

Baja California

2023-2024 VOYAGES | EXPEDITIONS.COM



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 these rich waters, 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.



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Discover the power and purity of wildness in Baja California

IN THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA 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 California





Our ships: 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* and her sister ship *National Geographic Sea Lion* offers an immediacy and intimacy with the landscapes—for which they are perfectly adapted. These are 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.

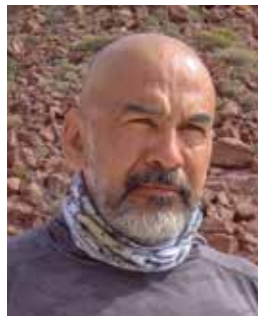




Our Team: Unparalleled Experience & Commitment

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 Gulf of California.

▶ 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 24-25 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 California 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.

A Southern Migration: From The Channel Islands to Baja California



12 DAYS | FROM \$8,330

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

Aboard *National Geographic Venture*

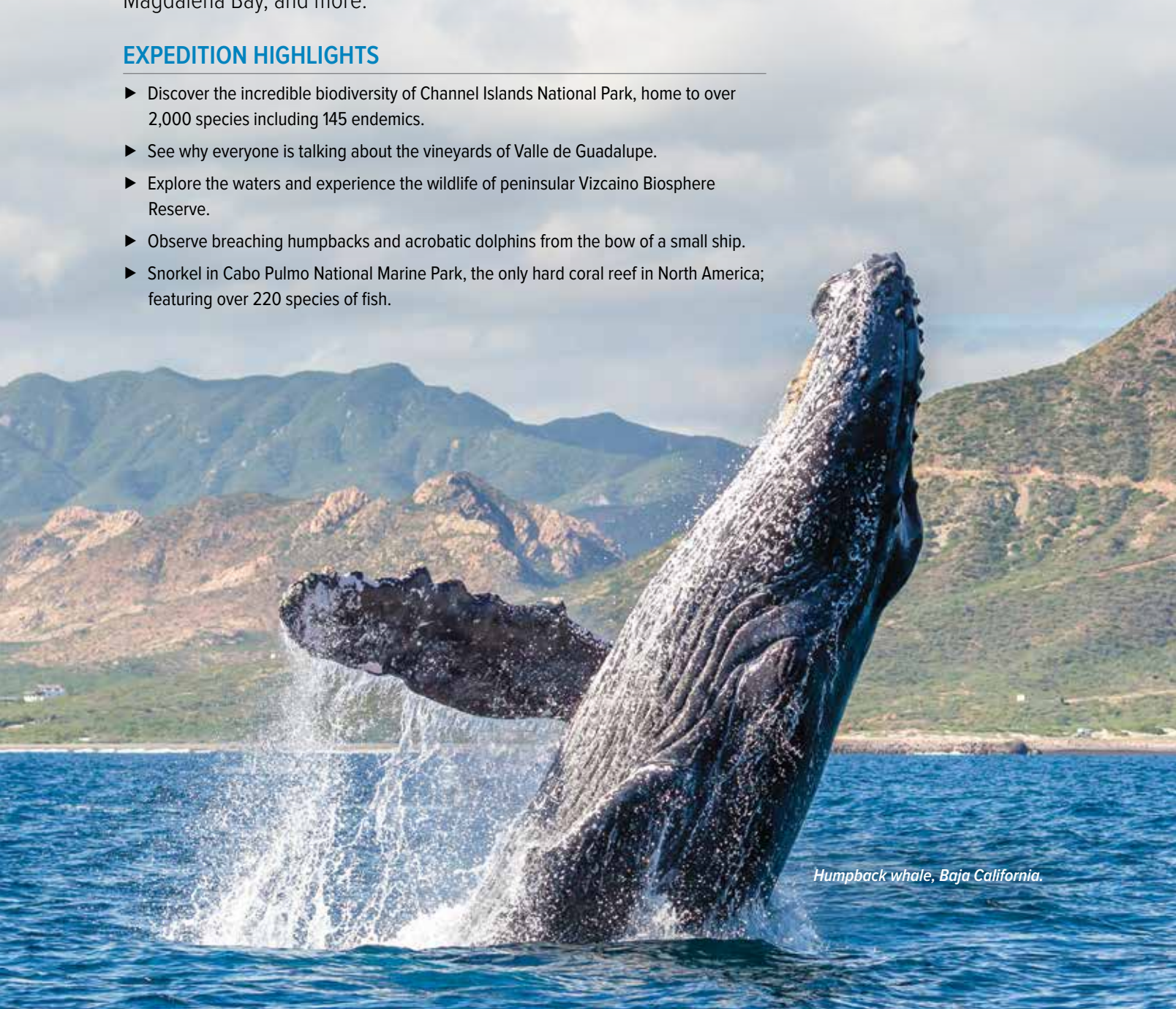
Follow the migration of birds and humpbacks on an epic journey from Los Angeles to La Paz, witnessing intact wildness and serenity of Channel Islands National Park, Ensenada, Magdalena Bay, and more.

