

# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## SEA OF CORTEZ

Midriff Islands



**Updated February 2021**

### WELCOME!

We are very excited to have you travel with us. Our destinations are magical, and our reputation is world-class. Because of this, many of our guests come back year after year. Our entire staff is here to ensure that you have a fantastic experience. In this package, you will find information to help you prepare for your upcoming adventure. If you have any questions or special requests, please contact us. We look forward to seeing you!

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### ROCIO DEL MAR LIVEBOARD

3796 E. Boise Ave  
Boise, ID 83706-3796  
M (602)558-9580  
F (602)926-8360

[www.RocioDelMarLiveboard.com](http://www.RocioDelMarLiveboard.com)  
[Info@RocioDelMarLiveboard.com](mailto:Info@RocioDelMarLiveboard.com)

**24 Hours Emergency Phone Numbers**  
**(602)558-9580**

**Boat Satellite Phone**  
**011 881 632 557 444**

#### DORA SIERRA

Owner/Operator  
[DSandoval@RocioDelMarLiveboard.com](mailto:DSandoval@RocioDelMarLiveboard.com)  
M (602)558-9580

#### JANET MARISCAL

Guest Services (Passenger Documents)  
[JMariscal@RocioDelMarLiveboard.com](mailto:JMariscal@RocioDelMarLiveboard.com)  
M (619)643-6129

#### SUSAN LONG

Sales & Marketing  
[SLong@RocioDelMarLiveboard.com](mailto:SLong@RocioDelMarLiveboard.com)  
M (619)742-4277

#### CARMINA NEPHEW

Accounting  
[CNephew@RocioDelMarLiveboard.com](mailto:CNephew@RocioDelMarLiveboard.com)  
M (602)478-4582

## DIVING

The crew of Rocio Del Mar is here to help you in any way possible to make your visit to the Sea of Cortez/Midriff Islands an unforgettable experience.

The Sea of Cortez is also called "The World's Aquarium" by Jacques Cousteau. Our Sea of Cortez season runs from July through September. Each trip runs from Saturday to Saturday. The boat departs from Puerto Peñasco, Mexico, at 7 pm. We travel for 12 hours and arrive by 7 am the next morning, ready for our first dive.



The Sea of Cortez is very diverse and has a vast array of nudibranchs, blennies, jawfish, rays and guitarfish, schools of fish, eels, octopus, sea horses, frogfish, Mexican horn sharks, and the list goes on and on. We also have a lot of whale activity on this trip. We consistently see pilot, fin, and sperm whales. On the last day of diving, we dive in the morning then snorkel with whale sharks at Bahía de Los Angeles. By 3 pm, we start motoring back to Puerto Peñasco. Divers enjoy 3 - 4 dives per day and 2-night dives.

Our trips have three dive masters on board to lead dives and assist divers. We also have two zodiac drivers vigilantly watching for bubbles and retrieving divers upon surfacing. We provide 80 cubic ft. aluminum tanks that are both DIN & yoke compatible.

## ABOUT THE BOAT

Rocio del Mar is of the utmost seaworthiness and approved by both the US Coast Guard and the Mexican Coast Guard. She is equipped with state of the art electronics and all safety equipment required.

Rocio del Mar is 100' long with a 25' beam.

The amount of guests Rocio Del Mar accommodates is 20.

Ten air-conditioned cabins sleep two guests each. There are six cabins with two over-sized twin bunks (rooms 1-6), two cabins with a full bed and a twin bunk (rooms 9 & 10 on the upper deck), and two cabins with a queen bed each (rooms 7 & 8). Each cabin has four drawers for storage. There is also storage space under the bottom bunks and clothing/towel hooks. Each cabin also has a bathroom with a lavatory, shower, and toilet.

Our guests enjoy Tempur-Pedic® mattresses and quality bed linens. Our steward cleans all rooms, bunks, and bathrooms during the first dives of the day. We provide bath towels and dive deck towels, and these are changed mid-trip.

The galley is in the bow of the boat and comfortably accommodates all 20 passengers. The galley also has a television and DVD player should the group want to do presentations.

The salon is comfortable with full-sized sofas, a TV, and a computer table.

There is an outside covered deck with comfortable patio furniture and a shaded sundeck with lawn chairs perfect for relaxing between dives.

The dive deck is large and well organized with a spacious camera table. There is a dive platform for ease of boarding the inflatables with two outdoor showers. There is a restroom located next to the dive deck.

Rocio has two 18' Achilles inflatables for our divers' safety and ease with very sturdy ladders.

All voltage aboard the Rocio Del Mar is 110, just like the USA.

