

PRINCETON  
JOURNEYS

# Baja California: Among The Great Whales

February 21-28, 2026  
*Aboard National Geographic Venture*



**SPECIAL AFFINITY GROUP SAVINGS OFFER**



## Dear Princetonian,

Witness the pristine wilderness of the Baja California peninsula in northwestern Mexico, a remarkable destination few people imagine exists in our North American backyard. In winter, California gray whales give birth and raise their calves in the nursery lagoons; board local pangas and experience extraordinary up-close encounters with these gentle giants and their playful calves.

Explore the Gulf of California, where there are countless opportunities to experience a living sea. Observe dolphins by the score and see a variety of whales, including breaching humpbacks and perhaps even rare blue whales. Snorkel lively coral reefs, hike into cacti forests of surreal beauty, kayak along remote coastlines – and generally have the place to yourselves.

Roam freely aboard *National Geographic Venture*, a nimble expedition ship ruled by wind, waves, and weather, and have the kind of experiences that only nature can provide. 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 certified photo instructor.

Do not miss this opportunity to revel in the natural splendor of Baja California with your fellow Tigers. **Contact the Princeton Journeys team at 609-258-8686 or [journeys@princeton.edu](mailto:journeys@princeton.edu) to reserve your place today.**

Please note: Princeton travelers will be joined by those from National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions.

Best wishes for continued curiosity and perpetual learning,



Bridget St. Clair,  
Director, Alumni Education and Travel  
Princeton University

### Special Offer

Save 10% when traveling with Princeton Journeys.

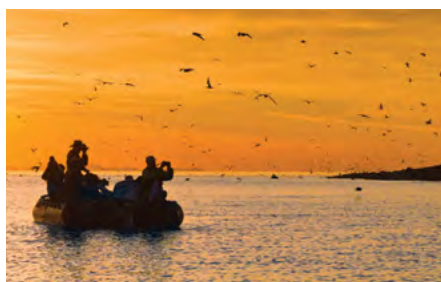
Cover photo: California gray whale and calf. © Ralph Lee Hopkins Opposite: A guest exploring the sandstone cliffs by kayak in the Gulf of California. © Ralph Lee Hopkins

# HAVE UP-CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH GRAY WHALES

You can whale watch in a number of places in the world, but only in Baja California can you have a personal encounter. 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 small pangas guided by savvy local fishermen. The whales are often incredibly social and curious, occasionally approaching the pangas for a closer view. Expert spotters and knowledgeable naturalists join you to enhance your experience among these "gentle giants."

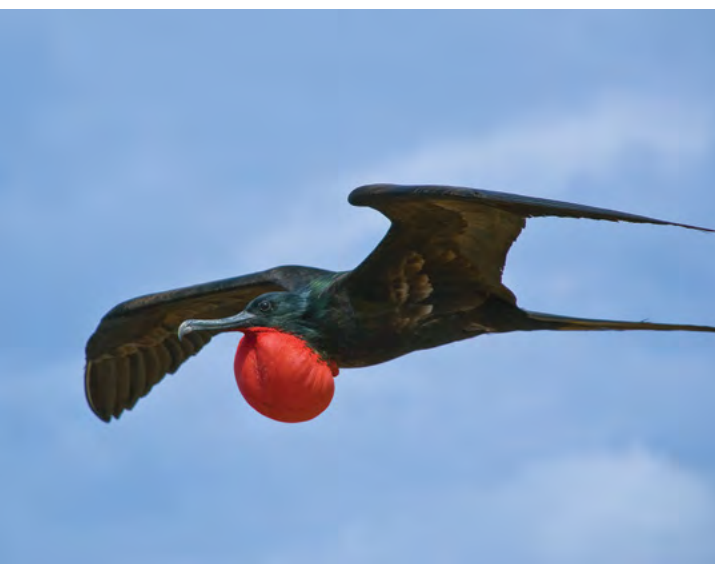


## Explore Pristine Isles and a Living Sea

On the other side of the Baja California peninsula, in the Gulf of California, 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 (conditions permitting) and join a naturalist aboard a Zodiac to observe the diverse birdlife along the shores. When you see Baja California's islands with their desert landscape, rugged cliffs and white sand beaches reflected in an azure sea, you'll understand why they have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

*Opposite page (clockwise from top): California sea lion barking, Los Islotes; guests aboard a panga encounter an adult gray whale, Magdalena Bay; the sea often erupts with scores of leaping dolphins; breaching humpback whale; frigatebird.*





# THE PERFECT WAY TO DISCOVER BAJA CALIFORNIA

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 California, the *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—*National Geographic 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.

