

Diving with Whale Sharks

All divers and snorkelers MUST agree to and sign this form to be able to participate in the Whale Shark tour

Whale Sharks seasonally visit Gladden Spit, a promontory midway along the Belize Barrier Reef, to feed on the spawn of aggregating snappers. This is the only place this has been documented and the associated Whale Sharks, Gladden Spit and the Silk Cayes were declared a marine reserve in May 2000. Whale Shark tourism regulations were drafted to regulate the increasing number of Whale Shark tours.

Relatively slow moving animals, Whale Sharks are curious but docile. At Gladden Spit Whale Sharks will readily approach boats, divers and snorkelers if they do not feel threatened. They often will remain close to divers if not chased or harassed.

To ensure that the Whale Sharks are not harmed by tourism or boating activities, please follow the guidelines and area laws below – as summarized by the Gladden Spit & Silk Cayes Marine Reserve regulations:

- Make sure you get a Whale Shark interaction briefing from a licensed Whale Shark guide
- DO NOT TOUCH, RIDE OR CHASE a Whale Shark – **BZ \$10,000 finable offence!**
- If diving, remain **above 80 feet** to avoid disturbing reef fish spawning aggregations
- Remain at least **15 feet AWAY** from the Whale Sharks at all times
- Do not block the Whale Sharks path
- When your guide tells you to leave the water, please pay attention and get onto the boat as quickly as possible. Please follow all instructions from your guides
- RELAX... and let the Whale Shark come to you, it is only curious!
- **NO** flash photography, **NO** cameras on poles

Violating these guidelines and laws can ruin the trip for everyone. Southern Environmental Association (SEA) reserves the right to deny any violator or tour operator from further participation in any dives without compensation.

I agree to abide by the above guidelines and laws. I take full responsibility for my actions and accept that if I break these rules I am fully responsible for the **BZ \$10,000** fine.

Name: _____ **Hotel:** _____ **Room:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____