

**KNOW
BEFORE
YOU GO**

QUINO EL GUARDIAN

Southern Safari

Updated May 2023



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Welcome Aboard

Welcome to the Sea of Cortez and Midriff Islands aboard Quino el Guardian!

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 a fantastic experience. In this package, you will find information to help you prepare for your upcoming adventure. If you have any questions or special requests, don't hesitate to contact us. We look forward to seeing you onboard!

Contact Information

QUINO EL GUARDIAN

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(602)558-9580

Boat Satellite Phone
011 881 632 654 109

About Our Southern Safari

The Sea of Cortez, also known as the Gulf of California, is a strip of water separated from the Pacific Ocean by the Baja Peninsula. This isolation, on land and underwater, provides a unique series of contrasting ecosystems from the vast solitude of the desert to the rich underwater realms and black coral gardens.

Let the crew of Quino el Guardian spoil you as we travel throughout the warm and clear waters of the southern Sea of Cortez. Enjoy six days of diving where we can see orcas, giant schools of mobula rays, and colorful tropical fish. We will explore Isla Los Islotes, where you will encounter a massive colony of friendly sea lions, and Isla El Bajo, known for its schools of hammerhead sharks. We will dive Isla Espiritu Santo and wrecks Fang Ming and Salvaterra, Isla Las Animas, Isla Los Islotes, and Isla Cerralvo, known as Jacques Cousteau Island. We'll also do a night dive with mobula rays. This is a voyage you don't want to miss!

The crew of Quino el Guardian is here to help you in any way possible to make your visit to the southern Sea of Cortez an unforgettable experience. Please let your crew know if there is anything you want or need anytime during your trip.



About Quino el Guardian

Quino el Guardian is of the utmost seaworthiness and approved by the US 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 18. Most trips have 16 guests.

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

Our guests enjoy comfortable 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, which are changed mid-trip.

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

The galley comfortably accommodates up to 18 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 well-organized. Each diver gets assigned a dive station.

We have a spacious camera table with many power outlets and compressed air.

Quino has two 18' Achilles inflatables for our diver's safety and ease with sturdy ladders. There is a dive platform for easy boarding.

There is an outdoor shower on the dive deck.

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

All voltage aboard Quino el Guardian is 110, just like the USA. Each bunk has two double outlets.

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 can contact our office at (602)558-9580 in 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 011 881 652 431 156, and the rate for using the phone is \$2 per minute.

You may have cell service up to one hour from the marina. We do not have Wi-Fi on the boat.

Diving

We provide 80 cubic ft. aluminum tanks that are both DIN & yoke compatible, as well as weights and belts.

We dive from two 18' Achilles inflatable pangas, each with a driver vigilantly looking for bubbles. Getting from the boat to the dive site typically takes just a few minutes. The pangas have very sturdy, easy-to-use ladders.

We divide passengers into three groups, each with a divemaster to lead the dives. Each group will dress, receive a dive briefing, put on their gear, then board the panga. Divers enter the water with a backroll. For divers with knee or back issues, we are happy to help you. We dive as a group. At the end of the dive, the panga will come to you. Divers will remove their weight belt and BCD, and the driver will lift it into the boat. Once at the ladder, divers remove their fins and climb into the boat. When the panga returns to the boat, the crew will put your gear away for you. Our crew is happy to hand you your camera.

Diving can be challenging, and we suggest that all divers be in good health, dive regularly, and have been diving recently before their trip. Our divemasters and instructors are guides only and are not responsible for teaching dive skills or looking after guests who do not have basic buoyancy skills. Each diver is responsible for knowing their diving capabilities and limitations. If you feel that you may need additional attention, we suggest a private divemaster. A private divemaster must be coordinated in advance and is subject to availability. The cost depends on the length of the trip. If you are interested in doing this or have any questions, please get in touch with us at info@MexicoLiveboards.com.

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

Itinerary

Below is our scheduled diving itinerary. Weather and sea conditions may alter this itinerary, and if unique animal sightings arise, we may suggest options to divers.

Day 1: Embark in San José del Cabo / Dinner and departure at approximately 7 pm

Day 2: Isla Espiritu Santo and mobula ray night dive / 3-4 dives

Day 3: Isla Las Ánimas / 3-4 dives

Day 4: Isla El Bajo and Isla San Francisquito / 3-4 dives

Day 5: Isla Los Islotes and wrecks Salvaterra and Fang / 3-4 dives

Day 6: Isla Cerralvo / 3-4 dives

Day 7: Pelican Rock and Cabo San Lucas / 3-4 dives

Day 8: Arrival in San Jose del Cabo and disembark at 8:30 am

Food & Beverage

Each day starts early with a continental breakfast with fresh fruit, cereals, bagels, yogurt, breads, and freshly brewed coffee. After the first dive, guests enjoy a plated, made-to-order breakfast. After the second dive, lunch starts with a hot homemade soup followed by a hot plated lunch. A large snack is available after the third dive, often sandwiches, ceviche, fruit, cheeses, and more. For dinner, guests enjoy a three-course, plated meal with a salad, entrée, and homemade dessert. Hot and cold beverages are always available, including canned soft drinks.

