

Baja - Mexico Liveaboard

Voyage the Length of Sea of Cortez

HIGHLIGHTS: Length of Sea of Cortez Voyage, Whalesharks, Sealions, Mobula Rays, Shipwrecks, Massed Schools of Fish and Dolphins. SCUBA diving, Snorkelling and exploring Jacques Cousteau's "World's Aquarium". Plus possibly Hammerhead Sharks, Orcas, Blue and Sperm Whales, and Giant Humboldt Squid

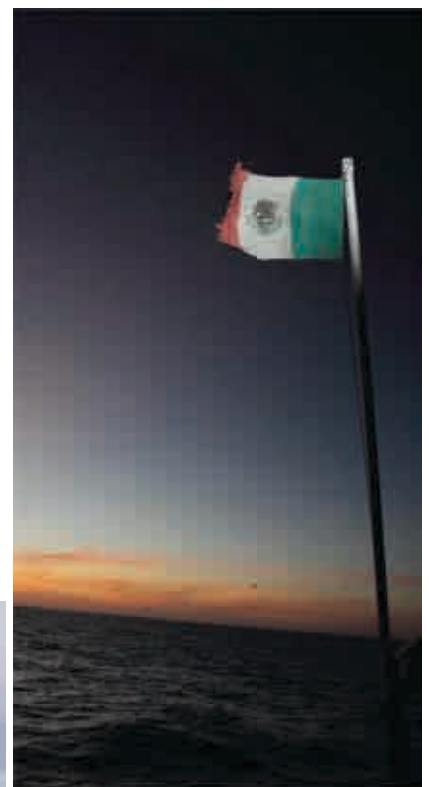


Tour leader: Ron Hunter
Duration: 14 days
Code: CZ18
Date: 20 Oct - 03 Nov 2018
Cost: \$AU 6390 Twin Share + Airfares
Optional Ext Socorro Is 10-day voyage

At the beginning of November every year, there exists one of the most exclusive and unique dive expeditions available on Planet Ocean. Of our Planet's 7 billion people, in any one-year, only sixty fortunate divers can experience a liveaboard diving voyage down the entire length of the Sea of Cortez, Baja, Mexico.

Sat October 20th 2018: Australia to Puerto Penasco, Mexico
Depart Sydney (SYD) 10:40 arrive Los Angeles (LAX), USA 06:30
Depart LAX 10:00, arrive Phoenix Sky Harbor (PHX) 11:45

We will be transferred from the airport across the Mexican border to Puerto Penasco, arriving there around 16:00 when we will board the beautiful "Rocio del Mar", which will be our home for next twelve days.



Day 1. Depart Puerto Penasco at 17:00. Most nights we will be travelling under a myriad of stars from one location to the next. There is no light pollution out here on the Sea of Cortez, we are surrounded by desert.

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Day 2. Wake up at Refugio in Angel Island: Potential Dive sites: Angel Rock, LA Vela, Lolo's Cove, El Jardin



Day 3. Angel Island: Potential Dive sites: Andrea's Eagle, El Acuario, Las Vivoras, Las Vivoras Night Dive



Day 4. Salsipuedes/Las Animas: Dive sites: Los Cuervos, El Caballo, El Lavadero, El Lavadero Night Dive

Schooling Scalloped Hammerhaed Sharks may be seen anywhere in the Sea of Cortez, we just need to be lucky!



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Day 5. San Pedro Martir: Potential Dive sites: Ravijunco, Xareni's Pinnacle, Coromel, Morrito

Day 6. San Pedro Martir: Potential Dive sites: El Arroyo, Punta Martir (Sea Lions), Chayo's Cove.

Keep a look out for Dolphins, Sperm Whales, Blue Whales and Orcas



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Day 7. Santa Rosalia: Morning: Visit the town and explore. Afternoon: Isla Coronado (Cabeza de Mono, Punta Sur) / Evening: Loreto - Visit the Mission etc.



Day 8. Santa Catalina, Monserrate y Agua Verde



Very occasionally Blue Whales are spotted surfacing.

Killer Whales - Orcas are often spotted

Day 9. Isla Espiritu Santo: Potential Dive sites: El Bajo, Los Islotes, choose from 2 of 4 shipwrecks.



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"Mega Pods" of Common Dolphins are a regular sight

Day 10 & 11. Cabo Pulmo:

Potential Dive sites: La Esperanza, Los Morros, El Bajo, Casitas

Wednesday November 1st 2018

Day 12. Arrive in San Jose del Cabo Marina, Mexico - Disembark by 9:00 a.m.



You can choose at this time to fly home, or spend a few days in Cabo San Lucas, and perhaps join us once again on the "Rocio del Mar" for the second voyage to the Revillagigedo Archipelago (Socorro Islands), Separate itinerary for this one visit: http://www.questtours.com.au/assets/2018/quest_SI18_itinerary.pdf

Thursday 1st to Saturday 3rd November 2018: Cabo san Lucas, Mexico to LAX then Sydney

Depart San Jose del Cabo (SJD) 15:00, arrive Los Angeles (LAX), USA 16:30

Depart LAX 20:25 arrive Sydney (SYD) at 06:25 on Friday 5th November

Or..... spend some time in Cabo San Lucas ☺

Originally a hiding place for English pirates, Cabo San Lucas found fame when John Steinbeck wrote "Log from the Sea of Cortez." Shortly after, Cabo's "Marlin Alley" became a celebrity favourite for big-game fishing. Today, it is one of Mexico's prime resort destinations. Located on the Baja Peninsula, Cabo is still known for fishing, but it's also gaining a reputation for its stunning scenery, near-perfect weather, golfing, water sports, underwater nature preserve, whale watching and nightlife. The twin towns of San Jose del Cabo and Cabo san Lucas are fabulous, serious "party towns" and a number of days and nights could be enjoyed here before heading for home.

