Nautilus Adventures

BAJA EXPEDITIONS

Know Before You Go



SAN IGNACIO GRAY WHALES + SWIM WITH WHALE SHARKS

OVERVIEW

TYPICAL ITINERARY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SAMPLE GUESTS WAIVER

A NOTE ON GRATUITIES

WHAT CAN I BRING INTO MEXICO?



Concierge Service

Allow us to serve you better! Whether you have special requests, help with a pre-trip adventure, or assistance with transfers or hotel arrangements, our concierges are on standby to assist.

+1 (604) 241-1918
+52 (624) 129-9243 (WhatsApp)
concierge@nautilusdive.com

SeeCreatures

Your choice of meeting us in La Paz or at SeeCreatures Cabo with complimentary transfer to La Paz.

Address:
Across from the town square in the heart of Cabo San Lucas and old town.
Calle Miguel Hidalgo 10, Centro, 23450
Cabo San Lucas, B.C.S., Mexico

Contact Info:
Tel: +52 (624) 143-6915
info@seecreaturesbaja.com

How can we be of assistance!

- Transfers
- Hotel
- Dining recommendations
- Scuba and snorkelling trips
- Equipment rental and sales
- Local day boat diving
- Cabo Pulmo adventures
- Group trips to Isla Espiritu Santo
- Sailing adventures
- Trip extensions

Stay Connected

Get the latest trip updates, special savings, wildlife sightings, new adventures, inspiring stories, and awesome videos!

Sign Up for Our Newsletter

What is a San Ignacio Gray Whales + Whale Sharks?



Take advantage of two seasons overlapping in Mexico. Off the coast of Baja California Sur, swim alongside whale sharks and encounter gray whales on the same trip.

The journey begins in Cabo San Lucas, where humpback whales breach against Baja's dramatic coastline. In the Sea of Cortez, swim alongside gentle whale sharks near La Paz, snorkel with playful sea lions, explore pristine islands, and kayak through turquoise bays.

Next, a private flight takes you to remote San Ignacio Lagoon, home to the famous gray whales. Here, you may experience remarkably close encounters as curious whales, including mothers and their calves, approach the boats. These are wild animals in their natural habitat, making every encounter unique, spontaneous, and unforgettable.

Possible wildlife sightings:

- Humpback whales
- Gray whales
- Whale sharks
- Sea lions
- Reef fish
- Dolphins
- Turtles
- Migratory and resident birds
- Coyotes
- And more!

Activities include:

- Whale watching
- Swimming with whale sharks
- Snorkelling with sea lions
- Kayaking, paddleboarding, and nature walks

Before Leaving Home



We hope you are excited about your upcoming adventure with us!!

You should definitely pack all the typical items for a Mexican vacation, like sunscreen, shorts, bathing suits, sunglasses, hats, windbreaker, and sweater as it can be cooler at night. We are sometimes asked about seasickness and what works best. The Sea of Cortez is generally calm but it's best to be prepared and we say that you can't beat drugs and alcohol! By which we mean "the patch" (scopolamine) and a nice glass of wine! We also have "sea safe" sunscreen and body wash for our guests which helps us preserve the health and vibrance of the Sea of Cortez.

We are not allowed to use generators on the islands, so lights and charging stations are solar powered. 24-hour power, and household electrical power are always available on the mothership. CPAP machines in camp can be specially accommodated with advance notice. Cell reception can be spotty. For a modest fee, you can get StarLink internet, which allows you to stay connected but it is much slower than shoreside due to the complex satellite connection. Streaming services such as Netflix won't be available, so it is best to pre-download all of your movies and shows!

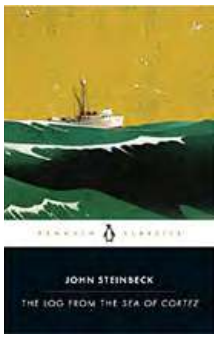
We have a large supply of rental wetsuits, snorkelling gear, and diving equipment. **Please make sure that your pre-trip guest information is completed and submitted to us well in advance so that we can better take care of all of your needs**. The majority of the information is optional, but some information, like your full name and passport information is vital, otherwise the Mexican authorities will not allow you to join us. We are enthusiastic to provide vegetarian, vegan, lactose intolerant, gluten free and quasi-kosher/halal with at least several weeks notice. Keep in mind that you are embarking on an ocean adventure and remote island glamping, so we may not be able to accommodate very specific unique dietary needs.

It is a good idea to make sure that you, yourself, are well maintained and in decent physical condition before your trip. Of course, we accommodate and welcome everybody. However, if going swimming would leave you exhausted and with chest pain, you should be careful about it

There is so much to see in the Sea of Cortez and we will be sure to have binoculars for you as well as our “eagle eyed” crew one critter lookout. We stock rental GoPros and housings at SeeCreatures as well as a selection of SD cards.

Please do **NOT** bring your own alcohol. We don’t allow that. We have a great selection of craft beer, wine, single malt scotches and more, and we are happy to look after special requests if you let us know ahead of time. We have a zero tolerance policy for narcotics and illegal drugs. Marijuana is not legal in Mexico.

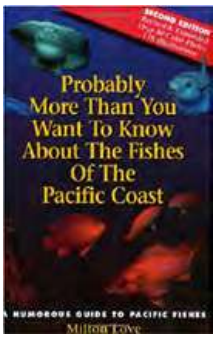
The Sea of Cortez is a magical place and if you can read about it ahead of time, your experience will only be enhanced that much more. Our favourites:



ASIN. B009217FIQ.

The log from the Sea of Cortez
by John Steinbeck

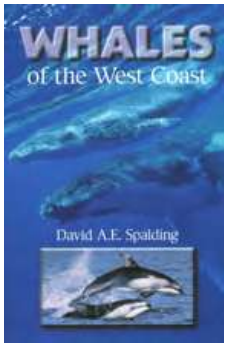
The classic!!! And the book that drew us to Mexico in the first place.



