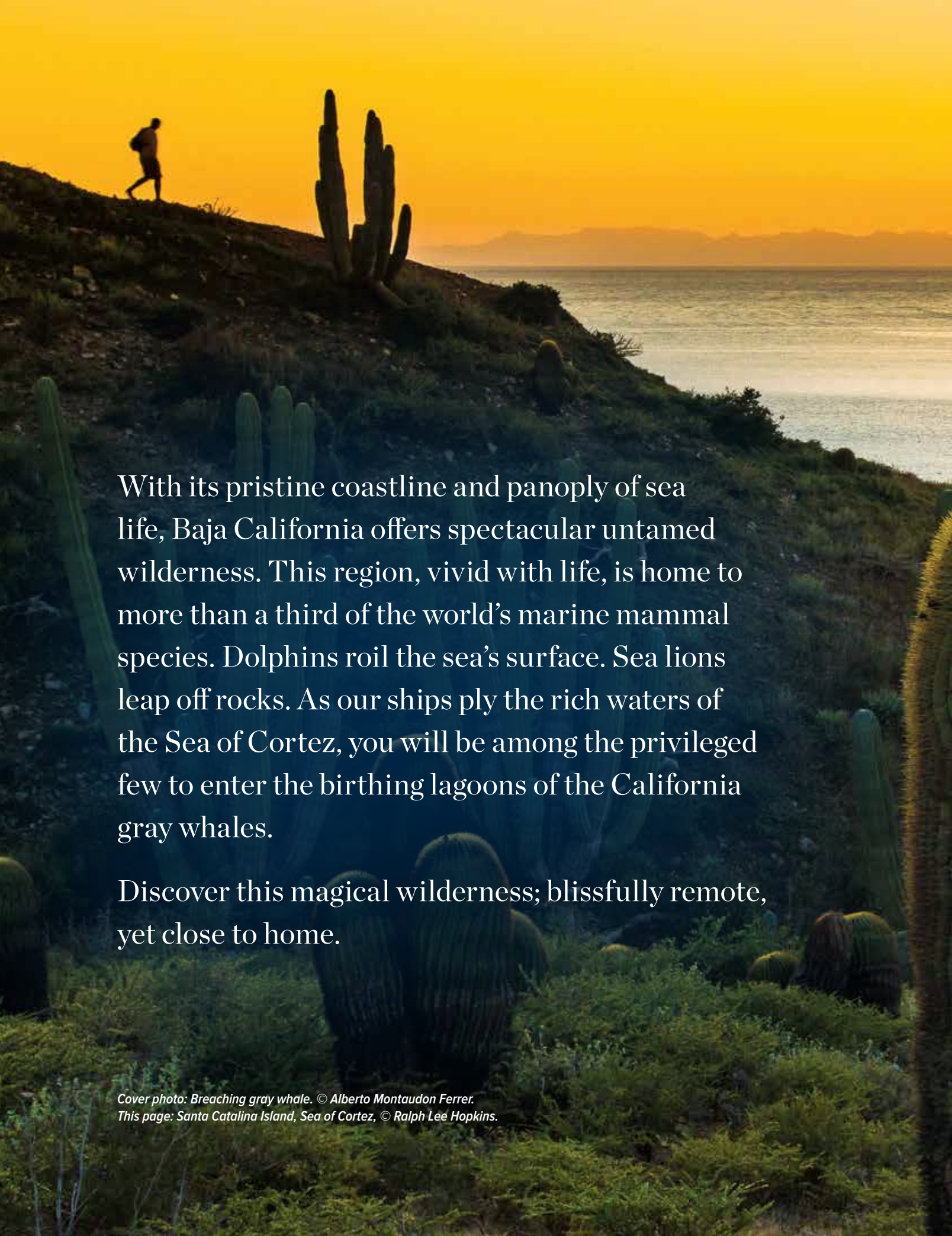


Baja California & the Sea of Cortez

2023 VOYAGES | EXPEDITIONS.COM



A person is walking on a hillside covered in cacti and scrub brush. The scene is set at sunset, with a warm orange glow in the sky and the ocean visible in the background. The person is silhouetted against the bright sky. The cacti are various types, including tall columnar ones and shorter, rounded ones. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

With its pristine coastline and panoply of sea life, Baja California offers spectacular untamed wilderness. This region, vivid with life, is home to more than a third of the world's marine mammal species. Dolphins roil the sea's surface. Sea lions leap off rocks. As our ships ply the rich waters of the Sea of Cortez, you will be among the privileged few to enter the birthing lagoons of the California gray whales.

Discover this magical wilderness; blissfully remote, yet close to home.

