

BAJA CALIFORNIA & THE SEA OF CORTEZ

ENCOUNTER GENTLE GIANTS

EXPLORE WILD ISLES
& A LIVING SEA

TAKE A LAND & SEA
PHOTO RETREAT

PLUS FREE AIRFARE
& FAMILY OFFERS—INSIDE

ABOARD *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD* & *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA LION* | 2013-14



Lindblad
Expeditions



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC™

MEXICO

BAJA CALIFORNIA

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Search for the endemic pinto chuckwalla and desert birds, pg. 18

San Pedro Mártir
Blue-footed boobies, red-billed tropicbirds, pelicans & frigatebirds, pg. 18

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Site of the peninsula's oldest missions, pg. 6

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Lindblad Expeditions



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

PACIFIC OCEAN

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.

Dear Traveler,

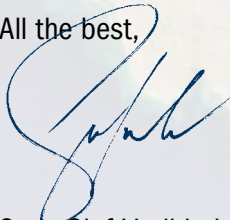
Few guidebooks ever describe “off the beaten path” as meaning “a short flight from Los Angeles.” And yet, there is Baja California and the Sea of Cortez, an explorer’s paradise, hidden in plain sight.

“Our” Baja consists of places much further afield than the popular Cabo San Lucas—places where you can kayak beautifully indented, windswept shorelines, hike through cactus forests where the desert meets the sea, and of course, have encounters with an unrivaled amount of marine mammals. These places are full of opportunity and intrigue, and yet one can spend a week on one of our ships and not see another soul, besides the odd fishing boat.

We have several itineraries in the pages that follow, each highlighting the particular benefits of being in Baja California and the Sea of Cortez, at particular times of year. Be it in December, when the region serves as the perfect, active holiday retreat for families; later, when travelers have the incomparable opportunity to be among migrating gray whales in the Pacific lagoons; or in April, when a variety of whales congregate in the more northerly waters of the Sea of Cortez.

On each expedition, you’ll be immersed in the beauty of Baja California’s contrasts. The desert and the sea. Sunny days and cool breezes. Before lunch, you may feel the thrill of being within reach of a gray whale, and after dinner find absolute tranquility at a beach BBQ beneath a starry sky. It is a carefully crafted blend of serenity and excitement, as special as being hidden in plain sight. I hope you’ll join us.

All the best,



Sven-Olof Lindblad



Want to explore the best of the desert? Go by ship.

The desert islands in Baja California are capitals of wildness, offering splendid solitude among a sea that teems with life. A UNESCO World Heritage site, much of the islands' flora and fauna is endemic, making sightings of unusual wildlife the norm. You'll discover hidden beaches, a forest of gigantic cacti and wind-sculpted dunes.

And the only way to explore these pristine desert islands and the living sea? By expedition ship.



The most interesting & holistic way to explore desert islands & a living sea

Our intimate 62-guest expedition ships, *National Geographic Sea Bird* and *Sea Lion*, our expertise from 30+ years in the region, plus our tools for exploration, ensure you an up-close and in-depth Baja experience.

You'll explore with top naturalists, sharing the ship's deck space with the expedition community, or in small groups aboard expedition landing craft, while our experts illuminate the ecosystem's wonders. And for more personal explorations, you have our kayak fleet and onboard snorkeling gear at your disposal.

Clockwise from left: Footprints on wind-sculpted dunes; Breaching humpback whale; Dolphins near National Geographic Sea Bird.



Our expedition team reveals the wonders of Baja California

Get more out of your experience by exploring with the largest, most knowledgeable and engaging team in the region. Your dynamic expedition team includes naturalists, an undersea specialist, a Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic certified photo instructor, and a veteran expedition leader. With this team of six experts, you'll benefit from a vast collection of specialized knowledge and personal attention. And with our casual, flexible style of exploration, you're encouraged to gravitate toward whichever staff member's interests mirror your own, whether it's biology, zoology, the undersea, geology, history, or more.



On lookout for whales and other wildlife from the deck of National Geographic Sea Bird.



