

# BAJA CALIFORNIA & THE SEA OF CORTEZ

**ENCOUNTER**  
GENTLE GIANTS

**EXPLORE**  
WILD ISLES & A LIVING SEA

**WITH**  
AIRFARE SAVINGS

**ABOARD NEWLY RENOVATED**  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD & SEA LION | 2015-16



Lindblad  
Expeditions



NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC™



# MEXICO

## BAJA CALIFORNIA

### PACIFIC OCEAN

#### Isla San Esteban

Search for the endemic pinto chuckwalla and desert birds, pg. 21

#### San Pedro Mártir

Blue-footed boobies, red-billed tropicbirds, pelicans & frigatebirds, pg. 21

#### Isla San Marcos

Kayak grottos and explore caves, pg. 21

#### Bahía Magdalena

Enter the peaceful birthing lagoons of gray whales for magical encounters, pg. 13

#### Los Islotes

Snorkel & swim with playful sea lions, pp. 9, 13, 21

#### Santa Rosalia

Historic mining town, church by Gustave Eiffel, pg. 20

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Visit charming galleries and meet local artists, pg. 9

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UNESCO World Heritage Site with 39% of the world's total number of species of marine mammals, pp. 13, 21

#### La Paz



Lindblad Expeditions



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic have joined forces to further inspire the world through expedition travel. Our collaboration in exploration, research, technology and conservation will provide extraordinary travel experiences and disseminate geographic knowledge around the globe.

Discover the wildness of Baja you would otherwise miss. It is a living sea that teems with whales and dolphins, dotted with UNESCO World Heritage site desert islands that are only accessible by small ship.



## Dear Traveler,

Baja California is a region of beautiful contrasts: the desert and the sea. Sunny days and cool breezes. It's a shame that so few travelers venture further afield than Cabo San Lucas, because the Baja we explore is a place of unrivaled opportunity and intrigue. It is a place where you can kayak beautifully windswept shores, hike desert canyons abloom with life, and encounter masses of marine mammals. And this Baja is hidden in plain sight—one can spend a week or more on our ship and not see another soul, besides the odd fishing boat.

There's a real chance for discovery here, and there's no better way to explore Baja California than by expedition ship. Our small, nimble 62-guest twin ships, *National Geographic Sea Bird* and *Sea Lion*, give us the flexibility to adjust our itinerary to make the most of exhilarating spontaneous events and conditions. The islands in the Sea of Cortez are home to wildlife and pristine landscapes, and the peninsula adds charming towns with welcoming people.

The gray whale nursery lagoons of the Pacific are a powerful draw for many. The female whales arrive in winter to birth and rear their young, and just when you think they would be the most protective, they often approach our expedition landing crafts, displaying their curious calves, both as interested in us as we are in them. Spending time among them is a uniquely moving and rewarding experience.

In winter you'll find the islands in the Sea of Cortez teeming with endemism and desert life. And in late spring it's not uncommon for our ship to be surrounded by hundreds of leaping dolphins, or for us to spot several different species of whales in a single afternoon.

Baja California is so close, yet so far away from anything that resembles day-to-day life—with a wildness that feels spectacularly remote. I hope you'll join us here this season.

All the best,



Sven-Olof Lindblad





*Kayaking at sunset.*



*California sea lion blowing bubbles.*



*A fun ride alongside a common dolphin.*





Guests enjoying a sunset.



# THE JOY OF BAJA EXPEDITION STYLE



Our expedition style of travel offers the most intriguing and holistic way to experience the best of Baja California. Sven Lindblad first explored Baja in 1979, intrigued by the shape of its islands and the inviting indentations on his chart of the Sea of Cortez. Fresh from his experiences in Africa, he found Baja, with its waves of migrating marine and avian life, as fascinating as the Serengeti. We've been exploring Baja and the Sea of Cortez ever since. And the product of our 35+ years of immersion in the geography is an

experience that you simply can't get elsewhere, or with any other travel company. For example, we are the only non-local company permitted to use our own boats to get out among the gray whales in Magdalena Bay. And we know, and can show you every rewarding facet of it. Far more than whales, the Sea of Cortez truly is, as Jacques Cousteau called it, the world's aquarium, teeming with life and creating daily discovery opportunities for you, your friends, and family. And whether you consider yourself a photographer or simply someone who takes shots, the photo ops in Baja are simply awesome.

» TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE QUALITY OF LIFE ABOARD PLEASE VISIT [EXPEDITIONS.COM/BAJA](https://www.expeditions.com/baja)



Photographer at sunrise in the Sea of Cortez.

# EXPEDITION PHOTOGRAPHY

## OUR EXCLUSIVE PROGRAM



Unique in the world of travel, our Expedition Photography program offers guests of every skill and interest level unrivaled photography opportunities—including a Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic certified photo instructor on board every expedition. Photo enthusiasts, from beginner to semi-pro can stand side-by-side with accomplished photographers and pick up tips in an extraordinary field environment. Their expertise will inspire you and help you improve your skills—so you can return home with great shots, or a complete photo record of your experience of a lifetime.

# EXPLORE WITH AN A+ EXPEDITION TEAM



Learn, see, and do more by exploring with experts who know the region best. Your team consists of an expedition leader and four naturalists, including a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and an undersea specialist. Additionally, a wellness specialist leads morning stretching and aerobic hikes, and a video chronicler films the story of your adventure.

## Representing our Baja Season Team:



### SUE PERIN

#### Expedition Leader

A wildlife biologist, naturalist, and former National Park interpreter, Sue has led expeditions since 1993.

### LINDA BURBACK

#### Photo Instructor

A former naturalist at Saguaro National Park, Linda is an extraordinary photographer and teacher.



