



"The Grand Dame" of Women's Adventure Travel Since 1982

2014 ~ Celebrating 32 Years!

DATES

January 29 - February 4, 2014

COST

\$2,695 Includes round trip airfare* from Los Angeles to Cabo, Baja, Mexico. (\$800 deposit)

*airfare is based on 2013 prices and is subject to change

RATING

Easy to Moderate

ACTIVITIES

Whale Watching from Skiffs, Sea Kayaking, Beach Hiking, Fishing, Cultural Exploration, Photography, Mexican Cooking Class.

MAIN ATTRACTIONS

- Experience guided Baja whale watching each day in motorized skiffs, with expert naturalist-guides and spot magnificent Gray Whales that have migrated from the Bering Sea to their winter home in the warm Pacific lagoons of the Baja Peninsula.
- See newly-born, one-ton whale calves who must grow and learn survival skills before making the return journey to the Arctic the following Spring.
- Explore deserted beaches, hike and enjoy bird watching and sea kayaking in Baja from our beautiful and remote safari-style "catered" beach camp in Magdalena Bay.
- Enjoy interesting sites and activities in La Paz, Mexico from kayaking and snorkeling with sea lions to swimming with whale sharks!

AdventureWomen is the oldest adventure travel company for active women over 30.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH THE GREAT GRAY WHALES

Gentle Giants at Play in Baja, Magdalena Bay

For an extraordinary winter getaway, join us for 7 days of whale watching, snorkeling, sea kayaking and swimming in Magdalena Bay off Mexico's Baja Peninsula. Relax at AdventureWomen's remote "safari-style" Baja, Mexico beach camp for close encounters with California gray whales, the "Gentle Giants of the Pacific!"

Each year California Gray whales migrate an astonishing 12,000 miles, round trip, from their summer feeding grounds in the Bering Sea, to their winter home in the warm Pacific lagoons of Mexico's Baja Peninsula. In the quiet Baja waters, they give birth to their one-ton calves who must then grow and learn the skills necessary for survival before making the return journey to the Arctic the following Spring. This gray whale migration is beyond compare in the mammalian world!

On our 2014 whale watching tour, during the day, our highly experienced local staff will ferry us through the waters of Magdalena Bay on Mexico's west coast to whale watch from 22-foot motorized skiffs, perfect conveyances from which to have a "whale's eye view" of the Great Grays! Go sea kayaking, hiking or bird watching to round out your Baja whale watching adventure. Relax in the evenings and enjoy fresh, local Mexican cuisine and interesting slide shows and lectures by our knowledgeable guides.

The Gray whale is the largest animal to have ever exhibited friendliness towards humans. There is little to compare with the experience of closely observing a mother nurse her calf, or seeing juveniles leaping exuberantly out of the water. They frolic, breach, spyhop, and lobtail, while spouting heart-shaped clouds of mist into the cool midday air. The young calves are especially curious, following and sometimes even nuzzling up to the whale-watching skiffs. Sometimes they catch a ride on their mother's backs!

Cap off your Baja vacation with a day in La Paz, Mexico where you can choose from many optional and interesting activities to pursue on your own – from shopping in La Paz to kayaking and snorkeling with local sea lions or swimming with whale sharks, the largest fish in the ocean and a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to bond with one of nature's most fascinating creatures. Join us for 6 days of adventure on a whale watching and sea kayaking adventure in Baja, Mexico!

ADVENTUREWOMEN, INC. | 300 RUNNING HORSE TRAIL | BOZEMAN, MT 59715

EMAIL: trips@adventurewomen.com | WEBSITE: www.adventurewomen.com

406-587-3883 | 800-804-8686 | 406-587-9449 FAX

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR BAJA ADVENTURE TOUR

- Round-trip air* flights from Los Angeles to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico (*Based on 2013 airfares and subject to change).
- Private taxi transfer between Cabo San Lucas Airport and La Paz, Mexico hotel on the scheduled day of trip arrival and departure.
- 3 nights double occupancy hotel accommodations in La Paz.
- All land arrangements and boat transfers from La Paz to our expedition camp on Magdalena Bay on the Baja Peninsula.
- All meals from breakfast on day 2 through dinner on day 6.
- Base camp safari accommodations on the beach in large, walk-in tents with cots and sleeping bags, double occupancy (two cots).
- Sleeping bag.
- "Catered" camping, with spacious dining tent for sit down meals.
- Daily guided whale watching excursions with experienced local skiff drivers and expert naturalist guides.
- Fun with sea kayaks (stable ocean canoes) for sightseeing around the mangroves and along the shoreline.
- Evening slide shows, lectures, and more!
- Mexican cooking class at a boutique cooking school or Farewell Dinner.

