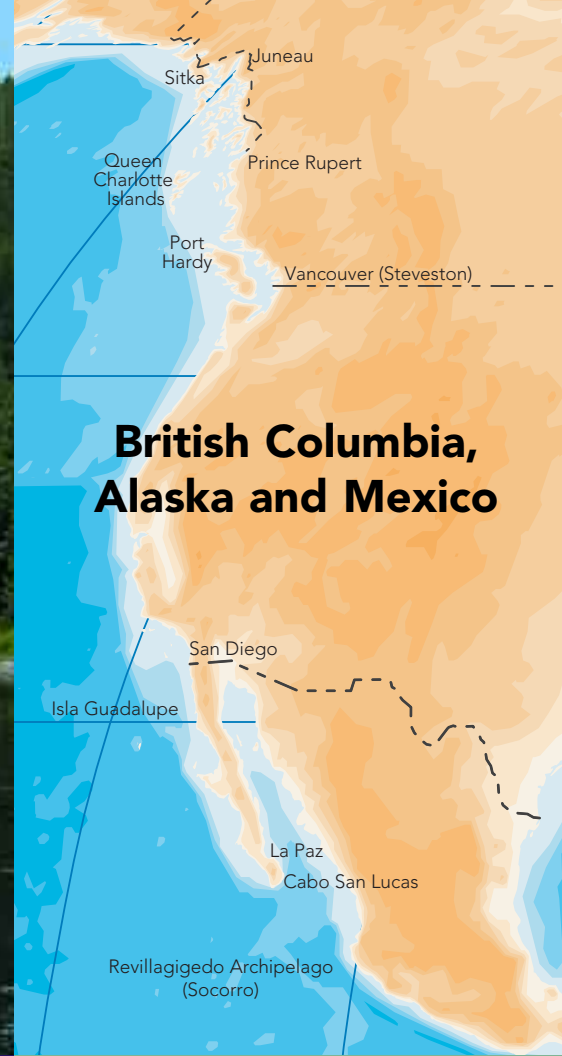


NAUTILUS EXPLORER



DIFFERENT SEASONS, DIFFERENT SEAS.™



British Columbia, Alaska and Mexico

ADVENTURES ABOVE AND BELOW THE SURFACE

1.604.657.7614

www.nautilusexplorer.com

info@divebc.com

please check www.nautilusexplorer.com for our most current schedule

A UNIQUE JOURNEY TO ADVENTURE



The Nautilus Explorer is our adventure in life. We invite you to join us and share our passion to be on the ocean, exploring and adventuring, visiting with old friends and making new ones.

Different Seasons, Different Seas™

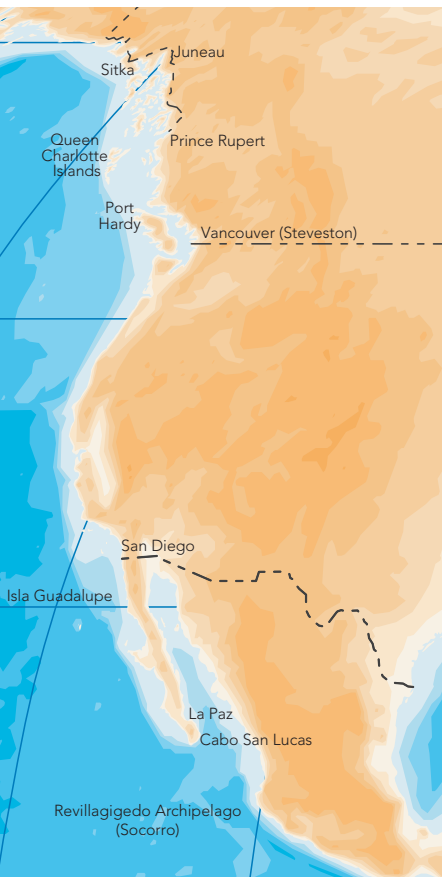
We specialize in offering peak season trips to different destinations including Alaska, B.C. and Mexico. From June through early August, the Nautilus can be found exploring the pristine waters of SE Alaska and the Inside Passage. In August and early September, we run trips to Port Hardy from our homeport of Vancouver, British Columbia. At the end of September we offer exciting white shark trips to Guadalupe Island before steaming south to the Sea of Cortez and peak season charters in October and early November. We are based in Cabo San Lucas for the rest of the winter and spring, voyaging out to the remote volcanic archipelago of the Revillagigedo Islands (including Socorro). By May, it is time to voyage back to Vancouver for a couple of British Columbia trips before heading north on our first Alaska trip of the next season. We also plan on adding more destinations including the California Channel Islands in September 2007.

