

SOCORRO

Revillagigedo Islands, Mexico

January 9-17, 2020

Anacortes Diving Adventure Team



Liz, Kate, Tom, Mike, Chelsi, Lori, Brandyn, Forbes, Nancy, Dale, Peggy, Scott,
Bob, Sam, Kelley, Chris

and the Nautilus Under Sea crew!

SOCORRO ISLANDS

January 9-17, 2020

Route: Seattle—Los Cabos, Mexico Alaska Airlines

Day 1

We departed at the crack of dawn from Anacortes with air temp hovering around 35 F and dry conditions. On our way to Seattle we started to have some snow and rain, but did make it to the airport before the big stuff started to come down. Jim decided after driving down that he did not feel well, so he turned around and headed back home. Bummer, but better to be safe than sorry. Our flight left on time and we arrived in Cabo with no issues. Now getting through customs and immigration is another story. When we dropped into the hallway I think 5 planes might have landed at the same time. The line is huge! Worse than any Disneyland line you have ever been in. In the end it took about 45 minutes to make it through. Our luggage is sitting there waiting for us so we grab it and go. The last hurdle will be customs and this is where all the reports have been indicating that if you have underwater camera systems they are going to charge you a lot of money. So we head to a lane that does not have the x-ray machine and cross our fingers and hope we don't get inspected. There are so many people that the agents don't even ask us any questions. They take the paperwork, have you push the button and if you get the green light you are good to go. If you get red, then you have to put your stuff through the x-ray. Our entire group makes it through with no issues. We finally located our transfer driver, Paco who takes us the



45 minute drive to Tesoro los Cabos hotel. We unload all the gear at the dive shop on the water, fill out some paperwork and then off to dinner. We wander down the waterfront to a restaurant called Captain Tony's where we enjoy a good margarita with our dinner. Back to the dive shop where they then transfer us to the harbor and on the boat we go. Our home for the next 8 days is the Nautilus Undersea, where the crew

welcomes us with champagne and snacks before we leave port. It will be 24 hours steaming until we arrive at San Benedicto Island. We prepare ourselves as the wind is up and it will be a bumpy ride all night long.

Day 2

A nice leisurely morning as we enjoy our espresso and a wonderful breakfast. Our day is filled up with safety



drills, setting up gear, eating and relaxing. It is a bit bumpy, so we had some queasy folks but everyone is doing pretty good overall. Finally we arrive at about 9:30 pm as the anchor hits the bottom and we are enjoying a calmer evening at sea. We are super excited to see what tomorrow will bring.

Day 3

The wind is up and as we come up on deck there are a lot of boats here. Apparently, everyone is here because it is too rough to be at The Boiler dive site. All the boats come to agreements on who will dive where and when so we don't all end up on top of each other. The first couple of dives were good checkout dives so everyone can figure out weighting and buoyancy. A couple of Manta sightings and a Hammerhead were seen. On the second



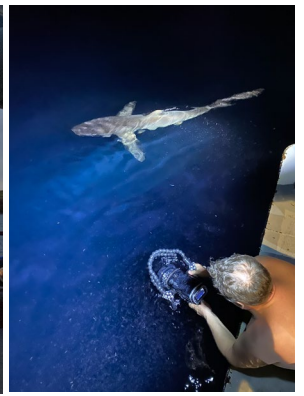
dive I hit 3400 dives. Finally it is our turn to do the Canyon dive site and this one is great. Schooling Silver tips, Galapagos, White Tip and even a Dusky. We have Hammerheads in the distance and couple of Mantas come by and then it is time to go. Woot woot! Great dive and Peggy hit 1200 dives. The last dive was not quite as eventful as the third dive, but we had a nice school of Yellowfin Tuna that came by. As we get back on the boat, we have a situation with one of our divers so we start motoring toward Socorro Island right away where there is a Navy Base and medical help if needed. It will be about 4 ½ hours before we arrive. It all works out because we were headed that way with our schedule anyways. We arrive around midnight where we touch base with the medical crew and our diver is doing much better. Everyone crashes as tomorrow will be a long day.

