We also took a dinghy ride out from the cut into the Atlantic Ocean with the real swift current. We had a bit of excitement too.. our dinghy failed us and wouldn't start-contaminated gas. It was way too far to row back to the Mother boat so..... Miami Dade Fire & Rescue offered us a tow and a helping hand, which we really appreciated. Captain's work is never done. He worked on it and his work paid off. It was a messy and very smelly job. We were back in the water the next day. Also out there, we thoroughly enjoyed the sunsets. The sky turned blue gray before setting along with a slight breeze. It was heavenly especially after a full day on the water. We saw weather at night around us but it never rained on our parade. Our super mini getaway ended with an easy ride back. We heard a bit of thunder and saw lightening around us. There was heavy rain all around us except in our path.

Then our captain said rain was coming. We did go through a bit and then clear skies again all the way back to the marina.

This is a refreshing quiet spot that we will visit again soon! Attached are a few pictures. Since a picture is worth 1,000 words.....here they are! Be well. We would love to hear from you too! Stay tuned for our next email log soon of the other Bahamas birthday celebration.

Captain Marc and First Mate Cindy  
M/V Nordic  
Friday, August 17, 2007









