

## NCRD Cozumel Women's Week I, May 5 – 12, 2013

\$1100, includes weekly double occupancy shared accommodations, 6 days breakfast and dinner, 5 days diving - 3 dives per day. Optional night dives available.

\$500 deposit to hold a space, \$600 balance due Feb 1 2013.

Welcome to beautiful Villa Coralina, a luxurious 4 bedroom 4 bathroom Beach House in Costa Del Sol, Cozumel's only beachfront gated resort of privately owned villas. Enjoy this week long tropical excursion exclusively with other NCRD members.

**Requirements:** Just about any diver can dive in Cozumel, though this trip is not tailored for novice divers. We'll be diving from a boat in a group of eight, with one dive leader and the dives will be tailored to the skills of the group. As such, we ask that you be an advanced certified diver, with 100+ logged dives. Deep dive experience, experience drift diving in variable currents, the ability to execute a safety stop in the blue, and to deploy your own safety sausage, are all required. If you are concerned that you may be the "weakest link," and thereby hold back the group, please have a discussion with the trip organizer before signing up.





Villa Coralina features king size beds in two huge Master bedrooms, plus two huge guest bedrooms with two queen beds in each, gourmet kitchen with large dining room, free US phone, US TV stations, and Wi-Fi. Also includes on-site chef service with freshly prepared breakfast and dinner daily.

Two pools and a sandy beach back the property. Relax and enjoy the Cozumel sunset while sipping a Margarita.

See the property video: <http://youtu.be/QH4Fy-k572M>

Diving will be by boat, three dives a day, Monday thru Friday, with optional night dives to be arranged. Depending on arrival time Sunday we may arrange for a checkout dive.

Our dive host for the week will be "Scuba With Alison" and our dive guide will be Alison herself. Alison began diving in Northern California in 1990 and became an instructor by 1992. She moved then to Cozumel and worked for Dive Palancar for several years before starting her own business in 2000. In 2007 she bought her own very fast boat, The Maximus, which is perfect for a group of 8. Alison and her captain, Carlos, will pick us up every morning from the dock behind our villa, and pride themselves in getting out to the reefs ahead of any crowds.

Optional night dives will be \$45 per person, 4 person minimum, Nitrox \$7 per fill, Equipment rental \$10 per day, computer or torch rental \$5 per day.

## About Cozumel Diving

It's easy to see why Cousteau and the crew of *Calypso* were awe struck when they discovered the reefs of Cozumel in 1959. Drifting with the current along the walls of Palancar with the huge towering coral mounds and lush forests of sea fans and sponges, your senses are overwhelmed with the colors of a French Impressionist's palette.

A journalist who recently went diving in Cozumel said the following about her experience:

"The water is so clear that diving is more like flying than swimming. You soar over an underwater mountain range, zooming over craggy peaks and swooping down into coral-studded crevices. Along the way, spiny lobsters wave their tentacles, anemones undulate their neon-colored fingers and queen angelfish, with their vibrant blue and yellow spade-shaped bodies, glide past. It's a buffet of marine life that includes Hawksbill turtles, nurse sharks, crabs, squid, and tiny snail-like creatures called flamingo tongues."

The Cozumel reef systems located off the western coast of the island have been preserved since July of 1996 by the Cozumel Reefs National Marine Park. With an area of over 29,000 acres the Cozumel Marine Park includes the federal maritime zone, as well as rocky and sandy beaches, mangroves and palm groves that support important biological communities. There are 26 types of corals, with over 100 subspecies, and 300 fish species, some endemic to the island like the famous Splendid Toadfish.

Programs that protect Cozumel's Loggerhead, Hawksbill, and Green turtles have significantly increased their population, and as a result can be seen frequently by divers.

Daily Park monitoring activities ensure an accurate and current diagnosis of the state of the reef, and provide vital information for its preservation programs and scientific research.

The reefs of Cozumel are part of the second largest reef system in the world. Covering nearly 115 million acres, the almost 700-mile-long Mesoamerican Reef stretches from the northern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico all the way to the Bay Islands in Northern Honduras.

