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September 04, 2024

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# BAJA ULTIMATE WHALES

The Most Extraordinary Whale Interaction on the Planet



**YOUR TRIP ITINERARY**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**PRE-TRIP ADVENTURES & EXTENSIONS**

**SAMPLE GUESTS WAIVER**

**A NOTE ON GRATUITIES**

**ARE YOU BRINGING CAMERAS INTO MEXICO?**

**YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE!**

## Concierge

Our concierges are available 7 days a week to assist with every part of your upcoming adventures.

+1 604-241-1918 - Please ask for Daniela or Maria  
+52 624-129-9243 (WhatsApp)

**Email:** [concierge@bajaex.com](mailto:concierge@bajaex.com)



## SeeCreatures

Your trip meets at SeeCreatures Cabo.  
You're home away from home!

Open at 6:30 am with hot coffee and bakery on all San Ignacio departure days.

### Address:

Calle Miguel Hidalgo 10, Centro, 23450  
Cabo San Lucas, B.C.S., Mexico

### Open Seven Days a Week

**8am - 5pm (GMT-7)**

- Whale Watching
- Snorkelling
- Discover Diving
- Scuba Day Trips
- Cabo Pulmo & La Paz Pre-Trip Adventures
- Imaging Workshops
- and much more!

*Holiday hours from noon to 8pm.*

+52 624-143-6915  
+52 624-179-6953 (WhatsApp)

**Email:** [info@seecreaturesbaja.com](mailto:info@seecreaturesbaja.com)





## TRAVEL DETAILS

### What airport do I fly into?

SJD.

### When should I fly in?

At least one day early. Of course, this is Cabo in peak winter season and we encourage you to fly in well before that and enjoy Los Cabos and La Paz and the Sea of Cortez. There is so much to do and our concierges are on standby to help you with questions, recommendations and arrangements. Please note that there is a complimentary photo workshop at 9:30 in the morning the day before being transferred to La Paz as well as an afternoon ocean safari with humpback whale watching.

### Why do your trips leave out of SJD?

Because the shortest flight to the Lagoon is from SJD which is super easy to get to with service from 15 different US cities, most of Mexico and even direct flights from overseas. Because Cabo San Lucas in the winter and spring is a really fun place to visit!! Because you won't have any border crossing hassles. And because we offer all sorts of other activities from our Cabo San Lucas base including swimming with whale sharks and other adventures in the Sea of Cortez, scuba diving including our Socorro giant manta liveboard trips, photography workshops and much more.

### What kind of airplane is used for flights to the lagoon?

Late model Cessna 208B Grand Caravan. These are 13 passenger airplanes with a jetprop engines, air con, leather seats, good soundproofing and a large cargo pod.



### Is there a baggage allowance on the airplane?

Yes, 22 pounds (10kg) per person. We ask that you please use soft-sided bags. We understand that you'll likely be travelling with more luggage on this trip. Our recommendation is to pack a smaller kit to take with you to the lagoon and leave your larger luggage with us for safekeeping in La Paz. We will move your luggage back to Cabo San Lucas to meet your return flight.

### What time does the flight arrive back in SJD?

Normally 12:30pm. It's easy to fly home that same afternoon but we recommend booking your flight at 2:30pm or later. It's our pleasure to transfer guests from the FBO private terminal directly over to terminal one or two at the airport when the flight gets in.

### How do I get from SJD into town?

Sealine Cabo Transfers is our recommended provider of airport transfers to and from Cabo San Lucas. For booking, please email Martin at [mmoreno@sealinecabotransfers.com](mailto:mmoreno@sealinecabotransfers.com)

We also recommend Miguel from Fara Nuevo as an alternative option.

**Email:** [mfc949@gmail.com](mailto:mfc949@gmail.com)

**Phone:** +52 (624) 141 6254

### When is the best time to visit?

We only operate in peak season when large numbers of whales are present from January through Mid-March.

### Do you have hotel recommendations in Cabo San Lucas?

We recommend the Casa Bella Hotel conveniently located in the same building as SeeCreatures Cabo. To book, please contact **Barbara** and let her know that you are a client of Baja Expeditions / Nautilus.

