



# ATLANTIC SHARK EXPEDITIONS

Thanks for your interest in our **Shark Expeditions off Halifax, Nova Scotia**.

Below please find detailed information about these one-of-a-kind daily expeditions.

## **Overview:**

This expedition is all about exploration, giving participants the opportunity to experience the Ocean's apex predator, while learning from shark experts and contributing to shark research that occurs onboard every trip. These daily expeditions are perfect for diving fanatics, non-divers, film makers, students, and shark enthusiasts. Guests can view sharks from the boat or experience these incredible creatures underwater from the safety of our shark cage; scuba-certification is not required.

On our trips we may encounter a variety of local shark species, including Great Whites, Blue Sharks, Porbeagle Sharks and Mako Sharks.

ASE activities support Shark Conservation. Learn more here:

<https://atlanticsharkexp.com/conservation/>

## **Details at a glance:**

- Expeditions run daily from July through end of October
- Expeditions depart and return daily from Halifax, Nova Scotia (Location TBD, but near the waterfront)
- Expeditions run from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm
  - Timing may vary or be adjusted based on weather and shark activity.
- All guests receive educational briefings from our onboard marine biologist.
- Sharks can be viewed from above the water or underwater from the safety of our cage (*use of cage is weather permitting*). You don't need to get in the cage to get the most out of this experience – it's just as good from the comfort of the boat.
- The opening of the shark cage will sit at the surface (not scuba). Cage divers are provided air from the surface via a hosed hookah system.
- Contribute as a Citizen Scientist: please consider sharing your trip photos and videos with us to help build a photographic identification database of sharks in the region.

**Minimum age of participants:** 10 years old (participants under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian over 19 years old).

**What's Included:**

- Shark viewing and participating in photo identification.
- Experienced captain and crew
- Onboard snacks and refreshments
- Shark Cage diving (*weather permitting*)
- Mask and snorkel; wetsuits, gloves, dive hood and boots in select sizes (see below)
- Surface supplied air to cage divers via a hookah system

**Not included:**

- Flights
- Accommodations
- Transfers to hotel or dock
- Meals

**Airport:**

If you plan to fly in for the expedition, the nearest airport to the marina is Halifax Stanfield International Airport (YHZ).

**Location:** Halifax – with exact location TBD, but near the waterfront

**Accommodations:**

Given different guest needs, we don't have a specific expedition accommodation, but we have partnered with Four Points by Sheraton Halifax to provide our guests discounts. The hotel is located at 1496 Hollis Street Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3Z1. This is a great hotel near the waterfront. Our guests will automatically receive a discount on hotel reservations when using this link: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1704461913323&key=CORP&app=resvlink> (the discount is already factored in to whatever room you choose).

**Airport Transfers:**

The Halifax waterfront and the Four Points by Sheraton hotel is only about 22 miles (35 mins, depending on traffic) from Halifax Stanfield Airport. There are fleets of taxis at the airport as well as the option to get an Uber and Lyft.

**Insurance:**

While not required, participants getting in the shark cage may consider carrying personal DAN (<https://dan.org/membership-insurance/dive-insurance/>), PADI or equivalent dive accident insurance. While not required, we highly recommend that guests carry travel insurance (trip interruption) due to issues related to weather, seasickness, illness or air travel delays. Cancelling a trip due to bad weather is always a real possibility. For travel insurance, check out InsureMyTrip, DiveAssure, or Allianz Travel or by googling trip interruption insurance in your area. Guests may also consider obtaining insurance for their camera gear to cover loss or damage.

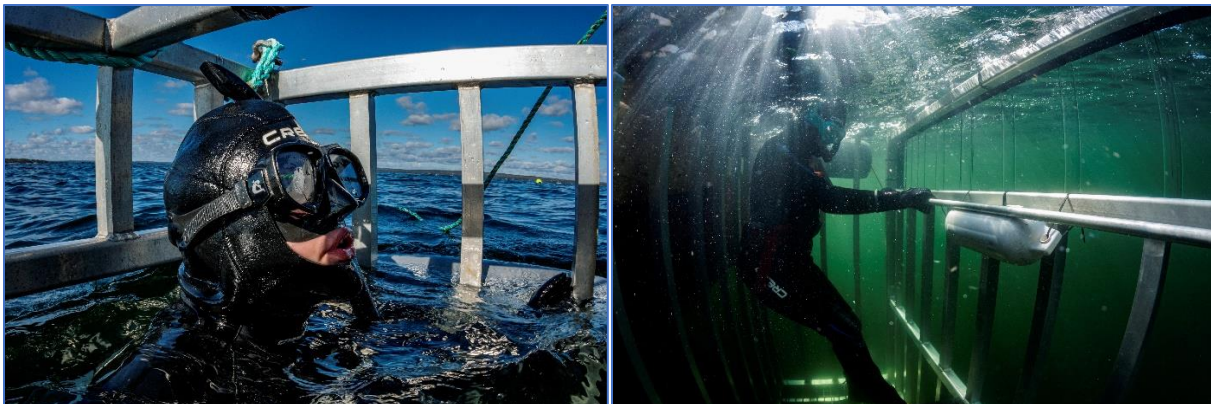
**What to bring:**

- Towel, sunscreen, water, food and snacks, seasickness medications (if needed)
- Dress in layers as morning tend to be cold (jacket, toque, gloves, rain boots are recommended)
- Polarized sunglasses
- Cameras to document your awesome experience.

