



Hello and thank you for choosing Islander Charters.

We are looking forward to our fall Great White Shark diving season and to meeting you. In anticipation of your upcoming trip, we have prepared a pre-departure package which covers every element of your voyage including:

- Itinerary
- What To Pack
- Frequently Asked Questions
- What to do in San Diego
- Driving Directions
- Nearby Restaurants
- Hotel Information
- Last Minute Needs

**In addition, there are a couple items we need completed and returned to us 45 days prior to departure with your final payment. All items may be sent electronically or via postal mail.**

- Questionnaire/Waiver (initialed and signed in ink)
- Copy Of Your Valid Passport (scan, photocopy or photograph is acceptable)

If you did not receive a copy of the questionnaire, waiver or the Islander Charters trip policy, let us know and we will send to you right away.

Anytime you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us via email at [info@islander-charters.com](mailto:info@islander-charters.com) or by telephone at 619-224-4388.

Kindest regards,

Islander Charters Staff and Crew



**'Meli'**

# ITINERARY:

## **DAY 0 – FIRST SCHEDULED DAY OF TRIP: SAN DIEGO EVENING DEPARTURE**

Your Great White Shark cage dive adventure begins in San Diego by boarding *M/V Islander* at Fisherman's Landing dock located at 2838 Garrison Street San Diego, CA 92106 - see Driving Directions page for map and location.



**8 PM:** Boarding begins, guests sign in, and luggage is stowed in below deck staterooms. Passengers mingle on the deck and in the galley/salon area while light snacks and drinks are available.

**10 PM:** *Islander* departs San Diego bound for Ensenada, Mexico. At this time the captain and/or divemaster will introduce the crew and give boat safety and emergency procedures.

## **DAY 1 – TRAVEL DAY**

**7 AM:** Breakfast is served in the galley.

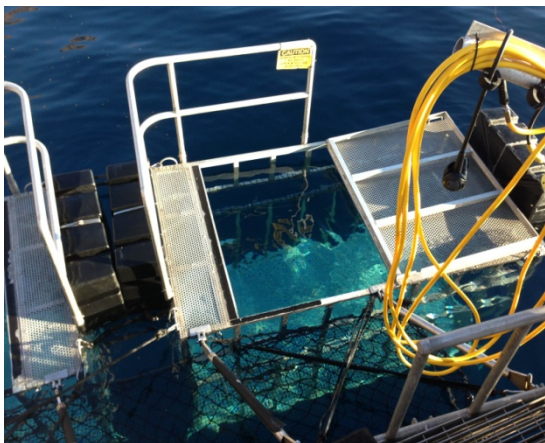
**8 AM:** Arrive at Cruiseport Marina, Ensenada MX, for customs clearance. Guests remain onboard.

**9:30 AM:** Depart Ensenada for Guadalupe Island. Morning snack is served. Fruit is always available.

**12 PM:** Lunch is served in the galley. Following lunch there will be an in-depth seminar on Great White Shark cage diving procedures, water safety, and what to expect at the island. Movies, books and magazines are available in the galley.

**3 - 4 PM:** Hors d'oeuvres are served. Wine and beer are available in the afternoon and evening.

**6 PM:** Dinner is served in the galley.



## **DAY 2 – ISLAND ARRIVAL & FULL DAY DIVING**

**7 AM:** Breakfast is served in the galley. The Captain accesses Guadalupe Island conditions and chooses the best location for our dive operations to begin.

**8 AM:** Our white shark cages are deployed. Dive rotations start - you are one hour in/one hour out of the cage, repeating throughout the day until sundown. Passengers spend time viewing the sharks both above and below the water. Topside action on our large back deck is almost as good as underwater and can be viewed from the hot tub.