Explore Above and Below the Surface™

Our core business is recreational scuba diving. We have been offering dive charters since 1992, exploring an ever increasing radius of coastline and operating in some of the world's most enchanting marine environments. Over time our interests in marine identification, photography,

rebreather diving, conservation, scientific research and natural and cultural history have intensified. We carry a full complement of toys onboard including kayaks, extra skiffs, specimen collecting aquarium and a Laser sailboat. Our handpicked staff and visiting marine biologists, naturalists and scientists are always enthusiastic to divemaster and critter point, put on slideshows and presentations, lead intertidal walks and shore hikes where possible or jump in a kayak to help new paddlers feel more comfortable. An evening bartender, over 30 different microbrews, a varied wine list and great selection of single malt scotches also adds a certain ambiance to our trips.

We invite you to come aboard the Nautilus Explorer and explore different seasons, different seas.



Mike and Mary Anne Lever

Judith Fleming



the world's
most enchanting
marine environments

A SAFE, COMFORTABLE, WELL-RUN SHIP



There are hundreds of vessels in the worldwide fleet of large, liveaboard dive boats. We pride ourselves and differentiate the Nautilus by offering a recently built ship that was custom designed for divers to the highest possible level of comfort and safety. Our crew takes exceptional pride in keeping the boat spotlessly clean and running smoothly. Everything is first class and certified to the same exacting international SOLAS and ISM standards as the largest cruise ship. A series of photographs documenting the construction of the Nautilus Explorer can be found in the "Captain's Log" at www.nautilusexplorer.com.

Your comfort is our priority everywhere onboard. The Nautilus Explorer is a happy ship and carefully designed to be very safe with heavy, strong steel construction and extensive soundproofing. The vessel's hullform, passive stability system and bulbous bow provides for a remarkably easy ride while heavy-duty commercial grade systems ensure that you have a smooth-running voyage.

Imaginative and fresh cuisine is one of the cornerstones of our business. Soups are homemade. Bread, pastries and deserts are baked onboard and there is always lots to eat with up to 4 meals a day, a choice of entrees and plenty of snacks (including some that aren't good for you!). For our repeat clients' peace of mind, you can be assured that Nautilus burgers have remained as popular as ever. We offer a mix of buffet and table service with a "Western menu" combined with our favourite Mexican dishes. Two cooks and a hostess means that we can take excellent care of our guests and most special dietary requests can be cheerfully accommodated with advance notice (including "quasi kosher").

Accommodation

For a small ship, the Nautilus feels "plenty big" (or so our guests tell us). There is ample room to find a quiet place to read, chat, fill out your divelog or journal or work on editing the images you shot that day - whether in the separate dining room, main salon or one of the upper sundecks. And there is nothing like a soak

Nautilus Explorer Certifications

- Transport Canada Ship Safety
- International Load Line Certificate
- Health Canada
- U.S. Public Health Service
- ISM (audited by Lloyd's Register)
- Approved Safety Management System
- ISPS Ship Security
- GMDSS Radio Station Area 3 (Open Ocean)



under the stars in the sparkling clear fresh water of our hot tub after a day of diving or exploration. The main salon also serves as the ship's entertainment centre with very "comfy" couches, a great library, a well stocked bar and select evening video showings, presentations and slide shows.

Nine lower deck staterooms have side by side beds, private heads with separate shower stall, central air-conditioning and measure 90 sq. ft. Two larger upper deck executive suites measure 145 sq. ft. with big windows, wardrobe, desk and outside doors.

The only bunk beds onboard are in the dorm.

Specifications

A millennium boat built and launched in Vancouver, BC in 2000

- 116' long, 27' wide. Small ship size with a much bigger feel.
- 12 - 14 mph cruise speed.
- Steel hull and superstructure for your safety.
- 7000 gallon fresh water capacity and 1800 gallons-per-day water maker allowing you to shower as often as you like.
- Quiet twin 70 kw gensets operating 24 hours per day with precise voltage and frequency control.
- Air conditioning and heating throughout. Comfort in every climate.



