SOLMAR V – GUADALUPE ISLAND – PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

Thank you for choosing SOLMAR V for your upcoming visit to Guadalupe Island!

In order to ensure your Cage Diving Adventure runs as smoothly as possible, please read through the following information carefully. Safety for both the divers and the sharks are our highest priority.

This is meant to be a guideline for travel from your country to our destination in Mexico. Ultimately, you are responsible for securing everything you need in regards to security, vaccines, luggage and legal document requirements before you travel. Check with your airlines and/or the Mexican Embassy in your area for current requirements and restrictions. We will be happy to answer any questions and help with some of these arrangements but we are not responsible for changes in travel requirements from your specific country.

Your Great White Shark Cage diving experience includes all meals (gourmet dining daily and wine will be served with dinner), snacks, soft drinks, beer and cage diving while on SOLMAR V plus round-trip luxury motor coach transfers from San Diego or Tijuana to Ensenada with Pelagic Fleet’s Chief Concierge on board as your Guide.

Most of our Guadalupe Itinerary passengers fly into San Diego International Airport (Airport Code SAN) and spend at least one night in San Diego, California. We recommend guests stay at our Host Hotel, as this is where the luxury motor coach will pick all guests up at in the morning of departure to assist with travel to Ensenada. Pelagic Fleet negotiates special rates at our Host Hotel and a website link will be provided to all guests where they can book at the negotiated rate until 30 days prior, when the rooms are released to the general public. We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the last minute to book your room, as this is high season for travel to San Diego.

Upon booking your Guadalupe Trip, you will be provided with a customized website link that you may use to book your room at the Host Hotel for your specific trip date at the Pelagic Fleet Rate. Out Host Hotel has changed as of February 2019, and all booking links will be sent to passengers via Pelagic Fleet Reservations or through your Travel Agent as they become available to us from the Hotels.

Occasionally, passengers who are Mexican Citizens opt to travel to Tijuana (Airport Code TIJ) rather than San Diego. Here, our recommended hotel is the Hotel Real Inn. If you stay here, the luxury motor coach will simply pick you up after crossing the border, en route to Ensenada (more details are below).

It is highly recommended you arrive in San Diego (or Tijuana) at least one day before your trip departure date to allow for unforeseen travel delays prior to your trip start with Pelagic Fleet such as airline cancellations and delays beyond our and your control.

DAY 1 (for guests meeting in San Diego): Pelagic Fleet’s Chief Concierge will meet you at our Host Hotel where you will embark on a luxury motor coach for transfer to Ensenada, Mexico, departing the hotel promptly at 10:00 AM. The meeting area is the lobby.

Before entering Mexico, you will be required to fill out paperwork for your Mexican Visa (we will have the paperwork for you to fill out on the coach). Most of our passengers are only staying in Mexico for 5 days, and as such there is no fee associated with this Visa. However, some passengers opt to spend additional time in Mexico, or drive down to Cabo San Lucas, or take two Guadalupe trips in a row! If you are planning to be in Mexico for 7 days or more, you will be required to pay a fee of $28 USD at the border. For most of you, this will not apply. Our Chief Concierge will assist you with your paperwork if you have any questions!

At the U.S./Mexico border, you will disembark the luxury motor coach with your belongings and proceed through the Mexican customs area.
Mexican customs officials use random search by asking you to push a button connected to what looks like a traffic light. A red light means they’ll check your bags and a green light means you may proceed. Please be respectful at all times to the Mexican Officials. Once everyone from the luxury motor coach has cleared the Mexican customs area, you will re-board the luxury motor coach and continue on to Ensenada, Mexico.

DAY 1 (for guests meeting in Tijuana): A luxury motor coach will pick you up at the Hotel Real Inn, Tijuana, Mexico between 11-11:30AM and transfer you to Ensenada (https://www.hotelesrealinn.com/Hotels/Details/Ri/tij). Please look for the motor coach and driver with the SOLMAR V sign. The departure meeting area is outside the lobby of the Hotel Real Inn.

You will arrive at Cruise Port Marina and board SOLMAR V by approximately 1:00PM with an immediate departure to Guadalupe Island once port authorities have cleared the vessel.

BOAT & CHECK IN

Once aboard SOLMAR V, you will be assigned your stateroom and dive station. At that time, our divemasters will ask you to show your SCUBA certification card and sign the Pelagic Fleet Liability and Waiver if you have not already done so electronically. If you do not have your SCUBA certification you will not be permitted to dive in the 3-man submersible cage, but certification is not required for either one of our 4-man surface cages.

DAY 2: Arrive early morning to Guadalupe Island and, after setting up the cages and starting the attraction process, we start rotating teams into the cages as soon as the first shark appears.

