

# *BAJA NATURE ADVENTURE*

Baja California, on the western coast of Mexico, is one of the best places on Earth for whale and dolphin watching. The waters surrounding the Baja California peninsula possess an abundance of marine life and can offer truly life-changing experiences. Join us on a “seafari” adventure as we explore the Baja coast by sea, visiting various remote destinations including San Benitos Island, San Ignacio Lagoon, Magdalena Bay, Cabo San Lucas, and the amazing Gulf of California. Not only do we hope to pet friendly Grey whales, encounter giant Blue whales, acrobatic Humpback whales, thousands of dolphins, and over 10 other marine mammal species, but there are hundreds of bird species and other marine animals that are possible to see. On top of that, we will get to see some of the most beautiful landscapes and breathtaking views around.

## *HIGHLIGHTS*

- Experience excellent whale watching with life-changing up-close encounters
- Good chance of seeing Blue, Humpback, Fin, Grey, Bryde’s, and Sperm whales. We’ve also seen Minke whale, Orca, False killer whale, Dwarf sperm whale, Short-finned pilot whale, Bottlenose dolphin, Common dolphin, Risso’s dolphin, Pacific white-sided dolphin, Baird’s beaked whales, Cuvier’s beaked whales, and Peruvian beaked whales.
- Wide variety of other wildlife includes: many sea, shore and land birds including blue-footed boobies, Laysan albatrosses, black-footed albatrosses, magnificent frigatebirds, red-billed tropicbirds and hummingbirds; California sea lions and Guadalupe fur seals, Whale sharks, sea turtles, Munk’s pygmy devil rays and more!
- Shore landing and snorkeling (including with California sea lions and possibly Whale sharks).
- Explore and hike remote islands, enjoy beautiful turquoise water beaches and coastal mangroves.
- Two expert naturalists on board to help guide the trip
- All aboard the very comfortable and thoroughly equipped Spirit of Adventure vessel with a highly experienced crew and two talented chefs.

***DATES: February 28- March 10, 2024***

***GROUP SIZE: 26 passengers, 2 naturalists***

***ITINERARY*** (exact day-to-day itinerary may change according to weather and nature)

***Day 1:*** Travel to San Diego, CA. Board the Spirit of Adventure at 7PM for orientation and depart by 10PM

***Day 2:*** Brief stop in Ensenada MX to clear with customs and immigrations. Head south offshore in search of wildlife including whales, dolphins and seabirds for the entire day.

***Day 3:*** Morning landing on San Benitos Island. The first half of the day will be spent exploring the island where you can choose to hike to the lighthouse or spend time and observe the breeding Elephant seals, Guadalupe fur seals, different bird species, flora and fauna. After lunch we spend the remainder of the day on the Spirit of Adventure and search for more ocean wildlife.

***Days 4-5:*** We arrive in San Ignacio Lagoon where we will spend two full days with the friendly Grey whales. Choose to whale watch on the local whale watching pangas up to three times a day or from the Spirit of Adventure anchored in middle of the lagoon.

***Day 6:*** The entire day will be spent offshore of Magdalena Bay observing ocean wildlife. This area is frequented by Blue whales, Humpback whales, Grey whales, Dolphins, sea turtles and a variety of seabirds.

***Day 7:*** On this day we round the tip of the peninsula, passing Cabo San Lucas visiting the Gorda Banks where there can be fantastic whale watching with the Humpback whales that gather here.

***Day 8-11:*** The itinerary for the remaining four days will be flexible to maximize our experience in the mesmerizing and scenic Gulf of California. We expect to encounter a variety of marine life while cruising the gulf and visiting different islands, islets and beaches. Snorkeling, hiking and whale watching are all on the menu in the gulf and we never know what we will encounter when here.

***Day 12:*** Disembark the Spirit of Adventure by 9am in Cabo San Lucas where you can choose to stay or transfer to San Jose del Cabo (45-minute ride) for airport.

***ABOUT THE BOAT:***

The Spirit of Adventure has been taking these Baja excursions for the past 35 years. At 88 feet in length, it is perfect for whale watching with a full walk-around deck space for wildlife observation and outdoor seating, and a spacious salon that seats up to 30 where you can dine or lounge in comfort. While air-conditioned cabins are small without en-suite facilities or portholes, the vessel has four heads and three hot water showers and is a very clean and comfortable boat. It is equipped with state-of-the-art navigational equipment and three launchable skiffs for shore landings and skiff rides. The vessel maintains eight (8) highly experienced crew members including: at least two expert captains, two chefs, and a local Mexican guide on board to ensure your trip is safe and enjoyable.

***PRICE: \$5,495 per person***

***Payment schedule: 20% non-refundable deposit due upon booking; final balance due 90 days prior to trip departure. TRAVEL OR TRIP INSURANCE IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED***

***Price includes: all accommodations and meals aboard the Spirit of Adventure; all excursions as described in itinerary; pangas in San Ignacio Lagoon; Mexican tourist card; Mexican permits and fees.***

***Price does NOT include: any hotels; airfare or flights; transfers; parking; travel or trip insurance; alcoholic and canned beverages on the boat; crew gratuities aboard vessel; panga driver gratuities in the lagoon; swimming with whale sharks (if it is available to use local panga service); laundry; personal items.***