

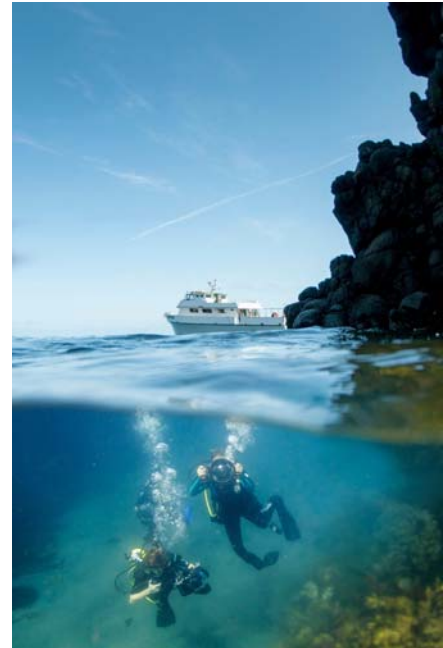
[Menu](#)

Scuba Diving

California scuba diving in the kelp forests around the Channel Islands and Big Sur is a unique and different experience for divers more accustomed to tropical waters. Diving in kelp is similar to a walk in a lush forest of trees with these plants growing to heights of more than 120 feet. Giant kelp helps support this rare aquatic ecosystem, providing domicile for more than 800 species of marine life.

The knowledgeable Truth Aquatics crew will provide you with many scuba diving opportunities to discover a wide variety of underwater landscapes. There are untold opportunities for viewing and photographing a panorama of underwater vistas. Unlike the coral reefs of tropical waters, the giant kelp forests of the Channel Islands add a third dimension.

The rocks are covered with brightly colored bouquets of anemones, starfish, and garlands of hydrocoral, sponges, and sea fans. Moray eels,



Ready to book your
scuba diving
adventure?

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availability →](#)

octopus, abalone, rock scallops, California spiny lobsters, and a host of other sea creatures inhabit rock fissures and crevices. Divers may chance upon giant black sea bass weighing in at 500 pounds, or halibut, lingcod, vermilion rockfish, calico bass, bat rays and more. Friendly seals and sea lions pay visits to divers to show off their graceful swimming abilities. Migrating gray whales, blue whales, hump back whales, and schools of dolphins, are familiar sightings during daylight channel crossings.

Each island offers a different and unique collection of sea life so even the most discriminating diver can find a variety that will keep them entertained. From swimming with the sea lions at the Santa Barbara Island rookery to the virtually unexplored waters of Big Sur, where everything seems bigger, these California coastal waters have something to offer every diver.

Getting to Your Diving Destination:

On most multi-day liveaboard dive trips with Truth Aquatics we will plan departure times to travel during the night hours so that you arrive at the dive site first thing in the morning. The location

will dictate departure time so check the schedule closely before traveling so that you arrive on time.

The boat is always open the night before departure so that you have plenty of time to board the vessel, sign in on the ship's manifest, store your equipment, and settle into a comfortable bunk. When you hear the engines of the boat come to life you may remain in bed or awake to watch the boat maneuver out of the Santa Barbara Harbor as we get underway to your dive destination.

Water Temperature and Visibility:

