



EXPEDITIONS



BAJA CALIFORNIA AND CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

2026-2027 VOYAGES





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Cover: Snorkelers trail a young sea lion through the waters off Los Islotes. ©Michael S. Nolan

Left: Kayakers paddle a quiet cove bordering Isla Espiritu Santo. ©Ralph Lee Hopkins



EXPLORE WITH NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC- LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS

BECAUSE HOW YOU SEE IT MATTERS

| A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

An exclusive collaboration with National Geographic that blends their legendary spirit of exploration with Lindblad Expeditions' unmatched 50+ years of expedition heritage.

One of the most experienced teams in the industry—veteran captains, seasoned guides and National Geographic Experts,* with 110+ team members contributing a decade or more of fleet experience.

Rigorous safety protocols, tested and trusted in the world's most remote regions.

*Available on select departures.

| SEE MORE. LEARN MORE. DO MORE.

All activities and excursions are included, with options for every pace and skill level.

Ideal for multi-generational travel, with a range of activities and the exclusive National Geographic Explorers-in-Training program.*

Photography instruction from National Geographic photographers* and certified photo experts—so you return home with your best photos.



SHIPS BUILT FOR AWE

The largest and most versatile fleet in expedition cruising: 22 small ships built to explore beyond the reach of large cruise ships.

An award-winning culinary program that emphasizes destination-inspired cuisine and fresh, locally sourced ingredients.



ALL-INCLUSIVE FOR EXCEPTIONAL VALUE AND CONVENIENCE

From excursions and engaging talks to meals, onboard amenities, airport transfers, Wi-Fi and much more.

PIONEERING RESPONSIBLE EXPLORATION

Committed to **preserving the natural and cultural heritage of your destination** through the Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic Fund.

Continuously minimizing the fleet's environmental footprint through advanced technologies and best-in-class practices.



SHIPS BUILT FOR AWE

National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions operates three ships in Baja California during the winter whale migration and one ship in Channel Islands National Park. Each vessel was specially designed to explore these waters, with shallow drafts that bring you through narrow waterways so you can get closer than you ever imagined to the region's dazzling spectacle of marine life.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE

The 50-cabin *National Geographic Venture* is modern, clean-lined and exceptionally maneuverable, able to take you to the remote beaches and quiet coves of this fascinating wilderness.

Twin Zodiac boarding platforms allow for quick disembarkation so you can spend more time exploring, while kayaks and paddleboards let you glide into secluded inlets for up-close discovery. For underwater adventures, each guest is outfitted with a full complement of snorkeling gear.

Tiered decks give every traveler a clear view of the regions' charismatic marine mammals, and amenities include a partially covered sundeck, a fitness center and a library and lounge with a full-service bar. Meals are inspired by regional fare, giving you a taste of Baja California's wild bounty with every bite.



Learn More

See deck plans and other details for *National Geographic Venture*.



Above: Spacious Category 3 cabin; dining room with floor-to-ceiling windows; comfortable outdoor space for relaxing and wildlife viewing.





NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD & NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA LION

Sister ships *National Geographic Sea Bird* and *National Geographic Sea Lion* accommodate just 62 guests in 31 outside cabins. Their remarkably shallow drafts make them the only expedition ships in Baja California that can anchor in Magdalena Bay, giving guests unparalleled access to one of the region's most active gray whale nurseries.

Enjoy days filled with kayaking, paddleboarding and hiking where the desert meets the sea, capped off with relaxing evenings spent amid inviting onboard spaces that foster a unique camaraderie imbued with the spirit of shared discovery.

Read a book from the library, chat with the captain on the open Bridge or simply take a seat on the sundeck and watch the scenery go by. Meals are served in the dining room at a single seating with unassigned tables for easy mingling, and menus feature fresh ingredients inspired by your wild surroundings.

Learn More

Read more about these purpose-built sister ships.