Here is a partial list of our Baja California expedition team (clockwise from left): Carlos J. Navarro, undersea specialist; Jim Kelley, expedition leader; Linda Burbach, photo instructor; Lee Moll, naturalist; William Lopez-Forment, naturalist.

» FOR FULL STAFF BIOS, VISIT [EXPEDITIONS.COM/EXPERTS](https://www.lindblad.com/expeditions/experts)



A guest photographs barrel cactus.

Exclusively ours: a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor on every expedition

Every expedition sails with a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor aboard—a naturalist specially trained to assist you with camera settings and provide shooting tips in the field. They'll help you turn your point & shoot camera into an “aim & create,” and send you home a better, more confident image maker.

Select departures offer the unprecedented opportunity to also travel with and learn from National Geographic photographers, among the most inspiring and skilled photographers working in print today. See which photographers are assigned to different itineraries in the pages that follow.



“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



Clockwise from top: There are ample opportunities to swim and snorkel; a guest learns camera tips from the onboard photo instructor; a fleet of solo and tandem kayaks allow guests to have personal, up-close encounters with Baja's wildness.



JOURNEYS IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ:

Perfect place & time for a shared adventure

Embrace the holidays in a whole new way—a shipboard adventure is the perfect opportunity for families to make memories.

Spend each day exploring these wild, uninhabited islands and

the living sea together. Plus, visit the historic town of Loreto, and the Sierra de la Giganta mountains, homes to two of the peninsula’s oldest missions, well-preserved in the desert air. Families share activities—kayaking, snorkeling, beach walking, and cactus forest hiking—as kids, inspired by all they see and learn happily separate from their computer screens and devices. Or head off on separate activities, letting the intimate space of the ship draw you back together to share stories over dinner.



Or choose the Journeys in the Sea of Cortez Photo Expedition— one departure only

Engage with the world through your viewfinder! Baja’s peerless light, sculptural forms, and incredible, accessible wildlife make it a photographer’s paradise. Choose our January 4, 2014 departure to focus on photography and explore in-depth with a team that includes renowned National Geographic photographer Flip Nicklin, a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, plus two Nikon-certified instructors.



JOURNEYS IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ

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

PRICES FROM: \$4,990 to \$8,650 (See page 23 for complete prices.)

Discover pure wildness on an island-hopping expedition. Sail among remote, uninhabited desert islands and see dolphins, seabirds, and extraordinary marine life, plus snorkel with sea lions and kayak along stunning coastlines. 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

- ▶ Spend a once-in-a-lifetime holiday with family in a UNESCO World Heritage site among dolphins, sea lions and sea birds.
- ▶ Or choose the Jan 4, 2014 photo expedition and learn skills that will last a lifetime from the best—National Geographic and Nikon-certified photographers.
- ▶ Kayak, swim and snorkel in the pristine waters of the Sea of Cortez, and hike unique desert landscapes.
- ▶ Experience colonial culture in historic Loreto and 18th-Century missions.

EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE

30+
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.

Sunrise at Isla Santa Catalina.

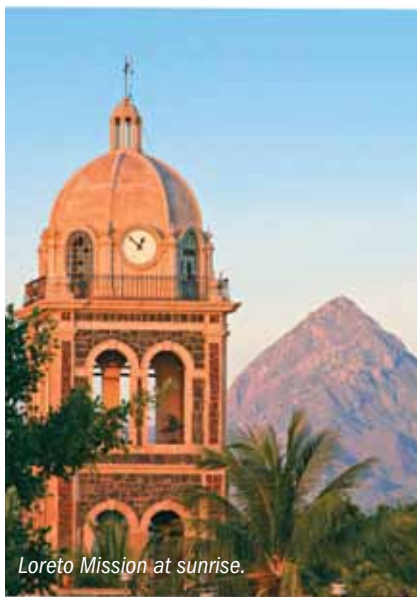


DAY 1: LOS ANGELES/LA PAZ, MEXICO/ EMBARK

Fly into La Paz and embark *National Geographic Sea Bird*. (D)