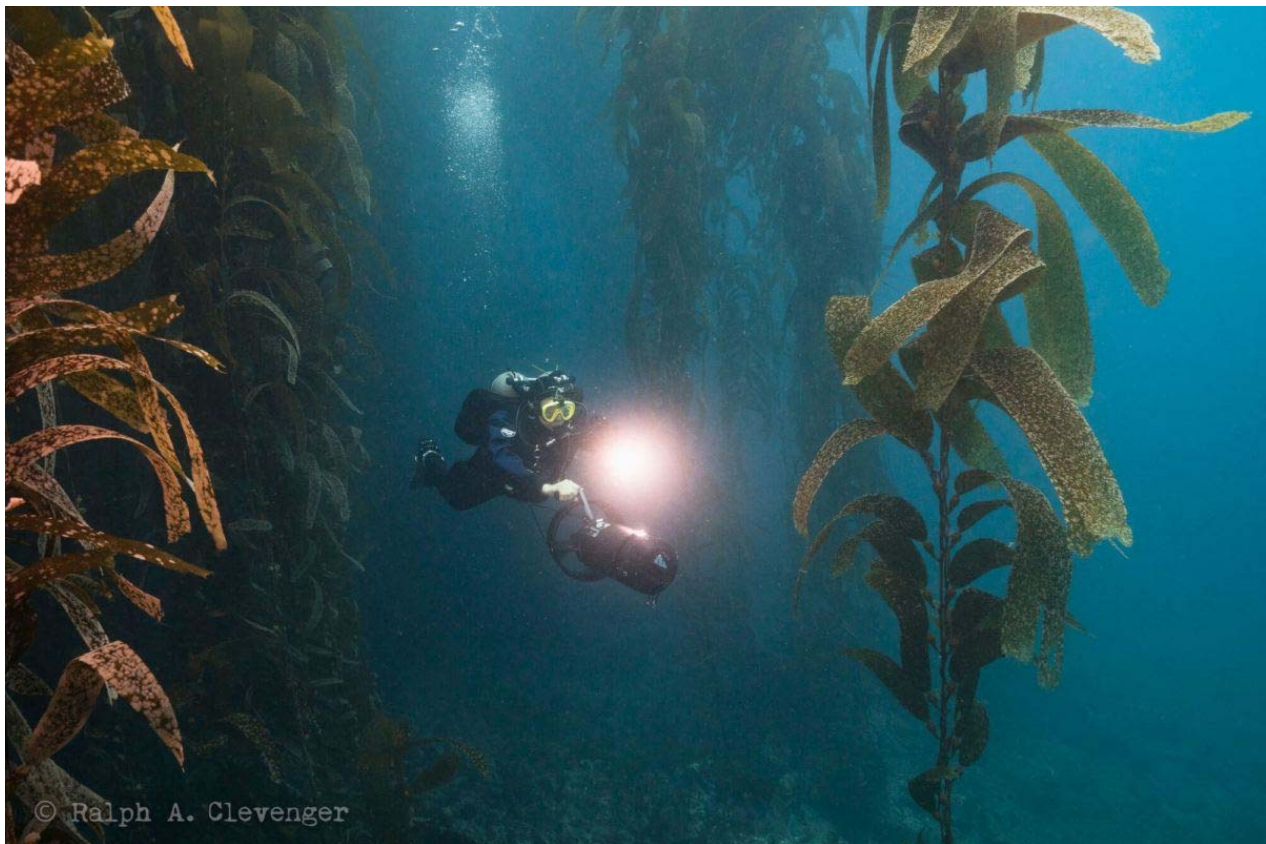
Water temperature can vary up to 15 degrees from the Northern and Southern ends of the island chain with an average of 50-60°F in winter and 60-70°F in summer. Visibility can range from 40 to 100 feet and on rare occasions sometimes even up to 150 feet.

Underwater Photography



The Truth Aquatics custom built fleet of liveboard dive boats was created with both the diver and photographer in mind. These camera gear friendly boats include at host of amenities for the photographer; camera tables, rinse tanks, lines at all exits to help lower your gear into the water, and a friendly crew to help you in and out of the water.

From the majestically lit kelp forests and coral banks to colorful nudabranchs and playful sea lions, the Channel Islands are an underwater delight for creating beautiful imagery. Rich in diversity, the terrain can change from island to island ensuring that no two visual experiences are the same.



Much of the surrounding waters of the islands are protected by the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary. These protected waters offer some of the most visually distinct animal and plant life in the world, making it one of the best diving destinations to create stunning photography and captivating video.

Truth Aquatics has been host to the who's who of underwater photographers and videographers. The likes of Ernest H. Brooks II, Jean Michelle Cousteau, Norbert Wu, Howard and Michelle Hall, Tom Campbell, Marty Snyderman, Mike Degruy, and many more have chosen Truth Aquatics and the Channel Islands as one of their preferred destinations for creating beautiful topside and underwater imagery.

Whether you are an amateur or professional photographer or filmmaker a dive trip with Truth Aquatics will ensure that exciting and memorable images are to be made and that both you and your gear will be well cared for.

Discovery Dive Trips

Caters to divers of all skill levels, and are a great option for newly-certified divers or those who have been away from the sport for a while. With a more hands-on direction and guidance from the captain and crew, these trips are designed to give the diver some valuable boat diving skills at a relaxed entry level location.