For photos and more details, please visit our website: [www.RocioDelMarLiveaboard.com](http://www.RocioDelMarLiveaboard.com).

Rocio del Mar reserves the right to allocate room assignments as needed.

## PASSENGER INFORMATION & LIABILITY RELEASE FORMS

Prior to your trip date, we require passenger registration information for every guest. This is completed online:

<https://tinyurl.com/y63bh4zu>

To make this process as easy as possible, gather all pertinent information such as dive certifications, medical and dive insurance information, etc., before you start. Read the instructions provided at the beginning of the form. Once you start, you will have a 4-hour window to complete the form; otherwise, you will need to restart the process.

The more information we have about you, the better we can accommodate your needs, including dietary restrictions if any.

We also require a manually-signed liability waiver. You will find a link to this form when you complete your online passenger information.

Once you manually sign the liability waivers, send this to Janet in Guest Services along with a photograph of your passport. Please send your manually-signed liability release form and photo of your passport to:

[JMariscal@RocioDelMarLiveaboard.com](mailto:JMariscal@RocioDelMarLiveaboard.com)

Please provide these documents no later than 30 days before your trip date.

You can also provide a copy of your manually-signed liability release form and photograph of your passport by fax or mail as follows:

FAX  
(602)926-8360

MAIL  
Rocio del Mar Liveaboard  
c/o Janet Mariscal  
3862 Blackthorn Street  
Irvine, CA 92606

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Rocio del Mar maintains daily contact with our US office via radio communications. We are ready for constant communication in the event of an emergency. Your family and friends are welcome to contact our office at (602)558-9580 in case of an emergency. Our office staff will immediately assist your family and friends in getting messages to you. We also have a satellite phone onboard for your use and emergency needs. The phone number is 011 881 632 557 444, and the rate for using the phone is \$2 per minute.

We do not have Wi-Fi on the boat.

## GETTING TO THE BOAT

Rocio del Mar is located at the Marina Fonatur in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico. Marina Fonatur is approximately a 4-hour drive from Phoenix, Arizona. Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport is the most convenient and closest airport to fly into to reach our port.

We can facilitate transportation services to and from Phoenix and the Marina for you through Head Out to Rocky Point. This shuttle service has 14 passenger vans that haul trailers for gear. The cost is \$125 per person, round trip, payable directly to Head Out to Rocky Point. If you require this service, please do two things: 1) indicate this on your passenger documents, and 2) reserve and pay at [www.HeadOutToRockyPoint.com/scuba](http://www.HeadOutToRockyPoint.com/scuba). Head Out to Rocky Point accepts credit cards on their website, or you can pay by cash (USD only) on-site.

If you would like to drive, there is secured parking available next to the marina at \$5 per day.

## TRAVELING TO MEXICO

For guests DRIVING into Mexico (including riding the Head Out To Rocky Point shuttle), YOU MUST STOP at immigration and PURCHASE a Mexican Tourist Card (FMM). Some refer to it as a visa, but it is not officially a visa.

The cost is approximately \$35 US in CASH. Credit cards are not accepted, and immigration officials will not give change. It is good to bring \$3-\$5 extra just as the amount can fluctuate based on the exchange rate.

**THE BOAT CANNOT LEAVE THE HARBOR UNLESS ALL PASSENGERS HAVE A FFM! NO EXCEPTIONS!**

For passengers FLYING into any foreign country, the fee is included in the airfare. Guests will complete the necessary immigration papers on the plane. You will need to return your FMM Card when you exit Mexico.

More information on this and traveling to Mexico can be found on the following websites:

- [www.BajaBound.com](http://www.BajaBound.com)
- [www.mexperience.com](http://www.mexperience.com)
- [www.gob.mx](http://www.gob.mx)

## ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

Passengers must arrive at Phoenix Sky Harbor airport no later than 11 am on the trip departure date. If you choose the Head Out to Rocky Point shuttle service, the shuttle will pick up all passengers at 1 pm at Terminal 4, door #5 at the outer curb, northside arrivals.

The trip takes four hours, and it will cross the international border. Head Out to Rocky Point is very familiar with this process and are there to help. The driver will stop along the way, allowing people can use the restroom and purchase snacks, including alcoholic beverages.

All passengers must have reached the marina and be aboard Rocio del Mar between 5 pm and 6 pm. Should you arrive earlier, you can spend your time site-seeing or shopping.

Once aboard Rocio del Mar, our crew will show you to your cabin and dive station. Our divemaster will ask you to provide your scuba diving certification cards and proof of dive insurance.

## RETURN

The boat will return to the marina in the early morning, and passengers need to be ready to depart by 7 am. Our steward will serve a continental breakfast. The shuttle will pick up passengers promptly upon disembarking. Please remember to book your departing flight from the Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport no earlier than 2 pm.