### WILLIAM LOPEZ-FORMENT

#### Naturalist

A former professor at the National University of Mexico, William is a biologist, ecologist, and historian.

### CARLOS NAVARRO

#### Undersea Specialist

A biochemist and marine biologist, Carlos has spent most of the last 30 years studying the Sea of Cortez.

*Above is a partial list of our Baja California expedition team (clockwise from left): Sue Perin, Expedition Leader; Linda Burback, photo instructor; Carlos J. Navarro, undersea specialist; William Lopez-Forment, naturalist.*



*“In 2009 we went back to Cabo Pulmo ... expecting fishes to be more abundant after 10 years of protection. But we could not believe what we saw—thousands upon thousands of large fishes such as snappers, groupers, trevally, and manta rays. They were so abundant that we could not see each other if we were fifteen meters apart.”*

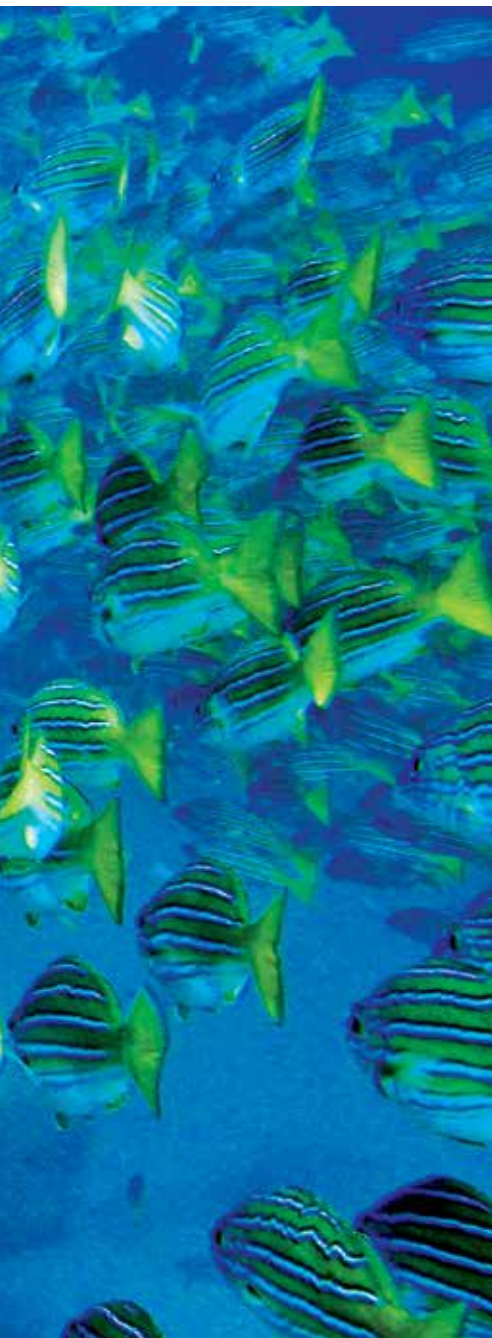
*—Eric Sala, National Geographic News Watch*







# WONDER OF WILDNESS & CHARM OF CULTURE



Fall under the spell of Baja on an expedition that unites its twin facets: culture and wildness. Hop among pristine desert islands filled with endemic species, rare plants, and towering forests of cacti. You'll find the air so clear and clean that on some evenings a green flash will burst on the horizon at sunset—a phenomenon so rare some people refuse to believe it exists. Search for migrating humpback whales on their way to the Sea of Cortez. Hike a desert arroyo to see ancient art, handprints hidden in a cave for millennia, and feel a connection to the ancients in this high, remote

desert. Visit Todos Santos, a *Pueblo Magico*, a small Baja town with outside charm. See their unique architecture, stroll the sleepy streets, and meet contemporary artists who live and exhibit their work here. Snorkel with sea lions (at Los Islotes), and explore fantastic Cabo Pulmo, where ten years ago local fisherman chose to stop fishing, declaring the region a “no-take zone” to attract divers and snorkelers. Today it is one of the most vibrant undersea sites in the region.

» **READ PAST DAILY EXPEDITION REPORTS (DERS) AT [EXPEDITIONS.COM/REALBAJA](https://www.expeditions.com/realbaja) FOR A REAL SENSE**

*Clockwise from top: The sun paints the sky with a golden hue; guests kayak Baja's turquoise waters; blue and gold snappers.*

# WILD ISLANDS & TREASURES OF BAJA CALIFORNIA

8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS—ABOARD *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD*

PRICES FROM: \$5,990 to \$10,340 (See page 23 for complete prices.)

Discover the pure wildness of Baja's desert islands and the living sea, and then go further and delve into the Peninsula's unique culture and art from ancient times to modern. You'll find the dolphins, seabirds, and extraordinary marine life enchanting and the region's history and culture rich and intriguing. And when you see Baja's islands with rugged cliffs and white sand beaches reflected in an azure sea, you'll understand immediately why UNESCO designated them a World Heritage Site.

## EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Visit art galleries and meet the artists in Todos Santos, a *Pueblo Mágico*.
- ▶ Search for humpback whales, active off the southern coast of the peninsula.
- ▶ Snorkel at Cabo Pulmo, a vibrant reef and model for ocean conservation.
- ▶ Kayak, swim, and hike the pristine desert islands of the Sea of Cortez, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

## EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE

**35+**  
**YEARS**  
**EXPERIENCE**

Our expert 6-person expedition team will illuminate the wonders of the Sea of Cortez from every possible angle. Your expedition leader, undersea specialist, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and naturalists, plus a wellness specialist and video chronicler, are dedicated to ensuring an incredible voyage. A National Geographic photographer will add more learning and photo instruction on select departures.

