

Okeanos Aggressor

Know Before You Go



Emergency Contact

Aggressor Fleet—Office (USA): (985) 385-2628

Aggressor Fleet—Beeper (USA): (985) 660-0016

COMMUNICATIONS

The Okeanos Aggressor is in constant radio contact with the San Jose office. In the event of an emergency, family and friends may contact you by calling the San Jose office during business hours.

To dial direct from the U.S., the phone number is 011-506-257-0191, Fax 011-506-257-0284, satellite: 1-877-241-8211, or e-mail: info@okeanosaggressor.com. The office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Private collect calls may be made from the Okeanos Aggressor to the U.S., and calls can be received on the Okeanos Aggressor patched through the marine operator. There is a charge for satellite phone calls.



Bienvenido! Cocos Island is the largest uninhabited island in the world. To

have the opportunity to dive and visit this unique paradise, is a dream come true. As you prepare for your diving adventure on board the Okeanos Aggressor, we extend a most hearty welcome. The enclosed information will assist you.

THE NATURAL HERITAGE OF COCO ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

As you approach Cocos, a tiny dark speck on the horizon grows slowly; sea birds appear gradually, along with the hint of land nearby. Dolphins frolic alongside the boat and guide the way, while the tone of water slowly changes from a deep blue to a tantalizing turquoise. Little by little, steep black cliffs, fringed by a dense green vegetation and split by thundering waterfalls, come into view. The excitement mounts as you finally arrive at Cocos Island National Park. The discovery begins!

Cocos Island, located 600 km (approx. 375 miles) off the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, is one of the most beautiful jewels in the Costa Rican National Park system. It is also one of the most important due to its biogeographic uniqueness and its high number of endemic species, some found nowhere else in the world.

Of the principal islands of the Eastern Tropical Pacific (Cocos, Clipperton, Malpelo and Galapagos), it is the only one that receives sufficient rainfall to support a tropical rain forest. And, since Cocos are an oceanic island, it has relatively few species, some having their origin as far away as the Indian Ocean.

The isolated environmental conditions of the island have favored the evolution of many endemic species and a simplified tropical ecosystem, compared with similar ones on the continent. All this makes Cocos a unique national laboratory for scientific study— particularly in the field of evolutionary biology.

READING

For more information about Cocos Island and the diving, please refer to the following publications: Reef Fish by Paul Humann; Reef Sharks and Rays of the World by Scott Michael; and Pisces Guide to Watching Fishes by Rob Wilson & James Q. Wilson.

It is important to notify the Aggressor Fleet office of last minute changes concerning your hotel accommodations, departure itinerary or any changes in your address and telephone numbers. Don't forget to use your Aggressor luggage tags. It will help the crew identify you!

ARRIVAL & HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS

Guests must arrive in San Jose, Costa Rica one day prior to the vessel's departure to meet the transfer schedule to Puntarenas from San Jose. Your travel arrangements must include a one night stay-over, prior to the vessel departure, in San Jose. Upon your arrival at the airport in San Jose, you are responsible for transfer to your hotel. Aggressor Fleet can arrange or recommend hotel accommodations for you. Our host hotel is the Barcelo Amon.

On the day of departure, if you are staying at the Barcelo Amon, an Okeanos Aggressor representative will contact you to confirm your pick up. If you are not at the Barcelo, please make your way to the Barcelo Amon by 12:00 p.m. (noon) for transfer to the vessel. You may also call the Okeanos Aggressor office at (506) 257-0191, fax (506) 257-0284 (The office is located at Plaza Colonial #1-17, San Rafael de Escazu . The office suite is #550 on the third floor of a white building just 175 meters east of the Amon).

The following are directions to the Barcelo Amon in Spanish to assist your taxi driver:

DEL HOTEL AMON BARCELO
(ANTIGUO AMSTEL AMON),
125 MTS. AL ESTE,
EDIFICIO 550 WORMS, PRIMER PISO.

If you plan to make your own way to Puntarenas, where the Aggressor docks, it is necessary to call the Okeanos Aggressor office in Costa Rica to advise them of your plans. The office number in Puntarenas is (506) 506-661-0939. If you do make your own arrangements or miss the pick up, the Okeanos Aggressor docks at the MUELLE Coopeinpesa in Puntarenas. Directions in Spanish are as follows:

MUELLE Coopeinpesa,
DEl estadio lito perez,
100 oeste, 200 norte
Phone: 506-661-3465.
Please arrive no later than 4:00 p.m.

This scenic route from San Jose to Puntarenas takes approximately two hours and is a beautiful way to see the lush countryside. Upon your arrival at the Okeanos Aggressor, you will be greeted by the crew. The Okeanos Aggressor may be moored offshore due to low tides. Should this occur, you will be transferred by boat and your luggage will be handled for you.