## ITINERARY

Proof of diving certification and dive insurance is required. Without proof, you will not be able to dive.  
NO EXCEPTIONS!

Day 1 - Embark at 5 pm in Puerto Peñasco. Dinner at 7 pm. Depart approximately 7 pm

Day 2 - Wake up at Refugio Bay on Angel Island

Potential Dive sites: Angel Rock, La Vela, Lolo's Cove, Sunset Zodiac Cruise with Sea Lions

Day 3 - Angel Island

Potential Dive sites: Andrea's Eagle, El Aquario, Las Vivas, Las Vivas, including a night dive

Day 4 - San Pedro Martir

Potential Dive sites: El Arroyo, Punta Martir (Sea Lions), Chayo's Cove

Day 5 - San Pedro Martir: Potential Dive sites: Ravijunco, Xareni's Pinnacle, Coronel, Morro, in the afternoon, we go looking for whales!

Day 6 - Salsipuedes & Animas

Potential Dive sites: Los Cuervos, El Caballo, In Animas, El Lavadero, El Lavadero including a night dive

Day 7 - Baja and Snorkeling with Whale Sharks in Bahia De Los Angeles

Potential Dive sites: El Pescador, Baja Ca., start heading back to Puerto Penasco in the afternoon

Day 8 - Disembark at 7 am

## SUGGESTED GEAR & CLOTHING

Besides your standard dive gear, every diver is required to have the following: dive computer, safety sausage (SMB), and a whistle.

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One of the most popular questions we receive is about water temperature!

The Sea of Cortez is a very seasonal sea, which means it changes rapidly based on the seasons. Our trips begin in early July where the temperatures are approximately 75-78 degrees Fahrenheit. It increases by about 2 degrees Fahrenheit every week and tops off at about 85 degrees mid-August and remains there until about mid-September.

After mid-September, the temperatures drop an average of 2 degrees Fahrenheit every week.

We absolutely recommend exposure protection (wetsuits/light drysuits) on our trips. Many guests have found that a 3mm wetsuit along with a hooded vest works best. Gloves and dive lights are permitted and suggested, especially for night diving.

Surface water temperature averages: June & July 75°, August 80°, and September & October 87°.

The dress is casual. Do not forget your hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen.

## RENTAL DIVE EQUIPMENT

We have a limited number of regulators, BCD's, dive computers, and HP steel 100cft/12L steel tanks available for rental at \$50 each per trip. Please let us know at least three weeks before your arrival if you want to rent equipment, so we have it onboard for you. We do not rent exposure suits, hoods, fins, masks, safety sausages (SMB's), whistles, or lights. As we have a limited number of these items available to rent, they are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Janet in Guest Services to reserve your equipment at [JMariscal@RocioDelMarLiveboard.com](mailto:JMariscal@RocioDelMarLiveboard.com).



## WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TRIP

The price of your trip INCLUDES:

- 🔗 All taxes & port fees
- 🔗 All meals, snacks, and beverages, including canned soft drinks
- 🔗 Complimentary local beer and wine
- 🔗 Tanks, weights, and weight belts

Guests are welcome to bring along their own beverages, including alcoholic beverages, if there is something special they would like.

## WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TRIP

- 🔗 National Park Fee - \$28 per person
- 🔗 Nitrox Fee - \$120 per person
- 🔗 Transfers to and from the boat
- 🔗 Crew Gratuity (10%-15% of the trip price is customary)
- 🔗 Fuel Surcharge\* if applicable

Fees and gratuity can be paid in advance or on the boat. Cash (USD, Pesos, and Euros) and MasterCard/Visa are accepted.

\*Fuel Surcharge: Rocio del Mar has the right to implement a fuel surcharge on all trips in the event the cost of fuel surpasses 20 Pesos per liter. Should this occur, all guests will be notified prior to boarding.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Proof of diving certification and dive insurance is required. Without proof, you will not be able to dive.  
NO EXCEPTIONS!

Rocio del Mar reserves the right to assign all cabins.

All guests are required to have dive insurance can be purchased at [www.DiversAlertNetwork.org](http://www.DiversAlertNetwork.org). If you have private health insurance coverage for dive accidents, provide only the page that states coverage for scuba diving, specifically evacuation.

We recommend you purchase trip insurance.

Although the conditions in the Sea of Cortez are mostly calm, there are times that the sea can be rough. There are several over the counter remedies that can help you. In case you have a propensity to motion sickness or are concerned that you might develop symptoms, please prepare yourself with preventive measures before departure.

