

# Discover Isla Guadalupe

A large shark, likely a Great White, is the central focus, swimming towards the left. The water is a deep, clear blue. In the background, numerous smaller fish are visible, creating a sense of a healthy marine ecosystem. The lighting is bright, highlighting the texture of the shark's skin and the movement of the water.

**Last Update September 2010**

## Club Cantamar



In 1983, the Aguilar family moved to La Paz with the sole purpose of starting a service oriented business. Being a scuba diver since 1965, it was just the natural move for Fernando, beginning operations with a 22' panga (Baja 1, still in operation), and an old 40 hp outboard engine, but with the Cantamar Project in mind as the family goal. After several years of persistent dreaming and planing, construction started in 1994 with a boat ramp, a small office building and the compressors house with the tank

filling station, which in turn gave place to the actual Hotel Cantamar Beach Resort & Marina, the family's dream come true. Also Club Cantamar is the only Dive Resort in Mexico fitted with a decompression chamber in premises, and the operation is in charge of Fernando Aguilar Sr., after exhaustive training in the University of Southern California (USC), in Catalina Island.

For many years, Club Cantamar was focused on scuba diving day trips, however, the goal was to obtain a large vessel that could be used as a liveaboard. In 2007, SEA ESCAPE was put in operation after a complete renovation that took her to standards of comfort and efficiency that make this boat your best cost-effective option for your dive vacations to our incredible destinations in the Mexican Pacific Ocean.

## Guadalupe Island

Once considered an ecological disaster due to the 18<sup>th</sup> century whaling activities that took the elephant seal and the endemic species of plants to the verge of extinction, this island is located in the west coast of Mexico, 180 miles south west of Ensenada Baja California and 230 miles SW of San Diego CA.



For many years known to sport fishermen as a Tuna paradise, the fact that many fish being reeled showed up cut in half or not at all, people realized that there was an existing population of Great White Sharks in pristine waters, so, the tourist industry soon started making trips to cage diving with this incredible animal rapidly growing in

popularity as one of the best locations worldwide to dive with the top predator of the ocean, the great white shark. Since 2007 Club Cantamar has been running weekly trips to this incredible destination during the months of August thru October, holding a 100% success rate in regards of shark encounters and safety on all trips.

Local fishermen work here year round collecting lobster with traps and hookah diving for sea cucumber and abalone, with full awareness that great white sharks are seasonal residents of the island during the migration.

Because of its fantastic water conditions in regards of water temperature and visibility, many of the top TV producers have chosen Guadalupe island to produce interesting documentaries, where Sea Escape and the great white sharks of Guadalupe island are the stars for shows like Shark Week from Discovery channel and on the big screen with the new release "Oceans".

## THE GREAT WHITE SHARK



The great white shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, also known as great white, white shark, or white death, is a large lamniform shark found in coastal surface waters in all major oceans. The great white shark is very well known for its size, with the largest individuals known to have approached or exceeded 6 metres (20

ft) in length and 2,268 kilograms (5,000 lb) in weight. It reaches maturity at around 15 years of age and can have a life span of over 30 years. The great white shark is arguably the world's largest known extant macropredatory fish and is one of the primary predators of marine mammals. It is also known to prey upon a variety of other marine animals including fish, and seabirds. It is the only surviving species of its genus *Carcharodon*.

The best selling novel Jaws and the subsequent film by Steven Spielberg depicted the great white shark as a "ferocious man eater". In reality, humans are not the preferred prey of the great white shark, but the size of the accidental bite of one of these enormous creatures can be devastating and frequently derive into people's deaths.

According to a recent study, California great whites migrate to an area between Baja California and Hawaii known as White Shark Café, where they spend at least 100 days before migrating back to Baja. On the journey out, they swim slowly and dive down to

around 900 m (3,000 ft), changing their behavior and making short dives to about 300 m (1,000 ft). These discoveries refuted traditional theories that white sharks are coastal territorial predators and opens up the possibility of interaction between shark populations that were previously thought to be discrete. Why they migrate and what they do at their destination is still unknown and remains a mystery, but possibilities include seasonal feeding or mating.



