



## SOLMAR V PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

### AIRLINES, HOTELS AND AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Our U.S. office is happy to help you with your hotel and airport transfer reservations but we are not a travel agency therefore you'll need to make your own flight arrangements. If you arrive the day of your Solmar V departure, please make sure that your flight arrives San Jose del Cabo, Mexico airport (airport code SJD) **no later than 1PM**. If you are coming in a day or so early to enjoy Los Cabos, we will provide local transportation to the Solmar V from the following Cabo San Lucas hotels: we pick up our guests from Best Western Quinta del Sol at *around* 1:30PM day of departure and from Solmar Suites at *around* 2:00PM.

Since not all local taxi and shuttle drivers are familiar with the Cabo San Lucas marina area, it is better to meet us at one of our two pick up points so that we can ensure that all guests will be aboard Solmar V before our preferred departure time of 3PM. It is about a 40 minute ride from Los Cabos airport directly into Cabo San Lucas, home port to Solmar V. If your flight is delayed and arrives later than 1PM the day of departure and you need to go directly to the boat, Solmar V is docked at "I" dock in the Cabo San Lucas marina, behind Caliente Sports Bar. We are happy to arrange airport transfers for you for \$30 per person round trip or you are welcome to take the authorized airport shuttle into town for about \$15 one way (be aware that these shuttles make many stops and will take some time to get into Cabo San Lucas) or a private taxi for about \$80 per taxi (1-4 persons) one way. We can also arrange for a private car to bring you to and from the Solmar V.

### UPON YOUR ARRIVAL

After presenting your valid passport to Mexican Immigration officials and receiving your temporary Mexican tourist visa from them (do not lose this visa as you will need to turn it back in upon your departure from Mexico), you will proceed to the baggage claims area to pick up your bags from the carousel. Mexican customs at the Los Cabos airport uses random search by asking you to push a button connected to what looks like a traffic light. A red light means they'll check your bags and a green light means you may proceed. Please be respectful at all times to all Mexican officials. Please check with your airline for their specific weight restrictions. If you are bringing in an unusual amount of underwater photo equipment, please call our U.S. office for our current recommendations.

Once you have cleared customs, you will have to walk through a labyrinth of timeshare salesmen before you reach your local transportation. We remind you that nothing in life is free and, although these sales people will offer you the moon and more, ask yourself if you're really interested in purchasing a timeshare in Los Cabos. Our strong suggestion is to simply walk *straight through* the timeshare sales area and out the door to your arranged transportation or the licensed airport shuttle or the taxi area, whichever is your choice of transportation into Cabo San Lucas. If we have arranged your pre-paid transportation, you will be met by a representative from Cape Travel, our preferred local transport company.

### BOAT & CHECK IN

**PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ACCEPT ONLY CASH AND TRAVELERS CHECKS ABOARD SOLMAR V.  
We accept no credit cards or personal checks aboard Solmar V.**

Please make sure you begin your journey with the cash or traveler's checks you'll need while onboard. There is a \$15 local chamber fee and a \$100 charge if you are Nitrox certified and choose to dive Nitrox during your trip. We also offer the PADI EAD Nitrox certification course, the course fee is \$175 and there is an additional charge of \$50 if you choose to continue diving Nitrox for the remainder of your trip. The crew of Solmar V is extremely hardworking and committed to providing you the best service possible, so their tips are greatly appreciated. We recommend a gratuity of 8 -10%. We also offer Solmar V T shirts and other merchandise for sale onboard. There are no port fees, park fees or fuel surcharges when you choose Solmar V for your diving vacation. These are all included in the price of your trip.

Once aboard the Solmar V, you will be assigned your stateroom and dive station. Our divemasters will ask you to show your scuba certification card and proof of scuba insurance at this time. We also recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance prior to your trip. You will at this time be asked to sign the Solmar V Liability and Waiver form. If you do not have your C-card you will not be allowed to dive - NO EXCEPTIONS! ***Our preferred departure time is 3PM.*** We offer no photo rental equipment onboard. All voltage aboard the Solmar V is 110, just like the U.S.

Solmar V is pleased to announce that we now have an onboard satellite communications system. You can set up your account with SeaWave Communications once aboard Solmar V, using your credit card. This enables you to make satellite telephone calls and to send and receive emails during your trip, using an email address established through SeaWave, not your usual email address. SeaWave Communications will bill your credit card for both phone and email use. The phone charge is \$5 a minute and the emails are charged according to the copy size but average about \$2 per email, whether sending or receiving.

### RETURN & DEPARTURE

Solmar V returns the evening before the return date on your schedule. You will overnight your last night onboard in port in Cabo San Lucas and then be asked to disembark after breakfast (8AM-9AM) on the return date. The onboard dinner the last night is included in the price of your trip. If you have not pre-booked your airport transportation through our office, the crew will help arrange taxis back to the airport or to Solmar Suites if you are leaving later in the day. Airport taxis are at your expense. Although a day room is not available at Solmar Suites, you are welcome to use their facilities while you wait for your airport transportation. The scheduled shuttle from Solmar Suites back to the airport costs about \$18 per person, which includes a farewell drink.

### SUGGESTED GEAR & CLOTHING

Besides your normal dive gear, one dive computer per diver is now required on all of our dive trips. This will ensure that you and your dive companions fully enjoy your scuba experience with us. All dive gear is readily available from our Amigos Del Mar dive store in Cabo San Lucas at a discounted price to Solmar V clients, but must be reserved through our U.S. office before your arrival in Los Cabos. We absolutely recommend wetsuits on all of our trips. Water temperatures range from 70F - 82F at Socorro and 70 - 85F in the Sea of Cortez. Please no gloves, knives or dive lights unless attached to cameras are allowed at Socorro and no night dives at Socorro, part of the rules and regulations from the Mexican government in declaring the islands a protected biosphere, and we greatly appreciate the privilege of diving there since 1992 and are happy to respect their wishes. We offer plenty of night dives in the Sea of Cortez.

Although the staterooms are comfortable, there is limited storage space so please pack light. The dress is extremely casual: a few T shirts, a few pairs of shorts, one pair of pants, some bathing suits and a windbreaker/sweatshirt is all you will need. The evenings can get chilly during the winter months at Socorro. We suggest packing in a soft duffle bag for easy luggage storing.

Don't forget your hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Feel free to bring your own books, CD's and DVD's – we have a collection of these onboard and the crew especially appreciates new entertainment!

### CONTACT INFORMATION

The Solmar V maintains daily contact with the U.S. office and we are in constant radio contact in the event of an emergency. Your family and friends are welcome to contact our U.S. office in the event of an emergency Monday-Friday 9AM-5PM at (866) 591-4906 or from outside the U.S. please call (310) 455-3600. If for any reason they need to contact you when our office is closed, they are welcome to call our Los Cabos manager, Benjamin Ortega on his cellphone. From the U.S., call (011) (521) (624) 121-2877.

If you have arrived in Los Cabos and are going to be late arriving at the boat, please contact Benjamin on his cellphone by calling (624) 121-2877.

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING SOLMAR V