



CHEESEMAN'S' ECOLOGY SAFARIS

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Great White Sharks

Guadalupe Island, Mexico

September 4 to 9, 2021



Great White Shark © Dan Orr

SAFARI OVERVIEW

Sail to Guadalupe Island for an unparalleled in-water experience with one of the world's most respected and enigmatic predators: the great white shark. Guadalupe Island is located in the Pacific Ocean off Mexico's Baja Peninsula. With its clear blue water, subtropical temperatures, and an abundance of Great Whites, the protected waters surrounding Guadalupe Island is one of the absolute best places to observe and photograph these awe-inspiring animals. Depending on your comfort and skill level, watch sharks from the specially designed surface cages (no SCUBA certification necessary!) or take the plunge in the submersible deep-water cage for the ultimate experience 30ft below the surface. We welcome anyone interested in sharks regardless of diving experience. Scott Davis is the perfect leader for this unique adventure, having a background in marine biology and decades of field experience in photography.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Get up close and personal with the revered predator of the sea – the great white shark.
- Spend the week aboard the luxury vessel, *Nautilus Explorer*, with gourmet cuisine, and lavish accommodations.

- If you are SCUBA certified, spend time in the deep-water cages observing sharks from a unique perspective.

LEADERS: Scott Davis assisted by resident divemasters.

DAYS: 6, including estimated travel time. 5 nights aboard the *Nautilus Explorer*.

GROUP SIZE: 24.

SHIP: The *Nautilus Explorer*, 25-passenger dive boat. See the *Ship* section on page 2.

COST: \$3,800 to \$5,250 per person depending on cabin type, single, double, or triple occupancy, not including airfare. See the *Costs* section on page 4.

CONDITIONS: This is a **non-smoking tour** for people who are very interested in spending the maximum time in nature. See the *Conditions* section on page 6.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Sep 4	Arrive in San Diego and travel by private bus to board the ship in Ensenada, Mexico.	On board the <i>Nautilus Explorer</i>	—
Sep 5	Sail to Guadalupe Island.		B, L, D
Sep 6–8	Spend three full days in the water with great white sharks.		
Sep 9	Sail back to Ensenada, Mexico, and travel by private bus to San Diego Airport.		B, L

LEADERS

Scott Davis

Scott is a professional photographer specializing in wildlife, nature, and travel. Originally trained as a wildlife and marine biologist, his research and photo assignments have taken him to the far corners of the globe. National Geographic, BBC, Animal Planet, and renowned magazines have used his photography. As a marine biologist, his ground breaking graduate thesis research documented the large-scale movement and behavioral patterns of white sharks off the North American coast. His patience for teaching and love of capturing the essence of his subjects make him one of our most popular tour leaders.

SHIP

The Nautilus Explorer

The 25-passenger 116-ft *Nautilus Explorer* is the world's first and only fully SOLAS certified dive boat. This beautiful, tough ship carries the same certificates as the largest cruise ships in the world. She has a steel hull and superstructure, sea stabilizers, and sails at 12 knots maximum service speed. Equipped with two submersible cages and two surface cages, all with easy entry ladders, 12 passengers can be in the water at a time.

Cabins feature windows and/or portholes, air conditioning, and private bathrooms with showers. Luxurious 600 thread count Egyptian sheets cover comfortable beds. Internet is available via Wi-Fi.

Imaginative and fresh cuisine is proudly served. Soups are handmade, and bread, pastries, and deserts are baked on board. Food is plentiful with ample snacks and up to four meals per day with a choice of entrees.

After a full day of exploring, soak under the stars in the hot tub or relax in the main salon entertainment center, which features comfy couches, a great library, a well-stocked bar, and select evening video showings, presentations, and slide shows.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Sep 4 ~ Fly to San Diego and travel to Ensenada, Mexico

Arrive in San Diego. Transfer to the Best Western Plus Island Palms Hotel and Marina for a welcome reception with drinks and snacks. If you would like to arrive earlier, we can arrange your overnight at the Best Western Plus Island Palms Hotel and Marina. After the reception, you will travel by private bus to the dock in Ensenada, Mexico to board the *Nautilus Explorer*.

Sep 5 ~ Arrive at Guadalupe Island

Sail to Guadalupe Island and arrive around dinnertime. You can spend time on the deck searching for sea birds such as cormorants, boobies, and auklets along with occasional pods of dolphins or enjoy the ride indoors in the lounge or library.

Guadalupe Island is a volcanic island with a rugged landscape located 180mi off the west coast of the Baja Peninsula and about 250mi southwest of Ensenada. It consists of two ancient overlapping shield volcanoes, the largest, Mount Augusta, rises to about 4,250ft in the north and the smaller, El Picacho, about 3,200ft in the south. The small island measures about 22mi by 6mi with a coastline of rocky bluffs and dense forest above.