Day 4

Our diver did fine overnight and the wheels are in motion to get him off the boat and back to Cabo. Better to be safe than sorry. The crew take us down to Punta Tosca to do a couple of dives while we wait for the med flight to arrive. The two dives that we did were amazing! Lots of Manta action today. This is why we came. They just



kept coming back around over and over again. Everyone is exhausted from swimming as we did have some current to contend with. We motor back to the Navy Base where the flight has finally arrived and we can get our diver off the boat and safely on his way back to Cabo. We sit and relax while we wait for the crew to get back on the boat and then we motor back over to Punta Tosca for a night snorkel with the Silky sharks. After we anchor within a matter of minutes there are plenty of Silkys and even dolphins on the perimeter of the light. Ray is in charge of the snorkel and as we are getting suited up, he looks a bit worried. There is a lot of thrashing as the sharks and dolphins are feeding on flying fish. This looks a little crazy! He tells us they are too excited for us to jump in and captain Lowell makes the call that it is a no go due to the number of sharks. Thank goodness, I didn't want to look like the big chicken for not wanting to get in. Instead of going out to Roca Partida tonight we decide



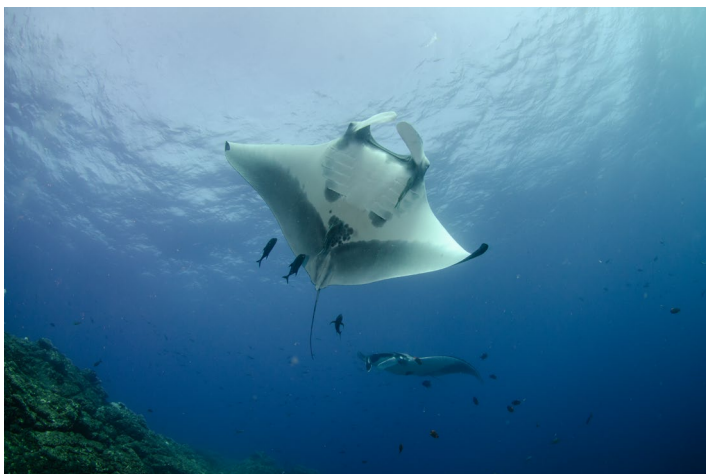
to anchor up at Cabo Pearce since there is already 3 boats ahead of us and it is going to be rough. We enjoy a nice calm night at anchor and we are the only ones here so we will have the dive site to ourselves tomorrow. That just doesn't happen out here anymore.

Day 5

Our day starts early with our first dive at 7:15 am. The sun is out and we are ready to go. The first dive is loaded with all the life we came to see. A Tiger shark is the highlight and one group even saw two of them. We had Mantas, Dolphins and Hammerheads, oh my! Everyone is super excited after that dive. Back for more food and



then dive two brings us lots of current. We drift out to the buoy and hide behind the rocks as a couple of Mantas come by, and a school of Tuna in the distance. Can't stay at 90 ft for too long so we let go and drift into the blue. We had a couple more Mantas fly by and then towards the end we had an all-black manta down in the deep and it was the biggest Manta I have ever seen. It looked like a spaceship, I swear it had to be 20 ft across tip to tip. Back to the boat for lunch and a rest before two more dives this afternoon. The third dive was pretty quiet until



the last 15 minutes when we finally had 2 Mantas circling a cleaning station at our safety stop. The visibility has dropped with the change of the tide as well. In between dives, Lowell takes us on a rock tour of the shoreline and a small archway that looks as if it is holding up the entire island. The last dive of the day we have quite a bit of current again as we drift out to the point and then have to kick all the way back against it. Not much to see as we end the day. We enjoy dinner in the calm waters of the bay before pulling anchor and heading out to Roca Partida. It's going to be a bumpy ride.

Day 6

Sometime in the wee hours of the morning we arrived, but the captain has decided to keep the boat live and not anchor. It's a bit nautical out here as we bob around in the ocean next to the rock pinnacle. Up bright and early, the first group hits the dive site by 7:15 am. Not a lot of current as we circumnavigate the rock. We had a nice big yellow fin Tuna, Hammerhead, Silver Tips and Galapagos Sharks. Visibility is pretty good and we literally had



no current on this dive. Dive two the current has picked up as we try and make our way to the front of the rock wall. Not everyone made it and then once around we had a good school of Jacks only now we were in a down current. Good times. Didn't take much to get out of it and then we drifted around the side and all the way up the other side. Not too much going on other than some good fish life. A couple more dives with still good shark sightings along with Tuna. We are the only boat out here so we were able to get in 4 dives today. Time to sail back to San Benedicto Island where will finish up our last day of diving. We enjoy a nice sunset as we depart, but the seas are up so dinner is a bit rocky.

Day 7

The boat is anchored up at The Boiler dive site and unfortunately there are 2 other boats here already so we are last in line for dive time. We can't complain too much as we have had the last 2 dive sites to ourselves. Forbes



hit his 100th dive on our last dive of the trip, way to go! What a great trip this year. Back on board we hang up all our stuff to start drying, even though we do have all day tomorrow to pack. There is a brave group of 5 that are



going to snorkel with the Silky sharks tonight. Ray is leading the pack along with Forbes, Jeff, Chelsi, Brandyn and Kate. It wasn't as crazy as the other night which is nice but they had at least 3-4 good size ones come by. They are rewarded with a hot chocolate and baileys for their efforts. The crew throws a nice wine and cheese party tonight as we reminisce about today's diving. We finished off the

day with a fantastic steak dinner, before everyone crashes for the ride back. The boat picked up anchor around 2:30 am and we will arrive somewhere around 7:30 am the following day.

