WILD BAJA ESCAPE
THE WHALES OF MAGDALENA BAY

JANUARY 15-20, 2023
ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD
ISLA MAGDALENA
The beaches along the Pacific coast go on for miles and miles, unmarred by any infrastructure. You can hike or run for a mile or ten—it’s up to you.

BOCA DE SOLEDAD
“Grand Central” for California gray whales. Together with the savvy local fishermen, we will observe numerous cow-calf pairs.

SAND DOLLAR BEACH
At this point, the distance across the dunes from the bay to the Pacific is only a few hundred yards. Search for treasures on the aptly named sand dollar beach. These dunes are a great place for sunrise yoga or sunset cocktails.

LA ENTRADA
The entrance to Magdalena Bay is dramatic and a great place to view whales from the ship. It’s also a place where large pods of dolphins can often be seen.

LORETO
The historic, charming town where our expedition begins and ends. Home to Baja’s first mission, a lovely museum, and vibrant streets. A perfect place to experience the culture of the region.

BAJA CALIFORNIA
LORETO
The historic, charming town where our expedition begins and ends. Home to Baja’s first mission, a lovely museum, and vibrant streets. A perfect place to experience the culture of the region.

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE. We encourage you to view the Health & Safety protocols currently in effect. Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/3oB8HD7.
DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF CAL,

Baja California’s Pacific coast is home to over 20,000 California gray whales each winter. Among the lagoons along the Baja Peninsula, Magdalena Bay is the best place to witness this remarkable gathering. Our whale-watching expedition aboard the National Geographic Sea Bird is scheduled at the peak of the season for possible encounters with active, curious calves and their attentive mothers.

The phenomenon known as “friendly whales” was first documented in 1972. These encounters, though never guaranteed, have increased over the years and are now quite common. Our visit is timed to provide us with the greatest likelihood to observe and, if we are fortunate, interact with these immense cetaceans as they winter in Baja.

Visits to Magdalena Bay traditionally have been a part of longer cruise itineraries around Baja California. But now, for the first time, you have an opportunity to explore this remarkable place more fully and with a nimble and comfortable expedition ship as your base camp.

Magdalena Bay is so much more than the gray whales. There are untouched beaches, full of shells and sand dollars, that extend for miles; spectacular sand dunes to explore by day and, if you wish, by night when all kinds of critters emerge; intricate mangrove channels to explore by Zodiac or kayak; and countless seabirds–large flocks of grebes, pelicans, and frigatebirds. Those who are shy about being in the open ocean should rest assured that Magdalena Bay is in protected waters.

Nearby but exotic, Magdalena Bay is a treasure trove of natural wonders. I trust that this brochure will give you a clear view of what we have in store. To reserve your spot, please complete the reservation form online at alumni.berkeley.edu/bajawhales.

Go Bears!

Cal Discoveries Travel
alumni.berkeley.edu/travel
Email: caldiscoveries@alumni.berkeley.edu

LEVEL 2:
What to expect: These trips often travel by motor coach, ship, or train. Touring days may include full-day motor coach excursions or extended periods of standing and walking during city tours, museum visits, and/or outdoor activities. Travelers should be able to board transportation, walk over sometimes-uneven terrain, and climb a few flights of stairs, occasionally without handrails or assistance. Elevators are not always available. Outings last two to four hours most days. Suitable for: Travelers who are able to comfortably walk two to four miles, or 4,600–6,900 steps, each day.

Expand your horizons.
A time-honored tradition since 1969, Cal Discoveries Travel creates learning opportunities for thoughtful travelers. Join great minds on our world-class journeys.

CAA is a self-funded non-profit organization that relies on donations to provide programs and services that support students, alumni, and the University. To make a gift, please visit alumni.berkeley.edu/give. Thank you for choosing CAA as the recipient of your generosity.

