

BAJA & THE SEA OF CORTEZ

3 EXTRAORDINARY
WILD EXPERIENCES

NEW!
MORE SCOPE
MORE THRILLS
AMONG THE
GREAT WHALES

WITH
A FAMILY OFFER
AN AIR CREDIT +
A FREE PRE-TRIP HOTEL



DEAR TRAVELER,

When I think about all the places in the world that I have seen and how they have developed over the past 40 or so years, Baja California really stands out. Development, and all that goes with it, has really been confined to relatively few areas. Yes, Cabo San Lucas 40 years ago was a sleepy town with dirt streets and only a couple of modest hotels and we all know what's happened since, but it's confined, and you don't have to go too far north on the Pacific or in the Sea of Cortez to be right back into a totally wild world.



Baja California, where the desert meets the sea, is a remarkably diverse place, rich in wildlife. It is arguably the best place in the world to see whales in good conditions—humpback, gray, fin, blue, pilot, to name the most likely. You also may very well run into hundreds, at times thousands, of common dolphins which, when encountered, inevitably come straight to the ship to ride the bow.

We have three very distinct itineraries to offer:

Baja California and the Sea of Cortez: Among the Gray Whales

On this itinerary the prime focus is spending time with California gray whales in Magdalena Bay, where hundreds come to breed and give birth to their young each year in the winter months. They are remarkably unafraid of our presence and, at times, even seek us out with very close contact. No matter what happens, being amongst them is sheer joy—but that's just part of the experience. (Pages 12/13)

Baja California: A Remarkable Journey

This voyage is for those with time who are interested in the full spectrum of opportunity on both the Pacific and in the Sea of Cortez. Great seabird colonies, dolphins galore, four or five different kinds of whales, desert hikes, incredible scenic beauty. If you've got the time, "Remarkable" is an apt description. (Pages 16/17)

Exploring the Sea of Cortez: A Living Sea & Desert Isles

A pure focus on the Sea of Cortez with its diverse islands and bays. You won't see the gray whales on this voyage, but you should see plenty of other marine life, as the Sea of Cortez is full of it. And you will be in some of the most remote parts of Baja where very, very few ever venture. (Pages 20/21)

What I've discovered in the last 40 years exploring this region is that it's kind of like a movie. The gray whale is the superstar and the primary attractor, the Sea of Cortez is the collection of character actors giving the film color and depth. Many who first joined us on Among the Great Whales return to the Sea of Cortez to get more of the full picture. You should definitely go. I've been at least 50 times and so there must be a reason.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sven-Olof Lindblad'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sven-Olof Lindblad

BAJA FAMILY OFFER:

Take \$1,000 off each child age 21 and under on select departures of all three expeditions featured in this brochure. See page 24 for details.

A NIGHT IN LORETO—WITH OUR COMPLIMENTS:

Book the April 12 or 13, 2020 departure of *Exploring the Sea of Cortez* (pages 20-21) and be our guest for a charming interlude.

BAJA: 3 UNIQUE WAYS

Discover a miraculous sea, teeming with life, ringed by desert islands alive with wildness—Baja is like no other place and we offer peerless ways to experience the peninsula.

YOU CAN WHALE WATCH OTHER PLACES, ONLY HERE CAN YOU WHALE ENCOUNTER

You'll have plenty of chances to get up-close to gentle giants—the gray whale mothers and calves that migrate annually to these nursery lagoons. We'll spend time among them, observing them at water level aboard our Zodiacs, with expert spotters and knowledgeable naturalists. Plus we may see several of the 20 species of whales that roam these waters.

And perhaps get a super-pod dolphin escort for the ship. See [Among the Great Whales](#) on pg. 12-13.



**BAJA CALIFORNIA & THE SEA OF CORTEZ:
AMONG THE GREAT WHALES | 8 DAYS**

**BAJA CALIFORNIA:
A REMARKABLE JOURNEY | 15 DAYS**

**EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ:
A LIVING SEA & DESERT ISLES | 8 DAYS**



IN A LAND WITH PERFECT LIGHT, TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT

Make the most of Baja's magical light on our 15-day photo-centric voyage and capture everything the peninsula provides—from majestic gray whales and other amazing marine life to idyllic, sun-drenched island beaches. A National Geographic photographer and certified photo instructors aboard ensure you'll go home with incredible photos, no matter your skill level.

See [A Remarkable Journey](#) on pg. 16-17.





Our new, state-of-the-art expedition ship, *National Geographic Venture*.

MARVEL AT A PARADE OF MARINE LIFE


One of the hidden wonders of the world, the Sea of Cortez explodes with life. You'll have the whole sunlit expanse to yourself (and your fellow guests) at the peak of activity, when seabirds fill the sky and pods of dolphins, groups of whales and, with luck, leaping mobula rays are found—often in near-perfect sea conditions. See [Exploring the Sea of Cortez](#) on pg. 20-21.



EXPLORE BOTH—BAJA'S PACIFIC COAST AND THE SEA OF CORTEZ

Two of our itineraries, the longer [Remarkable Journey](#) on pg. 16-17, and the shorter [Among The Great Whales](#) on pg. 12-13, explore both of Baja's best locations for spotting whales and other marine life. Choose either for the greatest opportunities to see whales—from the gray whales who migrate to Baja each year, to any of the 20 species known to roam these waters, even blue whales, the largest on earth!





