

**KNOW
BEFORE
YOU GO**

QUINO EL GUARDIAN

Sea of Cortez / Midriff Islands

Updated July 2023



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Everything in this document is subject to change without notice.

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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M (619)251-3498

24 Hours Emergency Phone Numbers
(602)558-9580

Boat Satellite Phone
011 881 632 654 109

About the Midriff Islands

The Sea of Cortez is also called "The World's Aquarium" by Jacque Cousteau. Our Sea of Cortez season runs from July through September. Each trip runs from Sunday to Sunday. The boat departs from Puerto Peñasco, Mexico, at 7 pm. We travel 12 hours and arrive by 7 am the following day, ready for our first dive.

The Sea of Cortez is diverse and has a vast array of nudibranchs, blennies, jawfish, rays and guitarfish, schools of fish, eels, octopus, sea horses, frogfish, Mexican horn sharks, and the list goes on and on. We also have a lot of sea lion and whale activity on this trip. We consistently see pilot, fin, and sperm whales. On the last day of diving, we dive in the morning and then snorkel with whale sharks at Bahía de Los Angeles. By 3 pm, we start motoring back to Puerto Peñasco. Divers enjoy 3 - 4 dives per day and 2-night dives.

The crew of Quino el Guardian is here to help you in any way possible to make your visit to the Sea of Cortez/Midriff Islands an unforgettable experience. No request is too small! 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 011 881 632 654 109, 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@MexicoLiveaboards.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 at 5 pm in Puerto Peñasco / Dinner and departure at approximately 7 pm

Day 2: Isla Ángel de la Guarda / 3 dives / Sunset cruise with sea lions

Day 3: Isla Ángel de la Guarda / 3 dives and a night dive

Day 4: Isla San Pedro Mártir / 3-4 dives

Day 5: Isla San Pedro Mártir / 3-4 dives

Day 6: Isla Salsipuedes / Isla Las Ánimas / 3 dives and a night dive

Day 7: Bahía de los Ángeles / 2 dives / Snorkel with whale sharks

Day 8: Arrive in Puerto Peñasco and disembark at 7:30 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.MexicoLiveaboards.com. Scroll to the bottom of the home page and it is 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.MexicoLiveaboards.com. Scroll to the bottom of the home page and it is 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@MexicoLiveaboards.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.

The Harbor Master requires a copy of all passports prior to the trip. Please send this to [Documents@MexicoLiveaboards](mailto:Documents@MexicoLiveaboards.com) two weeks prior to your trip.

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

Please include if you are taking the shuttle as we coordinate the passenger list with Head Out To Rocky Point.

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.

FROM THE UNITED STATES

Most guests fly to Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport (airport code PHX) as it is the most convenient and closest airport to fly into to reach our port.

We facilitate transportation services to and from Phoenix and the boat through Head Out to Rocky Point. This shuttle service has 14 passenger vans that haul trailers for gear. The cost is \$150 per person, round-trip, booked, and payable directly to Head Out to Rocky Point. If you require this service, please do two things:

- Reserve and pay at www.HeadOutToRockyPoint.com/scuba
- Indicate this on your passenger documents

Head Out to Rocky Point accepts credit cards on their website, or you can pay by cash (USD only) on-site. Be sure to use this link as they provide our guests with a discounted rate.

The shuttle picks up all passengers promptly at 1 pm at Terminal 4, door #5 at the outer curb, northside arrivals. We suggest all passengers schedule their flight to Phoenix Sky Harbor airport to arrive no later than 11 am.

Head Out To Rocky Point has been in business since 2007 and does this route multiple times per week. The trip takes 4 ½ hours, and the driver will stop along the way, allowing people to use the restroom. There is a convenience store and grocery store should people want to purchase snacks, including alcoholic beverages. We cross the international border at Lukeville/Sonoyta about one hour before arriving at the boat.

DRIVING TO PUERTO PEÑASCO

The boat is located at Marina Fonatur in Puerto Peñasco. The address is C. Recinto Portuario 101, Recinto Portuario, 83554 Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Mexico. Guests cross the US/Mexican border at Lukeville (US) and Sonoyta (Mexico). There is secure parking next to the marina for \$5 per day. When you arrive, a divemaster will show you where you can park.

OPTIONS WITHIN MEXICO

There are the following options for guests wanting to get to Puerto Peñasco within Mexico, listed in order of ease and popularity:

OPTION 1

Guests can fly into Hermosillo (airport code HMO). You can take a cab from the airport to the Albatros bus station (www.albatrosautobuses.com). There are several daily buses, and it takes about 5-6 hours. You must take the 7 am departure to arrive at Puerto Peñasco for the 5 pm boarding time.

OPTION 2

Fly into Mexicali and rent a car. You will want to rent a car for the round trip because the same-day drop-off fee is outrageous. There is secure parking next to the marina for \$5 per day.