*Cover photo: Breaching gray whale. © Alberto Montaudon Ferrer.
This page: Santa Catalina Island, Sea of Cortez, © Ralph Lee Hopkins.*



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Discover the power and purity of wildness in Baja

IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ MASSIVE PODS OF LEAPING dolphins roil the sea's surface in a spectacle of biomass. Mobula rays swirl just beneath our Zodiacs, launching themselves into the air in a dazzling display. As we don snorkeling gear and climb into the water, sea lions leap off rocks to perform undersea acrobatics around us. Making landfall on desert isles, we hike through forests of giant cacti on sun-drenched hillsides and venture into desert *arroyos* that hold water long after storms, giving way to rivers of desert blossoms. Visit island sanctuaries for breeding seabirds covered with nests, filled with a symphony of bird calls so loud your naturalist needs to shout to be heard. On the Pacific side of the peninsula hike, leap, and slide down wind- and wave-sculpted dunes that stretch along the coast. And, be among the privileged few to enter the birthing lagoons of the California gray whales for life-affirming close encounters with gentle mothers and curious calves.

“ This morning we awoke just north of the islands of Los Islotes. Among the rocks that jut out from the water, we find the local cabal of California sea lions, brown pelicans, blue-footed boobies, various cormorants, and even peregrine falcons. At Isla San Francisco, we went hiking, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, snorkeling, and swimming off this beautiful island. As the sun set, we prepped for a Baja-style BBQ on the beach. Faces alight from the orange and red glow off the horizon, we ate, drank, and laughed about what will remain an unforgettable journey in an unforgettable land.”

— KAYVON MALEK
Undersea Specialist
Daily Expedition Report, Baja





Our ship: the perfect mobile base camp for exploring

WITH OPEN 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 California, our nimble expedition ships are uniquely suited to make the most of being in this remote, thrilling geography. All are equipped with fleets of Zodiacs, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards to explore the desert island shores and the calm sea, vivid with life.

The 50-cabin *National Geographic Venture* is outfitted with the amenities and ability to cover great distances—reflected in its farther-ranging itineraries—while still using its small scale to sail among the islands and channels where we’ve been finding whales for over 40 years.

The 31-cabin *National Geographic Sea Bird* offers an immediacy and intimacy with the landscapes—for which she is perfectly adapted. She is the only expedition ship operating in Baja California small enough to slip past the shifting sandbars and anchor inside Magdalena Bay, a nursery for gray whale mothers and calves, to give those aboard the experience of waking up and drifting off to sleep to the sounds of nearby gray whales.

See your kids become National Geographic Global Explorers

WHETHER IT'S GETTING WITHIN ARM'S REACH OF WILD GRAY whales or exploring secluded coves and inlets by kayak, shared activities in Baja California's wild and exciting environment can bring a family together. With our National Geographic Global Explorers program in Baja California, there's no better way for families to explore the region. Our program for kids and teens is the only program of its kind in Baja California, giving families a unique way to explore and connect with each other and the natural world.

Developed in conjunction with National Geographic Education, the Global Explorers Program was designed to help kids and teens under 18 develop the attitudes, skills, and knowledge of an explorer. They're invited to engage in a variety of engaging activities, guided by a National Geographic certified field educator, and can collect 'points' on their way to become a National Geographic Global Explorer—with the certification to prove it! Guests under 18 (and their families) will:

- ✓ **Develop their observation skills by watching out for specific wildlife, and recording observations in their Field Notebook**
- ✓ **Have fun with activities like earning their Zodiac driving 'license'**
- ✓ **Connect with nature through direct contact with wildlife above and below the sea**
- ✓ **Learn the art of storytelling—with photos, videos, music, writing, drawing, and more—to communicate all they'll see and do**



Our exclusive program for families is the only one of its kind in Baja California travel. Scan QR code below or visit expeditions.com/family for program details.





Our Team: Unparalleled Experience & Commitment

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 California and making sure your experience is exceptional. Benefit from the personalities and knowledge of an expedition leader, a team of naturalists, an undersea specialist, a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor (CPI), 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



Carlos Navarro, undersea specialist; Alex Krowiak, CPI/naturalist; Courtney Cox, assistant expedition leader; Jill Niederberger, expedition leader; Adrian Cerda, naturalist.



Capture your best photos

WITH OUR EXPEDITION PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM, YOU CAN CAPTURE once-in-a-lifetime photographs of Baja California's wild islands, whales, dolphins, pelicans, and sea birds.



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. See pages 22-23 to learn about our special Photo Expeditions, joined by a National Geographic photographer.



Dive into the onboard OM System Gear Locker (formerly Olympus) to field test new lenses, camera bodies, and more—free. Plus, ask about pre-voyage discounts and benefits.







The Pacific Coast through an explorer's lens

WATCH THE METROPOLIS OF L.A. FADE AWAY AS YOU SAIL

south on *National Geographic Venture*, alongside many thousands of migrating humpback whales. Venture first to the Channel Islands, a gem of the National Parks system, to hike a river of pine cones to one of only two groves of Torrey Pines on Earth. Sail into the Baja Peninsula's wine region, with some areas originally planted by the Spanish in the 16th century. In the Guadalupe Valley, grapes grow in the arid climate with thick skins, producing a deep color and full-bodied, robust taste you'll sample over lunch at a private vineyard. See other evidence of Spanish colonialism while strolling cobblestone streets to plazas laid out centuries ago.