Sep 6-8 ~ Cage diving with great white sharks

Spend three full days with great white sharks in your choice of surface cages or 30ft submersible cages. Cages are open from 6:30am to dusk, so you have the freedom to spend the day in the cages for as much or little time as you like. You can expect between 125ft and 150ft of water visibility enabling you to see sharks approach from beyond the anchor line through the clear, cobalt blue water. In the evenings after dinner, you can scan the shark identification catalogs to try to ID sharks you swam with that day.

Guadalupe is considered one of the best spots in the world to see great white sharks, possibly because of its large population of pinnipeds. Many island or marine species that live near Guadalupe also frequent the Channel Islands. Guadalupe was the last refuge for the northern elephant seal and the Guadalupe fur seal in the 1890s. The island has been a pinniped sanctuary since 1975.

Sep 9 ~ Sail back to Ensenada, Mexico and transfer to San Diego

You'll spend most of the day at sea en route back to the mainland. Keep your eyes peeled for seabirds, bow riding dolphins, and maybe some whales. You'll arrive in the Ensenada port in the afternoon and a private bus will transfer you back to San Diego airport or to the hotel if you are extending your stay.

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Costs and Cabin Options

Type	Description (see <i>Deck Plan</i> on page 9)	Cost per Person
Triple Stateroom	Triple occupancy, two lower twin-sized beds and one upper twin-sized bed, porthole, air conditioning, and private bath. On Lower Deck. (Stateroom H)	\$3,800
Double Stateroom	Double occupancy with two twin-sized beds, porthole window, air conditioning, and private bath. On Lower Deck. (Staterooms C, D, E, F, G, and J)	\$4,100
Superior Suite	Double occupancy, picture window, air conditioning, wardrobe, and private bath. The Rosario and Nautilus can have one quasi-king-sized bed or two full-sized beds, and doors that open directly outside. The Dofleini has one queen-sized bed and a TV. On Upper Deck. (Dofleini, Rosario, Nautilus)	\$4,625
Single Stateroom	Single occupancy with one full-sized bed, porthole window, air conditioning, and private bath. On Lower Deck. (Staterooms A and B)	\$5,125
Premium Suite	Double occupancy with one queen-sized bed or two twin-sized beds, separate lounge with convertible futon, picture windows, air conditioning, desk, wardrobe, two TVs, and private bath with full bathtub. On Upper Deck. (Emerald)	\$5,250

Costs are per person depending on cabin type, single, double, or triple occupancy, not including airfare. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

We reserve the right to charge for cost increases that occur between when we set tour prices and the date of travel, for example, changes due to the cost of lodging and transportation. If you are a single traveler and you desire, we will find a roommate for you. If we cannot find you a roommate, we will not charge you a single supplement. Single rooms are subject to availability.

Please note that we cannot guarantee a specific cabin number. If changes occur, we will do everything in our power to assign a cabin of equal or greater value as the cabin type specified in your reservation. Deck plan, cabin arrangements, and cabin amenities are subject to change by ship operator.

Payment Schedule

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	\$1,000
Second	September 15, 2020	\$1,500
Final	April 1, 2021	Remaining Balance

Payments will be due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit to confirm reservation of your space. For reservations made after a due date, all past payments will be due with registration. By sending your initial deposit, you agree to accept our payment schedule and cancellation policy as a contract. If payments are still outstanding two weeks after the due date, your space may be forfeited.

Cancellations

Refunds are given depending on the time left before departure according to the following table. The cancellation fee of \$300 per person can be applied toward another tour if reserved within six months of the cancelled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferrable. Consider purchasing trip cancellation insurance that could reimburse your trip costs in the event of your cancellation.

Dates	Forfeited Amount per Person
On or before January 31, 2021	\$300
February 1 to February 28, 2021	10% of tour cost
March 1 to March 31, 2021	40% of tour cost
On or after April 1, 2021	100% of tour cost

Included

- All leaders, transport, park entry fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.
- Meals from breakfast on September 5 through lunch on September 9.
- Welcome reception with light snacks and drinks at the Best Western Plus Island Palms Hotel and Marina on September 4.
- Group transfer from the hotel to the *Nautilus Explorer* on September 4 and group transfer from the *Nautilus Explorer* to the San Diego Airport (or Best Western Plus Island Palms Hotel and Marina) on September 9.
- Five nights aboard the *Nautilus Explorer*.
- Non-alcoholic beverages while aboard the *Nautilus Explorer*.
- Port fee of \$65 per person.
- DVD of photos and videos taken by crew while on board.
- Trip Materials – information about flights, packing, entry and departure requirements, airport transfers, gratuities, etc.