The Mesoamerican reef is unique in the Western Hemisphere not only for its size but also because of its biodiversity. It is home to more than 65 species of hard coral and more than 500 species of fish, including the mammoth whale shark - the largest fish in the world. An ancient natural system, the reef is more than 225 million years old and functions as a natural barrier to storms and hurricanes.

Much like the rainforests, the reef systems are crucial links to all plant and animal life on earth.

## **Getting There**

United has connections to Cozumel via Houston, American via Dallas, and Delta via Atlanta, but the Cozumel flights are morning flights, thus requiring midnight travel on Saturday night to arrive on Sunday for the start of the trip. The upside is you arrive mid-day, in time for a checkout dive. Flights to Cancun are less expensive, and you can get there the same day, arriving late afternoon, but the rest of the transit features a couple hours of bus and ferry transit, and an evening arrival.

## **What's included, what's not, and the fine print.**

Included: Cozumel airport or town ferry transfers, 7 nights shared double occupancy lodging, all taxes and fees, 3 boat dives per day, Monday thru Friday, breakfast and dinner Monday thru Saturday.

Not included: Your airfare, equipment rentals, Nitrox fills, your meals on arrival and departure days, alcoholic beverages, snacks, and personal items.

You are strongly encouraged to purchase separate trip insurance to cover unforeseen events that may result in interruption or cancellation of your vacation.

We recommend getting insurance very early -- within a week of your first deposit for this trip -- in order to cover the widest possible range of risks. Read policy details carefully when buying trip insurance, and be aware that many policies require purchase at the time the trip is first booked.

We also recommend joining DAN, to assure that you have coverage for emergency transport to hyperbaric chamber treatment, which can be very expensive, and consider enhancing membership with the various options offered by DAN. The nearest hyperbaric chamber for this trip is in Cozumel.

We cannot predict the political stability of the countries to which we travel. You are encouraged to avail yourself of all pertinent information, including [US State Department Travel Warnings](#), when deciding to travel overseas. You are strongly encouraged to purchase separate trip insurance. We cannot predict the weather or other events that could disrupt your trip.

Because we plan specialized dive trips for small groups, Northern California Rainbow Divers (NCRD) trips are not refundable. If you discover that you are unable to attend our trip, you may try to find a replacement for yourself who is willing to buy your spot from you. Alternatively, if the trip sells out, the Trip Leader may be able to refer a possible replacement for you from the trip waiting list. If you must cancel, or think you might have to cancel, notify the Trip Leader as soon as possible to improve your chances of finding a replacement. NCRD strongly encourages trip participants to purchase trip insurance to minimize the risk of financial loss in the event of an unforeseen cancellation or trip cessation.

Northern California Rainbow Divers (CST 2092387-40) is registered with the State of California as an authorized California Seller of Travel. California Sellers of Travel are required by the State to hold trip funds in escrow or to deposit trip payments into a trust account until all vendors have been paid.

California Sellers of Travel may be participants in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund (TCRF). NCRD is a participant in the TCRF. In the event that you suffer a loss due to bankruptcy, cessation of operations, insolvency, or material failure of a registered Seller of Travel to provide the transportation or travel services contracted, you may be able to receive compensation from the Fund. Visit [www.tcrcinfo.com](http://www.tcrcinfo.com) for more information about the Fund, including how to make a claim.

NCRD makes every effort to contract travel services from reputable vendors. However, if these vendors are located outside of the United States and provide their services to you outside the U.S., they are not required to comply with the California Seller of Travel laws or to participate in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. If such a vendor ceases operations, you will not be entitled to file a claim with the TCRF. In this event, your claim would be directly with the vendor, and not with the TCRF or NCRD. You should evaluate the risks and possible consequences of vendor non-performance carefully before signing up for any trip outside the U.S. NCRD strongly encourages trip participants to purchase trip insurance if you are unwilling to accept these risks.