



DJIBOUTI WHALE SHARK RESEARCH EXPEDITION JANUARY 5TH-13TH, 2018

Spaces are available for a few intrepid travelers to join this expedition led by the Shark Research Institute and Sharkwatch Arabia, supporting the ongoing research of the Marine Conservation Society Seychelles. The week-long trip will study the whale sharks that aggregate in the Gulf of Tadjoura.



Djibouti hosts the smallest and youngest whale shark population found anywhere; most animals are between 3 and 5 meters, with 2 meter animals occasionally seen. Participants will serve as research assistants, documenting whale sharks by photo identification, collecting and analyzing plankton samples and observing night feeding behavior. Our research goal is to better understand these young animals, where they come from and why small whale sharks congregate in the area.

Our home for this liveaboard trip is the M/Y Deli, a Turkish gulet that accommodates 12 people in shared rooms with individual baths. Whale shark interactions are snorkel only, but excellent diving is available from the boat at sites such as Ras Korali, Moucha Island and La Faille, a convergence of tectonic plates.

Tour price: \$2200 (estimated) double occupancy includes shared accommodation on the boat, double occupancy hotel for the nights of January 5th and 12th at the Sheraton Djibouti, all meals on the boat, transfers to and from the port and a tax-deductible donation to the Shark Research Institute. Not included are airfare to Djibouti, Djibouti visa, soda and beer on the boat and meals off the boat. Post-trip activities are available to explore the geologic formations and salt lakes of the East African Rift.



The research site is remote, and accommodations are basic, but the experience is unmatched. Share this unique expedition to a stark and beautiful corner of the world with a great group of people and animals you simply cannot see elsewhere. For details contact trip leader Jennifer Schmidt at jennifer@sharks.org.