ISBN 0-9628725-5

Probably More Than You Want to Know about the Fishes of the Pacific Coast
by Milton Love

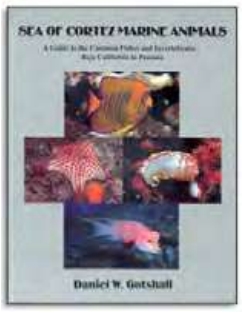
It’s a hilarious good read.



ISBN 0-930118-41-3

Whales of the West Coast
by David A.E. Spalding

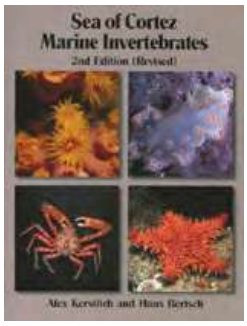
Have you wondered how to tell a blue and finback whale apart?



ISBN 0-930118-26-X

Sea of Cortez Marine Animals
by our friend and guest, Daniel Gotshal

This is our bible to the Sea of Cortez.



ISBN 1-55017-199-2

Sea of Cortez Marine Invertebrates
by Alex Kerstitch and Hans Bertsch

This will open your eyes to all the little critters.

Flying into SJD, Cabo San Lucas



If you are arriving by airline, you will be landing at SJD international airport which is a 45 minute drive from our SeeCreatures base in Cabo San Lucas.

The flight attendants should give you a form to fill out if you are on an international flight. You will get a customs declaration and it's important to fill this out accurately.

You might be able to disembark via a jetway or sometimes by portable staircase and then walking across the airport ramp. Either way, if you are on an international flight you will end up going down a staircase into the international arrivals hall to clear immigration. Then on to the baggage hall to collect your luggage before clearing customs. The customs officer will ask you to press a button and you'll get either a green or red light. Green light means it's margarita time. Red light means you will have to open your suitcase for a customs inspection before you can enjoy your margarita. We highly recommend that after leaving customs, you walk straight through the next area past all the nice people trying to offer their assistance and keep going. They are all time share salespeople and the offer of a free sunset cruise and drinks won't seem so cheap after you have been talked into buying a time share. Your transfer company should have a representative waiting outside the arrivals hall with the name of their company on a sign board.

For our guests arriving on a domestic flight, you have it much easier. You will arrive at the old terminal building. Disembark. Collect your bags. Head to Cabo!

Checking in if you are arriving in Cabo from SJD



SeeCreatures

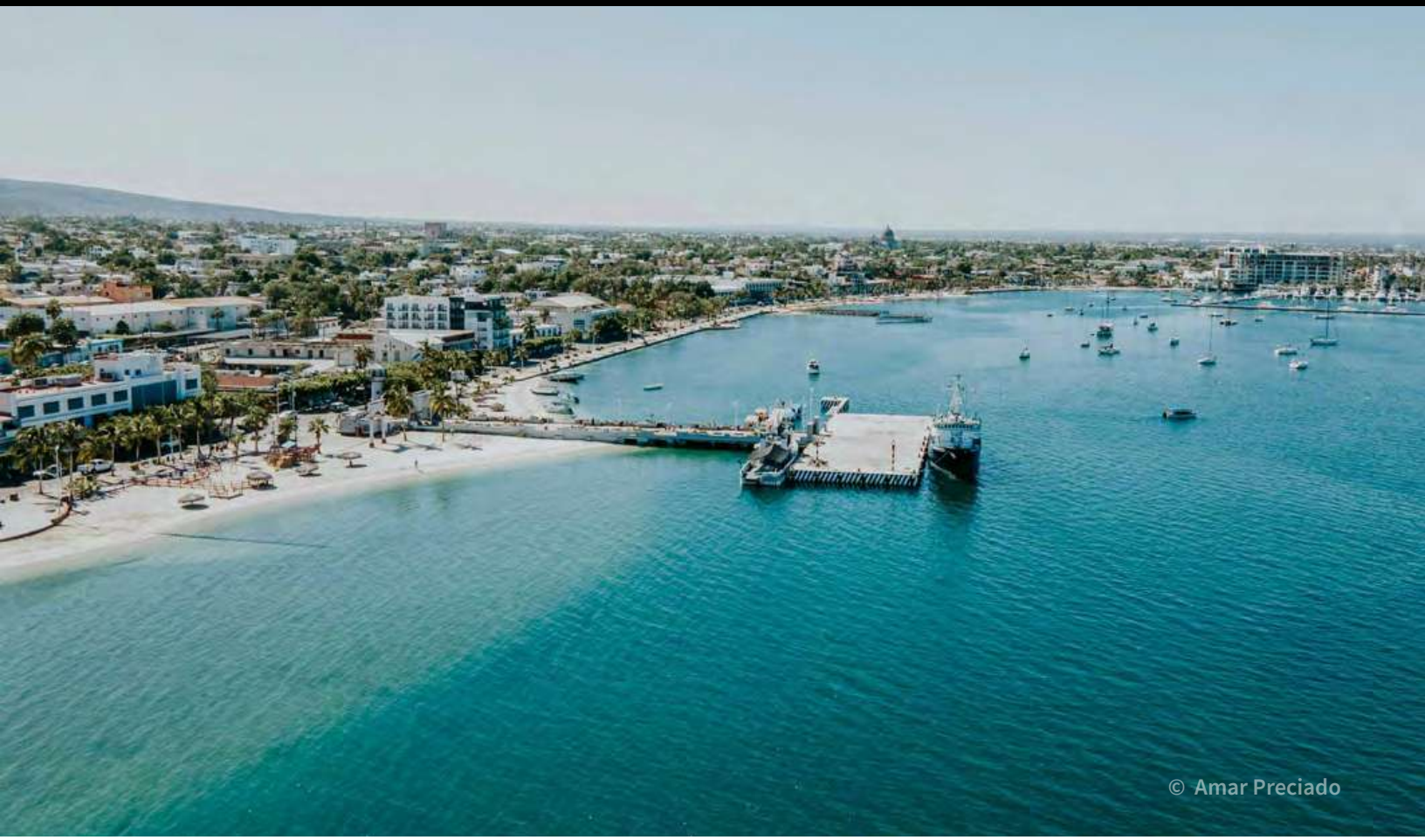
SeeCreatures - Cabo San Lucas
Calle Miguel Hidalgo #10, Centro CSL. C.P. 23450, Cabo San Lucas, BCS

