

GUADALUPE MEXICO

October 13-18, 2017

Anacortes Diving Adventure Team



Chris, Katie, Hope, Greg, Tracy, Pete, Peggy, Dale, Bob, Kelley

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Route—Bellingham—Seattle—San Diego

Day 1

We departed early morning and arrived in San Diego by 1:00 pm. We caught an Uber ride to the Best Western Island Palms Resort where the Nautilus team has a hospitality room. We checked in with Carlos where dropped off all our luggage and then filled out the paperwork and on-line registration. After that you are free to roam around and grab some lunch. You do have use of the hotel facilities if you want to jump in the pool. At 7:00 pm the bus is scheduled to arrive to load all the luggage and then we will depart at 7:30 pm. If you miss the bus, you will miss the trip so you better make sure that you make it down here in time. So, the bus showed up late due to a hang up at the border so we did not depart until 8:00 PM. We meet Florian from Nautilus Undersea who will be one of our divemasters for



the week onboard. It took us 30 minutes to reach the Tijuana border where we had to get off the bus, grab all your luggage and walk inside for customs. Super easy as we are the only bus here so from start to finish maybe ½ hour of time. We load back up and it took 1 ½ hours to get to Ensenada. It is low tide, Friday the 13th and some magnetic anomaly sun spot so the Captain said there is no way we were leaving. Superstitious!

We waited until 2 AM before we departed the dock and we are 18 hours of motoring to reach Guadalupe. Time for bed since it has been a very long day.

Day 2

Overnight the swell is pretty low and we are pretty lucky for this crossing and it is really calm for Open Ocean. A few folks are feeling seasick, but I just took plenty of meds and doing well so far. Coffee and continental breakfast is on at 7 AM with hot breakfast at 9:30 AM. We decide to get our cameras set up which doesn't take too long and there is no dive gear to set up. Thank you Greg and Pete as our motto for this day is "eat till you're tired and sleep till you're hungry". After the captains briefing we



meet all the crew and then guess what? Time for lunch. We have a great mix of people on the boat besides our group including 5 snorkelers who will be enjoying the sharks from the surface cages. Our next briefing explains how the cage diving works and all the information to stay safe while in the cage. Of course it is also the perfect opportunity to have our safety drill and get to the muster station. The rest of the afternoon is spent sleeping and or enjoying the beautiful day cruising in a slow rolling swell. Happy hour is at

6:30 PM and Adriana has made us a nice Mojito to enjoy before dinner. Everyone has gathered in the salon anxious to see the dive schedule for tomorrow. Another fabulous meal by Felipe to fill up our bellies before everyone makes their way to bed. Hopefully we can get some sleep tonight as we are all super excited for tomorrow and to get our first glimpse of a Great White Shark.

Day 3

I didn't sleep well, probably too excited to see the sharks. Woke up at 2 am and no it wasn't time to get up. I'm pretty sure that was how it went until 6 am when we decided to just get up. Had some oatmeal



and everyone was so excited to get in, but it's still dark! When the sun finally came up, people started getting in the cages. This is the beginning of a very long day of very little topside time. There is a schedule so everyone gets plenty of down time but that soon gets torn to shreds but there was plenty of opportunity to get in the lower cages. I think at one time this afternoon I was in the water for 3



hours straight. I don't think that Bob even got out of the water today. We had a little bit of lull in the action, but every time I was in the water I saw sharks. One time we had 3 sharks at one time. Absolutely amazing. We had one shark circling the cage over and over again like we were a Scooby

snack on a line. Fantastic first day and from what the crew said it was really good shark action. I got out of the cage long enough to eat breakfast and lunch and then made out in time for happy hour. Not sure how many hours I spent underwater but it was somewhere between 6-8 hours. Rodolfo gave us a nice presentation about Guadalupe Island and also how we can identify some of the sharks we did see today. We did have one shark that has a line completely around its mid-section. Late in the day we had really good up close shark action and we got out of the water too early as the surface action was



spectacular at 5:30 pm. Time for taco night up on the top deck and then I'm sure that everyone will be heading to bed.

Day 4

Everyone is up early again for cage action at 6:30 am. The sun is just starting to rise as the first Sharks go after the bait. Looks like we are going to have another great day. We jump in the cages and watch "patches" circle round and round. We have a nice yellow fin Tuna and huge yellow tail jacks. It seems a bit 'fishier' this morning. The sun is up and we have a bit of a swell so the surface cage is bouncy. It's 8:00 am and the cages drop to below and we have at least 3 different sharks coming by. One of them is



a Giant female we did not see yesterday. She has a black patch on her belly and she is huge! Pretty sure she is pregnant. As we take a break for some coffee all of a sudden a shark breaches out of the water alongside the boat! Wow! Can't wait to get back in! The day did not disappoint. Our observer Monica said that we had about 12 different Sharks show up throughout the day. We spent so much time in the water we had to eat our breakfast on the deck standing in our drysuits. We were so anxious to get back in, since all day we have had shark sightings. Towards the end of the day I decided to stay in the surface cage hoping to get a shot of the Sharks mouth open showing teeth. Be careful what you wish for! It is getting late in the afternoon and the sun is going behind the island. All of a sudden the