Cover photo: Gray whale encounter, Magdalena Bay. © Ralph Lee Hopkins.
Ship’s registry: United States
WHALES, BEACHES, YOGA, HIKES & RELAXATION

A region as diverse as Baja California means you can choose from a variety of options. If getting up close with the local wildlife is your main priority, the *National Geographic Sea Bird* is the perfect ship for establishing a floating base camp in Magdalena Bay. The ship is ideally sized to enter and anchor in the protected waters of the bay, providing you a unique opportunity to be among the gray whale mothers and calves drawn to the calm nursery lagoons. Curious, playful, and friendly, they often approach the small Zodias we deploy for close-up views. You can stand on deck and watch diving pelicans and ospreys, and marvel at the scores of leaping dolphins.

There are also sand dunes to wander, stretches of beach to bike, mangroves to kayak, and many species of birds to spot and add to your life list. For those who want to have a healthy amount of physical activity, you can go paddleboarding on the aquamarine water, stretch out with yoga on deck, or join a naturalist on a trail walk, or fat-tire bike down seemingly endless remote beaches. Just want to relax and enjoy some delicious food on board ship or a barbecue on shore? The choices are yours to make.

“The baby is pushing us! The baby is literally pushing the boat right now!”

“When you think about a California gray whale mother, bringing her calf and literally putting it on her body and lifting it up to be touched, to be rubbed along the side of the boat. We aren’t just watching whales, we are interacting with them. And they are just as curious about us as we are with them. What in the world is going on? We took these whales to the brink of extinction twice in the last two centuries. These are very sentient beings, these are very intelligent animals, they’re mammals after all. They have very large, well-developed brains. Why in the world would these whales now approach the very shaped boats that were hunting them in times past? It’s hard to say if they’ve forgiven or forgotten? ...There are a lot of theories about it, but no one really knows.”

— MICHAEL NOLAN, CERTIFIED PHOTO INSTRUCTOR

Opposite page (clockwise from top): Red-billed tropicbird; gray whale; sand dunes at sunrise; California gray whale, Baja California; leaping mobula ray.
THE PERFECT PLATFORM TO DISCOVER WHALES AND MORE

The *National Geographic Sea Bird* is purpose-built to explore regions like Baja California. A nimble design allows us to venture into shallow lagoons where whales give birth and to islands unmarred by tourist infrastructure. Since this is an expedition, not a cruise, flexibility is a hallmark. The itinerary draws on the extensive experience in the region of the expedition team and captain to maximize viewing opportunities. If a pod of dolphins approaches us, the ship will change course to take advantage of the encounter. You’ll discover that life aboard is warm and welcoming, with everyone participating equally in the adventure. Evening Recaps in the lounge are a chance to swap stories of the day’s surprises with family and new friends over hors d’oeuvres and cocktails. And the ship’s smartly furnished cabins, lounge, bar, and dining room ensure that it is more than comfortable as our base for exploration.

TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY FOR EXPLORATION

**ZODIACS:** Experience up-close encounters with whales and dolphins, and land on otherwise inaccessible desert islands.

**KAYAKS:** Paddle along peaceful coastlines in one of the twelve double or eight single kayaks for a water-level look at stunning scenery.

**PADDLEBOARDS:** Get up and out on the fleet of stand-up paddleboards for a personal adventure.

**FAT-TIRE BIKES:** Cover more ground by roaming the seemingly endless beaches on one of the fat-tire bikes.

**UNDERWATER VIDEO CAMERA:** View live footage of the vibrant marine life, shot by an undersea specialist, in the comfort of the lounge.

**HYDROPHONE:** Listen to the awe-inspiring sounds of whales and dolphins in the surrounding waters.

**VIDEO MICROSCOPE:** Examine the intricacies of seldom-seen marine life.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): Enjoy opportunities to paddleboard; kayakers have an up-close experience with wildness; Baja is a paradise for birders; a sunset Zodiac cruise, Isla Magdalena.
DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAKE YOUR EXPERIENCE EXTRAORDINARY

Whether it means staying up until the wee hours to scan for rare sightings, taking advantage of an opportunity to view a pod of leaping dolphins, or holding an impromptu stargazing on a beach at night, the expedition team is dedicated to revealing Baja and making sure your experience is exceptional. Benefit from the personalities and knowledge of an expedition leader, naturalists, an undersea specialist, a certified photo instructor, and a video chronicler, plus a wellness specialist to enhance the revitalizing effects of life in Baja.

