



CHANNEL ISLANDS

ADVENTURE COMPANY

GUIDED SNORKEL EXCURSION AT SCORPION ANCHORAGE, SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

THIS IS NOT A BOOKING CONFIRMATION.

The information below is only for reference. Please be sure to reference your booking confirmation sent via email for exact times and locations. If you have any questions, please email letsgo@sbadventureco.com.

Guided Snorkel Excursion Time (~2.5 hours)*

- ~1 hr - Orientation, gearing up, and paddle talk
- ~1-1.5 hr - Snorkeling

Level of Difficulty

Intermediate through advanced experience levels recommended. Minimum age 10; children 12 and under must be escorted by an adult guardian on the activity. All guests **MUST** know how to swim. Prior snorkeling experience is **REQUIRED**.

Itinerary

Your morning will begin at the Island Packers ferry dock for check-in at either 7am or 8am, depending on which ferry departure time you selected (8am departure or 9am departure). You'll want to look for Channel Islands Adventure Company guides just outside of the Island Packers building. Your guide will have your tickets. Detailed driving directions will be sent upon booking in your confirmation email. The ferry ride is generally 1-1.5 hours depending on wildlife sightings. You'll then meet your guide(s) on the island at either 11:00am or 1:30pm depending on your activity start time.

We will provide a basic snorkeling instruction/safety talk and distribute all necessary gear before hitting the water. We will then begin the guided snorkel excursion along the coast in one direction, exploring giant kelp forests and searching for marine life as you go. The total activity time is about 3 hours. You will then return to the beach and have until the ferry picks you up to explore the island (your ferry captain or guide will tell you your pick-up time).

Camping is available on the island! If you are interested, please [visit the park service website](#) for more information.

Before or after your excursion, we recommend enjoying a picnic on the beach, exploring one of the island's [many great trails](#) or relaxing on the beach.

Guided Snorkel Excursion Includes:

- Snorkel & Mask*
- Fins
- 3-piece, 7mm Wetsuit
- Snorkel flotation device
- Knowledgeable guide(s) on the local natural history and marine ecology
- Basic snorkeling instruction

**We do not have prescription masks. If you have contact lenses, you should wear them.*

**We provide wetsuits and snorkel masks; however, if you would like to bring your own, you are welcome to do so.*



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YOU MUST PURCHASE A FERRY TICKET TO GET TO THE ISLAND. You can do this through our checkout when you book online or book directly with [Island Packers](#). For the Guided Snorkel Excursion at 11am, you have the option of booking the 8am ferry (7am check-in) or 9am ferry (8am check-in). If you have already booked a later ferry, check out our Guided Snorkel Excursion at 1:30pm or call us for options, (805) 884-9283 or toll free (877) 885-9283.

If camping, ferry tickets must be purchased directly with Island Packers and the campsite should be booked through [Recreation.gov](#). For more information on camping, check out our blog [Guide to Camping on Santa Cruz Island](#).

Interested in a longer snorkel and camp trip? We can organize trips up to 5 days in length. Call us for prices and options.

FERRY CHECK-IN TIME

Times vary by day & activity. Please see your confirmation email for the correct check in time. Your check-in time is calculated to allow ample time to park and unload gear at the dock. Island Packers, the ferry boat service, will depart on time so your check-in time is important—much like an airplane flight. If meeting your guide at the dock, you'll locate your guide in front of the Island Packers building (they will be wearing CIACo gear). They'll have you fill out your paperwork and you'll receive your boarding passes. You'll be disembarking the boat at the first stop, Scorpion Anchorage/Ranch.

HOW TO AVOID SEASICKNESS

- **Rest.** A body that is well-rested is better able to handle the stressors associated with traveling.
- **Stability.** Avoid sitting inside in the galley; choose a seat on the lower deck, outside, at the stern of the boat.
- **Sit.** Do not stand. Standing will have your body in a constant state of trying to maintain balance.
- **Focus.** Keep eyes focused on the horizon or on a stationary object that is off in the distance.
- **Don't read.** Reading can trigger a sudden onset of motion sickness.
- **Don't travel on a full or empty stomach.** If you start to feel ill, eat some crackers and a carbonated beverage to settle your stomach.
- **Hydrate.** Dehydration while traveling can aggravate motion sickness. Drink plenty of water.
- **Dramamine or Bonine.** Take an over-the-counter medication for motion sickness or an over-the-counter antihistamine, especially if you are a person that knows they are susceptible to motion sickness. These medications can make you drowsy or cause other side effects so use with caution.

