

adventurewomen

THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

BAJA

Whale Watching & the Sea of Cortez



© COLIN RUGGIERO

February 26 - March 4, 2024



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Whale Watching & the Sea of Cortez

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Interact with the gray whales who migrated 6,000 miles to mate and give birth in Magdalena Bay on the Pacific Ocean
- ▶ Get “up close and personal” with a sea lion underwater while swimming and snorkeling in Baja’s warm waters
- ▶ Learn how to make delicious Mexican cuisine from a talented Mexican “Maestro” using fresh local produce and seafood
- ▶ Get active in Baja with hiking, kayaking, paddle boarding, and snorkeling while staying on a remote beach in the Sea of Cortez

TRIP ROUTE



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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

- Day 1 arrive in Todos Santos, welcome dinner
- Day 2 surfing lesson, Mexican cooking class
- Day 3 kayak or stand up paddle board, stay on a secluded beach
- Day 4 snorkel with sea lions, relax, and enjoy the wilderness
- Day 5 drive to Magdalena Bay, afternoon whale watching
- Day 6 full day of whale watching, nature walk at camp
- Day 7 morning whale watch, drive to Todos Santos, farewell dinner
- Day 8 depart Baja

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Active

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: \$4,695

Optional Single Accommodations: \$1,000

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your adventure
in depth

DAY 1
Monday
2/26/24

Arrive Todos Santos

Welcome to Baja, AdventureWomen! Bordered by both the wild Pacific Ocean and the protected Sea of Cortez, this finger-like desert peninsula is a haven for exotic plants, birds, and animals (both terrestrial and marine) and is home to friendly and welcoming people.

Over your eight days in Baja, you'll get to know your expert Mexican guide, who will help you learn about local traditions and foods, as well as about the local wildlife and even the best way to interact with sea lions underwater. You are also accompanied by an AdventureWomen Ambassador, committed to helping make your experience a fun and personally rewarding adventure, and cheering you on as you reach beyond your comfort zone to take on new challenges in your own unique way!

Arrival Information

Arrive at San Jose del Cabo Airport (SJD) today before 3:00pm.

Pick-up and Transfer

You will be picked up at the San Jose del Cabo airport by your guide and transferred to your hotel.

You will receive specific instructions on the exact meeting location about a month prior to your trip. The Cabo airport is very busy, but AdventureWomen will make sure you know where you're going!

Welcome Dinner

Get to know your guide, your AdventureWomen Ambassador, and your fellow travelers over a delicious welcome dinner this evening.

Accommodations
Los Colibris Casitas

Meals Included
dinner

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DAY 2
Tuesday
2/27/24

Todos Santos

Todos Santos is an undiscovered gem, backdropped by the Sierra de la Laguna Mountains and rimmed with gorgeous beaches and lush gardens. It's an official Pueblo Magico, one of Mexico's 50 off-the-beaten-path towns known for their "magical ambiance."

Breakfast

Start off your first day with a terrific Mexican breakfast prepared by a local chef.

Tortilla-Making Class

Start your tortilla-making lesson right after breakfast to ensure that there are plenty of tortillas on hand for your cooking class tonight.

Surfing Lesson

Take a surfing lesson today. No experience? No problem! Your instructors guarantee that you will stand up - at least for a moment - during your very first lesson.

Lunch

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant where you will meet with a local female restaurateur who is a chef, entrepreneur, mother, grandmother, and daughter of a local artist. Hear about her experience cooking traditional, homestyle Mexican cuisine.

Cooking Class

Take a Mexican cooking class this evening. Start your class by learning to make the perfect margarita. Make sure you pay attention as you learn from the chef - you are making your own dinner!

Accommodations
Los Colibris Casitas

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 3
Wednesday
2/28/24

Todos Santos to Isla Espiritu Santo

Espiritu Santo National Park in the Sea of Cortez is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the best marine life viewing destinations in the world. Whales, dolphins, sea turtles, manta rays, and plenty of beautiful tropical fish call the surrounding waters home, while a terrific range of bird species including Blue-footed Boobies, Reddish Egrets, Great Blue Herons, and Yellow-footed Gulls frequent the island's skies and shores. The island itself is stunning, with magnificent towering cliffs, spectacular sandy bays, amazing lava rock formations, and rock art left by the now-extinct Guaycura and Pericu Indians.

Travel to Isla Espiritu Santo

Drive to La Paz, stopping to try on your wet suit and get your snorkeling gear. From La Paz, you will get on a boat for your 60-minute ride to your exclusive camp on the beach. Wear your bathing suit this morning, just in case there is a chance to swim along the way!

Afternoon Activities

Spend your afternoon kayaking or stand up paddle boarding exploring hidden lagoons and desert beaches.

Happy Hour

Enjoy the sunset with your group as you sip a cold drink and sit with your toes in the sand.

Accommodations
Baja-Style Beach
Glamping
Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 4
Thursday
2/29/24

Isla Espiritu Santo

Jacques Cousteau once called the Sea of Cortez “the aquarium of the world” and “the Galapagos of North America.” About 39 percent of the world’s marine mammal species and 70 percent of the world’s marine cetacean species live or migrate through here, making this region one of the planet’s most bio-diverse ecosystems.