What is a Discovery Dive?

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Ready to book your
scuba diving adventure?

[Visit the calendar for
availability →](#)

The Trip...

With a price between \$411 – \$420 per person, the trip includes all meals, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages and air refills. Our fleet departs from the Sea Landing, in Santa Barbara, at 4am and everyone is encouraged to board the night before after 8pm. Aiming for more protected waters we plan for 5 dives on the first day and 3 on the last day of the trip. Enjoy great freshly cooked meals aboard and hang out around the BBQ with your favorite drink after your day of diving. After 2 fantastic days of great diving, we dock back in Santa Barbara Harbor around 5pm.

There is no better way to learn about the lifestyle of boat diving than one of these trips. Gain valuable skills that will enable you to dive from any liveaboard boat around the world!

Trip dates are available on our online calendar and for more information please contact our office. Group discounts and incentives are available for dive shops and dive clubs. Please, contact Truth Aquatics and ask for our group sales representative. Gear reservations

are a separate fee and can be made at the time of reservation with the [SEA Landing Dive Center](#).

Underwater Hunting



Fishing at the Channel Islands can be very exciting and rewarding. Over the years divers have come from all around to spearfish both on Scuba and free diving, grab lobsters and take rock scallops. Truth Aquatics firmly believes in observing all fish and game regulations and we endorse responsible conservative fishing practices. There is nothing like eating fresh seafood

harvested from the ocean but we all need to take part in conservation in order to sustain a healthy resource.

Over the years the fish and game and user groups made up of commercial and recreational fisherman, citizens, and biologist established Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) around the Channel Islands National Park and Marine Sanctuary. These areas are no fishing zones but divers can dive within them with fish onboard as long as fishing equipment is stored and not in use.

Please check our calendar to find a trip that suits the type of fishing you are interested in. Specialty fishing trips are scheduled throughout the year and many groups allow hunting as part of their charter.

Everyone who desires to fish must possess a California Fish and Game License along with appropriate stamps and report cards. You can purchase your fishing license [online](#) or at Sea Landing prior to your departure.



California Department of
Fish and Wildlife

Shipwrecks

The Truth Aquatics crew is experienced with first hand knowledge of the many shipwrecks that can be dove in the Santa Barbara Channel. Wreck diving offers an altogether different experience from the reefs and giant kelp forests

that surround the Channel Islands. Diving shipwrecks presents new challenges and experiences for scuba divers. These large structures offer up a unique playground to explore and provide artificial reefs that have become home for many types of marine life.

The Santa Barbara Channel has a long and rich maritime history and the shipwrecks found in these waters reflect that. From recent times with the 1980 wreck of the Spirit of America to the 1853 wreck of the sidewheel steamer, the SS Winfield Scott, wreck diving in the channel provides you with a wonderful diversity of options to explore.

Diving the Santa Barbara Channel Islands with Truth Aquatics



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[Back to Top](#)



[Activities](#) [Destinations](#) [Calendar](#) [Charters](#) [Trip Info](#) [About](#) [Contact Us](#) [\(805\) 962-1127](#)

Welcome Aboard!

At Truth Aquatics, your Captain and crew will do everything in their power to make your trip an enjoyable one. This Short briefing describes some features of Truth Aquatics liveaboard dive boats and the best way to utilize them. Please take a few minutes and read this as it includes valuable safety information as well. Truth Aquatics maintains a "hands off" policy for our diving customers. What this means is that who you dive with, how deep you go, or how long you stay is your business. Our crews are there for you to assist in any way we can but we do not monitor your personal diving habits. Certified divers are required to have the training necessary to dive safely, but for any reason you are uncomfortable making a particular dive, for whatever reason, do not hesitate to sit it out. Enjoy your trip and be a "[Responsible Diver](#)".

Jump down to the section you are interested in

[Adventure Info](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Trip Planning](#)

[Packing List](#)

[Handbook Info](#)

Adventure Info

Get information and read frequently asked questions for each of our adventure offerings.

[The Boat](#)

[Single-Day Diving](#)

[Multi-Day Diving](#)

[Limited Load Diving](#)

[One-Day Excursion](#)

[Multi-Day Excursion](#)

The Boat

▲ Lifesaving Equipment

All lifesaving equipment including lifejackets, and rafts are located on the sundeck behind the wheelhouse. Should the need arise, this is where a crewman will be passing out the equipment. Please review the placard located in each bunk for proper donning of jackets.