While the cultural experiences are deeply rewarding, the region's spectacular nature is the main draw. Explore the desert and islands lush with amazingly adapted plants and creatures. Search coastal Baja California's wildlife-rich waters for humpback whales, superpods of dolphins, and other marine life. In Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park, you'll don snorkeling gear to explore the thriving life on the only hard coral reef in North America—a brilliant example of marine conservation.

FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TO BAJA: SAILING THE PACIFIC COAST



12 DAYS | FROM \$8,090

Scan QR code for itinerary details and current rates
or visit expeditions.com/latolapaz

Aboard *National Geographic Venture*

Follow the migration of birds and humpbacks on an epic journey from Los Angeles to La Paz, witnessing intact wildness and serenity of Channel Islands National Park, Ensenada, Magdalena Bay, and more.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Discover the incredible biodiversity of Channel Islands National Park, home to over 2,000 species including 145 endemics.
- ▶ See why everyone is talking about the vineyards of Valle de Guadalupe.
- ▶ Explore the waters and experience the wildlife of peninsular Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve; meet the fishermen of Isla Natividad's model fishing co-op.
- ▶ Observe breaching humpbacks and acrobatic dolphins from the bow of a small ship.
- ▶ Snorkel in Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park, the only hard coral reef in North America; featuring over 220 species of fish.

SWIM WITH WHALE SHARKS

Fall under the spell of enchanting La Paz on our extension, delving into the region's rich history through its architecture and charming museums. Then cap it off with a thrilling, once-in-a-lifetime swim with the largest fish on the planet, the gentle giant whale shark. Learn more at expeditions.com/whaleshark

Sea lion enjoying its kelp forest playground, Channel Islands National Park.

DAY 1: LOS ANGELES/EMBARK

Arrive in Los Angeles, where you'll embark the *National Geographic Venture*. (D)

DAY 2: CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Home to diverse, endemic flora and fauna, birds, and 11 land mammal species, there is plenty to see in Channel Islands National Park. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: ENSENADA AND THE VALLE DE GUADALUPE, MEXICO

Vineyards and culinary marvels await in one of the world's hottest up-and-coming wine regions. See what the hype is all about as we visit a family-run vineyard for a private tour, tasting, and lunch. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: SAN QUINTÍN EXPLORATION

Explore Bahía de San Quintín and surrounding islands—home to 400+ species of plants, animals, and birds, including 23 seabird species. (B,L,D)

DAYS 5 & 6: EXPLORING THE VIZCAINO BIOSPHERE RESERVE

As we continue our journey along the Baja California coast, we explore the nutrient-rich waters surrounding Vizcaino Peninsula. Encounter the resident northern elephant seals of Islas San Benito or learn about the sustainable fishing co-ops of Isla Natividad. Additional exploration opportunities abound in this seldom-visited section of Baja California. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: AT SEA

As we travel south, there is a chance of seeing a wide variety of marine life, including



Valle de Guadalupe vineyard.

humpback whales returning from Alaska. Hear naturalist talks, and learn photography tips and tricks. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: 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. Tidepooling can be excellent here, and these fertile shorelines are home to over 40 species of birds. (B,L,D)

DAY 9: 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)

DAYS 10 & 11: CABO PULMO/ LOS ISLOTES

Snorkel the pristine reefs of Cabo Pulmo National Park and chat with locals about their advocacy to protect this unique place. With luck, swim with curious sea lions at Los Islotes before relaxing ashore. Swim, kayak, or hike on a nearby uninhabited island and end the day with a beach barbeque, bonfire, and star-filled sky. (B,L,D)



Pelicans.

DAY 12: LA PAZ/DISEMBARK/ SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO/U.S.

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



Guests photograph long-beaked common dolphins, Sea of Cortez.

EXPEDITION DETAILS

DATES: 2022 Dec. 4 2023 Dec. 3

SPECIAL OFFERS:

- Fourth person goes FREE on select departures.
 - Book by Oct. 31, 2022 and receive a **\$350 AIR CREDIT** on select departures.
 - **Solo premium waived** on solo cabins on select departures.
 - Sail in 2022 and **SAVE 20%** on your next U.S. East Coast expedition.
- See page 28 or call for details.





Blissfully remote, yet close to home

BAJA CALIFORNIA IS A REMARKABLE DESTINATION.

It provides an opportunity to discover and revel in a pristine wilderness few people imagine exists in our North American ‘backyard.’ The California we explore is remote, wild, and untrammelled—and yet not far at all: a short flight from the West Coast. For East Coast and Midwest travelers, Baja California rewards your travel, especially in the winter, with its desert warmth, beauty, scenic undersea, and amazing wildlife.

Over 40 years of exploring this region, we’ve finely honed experiences that offer travelers with varied lives and interests ways to go remote in this wonder-filled region that Jacques Cousteau called “the World’s Aquarium.”

