



October 23, 2024

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**ULTIMATE WHALE SHARK**  
in the Sea of Cortez

# What is Ultimate Whale Sharks?



Jacques Cousteau called it the Aquarium of the World. We call the Sea of Cortez the perfect vacation where you can do as much or as little as you like. Combine all of that with the warmth of our crew and all your stress and tension will melt away.

Fly into Los Cabos (SJD). Transfer and depart from La Paz to board your liveaboard. We'll dive some of our old favourites like Las Animas (which has been sharky this year and always good for sea lions) with overnight transits to visit the best of Loreto, including going ashore on beautiful Carmen Island, diving and visiting remote Isla San Pedro Martir, jewel of the Sea of Cortez and home to the largest colony of blue-footed boobies in the world!

The highlight of every trip is jumping in the water to swim and snorkel with the friendly whale sharks of Bahia de Los Angeles. On July trips, you can expect to swim with schooling mobula rays as well! We'll be keeping a special lookout for orcas, dolphins, and finback whales with our own spotter aircraft.

- Mega pods of dolphins
- Curious and fun California sea lions
- Largest population of blue footed boobies
- Friendly whale sharks
- Giant tornadoes of fish
- 🙌 Hammerhead sharks
- 🙌 Sperm whales are often around
- 🙌 Orcas in the area

# Arriving in Cabo



If you are arriving by airline, you will be landing at SJD international airport which is a 45 minute drive from our SeeCreatures base in Cabo San Lucas.

The flight attendants should give you a form to fill out if you are on an international flight. You will get a customs declaration and it's important to fill this out accurately.

You might be able to disembark via a jetway or sometimes by portable staircase and then walking across the airport ramp. Either way, if you are on an international flight you will end up going down a staircase into the international arrivals hall to clear immigration. Then on to the baggage hall to collect your luggage before clearing customs. The customs officer will ask you to press a button and you'll get either a green or red light. Green light means it's margarita time. Red light means you will have to open your suitcase for a customs inspection before you can enjoy your margarita. We highly recommend that after leaving customs, you walk straight through the next area past all the nice people trying to offer their assistance and keep going. They are all time share salespeople and the offer of a free sunset cruise and drinks won't seem so cheap after you have been talked into buying a time share. Your transfer company should have a representative waiting outside the arrivals hall with the name of their company on a sign board.

For our guests arriving on a domestic flight, you have it much easier. You will arrive at the old terminal building. Disembark. Collect your bags. Meet your transfer outside!

# Checking-In



SeeCreatures - Cabo San Lucas

Calle Miguel Hidalgo #10, Centro CSL. C.P. 23450, Cabo San Lucas, BCS

If you are arriving on the same day that you are boarding your ship, we recommend going straight to SeeCreatures Cabo San Lucas. Check-in. Drop off your luggage and then enjoy the rest of your day. Our recommendation is of course to head out with SeeCreatures for a dive or snorkel as the perfect way to spend your day! Please be back at SeeCreatures Cabo by **4:30 pm** latest for your transfer to La Paz.

If you are arriving in Cabo early you should have time to play as much as you want or perhaps just take it easy. Our concierges can assist you with hotel, restaurant and transfer recommendations and with whatever you want do ahead of time whether it's a side trip to La Paz, a one day adventure to Cabo Pulmo for diving or snorkelling, heading out to Gordo Banks or going out for a 2 tank dive or snorkelling. We recommend that when you check out of your hotel on boarding day, you transfer straight to SeeCreatures Cabo to check-in, drop off your luggage and then head out to enjoy the town (and possibly more of those pesky margaritas!). Please be back at SeeCreatures Cabo by **4:30 pm** latest and be ready for your transfer to La Paz.

# Boarding the Ship



Nautilus Gallant Lady out on a beautiful day

© TheMatibuArtist

**Please be at SeeCreatures Cabo by 4:30 pm.** Our plan is to meet at SeeCreatures Cabo and coach transfer everyone to La Paz where your crew will be waiting to welcome you with glasses of champagne! Your luggage will already be onboard with personal bags in your stateroom and dive gear, cameras, drones, snorkelling gear on the covered aft deck of the ship. Cocktail hour starts as soon as you board! And as soon as we have completed provisioning, cleaning and any last minute engineering, we will soon get underway for a lovely dinner on our way to the Sea of Cortez.

We will have a safety briefing when you board and after dinner there will be a practice drill where you even get to put a life jacket on!

