

DVD INSIDE

REMARKABLE ENCOUNTERS IN

BAJA CALIFORNIA

& THE SEA OF CORTEZ



Aboard *National Geographic Sea Bird* – 2011-12



As astonishing as NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC magazine.
As exhilarating as National Geographic Wild:
**A Lindblad-National Geographic expedition —
a complete experience in a thrilling geography.**



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.

Cover: Curious gray whale greets a guest in the famous nursing grounds of Baja California.
Inside cover: Pod of long-beaked common dolphins swimming in the Sea of Cortez.

Dear Traveler,

There's a place not far from our own borders where the desert meets the sea. It's not necessarily on most people's "bucket list," but it certainly ought to be, because once you experience it, its magic stays with you forever.

Imagine desert islands dotting a clear sea stretching to the horizon, or reaching over the edge of a Zodiac to splash a gray whale just beyond your reach. Baja California is a Mexico unlike any you know. Gray whales pause here during annual migrations to birth their calves. In 2005, UNESCO designated the Sea of Cortez a World Heritage Site, for the pristine islands that have thrived in isolation — many home to endemic species that have evolved free from outside influence.

There's a real chance for discovery here, and there's no better way to explore it than by small ship. A flexible itinerary is a hallmark of a Lindblad-National Geographic expedition, and our decades of experience in the region help us decide where we'll go on a particular day given the wildlife activity and weather. You'll experience the pure seclusion while kayaking the crystal waters or hiking a forest of giant cacti with our top naturalists as your guides.

And the islands are only half the expedition — the Sea of Cortez is among the richest seas for marine mammals in the world, and our ship, *National Geographic Sea Bird*, is equipped to explore it. We'll outfit you with gear so you can snorkel with sea lions and our naturalists will shoot underwater video footage to share in our ship's lounge. We use a hydrophone to eavesdrop on the conversations among whales swimming beneath our bow.

Not only can I promise you'll have the expedition of a lifetime — but you'll go home with the photos to prove it. Every Baja expedition sails with a Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic Certified Photo Instructor aboard. This naturalist is specially trained to help photographers of all skill levels get the most out of their cameras and to ensure that you go home with excellent photos from your voyage.

There's much exploring to do, and it's waiting just a short flight from L.A. I hope you'll join us and discover the expedition spirit.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sven-Olof Lindblad', written over the printed name.

Sven-Olof Lindblad



SPLENDID ISOLATION

The term ‘peninsula’ in its Latin root means “almost an island.” Few places on earth are as true to their origins as the Baja California Peninsula and the surrounding waters.

Often referred to as “Mexico’s Galápagos,” nearly 30% of the Baja California Peninsula and the surrounding Gulf’s flora and fauna is endemic. An impressive natural landscape like no other, this “almost island” is where the desert literally meets the sea. It also has a vibrant human history, which our **Baja California Odyssey: San Ignacio Lagoon and the Sea of Cortez** (page 14) itinerary brings to life.



IDYLIC ISLANDS

No two islands in the Sea of Cortez are the same. And our **Holiday Journeys in the Sea of Cortez** (page 16) itinerary provides the thrill of voyaging over a vibrant living sea to fresh discoveries daily — landscapes of gigantic cacti, to sculpted rose-hued sandstone, to achingly lovely beaches devoid of human footprints.



GENTLE GIANTS

Our **Among the Great Whales** itinerary (page 12) explores the Pacific realm too, providing extraordinary encounters with gray whales in their annual calving lagoons.



A large circular graphic with a white border. Inside, a diver is on the left, and a sea lion is on the right, both in a blue underwater environment. The text "BAJA CALIFORNIA" is centered in white.

BAJA CALIFORNIA

**CLICK HERE TO WATCH
THE DVD ONLINE**



WORLD HERITAGE SITE

On July 14, 2005, UNESCO named Baja California a World Heritage Site, a status that proclaims the outstanding value the Sea of Cortez and its islands have in their unaltered natural state. Explore with us and experience all of the richness that earned Baja this UNESCO distinction. Hike its charming desert islands and dive into the living sea, teeming with wildness, for a complete, panoramic experience.

THE WHALES & WILDLIFE OF BAJA AND THE SEA OF CORTEZ

I've sailed all the world's oceans in my 40 years as an oceanographer and nowhere else have I seen the variety and numbers of whales that I have seen in Baja California. On a two-week voyage we saw thirteen species, including pygmy sperm and false killer whales.

