

Denver Divers Presents: A Socorro Islands Liveaboard Shark Research Project April 22 - May 1, 2010



Join Denver Divers for our encore trip back to Socorro Islands to assist in sustaining the life of the sharks in the Revillagigedos Islands (aka the "Socorro Islands") with the Dr. Alex Antoniou. We will become part of his research team, assisting Dr. Antoniou, CICMAR, and the University of California at Davis, where we will be diving with and tagging various sharks that reside in the Revillagigedo Islands! In addition, we will have the opportunity to fun dive around the islands and have frequent encounters with the giant manta ray. In addition, there is a great probability of encounters with Humpback Whales as well as Whale Sharks. Don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity!

Space is limited, so sign up soon!

See reverse side for more information about the Revillagigedo Islands, the research, & the Liveaboard.

To sign up for this trip, please contact Denver Divers at 303-399-2877 or scuba@denver-divers.com

Price: \$3385 Club Price: \$3360
((\$500 non-refundable deposit required to hold your space)

Includes:

- Airport transfers
- 2 nights hotel accommodations in Cabo prior to & after departing from the liveaboard
- 7 nights accommodations aboard the boat
- Multiple daily dives and participation in hammerhead shark tagging
- Shark Tags
- Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner aboard the boat
- Non-Alcoholic Beverages

Not Included: *Airfare to/From Cabo San Lucas, Tips, Alcoholic beverages, National Park Fees for Revillagigedo's Islands (appx. \$150), Nitrox (\$100), DAN/Traveler's Insurance



About the Revillagigedo Islands

Known worldwide as the “Mexican Galapagos”, the Revillagigedo Islands are the kind of place where anything can happen at any time. This group of volcanic islands attracts large concentrations of fish, sharks, and the biggest mantas you will ever see. The Revillagigedo Islands, known the diving community as the Socorro Islands, are found approximately 240 miles south of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, making this destination a remote location where only long-range boats can go.

The isles are a protected Biosphere Reserve and sanctuary for a population of sharks, dolphins, turtles, more than 200 giant manta rays, and a winter population of 1200 humpback whales. This fact, along with the preservation efforts of the Mexican Navy base on site, make them a dream destination for divers from all over the globe. The best season at these islands is November-May.

About the Research

The Revillagigedos ecosystem is under immense pressure from illegal shark fishermen on the marine side, and non-endemic species on the terrestrial side. The immediate goal of our research expedition is to provide a vehicle to “make a difference” and help with the Mexican effort of surveillance and detection of illegal fishing activities. A direct action plan is currently being formulated by a group of passionate Mexican divers in cooperation with CONANP and with the assistance of the dive operators. During our expedition, data will be collected from previously tagged sharks, and we will tag new sharks with radio transmission devices. The species to be tagged will include the Scalloped Hammerhead, Galapagos, and Silvertip sharks. Many shark species appear to display a high degree of fidelity to very specific sites and there is also a certain degree of connectivity between shark populations between Cocos Island, Malpelo Island, and the Galapagos Islands. For more information on this connectivity study, please visit www.migramar.com. The aim of our project is to investigate the residency patterns of the shark populations in the Revillagigedo Islands and the degree of connectivity between these islands and other locations throughout the western Pacific Ocean with the use of acoustic telemetry and genetic analysis. The research and the protection this study is passing for shark populations will not only maintain the balance of nature in the marine ecosystem of the Revillagigedo Island Marine Park, but it would also preserve the continuous revenue stream generated from dive ecotourism, which is based mostly on the shark populations in the Pacific Ocean.

About the Boat

The liveaboard is a 110ft aluminum vessel made for divers by divers, with private bathrooms in every stateroom. Also included is a large living room with a TV set, DVD player, VCR, and PC with software to download photos. The cabin is fully air conditioned, with a water maker and nitrox blending system.