



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

SEA OF CORTEZ

Explore Baja



Updated August 2019

WELCOME!

We are very excited to have you travel with us. Our destinations are magical, and our reputation is world-class. Because of this, many of our guests come back year after year. Our entire staff is here to ensure that you have an amazing experience. In this package, you will find information to help you prepare for your upcoming adventure. If you have any questions or special requests, please contact us. We look forward to seeing you!

CONTACT INFORMATION

QUINO EL GUARDIAN LIVEBOARD

c/o Carmina Nephew
3796 E. Boise Ave
Boise, ID 83706-3796
M (602)558-9580
F (602)926-8360

Info@RocioDelMarLiveboard.com
www.QuinoElGuardian.com

24 Hours Emergency Phone Numbers
(602)558-9580

Boat Satellite Phone
881 6326 54109

Dora Sandoval
Owner/Operator
DSandoval@RocioDelMarLiveboard.com
M (602)558-9580

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Guest Services (Passenger Documents)
HCandler@RocioDelMarLiveboard.com
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Susan Long
Sales & Marketing
SLong@RocioDelMarLiveboard.com
M (619)742-4277

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Accounting
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DIVING

The crew of Quino el Guardian is here to help you in any way possible to make exploration of the Baja Peninsula an unforgettable experience.

The Sea of Cortez is also called “The World’s Aquarium” by Jacques Cousteau. Our Explore Baja trip explores the entire Baja Peninsula. This is a one-of-a-kind 13-day trip that travels port to port from San Jose del Cabo, Mexico to Puerto Peñasco, Mexico or from Puerto Peñasco, Mexico to San Jose del Cabo, Mexico. This trip includes the variety seen in the northern Sea of Cortez such as nudibranchs, blennies, jawfish, rays and guitarfish, schools of fish, eels, octopus, sea horses, frogfish, and Mexican horn sharks to the larger pelagics of the Southern Sea of Cortez. In addition to diving, passengers can explore the islands and kayak. Divers enjoy 4 dives per day and 2 to 4 night dives.

Our trips have 2 dive masters on board to lead dives and assist divers. We also have two zodiac drivers vigilantly watching for bubbles and retrieving divers upon surfacing.

We provide 80 cubic ft. aluminum tanks that are both DIN & yoke compatible.

ABOUT THE BOAT

Quino el Guardian is of the utmost seaworthiness and is approved by both the U.S. Coast Guard and the Mexican Coast Guard. It is equipped with state of the art electronics and all safety equipment required.

Quino el Guardian is 90’ long with a 23’ beam.

The number of guests Quino el Guardian accommodates is 16.

There are four air-conditioned cabins that sleep four guests each. There are two bunks on each side. Each bunk has a privacy curtain. Each cabin is outfitted with four large drawers, one for each guest. There is also storage space under the bottom bunks and clothing/towel hooks in the main cabin area. Cabins are typically assigned by gender.

There is one cabin with 2 bunks that sleeps 2. This cabin is generally reserved for a couple.



Our guests enjoy Tempur-Pedic® mattresses and quality bed linens. Our steward cleans all rooms, bunks, and bathrooms during the first dives of the day. We provide bath towels and dive deck towels and these are changed mid-trip.

Quino has four spacious, air-conditioned bathrooms with a full-size shower in each bathroom on the dive deck. Each cabin is assigned to a bathroom so guests can leave their personal items and towels in the bathroom. Shampoo and soap dispensers are in each shower. There are two lavatories on the dive deck that are shared by all passengers.

The galley comfortably accommodates all 16 passengers. The galley also has a projector and a large drop-down screen should your group want to do presentations.

The comfortable salon has sofas, a TV, and a computer table.

The dive deck is large and well organized with a spacious camera table. There is a dive platform for ease of boarding the inflatables. Quino has two 18' Achilles inflatables for the safety and ease of our divers with very sturdy ladders.

On the second deck, there is a large shaded sundeck with lawn chairs for relaxing between dives.

All voltage aboard Quino el Guardian is 110 just like the USA.

