

# BAJA'S WHALES & SEALIFE

## MEXICO'S SEA OF CORTÉS



Steinbeck, Cousteau... now it's your turn to explore the "world's aquarium" on a Mexico cruise in the Sea of Cortes. Greet sea lions from the boat or skiff, or slip into a wetsuit for an even closer encounter. Getting your sea legs is easy too—relax with toes in the sand, on a hike, or atop a mule through the canyons of Baja. Land and sea are a step, or kayak, away.



**DATES – Every SATURDAY**

**2024 – Jan 20-Apr 27**

**2025 – Jan 4-Mar 29**

**DURATION – 8-Days/7-Nights**

**EMBARKATION – La Paz (Mexico)**

**DISEMBARKATION – La Paz (Mexico)**

**SHIP – M/V Safari Voyager**

**FROM – \$5,500**

*(Plus. \$495 port charges)*

## HIGHLIGHTS:

### Adventure Activities

High adventure on an inland sea! Feel the thrill of active exploration or the warmth of the sand relaxing on a secluded beach.

### Wildlife & Plant life

Jacques Cousteau called the Sea of Cortés “the world’s aquarium”—and you’ll quickly agree! From gracefully gliding whales to bustling bird colonies, Baja is abuzz with life.

#### LAND ANIMALS & BIRDS

More than 40 reptile and amphibian species, over 50 mammal species, and nearly 200 bird species call Baja California Sur “home.” While many are masters of disguise and concealment, here are some of the local residents you might spy:

- Spiny-tailed iguanas
- Lizards: horned, zebra-tailed, and worm
- Coyote
- Boobies
- Pelicans
- Cormorants
- Magnificent Frigatebirds

#### MARINE ANIMALS

From the largest mammal on earth to the tiniest micro-organisms, the Sea of Cortés supports an incredible array of marine life. Thousands of invertebrate species cohabitate with more than 900 species of fish as well as whales and other large marine mammals. You might see:

- Gray, humpback, blue, and fin whales
- Whale sharks and dolphins
- Sea lions and mobula rays
- Butterfly fish, parrot fish, oarfish, and starfish

#### FLORA OF BAJA

Remarkably, the arid desert of the Baja Peninsula supports over 500 species of plants. An incredibly unique ecosystem, animal life is inextricably linked with cacti—a relationship that helps preserve diversity of both plant and animal life.

- Cardon cactus, Cholla cactus, Pitaya cactus
- Mesquite
- Palo Verde trees
- Mangroves
- Elephant trees

## ITINERARY:

### DAY 1 – Saturday - San José del Cabo / La Paz – Embarkation

¡Bienvenidos! You will be met at the Los Cabos International Airport in San José del Cabo and transferred to our hospitality area. Joined by your expedition team, an overland orientation transfer to La Paz acquaints you with the dramatic Baja landscape and the week that lies ahead. The captain and crew welcome you aboard just in time for a cocktail and dinner with your new mates. (D)

### DAY 2 – Sunday - Isla San Francisco

Adventure in a playground of steep red bluffs and sweeping desert beach. Don some flippers for a snorkel among colorful sea life, put on your walking shoes for an exploratory romp along the ridge, grab a paddle and kayak, hop on a paddle board, or relax on the beach with the sand between your toes. The rugged beauty of the island makes it an ideal spot for escapades. (BLD)



### DAY 3 – Monday - Bahía Agua Verde

At Bahía Agua Verde, clear waters are bordered by sparse craggy mountains hemmed in green. Explore the coast by small skiff, visit with a local ranchero and his family, and take to the canyons and mountains on a mule ride and experience the “real Baja.” Scenic vistas, outstanding exploration, excellent birding, and unmatched camaraderie—the day is done. (BLD)



#### **DAY 4 – Tuesday – Isla Coronado**

Enjoy the beautiful beaches of Isla Coronado this morning - snorkel, kayak, or take a skiff tour. Watch for frigate birds and blue footed boobies in the air and dolphins and sea lions on the water - the waters here are so crystal clear you won't want to come back to the boat! It's worth it though - and depending on the time in the season we may set out to explore Loreto town. Founded in the 17th century by Jesuit missionaries, the downtown area features no fewer than seven historical monuments, including the Mission of our Lady of Loreto, the starting point of the Camino Real. Finish a day full of the best of nature and culture with a nightcap under the stars. (BLD)

#### **DAY 5 – Wednesday – Marine Life Search**

Mother Nature is your guide today. The Sea of Cortés is home to fin, blue, and sperm whales, and the dolphin pods number in the hundreds. If the gray whales have arrived on Baja's west coast (mid-January – early-March)—migrating more than 12,000 miles to calve in Bahía Magdalena—you'll drive across the peninsula for a panga ride to observe these mammals and their babies in the lagoon.