THERE'S A REASON OUR BAJA TEAM SAYS “EATING IS OPTIONAL”

All of our Baja expeditions are amazing and our *Among The Great Whales* trip is one of the best! Why? Gray whales, and the ability to linger with them. Plus, as many as 20 different whale species visit the Sea of Cortez and along Baja's Pacific coast during our time there. While nature offers no guarantees, our expert staff works tirelessly to spot the humpbacks, gigantic blue whales, sperm and pilot whales, plus occasional orcas, finbacks, and minke, roaming these waters. Best of all, some 12,000 gray whales migrate from the Arctic to Baja every winter—the only place in the world they give birth. They also find mates, feast, and play in Baja's warm waters. This is not ordinary



whale-watching; this is a nature-extended invitation to be privileged spectators of their lives, including the potential for tender encounters with gray whale mothers and calves. And if all these possibilities weren't enough, *Among the Great Whales* also explores the Sea of Cortez—an area of fantastic biodiversity—dolphins, porpoises, sea lions, and mobula rays. We've even been visited by super pods of dolphins—imagine 50 to 100 of these highly intelligent, graceful and compelling animals leaping through the water together, racing alongside your ship. It's simply thrilling—and why we've been returning to explore Baja for 40 years.

Blue whale surfacing, Baja California.

THE PERFECT MOBILE BASE

With generous decks that take full advantage of the sun and ocean breezes, and create front row seats on the remarkable spectacle of marine life in Baja, our new sister ships *National Geographic Venture* and *National Geographic Quest* are uniquely designed to make the most of being in this remote, soul-satisfying geography.

Because there is much to discover here—cactus forests, desert islands, beautifully indented shores, a calm sea with vivid life beneath the surface, and more, these ships are equipped so you can explore—a fleet

of Zodiacs, kayaks, paddleboards, plus snorkeling gear for all, even hydrophones for whale listening and a bow camera for capturing bow riding dolphins. In addition, an undersea specialist/videographer captures video for you to enjoy in the comfort of the ship's lounge. And a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor is aboard to help you capture the moments at the heart of your experience.



CAMP FOR EXPLORING



National Geographic Venture out on expedition, launching Zodiacs ready to explore.

DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAKE YOUR EXPERIENCE EXTRAORDINARY

WHETHER IT MEANS STAYING UP UNTIL THE WEE HOURS TO SCAN FOR passing whales of uncommon species so you won't miss out on rare sightings, taking advantage of an opportunity to snap photos of a pod of leaping dolphins, or holding an impromptu stargazing, our team is dedicated to revealing Baja and making sure your experience is exceptional. Benefit from the personalities and knowledge of an expedition leader, naturalists, an undersea specialist, a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, and a video chronicler, plus a wellness specialist to enhance the revitalizing effects of life in the Sea of Cortez.

▶ Learn more at expeditions.com/expertbios for full bios on our staff



Representing our expert team for the 2020 season, clockwise from left: Carlos Navarro, undersea specialist; James Hyde, naturalist; Annie Fiske, expedition leader; Paul North, undersea specialist; Stella Bohnert, assistant expedition leader.



IN A LAND WITH PERFECT LIGHT, BENEFIT FROM EXPEDITION PHOTOGRAPHY

MAKE THE MOST OF THE UNRIVALED PHOTO OPS OF BAJA

California's wild islands, whales, dolphins, pelicans, and sea birds with our Expedition Photography program. Every expedition features



a Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic certified photo instructor who offers assistance,

instructions and shooting tips in the field. Their expertise will inspire you and help you improve your skills—no matter your current skill or interest level—and ensure you return home with incredible photos.

Exclusive Onboard Gear Locker

Dive into the onboard B&H Photo Video Gear



Locker to field test new glass, camera bodies, and more—free. Plus, ask your Expedition Specialist about pre-voyage discounts and benefits.





Gray whale mother and calf surfaces close to guests.

*“THE BABY IS PUSHING US!
THE BABY IS LITERALLY PUSHING
THE BOAT RIGHT NOW!”*

DAILY EXPEDITION REPORT, BAJA:

So here we are in Magdalena Bay and what’s happening here is a very rare event indeed...at this point in the season, the male gray whales have left and the whole goal of moms is to get those babies ready for a huge trip up the west coast of North America.

[As we’re watching from the deck, we feel the boat drift...] The baby is pushing us! The baby is literally pushing the boat right now! When you think about a California gray whale literally putting her calf on her body and lifting it up to be touched, to be rubbed along the side of the boat—we aren’t just watching whales, we are interacting with them. And they are just as curious about us as we are with them.

What in the world is going on? We took these whales to the brink of extinction twice in the last two centuries. These are very sentient beings, these are very intelligent animals, they’re mammals after all. They have very large, well developed brains. Why in the world would these whales now



approach the very shaped boats that were hunting them in times past? It’s hard to say if they’ve forgiven or forgotten? ...There are a lot of theories about it, but no one really knows.

—MICHAEL NOLAN, LINDBLAD-NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
CERTIFIED PHOTO INSTRUCTOR



▶ WITNESS THE EXHILARATION OF A GRAY WHALE ENCOUNTER AT
[EXPEDITIONS.COM/GRAYWHALE](https://www.lindblad.com/expeditions.com/graywhale)

Our expedition teams file Daily Expedition Reports (DERs) from the ship. Archived on our website, they’re a great source for what it’s like to be in that place, at that time of the year, and what to expect. Travel with us, and your friends and family can follow your adventure.