**9 - 10 AM:** Mid-morning snack is served. **12 PM:** Lunch is served in the galley.

**3 - 4 PM:** Hors d'oeuvres are served. Beer and wine is open to any guests finished diving for the day.

**7 PM:** Dinner is served in the galley. After an incredible day, divers share their stories and photos.

### **DAY 3 – FULL DAY OF DIVING**

**6 AM:** Shark diving operations resume and continue throughout the day until dark.

**7 AM:** Breakfast is served in the galley.

**9 - 10 AM:** Midmorning snack is served.

**12 PM:** Lunch is served in the galley.

**3 - 4 PM:** Hors d'oeuvres are served.

**7 PM:** Dinner is served in the galley.



### **DAY 4 – DAY OF DIVING & DEPART THE ISLAND**

**6 AM:** Shark diving operations resume.

**7 AM:** Breakfast is served in the galley.

**9 - 10 AM:** Midmorning snack is served.

**12 PM:** Lunch is served in the galley.

**2 PM:** The Islander departs Guadalupe Island, headed for Ensenada. Hors d'oeuvres are served.

**7 PM:** Dinner is served in the galley.

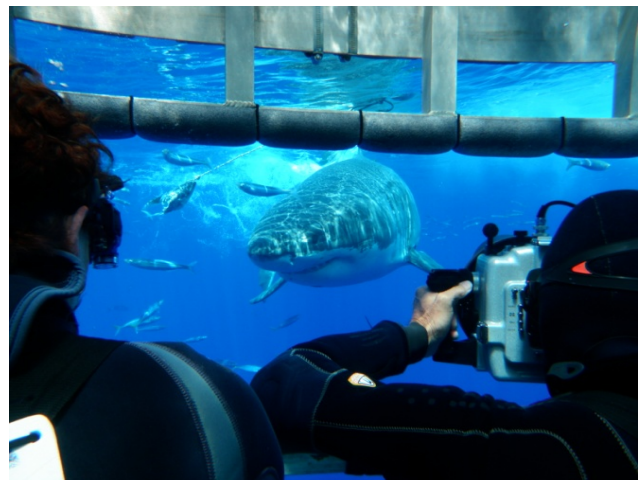
### **DAY 5 – TRAVEL DAY/SAN DIEGO ARRIVAL**

**7 AM:** Breakfast is served in the galley.

**9-10 AM:** Midmorning snack is served. Arrival in Ensenada, Mexico for customs clearance.

**12-1 PM:** Lunch is served in the galley.

**7-8 PM:** Arrival in San Diego. Clear U.S. customs then disembark at Fisherman's Landing dock. **We always recommend passengers traveling by air to schedule their flight for the following day as the boat arrival time back in San Diego is approximate and cannot be guaranteed.**



Day 5 is a lazy day that is great for putting up your feet and really relaxing before our arrival in San Diego. Shark divers will wake up to a delicious breakfast and a movie marathon in the galley salon. Enjoy the abundance of sea life you'll see on the ocean and reflect on your experience at Guadalupe Island. This is also an ideal time to share your photos and videos for the last time.



# WHAT TO PACK?

## CLOTHING:

- Temperatures at Guadalupe Island can vary greatly throughout the day. Mornings and evenings can be cool, in the low to mid-60s, while midday can reach temperatures in the 70s or 80s. The earlier in the fall your trip is, the warmer the weather will likely be.
- Layers are the best way to deal with wide ranging temperatures. A jacket, sweatshirt or lined windbreaker will be helpful if a breeze picks up. You might want to bring a couple pairs of long pants for the cooler evenings, especially after being in the water all day.
- Dress is very informal aboard the boat. Most guests will be in t-shirts, shorts/pants and flip-flops.



## PERSONAL ITEMS:

- Sunscreen (MUST be Biodegradable, see our picks on the last page)
- Polarized Sunglasses (for onboard viewing of sharks)
- Towel (bring both bath and beach size)
- Binoculars
- Seasickness Prevention
- Any Medication Needed
- USB flash drive or external hard drive (for photo sharing)
- Books/Music/Tablet/Laptop
- Refillable water bottle (reverse osmosis filtered water on board)
- Other Toiletries (shampoo, conditioner & body wash are provided)

## DIVE GEAR:

- Water temperatures at Guadalupe range from 64 to 75 degrees in the fall. **If you are bringing your own wetsuit, we recommend 5mm-7mm with hood, booties and gloves.**
- Wetsuits provided by Islander Charters are 7mm one piece rental suits that zip up the back. Hoods, booties and gloves are also provided but many divers go without these.
- Weight systems are harness type with up to 40 pounds of weight so divers are negatively buoyant and are able to walk around in the cage as if they are on land.
- Regulators are standard second stages and air is surface supplied.
- **Islander Charters recommends you bring your own mask to ensure a perfect fit.** Although we provide quality masks, we cannot emphasize enough the importance of having a mask that properly fits your individual face. Please feel free to bring your own.