**Weather:** Weather in the Canadian Maritimes is highly variable and can change quickly. We will not risk your enjoyment or the safety of our guests or the shark if the forecast is not looking good for our activities. It's possible that some weather conditions will still permit shark trips, but will not be conducive to using the shark cage. The use of the shark cage will depend on daily weather and the decision to use the cage will be made daily, the morning of each trip. Fortunately, shark viewing is often better topside from the boat! It is possible that expedition schedules may need to be adjusted by due to inclement weather. If this is the case, an email and text will be sent out the evening before a trip, so please keep an eye out for an email or text from ASE. If possible, we recommend reserving multiple days to increase your chances of having great weather, not to mention every day at sea is different!

**Wetsuits:** We provide 7mm wetsuits, gloves, boots, hoods, masks and snorkels to our guests. Our wetsuits are sized from S to 3XL. Our boots are sized 6-13 US mens shoe. If you require sizes outside of this and don't have your own gear, then you will need to rent; one possible option to rent is Torpedo Rays Scuba in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia (<https://www.torpedorays.com/>). Please let them know that Atlantic Shark Expeditions sent you to receive a special package deal. Please contact the store ahead of your trip to reserve gear to ensure they have what you need.

**Cage:** Our shark cage opening is 7 ft tall, 8 ft wide, and 3 ft deep. We will hold 3-4 people in the cage at a time, with rotations throughout the trip so everyone who wants to go in the cage has a chance to do so. The duration of rotations in the cage will depend on weather and shark activity, but we anticipate will average 30 mins per rotation. Getting in and out of the cage will require use of a ladder, so anyone wishing to do this has to be physically capable of safety entering and exiting the cage via a ladder. This allows divers to sit in the cage and keep their head out of the water if they wish. See pictures below.



**Visibility and likelihood of sightings:**

Visibility is variable, ranging from 2-30 ft.

In terms of likelihood of sightings, nature is unpredictable, and the sharks are wild. As such, we cannot guarantee shark sightings. Little is known about sharks off Nova Scotia, so the search for these mysterious predators is a part of the adventure. On our trips we may encounter a variety of local shark species, including Great Whites, Blue Sharks, Porbeagle Sharks and Mako Sharks. On every expedition we are likely to encounter wildlife of some kind and guests always learn a lot about sharks from our on-board marine biologists and local shark experts.

**Cancellations:**

Reservations canceled by guests before at least 60 days from the scheduled trip may be credited, rescheduled, or fully refunded. Reservations canceled with 59 to 31 days' notice may be credited, rescheduled, or refunded 50% of the expedition cost. Reservations canceled with less than 30 days' notice is not refundable, but can be rescheduled or credited towards a future expedition if we are able to fill your spot with another guest.

Expeditions are weather dependent and have minimum participation requirements. In case of bad weather or the need to reschedule a trip for other unforeseen circumstances, guests will have the opportunity to reschedule to a future date, receive a full credit to be used towards a future date, or receive a refund if they are unable to reschedule. Again, cancelling due to bad weather is a real possibility, so we do recommend you get insurance that would cover any travel costs (e.g. flights, hotel, car rental) in the case of a trip cancellation due to bad weather.

**Research:**

During expeditions, ASE crew will be recording data for ongoing research monitoring of sharks off Halifax. We are authorized to conduct scientific research with Great White Sharks via a permit by the Canadian Government under the Species at Risk Act. Through this research, ecotourists have the privilege of joining researchers on boat-based expeditions to search for sharks, view sharks from the boat and/or underwater from the cage, learn from the research team, and observe scientific activities.

**New for 2024:**

In addition to [single day](#) trips, we are pleased to offer [3-day](#) and [5-day](#) discounted expedition packages. Click [here](#) to view availabilities and reserve either a single day or multi-day expedition package.

**Reservations:** Spaces on these expeditions are very limited. To reserve a spot, book online [HERE](#) or call to save on the online booking fee 902-943-6139.

**3-Day Specialty Course?**

You may also be interested in shark specialty courses. This is a 3-day course that contains both boat-based shark excursions and lectures on the biology of Great White Sharks by Dr. Neil

Hammerschlag. For more info check out: <https://atlanticsharkexp.com/great-white-specialty-course-nova-scotia-canada/>

Looking forward to you joining this adventure.

Be sure to follow us on socials **@Atl\_Shark\_Exp**

Can't find what you are looking for? Email us at [info@atlanticsharkexp.com](mailto:info@atlanticsharkexp.com)