

Shark Stewards Sanctuary Expeditions Instructions



Summary: We meet at the Vessel Amigo at Fisherman's Wharf (map, not Pier 39) by 0730 to begin boarding for an 0800 departure. Return is by 5:00-5:30pm- but can go longer by as much as an hour of we are onto something spectacular so please plan accordingly. These are Gulf of the Farallones-ecocentric expeditions.* We focus on sharks and shark conservation, and the marine wildlife in the Gulf of the Farallones but we learn about seabirds, whales, jellyfish and all the amazing marine life in our Sanctuary. We are shark specialists and conservationists, not a commercial enterprise, but lead these specialized conservation and education trips during what we call "Sharktober."

Note: our trips are ecosystem, conservation and education wildlife trips and not explicitly shark watching trips. We are one of the few outfits permitted under NOAA's *White Shark Stewardship Program*. However, we visit island waters in "the zone" at Shark Alley where the sharks prey on unsuspecting elephant seals and the chance of a predation event is higher than just about anywhere in the world. We do not spend all day searching for sharks. While we focus on shark biology and behavior and if at the island we may possibly see a predation or dorsal fin, these are not shark attractant trips. * Note- this is a wildlife experience. Although it is highly likely we will see many amazing species of wildlife, there is no guarantee of seeing sharks, whales or other specific wildlife. This is Nature.

Route: Once leaving the Bay our mission is to travel up the Marin shoreline seeking feeding humpback whales, seabirds and other wildlife. Conditions may change and alter the destination in the Gulf of the Farallones to areas with wildlife along the Marin coastline and in the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. On this trip we will investigate the Marin County shoreline as far as Drakes Bay and head west into deeper waters for whales and wildlife. Transit time to SE Farallon is around 3 hours depending on what we see. Unless unusual safety concerns arise there is no turning back. Refunds are not available once we have passed beneath the Golden Gate.

Directions and Parking: The vessel is berthed near 286 Jefferson Ave on the historic Fisherman's wharf waterfront between Castagnolas and Tarantino's restaurants. Look for the EAT CRAB sign across the street. Parking is located on surface streets on Sunday (free a few blocks south west on or at end of N Van Ness) or at the Anchor street Garage on Beach and Jones. We encourage and advise public transportation or ride shares.

Departure: Join us at the Vessel by **0730** to begin check in and boarding for an 0800 departure. **The boat cannot wait for latecomers.** We may depart in fog, light rain or small craft warnings (very unusual this time of year) at the captain's discretion, but the boat must leave on time. We will return to the Bay about 5:00-5:30 p.m. Allow for delays, especially if unusual wildlife is encountered. Trips may be truncated or rescheduled if weather conditions deteriorate. See departure and refund details below.

Age and Physical Requirements Youth are welcome but trips are limited to ages 8 and above due to the fatiguing nature of an all day trip. Parents or guardians must accompany minors and sign a waiver in their behalf. This vessel requires boarding by ladder and mobility is necessary. Please contact us for accommodations or special needs that we will attempt to accommodate you.

***Health** We monitor and observe the most recent advisories submitted by the Department of Health and CDC. If you have tested positive for Covid, are ill, or have fever or signs of illness within 72 hours of departure, do not attend for the safety and welfare of the other passengers and crew. Given adequate notice and availability we may reschedule on a later trip. Refunds are not possible.

**** Weather & Trip Rescheduling** Although this is the best time of year to cross the Gulf, weather can be a problem outside of the San Francisco Bay. Light rain or fog generally do not result in cancellations. Decisions regarding cancellation may be made on the morning of the trip in unusual conditions, but we make every effort to decide the evening before based on the most current weather report. We will make our best estimate of weather conditions the evening before and if conditions warrant a cancellation may be made. Notification will be provided via the Universe booking site.

Call into 415 350-3790 for a recorded message at 8:00 PM the evening before. We will make every attempt to inform you by email or this site beforehand but cannot personally contact the entire passenger list by telephone. We carefully assess the conditions and make the final call the evening before. For passenger safety and comfort, once the vessel has left the Golden Gate the final destination will be determined by the Captain. If conditions deteriorate this may become a coastal trip and the Gulf will only be crossed at the Captain's discretion. There is still plenty of wildlife viewing at Drakes Bay or Pacifica in more sheltered waters. No refunds can be given once the boat has left the dock.

Vessel, Safety and Access Accommodations: The vessel is seaworthy with all safety equipment, and US Coast Guard approved. Boarding requires climbing up and down a six foot ladder. The vessel cannot safely accommodate wheelchairs or persons on crutches or persons with mobility problems due to conditions at sea. Special accommodations may be made at the Captain/Owner's discretion but advance notice is required. The vessel is equipped with all required US Coast Guard life safety equipment including communications, fire extinguishers, first aid and man overboard equipment. For your safety, persons with leg or other injuries, immobility or pregnancy are discouraged. There is a marine bathroom onboard. To avoid clogging nothing that does not go into your mouth and through your system should go down the toilet.

