Islander Charters
www.islander-charters.com — San Diego, CA.

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 three items we need completed and returned to us at your earliest convenience. All items may be sent electronically or via postal mail.

- Questionnaire
- Waiver
- 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 or by telephone at 619-224-4388.

Kindest regards,

Islander Charters Staff and Crew

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ITINERARY:

DAY 1 – FIRST SCHEDULED DAY OF TRIP: SAN DIEGO MORNING DEPARTURE

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

6 AM: Passengers arrive and board a comfortable coach bound for Ensenada, Mexico. Light breakfast snacks are provided during the two hour drive.

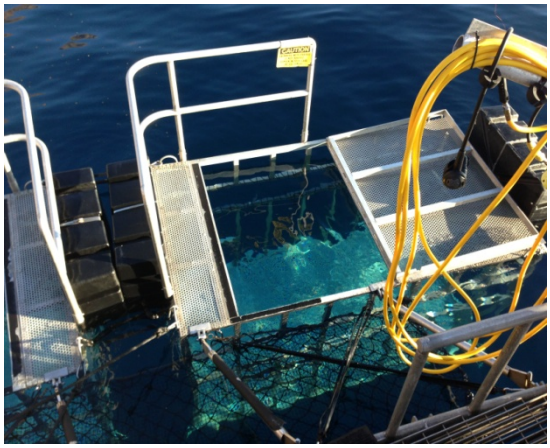
8:30 AM: Arrive at Cruiseport Marina, Ensenada MX. *Islander* boarding begins, guests sign in, and luggage is stowed in below deck staterooms. At this time the captain and/or divemaster will introduce the crew and give boat safety and emergency procedures.

9:30 AM: The remainder of the day is travel time as we depart Ensenada for Guadalupe Island. Morning snack is served. Fruit, chips, granola bars and drinks are always available as quick snacks throughout the day.

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.

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 and continue throughout the day until sundown. Passengers spend time viewing the sharks both above and below the water.

In the rare event sharks are not present the Captain will relocate to an alternate dive site at the island.

9:30 – 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

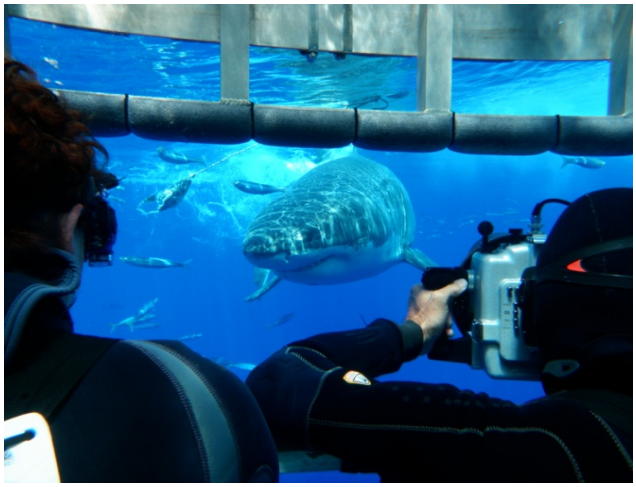
7 AM: Breakfast is served in the galley.
8 AM: Shark diving operations resume and continue throughout the day until sundown.
9:30 – 10 AM: Midmorning snack is served.
12 PM: Lunch is served in the galley.
3 - 4 PM: Hors d'oeuvres are served.
7 PM: Dinner is served in the galley.

DAY 4 – DAY OF DIVING & DEPART THE ISLAND

7 AM: Breakfast is served in the galley.
8 AM: Shark diving operations resume.
9:30 - 10 AM: Midmorning snack is served.
12 PM: Lunch is served in the galley.
2 - 3 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: Arrival in Ensenada, Mexico for customs clearance. Passengers disembark and board the coach for travel back to San Diego.
1-2 PM: Arrival in San Diego. Coach returns to Fisherman's Landing dock. **We recommend passengers traveling by air to schedule their flight several hours later or the following day as the arrival time back in San Diego is approximate and cannot be guaranteed.**

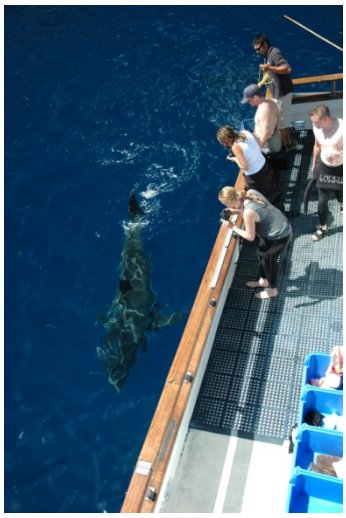


The voyage back to Ensenada is the perfect time for passengers to enjoy the abundance of life you see on the ocean and reflect on your experience at Guadalupe Island. This is also an ideal time to share your photos and videos for the last time. A movie marathon will play in the galley salon area.