DAYS 2-7: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ

Along with their designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the islands of the Sea of Cortez are a playground of exploration. Throughout your voyage you will have a tremendous selection of activities—from cruising in an expedition landing craft and snorkeling to kayaking and hiking. Or take part in yoga and stretching classes on deck. We'll put our 30+ years of experience in the Sea of Cortez to work and, with many options in place, find the best possible opportunities each day. Track whales and bottlenose dolphins near Isla Danzante. Explore islands such as Isla San José or Isla Santa Catalina, with its giant cacti and extraordinary bird and marine life. Take in a beach barbecue beneath a starry sky. Spend time searching for whales, dolphins, sea lions and other wildlife amid the rich waters. Explore the seaside town of Loreto and journey into the Sierra de la Giganta mountains to visit San Javier Mission, the second oldest mission on



Loreto Mission at sunrise.

the peninsula. Kayak along the cliff-lined coast of Isla Espíritu Santo and swim and snorkel with sea lions at Los Islotes. (B,L,D daily)

DAY 8: DISEMBARK LA PAZ, MEXICO/LOS ANGELES

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



EXPEDITION DETAILS

DATES: 2013: Dec. 14, 21, 28

2014: Jan. 4

Photo Expedition: This departure is for passionate photographers, featuring hands-on instruction from National Geographic and Nikon-certified photo instructors.

SPECIAL OFFER

Book by September 30, 2013 for free round-trip airfare from Los Angeles to La Paz on Dec. 14th, or children save 50% when traveling with a full-fare paying adult on Dec. 21st or Dec. 28th. See page 24 or call for details.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHERS ON BOARD

Michael Melford

After shooting over 30 stories for *National Geographic Traveler* including 8 covers, Michael

Melford has spent most of the last five years on assignment for *National Geographic* magazine. Join Michael on Dec. 14, 2013.



Flip Nicklin The world's premier marine mammal photographer, Flip Nicklin, won the North American Nature Photography Association's

