

# SOCORRO

AND THE REVILLAGIGEDO ARCHIPELAGO

23 February  
- 3 March 2022  
from  
**3,295 USD\***  
per person

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The Revillagigedo Islands (also erroneously known as the Socorro Islands) are a group of four volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean that lie 250 miles off Baja Mexico's southern shore. They are known for their unique ecosystem and are sometimes called Mexico's "little Galapagos".

These islands are a spectacular magnet for the [largest pelagic marine species](#) in the world. Schooling hammerhead, tiger, silky sharks, dolphins, clouds of jacks and barracudas, whale sharks and manta rays. Mantas are the claim to fame for the Revillagigedo Islands, with reliable sightings throughout the season. The magical dive site called "The Boiler" on San Benedicto Island is a submerged seamount and cleaning station. More than a half dozen Mantas can be seen at a time at this pinnacle, where they often interact with divers for hours at a time. [The mantas here are very friendly](#) and seem to enjoy the presence of humans. This is truly an exceptional place to get the full manta experience!

This destination can only be dived by a live aboard dive vessel. It takes approximately 30 hours each way to reach the islands. The underwater topography consists of rocky outcroppings, boulders and some walls, but the true highlight is the incredible density of large pelagic species in an epic, open-ocean setting.

## CITIZEN SCIENCE - GET INVOLVED!

On this expedition, you'll have the opportunity to experience and participate in [cuttingedge conservation research](#) to protect one of the ocean's most majestic animals. Manta Trust scientists will be collecting photographic identification images of all mantas encountered throughout the expedition - a task that guests are welcome and encouraged to participate in. All new manta rays will be added to the database and guests will be invited to name these new mantas. Every manta sighting is crucial information in developing effective management and conservation strategies for these increasingly vulnerable animals.



## SOCORRO

### EXPERTS

#### Dr. GUY STEVENS

In 2005 Guy Stevens founded the Maldivian Manta Ray Project and in 2011, with the collaboration of other scientists and conservationists, he founded The Manta Trust with the aim of helping to conserve manta ray populations globally.



Guy's research, especially in the Maldives, has been showcased in dozens of popular articles and several television documentaries including BBC, ITV and National Geographic. Guy's research contributed to the declaration of Baa Atoll as a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve in 2011. In 2013, Guy and the rest of the Manta Trust team were key players in the listing of both species of manta on Appendix II of CITES, followed by securing further protection for reef mantas and mobula rays under the Convention on Migratory Species. In 2016, the Manta Trust were key players in the successful efforts to place all species of mobula rays under Appendix II of CITES, joining their larger manta cousins.

Guy has recently completed his PhD focusing on manta rays at the University of York in the UK and currently continues leading the Manta Trust work globally.

#### Dr. ANNIE MURRAY

Annie has long had a keen interest in the marine world and soon qualified as a PADI IDC Staff Instructor. After her first encounters with mantas in Mozambique she decided to make the switch to work in marine conservation and completed an MSc in Marine Environmental Management at the University of York.



After her MSc, Annie worked as Research Officer for the Maldivian Manta Project for 2 years and enrolled as a PhD student at the University of York to study the social behaviour of the mantas of Baa Atoll.

After having completed her PhD, Annie worked as Project Manager for the Caribbean Manta Ray Project and continues working with the Manta Trust to further the conservation status of these endangered species.

Throughout the expedition, Dr. Stewart and Dr. Murray will be providing lectures and informal talks on manta ray research and conservation. In addition, they will conduct general presentations on marine biology, with a focus on the diverse and productive marine ecosystems of the Revillagigedo Archipelago.

*The Manta Trust experts may change without notice based on staff availability*



Furthermore the Manta Trust will officially launch on this expedition the *IDtheManta* software, an application developed to automatically match manta photo-ID. Both participants and staff members will be trained to the use of this new tool.

#### THE MANTA TRUST

A UK registered charity, the Trust's mission is to advance the worldwide conservation of manta rays and their habitat through robust science and research, by raising awareness and providing education, influence and action. The Manta Trust was formed in 2011 to co-ordinate global research and conservation efforts for these amazing animals, their close relatives and their habitat.

**Data Collection:** The Manta Trust has a number of research projects worldwide, incorporating population data, research on manta movements, and genetic analyses - to name a few - in order to better understand the general ecology of manta and mobula rays.

#### THE NAUTILUS EXPLORER

Utilizing every square meter of space, the 13 cabin, 35 m Nautilus Explorer liveaboard launched in 2000 is the flagship vessel of the Nautilus fleet. It features an all new super-large dive deck and water level platform combined with picture windows around the main salon and separate dining room. The ship has 4 types of cabins. One large premium suite is available on the Upper Deck. It has a separate bedroom and lounge, each with a large flat screen TV, en-suite with full size bathtub and shower. Three Superior Suites on the Upper Deck with large windows, desk and wardrobes.



The Lower Deck has 8 comfy Staterooms with central air conditioning. Six of the Staterooms have side by side beds. Two of the Staterooms have large full beds and additional storage area. An affordable Triple occupancy Stateroom is also available. The Nautilus Explorer's mission is to make the guest forget that they are on a boat.

#### BOOKING

To reserve your place on this Socorro Manta Expedition, please send an email to Niv Froman via [info@mantaexpeditions.com](mailto:info@mantaexpeditions.com).

Payment and booking for this Manta Expedition will be handled by our trip partners **Nautilus Liveabards**.



\* Price is for 8 nights trip and includes 4 dives per day, accommodation, full board meals, non-alcoholic beverages, end of trip DVD and onboard facilities. Price does not include 5% tax adjustment, redeemable Park Fees, Port Fee (65 USD/dive day), Internet (100 USD), Nitrox, crew gratuities and gear rental.

Room category prices per person: Premium suite USD 4,795, Superior Suite USD 4,195, Stateroom double shared USD 3,695, Stateroom Single USD 4,618.75 and Stateroom triple shared USD 3,295.