Not Included

- All airfare, airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees.
- Passport and visa fees.
- Transfers from the San Diego Airport to the Best Western Plus Island Palms Hotel and Marina on September 4.
- We can arrange extra hotel nights for an additional cost.
- Gratuities – tipping is, of course, discretionary, however we suggest budgeting about \$200 to \$300 total per participant for the ship crew.
- Rental gear (wetsuit, mask, booties, and diving gear). We will send you more details about rentals in the Trip Materials.
- Dive insurance, but it is required for you to purchase. For more information see our [travel insurance webpage](#).
- Trip cancellation insurance. For more information see our [travel insurance webpage](#).
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Reservation Form.

SIGN UP

Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Reservation Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

[Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris](#)

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OTHER DETAILS

Climate

September air temperatures range from 60–80°F (15–26°C) during the day and can drop to 45–55°F (7–12°C) at night. Water temperatures average 72°F (22°C). September is the tail end of the dry season for the Pacific Coast.

Fitness Level and In-water Experience

Minimal fitness is required to join this shark safari, but your fitness and in-water ability enrich the experience. Getting in the water is not required; we've shared this safari with travelers who had wonderful experiences shark watching from the ship. To get the most out of this safari you should be comfortable in the water and getting in and out of the water via a ladder. We recommend you spend time swimming at a pool or similar before your trip to make sure you are comfortable in water. If you would like to use the 30ft deep sea cages, you must be SCUBA certified.

Flights

Airfare is not included in trip costs. Detailed logistical information and the contact information for our recommended flight-ticketing agent are included in the Trip Materials we will send you. Please let us know if you are arriving earlier or staying later as we are happy to assist you with any extra overnights that you might want to arrange.

Flights you (or a travel agent) book: Arrive in San Diego, California (SAN) no later than 5:00pm on September 4. Depart from San Diego, California (SAN) after 9:00pm on September 9.

Seasickness

Don't let a fear of seasickness scare you away! For all but the most sensitive, seasickness is rarely a problem in this region. It's a good idea to bring medication if you get seasick or are unsure, but you may find that you do not need it after a couple days once you have your "sea legs." Even those who have experienced seasickness reported that the incredible wildlife and overall experience were well worth the temporary discomfort. Read our online suggestions for [coping with seasickness](#) and contact us if you have any concerns.

Conditions

- **Non-smoking policy:** We have a strict non-smoking policy. Smoking is not permitted at any time or any place during our tours.

- **Maximum time in nature:** We try to spend as much time in nature as possible, sometimes resulting in long days but giving you a more in-depth experience.
- **Itinerary route:** The itinerary route, stops, and plans are subject to change by unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, such as weather or road conditions.
- **Additional forms:** For some of our tours, you may be asked to fill out additional forms (e.g., medical questionnaire).
- **Medical conditions and travel risks:** Travel to remote places is exciting, but it is important to understand and accept the risks, both medical and logistical. Minor medical problems can usually be treated, but because we are often far from medical facilities, there can be no expectation for immediate medical treatment or evacuation, even in cases of trauma. Anyone with health problems needing close medical supervision should not consider going on this tour. Bring enough medication for the duration of the trip for any chronic medical needs, since pharmacies are usually not available. When you send your deposit and signed Reservation Form, you certify to us that you do not knowingly have any physical or other conditions that would create a risk for yourself or for other trip participants.
- **Use of drones/UAVs on tours:** Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), AKA drones, are not suitable for use on most Cheesemans' Ecology expeditions due to logistical constraints and in many cases, local and national laws or regulations. In some cases, such as on our polar voyages, we operate under environmental regulations that ban the use of recreational drones. Do not bring a drone on safari without contacting us first.

Conservation

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris is passionate about conserving the precious regions that we travel to and supports many conservation efforts. By visiting these areas, we contribute to sustainable conservation of these valuable wildlife habitats. We urge you to support conservation organizations that protect and restore natural habitats and write letters to tourism and government agencies to promote work in preserving wildlife.

We aim to make all our trips carbon neutral by splitting the cost of carbon offsetting with our participants. For your convenience, the optional donation amount for your half of the carbon offset will be indicated on your invoice. We source high quality offsets through CarbonTree Conservation Fund, a non-profit we helped found, supporting pioneering forest conservation in the Valdivian Coastal Reserve, a [Nature Conservancy project](#).

FAQS

What are the shark cages like?