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The "Rocio del Mar":

The Rocio is a very comfortable, well maintained liveaboard, with a variety of twin and double berths.

There are a number of common areas over four decks to relax in.



Twin Cabin

Top deck, evening BBQ dinners whilst watching the sun set over the desert, and star gazing as the night progresses, great food, good company; memories you will always cherish



Double Cabin



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Ron Hunter, tour leader, profile: www.diveforster.com.au www.whaledive.net

Ron is a vastly experienced SCUBA diver, PADI Divemaster and traveller, and has travelled and led groups of divers to most of the great dive and adventure locations in the world.



Ron with Sea & Sea DSLR camera outfit



Pic Ron Hunter at Roca Partida, Mexico copyright 2011

Fact file

Tour costs INCLUDE 😊:

- 😊 Transfer from Phoenix Airport to Puerto Penasco
- 😊 Twelve days onboard M.V. "Rocio del Mar"
- 😊 All superb meals, snacks, coffee and tea whilst onboard
- 😊 Beer and wine whilst onboard 😊
- 😊 Ten days diving, THREE to FOUR dives per day, plus two night dives in the Sea of Cortez
- 😊 Kayaking, snorkelling in the Sea of Cortez
- 😊 Shore excursion permits
- 😊 Cylinders, air fills, weightbelts.
- 😊 NITROX fills for qualified divers
- 😊 Mexican Visa and National Park fees
- 😊 Hyperbaric Chamber fees
- 😊 Dive Guide services
- 😊 Tour leader services
- 😊 Transfer from Rocio del Mar to airport at San Jose del Cabo (SJD)

Tour costs do NOT INCLUDE 😞:

- ⊗ Flights or travel to Phoenix, USA or from Cabo San Lucas, Mexico
- ⊗ Tips for "Rocio del Mar" crew, think \$US200+
- ⊗ ESTA - U.S. Visa / waiver fees
- ⊗ Items of a personal nature

Cost ex: Phoenix, USA: \$AU 6,390, (at an exchange rate of \$AU 1:00 = \$US 0.75)

Costs as at 9th August 15 # All costs are based on a twin-share accommodation basis.

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The Journey

This is a voyage of exploration and wonder, travelling the entire length of the western side of the Baja Peninsula. This trip includes the variety of the Northern Sea of Cortez to the larger pelagics of the southern. We will have opportunities to go ashore between dives, whilst hiking, kayaking and exploring passengers have found quaint towns, ancient hieroglyphics and mangroves.



Equipment advice:

The water temperature in the Sea of Cortez varies from 22-23C in the north to 29C in the south, 5-7mm wetsuit with perhaps layers at the start, and a 3mm wetsuit for the south will be needed.

During your time on deck in the Sea of Cortez, plenty of above water photographic opportunities will present, a good SLR camera will help you capture these. Also you may consider housing the SLR, even at a later date. Not all SLR cameras can be housed easily.

If you are considering purchasing a new camera / underwater housing please ask for advice. I have noticed a lot of ill-thought out purchases that just aren't up to the task, for example the inability to attach a wide-angle lens. I can help you avoid these mistakes and save you a lot of money and disappointment.

GoPros and the like, on extension poles or sticks, are illegal in Mexican National Parks

Nitrox diving:

Nitrox (32%) is included in the trip price onboard.

To be able to undertake all of the dives on offer you will need to dive on Nitrox. Diving on straight air will severely limit your dive times and profiles from about day two onwards. If you are not already a Nitrox certified diver, you should undertake a Nitrox diver course before travelling

Dive computers:

Our experience with dive computers, particularly on liveboards with multiple days of concentrated diving is that many Suunto dive computers are just too conservative to be of any use at all. This is not to say all Suunto computers aren't any good for the task, but as too many of them, especially the small ones and many others across the range just aren't up to it, it is not worth the risk to rely on one on a trip like this. For advice on dive computers that are suitable, please contact me; I can point you in the right direction with these.

Dive masks:

As you will be very close to the surface whilst snorkelling there will be a lot of sunlight beaming in on you. To get the most out of your diving, particularly the shallower diving, you should consider a good quality dive mask with a BLACK SILICON SKIRT. Black silicon will prevent light entering the mask from above or the sides, this light, which will enter through clear silicon mask skirts, will create a glare on your mask lens, which can interfere greatly with your clear vision of the critters.



Flight and travel details:

Return flights ex Australia by Virgin or Qantas will connect with onward flights to Phoenix and return flights ex San Jose del Cabo.

For airfares to and from the U.S. / Mexico please contact us

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We are really across the excursion flights, which can deliver a considerable saving over buying the flights separately.

Virgin and Qantas Flights (for same time frame in 2016) SYD/LAX/SYD are around \$1200 to \$1300 as at March 2015. Flights are also available ex: Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth

** Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours. We strongly recommend taking out travel insurance at the same time as paying your deposit. Suresave, our recommended insurance provider, will cover you from the time of paying your premium, until your tour's return date. We suggest carefully checking conditions of any other travel insurance you may be considering.

Contact us for all your Travel Insurance needs

If you choose to book your own flights, and then in the event of changes of schedules, we will not be responsible for any punitive charges that may be applied by other companies or airlines. Nor will we be responsible for missed connections, delays, flight cancellations and other airline and travel vagaries that are beyond our control. Basically, it is your fault if you "miss the boat"

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