



# The Humpback Whale Nursery in the Silver Bank off the Dominican Republic

## General Information

The Silver Bank is located approximately 100 kilometers north of the city of Puerto Plata in the waters off the Dominican Republic. This reef area is between 10 and 30 meters deep. According to a legend, about 400 years ago a Spanish ship sank here along with its silver cargo, which gave the Silver Bank its name. Pure sailor's yarn? What's certainly true: Here we find the watery nursery of the humpback whales. Every year thousands of humpback whales swim from the North Atlantic to the Caribbean island to mate in the naturally protected Silver Bank and give birth to their calves. Thanks to the many reefs, the water here is calm, although we are far away from the coast.

Climatically, our trip captivates by very pleasant temperatures. During the day the thermometer reaches about 27 degrees, at night it gets a bit cooler. The water temperature is 23 degrees. A thin wetsuit keeps the body warm at all times. We live on the Vessel "MS Sea Hunter" surrounded by humpback whales. The ship has 10 spacious cabins with bathrooms, a dining room and a sun deck from which you can watch passing whales all day long.

## Whales

The humpback whales are the stars and also the absolute highlight of this certainly unforgettable journey. In the winter months the Atlantic humpback whales travel to the Caribbean Sea to mate and give birth to calves. Then they are drawn back to the cold, fish-rich north. Up to ten tours give us plenty of opportunities for whale watching. The encounter with mother and calf is particularly impressive. Curious and playful, the young approach the little strangers. But the eye of the huge mother is always alert. You can read how to enjoy a stress-free encounter under "The Experience". The males who are willing to mate provide special action. When the hormone levels go crazy, they race after the females and fight each other in so-called "heat runs". What men don't do for love. Even from the mother ship we experience the huge breaches of the mammals.

To swim with the humpbacks, we use small tender boats to get into their proximity. The benches in the boats provide a nice comfort compared to sitting for hours on the tube of a zodiac. For the small hunger or thirst there are enough snacks and refreshments provided.





## Accommodation

During your time with us the MS Sea Hunter serves you as a floating hotel. The Sea Hunter is a former dive ship of the oil industry. It combines the functionality of a working ship with the interior of a modern yacht. In addition to the 10 comfortably furnished passenger cabins, there is a dining room on our mother ship where you can enjoy fresh meals prepared by the crew.

A beautiful lounge with many books and films invites you to linger. Finally, you can enjoy a breathtaking view over the ocean from one of the outside decks. Again and again, swimming, playing or jumping whales come into view.

## Our weekly program

The week begins with your arrival on Saturday. We welcome you at the Ocean World Marina in Cofresi next to Puerto Plata. The ship will invite you to check-in in the later afternoon. During a nice dinner we get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere.

In the night from Saturday to Sunday we drive 100 kilometres from Puerto Plata to the Silver Bank. Already at sunrise we can spot the first whales. After lunch we start our first tour. The following days (Monday - Thursday) we go out to sea 2 times per day. For lunch and a short break we return to the mother ship. On Friday we weigh anchor in the morning and drive back to Puerto Plata, keeping an eye out for the humpback whales.

The official program is rounded off with a dinner on land on Friday evening, during which we review our experiences and encounters of the past days. Our week ends with the check-out on Saturday morning and a possible transfer to the airport.

This is just an example itinerary. The weather has a big influence on our activities, which we adapt to the conditions.

Make the most of your time. Relax for a few days in Puerto Plata or discover other highlights of the Dominican Republic, such as the Samaná region.

## Other activities

For the quiet hours or in the evening we offer enough possibilities for relaxation or entertainment. Enjoy the bright sun on the deck with a good thriller from the lounge or admire the endless starry sky at night. In the lounge you will also find the usual board games and electronic media. Entertaining presentations will acquaint you with the protection and life of whales today, as our dear friends are still at great risk.

Use your time in the Dominican Republic. We will be happy to help you plan your time before or after our trip to the Silver Bank. The island offers you highlights that couldn't be more different. From the largest salt lake in the Caribbean to the mountains of the Cordillera Central to the paradisiacal tropical landscape of the Samaná Peninsula with its secluded beaches and hidden bays.





## Arrival

We recommend that you arrive in Puerto Plata the day before the Sea Hunter departs for Silver Bank. There are several great resorts in the immediate vicinity of the harbour. We will be happy to help you with your booking.

The airport Gregorio Luperon International Airport (POP) near Puerto Plata offers direct connections to Germany (Frankfurt, Munich or Cologne) and a range of other European cities. But also connecting flights via the USA are very easy to book. Miami is a popular connecting destination.

## Equipment

To be perfectly equipped, you will need diving goggles, snorkel, fins and a wetsuit. On board we can only help you with individual items. Please bring the appropriate equipment with you.

Due to the pleasant water temperatures a thin wetsuit is sufficient. Even a short-sleeved suit can be warm enough. We are happy to advise.

## Clothing

The high temperatures invite us to wear short clothes. Even in the evening short clothes are no problem, but we recommend a polo shirt or a light shirt for dinner.

Do not forget to pack sunscreen.

## Visa

Guests from most countries (e.g. European Union) can obtain their visa upon arrival for a small fee of 10 USD.

Further information can be found here: <https://www.dominicanrepublic.com/dominican-republic-visa-2/>

## Travel advice

Travel advice for the Dominican Republic of UK government can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/dominican-republic>

Information on vaccination can be found on the website of the CDC: [https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/dominican-republic?s\\_cid=ncezid-dgmq-travel-single-001\\$](https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/dominican-republic?s_cid=ncezid-dgmq-travel-single-001$)

## Insurance

Travel, liability and health insurance are the responsibility of the participants.





## Dates

### 2023

Week 1: Saturday, January 28th – Saturday, February 4th 2023

Week 2: Saturday, February 18th - Saturday, February 25th 2023

Week 3: Saturday, February 25th -Saturday, March 4th 2023

Week 4: Saturday, March 4th – Saturday, March 11th 2023

Week 5: Saturday, April 1st – Saturday, April 8th 2023

## Prices & Services

Price per person per week in a double cabin:

- Standard Cabin: USD 4'595.- (approximately 4'470 CHF)
- Deluxe Cabin: USD 4'695.- (approximately 4'570 CHF)
- Master Cabin: USD 4'895.- (approximately 4'760 CHF)

## Included:

- Tour guide on board
- Presentations
- Boat tours
- Accommodation on the M/S Sea Hunter
- All meals and drinks consumed on board

## Not included:

- Flights
- Surcharges for fuel and tips for crew (around USD 500)
- Port & Sanctuary admission fee (around USD 450)
- CO2 tax for your journey (recommended)
- Accommodation on shore
- Transportation on shore
- Last dinner together on shore
- Photos of the week
- Insurances

**This journey is organized in collaboration with Conscious Breath Adventures.**

**We are happy to receive your inquiry on [info@experiencegiants.com](mailto:info@experiencegiants.com) or through our website.**