Right: Spacious Category 3 cabin; bright and comfortable lounge where guests gather for Recaps; breakfast is served on the sundeck.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

EXPLORING BAJA CALIFORNIA

Sailing Baja California is akin to setting out on a marine safari, where dolphins, humpbacks and gray whales vie for your attention, and snorkeling excursions give you a closer look at sea lions and schooling fish. No two days here are alike, but here's a glimpse of what you might encounter in "the world's aquarium."

Early Risers: The Green Flash

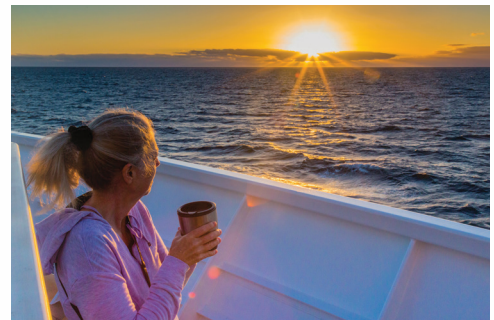
With clear desert skies and vast ocean views, Baja California is the ideal place to witness the green flash, a rare optical phenomenon where the sun takes on a greenish tinge just before appearing—or disappearing—over the horizon. Nearly every morning, a naturalist is posted up on the bow, helping travelers catch the exact moment the flash might fill the sky.

Breakfast With Blue Whales

Marine mammals are most active in the morning, and ship spotters work through breakfast so you don't miss a sighting. If they spot a blue whale or other charismatic megafauna, the dining staff happily pauses service for travelers who want to take a look.

Morning Excursion: The World Beneath the Waves

Dive into Baja California's sapphire seas to view its creatures up close, snorkeling with sea lions and schools of jackfish in marine conservation areas. In the sheltered lagoons of the Pacific Coast, more than 20,000 gray whales gather in the winter to give birth and raise their young. Here, you'll board local pangas to observe these curious creatures at water level—one of nature's most spectacular encounters.





Downtime: Whales, Whales, Everywhere

Every winter, the waters surrounding the Baja California peninsula teem with cetaceans—from fin whales to humpbacks and California grays. Whale watching is always an option during the daylight hours, often turning quiet stretches at sea into some of the most exciting moments of your expedition.

Lunch Is Served

Ship chefs use fresh, local ingredients whenever possible, including sustainably caught fish and desert produce from the Baja California peninsula. Don't miss the fresh ceviche or fish tacos.



Afternoon Excursion: Exploring Desert Islands

Baja California's desert islands shelter endemic species like the spiny-tailed iguana and the black jackrabbit, plus a surprising array of blooms and succulents. Choose from a variety of naturalist-led activities: go birding or beachcombing along the sand, hike through an arroyo lined with massive cardón cacti or climb into a kayak or paddleboard for a closer look at coastal cliffs.



Ready for Recap

This evening's edition of the Daily Recap features a presentation from young travelers in the National Geographic Explorers-in-Training program, who link arms across the lounge to demonstrate the enormity of a humpback whale skeleton.

Evening Entertainment: Local Music and Margaritas

Head up to the sun deck for happy hour margaritas, accompanied by lively tunes from local musicians.



CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

ABOVE AND BENEATH THE WAVES

A mere 12 miles from Los Angeles, the Channel Islands rank among the most biodiverse places on the planet, home to more than 2,000 species, 145 of them endemic. Here, National Geographic Photographer Rich Reid and Undersea Specialist James Coyer tell the stories of two rare island forests—one terrestrial, the other aquatic—that support the unique wildlife found in the “North American Galápagos.”



TERRESTRIAL TREASURES: TORREY PINES

Award-winning photographer Rich Reid is the director of expedition photography for National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions. He was a finalist for the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year for his time-lapse video documenting forest fire ecology.

My favorite of the Channel Islands is Santa Rosa, which has unique desert landscapes like rolling sand dunes and steep canyons that hold a grove of endemic Torrey Pines—one of two such groves in the world. The Torrey Pines have a magical canopy of twisted branches and a floor covered in needles and cones. On expeditions, guests have lunch in the grove and are often treated to fantastic photo opportunities lit by the sun beaming through the trees.