When most people think of Baja and whales, they think of the California grays which migrate yearly to the calving lagoons on the west side of the peninsula. An estimated 20,000 animals make the migration every year and so they are very much in evidence. But it is in the Sea of Cortez that the greatest variety is observed, beginning with thousands of common dolphins, hundreds of bottlenose dolphins and going all the way to the largest animals to ever exist on the planet, the blue whales. We also observe the second largest whales, fin whales, sometimes in large numbers,

as well as Bryde's, humpbacks, and the largest of the toothed whales, sperm whales. In addition, we can see other toothed whales including killer whales, pilot whales, beaked whales, false killer whales, pygmy sperm whales and spinner dolphins.

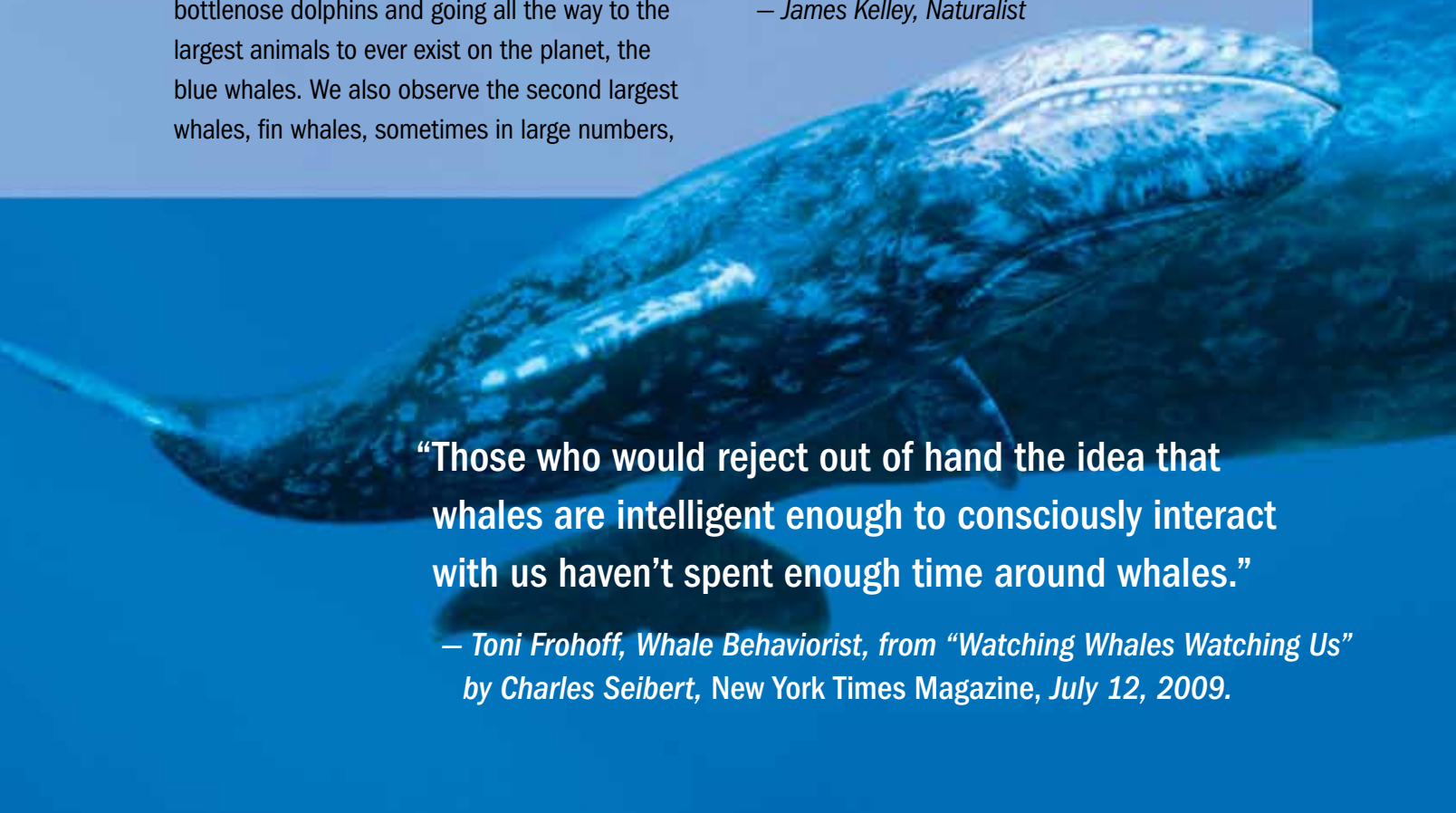
On special occasions we observe rarely seen behaviors, such as dolphins "bow-riding" on the great whales, life-and-death struggles between killer whales and their prey, and lunge-feeding by fin whales. In no other place can all these things be seen together.

— James Kelley, *Naturalist*



"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.