BAJA CALIFORNIA & THE SEA OF CORTEZ: AMONG THE GREAT WHALES

8 Days/7 Nights—Aboard *National Geographic Venture*

Pricing from \$5,990 (See pages 22-23 for details.)

Our experience in this region has enabled us to add even more to this itinerary, an expedition team favorite. We now range more widely—increasing our chances to spot more than 20 whale species, while allowing us time to linger among the gray whales for incredible, up-close encounters. Experience the human side of Baja, too, in La Paz and lovely Loreto. And, we’ve created a new opportunity: snorkel the pristine reefs of Cabo Pulmo, one of the most successful national marine parks in the world.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT

Marine biologist and filmmaker **Tierney Thys** will join the **Jan. 11 & 18, 2020** departures. As past Director of Research for Sea Studios Foundation, Tierney helped produce the award-winning PBS series *Strange Days on Planet Earth* and *Shape of Life*.

Learn more about staff and guest speakers at expeditions.com/experts.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Explore along Baja’s Pacific Coast and the Sea of Cortez to exponentially increase your chances of seeing humpbacks, gigantic blue whales, sperm, pilot whales, and more.
- ▶ Your floating base camp brings you into the breeding grounds of gray whales to observe their calves on intimate water-level encounters, and from the ship’s bow along with expert naturalists.
- ▶ Go snorkeling amid sea lions and schools of king angelfish in the Sea of Cortez and in extraordinary Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park.
- ▶ Kayak clear blue waters on the lookout for a variety of bird species including magnificent frigatebirds.
- ▶ Hike or walk diverse landscapes, including sand dunes, a cactus forest, and deserted islands.
- ▶ Stroll the “Malecon” in vibrant La Paz and dine splendidly; in Loreto visit the first mission in the New World.

California gray whale, Baja California.

DAY 1: LORETO/SAN CARLOS/EMBARK
Upon arrival in Loreto, transfer to San Carlos and embark our ship. Tonight, we'll anchor off the coast of Isla Santa Margarita. (D)

DAY 2: BAHÍA ALMEJAS/REHUSA CHANNEL/ISLA MAGDALENA
Awake in Bahía Almejas, the southernmost part of the Bay. We'll observe a large frigate-bird colony enroute to the spectacular whale grounds of Bahía Almejas. Whales here tend to be very active, seemingly oblivious to our presence so settle in for some great experiences. Later we'll reposition to Isla Magdalena 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. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: BOCA DE SOLEDAD
Each winter, gray whales travel south from their Arctic feeding grounds to breed, give birth, and raise their calves in these sheltered waters. We'll spend the full day interacting with these majestic creatures. Together with savvy local Mexican fishermen, we'll venture out in local pangas to view the numerous mother-calf pairs. We will likely encounter a variety of shorebirds while frigatebirds and pelicans soar overhead. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: THE HULL CANAL & CRUISING
Kickstart your day with a with morning stretch hosted by our onboard wellness specialist on the sun deck. After breakfast, we'll explore the vast mangrove system via kayak, stand-up paddleboard, and Zodiac, and learn how these massive 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. Hear naturalist talks and learn photography basics. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: GORDA BANKS/CABO PULMO
Awake to a majestic sunrise over the iconic Friars Rocks at Land's End. We'll spend the rest of the morning searching the seas of Gorda Banks seamount, a renowned gathering place for whales, dolphins, and other sea life. Later we'll set out to snorkel 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. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: 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)



Mexican folkloric dancers.

DAY 7: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ
Our plan is flexible as we explore some of the Sea's many uninhabited islands. 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 8: LORETO/DISEMBARK
Disembark in Loreto after breakfast and transfer to the city center. Visit the first mission in Baja California and 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)

EXPEDITION DETAILS

DATES: 2020 Jan. 11*, 18, 25*; Feb. 1, 8*, 15, 22*, 29; Mar. 7*

2021 Jan. 9*, 16, 23*, 30; Feb. 6*, 13, 20*, 27; Mar. 6*

*These departures travel in the reverse.

Note: The exact order of stops may vary in order to maximize your experience.

SPECIAL OFFER

- Book by Dec. 31, 2019 and receive a **\$350 AIR CREDIT** on the Jan. 11 & 18, 2020 departures. See page 24 or call for details.
- **EXCLUSIVE FAMILY OFFER:** On select 2020 departures, take **\$1,000 off for children or grandchildren age 21 and under.** See page 24 or call for details.

BLUE & FIN WHALE LORETO EXTENSION

Further your exploration of this richly varied region with this exciting two-night extension. Visit expeditions.com/loreto for details.



Surfacing bottlenose dolphin in the Sea of Cortez, Baja California.



Beautiful desert night sky, highlighting the red sandstone formations of the Baja peninsula, Puerto Gato.



“THE BEST THING ABOUT AN EXPEDITION IS THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.”

DISPATCH POSTED ON RALPH HOPKINS’ BLOG, BAJA:

Around midnight, Erasmo, our Hotel Manager, and Chef Eric were out looking at the moon on the ship’s fantail, the lowest deck at the stern where we load Zodiacs. The sea was flat calm, reflecting the moon, the stars and several planets. Then, as if in a dream, a large male killer whale leaped from the water and looked them in the eye, its six-foot tall dorsal fin towering above them and reflecting in the moon light. “It was the most amazing thing ever,” Erasmo said, “I could have touched it, but instead I instinctively pulled Eric back from the rail. The animal was that close!”



