



## SOLMAR V PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

We have prepared this Pre-Trip Information Guide for your convenience. Please feel free to email or call our office with any questions you may have and we look forward to having you aboard the Solmar V.

### AIRLINES, HOTELS AND AIRPORT TRANSFERS

Your preferred airline or travel agency will have current information on travel requirements from your country to Mexico. You are responsible for your flights and any personal requirements regarding luggage allowance or legal documents before you travel. Please notify our U.S. office if you are bringing an unusual amount of underwater photography equipment.

Our U.S. office can book your Los Cabos hotel reservations and also arrange pre-paid airport transfers for you – either a Cape Travel shuttle at a special rate of \$15 per person or a Cape Travel private car. Should you choose to arrive the day of your Solmar V departure, please book your flight to arrive at the San Jose del Cabo, Mexico airport (airport code SJD) by **no later than 1PM**. It is approximately 45 minutes from SJD airport directly into Cabo San Lucas, home port to Solmar V. We are docked in the Cabo San Lucas Marina behind the Play Win Casino and Nik San Restaurant, at the end of “I” Dock, slip # I-19. We recommend you arrive a day or so early to enjoy Los Cabos, and we provide local transportation to the Solmar V from the following Cabo San Lucas hotels: shuttle departs from Quinta del Sol at around 1:30PM day of departure and from Solmar Resort at around 2:00PM.

You are welcome to take the Authorized Airport Shuttle into town for around \$17 per person (be aware: do not book a shuttle service from the timeshare salespeople, and the Authorized Airport Shuttle makes many stops and will take some time to get into Cabo San Lucas) or a private taxi for about \$70 per taxi, 1 to 4 persons. Because some taxi and shuttle drivers are not familiar with the Cabo San Lucas Marina, we prefer all Solmar V guests meet us at one of our two pick up points (as noted above) if possible, so that we can ensure that all guests will be **aboard Solmar V before our departure time of 4PM**. If your flight is delayed and arrives later than 1PM the day of departure, you will need to go directly to Solmar V.

### UPON YOUR ARRIVAL

After presenting your valid passport to Mexican Immigration officials and receiving your temporary Mexican tourist visa from them (keep this visa, you will need to turn it back in upon your departure from Mexico), proceed to the Baggage Claims area. Once you have all of your luggage, proceed to the Customs area, where a Mexican Customs official will ask you to push a button. If the green light comes on, you may proceed. If the red light comes on, you may be asked to step aside so that they can search your bags. Please be respectful at all times to all Mexican officials.

After you have cleared the Customs Area with your luggage, our strong suggestion is to simply **walk straight through** the rather aggressive Timeshare Sales Area and to the Authorized Taxi Booth (where you can book either a private taxi or the Authorized Airport Shuttle) or out the door to your pre-arranged transportation. If Solmar V has arranged your pre-paid transportation, you will be met by a representative from **Cape Travel**, our preferred local transport company, outside and right there in front of the airport.

### 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 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, as well as beer and wine onboard. Expect a \$15 local chamber fee. If you are Nitrox certified and choose to dive Nitrox during your trip, there will be a \$125 Nitrox fee. We also offer the PADI EAD Nitrox certification course - the course fee is \$195 and there is an additional charge of \$75 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. Their tips are deeply appreciated. We recommend a **gratuity of 10% - 15%**. We also offer Solmar V T-shirts and other merchandise for sale onboard.

Once aboard the Solmar V, you will be assigned your stateroom and dive station. At that time, our divemasters will ask to see your scuba certification card, proof of scuba insurance (\*we also recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance prior to your trip) and ask you to sign the Solmar V Liability and Waiver form.

**If you do not have your scuba certification card you will not be allowed to dive -NO EXCEPTIONS!**

All voltage aboard the Solmar V is 110, just like the U.S. We also have several 220 outlets for our European guests. We do not provide hair dryers for our guests. We ask that you bring all biodegradable toiletries.

Solmar V provides an onboard satellite communications system through SeaWave Communications and you can set up your account with SeaWave once aboard Solmar V with your credit card. This service allows you to send and receive emails by using an email address established through SeaWave (not your usual email address) and make satellite telephone calls during your trip. SeaWave Communications will bill your credit card for both phone and email use - the phone charge is \$5 a minute and emails are charged according to the copy size but average about \$2 per email (sending or receiving).

## VIDEO SERVICE

Waterproof Video Service is on all our Socorro sailings. Waterproof is an independent company and offers professionally edited trip DVD's, in both High Definition and Blue Ray, for a cost of \$80/\$100. To see samples of their work, visit our You Tube channel at [www.youtube.com/solmarv](http://www.youtube.com/solmarv). Please note that Waterproof accepts **only credit cards** for payment.

## RETURN & DEPARTURE

Solmar V returns to Cabo San Lucas the evening before the return date on your reservation. You overnight this last night onboard in the port of Cabo San Lucas and the onboard dinner is included in the price of your trip. We ask our guests to disembark after breakfast (8AM-9AM) on the return date. The crew will arrange taxis back to the airport or to Solmar Resort if you are leaving later in the day. Taxis to the airport are at your expense. Even though a day room is not available at Solmar Resort, you are welcome to use their facilities while you wait for your airport transportation. The scheduled shuttle from Solmar Resort 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 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. Should you require additional scuba gear, please feel free to contact Amigos Del Mar directly by visiting their web page at <http://www.amigosdelmar.com/>. We absolutely recommend wetsuits on all of our trips because water temperatures range from 70F - 82F at Socorro. Please no knives or dive lights unless attached to cameras are allowed at Socorro and no night dives at Socorro. These restrictions are part of the rules and regulations from the Mexican government in declaring the islands a protected biosphere. Having had the privilege of diving at these magical islands since 1992, we are happy to respect their wishes.

Although the staterooms are comfortable, there is limited storage space so 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 a soft duffel bag for easy luggage storing, and 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 but 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 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 cell phone. 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 cell phone by calling (624) 121-2877.

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING SOLMAR V