+52 624-143-6915
info@seecreaturesbaja.com

We recommend flying into SJD Los Cabo at least 1 day early to avoid any hassles with cancelled or delayed flights or lost luggage. Even better, it gives lots of time for a day trip to dive or snorkel Cabo Pulmo, a Gordo Bank diving adventure. or maybe a 2 tanker “let’s get wet” dive out of Cabo. Our concierges are on standby to assist with everything, including hotel, restaurant, and transfer recommendations. If you are arriving on the same day as your trip date, we recommend going straight to SeeCreatures Cabo to check-in, drop off your luggage, and then enjoy the rest of your day.

Please drop by SeeCreatures anytime, checking in at 4:00 PM the latest. We have transfers arranged at 04:30 PM to La Paz (approximately a 2.5-hour drive). Please allow ample time beforehand for check-in and fitting any rental gear.

Flying into LAP, La Paz



La Paz is a beautiful city and the the capital of Baja California Sur. The airport is small, modern, and easy to navigate. While there are few connecting flights from the United States, there are great connections from the rest of Mexico.

Upon arrival, you will be disembarking from the jet way, with a short walk across the ramp into the terminal. For domestic flights, all you have to do is pick up your luggage and walk outside and you're done. There are no timeshare salesman or aggressive solicitors to worry about.

If you've arranged a transfer with us, your driver will be waiting just outside the terminal, holding a sign with your name. Otherwise, it's completely fine to take a metred taxi into town or to your hotel.

PLEASE contact us for your specific hotel details.

Please note: Check-in at the La Paz hotel will begin at 6:30 PM. We will have a reservation and prepaid room for you. Settle in and relax. Perhaps go for a walk, grab an ice cream cone, or enjoy a stroll along the malecon (boardwalk), which we highly recommend.

Itinerary Overview*

8 Days / 7 Nights Trip

Welcome to Baja! We are excited to have you join us. We encourage you to fly in early and enhance your vacation with additional adventures. There is so much to do from hotel stay to adventures out of La Paz, sea kayaking, scuba diving, complimentary whale watching, guided overlanding and sailing.

Please note:
To serve you better, our concierge team will reach out ahead of time to assist in every way possible from hotel reservations, transfers and special requests to collecting the required passport information.

**Itinerary is subject to the unpredictability of wildlife, weather, and mother ocean!*



Day 1 – Whale Watching and Central La Paz!

Start with a naturalist-guided humpback whale watching adventure in Cabo, followed by a transfer to your hotel in La Paz. Get settled and enjoy your stay!

Days 2–3 – Swimming with Whale Sharks!

Whale Shark day trip adventures by panga with lunch included. Snorkel with the world's largest fish and playful sea lions at San Rafaelito. Enjoy some free time to explore La Paz.

Day 4 – Choose an Adventure

No scheduled activities, but plenty of options for those who want to keep the adrenaline flowing: Kayaking, day trip to stunning Balandra Beach, Espíritu Santo Adventure – Visit the largest sea lion colony and swim with these rock stars and admire the beauty of this magical place. Lunch included on the beach.

Day 5 – San Ignacio!

Morning transfer to the La Paz airport for a one hour and 40-minute flight directly to the airstrip at San Ignacio lagoon for the most extraordinary whale interaction on the planet. We will be landing on a 4,000-ft airstrip just 5 minutes from camp, where our happy, smiling staff will welcome you with trays of champagne. From there, transfer by suburban to camp for brunch, briefing, and then head out for the first of your whale encounters. After an exciting afternoon, unwind with a cocktail hour, watching the sunset around a campfire, dinner and an evening presentation by your naturalist. A game of pool and specialty drinks in our bar tent is always a great way to finish the day before wandering back to your tent under the magnificent Mexican stars.

Days 6-7 – San Ignacio Lagoon Gray Whales

All operators in the lagoon work together to maximize guest experience while ensuring no negative impact on the whales. For this reason, all whale encounters are in a small defined area of the lagoon with pangas taking turns entering the restricted area for a maximum of 90 minutes. The timing on this is worked out between the operators which means that we abide by scheduled departure times. For this reason, unfortunately, we are not able to send pangas out "on demand". The departure times are defined.

Option 1:
7 am breakfast after watching the sunrise over the sierras and then head out at 7:45 am for several whale watching encounters.

Option 2:
Sleep in and relax. Breakfast when you are ready. With a fixed departure time of 9:45 am, if you want to join the second whale watching session of the day. The second round is around 10 to 10:30 am, depending on the availability in the area for whale watching, and then back to camp for lunch.

After lunch, enjoy another whale-watching encounter in the afternoon. Or as long as the weather cooperates, enjoy kayaking or paddleboarding in the mangroves on the other side of the lagoon, or a leisurely walk, visit a local village to experience and learn about their turtle conservation efforts, mountain biking, hiking, and bird watching with one of our naturalists or just kicking back, and relax at camp. In the evening, enjoying cocktail hour, sunset viewing, making new friends around one of our fire pits, a game of billiards, or an evening presentation by a naturalist are all fine ways to finish off your day in camp.

