



BASE CAMP BAJA  
ESPIRITU  
SANTO

ABOARD THE 30-CABIN *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD* IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ



Lindblad  
Expeditions



NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC™

*“...all things are one thing and that one thing is all things—plankton, a shimmering phosphorescence on the sea and the spinning planets and an expanding universe, all bound together by the elastic string of time. It is advisable to look from the tide pool to the stars and then back to the tide pool again.”*

*— JOHN STEINBECK, THE LOG FROM THE SEA OF CORTEZ*



DEAR TRAVELER,

Just look closely at the cover. Now begin to imagine why, for nearly half a century, so many people have tried to develop this island with resorts, condominiums and, at one point, even a casino. The Mexican NGO community, in partnership with others around the world, has steadfastly fought against this and they have prevailed. Espiritu Santo is protected from such ideas by the Mexican Government and no permanent structures of any kind are permitted.



Espiritu Santo and its small neighbor, Isla Partida, comprise about 37 square miles and are arguably the most beautiful in the Gulf of California, often referred to as the Sea of Cortez. The west coast is sculpted with indented bays, one after another and each more spectacular than the next. The southeast side features Bahía Bonanza, perhaps the single most spectacular beach in all of Baja. There are arroyos galore, with myriad cacti,

a variety of birdlife and opportunity for a really good hike. There's even an endemic black jackrabbit which is enormous fun to find. Kayaking opportunities are pretty much endless and there are lots of areas for snorkeling, in particular that tiny speck on the north end of Partida called Islotes—home to a vibrant colony of sea lions and a remarkable array of fish. And an evening barbeque on one of the beaches is a delicious way to end a day; perhaps after a sunset yoga session in the dunes. This is, without question, a paradise for its beauty, its nature, the opportunity it offers to be quiet or highly active.

What we offer you is access for 3 nights or 4, seamlessly using one of our ships—the *National Geographic Sea Bird*—as a base camp in order to accomplish what the developers could not, with the advantage of being a moving platform. It's akin to a mobile safari camp in Africa with flexibility while also providing a comfortable environment. And we have all the things you'll need—snorkeling equipment, paddleboards, plenty of kayaks and zodiacs to land virtually anywhere we choose. Aside from a welcoming crew, you will have naturalists, wellness specialists, and even a Lindblad/National Geographic photo instructor for those wishing to hone those skills.



Well over a million people go to Cabo San Lucas each year, staying at one of dozens of hotels. Many of them are quite spectacular but that's a whole different experience without the solitude of nature you will find in Espiritu Santo.

And, finally, it's easy to get here. San Jose del Cabo is served by many U.S. gateways. From there drive to La Paz where the *National Geographic Sea Bird* awaits to take you 22 miles away to a place that feels like a thousand miles away. And if you do choose to join us and wish to extend your stay, we will provide you with a detailed set of options. Baja is our second home; we know it and have been involved here for 40 years.

All the best,

Sven-Olof Lindblad

### FREE BAR TAB & MORE!

To add to your enjoyment, we'll pick up your bar tab. And as always on our ships, all meals, snacks, and evening hors d'oeuvres are included.



In May of 1977, I was leading an expedition from Ushuaia, Argentina to Los Angeles. As we approached the tip of Baja California, we had two days to spare. The Captain and I looked at the chart and saw a most unusually shaped island about 120 miles into the Sea of Cortez. We decided to go check it out.

We sent our guests ashore on the first beach we saw. I then took a zodiac to explore north. I couldn't believe what I found—one bay after another with beautiful white beaches. The rock formations were so impressive and then suddenly a loud whoosh from behind stunned me. I turned and saw the flat calm sea had been churned. Then suddenly right next to me an enormous fin whale broke the surface and then another close behind. Exhilarated and perhaps a bit nervous, I just shut off the engine. They passed close twice again and were gone.

This began a 40-year love affair with Baja and Espiritu Santo in particular.

P.S. The sidebar at right describes my first glimpse of Espiritu Santo in 1977. The feeling of discovery remains unchanged.

# BOUNDLESS OPTIONS & SEN

It's not just a getaway, it's an alternate universe: A place of pristine beauty, with a shimmering sea, bays and beaches, wide-open space to explore, and not a building sight—just birds, fish and marine mammals. Board *National Geographic Sea Bird*, and you're on safari in the Sea of Cortez with a small, likeminded band of others. Savor the free-roaming feeling of the ship. Do any or all of these vitalizing activities. Or opt for doing nothing—for four of the best 'lost' days you could have.

## BEACHCOMBING & HIKING

Stroll long, white sand beaches in search of pearl oyster shells, or hike for miles over black lava and pink volcanic ash. Achieve Espiritu Santo's heights for world class views, or choose other invigorating options for all fitness levels. Savor the Nature-made wildness.



