

Pacific Dive Calendar

Best months for Galapagos, Cocos, Socorro, Sea of Cortez & Malpelo

Pacific Dive Highlights by Country and Season

Country / Destination	Best month	Why go then
<u>Mexico — Sea of Cortez</u>	March	Peak whale migration, active sea lions, and rich spring pelagic life
<u>Mexico — Socorro</u>	November	Start of the main liveaboard season with mantas, dolphins, and schooling hammerheads
<u>Ecuador — Galapagos</u>	April	Warmer water, strong manta activity, and calmer seasonal conditions
<u>Ecuador — Galapagos</u>	June–November	Whale shark season at Darwin and Wolf, with cooler nutrient-rich water
<u>Costa Rica — Cocos Island</u>	April–May	Strong pelagic season with schooling hammerheads, bait balls, and remote liveaboard diving
<u>Colombia — Malpelo</u>	May–August	Peak remote expedition season with silky sharks, hammerheads, and whale sharks

Best Pacific Dive Destinations by Season

Destination	Best months	Best for	Conditions	Level	Planning note
<u>Sea of Cortez, Mexico</u>	March	Blue, fin & humpback whales, sea lions, mobula rays, possible hammerheads	Approx. 20–24°C / 68–75°F in early spring; visibility often 10–25 m / 30–80 ft	10–40+ dives depending on boat; OWD or AOWD	Whale season + varied marine life. Liveaboards usually depart from La Paz.
<u>Socorro Island, Mexico</u>	Nov–May	Giant Pacific mantas, scalloped hammerheads, dolphins, sharks	Approx. 20–28°C / 68–82°F across the season; visibility often 15–30 m / 50–100 ft	40–50+ dives depending on boat; OWD or AOWD	Liveaboard only. November starts the main season; boats usually depart from Cabo San Lucas.
<u>Cocos Island, Costa Rica</u>	April–May	Schooling scalloped hammerheads, silky sharks, whale sharks, rays, bait balls	Approx. 24–28°C / 75–82°F ; visibility often 15–30 m / 50–100 ft , but variable	50+ dives ; AOWD or equivalent	Liveaboard only. Remote island, around 36-hour crossing from Puntarenas. Strong currents are common.
<u>Galapagos Islands, Ecuador</u>	April; June–Nov	Manta rays, whale sharks, schooling hammerheads, large pelagics	Approx. 16–28°C / 61–82°F depending on season and site; visibility often 10–30 m / 30–100 ft	50+ dives ; AOWD + Nitrox or equivalent	April is better for mantas and warmer water. June–November is whale shark season, with August as a strong peak.
<u>Malpelo Island, Colombia</u>	May–August	Silky sharks, schooling hammerheads, whale sharks, expedition diving	Approx. 24–28°C / 75–82°F ; visibility often 15–30 m / 50–100 ft , variable	50+ dives ; AOWD + Nitrox or equivalent	Very remote liveaboard destination. Limited permits and limited departures, so trips should be planned early.

Water temperature and visibility are approximate. Conditions can change by site, current, plankton, and weather. Marine life encounters are seasonal but never guaranteed.

Dive requirements vary by boat and itinerary. Always check the liveaboard page before booking.

Plan Your Pacific Liveaboard

Use this calendar as a starting point to choose your best month, destination, and marine life focus. Pacific liveaboards can be remote and seasonal, so it's best to compare routes, travel time, and trip requirements before choosing your departure.

Remember	Why it matters
Book early	These are remote liveaboard routes with limited boats and short peak seasons . Popular departures can sell out months in advance.
Check your level	Sea of Cortez and Socorro vary by boat. Cocos, Galapagos, and Malpelo usually need 50+ dives and advanced certification.
Plan logistics	Allow extra time before and after the liveaboard because of long ocean crossings, domestic connections, weather buffers, and overnight stays near the embarkation city.

[Costa Rica – Cocos Liveaboards](#)

[Colombia – Malpelo Liveaboards](#)

[Mexico Liveaboards](#)

[Ecuador – Galapagos Liveaboards](#)



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