Day 8 – Return to Cabo

Early breakfast. One more whale watching encounter (always weather dependent) and then the beautiful flight back to SJD Los Cabos. Arriving 12:30 PM. If you are flying home this day, we recommend not booking a flight departure before 2:45 PM. Otherwise transfer back to SeeCreatures Cabo and more adventure!





FAQs

TRAVEL DETAILS

What airport do I fly into?

Los Cabos International Airport (San José del Cabo Airport – SJD) is well connected with flights from 15 US cities, most of Mexico, and some direct overseas routes. It's just a 45-minute drive from **SeeCreatures Cabo**, our sister company in downtown Cabo San Lucas, where you can check in before the complimentary transfer to La Paz (approximately 2 hour 30 minute drive) to start your adventure.

La Paz International Airport (LAP) has direct flights from Los Angeles, plus a handful of domestic hubs. Flying to LAP is the most direct route into La Paz if you'd rather skip the Cabo transfer. It's about a 20-minute drive from our

Baja Expeditions HQ, where you can check in before the complimentary transfer to start your adventure.

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.

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 liveaboard 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 1:30 PM. It's easy to fly home that same afternoon but we recommend booking your flight for 3:30 PM 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.

When is the best time to visit?

We only operate in peak season when there are good numbers of interactive and friendly animals.

How do I get from the airport to town?

Our concierge team can help arrange transfers or recommend reliable local companies. We can often coordinate pickups from La Paz (LAP), but we're not currently allowed to pick up at San José del Cabo (SJD). Note that Uber is not permitted to pick up at SJD either.

Can you recommend a local hotel?

We have great contract rates with some of our favourite local hotels. We are happy to either book accommodations for you or provide recommendations so that you can book directly with the best rates online.

Phone: +1 (604) 241-1918 - Please ask for our concierges.
WhatsApp: +52 (624) 129-9243
Email: concierge@nautilusdive.com

Where do we meet?

We request that you meet us at SeeCreatures Cabo San Lucas at 10 AM for the 10:30 AM naturalist-guided humpback whale watching adventure. Afterwards, a coach transfer to La Paz in the afternoon.

What will the weather be like?

It will likely be nice hot weather in Cabo San Lucas with temperatures in the low 80s°F (27°C) 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 (4°C). 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 from our recommended hotels or SeeCreatures to La Paz, 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), internet access ($50 USD per device), and if you think the service is deserving, crew gratuities - typically between USD$300-350. Please note that the panga captains are independent service providers from the local village and it would be appropriate to tip them directly if the service is deserving.

FAQs

ABOUT GRAY 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 May. 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?

Typically two afternoon whale watching encounters on the first day in the lagoon. Opportunity for two morning sessions and an afternoon session on day two and three in the lagoon. And one morning session before flying out on day four in the lagoon. Not all guests choose to do this much whale watching. It's entirely your option. It is important to note that it can be windy sometimes in the lagoon, which might limit the number of whale encounters that day. Rest assured that we always do our very best for you.

Important to note that the whale watching takes place entirely in one designated area with a maximum of 16 boats at one time. This means that 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 plane on "panga" boats typically 24 - 28-ft in length. While these boats can easily 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. Some of our pangas are brand new, purchased by BajaEx, and 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 kindliness 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.

Can I drink onboard the pangas?

Due to regulations and safety reasons, drinking alcoholic beverages is not allowed during whale watching activities.

WHAT TO BRING

What should I pack?

We strongly recommend bringing layered clothing. 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 into camp?

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.

FAQs

CAMP DETAILS

What are the tents like?

The short answer is pretty darn luxurious! Most of 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 Alternative Current 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 $25 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 on the beachfront right on the lagoon in the Vizcaino desert and biosphere reserve. It's a gorgeous setting. Watching the sun come up over the Sierras, the 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 birdwatching to 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 Alternative Current power.

Are kids and teens welcome in camp?

Yes! One of our luxury camps and our salty dog bar is reserved for adults only. Kids and teens are welcome everywhere else. We do have special family tents with convertible futons in leau of a sitting area.

Are mosquitoes and bugs a problem?

Spiders, black widows, and scorpions can be found in the area. If you are allergic to any of these, please bring your epipen. While they aren't typically a problem, it's a good idea to keep your tent zipped up at all times—to keep out both critters and coyotes!

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 ADVENTURES

What can I do in La Paz 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 Espiritu 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. From our very popular Baja Ultimate Whales that adds a complete package, from swimming with whale sharks and sea lions to cruising on our expedition yacht looking for mama and baby humpback whales, finback whales, huge pots of dolphins and much more. To 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.



© David Serradell

BAJA EXPEDITIONS

Welcome to beautiful San Ignacio Lagoon! We hope you have an outstanding experience during your time here.

Whale Encounters

The most important part of your visit is your whale experience. For your safety, whale watching is weather-dependent and leaves from the beach in front of camp. There are up to 3 scheduled departures daily, with the first round in the morning for early risers. Your camp manager will discuss the timing at dinner every evening.

Camp Amenities

The village where you are staying is self-contained, including a dining tent and a club tent complete with honour bar. At the centre of camp, you will find a larger social and bar tent equipped with a pool table and a wide selection of beer, wine, and spirits. As well as, mountain bikes, volleyball, and pickleball. Kayaks and paddleboards are available just a short panga ride away in the mangroves across the lagoon. Don't forget to book your massage, or ask about tours of the local turtle sanctuary and visits to the nearby oyster farm.