For photos and more details, please visit our website: www.QuinoElGuardian.com.

Quino el Guardian reserves the right to allocate room assignments as needed.

PASSENGER INFORMATION & LIABILITY RELEASE FORMS

Prior to your trip date, we require passenger registration information for every guest. This is completed on-line:

<https://tinyurl.com/y63bh4zu>

To make this process as easy as possible, gather all pertinent information such as dive certifications, medical and dive insurance information, etc. before you start. Read the instructions provided at the beginning of the form. Once you start, you will have a 4-hour window to complete the form otherwise you will need to restart the process.

The more information we have about you, the better we can accommodate your needs including dietary restrictions if any.

In addition, we require a manually-signed liability waiver. You will find a link to this form when you complete your online passenger information.

Once you manually sign the liability waivers, this needs to be sent to Heather in Guest Services along with a photograph of your passport. Please send your manually-signed liability release form and photograph of your passport to:

HChandler@RocioDelMarLiveaboard.com

Please provide these documents no later than 30 days before your trip date.

You can also provide a copy of your manually-signed liability release form and photograph of your passport by fax or mail as follows:

FAX
(602)926-8360

MAIL
Quino el Guardian
3796 E. Boise Avenue
Boise, ID 83706

If you have any questions, please contact Beverly in Guest Services at BPeterson@RocioDelMarLiveaboard.com.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Quino el Guardian maintains daily contact with our US office via radio communications. We are ready for constant communication in the event of an emergency. Your family and friends are welcome to contact our office at (602)558-9580 in case of an emergency. Our office staff will immediately assist your family and friends in getting messages to you. We also have a satellite phone onboard for your use and emergency needs. The phone number is 011 881 6326 54109 and the rate for using the phone is \$2 per minute.

We do not have Wi-Fi on the boat.

TRAVELING TO MEXICO

For guests DRIVING into Mexico, (including riding the Head Out To Rocky Point shuttle), you must stop at immigration and purchase a Mexican Tourist Card (FMM). Some refer to it as a visa, but it is not officially a visa.

The cost is \$36 US in CASH. Credit cards are not accepted, and immigration officials will not give change.

This is not a new law; it has been in effect for years, yet it was not often enforced. However, it is now, and we must provide these to the Harbormaster. If we do not have an FMM for every passenger, the boat cannot leave the port. Should you lose your FMM, there is a fine of \$50 US.

All passengers FLYING into any foreign country, the fee is included in the airfare. Guests will complete the necessary immigration papers on the plane. You will need to return your FMM Card when you exit Mexico.

More information on this and traveling to Mexico can be found on the following websites:

www.BajaBound.com
www.mexperience.com
www.gob.mx

GETTING TO THE BOAT

PUERTO PENASCO DEPARTURE

Quino el Guardian is located at the Marina Fonatur in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico. Marina Fonatur is approximately a 4-hour drive from Phoenix, Arizona. Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport is the most convenient and closest airport to fly into to reach our port.

We can facilitate transportation services to and from Phoenix and the Marina for you through Head Out to Rocky Point. This shuttle service has 14 passenger vans that haul trailers for gear. The cost is \$125 per person, round trip, payable directly to Head Out to Rocky Point. If you require this service, please do two things: 1) indicate this on your passenger documents, and 2) reserve and pay at www.HeadOutToRockyPoint.com/scuba. Head Out to Rocky Point accepts credit cards on their website or you can pay by cash (USD only) on-site.

Passengers must arrive at Phoenix Sky Harbor airport no later than 11 am on the trip departure date. If you choose the Head Out to Rocky Point shuttle service, the shuttle will pick up all passengers at 1 pm at Terminal 4, door #5 at the outer curb, northside arrivals.

The trip takes 4 hours and it will cross the international border. Head Out to Rocky Point is very familiar with this process and are there to help. In addition, the driver will stop along the way, so people can use the restroom and purchase snacks including alcoholic beverages.