## UNDERWATER CAMERAS:

Don't forget this most important item! Capture the sharks and your memories with an underwater camera. There is a large variety on the market today. Many of our passengers bring GoPros for great action shots but Amazon and other outlets sell quality underwater cameras for much less. Most people bring their laptops and flash drive to share photos during the down time. Another diver might get the best shot of you with a Great White and vice versa. Everyone develops a sense of camaraderie as you bond in the galley salon each evening and during travel.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Q: Will I get sea sick?

A: The voyage is a 200 mile open-ocean crossing and the journey is not like a large cruise ship that motors close to the coast. The *Islander* was designed and built specifically for the waters of Baja California and you will feel the motion of the ocean. If you are prone to motion sickness, you will want to take preventative measures. The transdermal patch or over-the-counter drugs work well for most people if administered at least two hours prior to departure. Please note these methods are preventative and will not work once seasick. We recommend speaking to a doctor or pharmacist regarding interactions with other medication you may be taking. We have travel sickness bags. Please ask the crew if you want some - no need to be embarrassed! It happens on every trip. **Once the boat is anchored at the island, seasickness subsides and you can enjoy the trip.**



### Q: Should I pack my own snacks or beverages?

A: You will not go hungry on this dive trip! Hearty restaurant quality meals are served three times daily. Dinners range from California tri-tips to fresh fish dishes. Additionally, mid-morning and afternoon snacks are prepared each day. Fresh fruit & other munchies can be grabbed from the galley anytime. Soft drinks, teas, hot cocoa and coffee are available from the beverage bar around the clock. Beer and wine are included once you have finished diving for the day. We accommodate for vegetarian, vegan, and dairy/nut/gluten free allergies. If you have dietary restrictions or a special diet, please make a note of it in the area on the questionnaire.



### Q: What are the staterooms & baths like?

A: A virtual tour of the *Islander* can be found on our website (hover over 'Trip Details' tab, click on 'Vessel Details' for video and other pictures). Rooms are compact, with bunk style sleeping berths as on most dive liveaboards. Clean linens, pillows and blankets are provided. Each room has a sink, a couple of drawers and a standard 120 volt outlet. There are also several plugs with USB ports in the salon area for charging needs. Two full baths are located on the main deck. We

provide shampoo, conditioner, body wash, soap and blow dryers. An outdoor shower is available for rinsing. Jump in the hot tub to warm up and watch topside shark action or to see incredible star gazing at night!

### Q: Do I tip the crew, and if so, how much?

A: It is customary for liveaboard divers to leave a gratuity upon departure for a job well done. 10-15% is average.

### Q: Will there be wi-fi or cell phone service?

A: No, you are definitely off the grid on this trip! The island itself is uninhabited with the exception of some Mexican fishermen who live off generators. We have a satellite phone aboard the boat for emergencies, business calls or to check-in with family/friends. The cost for usage is \$2 per minute. The captain always has radio communication with our landing and the U.S. Coast Guard for emergency service. Once you board the boat, you do not disembark until the trip returns from Guadalupe Island.



## FAQs Continued...

### **Q: We are staying some extra days in San Diego. What is there to do here?**

**A:** Plenty, San Diego is one of the top vacation destinations in the world.

**Sea World:** A fixture in San Diego, Sea World is as entertaining as it is educational. Enjoy Orca, Sea Lion, Otter, Dolphin, Shark, Walrus, Polar Bear, Penguin, & Beluga Whale exhibits. There are also several wild roller coasters, interactive tide pools, pop-up shows & restaurants. Sea World has it all.

**Balboa Park:** San Diego's 1,200 acre urban cultural park is magnificent. It houses 15 museums, a large variety of botanical gardens, the Old Globe Theatre, the Spreckels Organ Pavilion, several ethnic educational centers, walking trails, family playground areas and many other attractions.

**The World Famous San Diego Zoo:** Centrally located, the San Diego Zoo is part of Balboa Park. Giant Pandas, the Elephant House and the largest population of Koalas outside Australia are just some of the 3,700 animals housed here. Don't miss the Insect house or the Children's Zoo!

**USS Midway Aircraft Carrier Floating Museum:** #1 pick for San Diego on TripAdvisor.com! Spend a few hours touring a decommissioned World War II aircraft carrier. Eat lunch at its flight deck café, overlooking Tuna Harbor, San Diego Bay and the larger-than-life statue recreating the famous 'solider's homecoming kiss' photo, *Unconditional Surrender*. 10 minutes from the *Islander*, it floats at the embarcadero downtown, near **Seaport Village**, downtown's most unique shopping area.