To book Casa Bella Hotel

<https://www.casabellahotel.com/>

[info@casabellahotel.com](mailto:info@casabellahotel.com)

+52 624-143-6400

We also recommend the beachfront Solmar hotel group with accommodation ranging from the more basic Solmar Hotel to the very nice Playa Grande to the luxury Solmar Grande. The beauty of these resorts is not just the great people and being on the ocean, it's quiet but just a short walk or taxi ride over the ridge and into downtown Cabo.

Please contact our concierges for hotel booking info to take advantage of our contract rates with Solmar.

### Where do we meet?

We request that you meet us at SeeCreatures Cabo San Lucas for the optional and complementary 9:30 AM photo seminar, or for the 11:00 AM departure for the Ocean Safari.

### What will the weather be like?

It will likely be nice hot weather in Cabo San Lucas with temperatures in the low 80s°F during the day and generally sunny. La Paz and the Sea of Cortez will be a little bit cooler and there's often a gentle breeze. Rain is very unlikely. San Ignacio Lagoon is in the desert, which means it can be cold at night, dropping to low 40s°F. Low temperatures in the morning and then the clouds burn off by early afternoon, making it warmer. Some days are calm, while some days can be quite windy. We are very lucky to have our camp on the north side of the lagoon, where there's more protection from the elements than the camps on the south shore.

### Can you accommodate special dietary requirements?

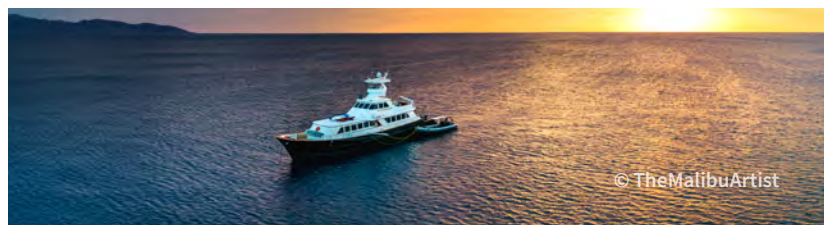
Yes, with at least 30 days advance notice, we will be happy to accommodate your dietary needs, whether vegetarian, vegan, lactose intolerant, gluten-free or halal/kosher quasi-vegetarian.

### What's included with my trip?

Transportation, whale watching, accommodation, all activities, all meals and snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages.

### What is NOT included in my trip?

Park and airport landing fees totalling \$35 USD per person, alcoholic beverages, single occupancy (if available, surcharge applicable), and if you think the service is deserving, crew gratuities - typically between \$300-400 USD per person. Starting in 2025, internet access will be charged \$50 per device per trip.



## ABOUT WHALES

### Will I see gray whales on this trip?

Yes! There are lots of whales in the lagoon and typically 300 to 400 are friendly and interactive with humans. Gray whales first arrive in the lagoon in December and are present through the end of April. There is seasonality to the sightings. More mating activity happens at the beginning of the season and this is when we see newborn calves. The mamas and calves stay in the lagoon until the babies are big enough to safely make the 3000-mile northward trek to BC and Alaska. Towards the end of the season, the calves can be especially friendly.

### Why are we trying to touch the whales? Is this bad for them?

Encounters and interactions with them are entirely on the whales' terms. We only interact with the whales in a small designated area and are very careful to stay away from them in the rest of the lagoon. The whales who are interested in humans literally swim over to this area and approach the pangas. The encounters are not forced in any way. The local captains are very careful not to approach or harass the gray whales. One of the extraordinary things about this interaction is that the whales only approach humans in Baja lagoons. During the rest of the year they are quite shy and reclusive and maintain the normal distance that you would expect between whales and nearby boats.

Interesting to note that gray whales were known as "devil fish" because during the terrible days of industrial whaling, harpooned gray whales would turn around and attack the whalers. Sometimes managing to sink the whaling boats and kill the whalers. All of that changed in 1972 when whaling was outlawed virtually everywhere in the world, and a local fisherman named Pachico felt an irresistible urge to reach out and touch a whale that presented itself beside his boat. We suspect that both Pachico and the whale were astonished by the interaction. Within a year, four whales and a handful of fishermen were interacting with each other. The behaviour we are so lucky to enjoy now grew from those first encounters.

### How much whale watching is included in my trip?

A lot! We'll be spending half a day looking for humpback whales off Cabo San Lucas. We will spend two full days between La Paz and Loreto searching for blue whale mamas and calves. Plus, we will look for other whales that may be in the area, which may well include humpbacks, large pods of dolphins, finback whales, and if you're lucky, orcas, sperm whales or false killer whales.