DAYS 3 & 4: Cage diving all day with plenty of great photo opportunities. Remember we are one of the only Liveaboards to offer a 3-man submersible cage that is lowered 30 ft. for a different perspective. You must be a certified diver for this cage, where you are accompanied by one of our shark experts. We start back to Ensenada at the end of Day 4.

DAY 5 (for guest returning to Tijuana): Arrive to port mid-day where the luxury motor coach will be waiting to take you back to the Hotel Real Inn, Tijuana, Mexico. Return time to Tijuana is around 4:00PM. If you are flying that same day, we recommend arranging your departure flight after 6:00 PM.

DAY 5 (for guest returning to San Diego): Arrive to port mid-day where the luxury motor coach will be waiting to take you back to San Diego. Return time to San Diego is between 4:00 – 6:00PM depending on border traffic. As before, at the U.S./Mexico border, you will disembark the luxury motor coach with your belongings and proceed through the U.S. customs and immigration area. U.S. customs and immigration officials will check both your passport and luggage. Once everyone on the luxury motor coach has cleared the U.S. customs area, you will re-board the luxury motor coach and continue on to the Host Hotel. You will disembark the motor coach at the Host Hotel. If you are flying that same day, we strongly recommend arranging your flight after 8:00 PM.

The crew of SOLMAR V is extremely hardworking and committed to providing you the best service possible and their tips are greatly appreciated. While we feel that tipping is a personal decision, we are often asked to provide a recommendation. As such, we recommend a gratuity of 10-15% of the published rate of your trip.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ACCEPT CASH ONLY FOR GRATUITY SHOULD YOU CHOOSE. WE ACCEPT CASH OR CREDIT CARD FOR SOUVENIR ITEMS FOR SALE ON BOARD.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

SOLMAR V has an onboard satellite communications system for emergencies only. The satellite phone charge is $3.50 (USD) per minute. Please plan on being disconnected for a few days. Our Captain will be communicating with base on a daily basis, and emergency contact information is listed at the end of this page.

All voltage aboard SOLMAR V is 110 (same as the United States) and we have adapters on board.
SCUBA Insurance is required to dive in the submersible cage. We strongly recommend travel insurance for all travelers. SCUBA & travel insurance recommendations: [http://solmarv.com/index.php/travel-insurance](http://solmarv.com/index.php/travel-insurance)

The cage diving aboard SOLMAR V is surface supplied air or Hookah diving. This allows you to be in the cage with the least amount of equipment on your body, providing greater comfort and more space in the cage.

The two main surface shark cages are built to accommodate 4 divers each. They are spacious, measuring 8’L x 5’W x 8’H. The submersible cage accommodates 3 divers (1 safety diver and 2 passengers). Cage diving is relatively basic in nature and your equipment needs are very simple. Please follow this list and you will find that your expedition will be one of the most rewarding dive experiences for the least amount of effort.

**YOU NEED TO BRING THE FOLLOWING**

1. A proper fitting wetsuit or dry suit (7mm wetsuit is recommended)
2. Mask
3. Hood
4. Booties or equivalent thermal foot protection
5. Gloves
6. Spares (such as gloves or camera equipment)
7. Passport

**WE DO NOT RENT THE ABOVE DIVE GEAR OR EQUIPMENT; YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN GEAR OR ARRANGE TO RENT & RETURN GEAR ON YOUR OWN.** Ocean Enterprises dive store in San Diego rents all dive gear you may need for this trip. You will need to contact them directly to make arrangements, and they will deliver your equipment to the Host Hotel, and pick it up upon your return.

**OCEAN ENTERPRISES - Rental Department**
7710 Balboa Ave., Ste. 101, San Diego, CA 92111
Phone: 858-565-6054
Fax: 858-565-0717
rental@oceanenterprises.com
[www.oceanenterprises.com](http://www.oceanenterprises.com/)

**DO NOT BRING**

Fins, BC’s, regulators, tanks, weight belt or weights.

**PERSONAL ITEMS WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU BRING**

Cameras, video equipment, warm jacket, hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Feel free to bring your own books, CD’s and DVD’s – we have a collection of these onboard, however, the crew especially appreciates new entertainment!

Although the staterooms are comfortable, space is limited and you will store your luggage in our storage area. As such, we recommend packing light. The dress is very casual: a few T-shirts, a few pairs of shorts, one pair of pants, a bathing suit and a windbreaker/sweatshirt are all you will need. We also suggest using a soft duffle bag for easy luggage storing as opposed to a suitcase.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION DURING TRIP**

SOLMAR V maintains daily contact with the U.S. office and we are in constant radio contact. In the event of an emergency, your family may contact our Reservations Director at +1 619 770 1886 (office) or +1 858 876 5211 (mobile). **If they cannot reach the Reservations Director at the US Office, they may call our Director of Operations in Mexico, Rodolfo Rodriguez, on his cell phone at +5 21 551-384-3076.**