*Opposite page (clockwise from top): National Geographic Venture is equipped to explore in comfort; kayaking in the calm water of the Gulf of California; snorkelers exploring the vibrant undersea, Cabo Pulmo National Park; enjoy yoga on deck; a fleet of Zodiacs deployed from National Geographic Venture; go paddleboarding for a personal perspective.*

# TRAVEL WITH AN A+ EXPEDITION TEAM



Discover Baja California 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 California's incredible marine

environment. A 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 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.



## Exclusive Onboard Gear Locker

Dive into the onboard OM System Photo Gear Locker to field test new lenses, camera bodies and more—free. Plus, ask about pre-voyage discounts and benefits.

*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 Gulf of California.*





## Itinerary

Explore Baja California's pristine coastlines and living sea in search of dolphins, sea lions and as many as five different varieties of whales. Board local pangas and enter sheltered lagoons for up-close encounters with California gray whale mothers and their newborn calves. Witness an undersea wonderland, serene desert isles and the most beautiful sunsets on Earth. Hike through towering cacti and up striking desert canyons or take a slow photo stroll along the shore. Every day is different and rewarding, with opportunities to indulge in active or relaxing pursuits.

### DAY 1: LORETO, MEXICO/EMBARK

Arrive in Loreto, a picturesque gulfside town dotted with Spanish colonial architecture. Transfer to the *National Geographic Venture* to set sail at sunset. (D)

### DAY 2: BAHÍA CONCEPCIÓN

Awake in Bahía Concepción, and take your coffee to the deck to witness the colorful landscapes revealed by the first of many gorgeous sunrises. This biodiversity hotspot is ripe for exploration. Board Zodiacs in search of whales and other marine life, kayak through lush mangrove systems and snorkel in turquoise waters. On land, join an invigorating hike among towering cacti, or stroll the pristine beaches and learn about the ecology from the naturalists. (B,L,D)



### DAY 3: EXPLORING THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA

The Gulf of California is home to great biological diversity, and with some luck, sightings of whales, dolphins and other sea life are among the highlights of your journey. The plan is flexible as guests explore some of the uninhabited islands sprinkled across these waters. Conditions permitting, you may hike, kayak or paddleboard. Capture amazing photos with help from your certified photo instructor. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4: BOCA DE SOLEDAD

After breakfast, transfer by motorcoach from Puerto Escondido to Puerto López Mateos. Settle in for unforgettable experiences in this tranquil lagoon. Together with savvy local fisherman, you'll venture out in pangas to view the numerous mother-calf pairs. With luck, enjoy up-close interactions with these curious creatures. Enjoy lunch at a traditional restaurant before returning to the ship in late afternoon. (B,L,D)

## **DAYS 5-7: CABO PULMO/ LOS ISLOTES/GULF OF CALIFORNIA**

Venture south to discover the gems of the southern Gulf. These islands and surrounding waters are celebrated for their conservation stories, marine life and the many thrilling experiences on offer. Some of the locations you may visit or enjoy by Zodiac include:



### **CABO PULMO NATIONAL MARINE PARK**

Set out to snorkel the pristine reefs of Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park, one of the most successful national marine parks in the world. Chat with locals about their advocacy to protect this unique place, including a cessation of fishing to protect the reef.

### **ISLA ESPÍRITU SANTO**

A national park as well as UNESCO World Heritage site with volcanic rock formations, scenic beaches and coral reefs. This magical island offers excellent hiking opportunities and crystal-clear waters for snorkeling. It's a popular destination for researchers monitoring sea turtles.