**Historic Gaslamp District Downtown:** With so many restaurants, bars and clubs to choose, the Gaslamp is San Diego's most famous nightlife scene and architectural location.

**Cabrillo National Monument:** Spanish explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo first found San Diego and this National Park/museum is rich with history of the time. Located 10 minutes from the boat at the tip of Point Loma, it also features the historic lighthouse from 1855 and the current lighthouse, closer to the active tide pool area. Combine this with a trip to **Sunset Cliffs Natural Park** to walk the trails and view a magnificent sunset or climb down the steep cliff to the small beautiful beach.

**Beaches:** Fall is an excellent time to visit one of San Diego's beaches. Here are some nearby picks.

**Ocean Beach** features the longest concrete pier on the West Coast and a long stretch of sandy beaches, just north of Sunset Cliffs. There is a nostalgic vibe of peace & love on Newport Avenue, which also boasts several of San Diego's many craft breweries. Wednesday afternoons is San Diego's oldest Farmers Market. Most shops are owned and operated for decades by local families.

**Mission Beach & Pacific Beach** are north of the San Diego River, across from OB, with the beach on one side and Mission Bay on the other. Close to Sea World, this area also includes **Belmont Park** (famed for the oldest wooden roller coaster still in operation). There are rides, shops and great people watching all along the Boardwalk. On the bayside, watch boats, jet skis, windsurfers and swimmers enjoy the calm waters. 'PB' features the Crystal Pier and a shopping area mixed with restaurants, bars and clubs. The wide beaches and usually mild waves are a favorite of swimmers, surfers, and boogie boarders. A very laid-back, Southern California vibe abounds.

**La Jolla Cove and La Jolla Shores** are north of PB in the exclusive community of La Jolla. High end shops and restaurants abound. Nearby is the **Scripps Birch Aquarium**, located next to UCSD and overlooking the La Jolla Shores. La Jolla Shores is a glorious stretch of white sand beaches. La Jolla Cove is marine sanctuary famed for its rocky cliffs, caves, giant kelp farms growing offshore and its abundant leopard shark & sea lion population (check out the Children's Pool). **Windansea Beach** has low rocky bluffs, a sandy beach and the ocean reef is popular among surfers for its consistent break.





A five minute cab ride from San Diego International Airport, meet us at Fisherman's Landing: 2838 Garrison Street, San Diego, California 92106. There is a secure parking lot for ~ \$10/day. You'll see the *Islander* at the dock. We depart at 10 PM, guests may begin boarding at 8 PM.

## **LOCAL RESTAURANTS** A few picks near Fisherman's Landing Dock, our meeting place.

### **Mitch's Seafood / 8am-9pm / 2 min walk**

Our favorite - Mitch's is a waterfront eatery specializing in fresh local fish, often heralded as the best fish tacos in town. It's a casual, order at the counter restaurant and reasonably priced however the taste is gourmet! It is located directly behind the Point Loma Sportfishing office and overlooks San Diego's entire sportfishing fleet.

### **Point Loma Seafoods / 9am-6:30pm / 4 min walk**

Point Loma Seafoods has been a fixture on San Diego's waterfront since 1963. Located at the far end of Fisherman's Landing parking lot, adjacent to H & M Landing.

### **Pizza Nova / 11am-10pm / 3 min walk**

Pizza Nova features delicious wood fired pizzas, pastas, sandwiches and salads. Patio and booth seating overlooking Sun Harbor Marina and Fisherman's Landing.

### **Jimmy's Famous American Tavern (JFAT) / 11:30am-9pm / 4 min walk**

Delectable regional American food with a gourmet twist from burgers, sandwiches, soups and salads to BBQ, steaks and seafood. Located just past Pizza Nova in the Sun Harbor Marina building.

### **Brigantine / 10 min walk**

2725 Shelter Island Drive San Diego, Ca 92106

The Brig has been in business for over 25 years and is a local favorite for San Diego residents. They offer fresh seafood, steaks, pasta & chicken served in a comfortable, nautical atmosphere. Great happy hour.

