



October 02, 2024

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MAGDALENA BAY
Mexico Sardine Run



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Sample Itinerary

8 Days, 7 Nights

Day 1 - Board and Get Underway

[View Safety Video](#)

Meet at SeeCreatures Cabo for 4:30 pm. Board and set sail up the beautiful coast of Baja California. Our destination, the sheltered waters and outer Islands of Magdalena Bay sardine run.

Day 2 - Start Off Diving!

Begin with 3 dives south end of Margarita Island, including sea lions and the remains of a steamship that sunk in the early 1900's.

Days 3-6 - Enjoy Peak Season of Mag Bay

Let's find some bait balls and get in the water with striped marlin! This is a cooperative eco-tourism program with local pangas and highly knowledgeable captains. Nobody does a better job at finding bait balls than Captain G and his family and friends.

Spend as much or as little time as you want on the water each day. The more time, the more striped marlin encounters. Scuba diving is definitely on the agenda on this trip.

Magdalena Bay is loaded with life this time of year, and aside from the marlin, you might also spot whales, dolphins, turtles, sharks and sea lions. Don't forget to check out the mangroves and gorgeous sand dunes. We will have kayaks and SUPs ready for you.

Day 7

Last day at Magdalena Bay. End with 3 more dives including the wreck of a WW1 submarine and more sea lions!

Day 8 - Breakfast & Disembark

8:30 am, enjoy one more breakfast before disembarking at SeeCreatures Cabo.



Maximize your time in Baja with savings on our pre-trip or post-trip extensions!

[Contact Us](#)

What am I going to see?

Every fall, the waters outside of Magdalena Bay are home to a deep ocean upwelling, which combine with warm waters to create perfect conditions for massive schools of sardine in the cobalt blue, shallow ocean water. The surrounding waters teem with life with bait balls and predators from seabirds to blue and mako sharks, sea lions, whales, dolphins and the ocean's fastest fish, the striped marlin. Marlin can swim as fast as 50 mph (80 kmh) and it's the thrill of a lifetime to be in the water next to a bait ball with marlin whizzing past you, dorsal fins full erect. Extra bonus is the hundreds of turtles often seen on the surface.

What to Bring

What do I need to pack?

Personal toiletries. Dive gear (or travel light and use our rental gear!) Summer attire. Nights can be cold which makes a sweater or fleece jacket a good addition (or buy one from our gift shop). Sunscreen (reef-safe sunscreen will be available onboard with our compliments). Towels and bed linen are provided onboard. A drybag to store anything you don't want to get wet in the panga. A hat for the longer days in the panga.

What wetsuit should I bring?

We suggest bringing a 5 or 7 mm wetsuit plus hooded vest as water temps will be in the low to mid-70°F range.

What dive gear should I bring?

Free diving fins are best for this trip although regular fins will work as well. Plus mask, snorkel and hood.

Although these trips are primarily snorkeling and free diving, we will be doing up to 6 dives, so if you are a diver, bring the usual dive gear like BCD, regs, computer, or we can arrange all of that as rentals from SeeCreatures.

What kind of safety gear do you provide divers?

Nautilus LifeLines, DiveAlerts and SMB safety sausages.

Can I bring my own alcohol onboard?

Sorry, but NO. We carry a great selection of signature drinks, single malts, microbrew beer and a varied wine list, all at very reasonable prices.

Do I need a passport?

YES. And it must be valid six months from entry.

Travel Details

Do I need to obtain a visa ahead of time?

Only for a very limited number of countries. Please check the requirements for your country.

Do I need insurance?

Guests are required to have medical and evacuation insurance from a recognized provider before participating in any of our activities. [Click here](#) to purchase coverage. The policies are very affordable. We also highly recommend the optional purchase of trip interruption insurance, which covers everything from cancelled flights, weather delays, and lost baggage, to reimbursement if another guest has a medical issue that affects your trip. If you decline coverage, please note that we do not issue credits or refunds for anything that is beyond our immediate control.

Do I need dive medical insurance?

YES. Dive and evacuation insurance is mandatory. We can assist you with purchasing this at check-in if you like.

What airport do I fly into?

SJD Los Cabos International for both commercial airlines and private aircraft.

When should I fly in?

At least one day before departure given our experience with airlines having mechanical problems, losing luggage or even cancelling flights. It is a 10am land transfer on the Mango Wind trips, and it's a 5 1/2 hour drive from Cabo out to Magdalena Bay. Which means we cannot wait for guests who have missing luggage or missed their flight, otherwise everyone else will also miss a day of adventure.

How do I get from SJD into town?