They reported it to the bridge, and Expedition Leader, Sue Perin, gently woke the guests. There were five very curious killer whales, rolling on their sides to look up at us, swimming alongside for more than an hour. Although a third of the world’s cetaceans are known to visit the Sea of Cortez, sightings of killer whales are relatively rare. For everyone, seeing killer whales in the moonlight was a dream come true. Even today’s modern digital cameras have trouble handling dim moon light from a moving ship—so it was challenging. All the guests were shooting, trying tips and techniques. I shot a few frames with the ISO cranked up to 25,000 at a shutter speed of ¼ second, good enough to make a couple of images of whale watching under the full moon! And hours later, after a highly eventful day, a few of us stayed up or woke up—for a total lunar eclipse.



—RALPH LEE HOPKINS, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER AND LINDBLAD DIRECTOR OF EXPEDITION PHOTOGRAPHY

This photo expedition provides a 360° of the Sea of Cortez vistas and marine wildlife, while also offering an unrivalled immersion in nature photography, under the guidance of National Geographic photographers and certified photo instructors.

BAJA CALIFORNIA: A REMARKABLE JOURNEY

15 Days/14 Nights—Aboard *National Geographic Venture* and *National Geographic Sea Lion*

Pricing from \$11,530 (See pages 22-23 for details.)

Embark on a comprehensive photo expedition that explores both the Pacific side of Baja California and the islands in the Sea of Cortez. Venture into the gray whale lagoons for up-close encounters, and then spend ample time exploring the Sea of Cortez and all its marine mammals. See scores of blue-footed boobies and pelicans, kayak into quiet grottos, and visit charming seaside towns.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Get up-close views of gray whale mothers and their growing calves as they prepare for their journey back to Arctic feeding grounds.
- ▶ Kayak clear blue waters to search for wildlife, including magnificent frigatebirds, and investigate the intricacies of the shoreline.
- ▶ Snorkel the living sea: observe large schools of vibrantly colored fish, swim among playful sea lions, and much more.
- ▶ With more time for adventure, rely on your expedition leader to take you where wildlife will be at its best—including the remote oceanic island of San Pedro Mártir with clouds of nesting seabirds and crowds of sea lions onshore, and expanses of sea where huge pods of dolphins gather.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jonathan Kingston's work has appeared in *National Geographic* magazine, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. Join him on the **Mar. 16, 2020** departure.

Michael Melford is an award-winning photographer who has produced more than 50 stories for *National Geographic* and *National Geographic Traveler* magazines over the past 30 years. He will be on board the **Mar. 30, 2020** departure. Read full bios and find out more about Photo Expeditions at expeditions.com/photo.



Kayaking the calm water in the Sea of Cortez.

DAY 1: LORETO/SAN CARLOS/EMBARK
Upon arrival in Loreto, transfer to San Carlos and embark our ship. (D)

DAY 2: BAHÍA MAGDALENA

Explore the ever-shifting sand dunes of Isla Magdalena, on a cross-island walk to one of the most pristine beaches in the Pacific. Bird watching in this area can be excellent. We may observe pelicans and cormorants skimming the waters of the bay, or terns wheeling and darting as frigatebirds ride the thermals above, looking for an easy meal. Along the beaches, resident great blue herons feed on these fertile shorelines next to migratory shorebirds, including whimbrels and willets, as they refuel for their northbound journeys. (B,L,D)



Gray whale, Laguna San Ignacio.

DAYS 3 & 4: LAGUNA SAN IGNACIO

Laguna San Ignacio is a large bay and favored haunt of the gray whales in Baja. The ship will anchor at the mouth of this remote and important locale, while we observe the mother and calf pairs in local pangas. For some reason, the whales here seem to be friendlier than they are elsewhere. It's not unusual for mothers and calves to approach our boats, the calves often playing hide and seek—sometimes even welcoming a touch or a friendly chin scratch. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: AT SEA

As we travel south along the Pacific 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. (B,L,D)

DAYS 6–14: ISLANDS OF THE SEA OF CORTEZ

Cruise past the spectacular Friars Rocks at Land's End. For those who wish, we will arrange a visit to the historic town center of San José del Cabo. Isla San Pedro Mártir, Los Islotes, Isla San Francisco—these are some of the melodious names of islands scattered throughout this beautiful sea. After over 40 years of exploration here, we are still discovering new places and experiencing exciting events: bow-riding bottlenose dolphins, or sperm whales near our ship; a pod of fin whales feeding around a convergence zone. The best areas for whale watching remain consistent—the waters south of Isla Carmen, Canal de Ballenas up north, and near the mouth of Bahía Concepción. Whether on the Bridge of the ship, on expedition landing craft, or kayaks, we will be in prime position to observe them all. (B,L,D)

DAY 15: LORETO/DISEMBARK

Disembark in Loreto after breakfast and transfer to the city center. You'll have the opportunity 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 quaint shops and vibrant side streets. After lunch, transfer to Loreto Airport for flights home. (B,L)



EXPEDITION DETAILS

DATES: 2020 Mar. 16* 📷, 30 📷

2021 Mar. 15* 📷, 15† 📷, 29 📷

📷 Photo Expedition

*These departures travel in reverse.

