

COZUMEL · QUINTANA ROO · PALANCAR / SANTA ROSA WALL

Cozumel Reef

the blue wall

Full-day dive charter to Palancar or Santa Rosa Wall with PADI certified dive master who knows both reefs by name. Small boat, gear included, all levels welcome.

NUMBER OF
TANKS

2

MAX DEPTH

25 m

CERTIFICATION

Open
Water

GROUP SIZE

6 divers

FROM

\$140 USD

BOOK AT

fairpricetours.net/t/cozumel

FULL-DAY ITINERARY

07:00

Ferry from Playa del Carmen

Meet at the pier — round-trip ferry ticket included. About 45 minutes to San Miguel.

08:15

Dive shop briefing

Gear fitting, check dive, log review. C-cards and log books required.

09:00

Boat departs

Small boat, six divers max. Ride south to Palancar or Santa Rosa depending on conditions.

09:30

First tank — Palancar Caves

Drift dive through the swim-throughs at 18–24 m. Green turtles, eagle rays, and the wall drop.

10:45

Surface interval

Fresh water, fruit, and time to swap tanks and stories.

11:30

Second tank — Santa Rosa Wall

Vertical wall dive south of Palancar. Sponges the size of chairs, schools of grunt, a chance of nurse sharks.

13:30

Return to San Miguel

Back to the dive shop, gear rinse, log signed. Ferry back to Playa at your leisure.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

The boat, the gear, the tanks, the guide

— FERRY TO COZUMEL

Round-trip ferry from Playa del Carmen to San Miguel. Meet at the pier, boarding pass in hand.

— PADI DIVEMASTER

A certified divemaster who knows both reefs by name, in the water with your group the entire dive.

— MARINE PARK FEE

Cozumel Reefs National Park entrance and daily conservation fee, paid on your behalf.

— TWO BOAT DIVES

Palancar Reef or Santa Rosa Wall — chosen day-of based on conditions. Surface interval on the boat.

— ALL RENTAL GEAR

BCD, regulator, wetsuit (3mm), mask, fins, and weights. Just bring a swimsuit and towel.

— SMALL BOAT

Six divers max. No cattle-boats, no bumping fins, plenty of surface space.

HISTORY OF THE SITE

Palancar Reef — the long, wall-diving system on the south-west edge of Cozumel — was mapped by local fishermen for centuries, but the diving world only noticed it when Jacques Cousteau brought the Calypso here in 1961 and called it one of the best dive sites in the world.

That endorsement changed the island. Cozumel went from a copra port to a diving destination almost overnight, and by 1996 the Mexican government had declared the whole reef system — Palancar, Santa Rosa, Colombia, Punta Sur — a National Marine Park, with mooring buoys instead of anchor damage and a strict daily-diver cap that other Caribbean destinations still refuse to adopt.

The wall you dive today is the same one Cousteau saw. Sixty years of protection have kept it that way.

WHY SHOULD I DO THIS

Because wall diving on Palancar is one of those experiences divers write home about. You drift along a vertical face that drops past visible sight — 200, 400, 1,000 metres — with 30-metre visibility on a good day and reef fish colonising every hollow.

Because the operators here are locals, not chain hotels, and they know Palancar by feel. They know which swim-throughs open up at what depth, where the eagle rays like to hover, where a green moray always seems to be. You get the difference from the first descent.

Because you should see reef in this condition while it's still in this condition. The Marine Park works,

but the ocean around it doesn't always. Come now.

