BAJA CALIFORNIA &
THE SEA OF CORTEZ
AMONG THE GREAT WHALES
JANUARY 27-FEBRUARY 3, 2018 | ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA LION
Discover a miraculous sea, teeming with life, ringed by desert islands alive with wildness. Baja California is like no other place—and much of it accessible only by small ship. Join us and immerse yourself in its splendid solitude.
DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

Ever been approached by a curious bounding gray whale calf while its mother, the size of a greyhound bus, slowly swims protectively under your boat? Or been close enough to a gray whale, you can touch it and see the intelligence in its eyes? On this voyage, you can have that consciousness-expanding, perhaps even life-altering experience, and more.

Around the bend of the Baja peninsula, in the Sea of Cortez, there’s a whole lot more. See scores of seabirds and dolphins, and always keep a lookout for fin, humpback, sperm, and even blue whales. Spend an afternoon snorkeling with sea lions or paddleboarding in the calm waters. Kayak in protected lagoons and go ashore on uninhabited desert islands for naturalist-guided walks among huge cardon cacti and sand dunes.

There is no better way to explore Baja California than by expedition ship. The nimble 62-guest National Geographic Sea Lion gives us the flexibility to adjust our itinerary to make the most of exhilarating spontaneous events and conditions. If a pod of dolphins is spotted off the bow, or a gray whale mother and calf appear alongside the ship, the captain will change course to take advantage of the encounter.

Explore in the company of a dedicated staff of naturalists, including an undersea specialist and a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, all experts in their fields. And this Baja is hidden in plain sight—a wilderness that feels spectacularly remote. I hope you will join us in January. To reserve your place, please call 608-308-5370 or toll free 888-922-8728, or return the attached reservation form.

Sincerely,

Sheri Hicks
Sr. Director, Alumni Travel
Wisconsin Alumni Association

Cover photo: An exciting encounter with a gray whale. © Michael S. Nolan
Opposite: Photographing on Magdalena Bay at sunrise. © Ralph Lee Hopkins
Ship’s Registry: United States
ENCOUNTER FRIENDLY GRAY WHALES UP CLOSE

California gray whales migrate yearly from their feeding grounds in Alaska to the calving lagoons on the west side of the Baja California peninsula. An estimated 20,000 animals make the trip every year, and so they are very much in evidence. Spend two days in these lagoons among the gentle giants and their calves—they are often incredibly social and have been known to even push their newborn calves up to the expedition landing craft. While it is impossible to guarantee encounters, our expedition is expertly designed to maximize opportunities to experience all aspects of Baja’s remarkable nature.

EXPLORE WILD ISLES AND A LIVING SEA

On the other side of the Baja peninsula, in the Sea of Cortez, you’ll discover the uninhabited, pristine desert islands that dot the clear blue sea. Hike a forest of giant cacti, kayak or paddleboard in protected lagoons, snorkel with sea lions, and join a naturalist aboard an expedition landing craft to observe the diverse birdlife along the shores. And when you see Baja’s islands with their desert landscape, rugged cliffs, and white-sand beaches reflected in an azure sea, you’ll understand immediately why they have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): Red-billed tropicbird; gray whale, San Ignacio Lagoon; hiking amongst giant cacti on Santa Catalina Island; breaching humpback whale; expedition landing craft gets up close to playful dolphins.
THE PERFECT PLATFORM TO DISCOVER BAJA

The National Geographic Sea Lion 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 updated cabins, lounge, bar, and dining room ensure that it is more than comfortable as our base for exploration.

TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY FOR EXPLORATION

EXPEDITION LANDING CRAFT: Experience up-close encounters with whales, dolphins, and sea lions, and land on otherwise inaccessible desert islands.

KAYAKS: Kayak 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.

SNORKELING GEAR: Don a mask, flippers, and wetsuit, and explore the undersea realm.

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): Your ship is equipped with kayaks that can be launched at a moment’s notice; kayakers have an up-close experience with wilderness; snorkeling with sea lions; guest exercising on the beach; friendly encounter with a curious gray whale; enjoy opportunities to paddleboard.
ENHANCE YOUR EXPEDITION WITH AN A+ TEAM

Learn, see, and do more by exploring with experts who know the region best. Share the adventure with 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.

