BAJA CALIFORNIA &
THE SEA OF CORTEZ
AMONG THE GREAT WHALES
JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 6, 2019 | ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE
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 MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

Baja California is utterly remarkable and unforgettable! It provides an opportunity to discover and revel in a pristine wilderness few people imagine exists in our North American ‘backyard.’ The Baja you explore is remote, wild, and untrammeled—and yet not far at all: a short hop from the West Coast. And for East Coast and Midwest travelers, Baja more than rewards your jet travel, especially in the winter with its desert warmth, beauty, scenic undersea, and amazing wildlife.

Roam freely aboard the brand-new National Geographic Venture, a nimble expedition ship ruled by wind, wave, and weather, and have the kind of experiences that only Nature can provide. In winter, California gray whales give birth and raise their calves in the nursery lagoons of San Ignacio. Spend time among them, as you board Zodiacs for extraordinary up-close encounters with these gentle giants and their playful calves, who often surface to make heart-warming eye contact with you.

Explore the Sea of Cortez, where there are countless opportunities to experience a living sea. Observe dolphins by the score and encounter a variety of whales, including deep-diving sperm whales and perhaps even rare blue whales. Snorkel with sea lions, hike into cacti forests of surreal beauty, kayak along remote coastlines—and generally have the place to yourselves.

See, learn, and do more with a team of expert naturalists, including an undersea specialist, who know this area well. For photographers, this paradise offers extraordinary light to capture it all with the help of a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor. In addition, Greg Marshall, Emmy-Award winning filmmaker and biologist, joins the expedition, providing invaluable insight.

Baja is one of those places on the planet that supplies the human spirit the tonic of wildness it needs. Few experiences are as rewarding. To make your reservation, please return the enclosed reservation form or call 800-252-4910.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Betchart
President, Betchart Expeditions, Inc.
For AAAS Travels, ACS and Sigma Xi Expeditions
www.betchartexpeditions.com
HAVE UP-CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH GRAY WHALES

You can whale watch in a number of places in the world, but only in Baja can you have a personal encounter—and you will have plenty of chances to get up close to these gentle giants. Gray whales migrate annually from their feeding grounds in Alaska to the nursery lagoons on the Baja California peninsula to give birth and nurture their young. Spend time among the mothers and their calves, observing them at water level aboard Zodiacs. They are often incredibly social and have been known to push their newborn calves up to the landing craft. Expert spotters and knowledgeable naturalists join you to ensure and enhance your experiences among these marvelous “friendlies”.

EXPLORE PRISTINE ISLES AND A LIVING SEA

On the other side of the Baja peninsula, in the Sea of Cortez, you discover the uninhabited desert islands that dot the clear blue sea. Search for a variety of whale species, scores of leaping dolphins, and diving seabirds. Hike a forest of giant cacti, kayak or paddleboard in protected coves, snorkel with sea lions, and join a naturalist aboard a Zodiac to observe the diverse birdlife along the shores. 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.
THE PERFECT MOBILE BASE CAMP TO DISCOVER BAJA

With generous decks that take full advantage of the sun and ocean breezes, and create front-row seats on the remarkable spectacle of marine life in Baja, the brand-new expedition ship National Geographic Venture is uniquely designed to make the most of being in this remote, soul-satisfying geography. The ship is more than comfortable, with spacious cabins, some with step-out balconies; generous windows, and top amenities. Inviting public spaces foster an atmosphere of camaraderie—the lounge, which accommodates the entire expedition community, is where evening recaps take place, and the casual dining room provides unassigned seating for easy mingling.

ONBOARD TOOLS FOR DEEPER EXPLORATION

Because there is much to discover here—cactus forests, desert islands, beautifully indented shores, a calm sea with vivid life beneath the surface, and more, Venture is equipped so you can explore. A fleet of Zodiacs lets you experience up-close encounters with whales, dolphins, and sea lions, and land on otherwise inaccessible uninhabited islands. Board one of the single or double kayaks for water-level views of the stunning scenery. Get up and out on a stand-up paddleboard for a personal adventure. Snorkeling gear for all aboard enables you to explore the thriving undersea. There’s even a hydrophone for whale listening and a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) which can operate up to 1,000 feet below the surface.
TRAVEL WITH AN A+ EXPEDITION TEAM

Discover Baja with a veteran expedition leader and a team of naturalists well versed in the region’s flora and fauna. An undersea specialist/videographer shoots video for you to enjoy in the comfort of the ship’s lounge, maximizing your understanding of Baja’s incredible marine environment. A Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor assists you in capturing moments at the heart of your experience. Plus, a wellness specialist helps enhance the relaxing and revitalizing benefits of life in this magical region.