Nautilus is the only company in the world with a certified ISM safety management system. You can sleep easy knowing that our ships are operated, managed and audited to the same safety standards as the largest cruise ships in the world. ISM covers everything from fire protection to sprinkler systems to crew training and certification to operational and safety processes. Unfortunately, it also means that we are required to comply with ISPS protocols which include the requirement for us to search 15 - 20% of luggage brought onboard the ship. We apologize for the inconvenience and will be as tactful as possible.

# Sample Itinerary

## 8 Days / 7 Nights Trip

### Pre- & Post-Trip Extensions

Maximize your Baja get-away with pre-trip extensions at SeeCreatures or Baja Expeditions. Anything from a photo course to 2 tank dive, side trip to Cabo Pulmo, dive adventure to Gordo Banks and much more.

Contact Us

Fly into Los Cabos (SJD). No problem to fly in the same day you are boarding your ship or fly in early and take advantage of some day boat adventures or complimentary photo and video workshop. This is a GREAT time of year to dive Gordo Banks.

### Day 1 - Boarding Day!

Please check in at SeeCreatures Cabo by 4:30 pm for your coach transfer to La Paz, where our hosties will be waiting for you on the back deck with trays of margaritas and champagne, dinner on the stove and departure for the Sea of Cortez.

### Days 2-7 - The Sea of Cortez!

Every day will be different and your captain and dive guides will update your itinerary to maximize animal and diving encounters and minimize any challenges with weather. This is a stunning time of year to dive the Sea of Cortez with water temps typically in the high 70's and 80s.

One of the nicest things about this time of year is that the seas are generally very calm without any motion aboard our heavy steel stabilized ships. You can expect to visit Las Animas, Isla San Ildefonso, San Pedro Martir, and Bahia de Los Angeles.

We will spend the last day at sea search for pilot whales, dolphins and other big critters around our secret hot spot near Mulege. We will be supported by our spotter airplane, maximizing our animal encounters.

### Day 8 - Last Day

Morning breakfast. Disembark at 8:30 am in La Paz. A complimentary transfer back to either SeeCreatures Cabo San Lucas or SJD Airport.



Spotter Airplane "Scout"

## TRIP DETAILS

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The Sea of Cortez is a magical place, an ocean bordered by a desert with a diverse ecosystem and plethora of animals. For almost 50 years, we've been exploring the sea of Cortez, between 80 and 220 whale sharks have aggregated every year between May and beginning of November in Bahia de Los Angeles. These magnificent animals are the highlight of our ultimate whale trip adventures, but have no worries, there is plenty else to see in the Sea of Cortez, from sea lions to giant finback whales, second only in size to blue whales.

These are multi-activity trips based on our large ocean-going dive liveboard vessels. Your ship will primarily be transiting at night to position in just the right place for each morning's activities. Divers are happily accommodated in the normal Liveboard lifestyle of diving, eating, diving, relaxing, more diving, and then sleeping. This is a perfect trip for those interested in a more relaxed pace of diving or other activities in the Sea of Cortez. These activities might include going ashore, hiking in the desert, snorkelling, kayaking, paddleboarding, or simply enjoying a great adventure in the Sea of Cortez.

### WEATHER

The Sea of Cortez is mostly calm this time of year. We will be traversing a lot of areas with regional variations in water temperature and wind. We will likely see water temps ranging from the mid-70s to the mid-80s. It can be very hot during the day, but this is not a problem with air conditioning on board. Comfort on board is ensured, with lots of water activities and shore activities generally scheduled for the first thing in the morning or late in the day when the temperatures are cooler. One of the coolest things about these trips is that, unlike open ocean expeditions, the waters are quite smooth, and there may be very little or no movement on the boat for days at a time.

### THE WHALE SHARKS

The whale sharks aggregate in the estuary at the south end of Bahia de Los Angeles, which is a protected reserve in a CONANP national park. Interaction with the whale sharks is by snorkelling only; no diving is allowed. Visibility is typically 30 to 40 feet in the area where the whale sharks gather. Depending on the group's interest, there will either be a morning session with the whale sharks or two opportunities, morning and afternoon, to get in the water with the animals. We work together with the local dive operator, using his pangas and captains for the actual whale shark interaction. We always reserve our trips with him ahead of time, but this is a small place in the middle of nowhere, and Ricardo and his team are not always available when booked. We always get our guests in the water, but there are sometimes delays.

### AIRPLANE SUPPORT

Our spotter airplane will be on patrol at least two days a week during your trip and in constant contact with the ship's captain as they search out animals of interest. Your pilot and observer on "Scout" are our secret weapon in locating finback and sperm whales, solitary whale sharks off by themselves, orcas if they are in the area, mega pods of dolphins, and much more. Please note that flights are always subject to weather and mechanical limitations.