Red-billed tropicbird



Brown pelicans



Spiny tailed iguana



Pilot whale



Gray whale



Fin whale



Striped marlin



Long-beaked Common Dolphin



Sea lion



As James Kelley's story at left indicates, we have observed dozens of species on our Baja expeditions. And the above photos are only a small sample of the stunning collection our Photo Instructors and National Geographic Photographers have accumulated. Voyage with us and you'll not only have the same opportunity to capture striking images from our ship, Zodiacs or kayaks, on select departures, you'll also have our expert photographers at your elbow, as desired — for photo advice and assistance in the field, where it counts.



EXPLORE BAJA CALIFORNIA THE LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS- NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC WAY

Be engaged in activities that bring you into close personal contact with extraordinary creatures and stunning locations. Be accompanied by experts who can explain this unique ecosystem and open your eyes to its wonders. Go exploring every day. See Baja's vibrant living sea from the deck of our nimble expedition ship. Listen to whale communications via our hydrophone, while observing them under the sea via our bow-mounted camera with live feed into the Lounge TV screens. Dive below to snorkel. Or get a water level view in Zodiacs and kayaks. Discover, learn, do.



Clockwise from top: hikers among the giant cacti at Isla Santa Catalina; guests arrive by Zodiac to the beach barbecue dinner ashore at Isla Espíritu Santo's Bonanza Bay; a family jumps into the Sea of Cortez; Photo Instructor Jack Swenson with guests; guests walking on sand dunes of Bahia Magdalena; kayaking at sunset.



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

AN EXPEDITION TEAM HANDPICKED FOR BAJA CALIFORNIA

Explore with the largest team in the region — five Naturalists for each 62-guest expedition. Gravitate to whichever staff member's interest mirrors your own, whether it's photographing wildlife, discovering the undersea or hiking in forests of giant cacti. Benefit from more staff attention and varied perspectives. Here are some members of a typical, top-notch Baja team:

CARLOS J. NAVARRO, UNDERSEA SPECIALIST

A biochemist who has specialized in Marine Biology by training, Carlos is a native of Mexico and will share the wonders of the Sea of Cortez, his home for 23 years.



SUE PERIN, EXPEDITION LEADER

Driven to share her extensive knowledge and love of Baja and other natural areas, Sue has become an educator. Sue's expertise in wildlife management and passion for teaching brings the wonders of Baja to life.



LINDA BURBACK, NATURALIST & PHOTO INSTRUCTOR

Linda has earned a B.S. in Horticulture from the University of Arizona, worked in the commercial cactus industry for 16 years, and taught in Saguaro National Park's interpretive division.



**WILLIAM LOPEZ-FORMENT,
NATURALIST**

Author of more than 40 scientific papers and a book on mammals of Mexican islands, William has a Masters in Ecology and Evolutionary Theory from Cornell and a Ph.D. from the National University of Mexico. He is a veteran Naturalist who also enjoys teaching (and especially learning) about how local foods have shaped cultures and civilizations.



**EZA KING, WELLNESS
SPECIALIST**

Eza has served two years as an Environmental Education Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal, earned a degree in Environmental Science from the University of Virginia and spent more than a decade as an outdoor educator. She is also a certified yoga instructor. Eza and our other Wellness Specialists teach a daily morning stretch class on each expedition.



EXPEDITION PHOTOGRAPHY, EXCLUSIVE TO LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS

Unique in the world of travel, our Expedition Photography program offers guests of every skill and interest level unrivaled photographic opportunities. Every voyage includes a Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic Certified Photo Instructor. Your certified Photo Instructor is a Naturalist trained to offer assistance with your camera settings and give you shooting tips in the field ensuring you'll go home with the best shots of your life.

While every expedition travels with a Photo Instructor, other departures are Photo Expeditions — voyages specially crafted to maximize your photo ops. These expeditions offer the chance to shoot with National Geographic Photographers in the field and learn techniques during one-on-one time and on board group presentations. You'll go home a better, more confident photographer.





The dramatic landscape of Isla Santa Catalina.

ITINERARY 1

BAJA CALIFORNIA: AMONG THE GREAT WHALES

- ▶ Experience the nursery lagoons where whales birth their calves before migrating North
- ▶ Learn from a top Expedition Team of photographers, researchers and experts
- ▶ Explore unique islands, teeming with endemic species in the Sea of Cortez
- ▶ For nearly 30 years, we've been within arm's reach of gray whales; put yourself there, too



Loreto Mission, Loreto, Mexico.

ITINERARY 2 — NEW!

