

# “NATURES WONDERLAND”

## A 13-day Expedition including a MIR submersible dive to the Hydrothermal Vents at Nine Degrees North

Departing **AUGUST 31<sup>st</sup> - SEPTEMBER 12<sup>th</sup> 2003**  
(Embarking Acapulco / Disembarking Acapulco, Mexico)



***IN CONJUNCTION WITH PP SHIRSHOV ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, MOSCOW***

### **Day 1: August 31<sup>st</sup> 2003** **Arrive Acapulco, Mexico**

Expedition participants arrive independently into Acapulco throughout today and preceding days. Transfers are independent to the 5-star *Hyatt Regency Acapulco*, situated on the beach in Acapulco Bay, where Deep Ocean Expeditions has booked your night of accommodation. Meals on own account.

### **Day 2: September 1<sup>st</sup> 2003** **Acapulco/At Sea**

Breakfast at the *Hyatt Regency* hotel and the day at your leisure in downtown Acapulco.

At 1500 hours we meet at the *Hyatt Regency* hotel lobby and transfer as a group to the Port of Acapulco to embark the research vessel *RV Akademik Mstislav Keldysh*, mothership to the MIR I and MIR II submersibles. Tonight we depart the Port of Acapulco and sail the exciting journey towards the Nine North vent site, lying 490 nautical miles to the southwest of Acapulco. Gather on board for a welcome dinner, expedition team introductions, and a dive briefing.

(B on Deep Ocean Expeditions account, L own account, D on board *Keldysh*)



### **Day 3-4: September 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> 2003** **At Sea, en route Nine North vent site**

Over the next two days we will travel to the Nine North vent site. Your days at sea will be filled with briefings and informative lectures presented by on-board scientists, oceanographers and submersible specialists. While at sea, you will have time to explore the *RV Keldysh*, an extraordinary research ship, and meet the explorers, scientists, submersible pilots, engineers, and other staff. You will be introduced to Anatoly Sagalevitch, Head of the PP Shirshov Submergence unit and Chief Pilot.



Lectures by deep ocean experts and briefings on expedition logistics help you prepare for your upcoming dive. You will enter the submersibles for an orientation session to become familiar with the surroundings.

Meals, prepared by first-class Western chefs, are taken in the Captain's mess hall. On deck there are good opportunities to observe many species of seabirds, and possibly dolphins and whales.

Upon arrival at the Nine North vent site a series of transponders will be deployed and calibrated. This acoustic system allows the submersibles to safely navigate the ocean floor and also to communicate with the *Keldysh* far above on the sea surface. Submersible diving will begin the following day.

(B, L, D)

**Day 5-11: September 04<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 2003**  
**On site at Nine North vent site**



Sea conditions permitting, we will arrive at the Nine North site on the morning of September 4<sup>th</sup>. Your dive to the vents will be made aboard either the MIR I or MIR II submersible. Your dive will be to a depth of 2,700metres (8,600 feet) however these submersibles are capable of reaching ocean depths of 20,000 feet (6,090m). Housed aboard the *RV Keldysh*, the MIR's (meaning 'peace' in Russian) are two of only five manned submersibles in the world that can reach these depths. Each of these exciting dive days, subject to weather conditions, submersible dives are planned (one in each MIR with two participants and pilot) with time allotted for a rest period.

Please note that the Head of the Submersible operation and the Expedition Leader will determine the sequence of dives and rest periods. Prior to the actual dives, participants will attend a final briefing with the pilots. Launching of MIR I and II will be staggered, however it is expected that they will dive on the vents

simultaneously. Dives can take place both in daytime and night-time depending on prevailing conditions. Non-diving group members will be able to observe and photograph the operation from a good vantage point.

Non-divers will be updated regularly on the progress and route of the submersibles, and they will get a chance to visit the Navigation Room to hear the communication with the submersibles. Dives involving expedition participants are interspersed with dives for the on-board scientists at the discretion of the Expedition Leader. After each dive, participants relax with a traditional Russian sauna. There are ongoing post-dive celebrations, and time for informal socializing. Enjoy lectures and discussions with deep ocean explorers and scientists, and take advantage of the ship's library and video facilities.

(B, L, D)



**Day 11-12: September 10<sup>th</sup> –11<sup>th</sup> 2003**  
**Departing Nine North site, en route Acapulco, Mexico**



Our final day at the Nine North site. The *RV Keldysh* will depart the site bound northeast for Acapulco, Mexico later today. (B, L, D)

As the *RV Keldysh* sails back in the direction of Acapulco enjoy informal discussions and recaps with expedition leaders, tour the laboratories to watch scientists at work, and reflect on your incredible diving achievement. Weather permitting a farewell barbecue with your fellow divers, the MIR submersible team and the crew of the *RV Keldysh* will be held on the outside deck. (B, L, D)

**Day 13: September 12<sup>th</sup> 2003**  
**Arrival Acapulco, Mexico and Disembarkation**

Morning arrival to Acapulco. After a hearty breakfast on board the *Keldysh* you will be transferred to the airport or to where your independent arrangements begin for your homeward journey. (B)

**PLEASE NOTE: Weather delays during dive days MAY possibly extend the expedition, therefore it is strongly suggested that you do not schedule any important appointments until after September 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**Alternatively if the expedition encounters good weather the *RV Keldysh* may return to Acapulco slightly earlier than scheduled. In this instance passengers may remain aboard the vessel until the morning of September 13<sup>th</sup> as per itinerary.**

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## ON BOARD RV AKADEMIK KELDYSH

*When calling from a direct phone in the U.S or Canada:*

Tel: 011 + Ocean Code (874 or 871) + 140-5154

Fax: 011 + Ocean Code (874 or 871) + 140-5155

For non-direct dial telephones, for person-to-person calls and for calls from outside the U.S.:

Call the International Operator and ask to place a satellite call.

Give the Ship's name (Akademik Keldysh) + Ocean Region code (874 or 871) + 140-5154

Ocean codes for dialling:           Atlantic West – 874  
  Atlantic East – 871

**Email contact on board: Belinda Sawyer [belinda@deepoceanexpeditions.com](mailto:belinda@deepoceanexpeditions.com) (text only please)**

## ACCOMMODATION IN ACAPULCO

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