It's a true privilege to visit this forest. It was once threatened by introduced animals—pigs, cows and elk—but these invasive species were removed a few decades ago, and the conservation efforts have saved native species. For instance, in 2004, there were only 15 endemic island foxes left on Santa Rosa; today, there are close to 2,600. The park service has done a remarkable job preserving this very rare ecosystem.



Watch Video

Hear more from Rich Reid as he explores the rare Torrey Pine groves of Channel Islands National Park.



Inspiration Point, Anacapa Island, California.



UNDERWATER WONDERS: KELP FORESTS

Undersea Specialist James Coyer has a Ph.D. in marine biology from the University of Southern California and has spent nearly 50 years researching marine flora, including seaweed and seagrass species.

Jacques Cousteau once said that the Channel Islands were among the most exciting and diverse places that he explored during his diving career. The archipelago has a range of oceanic regions—such as seagrass beds, submarine canyons and rocky reefs—and they determine which species of marine flora can grow. The environmental diversity here supports up to eight species of kelp, and the kelp beds nurture a profusion of life.

Travelers encounter the kelp forests in different ways. Kayaks and Zodiacs bring them right up the kelp canopy that floats on the surface. They then see details of the underwater world—what's beneath that canopy—through the videos that the undersea team produces.

In the marine protected areas, there are bigger fish, all sorts of invertebrates and more of the crustaceans that would normally be harvested. These protected areas are the perfect conservation model for supporting the wonderful world of kelp forests.



Watch Video

View underwater footage of the Channel Islands' giant kelp forests, captured by James Coyer on a recent expedition.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPLORERS-IN-TRAINING

NURTURE THEIR PASSION FOR THE PLANET



One of the most rewarding sights in Baja California is witnessing the spark of curiosity in a young traveler, whether they're locking eyes with a sea lion while snorkeling or watching a powerful humpback breach the water's surface. Moments like these are especially meaningful when complemented with the learning opportunities in our exclusive National Geographic Explorers-in-Training program.



Led by certified field educators, this hands-on, interactive program teaches kids and teens 18 and under how to explore like scientists and tell the stories of their surroundings through photographs, videos, drawings and more. With a range of activities to choose from, this flexible program encourages young travelers to explore their own interests, whether it's marine biology, geology or photography.



[Watch Video](#)

Learn more about our National Geographic Explorers-in-Training program in Baja California.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Wildlife Watching

Zip across the water in a Zodiac, on the lookout for leaping dolphins and mobula rays, and Baja California's most famous residents: friendly gray whales. Snap photos with your smartphone and jot notes in your official National Geographic Explorers-in-Training Field Notebook.

Microscopic Exploration

Drop a net over the side of your Zodiac to collect plankton, and check it under a video microscope to see how it looks and moves.

Video Shoots

Get tips from your certified photo instructor on how to create impressive slow-motion and timelapse videos, then test out your new skills in the field.

License to Explore

Learn to operate a Zodiac and earn your "driver's license."
(Sorry adults, kids only.)

Check Your List

Head to the ship lounge to review the wildlife you saw and mark it in your notebook. Include creatures big and small—whether it's a hummingbird or a humpback whale. Tally your points to keep track of your progress on becoming certified as a National Geographic Explorer-in-Training.

New Friends and Fun Adventures

Meet up with your new friends for fun activities. Depending on the day, it might be a pizza dinner, games in the lounge, a special hike or other surprises.

Eyes to the Night Sky

Head to the top deck to watch the stars come out as the sun goes down. Find and record constellations with the help of your certified field educator.

Baja California: Among the Great Whales



8 DAYS | FROM \$7,120pp

2026-2027 Jan.-Mar.

National Geographic Venture

Visit expeditions.com/bajawhales for itinerary details, extension and current rates

HIGHLIGHTS

- Board local pangas for up-close encounters with gray whale mother-calf pairs, and search for humpbacks, blue whales and more aboard a small ship.
- Snorkel amidst the vibrant sea life and pristine coral reefs of Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park, a conservation success story.
- Hike desert isles, including Espíritu Santo Archipelago National Park, and witness the variety of flora and fauna thriving in this region.
- Conditions permitting, swim with playful sea lions at Los Islotes.
- Spot myriad bird species, including diving pelicans, magnificent frigatebirds and brown and blue-footed boobies.
- Add a one-night pre-voyage extension in Loreto and enjoy the culture and cuisine of this tranquil seaside town.