THE VESSEL

The Okeanos Aggressor is a 110' yacht, built and powered for comfort, safety and stability. She is diesel-powered, cruises at 10 knots and has 110 volt power on board. Comfortable accommodations for 21 guests include 9 double cabins and a triple cabin. Each cabin features a private head and shower, and storage space for your luggage.

The Okeanos Aggressor has a spacious salon, 40 feet of sun deck, chaise lounges, deck chairs, bar, grill, and a complete photo center with E-6 processing lab.

MEALS

The menu on board is varied and plentiful with a variety of American feasts, fresh tropical fruit and local cuisine. Start off your day with fresh fruits, hot entrees, cereals and juices. Lunches are buffet-style, featuring hot soups, salad and sandwiches and/or entrees. Dinners are diverse, including seafood, beef or chicken. Each evening, enjoy fresh homemade desserts. Please notify the Aggressor Fleet office of special dietary requests and feel free to bring your favorite candy or snack!



BEVERAGES

Soft drinks, ice tea, beer, and wine are complimentary. We suggest you bring your special brand of liquor from the U.S. or pick-up some at the last duty-free port before entry into Costa Rica. Drinking and diving do not mix. Once you consume alcohol, you become a snokeler until the next day.

CLOTHING

Cocos Island is a rain forest with many overcast rainy days. We recommend you pack warm clothing: sweat shirt, sweat pants and a light jacket in addition to your other personal clothing. Dress is very casual on board. Bring your walking shoes, sunglasses and a hat for hiking to the waterfalls and touring the magnificent island (old tennis shoes or dive booties). Since the island is a rain forest, the land and rocks are always wet and slippery. For easy luggage storage, we suggest packing in a soft duffel bag.

ENTERTAINMENT

There is a variety of nightly entertainment, including fish identification slide shows, video movies, games and more.... The crew especially loves new VHS movies, DVD's, musical cassette tapes & CD's, recent magazines and books. Feel free to bring along your favorites!



DIVING

The crew of the Okeanos Aggressor with their unique combination of talents offers the ultimate service. While on board you may pick a buddy of your choice, or dive with a crew member. A dive table refresher course is offered for those interested. There is ample storage space for your diving equipment in your personal locker.

The Okeanos Aggressor provides 80 cubic ft. tanks, weight belts and weights.

Beginner divers may consider Cocos Island diving slightly difficult due to its ruggedness and currents. Diving is from pangas. This trip is NOT recommended to new divers or handicapped divers.

The primary attractions in Cocos are the large pelagics, i.e. hammerhead sharks, rays, mantas, turtles, and enormous schools of fish. Occasionally, there are sightings of whale sharks, fish, marlin, and bottle-nosed dolphin. The bottom of the ocean floor at Cocos Island is volcanic rock. Most of the action is between 50-100 feet with visibility in the 80-100 foot range.

The best diving in the waters surrounding Cocos is done from dinghies. You can make 4 dives a day: 3 scheduled dinghy dives and an optional night dive. Night diving is offered most nights and is at the discretion of the divemaster.

The dinghies are 20 feet in length. There is ample space for camera equipment and the dinghy tender will handle it with care. Getting you in and out of the water from the pangas is easy. Once your dive is completed and you're preparing to get back in the dinghy, a crew member will assist and help take your tank off. There is a divemaster on each inflatable for every single dive. You hand him your weight belt, and the rest is easy!

The 30-36 hour cruise to the island, and return cruise 28-32 hours, can be uncomfortable to some. We recommend taking precautions for motion sickness.

DIVE GEAR SUGGESTIONS

We suggest you pack the following: mask, fins, snorkel, and regulator with visible pressure gauge, depth gauge, dive computer, buoyancy compensator, and dive gloves.

Optional, but strongly recommended: Spare mask, a dive watch, dive light, safety sausage and whistle. Each piece of gear should be marked with waterproof paint or tape. You'll be diving in water that averages 74-82°F. Due to the thermoclines and upwellings, we recommend a 1/8" wet suit as a minimum. Most divers use a 1/4" (5mm) suit with booties and a hood. Please see our "Captain's Log" on our website for current diving conditions

SPECIALTY COURSES

The crew of the Okeanos Aggressor offers a variety of specialty courses such as UW Photography, Nitrox Certification and Rebreather Experience. Please see our

"Rates and General Information" card or web site for course prices.

RENTAL DIVE EQUIPMENT

A full line of Rental Dive Gear is available onboard including Regulator, BC, Dive Computer, Night Light, and two Drager Rebreathers. Please see our "Rates and General Information" card or web site for gear prices.

