

# BAJA CALIFORNIA AND THE SEA OF CORTEZ: AMONG THE GREAT WHALES

MARCH 5-12, 2022 | ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE



Venture to Baja California and the Sea of Cortez to enter the California gray whale birthing lagoons of Bahía Magdalena for close encounters with these gentle giants, a rare privilege in the natural world. We'll snorkel, stand-up paddleboard among sea lions and hike the pristine desert islands dotting the Sea of Cortez. Our expert expedition team will do whatever it takes to ensure you an unforgettable experience and will illuminate each facet of this fascinating region through their enthusiasm and knowledge.

## DAY 1: LORETO/EMBARK

Upon arrival in Loreto and embark *National Geographic Venture*. Savor the sunset as we set sail. (D)

## DAY 2: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ

Our plan is flexible as we explore some of the Sea's many uninhabited islands. Our Captain and Expedition Leader will choose the perfect combination of activities for the day. We may go ashore at Isla San Francisco, where a sweeping arc of white sand beach beckons you to kayak or stand-up paddleboard. Or, hike to the nearby ridge for unparalleled views over Isla Danzante with your naturalist. You may also visit the abandoned salt works on Isla Carmen. You'll get a chance to see the great diversity offered in the Sea of Cortez, and with some luck, spot the amazing wildlife. (B,L,D)



### DAY 3: LOS ISLOTES AND LA PAZ

Awake this morning off the rocky island of Los Islotes, where we'll don flippers, a mask, and snorkel (which we provide) and swim with curious sea lions. Then we'll reposition to the colorful city of La Paz to garner insight into the culture of Mexico, soak in the vibrant street art, and stroll the lively "Malecon" on a guided walking tour. Dinner will be an unforgettable cultural experience, complete with local cuisine, dancing, and folklore. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4: GORDA BANKS AND CABO PULMO

Kickstart your day snorkeling the pristine reefs of Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park, one of the most successful national marine parks in the world, and chat with locals about their advocacy to protect this unique place. We'll spend the afternoon searching the seas of Gorda Banks seamount, a renowned gathering place for whales, especially humpbacks, dolphins, and other sea life, capping off our day with a majestic sunset over the iconic Friars Rocks at Land's End. (B,L,D)

### DAY 5: MAGDALENA BAY/CRUISING

Ease into your morning with a morning stretch hosted by our onboard wellness specialist on the sun deck. After breakfast, if conditions permit, we'll explore the bay's mangrove system via kayak, standup paddleboard, and Zodiac, and learn how these ecosystems support their surroundings. This afternoon, we'll sail out through "La Entrada" as we leave Magdalena Bay behind. Traveling south along the coast of the peninsula there is a chance of seeing a wide variety of marine life, including the largest animal on Earth, the blue whale. Hear naturalist talks and learn photography basics. (B,L,D)

### DAY 6: BOCA DE SOLEDAD

Each winter, during their long migration, gray whales travel south from their Arctic feeding grounds to breed and give birth and raise their calves in these sheltered waters. We'll

transfer to López Mateos and spend the full day observing, and with luck, interacting with these majestic creatures. Together with savvy local Mexican fishermen we've known for years, we'll venture out in Zodiacs to view the numerous mother-calf pairs that thrive in this sheltering region. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before heading back to the ship in late afternoon. (B,L,D)

### DAY 7: BAHIA ALMEJAS/REHUSA CHANNEL/ISLA MAGDALENA

Awake anchored in Bahia Almejas, the southernmost part of the Bay. We'll stop at a large frigatebird colony enroute to the spectacular whale grounds of Bahía Almejas. Whales in this part of the bay tend to be very active, seemingly oblivious to our presence so settle in for some great experiences. During lunch, the ship will reposition to Isla Magdalena where we'll head to shore to explore the ever-shifting sand dunes, on a cross-island walk to one of the most pristine beaches in the Pacific. Bird watching can be excellent here with abundant seabirds in action and shorebirds patrolling the beaches as they fatten up and prepare for long journeys to Arctic breeding grounds. (B,L,D)

### DAY 8: SAN CARLOS/LORETO/DISEMBARK

Disembark in San Carlos after breakfast and transfer to Loreto. Here you can choose to visit the first mission in Baja California, as well as the nearby museum to learn more about what makes this town so special. Enjoy free time to explore the quaint shops and vibrant side streets. After lunch, transfer to Loreto Airport for flights home. (B,L)

**FOR QUESTIONS, OR TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS:**

96 Morton Street  
New York, NY 10014

Phone: 888-773-9007  
Email: [groups@expeditions.com](mailto:groups@expeditions.com)

**COST INCLUDES:** All accommodations aboard ship; all meals and nonalcoholic beverages aboard ship; shore excursions; sight-seeing and entrance fees; special access permits and park fees; transfers to and from group flights; use of kayaks, paddleboards, and snorkel gear; all port charges and service taxes; services of the ship's physician and Lindblad Expeditions' natural history staff.

#### Cancellation Policy:

# of Days Prior to Expedition Start	Per Person Cancellation Fee
120 or more days	\$350
119-90 days	Advance Payment Cost
89-60 days	25 % of trip cost
59-45 days	50% of trip cost
44-0 days	No Refund

**NOT INCLUDED:** Air transportation; passport or visa fees; meals not indicated; extensions; travel protection plan; personal items such as Wi-Fi, spa treatments, alcoholic beverages, etc.; gratuities to the ship's crew are at your discretion.