Children This is a long day in the elements. Young children and babies are not allowed by the Captain. Youth over 8 accompanied by parents are encouraged! Please consult with us for making a reservation for anyone under the age of 8 years.

Sea Sickness The Gulf of the Farallones can have rough waters. We cannot recommend sea sickness remedies but have proved beneficial to passengers. Generally, they must be consumed prior to boarding to be effective. If you have not used these in the past, please check with your doctor first, and read the directions on the label. Please avoid colognes and perfumes or other scents or food that may make you or other passengers queasy. Remedies like dried ginger have results for many. Remedies include over-the-counter drugs, like [Dramamine](#) and [Bonine](#), and prescription products like scopolamine patches. A new FDA-approved device, called the ReliefBand, sends a small electrical current through the same spot and has had positive reviews. We do not recommend any particular remedy and cannot be held responsible for adverse reactions or effects. We do not endorse any specific remedies, but no alcohol and rest the night before, a good breakfast (low grease or fat), hydration and healthy snacks are all recommended. Here is a good survey article on [motion seasickness](#).

What to Bring

- Wear layers of clothing. Sweaters and sweatshirts covered by a waterproof jacket or rain slicker work best. Long spray proof pants, hats and gloves are helpful. Wind on the water can cool the temperatures significantly.
- No sandals or open toed shoes. Soft soled deck shoes, sneakers or sea boots are desirable.
- Cameras and binoculars. Covers, towels or plastic bags can protect your equipment from spray. Due to wildlife disturbance and safety aerial drones are prohibited.
- Field guides. We will have handouts and some references and displays aboard but you may want your own ID guides.
- Hats and sunscreen and sunglasses. You can still get a sunburn even in the fog.
- Food, Water and Drink. Food is not provided or available on board. There is some tap water aboard but please bring plenty of food, snacks and liquids. Water bottles- please keep it green and bring reusable bottles. Pretzels, crackers and carbonated beverages during the trip can be helpful to settle your stomach. Alcohol is discouraged. Smoking is Prohibited onboard.
- Please no large rigid coolers or large items- space is limited!
- Cabin space is limited. Waterproof bags or backpacks are advisable and encouraged. Waterproof storage is available.

FAQs

Where can I contact the organizer with any questions? yes- via Universe or at info@sharkstewards.org **Is my registration/ticket transferrable?** Yes- with prior notice to the operator. No transfers or changes within one week of departure without contacting the operator. Trips do not transfer from one year to the next.

Can I update my registration information? Yes, if you would like to substitute passengers up to a week from the date of the event. Any registration date changes can be made according to the refund and change terms below.

Do I have to bring my printed ticket to the event? A print out is helpful-but we will have a printed manifest and sign in list when you come aboard.

What is the refund and change policy? The captain and operator will make the determination to depart as weather dictates, generally the evening before based on the most recent forecast. Our trips may be canceled in advance due to undersubscription, hazardous weather conditions, Acts of God or emergency. If the trip is canceled by the operators for any of these reasons, we will honor your ticket on another trip this season or you may request a refund in full.

Passenger's Requesting Refunds If you need to cancel your reservation you will receive a full refund up to 7 days of booking your trip, less a \$25 processing fee for each canceled reservation up to a week before date of departure if we can fill your space. You may reschedule for one of our other trips within the calendar year at a \$25 change fee/ ticket, or transfer tickets to another passenger for the date of departure provided, provided you notify us no less than 7 days before date of departure. Passengers we move from trips we have had to cancel due to weather or other circumstances may request a transfer to a later date, or a refund in full within 48 hours after the trip is cancelled.

Cancellation within 7 days of the scheduled departure time cannot be refunded. You may have the option to attend a trip at a later date with the change fee provided there is space at the operator's discretion. Due to boat booking we cannot accommodate repeat scheduling changes. We will honor your reservation on other trips for the calendar year if given more than 7 days advance notice. In no event shall our liability exceed the obligation to refund more than the amount you paid to us or extend beyond 2025. If you should miss your trip due to illness, airline changes, cancellations, terrorist acts, acts of war, or related incidents, your fee will not be refundable. There are no exceptions to this policy. Once the boat has left the dock, no refunds can be given.

Other We discourage alcoholic beverages. Illegal drugs, smoking or vaping tobacco are not permitted on the boat. To be present to this adventure we request that you please turn off cell phones and pagers while on the boat. No drone aircraft are allowed for safety and to avoid wildlife disturbance. We attempt to make these green, low impact trips so please plan on minimizing plastic

or other single use containers and hang onto anything that might enter the ocean. We cannot be liable for loss or damage to your personal property while onboard the vessel.

Acknowledgement and Liability Receipt of this contract via ticket purchase acknowledges your acceptance of the above conditions. The leaders and Shark Stewards assume no responsibility for personal injury or loss of property on these voyages. These trips are not associated with The Earth Island Institute.

[Contact](#) the organizer for more details or questions.