






Baja California: Observing the Whales of Magdalena Bay

Enjoy several days in the company of majestic gray whales in Baja California’s Magdalena Bay, one of the best places in the world to encounter gray whale mothers and their calves. On this compact trip, we explore aboard the only expedition ship in the region small and nimble enough to anchor inside the bay’s sheltered waters, giving you unparalleled access to this busy whale nursery. Set out in local pangas for up-close encounters with these curious cetaceans, kayak mangrove forests, hike desert islands, and look for pelicans and ospreys while soaking up the sun on pristine beaches.

From
\$ 3,715 / per person
 Does not include flights

 DATES Jan, Feb and Mar	 DURATION 6 Days
 SHIPS <i>National Geographic Sea Bird</i>	
 STARTS AT San Carlos, Mexico	→  ENDS AT San Carlos, Mexico

Itinerary Note: Routing and stops may be subject to modification and/or permitting.

Highlights

- ★ Search for gigantic gray whale mothers and their calves in the nursery waters of Magdalena Bay, delighting in up-close encounters
- ★ Kayak and paddleboard in stunning mangrove forests, or beachcomb along endless stretches of sand
- ★ Go hiking and fat-tire biking across diverse desert landscapes, from windswept dunes to cactus forests
- ★ Scan the skies for myriad bird species, like diving pelicans and magnificent frigatebirds





Day by day

■ DAY 1

Loreto, Mexico / San Carlos / Embark Ship

Arrive in Loreto by early afternoon for the transfer to San Carlos, a small waterside town where the mountains meet the Gulf of California. Embark the ship this evening in time for cocktails and an introduction to the staff and crew. You may opt for a [pre-voyage extension exploring the region's culture and cuisine](#).

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

Arrival City: Loreto, Mexico

Meals included: dinner

◇ DAYS 2-5

Magdalena Bay

Below is a selection of locales you may visit during your expedition.

Bahía Almejas

The southernmost of the waters you'll explore, Bahía Almejas, or Bay of Clams, is known for its many seabird species and its remarkably active gray whale populations. With luck, you'll have the opportunity to view a large frigatebird colony before heading out on a whale-watching trip. Board small, open boats called *pangas*, operated by *pangueros*—expert local guides. The areas around Magdalena Bay are primarily supported by whale-watching and small-scale, artisanal fishing; the *pangueros* make their livings as fishermen outside the gray whale season and have a deep familiarity with these rich waters.

Isla Magdalena / Sand Dollar Beach

Explore ever-shifting sand dunes on a cross-island walk to one of the most pristine beaches in the

Pacific. Take in the impressive desert plant life of this exotic terrain, home to five species of cacti. Tally treasures offered up by the ocean on the aptly named Sand Dollar Beach, and capture images of your discoveries with the help of your certified photo instructor.

Puerto Magdalena

Wake up anchored at this small fishing village, surrounded by the open Pacific to the west, Magdalena Bay to the east, mangroves to the north and mountains to the south. With a population of 85, Puerto Magdalena is the only inhabited area of Isla Magdalena. Meet a local resident and learn how his family has lived off the area since the 1800s—from lichen harvesting to managing an open-air cantina, where you'll enjoy local bites and beverages. Time permitting, visit the desalinization plant that supplies fresh water to the community. Get active on a fat-tire bike ride or, conditions permitting, a kayaking excursion through the mangroves in Man of War Cove.

Hull Canal

Take in the scenery and watch for pods of bow-riding dolphins as the ship navigates this winding canal. Within its narrow channels, bordered by mangroves and sand dunes and filled with abundant wildlife, join your keen-eyed naturalists on deck to spot species and hear expert commentary. Weather permitting, explore the vast mangrove system by kayak and Zodiac. Bird-watching can be excellent here, with various seabirds and shorebirds patrolling the beaches as they fatten up and prepare for long journeys to their summer breeding grounds. You might see anything from diving pelicans and wheeling cormorants to terns, great blue herons, ibis, whimbrels and willets.

Boca de Soledad

Settle in for unforgettable experiences in this tranquil lagoon. 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, often called "Grand Central" for California gray whales. Venture out in local pangas to view the numerous mother-calf pairs that thrive in the region. With luck, enjoy up-close interactions with these curious creatures.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

■ DAY 6

San Carlos / Disembark Ship / Loreto

After breakfast, disembark the ship and transfer to the Loreto airport for flights home or to Loreto's city center to begin your [two-night history and whale-watching extension](#).

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

Departure City: Loreto, Mexico

Meals included: breakfast

Expedition

San Carlos, Mexico → San Carlos, Mexico

2025 Departure Dates

Aboard *National Geographic Sea Bird*

26 Jan				
05 Feb	10 Feb	15 Feb	20 Feb	25 Feb
07 Mar	12 Mar			

2026 Departure Dates

Aboard *National Geographic Sea Bird*

01 Feb	06 Feb	11 Feb	16 Feb	21 Feb
26 Feb				
03 Mar	08 Mar	13 Mar		

2027 Departure Dates

Aboard *National Geographic Sea Bird*

26 Jan	31 Jan			
05 Feb	10 Feb	15 Feb	20 Feb	25 Feb
02 Mar	07 Mar	12 Mar		



National Geographic Sea Bird

Guests

62

Cabins

31

**A U.S.-flagged vessel, she and her sister
National Geographic Sea Lion discover domestic waters**

Before they built the *National Geographic Venture* and *Quest*, U.S. shipbuilder Nichols Brothers built the twin ships *National Geographic Sea Lion* and *National Geographic Sea Bird*. Nimble, reliable, and intimately scaled, they both continue to sail the waters of the west coast of North America and Central America.