“The lure of this trip was venturing into an unspoiled wilderness and diving unpredictable waters in sometimes rugged conditions. That said, the Nautilus Explorer provided an extremely comfortable platform, even luxurious by live-aboard standards. The food on the Nautilus Explorer was among the best of any liveaboard I've taken, the crew was especially helpful and friendly, and a true camaraderie developed.”

SOCORRO ISLAND AND THE SEA OF CORTEZ



It is hard to imagine a nicer place to spend the winter than Baja California, Mexico which is where you will find us from October through April every year. For the first six weeks of our season, we concentrate on diving and exploring the Sea of Cortez from our headquarters at La Paz. After that it is off to the Revillagigedo Islands (Socorro) for the rest of the season, departing from our berth in Cabo San Lucas. Hot, stable air from the sub-tropical convergence zone results in wonderful weather every winter as a ridge of high pressure centers over Baja California resulting in little or no rain, no hurricanes and the calmest seas of the year.

The Revillagigedo Archipelago is a pristine marine wilderness located 216 miles southwest of Cabo San Lucas. These 4 islands are of volcanic origin and San Benedicto actually erupted in 1952. The largest island in the chain is Socorro which is uninhabited except for a small Naval base and village. Roca Partida lies to the southwest and is little

more than a large group of rocks awash on the edge of a 6000' abyss. The most distant island is Clarion, located 370 miles from the mainland.

The diving here is famous for extraordinary and "intimate" interactions with giant manta rays and you will be able to get extremely close and have numerous encounters with these gentle giants. For more details check out the [October 24, 2003 Captain's Log](#) entry at www.nautilusexplorer.com. Water temps range from the low 80's in November to the mid 70's at the end of January. Humpback whales and calves are resident and numerous during the winter and early spring. For *those in the know*, Roca Partida is an awesome dive site, teeming with life and we will endeavour to spend two days there on every trip, weather permitting. You can expect to see a myriad of fish as well as whitetip, silky, dusky, galapagos and hammerhead sharks, eels, octopus, jacks and scorpionfish. This area also boasted some of

“I hesitate to give such rave reviews for the Nautilus for fear that when I want to book a trip, the boat will be full. But it is too good to keep quiet about. I found a truly revitalizing week with amazing scenery, spectacular wildlife, wonderful people, delectable food, and kick-ass diving. The only difficulty has been re-entering the atmosphere of terrestrial city life.”

the best sportfishing in the world before it became a marine protected area and you may see bonitas, tuna and wahoo. Vast numbers of marine birds nest around the islands, giant sea turtles lay their eggs on sandy beaches and sealions hang out on the rocky shorelines. The Mexican pilot guide cautions mariners on the danger of going inside coral reefs at certain times of year because of the tremendous number of whales!

In October through mid-November you can generally find calm seas and beautiful, hot sunny weather in the Sea of Cortez. Water temps range from 76 - 86 degrees and visibility from 60 to 150 feet plus. The number and diversity of fish is stunning and you will see sealions, turtles, schools of jacks, gorgonian coral, fan coral and more moray eels than you can count. The lucky diver may see schooling hammerheads or have the chance to swim with dolphins or pilot whales. Whalesharks are present but can be quite difficult to find unless the water is flat calm. This is where palm-tree

lined, open air restaurants serve up fresh local seafood while patrons enjoy *cerveza y margarita*. Divers will be kept busy with 4 dives scheduled for most days and kayaking and shore hiking opportunities are abundant. The topography is fantastic in places with seamounts, submarine canyons and small caves. This is a terrific *warm water* destination for both divers and *topsiders* (aka non-divers)...





Cold water diving is immensely rewarding and challenging with some of the most dense and beautiful invertebrate life in the world with colourful soft corals, a huge variety of anemones (including giant metridium), sponges, tunicates and an amazing amount of macro life. Giant pacific octopus are typically 4 - 8 feet in length and friendly wolfeels are often spotted by experienced divers and our inwater divemasters. One octo taken in the mid 1960's measured 27 feet from the top of his head to his toes and weighed over 600 lbs! This is photographers' heaven but may not be for everybody as the diving requires a certain amount of experience and confidence. Dry suits are definitely recommended. Good visibility by our standards may not be what you are used to in *warm water*.