All passengers must have reached the marina and be aboard Quino El Guardian between 5 pm and 6 pm. Should you arrive earlier, you can spend your time site-seeing or shopping. Departure from Puerto Peñasco occurs at approximately 6 pm. Dinner is served at 7 pm.

SAN JOSE DEL CABO DEPARTURE

Quino el Guardian is located at Marina Puerto Los Cabos in La Playita, San Jose del Cabo.

All guests must travel to San Jose del Cabo (SJD).

Guests are responsible for their own transportation to and from the boat. The marina is about 25 minutes from the airport and 15 minutes from downtown San Jose del Cabo.

The most economical way from the airport to the marina is to take a Colectivo (shuttle) and a taxi. The Colectivo (shuttle) charges \$15.00 USD per person. Once you collect your bags and leave customs you will enter a lobby. You will find a stand that says taxi. A taxi ride from the airport to the marina is about \$60 USD. You can ask for a Colectivo at this same stand. A Colectivo is a very nice shuttle that takes about 9 passengers and does a hotel drop. Since you are going to San Jose you will be dropped off first. You can have the Colectivo drop you off at the Hotel Tropicana. At the hotel, you can then request a taxi to the Marina Puerto Los Cabos. You should not pay more than \$10 USD. It's about a 15-minute ride from the hotel to the marina. By choosing these two methods of transportation it should cost you about \$25 USD. If you choose just to get a taxi from the airport to the marina it should cost about \$60 USD. If you have more than one person, it is often easiest to use a taxi directly to the marina.

RETURN

PUERTO PENASCO RETURN

The boat will return to the marina in the early morning and passengers need to be ready to depart by 7 am. A continental breakfast will be served. The shuttle will pick up passengers promptly upon disembarking. Please remember to book your departing flight from the Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport no earlier than 2 pm.

SAN JOSE DEL CABO RETURN

The boat will return to the marina during the night and passengers need to be ready to depart by 8:30 am on the last day of your trip. A continental breakfast will be served. Our crew will call taxis to get everyone to the airport or their hotel.

ITINERARY

You will board the boat after 5:00 pm and dinner will be served at 7 pm. The boat will depart shortly thereafter.

Please do not ask to board the boat prior to 5 pm. The crew is very busy getting the boat readied for the trip.

Once aboard Quino el Guardian, you will be shown to your cabin and dive station. Our divemaster will ask you to provide your scuba diving certification cards and proof of dive insurance.

Proof of diving certification and dive insurance is required. Without proof, you will not be able to dive.
NO EXCEPTIONS!

SAN JOSE DEL CABO TO PUERTO PEÑASCO

- Day 1 Board the boat at 5 pm. Depart from San Jose del Cabo around 6 pm.
- Day 2 Check out dive at Punta Prieta in San Gabriel Bay, part of Espiritu Santo Island and diving Fang Ming wreck and Salvaterra wreck.
- Day 3 Dive at La Reyna, a great spot for sea lions, school of barracuda and occasionally oceanic manta rays.
- Day 4 Los Islotes, in the northern part of Espiritu Santo Island. Dive with the friendliest sea lion colony in the Sea of Cortez. Depending on weather and ocean conditions (visibility and current), we hope to dive "El Bajo", known for big schools of hammerheads. At night we will do the spectacular mobula night dive!
- Day 5 Las Animas, near San José Island. Great dives on the east and north pinnacles and afternoon diving at San Dieguito for a 3 pm dive followed by a night dive.
- Day 6 Danzante Island, part of Parque Nacional Bahía de Loreto. Dive at Submarino, Silhouette and the artificial wreck, C-54 Agustin Melgar. Afternoon hike at Honeymoon Beach.
- Day 7 Parque Nacional Bahía de Loreto, visiting Coronado Island: macro and sea lions. We do 3 dives and then a nice evening with dinner in Loreto.