BAJA CALIFORNIA ODYSSEY: SAN IGNACIO LAGOON AND THE SEA OF CORTEZ

- ▶ A comprehensive experience of the gray whales, wildness and early history of the region
- ▶ Get your best photos yet in Baja's peerless light on this Photo Expedition, with guidance from a National Geographic Photographer
- ▶ See ancient petroglyphs and wall paintings left by pre-Columbian civilizations
- ▶ Explore historic Baja Peninsula mission towns of San Javier and Loreto



Guests aboard a Zodiac encounter gray whales up close.

ITINERARY 3

HOLIDAY JOURNEYS IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ

- ▶ Experience the holidays and New Year's aboard *National Geographic Sea Bird*
- ▶ See endemic species, isolated by water and time, on these otherwise deserted islands dotting the blue sea
- ▶ Relax on white sand beaches or swim and snorkel with sea lions in an undersea paradise
- ▶ Explore remote islands and discover the diversity that has earned them the nickname, "Mexico's Galápagos"



Snorkeler exploring the clear waters.

BAJA CALIFORNIA: AMONG THE GREAT WHALES

8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS – NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD

DEPARTURES: 2012 Jan. 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25; Mar. 3, 10, 17

PRICES FROM: \$5,240 to \$8,810 (See page 19 for complete prices.)

Note: Some departures travel in reverse from La Paz to San Carlos, making all the same stops.

Travel with National
Geographic Photographer
FLIP NICKLIN: Mar. 10, 17



Guests explore on Zodiac landing craft, which are quickly deployed for encounters with wildlife.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ GET AN UP-CLOSE VIEW OF GIGANTIC GRAY WHALES.
- ▶ SWIM, SNORKEL AND KAYAK IN THE AZURE WATERS OF THE SEA OF CORTEZ.
- ▶ EXPERIENCE THE PRISTINE BEAUTY AND ABUNDANT WILDLIFE OF BAJA CALIFORNIA.



Magnificent
frigate bird

Seeing gray whales in their natural habitat is one of the great delights of this voyage. In Bahia Magdalena, venture out in Zodiacs among these magnificent creatures. In the Sea of Cortez,

whales, dolphins, sea lions, blue-footed boobies, huge cardon cacti, mangroves and sand dunes are among the wonders you'll encounter. The entire experience will be illuminated by an expert Expedition Team including an Undersea Specialist.

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: BAHIA 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 Zodiacs. Discover dense mangroves by kayak and watch for magnificent

Guests explore the glistening Sea of Cortez by kayak.



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 Jose 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)

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)

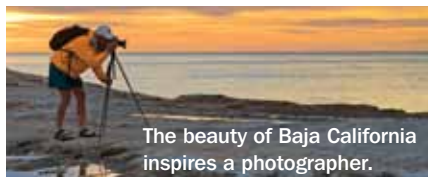
DAY 7: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ

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 Jose 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

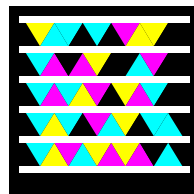
Disembark in La Paz after breakfast and drive to the airport for flights home. (B)



The beauty of Baja California inspires a photographer.



» WATCH A VIDEO PREVIEW AT WWW.EXPEDITIONS.COM/BAJAVIDEO



VIDEO PREVIEW EXTRA!


This colorful square is your link to adventure. Called an "image tag" (because it uses Microsoft Tag technology), each tag enables your smartphone to play a video of the expedition you're reading about. Here's how to download the free app you need:

1. Open your smartphone's browser and go to <http://gettag.mobi>
2. Follow the simple free download process to get the mobile app.
3. After you've downloaded the app, try it out.
4. Using the app, carefully snap or scan any tag and your browser will take you to a video. So you can start exploring Baja's wildlife and the pristine Sea of Cortez now.

NEW

BAJA CALIFORNIA ODYSSEY: SAN IGNACIO LAGOON AND THE SEA OF CORTEZ

11 DAYS/10 NIGHTS – NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD

DEPARTURES: 2012 Jan. 11  Photo Expedition

PRICES FROM: \$6,990 to \$11,535 (See page 19 for complete prices.)

Travel with National
Geographic Photographer
SUSAN SEUBERT on
this departure.



Gray whales often approach our Undersea Specialists and Zodiacs, as curious of us as we are of them.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ EMBARK ON A COMPREHENSIVE JOURNEY OF BAJA CALIFORNIA'S NATURE, WILDLIFE AND HISTORY.
- ▶ SEE ANCIENT PAINTINGS AND LEARN ABOUT THE PENINSULA'S PRE-COLUMBIAN CULTURES.
- ▶ ENJOY MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE GRAY WHALES IN SAN IGNACIO LAGOON.