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. See page 26 for details.

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.
- ▶ 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.



Humpback whale, Baja California.

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)



Brown pelicans.

DAY 12: LA PAZ/DISEMBARK/ SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO

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



Guests exploring the sand dunes.

DEPARTURES

National Geographic Venture
2023-2024 December

SPECIAL GUEST

National Geographic explorer **Tierney Thys** joins the 2023 departure.

SPECIAL OFFERS

- Book by Jun. 30, 2023:
 - \$600/pp air credit.
 - Waive the solo premium.
 - Complimentary beer and wine.
- Select departures only. See page 30 for terms.





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 Baja California we explore is remote, wild, and untrammeled—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: Among The Great Whales



8 DAYS | FROM \$6,720

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: 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 GULF
OF CALIFORNIA**

Our plan is flexible as we explore some of 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 other hidden gems such as Bahia de Los Muertos to snorkel among the living coral. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: LORETO/DISEMBARK

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)

DEPARTURES

National Geographic Venture

2024 January, February, March

Certain departures travel in reverse. Itinerary stops and sequence subject to modification.

BLUE & FIN WHALE LORETO EXTENSION

Further your exploration of this richly varied region with this exciting two-night extension. See page 26 for details.

SPECIAL OFFER

Starting in 2024 we will cover your bar tab on all departures. See page 30 for details.

Guests kayak near National Geographic Venture.



Wild Baja California Escape: The Whales of Magdalena Bay



6 DAYS | FROM \$4,040

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

Aboard *National Geographic Sea Bird* and
National Geographic Sea Lion

SHIP ADDED!

To meet demand for this unparalleled experience, *National Geographic Sea Lion* will join her sister ship for the 2024 season. Book early to secure a complimentary overnight hotel stay in beachside Loreto, Mexico.

Anchor overnight among the gray whales of Bahía Magdalena, where mothers and calves relax and play after the longest mammal migration on Earth. Our vessels are perfectly sized to enter the lagoons, and fully equipped for active exploration of the surrounding coastline.

Lindblad Guests with a California gray whale.

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.



**DAY 1: LORETO, MEXICO/
SAN CARLOS/EMBARK**

Upon arrival in Loreto, transfer to San Carlos and embark in the late afternoon. (D)

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

Make a special stop to view a large frigatebird colony on Isla Santa Margarita (conditions permitting) 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. Enjoy a barefoot stroll and 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 Zodiac. Bird-watching here can be excellent. Among the species we might see are



Guests stand-up paddleboarding.

diving pelicans, wheeling cormorants, terns, 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**

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)

DEPARTURES

National Geographic Sea Bird & National Geographic Sea Lion
2024 January, February, March

BLUE & FIN WHALE LORETO EXTENSION

Further your exploration of this richly varied region with this exciting two-night extension. See page 26 for details.

SPECIAL OFFERS

Book by Jun. 30, 2023:

- \$500/pp air credit.
- Complimentary pre-voyage hotel night in Loreto, Mexico.
- Free bar tab.

Select departures only. See page 30 for terms.



Guest photographing sand dunes.

Exploring The Gulf of California: A Living Sea & Desert Isles



8 DAYS | FROM \$7,240

Scan QR code for itinerary details and current rates

or visit expeditions.com/wildislands

Aboard *National Geographic Venture*

The pristine desert islands dotting the Gulf of California 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, Gulf of California.



DAY 1: LORETO, MEXICO/EMBARK
Arrive in Loreto and embark our ship. (D)

DAYS 2–7: EXPLORING THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA

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 Gulf of California, 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



Desert scorpion fluorescing under ultraviolet light.



(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

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)

DEPARTURES

National Geographic Venture
2023-2024 December

SPECIAL OFFERS

- Book by Jun. 30, 2023:
- \$350/pp air credit.
 - Waive the solo premium.
 - Complimentary beer and wine.
- Select departures only. See page 30 for terms.



Porpoising common bottlenose dolphins in the Gulf of California, 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 Gulf of California. 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.

PHOTO EXPEDITIONS

Select departures include a Certified Photo Instructor as well as a National Geographic Photography Expert and will include special programming for photographers.

Find out more about our photographers and photo expeditions at expeditions.com/photo.

Below: Kayaking the sculpted shorelines of the Gulf of California.