At the lagoon, you can typically expect three whale watching encounters on each day. There will be the opportunity for two morning sessions and an afternoon session on day 6 and 7, and two sessions on day eight. Not all guests choose to do this much whale watching, it's entirely your option. It is important to know that it can be windy sometimes in the lagoon, which might limit the number of whale encounters that day. Rest assured that we will always do our very best for you.

It is important to note that the whale watching takes place entirely in one designated area with a maximum of 16 boats at one time. That means when the lagoon is at its busiest, each panga can stay in the reserve for 90 minutes maximum, and then needs to exit to allow another panga to enter.

### What kind of boats do you use for whale watching?

Whale watching excursions take place on "panga" boats typically 24 - 28-ft in length. While these boats can accommodate up to 12 guests, we do our best to run with just 6 to 7 guests plus a captain and a naturalist whenever possible. Please note that operational realities in the lagoon may mean that sometimes we have to run with more guests in the pangas. The operation of these boats is a joint venture with the local captains and fishermen which we see as eco-tourism at its finest. Six of our pangas are brand new, leased back to local captains for one dollar per year to help them maximize their earnings with the nicest possible boats..

Pangas are widely used throughout Baja and known for their sea kindness and efficiency coupled with a good amount of speed. Interestingly, the design dates back to a 1970s project and joint venture between Yamaha outboards and the world bank. The design brief was to build a fast and efficient boat for the local fishermen. The name "panga" evolves from the panga fish that the boats were originally designed to fish for.

### My mobility is somewhat impaired. Will I have any trouble boarding the pangas?

No, we have wooden boarding ramps with handrails on both sides of the ramp which make the pangas quite accessible

### I have a bad back. Is this a problem?

No. Just please let us know ahead of time. We have a limited number of comfortable special chairs that we can rig up in your panga.

## WHAT TO BRING

### What should I pack?

Be sure to bring swim wear as you will have opportunities to get in the waters of the Sea of Cortez. We will have wetsuits ready for you onboard the ship.

We strongly recommend bringing layered clothing to San Ignacio Lagoon. It's not uncommon to be wearing a shirt, several sweaters and a windbreaker at 7am and then just a t-shirt by noon. Rain is very uncommon in this area, with the exception of one or two Pacific clouds that pass through every season. Rubber boots are an excellent idea. We have loaner boots and jackets available for everybody.

Comfortable clothes for camp: cotton T-shirts, long sleeve shirts, warm sweaters, shorts and pants, windbreaker, many people bring waterproof pants, a warm jacket, warm sleepwear, lots of extra warm socks, tennis or hiking shoes, water friendly sandals, dry bag, flashlight, sun hat, sea safe sunblock, personal medications, and a camera with loads of SD cards.

### Can I bring my own beer, wine or alcohol?

Sorry, no. For liability reasons, we are not able to allow any outside alcohol into camp. We stock one heck of a bar with a great selection of craft beer, wine, single malt scotch, fine vodkas and much more all at very reasonable prices. We know that you're on vacation. We want you to have a great time and that includes a great selection of drinks at lowest possible pricing.

### Do I need to bring my passport?

Entry into Mexico requires a passport that still has six months of validity

### Do I need a visa?

Mexico requires visas from a certain but small number of countries. Please double check your specific requirements online or contact us for assistance.

### Do I need medical evacuation insurance?

Yes. Because of the remote location of the camp, medical evacuation insurance is required for all guests. We can assist with a purchase of this insurance and it's very affordable. [Click here.](#)

### Should I buy travel interruption insurance?

Yes, highly recommended. We have seen too many guests with a cancelled or delayed flight or problems at work or some other reason for a trip being delayed or cancelled.



## CAMP DETAILS

### What are the tents like?

The short answer is pretty darn luxurious! Our Glamping tents are Weatherhavens which are well known from expeditions as far as the Arctic and all the way south of Antarctica. Each tent has adjustable twin beds or one quasi king and an ensuite bathroom and shower. 24-hour AC power. Lights. Heat. Hot and cold running water. Internet access. And of course, a chandelier over the bed.

Our luxury tents are considerably larger with adjustable twin beds or one king bed. As well as a sitting area with couches and chairs, a dresser, and a much larger bathroom even including twin vanities.

We also have a limited number of family tents which are the same size as the luxury tents, except the sitting area is replaced with extra beds for kids and teens.