The *Nautilus Explorer* has four shark cages. Two cages are submersible to 30ft and two remain at the surface. In both the submersible and surface cages, you will use a hookah breathing system with air coming directly from the boat's compressor. Do not worry if you have never used hookah systems before, because we will demonstrate its use and a divemaster will be with you in the cage at all times.

Do I have to be SCUBA certified for this safari?

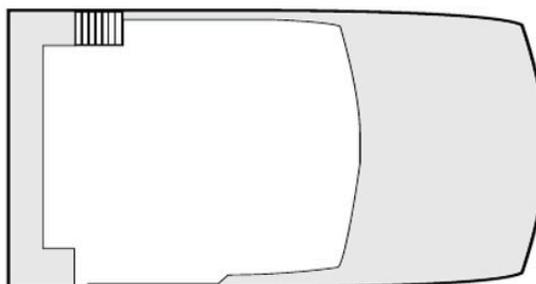
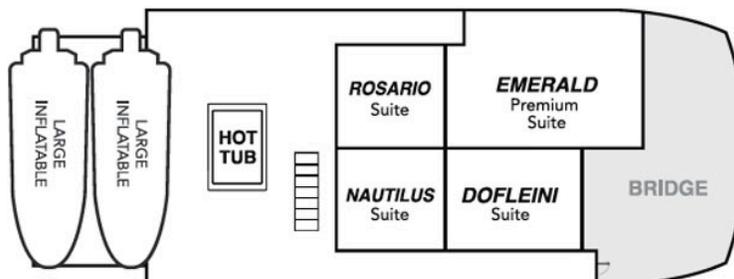
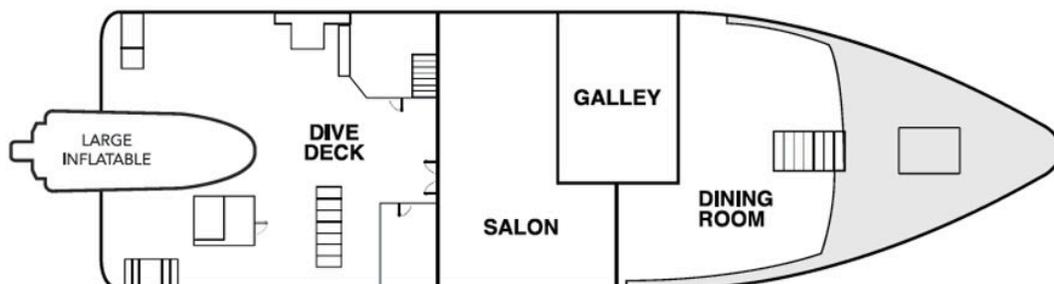
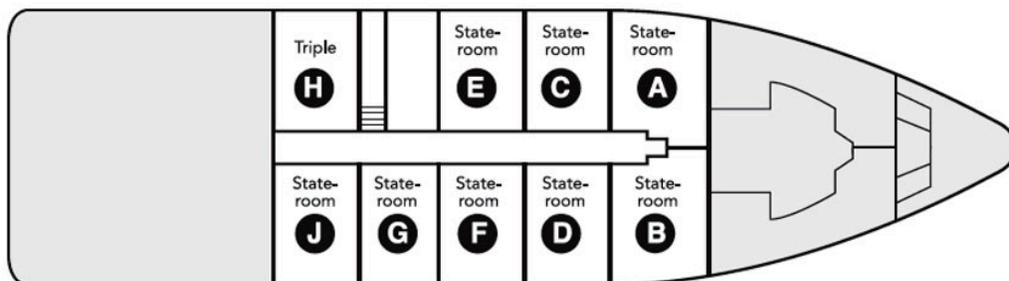
You do *not* need a SCUBA certification to enjoy lots of time with the sharks in the surface cages. If you are SCUBA certified, you can also use the submersible cages. If you are not certified, and want to use the

submersible cages, you should get SCUBA certified before this safari. The best resources to find SCUBA certification courses near you are: [PADI](#) and [NAUI](#).

Is cage viewing safe for the sharks and people?

Our goal is to keep our guests safe and also to protect the growing shark population. To that end, we teach and ask for responsible shark interactions that do not impact or change the behavior of these magnificent animals. We do not use oil, chum, or blood. A piece of tuna, wrapped in a burlap sack, is all the sharks need to know you have arrived. We do not feed the sharks at any time. Conservation efforts continue at night when you kick back in the salon and identify who you spent the day with. And should you discover that you hung out with a great white shark not yet catalogued, yes, the naming rights are all yours.

NAUTILUS EXPLORER DECK PLAN



See cabin descriptions under the *Costs* section on page 4.
Deck plan, cabin arrangements, and cabin amenities are subject to change by ship operator.