- Day 8 San Ildefonso Island where we will do 3 dives. Don't miss the Green Moray City!
- Day 9 San Pedro Martir Island. Enjoy fabulous diving with sea lions, incredible black coral fields and some of the best macro of the Midriff Islands. (3-4 dives).
- Day 10 An early dive at San Pedro Martir, following by whale watching crossing to Sal Si Puedes area. A 3 pm dive at Lavadero in Las Animas Island in the chain of San Lorenzo - Las Animas - Sal Si Puedes. Night dive at the same location.
- Day 11 Sal Si Puedes: Some of the best macro diving along the Sea of Cortez at El Caballo, Los Cuervos and La Corona.
- Day 12 Wake up on the east coast of Baja California and dive El Pescador or Punta Don Juan. After breakfast, snorkeling with Whale Sharks at Bahía de los Angeles. At 2 pm, the boat will start motoring to Puerto Penasco.
- Day 13 Arrive at Puerto Penasco and disembark at 7 am

PUERTO PEÑASCO TO SAN JOSE DEL CABO

- Day 1 Board the boat at 5 pm. Depart from Puerto Penasco around 6 pm.
- Day 2 105-mile crossing to Puerto Refugio in Angel de la Guarda Island. Check-out dive at Lolo's Cove. Great macro dive at La Vela and La Muela. Sunset cruise at a sea lion colony.
- Day 3 Bahía de Los Angeles. Morning dive at El Pescador and Paraíso. Lunch and then snorkeling with the whale sharks. Depending on timing and conditions, sunset hike at La Gringa or just relax after heavy swimming with the whale sharks.
- Day 4 Morning dive at Punta Don Juan or Elias Point and then whale watching on the "Canal de Ballenas" heading south to Sal Si Puedes. 3 pm dive at Lavadero followed by a great night dive at the same location. Lavadero is located at Las Animas Island in the chain of San Lorenzo - Las Animas - Sal Si Puedes.
- Day 5 San Pedro Martir Island. Enjoy 1 or 2 days of fabulous diving with sea lions, incredible black coral fields and some of the best macro of the Midriff Islands (3-4 dives).
- Day 6 If staying at San Pedro Martir, we do 3 dives. If not, day 6 will be at San Ildefonso Island where we will do 4 dives. Don't miss the Green Moray City!
- Day 7 Parque Nacional Bahía de Loreto, visiting Coronado Island: macro and sea lions. We do 3 dives and then a nice evening with dinner in Loreto.
- Day 8 Danzante Island, part of Parque Nacional Bahía de Loreto. Dive at Submarino, Silhouette and the artificial wreck, C-54 Agustin Melgar. Afternoon hike at Honeymoon Beach.
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Day 10 Los Islotes, in the northern part of Espiritu Santo Island. Dive with the friendliest sea lion colony in the Sea of Cortez. Depending on weather and ocean conditions (visibility and current), we hope to dive "El Bajo", known for big schools of hammerheads. At night we will do the spectacular mobula night dive!

Day 11 Dive at La Reyna – a great spot for sea lions, school of barracuda and occasionally oceanic manta rays.

Day 12 Last day at San Lorenzo Channel, diving the Fan Ming wreck, Salvaterra wreck and Suani Reef.

Day 13 Arrival to San José del Cabo, disembark 8:30am.

SUGGESTED GEAR & CLOTHING

Besides your normal dive gear, every diver is required to have the following: dive computer, safety sausage (SMB) and a whistle.

Every diver is required to have a dive computer, safety sausage (SMB) and a whistle.

We absolutely recommend exposure protection (wetsuits/light drysuits) on our trips. The Sea of Cortez is a dynamic body of water and this exploration covers over 800 miles and water temperatures can change significantly from day to day. Water temperatures range from 75° in the northern Sea of Cortez to the mid-to-high '80s in the southern portion. Gloves and dive lights are permitted and suggested especially for night diving.

Surface water temperature averages for September and October is 87°.