PHOTOGRAPH IN A LAND WITH PERFECT LIGHT

Make the most of unrivaled photo opportunities of Baja California’s wild islands, whales, dolphins, seabirds, and peerless light with the unique Expedition Photography program. An onboard Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor offers guests of every skill and interest level assistance, instructions, and shooting tips in the field. His or her expertise will inspire you and help you improve your skills—so you can return home with incredible photos documenting your experience of a lifetime.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): Smartphone photographer; guests shoot from expedition landing craft; photo instructor shares tips in the field; undersea specialist captures a sea lion on video; red sandstone, Sea of Cortez.
Baja California & The Sea of Cortez: Among the Great Whales
8 Days/7 Nights—Aboard National Geographic Sea Lion

Seeing California gray whales in their natural habitat is one of the great delights of this voyage. You’ll spend two days in Bahía Magdalena’s nursery lagoons where the whales come to birth and rear their calves. Join experienced naturalists aboard expedition landing craft to come within arm’s length of these magnificent creatures. Then on the other side of the peninsula, you’ll explore the desert islands of the pristine Sea of Cortez, search for whales and dolphins, plus blue-footed boobies, pelicans, cormorants, and magnificent frigatebirds. You’ll snorkel among sea lions, hike amid barrel cacti and sculpted sand dunes, and kayak and paddleboard in protected coves for a personal perspective. And at the end of the day, relax at a beach barbecue and bask in the splendid solitude of Baja.

Day 1: Los Angeles/La Paz, Mexico/San Carlos/Embark
Upon arrival in La Paz, transfer to San Carlos and embark ship. (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 expedition landing craft. Watch for magnificent frigatebirds, 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 arrange a visit to the historic town center of San José del Cabo. Spend the afternoon 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 are provided), and swim with curious sea lions. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon to swim, kayak, paddleboard or hike at Espíritu Santo. Brown pelicans, gulls, and boobies are all part of the landscape. Finish the day with a relaxing beach barbecue complete with a bonfire and a star-filled sky. (B,L,D)

**DAY 7: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ**
Today is a day with the luxury of no specific plan. You may spend time on the lookout for whales, bottlenose and common dolphins, or explore some of the many uninhabited islands such as Isla San Francisco or Isla San Jose, known for its sweeping beaches and arroyos. Birdlife may be plentiful, and the nutrient-rich sea is home to an overwhelming variety of fish: king angelfish, surgeonfish, butterfly fish, damselfish, and the beautiful parrotfish. (B,L,D)

**DAY 8: LA PAZ/DISEMBARK/HOME**
Disembark after breakfast in La Paz and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)
CAPACITY: These twin ships each accommodate 62 guests in 31 outside cabins.

REGISTRY: United States. OVERALL LENGTH: 152 feet.

PUBLIC AREAS: Each 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 and easy mingling. Breakfast is a wide selection buffet and lunch is often served family style. Menu emphasizes local flair.

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

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Expedition landing craft, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, snorkeling equipment; bow camera, hydrophone, Splash-Cam, underwater video camera, and video microscope.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Guest Internet access. A video chronicler, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, and ship’s doctor are on board.

WELLNESS: The ships are staffed by a wellness specialist and feature exercise equipment, LEXspa, and outdoor stretching area.

Clockwise from top: Expedition ships National Geographic Sea Bird and Sea Lion 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; the casual dining room accommodates all guests in a single seating.
CATEGORY 1: Main Deck #300-305 — Conveniently positioned between the dining room and lounge, these cabins feature two lower single beds 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 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 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.