▲ Galley

Everyone is welcome into the galley with their wetsuits on and dripping wet. However, we do ask that you remove your hard equipment (tanks, and weightbelts) before entering.

In the morning, when you grab a cup, please put your name on it with a dry – erase pen provided by the boat. This will allow you to identify your cup to be used for the trip.

We recognize that many people have special dietary needs so please inform the galley staff early of the first morning of any special requests.

Meals will be served at the following times:

- Breakfast is served from 7 – 9 a.m. If you like to sleep in, there is always a variety of cereals, pastries, and fruit that will be left out until 10:30 a.m.
- Lunch is served from 12 – 1 p.m. If you would like to dive at that time, please understand that the Galley staffs have to move on to other jobs. We would be more than happy to help you put a plate off to the side, just ask.
- Dinner is usually served at 6 p.m.

▲ Bunk Room

Please do not smoke below decks. We also ask that you do not go into the bunk are wet! Try to bring up those items you may need throughout the day. Remember your bunk number so you can ask someone dry to get that something you may have forgotten.

▲ Shower Room

The shower room is located down the forward staircase on the Vision and Conception and in the stern compartment on the Truth. Please do your part to help conserve our on board fresh water supply by limiting yourself to one shower a day and not rinsing your gear in the shower.

▲ Drying Room

This room is located at the back of the boat accessible from the Main Deck. This is where you can hang your wetsuit to dry anytime you like. Warm air delivered from the engine room heats this area. There is also a clothes dryer for your towels and bathing suits. Please no wetsuits. Have courtesy to those with dried clothes, please take out and put them on top of the dryer.

▲ Kayak Rack

A kayak rack is provided for out-of-the-way storage of your kayak. Please ask one of the crew members to help in taking the kayaks off and on the rack. Please inform the crew about where you are planing to go and how long you will be gone. Flotation devices and wetsuits are recommended for protection from exposure. The boat is equipped with extra life jackets, please ask. For safety reasons we ask that you not hand anything from the kayak rack so that visibility is not hampered.

Scuba Diving: Single-Day Info

▶ Outer Islands

▲ Santa Cruz Island

Dives are slower paced, easier diving. Generally the current is minimal and the sites are of relatively shallow depth. These trips are ideal for divers who may not be used to boat diving, divers who have just been certified, or for those who have not been diving for some time.

▶ Rig Dives**▶ Wreck Dives****FAQ for Single-Day Diving****▶ How do bunks work on 1-Day trips?****▶ How many dives per day?****▶ Are towels and bedding provided?****▶ Do instructors receive a discount?****▶ Are non-divers allowed aboard?****▶ Do non-divers pay full price?****▶ What are non-divers allowed to do?****▶ Will there be alcohol on the trip?****▶ Can you bring coolers?**

Scuba Diving: Multi-Day Southern Channel Islands Info

▲ General

Southern Islands Dives occur mainly in the summer months and during October. These trips will visit destinations other than the Northern Channel Islands, like San Clemente Island, Catalina Island, San Nicholas Island, or Cortez Banks. These trips are always marked on the calendar with their destination and departure time.

FAQ for Multi-Day Southern Channel Islands Diving

- ▶ What is different about the Southern Islands?
- ▶ What is the itinerary for a Southern Islands Dive?
- ▶ What are Southern Islands Departure Times?
- ▶ Why do these trips cost more?
- ▶ Will there be alcohol on the trip?
- ▶ Can you bring coolers?

Scuba Diving: Multi-Day Northern Channel Islands Info

▲ General

All Truth Aquatics dive trips include meals, snacks, beverages, and air fills onboard the boat. Unless otherwise noted, all Truth Aquatics dives visit the Northern Channel Islands. Water temperatures can vary from mid 50s during the winter and spring to upper 60s during the summer and fall. The habitat is best described as Rock Reef and Kelp diving. 30-50 ft. visibility is average, though it can exceed 100 ft at times.

▶ Guided Diving

▲ Air Fills

With our onboard compressors can fill tanks to 3000 psi. Deck staff is always on hand to fill tanks during a diver's surface interval, so there is no time lost. Nitrox is also available!

