




 Baja California & North America  
25° 58' N 111° 15' W

# Baja California: Among the Great Whales

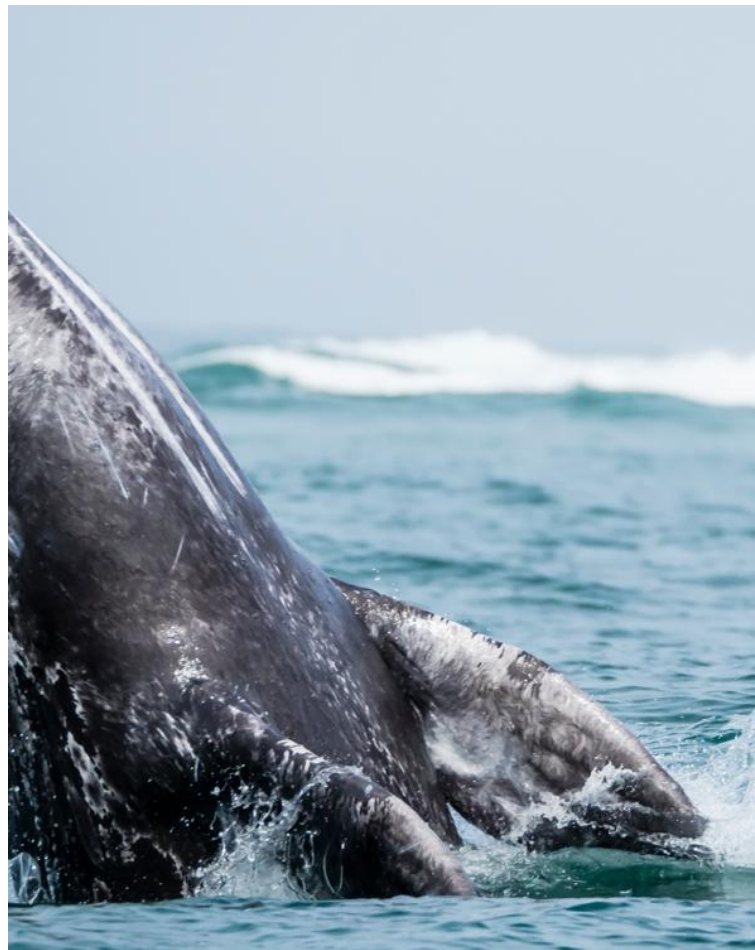
Explore Baja California’s Pacific Coast and the Gulf of California in search of dolphins, sea lions, and as many as four different varieties of whales. Board local pangas and enter pristine lagoons for up-close encounters with California gray whale mothers and their newborn calves. Witness an undersea wonderland, serene desert dunes, and the most beautiful sunsets on Earth. Hike through towering cacti and up striking desert canyons or take a slow photo stroll along the shore. Every day is different and rewarding, with opportunities to indulge in active or relaxing pursuits.

From  
**\$ 7,000** / per person  
Does not include flights

 <b>DATES</b> Jan, Feb and Mar	 <b>DURATION</b> 8 Days
 <b>SHIPS</b> <i>National Geographic Venture</i>	
 <b>STARTS AT</b> Loreto, Mexico	 <b>ENDS AT</b> San Carlos, Mexico

## Highlights

- ★ Board local pangas to encounter California gray whales and their newborn calves up close in lagoons, and witness breaching humpbacks from the bow of our ship, or on Zodiac excursions
- ★ Hike desert islands and sculpted sand dunes, and look for a variety of wildlife
- ★ Snorkel with sea lions in Los Islotes (conditions permitting) and amid the pristine coral reefs of Cabo Pulmo National Park
- ★ In La Paz, enjoy a special outdoor dinner featuring local cuisine, music, and dance, as well as an opportunity to view and purchase work by local artisans







# Day by day

■ DAY 1

## Loreto / Embark Ship

Arrive in Loreto by early afternoon to transfer to *National Geographic Venture*. Embark early evening and savor the sunset as we set sail.

**Arrival Time:** Arrive before 2:30 p.m. local time.

**Arrival City:** Loreto, Mexico

Meals included: dinner

◇ DAY 2

## Exploring the Gulf of California

The Gulf of California is home to great biological diversity, and with some luck, sightings of whales, dolphins, and other sea life are among the highlights of our journey. Our plan is flexible as we explore some of the uninhabited islands sprinkled across these waters. Our Captain and Expedition Leader collaborate to choose the perfect combination of activities for the day. We may go ashore at Isla San Francisco, where a sweeping arc of white-sand beach fringes waters perfect for kayaking or stand-up paddleboarding. Or perhaps we'll visit Bahía de Los Muertos to snorkel among the coral.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 3