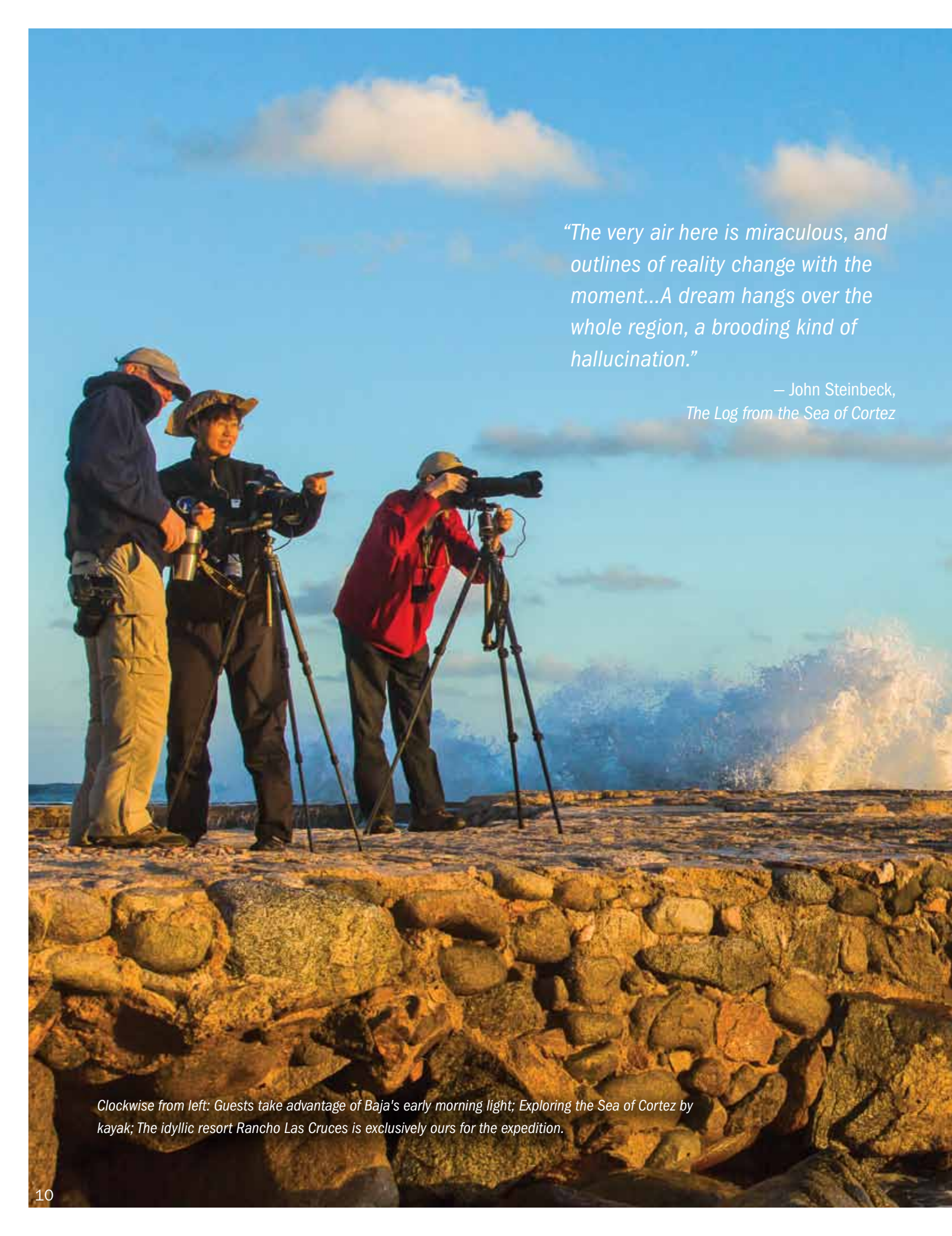
Outstanding Nature Photographer of the Year award in 2012. Join Flip on Jan. 4, 2014.

Bob Smith & Layne Kennedy

Nikon-certified photo instructors Bob Smith and Layne Kennedy are trained to offer technical and composition insight to all photographers, plus hardware tips especially for Nikon users. Join them on Jan. 4, 2014.



Snorkeler at Isla Santa Catalina.

A photograph showing three people on a rocky shore at dawn. One person in a red jacket is using a camera on a tripod, while two others look on. The background features waves crashing against a stone wall under a blue sky with clouds.

“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

Clockwise from left: Guests take advantage of Baja's early morning light; Exploring the Sea of Cortez by kayak; The idyllic resort Rancho Las Cruces is exclusively ours for the expedition.



BAJA LAND & SEA PHOTOGRAPHY RETREAT: Have the run of an idyllic resort then roam a living sea

Sunrise paints the Baja sky with a golden brush, and sunset burns in unearthly hues of red, pink, and purple. Spend three days at the private seaside resort Rancho Las Cruces, exclusively ours for the expedition. You'll have free run of the resort, once an enclave for celebs like Bing Crosby and Desi Arnaz, and still full of the charm of their era, set amid great natural beauty.

Shoot with and learn from two National Geographic photographers, including Ralph Lee Hopkins, our Director of Expedition Photography. Get technique and in-field instruction, and enjoy outings paced for photographers and timed to take advantage of the best conditions. Plus, a photo/video editing specialist from B&H will be on hand to offer workshop-quality technique sessions with Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom.



After three nights on land, embark *National Geographic Sea Bird* to explore the uninhabited islands of the Sea of Cortez, and search for whales and dolphins—with 360° photo ops. Experience shooting from the ship's deck, a kayak, or an expedition landing craft, as well as on land.

Return home with incredible photos of a wild land and a new set of skills to advance your craft of photography.



BAJA CALIFORNIA LAND & SEA PHOTOGRAPHY RETREAT

8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS—ABOARD *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD*
PRICES FROM: \$5,550 to \$9,650 (See page 23 for complete prices.)