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



8 DAYS | FROM \$6,590

Scan QR code for itinerary details and current rates

or visit expeditions.com/bajawhales

Aboard *National Geographic Venture*

Explore along Baja California's Pacific and Gulf Coasts for opportunities to observe dolphins, sea lions, and up to four different varieties of whales. Witness the magnificent undersea, serene desert dunes, and the most beautiful sunsets on earth.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ See Gray whales and their newborn calves up close in lagoons, and witness breaching humpbacks from the bow of our ship, or on Zodiac excursions.
- ▶ Snorkel amidst the vibrant sea life and pristine coral reefs of Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park, a conservation success story.
- ▶ Hike desert islands and sculpted sand dunes, and witness the variety of flora and fauna thriving in this unique desert region.
- ▶ Conditions permitting, swim with playful sea lions at Los Islotes.
- ▶ Get steeped in culture walking the quaint maze of streets and sun-drenched promenades in lively La Paz.



Gray whale, Magdalena Bay.

**DAY 1: U.S./LORETO, MEXICO/
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**

Observe a large frigatebird colony en route to the spectacular whale grounds of Bahía Almejas. Later we'll reposition to Isla Magdalena to explore the ever-shifting sand dunes and one of the most pristine beaches in the Pacific. (B,L,D)



Sand dune, Isla Magdalena.

DAY 3: BOCA DE SOLEDAD

Transfer by motorcoach to the northern extension of Bahía Magdalena. With the guidance of savvy local Mexican fishermen, we'll venture out in local pangas for a full day interacting with gray whales. Encounter a variety of shorebirds feeding voraciously on the shoreline while frigatebirds and pelicans soar overhead. (B,L,D)

**DAY 4: BAHÍA MAGDALENA &
CRUISING**

Explore the surrounding coastline via kayak,

stand-up paddleboard, and Zodiac. Learn about the extraordinary intersection of two inherently different environments where the arid Sonoran Desert meets the rich marine waters of Baja California. Traveling south along the coast of the peninsula this afternoon, there is a chance of seeing a wide variety of marine life, including humpback whales. 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. Spend this morning searching the seas of Gorda Banks seamount, a renowned gathering place for whales, dolphins, and other sea life. Later 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

Conditions permitting, we'll anchor off the rocky island of Los Islotes, where we'll don flippers, a mask, and snorkel and swim with curious sea lions. Later, explore the vibrant streets of La Paz, garnering insight into Mexican culture. Stroll the lively "Malecon" and enjoy festive outdoor dining, featuring local cuisine, dancing, and folklore. (B,L,D)

*Please note: our stop in Los Islotes is heavily dependent on marine conditions.

**DAY 7: EXPLORING THE SEA OF
CORTEZ**

Our plan is flexible as we explore some the



Gulf's many uninhabited islands. Go ashore at Isla San Francisco, where a sweeping arc of white sand beach beckons active exploration. Or, hike to the nearby ridge for unparalleled views with your naturalist. You may also visit the abandoned salt works on Isla Carmen, or other hidden gems like Punta Los Muertos. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: LORETO/DISEMBARK/U.S.

Disembark in Loreto after breakfast and transfer to the city center. Visit the first mission in Baja California and the nearby museum. After lunch, transfer to Loreto Airport for flights home. (B,L)

EXPEDITION DETAILS

DATES: 2023 Jan. 7*, 14, 21*, 28; Feb. 4*, 11, 18*, 25; Mar. 4*

*These departures travel in the reverse.

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

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.



WILD BAJA ESCAPE: THE WHALES OF MAGDALENA BAY



6 DAYS | FROM \$3,890

Scan QR code for itinerary details and current rates

or visit expeditions.com/magbay

Aboard *National Geographic Sea Bird*

Anchor overnight among the gray whales of Bahía Magdalena, where mothers and calves relax and play after the longest mammal migration on Earth. *National Geographic Sea Bird* is perfectly sized to enter the lagoons, and fully equipped for active exploration of the surrounding coastline.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Live among gigantic gray whale mothers and their calves in the nursery waters of Bahía Magdalena. See them from the ship, our Zodiacs, and local pangas, 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.



Lindblad Guests with a California gray whale.

