

EXPLORER VENTURES

adventures in liveaboard diving

TO: Explorer Ventures Fleet guests
FROM: Clay McCardell, President
DATE: March 2026
RE: Fuel surcharge



As you are no doubt aware, world oil prices have been volatile over the last 15+ years. Actual fuel costs that we pay at our destinations decrease much more slowly than in major world markets, and unfortunately increase faster.

Fuel is a liveaboard vessel's largest direct expense, and its price affects costs of operation in countless ways other than our direct purchase of it. As a small, family-owned company, we need to protect ourselves and our partners against large, sustained increases in our weekly costs of operation, especially when package prices may be set 2-3 years in advance. Though we try to keep our package price at a very reasonable level, we cannot afford both to absorb these increased costs and continue to provide you with the exceptional value and customer service that you deserve. Although we haven't been able to eliminate our fuel surcharges for several years, we regular review and reduce them – and often we have resisted raising them, even with greatly increased fuel costs.

Please also note that although some of our itineraries don't involve long travel distances, the fact is that even our newer fuel-efficient generators on the vessels – powering everything from the dive compressors to the air conditioning, electronics and lights - consume the bulk of the fuel used during our normal itineraries.

To check the current amount of the fuel surcharge for your upcoming trip, [please visit this page](#).

While we all hope that fuel prices will decrease and stabilize at lower levels, allowing us to reduce these surcharges, there is also the possibility that fuel prices will increase to such an extent that we'll be forced to increase the surcharges applicable to your departure. **Please be aware that the actual fuel surcharge applicable to your trip may adjust up or down depending on current fuel prices.** We will post the current fuel surcharge level on our website and make no changes less than 30 days prior to your departure.

Please let us know should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, and on behalf of all of us, I want to thank you in advance for your understanding. We look forward to hosting you for a wonderful week of diving!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clay V. McCardell".