Join an immersive photo expedition, starting with three nights at the seaside resort Rancho Las Cruces, which will be exclusively ours for the expedition. You'll learn from photo workshops, review-and-critique sessions and Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom image-processing instruction. Next, four nights exploring the Sea of Cortez will put your skills to the test. Kayak beautiful coastlines, take photos from expedition landing craft, and snorkel with sea lions. You'll also get to try the latest high-end gear from B&H Photo/Video.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Free run of the classic, membership-only resort Rancho Las Cruces, exclusively ours for three nights of the expedition.
- ▶ Spend four nights at sea among pure wildness—dolphins, sea lions and sea birds.
- ▶ Sharpen your photo and editing skills in workshops led by National Geographic photographers and a B&H Photo/Video editing specialist.

EXPERIENCE & EXPERTISE

30+
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. Two National Geographic photographers and an editing specialist from B&H Photo/Video will add more learning and photo instruction.

Visit our website to read staff bios for this expedition.

Guests kayak Baja's turquoise waters.



JAN. 11: LOS ANGELES/LA PAZ/RANCHO LAS CRUCES

Fly into La Paz and transfer to Rancho Las Cruces. (D)

JAN. 12-13: RANCHO LAS CRUCES

Begin your days with sunrise photography sessions followed by workshops designed for what you'll encounter on the voyage—composition, light, workflow and editing. In the evenings we'll practice long exposures and "painting" cacti with light to create unique shots. Hike beautiful mountain trails with a naturalist and see endemic flora. With special permission, we'll tour the homes of Bing Crosby and Desi Arnaz, with its guitar-shaped pool, and the property's chapel. Enjoy a traditional dance performance under a blanket of stars. (B,L,D daily)

JAN. 14: RANCHO LAS CRUCES/LA PAZ/ EMBARK

Start the day with specialized instruction to prepare for your photography and editing in the field. Then, if conditions are right, board local boats and search for whale sharks that are known to migrate into La Paz Bay. Embark *National Geographic Sea Bird* and begin exploring the Sea of Cortez. (B,L,D)

JAN. 15: ISLA SANTA CATALINA

Search the waters south of Isla Carmen for whales and bottlenose and common dolphins. Hike a forest of towering cacti, snorkel or swim at Isla Santa Catalina. (B,L,D)

JAN. 16: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ

With nature as our guide and cameras on hand, we'll explore the Bahía Loreto Marine Reserve, a rich area for whales and dolphins. We'll anchor at Isla San José, Isla San Francisco or a nearby island with a dramatic shoreline to explore by kayak and snorkel in bays of turquoise waters. Enjoy a beach barbecue beneath a starry sky. (B,L,D)

JAN. 17: LOS ISLOTES/ISLA ESPÍRITU SANTO

Experience the delight of snorkeling with curious sea lions at Los Islotes. An indented shoreline and dramatic cliffs make Isla Espíritu Santo among the Sea of Cortez's most beautiful islands, ideal for photography. Enjoy the views as you kayak, snorkel or relax on deck at leisure. (B,L,D)

JAN. 18: DISEMBARK LA PAZ, MEXICO/ LOS ANGELES

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



EXPEDITION DETAILS

DATES: 2014 Jan. 11 📷

📷 *Photo Expedition: This expedition is for passionate photographers, featuring hands-on instruction from our Photo Expedition Team.*

SPECIAL OFFER

Book by September 30, 2013 for free round-trip airfare from Los Angeles to La Paz. See page 24 or call for details.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHERS ON BOARD



Flip Nicklin
The world's premier marine mammal photographer, Flip Nicklin, won the North American Nature Photography Association's

Outstanding Nature Photographer of the Year award in 2012.

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




Photo sessions are timed to take advantage of Baja's best light.



B&H Editing Specialist

Get photo editing and enhancement tips from a specialist sent from legendary resource B&H Photo/Video, and learn the image editing techniques of the pros.