Day 8

Leisurely morning with a late breakfast. Not much to do today but get your stuff dry and get packed. It is all about eating and sleeping and hopefully the water doesn't get too rough. It overcast so for the most part it's not too hot to be outside enjoying the fresh air. Late afternoon it did get rough so dinner was a bit challenging. A few of the group didn't make it for dinner and right after I ate, I headed upstairs and hunkered down for the long night ahead. It was quite a rough ride all night long. Thankfully as we got closer to Cabo San Lucas it calmed down.

Day 9

As we waited to pull into the harbor we had a beautiful sunrise to top off our trip. After breakfast we all

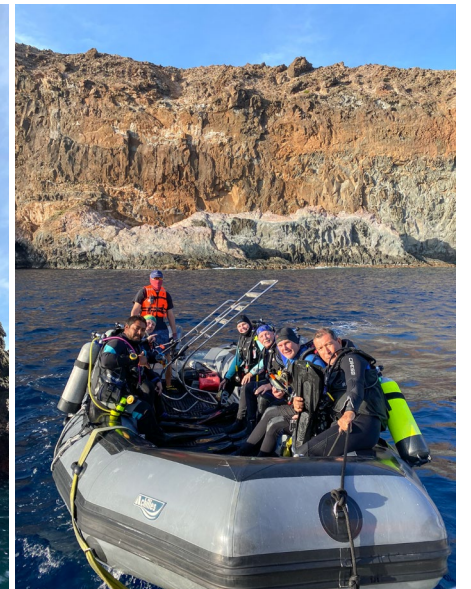
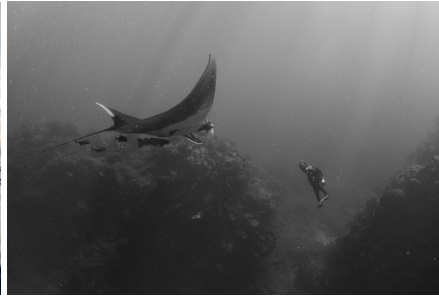
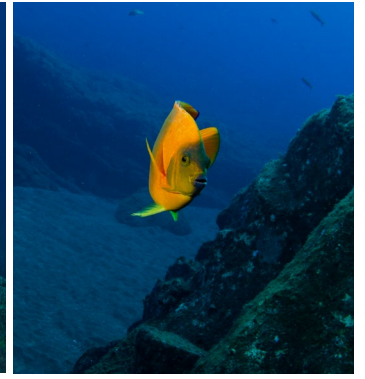


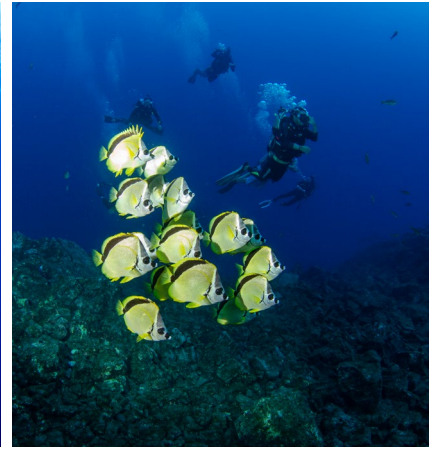
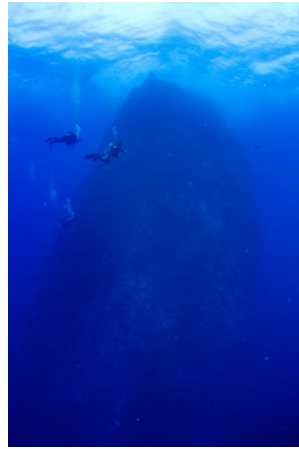
disembarked while all our luggage was taken to the dive shop to wait for our afternoon departure to the airport. Most everyone walked around and did some last minute shopping before heading home. Jeff and Kate are staying in Cabo for a few extra days to kick back and relax after our amazing trip. We all say our goodbyes and make our way to the airport later that afternoon after we enjoy one last meal in the beautiful sunshine. It has snowed while we have been away and it is still quite cold so we are really not looking forward to going back home. Oh well, the trip has to be over sometime.



Bob and I would like to thank everyone for joining us on another great adventure. Spending all this time underwater with a great group of people is the best way to live! We are grateful every day to do what we love to do; travel and dive! We look forward to traveling with you again on another adventure.

Cheers, Kelley & Bob





Adios Socorro's, until next time!