*Visit our website to read staff bios for this expedition.*

*Snorkeling the Sea of Cortez.*





### DAY 1: LOS CABOS/LA PAZ/EMBARK

Upon arrival in Los Cabos, transfer to downtown La Paz where we embark.

### DAY 2: ISLA SAN JOSE/ISLA SAN FRANCISCO

Explore two gems of the Sea of Cortez. UNESCO World Heritage site islands, Islas San José and San Francisco offer abundant opportunities to snorkel, kayak, beachcomb, or hike. (B,L,D)

### DAY 3: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ

Today we will let mother nature be our guide and explore further in the Sea of Cortez. Search for marine mammals, known to inhabit the region north of Isla San José. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4: LOS ISLOTES/ISLA PARTIDA

Snorkeling with playful and curious sea lions—a highlight. Tuck into a shallow, emerald green anchorage, where we can snorkel once more or hike the island's beautiful arroyo. (B,L,D)

### DAY 5: TODOS SANTOS/LA PAZ

Transit the narrow peninsula to Todos Santos, a charming town filled with art galleries. Stroll the town, meet the artisans, and dine at a local restaurant. Take an evening stroll along the malecon in downtown La Paz before departing for more explorations at sea. (B,L,D)

### DAY 6: ISLA ESPIRITU SANTO

Explore the island's beautifully indented bays by expedition landing craft, kayaks, or snorkeling. Go beachcombing or opt for a hike along



*Breaching humpback whale.*

the rocky coast, keeping your eye out for brown pelicans, gulls, wandering tattlers, great blue herons, and blue-footed boobies. (B,L,D)

### DAY 7: CABO PULMO/GORDA BANKS/ LANDS END

Learn the inspiring story of Cabo Pulmo National Park conservation, and snorkel the reef among red fan corals and large schools of fish. Meet some of the people responsible for protecting Cabo Pulmo and learn how it has become a model for ocean conservation around the world. Search for humpback whales before taking in sunset at Lands End. (B,L,D)

### DAY 8: SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO/LOS CABOS/ DISEMBARK

Disembark this morning in San José del Cabo and transfer to the Los Cabos airport for flights home. (B)



*A guest photographs a barrel cactus.*



## EXPEDITION DETAILS

**DATES:** 2015: Dec. 19, 26\*

\*Voyage operates in reverse, making all the same stops.

## SPECIAL OFFER

Book by Aug. 31, 2015 to receive a \$550 air credit on both departures.



*Lindblad Expedition guests kayaking at Isla Espiritu Santo.*



*“Many of the grays of Baja, Frohoff told me, treat their days of birthing and nursing there as a kind of protracted coming-out party. “It’s extraordinary,” she said. “At precisely the time when you’d expect them to be the most defensive, they’re incredibly social. They’ll come right up to boats, let people touch their faces, give them massages, rub their mouths and tongues.”*

– Toni Frohoff, Whale Behaviorist, from “Watching Whales Watching Us,”  
New York Times Magazine, by Charles Siebert







## UP CLOSE WITH GENTLE GIANTS

For 35+ years we've been putting guests within arm's reach of California gray whales and can assure you, it's a transformative experience. While it is impossible to guarantee encounters, our expedition is expertly designed to maximize opportunities to experience both sides of Baja's remarkable nature. We spend two days in the nursery lagoons, where the females come to birth and rear their calves. Since we're the only non-local company permitted to use our own expedition landing craft, we spend more time with whales and less time getting there. Then, on the other side of the Peninsula you'll see Baja's other facets: snorkel with sea lions, hike forests of giant cacti, and explore the desert islands of the pristine Sea of Cortez for an all-encompassing Baja experience.



*Left: Guests enjoy a close encounter with a gray whale.  
Above: Sun setting over Sea of Cortez.*

# BAJA CALIFORNIA AND THE SEA OF CORTEZ: AMONG THE GREAT WHALES

8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS—ABOARD *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD*

PRICES FROM: \$6,390 to \$11,090 (See page 23 for complete prices.)

Seeing gray whales in their natural habitat is one of the great delights of this voyage. In Bahía Magdalena, venture out in expedition landing craft among these magnificent creatures. In the Sea of Cortez, search for a variety of whales, plus dolphins, blue-footed boobies, pelicans, cormorants and magnificent frigatebirds. You'll also snorkel among sea lions, join naturalists on hikes amid barrel cacti and sculpted sand dunes, and see a variety of desert flora and fauna.

## EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Get an up-close view of gigantic gray whale mothers and their calves in the breeding grounds of Bahía Magdalena.
- ▶ Go snorkeling amid sea lions, brilliant blue damselfish, and schools of king angelfish.
- ▶ Kayak clear blue waters on the lookout for a variety of bird species including magnificent frigatebirds.
- ▶ Explore diverse landscapes, including sand dunes, a cactus forest and deserted islands.

*Gray whales often approach our expedition landing craft, as curious about us as we are about them.*

## EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE

**35+**  
YEARS  
EXPERIENCE

Our expert 6-person expedition team will illuminate the wonders of the Sea of Cortez from every possible angle.

Your expedition leader, undersea specialist, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and naturalists, plus a wellness specialist and video chronicler, are dedicated to ensuring an incredible voyage. Certain departures feature a National Geographic photographer.