Sea Bird accommodates just 62 guests in 31 outside cabins. Her inviting public spaces foster a sense of shipboard life where everyone is integral to the adventure, engendering a rewarding sense of community and esprit du corps. National Geographic writer Andrew Evans called *Sea Lion* the “closest thing to Cousteau’s *Calypso*” he’s ever had the pleasure to be on.

With a shallow draft and small size, she can easily reach places inaccessible to larger ships. She can venture into fast-moving channels where whales come to feed, transit a series of locks in the Pacific Northwest, nose up to waterfalls in secluded coves, and sail into protected anchorages in small bays perfect for snorkeling and kayaking.



Cabin Categories

Category 1

Main Deck: #300-305

Conveniently located between the dining room and lounge, these cabins feature two single beds, and a large window. All cabins feature a closet, two nightstands, and sink/vanity with large mirror outside the bathroom.



Category 2

Bridge Deck: #101-104

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, closet, and sink/vanity with large mirror outside the bathroom.



Category 3

Upper Deck: #214, 216, 217, 219

These cabins include two single beds that can convert to a double bed and a pullout murphy bed for a third person. Cabins 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. Third person rates are available in certain categories at one-half the double occupancy rate.



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.

Category 3

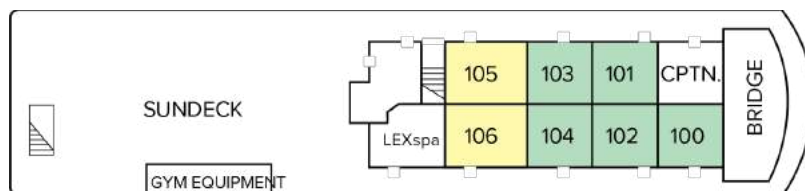
Bridge Deck: #105, 106

These cabins include two single beds. Cabins 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.



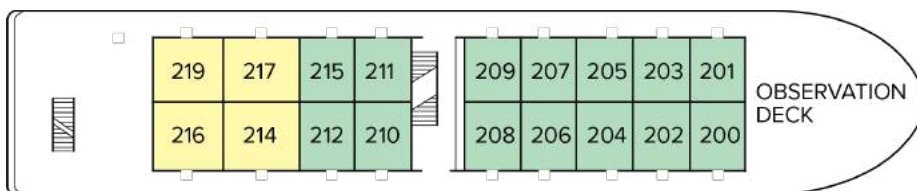
Bridge Deck

- Category 2
- Category 3



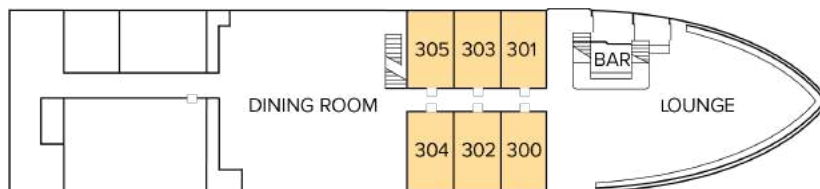
Upper Deck

- Category 2
- Category 3



Main Deck

- Category 1



Ship amenities

Public Areas

A library; global market; lounge with full-service bar and facilities for films, slideshows and presentations; observation deck; partially covered sun deck with chairs and tables. Our “open bridge” provides guests an opportunity to meet our officers and Captain and learn about navigation.

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

All cabins face outside with windows, private bathroom, and climate controls. Cabins are equipped with WiFi, multiple electrical and USB outlets. 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 is available in each cabin.

Expedition Equipment

A fleet of 6 Zodiacs and 16 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

Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, undersea specialist and video chronicler.

Wellness

A fitness center with elliptical, treadmill, weights, resistance bands; LEX spa 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.



Noteworthy Feature: The generous scale of the bow, enabling the entire expedition community to congregate with our naturalists, photo instructors, and experts from the Alaska Whale Foundation or the National Park Service, and share the excitement of watching whales or dramatic glacier calving events.

Special Offers

GIFT OF EXPLORATION: \$500 CREDIT

Book from December 3, 2024, to March 4, 2025. Receive a credit of \$500 per person on select departures, deducted from cabin fare prior to any additional applicable savings with the purchase of cabin fare. 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. Call for details.

GIFT OF EXPLORATION: FREE AIR UP TO \$1,000 PER CHILD

Free economy air up to \$1,000 per child per adult based on select departures. Book from December 3 to December 31, 2024, and receive free economy round trip air for one child per adult up to \$1,000 based on select departures. The offer is valid for 1 child per adult. Free Kids Air Offer must be communicated at time of booking by quoting "KID INCLUDED". To qualify for the offer, airfare must be ticketed by Lindblad Expeditions and is for economy class air only. Any upgrades or additional classes are not included. Offer may be applied to any recommended air Lindblad offers. Offer is valid for new bookings only, on select departures, subject to availability, may not be combined with other offers. Baggage fees may incur additional costs and seat assignments may not be guaranteed. Call for details.

GIFT OF EXPLORATION: 25% SOLO SAVINGS

Book from December 3, 2024, to March 4, 2025. Save 25% on solo cabins on select departures. Solo savings are subject to availability. Other expeditions may be available with a solo saving. Not applicable on airfare or extensions and may not be combined with

other offers. A full list of solo savings is available via expeditions.com or call for details.

GIFT OF EXPLORATION: ADDITIONAL 5% SAVINGS WHEN YOU PAY IN FULL

Book from December 3, 2024, to March 4, 2025. Save an additional 5% on the cabin fare on select departures when you pay in full at time of booking. To qualify for the discount, non-refundable payment in full is due at the 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. 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.

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/](#)

Cancellation policy

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