Divers enjoy complimentary local beer and wine after their last dive of the day.

We can accommodate most special dietary needs, including gluten-free and vegan. Please note this on your passenger document and advise the steward at your first meal.

Guests are welcome to bring snacks, beverages, or alcoholic drinks on board.

Passenger Documents

Passenger information and liability releases are completed online. The more information we have about you (including dietary restrictions or preferences), the better we can serve you.

Please complete the [Online Passenger Registration](#) no later than 30 days before your departure date. This form can be found on the home page of our website, www.MexicoLiveboards.com. Scroll to the bottom of the home page and it is under under Pre-Trip Information.

Please read all of the instructions before you start and gather all pertinent documents, such as dive certifications, medical and dive insurance information, etc.

Once you start, you will have a 4-hour window to complete the form; otherwise, you will need to restart the process. You can leave the travel information blank (and update it later) if you do not have the travel information now.

To update your travel information, you can do this under [Online Passenger Travel Update](#). This form can be found on the home page of our website, www.MexicoLiveboards.com. Scroll to the bottom of the home page and it is under under Pre-Trip Information.

If you have any difficulty with the form, it is typically due to the date format. We use month/date/year. Therefore, January 17, 2024, would be 01/17/2024.

We have a customer portal for returning guests. Please email Guest Services at Documents@MexicoLiveboards.com and we will send you a link and password to the Returning Customer Portal.

Once you completed your passenger information, you can download and print a copy for your records.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please get in touch with Valerie in Guest Services at Documents@MexicoLiveboards.com.

Getting to the Boat

Quino el Guardian is located at Marina Puerto Los Cabos in San Jose del Cabo. Guests fly into San Jose del Cabo (airport code SJD). Guests are responsible for their transportation to and from the boat. The marina is about 25 minutes from the airport.

Taxis are easy to use. After you collect your bags and leave customs, you will enter a lobby. Before you exit the lobby to go outside, you will see a counter to the left that says TAXI. You can book a taxi and pay for it there via cash or credit card. The cost is approximately \$60 for two people.

Boarding begins at 5pm. Please do not board early, as the crew is busy getting the boat ready for you. If you arrive early and want to walk around San Jose del Cabo, you can take a taxi to the El Encanto Inn. The El Encanto Inn is in the heart of the Art District of the historic center of San Jose del Cabo. They are happy to store your luggage for you for \$7. The hotel is centrally located, has a restaurant and bar, and is surrounded by plenty of shops and restaurants.

When you are ready to go to the boat, the staff at El Encanto Inn can call a taxi.

If you prefer to go directly to the marina, the La Marina Inn is across the street. They are a quaint hotel with a bar/restaurant, and are happy for you to stop by while you wait to board.

DIRECTIONS TO Quino el Guardian FROM THE AIRPORT AND DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE DEL CABO

Marina Puerto Los Cabos is about a 25-minute taxi ride from the airport and 15 minutes from downtown San Jose del Cabo. Please drive toward the small fishing town of "La Playita" and El Ganzo Hotel. Once in the marina area, you will drive on a long, winding road with roundabouts. To your right, you will see a tall, beige building called MARINE GROUP and, on the other corner, an OXXO store. Turn right at the Marine Group building and OXXO store. Keep driving toward El Ganzo Hotel. Quino el Guardian is often docked about 100 yards before the El Ganzo Hotel. If it is not there, it is at another berth within the marina. The taxi driver can take you to the other berth, or you can wait outside of El Ganzo, and we will come and pick you up at 5pm.

Return

The boat will return to the marina during the night, and passengers must be ready to depart by 8:30 am on the last day of your trip. Our steward will serve a continental breakfast. Our crew will call taxis to get everyone to the airport or their hotel. We suggest flights departing 11am or later.

Water Temperatures

The following temperatures are based on past trips:

November 80°F (26°C)

December 80°F (26°C)

January 75°F (24°C)

February 73°F - 75°F (23°C - 24°C)

March 73°F - 75°F (23°C - 24°C)

April 75°F (24°C)

May 78°F - 80°F (25°C - 26°C)

Suggested Gear & Clothing

Besides your standard dive gear, every diver must have a dive computer, a safety sausage (SMB), and a whistle.

We absolutely recommend exposure protection (wetsuits/light drysuits) on our trips. To determine what is best for you, we recommend that you combine the expected water temperatures with how many dives you will be doing per day and your personal needs to be comfortable in the water. Every diver is different.