IN A LAND WITH PERFECT LIGHT, SHOOT GREAT PHOTOS

Make the most of the unrivaled photo ops of Baja California’s wild islands, whales, dolphins, and seabirds with the Expedition Photography program. The onboard Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor offers assistance, instructions, and shooting tips in the field. Their 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.

NEW—ONBOARD GEAR LOCKER!

The inaugural season of National Geographic Venture will feature the debut of the B&H Photo Video gear locker. Field test new glass, camera bodies, and more during your expedition.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): Hiking amidst giant cacti; guests spot mobula rays during Zodiac outing; photo instructor shares tips in the field; undersea specialist captures a sea lion on video; smartphone user photographs; sunset in the Sea of Cortez.
Seeing gray whales in their natural habitat is one of the great delights of this voyage. In Laguna San Ignacio, venture out in small boats among these magnificent creatures. In the Sea of Cortez, search for a variety of whales, plus dolphins, blue-footed boobies, pelicans, cormorants, and magnificent frigatebirds. You’ll also snorkel among sea lions, join naturalists on hikes amid barrel cacti, and sculpted sand dunes, and see a variety of desert flora and fauna.

**DAY 1: DEPART US/SAN JOSE DEL CABO, MEXICO/LA PAZ/EMBARK**
Upon arrival in San Jose del Cabo, transfer to La Paz and embark the *National Geographic Venture*. (D)

**DAY 2: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ**
Today’s plan is flexible, exploring some of the many uninhabited islands in the Sea of Cortez. Search for whales among the islands of the southern Sea of Cortez, an area that has proven to be one of the best for finding blue whales, and often common and bottlenose dolphins. Explore the many uninhabited islands such as Isla San José or Isla San Francisco to walk among huge cacti and observe the diverse birdlife. Swim or snorkel with king angelfish, butterfly fish, damselfish and the beautiful parrotfish. (B,L,D)

**DAY 3: 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.
Enjoy 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 bonfire and a star-filled sky. (B,L,D)

**DAY 4: GORDA BANKS AND LOS CABOS**
Spend the morning aboard ship in the area of Gorda Banks seamount or La Fortuna, gathering places for whales, especially humpbacks, dolphins, and other sea life. Then choose to visit the historic town center of San Jose del Cabo or join a bird-watching walk along the local estero. This evening cruise past Friars Rocks at Land’s End. (B,L,D)

**DAY 5: AT SEA**
As you travel north along the Pacific coast of the peninsula, there is a chance to see a wide variety of marine life, including the largest animal on Earth, the blue whale. Hear naturalist talks and learn photography basics during a day at sea. (B,L,D)

**DAYS 6 & 7: LAGUNA SAN IGNACIO**
Protected since 1993 as part of UNESCO’s Whale Sanctuary of El Vizcaíno, Laguna San Ignacio is one of the world’s most important breeding sites for California gray whales. 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 local pangas and Zodiacs. Watch for osprey, Brant geese, and countless other breeding and migratory bird species, as well as bottlenose dolphins, during your explorations. (B,L,D)

**DAY 8: BAJÍA MAGDALENA**
Explore the ever-shifting sand dunes of Isla Magdalena on a cross-island walk to one of the most pristine beaches in the Pacific. Bird watching here can be excellent—magnificent frigatebirds, pelicans, cormorants, terns, great blue herons, ibis, whimbrels, and willets are among the species you might see. It is not unusual to see 40 species of birds in just one day along these fertile shorelines where they refuel for their destinations ahead. (B,L,D)

**DAY 9: SAN CARLOS/DISEMBARK/LA PAZ**
Disembark in San Carlos after breakfast and transfer La Paz for lunch at a local restaurant. Then check in to the CostaBaja Resort & Spa, located on the shore of the Sea of Cortez, just south of Espíritu Island. The rest of the afternoon is on your own to relax and take advantage of the resort and optional spa amenities. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner at the hotel. (B,L,D)

**DAY 10: LA PAZ/SAN JOSE DEL CABO/HOME**
After breakfast, check out in the morning and transfer to San Jose del Cabo for your flights home. (B)
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE

CAPACITY: 100 guests in 50 cabins.
REGISTRY: United States. OVERALL LENGTH: 238 feet.

National Geographic Venture, launching in 2018, is the sister ship to National Geographic Quest (shown above). Designed with over 50 years of expedition heritage and built in the U.S.A., both ships set a new standard in exploration comfort and style.

PUBLIC AREAS: Global gallery; fitness center; LEXspa; lounge with full service bar and facilities for films and presentations; observation deck; mudroom with lockers for expedition gear, and a 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. Cuisine is fresh, sustainable, and accented with regional flair.