Safety First

For your safety, our managers, naturalists and hosties are all trained in first aid. AEDs, medical oxygen, and trauma kits are located in the bar tent and onboard the panga flying the "Red Cross" flag. An ambulance is based at the clinic in the town of San Ignacio, 45 minutes away. Fire extinguishers are located in each tent, and a fire pump is next to the bar tent. A watchman will be on duty at night in case of any problems.

Weather

The weather can change suddenly at the Lagoon, ie. chilly and overcast in the morning, and then very warm by noon with clear skies and calm winds, and windy by late afternoon. Don't forget your complimentary "sea-safe" sunscreen, even on cloudy days when you go out on the water. Every day is different. We highly recommend layering up to stay warm when it's windy or cool and then you can strip down to a t-shirt when it warms up and the wind lies down. We have loaner windbreaker jackets available, as well as a full line of gift shop clothing, including fleece and warm jackets.

Safe in the Desert

While this is the desert, we generally don't have problems with scorpions, snakes or spiders. However, as a precaution, we suggest:

- Check your shoes before putting them on.
- Pull back the sheets on your bed to check before climbing in.
- Keeping your suitcase or bag zipped up.
- We highly recommend only wearing boots or closed-toe shoes in camp.

Whale Watching Guidelines

Please note that all the operators in the lagoon work together to maximize guest experience while ensuring no negative impact on the whales. For this reason, all whale encounters take place in a small, defined area of the lagoon. Pangas take turns entering the restricted area and for a maximum of 90 minutes. These schedules are coordinated in advance among the operators, which means we must abide by the set departure times. For this reason, we are unfortunately unable to offer "ad hoc" unscheduled whale watching departures.

We wish you the very best and a great San Ignacio adventure.

Mike Lever,

M Lever.

Proprietor, and your team at Baja Expeditions and Nautilus.

Heavenly Massage Therapy at San Ignacio





It's not just the whales that are extraordinary at San Ignacio Lagoon, enjoying a massage here is pretty darn heavenly as well! Massages can be arranged directly with our masseuse or with any of our camp staff. We strongly encourage pre-booking, as appointments tend to fill up fast.

Relaxation Massage
Duration: 50 minutes | Price: US$75

Our "classic" and most popular massage, this gentle full-body treatment using long, flowing strokes, kneading, and circular motions to calm the nervous system, relieve stress, ease muscle tension, improve circulation, and promote overall well-being, focusing on relaxation rather than deep therapeutic work for injuries.

Deep Tissue Massage
Duration: 80 minutes | Price: US$120

Our most popular longer massage this therapeutic technique focuses on realigning deeper muscle layers and connective tissues to relieve chronic pain, stiffness, and tension. Using slow, deep strokes and intense pressure with fingers, thumbs, elbows, or forearms to break down adhesions (knots) and improve circulation. This massage is more intense than the relaxation massage.

Hot Stone Massage
Duration: 90 minutes | Price: US$200

Experience the benefits of geothermal therapy by combining therapeutic massage with the use of hot and cold stones. These stones are placed at chakra points to ensure proper energy flow, relieving discomfort and enhancing overall well-being. The volcanic origin of the stones not only improves your energy flow but also allows your body to absorb the earth's natural energy.

Cupping Massage
Duration: 90 minutes | Price: US$200

Cupping therapy is an ancient technique known for its multiple benefits, including pain relief, alleviating muscle tightness, stress reduction, and skin rejuvenation. By increasing blood flow and expelling toxins, this treatment helps alleviate muscle tension and promote overall relaxation and renewal.

BAJA EXPEDITIONS

Glamping and luxury camps, small ships, expedition yachts, sailing catamaran, 27 boats, and 215 dedicated staff. All focused on creating extraordinary Baja adventures, from whale encounters and ocean safaris to family adventures and the epic Mexico Sardine Run.





San Ignacio Gray Whale Watching

Season **Mid-Jan - Early-Apr**
Duration **4 to 6 day trips**

The most extraordinary gray whale encounters on the planet. Private fly-in glamping in luxury camping in a UNESCO protected reserve.

More info...



San Ignacio Gray Whales + Swim With Whale Sharks

Season **Mid-Jan - Early-Apr**
Duration **8 Days, 7 Nights**

Take advantage of 2 seasons overlapping, swim with whale sharks near La Paz, then fly to San Ignacio Lagoon for the most intimate gray whale encounters on Earth.

More info...



Baja Ultimate Whales

Season **Mid-Jan - Early-Apr**
Duration **8 to 10 day trips**

The full whale migration – humpbacks in Cabo, an expedition through the Sea of Cortez for blue and fin whales, then a private fly-in to San Ignacio's gray whales.

More info...



Ocean Safari + Island Glamping in the Sea of Cortez

Season **Spring & Fall**
Duration **5 Days, 4 Nights**

The Sea of Cortez as most people never see it, orcas, mobula rays, ocean safaris, and zero-footprint glamping on Jacques Cousteau Island. Ocean safaris and pop-up glamping on beautiful deserted beaches on uninhabited islands in the UNESCO National Park. Ask about expedition yacht or sailing options!

More info...



Ocean Safari on Expedition Yacht or Sailing Catamaran

Seasons
Apr - Nov *(expedition)*
Mid-Feb - Nov *(sailing)*
Duration **8 Days, 7 Nights**

Mobula rays in schools of thousands. Sometimes tens of thousands, leaping and flipping as far as the eye can see. And where the rays gather, orcas follow.

More info...



Family Adventures

Season
Year-Round
Mid-Feb - Early-Sept *(peak season)*

The memories of a lifetime in the Sea of Cortez. Spring and summer breaks adventures designed especially for families. Expedition yacht, glamping, or sailing catamaran options.
40% discount for kids and teens.

More info...



