

Sharktober Sanctuary Adventures- Directions and Instructions

ABOUT THESE EXPEDITIONS Join veteran [Shark Conservationist and Naturalist David McGuire](#) and other wildlife specialists celebrating sharks and all ocean life on a life-changing expedition into the Gulf of the Farallones for whales, wildlife and our finny friends. These events are surface viewing on a US Coast Guard inspected vessel, the AMIGO, departing from San Francisco near the Fisherman's Wharf (location 11 on the map).



Once leaving the Bay our mission is to make the islands. Conditions may change and alter the destination in the Gulf of the Farallones to areas with wildlife along the Marin coastline and in the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Occasionally conditions prohibit crossing the Gulf after entering the Sanctuary. In that case we will investigate the Marin County shoreline as far as Drakes Bay and into deeper waters for whales and wildlife. Refunds are not available once we have passed beneath the Golden Gate.

Directions

The vessel is berthed along the historic Fisherman's wharf waterfront between Castagnolas and Tarantino's restaurants. Look for the EAT CRAB sign across the street.

Parking

Parking is located on surface streets as marked (free on Sundays a few blocks south (as marked-) or at the Anchor street Garage on Beach and Jones, and others on Beach St. We encourage and advise public transportation.

Departure Join us at the Vessel by 0730 to begin check in and boarding for an 0800 departure. The boat cannot wait for latecomers. We may depart in fog, light rain or small craft warnings (very unusual this time of year) at the captain's discretion, but the boat must leave on time. We will return to the Bay about 4:00-4:30 p.m. Allow for delays, especially if unusual wildlife is encountered. Trips may be truncated or rescheduled if weather conditions deteriorate. See departure and refund details below.

Age and Physical Requirements These trips are limited to ages 8 and above. This vessel requires boarding by ladder and mobility is necessary to access. Please contact us for accommodations.

Covid Policy**. We request that all passengers have proof of vaccination and require that all passengers agree that they have been symptom free for over 72 hours before boarding. Please help us keep these trips fun and safe for everyone's benefit, including the captain and crew. If you have any symptoms of illness please contact us 72 hours in advance.

**** Weather & Trip Rescheduling** Although this is the best time of year to cross the Gulf, weather can be a problem outside of the San Francisco Bay. Light rain or fog generally do not result in cancellations. Decisions regarding cancellation may be made on the morning of the trip in unusual conditions, but we make every effort to decide the evening before based on the most current weather report. We will make our best estimate of weather conditions the evening before and if conditions warrant a cancellation may be made. Notification will be provided via Universe.

Call into 415 350-3790 for a recorded message at 8:00 PM the evening before. We will make every attempt to inform you by email or this site beforehand but cannot personally contact the entire passenger list by telephone.

For passenger safety and comfort, once the vessel has left the Golden Gate the final destination will be determined by the Captain. If conditions deteriorate this may become a coastal trip and the Gulf will only be crossed at the Captain's discretion. There is still plenty of wildlife viewing at Drakes Bay or Pacifica in more sheltered waters. No refunds can be given once the boat has left the dock.

Vessel, Safety and Access.

We will obey all current vaccination, masking and other COVID requirements as made by the City of San Francisco and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention at the time of the event.

ACCOMODATIONS The vessel is seaworthy with all safety equipment, and US Coast Guard approved. Boarding requires climbing up and down a six foot ladder. The vessel cannot safely accommodate wheelchairs or persons on crutches or persons with mobility problems due to conditions at sea. Special accommodations may be made at the Captain/Owner's discretion but advance notice is required. The vessel is equipped with all required US Coast Guard life safety equipment including communications, fire extinguishers, first aid and man overboard equipment. For your safety, persons with leg or other injuries, immobility or pregnancy are discouraged. There is a marine bathroom onboard. To avoid clogging nothing that does not go into your mouth and through your system should go down the toilet.

Children and Special Needs This is a long day in the elements. Children under 8 are not allowed.

Please contact us for any special accommodations. Juveniles under 18 must be accompanied by an parent or adult, or with a signed waiver by a parent or guardian for youth over 16.

Sea Sickness The Gulf of the Farallones can have rough waters. Seasick remedies are recommended for those sensitive. If you have not used these in the past please check with your doctor, and read the directions on the label. A full night's rest the night before is important.

Avoid drinking alcoholic beverages the night prior to your trip and eat a healthy meal before boarding.

