

# Ron Hunter's Dive Expeditions

## Liveaboard to Revillagigedo Archipelago, Mexico San Benedicto & Socorro Islands & Roca Partida Sharks, Manta Rays, Humpback Whales Expedition

Eleven days, ten nights: 28<sup>th</sup> January to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Tour leader: Ron Hunter

### Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Arrive at San Jose del Cabo (SJD), Mexico airport, transfer to the new marina at Puerto Los Cabos, here will we board our home for the next ten days the beautiful "M.V. Rocio del Mar". We will have an opportunity to rest after our long flights this afternoon, and maybe have a chance to explore the beautiful town of Puerto Los Cabos. Drinks onboard the 34-metre "M.V. Rocio del Mar" as we watch the sunset over the ocean, then dinner at 7:30 tonight, before we retire to our cabins.



The "Rocio del Mar" all steel 300 tonne, stable vessel built in 2009. Pictured here anchored off Roca Partida

### Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013:

Whilst we are still asleep in our bunks, at around 04:00, "M.V. Rocio del Mar" will slip her moorings and depart Puerto Los Cabos, we will travel out sou'west into the Pacific Ocean off Baja Mexico, bound for San Benedicto Island



All cabins have panoramic windows, air conditioning and ensuites

### Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013:

05:00 Arrive San Benedicto Island in the Revillagigedo Archipelago. The rattle of the anchor chain will be our call to a light early breakfast ready for our first dive of the day at 07:00. We will enjoy four dives today at "The Canyons" or "The Boiler", Expect to see friendly, interacting Giant Pacific Manta Rays up to 7-metres across, plus curious, interacting Bottle Nosed Dolphins



Bottle-nosed Dolphins

The Revillagigedo Archipelago is described as the Galapagos of Mexico, but with much better diving

We will enjoy a full day of diving today at San Benedicto Island. Altogether we will enjoy seven full days of diving at the three islands of the Archipelago. You can expect blue water out here in the Pacific, water temperature in February 22 C to 23 C.



Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013:

We will enjoy another day of great diving at San Benedicto Island. 22:00 Depart San Benedicto Island, arrive Roca Partida in the early hours of Friday morning

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> thru Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2013:

04:00 Arrive Roca Partida where we will enjoy two more days of great & different diving experiences.



Whale Shark at Roca Partida 2011. We estimates her length at 15 to 18 metres

Roca Partida is a volcanic spike that rises from abyssal depths. It is 100 metres deep all around the rock, which in itself is only 90 metres long, 20 metres wide and 35 metres high. The nearest landmass to this is Socorro Island some 100 kilometres away. This is one of the most remote and spectacular dive locations on our planet. This is real expedition diving at its very best, sharks, big pelagics, whale sharks, and more; it is just an amazing place to dive. The rock is easily circumnavigated on a dive, and just hanging out in the "blue", surrounded by sharks and massed schools of fish, and hopefully a whale shark or two, is something you will remember forever.



Dive tender at Roca Partida, 100 metre sheer wall around rock



Stern of "Rocio del Mar" sundeck, drinks deck and dive deck



Yes, these are Oceanic White Tipped Sharks!! These "Serious Sharks" are seen at all three locations on our ten-day ocean odyssey.



Black Tipped Shark



Early mornings there are lots of Silver-tipped Sharks and other Sharks at Roca Partida

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2013:

15:00 Depart Roca Partida for Socorro Island, around 6-hours voyage away.



Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> thru Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013:

We can look forward to two spectacular days of diving at Socorro Island with Sharks, Dolphins, Giant Pacific Manta Rays and a very high likelihood of diving and snorkelling with Northern Pacific Humpback Whales. We will be there right in the middle of the whale season, as Socorro Island is a major calving ground for the Northern Pacific Humpbacks.



Mid-deck "drinks lounge"



Lounge and computer desk



Northern Pacific Humpback Whale and her calf at Socorro Island, noticeably all black except for their pectoral fins

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013:

20:00 Depart Socorro Island for San Benedicto some 3 hours away



Socorro Island famous for these interacting Bottle Nosed Dolphins



Giant Pacific Manta Ray at San Benedicto. Pic Ron Hunter copyright 2011

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013:

Another great day of diving today at San Benedicto Island the last 4 dives of our Mexico odyssey. After our last dive we depart San Benedicto and the Revillagigedo for Puerto Los Cabos, Mexico,

## Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013:

Ocean crossing today, arriving at Puerto Los Cabos this evening. Tonight we will spend our last night onboard the "Rocio del Mar". Perhaps wander into town, try to get our land legs back, and celebrate with a few margarites

## Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013:

We will disembark the "Rocio del Mar" after breakfast, in plenty of time to catch our flights home.