IN A LAND WITH PERFECT LIGHT, BENEFIT FROM EXPEDITION PHOTOGRAPHY

Make the most of unrivaled photo opportunities of Baja California’s wild islands, whales, dolphins, seabirds, and peerless light with the Expedition Photography program. Your voyage features a certified photo instructor who offers assistance, instructions, and shooting tips in the field. His or her expertise will inspire you and help you improve your skills—no matter your current ability or interest level—and ensure you return home with incredible photos.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): Photo instructor helps you take the perfect shot; beach BBQ ashore; playing among Baja’s vast sand dunes; smartphone photographer.
Spend several extraordinary days in the company of majestic gray whales in Mexico’s Bahía Magdalena, one of the best places in the world to witness interactions between gray whale mothers and their curious calves. On this compact trip, we’ll navigate the length of the bay aboard a nimble expedition ship, and set out by Zodiac for thrilling, up-close encounters. Kayak through mangrove forests and hike desert islands, watch pelicans and ospreys soar overhead, and soak up the sun on some of the Pacific’s most pristine beaches. Beachcomb endless crescents of sand, studded with thousands of sand dollars. And revel in the vastness and serenity as you view the many species of birds in this world-renowned region.

**DAY 1: LORETO, MEXICO/SAN CARLOS/EMBARK**
Arrive in Loreto and transfer to the port town of San Carlos, where we embark the *National Geographic Sea Bird*. Tonight, unwind under a star-studded sky as we anchor in the southern reaches of Magdalena Bay. (D)

**DAY 2: BAHÍA ALMEJAS/REHUSA CHANNEL/ISLA MAGDALENA**
Awake anchored in Bahía Almejas, the southernmost part of the Bay. We’ll make a special stop to view a large frigatebird colony on Isla Santa Margarita before heading out on our first whale-watching trip of the voyage. The whales in Bahía Almejas tend to be very active, seemingly oblivious to our presence, so settle...
in for some great experiences. As we explore this bay and the Rehusa Channel via local panga, the expedition team will do whatever it takes to provide you with memorable and meaningful experiences. During lunch, the ship will reposition to Isla Magdalena where we’ll head to shore to explore the ever-shifting sand dunes, on a cross-island walk to one of the most pristine beaches in the Pacific. Take a dip or tally the treasure found on what we affectionately call sand dollar beach. (B,L,D)

**DAY 3: TRANSIT THE HULL CANAL/ BOCA DE SOLEDAD**

Spend the morning transiting the scenic winding Hull Canal. Within its narrow channels, bordered by mangroves and sand dunes, and filled with abundant wildlife, we’ll hang out on deck with our keen-eyed naturalists to spot species and hear expert commentary. Weather permitting, we’ll explore the vast mangrove system via kayak and Zodiac. Bird-watching here can be excellent. Among the species we might see are pelicans as they plunge-dive from on high, cormorants actively fishing, terns, great blue herons, ibis, whimbrels, and willets. These fertile shorelines provide a bounty for migratory shorebirds as they refuel, preparing to commence their arduous northbound journeys along these fertile shorelines where they refuel for their destinations ahead. This afternoon, we’ll head out to explore the breeding grounds of Boca de Soledad. (B,L,D)

**DAYS 4 & 5: BOCA DE SOLEDAD**

Each winter, during their long migration, gray whales travel south from their Arctic feeding grounds to breed and give birth to their calves in these sheltered waters. “Grand Central” for California gray whales, we’ll spend two full days observing, and with luck, interacting with these majestic creatures. Together with savvy local Mexican fishermen, we’ll venture out in Zodiacs to view the numerous mother-calf pairs that thrive in this sheltered region. We’ll also have an opportunity to get out to the beaches to explore; if you’re feeling up to it, grab one of our fat-tire bikes to roam the seemingly endless beaches. (B,L,D)