NOT INCLUDED

- Round-trip air from your hometown to Los Angeles.
- Gratuities (approximately \$100 per person), which are divided among guides and the camp crew).
- Dinner on the first night in La Paz, breakfast on day 7.
- Single supplement for a single hotel room and tent costs \$195, single tent at camp only is \$75 (these are limited and based on first come first serve).

HOW TO REGISTER

First, call (800-804-8686) or email (trips@adventurewomen.com) the AdventureWomen office to determine space availability. As a courtesy, we will hold your space for 5 days while you are completing the registration process, and making personal and travel arrangements.

Next, complete and sign the Trip Registration and International OR Domestic Passenger Information forms on our Web site by clicking "Sign Up for this Trip" on the trip page. We can also fax or email them to you. Include, with your forms, the required deposit that can be made by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover), personal check, money order, or cashier's check. You can also give us your credit card number over the phone. Once we receive **your deposit and BOTH forms**, we will mail you a trip confirmation/information packet verifying your registration.

Then, call our travel consultant assigned to your trip, Ciretta Green (1-800-247-3538), to make your airline reservations.

PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR MEXICO

Because security at airports and borders is extremely tight now, it is necessary to have a U.S. passport as proof of citizenship for ALL international travel.

PHYSICAL CONDITION, HEALTH REQUIREMENTS & HEALTH INSURANCE

This trip is rated as Easy to Moderate. The physical activity involved with whale watching, getting into and out of boats, and the demands of travel require being in good health and physical condition.

There are no required immunizations for travel to Mexico. You should carry with you a sufficient supply of any prescription medications (in their original containers) that you need. You must have your own health insurance.

OUR EXCITING ITINERARY FOR CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH THE GREAT GRAY WHALES, BAJA, MEXICO

Day 1 Wednesday, January 29, 2014: *Travel to La Paz*

We meet early this morning at the Los Angeles Airport for our mid-morning flight to Cabo, Baja, Mexico. **It is mandatory that you check in at the airline departure desk in Los Angeles at least 3 hours before your departure time, so please work with CIRETTA, our travel consultant, to ensure you have ample connection time in Los Angeles.**

Upon our early afternoon arrival in Cabo, we transfer as a group by private taxi to the **Hotel Posada Luna Sol (#564 Topete, La Paz 011 52 612 1230559)** We select one of the wonderful local restaurants for dinner on our own tonight, and have brief orientation and overnight stay at the Hotel Posada Luna Sol.

Day 2, 3 & 4 - Thursday, Friday, Saturday January 30 - February 1: *At Whale Camp*

After an early breakfast at the hotel, we have a 3 ½ hour drive by van and skiff (45 minutes) transfer to our overnight beach camp and home for the next three days. This beautiful camp is on the lee side of the barrier

LIABILITY FORM AND FINAL PAYMENT

Part of what AdventureWomen, Inc. hopes to foster is the taking of more self-responsibility for our own lives, health, and safety. Please read the Liability Form carefully, sign it, and return it with the remainder of your balance due by:

OCTOBER 31, 2013.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date, and 50% of the registration deposit is non-refundable.

For cancellations received 60-89 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable. For cancellations received 1-59 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance to cover emergency situations and trip cancellation. Information is sent to you in your registration packet.

SWITCHING TRIPS

Before your final balance due date, you may change your deposit to another trip within the same calendar year by paying a \$75 fee to switch. You may not switch your deposit to a trip in another calendar year.

NO SMOKING POLICY

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen vacations.

islands, nestled in sand dunes. It faces the bay and often provides a great view of whales and dolphins.

A typical day begins with breakfast at about 8 A.M. During the day, participants decide in what order they want to go whale watching, beachcombing, bird watching, hiking, or spend time relaxing!! Our evenings include slide shows and lectures about what we are seeing and hope to see, storytelling about whales, and perhaps moonlight floats or hikes.

(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)

Day 5, Sunday, February 2: *Afternoon Transfer to La Paz*

After our final morning of whale watching and after lunch at camp, we bid goodbye to the gentle giants, and depart for La Paz, where we overnight at the Posada Luna Sol Hotel. There is time to shower and enjoy some shopping before dinner on our own in town.

