



SCUBA DIVING

MACHALILLA NATIONAL PARK FOR DIVERS

The Mantaraya II is the fast boat allows scuba divers and passengers to explore the full range of Machalilla National Park waters. The Mantaraya can reach Isla de la Plata, Machalilla's crown jewel, from Puerto Lopez in slightly over an hour. (That's half the travel time of older tour boats in the area.) And the Mantaraya scuba center in Puerto Lopez is literally "the only game in town" for well maintained, modern scuba gear. Mantaraya is a world-class operation with excellent organization, equipment and facilities.

Machalilla divers will swear that Poseidon grafted vibrant Caribbean reefs to the drab ocean bottoms of the Galapagos. A confluence of current nourishes local waters. The cold Humboldt Current from the south joins warm flows from the north. As a result, the waters are rich in both cold and warm-water marine life large and small. Machalilla offers a dazzling variety of reefs that are colorful, vibrant, and thick with colorful warm-water fish, hard and soft corals, sponges, and gorgonians.

Machalilla's reefs and inhabitants are much more colorful than the drab rocky-bottoms of some Pacific American dive destinations. Except for visibility in the 30- to 50- foot range and the some times-stong surge, divers could easily believe they're exploring reefs in the Caribbean. But Machalilla offers encounters with the large marine life that's typical of the Galapagos. Sea turtles, dolphins, sharks and giants manta rays are common year round.

Between July and October, Machalilla waters are a breeding ground for humpback whales. During that period, charter boats operators can almost guarantee daily whale encounters. A word of advice: schedule a Machalilla dive trip during whale season. A close-up view of breaching humpbacks is valuable bonus for even the most single-minded scuba diver.

If your hobby is scuba diving, do not hesitate to contact our agent to carry out previous arrangements to satisfy your wishes. Isla de la Plata has excellent locations for divers where you may see multicolored fishes, rocky coral reefs, rays and occasionally sharks.*

* This is an optional excursions not included in the cost of the program-please contact our agent to organize this activity in advance. You will need to demonstrate your diving experience by presenting your PADI license