**DAY 1: U.S./LORETO, MEXICO/
SAN CARLOS/EMBARK**

Upon arrival in Loreto, transfer to San Carlos and embark *National Geographic Sea Bird*. (D)

**DAY 2: BAHÍA ALMEJAS/REHUSA
CHANNEL/ISLA MAGDALENA**

Make a special stop to view a large frigatebird colony on Isla Santa Margarita before making our first whale watching trip of the voyage in the active whale grounds of Bahía Almejas. As we explore via local panga, our team will do whatever it takes to provide you with memorable and meaningful encounters. During lunch, we'll sail toward Isla Magdalena to explore the ever-shifting sand dunes on a cross-island walk to one of the most pristine beaches in the Pacific. Take a dip or tally the treasure found on what we affectionately call "sand dollar beach." (B,L,D)

**DAY 3: TRANSIT THE HULL CANAL/
BOCA DE SOLEDAD**

Spend the morning transiting the scenic, winding Hull Canal. Within its narrow channels, bordered by mangroves and sand dunes, and filled with abundant wildlife, we'll hang out on deck with our keen-eyed naturalists to spot species and hear expert commentary. Weather permitting, we'll explore the vast mangrove system via kayak and expedition landing craft. Bird-watching here can be excellent. Among the species we might see are diving pelicans, wheeling cormorants, terns,



Gray whale.

great blue herons, ibis, whimbrels, and willets. It's not unusual to see 40 species of birds in just one day along these fertile shorelines. This afternoon, we'll head out to explore the breeding grounds of Boca de Soledad. (B,L,D)

DAYS 4 & 5: BOCA DE SOLEDAD

Each winter, during their long migration, gray whales travel south from their Arctic feeding grounds to breed and give birth to their calves in these sheltered waters. "Grand Central" for California gray whales, we'll spend two full days observing, and with luck, interacting with these majestic creatures. Together with savvy local fishermen we've known for years, we'll venture out in Zodiacs to view the numerous mother-calf pairs that thrive in this region. We'll also have an opportunity to explore the beaches, and if you're feeling up to it, grab one of our fat-tire bikes to roam the seemingly endless beaches. (B,L,D)

**DAY 6: SAN CARLOS/DISEMBARK/
LORETO/U.S.**

After breakfast, disembark our ship and transfer to Loreto's city center. Visit the first mission in



Baja California, as well as the nearby museum. After lunch, transfer to Loreto Airport for flights home. (B,L)

EXPEDITION DETAILS

DATES: 2023 Jan. 15, 20, 25, 30; Feb. 4, 9, 14, 19, 24; Mar. 1, 6, 11, 16

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.

SPECIAL OFFER:

Save 10% when you travel in a group of 6 or more. All offers available on select departures. See page 28 for details.



Guest photographing sand dunes.

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



8 DAYS | FROM \$7,020

Scan QR code for itinerary details and current rates

or visit expeditions.com/wildislands

Aboard *National Geographic Venture*

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.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Search for large pods of dolphins, several varieties of whales, and other marine mammals including sea lions and leaping mobula rays.
- ▶ Explore water-level caves by kayak, hike uninhabited beaches, and snorkel among fish and acrobatic sea lions.
- ▶ Photograph the landscape as the light changes and the golden hour approaches, with its deep red hues that seem to engulf the desert environment.
- ▶ Explore seldom-visited islands, such as Isla Rasa, where 90 percent of the world’s Heermann’s gulls and a large population of elegant terns come to breed.
- ▶ Visit the old mining town of Santa Rosalia, with its wooden homes and historic steel church, designed by Gustave Eiffel.

Below: Stand-up paddleboarding in late afternoon, Sea of Cortez.



**DAY 1: U.S./LORETO, MEXICO/
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)



Cardon cactus flowers,

**ISLAS SAN ESTEBAN AND
SAN PEDRO MÁRTIR:**

Walk up a desert wash, to search for desert songbirds or 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 on the lookout for pods of common and bottlenose dolphins. With luck they will join us as we go, riding the bow wave and leaping from the water.

ISLA SAN JOSÉ:

One of the larger islands in the Sea of Cortez, San José, offers several landings for exploration. 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.

BAHÍA LORETO MARINE PARK:

Search the waters south of Isla Carmen for fin whales, dolphins, and more. Later we visit an island of Bahía Loreto Marine Park, with

ample time for kayaking, snorkeling, stand-up paddleboarding, and possibly hiking. After a sunset beach barbecue, venture into the night with a naturalist to find scorpions fluorescing under ultraviolet light.

**ISLAS LOS ISLOTES AND
SAN FRANCISCO:**

At Los Islotes, don flippers, a mask and snorkel and swim with curious sea lions (conditions permitting). 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/U.S.
Disembark and explore Loreto. Visit the first mission in Baja California, as well as the nearby museum. After lunch, transfer to Loreto Airport for flights home. (B,L)



*Desert scorpion fluorescing
under ultraviolet light.*



EXPEDITION DETAILS

2022 Dec. 20[†], 27[†]

2023 Apr. 10; Dec. 20[†], 27[†]

[†] Spend the holidays exploring the sunny, beautiful Sea of Cortez.

SPECIAL OFFERS:

- Fourth person travels FREE on select departures.
 - Book by Oct. 31, 2022 and receive a **\$350 AIR CREDIT**
 - **SOLO PREMIUM WAIVED** on solo cabins
- All offers available on select departures only. See page 28 for details.



Porpoising common bottlenose dolphins in the Sea of Cortez, Baja California.

