



November 2021

## **WELCOME TO THE SEA OF CORTEZ AND OUR EXPLORE BAJA EXPEDITION 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, please contact us. We look forward to seeing you!

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

#### **QUINO EL GUARDIAN LIVEABOARD**

3796 E. Boise Ave  
Boise, ID 83706-3796  
M (602)558-9580  
F (602)926-8360  
[www.MexicoLiveaboards.com](http://www.MexicoLiveaboards.com)  
[Info@MexicoLiveaboards.com](mailto:Info@MexicoLiveaboards.com)

#### **DORA SIERRA**

Owner/Operator  
[Dora@MexicoLiveaboards.com](mailto:Dora@MexicoLiveaboards.com)  
M (602)558-9580

#### **SUSAN LONG**

Sales & Marketing  
[Susan@MexicoLiveaboards.com](mailto:Susan@MexicoLiveaboards.com)  
M (619)742-4277

**24 Hours Emergency Phone Numbers**  
**(602)558-9580**

**Boat Satellite Phone**  
**011 881 632 557 444**

#### **CARMINA NEPHEW**

Accounting  
[Carmina@MexicoLiveaboards.com](mailto:Carmina@MexicoLiveaboards.com)  
M (602)478-4582

#### **VALERIE VISKAS**

Guest Services & Passenger Documents  
[Documents@MexicoLiveaboards.com](mailto:Documents@MexicoLiveaboards.com)  
M (619)251-3498

## DIVING

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

Explore over 700 miles of the Sea of Cortez, starting at one end of Baja and ending at the other. Experience the magic of the Midriff Islands combined with the clear, warm waters of the south. We never know what will come our way on this adventure!

Each day you will awake to a fantastic sunrise amongst some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world with clear skies, deep blue seas, and terrain only millions of years could create. Enjoy three to four dives daily as we move from island to island. Dive on untouched walls and reefs abounding in marine life. The north is a macro photographer's dream with nudibranchs, colorful blennies, dancing jawfish, and sea horses.

Encounter large and small whale species, snorkel with whale sharks, see jumping mobula rays, dive

with playful sea lion colonies and see countless eels, octopus, fish, and jumping mobula rays.

The biodiversity between the northern and southern Sea of Cortez is incredible and diving the entire Baja is spectacular! The sea life we witness on the surface from the boat, pangas or snorkeling is fantastic. We can see dolphins, sea lions, pilot whales, humpback whale, fin whales, blue whales, sperm whales, orcas and flying mobula rays. We also have incredible birds including blue and brown footed boobie birds, cormorants, frigate birds and the endemic yellow footed gulls.

In the south we dive the national park in Loreto and guests can spend a nice evening walking and dining in Loreto. We also dive the world-famous park Cabo Pulmo.

If you wish to hike the remote islands during surface intervals, there is always a panga available to take you to shore. We also have kayaks to take a serene cruise around the islands. Between activities get spoiled with amazing meals and the best crew in the industry.

## DIVING

The crew of Quino el Guardian is here to help you in any way possible to make your visit to the Sea of Cortez an unforgettable experience.

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



The passengers will be divided into three groups. Each group will have its own divemaster to help guests and lead the dives. Dives will be made from two 18' Achilles inflatables, each with a driver vigilantly looking for bubbles. The inflatables have very sturdy divers. Upon surfacing, the inflatable will come to you. Divers will remove their BCD and the driver will lift it into the boat. Once at the ladder, divers remove their fins and climb in the boat. When the inflatable get back to the boat, the crew will put your gear away for you.

## ABOUT QUINO EL GUARDIAN

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, two upper bunks and two lower bunks. 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 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, and these 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 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.MexicoLiveboards.com](http://www.MexicoLiveboards.com).

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

## **ONLINE PASSENGER INFORMATION & LIABILITY RELEASE**

No later than 30 days prior to your trip, all passengers are to complete an online passenger registration and liability release form. This can now be done completely online and can be found at [HERE](#) or go to [www.MexicoLiveboards.com](http://www.MexicoLiveboards.com) and scroll to the bottom of the home page. The link is under *General Information*.

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. You can always update your travel information closer to the trip date.

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

Once you complete this form, you can download and print your own copy for your records.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Valerie in Guest Services at [Documents@MexicoLiveboards.com](mailto:Documents@MexicoLiveboards.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.

## **GETTING TO THE BOAT**

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 (airport code PHX) is the most convenient and closest airport to fly into to reach our port.

We 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 \$115 per person, one-way, 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](http://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 should arrive at Phoenix Sky Harbor airport no later than 11am 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 ½ hours and it will cross the international border. Head Out to Rocky Point is very familiar with this process and are there to help. The driver will stop along the way, allowing people to use the restroom and purchase snacks, including alcoholic beverages.

At the border, all visitors 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 approximately \$35 US in cash. Credit cards are not accepted, and immigration officials will not give change. It is good to bring \$3-\$5 extra just as the amount can fluctuate based on the exchange rate.

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

## RETURN

The boat returns to the marina in San Jose del Cabo during the night and passengers need to be ready to depart by 8:30 am on the last day of your trip. Continental breakfast will be served. Our crew will call taxis to get everyone to the airport or their hotel.

