



Giant black manta, San Benedicto (above). Exposure: ISO 200, f/8, 13mm, 1/125s; Socorro Island (left). Exposure: ISO 200, f/16, 12mm, 1/125s; Giant chevron manta (right), San Benedicto. Exposure: ISO 200, f/11, 17mm, 1/100s; Whitetip sharks in "cavelet," Roca Partida (top right). Exposure: ISO 200, f/11, 17mm, 1/125s. All photos were taken with a Nikon D500 camera, Tokina 10-17 lens, Nauticam housing, Inon Z330 strobes



Diver with whitetip shark, Roca Partida. Exposure: ISO 200, f/8, 12mm, 1/100s

Revillagigedo Archipelago, Mexico

Text and photos by Gary Rose, MD

Pinnacles reaching up from the benthic Pacific floor a mile below, lava flows extending like rivers into the deep azure of the sea—and without human presence—synergistically create one of the most remote and beautiful dive locations on Planet Earth. The islands of the Revillagigedo Archipelago are located 300 miles from Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Deep azure water, strong nutritive currents, and open ocean collaborate to create the perfect environment for grey whales, whale sharks, giant

mantas, hammerhead sharks, whitetip sharks, Galapagos sharks, porpoises and seals.

At Socorro Island, giant mantas, with wingspans of up to 21ft, regularly swim up to patiently waiting divers. They dance, swirl, loop, pirouette and plunge to the rhythm of the sea. When they come up close, their cognitive eyes penetrate one's thoughts, and you become as one.

Roca Partida Island is 300ft long and plunges vertically to the ocean floor, miles below. It is a prolific aquarium of pelagic diversity. Unique to Roca are the shallow "cavelets" that pockmark this vertical and sheer drop-off, each containing uniquely packed whitetip sharks within, which

live symbiotically with lobsters and moray eels. If you approach very slowly, from below, you will be able to photographically capture this amazing natural phenomenon.

One can only get to Revillagigedo by liveaboard. I traveled with Nautilus Liveaboards on the *Undersea*. In addition to the amazing comfort, scrumptious dining around the clock, four dives per day with a fabulous crew, it was a photographer's dream, complete with individual work and charging stations. Revillagigedo is my favorite dive site, and I am already planning my next photographic dream trip. Visit: garyrosephotos.com