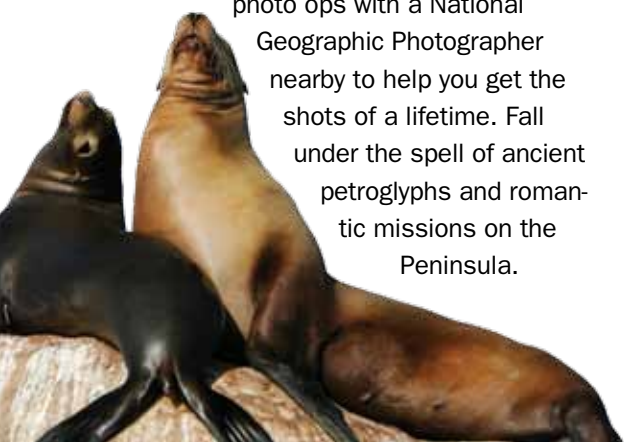
Spot endemic wildlife, hike desert landscapes and discover the ancient cultures of Baja California on our new Photo Expedition. Overnight onshore near the gray whales in San Ignacio Lagoon, and find endless photo ops with a National Geographic Photographer nearby to help you get the shots of a lifetime. Fall under the spell of ancient petroglyphs and romantic missions on the Peninsula.

JAN. 11: U.S./LA PAZ/EMBARK
Arrive in La Paz and transfer to the ship in the late afternoon. (D)

JAN. 12: LOS ISLOTES AND ISLA ESPÍRITU SANTO
With deeply indented shorelines and dramatically eroded cliff faces, Los Islotes and Isla Espíritu Santo are two of the most beautiful islands in the Sea of Cortez. Here you will be able to swim and snorkel in the turquoise waters, perhaps with some curious sea lions. Zodiac rides,

rare bird sightings, the possibility of spotting an endemic black rabbit, or simply some relaxing beachcombing are all possibilities today. (B,L,D)

JAN. 13: ISLA SANTA CATALINA
This morning we search for marine life in the waters around Isla Danzante, a rich area for dolphins. In the afternoon, we visit Isla Santa Catalina to swim and snorkel in the clear waters of our anchorage, explore the rocky shoreline, and hike among giant cardon cacti. (B,L,D)



Sea lions hauled out on a rocky outcrop.

**JAN. 14: BAHÍA SAN BASILIO/
ISLA ILDEFONSO**

Kayak, swim and snorkel the serene waters of Bahía San Basilio. Take time to explore the bay's tiny islands. Then visit the nesting seabirds on the small and rugged Isla Ildefonso. (B,L,D)

**JAN. 15-16: SANTA ROSALIA/
LAGUNA SAN IGNACIO**

Drive across the peninsula from Santa Rosalia to Laguna San Ignacio, a large bay and favored haunt of migrating gray whales. Close encounters with these docile and curious whales is one of life's great pleasures. In order to maximize our time at the lagoon, we'll overnight in rustic seaside cabins that provide a comfortable and natural feel of the region. The next morning you'll wake up in your remote campsite and head out for another whale watching adventure. We'll then head back across the peninsula to spend time in the town of Santa Rosalia. En route we'll visit the San Ignacio Mission, built in 1726. In Santa Rosalia sample treats from a French bakery and stroll this unique town with historians who'll share its past, present, and possible future. (B,L,D)

JAN. 17: ISLA SAN MARCOS

Spend the day at Isla San Marcos, the northernmost island on our voyage. Hike the rugged arroyo, kayak, swim and snorkel. You will have the time and flexibility to enjoy all four activities in a single morning. (B,L,D)

JAN. 18: PAINTINGS & PETROGLYPHS

Zodiac to shore and drive in search of paintings and petroglyphs. An arroyo hike leads to the only known ancient art site where all cave painting colors used throughout the



Ancient cave paintings and petroglyphs at La Pinguica.

region are found. Explore with photographer and local rock art expert Enrique Hambleton. (B,L,D)

**JAN. 19: LORETO/
SAN JAVIER MISSION**

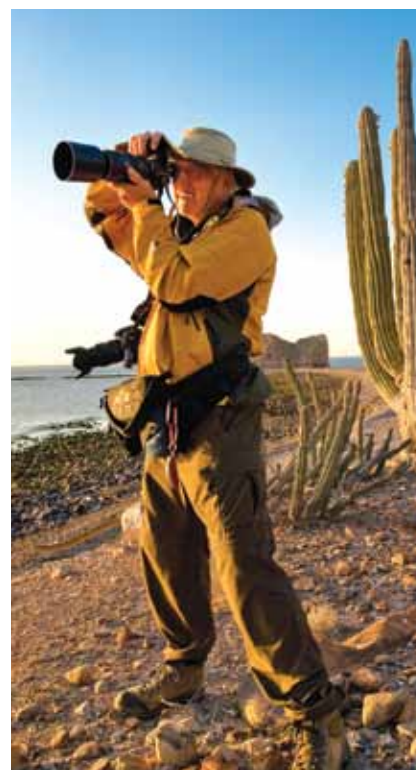
Disembark at Puerto Escondido, a natural port about 45 minutes south of the town of Loreto. Drive through the breathtaking Sierra de la Giganta mountains to the town of San Javier, where we'll visit the second oldest mission in Baja and enjoy a local lunch. Learn from our local guides who will make the history of the region come alive. Later, visit the Loreto Mission and museum and take time on your own to explore. (B,L,D)