### **LOS ISLOTES**

Located at the northern tip of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Los Islotes is largely inaccessible to people and home to a large colony of sea lions. Conditions permitting, the ship will anchor off the rocky island where you snorkel (gear provided) with these curious inhabitants.

### **ISLA SAN JOSÉ**

One of the larger islands in the Gulf of California, San José offers several landing possibilities depending on conditions and the whim of the moment. Photograph the ochre cliffs of the island's eastern shore, hike an enchanted, cactus-laden arroyo or visit the abandoned salt works to the west. Discover rare wildlife among desert islands. (B,L,D)

## **DAY 8: LORETO/DISEMBARK**

After breakfast, disembark the ship and transfer to the Loreto airport for flights home. (B,L,D)

### **LORETO PRE-VOYAGE EXTENSION**

Arrive early for a relaxing and educational pre-voyage stay in the charming, seaside town of Loreto, Mexico, the first colonial settlement in Baja California. Visit the Jesuit-founded Misión San Francisco Javier de Viggé-Biaundó and learn about the rich history of the mission and the surrounding area. Enjoy time to explore Loreto on your own and experience the culture and cuisine of this tranquil town.

# National Geographic Venture



Purpose-built to explore North American coastlines, *National Geographic Venture* has decks designed for exceptional wildlife viewing and shallow drafts for navigating the innermost reaches of carved coastlines. She is U.S.-flagged, eliminating domestic customs stops and allowing more time to explore.

## Capacity

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50 cabins and suites accommodating 100 guests.

## Registry

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United States.

## Overall Length

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239 feet.

## Public Areas

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Global Gallery; fitness center; LEXspa; lounge with full service bar and facilities for films and presentations; OM System Photo Gear Locker; observation deck; elevator; 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.

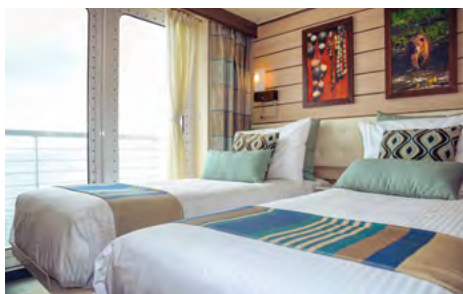
## Meals

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Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere. Cuisine is fresh, sustainable, accented with regional flair and served plated.



*The casual dining room with its expansive windows.*



*Category 4 cabin with single beds (which can be converted to a queen) and a private step-out balcony.*

## Accommodations

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All cabins and suites face outside with windows or portholes, private facilities, climate controls and Wi-Fi connections and USB ports for mobile devices. Category 4 cabins have step-out balconies.

## Expedition Equipment

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A fleet of 8 Zodiacs and 24 kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, ROV (remotely operated vehicle); hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera and video microscope.

## Staff & Crew

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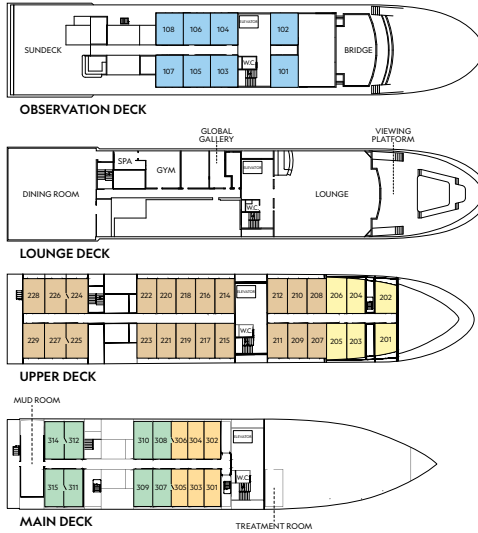
Every staff member is committed to ensuring guests have an unforgettable experience. Many of the veteran guides and naturalists are locally based and have worked with the company for decades. A full-time medical professional, undersea specialist, professional photographer and National Geographic certified photo instructor are on board, and with a low staff-to-guest ratio, you can hear different perspectives and gain new insights every day.

