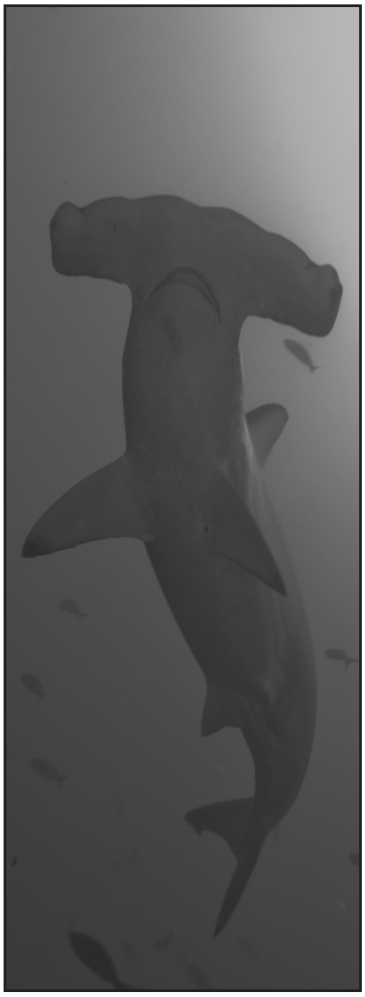
Get More from your Diving - with Dr Richard Smith

BIG ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS IN THE SOCORRO ISLANDS

25th January - 3rd February, 2014

Join Richard aboard the luxury live-aboard Solmar V, for some of the world's best marine megafauna encounters. Over the 8 night cruise, we will meet incredible inhabitants of the 'Mexican Galapagos'. These remote islands attract plentiful sharks, mantas, whales and other pelagics, promising a week of memorable diving.

The Socorro Islands, known locally as Las Islas Revillagigedo, are a cluster of four islands located 250 miles south of Cabo San Lucas, at the tip of Baja California. Lying along the same deep water ridge systems as the Galapagos and Cocos Islands, they share many of the same amazing big animal species. This is one of the best places in the world to frolic with the giant oceanic manta (*Manta birostris*) that can attain a wingspan of 7 metres! Many sharks are common in these waters too: hammerhead, silky, galapagos, silvertip and even whale sharks can be found here. Divers have seen up to seven different species on one dive!



Between January and March, divers have also frequently encountered pods of wild bottlenose dolphins. And if this doesn't fulfil your cetacean requirements, these islands are also home to a large population of humpback whales that come to breed and calve. In the last few years the frequency of underwater encounters with them has increased dramatically.

With a rich fauna of endemic fishes, found nowhere else in the world, abundant pelagics and marine megafauna this is some of the best diving on earth!

The Solmar V is a luxury live-aboard dive vessel, with a crew of 10 and a maximum of 22 divers. Each cabin comfortably sleeps two divers and is outfitted with private ensuite, air conditioning, TV/DVD player and two beds. The salon boasts a large-screen HDTV, VCR, DVD player and stereo system. Hot breakfasts, 3-course lunches and dinners as well as plenty of snacks will keep you well fed too.

Dr Richard Smith is a British born marine biologist and underwater photographer. He has written dozens of articles, published internationally, with a focus on marine life and conservation. In 2011 Richard was awarded the first PhD on the biology of pygmy seahorses. With an undergraduate degree in Zoology and Master's in Marine Ecology he has a broad knowledge of both terrestrial and marine biology to share during your trip.

Tour Costs

Diver - USD $3665 (Please contact us for non-diver rates)

Tour Includes

- 8 nights double occupancy in a standard cabin (add $105 per person for deluxe cabin subject to availability)
- 3-4 dives per day
- Free Nitrox for EANx certified divers
- All meals and beverages (including beer and wine at dinner only)
- Arrival night in local hotel (double occupancy)
- Round trip airport transfers
- Carbon offset
- Mexican tax (11%)

Tour Excludes

- Airfare
- Alcoholic beverages other than during dinner
- Chamber support fee ($15)
- Tips

Bookings

- for bookings and/or with any questions, please contact Richard or Terri:

Email - Richard@OceanRealmImages.com
or Terri@DeepBlueAdventures.com
Telephone - 0208 196 2449 (UK) or
888-266-2209 (USA - Toll Free)

Mission Statement: We at Ocean Realm Images are extremely passionate about protecting the marine environment. The focus of our trips will be to observe and photograph marine life in an environmentally friendly way, without harming or stressing animals. We want everyone to enjoy their diving, but not to the detriment of the reef and its inhabitants.