

THE SHARK RESEARCH INSTITUTE

DJIBOUTI WHALE SHARK RESEARCH EXPEDITION

November 30th – December 8th, 2018

Join this expedition led by SRI Director of Science & Research Dr. Jennifer Schmidt to study the whale sharks that aggregate in the Gulf of Tadjoura. Djibouti hosts a fascinating aggregation of the youngest whale sharks found anywhere; most sharks are between 3 and 5 meters, with 2-meter animals occasionally seen. Participants will act as research assistants, documenting whale sharks by photo identification, collecting and analyzing plankton samples and hopefully observing night feeding behavior. Research goals are to understand where these animals come from, why young sharks congregate in the area, and where they go when they leave.



Our home for this liveaboard trip is the M/Y Deli, a Turkish gulet that accommodates 12 people in shared rooms with private baths. The chef prepares a daily menu of local and continental cuisine. Whale shark interactions are snorkel only, but excellent diving is available from the boat at sites such as Ras Korali, Turtle Point, Moucha Island and La Faille, a convergence of tectonic plates. Whale shark interactions and diving are available each day, and participants may choose any combination of activities.

Tour Price: \$2200* includes shared accommodation on the boat, double occupancy hotel for the nights of November 30th and December 7th, all meals on the ship, hotel and port transfers, and a tax-deductible donation to the Shark Research Institute. Not included are airfare, Djibouti visa, soda and beer, and meals off the ship. Post-trip excursions are available to explore the geologic formations and vast salt lakes of the East African rift valley.



The site is remote, and accommodations basic, but the experience is unmatched. Share this unique wildlife expedition to a stark and beautiful corner of the world. For details contact the trip leader at jennifer@sharks.org.

*Payments made through PayPal will incur an additional \$50 per person processing fee.