# & THE SEA OF CORTEZ

AN EXHILARATING INAUGURAL SEASON ON OUR NEW SHIP

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE | 2018/2019







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Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic have joined forces to further inspire the world through expedition travel. Our collaboration in exploration, research, technology and conservation will provide extraordinary travel experiences and disseminate geographic knowledge around the globe.

#### DEAR TRAVELER,

Baja is one of our planet's places that supplies the human spirit with big doses of the tonic of wildness—teeming with marine life and birds and ringed with pristine desert isles. And beginning this December our brand-new expedition ship *National Geographic Venture* will spend her inaugural season roaming freely in the vibrant Sea of Cortez.



She is the ideal platform for exploring this remarkable geography, designed with a sprawling observation deck, generous windows, and a unique bow that offers unobstructed views of the wildlife and scenic wonders. Plus, with a suite of cool tools for exploring—from Zodiacs to stand-up paddleboards, *Venture* will get you closer than ever to these pristine wilds—letting you experience Baja in a powerful new way.

*Venture* will take on all four of our distinct itineraries. On **Among the Great Whales** (pages 10-13) you'll have extraordinary encounters with friendly gray whale mothers and calves in the nursery lagoons. On **A Remarkable Journey** (pages 14-17), photography enthusiasts can capture Baja's remarkable light with help from a team of National Geographic photographers and certified photo instructors. On **Whales and Wildness** (pages 18-21) prepare to witness a living sea with dolphins by the score; an array of whales from rare blues to deep-diving sperm whales; graceful mobula rays soaring out of the water; and curious sea lions. And our compact **Base Camp Baja** (pages 22-25) itinerary is designed for those craving a "wildness and wellness" break complete with mindfulness hikes, yoga or boot camp workouts, and a relaxing beach BBQ under the stars.

But before she begins all of that, *Venture* will head out on two brand-new inaugural itineraries which we designed to mark this momentous occasion. The first, a six-day voyage, travels from San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge down to wild Catalina Island and I will be aboard for those of you so inclined to join me. The second continues down the Pacific Coast from Los Angeles to La Paz, Mexico. This 13-day journey (page 9) is sure to be very special as we uncover places we haven't visited as a company in years. Some highlights include exploring the ever-shifting sand dunes of Isla Magdalena and counting the 40 species of birds that inhabit this area, watching the sunrise illuminate El Arco de Cabo San Lucas, and spending a full day in Valle de Guadalupe, one of the world's premier wine regions.

I hope you will join us when Venture sets sail in December. Few experiences are as rewarding, I promise.

All the best,

Sven-Olof Lindblad

SPECIAL INAUGURAL SAVINGS Enjoy a \$350 AIR CREDIT when you join us aboard our new itinerary From Southern California to Baja: Sailing the Pacific Coast. See page 28 for details.

Cover: Guest with gray whale. ©Linda Rosenzweig. This page: Elegant terns nesting at Isla Rasa, Baja California.© Michael S. Nolan. Ship's registry: United States

Los Angeles

Ensenada

San Quintín

# THE VERY BEST OF BAJA CALIFORNIA

Incredible marine life, divine light, idyllic desert isles—Baja is like no other place and we deliver an array of unique ways to experience it, including a brand-new inaugural itinerary and a remarkable chance to swim with whale sharks.

NEW! FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TO BAJA: SAILING THE PACIFIC COAST | 13 DAYS

BAJA CALIFORNIA AND THE SEA OF CORTEZ: AMONG THE GREAT WHALES | 10 DAYS

BAJA CALIFORNIA: A REMARKABLE JOURNEY | 16 DAYS

WHALES & WILDNESS: SPRING IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ | 8 DAYS

BASE CAMP BAJA | 5 DAYS

HERE IS IT IT IS IN



Isla Angel

#### FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TO BAJA: SAILING THE PACIFIC COAST Pages 8-9.

Be among the first to enjoy the stunning *National Geographic Venture* on this exclusive inaugural voyage. Experience the splendid and surprising



diversity of the Pacific coast as we explore from Los Angeles to La Paz, Mexico.



Isla

San Esteban

> Isla San Pedro

> > Mártir

#### BAJA CALIFORNIA AND THE SEA OF CORTEZ: AMONG THE GREAT WHALES Pages 12-13.

Get up-close to these

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. BAJA CALIFORNIA: A REMARKABLE JOURNEY Pages 16-17. Make the most of Baja's magical light on our 16day photo-centric voyage



and capture everything the peninsula provides. A National Geographic photographer and certified photo instructors aboard ensure you'll go home with incredible photos, no matter your skill level.

#### WHALES & WILDNESS: SPRING IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ

Pages 20-21. One of the hidden wonders of the world, the



Sea of Cortez explodes with life come spring. See pods of dolphins, various whale species blue, sperm, pilot or fin—all in the same week.