big Female starts coming in for the bait. You are wishing for it to come in a little closer, little closer and then Wham! She grabs the bait and is coming straight for Hope and myself. She hits the cage, I am screaming with my back pressed against the back wall, hitting the shutter lever the entire time! You



can scream, but you better get the shot! We do the happy dance and high-five each other, it was the most incredible terrifying seconds ever. We can't get enough. It is getting pretty dark now and then an



empty bottle of Pacifico is bouncing in front of the cage. We give the thumbs up ready to call it when another shark comes in for the bait. Can't leave now, we might have another show. We hang for a bit longer but beer and food are calling our name. Just as we were exiting the cage a shark does a full breach for the bait out of the water and Richard was there to get the shot. We wrap it up with another fabulous dinner of steak and salmon. Plenty of great photos tonight as everyone starts digging through their footage. We are

all exhausted since I spent about 8+ hours in the cage today, I don't think Bob even got out of the water again today.

Day 5

Our alarm goes off at 5:45 AM and we are ready for action. We jump in the cage and it is still dark. I think we did it just to scare ourselves. Daylight soon follows and the fish are awake. Things are a little slow as we sit and wait. Not too much longer we have a couple of sharks do a close swim by. After 2

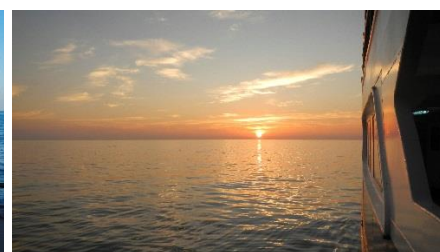


hours, time to go up and then do a stint in the deep cage. We have one single huge female circling

around in the deep but she doesn't come too close. Three hours in the cage this morning and it's time to get out and have a proper breakfast. The inside of our mouths are shredded from the mouthpieces



and Bob is calling it as his lip is bleeding where the mouthpiece has rubbed it raw!! We will be here all day until 4 pm and then we start the big motor back home. I jumped back in the cage for the remainder of the afternoon at least another 3 hours. The shark action is picking up in the top cages, so lots of surface action. The downside is there are so many small fish you can hardly see the sharks! Everyone is jumping in and trying to see the last bit of action so the cages are full. Finally, the call comes and we must exit the



cages. It was so thrilling to see these magnificent animals. The crew gets busy putting the cages back on the boat and tying it all down for the long cruise home. We depart a bit late, around 6 PM from Guadalupe so we should be back in port around 2:30 pm tomorrow afternoon. After a quick shower it is time to look at all the photos from the day to see if we got lucky with anything spectacular. Plenty of great shark shots and video footage is emerging. We enjoy the last meal underway and then everyone turns in shots for the trip video. Congratulations to Stacy and Kevin who got engaged underwater, we coined it "Encagement!" Everyone is a bit exhausted so off to bed to try and get some sleep.

Day 6

It's a lazy morning as we are underway, so no hurry to get up. Breakfast is at 9:30 AM and then we are anxiously awaiting the trip video that the crew made. After that it will be time to pack up and then we will probably eat one more time. It is a relatively smooth crossing, everyone seems to be doing better with their motion sickness. The trip video is great with good shark footage from everyone. After lunch we finish up packing and we finally get to the dock around 3:30 pm. We are boarded by a bunch of officials that have to check all paperwork and that takes about 20 minutes before we are cleared. The bus departed at 4:20 pm and we are headed for the border. Once at the border we have to unload and carry all your luggage thru turn styles and scanners before coming out on the other side. Then we had to roll all our bags up the hill to the 7-11 and wait for the bus to clear. The bus ended up getting a second screening so that took more time than usual. Back on the bus we make a stop at the airport to drop off some people, then on to the Ramada to drop us all off. The time is now 7:40 pm and now we understand how they can run late. By the time they took the rest of the group to the Best Western it would be 8:00 pm, where they then pick up the next group heading back out on the boat tonight. It is a pretty short turn around for the crew but it runs like a well-oiled machine. We throw our luggage into the room and head out to try and forage for food. There are plenty of restaurants within walking distance and we try Jimmy's Famous American Tavern. Good food, plenty to choose from but closed at 9:00 PM. The Ramada is fine for one night, a little rough around the edges, with improvements but just don't look too close to the cracking paint etc. They do have a breakfast and a shuttle to the airport

which worked great. San Diego airport is very easy to get through, it's not very big and the security line was empty this morning. It's been a great trip and we would definitely come back and do it again.



Thanks everyone for joining us on this adrenaline loaded adventure. We look forward to traveling with you again in the near future.

~Kelley & Bob



See
you
next
trip!



UNIVERSAL POSE