Mexico Sardine Run

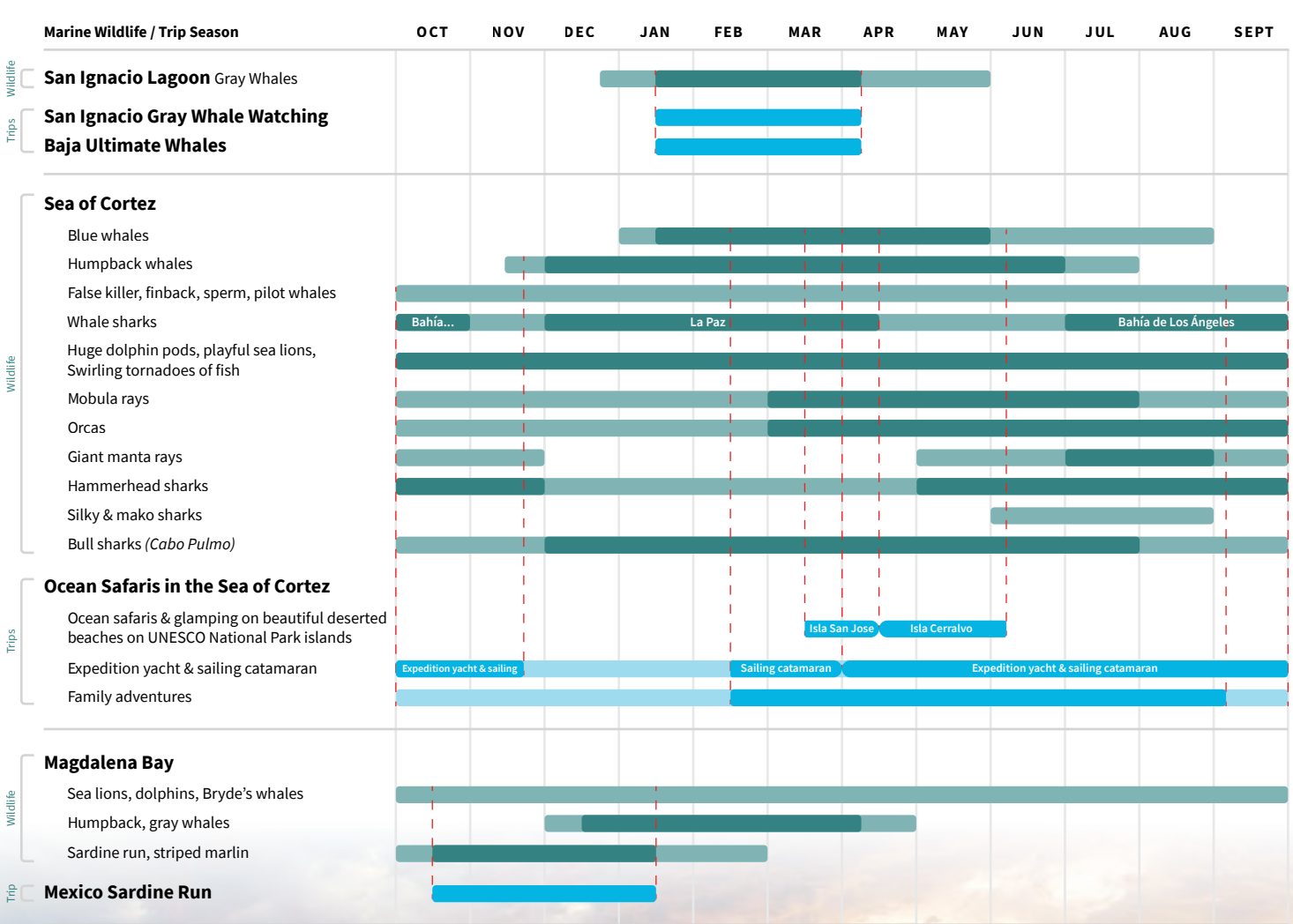
Season **Mid-Oct - Mid-Jan**
Duration **7 Days, 6 Nights**

Every fall, Magdalena Bay comes alive with the world's second-largest sardine run, drawing marlin, whales, & sharks into one extraordinary spectacle. Expedition Yacht or an intimate experience on our sailing catamaran.
Coming Soon: Glamping!



Day Trips

- **Swim with whale sharks**
- **Cabo whale watching**
- **Diving and snorkelling**
  - **Cabo San Lucas**
  - **Cabo Pulmo**
  - **Gordo Banks**



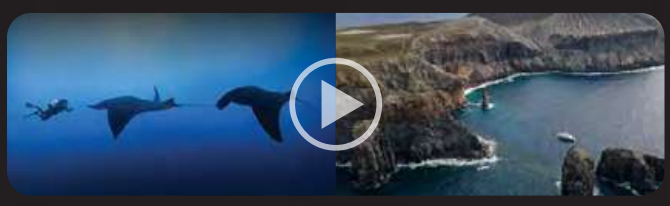
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2026 - 2027 Seasons

Nautilus Diving



ALL ABOUT DIVING



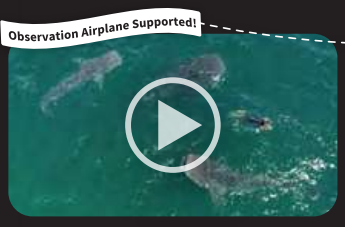
Socorro Island - Giant Mantas, Dolphins, Sharks

Nov - Jul / 9 Days, 8 Nights

Amazing diving is an understatement. Socorro is famous for its friendly giants, the manta rays. This offshore archipelago, national park and UNESCO World Heritage Site is also home to 11 species of sharks including whale sharks and schooling hammerheads, super friendly dolphins and dense schools of fish. It's a must-do experience for any diver.

More info...

Observation Airplane Supported!