MEETING POINT

Island Packers, Ventura Harbor: 1691 Spinnaker Dr #105B, Ventura, CA 93001. Phone: (805) 642-1393
Ventura, CA is about 30 miles south of Santa Barbara, CA. Look for Channel Islands Adventure Company guides just outside of the Island Packers building. Your guide will have your tickets.*

For more info: <http://www.islandpackers.com/DriveVenturaHarbor.html>

**On occasion, our guides camp the night before on Santa Cruz Island. When this happens, we will notify you in advance to tell you that your guide will meet you at Scorpion Anchorage on Santa Cruz Island, instead of at the Ventura Harbor. You will need to pick up your tickets inside the Island Packers building in this case, board the boat, and get off at the first stop, Scorpion Anchorage/Ranch. Detailed driving directions will be sent upon booking in your confirmation email.*

RETURN TIMES

Arrival time back to Ventura Harbor varies by day and ranges between 5:30pm and 6:00pm. Your guide will inform you of your return time upon check in. If you would like to know your exact return time in advance, please call or email us.

PARKING

There are no fees for parking. All overnight visitors will need to acquire a parking pass at check in and park in the long-term parking. Additionally, there are parallel parking spaces on Spinnaker Drive for day trip passengers ONLY.

FOOD

Food is NOT INCLUDED in your trip and there are no food vendors on the island.

- There is a snack bar on the boat but we recommend bringing lunch, snacks and water.



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WHERE TO BUY FOOD

Here are some options for buying food in or close to Ventura Harbor

- **Vons** opens at 6am and is a 10-minute drive from Island Packers at 2433 E Harbor Blvd, Ventura, CA 93001, (805) 642-6761
- **Island Packers Ferry** has some snacks and drinks on board to supplement any food that you bring.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

- **Swimsuit or swim trunks** – To save time, we recommend wearing your bathing suit under your clothes in the morning; however, there is a changing area on the Island just a few minutes' walk from where we keep our gear.
- **Sun Protection** – A hat, sunglasses with a neck strap and sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) is all recommended.
- **Water bottle** – 1-quart (or greater) full, we will provide additional potable water
- **Clothing** – Synthetic sweatshirt or layers as well as a windbreaker for the boat ride. Please dress in layers, wearing synthetic clothing (avoid cotton if possible).
- **Towel**
- **Day Pack**
- **Hiking shoes** (tennis shoes are fine for shorter hikes)
- **Watch**
- **Cash** – If you want to tip your guide. It is customary, but always optional, to tip your guide (10-15% is standard).
- **Seasickness medication (optional)**
- **Waterproof camera (optional)**

IMPORTANT:

- Islands Packers does not allow any bags greater than 45 lbs.
- Single use plastic bags are banned within the Channel Islands National Park, please bring reusable bags.

STORAGE

While we are snorkeling you can place your extra belongings in our storage box on the island.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The Channel Islands National Park is a remote location and there are no medical services on the islands. Please bring any medications you may need and plan accordingly. All of our guides are CPR & First Aid Certified. This activity has a 2-person minimum; the activity may be canceled if less than 2 people book on any date. Dangerous conditions may exist at any time of the year, and we cannot guarantee cave exploration. **The water is cold year-round and averages about 60-65°F during the summer months.**

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY FOR ISLAND PACKERS

In case of unfavorable weather or sea conditions, the ferry boat company will cancel at 5:30am on the day of your trip. On the morning of your departure, after 5:30am, please call (805) 642-1393, select option 4 and listen for the status of your trip.

QUESTIONS?

For more information, visit our [FAQ's page](#).



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