### **Miguel's Cocina / 6 min walk**

2912 Shelter Island Drive San Diego, Ca 92106

Delicious Mexican food for dinner or happy hour. Must have: their complimentary white sauce & chips accompanied by a margarita and finish off your meal with some fried ice cream!

## **HOTEL INFORMATION**

Here are a few of the medium range hotels closest to Fisherman's Landing. For more upscale accommodations, Shelter Island hosts a number of resorts such as the Kona Kai, the Island Palms, Humphries Half Moon Inn or the Bay Club – all are about a 10 to 15 minute walk to Fisherman's Landing. For lower priced rooms, try The Consulate, The Vagabond or The Cabrillo Inn, all are less than 5 minutes from the Landing. Details on these can be found by searching online or contacting our office for more information.

### **Holiday Inn Bayside**

It is conveniently located kitty-corner from Fisherman's Landing, offering 24 hour free airport shuttle rides and free parking. Many guest rooms offer bay views and others look out over the swimming pool area. A full service restaurant, business center, fitness center and lounge are available on site. Free wireless internet access is provided in all guest rooms and public areas.

**\*Ask for the Islander Charters preferred rate when booking to receive a 10-15% discount\***

**4875 North Harbor Drive**

**San Diego, CA 92106**

**(800) 662-8899**

### **Ramada Inn**

Another hotel within walking distance of Fisherman's Landing, the Ramada Inn is right across the street! Free Breakfast, Airport Shuttle, Wi-Fi, Pool and Fitness Center. Guests enjoy views of the harbor from their rooms and balconies.

**1403 Rosecrans Street**

**San Diego, CA 92106**

**(619) 225-9461**

### **The Pearl**

This is a vintage, mid-century modern boutique hotel situated in the heart of Point Loma, a 5 minute walk to the Landing. Movies are shown on the giant screen surrounding the pool while dinner guests delight in the gourmet food the restaurant has to offer. Specialty cocktails and a vibe from a past era make The Pearl a real gem.

**1410 Rosecrans Street (at Fenelon St.)**

**San Diego, CA 92106**

**(877) PEARL-SD or (877) 732-7578    [www.thepearlsd.com](http://www.thepearlsd.com)**

## **LAST MINUTE NEEDS?**

**Sunscreens:** Biodegradable sunscreen is required per Mexican regulations at Isla Guadalupe, a protected biosphere. Our top picks are Alba Botanica, TotLogic, Badger Sport, Raw Elements and Thinksport. Several may be available at your local drug store, surf shops here in San Diego or on Amazon.com. The label needs to indicate it is biodegradable or reef safe.

**Local Dive Shops:** Although Islander Charters provides all the necessary dive gear components for the trip, some divers prefer to have their own. We also stress the importance of having a mask that fits your face properly. Here are some dive shops close to Fisherman's Landing for any last minute purchases.

- **James & Joseph** – specializing in freediving but have a great selection of masks & wetsuits. 5 minutes from the Landing near the airport. 2040 Harbor Island Drive, SD 92101 (619) 295-3705
- **Ocean Enterprises** – A full service dive shop that also has a large selection of underwater cameras and accessories. About a 20 minute drive from the Landing. 7710 Balboa Ave, SD 92111 (858) 565-6054
- **House of SCUBA** – 20 minute drive from the Landing, House of SCUBA is another dive hot spot. (858) 581-2800 5141 Santa Fe Street, Suite A San Diego, CA 92109

**Pharmacies:** Forget to pack your prescriptions or need to pick up some toiletries?

- **Point Loma/Shelter Island Drug** – 1105 Rosecrans Street, SD 92106 (619) 223-7171
- **Walgreens** – 3005 Midway Drive, SD 92110 (619) 221-0834
- **CVS** – 3327 Rosecrans Street, SD 92110 (619) 225-9691

**Book Store:** Barnes & Noble 'BookStar/Loma Theatre' – 3150 Rosecrans Place, SD 92110 (619) 225-0465

**Post Office:** Point Loma Location – 2931 Canon Street, SD 92106 (800) ASK-USPS

**Bank/ATMs:** Here are the closest bank branches to Fisherman's Landing.

- Bank of America – 1275 Rosecrans Street, SD 92106 (619) 221-6613
- Wells Fargo Bank – 1205 Rosecrans Street, SD 92106 (619) 226-1538
- U.S. Bank – 1331 Rosecrans Street, SD 92106 (619) 226-5400