## Los Islotes and La Paz

Conditions permitting, we'll awake this morning off the rocky island of Los Islotes, where we don flippers, a mask, and snorkel (which we provide) and swim with curious sea lions. Then we reposition to the colorful city of La Paz to garner insight into the culture of Mexico, soak in the vibrant street art, and stroll the lively Malecón. Dinner is an unforgettable cultural experience, complete with local cuisine,

dancing, and folklore.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 4

## Gorda Banks and Cabo Pulmo

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

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 5

## Bahía Magdalena / Cruising

Ease into the day with morning stretches hosted by our onboard wellness specialist on the sun deck. After breakfast, enjoy opportunities to explore and better understand the ecosystems that make up and power this diverse region.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 6

## Boca de Soledad

Each winter gray whales travel south from their Arctic feeding grounds to breed and raise their calves in these sheltered waters. After breakfast, transfer by motorcoach to Puerto López Mateos to spend the full day observing, and with luck, interacting with these majestic creatures. Together with savvy local Mexican fishermen we have known for years, we board boats to view the numerous mother-calf pairs that thrive in this sheltering

region. Enjoy lunch at a traditional restaurant before returning to the ship in late afternoon.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 7

## Bahia Almejas / Rehusa Channel / Isla Magdalena

Awake this morning in Bahía de Almejas, where we will board local pangas and enter the lagoons for encounters with gray whale mothers and calves. Whales tend to be very active here, seemingly oblivious to our presence, and sometimes curious and playful. Later head to shore at Isla Magdalena to explore ever-shifting sand dunes on a cross-island walk to pristine beaches. Bird-watching can be excellent here with abundant seabirds in action.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

■ DAY 8

## San Carlos / Disembark Ship / Loreto

Disembark in San Carlos after breakfast and transfer to Loreto. Schedules permitting, take the opportunity to visit the first mission in Baja California, as well as the nearby museum to learn more about what makes this town so special. After lunch, transfer to Loreto Airport for flights home.

**Departure Time:** Depart after 1:00 p.m. local time.

**Departure City:** Loreto, Mexico

Meals included: breakfast, lunch

**Westbound**

Loreto, Mexico → San Carlos, Mexico

**2025 Departure Dates**

Aboard *National Geographic Venture*

05 Jan	19 Jan		
02 Feb	16 Feb		

**2026 Departure Dates**

Aboard *National Geographic Venture*

03 Jan	17 Jan	31 Jan	
14 Feb			

**Alternative Routes**

Visit [Expeditions.com](http://Expeditions.com) for more information.

**2025 Departure Dates**

12 Jan, 26 Jan, 09 Feb, 23 Feb

**2026 Departure Dates**

10 Jan, 24 Jan, 07 Feb, 21 Feb



## ***National Geographic Venture***

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**Guests**

100

**Cabins**

50

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**The *National Geographic Venture* is a state-of-the-art expedition ship ideal for discovering remote locations in domestic waters.**

Following the build of *National Geographic Quest* at Nichols Brothers shipyard, her sister ship the 100 guest *National Geographic Venture* floated into the bay on Whidbey Island, becoming the 4th ship in the Lindblad fleet built at this storied PNW shipyard. In the 1970s, Nichols Brothers built the twin ships *National Geographic Sea Bird* and *National Geographic Sea Lion*, which continue to sail the waters of the west coast of North America and Central America.



*Venture*, like much of the wildlife she follows, is migratory. She follows the seasons from Alaska, along the coast of British Columbia, up the Columbia & Snake Rivers, and along the Baja coast and into the Sea of Cortez. In each region, her design innovations were informed by 50+ years of expedition expertise to ensure extraordinary discoveries. Larger than her sibling twin ships, *National Geographic Sea Bird* and *National Geographic Sea Lion*, *National Geographic Venture* has the same shallow draft, enabling her to nimbly navigate the same inner reaches and provide the same intimate, 'insider' experiences of the charismatic regions we explore.

Like her sister ship *National Geographic Quest*, *National Geographic Venture* has dual boarding platforms, enabling our team to load two Zodiacs at once means guests get off ship quickly, to take advantage of wildlife sightings and maximize exploring time. Modern, cleaned-lined, with large expanses of glass to keep you connected to the extraordinary views, *National Geographic Venture* enables you to see, do and experience the best of her geographies.





# Cabin Categories

## 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 single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, closet, two nightstands, full-length mirror, reading lights, sliding glass door, and a small, private balcony.



**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, #306-307;  
Upper Deck: #224-226, #225-227

## Category 5

### Observation Deck: #101-108 (SUITE)

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.