Ultimate Whale Sharks

Jun - Oct / 8 Days, 7 Nights

Whale sharks!! Who doesn't want to swim with whale sharks, especially when there are loads of them in a deserted bay and national park deep into the reaches and best diving in the Sea of Cortez.

More info...

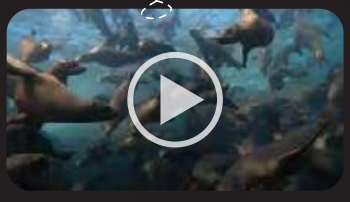


Sea of Cortez 6-Day Getaway

Jul - Nov / 6 Days, 5 Nights

Jacques Cousteau called it the "Aquarium of the World." We call it the perfect 5-night getaway including, dives, hikes, beach time, and Baja hospitality. Calm waters, and amazing wildlife.

More info...



Sea of Cortez - La Paz North to Loreto

Jul - Nov / 8 Days, 7 Nights

This eight-day expedition pairs the famous La Paz dive sites with the remote islands of Loreto National Park. Up to four dives a day!

More info...



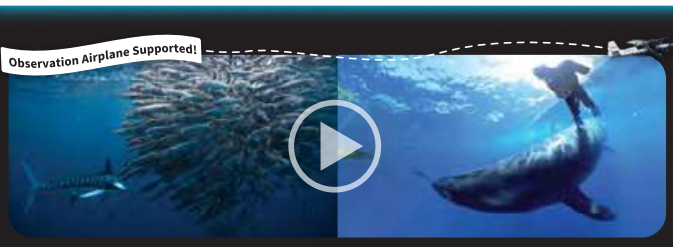
Sea of Cortez - La Paz South to Cabo Pulmo

Jul - Nov / 8 Days, 7 Nights

The southern Sea of Cortez at its best: our favourite dive sites around La Paz, then the living spectacle of Cabo Pulmo National Park!

More info...

Observation Airplane Supported!

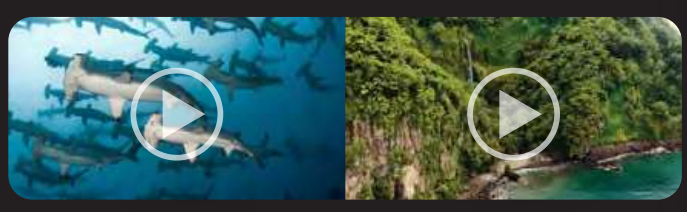


Magdalena Bay - Mexico Sardine Run

Oct - Jan / 7 Days, 6 Nights

Experience the Pacific side of Baja, where Magdalena Bay explodes with life during the annual sardine run. Imagine bait balls, striped marlin, playful sea lions, sharks, sea birds, turtles, and even bryde's whales!

More info...



Costa Rica Cocos Island of the Sharks

Aug - Sept / 10 or 11 day trips

Cocos is the dive destination that experienced divers speak of in whispers. It's legendary, super sharky, and some of the best diving anywhere on the planet.

More info...

Costa Rica Ocean & Rainforest

August / 4 Days, 3 Nights

132-ft liveaboard safari boat. Unique adventure combines peak humpback whale season with diving Caño Island and naturalist guided rainforest adventure.

More info...

1 DAY ADVENTURES

Scheduled departures—Bookable online (prices include 16% IVA tax)

20% savings when booked as a pre-trip extension

$80
Whale watching *(Dec - May)*

$140
Snorkelling
Boat diving
Discover scuba

$245
Dive gordo banks
Diving courses
Nitrox course

$295 **incl. transfers, lunch, wetsuit, gear*
Cabo Pulmo - dive or snorkel
Swim with whale sharks *(Dec - Jan)*

Group charters available upon request
Isla Espíritu Santo, Los Islotes, and Balandra beach.

SeeCreatures

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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 British Columbia, Canada and the courts of British Columbia 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 website *(https://nautilusliveaboards.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 arrival.

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 will speak to that person and give them a formal warning. If the guest continues the same behavior, the camp manager 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. 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 La Paz until the end of your trip. Due to regulations and your safety, drinking alcohol during whale watching is prohibited.

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.

