

CAGE DIVE WITH GREAT WHITE SHARKS



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Dive San Francisco's Farallon Islands

One Day Adventure – Departs from San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf

Location: Farallon Islands - San Francisco, California

Dive Season: Select Dates in October & November

Shark Sighting Chances: About 50/50

Dive Certification Necessary? No

Shark Size: Huge Adults

Water Visibility: Often murky.

Cost: \$475 to \$825 per person

Attractant use: Decoys Only

Wetsuit Rental Included? Yes

Food provided on the boat? Yes

Trip insurance required? Yes

Passport required for US citizens? No

Minimum Age: 16**

**age exceptions sometimes made



800-644-7382 or 941-346-2603

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ONE DAY SAN FRANCISCO GREAT WHITE SHARK ADVENTURE

The Farallon Islands – Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary



Our one-day shark adventures depart from Marina Bay Yacht Harbor in Richmond, CA. The marina is in San Francisco's East Bay, about 30 minutes from San Francisco and Oakland airports. We typically depart for the Farallones before sunrise so we can be on location and have our shark cage in the water during peak sighting times.

Getting to and from the Farallones is half the fun. You'll travel to the Farallones aboard the Derek M Baylis, a specially-designed 65 ft sailing research vessel. If we're blessed with wind, we'll sail. If not, we'll motor. The Baylis provides a safe, comfortable and environmentally-friendly platform for research and education. She's the same vessel utilized by the Sanctuary's long-time white shark researchers.

Typical travel time to the islands is about three hours. During the trip offshore, we'll serve breakfast and our certified naturalist will fill your brain with shark facts and Sanctuary trivia. We may even show some shark videos!

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Cage Diver - \$825 No dive experience is necessary. A certified dive instructor will teach you everything you need to know. Our shark cage floats so your head will be just below the surface and you'll be able to breathe from an air hose while you move about the cage, taking photos and having fun. All you need to bring is a mask and warm clothes for before and after your dive. We'll provide a wet suit for you to wear during your dives, meals and refreshments onboard the Baylis. *Price does not include mandatory trip insurance.*



Topside Observer - \$475 Help scan the horizon for fins and watch for breaching sharks attacking their prey. Be sure to dress warm and in lots of layers. This option is perfect for those who want to see sharks but prefer to stay dry. We'll provide meals and refreshments onboard the Baylis. *Price does not include mandatory trip insurance.*

IMPORTANT TRIP DETAILS

There's No Shark Guarantee

We go to the best places at the best time of year with the best shark crew, but we cannot guarantee you'll see sharks. Our shark diving expeditions take place within a protected marine sanctuary. We are permitted to use a seal-shaped decoy to increase sightings, but **we are not allowed to bait**. We go to observe white sharks feeding on the local seal population. If we see no sharks, THERE IS NO REFUND. If we are unable to deliver your adventure due to weather or unforeseen mechanical problems, THERE IS NO REFUND. If we are forced to cancel your scheduled trip, we will work with you to reschedule your cage dive or top-side experience for a future date during the same calendar year, or will provide you with the information necessary for submitting a trip insurance claim. THE PURCHASE OF TRIP INSURANCE IS MANDATORY.

Seasickness Happens

There is a good chance you'll experience a bit of seasickness on our shark adventures. Seas can be rough. Even our experienced shark dive crew still gets seasick from time to time. You can help minimize your chances by taking a seasickness remedy both the night before your great white shark trip and the morning of your trip. If you do start to feel poorly on the ride out to the Farallons, our staff is there to help you. Often a little time on the deck in the fresh air is all it takes to make you feel better.

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The Derek M Baylis

Eco-friendly powered sailboat designed for offshore research and education.



Shark Diving FAQ

Do I have to be a certified diver to shark dive? No. Each trip is staffed with dive professionals who will teach you everything you need to know. We use a floating shark cage and surface-supplied air, so the experience of shark diving is a lot like snorkeling. If you stand on the bottom of the shark cage, the surface of the water will be just a foot or two above your head.

What is the minimum age to shark dive at the Farallones? This trip is not recommended for anyone under age 16. Younger divers or topside observers must obtain advance approval from Incredible Adventures. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or responsible adult. A typical San Francisco shark diving adventure lasts from 10-12 hours, so it is a very long day that begins before sunrise. Our boat travels roughly 25 miles offshore, across very rough waters, so there is the potential for seasickness. We recommend our [Bimini Shark Adventure](#) for young shark fans. In Bimini, the dive site is close to shore, making the dive day shorter, and the waters are generally warm, clear blue, and calm.

Are there any health restrictions for cage divers? All shark divers must be in reasonably good health and have enough upper body strength to get in and out of the shark cage, with minimal assistance. If you can pull yourself up and out of a swimming pool, you'll be fine. If you are above average in height or weight, please inform Incredible Adventures, so we can verify if we have dive equipment that will work for you. If you have asthma or other breathing issues, you should check with your doctor to see if breathing compressed oxygen is recommended. All participants will be required to certify themselves free from COVID-19 symptoms and may be subject to a pre-trip health screening.

Is there a guarantee I will see a white shark? No. If you don't see a shark, there is no refund. We will take you to one of the best places in the world to see great white sharks, at the best time of year, but we cannot control nature. The water at the Farallones is murky and we are not allowed to use chum, so the success rate in San Francisco is lower than at other white shark dive spots. Trust that we want to see sharks just as badly as you do! We've been operating our trips since 2005, so we know where sharks are most likely to be spotted, and will use decoys to help lure them close.

Shark Diving FAQ

Do you use surface cages or submerged cages? At San Francisco's Farallon Islands, a floating shark cage is used. This means that even if the cage were to break free from the boat (which has never happened and is NOT going to happen), it would continue to float. When you stand on the floor of the cage, your head is just a couple feet below the surface.

How do surface cages work? Surface cages are supported by a system of floats. Divers are provided with weight belts that allow them stand comfortably on the bottom of the cage with their heads just below the surface. People breathe through our hookah-like air supply system. At the Farallones, we don't use an actual air compressor, because the noise could potentially scare sharks and seabirds. Instead, we use air tanks, similar to those worn by SCUBA divers. Long hoses supply air through regulators to those in the shark cage.

Do I need to supply my own wetsuit? No. You are welcome to use one of ours, at no cost. When you purchase a cage diving adventure in San Francisco, you will be asked to supply your height, weight and shoe size. This will help us to determine the dive equipment you will need. We'll supply you with a 7mm wetsuit, hood, boots and gloves waiting for you on the boat. We do ask that you supply your own dive or snorkel mask, if possible. We have some available for borrowing on the boat, but it is always better to have one of your own. We have towels available on the boat for use.

Is it possible the trip will be canceled at the last minute? Yes. In the event a trip is canceled due to weather, mechanical or other issue, there is no refund. This is why we make it mandatory that shark tour participants purchase trip insurance that includes cancellation coverage. If a trip must be cancelled, you will be required to reschedule for another available date, or file a claim with your trip insurance company. Our Captain carefully monitors official marine forecasts, including the wave data reported by offshore weather buoys, and makes the decision as to whether we can safely travel offshore. Sometimes there is enough information available to support canceling a shark trip, days in advance. Other times conditions are "borderline" and a decision is made to wait until the morning of the trip, to see if conditions have improved or worsened. Our Captain and crew love white sharks and the Farallones and want to get there as badly as you do, but safety is always our number one priority.



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