

BAJA CALIFORNIA HOLIDAY: A LIVING SEA AND DESERT ISLES CRUISE

Transport your holiday traditions to Baja California for a spectacular celebration of wildness. Designated by UNESCO as a marine world heritage site and dubbed "the world's aquarium" by Jacques Cousteau, the waters and islands of the Gulf of California are places of legendary biodiversity. This isolated region is, arguably, the best place in the world to keep watch for a vast variety of whale species plus massive pods of dolphins, leaping mobula rays, and seabirds.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Home / Loreto, Mexico / Embark Ship

Arrive in Loreto, a picturesque gulfside town dotted with spanish colonial architecture. Transfer to the _National Geographic Venture_ to set sail at sunset.

Arrival Time: Arrive before 2:30 p.m. local time.
Arrival City: Loreto, Mexico

Day 2-7 Exploring the Gulf of California



Writer and longtime Lindblad naturalist Stewart Aitchison refers to this sliver of the Pacific Ocean as the Vermillion Sea, and notes it is "a romantic name that conjures up visions of fiery sunsets, leaping dolphins and deserted beaches." It is all this and so much more. Your route is designed with flexibility in mind to maximize opportunities for wildlife sightings. It most likely includes the islands and activities listed below, although the order may vary.

**Isla San Esteban and San Pedro M artir: **Walk up a desert wash to search for desert songbirds such as the handsome black-throated sparrow, listen for the cascading song of the canyon wren and search for the endemic pinto chuckwalla--a plump, harmless desert lizard. Later, visit Isla San Pedro Martir, a 1,000-foot-high guano-covered island that is home to thousands of seabirds: brown pelicans, magnificent frigatebirds, Brandt's cormorants and blue-footed boobies.

Isla San Marcos: At Isla San Marcos there is a beautiful shoreline for swimming, snorkeling and kayaking. In the afternoon you'll again be in rich waters near the mouth of Bahia Concepcion. Be on the lookout for pods of dolphins--common and bottlenose dolphins are the most frequently encountered species. With luck these beautiful animals may follow the ship, riding the bow wave--sometimes twisting and turning, and sometimes leaping from the water.

**Isla San Jos e: **One of the larger islands in the Gulf of California, San Jose offers several landing possibilities depending on conditions and the whim of the moment. Photograph the ochre cliffs of the island's eastern shore, hike an enchanted, cactus-laden arroyo or visit the abandoned salt works to the west. Search for the endemic Xantus's hummingbird on this desert island.

**Bah ia Loreto Marine Park: **Search for marine life in the waters south of Isla Carmen, an area offering the possibility of encountering fin whales, which researchers have recently concluded may be part of a resident population. Bottlenose and common dolphins are frequently encountered. In the afternoon, visit one of the islands of Bahia Loreto Marine Park, with ample time for kayaking, snorkeling, stand-up paddleboarding and possibly hiking. In the evening, enjoy a beach barbecue under the desert sky.

Esp iritu Santo Archipelago National Park / Los Islotes: At Los Islotes, don flippers, a mask and snorkel (which are provided) and swim with curious sea lions. Look skyward for yellow-footed gulls, brown pelicans and blue-footed boobies. In the afternoon, explore more of this stunning national park by swimming, kayaking or hiking. Keep an eye out for the endemic Black jackrabbit, and learn about the importance of mangrove habitats.

Day 8 Loreto / Disembark Ship / Home

After breakfast, disembark the ship and transfer to the Loreto airport for flights home.