Alaska

We first visited Alaska in 2000 when we wanted to do something really special for the maiden voyage of the Nautilus Explorer. As expected, the diving was outstanding and similar to what

we were used to in B.C. But, we were caught by surprise by the magnificent scenery, astounding numbers of humpback whales and bald eagles, salmon jumping everywhere, wonderful kayaking opportunities, spectacular calving glaciers and icebergs, natural hotsprings and getting closer to grizzly bears than we ever imagined. Alaska is a very special place and we love going back there every year. It is impossible to describe how incredible it is to visit the glaciers of Tracey Arm. And it is hard to imagine anything more peaceful than a quiet night at anchor under a star-lit Alaskan sky. These trips are perfect for both divers who are intrigued by the idea of visiting Alaska as well as topsiders (*aka non-divers*) who we promise to keep busy with lots of other activities.

We offer three very different itineraries including week long trips between Juneau, AK and Prince Rupert, Canada. 10 night voyages from Vancouver to Alaska via the calm and sheltered waters of the Inside Passage (*including Browning and Hakai Passes, the wreck of the Transpac and our favourite Alaskan destinations*). And 10 night

“The diving is simply awesome! More than a few dive publications call the Port Hardy, BC area the best cold water diving in the world and for good reason. The plant and animal sea life is just incredible. Every diver saw at least one octopus and a couple of wolf eels ñ always a highlight. The largest of three octopuses I saw was probably 8-9 feet from tentacle tip to tentacle tip. There were also lots of different types of crabs to be seen including some very large Puget Sound King crabs ñ one in particular, which we found on one of the two scheduled night dives, looked big enough to tow a Hummer across a parking lot.”

“The best place to dive in the world.”

JEAN MICHEL COUSTEAU

southbound runs, starting in Juneau or Sitka and finishing up in Vancouver after making the crossing to the beautiful, remote and mystical Queen Charlotte Islands. Please note that our longer trips involve more cruising time and 5 overnight runs.

British Columbia

We think the diving in B.C. is pretty darned good! The amount of life in these waters is amazing. The Kurushio Current carries large quantities of warm tropical water across the Pacific Ocean, collecting nutrients all the way, and then upwelling along the coast of British Columbia and Alaska. The result is a plethora of invertebrate life and related animals all the way up the food chain. The topography is very steep and strong currents provide some timing challenges (and discipline) in order to dive at *slack*. The best news is that our experienced crew and custom designed 38 foot dive skiff are there to make your life easy and the diving *good fun*.

This destination is perfect for photographers and other serious divers who want to maximize the number of cold water dives they do during a trip. Popular trips include 7 day / 6 night departures from Vancouver to Port Hardy during June, August and September as well as specimen collecting expeditions with the Vancouver Aquarium and 10 day circumnavigations of Vancouver Island. Most of these trips include 2 overnight runs and a lot of time spent at anchor diving every *slack*.



SHARK AND MANTA DIVING



We work with a number of well known experts in order to offer extraordinary shark diving expeditions. Great white shark diving at Guadalupe promises to be one of the highlights of our year. And you can't beat Socorro Island for shark sightings with it's famous blue, blue, BLUE water and 60 - 100 foot vis. Silkys are beautiful little guys and numerous in the Revillagigedo Islands. Galapagos sharks are bigger, have more of a bite to them and are common. White tip reef sharks and Duskie's are often seen as are solitary hammerheads. If you are really lucky, Silver Tip Oceanic and Tigers are sometimes spotted as well (just ask my friend Divealert Dave). **You wanna see sharks?? No problemo...**

Great Whites

In September 2005, we will be offering charters to Isla Guadalupe for the first time, departing from San Diego loaded up with shark cages, chum and a highly experienced *shark crew*. We are told that there might even

be some "shark bite brew" onboard as well!. This is a fantastic opportunity to view these apex predators face-to-face and there will be lots of cage time for everyone.

Schooling Hammerheads

October through November is the best time to see schooling hammerheads sharks. This unusual and awesome behaviour occurs at four seamounts between Cabo San Lucas and La Paz. Polarized schools of these socially advanced animals consist primarily of females with the largest sharks (and hence the best reproducers) at the centre of the formation. The hammerheads school during the day and then swim 10 miles or more into the mesopelagic zone to feed at night. Kinda the opposite of humans in that they commute downtown to relax and then move into the suburbs at night to work!!