#### **BASE CAMP BAJA**

Pages 24-25. Join this 4-night getaway to Espíritu Santo and Isla Partida, two of the Ioveliest islands in



the Sea of Cortez, for an exhilarating wellness experience with an **exhale** spa program on board.



NEW! WHALE SHARK & LA PAZ EXTENSION See page 29.



# 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 brand-new expedition ship *National Geographic Venture* is uniquely designed to make the most of being in this remote, soul-satisfying geography. Because



NISE ERE

there is much to discover here—cactus forests, desert islands, beautifully indented shores, a calm sea with vivid life beneath the surface, and more, *Venture* is 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

Sister ship, National Geographic Quest 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 race the ship amid a pod of leaping dolphins, or holding an impromptu stargazing on a night beach, 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







the 2019 season, clockwise from left: Carlos Navarro, undersea specialist; Larry Prussin, expedition leader; Jim Kelley, expedition leader; Alberto Montaudon, naturalist; Linda Burback, naturalist and photo instructor.

Representing our expert team for





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### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

### 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.



#### NEW— ONBOARD GEAR LOCKER!

The inaugural season of *National Geographic Venture* will feature the debut

of the B&H Photo Video gear locker. Field test new glass, camera bodies and more during your expedition. And to get you ready, you'll have access to special gear recommendations, packing tips and photography webinar. And check out teaching videos from our



annual photography event with B&H at **www.optic2018.com**. Ask your expedition specialist for details.

# ANNOUNCING THE INAUGURAL VOYAGES OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE

We are thrilled to welcome *National Geographic Venture*, sister ship of *National Geographic Quest*, to the fleet. She makes her 2018 debut in American waters, a nod to her proudly made-in-America origin. Built for comfort and active exploration, *Venture* follows our long tradition of building ships with shallow drafts to allow navigation of secluded waterways and inlets to let us get in close to wildness and wonder, and for entering the indented coves and bays that make exploring Baja California so rewarding. *National Geographic Venture* also has the power and the stabilizers that make her ideal for covering nautical miles in comfort as she voyages along adventurous coasts.

Join us on a brand new, unique Inaugural itinerary that explores the California coast, giving you a privileged perspective on the Pacific—and be among the first to experience our beautiful new ship!

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### FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TO BAJA: SAILING THE PACIFIC COAST

**13 DAYS/12 NIGHTS—ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE** PRICES FROM: STARTING AT \$15,600 (See page 27 for complete prices.)

e among the first to enjoy the *National Geographic Venture* on this exclusive inaugural voyage. Experience the splendid diversity of the Pacific, discover world-renowned food and wine, and learn how locals are taking a stand for sustainability. Scour the horizon for migrating whales and nesting birds and enjoy daily morning stretch classes on deck and wellness treatments in *Venture*'s sublime spa. Count on an extraordinary experience.

DAY 1: ARRIVE LOS ANGELES/EMBARK NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE Upon arrival in Los Angeles, embark the National Geographic Venture. (D)



DAYS 2-3: CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK/CATALINA ISLAND Not far from the city lights, these islands are a world away; home to incredibly diverse and endemic flora and fauna. On Catalina, join a member of the Catalina Conservancy for a backcountry hike or explore the shoreline via paddleboard, kayak, or Zodiac. Then, be our guest at a private cocktail reception and behind-the-scenes tour of the famous Catalina Casino. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 4: ENSENADA AND THE VALLE DE GUADALUPE

Vineyards and culinary marvels await as we explore one of the world's emerging wine regions, the Valle de Guadalupe. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: SAN QUINTIN EXPLORATION 2018 is National Geographic's Year of the Bird,

and designated Bird Ambassadors will be ready to share as we explore Bahia de San Quintín and the surrounding wetlands. (B,L,D)

#### DAYS 6-8: GUERRERO NEGRO/ISLAS

SAN BENITO/ISLA NATIVIDAD/AT SEA Tour the world's largest salt works in Guerrero Negro and learn about the communities' efforts to balance booming industry with fragile environments. Explore Ojo de Liebre lagoon and its plentiful wildlife before sailing to Islas San Benito, home to thousands of breeding elephant seals. Next, join us on Isla Natividad to learn of this community's exemplary protection of the Vizcaino Biosphere. We'll be at sea the following day searching for a wide variety of marine life, including the largest animal on Earth, the blue whale, listening to naturalist talks, and learning photography tips and tricks. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 9: 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. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 10: LOS CABOS AND GORDA BANKS

Cruise past Friars Rocks and visit the historic town center of San José del Cabo before cruising Gorda Banks seamount or La Fortuna, renowned gathering places for whales, dolphins and other marine life. (B,L,D)

#### Join this inaugural departure on Dec. 7, 2018 and receive \$350 AIR CREDIT. See page 28 for details.

Channel Islands National Park Long Beach UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Catalina Island Ensenada San Quintín 57 MEXICO Islas San Benito **Guerrero** Negro Isla Natividad Oio de Liebre Lagoon Sea of Cortez Isla Espíritu Santo Bahía Magdalena Paz San José del Cabo Cabo Pulmo