We have regulators, BCD's, dive computers and HP100 tanks available for rental at \$50 each. Please let us know at least two weeks prior to your arrival if you want to rent equipment so we have it onboard for you. We do not rent exposure suits, hood, fins, masks, safety sausages (SMB's), whistles or lights. As we have a limited number of these items available to rent and they are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Dress is casual. Do not forget your hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TRIP

The price of your trip INCLUDES:

- All taxes & port fees
- All meals, snacks and beverages including canned soft drinks
- Complimentary local beer and wine
- Tanks, weights and weight belts

Guests are welcome to bring along their own beverages if there is something special they would like.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TRIP

- National Park Fee - \$28 per person
- Nitrox Fee - \$120 per person
- Transfers to and from the boat
- Dinner in La Paz
- Crew Gratuity (10%-15% of trip price is customary)
- Fuel Surcharge* if applicable

Fees and gratuity can be paid in advance or on the boat. Cash (USD, Pesos and Euros) and MasterCard/Visa are accepted.

*Fuel Surcharge: Quino el Guardian has the right to implement a fuel surcharge on all trips in the event the cost of fuel surpasses 20 Pesos per liter. Should this occur, all guests will be notified prior to boarding.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Proof of diving certification and dive insurance is required. Without proof, you will not be able to dive.
NO EXCEPTIONS!

Quino el Guardian reserves the right to assign all cabins.

All guests are required to have dive insurance can be purchased at www.DiversAlertNetwork.org. If you have private health insurance coverage for dive accidents, provide only the page that states coverage for scuba diving, specifically evacuation.

We recommend you purchase trip insurance.

Although the conditions in the Sea of Cortez are mostly calm, there are times that the sea can be rough. There are several over the counter remedies that can help you. In case you have a propensity to motion sickness or are concerned that you might develop symptoms, please prepare yourself with preventive measures before departure.

UNFORESEEN EVENTS / TRIP INSURANCE / TRIP INTERRUPTION

Quino el Guardian Liveaboard is of the utmost seaworthiness and is approved by the U.S. Coast Guard and Mexican Coast Guard. Quino el Guardian is equipped with state-of-the-art electronics and all required safety equipment.

Passenger safety is paramount and therefore the captain has the sole discretion to change, delay, return early or cancel the cruise if necessary. These reasons include but are not limited to bad weather, perils of the sea, acts of God, political incidents or force majeure.

Trip insurance is suggested as it provides you with reimbursement for unused, non-refundable, pre-paid trip costs if you are prevented from taking your trip due to a covered reason. All trip insurance is not the same, so it is important to make sure that you purchase travel insurance that includes travel interruption.

Trip insurance can be purchased at www.DiversAlertNetwork.com.

DEPOSITS & CANCELLATIONS / INDIVIDUALS

DEPOSITS

- 25% deposit is due to hold the reservation
- 25% is due six months prior to the scheduled trip date
- Remaining balance is due three months prior to scheduled trip date

CANCELLATIONS

- There is no penalty for cancellations made 9 months or more prior to the scheduled trip date
- 25% of the full rate will be forfeited for cancellations made 91 days to 9 months prior to the scheduled trip date
- 50% of the full rate will be forfeited for cancellations made 61 to 90 days prior to the scheduled trip date
- No refunds for cancellations made 60 days prior or less to the scheduled trip date

DEPOSITS & CANCELLATIONS / GROUPS

DEPOSITS

- A \$5,000 non-refundable deposit is due to hold the reservation
- 25% of the trip price is due one year prior to the scheduled trip date (the \$5000 deposit can be used to make up the 25% deposit)
- 25% is due six months prior to the scheduled trip date
- The balance less your commission is due three months prior to the scheduled trip date

CANCELLATIONS

- There is no penalty for cancellations made 12 months or more prior to the scheduled trip date however the \$5000 deposit is non-refundable
- 25% of the full rate will be forfeited for cancellations made 12 months to six months prior to the scheduled trip date
- 50% of the full rate will be forfeited for cancellations made six months to 91 days prior to the scheduled trip date
- No refunds for cancellations made 90 days or less prior to the scheduled trip date

*Quino el Guardian is the brother ship of Rocio del Mar.
Both liveaboards are owned by Dora and Lolo Sandoval and information about our
vessels and destinations can be found at www.MexicoLiveaboards.com.*



HOTELS NEAR PHOENIX SKY HARBOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

If you are taking the Head Out to Rocky Point shuttle, you will need to go back to the airport to get the shuttle (terminal 4, door #5 at the outer curb, northside arrivals). Pick up is at 1pm. If you have a group of 10 staying at the same hotel, Head Out to Rocky Point will pick you up at your hotel.

RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT
PHOENIX AIRPORT
801 North 44th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85008
(602)293-4439 Direct
(602)273-9220 Hotel
(602)273-7221 Fax
www.residenceinnphoenixairport.com

LA QUINTA INN (Near the Airport)
911 S. 48th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85281
(480)967-4465
(800)738-8767
www.lq.com

QUALITY INN
1550 S. 52nd Street
Tempe, AZ 85281
(480)967-3000
(800)4-Choice

COMFORT SUITES
1625 S. 52nd Street
Tempe, AZ 85281
(480)446-9500
www.choicehotels.com

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
3401 E. University
Phoenix, AZ 85034
(602)453-9900
www.hiephoenix.com

COAST HOTEL
4300 E. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85034
(602)273-7778
Res: (800)716-6199

BEST WESTERN AIRPORT INN
2425 S. 24th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034
(602)273-7251
(800)528-8199

DOUBLE TREE SUITES BY HILTON PHOENIX
Near the Airport
320 N. 44th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85008
(602)225-0500

CROWNE PLAZA PHOENIX AIRPORT
4300 E. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85034
(602)273-7778

HILTON GARDEN INN PHOENIX AIRPORT NORTH
3838 E. Van Buren St.
Phoenix, AZ 85008
(602)306-2323

SUGGESTED HOTELS IN SAN JOSE DEL CABO

MARISOL BOUTIQUE HOTEL
Plaza Garuffi Paseo San Jose s/n esq
Bahia de las Palmas sn
Zona Hotelera
23400 San Jose del Cabo, B.C.S., Mexico
+52 624 142 4040
www.marisolboutiquehotel.com

BEL AIR COLLECTION RESORT & SPA LOS CABOS
Carretera Transpeninsular Km. 29,
23400 San José del Cabo, B.C.S., Mexico
+52 800 400 2040
www.belaircabos.com

TROPICANA
Calle Boulevard Antonio Mijares 30, Centro,
23400 San José del Cabo, Baja California Sur,
México
+52 624 142 1580
www.tropicanainn.com.mx

BARCELO GRAND FARO LOS CABOS
Blvd. San Jose s/n, Seccion Hotelera 1 Zona Fonatur,
San Jose del Cabo 23400, B.C.S. Mexico
011 52 624 142 9292
www.barcelo.com

HOTEL EL GANZO
Located across the street from the boat
Blvd. Tiburon S/N Fracc. La Playita

San Jose del Cabo, B.C.S CP 23403
+52 624 104 9000
1-855-835-4269
www.elganzo.com

EL ENCANTO INN
Calle Morelos #133
San Jose del Cabo
Baja California Sur, Mexico
011-52 (624) 142-0388
From USA (210) 858-6649
www.elencantoinn.com
reservations@elencantoinn.com
Facebook: facebook.com/elencantoinn

CABO AZUL RESORT
Paseo Malecon SN Lote 11 Fonatur
23400 San Jose Del Cabo, Mexico
+52 800 438 2929
www.caboazulresort.com

HOTEL POSADA TERRANOVA
Degollado s.n entre Manuel Doblado e i. Zaragoza
23400 San Jose del Cabo
+52 624 142 0534
www.hotelposadaterranova.mxhotel.site
This is a less expensive option (often \$50-\$70) and
just a 5-minute walk from central San Jose del Cabo

Mention our name to the El Encanto Inn and Hotel El Ganzo for a 10% discount
Bel Air, Cabo Azul Resort, Hotel El Ganzo and Barcelo Grand Faro Los Cabos are a little pricier