Departure Time: Depart after 1:00 p.m. local time.
Departure City: Loreto, Mexico

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE

YOUR SHIP: **National Geographic Venture**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Launched 2018 Designed with over 50 years of expedition heritage, National Geographic Venture is able to explore the same remote locations as National Geographic have sought out for decades while setting a new standard in comfort and style. She will follow National Geographic Quest in featuring step-out balconies (available in 22 of the 50 spacious cabins), plus 6 sets of connecting cabins for families and groups; a Sun Deck bar, and a designated mudroom for expedition gear. Comfortably accommodating 100 guests, Venture has a shallow draft depth, allowing us to navigate the same inner reaches and provide the same intimate experiences of the charismatic regions we explore. Her twin expedition craft landing platforms allow you to get on and off the ship quickly to take advantage of wildlife sightings and to ensure we maximize our time off the ship exploring. Designed with decades of expedition experience in the region, the purpose-built vessel also features open decks, generous windows, and specialty tools for exploration--the ideal platform for sailing into the fast-moving channels and shallow coves of Alaska and the Pacific Northwest and for exploring the tropical waterways of Central America. Remotely Operated VehicleCapable of reaching 1,000 feet, far beyond the range of any Scuba diver, the ROV allows you to literally view parts of the undersea that are as unexplored as the moon. Chances are you, like many of our guests, will be struck by how surprisingly colorful undersea life is in these unlikely places. And this glimpse may fundamentally change how you view the ocean. KayaksNational Geographic Venture is equipped with 24 two-person kayaks--a fleet large enough to ensure everyone who wants to can paddle at every opportunity. Consequently, prior kayaking experience isn't necessary--many of our guests have their first kayaking experience in extraordinary locations. Our custom-designed floating platform lets us deploy kayaks from the ship, or any location we want--including far from shore. Kayakers are usually free to explore where they want within boundaries set by the undersea specialist and officer of the watch. Underwater cameraOur undersea specialist will dive often during your expedition, even in Alaska, with cold-water gear, to shoot high-definition, Cousteau-like footage of the deep. Colorful nudibranchs, swimming, plant-like crinoids, and mysterious fish with antifreeze blood that thrive in the frigid sea will give you an entirely new appreciation of the marine environment. Video microscopeNaturalists will use the video microscope to help explain all elements of the environment, including tiny organisms that are the building block of the marine ecosystem. Spellbinding live views of krill at 80x magnification fills the high-definition screens in the lounge with vivid detail, and fills every onlooker with a sense of wonder at the importance of otherwise unobservable creatures. HydrophoneThis underwater microphone is deployed to listen to the vocalizations of marine mammals. Real time transmissions

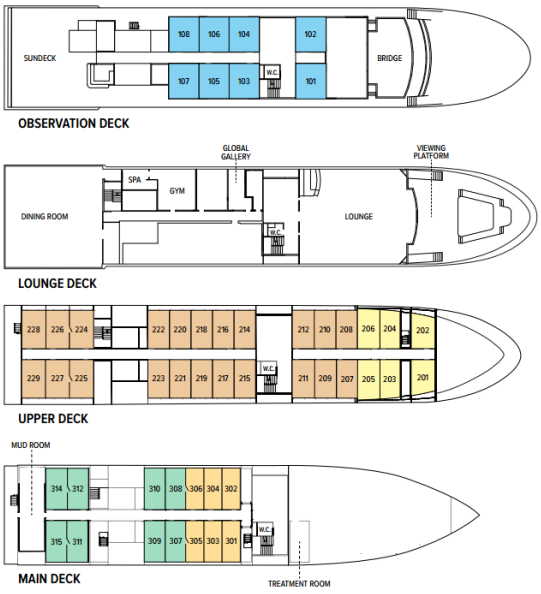
of their eerie, haunting sounds can be broadcast through the ship or recorded for later playback. Few experiences in nature are as captivating as watching humpback whales feed close to the ship as their vocalizations play through the ship's PA system. Electronic chartsAn electronic chart showing the ship's location, course, and speed is almost always on display in the lounge. Open bridgeYou'll find our captains are engaged, knowledgeable members of your expedition who are eager to share their passion with you. Venture's open bridge features comfortable spaces to sit, enjoy the view, drink your morning coffee, or simply chat with the officers. Snorkeling gear & wetsuitsOn warm weather itineraries where there will be snorkeling, you'll select a mask, snorkel, fins, and wetsuit that remain yours for the duration of the expedition. There's no need to pack and tote your own gear, although guests who prefer to are welcome to bring



their own.