*Visit our website to read staff bios for this expedition.*





## DAY 1: LOS ANGELES/LA PAZ/SAN CARLOS/EMBARK

Upon arrival in La Paz, transfer to San Carlos where we embark. (D)

## DAYS 2-4: BAHÍA MAGDALENA

Navigate through an immense system of protected coves and channels, surrounded by a fringe of mangrove channels at one edge of a vast, windswept plain. Each winter, during their long migration, gray whales travel south from their Arctic feeding grounds to breed and raise their calves in these sheltered waters. Observe migrating whales from the ship and up close from our expedition landing craft. Watch for magnificent frigate birds, pelicans, cormorants, terns, great blue herons, ibis and willets. (B,L,D daily)

## DAY 5: LOS CABOS AND GORDA BANKS

This morning cruise past Friars Rocks at Land's End. For those who wish, we will visit the historic town center of San José del Cabo. The afternoon is spent at the Gorda Banks seamount or La Fortuna, gathering places for whales, especially humpbacks, dolphins and other sea life. (B,L,D)

## DAY 6: LOS ISLOTES AND ISLA ESPÍRITU SANTO

At Los Islotes, don flippers, a mask and snorkel (which we'll gladly provide) and swim with curious sea lions. We have a leisurely afternoon

to swim, kayak or hike at Isla Espíritu Santo. Brown pelicans, gulls and boobies are all part of the landscape. Finish the day with a relaxing beach barbecue complete with a campfire and a star-filled sky. (B,L,D)



## DAY 7: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ

Search for whales among the islands of the southern Sea of Cortez, an area that has proven to be one of the best for finding blue whales, and often common and bottlenose dolphins. Explore the many uninhabited islands such as Isla San José or Isla Santa Catalina to walk among huge cacti and observe the diverse bird life. Swim or snorkel with king angelfish, butterfly fish, damselfish and the beautiful parrotfish. (B,L,D)

## DAY 8: LA PAZ/DISEMBARK/HOME

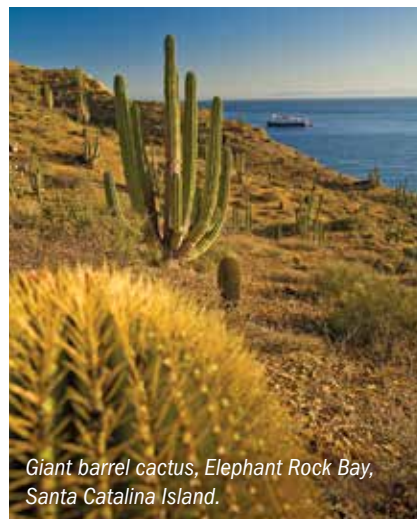
Disembark in La Paz after breakfast and drive to the airport for flights home. (B)



## EXPEDITION DETAILS

**DATES:** 2016: Jan. 16\*, 30\*; Feb. 6, 13\*, 20, 27\*; Mar. 5, 12\*

\*These departures travel in reverse from La Paz to San Carlos, making all the same stops.



## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC EXPERT

Travel with **Birgit Buehleier**, a National Geographic filmmaker, producer and scientist who has played an integral role in the evolution of National Geographic's Crittercam, a video camera system that has provided fascinating insights into the daily lives of hundreds of species. Through her work with Crittercam, she has sidled up to seals, sea lions and whales. Join Birgit on the Jan. 16, 2016 departure.



Use your smartphone to watch our **Baja California** video.

*“The very air here is miraculous, and outlines of reality change with the moment... a dream hangs over the whole region, a brooding kind of hallucination.”*

— John Steinbeck, *The Log from the Sea of Cortez*





# THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE BAJA EXPLORATION



Enjoy all the peak experiences of Baja California & the Sea of Cortez over 15 days on an expedition that combines time among the friendly gray whales of the Pacific lagoons with an in-depth exploration of the islands of the Sea of Cortez. On the Pacific side you'll get close to female gray whales and their young as they prepare for their long journey north to their arctic feeding grounds, and then you'll sail around Land's End for an adventure among the UNESCO World Heritage site islands in the Sea of Cortez—plus discover charming, historic towns on the Baja Peninsula. This is an expedition of pure discovery with an open itinerary; your expedition leader and captain will choose daily where to sail based on conditions and movements of wildlife ensuring incredible experiences and wild encounters.



*Left: Light Painting at twilight on a photo expedition on Isla Santa Catalina.  
Above: Close-up of grey whale calf swimming alongside its mother.*

# BAJA CALIFORNIA: A REMARKABLE JOURNEY

15 DAYS/14 NIGHTS—ABOARD *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD & SEA LION*  
PRICES FROM: \$10,900 to \$18,680 (See page 23 for complete prices.)

Embark on a comprehensive photo expedition that explores both the Pacific side of Baja California and the islands in the Sea of Cortez. Venture into the gray whale lagoons for up close encounters, and then spend ample time exploring the Sea of Cortez and all its marine mammals. See scores of blue-footed boobies and pelicans, kayak into quiet grottos, and visit charming seaside towns.

## 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 possibly explore water-level caves by kayak.
- ▶ Snorkel the living sea: Observe large schools of vibrantly colored fish, swim among playful sea lions, and much more.
- ▶ With more time for adventure, rely on your expedition leader to take you where wildlife will be at its best—including a possible exploration of a rare island covered in hundreds of thousands of elegant terns or shorelines where whales and dolphins congregate in great numbers.

## EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE

**35+**  
YEARS  
EXPERIENCE

Our expert 6-person expedition team will illuminate the wonders of Baja & the Sea of Cortez from every possible angle. Your expedition leader, undersea specialist, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and naturalists, plus a wellness specialist and video chronicler, are dedicated to ensuring an incredible voyage. A National Geographic photographer is on board and at your service.