The dress is casual. Along with shorts and t-shirts, pack a sweatshirt or windbreaker should you need it for the evenings.

Do not forget your hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Stream2Sea makes reef-safe sunscreen, and we have a link on our website, and our guests receive a 10% discount.

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

Rental Dive Equipment

We have a limited number of regulators, BCDs, and HP steel 100cu ft/12L steel tanks available for rental at \$50 each per trip. We also have Shearwater Peregrine computers for rent at \$75 each per trip. Please let us know as early as possible before your trip if you want to rent equipment so we have it onboard for you. We do not rent exposure suits, hoods, fins, masks, safety sausages (SMBs), whistles, or lights. As we have a limited number of these items available to rent, they are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Valerie in Guest Services to reserve your equipment at Documents@MexicoLiveaboards.com.

If you need wetsuits, fins, masks, booties, SMBs, etc., we recommend:

Dive Ninja Expeditions
www.DiveNinjaExpeditions.com
info@diveninjaexpeditions.com

Manta Scuba
www.caboscuba.com
mantascuba@gmail.com

Entertainment

Feel free to bring books, CDs, and DVDs. Our collection is limited onboard, and the crew especially appreciates new entertainment.

Special Occasions

If you celebrate any special occasion while onboard, such as a birthday, engagement, anniversary, or honeymoon, please let us know on your passenger document so we can prepare to celebrate with you!

What is INCLUDED in the Price of the Trip

All taxes & port fees
All meals, snacks, and beverages, including canned soft drinks
Complimentary local beer and wine
Tanks (aluminum 80cu ft), weights, and weight belts

What is NOT Included in the Price of the Trip

National Park Fee – 100 pesos per day of diving*
Nitrox Fee - \$140
Transfers to and from the boat
Crew Gratuity (10%-15% of the trip price is customary)
Rental Gear (if applicable)
Fuel Surcharge** if applicable

You can pay park fees, nitrox, and gratuities at the end of the trip or before departure. To pay in advance, please get in touch with Carmina at Carmina@MexicoLiveboards.com. We use the conversion rate for the park fee based on the day of sailing. If there is a difference, you can pay for this at the end of the trip.

Mexico Liveboards accepts US dollars, euros, pesos, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover Credit Cards. Mexico Liveboards does not charge a fee for the use of credit cards.

*Park fee is only charged on diving days (not travel days) and is subject to change without notice.

**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 before boarding.

Other Important Information

Although we do our best to accommodate cabin-type requests, Quino el Guardian reserves the right to assign all cabins.

All guests are required to have dive insurance. If you need this, you can purchase it at www.DiversAlertNetwork.org. If you have private health insurance coverage for dive accidents, provide only the page that states coverage for a scuba diving accident, including evacuation, and the declaration page showing you are the owner of the policy and policy number.

You will be at sea, and though it can often be calm, please be prepared if we have rough seas. Several over-the-counter remedies can help you. If you have a propensity to motion sickness or are concerned that you might develop symptoms, please prepare yourself with preventive measures before departure. Please consult your physician about what will work best for you.

Marijuana and all drugs are illegal in Mexico. Do not bring these on board.

We highly recommend all passengers purchase travel insurance.

Unforeseen Events / Trip Insurance / Trip Interruption

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

Passenger safety is paramount; 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.

We highly suggest trip insurance as it can reimburse you for unused, non-refundable, prepaid 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 essential 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 before the trip date

Remaining balance is due three months before trip date

Cancellations

There is no penalty for cancellations made nine months or more before the trip date

25% of the full rate will be forfeited for cancellations made 91 days to 9 months before the trip date

50% of the full rate will be forfeited for cancellations made 61 to 90 days before the trip date

No refunds for cancellations made 60 days prior or less to the trip date

GROUPS

Deposits

- A \$5,000 non-refundable deposit is due to hold the reservation
- 25% of the trip price is due one year before the trip date
- 25% is due six months before the trip date
- The balance less your commission is due three months before the trip date

Cancelations

- There is no penalty for cancellations made 12 months or more before 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 before the trip date
- 50% of the full rate will be forfeited for cancellations made six months to 91 days before the trip date
- No refunds for cancellations made 90 days or less before the trip date



Hotels in San Jose del Cabo

Casa Natalia Boutique Hotel
Blvd. Mijares Centro Historico
23400 San Jose del Cabo,
Mexico
1-888-277-3814
+52 624 18 23709
www.casanatalia.com
reservacion@casanatalia.com

El Encanto Inn & Suites
You can store your luggage for \$7
while you walk around downtown
if you arrive early
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

La Marina Inn
Located across the street from
the boat
Calle S/N, Mantarraya
La Playa, San Jose del Cabo
BCS 23403
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www.lamarinainn.com

Hotel El Ganzo
Located next to the boat
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www.barcelo.com

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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

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