BAJA CALIFORNIA: A REMARKABLE JOURNEY



15 DAYS | FROM \$12,240

Scan QR code for itinerary details and current rates or visit expeditions.com/remarkablebaja

Aboard *National Geographic Venture*

Embark on a comprehensive expedition that explores both the Pacific side of Baja California and the islands in the Sea of Cortez. With more time for adventure, rely on your expedition leader to take you where wildlife will be at its best.

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.
- ▶ Visit seldom-explored islands at the outer reaches, such as 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 PHOTOGRAPHER

Ralph Lee Hopkins joins the Mar. 27, 2023 photo expedition. Ralph is the founder and director of the Expedition Photography program for the Lindblad-National Geographic alliance. For more than 20 years he has lead expeditions from the Arctic to Antarctica and points in between.

Read full bio and find out more about Photo Expeditions at expeditions.com/photo.

Below: Kayaking in Los Islotes.



**DAY 1: U.S./LORETO, MEXICO/
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. Birdwatching can be excellent here, with opportunities to spot cormorants, pelicans, terns, frigatebirds, whimbrels, willets, great blue herons, and other migratory shorebirds. (B,L,D)

DAYS 3 & 4: LAGUNA SAN IGNACIO

The ship will anchor at the mouth of this remote and favored haunt of Baja's gray whales, while we observe mother and calf pairs in local pangas. Whales here seem to



Brown Pelican.

be friendlier than in other lagoons, and it's not unusual for mothers and calves to approach our boats, sometimes even welcoming a touch or 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. (B,L,D)

**DAYS 6-14: ISLANDS OF THE SEA
OF CORTEZ**

Today we round the peninsula and enter what Jacques Cousteau called "The Aquarium of the World." The Sea of Cortez contains almost a third of the world's marine mammal species, and it's dotted with 244 islands islets with a surprising array of flora and fauna. This leg of our expedition will be a freewheeling exploration of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, with the chance of discovering new places and events never before witnessed in our 40 years of exploring this vast wilderness.

DAY 15: LORETO/DISEMBARK/U.S.

Disembark in Loreto after breakfast and transfer to the city center. Visit the first mission in Baja California, as well as the nearby museum. After lunch, transfer to Loreto Airport for flights home. (B,L)



EXPEDITION DETAILS

DATES: 2023 Mar. 13*, 27📷

📷 Photo Expedition

*This departure travels in reverse.



Gray whale in Magdalena Bay.



Guest photographing at sunrise.

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR TIME IN BAJA CALIFORNIA



LA PAZ + WHALE SHARKS

3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS POST-VOYAGE

PRICING FROM \$800*

Fall under the spell of enchanting La Paz as you delve into the region's rich history through its cuisine, architecture, and charming museums. Visit the airy, immense cathedral of La Paz and learn the story of its 70-year construction. Stroll along the cobblestone streets of small villages and indulge in curated menus and inspiring meals. Cap it off with a thrilling, once-in-a-lifetime swim with the largest fish on the planet, the gentle giant whale shark.

Available on *From Southern California to Baja: Sailing the Pacific Coast* (page 12).

▶ Learn more at expeditions.com/whaleshark

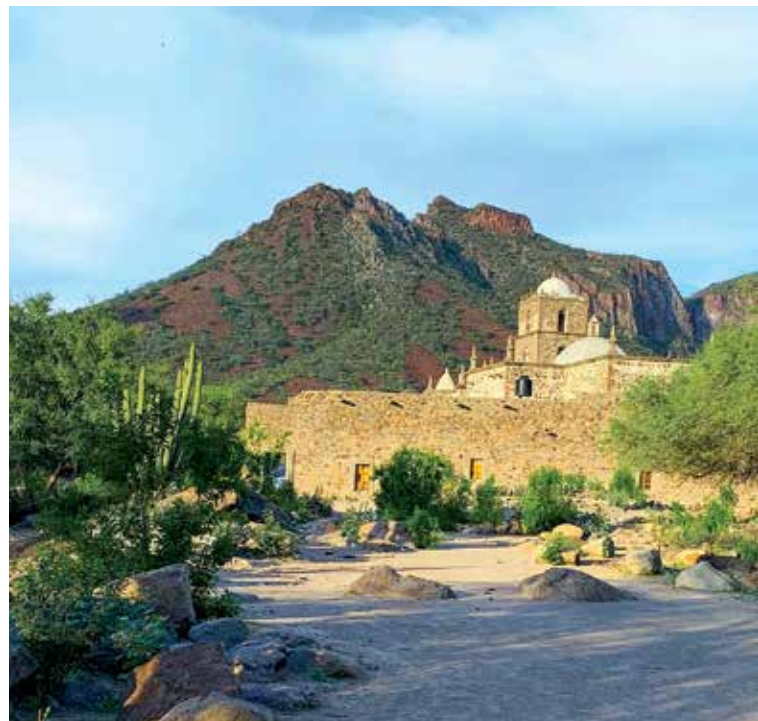
LORETO + BLUE WHALES

3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS POST-VOYAGE

PRICING FROM \$1,230*

Add an exploration of Loreto's inland wildness to your coastal expedition, and discover the region's human history through its missions and villages. Visit stunning San Javier, a mission built in the 1700s by Jesuits and see the surrounding town, with streets and buildings largely untouched since 1875, then hike outside the village to experience Baja California's inland wildness. In the Loreto National Marine Reserve, board local boats for a chance to see magnificent blue and fin whales, the two largest animals on Earth. Hike through the fascinating ecosystems of the desert and canyons of the Sierra de la Gigante. Available on all departures of *Baja California & the Sea of Cortez: Among the Great Whales* (page 16) and *Wild Baja Escape: the Whales of Magdalena Bay* (page 18).