*Visit our website to read staff bios for this expedition.*

*Dolphins near National Geographic Sea Bird.*





## DAY 1: LOS ANGELES/LA PAZ/SAN CARLOS, MEXICO

Fly to La Paz and transfer to San Carlos to embark. (D)

## DAY 2: BAHIA MAGDALENA

In kayaks and expedition landing craft we'll explore the winding canals of the dense mangrove swamps of Bahía Magdalena. Bird watching here can be excellent—magnificent frigatebirds, pelicans, cormorants, terns, and great blue herons, ibis, whimbrels and willets are among the species we might see. It's not unusual to see forty species of birds in just one day along these fertile shorelines where they refuel for their destinations ahead. (B,L,D)

## DAY 3-4: LAGUNA SAN IGNACIO

Laguna San Ignacio is a large bay and favored haunt of the gray whales in Baja. The ship will linger in this remote and important locale, while we observe the mother and calf pairs—from the ship, and from water level in our expedition landing craft. For some reason, the whales here seem to be friendlier than they are elsewhere. It's not unusual for mothers and calves to approach our boats, the calves often playing hide and seek—even wanting to be petted and scratched. (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, including the largest animal on Earth, the blue whale. (B,L,D)

## DAY 6-14: ISLANDS OF THE SEA OF CORTEZ

Cruise past the spectacular Friars Rocks at Land's End. For those who wish, we will arrange a visit to the historic town center of San Jose del Cabo. Espiritu Santo. Los Islotes. Santa Catalina. Rasa. These are some of the melodious names of these islands scattered throughout this beautiful sea. After over 20 years of exploration here, we are still discovering new places and experiencing exciting events: one hundred bottlenose dolphins leaping over sperm whales near our ship; a pod of fin whales feeding around a convergence zone; thousands of Heermann's gulls and royal terns arriving on the shores of Isla Rasa to begin incubating their eggs; the vision of hundreds of Humboldt squid illuminated in the ship's bow lights. The best areas for whale watching remain consistent—the waters south of Isla Carmen, Canal de Ballenas up north, and near the mouth of Bahía Concepcion. Whether on the bridge of the ship, on expedition landing craft or kayaks, we will be in prime position to observe them all. (B,L,D)

## DAY 15: LA PAZ/DISEMBARK/RETURN U.S.\*

After a visit of La Paz, we'll have lunch. Transfer to the airport for your flight to the U.S. (B)



## EXPEDITION DETAILS

**DATES:** 2016: Mar. 19, 28

Photo Expedition



Gray whale.

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHERS

Travel with founder and director of the Expedition Photography program, **Ralph Lee Hopkins** who is a widely published photographer and an ace at imparting wisdom and technique in the field.

Join Ralph March 28, 2016.



National Geographic assignments have



taken **Ira Block** from deserts to Siberia to the North Pole. His momentous book, *Saving America's Treasures*, was shot across the U.S. in just 100 days. Join Ira on the March 19, 2016 departure.



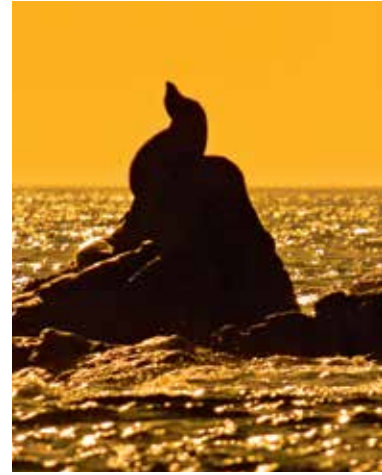
Use your smartphone to watch our **Baja California** video.



Elegant tern at sunset.

*“Later, cloaked in the light of our dying fire, we listened to the creak of cactuses swaying in the wind... Somewhere out in the boulders, a coyote wailed beneath a spray of cold stars... 'This is the stuff that keeps you coming back to Baja,' Norman said quietly. 'The primitiveness, the aloneness of it. My problem is I never get tired of it. It seems like my compass always points south.’”*

—Don Belt, “Baja California: Mexico’s Land Apart,”  
*National Geographic Magazine*, December 1989







# BEST TIME, BEST PLACE

## WHALES & WILDNESS

A rare and incredible gathering occurs in spring in the upper Sea of Cortez. Pods of dolphins form aggregations of thousands of individuals. An incredible variety of whale species come here, as well as huge schools of mobula rays. We seek out encounters with these diverse marine tribes, relying on our 35+ years of documenting the undersea shelves and channels where they can reliably be found feeding. In addition, we'll hike islands where the shores teem with a cacophony of seabirds, and kayak into quiet grottos with unearthly echoes. See scores of blue-footed boobies and pelicans. Plus stroll the streets of Santa Rosalia, a historic mining town, and enjoy a visit to a local bakery or gelato shop. At the day's end, relax at a beach barbecue, where the campfire's sparks drift towards the stars, and bask in the splendid solitude of Baja.



*Clockwise from top: Sea lion at sunset on Los Islotes; a fleet of solo and tandem kayaks allow guests to have personal, up-close encounters with wildness; common dolphins.*

# WHALES & WILDNESS: SPRING IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ

8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS—ABOARD *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD* AND *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA LION*

PRICES FROM: \$5,990 to \$10,300 (See page 23 for complete prices.)

Watch whales and dolphins from the deck of one of our intimate, 62-guest expedition ships and at water level from nimble expedition landing craft. Spring in the Sea of Cortez is the best time to see large pods of dolphins and various species of whales—blue, sperm, pilot, fin and Bryde’s—all in the same week. Hike uninhabited beaches and desert landscapes. Observe myriad seabirds. Kayak in pristine waters, snorkel among reef fish and enjoy the serenity of a sunset beach barbecue under a starry sky. This unique journey is designed with a flexible itinerary, with our staff choosing sites based on conditions and to maximize wildlife sightings, adding a stimulating sense of adventure to each day.

## EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Search for pods of dolphins and various species of whales: blue, fin, sperm, humpback, pilot or Bryde’s.
- ▶ Kayak, swim and snorkel with sea lions in pristine waters, and hike diverse desert landscapes.
- ▶ Visit the old mining town of Santa Rosalia, with its wooden homes and a steel church designed by Gustave Eiffel.