We are currently working with the scientific community to learn more about schooling hammerheads. On March 6, 2005 Dr. Peter





Klimley from U.C. Davis (*a.k.a. Dr. Hammerhead*) and the conservation group IEMANYA OCEANICA www.adoptashark.com will be leading an 11 night expedition to San Benedicto, Socorro, Roca Partida and Clarion Islands to seek out and tag hammerhead sharks. We will be donating part proceeds from the trip towards the purchase of USD3500 satellite tags that will stay attached to the sharks for a couple of months before releasing, floating to the surface and uploading data to satellite receivers. Other research and filming opportunities are currently in the planning stage and interested inquiries are welcomed.

Please note that hammerhead shark sightings were common in the Sea of Cortez up to and including the fall of 2003. We have to advise that sightings were infrequent in October 2004 although we did see the odd school of up to 100 animals.

Whalesharks

We are always on the lookout during our Mexico trips for these impressive animals.

Whalesharks are often spotted close by La Paz from May onwards and we may see them on some of our fall trips in the Sea of Cortez. Sightings are not yet predictable at the Revillagigedo Islands but incredible when they do happen – especially in blue, blue, blue water and excellent visibility at Socorro.

Mantas

These large, gentle and graceful animals can be seen on virtually all of our trips to the Revillagigedo Islands in Mexico. The manta diving at San Benedicto Island is especially well-known for spectacular close-up encounters of an *intimate nature*. If you want a *life experience* with giant mantas, don't miss a trip to Socorro and the Revillagigedo Islands.



“The moment we stepped on board we felt like we were with old friends. The crew's enthusiasm and dedication to detail made every experience a pleasure, for both new and seasoned divers. Every time we thought for sure we'd had the experience of the trip, something else came along to make it even better. We can't wait to see you again next year (and the year after).”

PHOTOGRAPHY



On the Nautilus, we do our darndest to provide the friendliest possible camera environment. Support for photographers includes daily E-6 processing by request and a dedicated PC equipped with card readers, CD burner and Photo Shop™ software. There is a 42" plasma TV in our main salon which gives a great way to review digital images or video (inputs include RCA jacks, S-Video and a plug for laptops). Of course, we also have a slide projector, screen and light tables for those *hardy* film types...

We love both shooting and chatting about equipment and technique with *old hands* as well as *first timers*. And it's hard to beat the macro photography opportunities in BC and Alaska and the wide angle photo ops in Mexico. Rental cameras are available onboard and we get a kick out of helping new shooters go from *zero to sixty* on their first dive. For

more experienced and advanced photographers, a select group of *pro's* frequently join our trips and put on seminars, slideshows and generally help guests *jump to the next level* in their personal skills and development.

Nautilus Pro's

Berkley White and his staff at Backscatter Underwater Video and Photo have a fantastic reputation and spend a lot of in-water time developing an extensive database of experience on all the products they sell and service. We are very fortunate to have the Backscatter crew lead a number of photo trips each year. In our experience, it is not possible to go on one of their charters and not come back





with a *fresh eye* and totally "pumped" on shooting, shooting, shooting... Berkley's slide shows are among the most inspirational presentations that we have ever experienced. www.backscatter.com.

Stephen Frink is the world's most widely published underwater photographer. He takes his photo opportunities very seriously, and invites a small number of people each year to join him on his personally escorted MFT Photo Tours exclusively through www.waterhousetours.com. The formula is to charter the best live-aboard available in a given destination, find the very best photo opportunities, and share the fun with a group of like-minded enthusiasts. While these are not photo instruction cruises, there is a wealth of photographic information available *by osmosis*.

Professional underwater photographer Andy Sallmon has a colourful reputation for seeking out the ocean's largest and most amazing animals. His passion for the sea and photographing its creatures is contagious and he freely shares all he has learned every time he joins us. Andy will be presenting entertaining and informative evening

slideshows onboard to help all levels of underwater photographers as well as offering an optional digital photography workshop.

Norbert Wu is one of the best known underwater photographers in the world and specializes in leading small groups to exotic destinations on high-end boats. We are extremely fortunate to have him join us on both Alaska and Socorro trips. In 1997, he started his Antarctic work followed by a Pew Fellowship and 7 years concentrating on a book, exhibit and documentary. Norbert's newest large-format book, *Under Antarctic Ice*, is now out from University of California Press. See and search through 5000 of his best images at www.norbertwu.com. While these are not photo instruction cruises, there will be a focus on photography and extraordinarily interesting to underwater shooters.