**DAY 6: SAN CARLOS/DISEMBARK/LORETO**

After breakfast, disembark the ship and transfer to Loreto’s city center. Choose to visit the first mission in Baja California, as well as the nearby museum to learn more about what makes this town so special. After lunch, transfer to Loreto Airport for flights home. (B,L)
CAPACITY: 31 outside cabins accommodating 62 guests.
REGISTRY: United States. OVERALL LENGTH: 152 feet.
PUBLIC AREAS: The ship features 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. The open Bridge provides guests an opportunity to meet the officers and captain and learn about navigation.
MEALS: Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere. Menu emphasizes local fare. Cuisine is fresh, sustainable, and accented with regional flair.
CABINS: All cabins face outside with windows, private bathroom, and climate controls. Cabins are equipped with Wi-Fi, multiple electrical and USB outlets. Botanically inspired shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, and lotion are all available in cabin bathrooms, as well as an Expedition Essential Kit. Hair dryers, complimentary insulated water bottles and an atlas are available in each cabin.
EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Zodiacs, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, fat-tire bikes, bow camera, hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, and video microscope.
SPECIAL FEATURES: Guest Wi-Fi access. A video chronicler, certified photo instructor, underwater specialist, and ship’s doctor are on board.
WELLNESS: The ship is staffed by a wellness specialist and features exercise equipment, LEXspa, and outdoor stretching area.
SUSTAINABILITY: Lindblad Expeditions takes responsible, sustainable travel to heart. For over 50 years, our expeditions have inspired travelers to protect the ocean, conserve wildlife, bolster local communities, and enable meaningful scientific research. We are 100% carbon neutral and dedicated to green business practices at every level of our operations. When you travel with us, you’ll eat sustainable meals, experience our commitment to single use plastic free travel, and be aboard the industry’s first self-disinfecting expedition ships, prioritizing your health and safety. Feel good about exploring with us and preserve the planet for future generations.

From top: Category 2 cabin with single beds; the lounge is the center of life aboard ship; the sundeck is a perfect place to relax and observe the scenery.
 CATEGORY 1:  
Main Deck #300-305 — Conveniently positioned between the dining room and lounge, these cabins feature two single beds and a large view window.

 CATEGORY 2:  
Bridge Deck #100-104; Upper Deck #200-212, 215 — These well-located cabins include two single beds and a 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 single beds which can convert to a double bed and a pull-out single bed for a third person; Bridge Deck cabins include two single beds only.

NOTE: Solo occupancy cabins are available in Categories 1 and 2 only. Third person rates are available in certain categories at one half the double occupancy rate.

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

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITINERARY</th>
<th>CAT. 1</th>
<th>CAT. 2</th>
<th>CAT. 3</th>
<th>CAT. 1 SOLO</th>
<th>CAT. 2 SOLO</th>
<th>ADVANCE PAYMENT</th>
<th>SAMPLE AIRFARES</th>
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<td>$3,920</td>
<td>$4,590</td>
<td>$5,180</td>
<td>$5,900</td>
<td>$6,880</td>
<td>$850</td>
<td>Round-trip Los Angeles/Loreto: Economy from $475; Business from $1,140. Subject to change.</td>
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INCLUSIVE PRICING

ABOARD SHIP
✓ All meals served in the dining room
✓ All nonalcoholic beverages including unlimited cappuccinos, lattes, coffee, tea, and soda
✓ Hors d’oeuvres and snacks during evening Recaps
✓ Environmentally friendly refillable water bottle
✓ Computers for downloading your camera’s memory card
✓ Regionally-specific, professionally-curated library
✓ Fitness equipment
✓ The guidance and company of our expedition staff
✓ Access to the Bridge to learn about navigation

ASHORE
✓ Special access permits, park fees, and port taxes
✓ Transfers to and from group flights
✓ The expertise of our expedition staff

ACTIVITIES
✓ All shore activities
✓ Zodiac explorations
✓ Kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding
✓ Fat-tire biking
✓ Lectures and presentations in the lounge
✓ Photo instruction
✓ Morning stretch classes with our wellness specialist

SPECIAL OFFER:
BRING THE KIDS: Sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. Take $500 off the double occupancy price for travelers under 18.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

COSTS INCLUDE: Accommodations aboard ship; all meals and nonalcoholic beverages aboard ship; shore excursions, sightseeing, special access permits, and entrance fees; transfers to/from airport if traveling on group flights; use of kayaks, paddleboards, and fat-tire bikes; taxes, service charges, and gratuities (except to ship’s crew); services of the Lindblad Expeditions’ natural history staff and ship physician. Unused services or items included in the program are non-refundable.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; meals not indicated; passport and visa fees; travel protection plan; items of a personal nature such as Wi-Fi access, alcoholic beverages, and voyage chronicle; gratuities to ship’s crew at your discretion.