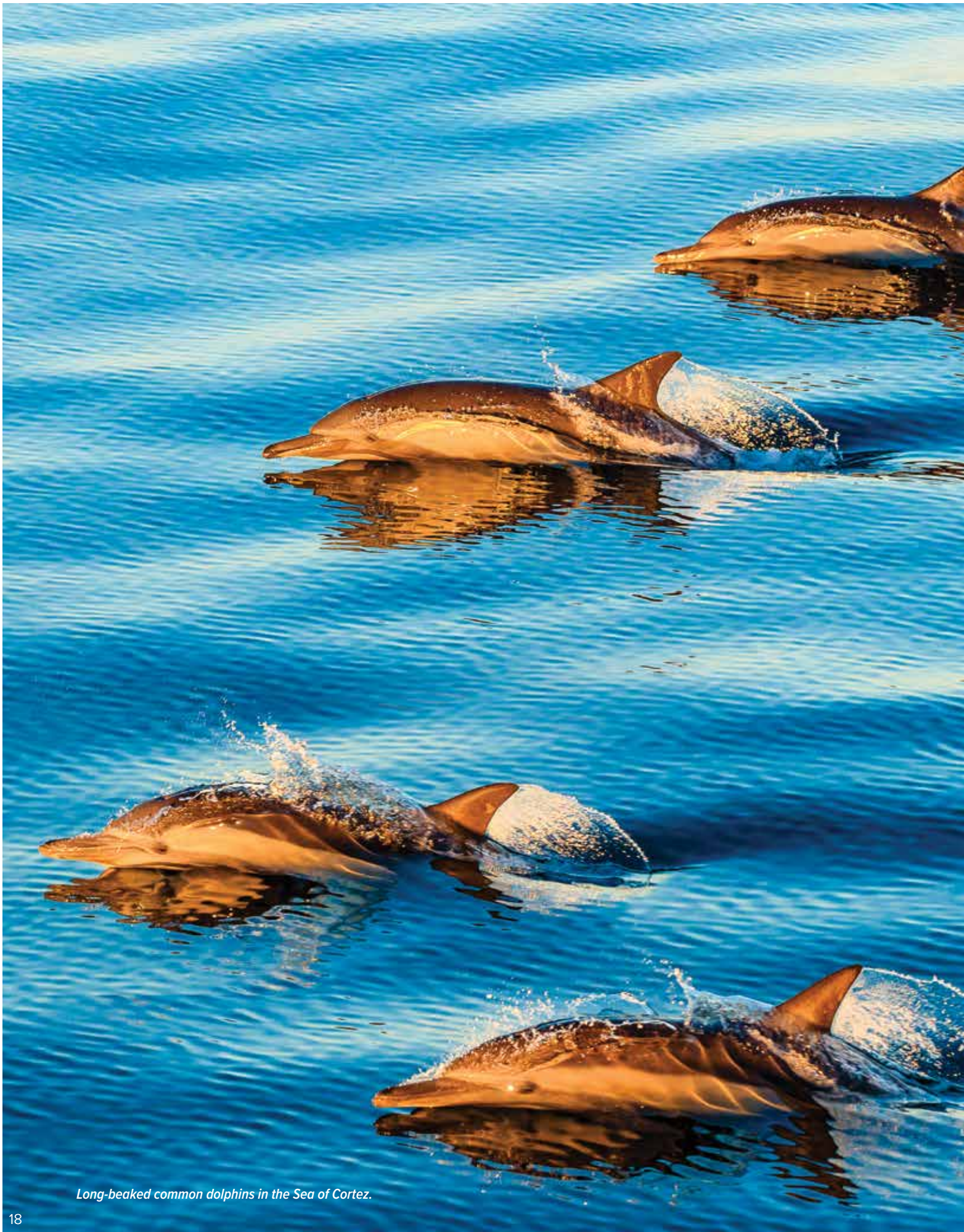
†This departure is aboard the 62-guest *National Geographic Sea Lion*. Call or visit expeditions.com/sealion for details.



Mission San Javier in Loreto.



Guests photographing at sunrise.



Long-beaked common dolphins in the Sea of Cortez.



“IT’S CALLED THE RICHEST SEA IN THE WORLD, AND IT DESERVES THE TITLE!”

—SVEN LINDBLAD NARRATION, MARCH 2012, SEA OF CORTEZ

So, we wake up in the morning. I had asked the Captain to be about an hour off this island called Esteban. And then for the next two hours, we were (out in Zodiacs) in and among huge numbers of leaping dolphins... It was like a tornado had come through, the water was churned up so much. Then, the activity would end and the sea would be flat calm. We’d head the Zodiacs and lead the dolphins out in to the flat water so we could see their reflections. It was incredible. Sometimes you’d be literally looking up at a dolphin, the leaps were so high. People were getting amazing images. The dolphins were racing from one Zodiac to another—it was clear that they were enjoying this—and the faster you went, the more of them would come. It was the most incredible experience you could possibly imagine.

