








Wild Baja California Escape: 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 curious calves. On this compact trip, we explore the bay aboard our nimble expedition ship, and set out in local pangas for up-close encounters. Kayak mangrove forests and hike desert islands, look for pelicans and ospreys, and soak up the sun on pristine beaches.

From
\$ 3,677 / per person
Does not include flights

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

Highlights

- ★ Search for gray whale mothers and their calves aboard local pangas, delighting in up-close encounters
- ★ Kayak and paddleboard stunning mangroves, or beachcomb along endless beaches
- ★ Explore diverse landscapes, and ride a fat-tire bike along desert island terrain
- ★ Scan the skies for bird species, from diving pelicans to magnificent frigatebirds





Day by day

■ DAY 1

Loreto, Mexico / San Carlos / Embark Ship

Arrive in Loreto by early afternoon for transfer to San Carlos. Embark ship in the evening, anchored off the coast of Isla Santa Margarita.

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

Arrival City: Loreto, Mexico

Meals included: dinner

◇ DAY 2

Bahía Almejas / Rehusa Channel / Isla Magdalena

Our day starts in the southernmost waters of Bahía de Almejas. We make a special stop to view, with luck, a large frigatebird colony on Isla Santa Margarita before heading out on our first whale-watching trip. The whales here in the bay tend to be very active, seemingly oblivious to our presence, so settle in for some great experiences. We explore the area and the Rehusa Channel via local pangas. During lunch, the ship repositions to Isla Magdalena, and later we head to shore to explore the ever-shifting sand dunes on a cross-island walk to one of the most pristine beaches in the Pacific. Take a stroll and tally the treasure found on what we affectionately call "sand dollar beach."

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ 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 join our keen-eyed naturalists on deck to spot species and hear expert commentary. Weather permitting, we explore the vast mangrove system via kayak and Zodiac. Bird-watching can be excellent here with abundant seabirds in action and shorebirds patrolling the beaches as they fatten up and prepare for long journeys to Arctic breeding grounds. Among the species we might see are diving pelicans, wheeling cormorants, terns, great blue herons, ibis, whimbrels, and willets. This afternoon, we set out to explore the whale-rich waters of Boca de Soledad.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ 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, often called "Grand Central" for California gray whales. We spend two full days observing and, with luck, interacting with these majestic creatures. Together with savvy local fishermen we have known for years, we venture out in local pangas to view the numerous mother-calf pairs that thrive in this sheltering region. We also have an opportunity to explore the beaches, and if our guests feel up to it, pedal across the sands riding fat-tire bikes.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

■ DAY 6

San Carlos / Disembark Ship / Loreto

After breakfast, disembark the ship and transfer to Loreto's city center. Schedules permitting, choose 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 the Loreto International Airport for flights home.

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

Departure City: Loreto, Mexico

Meals included: breakfast, lunch

Expedition

San Carlos, Mexico → San Carlos, Mexico

2025 Departure Dates

Aboard *National Geographic Sea Bird*

16 Jan	21 Jan	26 Jan		
05 Feb	10 Feb	15 Feb	20 Feb	25 Feb
07 Mar	12 Mar			

Aboard *National Geographic Sea Lion*

19 Jan	24 Jan	29 Jan		
08 Feb	13 Feb	18 Feb	23 Feb	28 Feb
05 Mar	10 Mar			

2026 Departure Dates

Aboard *National Geographic Sea Bird*

17 Jan	22 Jan	27 Jan		
01 Feb	06 Feb	11 Feb	16 Feb	21 Feb
26 Feb				
03 Mar	08 Mar	13 Mar		

Aboard *National Geographic Sea Lion*

20 Jan	25 Jan	30 Jan		
04 Feb	09 Feb	14 Feb	19 Feb	24 Feb
01 Mar	06 Mar	11 Mar		



National Geographic Sea Lion

Guests

62

Cabins

31

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

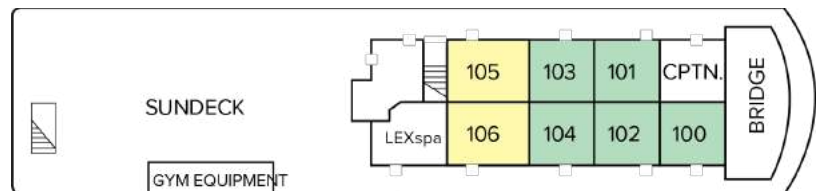
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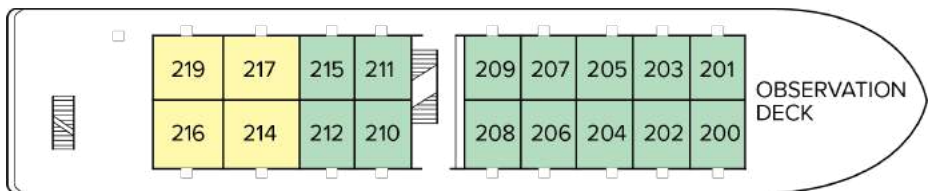
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Upper Deck

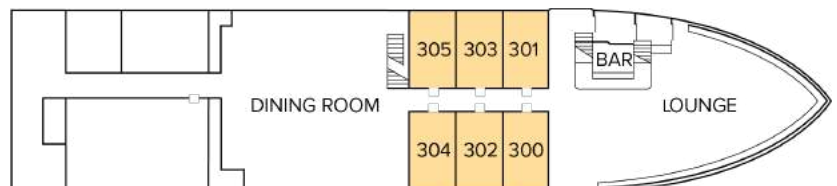
Category 2

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; 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.



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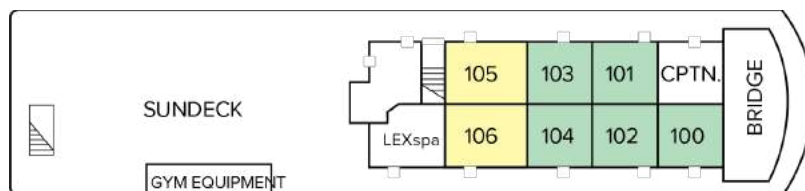
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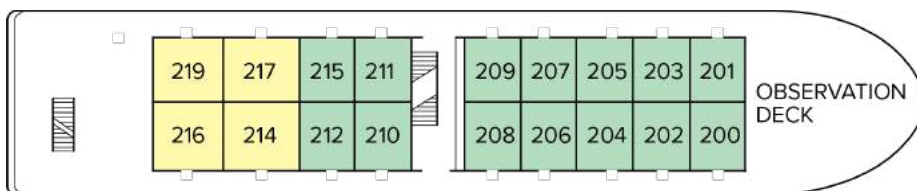
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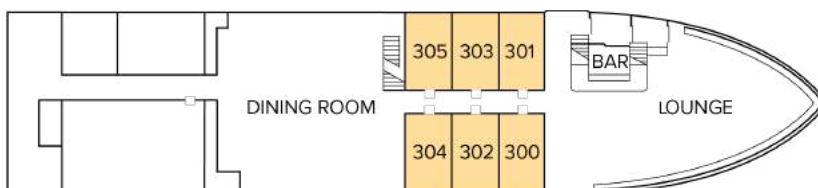
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Noteworthy Feature: The generous scale of the bow, enabling the entire expedition community to congregate with our naturalists, photo instructors, and experts from the Alaska Whale Foundation or the National Park Service, and share the excitement of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

Special Offers

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.

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.

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.

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.

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/>

[terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/](https://www.expeditions.com/terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/)

Cancellation policy

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