Expect to see:

- Giant Pacific Manta Rays
- Hammerhead Sharks (lots of)
- Galapagos Sharks
- Silky Sharks (lots of)
- Black Tipped Sharks
- Silver Tipped Sharks
- Oceanic White-tipped Sharks
- Bottle Nosed Dolphins
- Northern Pacific Humpback Whales
- Whale Sharks, hopefully
- Massive Yellowfin Tuna



San Benedicto Island, bare volcanic rock, a stark, beautiful place

## Fact file



Juan David Cortes, 2011

## Tour costs INCLUDE:

- Transfer San Jose del Cabo airport to "Rocio del Mar"
- Eleven days / ten nights onboard M.V. "Rocio del Mar"
- Twin or double share, air conditioned cabins all with ensembles
- All meals, snacks, coffee and tea whilst onboard
- Beer and wine whilst onboard
- Minimum twenty-six daylight SCUBA dives
- Cylinders, air/nitrox fills, weightbelts
- NITROX fills for qualified divers
- Dive Guide services
- Tips for crew of "Rocio del Mar"
- A guaranteed great and memorable time

Tour costs do NOT INCLUDE:

- Flights or travel to or from San Jose del Cabo, Mexico. As a guide return flights with Qantas and Virgin to Los Angeles (LAX) are around \$1,200 (Economy) and with United Airlines around \$1,000
- Return flights LAX to Cabo san Lucas (SJD) are around \$400
- Mexican visa \$US26, recompression chamber fee \$US25, National Park fee \$Us24, around \$US75 cash
- Items of a personal nature

**Cost ex: Cabo san Lucas Mexico: (\$US 4290\*) costs as at 5th December 2011**

**\* Master Double Cabin is \$US 250 extra per person**

# All costs are based on a twin-share accommodation basis. Single supplement is NOT available



Silky Shark under the boat at San Benedicto

Nitrox diving:

NITROX fills at 32% are included in the trip price. 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 either undertake a Nitrox diver course before travelling or consider doing a course on the first day onboard "Rocio del Mar" as we travel to San Benedicto



Giant Pacific Manta Ray at San Benedicto. Pic Ron Hunter copyright 2011

## 2013 Sample itinerary from Australia

- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January
- Depart Sydney (SYD) 12:00 on V Australia flight VA1 arrive Los Angeles (LAX) 06:25
- Depart Los Angeles (LAX) 11:30 on United flight UA797 arrive San Jose del Cabo (SJD) 14:45
- Transfer from SJD airport to "M.V. Rocio del Mar" at Puerto Los Cabos, onboard around 15:00
- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January
- Depart Puerto Los Cabos around 04:00, sailing all day today
- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January
- Arrive San Benedicto Island around 05:00, four dives today
- Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January
- Four dives at San Benedicto Island
- Depart San Benedicto Island at 22:00
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February
- Arrive Roca Partida 05:00, three dives today
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February
- Three more dives at Roca Partida
- Depart Roca Partida at 15:00 arrive Socorro Island at 21:00
- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February
- Four dives today at Socorro
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February
- Four more dives today at Socorro
- Depart Socorro at 20:00 arrive San Benedicto at 23:00
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February
- Four dives at San Benedicto
- Depart San Benedicto at 17:00
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February
- Arrive Puerto Los Cabos at 16:00, spend tonight onboard "Rocio del Mar"
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February
- Disembark "Rocio del Mar" at 08:00 transfer to San Jose del Cabo (SJD) airport
- Depart San Jose del Cabo (SJD) 15:25 on United flight UA798 arrive Los Angeles (LAX) 16:55
- Depart Los Angeles (LAX) 20:25 on V Australia flight VA2 arrive Sydney (SYD) 06:25 + 2 DAYS

### Equipment advice:

Water temperature at the Revillagigedo Archipelago will be 22C to 23C a good 3mm, sealed seam wetsuit should suffice, perhaps take a 2mm - 3mm hooded vest as well, a one piece 5mm wetsuit would be ideal. I guess it all depends on how much you feel the cold.

During your time on deck at Revillagigedo Archipelago, plenty of above water photographic opportunities will present, a good SLR camera will help you capture these. Contact me if you are thinking of purchasing a new SLR camera, and I will send you the URL of what we have found to be the best place to source these at the best prices. Also you may consider housing the SLR, we have great deals and advice on housing your SLR in Sea & Sea 60m rated housings. \*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, or purchasing an DSLR camera then trying to find a good housing to suit it; which can be a very expensive and often impossible task, I can help you avoid these mistakes and save you a lot of money and disappointment.

## 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, particularly the smaller size ones, and 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.

## Tour Leader Ron Hunter



At helm of "Avanti"



Beside Whale Shark, Mozambique 2010. Pic Franziska Loehrer copyright

## Flight and travel details:

Return flights ex Australia by Qantas and Virgin will connect with afternoon return flights to LAX ex San Jose del Cabo. It is too early yet to book flights as they are on usually on special around mid March.

V Australia flights expect around \$1,200 economy and \$3,000 or less Premium economy return to LAX

United flights are for the same time in 2012 under \$1,000 SYD / LAX return

Flights LAX / SJD are around \$400 return

Cameron suggests that you book as early as possible to get the best deals.

Travel from Los Angeles to Cabo San Lucas is 1600 kilometres and is best to fly

For information regarding flights and travel insurance contact Cameron at our Travel Agent:

Harvey World Travel - Tuncurry NSW - Licence number: 2TA 5683 / 2TA 5684

[Cameron.Tuncurry@harveyworld.com.au](mailto:Cameron.Tuncurry@harveyworld.com.au) 'phone 02 6554 6673 fax 02 6554 8712

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 the likes of, but not limited to, Flight Centre and it's associated companies, STA Travel and Escape Travel

\*\* Travel insurance is compulsory on all of our tours. We strongly recommend taking out travel insurance at the same time as paying your deposit. Covermore, 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.