MEXICO

Home

Mexico is a big country in the south of North America. It has been visited by tourists for a long time. They come to see the Mesoamerican cultural sites, they spend time on the beach and they come to dive.   
Mexico is touched by the sea on two sides. On the east, you have the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. On the west, there is the Sea of Cortez/Baja California and the Pacific Ocean. They are different. On the East, you have the warm waters and the colourful reef fish. It is nice for doing your first courses around the Riviera Maya. The West will give you the big and scary pelagics while diving in colder waters. This is more for the experienced divers unless if you go to Puerto Vallarta.

CENOTES

COZUMEL

ISLA GUADALUPE

Isla Guadalupe is a volcanic island 240km/150mi west of the Baja California Peninsula. This island is the best in the world to spot Great Whites. You can only reach it by liveaboard. The boat trip over is up to 20h. You can leave from Ensenada, Mexico or San Diego, California, USA.

All the dives done, are cage dives. No need to bring fins… Although some liveaboards let you out of the cage. If you dare of course! There are also no dive sites. Cages are lowered in the water and the sharks show up. It’s even not needed to chum them. They are just there. It’s a terrific place for taking pictures. The visibility reaches up to 45m/150ft.  
The shark season is from July till November. The seas are calmest at that time. Water temperatures are between 18C/65F and 23C/75F.

Apart from the Great whites, you may also encounter fur seals, dolphins and tunas around the island. On the way over, there is a good chance to spot different types of whales, mantas, dolphins and lots of seabirds.

SEA OF CORTEZ

The Sea of Cortez or the Baja California is a marginal sea between the Baja California Peninsula and the Mexican Mainland. The sea is 1126km/700mi long and covers 160.000 km2/62.000sq mi. It is home to an unique and rich marine ecosystem. There are the different types of whales, like the Humpbacks, Pilot Whales, Grey Whales, Blue Whales, Fin Whales and Bottlenose Dolphins. You can see Hammerheads, Whale Sharks or the endemic Mexican Horn Shark. Sea Lions are very common and numerous at Los Islotes, La Paz. And as last, there are the Manta Rays and Mobulas. The whales and whale sharks are only to snorkel with. You aren’t allowed to dive with them but you never know they just show up on the dive.

You can dive the Sea of Cortez the whole year through but different times of the year will give different animal sightings. The best time for visibility and calm seas is between July and December, although there can be the run-off from a hurricane. September and October bring in the Whale Sharks. From December to June, there is more wind and visibility is less because of plankton blooms. The advantage is that this does give more sightings of Mobulas and Whales.  
The water temperatures range between 18C/65F in winter and 30C/86F in summer.

The Cortez Sea is dived from on a liveaboard, or you go day diving from 3 destinations: Loretto, La Paz or Los Cabos down South. From Cabo San Lucas, you can also take a liveaboard to another great diving destination, the Socorro Islands.

Sadly enough, the encounters with big groups of Hammerheads and other fish are becoming less and less normal. Even though significant areas in the Sea of Cortez are part of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, there is lots of overfishing. The Mexican government tries to help and tries to create new parks. The local government and the fisheries don’t care. Money comes first…