Then, all of a sudden, we spot some sperm whales—the whales species that figured prominently in Moby Dick, with the largest brain of any mammal, a rare sighting. We were patient and sure enough, they came to us, surfacing right near our Zodiacs. The naturalists asked us to lower our voices, and then the only sounds you could hear, were softly murmured OMGs and



whirring camera drives. Our naturalist repeated softly, “it is a privilege, a privilege” and the hushed spell over everyone indicated we agreed. I don’t think I’ll ever stop talking about this day for the rest of my life.

—SVEN LINDBLAD, FOUNDER & CEO, LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS

▶ SEE THE VIDEO OF THIS DRAMATIC DAY IN BAJA AT [EXPEDITIONS.COM/SVEN_BAJA](https://www.expeditions.com/sven_baja)

EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ: A LIVING SEA & DESERT ISLES

8 Days/7 Nights—Aboard *National Geographic Venture* and *National Geographic Quest*

Pricing from \$6,570 (See pages 22-23 for details.)

The pristine desert islands dotting the Sea of Cortez are places of incredible biodiversity set amid a UNESCO World Heritage Marine Site dubbed “the world’s aquarium” by Jacques Cousteau. Each of these islands is a world unto itself, with a palpable feel of rugged isolation. Hike among forests of cacti and along desert *arroyos* in bloom as you search for endemic flora and fauna. Watch for swirling plunge-diving brown pelicans, blue-footed and brown boobies, and the frenetic aerial activity of gulls and terns that often alerts us to large pods of acrobatic dolphins. With a flexible itinerary, decades of experience, and deep knowledge of wildlife habits, this unique journey combines the beauty and biodiversity of this legendary region with a stimulating sense of adventure.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT

Marine biologist, photographer, and conservationist **Octavio Aburto** will join the **Apr. 13, 2020** departure. Octavio focuses his photographic outreach and scientific research on the conservation of marine habitats and commercially important species and their fisheries.

Learn more about staff and guest speakers at expeditions.com/experts.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Experience a voyage of pure discovery in a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with a flexible itinerary chosen by the region’s most knowledgeable staff to maximize wildlife sightings.
- ▶ Venture further north in the Sea of Cortez to explore remote and seldom visited islands, such as Isla Rasa, a breeding ground for 90% of the world’s Heermann’s gulls and a large population of elegant terns.
- ▶ Search for pods of dolphins and other marine life. With luck, catch a leaping mobula ray as they eject from the sea and belly-flop back in the water.
- ▶ Explore water-level caves by kayak, hike uninhabited beaches, stand-up paddleboard, and snorkel among tropical fish and acrobatic sea lions.



California sea lions basking in the sun.

DAY 1: LORETO/EMBARK

Arrive in Loreto and embark our ship. (D)

DAYS 2–7: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ

Our routing is designed with flexibility in mind, to maximize opportunities for wildlife sightings. It will most likely include the islands and activities listed below, although the order may vary. (B,L,D)



Pinto Chuckwalla, Isla San Esteban.

ISLAS SAN ESTEBAN AND SAN PEDRO MÁRTIR:

Walk up a desert wash, to search for desert songbirds such as the handsome black-throated sparrow, listen for the cascading

song of the canyon wren, and search for the endemic pinto chuckwalla—a plump, harmless desert lizard. Later visit Isla San Pedro Mártir, a 1,000-foot-high guano-covered island that is home to thousands of seabirds: brown pelicans, magnificent frigatebirds, Brandt’s cormorants; and California sea lions.

ISLA SAN MARCOS:

At Isla San Marcos, there is a beautiful shoreline for swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking. In the afternoon, we are again in rich waters. We are on the lookout for pods of dolphins—with common and bottlenose being the most frequently encountered species. With luck they will join us as we go, riding the bow wave and sometimes leaping from the water.

ISLA SAN JOSÉ:

One of the larger islands in the Sea of Cortez, San José, offers several landing possibilities depending on conditions and the whim of the moment. Photograph the ochre cliffs of the island’s eastern shore, hike an “enchanted,” cactus-laden *arroyo*, or visit the abandoned salt works to the west. Snorkel with sea lions and discover rare wildlife among the desert islands.

BAHÍA LORETO MARINE PARK:

This morning we’ll search the waters south of Isla Carmen for fin whales, which researchers



have recently concluded may be part a resident population. Bottlenose and common dolphins are frequently encountered. Later we visit an island of Bahía Loreto Marine Park, with ample time for kayaking, snorkeling, stand-up paddleboarding, and possibly hiking. In the evening, enjoy a beach barbecue under the desert sky.

ISLAS LOS ISLOTES AND SAN FRANCISCO:

At Los Islotes, don flippers, a mask and snorkel (which we’ll gladly provide) and swim with curious sea lions. We have a leisurely afternoon to swim, kayak, or hike at Isla San Francisco. Look skyward for yellow-footed gulls, brown pelicans, and blue-footed boobies.

DAY 8: LORETO/DISEMBARK

Disembark and explore Loreto, where we will have the opportunity 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 quaint shops and vibrant side streets. After lunch, transfer to Loreto Airport for flights home. (B,L)

EXPEDITION DETAILS

DATES: 2020 *National Geographic Quest*: Apr. 12
National Geographic Venture: Apr. 13; Dec. 20, 27
2021 *National Geographic Venture*: Apr. 12



Kayaking, Isla San Marcos.