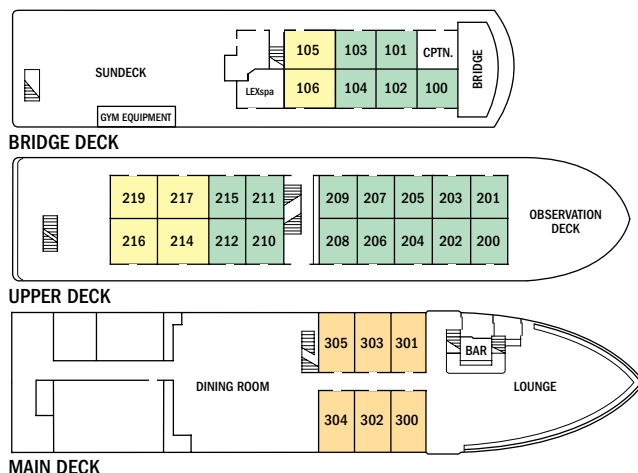
▶ Learn more at expeditions.com/loreto



*Pricing is per person, double occupancy. Visit expeditions.com for current rates and details.



Clockwise from top: National Geographic Sea Bird anchors close to shore; the lounge with expedition library and flatscreens for easy presentation viewing; Category 3 cabin.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD

CAPACITY: 62 guests in 31 outside cabins.

REGISTRY: United States. **OVERALL LENGTH:** 152 feet.

PUBLIC AREAS: Our ship features a library; global market; lounge with full-service bar and facilities for films, slide shows and presentations; observation deck; partially covered sun deck with chairs and tables, and LEXspa. 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. Breakfasts are wide-selection buffets, and lunch is often served family-style. Dinners are primarily served plated. Menu emphasizes local fare.

CABINS: All cabins face outside with windows, private facilities, and climate controls.

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: A fleet of 5 Zodiacs and 20 kayaks, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, splash-cam, bow camera, video microscope, paddleboards, and snorkeling gear for all guests (where applicable).

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

WELLNESS: The vessel is staffed by a wellness specialist and features exercise equipment, LEXspa, and outdoor stretching area.

SELF-DISINFECTING SHIPS: Lindblad Expeditions became the first self-disinfecting fleet with the rollout of the ACT CleanCoat™ system in 2019. This photocatalytic cleaning process activates when illuminated, continuously breaking down unwanted microbes such as bacteria, viruses, mold, and airborne allergens. The positive environmental impacts of this non-toxic, chemical-free system are many: less plastic in the supply chain and waste stream, and more than one million gallons of water saved annually. The system lowers our carbon footprint and creates a cleaner, healthier shipboard environment for guests and crew alike.

CATEGORY 1: Main Deck #300-305—

Conveniently positioned between the dining room and lounge, these cabins feature two single beds and a large view window.

CATEGORY 2: Bridge Deck #100-104;

Upper Deck #200-212, 215—These well-located cabins include two single beds and a window. Cabin doors and windows open to the outside. Cabins feature a closet, two nightstands, and sink/vanity with large mirror outside the bathroom.

CATEGORY 3: Bridge Deck #105, 106;

Upper Deck #214, 216, 217, 219—These feature a small table, two chairs, large double closet, sink/vanity with large mirror outside the bathroom and two windows. Cabin doors and windows open to the outside. Upper Deck cabins include two single beds which can convert to a double bed and a pull-out single bed for a third person; Bridge Deck cabins include two single beds only.

Note: Solo Occupancy cabins are available in Categories 1 and 2 only. Third person rates are available in certain categories at one half the double occupancy rate.

Shared Accommodations: Shares can be arranged at the double occupancy rate in Categories 1 and 2 only.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE

CAPACITY: 100 guests in 50 outside cabins.

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

National Geographic Venture (launched 2019) is designed with over 50 years of expedition heritage and built in the U.S.A. She sets 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 a single seating with unassigned tables. The menu features locally inspired 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, paddleboards, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, video microscope, snorkeling gear and wet suits for all guests (where applicable).

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

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.