Please avoid colognes and perfumes or other scents or food that might affect other passengers.

Remedies like dried ginger, ginger ale or other organic remedies may help with queasiness.

Other remedies include over-the-counter drugs, like [Dramamine](#) and [Bonine](#), and prescription products like scopolamine patches. A new FDA-approved device, called the ReliefBand, sends a small electrical current through the same spot and has had positive reviews. We do not recommend any particular remedy and cannot be held responsible for adverse reactions or effects. We do not endorse any specific remedies, but no alcohol and rest the night before, a good breakfast (low grease or fat), hydration and healthy snacks are all good preventions. Here is a good survey article on [motion seasickness](#).

What to Bring

- Wear layers of clothing. Sweaters and sweatshirts covered by a waterproof jacket or rain slicker work best. Long spray proof pants, hats and gloves are helpful. Wind on the water can cool the temperatures significantly. Bundle up so you can peel down in the sun!
- Lunch is not provided. We will provide hot water for tea or coffee and light snacks. Bottled water is aboard but please bring any food, snacks and liquids you desire. Water bottles- please keep it green and bring reusable bottles. Pretzels, crackers and carbonated beverages during the trip can be helpful to settle your stomach. Alcohol is discouraged. Smoking and vaping is prohibited onboard.
- No sandals or open toed shoes. Soft soled deck shoes, sneakers or sea boots are desirable.
- Cameras and binoculars. Covers, towels or plastic bags can protect your equipment from spray. No drones may be used aboard for safety and to prevent wildlife disturbance.
- Field guides. We will have a one page handout and some references and displays aboard but you may want your own- especially for birds.
- Hats and sunscreen. You can still get a sunburn even in the fog.
- Please no coolers or large items- space is limited to storage in the cabin. No bunking.
- Waterproof bags or backpacks are advisable and encouraged.

FAQs

Where can I contact the organizer with any questions? yes- via Universe or at info@sharkstewards.org

Is my registration/ticket transferrable? Yes- with prior approval of the operator. No last minute changes, transfers or changes within one week of departure. Trips do not transfer from one year to the next.

Can I update my registration information? Yes, if you would like to substitute passengers up to 2 days from the date of the event. Any registration date changes can be made according to the refund and change terms below.

Do I have to bring my printed ticket to the event?

A print out is helpful-but we will have a printed manifest and sign in list when you come aboard.

What is the refund and change policy? The captain and operator will make the determination to depart as weather dictates, generally the evening before based on the most recent forecast. Our trips may be canceled in advance due to undersubscription, hazardous weather conditions, Acts of God or emergency. If the trip is canceled by the operators for any of these reasons, we will honor your ticket on another trip this season or you may request a refund in full.

Passenger's Requesting Refunds If you need to cancel your reservation you will receive a refund within 30 days of cancellation, less a \$25 processing fee for each canceled reservation up to a week before date of departure. You may reschedule for one of our other trips within the calendar year at no-change fee, or transfer tickets to another passenger for the date of departure provided, you notify us no less than 7 days before date of departure.

Cancellation within 7 days of the scheduled departure time cannot be refunded. You may have the option to attend a trip at a later date at no penalty, provided there is space at the operator's discretion. Due to boat booking we cannot accommodate repeat scheduling changes. We will honor your reservation on other trips for the calendar year if given more than 7 days advance notice. In no event shall our liability exceed the obligation to refund more than the amount you paid to us. If you should miss your trip due to airline changes, cancellations, terrorist acts, acts of war, or related incidents, your fee will not be refundable. There are no exceptions to this policy. Once the boat has left the dock, no refunds can be given.

Other Illegal drugs, smoking or vaping tobacco are not permitted on the boat. To be present to this adventure we request that you please turn off cell phones and pagers while on the boat. This is a green, low impact trip so please plan on minimizing plastic or other single use containers and hang onto anything that might enter the ocean. We cannot be liable for loss or damage to your personal property while onboard the vessel.

Acknowledgement and Liability Receipt of this contract via ticket purchase acknowledges your acceptance of the above conditions. The vessel owners, trip leaders and Shark Stewards assume no liability or responsibility for personal injury or loss of property on these voyages.

These trips are not associated with The Earth Island Institute.

Purchase of this ticket accepts these conditions of liability for the purchaser and your guests.

[Contact](#) the organizer for more details or questions.