A large, close-up photograph of a whale's head, showing its eye and the texture of its skin. The whale is dark grey with some lighter patches. In the background, several people are on a boat, some wearing life jackets and one taking a photo. The sky is clear and blue.

“Those who would reject out of hand the idea that whales are intelligent enough to consciously interact with us haven’t spent enough time around whales.”

— Toni Frohoff, Whale Behaviorist, from
“Watching Whales Watching Us” by Charles Seibert,
New York Times Magazine, July 12, 2009

Clockwise from left: A curious California gray whale in a nursery lagoon; The sun paints the sky with a golden hue; A playful sea lion at Los Islotes.



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

Up close with gentle giants

Each year the gray whales migrate from their feeding grounds in the north to their “nursery” lagoons on the Pacific side of Baja California where they rear their young—a time when most species exhibit a high degree of protectiveness. In the 30+ years we’ve been exploring Baja, we’ve found the opposite: mothers showing a great deal of curiosity about us, and a willingness to let their playful calves approach us.

We are the only non-local company in the region allowed to navigate among the whales in Magdalena Bay with our own expedition landing craft. Our maneuverability, and expedition schedule flexibility means more time and opportunities for moving, up-close encounters with these gentle giants.



On the other side of the Baja peninsula, in the Sea of Cortez, you’ll spend days in the company of seabirds, sea lions, and dolphins while exploring beautiful, uninhabited islands. You’ll hike through forests of gigantic cacti, kayak in sandstone grottos where the desert meets the sea, and snorkel with acrobatic sea lions.



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

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

PRICES FROM: \$5,830 to \$10,090 (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 elegant terns. 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

30+
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.

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. Discover dense mangroves by kayak and watch for magnificent frigate birds, pelicans, cormorants, terns, great blue herons, ibis and willets. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: LOS CABOS AND GORDA BANKS

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

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)



Common dolphins.

DAY 7: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ

With the luxury of no specific plan, 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: 2014 Jan. 18*, 25; Feb. 1*, 8, 15*, 22; Mar. 1*, 8, 15*. *These departures travel in reverse from La Paz to San Carlos, making all the same stops.



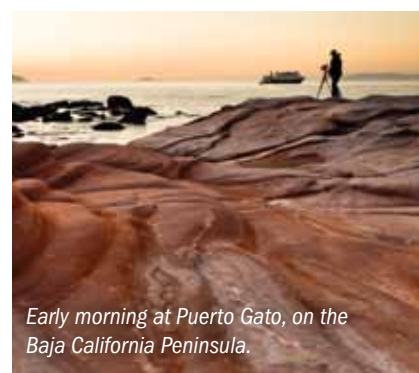
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHERS ON BOARD

Flip Nicklin

Travel with Flip Nicklin, one of the world's leading photographers of marine mammals. His incredible photos and audio recordings have been featured in numerous National Geographic publications and television specials, and you'll find the stories from his years working for the magazine enthralling. Join Flip on Jan. 25 or Feb. 1, 2014.



After a beach barbecue, guests gather around a bonfire.



Early morning at Puerto Gato, on the Baja California Peninsula.



Watch an up-close encounter with gray whales. Download a QR Code Reader and aim your smartphone at this code.

“Nowhere else have I seen this variety and number of whales—on a two-week voyage we spotted 13 species. There are thousands of common dolphins, hundreds of bottlenose dolphins and even the largest animals to ever exist on the planet—blue whales. We may observe fin whales, Bryde’s, humpbacks, sperm whales plus killer whales, pilot whales, beaked whales, false killer whales, pygmy sperm whales and spinner dolphins. In no other place can all these be seen together.”

—Jim Kelley, Expedition Leader



Clockwise from left: Fun ride alongside a dolphin; Humpback whale shows its fluke; Juvenile brown pelican.



WHALES & WILDNESS: SPRING IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ:

The best time & place to see a variety of marine mammals



Spring's seasonal shift brings a rare magic to the upper Sea of Cortez. This is perhaps the best time of the year and best place on Earth to see the largest variety of species of whales in great abundance, plus large aggregations of dolphins and mobula rays. As humpback, blue, pilot, sperm, Bryde's, and fin whales follow their food, they linger in this

living sea. We seek out encounters with these leviathans, relying on our 30+ years in the region to guide us to the undersea shelves and channels where they often come to feed.

