Whale Sharks and Mobula Ray Documentary Expedition

Apr. 27 – May 4, 2017 – 8 Day Expedition
La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico
Whale Shark and Mobula Ray Research:

- Join us onboard our 110’ motor yacht, the MV Adventure, as we take you on a journey to the Sea of Cortez in search of pregnant female whale sharks and school Mobula rays.
- During the months of March through June the pregnant females are known to feed in the area of Espiritu Santos Island.
- We will also be doing research on schooling Mobula rays.
- The expedition offers the opportunity to work alongside world renowned whale shark scientist, Dr. Deni Ramirez Macias.
- Deni will be attempting ground breaking research never done anywhere in the world before.
- We will be filming the research during the trip with the intention of producing a documentary.

Trip Highlights and Natural History:

- New ground breaking research.
- Tissue sampling for DNA, contaminants & population identification.
- Tagging, study behavior using drone & placing cameras on D fins.
- Aerial support in locating the whale sharks. Guests will have the opportunity to join the aerial support to shoot aerial photography.
- Guests will be a part of the research team taking underwater photographs identifying individuals, sex, injuries and scars.
- Snorkel and collect data on Mobula ray populations in the area.
- The Sea of Cortez and its’ desert islands offers an amazing biodiversity of marine and terrestrial life. From sea to sky we will explore the natural history of this unique marine environment.

The Ship, the MV Adventure:

- The "MV Adventure" is a 110’ aluminum hull ship.
- Certified passenger vessel, crew, vessel paperwork, safety and navigation equipment meet the legal requirements under the "Nacional de Seguridad Maritima" laws.
- Multiple level decks are ideal for wildlife viewing.
- Accommodations are private staterooms with single berths (upper/lower), double/quad occupancy.
- Each stateroom comes complete with air conditioning, cupboards and draws to un-pack in, sink/vanity and comfortable spacious bunks.
- Shared restrooms and showers are separate to the staterooms.
- The Captain, engineer and crew are onboard to insure the safety and well-being of the group. They bring many years of marine experience offering the warmth and kindness that reflects the people of Baja, Mexico.

Climate:

- During the month of April the average temperature in the Sea of Cortez ranges from 22-26° C (72-79° F).
- In the Baja the days are warm and beautiful however the evenings cool down and often require light pants and a jacket.
- The water temperature ranges from 18-22° C (65-72° F) and can be surprisingly cool. It is not the tropical waters one would expect.
Itinerary:

Day 1 (April 27): Arrival
- Our drivers will pick you up at the Cabo (SJD) or La Paz (LAP) airport and transfer you to the ship in La Paz. Anticipate a beautiful 2.5 hour drive from the Cabo Airport.
- Once guests have boarded the ship we will depart for the islands.

Day 2 - 7: At Sea
- Today we begin our research adventure at sea. Areas to be explored include: Isla Espiritu Santos, Isla Partida, Isla San Francisco, Isla San Jose, San Dieguito, Isla Pardito and mainland Baja Peninsula.
- Each day will have a variety of activities (see below) with the main focus on the whale sharks and Mobula rays.

Day 7: Anchoring in the Bay of La Paz
- We will arrive back into the Bay of La Paz in the early evening and anchor for the night.
- Enjoy dinner out at one of the finest restaurants in La Paz.

Day 8 (May 4): Departure
- Disembark at 9:00 am, our drivers will return you to the Cabo or La Paz Airport for your return flight home.

Planned Activities:
- Snorkeling
- Kayaking
- Hiking
- Astronomy
- Nightlight
- Additional Wildlife Encounters
  - sea lions
  - whales and dolphins
  - birds
  - desert island flora / fauna
- Cultural interaction – visits to remote island communities.
- Research - Please note: It is our intention to complete as much of the research as possible. Our main focus will be on the ground breaking research to which this trip has been designed.
Expedition Includes:

- Airport transfers while in Mexico (expedition dates)
- 8 days / 7 nights onboard the MV Adventure
- Ship amenities (meals, alcohol / non-alcohol beverages, accommodations, snorkel gear, kayaks and ships library)
- National Park fees
- *All-inclusive!

Expedition DOES NOT Include:

- Airfare
- Medical / Travel Cancellation / Trip Interruption Insurance
- Aerial photography excursion
- *One evening meal out on the last night
- Crew gratuities
- Items of a personal nature
- Cost of optional aerial photography excursion

Expedition Cost:

- $2295.00 USD per person
- group size 14 participants

Panterra Facebook Photo Album links to past expeditions:

Natural History and Whale Shark Research Fall (juveniles) 2015

Natural History and Whale Shark Research Spring 2015 (pregnant female whale sharks)

Natural History and Whale Shark Research 2014

Panterra Trip Advisor Reviews