JAN. 20: ISLA SAN JOSE

Isla San Jose has a highly varied mixture of habitats. Take Zodiac cruises and kayaks into mangrove channels in search of shorebirds and waders. Nearby are ancient shell mounds, or middens, that reveal traces of former occupation by the Guaicura Indians. (B,L,D)

JAN. 21: LA PAZ/DISEMBARK/U.S.

After breakfast, disembark in La Paz and transfer to the airport for your flights back home. (B)



Guest captures a dramatic scene.

HOLIDAY JOURNEYS IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ

8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS – NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD

DEPARTURES: 2011: DEC. 26 2012: JAN. 2; DEC. 15, 22, 29

PRICES FROM: \$4,250 to \$8,230 (See page 19 for complete prices.)



National Geographic Sea Bird at anchor off of Elephant Rock, Isla Santa Catalina.

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ SPEND THE HOLIDAYS IN AN INSPIRING REGION OFTEN REFERRED TO AS “MEXICO’S GALAPAGOS.”
- ▶ KAYAK, SNORKEL AND SWIM IN THE PRISTINE WATERS OF THE SEA OF CORTEZ.
- ▶ WALK AMONG A “FOREST” OF GIANT CACTI ON ISLA SANTA CATALINA.

See Baja’s vibrant living sea from the deck of our nimble expedition ship and at water level in Zodiacs and kayaks. Go deeper, and see it through your snorkel mask, hear the communications of marine life through our hydrophone and watch a live undersea feed from beneath our ship in the comfort of the lounge. Learn what makes this ecosystem unique from a robust team of five naturalists, undersea specialists, horticulturalists and an expedition leader with immense regional knowledge.

DAY 1: U.S./LOS CABOS OR LA PAZ/ EMBARK AT LA PAZ

Fly to Los Cabos and transfer to La Paz, where we’ll board the ship and sail into the Sea of Cortez in the late afternoon. (D)

DAY 2: ISLA SAN JOSÉ

Isla San José has a highly varied mixture of habitats. You’ll take Zodiac cruises and kayaks into mangrove channels in search of shorebirds and waders. Nearby are ancient shell mounds, or middens, that reveal

traces of former occupation by the Guaicura Indians. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: ISLA ILDEFONSO

Isla Ildefonso is a small and rugged island that is home to many nesting seabirds, including blue-footed and brown boobies. You will have the opportunity to take a Zodiac cruise along the shoreline to closer observe the birdlife. Marine life also awaits our discovery, by way of snorkeling we can reveal this colorful underwater world. (B,L,D)

DAY 4: ISLA SANTA CATALINA

This morning we search for marine life in the waters around Isla Danzante, another rich area for dolphins. In the afternoon, we visit Isla Santa Catalina for walks among huge cacti, snorkeling in the clear waters of our anchorage along the rugged shoreline. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: ISLA SAN FRANCISCO

Isla San Francisco and its natural harbor, a calm crescent-shaped bay, will allow us to consider activities such as Zodiac cruising, kayaking or relaxing on the beach. Walks ashore allow us a different perspective in exploring the island and always provide spectacular views. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ

The shores surrounding the Sea of Cortez have many beautiful bays where there are beaches for swimming and long, gently sloping arroyos for walks inland. This time of year cacti may be in flower and wildflowers in bloom. No matter where you explore, you will have an opportunity for one last vigorous paddle in the kayaks. (B,L,D)

DAY 7: LOS ISLOTES AND ISLA ESPÍRITU SANTO

With deeply indented shorelines and dramatically eroded cliff faces, Los Islotes and Isla Espíritu Santo are two of the most beautiful islands in the Sea of Cortez. Here you will be able to swim and snorkel in the turquoise waters, perhaps with some curious sea lions. Zodiac rides, rare bird sightings, the possibility of spotting an endemic black rabbit, or simply some relaxing beachcombing are all possibilities today. Dinner this evening will be a beach barbecue and campfire under the star-filled desert sky. (B,L,D)



DAY 8: LA PAZ/DISEMBARK/LA PAZ OR LOS CABOS/U.S.

