



Tales from the Deep Blue

Apr. 2003

Whale Sharks...No way!

Imagine this: flamingos, white sandy beaches, WHALE SHARKS, a boat ride to a deserted island, WHALE SHARKS, whale sharks and more whale sharks. Well, Mitch, Diego and friends went to an extraordinary place in Mexico last year and have brought us a sweet, sweet trip for people who want to see more than the



lovely Caribbean reef right outside our doorstep.

Isla Holbox (Hole bosh) is located in the Gulf of Mexico just 4 hours from Playa Del Carmen. Few know about the natural wonders of this tiny island and even fewer know about the whale sharks that annually gather in the Gulf during the months of June, July and August. After Diego and Mitch's experience last year we had to put an all-inclusive trip together for our favorite friends, our customers.

This four day all-inclusive trip (when I say all-inclusive it means some beer is supplied not ALL beer) will be offered during June, July and August 2003. Transportation, food, refreshments and accommodations are included and each trip will have an Abyss employee as your guide. If you are lucky there may even be two of us tagging along to make this the excursion of a lifetime. No one else is offering this trip so here is your chance to take advantage of our expertise, sit back and enjoy. The trip will consist of 3 nights at an Isla Holbox Hotel and two full day boat excursions.

One expedition will have us playing and frolicking with the Whale Sharks (the guys saw nine last year late in the season) and the second trip will be to a remote island that has great snorkeling and the promise of a fresh ceviche lunch! In total we will be spending four glorious days together.



The trip will be offered each week from Wednesday to Saturday but as always we will try to be flexible. The cost for the trip is \$425.00 USD per person so email us to reserve your spot. (This is only for the Holbox trip. If you need a flight to get here then this is not included) WE anticipate that the trips will sellout fast so check your calendars and book your spot! If you have any further questions check the website for photos and more trip details and if you have more questions email us at www.abysssdiveshop.com.



Continuing your Dive Education...Por que?

Thousands of divers join us in the Mexican Caribbean each year and many ask the same question. Should I take my advanced course, should I do a specialty? Each time we respond with the same answer. 'Any courses to make you a better diver are recommended and encouraged'.

But why would we say this? Continuing your diving education is like anything you do, the more knowledge you can obtain the better you are at your sport. The better you are at your sport the more pleasurable the sport becomes. Increased knowledge empowers you, increases your ability and enhances your pleasure.

As instructors, we have witnessed the difference in a divers capability when they engage in advanced or specialty courses. In addition to this, there is a personal sense of achievement that feeds your sport/hobby. It is the combination of these benefits that makes continuing education a worthwhile activity to engage in.

Specialty or advanced courses can be completed in a small period of time so it will not interfere in your other vacation activities (are there other vacation activities other than diving? HMMMMM..) Advanced diving knowledge will also open up other dive destinations to you when planning your next trip (are there other dive vacation destinations other than Playa? HMMMMM....)

So do some personal research on either the PADI www.padi.com or SSI www.ssi.com websites and determine your personal diving goals. If you are not sure what is involved in the courses, email us. If you are torn between courses and seek further education, ask one of our experts. Chances are they have completed the course and can outline the advantages.



Jorge Saldana

Jorge joined the Abyss Dive Team in October 2002 as our second boat captain. Born in Veracruz, Mexico, he has been an asset to the shop and helps the divers when they are getting ready for their dives in the open water. As a rescue diver, he is a wonderful asset to have above the water looking out over us. He has enjoyed his time at the Abyss so much, he recruited his son, Cristian, as his right hand man and mariner. The Abyss continues to live up to its name as a family affair this time truly having generations of families working with us.

Is your wetsuit really yours?

During the wine dive Rick ended up with an XL Akona shortie wetsuit. The funny thing is he owns a large wetsuit. He has emailed to see if everyone could check their Akona wetsuit to make sure they have the right size. If you discover that you have his wetsuit please email him at rschoenecker@new.rr.com

The Abyss Dive Shop and Training Centre

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