A similar study tracked a great white shark from South Africa swimming to Australia's northwestern coast and back, a journey of 20,000 km (12,000 mi; 11,000 nmi) in under 9 months.

## KEY FACTS

Average length: males 5 mts/ females 6 mts.

Weight: Estimated at up to 1500-2400 lbs

Sexual maturity: when males reach 3.5 mts and females 4.5 mts

Mating: not enough information known.

Gestation: 11 months gestation, deliver in the spring.

Diet: Carnivorous, mainly feed on fish, tuna, rays, other sharks, dolphins, seals, sea turtles, sea otters and seabirds.

Lifespan: About 30 years

## Our Live Aboard

SEA ESCAPE is a 110 ft aluminum vessel originally built as a crew boat and servicing the oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, rebuilt and operated as a sport fishing liveaboard in Biloxi, Mississippi, is again refurbished and in 2007 enters as part of the Cantamar Fleet covering two of the most exciting dive destinations in the Pacific Ocean : Guadalupe Island from August to October, and



Revillagigedo Islands (Socorro) from November to April. We are a family owned and operated company that knows what it's like to be on vacation.

We take pride in what we do, thus, you are not just a diver to us like in some of those other big companies. You are a member of our family, come join us on our fully air conditioned, private staterooms, nice galley, a huge living room and lots of space in the stern for the diving gear which make SEA ESCAPE the perfect vessel for your next dive vacation.



## Itinerary



Fly to San Diego or Tijuana one day before the trip begins. We can help you make hotel reservations if you let us know in advance. Please note that accommodations are not included in the package .

Suggested accommodations are:  
COMFORT INN OLD TOWN, 1955  
San Diego Ave. , San Diego, CA,  
92110, tel # 619 5431130 , or in  
Tijuana, hotel BAJA INN  
HACIENDA DEL RIO, at Blvd.  
Sanchez Taboada # 10606, tel (664)  
684 8644

If you decide to stay somewhere else, you **MUST** be at the lobby of either one of the above hotels no later than 08:15, in order to join the rest of the guests. The ride to Ensenada takes 1.5 hours.

### **Day 1**

“Sea Escape” departs at 12:00 noon. Our friendly staff will pick you up at COMFORT INN OLD TOWN at 8:30 a.m in San diego and 9:30 a.m. at BAJA INN HACIENDA DEL RIO in Tijuana depending on border traffic. Once departed we will cruise for the rest of the day and night, you are welcome to enjoy a movie from our catalog or bring your own. This navigation time can also be used to prepare camera equipment.



### **Day 2**

Arrive around 7:00 a.m.to Guadalupe island where the crew will deploy dive cages as well as air hoses and other important equipment. After a complete briefing from our divemaster divers are allowed to enter the cages in 2 groups of 4 persons each, a submersible cage is also ready to be used for 2 divers, in dives down to a maximum depth of 60 ft. Be sure to bring your own BCD and regulator if it is your desire to use this cage



### **Day 3**

Cage diving all day, debrief in the afternoon as well as a quick boat tour near the island, where you can observe the sealions and elephant seals colony. Disembark at the island is strictly prohibited by the environmental authorities so we will only be able to take pictures of the island from the skiff.

### **Day 4**

Diving all morning and part of the afternoon, cages are then lifted at 14:00 hrs and Sea Escape starts its journey back to Ensenada. Divers can enjoy comparing video and photos taken during the expedition, while navigating for the rest of the day and night.



### **Day 5**

Arrival at Ensenada at 13:00 hrs, disembark and transfers back to your hotel either in San Diego or Tijuana as you have previously arranged. End of our services.

# Trip Info

## PACKAGES

A great variety of packages can be combined, starting from our best seller of 5 days/ 4 nights and 3 days of unlimited cage diving at Guadalupe all the way to the “Grand Slam” which is Guadalupe + Sea of Cortez + Socorro Island.