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

<table>
<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 AIRFARE</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Baja California &amp; the Sea of Cortez</td>
<td>$6,590</td>
<td>$7,590</td>
<td>$8,590</td>
<td>$9,890</td>
<td>$11,390</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td>Sample Exclusive Charter Airfare: Round-trip Los Angeles/La Paz/Los Angeles: Economy from $800; Business from $1,450. Subject to change.</td>
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INCLUSIVE PRICING

ABOARD SHIP
✓ All meals & nonalcoholic beverages
✓ 24-hour coffee, tea & soda on demand
✓ Hors d’oeuvres & snacks during nightly recap
✓ Environmentally friendly refillable water bottle
✓ Fully stocked library
✓ Exercise equipment
✓ The guidance & company of the expedition staff
✓ Gratuities to naturalist staff

ASHORE
✓ Special access permits, park fees, port taxes
✓ Transfers to & from group flights
✓ The expertise of the expedition staff
✓ Gratuities to local guides

ACTIVITIES
✓ All shore activities
✓ Expedition landing craft explorations
✓ Kayaking
✓ Snorkeling
✓ Stand-up paddleboarding
✓ Lectures & presentations in the lounge
✓ Photo instruction
✓ Morning stretch classes with wellness specialist

BRING THE KIDS: Sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. So, 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 snorkeling gear; taxes, service charges, and gratuities (except to ship’s crew); services of Lindblad Expeditions’ natural history staff and a ship physician.

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

AIRFARE: Airfare is an additional cost. Sample airfares are subject to change. Lindblad Expeditions will gladly assist in making your air arrangements for a $50 per person service charge.

RESERVATIONS: To confirm your place, an advance payment of US$750 per person is payable by check, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover.

FINAL PAYMENT: Due no later than 90 days prior to departure.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN: Travel protection and medical insurance are available at extra cost.

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 POLICY: Allowed only in designated outdoor areas.

RESPONSIBILITY AND OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS: Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Maritime Enterprises’ 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.

Prices listed in this brochure are as of publication date, and are subject to change. Lindblad Maritime Enterprises reserves the right to impose surcharges based on increases in the actual cost of fuel.

CANCELLATION POLICY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Number of Days Prior to Expedition Start</th>
<th>Per Person Cancellation Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>120 or more days</td>
<td>$350</td>
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<tr>
<td>119–90 days</td>
<td>Advance payment cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>89–60 days</td>
<td>25% of trip cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59–45 days</td>
<td>50% of trip cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44–0 days</td>
<td>No refund</td>
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We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan.

Photo Credits: Christian Brechens/Corbis, Linda Burbank, Rab Cummings, Ralph Lee Hopkins, Sven-Olof Lindblad, Michael S. Nolan, Marco Ricca, Susan Seubert, Jack Swenson, Rikki Swenson.
RESERVATION FORM:
BAJA CALIFORNIA & THE SEA OF CORTEZ
ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA LION • JANUARY 27-FEBRUARY 3, 2018

Please reserve ________ place(s).

Name 1: ____________________________________________  
(As it appears on passport)
Name 1: _______________________________ Date of Birth: ____________________  
(Preferred name for name badge)
Name 2: ____________________________________________  
(As it appears on passport)
Name 2: _______________________________ Date of Birth: ____________________  
(Preferred name for name badge)

Street Address: ____________________________________________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ___________ Zip: ______________
Home Phone: ___________________________ Cell Phone: ___________________________
Business Phone: ___________________________ Fax: ___________________________
Email: _______________________________________________________

Accommodations: □ Double  □ Single  □ Twin share w/friend
□ Share with roommate assigned by tour operator

Please indicate choice of cabin category in order of preference:
1st choice: ___________________________ 2nd choice: ___________________________

□ Enclosed is my advance payment of $ ___________________________ (US$750 per person).

Check made payable to Lindblad Maritime Enterprises, Ltd.
□ Charge my advance payment of $ ___________________________ (US$750 per person).

□ Visa  □ MasterCard  □ American Express  □ Discover

Account Number: ___________________________ Expires: ___________________________
Cardholder Signature: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Please note that traveling with WAA is now a member benefit. So while anyone is welcome to explore the world with Badger travelers, at least one person in your party must be a WAA member to participate on a WAA tour.
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, such as sand dunes, forests of cacti, and deserted islands.

» Learn about marine and desert life from expert naturalists including an underwater specialist.

WISCONSIN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

WAA Travel
650 North Lake Street
Madison, WI 53706-1476