A Night In Loreto—with Our Compliments

Starting in 2020, our Baja itineraries either begin or end in the charming town of Loreto—a quintessential town and perfect introduction to the peninsula’s citizenry and human history. To celebrate our inaugural year visiting Loreto, we are inviting all guests who book the **April 12 or 13, 2020** departure of this itinerary to enjoy a complimentary 2-day/1-night Loreto experience. Explore the 1697 Jesuit Misión San Francisco Javier de Viggé-Biaundó, and its fascinating icon collection. Hike the Sierra de la Gigante foothills with a picnic lunch. Stay at Hotel La Mision, adjacent to the waterfront for a charming evening stroll. Call for details.

Subject to availability, and must be requested at time of booking. Includes three meals, hotel night, and Mission entrance fee. Not redeemable for cash or credit.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE & NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC QUEST

CAPACITY: 50 cabins accommodating 100 guests
REGISTRY: United States. **OVERALL LENGTH:** 238 feet.

Sister ships *National Geographic Venture* and *National Geographic Quest* (launched 2019) are the latest additions to our fleet.. Designed with over 50 years of expedition heritage and built in the U.S.A., they 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.

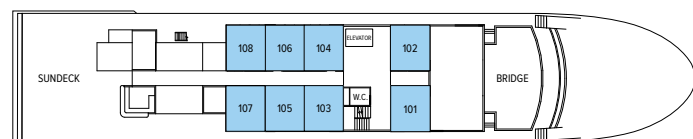
MEALS: Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Breakfast and lunch are wide-selection buffets with chef-action stations, while dinners are primarily served plated. Menu emphasizes local fare.

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

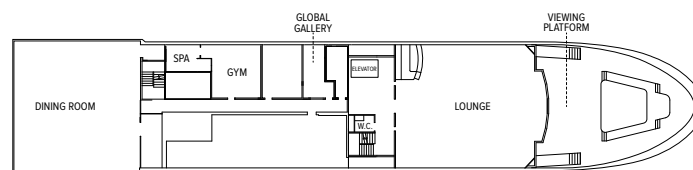
EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: A fleet of 8 Zodiacs and 24 kayaks, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, video microscope, paddleboards, and snorkeling gear for all guests (where applicable).

SPECIAL FEATURES: Guest internet access, elevator, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, video chronicler, undersea specialist, and ship physician.

WELLNESS: The vessel is staffed by a wellness specialist and features a gym with an elliptical machine, treadmill, exercycles, handweights, and resistance bands. Treatments in the LEXspa are available by appointment.



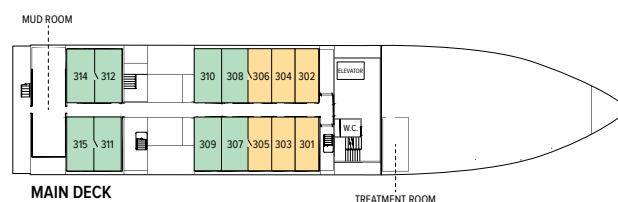
OBSERVATION DECK



LOUNGE DECK



UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK



Left to right: Captain Cook raises a glass; *National Geographic Venture*; our lounge is the hub of the expedition community; viewing platform; Category 5 cabin; Category 4 cabin with lower single beds (which can be converted to a Queen) and a private step-out balcony. Select cabins connect via an inside doorway.

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, sliding glass door, 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: Solo 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

Prices are per person, double occupancy unless indicated as solo.

ITINERARY	YEAR	CAT. 1	CAT. 2	CAT. 3	CAT. 4	CAT. 5 SUITE	CAT. 1 SOLO	CAT. 2 SOLO	ADVANCE PAYMENT	NOTE
Baja California and the Sea of Cortez: Among The Great Whales – Page 12	2020	\$5,990	\$6,770	\$7,230	\$7,990	\$8,880	\$9,150	\$9,990	\$750	Sample Airfares: Round-trip Los Angeles/Loreto: Economy from \$650; Business from \$1,140.
	2021	\$6,270	\$6,990	\$7,570	\$8,350	\$9,270	\$9,550	\$10,400		
Baja California: A Remarkable Journey – Page 16	2020	\$11,530	\$12,750	\$13,610	\$15,180	\$16,740	\$17,300	\$19,130	\$1,500	Sample Airfares: Round-trip Los Angeles/Loreto: Economy from \$650; Business from \$1,140.
	2021	\$11,650	\$12,890	\$13,760	\$15,350	\$16,890	\$17,450	\$19,290		
Exploring the Sea of Cortez: A Living Sea & Desert Isles – Page 20	2020	\$6,570	\$7,200	\$7,700	\$8,590	\$9,450	\$9,860	\$10,820	\$750	Sample Airfares: Round-trip Los Angeles/Loreto: Economy from \$650; Business from \$1,140.
	2021	\$6,690	\$7,350	\$7,850	\$8,690	\$9,590	\$9,990	\$10,950		

Prices quoted in this brochure are valid as of the time of printing, are subject to modification, and are not guaranteed until booking and required deposit is made. For current rates and details visit expeditions.com for the most up-to-date pricing. For best pricing book early.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SPECIAL OFFERS

EXCLUSIVE BAJA FAMILY OFFER: Take \$1,000 off for each child age 21 and under when traveling with two full paying adults on select 2020 departures of any of the three itineraries featured in this brochure. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, not applicable on extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

\$350 AIRFARE CREDIT: Book by Dec. 31, 2019 to receive a \$350 air credit per person on the Jan. 11 & 18, 2020 departures of *Baja California & the Sea of Cortez: Among the Great Whales*. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers, or extensions. Call for details.