Sealine Cabo transfers is our recommended provider of airport transfers to and from SJD. For booking please email Martin at: mmoreno@sealinecabotransfers.com

We also recommend Miguel from Fara Nuevo as an alternative option.

Email: mfc949@gmail.com

Phone: +52 (624) 141 6254

Can you recommend a local hotel?

Yes. We have our favourite hotels that we highly recommend and have arranged discounted rates for Nautilus and Baja Expeditions guests.

For hotel recommendation or any other pretrip questions, concerns or comments, please contact our Nautilus concierges directly.

Phone: +1 (604) 241-1918 - Please ask for Daniela or Maria

WhatsApp: +1 (604) 360-9400

Email: concierge@nautilusdive.com



Before Departure

Where do we meet the boat?

SeeCreatures, located directly across from the town square, two blocks from the marina and in the heart of the downtown restaurant and bar district. We want our place to be your home away from home! Please drop by when you get into town and we will get you kitted up with whatever you need. We offer a variety of pre-trip packages including two or three tank boat dives and side trips.

What time do we meet?

Please be at SeeCreatures no later than 10 am for our sailing trips. Transit or coach transfer to Magdalena Bay. The transfer will take 5 1/2 to 6 hours with an enroute stop. Meet at SeeCreatures Cabo at 4:30pm for our liveaboard trips.

Can you help me get dive certified before the trip?

YES. We offer a full array of dive courses at SeeCreatures.

Can I get nitrox certified ahead of time?

Yes. Note, that there is no nitrox available on the Mango Wind trips.

Will I need to show my dive certification card before boarding?

Only if you are planning on diving this trip. No certification is required for free diving or snorkelling.

Will I get seasick on this trip?

The Mango Wind will be anchored in a calm sheltered bay. However we will be in open ocean in pangas while searching for bait balls. While the seas are generally calm this time of year, we highly recommend anti-seasick medications such as the scopolamine patch.

Don't Forget!

What time do we arrive back in Cabo San Lucas?

Both sailing and liveaboard trips will return to SeeCreatures Cabo around 8:30am. Please keep in mind traffic and mother ocean can delay our estimated time.

Do you have a storm policy?

We highly recommend trip interruption insurance, which will cover you in this unlikely eventuality.

Can you accommodate special dietary requests?

Yes, with reasonable advance notice, we are pleased to accommodate vegetarian, vegan, lactose, intolerant, gluten, free, low sugar, quasi-kosher and quasi-halal. We are likely unable to accommodate other special dietary requests, or guests with severe allergic challenges.

What IS NOT included in the trip price?

Bar, gift shop, high-speed Internet connection, rentals, nitrox, crew gratuities. A \$35 port fee must be paid on board in cash at the end of the trip.

About Diving

How much experience do I need?

These trips are perfect for all experience levels and non-divers and divers alike.

Is the optional diving from the Mango Wind or skiff?

Scuba diving will be from a skiff.

How much time will we spend on the water?

Basically as much as you like! Sometimes it can take several days to get onto the bait balls or sometimes it happens right away. The local panga captains know these waters like the back of their hands and are extremely skilled at finding the bait balls.

Are the boats camera friendly?

YES, VERY!

Are these trips suitable for rebreather divers?

Magdalena Bay trips are not suitable for rebreather diving because of the limited number of dives and depth (shallow) of the diving.

Can I do deco dives?

Sorry. Only on whole boat charters on which your group has chartered the entire ship.

Can I do trimix diving?

We can arrange the supply of helium T bottles as long as you are comfortable doing your own blending.

Where is the closest decompression chamber?

The closest chambers are located in La Paz and Cabo San Lucas.

What happens if I need a medevac flight?

Medevac can be arranged with a boat transfer to shore.

Do you have an AED and medical kit onboard?

OF COURSE! All of our crew are trained in first aid and a number of our crew are trained first responders.



Pre-Trip Extensions & Adventures



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Pre-trip extensions. Come and take advantage of us! Whether it's a day of diving or a four day mobula rays & ocean safari adventure before you board a trip to Socorro. We do it all, from Cabo Pulmo or La Paz excursions to our new 48-ft fast boats to the Mexico sardine run.

Loads of options, [click here for details!](#)

Rental Locker

Borrowing safety equipment is always complimentary to all our guests

- Nautilus LifeLine Marine Rescue Radio
- SMB
- Dive Alert Signaling Device

Sample Pricing (USD)

Might we suggest booking your rental gear ahead of time. While our ships carry emergency loaners, visiting SeeCreatures is the best way to check out that perfectly fitted rental wetsuit and ensure that your camera and dive gear is working just right.

