

# Know Before You Go



## Sea of Cortez / Southern Safari

November 2021

### WELCOME TO THE SOUTHERN SEA OF CORTEZ 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 LIVEBOARD

c/o Carmina Nephew  
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Boise, ID 83706-3796  
M (602)558-9580  
F (602)926-8360  
www.MexicoLiveaboards.com  
Info@MexicoLiveaboards.com

24 Hours Emergency Phone Numbers  
(602)558-9580

Boat Satellite Phone  
881 6326 54109

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#### VALERIE VISKAS

Guest Services (Passenger Documents)  
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 visit to the Socorro Islands an unforgettable experience.

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.

This is a unique opportunity aboard Quino el Guardian where we will be at the right place at the right time to see blue whales, bull sharks, and flying mobula rays. Go on day and night dives at remote islands, encountering the abundant sea life of the southern Sea of Cortez. We will also explore popular dive sites such as Los Isolates where you will encounter friendly sea lions and El Bajo known for its schools of hammerhead sharks. We will also spend a day diving in Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park, the only living reef on this side of the hemisphere where divers can experience schools of fish that are over 40' tall.



## DIVING

The crew of Quino el Guardian is here to help you in any way possible to make your visit to the Socorro Islands 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 THE BOAT

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](http://www.MexicoLiveboards.com) 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@MexicoLiveaboards.com](mailto:Documents@MexicoLiveaboards.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 Marina Puerto Los Cabos in San Jose del Cabo. Guests fly into San Jose del Cabo (airport code SJD). Guests are responsible for their own transportation to and from the boat. The marina is about 25 minutes from the airport.

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 the lovely town of 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 has a restaurant and bar and is centrally located with plenty of shops and restaurants in the area.

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

If you prefer to go directly to the marina, the La Marina Inn is located across the street. They are a quaint hotel and has a bar/restaurant and would be happy for you to stop by while you wait for the time 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 you are in the marina area you will be driving 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 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.

## RETURN

The boat will return to the marina 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

*Below is our scheduled diving itinerary. Weather and sea conditions may require changes to this itinerary. If unique animal sighting opportunities arise, we may suggest alternative options to divers.*

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

### Sunday

Board at 5pm in San Jose Del Cabo / Marina Puerto Los Cabos  
Dinner at 7pm / Depart shortly thereafter

### Monday

La Paz  
Famous sea lions of Los Islotes Island - 4 dives

### Tuesday

La Paz  
Fang-Ming Wreck  
Salvatierra Wreck  
Swanny Reef  
Mobula rays night dive at Ensenada Grande

### Wednesday

Isla Las Animas - 3 dives  
Possible encounter with hammerhead sharks  
Small sea lion colony  
Night dive at San Dieguito Reef

### Thursday

Isla Cerralvo (also known as Jacques Cousteau Island) & Reyna  
Diving in La Reyna - possible mantas and sea lions  
Looking for sperm whales and orcas at Cerralvo

## Friday

Cabo Pulmo National Park

2 dives inside the park

1 dive outside the park

## Saturday

Cabo San Lucas

2 dives in Cabo San Lucas: Pelican Rock and Lands End

1 dive Gordo banks with possible school of hammerheads and silky sharks

## Sunday

Disembark by 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.

We absolutely recommend exposure protection (wetsuits/light drysuits) on our trips. Water temperatures will range from 78°-82°F (26°-28°C)..

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@MexicoLiveaboards.com](mailto:Documents@MexicoLiveaboards.com).

If you need wetsuits, fins, masks, booties, etc., we recommend Manta Scuba at [www.caboscuba.com](http://www.caboscuba.com). You can reach them at [mantascuba@gmail.com](mailto:mantascuba@gmail.com).

## ENTERTAINMENT

Feel free to bring your own books, CD's, and DVDs. We have a collection of these onboard and the crew especially appreciate 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 in the comment section 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 person
- 🔗 Nitrox Fee - \$120 per person
- 🔗 Transfers to and from the boat
- 🔗 Crew Gratuity (10%-15% of the trip price is customary)

Fees and gratuity can be paid in advance or on the boat. Cash (USD, Pesos, and Euros) and MasterCard/Visa are accepted.

\*\*Fuel Surcharge: Rocio del Mar 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 prior to 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.

The crossing from San Jose del Cabo to the Socorro Islands takes approximately 26-28 hours. It is open sea, therefore, 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 U.S. 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
- ↪ The remaining balance is due three months prior to the 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

## 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

### 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  
*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

### 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

### 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

### 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  
*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

### 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

### 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/  
loscabos@posadareal.com.mx