*Breaching humpback whale,
Baja California.*





Guests observe a gray whale in a birthing lagoon.

Baja California: Observing the Whales of Magdalena Bay



6 DAYS | FROM \$3,750pp

2026–2027 Jan., Feb., Mar

National Geographic Sea Bird and National Geographic Sea Lion

Visit expeditions.com/magbay for itinerary details, extensions and current rates

HIGHLIGHTS

- Live among gigantic gray whale mothers and their calves in the nursery waters of Bahía Magdalena, delighting in up-close encounters.
- Kayak and paddleboard stunning mangroves, or beachcomb along endless beaches.
- Explore diverse landscapes; fat-tire bike along desert island terrain.
- Scan the skies for bird species, from diving pelicans to magnificent frigatebirds.
- Extend your expedition in Loreto and search for blue and fin whales, or add a culture and cuisine extension in Todos Santos and La Paz.





Bottlenose dolphins, Isla San Marcos.

Baja California Holiday: A Living Sea and Desert Isles



8 DAYS | FROM \$7,556pp

2025–2026 Dec.

National Geographic Venture

Visit expeditions.com/wildislands for itinerary details and current rates

HIGHLIGHTS

- Spend your holiday season in search of large pods of dolphins, blue and humpback whales and other marine mammals.
- Explore the sculpted desert shoreline by kayak, hike uninhabited beaches and snorkel among colorful fish and acrobatic sea lions.
- Take in the stunning hues of a Baja California sunset at a festive, holiday-themed celebration.
- Conditions permitting, visit Isla Rasa, where 90 percent of the world's Heermann's gulls come to breed.
- Hike desert isles, including Espíritu Santo Archipelago National Park, and witness the variety of flora and fauna thriving in this region.



Baja California Discovery: Exploring Mexico's Gulf of California



11 DAYS | FROM \$10,128pp

2026–2027 Mar., Apr.

National Geographic Venture

Visit expeditions.com/bajadiscovery for itinerary details, extension and current rates

HIGHLIGHTS

- Immerse yourself in striking desert landscapes, pristine coastal waters and extraordinary biodiversity.
- Embark on regular marine safaris in search of whale sharks, dolphins, sea lions and as many as six different whale species.
- Explore the lesser-visited Midriff Islands, including Isla Rasa, where half a million nesting sea birds occupy a 150-acre island.
- Visit multiple UNESCO World Heritage sites and snorkel in the crystalline waters of protected marine reserves.
- Enjoy a rare opportunity to see and photograph one of the strangest plants on Earth: the otherworldly Boojum tree.
- Extend your expedition with a three-day cultural experience in La Paz and San José del Cabo.



Hiking on Isla San Jose.



Channel Islands National Park to Baja California



13 DAYS | FROM \$9,444pp

2025-2026 Nov.

National Geographic Venture

Visit expeditions.com/latolapaz for itinerary details and current rates

HIGHLIGHTS

- Follow the migration of birds and humpback whales on an epic journey from Los Angeles to Loreto.
- Discover one of the nation's best-kept secrets: Channel Islands National Park.
- Go behind the scenes and enjoy a private lunch at a boutique vineyard in the Valle de Guadalupe.
- Explore Islas de San Benito, home to thousands of breeding elephant seals.
- Roam the ever-shifting sand dunes of Isla Magdalena, harboring a variety of wintering and resident bird species.
- Snorkel in Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park, a hard coral reef with over 220 species of fish.



Humpback whale, Baja California.





Santa Catalina Island.