Double-size tents are used for the different dining areas and bar.

### Is there Internet access in camp?

WiFi is available for your convenience. Starting in 2025, there will be a charge of \$50 per device per trip. We use Starlink Internet and ask everyone to please be considerate of how much data you use so that everyone has reasonable access.

### Is there a 24 hour power in our tent?

Yes!

### How often can I shower?

Every tent has a full ensuite with hot and cold running water. There is ample water in camp for everyone to take a hot shower every day. But we do ask you to limit it to one shower because water is a very precious commodity in the desert.

### Is there anything to do in camp other than whale watching?

Yes! Of course! Our camp is located beachfront right on the lagoon in the Vizcaino desert and biosphere reserve. It's a gorgeous setting. Watching the sun come up over the Sierra Madres mountains in the morning is stunning. Watching the sunset over the desert at the end of the day is good for the soul and very beautiful. The desert is a quiet and still place but there is lots to do from kayaking, paddle boarding, star gazing under the spectacular Mexican night sky to the billiards table and volleyball court that we set up in camp.

### Will it be quiet in camp or will a generator be droning away?

Our eco-experience camp is silent but don't be fooled! We have 24-hour AC power.

### Are children welcome in camp?

Kids and teens are welcome in our glamping camp. There is an age minimum of 15 years old in the luxury camp unless it's a whole camp buyout.

### Are mosquitoes and bugs a problem?

No, but keeping your tent zipped up all the time is a good idea. If for no other reason, it will keep the coyotes out!

### What happens in the case of an emergency?

Our camp operates with the same emergency preparedness and protocols as our ocean-going liveaboard ships. You can be sure that our camp will be stocked with an AED, emergency oxygen and extensive first-aid equipment and that we have trained "first responders" on site. In the very unlikely event of a medical emergency, medevac flights are available to an acute care hospital in Cabo.

## MORE ADVENTURE

### What can I do in Cabo San Lucas before or after my visit to the Lagoon?

Plenty!!! Take a day trip to the Sea of Cortez with us and swim with whale sharks (weather permitting), snorkel with sea lions, spend a day kayaking around the Unesco World Heritage site, Isla Espirtu Santo, or a day at Balandra Beach or a couple of days in our eco-experience camp. For divers, we have daily departures for 2 and 3 tankers out of cabo, day trips to Cabo Pulmo and for more experienced divers, the sea mounts at Gordo Banks. For non-divers, ask about our Discover Scuba intro. Of course, the ultimate activity is to charter our 45-ft luxury sailing catamaran in the Sea of Cortez or join one of our liveaboard trips.

### Can I make this a longer trip? What activities are available if I fly in early?

We have loads of different activities on offer as pre-and post trip extensions. Day trips that might include an Introduction to Scuba, snorkelling with whale sharks, kayaking adventures, lots of different options for certified scuba divers, Mobula and Orca Ocean Safaris, multi-day sailing, or eco-experience camp, and to our extremely popular expeditions to Socorro Island.



# Pre-Trip Extensions & Adventures



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© Dan Taylor



© David Serradell

Pre-trip extensions. Come and take advantage of us! Whether it's a day of diving or a four day mobula rays & ocean safari adventure before you board a trip to Socorro. We do it all, from Cabo Pulmo or La Paz excursions to our new 48-ft fast boats to the Mexico sardine run.

Loads of options, [click here for details!](#)





## **PASSENGER GUEST WAIVER, RELEASE AND INDEMNITY (the "Waiver")**

In consideration of you allowing me to participate in your camping and/or whale watching and/or excursion (the "Excursion"):

I voluntarily waive, release and forever discharge NAUTILUS DIVE ADVENTURES AND/OR all its related entities: ICARUS AVIATION LTD also doing business as "Lever Diving" AND/OR NAUTILUS EXPLORER MEXICO, S. DE R.L DE C.V. AND/OR BAJA EXPEDITIONS AND/OR BSK, S.A. DE C.V. AND/OR SEECREATURES AND/OR CABO DIVE CENTRE, S. DE R.L. DE C.V (collectively the "Company") and its employees, directors, officers, agents and contractors (collectively the "Operators") from any and all liability, including but not limited to liability arising from the negligence (including gross negligence) or fault of the Operators or any of them for personal injury or death, property loss or damage or any other claims of any kind which may occur to me during or in connection with the Excursion and/or the use or misuse of any equipment, vessels or vehicles.