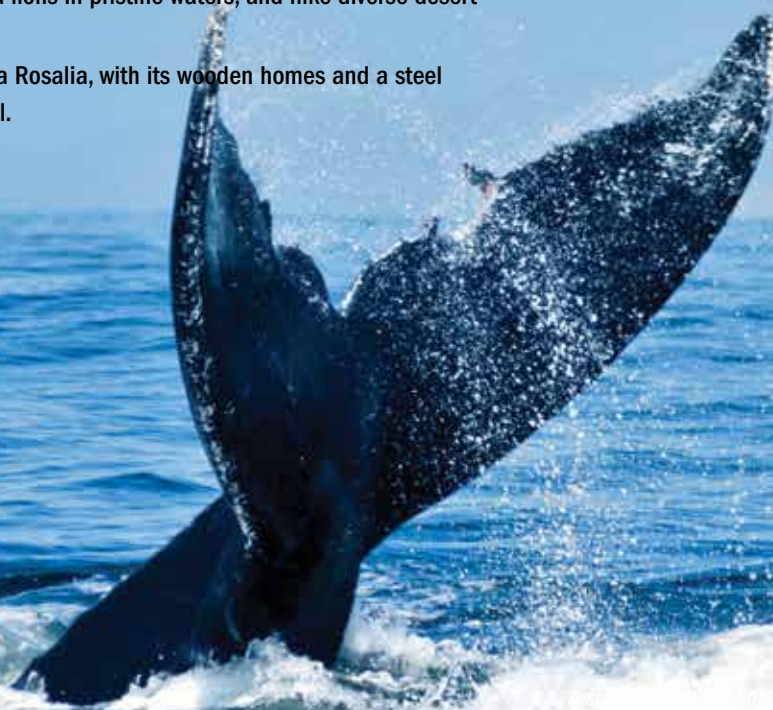
## EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE

**35+**  
YEARS  
EXPERIENCE

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*Visit our website to read staff bios for this expedition.*

*Humpback whale tail in the tropical waters off the west coast of Mexico.*





## DAY 1: HOME/LOS CABOS, MEXICO/ EMBARK LA PAZ

Fly into Los Cabos and transfer to La Paz to set sail on the Sea of Cortez. (D)

## DAY 2-7: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ

Our routing is designed with flexibility in mind, to maximize opportunities for wildlife sightings. It will most likely include the islands and activities listed below, although the order may vary. (B,L,D daily)

### ISLAS SAN ESTEBAN AND SAN PEDRO MÁRTIR:

Walk up a desert wash, to search for desert birds and the endemic pinto chuckwalla—a fat, harmless desert lizard. Later visit Isla San Pedro Mártir, a 1,000-foot-high guano-covered island that is home to thousands of seabirds. Blue-footed boobies, red-billed tropicbirds, pelicans and frigatebirds are all found here.

### ISLA RASA:

In the spring, one of the great wildlife spectacles of the Sea of Cortez is in full swing at Isla Rasa—the nesting of thousands of Heermann’s gulls and elegant and royal terns. We will go ashore to meet researchers and unobtrusively observe the behavior of these three species.

### ISLA SAN MARCOS:

At Isla San Marcos there is a beautiful cove for swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking. In the

afternoon we are again in rich whale waters, near the mouth of Bahía Concepción where we stand a good chance of sighting several species of whales, particularly fin or sperm.

### ISLA SANTA CATALINA:

This morning we’ll search for whales in the waters south of Isla Carmen, an area that has proven to be one of the best for finding blue whales, and often bottlenose and common dolphins. In the afternoon we visit Isla Santa Catalina, famous for its giant barrel cactus and lovely cardon cactus forest. The protected bay of our anchorage is also an excellent site for snorkeling. With a full afternoon here, there is time for swimming, snorkeling and hiking.

### LOS ISLOTES AND ISLA ESPÍRITU SANTO:

At Los Islotes, snorkelers have one of life’s great opportunities—swimming with graceful and curious sea lions. With a deeply indented shoreline and dramatically eroded cliff faces, Isla Espiritu Santo is perhaps the most beautiful island in the Sea of Cortez. We have a leisurely afternoon for swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, and in the evening, a beach barbecue under the desert sky.

## DAY 8: DISEMBARK LA PAZ, MEXICO/LOS CABOS

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



## EXPEDITION DETAILS

**DATES:** 2016: April 2 📅

📷 Photo Expedition

### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER

Join Flip Nicklin, the world’s premier marine mammal photographer, on the April 2, 2016 departure.



*California sea lion.*



*Kayakers on Isla Carmen.*

# 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 ships feature a library; global market; lounge with full-service bar and facilities for films, slide shows and presentations; Observation Deck; partially covered sundeck with chairs and tables, and LEXspa. Our "open bridge" provides guests an opportunity to meet our officers and captain and learn about navigation.

**MEALS:** Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Breakfast is a wide selection buffet and lunch is often served family style. Menu emphasizes local fare.

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

**EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT:** Bow camera, hydrophone, kayaks, snorkeling gear, wetsuits, Splash-Cam, underwater video camera, video microscope, and expedition landing craft.