AIRFARE: Airfare is an additional cost. Lindblad Expeditions will assist in making your air arrangements for a $50 per person service charge.

RESERVATIONS: To confirm your place, an advance payment of US$850 per person is required at the time of reservation and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover or check. Receipt of advance payment indicates your acceptance of the terms and conditions.

FINAL PAYMENT: Payment is due no later than 90 days prior to departure. Lindblad Expeditions reserves the right to cancel your reservation if payment has not been received by final payment due date.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN: Travel protection and medical insurance are strongly recommended and are available at extra cost. Upon receiving your reservation, Cal Discoveries Travel will send you information on this policy. This is a comprehensive guest protection plan. You can view details here: travelinsure.com/calalumni.

ENTRY AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: Guests are advised to verify travel documents (passport/transit visa/entry visa) for the country through which they are transiting and/or entering. Reliable and most current information regarding international travel can be found by contacting the consulate/embassy of the country(s) you are visiting or transiting through. We will not be responsible if you are denied entry or transit into a country, if you are unable to provide valid documents as per the country’s requirement.

SMOKING AND VAPING POLICY: Allowed only in designated outdoor areas.

RESPONSIBILITY AND OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS: Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Expeditions’, National Geographic Expeditions’ (a division of National Geographic Partners) and the Cal Alumni Association/Cal Discoveries Travel’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 or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

Note: This policy applies to the voyage only. We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan.
RESERVATION FORM:

WILD BAJA ESCAPE:

THE WHALES OF MAGDALENA BAY

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD • JANUARY 15-20, 2023

Please reserve _________ place(s).

Guest 1: ____________________________________________

(As it appears on passport)  Date of Birth: _______ Cal Class Year: _______

(Preferred name for name badge)

Email: ____________________________________________

Primary Phone: ___________________________ Cell Phone: _______________

Guest 2: ____________________________________________

(As it appears on passport)  Date of Birth: _______ Cal Class Year: _______

(Preferred name for name badge)

Email: ____________________________________________

Primary Phone: ___________________________ Cell Phone: _______________

Street Address: ______________________________________

City: ___________________________ State: _______________ ZIP: ____________

Accommodations: ■ Double  ■ Single  ■ Twin share with a friend: ___

☐ Twin share: I request assistance in securing a same gender roommate; my first choice is with a fellow Cal alumni guest. Subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed.

Please indicate choice of cabin category in order of preference:

1st choice: ___________________________  2nd choice: ___________________________

Advance Payment Information: US$850 per person.

☐ If paying by check, please make payable to: Lindblad Maritime Enterprises, Ltd.

Enclosed is my advance payment of $ _________

☐ If paying by credit card, we will contact you to finalize your booking and collect payment information

☐ I have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them:

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

One traveler per room, whether an alumni or friend, must be a current Cal Alumni Association member at the time of departure to participate in Cal Discoveries Travel offerings. Payment of $60 for seniors 65 years and over and $75 for others establishes a regular or affiliate membership with all other Association benefits. Memberships are for individuals only, and are non-refundable and non-transferable. A traveling pair and their children under 21 years of age may travel on one membership. Please make dues payable to CAA by separate check, or, if you prefer, provide a Visa, MasterCard, or American Express number with expiration date for payment.

You can also enroll online at alumni.berkeley.edu/join.
WILD BAJA ESCAPE

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

» Enjoy up-close encounters with gray whale mothers and their calves.
» Kayak and paddleboard stunning mangroves or stroll endless beaches.
» Hike diverse landscapes, from windswept sand dunes to cactus groves.
» Ride a fat-tire bike down remote Pacific beaches.
» Learn about desert ecosystems and whale behavior from expert naturalists.

100% CARBON NEUTRAL
SINGLE-USE PLASTIC FREE
We have chosen Lindblad Expeditions because they care deeply about the planet, and see travel as a powerful force for good.

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CAL DISCOVERIES TRAVEL

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