

## An Incredible Island Adventure





Join scientists and explorers aboard the Research Vessel Tiburon as they journey from Key West to the amazing Dry Tortugas.

Next Adventure: August 24—August 30 \$3,500 per person\*\* (\*\*private charters also available...call for pricing)

Discover two pristine islands: the Dry Tortugas, known for historic Fort Jefferson and extraordinary fish and bird life, and the Marquesas, remote, uninhabited, rich in life and lore.

Snorkel the clear pristine waters of the westernmost keys. Come face to face with huge lobsters, tarpon, Goliath grouper and, giant sea turtles.

Join the Tiburon crew in their mission to explore the entire range of the ecosystem and share the wonders of the remote underwater world of the Dry Tortugas National Park.

Explore Fort Jefferson, in the "most remote" of the U.S. National Parks. Walk the parade grounds, climb the battlements and listen to the echoes of the soldiers and prisoners who were stationed here.

Explore the wonders of the reef's nightlife with an evening snorkel or from the comfort of dry land by joining a wondrous moat walk.

## The Itinerary

**Day 1 (Tuesday)** -Arrive in Key West, 5PM board the exploration support vessel *Tiburon* and find your assigned cabin. Join the crew for orientation and safety briefing and enjoy dinner at 7:30 PM followed by a 9:00 PM departure.

**Day 2 (Wednesday)** Awaken at sea off the beautiful Marquesas Islands. Using the *Tiburon's* tender and kayaks small groups will explore and investigate the delicate mangrove and sea grass ecosystems. Lemon sharks, horseshoe crabs, osprey and eagle rays are a few of the wonders that will be seen. Snorkel dives to patch reefs just offshore and view the many juvenile tropical fish that make this their home. At night we will anchor in the Marquesas archipelago and after dinner, enjoy an interactive evening presentation on shark research program sponsored by the *Tiburon*. Before dawn the next morning, the *Tiburon* will depart for the Dry Tortugas Islands.

## The Intinerary—Continued



Day 3 (Thursday) -Awake for an early breakfast and go ashore on Garden Key in the Dry Tortugas to explore the historic Civil War era Fort Jefferson. The afternoon may be spent either with a guided tender ride or kayaking near the Bird Key tern rookery and Long Key frigate bird colony or swimming, snorkeling and relaxing on the beach at Garden Key.

Day 4 (Friday) -Spend the morning snorkeling the historic 200 foot Dutch shipwreck "Killian" sunk in 1907, now resting in 0 to 18 feet of water and home to several nurse sharks, Goliath Grouper and an amazing formation of coral gardens. The afternoon will be spent ashore on the second largest island in the Tortugas chain, Loggerhead Key. Explore the active lighthouse, discover the ruins of the historical Carnegie research center and beach comb and snorkeling little Africa, one of the Keys most outstanding shallow reefs. Dinner is followed by an evening moat walk, viewing the dazzling fish, coral gardens and fascinating marine invertebrates. For the more daring, a nocturnal snorkel is available as well.

Day 5 (Saturday) -Day five begins with an early morning rendezvous with a commercial shrimp-fishing vessel. See first hand the process of bringing shrimp from the ocean to the market. Spend the morning snorkeling with large pelagic animals including dolphins and turtles. These animals all can be seen and photographed easily from the deck of the boat. These are some of the most amazing encounters with turtles \*, in their natural environment, known to exist. Evening presentation from the Tiburon crew of the numerous research and conservation projects taking place in the Dry Tortugas and beyond.

\*All laws regarding the interaction with turtles are followed.

## THE RESEARCH VESSEL TIBURON

The R/V Tiburon is a 63-foot United States Coast Guard certified passenger vessel designed for research and exploration. She is equipped with state of the art safety gear, electronic equipment and air and nitrox compressors. Her homeport is Key West, located within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Designed to sleep 14 quest and 4 crew in air-conditioned comfort, each intimate cabin is equipped with TV and vanity, 300 thread count sheets and tempur-pedic mattress pads. Two bathroom/ showers are shared along with the common areas that include salon, entertainment center, galley and outside deck areas. She carries with her a small fleet of kayaks, expedition tender, snorkel gear, dive tanks and weights.

**Day 6 (Sunday)**-Awaken at sea off the beautiful Marquesas Islands. Departing the Marquesas in the early morning the *Tiburon* spends the rest of the day stopping and snorkeling the shallow tongue and groove reefs that run from the Marquesas to Key West. Late afternoon the vessel will return to port. A farewell dinner is served aboard and the night is spent at the dock for those with flights the following day

Day 7 (Monday) -Continental breakfast before departure from the *Tiburon* by 9AM. Depart Key West



Research your Incredible Island Adventure today:

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