After breakfast, disembark in La Paz and transfer to the airport for your flights back home. (B)



Guests kayaking in the pristine waters of the Sea of Cortez.

» WATCH A VIDEO PREVIEW AT WWW.EXPEDITIONS.COM/BAJAVIDEO



Leaping common dolphins.

National Geographic Sea Bird

CAPACITY: 62 guests in 31 outside cabins.

REGISTRY: United States.

OVERALL LENGTH: 152 feet.

PUBLIC AREAS: Our twin sister ships feature a Library; Global Market; Lounge with full-service bar and facilities for films, slide shows and presentations; Observation Deck; partially covered Sun Deck 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 flair.

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

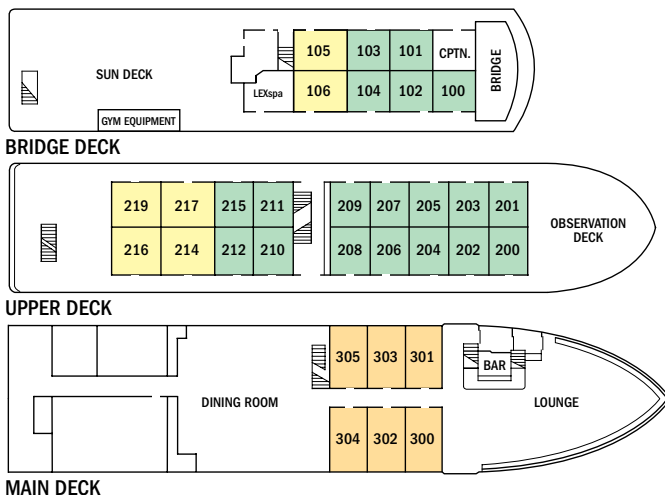
EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Bow camera, hydrophone, kayaks, snorkeling gear, Splash-Cam, underwater video camera, video microscope, wet suits in Baja and Zodiac landing craft.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Guest Internet access. A Video Chronicler on board all voyages. A ship's Doctor is on board in Baja and Costa Rica/Panama. An Undersea Specialist is on board in Baja.

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; we carry a fleet of kayaks on board; the ship's comfortable cabins are the perfect place to end a day of exploration.



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 top left: Our ship is an excellent platform for photography; the sun deck is a great place for a morning stretch with our Wellness Specialists; generous outdoor space means excellent viewing; the cuisine on board is fresh, sustainable and accented with a regional flair; cocktail recaps are always informative and social.

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
Baja California: Among the Great Whales – Page 12	2012	\$5,240	\$5,970	\$6,460	\$7,990	\$8,810	\$550	Sample Airfare: Round-trip Los Angeles/La Paz/ Los Angeles: Economy from \$700. Some departures travel in reverse from La Paz to San Carlos, making all the same stops.
Baja California Odyssey: San Ignacio Lagoon and the Sea of Cortez - Page 14	2012	\$6,990	\$7,960	\$8,580	\$10,480	\$11,535	\$700	Includes one hotel night in a rustic cabin. Sample Airfare: Round-trip Los Angeles/La Paz or La Paz/Los Angeles: Economy from \$585.
Journeys in the Sea of Cortez – Page 16 Dec. 26, 2011; Jan. 2, Dec. 15, 2012	2011-12	\$4,250	\$4,990	\$5,890	\$6,370	\$7,480	\$450	Sample Airfare for Dec. 2011 & Jan. 2012: Round-trip Los Angeles/La Paz/Los Angeles: Economy from \$700; Business from \$1,759.
Journeys in the Sea of Cortez Holiday Rates – Page 16 Dec. 22 & 29, 2012	2012	\$4,680	\$5,490	\$6,480	\$6,990	\$8,230	\$450	



SPECIAL SAVINGS FOR GROUPS AND KIDS

BRINGING A GROUP: For your party of eight people or more, you will each receive 5% off the cost of your expedition. A deposit of 10% of the trip cost is required at the time of reservation, and an additional 25% is required 120 days in advance. Final payment is due 90

days in advance. (Excludes extension and airfare.) Note: If taking advantage of this discount, a variation of the cancellation policy will apply. Please ask upon making your reservation.

BRINGING THE KIDS: We believe sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. So, take \$500 off the double occupancy rate for each person under 18.

OUR POLICY ON COMBINING OFFERS: If the expedition that interests you provides more than one savings opportunity (e.g. it is eligible for group and Kids savings), we won't make you choose between them — you may combine up to two offers from any of the applicable savings offers, unless indicated otherwise.