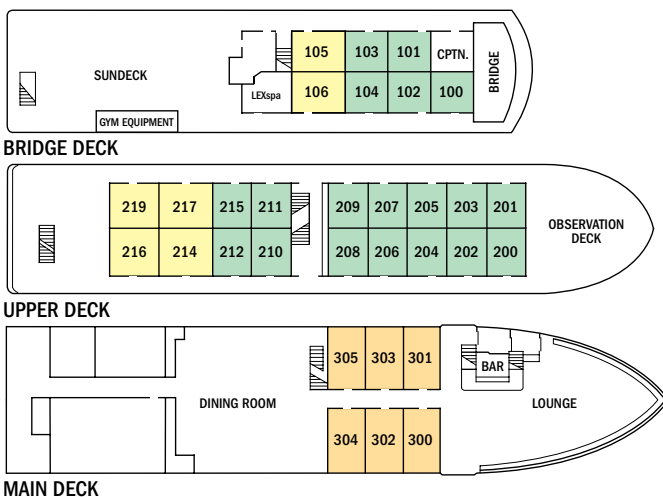
**SPECIAL FEATURES:** Guest Internet access.

A video chronicler, undersea specialist and ship's doctor are on board all voyages.

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



Photos (clockwise): Expedition ship National Geographic Sea Bird can access hard to reach locations; twin beds can be pushed together to form a double bed in Category 3 cabins on the Upper Deck; a comfortable Category 2 cabin freshly redesigned.



**CATEGORY 1:** Main Deck #300-305 – Conveniently positioned between the dining room & lounge, these cabins feature two single lower beds, a writing desk and a large view window.

**CATEGORY 2:** Bridge Deck #100-104; Upper Deck #200-212, 215 – These well-located cabins include two lower single beds & a view window.

**CATEGORY 3:** Bridge Deck #105, 106; Upper Deck #214, 216, 217, 219 – These cabins feature a seating unit with table and two large view windows. Upper Deck cabins include two lower single beds which can convert to a double bed and a pull-out single bed for a third person; Bridge Deck cabins include two lower single beds only.

**NOTE:** Sole 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.





## THE PRIVILEGE OF WILDNESS IN COMFORT AND STYLE

Our twin ships have been transformed: the lounge, bar and dining room have been handsomely renovated. And every cabin category has been refreshed with warm cherry veneer, our signature bed linens, sleekly framed photos and more. Now, each ship sets new standards for expedition hospitality and comfort.



Clockwise from left: Dinner is served in single seatings with unassigned tables for easy mingling; Our newly refurbished lounge; Cuisine features local produce and sustainably harvested seafood.

Prices are per person, double occupancy unless indicated as solo.

ITINERARY	YEAR	CAT. 1	CAT. 2	CAT. 3	CAT. 1 SOLO	CAT. 2 SOLO	ADVANCE PAYMENT	NOTE
Wild Islands & Treasures of Baja California – Page 8	2015	\$5,990	\$6,890	\$7,730	\$8,990	\$10,340	\$750	Sample Airfare: Round-trip Los Angeles/Los Cabos/Los Angeles: Economy from \$450.
Baja California and the Sea of Cortez: Among the Great Whales – Page 12	2016	\$6,390	\$7,390	\$8,390	\$9,440	\$11,090	\$750	We have arranged a dedicated, direct flight round-trip La Paz for this voyage. Due to the voyage ports there are no other direct flights available. Please contact our air department to book. Sample Airfare: Round-trip Los Angeles/La Paz/Los Angeles: Economy from \$650.
Baja California: A Remarkable Journey – Page 16	2016	\$10,900	\$12,450	\$14,520	\$16,350	\$18,680	\$1500	We have arranged a dedicated, direct flight round-trip La Paz for this voyage. Due to the voyage ports there are no other direct U.S. flights available. Please contact our air department to book. Sample Airfare: Round-trip Los Angeles/La Paz/Los Angeles: Economy from \$650.
Whales & Wildness: Spring in the Sea of Cortez – Page 20	2016	\$5,990	\$6,870	\$7,860	\$8,990	\$10,300	\$750	Sample Airfare: Round-trip Los Angeles/Los Cabos/Los Angeles: Economy from \$450.

# Special Offers

**AIRFARE CREDIT:** Receive a \$550 air credit when you book *Wild Islands and Treasures of Baja California* by Aug. 31, 2015.

Valid on new bookings only. Not combinable with other offers. Please call for details.

**TRAVELING AS A GROUP:** Save 5% when traveling as a group of 8 or more people. Take advantage of these great savings, while enjoying traveling with your friends and family. This savings is applicable on voyage fares only, and not on extensions or airfare. Deposit, final payment, and cancellation policies for group travel vary from our regular policies.



# What's Included

## ABOARD SHIP

- ✓ All meals and non-alcoholic beverages
- ✓ Accommodations
- ✓ 24-hour coffee, tea & soda on demand
- ✓ Hors d'oeuvres & snacks during Recap
- ✓ Fully stocked library
- ✓ The guidance and company of our expedition staff
- ✓ Environmentally friendly refillable water bottle

## 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 shore activities
- ✓ Expedition landing craft explorations
- ✓ Kayaking
- ✓ Snorkeling
- ✓ Lectures & presentations in the lounge
- ✓ Morning stretch classes with wellness specialist

# Be part of our expedition community



**Expedition travel inspires great conversations—before, during and after every adventure. Join in! Here's how:**

- ✓ Check our daily blog for interesting posts, updates, plus video clips and Photos of the Week: [expeditions.com/blog](http://expeditions.com/blog)
- ✓ Like us on Facebook: stay close to the wild world, see amazing animal photos & videos; hear what our travelers have to say, get inspired and chime in: [facebook.com/LindbladExpeditions](https://facebook.com/LindbladExpeditions)
- ✓ Preview an expedition before you go: our YouTube video channel brings the adventure to life [youtube.com/lindbladexpeditions](https://youtube.com/lindbladexpeditions)
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# Reservation Information

**Costs Include:** All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary or similar, all meals and nonalcoholic beverages aboard ship, meals on land as indicated, air transportation where indicated as included, shore excursions, sightseeing and entrance fees, special access permits, transfers to and from group flights, use of snorkeling equipment and use of kayaks (where available), tips (except to ship's crew), taxes and service charges, services of a ship physician, and services of our expedition staff.