CABINS: All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private facilities, and climate controls. Category 4 cabins have step-out balconies.

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: A fleet of 8 Zodiacs and 24 kayaks, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, video microscope, paddleboards, snorkeling gear for all guests.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Guest internet access, elevator, Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor, undersea specialist, video chronicler, and ship physician.

WELLNESS: The vessel is staffed by a wellness specialist and features a gym with an elliptical machine, treadmill, exercycles, handweights, and resistance bands. Treatments in the LEXspa are available by appointment.

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. 4</th>
<th>CAT. 5 SUITE</th>
<th>CAT. 1 SOLO</th>
<th>CAT. 2 SOLO</th>
<th>ADVANCE PAYMENT</th>
<th>SAMPLE AIRFARES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baja California &amp; the Sea of Cortez</td>
<td>$7,530</td>
<td>$8,330</td>
<td>$8,900</td>
<td>$9,930</td>
<td>$10,960</td>
<td>$11,290</td>
<td>$12,490</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Round-trip Los Angeles/Los Cabos/Los Angeles: Economy from $370; Business from $1,100. Subject to change.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**CATEGORY 1:** Main Deck #301-306
Cabin feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, and two portholes.

**CATEGORY 2:** Main Deck #307-315
Cabin feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, and two portholes.

**CATEGORY 3:** Upper Deck #201-206
Cabin feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, and two large view windows.

**CATEGORY 4:** Upper Deck #207-229
Cabin feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, sliding glass door, and small, private balcony.

**CATEGORY 5 (SUITE):** Observation Deck #101-108
Cabin feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, large view windows, an expanded bathroom, writing desk, ample storage space, and a convertible sofa bed to accommodate a third person.

**NOTE:** Sole Occupancy cabins are available in Categories 1 and 2 only. Third person rates are available in Category 5 cabins at one half the double occupancy rate.

**Connecting Cabins via internal doorway access:** Main Deck: #312-314, #311-315, #306-308, #305-307; Upper Deck: #224-226, #225-227

Clockwise from top left: The casual dining room with its expansive windows; Category 4 cabin with lower single beds (which can be converted to a Queen) and a private step-out balcony; the sundeck is a perfect place to relax and observe the scenery; Category 5 cabin is the most spacious aboard.
INCLUSIVE PRICING

ABOARD SHIP
✓ All meals served in the dining room
✓ All nonalcoholic beverages including unlimited cappuccinos, lattes, coffee, tea & soda
✓ Hors d’oeuvres & snacks during nightly recap
✓ Environmentally friendly refillable water bottle
✓ Fully stocked library
✓ Mac computers for downloading your camera’s memory card & Internet access
✓ Fitness center
✓ The guidance & company of the expedition staff
✓ Access to the bridge to learn about navigation

ASHORE
✓ One night at the CostaBaja Resort & Spa
✓ Meals as indicated
✓ Special access permits, park fees, port taxes
✓ Transfers to & from group flights
✓ The expertise of the expedition staff & local guides

ACTIVITIES
✓ All shore activities
✓ Zodiac & kayak explorations
✓ Snorkeling & paddleboarding
✓ Lectures & presentations in the lounge
✓ Photo instruction
✓ Morning stretch class 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 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$1,000 per person is payable by check.

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.

Itinerary and 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>
<thead>
<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>$450</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, Linda Burback, Marc Cappelletti, Eric Guth, Ralph Lee Hopkins, Sven-Olof Lindblad, Jeff Litton, Michael S. Nolan, Max Seigel, Ian Strachan, Jack Swenson, Rikki Swenson
RESERVATION FORM:
BAJA CALIFORNIA & THE SEA OF CORTEZ
ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE • JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 6, 2019

Please reserve ________ place(s).

Name 1: __________________________________________ (M/F): _________
(As it appears on passport)

Name 1: __________________________________________ Date of Birth: _____________________________
(Preferred name for name badge)

Name 2: __________________________________________ (M/F): _________
(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$1,000 per person).

Check made payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

□ I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them:

Signature:______________________________ Date:______________________________

Signature:______________________________ Date:______________________________

Membership: □ AAAS  □ Sigma Xi  □ ACS

#1504
EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

» Get up close to gigantic gray whale mothers and their calves in the breeding grounds of Laguna San Ignacio.

» Go snorkeling amid sea lions and schools of brilliant fish.

» Kayak and paddleboard in calm, blue waters for personal discoveries.

» Explore deserted isles amid sand dunes and cacti forests.

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

EXPLORE BAJA CALIFORNIA & THE SEA OF CORTEZ
JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 6, 2019