#### DAYS 11-12: CABO PULMO/LOS ISLOTES/ ESPÍRITU SANTO

Snorkel the pristine reefs of Cabo Pulmo National Park and chat with the locals about their advocacy to protect this unique place. With a little luck, swim with curious sea lions before relaxing ashore—swim, kayak or hike at Isla Espíritu Santo, a gorgeous, uninhabited island, complete with a beach barbeque, bonfire and star-filled sky. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 13: LA PAZ/DISEMBARK/SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO

Disembark in La Paz and transfer to Los Cabos airport for flights home. (B)

#### **EXPEDITION DETAILS**

DATES: 2018: Dec. 7

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER National Geographic Photographer Octavio Aburto joins the Dec. 7, 2018 departure.





## "THE BABY IS PUSHING US! THE BABY IS LITERALLY PUSHING THE BOAT RIGHT NOW!"

#### DAILY EXPEDITION REPORT, 3.21.2017, BAJA:

So here we are in San Ignacio Lagoon, the middle of the three California gray calving lagoons. It's the smallest of the three lagoons, but it also has the most friendly whales. And what's happening here in the lagoons in Baja, is a very rare event indeed...about 200 whales are left in the lagoon in the latter part of March. Now the males have left and the whole goal of moms, at this point, is to get those babies ready for a



huge swim. They're going to swim 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 mother, bringing her calf and literally putting it 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 and 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

#### SEE THE EXHILARATING VIDEO OF THIS ENCOUNTER AT **EXPEDITIONS.COM/BABYGRAY**

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.



#### 10 DAYS/9 NIGHTS—ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD

PRICES FROM: \$7,530 to \$12,490 (See page 27 for complete prices.)

Seeing gray whales in their natural habitat is one of the great delights of this voyage, as you venture out in small boats among these magnificent creatures. In the Sea of Cortez, search for a variety of whales, plus dolphins, blue-footed boobies, pelicans, cormorants and magnificent frigatebirds. You'll also snorkel among sea lions, join naturalists on hikes amid barrel cacti and sculpted sand dunes, and see a variety of desert flora and fauna.

#### **EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS**

- Explore the breeding grounds of gray whales and observe their calves on an intimate close-up encounter.
- Go snorkeling amid sea lions, brilliant blue damselfish, and schools of king angelfish.
- Kayak clear blue waters on the lookout for a variety of bird species including magnificent frigatebirds.
- Explore diverse landscapes, including sand dunes, a cactus forest and deserted islands.

#### **EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE**



Our expert expedition team will illuminate the wonders of Baja California and the Sea of Cortez from every possible angle. Your

expedition leader, undersea specialist, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and naturalists, plus a wellness specialist and video chronicler, are dedicated to ensuring an incredible voyage. Certain departures feature a National Geographic photographer or expert.

Visit our website to read staff bios for this expedition.

Gray whale, San Ignacio Lagoon.



#### DAY 1: SAN JÓSE DEL CABO/LA PAZ

Upon arrival in San José del Cabo, transfer to La Paz and check in to the CostaBaja Resort & Spa, located on the shore of the Sea of Cortez, just south of Isla Espíritu Santo. (D)

#### DAY 2: LA PAZ/SAN CARLOS/EMBARK

This morning is on your own to relax and take advantage of the resort and spa amenities. Check-out in the late morning and depart for lunch at a local restaurant in La Paz. After lunch, transfer to San Carlos and embark the *National Geographic Venture*. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 3: 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 here can be excellent—magnificent frigatebirds, pelicans, cormorants, terns and great blue herons, ibis, whimbrels and willets are among the species we might see. It's not unusual to see forty species of birds in just one day along these fertile shorelines where they refuel for their destinations ahead. (B,L,D)

#### DAYS 4 AND 5: LAGUNA SAN IGNACIO

Protected since 1993 as part of UNESCO's Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaino, Laguna San Ignacio is one of the world's most important breeding sites for California gray whales. Each winter, during their long migration, gray whales travel south from their Arctic feeding grounds to breed and raise their calves in these sheltered waters. Observe migrating whales from the ship and up close from local pangas and our Zodiacs. Watch for osprey, Brant geese and countless other breeding and migratory bird species, as well as bottlenose dolphins, during our explorations. (B,L,D) Daily

#### DAY 6: 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. Hear naturalist talks, and learn photography basics during a day at sea. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 7: LOS CABOS AND GORDA BANKS

This morning cruise past Friars Rocks at Land's End. Visit the historic town center of San José del Cabo, or join a birdwatching walk along the local estero. The afternoon is spent aboard ship in the area of Gorda Banks seamount or La Fortuna, gathering places for whales, especially humpbacks, dolphins and other sea life. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 8: LOS ISLOTES AND ISLA ESPÍRITU SANTO