**ADVANCE PAYMENT:** \$750 per person

### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE

CABIN CAGETORY	CAT. 1	CAT. 2	CAT. 3	CAT. 4	CAT. 5 SUITE
COST PER PERSON – DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	\$ 6,400	\$ 7,130	\$ 7,720	\$ 8,520	\$ 9,460
			CAT. 1 SOLO	CAT. 2 SOLO	
COST PER PERSON – SINGLE OCCUPANCY			\$ 9,740	\$ 10,610	



The dining room with large picture windows; Category 4 cabin with lower single beds (which can convert to a Queen) and a private step-out balcony. Select cabins connect via an inside doorway.

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE

**CAPACITY:** 100 Guests in 50 cabins.

**REGISTRY:** United States. **OVERALL LENGTH:** 238 feet.

The *National Geographic Venture*, launching in 2019, will be the latest addition to the Lindblad-National Geographic fleet. Designed with over 50 years of expedition heritage and built in the U.S., *National Geographic Venture* will set a new standard in exploration and comfort.

**PUBLIC AREAS:** Global gallery; fitness center; LEXspa; lounge with full service bar and facilities for films and presentations; observation deck; mudroom with lockers for expedition gear, and a partially covered sundeck with chairs and tables. Our "open bridge" provides guests an opportunity to meet our officers and captain and learn about navigation.

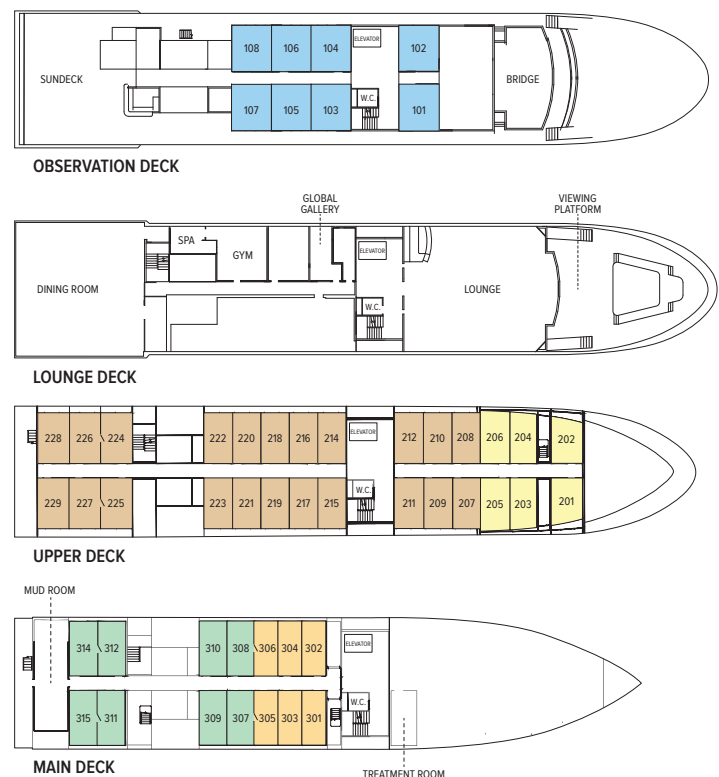
**MEALS:** Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Breakfast is a wide selection buffet and dinner is served family-style. Menu emphasizes local fare.

**CABINS:** All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private facilities and climate controls. Category 4 cabins have step-out balconies.

**EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT:** A fleet of 8 Zodiacs and 24 kayaks, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, video microscope, paddle boards, snorkeling gear for all guests (where applicable).

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** Guest internet access, elevator, a Lindblad certified photo instructor, a video chronicler and undersea specialist.

**WELLNESS:** The vessels are staffed by a Wellness Specialist and feature a gym with an elliptical machine, treadmill, exercycles, handweights and resistance bands. Treatments in the LEXspa are available by appointment.



**CATEGORY 1:** Main Deck #301-306 Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk and two portholes.

**CATEGORY 2:** Main Deck #307-315 Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk and two portholes.

**CATEGORY 3:** Upper Deck #201-206 Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk and two large view windows.

**CATEGORY 4:** Upper Deck #207-229 Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, large view window and small, private balcony.

**CATEGORY 5 (SUITE):** Observation Deck #101-108 Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, large view windows, an expanded bathroom, writing desk, ample storage space, and a convertible sofa bed to accommodate a third person.

**NOTE:** Sole Occupancy cabins are available in Categories 1 and 2 only. Third person rates are available in Category 5 cabins at one half the double occupancy rate.

Connecting Cabins via internal doorway access:

Main Deck: #312-314, #311-315, #306-308, #305-307

Upper Deck: #224-226, #225-227



**BRING THE KIDS:** *We believe sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. Take \$500 off for each child under the age of 18.*

## RESERVATION FORM

# BAJA CALIFORNIA AND THE SEA OF CORTEZ: AMONG THE GREAT WHALES

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on the **MARCH 5-12, 2022**, Baja California voyage with **San Diego Natural History Museum**.

Passport Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

*Preferred Name for Name Badge:* \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

*Preferred Name for Name Badge:* \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations: ☐ Double ☐ Single ☐ Twin share w/ friend ☐ Share with roommate assigned by tour operator

Indicate choice of cabin category in order of preference: 1st choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please contact me about arranging air travel

**Advance Payment Information:** US\$750 per person

☐ If paying by check, please make payable to: **Lindblad Maritime Enterprises, Ltd.**

☐ If paying by credit card, we will contact you to finalize your booking and collect your payment information.