## UNFORESEEN EVENTS / TRIP INSURANCE / TRIP INTERRUPTION

Rocio del Mar Liveaboard is of the utmost seaworthiness and is approved by the US Coast Guard and Mexican Coast Guard. Rocio del Mar is equipped with state-of-the-art electronics and all required safety equipment.

Passenger safety is paramount and therefore the captain has the sole discretion to change, delay, return early or cancel the cruise if necessary. These reasons include but are not limited to bad weather, perils of the sea, acts of God, political incidents or force majeure.

Trip insurance is suggested as it provides you with reimbursement for unused, non-refundable, pre-paid trip costs if you are prevented from taking your trip due to a covered reason. All trip insurance is not the same, so it is important to make sure that you purchase travel insurance that includes travel interruption.

Trip insurance can be purchased at [www.DiversAlertNetwork.com](http://www.DiversAlertNetwork.com).

## DEPOSITS & CANCELLATIONS / INDIVIDUALS

### DEPOSITS

- 🔗 25% deposit is due to hold the reservation
- 🔗 25% is due six months prior to the scheduled trip date
- 🔗 The remaining balance is due three months prior to the scheduled trip date

### CANCELLATIONS

- 🔗 There is no penalty for cancellations made 9 months or more prior to the scheduled trip date
- 🔗 25% of the full rate will be forfeited for cancellations made 91 days to 9 months prior to the scheduled trip date
- 🔗 50% of the full rate will be forfeited for cancellations made 61 to 90 days prior to the scheduled trip date
- 🔗 No refunds for cancellations made 60 days prior or less to the scheduled trip date

## DEPOSITS & CANCELLATIONS / GROUPS

### DEPOSITS

- 🔗 A \$5,000 non-refundable deposit is due to hold the reservation
- 🔗 25% of the trip price is due one year prior to the scheduled trip date (the \$5000 deposit can be used to make up the 25% deposit)
- 🔗 25% is due six months prior to the scheduled trip date
- 🔗 The balance less your commission is due three months prior to the scheduled trip date

### CANCELLATIONS

- 🔗 There is no penalty for cancellations made 12 months or more prior to the scheduled trip date however the \$5000 deposit is non-refundable
- 🔗 25% of the full rate will be forfeited for cancellations made 12 months to six months prior to the scheduled trip date



- 🔗 50% of the full rate will be forfeited for cancellations made six months to 91 days prior to the scheduled trip date
- 🔗 No refunds for cancellations made 90 days or less prior to the scheduled trip date

## HOTELS NEAR PHOENIX SKY HARBOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

If you are taking the Head Out to Rocky Point shuttle, you will need to go back to the airport to get the shuttle (terminal 4, door #5 at the outer curb, northside arrivals). Pick up is at 1 pm. If you have a group of 10 staying at the same hotel, Head Out to Rocky Point will pick you up at your hotel.

RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT  
 PHOENIX AIRPORT  
 801 North 44<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Phoenix, AZ 85008  
 (602)293-4439 Direct  
 (602)273-9220 Hotel  
 (602)273-7221 Fax  
[www.residenceinnphoenixairport.com](http://www.residenceinnphoenixairport.com)

LA QUINTA INN (Near the Airport)  
 911 S. 48th Street  
 Phoenix, AZ 85281  
 (480)967-4465  
 (800)738-8767  
[www.lq.com](http://www.lq.com)

QUALITY INN  
 1550 S. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
 Tempe, AZ 85281  
 (480)967-3000  
 (800)4-Choice

COMFORT SUITES  
 1625 S. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
 Tempe, AZ 85281  
 (480)446-9500  
[www.choicehotels.com](http://www.choicehotels.com)

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS  
 3401 E. University  
 Phoenix, AZ 85034  
 (602)453-9900  
[www.hiephoenix.com](http://www.hiephoenix.com)

COAST HOTEL  
 4300 E. Washington  
 Phoenix, AZ 85034  
 (602)273-7778  
 Res: (800)716-6199

BEST WESTERN AIRPORT INN  
 2425 S. 24th Street  
 Phoenix, AZ 85034  
 (602)273-7251  
 (800)528-8199

DOUBLE TREE SUITES BY HILTON PHOENIX  
 Near the Airport  
 320 N. 44<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Phoenix, AZ 85008  
 (602)225-0500

CROWNE PLAZA PHOENIX AIRPORT  
 4300 E. Washington St.  
 Phoenix, AZ 85034  
 (602)273-7778

HILTON GARDEN INN PHOENIX AIRPORT NORTH  
 3838 E. Van Buren St.  
 Phoenix, AZ 85008  
 (602)306-2323