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 Espíritu Santo. Endemic yellow-footed gulls, brown and blue-footed boobies are all part of the landscape. Finish the day with a relaxing beach barbecue complete with a bonfire and a star-filled sky. (B,L,D)



#### DAY 9: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ

Our plan is flexible today, as we explore some of the Sea's many uninhabited islands. Go ashore at Isla San Francisco, where a sweeping arc of white sand beach beckons you to try out our fleet of kayaks and standup paddleboards. Hike to the nearby ridge for unparalleled views with your Naturalist. 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" arrovo, or visit the abandoned salt works to the west. Search for whales, dolphins and other marine life this afternoon among the islands of the southern Sea of Cortez. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 10: LA PAZ/DISEMBARK/ SAN JÓSE DEL CABO

Disembark in La Paz after breakfast and transfer to Los Cabos airport for flights home. (B)

#### **EXPEDITION DETAILS**

#### DATES: 2019

*Venture*: Jan. 12\*, 19, 28\*; Feb. 4, 13\*, 20; Mar. 1\*, 8.

ADDITIONAL DEPARTURE: The National Geographic Sea Bird will also feature one 2019 departure on Feb. 24. The exact itinerary and rates differ and can be found at expeditions.com/SBBaja or call for details.

\*These departures travel in the reverse order, from La Paz to San Carlos, making all the same stops. Note: The exact order of stops may vary in order to maximize your experience.

#### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT

Inventor of the Crittercam, biologist, conservationist, and Emmy Award-winning filmmaker **Greg Marshall** will join the Jan. 19 & 28, 2019 departures.





# "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 moonlight. "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 moonlight 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 top National Geographic photographers and certified photo instructors.

# BAJA CALIFORNIA: A REMARKABLE JOURNEY

**16 DAYS/15 NIGHTS—ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE** PRICES FROM: \$11,990 to \$19,890 (See page 27 for complete prices.)

mbark 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 an opportunity for investigating the intricacies of the shoreline by kayak.
- 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 may gather.

#### **EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE**



Our expert 10-person expedition team will illuminate the wonders of Baja & the Sea of Cortez from every possible angle. Your

expedition leader, undersea specialist, three Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructors and naturalists, plus a wellness specialist and video chronicler, are dedicated to ensuring an incredible voyage. A National Geographic photographer is on board to provide guidance and instruction throughout your voyage.

Visit our website to read staff bios for this expedition.

Kayaking the calm water in the Sea of Cortez.

DAY 1: SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO/LA PAZ Upon arrival in San José del Cabo, transfer to La Paz and check in to the CostaBaja Resort & Spa. (D)

DAY 2: LA PAZ/SAN CARLOS/EMBARK This morning is on your own, to relax and take advantage of the resort and spa amenities. Check-out in the late morning, and depart for lunch at a local restaurant in La Paz. After lunch, transfer to San Carlos and embark the *National Geographic Venture*. (B,L,D)



#### DAY 3: 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 here can be excellent—magnificent frigatebirds, pelicans, cormorants, terns and great blue herons, ibis, whimbrels and willets are among the species we might see. It's not unusual to see forty species of birds in just one day along these fertile shorelines where they refuel for their destinations ahead. (B,L,D)

DAYS 4 AND 5: LAGUNA SAN IGNACIO Laguna San Ignacio is a large bay and favored haunt of the gray whales in Baja. The ship will linger in this remote and important locale, while we observe the mother and calf pairs—from the ship, and from water level in our expedition landing craft and 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) Daily



#### DAY 6: 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 7–15: 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. Espíritu Santo, Los Islotes, San Pedro Mártir-these are some of the melodious names of islands scattered throughout this beautiful sea. After over 20 years of exploration here, we are still discovering new places and experiencing exciting events: bowriding 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 Bahia 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) Daily

DAY 16: LA PAZ/DISEMBARK/SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO

Disembark in La Paz after breakfast and transfer to Los Cabos airport for flights home. (B)

#### **EXPEDITION DETAILS**

### DATES: 2019 Mar. 17 2, 30\* 2 Photo Expedition

\*This departure travels in the reverse order, from La Paz to San Carlos, making all the same stops.

#### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHERS



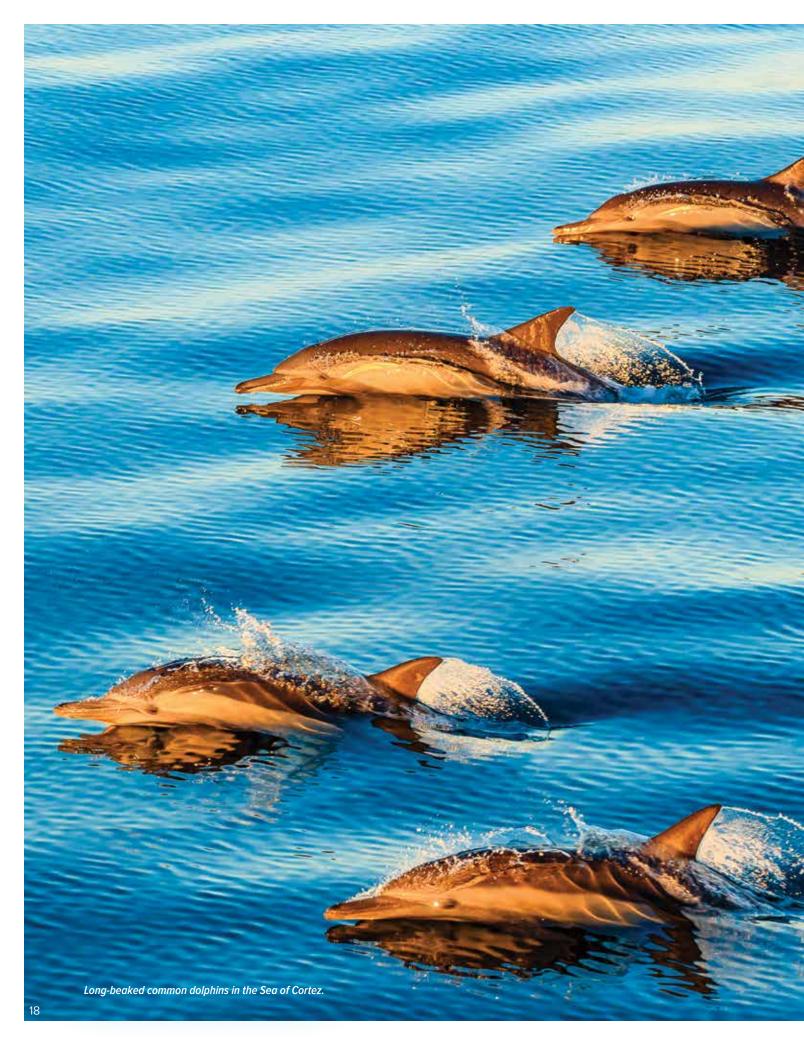
National Geographic photographer **Ralph Lee Hopkins** joins the Mar. 17, 2019 departure, and National Geographic photographer and marine

biologist Flip Nicklin will join the Mar. 30, 2019 departure. Read their bios and find more experts on our website. Learn more at expeditions.com/photo



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# *"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 whale 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



### WHALES & WILDNESS: SPRING IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ

8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS—ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE PRICES FROM: \$6,380 to \$10,500 (See page 27 for complete prices.)

Adding a stimulating sense of adventure to each day.

#### **EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE**



Our 10-person team aboard *Venture* will illuminate the wonders of the Sea of Cortez from every possible angle. Your

expedition leader, undersea specialist, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and naturalists, plus a wellness specialist and video chronicler, are dedicated to ensuring an incredible voyage.

*Visit our website to read staff bios for this expedition.* 

#### **EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS**

- Only one departure this season! Apr. 14, 2019
- Search for pods of dolphins and various species of whales: blue, fin, sperm, humpback, pilot or Bryde's.
- Choose to stand-up paddleboard, kayak, swim and snorkel with sea lions or hike the diverse desert landscapes.

California sea lions basking in the sun.

#### DAY 1: SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO/LA PAZ/ EMBARK

Upon arrival in Los Cabos transfer to La Paz to set sail on the Sea of Cortez. (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) Daily

#### ISLAS SAN ESTEBAN AND SAN PEDRO MÁRTIR:

Walk up a desert wash, to search for desert birds and the endemic pinto chuckwalla—a plump, harmless desert lizard. Later visit Isla San Pedro Mártir, a 1,000-foot-high guanocovered 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 whale waters, near the mouth of Bahía Concepción where we have excellent possibilities of sighting several species of whales, including fin or sperm.

#### 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" arroyo, or visit the abandoned salt works to the west.



#### **BAHÍA LORETO MARINE PARK:**

This morning we'll search for whales in the waters south of Isla Carmen, an area that has proven to be one of the best for finding blue whales, and often bottlenose and common dolphins. In the afternoon we visit one of the islands 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.

#### LOS ISLOTES AND ISLA ESPÍRITU SANTO:

At Los Islotes, snorkelers have one of life's great opportunities—swimming with graceful



and curious sea lions. With a deeply indented shoreline and dramatically eroded cliff faces, Isla Espíritu Santo is perhaps the most beautiful island in the Sea of Cortez. We have a leisurely afternoon for swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking.

#### DAY 8: LA PAZ/DISEMBARK/SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO

Disembark in La Paz and transfer to the airport in Los Cabos for flights home. (B)

#### EXPEDITION DETAILS DATES: 2019 Apr. 14

#### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER Travel with Kirsten Luce on the

April 14 departure.







