

SOCORRO

AND THE REVILLAGIGEDO ARCHIPELAGO



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The Revillagigedo Islands (also erroneously known as the Socorro Islands) are a group of four volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean that lie 250 miles off Baja Mexico's southern shore. They are known for their unique ecosystem and are sometimes called Mexico's "little Galapagos".

These islands are a spectacular magnet for the [largest pelagic marine species](#) in the world. Schooling hammerhead, tiger, silky sharks, dolphins, clouds of jacks and barracudas, whale sharks and manta rays. Mantas are the claim to fame for the Revillagigedo Islands, with reliable sightings throughout the season. The magical dive site called "The Boiler" on San Benedicto Island is a submerged seamount and cleaning station. More than a half dozen Mantas can be seen at a time at this pinnacle, where they often interact with divers for hours at a time. [The mantas here are very friendly](#) and seem to enjoy the presence of humans. This is truly an exceptional place to get the full manta experience!

This destination can only be dived by a live aboard dive vessel. It takes approximately 30 hours each way to reach the islands. The underwater topography consists of rocky outcroppings, boulders and some walls, but the true highlight is the incredible density of large pelagic species in an epic, open-ocean setting.

CITIZEN SCIENCE - GET INVOLVED!

On this expedition, you'll have the opportunity to experience and participate in [cuttingedge conservation research](#) to protect one of the ocean's most majestic animals. Manta Trust scientists will be collecting photographic identification images of all mantas encountered throughout the expedition - a task that guests are welcome and encouraged to participate in. All new manta rays will be added to the database and guests will be invited to name these new mantas. Every manta sighting is crucial information in developing effective management and conservation strategies for these increasingly vulnerable animals.



SOCORRO

EXPERTS

Dr. GUY STEVENS

In 2005 Guy Stevens founded the Maldivian Manta Ray Project and in 2011, with the collaboration of other scientists and conservationists, he founded The Manta Trust with the aim of helping to conserve manta ray populations globally.



Guy's research, especially in the Maldives, has been showcased in dozens of popular articles and several television documentaries including BBC, ITV and National Geographic. Guy's research contributed to the declaration of Baa Atoll as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 2011. In 2013, Guy and the rest of the Manta Trust team were key players in the listing of both species of manta on Appendix II of CITES, followed by securing further protection for reef mantas and mobula rays under the Convention on Migratory Species. In 2016, the Manta Trust were key players in the successful efforts to place all species of mobula rays under Appendix II of CITES, joining their larger manta cousins.

Guy has recently completed his PhD focusing on manta rays at the University of York in the UK and currently continues leading the Manta Trust work globally.

SARA DIEMER

The first time Sara dove with manta rays she was absolutely enraptured and knew she wanted to work with these gentle giants in a professional manner. Sara has been working with the Pacific Manta Research Group for over a year, as a research associate and public outreach coordinator. Her primary duties have included updating and organizing data on individual manta ray and group patterns – such as total manta rays seen per season and island, the longest absence between sighting, and mean annual sightings for individuals. She also enjoys giving scientific talks aboard dive boats, organizing fundraisers, and running the project's Instagram account.



Sara obtained her Bachelor's degree in Biology from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois and is hoping to pursue her Graduate Degree with research conducted on manta rays. Her primary interests are manta behavior, spatial distribution patterns, and genetics.

Throughout the expedition, Dr. Stevens and Sara will be providing lectures and informal talks on manta ray research and conservation. In addition, they will conduct general presentations on marine biology, with a focus on the diverse and productive marine ecosystems of the Revillagigedo Archipelago.



Furthermore the Manta Trust will officially launch on this expedition the *IDtheManta* software, an application developed to automatically match manta photo-ID. Both participants and staff members will be trained to the use of this new tool.

THE MANTA TRUST

A UK registered charity, the Trust's mission is to advance the worldwide conservation of manta rays and their habitat through robust science and research, by raising awareness and providing education, influence and action. The Manta Trust was formed in 2011 to co-ordinate global research and conservation efforts for these amazing animals, their close relatives and their habitat.

Data Collection: The Manta Trust has a number of research projects worldwide, incorporating population data, research on manta movements, and genetic analyses - to name a few - in order to better understand the general ecology of manta and mobula rays.

THE NAUTILUS UNDERSEA

The Under Sea is a beautiful ship, full of character and history. Formerly the Undersea Hunter, this famous little ship is well known for 26 years of service to Cocos Island with the Undersea Hunter Group of Costa Rica, as well as starring in many IMAX films and other movies. The newest addition to Nautilus Liveaboards has undergone 2 massive refits, including stretching the hull by 20 feet, repowering, a new bow, the construction of a new full-width superstructure, and the addition of our requisite hot tub, al fresco top deck lounge and stability system. She is a beauty!



BOOKING

To reserve your place on this Socorro Manta Expedition, please send an email to Niv Froman via info@mantaexpeditions.com.

Payment and booking for this Manta Expedition will be handled by our trip partners **Nautilus Liveaboards**.



* Price is for 8 nights trip and includes 4 dives per day, accommodation, full board meals, non-alcoholic beverages, end of trip DVD and onboard facilities. Price does not include 5% tax adjustment, Port & Park Fees (65 USD), Internet (100 USD), Nitrox, crew gratuities and gear rental.

Room category prices per person: Premium suite USD 4,395, Superior Suite USD 3,795, Stateroom double shared USD 3,295, Stateroom Single USD 4,118.75 and Stateroom triple shared USD 2,995.