5 DAYS/ 4 NIGHTS & 3 DAYS DIVING ..... \$2600 PER PERSON

## PRICE INCLUDES

Ground transportation from your hotel to the pier in Ensenada, Baja California.  
Accommodations in double stateroom with a/c and bathroom  
All meals and snacks while aboard  
Soft drinks and water  
Wine and beer in limited quantities  
Unlimited number of 1 hr dives in the surface cages and unlimited number of 30 minute dives on the submersible cage.  
Weight belts

## NOT INCLUDED :

Airfare and Airport transfers  
Hotel accommodations before and after the trip  
Rental dive equipment.....\$23 usd per day for the full set of dive gear  
Park and port fees.....\$78 per person to be paid in cash to your trip host before boarding  
Tips for the crew.....5% to 10% of the cost of the trip (mandatory)

## UPON YOUR ARRIVAL

Once our staff picks you up in San Diego we will drive across the Mexican border where you must apply for the tourist visa, which has a cost of about \$25 USD per person and it is valid for 180 days, please keep this document in a safe place as it is very important both for boarding and leaving the boat as it will be requested by immigration officers. If you lose your Mexican visa a penalty of \$55 USD will apply..!

## SUGGESTED GEAR & CLOTHING

Water temperature will probably be around 16-20 Celsius, or 60-70 F, so, we suggest a 7 mm wetsuit or a semidry suit. Remember that we have surface cages and also submersible cages, thus, if you wish to use the submersible cage, bring with you your BCD and Regulator, besides wetsuit, booties, and mask. Fins are not strictly necessary. Clothing aboard is very casual, so, t-shirts, shorts and sandals, plus a light jacket will do. Sea Escape t-shirts are available for \$15- \$25 USD.

Although the staterooms are comfortable, there is limited storage space so please pack light. A few T shirts, a couple of pairs of shorts, one pair of pants, a bathing suit and a windbreaker/sweatshirt is all you will need. The evenings can get chilly if the wind picks up. We suggest packing your stuff in a soft duffle bag for easy luggage storing.

Don't forget your hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Feel free to bring your own books, CD's and DVD's

### **Climate**

The Sea Escape visits Guadalupe island between August thru October. During this time of the year the winds come from the West and NW. Sometimes the journey between Ensenada and Guadalupe can get a little "bumpy" however the anchoring point at Guadalupe is very well protected resulting in calm seas during dive days. Air temperature is usually between 65 F and 85 F during day time.



### **Visibility, Water Temperature & Currents**

Visibility is usually very good with up to 40 metres/ 130 ft. Water temperature ranges between 60 F-70 F or 16 C - 20 C but it could be warmer later in the season.

**MENU** - Our meals consist of a variety of healthy & nutritious foods including fresh fruits, veggies and meats. The cuisine reflects the Mexican culture and most dietary needs can be accommodated with advanced notice.

### **TOUR GUIDES**

Our Divemasters are well trained and know the area very well, to insure you that you will experience the most on each and every dive.



**SHIP CREW** - The Captain, engineer and crew are onboard to operate the vessel insuring the safety and well being of the group. They bring with them many years of mariner experience in the oceans and offer the warmth and kindness that reflects the beauty and hospitality of the people of Mexico.

### **EMERGENCY CONTACT PHONE #'s :**

Fernando Aguilar, Sr. cell phone	612 1202742
Fernando Aguilar, Jr.	612 1400277
Pedro Aguilar	612 1203292
Satellite phone aboard Sea Escape	00 881651446920

\*Note : if calling from out of Mexico, dial +521, prior to the cell phone number.

# Booking Terms and Conditions

Individuals: 33% deposit required within 10 days of making reservation. Final payment due 60 days prior to departure.

Cancellation fees are as follows:

No penalty if cancelled 9 months before departure.

10% of charter rate if cancelled 6 to 9 months before departure.

30% of charter rate if cancelled more than 90 days to 6 months before departure.

50% of charter rate if cancelled more than 60 to 90 days before departure.

No refunds within 60 days of departure.

Groups: 10% deposit required within 14 days of making the reservation. Additional 30% required 180 days before departure. Final payment is due 60 days before departure.

Cancellation fees are as follows:

No penalty if cancelled 9 months before departure.

10% of charter rate if cancelled 6 to 9 months before departure.

30% of charter rate if cancelled 60 days to 6 months before departure.

No refunds within 60 days of departure.