(Breakfast and Lunch)

Day 6, Monday, February 3: *Optional Activities in La Paz and Farewell Dinner*

Today you can choose optional activities to do on your own, based on your personal interests and the weather. Or you can spend the day shopping and relaxing in La Paz (or a combination of both)! Kayak and snorkel the beaches of La Paz; take a trip to snorkel with sea lions; or swim with whale sharks, the largest fish in the ocean and a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Tonight's special Farewell Dinner is a private cooking class with the ladies from a boutique Mexican cooking school.

(Breakfast and Dinner)

Overnight at Posada Luna Sol

Day 7, Thursday, February 4: *Fly to Los Angeles*

Mid morning we transfer back to the airport in Cabo for our flight to Los Angeles. We must go through customs in Los Angeles, so allow a minimum 2 hour connection time for your continuing flight. Or choose to remain and extend your vacation in Los Angeles.

(Breakfast)

A FEW MORE DETAILS ABOUT THIS EXCITING ADVENTURE IN BAJA, MEXICO

(to answer questions frequently asked by women!)

*** What are the bathroom facilities?**

A porta-potty toilet is used in camp and is set up in a secluded location that assures privacy. It is essentially a toilet without the plumbing, but works just the same as a toilet with a water flushing system.

*** What is the "safari camp" and where do we sleep?**

The safari camp consists of a large (15' X 30') tent, complete with table and chairs, which houses the kitchen, pantry, crew, and dining area. Quality, four-per son tents (which house 2 people each) with cots, provide our double occupancy accommodations. The prominent features surrounding our beach camp are the ever-shifting sand dunes and the calm bay. An evening hike up the dunes may be rewarded with an oceanic sunset or the far-off glimpse of whales.

Bathing is available daily in the sea, using only biodegradable soap that lathers in salt water (bring Campsuds or Ivory Liquid hand soap).

TRAVELING TO MEXICO: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We suggest that you book your air reservations with our travel consultant soon after registering for this trip!

On this AdventureWomen whale watching trip, we will fly as a group from Los Angeles to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. In order to facilitate group arrivals and departures, we ask that you work directly with our travel consultants at Montana Travel to make your travel arrangements. After booking your trip, please call Ciretta at Montana Travel, in Bozeman, Montana, to reserve your air space to Cabo San Lucas and discuss any add-on air arrangements to Los Angeles.

1-800-247-3538

Email: ciretta@mttravel.com

FAX 1-406-586-1959

**CANADIAN RESIDENTS,
please call 406-587-1188**

When calling, please identify yourself as an AdventureWomen traveler. If you leave a message on Ciretta's voice mail, she will return your call promptly.

Note: The recent trend in travel is for travelers to finalize their plans much closer to departure time than was customary in the past. While we try to be as flexible as possible booking last minute registrants, we must often relinquish hotel space and air reservations up to 6 weeks prior to departure! Please keep this in mind when making your travel plans.

especially if it is windy. Dressing in layers while whale watching by skiff on Magdalena Bay and sea kayaking is recommended.

Here are our best tips for what to pack for your whale watching trip!!

- Soft-sided suitcase or duffel bag (easier to transport on boats than a hard-sided suitcase).
- A small day pack or soft shoulder bag (to use as a carry-on bag) for carrying camera, film, hat, etc., on our excursions.
- 2 pairs fast drying shorts.
- Rain gear (jacket and pants).
- One set of light-weight clothes (long-sleeved shirt and pants).
- Heavy sweater or jacket/sweat pants.
- Swimsuit(s).
- 3 T-shirts.
- One pair comfortable tennis shoes.
- One pair sport sandals.

Fresh water from a sun shower is available for a quick rinse to complete the bathing process. These are hung in a bathing stall for privacy and warmth.

Camp attire is very casual; comfort and convenience take precedence over style! There is always the chance of getting wet while in the skiffs, so waterproof rain gear is essential.

*** What about our Baja, Mexico guides?**

Our guides are bilingual, mature outdoor enthusiasts with many years of experience. They lead hikes, prepare wonderful meals, and have knowledge of the local geology, botany, archeology, folklore, astronomy and history. All are First Aid and CPR certified. They are very committed to providing for our enjoyment on this unique adventure. The skiff drivers are local fishermen who are trained in the techniques of whale watching. Their great pride in their country, and their commitment to and love of the whales is an inspiration.