### DIVERS

Approximately 15 dives plus 1 day swimming with whale sharks and hopefully additional snorkelling with cetaceans. A 5mm wetsuit is recommended at the start of the season in July, while a 3mm wetsuit will likely be fine from August onwards. Our SeeCreatures ocean activities centres are located in Cabo San Lucas and La Paz are there to support whatever you need from discounted pre-trip adventures including day trips to Cabo Pulmo and Gorda Banks to photography workshops to wetsuit, gear and go-pro rentals. On our Sea of Cortez adventures there's usually the opportunity for several night dives noting that the half day or day that we spend with the whale sharks is a snorkelling opportunity rather than scuba diving. There is no minimum experience level required for this trip, but all divers need to have buoyancy control and other skills required for open water certification. We will have dive guides in the water on all dives to assist our guests.

### SWIMMERS

A trip like this is heaven for swimmers. Beautiful warm water, lots to see, and lots of adventure. You'll be traversing deep into the Sea of Cortez, exploring little-visited areas that very few people get to see. There has never been a swimming safari offered like this in Baja. To participate in a swimming safari based on one of our Liveboards, you do need to be a competent swimmer. But don't worry about fitness. You can swim as much or as little as you like, and you'll get stronger every day. Support skiffs will be nearby. Whether you swim very little or, for hardcore swimmers, you might swim up to 10 km a day, the choice is yours.

### PADDLERS AND PADDLEBOARDERS

Self-reliant paddlers and paddleboarders are welcome to head off on their own, subject to safety restrictions. Please let us know your experience and kayak preference well before departure. We have both single and two-person kayaks available. We have very high-end Seaward ocean touring kayaks that are very fast, but a little bit tipsy, and to delegate to be hauled up on rock beaches or alternatively, we have some high-quality plastic touring kayaks that are a bit more stable and much tougher. We can arrange a guide for a minimum group size of six or a custom guide can be requested by prior arrangement.

### FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN THE ADVENTURE

Come and join us! There will be opportunities to go ashore, hike in the desert, and we will do our best to arrange a tour to view cave paintings. You'll also have the chance to snorkel with whale sharks, and most likely go ashore on remote Isla San Pedro martir\*, home to one of the largest populations of blue-footed and brown boogie birds in the world. Additionally, you can snorkel with sea lions, jump in the water with a pod of dolphins, try your hand at kayaking or paddleboarding in North America, climb the Ridgeline on Isla San Francisco, enjoy beach walks, hike through the desert, and much more.

### SAFETY

Safety, excellence in guest experience, and the happiness of our guests are the cornerstones of our operations. Nothing is more important than your safety. At Nautilus and Baja Expeditions, we are proud to be the only operation in the world with ISM certification and external annual audit of our safety management system. This is the same certification that the largest cruise ships on the oceans hold. We strictly adhere to written processes, procedures, and protocols, and our captain and crew are trained into both initially, and with annual recurrent training. Every activity starts with a briefing on a whiteboard on board. All drivers must be equipped with an SMB and dive alert, which we provide as needed. Any guest participating in water activities must be equipped with a Nautilus Lifeline, emergency radio, and GPS device. We carry AEDs and extensive medical kits with a contract medical officer available to receive our sophisticated satellite communication system.

\* We are fully permitted to go ashore at Isla San Pedro martir which is a special and unique privilege. Please note that a storm in 2023 wiped out part of the path making it much more difficult to traverse the island. Large numbers of sea lions on the beach can also make landing difficult.

# FAQs

## What do I need to pack?

Personal toiletries. Dive gear (or travel light and use our rental gear). Summer wear, noting that nights will be cooler. It can be very hot in the desert this time of year. Sunscreen (reef-safe sunscreen will be available on board with our compliments), towels, bed linen, soap, and shampoo are provided on board.

## Do I need a passport?

Yes, and it must be valid six months from entry date.

## 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 evacuation insurance from a recognized provider before participating in any of our activities. [Click here](#) to purchase coverage. We highly recommend this provider because they are very dependable, reliable, and their policies are reasonably priced. Other providers may not offer the same level of reliability. We also highly recommend the optional purchase of trip interruption insurance, which covers everything from cancelled flights, weather-related delays, lost baggage, and reimbursement if another guest has a medical issue that affects your trip. If you decline coverage, please know that we do not issue credit refunds for anything that's beyond our immediate control.

## What airport do I fly into?

SJD Los Cabos international has very convenient and nonstop connections to many different cities. Flying into LAP la Paz is also possible.