## SNORKELING

Remarkable snorkeling here—when you choose, as much as you want—get up-close with playful sea lions, or the schools of colorful reef fish that thrive in this azure sea. Shorty wetsuits and snorkeling gear is stocked aboard, no need to tote, and yours for the duration.

# SE OF FREEDOM

## STAND UP PADDLEBOARDING

Stand alone, or foray with friends: our custom-made paddleboard fleet is yours for the taking. These boards were specially designed for stability and maneuverability, and are perfect for exploring Espiritu Santo's sculpted coastline, a natural paradise for the adventurous.



## BEACH YOGA

Breathe in the fresh morning air, feel the warming sun on your face and tune into the beauty of Isla Espiritu Santo. Our wellness specialist will lead you through yoga, stretching or mindfulness sessions at the water's edge. And if you want to really unwind, massage treatments are available in the ship's spa.

## EXPLORING & LANDING

Jacques Cousteau knew it: Expedition landing craft are key to exploring where you otherwise couldn't. (And fun too!) You'll zip along dramatic coastlines, or steer in search of marine mammals. If our usual luck holds, an escort of dolphins will show up to race alongside.



## KAYAKING

Dramatic cliff faces, deeply eroded shores, the coast of Espiritu Santo was made for kayaking. Our fleet of 12 double and 8 single kayaks ensures you'll get out there to paddle in search of nesting birds, lounging sea lions, or to simply luxuriate in the serenity of the sea and quiet.



## BEACH BBQ

After an invigorating day of exploration, linger on shore as the bonfire crackles and sunset hues on sandstone deepen into a starry night. Savor a delicious beach BBQ, and the peaceful, easy feeling. With our Base Camp anchored off shore, and expedition landing crafts waiting, no need to leave early.





Guests get up-close look at leaping mobula rays.

## ITINERARY

# BASE CAMP BAJA: ESPIRITU SANTO

**3-NIGHTS | DATES:** 2017 Dec 21; 2018 Jan 1, 4, 7, 10 | **4-NIGHTS | DATES:** 2017 Dec 24, 28

Aboard *National Geographic Sea Bird*

### DAY 1: US/SAN JOSE DEL CABO/LA PAZ/EMBARK

Embark the *National Geographic Sea Bird* in downtown La Paz between 4:00 pm and 4:30 pm. If you are flying in this day we have arranged transportation from the airport in San Jose Del Cabo. Set sail on arrival, for a sunset cruise of Bahía La Paz en route to Isla Espiritu Santo. (D)

### DAYS 2 & 3: ISLA ESPIRITU SANTO

Wake up anchored in one of Isla Espiritu Santo's beautiful bays and watch the cliffs light up as your Wellness Specialist leads a morning yoga or qi gong class, on deck, or on shore.

For two full days, you'll have the luxury to explore as much or as little as you like, with the ship as your mobile base camp. Explore the dramatically eroded shoreline on a one-way kayak journey, or join a challenging hike up a rocky arroyo to the crest of the island. Meander a different arroyo with your Naturalists to learn details of the region's geology and natural history, then learn to standup paddleboard, or hone skills you already have. Spend a morning snorkeling with playful and curious sea lions, or photograph their antics from expedition landing craft. Relax with an afternoon massage, then go ashore for a beach barbecue dinner followed by a bonfire under the stars. However you choose to spend these days, you'll be rewarded with a sense of well-being that comes only from spending quality time in nature. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4: LA PAZ/DISEMBARK/SAN JOSE DEL CABO

Disembark in downtown La Paz this morning. Transportation is provided to Los Cabos airport for those departing Baja. (B)

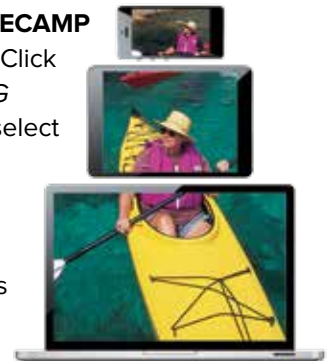
## READY TO BOOK?

Visit [EXPEDITIONS.COM/BASECAMP](https://www.nationalgeographic.com/expeditions/basecamp) to learn more. Ready to book? Click on the SHIPS tab to see the *NG Sea Bird's* cabin diagram and select your preferred cabin.

Either reserve online, or call to speak with an Expedition Specialist to get your questions answered, and make your reservation.

Interested in traveling with friends and want nearby cabins? No worries: our Expedition Specialists can place you together.

Traveling with children? While *NG Sea Bird* doesn't have connecting cabins, your Expedition Specialist can advise on cabins/configurations that will meet your needs.



# MEET YOUR MOBILE BASE CAMP NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD

## A. BOW CAM

An underwater camera is mounted to Sea Bird's bow, feeding live video to the monitors in the lounge, offering a glimpse of what passes beneath the ship.