You'll kayak desert shorelines teeming with a cacophony of seabirds, and paddle into quiet water-level grottos with unearthly echoes. See scores of blue-footed boobies and pelicans. Conditions permitting, we might schedule a landing at Isla Rasa, a tiny island where nearly all the world's Heermann's gulls and elegant terns alight to breed for a few short weeks. We'll take the opportunity to snorkel with sea lions and explore reefs that are host to vibrant communities of coral and brightly colored fish. 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, watch the sparks of a campfire on the beach drift towards the Milky Way, and bask in the splendid solitude of pure wildness.

WHALES & WILDNESS: SPRING IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ

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

PRICES FROM: \$5,550 to \$9,610 (See page 23 for complete prices.)

Whale and dolphin watch 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 a myriad of 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

30+
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.

Visit our website to read staff bios for this expedition.



A sperm whale tail fluke.

**DAY 1: LOS ANGELES/LA PAZ, MEXICO/
EMBARK LA PAZ**

Fly into La Paz, embark and 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 Espíritu 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 ANGELES

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



EXPEDITION DETAILS

DATES: 2014 April 12 & 14



Long-beaked common dolphin.



Guests kayak around a remote beach cove.

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.

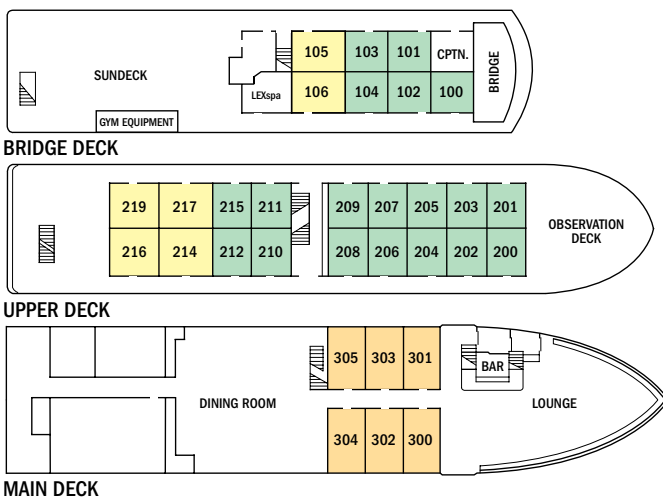
EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Bow camera, hydrophone, kayaks, snorkeling gear, wetsuits, Splash-Cam, underwater video camera, video microscope, and expedition landing craft.

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.



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.



Clockwise from left: Dinner is served in single seatings with unassigned tables for easy mingling; Our ship is an excellent platform for photography; The sundeck is a great place for a morning stretch with our wellness specialist; Cuisine onboard is fresh, sustainable and accented with a regional flair.

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
Journeys in the Sea of Cortez – Page 8	2013-14	\$4,990	\$5,770	\$6,790	\$7,490	\$8,650	\$450	Sample Airfare Round-trip Los Angeles/La Paz/ Los Angeles: Economy from \$550.
Baja Land & Sea Photography Retreat – Page 12	2014	\$5,550	\$6,430	\$7,270	\$8,330	\$9,650	\$550	Sample Airfare Round-trip Los Angeles/La Paz/ Los Angeles: Economy from \$550.
Baja California and the Sea of Cortez: Among the Great Whales – Page 16	2014	\$5,830	\$6,730	\$7,550	\$8,750	\$10,090	\$550	Sample Airfare: Round-trip Los Angeles/La Paz/ Los Angeles: Economy from \$550.
Whales & Wildness: Spring in the Sea of Cortez – Page 20	2014	\$5,550	\$6,410	\$7,190	\$8,330	\$9,610	\$550	Sample Airfare: Round-trip Los Angeles/La Paz/ Los Angeles: Economy from \$550.