**DAY 1: 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 California's gray whales, while we observe mother and calf pairs in local pangas. Whales here seem to 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 GULF OF CALIFORNIA

Today we round the peninsula and enter what Jacques Cousteau called "The Aquarium of the World." The Gulf of California 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

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)



Gray whale in Magdalena Bay.

DEPARTURES

National Geographic Venture
2023-2024 March, April

Certain departures travel in reverse. Itinerary stops and sequence subject to modification.

📷 Select departures are photo expeditions. Visit [expeditions.com/photo](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/expeditions/photo) or call for details.

SPECIAL OFFER

Starting in 2024 we will cover your bar tab on all departures. See page 30 for details.



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 \$790*

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 *A Southern Migration: From the Channel Islands to Baja California* (page 14).

▶ Learn more at expeditions.com/whaleshark

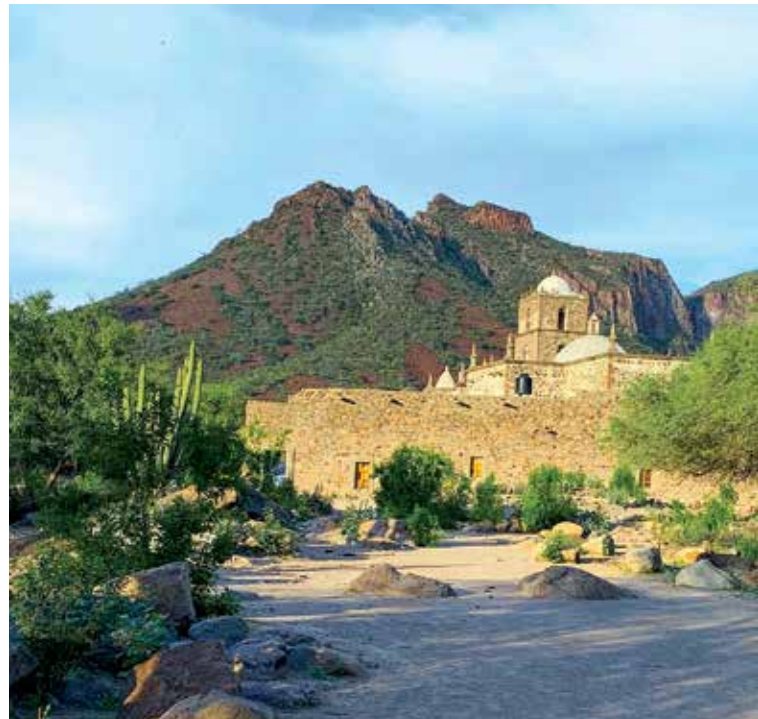
LORETO + BLUE WHALES

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: Among the Great Whales* (page 18) and *Wild Baja California Escape: the Whales of Magdalena Bay* (page 20).

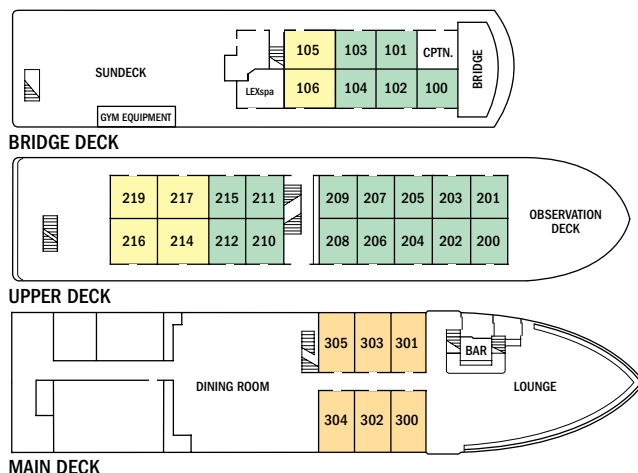
▶ Learn more at expeditions.com/loreto



*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 & National Geographic Sea Lion

CAPACITY: 62 guests in 31 outside cabins.

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

PUBLIC AREAS: Our twin sister ships feature 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 a single seating with unassigned tables. The menu features locally inspired fare.

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

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: A fleet of 5 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), and OM System Photo Gear Locker.

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

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

SEE MORE ONLINE:

Learn more about *National Geographic Sea Bird* at expeditions.com/seabird and *National Geographic Sea Lion* at expeditions.com/sealion

CATEGORY 1: Main Deck #300-305 Cabins face outside with a large view window, feature two single beds, two nightstands and a closet.

CATEGORY 2: Bridge Deck #100-104; Upper Deck #200-212, 215 Cabins open to the outside, feature two single beds, two nightstands and a closet.

CATEGORY 3: Bridge Deck #105, 106; Upper Deck #214, 216, 217, 219 Cabins open to the outside, feature two single beds, two nightstands, a closet, small table and two chairs. Upper deck cabins have a pull-out Murphy bed to accommodate a third person and two single beds that can convert to a queen.