NIKONOS PHOTO CENTER

The Okeanos Aggressor offers a complete photo/video facility with a full line of Nikonos equipment. Photo-pros are available for free coaching with equipment rental. Photo equipment is available to rent separately, or as a complete set-up.



PHOTO RENTAL EQUIPMENT

Please see our "Rate and General Information" card or web site for photo equipment and photo package prices.

Please reserve equipment in Advance to ensure availability.

DAILY E-6 PROCESSING

Ektachrome and Fujichrome films are processed daily. A photo-pro is available after each processing to offer tips.

Processing \$10 per roll (24 or 36 exposures)

Because of the difference in water clarity and overcast days, it can be very difficult to get the right f-stop. We strongly recommend everyone processing at least one roll of film on board.

We recommend you bring your own film and suggest 100 and 200 ASA speed film. The Okeanos Aggressor has a strobe charging station and large camera tables available for your camera and video equipment.

DRY CAMERA CASE

Weather conditions permitting, guests may tour Cocos Island. This is a "wet" landing by dinghy, so photographers should bring a water proof case such as a Pelican Case for their cameras. The land tour is at the Captain's discretion.

UNDERWATER VIDEO

Our video professional can capture your diving adventure to share with family and friends.

Group video (which includes all guests and crew) is \$60 per person.

If you plan to have a video made while on board or bring unprocessed film home, we recommend you hand carry it, without going through the airport x-ray machine to avoid damage.

SHIP'S BOUTIQUE & CREDIT CARDS

There is a mini-boutique on board with assorted t-shirts, shorts, film, batteries and miscellaneous items. If you can not find your shirt size or color onboard, please see our online boutique at www.aggessor.com. The Okeanos Aggressor accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express and traveler's checks. Sorry, no personal checks!



PASSPORTS, C-CARDS and DIVE THE WORLD CLUB

Visitors must have a current passport valid for more than three months, adequate funds to support themselves and a return ticket. Be sure to bring your C-card or proof of certification. The dive master requires proof of certification before the first dive. If you are a member of Aggressor Fleet's Dive the World Club, please bring your card to receive on board discounts.

WAIVER

Aggressor Fleet Ltd. and the Okeanos Aggressor require each guest complete an application and waiver form, prior to departure and diving.

If you do not receive a waiver from your agent, please download one from www.aggessor.com, and fax it to 985-384-0817.

INSURANCE

Every effort is made to ensure you have a safe trip. However, unforeseen circumstances can and do happen.

We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, as well as accidental, medical baggage insurance.

Highly recommended are Divers Alert Network (DAN) "Preferred Plan" Insurance and/or PADI Diving Accident Insurance.

HEALTH

The Okeanos Aggressor has a first aid kit on board, including oxygen. You should also bring motion sickness medicine, an antibiotic, antihistamine, ear drops and a topical ointment. Inform the dive guide if you are taking

medication or suffer from allergies. We recommend a complete physical before your trip.

There is NO smoking allowed inside the boat or on the dive deck. Smoking is permitted only on the sun deck or in the bar area.

COCOS ISLAND PARK FEE

A \$25/day Park Fee (CASH ONLY, no traveler's checks) charge per person will be collected during your charter. The Costa Rican government implemented this charge to maintain Cocos Island and preserve its natural habitat. There is also a \$10/Day US Cash Dive Tax.

TIPS ONBOARD

We believe gratuities are voluntary and based upon the quality of service the crew has provided. When settling your account, the Captain will have an envelope for gratuities, to be divided equally among the crew.

CHECKOUT

Check-out time is between 7:00 and 7:30 a.m. in the morning of departure. The crew will transport you and your luggage with the group to your hotel, or the airport in San Jose. Guests will arrive in San Jose late morning, therefore, departing flights should be scheduled after 12:30 p.m. Due to traffic, tides, etc., you will not make an early a.m. departing flight.

DEPARTURE TAXES & DEPARTURE

A departure tax of \$17 US per person will be collected upon your departure from San Jose. Taxes and fees are subject to change without notice and not included in the charter rate.

We look forward to having you on board and wish you the greatest diving vacation ever!

For more detailed information, visit us on the world wide web at www.aggessor.com For recent dive reports, check out the Capt.'s Log page on-line.

06/18/02



Aggressor Fleet, Limited

800-348-2628

Ph: (985) 385-2628 Fax: (985) 384-0817

P.O. Box 1470, Morgan City, LA 70381

Physical Address:

7810 Hwy 182 East, Morgan City, LA 70380

E-mail: okeanos@aggessor.com

Web: www.aggessor.com