▲ Destinations

On multi day dives are the Northern Channel Islands. They will begin at San Miguel Island, weather permitting, and usually work down the chain visiting a different island each day. We will also do one night dive per night, as long as conditions.

▲ Boarding / Departure

Procedures on multi-day dive trips and multi-day island excursions are similar. Passengers may board the boat any time after 8pm on the night before departure, and all trips depart at 4am.

FAQ for Multi-Day Northern Channel Islands Diving

▶ What Skill Level is required?

▶ How many dives will we get?

▲ Do I have to board the night before? / Is it possible to board in the morning?

Passengers are welcome to come down in the morning to board. If they would like to board in the morning, they must be paid in full for the trip beforehand, and must need no rental dive gear. Also, we recommend being here at least an hour before departure time.

▶ Is hunting allowed onboard?
▶ What are the license requirements for hunting onboard?
▲ How many people fit on the boat? On the Vision and Conception, 35 passengers, and on the Truth 30 passengers.
▲ Will there be alcohol on the trip? Alcohol is not included, nor is it available for purchase. You are welcome to bring your own.
▶ Can you bring coolers?

Scuba Diving: Limited Load Dive Info

▶ General
▶ Food
▶ Skill Level

FAQ for Limited Load Dive

▶ What Skill Level is required?

▶ How many dives will we get?
▶ Do I have to board the night before? / Is it possible to board in the morning?
▶ Is hunting allowed onboard?
▶ What are the license requirements for hunting onboard?
▶ Will there be alcohol on the trip?

Excursions: 1-Day Island Adventure Info

▶ General
▶ Destination
▶ Itinerary

FAQ for 1-Day Island Adventure

▶ Where can I rent my gear?
▶ Is Diving allowed?
▶ Is Hiking allowed?

▶ Are children allowed onboard?
▶ What is included in the ticket price?
▶ What are the rental prices?
▶ What is the price of the trip?

Excursions: Multi-Day Island Adventure Info

<p>▲ General</p> <p>Multi-Day Island Excursion trips are sort of combination hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, relaxation trips that visit multiple islands over several days, usually one island per day. Just like dive trips, island excursions include all meals, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages in the trip price.</p>
▶ Destinations
▶ Itinerary
<p>▲ Boarding / Departure</p> <p>Procedures on multi-day island excursions are similar to those of multi-day dive trips. Passengers may board the boat any time after 8pm on the night before departure, and all trips depart at 4am.</p>

FAQ for Multi-Day Island Adventure

▶ What is the difficulty of hikes on the islands?
▶ Is Diving allowed?
▶ Do I have to board the night before? / Is it possible to board in the morning?
▶ Are children allowed onboard?
▶ Are the hikes guided or self-led?
▶ Will there be alcohol on the trip?
▶ Can you bring coolers?

Other Frequently Asked Questions

▶ Where do I park my vehicle?
<p>▲ What time should I board the boat? When does it depart?</p> <p>Multi-Day trips to the Northern Islands depart at 4am. Southern Island departure times will vary depending on destination. We encourage groups to spend the night on board the boat the night before departure. Unless otherwise notified, you may board at 8pm on the night before, and our trips return to the dock by 5pm.</p>
<p>▲ What kind of sleeping accommodation you have aboard aboard?</p> <p>Our boats are equipped with a large bunk room complete with single and double wide bunks. Clean blankets and pillows are provided, however it is recommended to bring a sleeping bag for further comfort. The bunks are equipped with privacy curtains and a reading light as well as storage for personal belongings. The boat also includes private changing rooms and hot showers both inside and outside.</p>
<p>▲ Do I receive any orientation once I board the boat?</p> <p>Yes. Please notify the members of your party to read the "Welcome Aboard" sheets when they arrive. These describe where everything on the boat is located and are displayed on the galley tables. The captain will give an orientation and safety talk the first morning and address any questions or concerns.</p>
<p>▲ How do you keep track of passengers?</p>

It is imperative that each person prints his or her name on the boat manifest upon arrival. The manifest is located on a table at the entrance to the galley. No roll call is taken before departure, and it is the individual's responsibility to be sure everyone in the party is onboard before departure.