I agree that all agreements made between the Operators and myself (including this Waiver) shall be governed by the laws of Mexico and the courts of Mexico City, shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any matter relating to the said agreements or this Waiver.

I agree that this Waiver shall be binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators, successors, assigns and my estate and I agree that in the event that a claim is made against the Operators or any one of them in respect of any cause of action relating to me, I will indemnify the Operator(s) for their losses, damage and expenses arising from such claim.

I confirm that I have both read and fully understood the description of the risks involved in participating in the Excursion as set forth in the Company's disclosure information entitled "DIVING EXCURSION RISKS" published on the Company web site (<https://nautilusliveboards.com/diving-excursion-risks/>) and in the pre-trip information package provided to me.

I also confirm that I:

- (a) am physically fit; without any health related reasons that would otherwise preclude my;
- (b) have had sufficient instruction, preparation and/or training for; and
- (c) have not been advised by any medical professional to avoid participation in the Excursion.

Finally, I confirm that I read and fully understood this Waiver before signing and, that I had the opportunity to do so before making any commitment of whatsoever kind or nature to the Company.

**Please note that you will be required to sign this waiver form upon the arrival at the hospitality suite.**



# Our Responsibilities, Your Responsibilities

## Our Responsibilities

- To ensure your safety.
- To give you the best possible experience.
- To treat you with respect and consideration and to provide excellence in service.
- To be responsive to special requests and needs.
- To plan each trip with respect to weather, sea conditions and animal behavior in order to maximize your experience.

## Your Responsibilities

### 1. Animals

We love Mother Ocean! Unfortunately, sometimes guests will demonstrate unsafe or irresponsible behavior towards animals that impedes other guests' experiences and/or may cause harm to the animals. It is your responsibility to follow the staff's directions and recommendations with respect to interaction with the animals. In the unlikely event that an individual is impeding other guests and/or causing harm to the animals, the camp manager/ship captain will speak to that person and give them a formal warning. If the guest continues the same behavior, the camp manager/ship captain has the authority to hold that guest off the water for the remainder of the trip.

### 2. Alcohol

With over 30 years of operational experience, we have learned the safest alcohol policy is to restrict guests from bringing their own alcohol to the campsite and ship. We provide a wide selection of beer, wine and alcohol at our bar at reasonable prices. We are also happy to hold your duty-free purchases or local purchases of alcohol in bond with your luggage in Cabo San Lucas until the end of your trip.

### 3. Government Rules

You must comply with all Mexican government rules and regulations. Please note that government regulations and laws may change without notice. Our contract with you is subject to "force majeure" without compensation.

### 4. Marijuana

Marijuana is illegal in Mexico including medicinal prescription marijuana. We have a zero tolerance policy regarding guests bringing marijuana to our camp and ship.

### 5. Illegal Substances

We maintain a zero tolerance for illegal narcotics or substances. We're required under Mexican law to report any problems to the Mexican Federal Police.

### 6. Staff

Treating our staff with courtesy and respect.

### 7. Getting Sick

We sincerely hope that you stay healthy and don't get sick during your trip. Please let the crew know if you are not feeling well so that we can give you extra love and attention and also do our best to prevent anyone else in the camp and ship from getting sick.



# A Note on Gratuities



I hope we leave you with the feeling that our crew has served you with warmth, good cheer, and has done their very best to provide you with a sense of being safe, along with excellence in guest services. I am very proud of our hard-working and dedicated staff.

Gratuities are never required but are customary in Mexico if you feel that the service is deserving and the staff went way above and beyond in looking after you. For your guidance, most guests tip between \$350 - 450 on these trips.

- \$5 to the bus driver Cabo to La Paz
- \$5 to your restaurant server
- \$15 to the boat crew whale sharks and sea lions
- \$5 per day to the panga captain San Ignacio Lagoon gray whales
- \$150 – \$200 to the crew on the Nautilus Gallant Lady
- \$150 – \$200 to the Baja Expeditions crew, San Ignacio Lagoon

On a personal note, I am always appreciative of any comments or feedback about your experience with us and anything that we can improve on. Comments can be made in confidence from any personal computing device on the nautilusatsea Wi-Fi at <https://NautilusExperience/nautilus>.