INSIDE YOUR SHIP



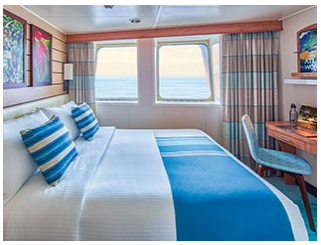
Category 01



Category 02



Category 03



Category 04



Category 05





PRICING

04-Dec-2026 to 11-Dec-2026

Category 04	£6458 GBP pp
Category 05	£7107 GBP pp
Category 01	£4702 GBP pp
Category 02	£5031 GBP pp
Category 03	£5382 GBP pp

12-Dec-2026 to 19-Dec-2026

Category 05	£6041 GBP pp
Category 01	£3997 GBP pp
Category 02	£4276 GBP pp
Category 04	£5489 GBP pp
Category 03	£4575 GBP pp

19-Dec-2026 to 26-Dec-2026

Category 03	£5870 GBP pp
Category 05	£7748 GBP pp
Category 01	£5130 GBP pp
Category 02	£5489 GBP pp
Category 04	£7046 GBP pp

26-Dec-2026 to 02-Jan-2027

Category 05	£7748 GBP pp
Category 01	£5130 GBP pp
Category 02	£5489 GBP pp
Category 03	£5870 GBP pp
Category 04	£7046 GBP pp

02-Jan-2027 to 09-Jan-2027

Category 05	£7504 GBP pp
Category 02	£5313 GBP pp
Category 03	£5687 GBP pp
Category 04	£6824 GBP pp
Category 01	£4962 GBP pp

25-Nov-2027 to 02-Dec-2027

Category 04	£5771 GBP pp
Category 05	£6351 GBP pp
Category 01	£4198 GBP pp
Category 02	£4496 GBP pp
Category 03	£4809 GBP pp

02-Dec-2027 to 09-Dec-2027

Category 02	£4496 GBP pp
Category 01	£4198 GBP pp
Category 04	£5771 GBP pp
Category 03	£4809 GBP pp
Category 05	£6351 GBP pp



PRICING

09-Dec-2027 to 16-Dec-2027

Category 03	£4809 GBP pp
Category 02	£4496 GBP pp
Category 05	£6351 GBP pp
Category 01	£4198 GBP pp
Category 04	£5771 GBP pp

16-Dec-2027 to 23-Dec-2027

Category 04	£5771 GBP pp
Category 03	£4809 GBP pp
Category 02	£4496 GBP pp
Category 01	£4198 GBP pp
Category 05	£6351 GBP pp

23-Dec-2027 to 30-Dec-2027

Category 01	£4733 GBP pp
Category 04	£6496 GBP pp
Category 05	£7145 GBP pp
Category 02	£5061 GBP pp
Category 03	£5412 GBP pp

30-Dec-2027 to 06-Jan-2028

Category 02	£4740 GBP pp
Category 03	£5069 GBP pp
Category 04	£6084 GBP pp
Category 01	£4427 GBP pp
Category 05	£6695 GBP pp

08-Jan-2028 to 15-Jan-2028

Category 04	£5504 GBP pp
Category 02	£4290 GBP pp
Category 01	£4008 GBP pp
Category 03	£4588 GBP pp
Category 05	£6053 GBP pp

29-Mar-2028 to 05-Apr-2028

Category 04	£6519 GBP pp
Category 01	£4733 GBP pp
Category 02	£5069 GBP pp
Category 03	£5427 GBP pp
Category 05	£7176 GBP pp

05-Apr-2028 to 12-Apr-2028

Category 02	£5069 GBP pp
Category 01	£4733 GBP pp
Category 03	£5427 GBP pp
Category 04	£6519 GBP pp
Category 05	£7176 GBP pp