

WHALE SHARKS OF ISLA MUJERES



Isla Mujeres

Francisco Hernandez de Córdoba arrived on the island he would name Isla Mujeres ("Island of the Women") in 1517. He chose this name after the many images and idols of women erected by the Maya as offerings to the goddess Ixchel, a deity concerned with fertility, love and the moon. It was a place where the Maya prayed for the prosperity of their land, for the health of their unborn children, and for alleviation of their illnesses.

Isla Mujeres is located eight miles off the coast of Cancun, Mexico, and one hour door-to-door from Cancun International Airport. With clear turquoise waters, white sand beaches, and almost perfect year-round weather, the island is a haven for beach and water sport enthusiasts alike. Approximately five miles long and less than a half-mile wide, the island is also ideal for exploration via golf cart, moped or bicycle. The island's center, a vibrant fishing village with many shops and

restaurants, is a short walk from the hotel. Due to its close proximity to Cancun and Riviera Maya, Isla Mujeres is also a wonderful starting point for discovering the Yucatan and its many archaeological sites.

Whale Sharks

Whale Sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) are harmless sharks, not whales. They are the largest fish in the ocean, reportedly reaching over 50' (15 m) in length and over 27,000 lb (12,500 kg) in weight. The largest known aggregation of these massive sharks occurs yearly near Isla Mujeres and the east coast of the Yucatan Peninsula, with up to 420 whale sharks observed in a single aerial survey.

Whale sharks are filter feeders, scooping plankton and other tiny organisms from the water. Although they have colossal mouths and thousands of tiny teeth (like velcro!), whale sharks are docile fish and it is entirely safe to snorkel alongside them while they feed. Each whale shark encounter allows for two people to enter the water at a time, alongside a guide. While watching sharks you may also see large manta rays, dolphins, and turtles, all of which are abundant here during the summer months.

Itinerary

DAY 1 Cancun to Isla Mujeres

Welcome to Mexico! After arrival at the Cancun International Airport you will be transferred to the Gran Puerto Cancun dock to catch your ferry to Isla Mujeres. Your ticket for the ferry will be given to you by the transfer driver. Upon arrival to Isla Mujeres you will be transferred to the Playa la Media Luna Hotel to check in to your room. The remaining part of the day you'll have free to explore Isla Mujeres and enjoy the amenities of the hotel.

DAY 2 Isla Mujeres Whale Sharks

Rest, relax, explore! This day is yours to spend as you wish. We will have tours arranged or you can explore the island, relax at the hotel pool and beach, or go snorkeling or scuba diving.

DAY 3 Isla Mujeres Whale Sharks

Continental breakfast at the Playa la Media Luna lounge area prior to 7:30 AM departure from the PEMEX dock in downtown Isla Mujeres. See and snorkel with the Whale Sharks of Isla Mujeres. Return to Isla Mujeres between 2 & 3 PM with time to explore the island or relax at the hotel pool and beach.

DAY 4 Isla Mujeres

Continental breakfast at the Playa la Media Luna lounge area prior to 7:30 AM departure from the PEMEX dock in downtown Isla Mujeres. See and snorkel with the Whale Sharks of Isla Mujeres. Return to Isla Mujeres between 2 & 3 PM with time to explore the island or relax at the hotel pool and beach.

DAY 5 Isla Mujeres Whale Sharks

Continental breakfast at the Playa la Media Luna lounge area prior to 7:30 AM departure from the PEMEX dock in downtown Isla Mujeres. See and snorkel with the Whale Sharks of Isla Mujeres. Return to Isla Mujeres between 2 & 3 PM with time to explore the island or relax at the hotel pool and beach. Group farewell dinner and cocktails.

DAY 6 Isla Mujeres to Cancun

Depart from picturesque Isla Mujeres by ferry to the Cancun mainland. Transfer to Cancun International Airport.

Accommodations

Playa la Media Luna is an intimate beach hotel with a very casual atmosphere, all decorated in soft colors with traditional Mexican style. It is ideally located on the secluded "Half Moon Beach" on the downtown Northern tip of Isla Mujeres. The "Half Moon Beach" took its shape from being a natural barrier reef with vibrant undersea life.

The hotel has an air conditioned breakfast area with a small living room equipped with television and high speed wireless internet service. It also provides spa services. The property has a sandy beach, fresh water pool and lounge area with a wooden bar. A two minute walk from your room takes you to the reef protected North Beach with its calm and shallow turquoise waters, ideal for swimming.

All rooms and suites feature: air conditioning, television with international channels, ceiling fan, mini refrigerator, safe deposit box, alarm, tile bathrooms with shower, coffee maker, beach towels, maid services, front desk area wi-fi connection, use of beach, pool and general areas.



What To Bring

Space is always limited when traveling abroad, so please pack your gear in soft bags for easy stowage. Clothing should be lightweight, comfortable sportswear. Include a few warmer items for those cool days, synthetic quick dry clothing for days on the boat, sandals or soft-soled shoes, high SPF reef-safe sunscreen, a wide brimmed hat, sun glasses, and a wind breaker or jacket. Also bring comfortable clothing for evenings out on the town and exploring the island. Your snorkeling gear should consist of a mask, snorkel, pair of full foot fins and a lightweight wetsuit. If you wear a minimum 2mm full wetsuit, regulations currently allow you to be exempt from wearing the required flotation vest.

Climate and Weather

The average temperature in June and July on Isla Mujeres is around 80 degrees, with moderate to high humidity. Evenings can be quite a bit cooler, with a breeze. The summer months can bring precipitation but the storms generally pass by quickly. The early part of official hurricane season (June through November) coincides with whale shark season, though September and October are the months when tropical storms and hurricanes are most likely. Nevertheless, it is always a good idea to purchase travel insurance.

Guide & Staff Gratuities

Guide and Staff gratuities will be at the discretion of each guest and are not included. We prefer that guests reward the guides and staff based on their performance. It is customary to tip 10% - 15% of the package price.

Dates and Pricing

JULY 8th to JULY 13th, 2023

\$2395.00 p.p. double occupancy, \$2995.00 single occ.

What's Included

All arrival and departure (airport, ferry and hotel) transfers to and from Isla Mujeres, all accommodations, continental breakfast (boat day departures), all boat fees and taxes, limited golf cart usage, box lunch, snacks and refreshments on board, welcome cocktail orientation, farewell dinner, ground transfer gratuities.

Not Included

Trip Interruption or Cancellation Insurance, International airfare to Cancun, Mexico, food and beverages (unless listed above), sundries, personal items, excess baggage fees and guide/staff gratuities

Terms and Conditions

A non-refundable deposit of \$800.00 per person for the Whale Sharks of Isla Mujeres expedition is due within 7 days of your reservation, and final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. All payments are non-refundable. We recommend the purchase of a cancellation insurance policy in case of unexpected changes in your plans. Accident, medical, and baggage insurance are also recommended. Ask your travel or insurance agent to help you with these details. You will be required to complete and sign a "Waiver Of Claims, Express Assumption Of Risk, Release Of Liability, And Indemnity Agreement" form at the time of your initial reservation confirmation.