## Observation Deck

### Category 5



## Lounge Deck



## Upper Deck

### Category 3

### Category 4



## Main Deck

### Category 1

### Category 2



# Ship amenities

## Public Areas

Reception; main dining area; global gallery; fitness center; lounge with full-service bar and state-of-the-art presentation facilities; observation deck; mudroom with lockers for expedition gear; partially-covered furnished sundeck; plus open access to the Bridge, the Captain, officers and on-duty wildlife spotters.

## Meals

Meals are served in the dining room at a single seating with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Menus feature sustainable choices, local where possible.

## Cabins

50 outside cabins. All cabins face outside with windows, private bathroom, and climate controls. Cabins are equipped with Wi-Fi, phone, multiple electrical and USB outlets, and phones. Luxury linens and pillows. Botanically inspired shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, and lotion are all available in cabin bathrooms, as well as an Expedition Essential Kit. Hair dryers, complimentary insulated water bottles and a National Geographic Atlas are also available in each cabin.

## Expedition Equipment

A fleet of 8 Zodiacs, 24 kayaks, paddleboards; an ROV, hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, video microscope; snorkeling gear and wet suits for all guests (where applicable).

## Special Features

Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, undersea specialist and video chronicler. Internet access. Elevator. The design of the outside decks—with the perfect wildlife viewing platform. And the way the proximity of the Lounge to the deck gives you instant access to spontaneous sightings. Have your camera ready!

## Wellness

A fitness center with elliptical, treadmill, weights, resistance bands; LEXspa treatment room, staffed by wellness specialists.



## Self-Disinfecting Ships

ACT Clean Coat™ is a light-activated, self-disinfecting cleaning process that continuously breaks down viruses, bacteria, mold, and airborne allergens across all ship surfaces. Not only does this create a cleaner, healthier shipboard environment for guests and crew alike, but this non-toxic, chemical-free system also saves more than one million gallons of water each year in our cleaning procedures, and reduces our carbon footprint as well as the amount of plastic and waste in our supply chain.



# Special Offers

## SUITE EXCLUSIVES

Spacious living areas and incredible views immerse you in the beauty of your marine surroundings. Our new Suite Exclusives package helps make your voyage all the more memorable. [Learn more](#)

## 10% OFF BACK-TO-BACK VOYAGES

Save 10% on consecutive departures, applicable on voyage fares only and not valid on extensions or airfare. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

## BRINGING THE KIDS

We believe sharing an expedition with children is a life-enhancing experience. Take \$500 off for each child under the age of 18 on any departure. Not applicable on extensions or airfare. Call for details.

## SAVE 5% TRAVELING AS A GROUP

Save 5% when traveling as a group of eight or more people. Valid on voyage fares only and not applicable on extensions or airfare. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

## CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES

Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package including: 5% savings on voyage fares, custom group photo, US\$150 shipboard credit for the group, and other special gifts. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time

of booking. Valid for new bookings only on select departures, subject to availability, not applicable on airfare or extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Deposit, final payments, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies. Call for details.

## COMBINING OFFERS

Certain offers may be combinable, up to two savings opportunities, except where noted otherwise. For example, travel with a group of 8 or more on back-to-back expeditions, and take advantage of both savings.

## Included in price

All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary; all meals as indicated in the itinerary, both aboard and onshore; beer and wine on all 2023 departures (starting in 2024, spirits and cocktails are also included, with super premium wines and liquors available for purchase); hors d'oeuvres, 24-hour access to snacks, premium coffees and teas, non-alcoholic beverages, and filtered water; excursions and airport transfers to and from recommended flights, as indicated in the itinerary; exploration tools curated to destination, such as Zodiacs, stand-up paddleboards, kayaks, snorkeling equipment (including wetsuits, masks, and fins); guidance and company of our leading expedition staff; assistance by the Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic certified photo instructor; access to the OM System Photo Gear Locker; presentations by expedition staff and expert guest speakers; complimentary reusable water bottle; services of a physician, physician's assistant, nurse practitioner, or paramedic; morning stretch classes and 24-hour access to exercise equipment; 24-hour access to lounges, observation decks, library, and other shared spaces; park and site entrance fees, special access permits, and port taxes. Unused services or items included in our programs are non-refundable.

## Not included in price

Airfare (except flights when indicated as included); pre- and post-expedition extensions; additional hotel nights (except when indicated as included); crew gratuities; private transfers; laundry, spa treatments, Wi-Fi, and phone services (except when indicated as included); travel protection plans; and passport, visa, and immigration fees.

## Travel protection plan

We strongly recommend our guests to 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, damage or loss of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased. Learn more about our Travel Protection "Plus" Plan: <https://www.expeditions.com/terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/>

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## Cancellation policy

Review our cancellation policy: <https://www.expeditions.com/cancellation-policy/>