Special Offers

COMPLIMENTARY AIRFARE: On voyages with complimentary air offers, airfare is based on round-trip economy group flights that must be ticketed by Lindblad Expeditions. Offers are valid for new bookings only, subject to availability at the time of booking, and may not be combined with other offers. In the case where complimentary flights are no longer available, we reserve the right to issue a credit certificate.

CHILDREN SAVE 50% OFFER: 50% savings for children is valid on the Dec. 21 departure of Journey in the Sea of Cortez only, and applies to children who are sharing accommodations with a full-fare paying adult. For the purposes of this promotion, a child must be under 18 at the time of travel. On all other departures, take \$500 off for each child under the age of 18. Offer is valid for new bookings only and may not be combined with other offers.

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 saving 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
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Preview an expedition before you go: our YouTube video channel brings the adventure to life youtube.com/lindbladexpeditions
- ✓ Follow [@LindbladExp](https://twitter.com/LindbladExp) on Twitter, and follow our founder, Sven Lindblad [@SvenLEX](https://twitter.com/SvenLEX) for his interesting perspective



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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: For expeditions of eight nights or less, final payment is due 60 days prior to departure.

Travel Protection Plan: We strongly recommend that you take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellations 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, 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	
For Expeditions 8 Nights or Less	
Number of Days Prior to Expedition Start	Per Person Cancellation Fee
90 or more days	\$150*
89-60 days	Advance payment cost
59-30 days	50% of trip cost
29-0 days	No refund
For Expeditions 9 Nights or More	
Number of Days Prior to Expedition Start	Per Person Cancellation Fee
120 or more days	\$150*
119-90 days	Advance payment cost
89-60 days	25% of trip cost
59-30 days	50% of trip cost
29-0 days	No refund
* \$150 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 .	

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 or by visiting their website at www.USTOA.com.

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Recent Honors and Awards

- » Travel + Leisure "World's Best" Award for Small-Ship Cruise Lines, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008
- » Travel + Leisure "World's Best for Families" Award for Small-Ship Cruise Lines, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009
- » Cruise Critic Editor's Pick Awards "Best for Adventure," 2010
- » "Best Adventure Cruise" by Forbes.com, 2009
- » Climate Champion Award to Sven Lindblad by Clean Air-Cool Planet, 2009
- » Condé Nast Traveler "Gold List", 2013, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005
- » Conservation Achievement Award for Corporate Achievement from National Wildlife Federation, 2008
- » Tourism for Tomorrow "Global Tourism Business Award," 2007
- » Seafood Champion Award, 2007
- » Condé Nast Traveler "Ecotourism Award," 2002

Go to www.expeditions.com/awards for an extended list.

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Lindblad Expeditions, Inc.
96 Morton Street, New York, NY 10014
Phone: 212.261.9000
Fax: 212.265.3770

e-mail: explore@expeditions.com
For additional information and online reservations, visit us on the Web: www.expeditions.com



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- ✓ 30+ years of experience in the region ensures the best itineraries with the most wildlife sightings and peak experiences
- ✓ A passionate, knowledgeable, large staff with extensive history in the region and experts in sharing its wonders
- ✓ Special permits to explore the peaceful gray whale lagoons with our expedition landing craft
- ✓ Cool tools for exploration—snorkeling gear, shorty wetsuits, kayaks, underwater cameras, a bow-mounted camera, hydrophone, and video microscope
- ✓ A comprehensive undersea program and a dedicated undersea specialist who shoots and shares underwater video
- ✓ Wellness program that includes daily stretch classes on the sundeck and spa treatments
- ✓ The Lindblad-National Geographic Fund supports local conservation priorities in the Gulf of California such as sustainable fishing, seabird research, marine conservation and empowering local communities to be stewards of their natural resources
- ✓ Video chronicler aboard who produces an expedition chronicle unique to your voyage
- ✓ Exclusive Expedition Photography program—get photo and camera setting tips from a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and go home with top photos