“My trip on the Nautilus Explorer was honestly the best dive vacation I have ever been on. A trip around Vancouver Island was something I had always wanted to do and now that I have done it I can say it was everything I had hoped for.”

REBREATHER DIVING



“You’ll never catch me diving one of those closed circuit rebreathers – It’s too much work, too complicated and too much maintenance”

MIKE LEVER, SUMMER 2003

Well, 12 months later you better not try and take my rebreather away from me! I love diving it and wouldn't consider going back to open circuit. I find the operation of my ccr to be very intuitive, really, really nice to dive and the maintenance doesn't take any more time than looking after a housed camera system. On the Nautilus, we dive, understand and appreciate rebreathers and make it easy for ccr divers to fly out to the Nautilus without lugging lots of extra gear and zorb.

In order to provide the best possible support, we carry a supply of zorb as well as 2L, 3L and 27 cf

rental tanks, bailout bottles, limited spare parts for Inspiration, Megladon and KISS units, spare sensors and batteries, disinfectant, tanks valve adapters for Dragers and rental units.

The ship is fitted with a bank of oxygen bottles and (2) boosters in order to provide 3000 psi fills for ccr bottles. Nitrox is also available (of course!) as are partial pressure helium and argon fills.

Onboard instruction is available by prior arrangement and 5 days of training is all you need to get started!! We can personally attest to the convenience and fun of learning to dive a rebreather during a trip on the Nautilus and highly, highly recommend it.

Diver Cliff Simoneau director of diving technology for Shark Research Institute. Cliff is carry a specially designed slip tip satellite tagging device. This tag after being painlessly applied to a whale shark will collect detail location, depth, salinity, temperature, and photosynthetic data for four months before detaching itself and reporting to a satellite. The goal of this on going Pacific research is to learn more about the Whalesharks that travel from the Sea of Cortez along the subterranean pacific ridge to Socorro, Cocos, Galapagos and beyond. This research combined with tissue collection for DNA study will some day give us a clear understanding of the largest fish in the ocean. *To learn more visit www.sharks.org.*

Photo taken by: Jonathan Bird with Oceanic Research Group. Location: Pacific Big Blue www.oceanicresearch.org

“Your trips are great but the Alaska trip is just amazing. We both wish we were back on the Nautilus. We’ve been telling our friends and family about it and everybody is green with envy.”

MARC AND PHYLLIS DENNIS. JUNE 2004.



out here
adventure

is what you make it...



A person is seen from behind, climbing a dark, craggy rock face. The person is in a crouched position, reaching up. The background shows a misty or smoky atmosphere, possibly a cave or a high-altitude environment. The overall color palette is dark and moody, with some lighter tones in the background.

what you
want to do
when you want
to do it.

TO DO OR NOT TO DO

We encourage you to experience life onboard however you like, with as many options as possible and the fewest possible extra charges. Some of our guests love to get as many dives in as they can while other folks prefer to spend time within the covers of a good book or in conversation with fellow adventurers.

Included on all trips

- meals, lots of snacks, soft drinks and non-alcoholic beverages
- weight belts and aluminum scuba tanks
- use of kayaks and Laser sailboat
- marine ID classes, kayak lessons, intertidal walks and shore hikes
- inwater divemastering and "critter pointing"
- use of a dedicated PC with cardreaders and CD burner
- daily room makeup, evening bartending, nightly turndown

We also offer the following optional services:

- digital photo workshops
- nitrox fills
- *meet and greet* and airport transfers
- drysuit rentals
- steel tank rentals
- camera rentals and film processing
- custom gas orders
- rebreather support

More Adventures in Mexico

Our friends at Baja Expeditions offer a wide range of fascinating activities for anyone interested in spending additional time in Mexico before or after their charter on the Nautilus. Adventures include 3 or 4 night whale watching trips at San Ignacio Lagoon or Magdalena Bay, guided kayaking expeditions in the Sea of Cortez, diving and whale shark trips on the 85' liveaboard vessel "Don Jose", day trips from La Paz and rail tours of Copper Canyon.



Please note that the following are not included in your trip fee:

- gift shop and bar charges
- port fees (*currently being charged on Mexico trips only*)
- crew gratuities



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