## When should I fly in?

These trips are planned around the guests having the option of flying in and going straight to SeeCreatures to check in and then board the ship later that day. We recommend flying in several days early to take full advantage of our hospitality and all the neat stuff that we offer as pre-trip extensions.

## 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](mailto:mmoreno@sealinecabotransfers.com)

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

**Email:** [mfc949@gmail.com](mailto:mfc949@gmail.com)

**Phone:** +52 (624) 141 6254

## How do I get from LAP into town?

We can arrange to pick you up. Please directly contact with our Concierges: [conciierge@nautilusdive.com](mailto:conciierge@nautilusdive.com)

## Can you recommend a local hotel?

Yes. For sure. We have our favourite hotels that we recommend and we have arranged discounted rates for Nautilus and Baja Expeditions's guests. For hotel recommendations, or any other pre-trips, questions, concerns, or comments, please contact our concierge's directly:

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

**WhatsApp:** +1 (604) 360-9400

**Email:** [conciierge@nautilusdive.com](mailto:conciierge@nautilusdive.com)

## 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.

## Do you have a storm policy?

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

## Where do we meet our boat?

When you arrive in town, please drop by SeeCreatures Cabo San Lucas location at *Calle Miguel Hidalgo 10, Centro CSL. C.P. 23450, Cabo San Lucas, BCS*. We will help get your kit up with whatever you need and hopefully get you out on pre-trip diver activities. Our SeeCreatures locations are normally open from 8 AM to 5 PM, but will stay open later on boarding days. We encourage you to check in early on boarding day, and drop off your luggage so that you can wander off and enjoy town.

## Are you joining us in Cabo?

Please be at SeeCreatures Cabo and for your transfer to La Paz, 4:30 pm latest.

## Are you joining us in La Paz directly?

Please contact our concierge's to confirm the meeting place and time.

## Can you help me get dive certified before the trip?

Yes. We specialize in introducing as many people to scuba diving as possible. We offer a full array of diving courses at SeeCreatures.

## Can I get nitrox certified before we leave on the ship?

Yes, we could do it. This is a one day course at SeeCreatures.

## Will I need to show proof of insurance, and if I'm a diver, a dive certification card before boarding?

Yes.

## Will I get seasick on this trip?

This time of year, the Sea of Cortez is generally quite calm. If anyone is worried about seasickness, we recommend the prophylactic use of the scopolamine patch. This is the perfect trip and destination for anyone looking for a smooth as possible experience at Sea. Please note that all of our steel ships are stabilized.

## How much experience do I need if I'm a diver?

Your experience doesn't matter. If you're not certified, we can arrange a discover scuba experience. If you're an experienced and self-reliant diver, you're welcome to head off on days by yourself, and do your own thing if you wish, with the sole exception of diving in a national park where diving must be done with a guide. Our dive guides are always available for whoever wants to dive with us.

## Are the boats camera friendly?

Of course! We have lots of housed GoPros available for rent and we offer a complimentary photo workshop at 1 pm. before every departure for those meeting us in Cabo.

## What time do we arrive back in port?

Reminder that most Sea of Cortez trips board and return to La Paz with an included transfer to SeeCreatures Cabo San Lucas, or SJD Airport. We are usually back in port by 8 am. Disembarking by 8:30 am after breakfast. It's a 2-1/2 hour transfer to SJD. For that reason we recommend booking your outward flight 2:00 pm or later.

## 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.



# Pre-Trip Extensions & Adventures



© Jeff Hester



© Dan Taylor



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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.

<b>Nitrox</b>	\$120	<b>Go-pro Camera</b>	\$150
<b>Steel 95 cf Cylinder</b>	\$36		

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### Packages

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

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### Items

<b>Wetsuit</b>	\$70	<b>Hood</b>	\$25
<b>BCD</b>	\$70	<b>Mask</b>	\$25
<b>Regulator</b>	\$70	<b>Snorkel</b>	\$20
<b>Dive Computer</b>	\$50	<b>Hooded Vest</b>	\$25
<b>Fins</b>	\$30	<b>Dive Lights</b>	\$15
<b>Booties</b>	\$30		

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<b>Zorb</b>	\$7.63 per pound
<b>Oxygen fills</b>	\$100 / \$20 each additional day more than 5 days
<b>Oxygen Rebreather Cylinder</b>	\$50 / \$10 each additional day
<b>Diluent Rebreather Cylinder</b>	\$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.**

# Our Responsibilities, Your 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 many years of operational experience running 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.