**Not Included:** Air transportation (except where shown as included), extensions, passport, visa, immigration fees, meals not indicated, travel protection plan, items of a personal nature such as alcoholic beverages, e-mail, voyage DVD, scuba diving (where available), laundry. Gratuities to ship's crew are at your discretion.

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

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

**Reservations:** To reserve your place, an advance payment is required at the time of reservation. The per person advance payment amount varies by program, and is outlined in our brochures, as well as on our website. Payment is accepted by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or by check. Receipt of your initial payment indicates your acceptance of our complete Terms and Conditions. We require written notice at the time of reservation for any physical condition, diet, or treatment requiring special attention. Once your reservation is confirmed, we urge you to use your personalized online account for important information to help you prepare for your voyage. Managing your documents online will facilitate fast and accurate communication, and allow you to provide us with pertinent details we require, in order to complete your reservation. Your online account gives you access to your Expedition Guide, which includes valuable information specific to your voyage. You can also use your online account to make easy payments, view recommended flights and reading material, packing list, and so much more.

**Final Payment:** Due no later than 90 days prior to departures, depending on the expedition.

**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, and damaged or lost baggage, and provides medical assistance and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. and Canadian residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date. Travel Protection premiums are non-refundable once plan is purchased.

**Smoking Policy:** Smoking is allowed only in designated outdoor areas.

**Responsibility and Other Terms & Conditions:** Among other things, limitations of Lindblad Expeditions' and the National Geographic Society's liability for loss of property, injury, illness or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests on the ship's ticket sent prior to departure, and are also available on our website at [www.expeditions.com/terms](http://www.expeditions.com/terms), or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

**Note:** Itineraries and prices listed in this brochure are valid as of publication date, and are subject to change. Under normal conditions, the total expedition cost

is guaranteed at the time of booking. However, the published price is determined far in advance of initial departure on the basis of then-existing projections of fuel and other costs. In the event we determine that current costs create an unsustainable financial model, including but not limited to increases in the price of fuel, currency fluctuations, increases in government taxes or levies, or increased security costs, we reserve the right to pass on these costs to you, to cover such unexpected increases. We will always provide a transparent accounting of the reason for such an increase in costs.

A State Department travel warning for Mexico is currently in effect (<http://travel.state.gov>). The area of concern noted in the warning is not near the region we visit on this itinerary. We expect to operate these expeditions as planned, but will continue to closely monitor events in the country.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Number of Days Prior to Expedition Start	Per Person Cancellation Fee
120 or more days	\$350
119-90 days	Advance payment cost
89-60 days	25% of total fare
59-45 days	50% of total fare
44-0 days	No refund

*\$350 will be rewarded in the form of a Lindblad Expeditions Travel Certificate. This cancellation policy applies to expeditions as well as pre and post extensions. The effective date of a cancellation will be the date on which your notice is received. Note: Airline cancellation policies vary by carrier, as well as the type of fare used to issue your ticket. Any revisions you make within the cancellation penalty period, such as departure date or choice of voyage, are subject to cancellation fees. Additional Terms and Conditions may apply. For complete terms, please visit our website at [www.expeditions.com/terms](http://www.expeditions.com/terms).*

Lindblad Expeditions, as an Active Member of USTOA, is required to post \$1 Million with USTOA to be used to reimburse, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the USTOA \$1 Million Travelers Assistance Program, the advance payments of Lindblad Expeditions customers in the unlikely event of Lindblad Expeditions bankruptcy, insolvency or cessation of business. Complete details of the USTOA Travelers Assistance Program may be obtained by writing to USTOA at 275 Madison Avenue, Suite 2014, NY, NY 10016, or by e-mail to [information@ustoa.com](mailto:information@ustoa.com) or by visiting their website at [www.USTOA.com](http://www.USTOA.com).

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## Travel Planning With A Difference

Half of travel planning is learning what you don't know and generating questions. The other half is getting answers.

When you call **1.800.EXPEDITION**, you can ask for any one of our Expedition Specialists who have been on our Baja expeditions. They are full members of the Lindblad Expeditions team—students of the natural world and born explorers, not trained call center telemarketers.

**SO WHY NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR EXPERTISE?** Don't hesitate to call with your questions—they're equipped to provide answers based on their knowledge and personal experience.

Ask them about Baja California, how we explore there, our ships, our itineraries, and more. We think you'll find the conversation rewarding.

We are proud to be a Founding Member of Adventure Collection — a family of the world's most trusted and experienced active travel companies. Each member company of Adventure Collection is dedicated to enriching the lives of its guests and to giving back to the areas in which it travels. For more information visit [www.AdventureCollection.com](http://www.AdventureCollection.com).

**For Reservations: Contact your travel advisor or Lindblad Expeditions**

**1.800.EXPEDITION**  
**(1.800.397.3348)**

**Reservation Hours:**

**Monday – Friday 9am – 8pm ET**  
**Saturday & Sunday 10am – 5pm ET**

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**For additional information and online reservations, visit us on the Web: [www.expeditions.com](http://www.expeditions.com)**



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## SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

- » Condé Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Award-Top Small Ship Cruise Lines, 2014
  - » Condé Nast Traveler 2014 Readers' Poll - Top 20 Small Cruise Ships in the World, 2014
  - » Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Award-Top 25 Cruise Lines, 2013
  - » Condé Nast Traveler "gold List," 2013, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005
  - » Travel + Leisure "World's Best" Award for Small-Ship Cruise Lines, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008
  - » Cruise Critic Editor's Pick Awards "Best for Adventure," 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010
  - » Condé Nast Traveler World Savers "Doing it All" Award, 2013
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