Mid-March through April are your best chance to see whale sharks near La Paz and in other parts of the Sea of Cortes. Later in the season, we have resident whales and dolphins in our sights. Whichever the day brings, there's also a chance to head into the Sierra La Giganta Mountains for a tour of the crown jewel of Baja's historic missions, San Javier; time for a brief exploration in magical Loreto; or more water play and hikes. Bring it on! (BLD)



#### **DAY 6 – Thursday - Los Islotes / Isla Partida**

At Los Islotes—a steep craggy seamount leaping straight from the sea—slip into a wet suit for a snorkel with curious, agile young sea lion pups. At Isla Partida, get set for water play (kayaking, snorkeling, and stand up paddle boarding are all on the menu) and island hikes along

desert beaches or into rocky arroyos. Or, kick back with a beach party—complete with a cool drink and sun-soaked lounge. (BLD)



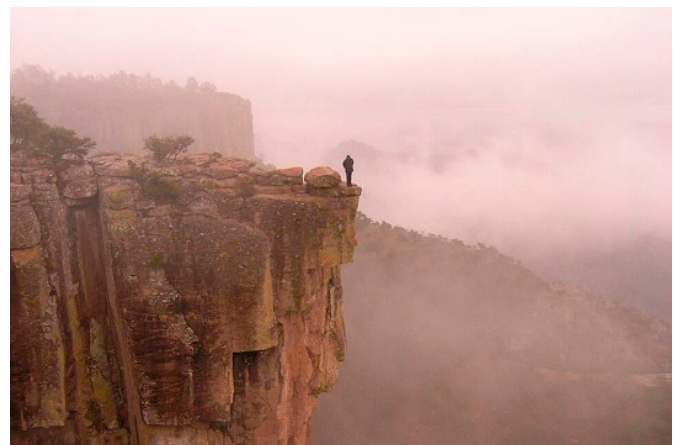
#### **DAY 7 – Friday - Isla San Jose, Evaristo, or Nopolo**

Tuck into a secluded cove surrounded by long fingers of red rock and a golden beach. Spend your last full day enjoying the feel of warm sand under your feet on a beach walk, investigate nooks and crannies in the rocks by kayak, or explore a little further afield on a guided hike. Celebrate your week at tonight's special Farewell Dinner with an entertaining slideshow by your expedition team. (BLD)

#### **DAY 8 –Saturday - La Paz / San José – Disembark**

After breakfast, it's "adios" La Paz, as you disembark the vessel and transfer back to San José del Cabo for your flight, or hotel stay.

**Add a visit to the amazing Copper Canyon.** You will fly from La Paz across the Sea of Cortes to Los Mochis, where you will overnight in a beautiful historic hacienda in El Fuerte. In the morning, board the El Chepe narrow gauge train to climb from sea level to 8,000 ft – one of the world's most scenic railways. Spend two nights at the beautiful Mirador Hotel, built on the rim of the canyon. End in Chihuahua for your flight home.







## DEPARTURES - EACH SATURDAY

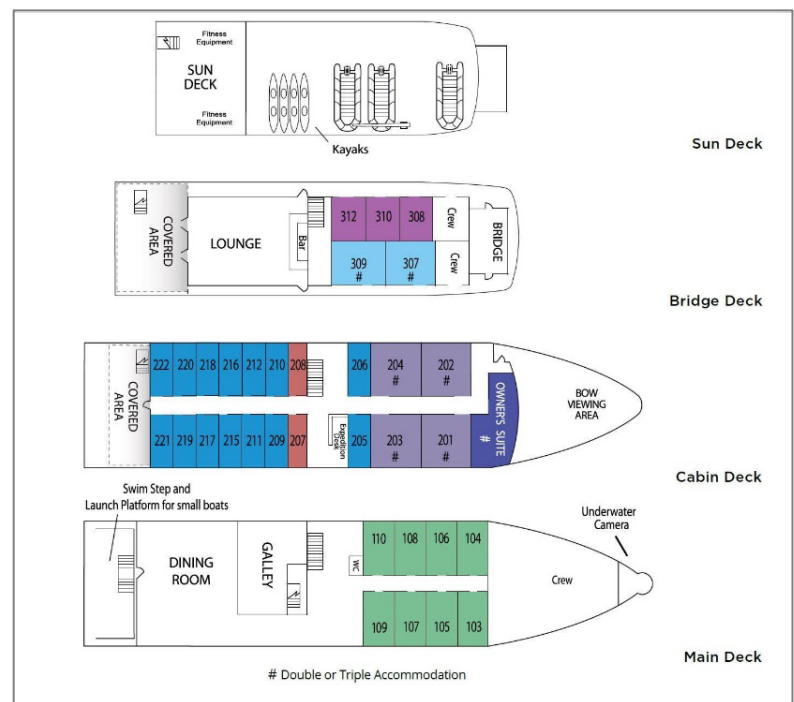
RATES PER PERSON/ DOUBLE	2024 JAN 20-MAR 30 2025 – All	2024 APR 6	2024 APR 13-27
NAVIGATOR	\$ 6,500	\$ 7,150	\$5,500
TRAILBLAZER	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,810	\$6,100
PATHFINDER	\$ 7,700	\$ 8,470	\$6,500
ADMIRAL	\$ 8,400	\$ 9,240	\$7,100
JR. COMMODEORE	\$ 9,400	\$ 10,340	\$8,000
COMMODEORE	\$ 11,900	\$ 13,090	\$10,100
SINGLE	\$ 9,100	\$ 9,200	\$8,300

### INCLUDED:

Group transfers from the airport to the ship on day of embarkation; Group transfer to airport or central location upon disembarkation; All scheduled landings/excursions; All lectures and briefings onboard; All meals served aboard; premium spirits, wine, beer; non-alcoholic beverages; Coffee/tea/cocoa/espresso 24 hours daily; Pre-departure materials.

### RATES DO NOT INCLUDE:

Port Charges (\$495); Visa and passport fees (if applicable); Airfare; Luggage, trip cancellation and Emergency Evacuation Insurance; Personal expenses such as laundry and telecommunication charges; Staff gratuities; fuel surcharge may be applied for all bookings; Pre- or post-cruise travel expenses.



**Reservations & Information**  
**1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)**

Email - [info@explorcruises.com](mailto:info@explorcruises.com)

[www.explorcruises.com](http://www.explorcruises.com)