Discovering Channel Islands National Park: A 5-Day Voyage



5 DAYS | FROM \$3,609pp

2025 Oct. | 2026 Oct., Nov.

National Geographic Venture

Visit expeditions.com/wildchan for itinerary details and current rates

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the islands' breathtaking landscapes by walking miles of trails, paddling sparkling waters by kayak or stand-up paddleboard and exploring by Zodiac.
- Hike in a Torrey Pine grove, one of only two on Earth, and enjoy a picnic lunch with sweeping views of the natural harbor.
- See endemic species found only on the islands, such as the Channel Island fox, island scrub jay and coastal sage scrub.
- Take in the colorful history and architecture of Avalon, a haven for movie stars in Hollywood's golden era.
- Explore by Zodiac among vast kelp forests, or on an optional scuba dive if certified.



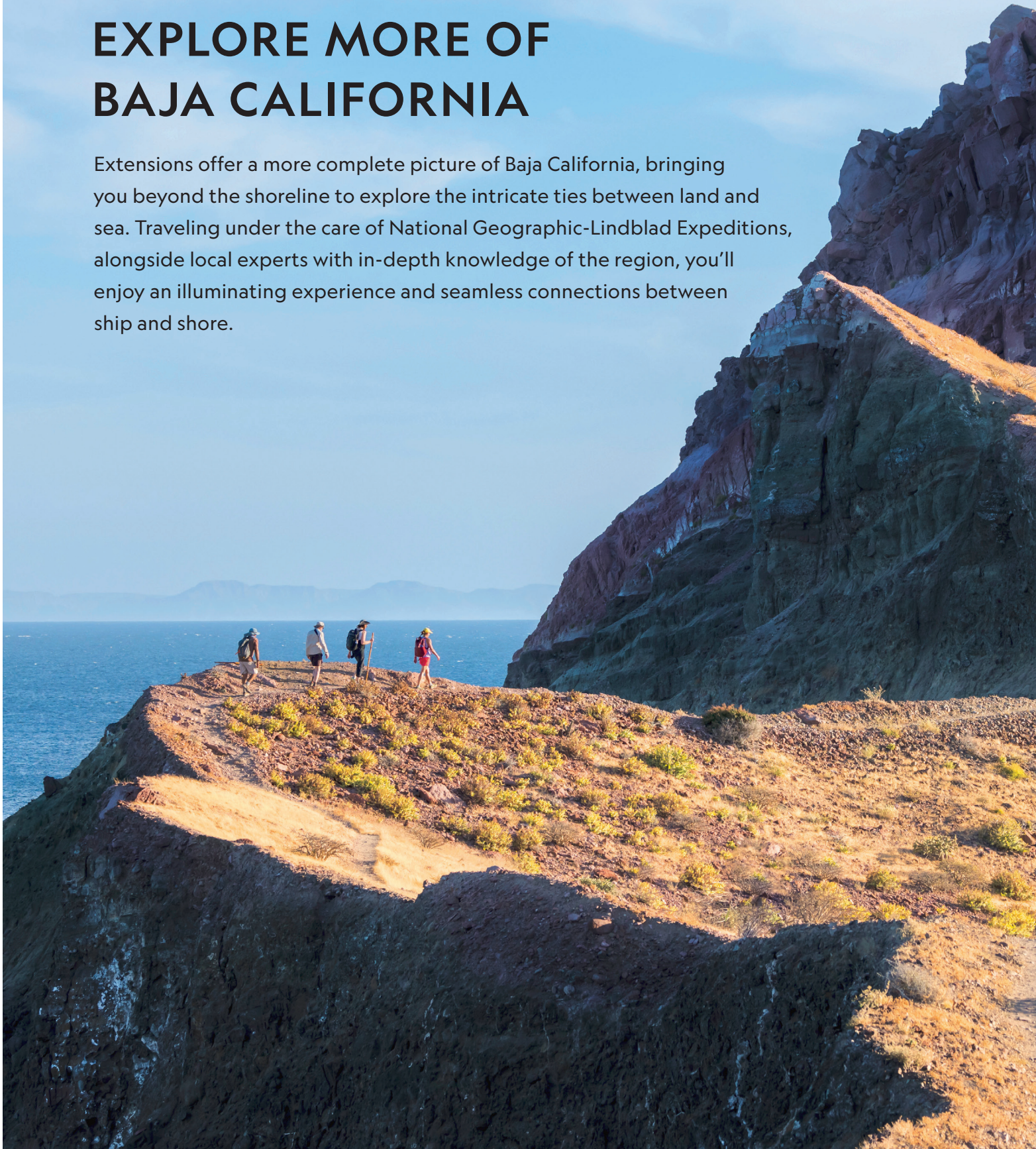
Special Guest

Join National Geographic Experts **Gemina Garland-Lewis** on the Oct. 27, 2025 departure and **Brian Kastl** on the Oct. 31, 2025 departure.

EXTENSIONS

EXPLORE MORE OF BAJA CALIFORNIA

Extensions offer a more complete picture of Baja California, bringing you beyond the shoreline to explore the intricate ties between land and sea. Traveling under the care of National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions, alongside local experts with in-depth knowledge of the region, you'll enjoy an illuminating experience and seamless connections between ship and shore.





Loreto

PRE-VOYAGE | 2 DAYS | FROM \$950pp



Discover the charming seaside town of Loreto, Mexico, the first colonial settlement in Baja California. Take time to relax before your expedition and set out to explore at your own pace, wandering the cobblestone streets of the historic center, with its cafés, pottery shops and historic mission.

Loreto History and Whale-Watching Extension

POST-VOYAGE | 3 DAYS | FROM \$1,590pp



Set out on a whale-watching excursion in Bahia Loreto National Park in search of blue and fin whales, the two largest animals on Earth. Back on land, see the highlights of Loreto city, visit the Jesuit-founded Misión San Francisco Javier de Viggé-Biaundó and go hiking in the Sierra de la Gigante mountains.

Baja California Culture and Cuisine

PRE- OR POST-VOYAGE | 3 DAYS | FROM \$1,730pp



On visits to some of Baja California's most vibrant cities and towns, explore the sustainable food scene while sampling traditional dishes derived from fresh seafood and the desert's surprising bounty. Witness the merging of old and new artistic traditions as you peruse museums, galleries, street murals and more.

ONGOING OFFERS