TRAVELING AS A GROUP: Save 5% when traveling as a group of 8 or more people. Take advantage of these great savings, while enjoying traveling with your friends and family. This savings is applicable to voyage fares only, and is not valid on extensions or airfare. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies.

INCLUSIVE PRICING

We include just about everything you have the opportunity to do as part of your expedition aboard ship and ashore. The only things not included are those of a personal nature—alcohol, internet usage, tips to the crew, wellness treatments and other specialized arrangements.

ABOARD SHIP

- ✓ All meals and non-alcoholic beverages
- ✓ Cappuccinos, lattes & complimentary environmentally friendly refillable water bottle
- ✓ 24-hour coffee, tea & soda on demand
- ✓ Hors d'oeuvres & snacks during lounge recap
- ✓ Fitness center
- ✓ Fully stocked library
- ✓ The guidance and company of our expedition staff

ASHORE

- ✓ Meals on land, as indicated in itinerary
- ✓ Special access permits, park fees, port taxes
- ✓ Transfers to and from group flights
- ✓ The expertise of our expedition staff

ACTIVITIES

- ✓ All excursions
- ✓ Expedition landing craft & kayak explorations
- ✓ Snorkeling and paddleboarding
- ✓ Lectures & presentations in the lounge
- ✓ Morning stretch classes with wellness specialist



BE PART OF OUR EXPEDITION COMMUNITY

Join in! Here's how:

- ✓ Check our daily blog for interesting posts, video clips and Photos of The Week: expeditions.com/blog
- ✓ Like us on Facebook: hear what our travelers have to say, get inspired and chime in: [facebook.com/LindbladExpeditions](https://www.facebook.com/LindbladExpeditions)
- ✓ Preview an expedition before you go or subscribe to our videos on [youtube.com/lindbladexpeditions](https://www.youtube.com/lindbladexpeditions)
- ✓ Follow us [@LindbladExp](https://twitter.com/LindbladExp) and our founder, Sven Lindblad [@SvenLEX](https://twitter.com/SvenLEX), on Twitter; and on Instagram [@SOLindblad](https://www.instagram.com/SOLindblad) for his interesting view of the world.
- ✓ Check out Expedition Snapshots from guests—and upload your own on the expeditions.com homepage.



BIG! BAJA FAMILY OFFER

BE AMONG THE GREAT WHALES WITH KIDS OR GRANDKIDS!

Take \$1,000 off each child 21 and under on select departures of our *Among the Great Whales* expedition. See pages 12-13.



RESERVATION INFORMATION

Terms & Conditions: For complete terms and conditions please visit www.expeditions.com/terms

Costs Include: All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary or similar, all meals and non-alcoholic beverages aboard ship, meals on land as indicated accompanied by non-alcoholic beverages, air transportation where indicated as included, shore excursions, sightseeing and entrance fees, special access permits, transfers to and from group flights, use of kayaks, tips (except gratuities to ship's crew), taxes and service charges, services of a ship physician and services of our expedition staff. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

Not Included: Air transportation (except where shown as included), extensions, passport, visa, immigration fees, meals not indicated, alcoholic beverages, travel protection plan, items of a personal nature, such as e-mail, voyage DVD, laundry.

Airfare: For all programs, airfare is an additional cost unless otherwise indicated. Sample airfares are subject to change. We will gladly assist in making your air arrangements for a \$50 per person service fee.

Reservations: To reserve your place, an advance payment is required at the time of reservation.

Final Payment: Payment is due no later than 90 days prior to departures, depending on the expedition. Payment schedules may vary for certain longer voyages, due to high demand. We reserve the right to cancel your reservation if payment has not been received by final payment due date.

Travel Protection Plan: We strongly recommend that you take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, medical assistance, and damaged or lost baggage, and provides medical assistance and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. and Canadian residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date. If you are not satisfied for any reason, you may return your plan within 10 days after purchase. Your premium will be refunded if canceled within 10 days, provided you have not already departed on the trip or filed a claim. When so returned, the coverage under the plan is void from the original date of purchase.

Responsibility and Other Terms & Conditions: Certain provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Expeditions' and the National Geographic Society's liability for loss of property, injury, illness or death during the

voyage will be provided to all guests on the ship's ticket sent prior to departure, and are also available on our website at www.expeditions.com/terms, or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

Note: Itineraries and prices listed in this brochure are as of publication date and are subject to change. Under normal conditions the total expedition price is guaranteed at the time of booking. However, our expedition pricing is determined far in advance of initial departure on the basis of then-existing projections of fuel and other costs. In the event of increases in those costs, including but not limited to increases in the price of fuel, currency fluctuations, increases in government taxes or levies, or increased security costs, we reserve the right to adjust the price of your expedition or add a surcharge to cover such unexpected increases. We will always provide an explanation of the reason for increase in costs.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellation penalties may apply after payment is received. Please visit www.expeditions.com/terms for complete cancellation policies.

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For Reservations:
Contact your travel advisor or Lindblad Expeditions
1.800.EXPEDITION (1.800.397.3348)

Reservation Hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 9pm ET
Saturday & Sunday 10am – 5pm ET


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For additional information and online reservations,
visit us on the Web: www.expeditions.com

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