As a personal note to thank you for joining us, and if you are interested in the possibility of last-minute travel for repeat clients (only) with incredible savings of up to 75% with offerings 3 or 4 times a year, I would like to extend an invitation to join our Last Minute Club <https://nautilusliveboards.com/last-minute-club/>.

Thank you very much for trusting us with your vacation!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Lever".

**Captain Mike**  
Founder  
*Nautilus Adventures*



# Mexico Customs and Cameras

We have received reports of isolated incidents in which Mexican Customs (Aduanes) has charged taxes cameras and housings being brought into the country by divers. While this is a violation of both Mexican and international law, local officials have continued with this illegal behaviour. We are fighting it in every way that we can with the help of our lawyers and the tourism boards.

In the meantime, the easiest way to avoid problems with customs is to pack cameras and equipment in regular looking suitcases. NOT in pelican cases. No dive stickers. No destination stickers. Just plain old carry-in suitcases. Mexican customs seems to focus on luggage that looks like it contains dive or photography gear.

We are very sorry for this hassle. It's not fair. We sincerely hope that things will revert back to normal with the newly elected government in 2024.

## Other steps that you can take in case your luggage is identified as dive gear

1. Carry invoices for the used depreciated value of your camera and housing. The lower the dollar amount, the less illegal duty you will be assessed.
2. If you do get assessed duty, make contemporaneous notes. Including the identification of the customs officer. They likely won't let you take their photo but they do have to show their badge number. Be sure you note the time, place, badge number and the amount you were assessed.
3. Use your credit card to pay any duties or taxes. That way you can dispute the charge with your credit company. This is where your contemporaneous notes will be very valuable.
4. Please let our concierges know what happened. We will fight hard on your behalf.



# MEXICO & COSTA RICA ADVENTURE

## LIVEBOARD SCUBA DIVING

### Socorro Island

November - July  
9 Days, 8 Nights



From **\$3,395**  
Pp. dbl occ.

### Cocos Island of the Sharks

August - September  
11 Days, 10 Nights



From **\$5,095**  
Pp. dbl occ.

### Sea of Cortez

July - November  
Choose either 5 or 7 nights

Spotter Airplane Supported!



From **\$1,895 / \$2,095**  
Pp. dbl occ.

### Conservation & Citizen Science



Contact Us!

### Nautilus LifeLine



**\$135**

Trade-In Special

## WHALES

### San Ignacio Lagoon Gray Whales

Mid-January - Mid-April  
4 or 6 night adventures  
Glamping & luxury



From **\$2,595**  
Pp. dbl occ.

### Baja Ultimate Whales

Mid-January - Mid-April  
8 Days, 7 Nights

Spotter Airplane Supported!



From **\$4,995**  
Pp. dbl occ.

### Mobulas & Orcas

April - August  
5 or 7 night adventures



From **\$1,975**  
Pp. dbl occ.

### Our Eyes in the Sky



- Our Cessna spotter aircraft is the secret weapon that allows us to both direct our ships on to where the big animals are and has also given us a much deeper understanding of the Sea of Cortez and the Pacific side of Baja.

## SPECIALTY TRIPS

Spotter Airplane Supported!

### Mexico Sardine Run

Mid-October - December  
8 Days, 7 Nights



From **\$3,395**  
Pp. dbl occ.

### Beach Adventure Camp Isla Espíritu Santo

October - May  
2 - 7 Nights



**\$375**  
Pp. per night.

### Kayaking in the Sea of Cortez

October - May  
2 - 7 Nights



From **\$1,895**  
Pp. dbl occ.

### Ultimate Whale Sharks in the Sea of Cortez

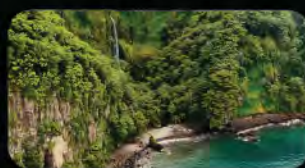
June - October  
8 Days, 7 Nights



From **\$2,895**  
Pp. dbl occ.

### Costa Rica Ocean & Rainforest

May - October  
6 Days, 5 Nights



From **\$1,695**  
Pp. dbl occ.

### NEW! Cruise & Learn Sailing

Year-Round  
8 Days, 7 Nights



**\$2,500** Per Person  
Shared Stateroom

**\$3,500**  
Single Occupancy

### Sailing Adventures

Year-Round - 45 ft yacht  
2 Night minimum



**\$2,250** Per Night

### Day Trips

Year-Round



From **\$125** pp.