Offers are valid for new bookings only, subject to availability and may not be combined with other offers unless otherwise noted. Call for details.

Bringing the Kids: Sharing an expedition with children is a life-enhancing experience. Save \$500 off cabin fare for each child under the age of 18 on any departure. Not applicable on extensions or airfare.

10% Off Back-to-Back Voyages: Save 10% on consecutive back-to-back departures. Applicable on cabin fares only and not valid on extensions or airfare.

Save 5% Traveling as a Group: Save 5% when traveling as a group of eight or more adults over age 18. Valid on cabin fares only and not applicable on extensions or airfare. Deposit, final payments and cancellation policies for group travel vary from regular policies.

Celebrate Life's Milestones: Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package that includes: 5% savings on cabin fares, custom group photo, a total of \$150 shipboard credits for the group and other special gifts. \$150 shipboard credit is allocated to the lead guest on the booking. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time of booking. Not applicable on airfare or extensions. Deposit, final payments and cancellation policies for group travel vary from regular policies.

Combining Offers: Certain offers may be combinable for up to two savings opportunities except where noted otherwise. For example, travel with a group of eight or more on back-to-back voyages and take advantage of both savings.

INCLUSIVE PRICING

- Excursions, hotels and airport transfers as indicated in the itinerary
- All meals as indicated in the itinerary, both aboard and on shore. Meals are inspired by regional cuisine and locally sourced where possible
- Hors d'oeuvres inspired by regional cuisine and locally sourced where possible
- 24-hour access to snacks, premium coffees and teas, non-alcoholic beverages and filtered water
- Selection of exploration tools curated to your destination, such as Zodiacs, kayaks and other state-of-the-art gear
- Presentations on your destination by expedition staff and expert guest speakers
- Guidance and company of leading expedition staff
- Onboard physician consultations
- Morning stretch classes and 24-hour access to exercise equipment where available
- 24-hour access to lounges, observation decks, library stocked with regionally relevant literature and other shared spaces
- Complimentary reusable water bottle to fill at onboard water refill stations
- Park and site entrance fees, special access permits and port taxes

Beer, Wine, Cocktails and Spirits: Your bar tab is included on all departures. Premium brands available for purchase.