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 highs in the 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 light jacket, hoodie 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 everyone will be in t-shirts, shorts and flip flops.



PERSONAL ITEMS:

- Sunscreen, Hat, Sandals
- Polarized Sunglasses (for onboard viewing of sharks)
- Towel (bath and beach size)
- Binoculars
- Seasickness Prevention
- Other Medication Needed
- USB flash drive (for photo sharing)
- Books/iPod/Tablet/Laptop
- Refillable water bottle (reverse osmosis filtered water on board)
- Other Toiletries

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.**
- Rental wetsuits provided by Islander Charters are 7mm one piece 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. SCUBA certified passengers using the submersible cage will use air supplied from a tank strapped to the cage.
- **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.

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.

FAQs:

Q: Should I pack my own snacks or beverages?

A: You will not go hungry on this dive trip! Hearty four star meals are served three times daily. Meals range from California tri-tips to fresh fish dishes. Fresh bread is baked and served each night. Additionally, a mid-morning snack and afternoon appetizers are prepared each day. Fresh fruit & other snacks can be grabbed from the galley anytime. Soft drinks, teas, hot cocoa and coffee are available from the beverage bar around the clock. House beer and wine are included once you have finished diving for the day. If you have dietary restrictions or a special request, please make a note of it in the area on the questionnaire.

Q: Will I get sea sick?

A: The voyage aboard *Islander* is a nearly 200 mile open ocean crossing. Although the boat was designed and built specifically for the waters of Baja California, you will feel the motion of the ocean. If you are prone to motion sickness, you will want to take preventative measures. Dramamine, behind- the-ear patch or other over the counter drugs work well for most people if used at least two hours prior to departure. Please note these methods are preventative and will not work once seasick. **Islander Charters recommends speaking to your doctor or pharmacist to discuss interactions with any other medication you may be taking. Once anchored at the island, seasickness will subside.**

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

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

Q: Will there be internet or cell phone service?

A: No, you are definitely off the grid on this trip! The island itself is uninhabited with the exception of a few researchers and Mexican fisherman who live off generators. We have a satellite phone aboard the boat for emergencies and quick calls to check in. 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 arriving a day or more before the trip. What is there to do in San Diego?

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

Sea World: A fixture in San Diego, Sea World is as entertaining as it is educational. Enjoy Orca, Sea Lion, Otter and Dolphin shows, interactive tide pools, a walk through Shark tank, Beluga Whales, Walruses, Polar Bears and Penguins as well as wild roller coasters. 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: Tour a decommissioned World War II aircraft carrier. Eat lunch at its flight deck café, overlooking the bay. 10 minutes from Fisherman's Landing dock, it floats at the embarcadero downtown, near Seaport Village, a 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. You can shop there by day at one-of-a-kind boutiques or at the outdoor, multi-level Horton Plaza Mall.
Cabrillo National Monument: Spanish explorer Juan Rodriquez Cabrillo first found San Diego and this National Park/museum is rich with history. Located 10 minutes from the dock 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 1970s vibe on Newport Avenue, which also boasts one of San Diego's largest antique areas. In 'OB' most shops are locally owned family businesses.
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 one of the oldest wooden roller coasters 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.
Windansea Beach, 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. Windansea 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, we meet at 6 AM in front of Fisherman's Landing Office: 2838 Garrison Street, San Diego 92106

There is a secure parking lot for ~ $8/day. As a courtesy, Fisherman's Landing will also store your gear in a private locker on the return day if you have a few hours to explore San Diego or grab a bite.

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 and gourmet variety make it seem upscale. 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 is an upscale pizzeria featuring wood fired pizzas, pastas 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 or Dolphin Motel, both 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

Most shark dive passengers stay here. It is conveniently located across the street 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

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

Cabrillo Inn and Suites

Another hotel within walking distance of Fisherman's Landing, the Cabrillo Inn is also located in the hub of Point Loma. A charming inn with free HBO, CNN, Wi-Fi, and every room has a refrigerator, a microwave and a safe. Guests enjoy great views of the harbor from their rooms and balconies.

1150 Rosecrans Street
San Diego, CA 92106 (619) 223-5544 www.cabrilloinnsd.com

LAST MINUTE NEEDS?

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. Located about 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 full 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