## ITINERARY

*Our Explore Baja destination truly is an exploration. The below itinerary is a guideline only as, frankly, anything can happen, and flexibility will help you enjoy this adventure to its fullest. We always want to be open-minded so that we can take advantage of what nature brings our way!*

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

Day 1 – Board the boat at 5pm / Dinner at 7pm

Day 2 – Three dives at Isla Angel de la Guarda and a sunset cruise.

Day 3 - One morning dive than snorkeling with whale sharks at Bahia de Los Angeles. Two dives in the afternoon.

Day 4 - Three dives plus a night dive at Isla Salsipuedes.

Day 5 - Four dives at San Pedro Martir Island.

Day 6 - Four dives at Isla San Ildefonso.

Day 7 - Three dives at Isla Coronado Island. Visit and dinner in Loreto.

Day 8 - Three dives at Isla Danzante and an afternoon hike at Honeymoon Beach.

Day 9 - Four dives at Isla las Animas.

Day 10 - Three dives at Isla del Espiritu Santo Island and a mobula night dive.

Day 11 - Dives at Jardines de la Reina Island.

Day 12 - Two dives at Cabo Pulmo National Park and one dive outside of the park.

Day 13 - Arrival in San Jose del Cabo and disembark at 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.

One of the most popular questions we receive is about water temperature!

The Sea of Cortez is a very seasonal sea, which means it changes rapidly based on the seasons. Our trips begin in mid-September where the temperatures are in the high 70's and low 80's Fahrenheit. It gets warmer as we go south. The temperatures drop an average of 2 degrees Fahrenheit every week. For the trips in October, divers can anticipate the low to mid 70's in the northern part of the Sea of Cortez.

We absolutely recommend exposure protection (wetsuits/light drysuits) on our trips. Many guests have found that a 3mm wetsuit along with a hooded vest works best. Gloves and dive lights are permitted and suggested, especially for night diving.

The dress is casual. Bring a light jacket. Do not forget your hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen.

## RENTAL DIVE EQUIPMENT

We have a limited number of regulators, BCDs, dive computers and HP steel 100cft/12L steel tanks available for rental at \$50 each, per trip. Please let us know as early as possible prior to your trip 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, they are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please contact Valerie in Guest Services to reserve your equipment at Documents@MexicoLiveboards.com.

## ENTERTAINMENT

Feel free to bring your own books, CD's, and DVDs. We have a collection of these onboard and the crew especially appreciates new entertainment.

## SPECIAL OCCASIONS

If you are celebrating any special occasion while onboard such as a birthday, engagement, anniversary, or honeymoon, please let us know on your passenger document so we can be prepared 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, weights, and weight belts

Guests are welcome to bring along their own beverages (including alcoholic 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 (if you chose to do so as you are welcome to dine on the boat)
- 🌀 Crew Gratuity (10%-15% of the 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 before 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. Dive insurance can be purchased at [www.DiversAlertNetwork.org](http://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, evacuation, and the declaration page showing you are the owner of the policy and policy number.

We recommend you purchase trip insurance.

You will be at sea and though it can often be calm, please be prepared in case we are faced with rough seas. 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 US 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](http://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

## HOTELS NEAR PHOENIX SKY HARBOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Most of the hotels provide a complimentary shuttle to and from the 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. Please arrange this directly with Head Out To Rocky Point at [HeadOutToRockyPoint@gmail.com](mailto:HeadOutToRockyPoint@gmail.com).

RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT  
PHOENIX AIRPORT  
801 North 44<sup>th</sup> Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85008  
(602)293-4439 Direct  
(602)273-9220 Hotel  
(602)273-7221 Fax  
[www.residenceinnphoenixairport.com](http://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](http://www.lq.com)

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

COMFORT SUITES  
1625 S. 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Tempe, AZ 85281  
(480)446-9500  
[www.choicehotels.com](http://www.choicehotels.com)

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS  
3401 E. University  
Phoenix, AZ 85034  
(602)453-9900  
[www.hiephoenix.com](http://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. 44<sup>th</sup> 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

### LA MARINA INN

**Located across the street from the boat**

Calle S/N, Mantarraya  
La Playa, San Jose del Cabo  
BCS 23403  
USA +1 616-548-2681  
Mexico +52-624-142-4166  
[www.lamarinainn.com](http://www.lamarinainn.com)

### HOTEL EL GANZO

**Located next to 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](http://www.elganzo.com)  
*Mention our name and receive a 10% discount*

### 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](http://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](http://www.belaircabos.com)

### 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](http://www.barcelo.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](http://www.elencantoinn.com)  
reservations@elencantoinn.com  
Facebook: [facebook.com/elencantoinn](https://facebook.com/elencantoinn)  
*Mention our name and receive a 10% discount*

### CABO AZUL RESORT

Paseo Malecon SN Lote 11 Fonatur  
23400 San Jose Del Cabo, Mexico  
+52 800 438 2929  
[www.caboazulresort.com](http://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](http://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

### POSADA REAL LOS CABOS

Malecon San Jose S/N  
Zona Hotelera,  
San Jose del Cabo 23400  
Mexico: +52 624 142 0155  
[www.posadareal-hotels.com/loscabos/](http://www.posadareal-hotels.com/loscabos/)  
[loscabos@posadareal.com.mx](mailto:loscabos@posadareal.com.mx)