## Wellness

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

# Ship Deck Plan & Pricing



## Voyage Dates

February 21-28, 2026

## Advance Payment Details

15% of the cabin fare, per person

Prices are per person, double occupancy unless indicated as solo

10% Savings

<b>Category 1</b>	<b>\$7,511</b>	<b>\$6,760</b>
Main Deck #301-306 – Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk and two portholes.		
<b>Category 2</b>	<b>\$8,701</b>	<b>\$7,831</b>
Main Deck #307-315 – Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk and two portholes.		
<b>Category 3</b>	<b>\$9,415</b>	<b>\$8,474</b>
Upper Deck #201-206 – Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk and two large windows.		
<b>Category 4</b>	<b>\$10,388</b>	<b>\$9,350</b>
Upper Deck #207-229 – Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, sliding glass door and small, private balcony.		
<b>Category 5*</b>	<b>\$11,529</b>	<b>\$10,377</b>
Observation Deck #101-108 – Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a Queen, large windows, an expanded bathroom, writing desk, ample storage space and a convertible sofa bed to accommodate a third person.		
<b>Category 1 Solo</b>	<b>\$11,431</b>	<b>\$10,288</b>
Main Deck #301-306		
<b>Category 2 Solo</b>	<b>\$13,181</b>	<b>\$11,863</b>
Main Deck #307-315		

**\*Suite Exclusives:** The Suite Exclusives package gives guests staying in eligible cabins access to an array of amenities designed to enhance your onboard experience, including priority booking for spa treatments, complimentary laundry and other exclusive perks.

**Note:** Solo 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

## INCLUSIVE PRICING

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- All accommodations aboard ship
- Excursions and airport transfers, as indicated in the itinerary
- All meals as indicated in the itinerary, both aboard and on shore. Meals and hors d'oeuvres are inspired by regional cuisine and locally sourced
- Beer, wine, cocktails and spirits with premium wines and liquors available for purchase
- 24-hour access to snacks, premium coffees and teas, non-alcoholic beverages and filtered water
- Selection of exploration tools such as Zodiacs, stand-up paddleboards, kayaks and other gear
- The guidance and company of our leading expedition team
- Presentations by expedition team
- Morning stretch class and 24-hour access to the fitness center
- Assistance of the certified photo instructor
- Access to the OM System Photo Gear Locker with the latest gear to try out on loan
- 24-hour access to the lounge, observation deck, library and other shared spaces
- Complimentary reusable water bottle
- Services of a medical professional
- Gratuities to local guides
- Park and site entrance fees, special access permits and port taxes
- Basic Wi-Fi, with the option to upgrade

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SPECIAL OFFERS

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**SPECIAL AFFINITY GROUP SAVINGS:** Save 10% on the cabin fare (as indicated) when traveling with Princeton Journeys. Valid on this departure date of *Baja California: Among The Great Whales* for new bookings only, subject to availability, may not be combined with other offers and is not applicable on airfare or extensions. Call for details.

**BRINGING THE KIDS:** Sharing the expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. Take \$500 off the double occupancy price for each person under the age of 18 at the time of travel. Not applicable on extensions or airfare.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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Prices quoted in this brochure are per person based on double occupancy in USD. Prices shown are subject to change and availability at time of booking. Under normal conditions the total expedition price is guaranteed at the time advanced payment is made. However, our expedition pricing is determined far in advance of initial departure on the basis of then-existing projections of fuel and other costs. In the event of increases in those costs, including but not limited to increases in the price of fuel, currency fluctuations, increases in government taxes or levies or increased security costs, we reserve the right to adjust the price of your expedition or add a surcharge to cover such unexpected increases. We will always provide an explanation of the reason for increase in costs.

**COST INCLUDES:** All amenities listed in inclusive pricing above. Unused services or items included in this program are non-refundable.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Air transportation; passport, visa or immigration fees; meals not indicated; travel protection plan; items of a personal nature such as: premium wines and liquors, enhanced and premium Wi-Fi plans, spa treatments and laundry. Gratuities to ship's crew are at your discretion.

