

striped marlin **mexico**

dec 4 - dec 12, 2010



striped marlin, california seal lions, bryde's whales

location details

There is something that sports-fishermen know better than any diving operator — when to find and where to find the big fish in the vast ocean? Taking a cue from the Mexican fishermen, I've learned about several sea-mounts twenty miles west of the Baja coast in the heart of the Pacific Ocean. Striped marlin congregate here once a year, during a particular period of time when conditions are just right — cold water temperatures and an abundance of mackerel in the area for the marlin to feed on.

private arrangements

To execute this adventure and provide you with the opportunity to be in the water with this awesome animal, I have re-located all the support required to operate a diving operation from Cabo san Lucas to our location forty miles off the coast of Baja. We will safely travel a long distance to the sea-mounts in a thirty-six foot Manta Expedition dive boat to be in the heart of the underwater phenomenon of striped marlin. Not only are these gorgeous creatures feeding, but we'll also encounter California sea lions and the forty-foot Bryde's whales. In this feeding frenzy, you'll witness marlins — up to a dozen at a time — chasing and batting at a bait ball of mackerel with their long spear-like heads, in a choreographed, astounding feeding display.



a chance discovery

In all the years of working with the big animals of the sea, I'm always looking for an opportunity to learn where large congregations of the billfish family — striped marlin, sailfish, and swordfish — are gathering. Five years ago I discovered that sailfish feed on the east coast of Mexico off the Yucatan Peninsula, and two years ago was lucky to discover, together with local fishermen, the location and particular time of year when the striped marlin congregate for feeding off the west coast of Mexico in Baja California.

Though the marlin and sailfish are in the same family there are some differences. The striped marlin, at twelve feet long, is a few feet longer than the nine-foot long sailfish. Additionally, the marlin have incredible fluorescent stripes across their body - sailfish have a more varied multi-color hue. Both species, however, are marked by their enormous bills that take up a third of their length.



the vessel

The thirty-six foot Manta Expedition normally carries up to twenty-four divers — we will be very comfortable with only four guests. Its strong twin engines give us more than enough power to surge across the Pacific to the remote sea-mount locations where the striped marlin gather to feed. We will stay there while we search for the tell-tale 'eyes in the sky' — flocking frigate birds, hunting the same mackerel as the striped marlin.



amos nachoum

Professional photography will be done with Amos Nachoum, who was the BBC **wildlife photographer of the year** in 2007 and 2008. He will be coaching individuals on wide-angle and ambient-light photography of big animals.

Amos has **three years experience** with marlin in Cabo san Lucas.

Amos's explorations have been featured on National Geo, BBC and the **Discovery Channel**.

Big Animals Expeditions re-creates the same adventures and photo opportunities for you.



Striped Marlin Experience

3 years

Where

Off Cabo san Lucas in the Pacific Ocean

Date December 4 - December 12, 2010

Duration 9 days

Max No. of Guests 4

Availability 2 left

Pricing \$8,900 per person

Registration

Deposit of \$3,000

Registration form

Facility 36' Manta Expedition

Activities Snorkeling and Diving

Temperature

In Water: 75° - 78° F

Air Temps: 80°+ F

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all photos amos nachoum

dates and prices subject to change and are current as of dec 2009