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|-----------------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| Nitrox | \$120 | Go-pro Camera | \$150 |
| Steel 95 cf Cylinder | \$36 | | |

Packages

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|--------------------------------------|-------|--|-------|
| Wetsuit, BCD, Regulator | \$180 | Fins, Booties, Hood/Mask | \$75 |
| BCD, Regulator, Dive computer | \$170 | Full Gear (Wetsuite, BCD, Reg, Computer, Booties, Hood, Fins, Snorkel and mask) | \$320 |

Items

| | | | |
|----------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Wetsuit | \$70 | Booties | \$30 |
| BCD | \$70 | Hood | \$25 |
| Regulator | \$70 | Mask | \$25 |
| Dive Computer | \$50 | Snorkel | \$20 |
| Fins | \$30 | Hooded Vest | \$25 |

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Zorb | \$7.63 per pound |
| Oxygen fills | \$100 / \$20 each additional day more than 5 days |
| Oxygen Rebreather Cylinder | \$50 / \$10 each additional day |
| Diluent Rebreather Cylinder | \$50 / \$10 each additional day |

** Clients are responsible for the cost of repairing any damage except normal wear and tear. Prices subject to change without notice.*

Excursion Risk



We are excited to have you join us, but feel compelled to point out [some of the risks](#) involved in our adventures around Baja, Mexico and the surrounding ocean.

We operate at the whim of Mother Nature. Our ships and camps have connectivity with shore operations, and we carefully monitor weather conditions while maintaining communication lines for urgent and emergency situations. Our ocean-going ships are equipped with satellite communication technology, full-time data links, internet at sea, and marine radios. We need you to be aware that there is always a risk of adverse weather, mechanical breakdown, errors, or mistakes made by our crew, medical evacuations, or other interruptions to your trip that are beyond our control.

Dealing with animals involves risk. Camping out in the desert involves risk. Going to sea involves risk. This is not Disneyland. We give careful guidance on peak seasons and our previous experiences with the animals. But there is no guarantee that you will see the animals you are hoping for; Mother Nature doesn't work that way. Guests and crew alike are susceptible to accidents, tripping and falling, sprains, or broken bones, strokes, heart attacks, or medical conditions such as appendicitis, pancreatitis, diabetic complications, heat or sun exhaustion, dehydration, severe infections, abscesses, or other emergency conditions.

Diving can be challenging and may not be suitable for less experienced divers. You must be a trained and certified scuba diver to dive with us unless you are enrolled in one of our training programs. Guests are responsible for their own dive safety. Our dive guides and instructors are primarily responsible for ensuring top-quality dives, critter pointing, and the best possible guest experience. You must have good buoyancy control. Our guides are not responsible for teaching primary dive skills or looking after guests who do not have basic buoyancy skills.

Aerial medevac is available at or close by most of our destinations. We require that all guests have insurance that covers emergency care in Mexico, including aerial medevac and hospital procedures. A medical evacuation flight might cost \$10,000, and local hospital charges could be in excess of \$20,000. You will have to arrange for payment upfront for these costs if you require evacuation or a hospital stay and your insurance won't cover the charges. 'Dive Assure' offers excellent coverage and is highly recommended. [Click here](#) to arrange coverage.

A sample [liability release and waiver can be viewed here](#) and requires your acceptance, agreement and signature when you visit SeeCreatures before boarding your ship.

We wish you an excellent trip, meet loads of animals and have a beautiful and safe experience.



PASSENGER GUEST WAIVER, RELEASE AND INDEMNITY (the "Waiver")

In consideration of you allowing me to participate in your camping and/or whale watching and/or excursion (the "Excursion"):

I voluntarily waive, release and forever discharge NAUTILUS DIVE ADVENTURES AND/OR all its related entities: ICARUS AVIATION LTD also doing business as "Lever Diving" AND/OR NAUTILUS EXPLORER MEXICO, S. DE R.L DE C.V. AND/OR BAJA EXPEDITIONS AND/OR BSK, S.A. DE C.V. AND/OR SEECREATURES AND/OR CABO DIVE CENTRE, S. DE R.L. DE C.V (collectively the "Company") and its employees, directors, officers, agents and contractors (collectively the "Operators") from any and all liability, including but not limited to liability arising from the negligence (including gross negligence) or fault of the Operators or any of them for personal injury or death, property loss or damage or any other claims of any kind which may occur to me during or in connection with the Excursion and/or the use or misuse of any equipment, vessels or vehicles.

I agree that all agreements made between the Operators and myself (including this Waiver) shall be governed by the laws of Mexico and the courts of Mexico City, shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any matter relating to the said agreements or this Waiver.