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

**RESERVATIONS:** To confirm your place, an advance payment of 15% of the cabin fare per person is payable by check, Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover.

**FINAL PAYMENT:** Due 120 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:** As a service to its travelers, Princeton University automatically provides Princeton Journeys participants traveling internationally\* with basic medical, accident, and evacuation coverage under a group emergency travel protection plan. This insurance does not include benefits for participant cancellation. It is highly recommended that travelers supplement this basic protection with their own additional coverage, as well as trip cancellation/ interruption or baggage coverage. Insurance information will be emailed to you upon receipt of your reservation. \*Please note, only US residents are covered under the group emergency travel plan.

**ITINERARY MODIFICATIONS:** Itineraries, routing and speakers listed are correct at time of publication, and are subject to change.

**ENTRY AND VISA REQUIREMENTS:** Guests are advised to verify travel documents (passport/transit visa/entry visa) for the country(s) 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.

**RESPONSIBILITY AND OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS:** Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Expeditions' and National Geographic Expeditions' (a division of National Geographic Partners, LLC) 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.

## CANCELLATION FEE POLICY (PER PERSON)

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**120 or more days** prior to expedition start: **No penalty:** Advance Payment will be credited toward your next expedition\*\*

**119-90 days** prior to expedition start: **50% of trip cost\*\*\***

**89-0 days** prior to expedition start: **100% of trip cost\*\*\***

\*\*Advance payments will be credited in the form of a Lindblad Expeditions Travel Certificate, valid for 12 months from the date of cancellation, and which may only be applied towards final payment on any future booking.

\*\*\*Trip cost is total price paid including extensions, charter airfare and other additional services.

We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan.

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# Reservation Form



## Baja California: Among The Great Whales

February 21-28, 2026

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE

### Contact Information

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Please send reservation to:

Princeton Journeys  
Princeton University  
P.O. Box 5256  
Princeton, NJ 08543

Phone: (609) 258-8686

Email: [journeys@princeton.edu](mailto:journeys@princeton.edu)

Register online: <https://forms.gle/iczAkHssPnCkiLsc7>

### Passenger Information

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Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).

Guest 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Princeton Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name as it appears on passport)

M/F: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Princeton Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name as it appears on passport)

M/F: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations:  Double  Single  Twin share with a friend  
 Share with roommate assigned by tour operator.

Please indicate choice of cabin category in order of preference:

1st choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**Advance Payment Information:** 15% of the cabin fare per person.

Please send me information on the **Loreto pre-voyage extension**.

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.

Princeton University is pleased to facilitate travel opportunities for its Alumni and Friends through Princeton Journeys. Princeton Journeys works with tour operators to make available interesting and enriching travel opportunities for the Princeton family. Please note that neither the University nor Princeton Journeys conducts tours, nor does either act as an agent for guests interested in tours. Princeton Journeys acts as a facilitator with tour operators, and tour participants contract directly with tour operators to make arrangements for completing travel. Princeton Journeys encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the tour operator's cancellation and refund policies, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance. Neither the University nor Princeton Journeys is responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses or additional expenses resulting from or relating to travel. Princeton Journeys' complete terms, which you are required to agree to before enrolling in a tour, can be found at: [alumni.princeton.edu/connect/princeton-journeys/terms-and-conditions](http://alumni.princeton.edu/connect/princeton-journeys/terms-and-conditions)

# Baja California: Among The Great Whales

## EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Get up close to gigantic gray whale mothers and their calves in the breeding grounds of Magdalena Bay or Boca de Soledad.
- Snorkel pristine coral reefs in Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park.
- 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.

### LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS: PIONEERING RESPONSIBLE EXPLORATION

From our consistent quest to improve our practices to offsetting 100% of our carbon emissions, supporting conservation, science, and education initiatives around the planet, and investing in the communities in the places we explore, we are guided by our commitment to explore responsibly.

 Printed on 10% recycled content paper with soy-based inks. We recommend that you pass this along for others to enjoy or recycle.



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