*** How is the food prepared on this trip?**

The guides do the cooking, although you are always welcome to lend a hand. It's a great way to practice your campfire culinary skills and your Spanish! Meals are a combination of the best of American and Mexican traditions prepared using local fresh ingredients. We enjoy fresh fish Veracruz, mesquite barbecued chicken over an open fire, and Carne Asada, a local favorite.

*** What's our hotel like in La Paz?**

Owned by our outfitters, the **Posada Luna Sol** is a small and charming hotel with large, cheerful rooms, with good access to shopping diversions and a host of restaurants. The location is ideal, only a 10 minute walk from the end of the La Paz Malecón, one of La Paz's most endearing features (it's a walkway along the waterfront with beautiful scenery, wonderful people and a taste of what La Paz is all about). The staff is very friendly and helpful, and the setting is quiet and safe. It is listed as #2 of 31 hotels in La Paz!

WHAT TO PACK ON YOUR BAJA WHALE WATCHING TOUR

In general, dress on this Baja vacation for women is very casual. The temperatures and weather on the Baja Peninsula in Mexico can be quite warm, OR can also be quite cool during the mornings and evenings, especially if it is windy. Dressing in layers while whale watching by skiff on Magdalena Bay and sea kayaking is recommended.

**ABOUT ADVENTURE
TRAVEL TODAY**
Please Read Carefully!

At AdventureWomen, we would like to ensure that all participants understand that our excursions are adventure travel vacations, and not "tours." We define "adventure travel" as travel in which one actively participates, as opposed to a "tour," in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes vacations all over the world for women who want to experience an active, out of the ordinary vacation, and meet new friends. Most of all, we want our trips to be fun!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a good-natured realist and have a sense of humor! Adventure vacations, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. Being on time is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well being of both individuals and the group!

Thank you for choosing to travel with Adventure Women! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call, write or email us.

- Sun hat.
- "Town" clothes for our time in La Paz. You can leave these clothes in a small tote bag at the hotel while we are at beach camp.
- Insect repellent (we find OFF's "Skintastic" to be very good).
- Sunglasses with securing strap.
- Sunscreen and lip balm with sun screen.
- Small travel alarm clock.
- Small travel pillow, or a pillowcase to stuff with clothes and use as a pillow.
- 4-6 clothes pins for hanging up wet clothes.
- One twin or double sheet, to be used as a sleeping bag liner if it is chilly, or as a cover if it is too warm to sleep inside your bag.
- Various sizes of Ziploc bags for wet/dirty clothing.
- Water bottle with a securing device. We recommend the 24 oz. Nalgene Everyday OTG Tritan Bottle. Made of Eastman Tritan™ copolyester, the bottle is completely BPA-free. Tritan™ copolyester provides excellent impact resistance and is suitable for both warm and cold beverages.
- Toiletries and biodegradable soap and shampoo (Ivory soap is biodegradable; Kirk's Cold Water Castille is sudsy in cold water.)
- Towel and wash cloth.
- 3-4 cotton bandannas, an enduring AdventureWomen tradition that has withstood the test of time!
- Earplugs. We recommend Mack's Pillow Soft White Moldable Silicone Snore Proof Earplugs, which you can buy at most drugstores, or at www.earplugstore.com. Good to 22 decibels!
- Underwear and pajamas.
- Flashlight and/or small head lamp (for reading in bed) and extra batteries. A good flashlight is essential for getting to and from the toilets and your tent in the dark.
- Small binoculars, diary, sketchbooks, paperback book.
- Field guides.

- Snorkeling gear (if you have your own), or you can rent it at the La Paz office for approximately \$20 for the duration of the trip.
- Camera and plenty of film (or memory cards) and batteries.

CAMERA(S) AND PHOTOGRAPHY

This is an experience you definitely want to record on film! Bring your camera and more memory cards than you think you need. Also bring plenty of Ziploc bags to protect your camera(s). If you have particularly expensive camera equipment, we recommend purchasing a waterproof camera box (i.e., Pelican waterproof box), available at camera or dive shops. If you are an amateur photographer, shooting with a simple snapshot camera is just fine. Some of the waterproof throw-away cameras take excellent pictures!

MONEY

On this trip, U.S. cash is accepted nearly everywhere. You should have enough money in U.S. dollars, smaller bills (fives, tens, twenties, and some ones) to leave for tips, and for your first night's dinner in La Paz. Credit cards are accepted in a few places in downtown La Paz, if you decide you want to shop.

*Thank you for choosing to travel with AdventureWomen!
If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call, write, or email us.*

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