PRIVATE CHARTERS

Charter with National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions and sail to the heart of the world's most remote and wild places—with your favorite travel companions. Host your next board meeting or staff incentive trip aboard the fleet, or gather your friends and family for a special celebration in a spectacular destination. When you charter an intimate expedition ship exclusively for your group, the team will customize every detail of your experience to ensure your time on board is unforgettable. Discover the wild world on your private voyage with National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions and cherish the memories forever. Book your private charter today.

Contact **Karen Kuttner-Dimitry**,
Vice President of Affinity & Charter Sales,
karenk@expeditions.com



RESERVATION INFORMATION

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

Pricing: For best pricing book early. Prices quoted in this brochure are per person based on double occupancy in USD and based on select departures. Prices quoted are valid at the time of printing, May 8, 2025, are subject to change and availability at time of booking and are not guaranteed until required deposit is made. Visit expeditions.com or call for all pricing.

Pricing Includes: All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary; all meals as indicated in the itinerary, both aboard and onshore; beer, wine, cocktails, and spirits (premium brands available for purchase) aboard; excursions and airport transfers to and from flights arriving and departing within recommended window, as indicated in the itinerary; exploration tools such as snorkeling equipment, wetsuits, Zodiacs, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards (where applicable); guidance and company of leading expedition staff; presentations by expedition staff and expert guest speakers; complimentary reusable water bottle; onboard physician consultations (where available); 24-hour access to exercise equipment (where applicable); 24-hour access to lounges, observation decks, library, and other shared spaces; basic Wi-Fi (where applicable); park and site entrance fees, special access permits, and port taxes. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

Pricing and promotions may vary for reservations booked through affinity or charter organizations. Check your affinity or charter organization for complete pricing and promotional information.

*Basic Wi-Fi plan aboard the National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions fleet, with services provided by Starlink.

Not Included: Airfare (except flights when indicated as included and/or as required); charter airfare (where applicable, except when indicated as included and/or as required); pre- and post-expedition extensions (except flights when indicated as included); additional hotel nights; premium cocktails and spirits; private transfers (except when indicated as included); crew gratuities; additional costs associated with medical services outside onboard physician consultation (where applicable); enhanced and premium Wi-Fi plans aboard expedition fleet; laundry, spa treatments, and phone services; travel protection plans; passport, visa and immigration fees. For select voyages, completing a medical evaluation form with VIKAND is required. If you utilize your physician, VIKAND's processing fee for your documentation will be added to your National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions invoice. If you utilize VIKAND's physicians, an additional charge will be due and payable directly to VIKAND.

Certain items not typically included may be included on specific departures in accordance with special promotional offers. Confirmation of such promotional items is reflected on reservation invoices.

Itinerary Modifications: Itinerary routing may vary and stops may be subject to modification and/or permitting. Visit website [itinerary](https://expeditions.com/itinerary) pages for details and exceptions.

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

Reservations, Deposits, and Final Payments: To reserve your place, an advance payment for the program is required at the time of reservation. Receipt of your initial payment indicates your acceptance of the terms and conditions. Final payment schedule can be found online. Visit expeditions.com/terms for complete details about deposits and final payment schedules which may vary by ship.

Travel Protection Plan: It is strongly recommended that you take advantage of the Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damaged or lost baggage, medical assistance and evacuation during your travels. The Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. 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 document to your travel supplier within 10 days after receipt. Your plan payment will be refunded, 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 beginning.

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For Reservations: Contact your travel advisor or call 1.877.689.1962 or 212.261.9000

Reservation Hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 8pm ET

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BAJ-F525

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS IN BAJA CALIFORNIA

Explore "the world's aquarium" on the
8-day *Baja California Holiday: A Living Sea
and Desert Isles* and share in the gift of an
extraordinary journey. See page 16.



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