OPTION 3

Guests can fly into Mexicali. This option is very rough travel, i.e., third-world travel. You will need to take a taxi from the airport to ABC bus station, about a 30 min taxi drive, estimated 500 pesos. ABC bus has only one bus scheduled to Puerto Peñasco for late flight arrivals. The bus doesn't leave until approximately 1 am and arrives in Puerto Peñasco at 6 am. That means guests would have to wait at the bus station until departure. The bus station is daunting, and you travel all night. Then they need to find something to do until the boarding time at 5 pm.

If the flight arrives early at Mexicali, there are more buses. We highly recommend making a bus reservation online otherwise, the guests stand in line at the bus terminal for a ticket.

Transportes Abc

Transportation service in Mexicali, Mexico

Address: Blvd Lázaro Cárdenas 407, Los Reyes, 21298 Mexicali, B.C.

Phone: 01 686 131 7282

www.abc.com.mx

FLIGHTS TO PUERTO PEÑASCO AIRPORT

There is a regional airline flying into Puerto Peñasco Airport called Aero Calafia. They have a limited schedule between Puerto Peñasco, Loretto, La Paz, and Tijuana. To learn more, you can visit their website at www.calafiaairlines.com.

FMM / Mexican Tourist Card

All passengers (except for Mexican nationals) must have an FMM. The Mexico FMM (Forma Migratoria Múltiple, also known as a tourist card) is a tourist permit that enables travelers to visit Mexico. You can purchase an FMM can at the border. 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, as the amount can fluctuate based on the exchange rate.

An FMM can also be purchased online at

www.inm.gob.mx/fmme/publico/en/solicitud.html

Be sure to bring a copy of this along with the receipt; otherwise, you may need to purchase it again at the border. For the most up-to-date information, visit www.mexicoliveboards.com/traveling-to-mexico.html.

The boat cannot leave the harbor unless all passengers have an FMM. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Return

The boat will return to the marina in the early morning, and passengers must be ready to depart by 7 am. Our steward will serve a continental breakfast. The shuttle will pick up passengers promptly upon disembarking. The trip takes 4 ½ hours and will cross the international border approximately one hour after departure. The driver will stop along the way, allowing people to use the restroom and purchase snacks.

Guests can book their departing flight from the Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport at 2 pm or later.

Water Temperatures

One of the most popular questions we receive is about water temperature. The Sea of Cortez is a seasonal sea that changes temperature based on the seasons. Our trips begin in early July when the temperatures are approximately 73-78 degrees Fahrenheit (cooler in the northern portion of the diving and warmer in the south). It increases by about 2 degrees Fahrenheit every week, tops off at about 79-84 degrees mid-August, and remains there until about mid-September. After mid-September, the temperatures drop an average of 2 degrees Fahrenheit weekly.

Suggested Gear & Clothing

We absolutely recommend exposure protection on our trips. Many guests have found that a 5mm wetsuit with a hooded vest works best for July through the first week of August, then a 3mm wetsuit with a hooded vest through mid-September. Guests may wear less during mid-day dives in late August and early September. Gloves are permitted and recommended. A rash guard for sun protection is suggested when snorkeling with whale sharks.

We recommend a dive light, as looking under the rocks and crevices is fun. Plus, it makes the colors come alive!

The dress is casual. 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.

There is no place to rent dive gear in Puerto Peñasco.

Special Note - Bees

At some islands, we can encounter swarms of honeybees that come to the boat searching for fresh water in the rinse tanks and near the outside showers. We encourage everyone to wear foot coverings when walking around the deck. Divers with an anaphylactic response to bee stings should carry their own EpiPen or equivalent. If your epinephrine device needs to be stored at 68-77F, please see the lead divemaster or captain when boarding, and we will keep these in the galley for you.

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

Cancellations

- 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 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 1 pm. 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.

Residence Inn by Marriott
Phoenix Airport
801 North 44th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85008
(602)293-4439 Direct
(602)273-9220 Hotel
(602)273-7221 Fax
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

Quality Inn
1550 S. 52nd Street
Tempe, AZ 85281
(480)967-3000
(800)4-Choice

Comfort Suites
1625 S. 52nd Street
Tempe, AZ 85281
(480)446-9500
www.choicehotels.com

Holiday Inn Express
3401 E. University
Phoenix, AZ 85034
(602)453-9900
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. 44th 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

Hotels in Puerto Peñasco

Peñasco Del Sol Hotel
Paseo las Glorias #1
Bella Vista, Centro
83550 Puerto Peñasco, Son, Mexico
+52 638 383 0302
www.pensacodelsolhotel.com

Dream Weaver Inn
Calle Pescadores 3
Benito Juárez
83554 Old Port Puerto Peñasco
Sonora, Mexico

Hospedaje Mulege
Cómo llegar
Circunvalación y o Malecón Kino & 18 de Septiembre
El Puerto
83550 Puerto Peñasco
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+52 638 383 2985



WWW.MEXICOLIVEBOARDS.COM