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 and suites.

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

National Geographic Venture was 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), and OM System Photo Gear Locker.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Guest internet access, elevator, Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic certified photo instructor, 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.



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 single beds (which can be converted to queen) and private step-out balcony.

CATEGORY 1: Main Deck #301-306 Cabins face outside with two portholes, feature two single beds that can convert to a queen, a writing desk, two nightstands, full length mirror and a closet.

CATEGORY 2: Main Deck #307-315 Cabins face outside with two portholes, feature two single beds that can convert to a queen, a writing desk, two nightstands, full length mirror and a closet.

CATEGORY 3: Upper Deck #201-206 Cabins face outside with a large window, feature two single beds that can convert to a queen, a writing desk, two nightstands, full length mirror and a closet.

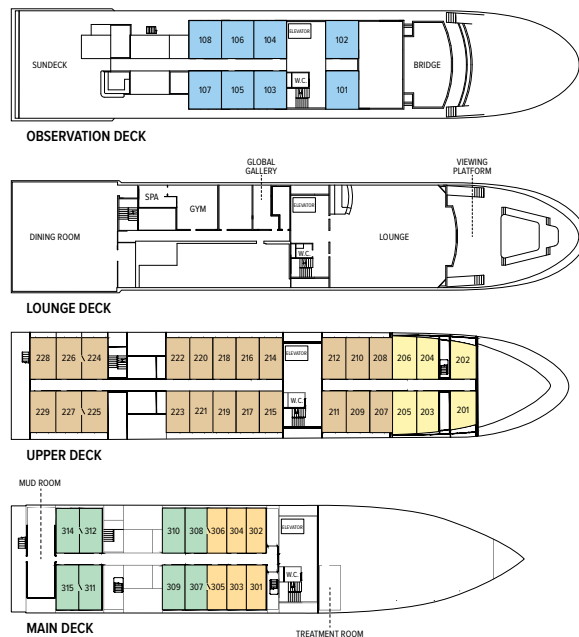
CATEGORY 4: Upper Deck #207-229 Cabins face outside with a sliding glass door and small private balcony, feature two single beds that can convert to a queen, a writing desk, two nightstands, full length mirror and a closet.

CATEGORY 5 (SUITE): Observation Deck #101-108 Cabins face outside with a large view window, feature two single beds that can convert to a queen, a writing desk, two nightstands, full length mirror, convertible sofa bed to accommodate a third person, expanded bathroom and extra closet space.

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

AIR CREDIT: Book by June 30, 2023 to receive air credit in amount indicated. Air credit deducted from cabin fare prior to any additional applicable savings.

COMPLIMENTARY HOTEL STAY: Book select departures of *Wild Baja California Escape: The Whales of Magdalena Bay* and enjoy a complimentary pre-voyage hotel stay in Loreto, Mexico. Limited availability.

SOLO TRAVELER SAVINGS: Book by June 30, 2023 and waive the solo premium on solo cabins on select departures.

NEW COMPLIMENTARY BAR POLICY: Enjoy free beer and wine on all 2023 departures aboard *National Geographic Venture*, *National Geographic Sea Bird*, and *National Geographic Sea Lion*. Starting in 2024, full bar tab will be included on these ships. Exclusions apply on certain super-premium brands.

GET THE GROUP ON BOARD: SAVE 10% When you gather a group of 6 or more under one booking on select *Wild Baja California 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.

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.

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
- ✓ Beer & wine in 2023, full bar tab in 2024
- ✓ 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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Go Big This Holiday Season

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



Reservation Information

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

Pricing: For best pricing book early. Prices quoted in this brochure are in USD, per person based on double occupancy, valid as of the time of printing, subject to modification based on select departures and availability at time of booking, and are not guaranteed until booking and required deposit is made. Visit expeditions.com or call for all 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 designated flights; use of snorkeling equipment, wetsuits, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards; 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.

*Complimentary beer and wine available on board all 2023 departures. Starting in 2024, full bar (except certain super-premium brands) will be included on all departures.

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.

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

Travel Protection Plan: We strongly recommend that you 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, medical assistance, and damaged or lost baggage, and provides 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. If you are not satisfied for any reason, you may return your plan within 10 days after purchase. Your premium will be refunded if canceled within 10 days, provided you have not already departed on the trip or filed a claim. When so returned, the coverage under the plan is void from the original date of purchase.

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For Reservations:
Contact your travel advisor or Lindblad Expeditions
1.877.689.1962

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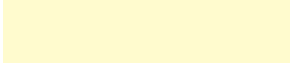
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