SELF-DISINFECTING SHIPS: Lindblad Expeditions became the first self-disinfecting fleet with the rollout of the ACT CleanCoat™ system in 2019. This photocatalytic cleaning process activates when illuminated, continuously breaking down unwanted microbes such as bacteria, viruses, mold, and airborne allergens. The positive environmental impacts of this non-toxic, chemical-free system are many: less plastic in the supply chain and waste stream, and more than one million gallons of water saved annually. The system lowers our carbon footprint and creates a cleaner, healthier shipboard environment for guests and crew alike.



From top: Enjoy expansive views and regional fare in the informal dining room; gather to watch for wildlife or enjoy an evening cocktail with friends in the open air, partially covered sun deck.



Clockwise above: the lounge, with 270° views, is the hub of the expedition community; Category 5 cabin is our most spacious; Category 4 cabin with lower single beds (which can be converted to queen) and private step-out balcony.

CATEGORY 1: Main Deck #301-306 Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, two nightstands and two portholes, full length mirror, and reading lights.

CATEGORY 2: Main Deck #307-315 Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, two nightstands and two portholes, full length mirror, and reading lights.

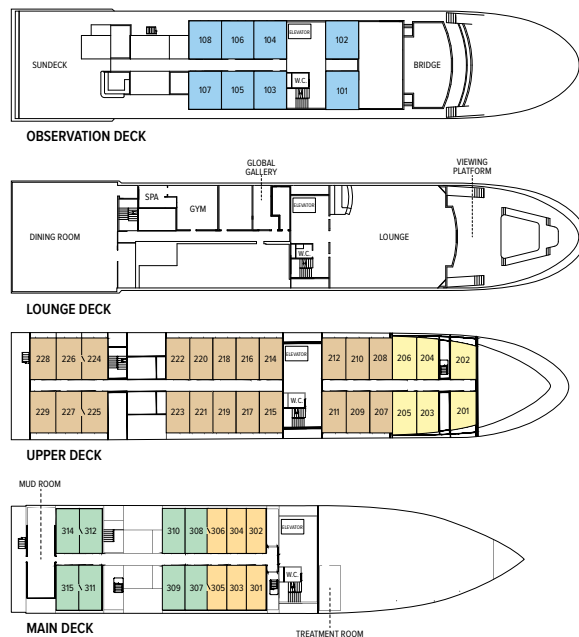
CATEGORY 3: Upper Deck #201-206 Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, two nightstands, a large view window, full-length mirror, and reading lights.

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 single beds that can convert to a Queen, large view windows, closet, two nightstands, full-length mirror, reading lights, a suite-sized 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



SEE MORE ONLINE: Learn more about *National Geographic Venture* at expeditions.com/venture



SPECIAL OFFERS

\$350 AIRFARE CREDIT: Book by Oct. 31, 2022 and receive a \$350 air credit on select departures of *From Southern California to Baja* and *Exploring the Sea of Cortez*.

FOURTH GUEST TRAVELS FREE: Book by October 31, 2022. Bookings of three full-paying guests may bring a fourth person for free on select departures. Offer applicable only on bookings of two double-occupancy cabins, and second cabin must be in same category or lower as first cabin.

SOLO TRAVELER SAVINGS: Book by Oct. 31, 2022 and we will waive the solo premium on solo cabins on select departures of *From Southern California to Baja* and *Exploring the Sea of Cortez*.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Offers are valid on select departures, valid on new bookings only, subject to availability, not applicable on airfare (unless otherwise noted) or extensions, and may not be combinable with other offers. Call for details.

GET THE GROUP ON BOARD: SAVE 10% When you gather a group of 6 or more under one booking on select *Wild Baja Escape: The Whales of Magdalena Bay* departures. SAVE 5% when traveling as a group of 8 or more on all other Baja California itineraries. This savings is applicable on voyage fares only. Deposit, final payment, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies.

BACK-TO-BACK SAVINGS: Save 10% on any consecutive journeys taken on board our expedition ships.

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

INCLUSIONS

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
- ✓ On-board physician

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

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Transport your traditions to the Sea of Cortez where the waters teem with whales and dolphins, and the sunset provides a stunning encore to every unforgettable day. Join us on *Exploring the Sea of Cortez: A Living Sea & Desert Isles* this December. See page 22.



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

Pricing: For best pricing book early. Prices quoted in this brochure are valid as of the time of printing, are subject to modification based on select departures and availability at time of booking, and are not guaranteed until booking and required deposit is made. 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 pricing. Visit expeditions.com or call for the most up-to-date pricing.

Pricing Includes: All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary or similar; all meals and nonalcoholic beverages aboard ship; meals on land as indicated, accompanied by nonalcoholic beverages; air transportation where indicated as included; shore excursions; sightseeing and entrance fees; special access permits; transfers to and from group flights; use of snorkeling equipment and wetsuits (where applicable); use of kayaks and/or stand-up paddleboards (where applicable); tips (except 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 specified as included), extensions, passport, visa, immigration fees, meals not indicated, travel protection plan, items of a personal nature, such as internet access, voyage chronicle, and laundry.

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

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Contact your travel advisor or Lindblad Expeditions

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