### *"BEST WAY I'VE EVER RUNG IN THE NEW YEAR—FEELING ALIVE IN WILDNESS!"*

#### DAILY EXPEDITION REPORT, 12.31.2017, BASE CAMP BAJA

Perfect place name for the general feeling, as we begin the last day of the year in Bonanza Bay, a beautiful beach at the southeastern end of Espíritu Santo Island. The day was bright and sunny, with a light breeze and calm sea, and everybody celebrated in the most natural of ways. Some guests and naturalists explored the land, taking a long hike that culminated in a thrilling panoramic view from a cliff high above the Gulf of California. Meanwhile down on the beach, our wellness specialists conducted yoga classes—on the pristine white sand



beach, and for the balance-confident, on paddleboards. Others choose to kayak the indented shoreline; while another contingent snorkeled, discovering the Bay's creatures, from octopus to diverse fish. The lure of ice cold drinks and delicious snacks called everyone back to the ship.

And later, while the over-21 crowd enjoyed adult beverages of choice, compliments of the house, the under 21-year olds attacked a piñata with mucho gusto—sending a shower of treats onto the deck. And if a drone



were circling high above, this New Year's Eve picture would be perfect: a small ship, glowing with light and festivity, alone in the deepening twilight of a magical place, where the desert meets the sea, and nature restores the human soul.

-ADRIAN CERDA, LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS NATURALIST

#### SEE WHAT OUR BASE CAMP BAJA OFFERS YOU AT EXPEDITIONS.COM/BASECAMP



## **BASE CAMP BAJA**

#### ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE PRICES FROM: \$2,650 TO \$5,090 (See page 27 for complete pricing)

4-night getaway that feels like an authentic escape from the everyday. In partnership with **exhale**, revel in the ultimate well-being adventure. Through spa therapies, healthful menus, and fitness classes, experience the balance between mind and body. De-stress, detox or simply play or workout in the uninhabited wilds of Espíritu Santo and Isla Partida in the beautiful Sea of Cortez, with the brand-new National Geographic Venture as your mobile base camp. The ship will essentially circumnavigate the island, presenting you with fresh views and topography each day—and your choice of how best to enjoy it. Breathe deep, push hard, or unwind and chill at a BBQ under the stars.

#### SEE WHAT IT'S LIKE! WATCH THE BASE CAMP VIDEO AT EXPEDITIONS.COM/BAJAWELLNESS





#### DAY 1: SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO/LA PAZ/ EMBARK

Fly to Los Cabos airport and transfer to La Paz, where you'll embark *National Geographic Venture* this afternoon. Set sail on arrival, for a sunset cruise of Bahía La Paz en route to Isla Espíritu Santo. (D)

#### DAY 2: SAN JOSÉ CHANNEL/ISLA SAN FRANCISCO

Witness a spectacular Baja sunrise this morning, while searching for marine mammals in the upper San José Channel. Hear naturalist talks and learn photography basics during an early morning at sea. Before lunch, go ashore at Isla San Francisco, where a sweeping arc of white sand beach beckons you to try yoga or a Beach Boot Camp workout with your **exhale** instructor. Explore nearby tide pools with your naturalists, or spend the afternoon stand-up paddleboarding, snorkeling and kayaking. Hike to the nearby ridge for unparalleled views, just before sunset. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 3 AND 4: ISLA ESPÍRITU SANTO,

ISLA PARTIDA AND LOS ISLOTES Wake up anchored in one of Isla Espíritu Santo's beautiful bays and watch the cliffs light up as your wellness specialist leads a morning yoga or qi gong class, on deck, or on shore. For two full days, explore as much or as little as you like, with the ship as your mobile base camp-taking advantage of every **exhale** wellness option, including hiking with your exhale instructor for mindfulness and stretching on the trail. Explore the dramatically eroded shoreline of Isla Partida on a one-way kayak journey or join a challenging hike up a rocky arroyo to the crest of the island. Meander a different arroyo with your naturalists to learn about the geology and natural history, then learn to paddleboard, or hone skills you already possess. Snorkel with playful and curious sea lions or photograph their antics from expedition landing craft. Wind down with an on-deck Chill Yoga or a chair massage, then go ashore for a beach barbecue dinner followed by a bonfire under the stars. However you choose to spend these days, you'll be rewarded with a sense of well-being that comes only from spending quality time in nature. (B,L,D) Daily

#### DAY 5: LA PAZ/DISEMBARK/SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO

Disembark in downtown La Paz this morning and transfer to Los Cabos airport for flights home. (B)

#### **EXPEDITION DETAILS**

DATES: 2018 Dec. 22, 26, 30 2019 Jan. 3, 7

#### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER National Geographic

Photographer **Rich Reid** joins the Jan. 3 & 7, 2019 expeditions.



#### SPECIAL OFFER

Book six or more under one booking and **SAVE 10%**. Call for details.





### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE

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

*National Geographic Venture* begins her inaugural season in Baja California and is the latest addition to our fleet. Designed with over 50 years of expedition heritage and built in the U.S.A., she 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 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, snorkeling gear for all guests (where applicable).