5. Illegal Substances

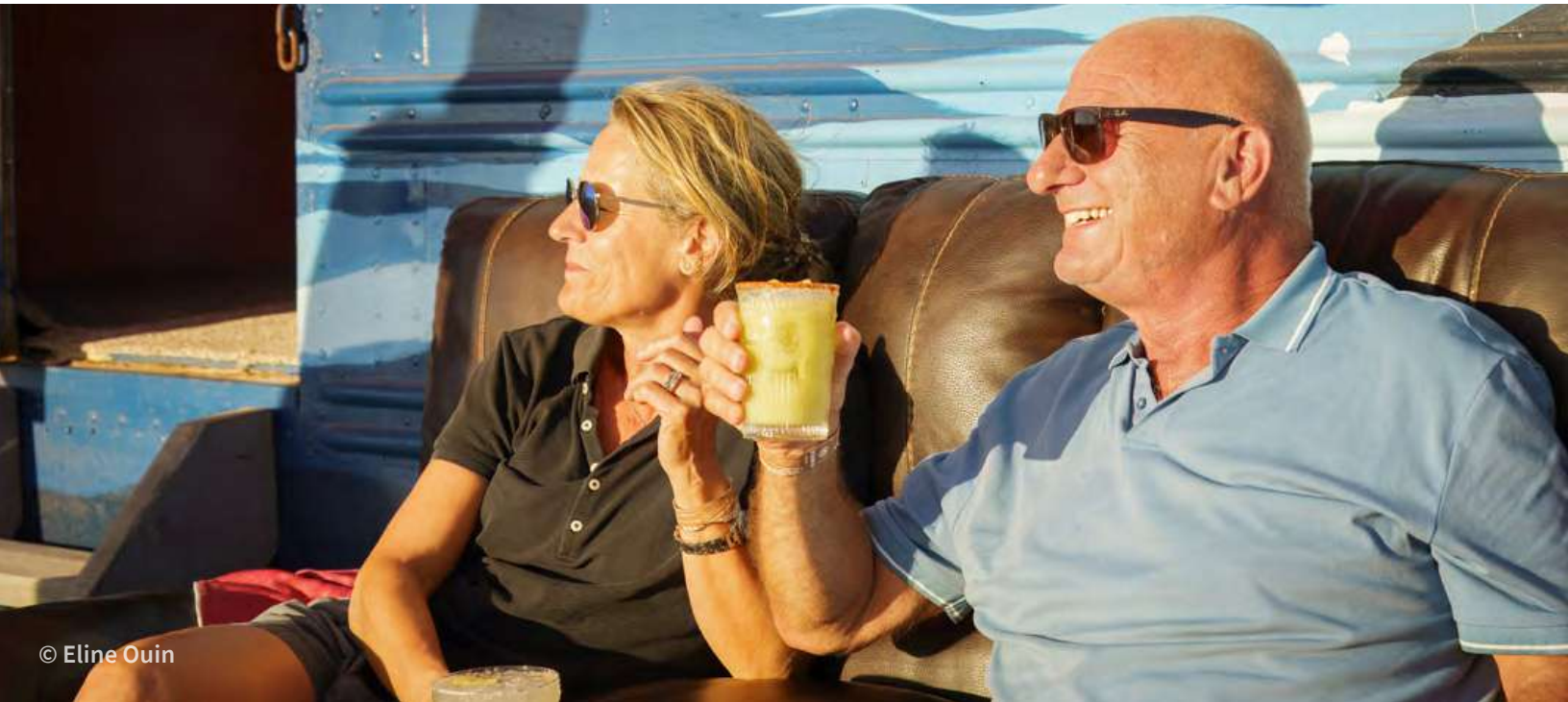
We maintain a zero tolerance for illegal narcotics or substances. We're required under Mexican law to report any problems to the Mexican Federal Police.

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 camp from getting sick.



A Note on Gratuities



I hope we have left you with the feeling that our crew has served you with warmth, good cheer, and has done their very best to ensure your safety and excellence in guest services. I am incredibly proud of our hardworking and dedicated staff.

For your guidance, most guests choose to leave a gratuity of US$300–$350, noting of course that this is entirely discretionary. Our local panga captains are part of a much larger team that supports every whale expedition. However, if you are so inclined, the captains have asked us to pass along their request to please be tipped separately. This is, of course, completely up to you.

Your feedback is vitally important to us and always very much appreciated. I would really appreciate any comments or thoughts you might share. Simply click on "**Your Feedback**" on the camp Wi-Fi portal to share your thoughts.

On a personal note and as my thanks to you, I invite you to join our **Last Minute Club**, exclusively for repeat clients. Members receive incredible savings of up to 75% on last-minute adventures, offered 3 or 4 times a year. If you love awesome deals, simply click on "**Last Minute**" on the camp Wi-Fi portal to sign up.

Thank you very much for trusting us with your vacation!

Sincerely,

M Lever

Mike Lever
Proprietor, Baja Expeditions

BAJA EXPEDITIONS

What objects can I bring in my luggage to Mexico?

If you are visiting Mexico, you may bring the following tax-exempt items, whether new or second hand:

- Baby gear, such as strollers, car seats, cribs, walkers and their accessories.
- Two cameras or camcorders and camera gear; three cellphones or other wireless devices; one GPS; one electronic organizer; one laptop, notebook, omnibook or other portable computing device; one portable copier or printer; one CD burner and one portable overhead projector and its accessories.
- One tent and other camping articles.
- Two sets of personal sport gear; four fishing rods; three gliders with or without sails and their accessories; trophies and awards, as long as you can carry them without any difficulty.
- Two musical instruments and their accessories.
- One hand tool set, including its case, a drill, pliers, wrenches, screwdrivers, power cords, etc.
- One pair of binoculars and one telescope.
- Five laser disks, ten DVDs, thirty CDs, three software packs and five storing units for any electronic device.
- Five toys, including collectables, one videogame console and five videogames.
- One blood pressure monitor and one blood glucose monitor (or one monitor for both purposes), reagents included; drugs and other psychotropic substances, including cannabis, in which case you must present the prescription, have the medical identification number or any other contact detail of your physician and exclusively bring the amount needed for your trip.
- Valises, trunks, suitcases or any other item needed to carry your personal belongings.
- If you are over eighteen, ten packs of cigarettes, twenty-five cigars or two hundred grams of tobacco; three litres of alcoholic beverages and six litres of wine.
- Wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches or any other assistive device for the elderly or disabled people.
- One portable audio recorder, audio player or audio recorder and player (or two digital sound and image recorders or players instead), one portable DVD player and one set of portable speakers and its accessories.

If you enter or leave Mexico, you must declare any sum of money equaling US$10,000 or more that you bring in cash, checks, money orders, other cashable documents or a combination of them. Failing to declare carries a fine ranging from 20% to 40% of the exceeding amount. Failing to declare sums of US$30,000 or more is punishable by six months to six years of imprisonment and the amount being seized for the federal treasury if its lawful origin is not demonstrated. Should you not prove its lawful origin, you will be sentenced to a period of five to fifteen years of imprisonment and to one thousand to five thousand day-fines.

For more information, please contact the following Mexican government agencies:

- Servicio de Administración Tributaria (SAT):
  www.sat.gob.mx
  (55) 627 22 728 in Mexico City or +1 (877) 448-8728 from the USA and Canada

- Instituto Nacional de Migración (INM):
  www.gob.mx/inm
  53 87 24 00