EVERY LINDBLAD-NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BAJA EXPEDITION INCLUDES:

ABOARD SHIP

- ✓ All meals and non-alcoholic beverages
- ✓ Complimentary refillable water bottle
- ✓ 24-hour coffee, tea & soda on demand
- ✓ Hors d'oeuvres & snacks during Lounge Recap
- ✓ Fully stocked Library
- ✓ The guidance and company of our expedition staff

ASHORE

- ✓ Meals on land, as indicated in itinerary
- ✓ Sightseeing & entrance fees
- ✓ Special access permits, park fees, port taxes
- ✓ Transfers to and from group flights
- ✓ The expertise of our expedition staff

ACTIVITIES

- ✓ All excursions
- ✓ Zodiac explorations
- ✓ Kayaking
- ✓ Lectures & presentations in the Lounge
- ✓ Morning stretch classes with Wellness Specialist

On a Lindblad expedition you won't miss out on anything because all activities are included — from guided walks to entrance fees to kayaking. The only things not included are those of a personal nature, or that interest a limited number of people — alcohol, internet usage, tips to the crew, wellness treatments and other specialized arrangements. The value of what we include, combined with the quality of our service and the excellence of our expedition staff, adds up to considerable value — especially when compared to the impact of add-on charges to “savings” other companies offer. It's why we maintain you could literally go on our voyages without a dollar in your pocket, and have a perfectly excellent experience taking advantage of all that we offer.



JOIN US ONLINE

Our community includes people who've traveled with us and people who want to. It's a great way to get news, updates & tips.



Log on and find us at twitter.com/LindbladExp. Our Twitter name is [@LindbladExp](https://twitter.com/LindbladExp), talk to us! And follow Sven [@SvenLEX](https://twitter.com/SvenLEX).



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» LEARN MORE ABOUT BAJA. SEE & HEAR AN INFORMATIVE WEBINAR ARCHIVED AT [WWW.EXPEDITIONS.COM/WEBINARS](https://www.expeditions.com/webinars)

Reservation Information

Costs Include: All accommodations aboard ship, all meals and nonalcoholic beverages aboard ship, meals on land as indicated, shore excursions, sightseeing and entrance fees, special access permits, transfers to and from group flights, use of kayaks, 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, extensions, passport, visa, immigration fees, meals not indicated, baggage/accident/travel protection plan, items of a personal nature, such as alcoholic beverages, e-mail, voyage DVD. Gratuities to ship's crew 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. There will be a \$50 per person service fee if you elect for Lindblad Expeditions to handle your air arrangements.

Note: Complete pre-journey information, including suggestions on what to bring and recommended reading, will be sent prior to departure.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Reservations: To reserve your place, an advance payment for the program as outlined is required at the time of reservation and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover or check. The per person amount due is noted on page 19 within this brochure.

Final Payment: Due 90 days prior to departure.

Travel Protection Plan: Travel protection and medical insurance are available at extra cost. Ask about our comprehensive guest travel protection plan for a worry-free expedition.

Smoking Policy: Smoking is allowed only in designated outdoor areas.

Responsibility and Other Terms & Conditions: Certain other provisions concerning, 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 web site 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 as of publication date, and are subject to change. The company reserves the right to impose surcharges based on increases in the company's actual cost of fuel.

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

This policy applies to expeditions. We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan. Cancellation policy may differ for extensions. Please call for details.

**You will be issued a \$150 Lindblad Expeditions Travel Certificate.*

Note: A variation of this policy applies to a party of eight people or more. Ask for details.

Lindblad Expeditions, as an Active Member of the United States Tour Operators Association ("USTOA"), is required to post \$1 Million with USTOA to be used to reimburse, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the USTOA 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

- > 2008-2010 Travel + Leisure's "World's Best" award for "Small-Ship Cruise Lines."
 - > 2009-2010 Travel + Leisure's "World's Best" award for "Family Friendly Small-Ship Cruise Lines."
 - > 2009, 2005-2008, 1997-2002 Condé Nast Traveler "Gold List."
 - > 2008 National Wildlife Federation honors Lindblad Expeditions for conservation leadership with its Conservation Achievement Award for Corporate Achievement.
 - > 2008 The municipality of Puerto Ayora, the largest city in Galápagos, grants an award to Sven Lindblad for his commitment to the preservation and conservation of the Galápagos archipelago and his commitment to the local community.
 - > 2007 Tourism for Tomorrow "Global Tourism Business Award."
 - > 2007 Seafood Champion Award.
- Go to www.expeditions.com/awards for an extended list.

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For Reservations: Contact your travel agent or Lindblad Expeditions

**1.800.EXPEDITION
(1.800.397.3348)**

Reservation Hours:

Monday – Friday 9am – 8pm ET

Saturday & Sunday 10am – 5pm ET

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