



## Diving the Socorro Islands

The Revillagigedo Islands (also Revillagigedo Archipelago or Islas Revillagigedo) are a group of four volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean, known for their unique ecosystem. The islands are home to many endemic plant and animal species and are sometimes called Mexico's "little Galapagos". Socorro island is the most diverse in flora, fauna, and topography.

The islands lie 250 miles off Baja Mexico's southern shore. When embarking on a trip to the Socorro Islands; possible destinations on the itinerary are San Benedicto, Socorro, Roca Partida and Clarion Islands.

These islands are a spectacular magnet for the largest ocean pelagic animals in the world. Schooling Hammerhead sharks, Tiger sharks, dolphins, silky sharks, Galapagos sharks, clouds of jacks and barracuda, tuna, wahoo, oceanic white tips sharks, whale sharks and mantas.

Mantas are the claim to fame for Socorro Islands; the island on which they seem to congregate the most is San Benedicto! The magical dive site called "The Boiler" is a submerged sea mount and cleaning station. More than a half dozen Mantas frequent this pinnacle regularly. The Mantas here are the friendliest I have ever experienced; they seem to enjoy the presence of humans. This is truly an exceptional place if you wish to really experience the Manta Magic.

Humpback whales visit during the winter months of January through April. This is a splendid time to hear the sound of the singing mating male escorts underwater. This destination can only be dived by a live aboard dive vessel. It takes approximately 26 hrs one way to reach the islands. This is an excellent dive destination for large pelagics due to the open ocean nature of the islands, which sometimes include currents and choppy conditions. The underwater topography consists of rocky outcroppings, boulders and some walls. There is not much in the way of coral as this is a cooler water destination.

The crossing from Los Cabos San Lucas to the Socorro Islands takes approximately 26-28 hrs. It is open sea, please be prepared in case we are faced with rough seas. 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 arm yourself with preventive measures beforehand.

Below is our scheduled diving itinerary. Weather and sea conditions may require changes to this itinerary. If unique animal sighting opportunities arise, we may suggest alternative options to divers.

## **2019 Trips**

**Day 1** - Board at 8am / Depart approximately 9am

**Day 2** - San Benedicto / Arrive approximately 11am / 2 dives scheduled

**Day 3** - Roca Partida - 3 dives scheduled

**Day 4** - Roca Partida, 3 dives scheduled.

**Day 5** - Socorro Island - 3 dives scheduled (check in with naval station)

**Day 6** - Socorro Island, 4 dives scheduled.

**Day 7** - San Benedicto, schedule 4 dives - at the end of this day we will start our departure to San Jose del Cabo.

**Day 8** - at Sea

**Day 9** - Arrive at San Jose del Cabo in the early morning hours - disembark at 8:30am

## **2020 and Beyond**

The following schedule is for all trips beginning January 4, 2020:

**Day 1** - Board the boat at 5pm / Dinner is served at 7pm / Boat departs shortly thereafter

**Day 2** - At Sea

**Day 3** - San Benedicto - 4 dives scheduled

**Day 4** - Roca Partida - 3 dives scheduled

**Day 5** - Roca Partida - 3 dives scheduled

**Day 6** - Socorro Island - 3 dives scheduled (check in with naval station)

**Day 7** - Socorro Island - 4 dives scheduled

**Day 8** - San Benedicto - 4 dives scheduled - at the end of the day we will start our return to San Jose del Cabo

**Day 9** - At Sea

**Day 10** - Arrive at San Jose del Cabo in the early morning hours - disembark at 8:30am