I agree that this Waiver shall be binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators, successors, assigns and my estate and I agree that in the event that a claim is made against the Operators or any one of them in respect of any cause of action relating to me, I will indemnify the Operator(s) for their losses, damage and expenses arising from such claim.

I confirm that I have both read and fully understood the description of the risks involved in participating in the Excursion as set forth in the Company's disclosure information entitled "DIVING EXCURSION RISKS" published on the Company web site (<https://nautilusliveboards.com/diving-excursion-risks/>) and in the pre-trip information package provided to me.

I also confirm that I:

- (a) am physically fit; without any health related reasons that would otherwise preclude my;
- (b) have had sufficient instruction, preparation and/or training for; and
- (c) have not been advised by any medical professional to avoid participation in the Excursion.

Finally, I confirm that I read and fully understood this Waiver before signing and, that I had the opportunity to do so before making any commitment of whatsoever kind or nature to the Company.

Please note that you will be required to sign this waiver form upon the arrival at the hospitality suite.

Responsibilities

Our Responsibilities

- To ensure your safety.
- To give you the best possible diving experience.
- To treat you with respect and consideration and to provide excellence in service onboard.
- To be responsive to special requests and needs.
- To plan each trip with respect to weather, sea conditions and animal behavior in order to maximize your diving experience.
- To keep our ships in top condition, clean and in good mechanical repair. Please note that each ship has many complex systems and it may be impossible to prevent some maintenance problems during your trip, despite our best efforts.

Your Responsibilities

1. Animals

We love Mother Ocean! Unfortunately, sometimes guests will demonstrate unsafe or irresponsible behavior towards animals that impedes other guest's experiences and/or may cause harm to the animals. It is your responsibility to follow the crew's directions and recommendations with respect to interaction with the animals. In the unlikely event that an individual is impeding other guests and/or causing harm to the animals, the captain will speak to that person and give them a formal warning. If the guest continues the same behavior, the captain has the authority to hold that guest out of the water for the remainder of the trip.

2. Diving Safety

It is your responsibility to attend dive briefings and comply with the principles of safe recreational diving. Deco diving or deliberately "going blue" is not allowed. The captain has the right to revoke the diving privileges of anyone who is diving in an unsafe manner.

3. Alcohol

With over 30 years of operational experience running dive charters, we have learned the safest alcohol policy is to restrict guests from bringing their own alcohol on board. We provide a wide selection of beer, wine and alcohol from the ship's bar at reasonable prices. We are also happy to hold your duty-free purchases or local purchases of alcohol in bond in the ship's storage until the end of your trip.

4. Government Rules

You must comply with all Mexican government rules and regulations. Please note that government regulations and laws may change without notice. Our contract with you is subject to "force majeure" without compensation.

5. Marijuana

Marijuana is illegal in Mexico including medicinal prescription marijuana. We have a zero tolerance policy regarding guests bringing marijuana onboard.

6. Illegal Substances

We maintain a zero tolerance for illegal narcotics or substances on board. We're required under Mexican law to report any problems to the Mexican Federal Police.

7. Crew

Treating our crew and staff with courtesy and respect.

8. Getting Sick

We sincerely hope that you stay healthy and don't get sick during your trip. Please let the crew know if you are not feeling well so that we can give you extra love and attention and also do our best to prevent anyone else onboard from getting sick.



Mexico Customs and Cameras

We have received reports of isolated incidents in which Mexican Customs (Aduanes) has charged taxes cameras and housings being brought into the country by divers. While this is a violation of both Mexican and international law, local officials have continued with this illegal behaviour. We are fighting it in every way that we can with the help of our lawyers and the tourism boards.

In the meantime, the easiest way to avoid problems with customs is to pack cameras and equipment in regular looking suitcases. NOT in pelican cases. No dive stickers. No destination stickers. Just plain old carry-in suitcases. Mexican customs seems to focus on luggage that looks like it contains dive or photography gear.

We are very sorry for this hassle. It's not fair. We sincerely hope that things will revert back to normal with the newly elected government in 2024.

Other steps that you can take in case your luggage is identified as dive gear

1. Carry invoices for the used depreciated value of your camera and housing. The lower the dollar amount, the less illegal duty you will be assessed.
2. If you do get assessed duty, make contemporaneous notes. Including the identification of the customs officer. They likely won't let you take their photo but they do have to show their badge number. Be sure you note the time, place, badge number and the amount you were assessed.
3. Use your credit card to pay any duties or taxes. That way you can dispute the charge with your credit company. This is where your contemporaneous notes will be very valuable.
4. Please let our concierges know what happened. We will fight hard on your behalf.