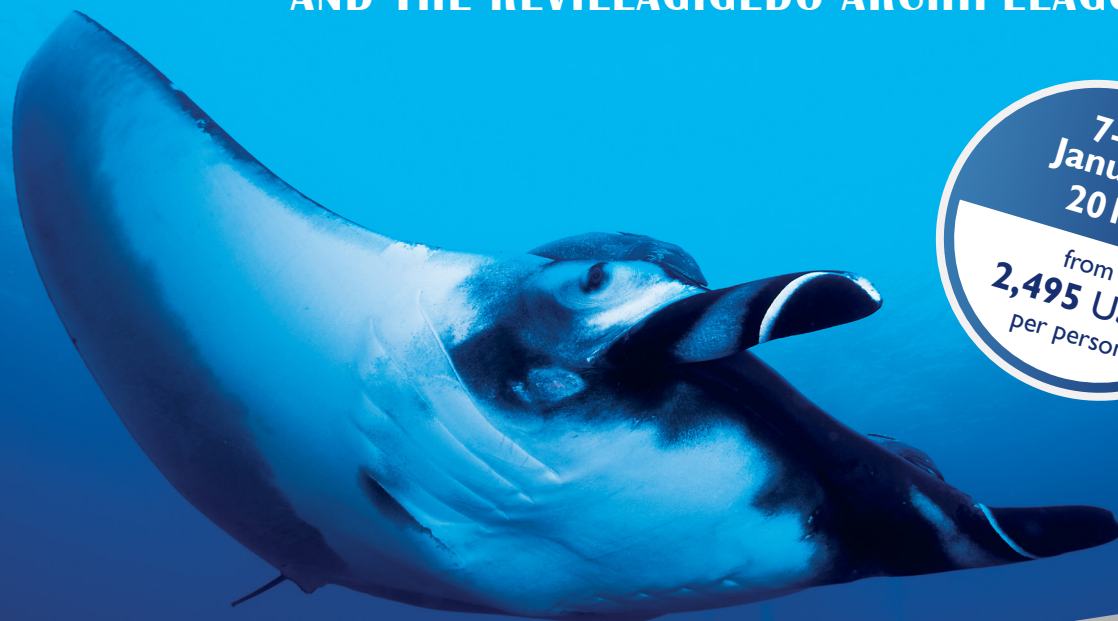




# SOCORRO

## AND THE REVILLAGIGEDO ARCHIPELAGO



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The Revillagigedo Islands (also erroneously known as the Socorro Islands) are a group of four volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean that lie 250 miles off Baja Mexico's southern shore. They are known for their unique ecosystem and are sometimes called Mexico's "little Galapagos".

These islands are a spectacular magnet for the [largest pelagic marine species](#) in the world. Schooling hammerhead, tiger, silky sharks, dolphins, clouds of jacks and barracudas, whale sharks and manta rays. Mantas are the claim to fame for the Revillagigedo Islands, with reliable sightings throughout the season. The magical dive site called "The Boiler" on San Benedicto Island is a submerged seamount and cleaning station. More than a half dozen Mantas can be seen at a time at this pinnacle, where they often interact with divers for hours at a time. [The mantas here are very friendly](#) and seem to enjoy the presence of humans. This is truly an exceptional place to get the full manta experience!

This destination can only be dived by a live aboard dive vessel. It takes approximately 30 hours each way to reach the islands. The underwater topography consists of rocky outcroppings, boulders and some walls, but the true highlight is the incredible density of large pelagic species in an epic, open-ocean setting.

### CITIZEN SCIENCE - GET INVOLVED!

On this expedition, you'll have the opportunity to experience and participate in [cuttingedge conservation research](#) to protect one of the ocean's most majestic animals. Manta Trust scientists will be collecting photographic identification images of all mantas encountered throughout the expedition - a task that guests are welcome and encouraged to participate in. All new manta rays will be added to the database and guests will be invited to name these new mantas. Every manta sighting is crucial information in developing effective management and conservation strategies for these increasingly vulnerable animals.



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### EXPERTS

#### ROBERT D. RUBIN, Ph.D.

Marine biologist Robert Rubin holds a Ph.D. degree in comparative physiology and marine ecology. His long term field studies of oceanic manta rays have been chronicled and aired internationally by The Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, National Geographic and TED presentation.



Dr. Rubin is the founder and director of the Pacific Manta Research Group. In addition to scientific investigations, the organization is involved in the protection and conservation of oceanic manta rays, as well as other marine animals and habitats. Recently he has served on a binational committee in a successful effort to have the Revillagigedo Archipelago established by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

He has received numerous awards for outstanding contributions to college and university teaching including the NISOD award for outstanding contributions to higher education and "The California College and University Professor of the Year".

Presently Dr. Rubin serves as a member of the scientific advisory/foundation boards of Save Our Seas, Sea Watch, Laguna de Santa Rosa, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary and the Manta Trust.

#### NIV FROMAN

Niv has been passionate about nature for as long as he can remember.



After completing a Masters degree in Environmental Management, Niv started working as a marine biologist in the Maldives, an experience that brought him closer to marine life and developed his passion for the underwater world.

The drive to learn more about manta rays brought Niv to the Manta Trust, with whom he worked as the Project Leader for the Maldivian Manta Ray Project from 2013 to 2017. Since 2017 Niv lead a new research project on the foraging ecology of the manta population in the Chagos archipelago.

Niv also manages the Manta Trust global manta -ID database and leads the development of the *IDtheManta* software and platform.

Throughout the expedition, Dr. Rubin and Niv will be providing lectures and informal talks on manta ray research and conservation. In addition, Niv will conduct general presentations on marine biology, with a focus on the diverse and productive marine ecosystems of the Revillagigedo Archipelago.



Furthermore the Manta Trust will officially launch on this expedition the *IDtheManta* software, an application developed to automatically match manta photo-ID. Both participants and staff members will be trained to the use of this new tool.

#### THE MANTA TRUST

A UK registered charity, the Trust's mission is to advance the worldwide conservation of manta rays and their habitat through robust science and research, by raising awareness and providing education, influence and action. The Manta Trust was formed in 2011 to co-ordinate global research and conservation efforts for these amazing animals, their close relatives and their habitat.

**Data Collection:** The Manta Trust has a number of research projects worldwide, incorporating population data, research on manta movements, and genetic analyses - to name a few - in order to better understand the general ecology of manta and mobula rays.

#### THE NAUTILUS UNDERSEA

The Under Sea is a beautiful ship, full of character and history. Formerly the Undersea Hunter, this famous little ship is well known for 26 years of service to Cocos Island with the Undersea Hunter Group of Costa Rica, as well as starring in many IMAX films and other movies. The newest addition to Nautilus Liveboards has undergone 2 massive refits, including stretching the hull by 20 feet, repowering, a new bow, the construction of a new full-width superstructure, and the addition of our requisite hot tub, al fresco top deck lounge and stability system. She is a beauty!



#### BOOKING

To reserve your place on this Socorro Manta Expedition, please send an email to Conny Bretz via [expeditions@mantatrust.org](mailto:expeditions@mantatrust.org).

Payment and booking for this Manta Expedition will be handled by our trip partners **Nautilus Liveboards**.



\* Price is for 8 nights trip and includes 4 dives per day, accommodation, full board meals, non-alcoholic beverages, end of trip DVD and onboard facilities. Price does not include Port & Park Fees (65 USD), Internet (100 USD), Nitrox, crew gratuities and gear rental.

Room category prices per person: Premium suite USD 4,095, Stateroom double shared USD 2,895 and Stateroom triple shared USD 2,495.