▲ **Are food and beverages included?**

All Multi-Day trips include a hot breakfast, lunch, dinner, and dessert. Snacks, fresh fruit, cookies, candy, and hot and cold drinks are also available throughout the day. We do not provide alcoholic beverages. You are welcome to bring any beverages onboard. Be sure to notify Truth Aquatics in advance if you have any special dietary needs.

▶ **Am I allowed to fish during the trip?**

▲ **Do you have a Lost & Found?**

Yes. Please check the boat thoroughly before disembarking. Truth Aquatics maintains a lost & found should any personal items be left behind. Truth Aquatics will do everything in its power to locate the missing item and arrange for its safe return. Truth Aquatics cannot accept responsibility for any items left behind and holds unclaimed items for up to 1 month.

▶ **Can I leave comments about my trip?**

▶ **Is gratuity included?**

▲ **What's your policy about drugs onboard?**

Zero tolerance! As mandated by the Coast Guard, no illegal drugs are permitted on board.

▶ **Can I rent gear/equipment with you?**

Trip Planning

When planning your trip with us, please review the following items for any questions you may have...

▶ **Open Boat Trips**

▲ **Dive Charters**

Contact the group that has the trip dates you are interested in. You will find their number on the calendar section of this website. They will be able to answer any questions you may have regarding the type of diving, cost, itinerary, etc.

▶ Multi-Day Dive Trips**▲ Travel Plans**

Once you have booked a trip, it is advisable to arrive in Santa Barbara and stay on board the night before the trip. You may board any time after 8 PM. Please look for the Welcome Aboard pamphlets (which will be laid out on the galley tables). They describe where everything is located on the boat. Also please look for the boat's manifest and please print your name on it legibly along with signing a "Statement of Understanding". No roll is taken prior to departure and it is everyone's responsibility to be on board.

▲ Trip Status

If Truth Aquatics needs to cancel the trip for any reason (i.e.: mechanical problems, lack of participation, weather, etc.), we will attempt to contact you by 3 PM two days prior to the trip. Please call 805-962-1127 if there is any concern regarding the trip status.

Truth Aquatics cannot accept responsibility for personal travel expenses incurred. It is advisable to purchase travel insurance at time of booking.

▶ Lost and Found**▶ Gold Cards****▶ Fishing****▶ Gratuity for the Crew****▲ Getting to Your Diving Destination**

On most multi-day liveaboard dive trips with Truth Aquatics we will plan departure times to travel during the night hours so that you arrive at the dive sight first thing in the morning. The location will dictate departure time so check the schedule closely before traveling so that you arrive on time.

The boat is always open the night before departure so that you have plenty of time to board the vessel, sign in on the ship's manifest, store your equipment, and settle into a comfortable bunk. When you hear the engines of the boat come to life you may remain in bed or awake to watch the boat maneuver out of the Santa Barbara Harbor as we get underway to your dive destination.

▶ Water Temperatures and Visibility

Packing List

▲ Scuba Diving

Diving Equipment:

- Certification card
- DAN insurance or equivalent
- Gear bag
- Mask
- Snorkel
- Fins
- 7mm wetsuit or drysuit with hood, gloves and booties (water temperature in summer mid 60's and in winter mid 50's)
- Wetsuit hanger
- Tank and BCD
- Weight belt and weights
- Dive knife
- Regulator with pressure gauge, depth gauge, compass, and decompression computer
- Dive Alert
- Safety Sausage
- U/W light and chemical light (Cyalume) for night dives
- Save-A-Dive kit (extra fin strap, mask strap, o-rings, silicon, tools, high and low pressure hose, batteries, bulbs, wet suit cement, zipper wax, etc.)

Personal items:

- Dress in layers for both warm and cool weather
- Low heeled rubber soled shoes for on board the boat
- Sleeping bag for extra comfort (Bunks are vinyl covered mattresses provided with pillows and blankets)
- Seasick Medicine (take seasick medicine 1/2 hour prior to departure if you have the tendency to get seasick)
- Swimsuit
- Towels
- Personal toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Camera (dry-bag or zip lock bag suggested)
- Alcoholic Beverages (if desired)

▶ Excursions and Adventures

Handbook Info

Please take a look at our General Information Handbook.

[You can download the PDF here →](#)

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