

# EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE TOURS

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### WHALE SHARKS

As the largest fish in the sea, reaching lengths of 40 feet (12 meters) or more, whale sharks have an enormous menu from which to choose. Fortunately for most sea dwellers and us, their favorite meal is plankton. They scoop these tiny plants and animals up, along with any small fish that happen to be around, with their colossal gaping mouths while swimming close to the water's surface.

The world's biggest fish are hungry migrants on a mission, according to a tracking study that mapped whale sharks' long journeys around the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean to a favorite feeding hot spot off the Yucatan Peninsula.

One whale shark's incredible 5,000-mile (7,200-kilometer) swim could even help solve the long-standing mystery of where whale sharks give birth, an event no scientist has ever seen. Preferring warm waters, whale sharks populate all tropical seas. They are known to migrate every spring to the continental shelf of the central west coast of Australia and Mexico.

#### General guidelines: Swimming with Whale Sharks Tour

- DO NOT TOUCH ANY ANIMAL
- The ability to swim is required
- Leave items of value (tablets, cameras, etc.) in your hotel
- Feel free to bring your own equipment, but we provide snorkel equipment
- Bring towel, hat, sun glasses, money for tips and souvenirs, sandals or flip-flops
- Rash Guards or Organic sunscreen only
- Please do not put any sunscreen or repellent on before we go into the water

#### Quick facts about Whale Sharks

Scientific Name: *Rhincodon typus*  
Slow moving plankton feeder  
Largest known fish species  
Length: up to 12.5 meters / 41 feet  
Weight: up to 21.3 metric tons / 47,000 lb



Source: <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/fish/whale-shark/>

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/08/130821-whale-shark-satellite-tracking-migration-gulf-mexico-science/>

<http://www.myprivate.tours/single-post/2016/05/10/ Swimming-with-Whale-Sharks>

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