## B. KAYAKS

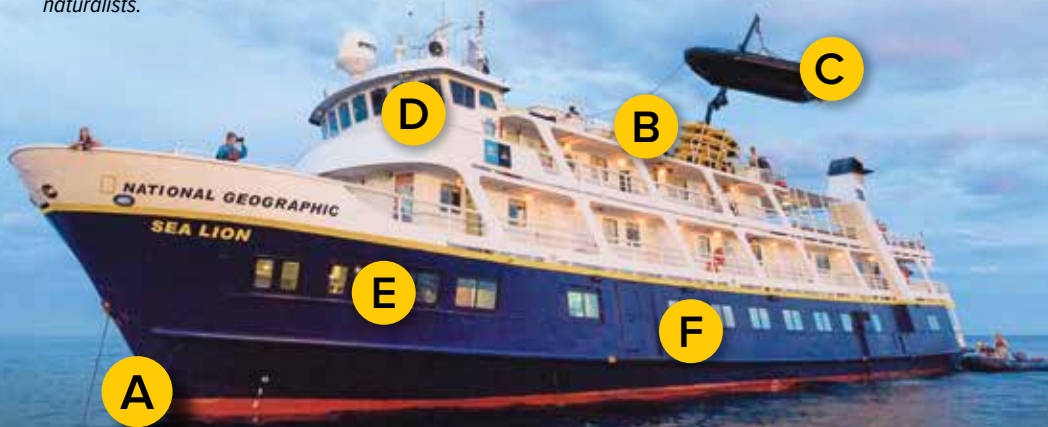
A fleet of one- and two-person kayaks allow you to explore intimate bays and paddle along scenic shorelines. Our naturalists can help novices with technique, while experts are free to explore further afield.

## C. EXPEDITION LANDING CRAFT

Key to our operation is our fleet of expedition landing craft, which we use to land in places that would be otherwise inaccessible. These sturdy inflatable craft are similar to the ones immortalized by Jacques Cousteau in his expedition films and TV shows. They are widely recognized as the safest and most versatile small boats afloat.

## D. OPEN BRIDGE INVITATION

What makes traveling aboard National Geographic Sea Bird unique is the opportunity to join the Captain and officers on the bridge when the ship is underway. Watch them navigate. (Enjoy the playlist!) And hone your spotting skills with our handy binoculars and sharp-eyed naturalists.



## E. LOUNGE

Located forward on the main deck, it's the heart of our expedition community, where we hold cocktail hour Recap each evening. And gather for lectures, photo talks and presentations. Use it to hang out editing images on your laptop or sharing a drink with friends.

## F. DINING ROOM

Food served aboard is fresh, local and delicious, and sourced from suppliers who share our sustainability values. Meals—breakfast and lunch buffets, served dinner—are almost always in the dining room, aft on the main deck.

Photo credits: Chad Case/Alamy, Jay Dickman, Ralph Lee Hopkins, Sven-Olof Lindblad, Michael S Nolan, Flip Nicklin.

**3 NIGHTS**      **4 NIGHTS**

**CATEGORY 1:** ..... \$1,990..... \$2,650

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:** ..... \$2,550..... \$3,390

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

**CATEGORY 3:** ..... \$2,990..... \$3,990

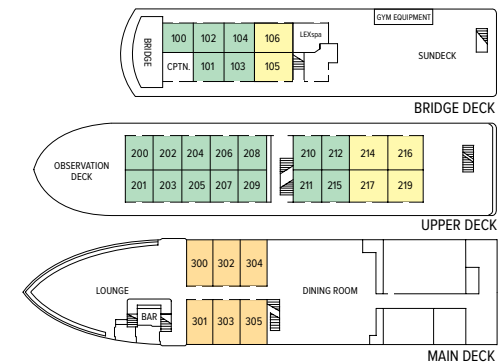
Bridge Deck #105, 106; Upper Deck #214, 216, 217, 219 — These cabins feature a seating unit with table and two large view windows. Upper Deck cabins include two lower single beds which can convert to a double bed and a pull-out single bed for a third person; Bridge Deck cabins include two lower single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

**CATEGORY 1 SOLO:** ..... \$2,990..... \$3,890

**CATEGORY 2 SOLO:** ..... \$3,980..... \$5,090

Shared Accommodations: Shares can be arranged at the double occupancy rate in Categories 1 and 2 only.



▶ SEE COMPLETE TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO THESE VOYAGES AT [EXPEDITIONS.COM/TERMS&CONDITIONS](https://www.expeditions.com/terms&conditions)

For Reservations: Contact your travel advisor or Lindblad Expeditions  
**EXPEDITIONS.COM/BASECAMP**  
**1.800.EXPEDITION (1.800.397.3348)**

WWW.EXPEDITIONS.COM/BASECAMP



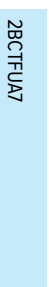
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