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** Guest internet access, elevator, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, a 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.





Insets clockwise from top: The lounge, with 270° views, is the hub of the expedition community; enjoy big views and the regional fare in the inviting and informal dining room.



Left to right: Category 5 cabin is our most spacious; 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:** 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

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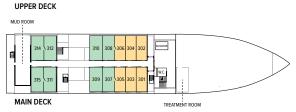


OBSERVATION DECK



LOUNGE DECK





| Prices are per person, double occupancy unless indicated as solo.                            |  |  |   |   |   |  |   |  |   |  |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
|  | YEAR   | CAT. 1   | CAT. 2  | CAT. 3  | CAT. 4  | CAT. 5<br>Suite  | CAT. 1<br>SOLO  | CAT. 2<br>Solo   | advance<br>Payment  | NOTE   |
|  | 2018   | \$9,120  | \$10,320  | \$11,520  | \$12,840  | \$14,280   | \$13,680  | \$15,600   | \$1,000   | We will gladly assist in making your<br>air arrangements. Please call for<br>airfares from your departure city.  |
| reat Whales – Page 12<br>, 2019 departure is on the<br><i>hic Sea Bird</i> . See details and | 2019   | \$7,530  | \$8,330   | \$8,900   | \$9,930   | \$10,960   | \$11,290  | \$12,490   | \$1,000   | Sample Airfares: Round-trip<br>Los Angeles/Los Cabos/Los Angeles:<br>Economy from \$370.<br>Business from \$1,100.   |
|  | 2019   | \$11,990   | \$13,260  | \$14,160  | \$15,790  | \$17,420   | \$17,990  | \$19,890   | \$1,500   | Sample Airfares: Round-trip<br>Los Angeles/Los Cabos/Los Angeles:<br>Economy from \$370.<br>Business from \$1,100.   |
|  | 2019   | \$6,380  | \$6,990   | \$7,480   | \$8,340   | \$9,170  | \$9,570   | \$10,500   | \$750   | Sample Airfares: Round-trip<br>Los Angeles/Los Cabos/Los Angeles:<br>Economy from \$370.<br>Business from \$1,100.   |
| aja – Page 24  | 2018/19  | \$2,650  | \$3,390   | \$3,990   | \$4,490   | \$4,950  | \$3,980   | \$5,090  | \$750   | Sample Airfares: Round-trip<br>Los Angeles/Los Cabos/Los Angeles:<br>Economy from \$370.<br>Business from \$1,098.   |
|  | r person, double occupancy u<br>n California to Baja:<br>cific Coast – Page 8<br>a and the Sea of Cortez:<br>reat Whales – Page 12<br>, 2019 departure is on the<br>hic Sea Bird. See details and<br>peditions.com<br>a: A Remarkable<br>ge 16<br>dness: Spring in the<br>– Page 20<br>aja – Page 24 | YEARIn California to Baja:<br>cific Coast – Page 82018a and the Sea of Cortez:<br>reat Whales – Page 12<br>, 2019 departure is on the<br>hic Sea Bird. See details and<br>peditions.com2019a: A Remarkable<br>ge 162019dness: Spring in the<br>– Page 202019 | YEARCAT. 1In California to Baja:<br>cific Coast – Page 82018\$9,120a and the Sea of Cortez:<br>reat Whales – Page 12<br>, 2019 departure is on the<br>hic Sea Bird. See details and<br>peditions.com2019\$7,530a: A Remarkable<br>ge 162019\$11,990dness: Spring in the<br>– Page 202019\$6,380 | YEARCAT. 1CAT. 2In California to Baja:<br>cific Coast – Page 82018\$9,120\$10,320a and the Sea of Cortez:<br>reat Whales – Page 12<br>, 2019 departure is on the<br>hic Sea Bird. See details and<br>peditions.com2019\$7,530\$8,330a: A Remarkable<br>ge 162019\$11,990\$13,260dness: Spring in the<br>– Page 202019\$6,380\$6,990 | YEARCAT. 1CAT. 2CAT. 3In California to Baja:<br>cific Coast – Page 82018\$9,120\$10,320\$11,520a and the Sea of Cortez:<br>reat Whales – Page 12<br>, 2019 departure is on the<br>hic Sea Bird. See details and<br>peditions.com2019\$7,530\$8,330\$8,900a: A Remarkable<br>ge 162019\$11,990\$13,260\$14,160dness: Spring in the<br>– Page 202019\$6,380\$6,990\$7,480 | YEAR   CAT. 1   CAT. 2   CAT. 3   CAT. 4     In California to Baja:<br>cific Coast – Page 8   2018   \$9,120   \$10,320   \$11,520   \$12,840     a and the Sea of Cortez:<br>reat Whales – Page 12   2019   \$7,530   \$8,330   \$8,900   \$9,930     , 2019 departure is on the<br>hic Sea Bird. See details and<br>peditions.com   2019   \$11,990   \$13,260   \$14,160   \$15,790     a: A Remarkable<br>ge 16   2019   \$6,380   \$6,990   \$7,480   \$8,340 | YEAR CAT. 1 CAT. 2 CAT. 3 CAT. 4 CAT. 5<br>SUITE   n California to Baja:<br>cific Coast – Page 8 2018 \$9,120 \$10,320 \$11,520 \$12,840 \$14,280   a and the Sea of Cortez:<br>reat Whales – Page 12<br>, 2019 departure is on the<br>hic Sea Bird. See details and<br>peditions.com 2019 \$7,530 \$8,330 \$8,900 \$9,930 \$10,960   a: A Remarkable<br>ge 16 2019 \$11,990 \$13,260 \$14,160 \$15,790 \$17,420   dness: Spring in the<br>– Page 20 2019 \$6,380 \$6,990 \$7,480 \$8,340 \$9,170 | YEAR   CAT. 1   CAT. 2   CAT. 3   CAT. 4   CAT. 5   CAT. 1     n California to Baja:<br>cific Coast – Page 8   2018   \$9,120   \$10,320   \$11,520   \$12,840   \$14,280   \$13,680     a and the Sea of Cortez:<br>reat Whales – Page 12,<br>2019 departure is on the<br>hic Sea Bird. See details and<br>peditions.com   2019   \$7,530   \$8,330   \$8,900   \$9,930   \$10,960   \$11,290     a: A Remarkable<br>ge 16   2019   \$11,990   \$13,260   \$14,160   \$15,790   \$17,420   \$17,990     thress: Spring in the<br>– Page 20   2019   \$6,380   \$6,990   \$7,480   \$8,340   \$9,170   \$9,570 | YEAR   CAT. 1   CAT. 2   CAT. 3   CAT. 4   CAT. 5   CAT. 1   SOLO   SOLO | YEAR   CAT. 1   CAT. 2   CAT. 3   CAT. 4   CAT. 5   CAT. 1   SOLO   ADVANCE<br>PAYMENT     n California to Baja:<br>cific Coast – Page 8   2018   \$9,120   \$10,320   \$11,520   \$12,840   \$14,280   \$13,680   \$15,600   \$1,000     a and the Sea of Cortez:<br>reat Whales – Page 12<br>, 2019 departure is on the<br>hic Sea Bird. See details and<br>peditions.com   2019   \$7,530   \$8,330   \$8,900   \$9,930   \$10,960   \$11,290   \$12,490   \$1,000     a: A Remarkable<br>ge 16   2019   \$11,990   \$13,260   \$14,160   \$15,790   \$17,420   \$17,990   \$19,890   \$1,500     dness: Spring in the<br>– Page 20   2019   \$6,380   \$6,990   \$7,480   \$8,340   \$9,170   \$9,570   \$10,500   \$750 |

# TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SPECIAL OFFERS

#### From Southern California to Baja: Sailing the Pacific

**Coast—\$350 AIRFARE CREDIT:** Receive a \$350 air credit per person. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers, or extensions. Call for details.

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### **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

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

#### ASHORE

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

#### ACTIVITIES

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



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Join in! Here's how:

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- Preview an expedition before you go or subscribe to our videos on youtube.com/ lindbladexpeditions
- ✓ Follow us @LindbladExp and our founder, Sven Lindblad @SvenLEX, on Twitter; and on Instagram @SOLindblad for his interesting view of the world.
- Check out Expedition Snapshots from guests—and upload your own on the expeditions.com homepage.





Lindblad guests viewing a whale shark at Bahia Coyote, Conception Bay, Baja California.

### **NEW!** SWIM WITH WHALE SHARKS ENHANCE ANY BAJA ITINERARY WITH THIS THRILLING EXTENSION

#### 2 NIGHTS, STARTING AT \$690

xtend your adventure in Baja for a truly once-ina-lifetime experience: swimming with whale sharks. After exploring the region's rich culture—with visits to the La Paz Cathedral and the Museo de La Ballena whale museum—gear up to snorkel the azure waters of the Sea of Cortez with the largest fish on earth. You'll spend a full morning swimming alongside these gentle giants getting up-close views of their unique spotted markings and return home with unforgettable photos and memories to last a lifetime. Call an Expedition Specialist at **1.800.EXPEDITION** for details.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS EXTENSION AT WWW.EXPEDITIONS.COM/WHALESHARK

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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 (including 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. The per-person advance payment amount is: \$2,500 for the 20-day voyage.

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. Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased.

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BAJ-188

# **NEW!** VENTURE DOWN THE PACIFIC COAST

Our brand-new *National Geographic Venture* is exploring from L.A. to La Paz. Join our inaugural itinerary with \$350 AIR CREDIT. See itinerary on page 8.



### SPECIAL OFFER: Be the first on board and

receive **\$350 AIR CREDIT.** See page 28 for offer details.