Swimming with Sea Lions

Swimming with sea lions is magical, with unforgettable nose-to-nose encounters. Grab some provided snorkeling gear and jump in with them.

Dinner

Enjoy a dinner from the camp kitchen and a relaxing night on the beach. Share stories about your experiences with the curious sea lions earlier today.

Accommodations
Baja-Style Beach
Glamping
Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 5
Friday
3/1/24

Isla to Magdalena Bay

Magdalena Bay is the largest wetlands ecosystem on the west coast of Baja and one of the most important in North America. It has mangrove forests, barrier beaches, and sand dune islands, all of which contribute to the incredible scenery and biological diversity of the area. The Bay is also the prime calving ground for the gray whale, and between January and March it is possible to see – and often touch – a large number of whales, including mothers and calves.

Depart Isla Espiritu Santo

Depart your beautiful camp by boat for La Paz. Once you arrive in La Paz, drive about five hours to Magdalena Bay, enjoying a picnic lunch along the way. This is a long drive, but Magdalena Bay is the premiere place to see the migration of gray whales.

Whale Watching

Enjoy a couple of hours of whale watching on your way to the beach that you'll call home for the next few nights.

This camp will have tents, but the tents are a bit more rustic, with cots and sleeping bags since the location is even more remote than your last camp!

Evening at Camp

Once you settle in at camp, go on a guided nature walk to explore your surroundings. This evening you can relax with your group on the beach, and if you're lucky, observe whales from the shore.

Accommodations
Camping in
Magdalena Bay
Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 6
Saturday
3/2/24

Magdalena Bay

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 on occasion even nuzzling up to the whale-watching skiffs. Sometimes they catch a ride on their mother's backs! If you're a wildlife lover, this is an unforgettable experience.

Morning Whale Watching

Head out onto the water for a morning of interacting with whales. Highly experienced local staff will ferry you through the waters of Magdalena Bay to whale watch from motorized skiffs, perfect conveyances from which to have a "whale's eye view" of the Great Grays!

Nature Walk

Enjoy lunch and a nature walk after your morning on the water.

Afternoon Whale Watching

Head out for another afternoon of whale watching. It is impossible to predict anything with wildlife, but in the past, AdventureWomen guests have seen mother whales bringing their babies up to the boat to say hello, males sidling up and spouting water on the boat, and gray whales bringing their heads out of the water to look women in the eye.

Accommodations
Camping in
Magdalena Bay
Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 7
Sunday
3/3/24

Magdalena Bay to Todos Santos

One of the most striking things about the Baja peninsula is the incredible juxtaposition of desert and sea, happy home to both cactus and seagull. Artists and photographers are lured here by the quality of light, marine sports enthusiasts come to enjoy the challenging fun above and below the surface of the inviting big blue sea, and the local residents enjoy a stress-free lifestyle, welcoming visitors who seek a multi-layered getaway.

More Whale Watching

Enjoy another couple of hours of whale watching, spending a little bit more time with these majestic, gentle creatures.

Drive to Todos Santos

Drive about five hours back from Magdalena Bay to Todos Santos. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant along the way.

Farewell Dinner

Start your farewell dinner with a mezcal tasting. Reminisce over all of the memories you have made and celebrate the end of an incredible trip with your new AdventureWomen friends!

Accommodations
Los Colibris Casitas

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 8
Monday
3/4/24

Depart Todos Santos

After a fond farewell and breakfast, say "hasta luego" to your guide and new friends!

Transfer to the Airport

Say goodbye to your new AdventureWomen friends as you transfer to the airport for your flights home.

Departure Information

Depart from San Jose del Cabo Airport (SJD) today after 12:00pm.

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

Meals Included
breakfast

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Accommodation Details

Los Colibris Casitas

Los Colibris - The Hummingbirds - is in Todos Santos, just a ten-minute walk from the area's beautiful beaches. The property features three big casas (houses), two casitas (little houses), and two suites. Each building is configured and decorated in a unique way. The accommodations all include kitchenette appliances, a balcony, porch or patio, ceiling fans, and lovely views of the Pacific Ocean and lagoon.

Amenities: En suite bathrooms with soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi

Baja-Style Beach Glamping

You will love your base camp on one of the Isla Espiritu Santo's most beautiful beaches! It features tents with real mattresses, lovely linens, and pillows. The accommodations are so comfortable that you won't want to leave. There is a kitchen tent where your on-site chef makes wonderful meals for you every day, and there are sun showers and portable toilets in separate cabanas.

Amenities: Composting toilet cabanas (not en suite); sun shower cabanas with soap and shampoo; solar charging station for small devices; campsite is off grid

Camping in Magdalena Bay

This remote camp has tents with cots and sleeping bags. There is a washroom tent with a portable toilet, but you should bring biodegradable shower wipes to freshen up, as there is no fresh water available for bathing. The island you'll stay on is near where the lagoon mouth meets the ocean, and you should be rewarded with whales swimming and playing all around the camp.

Amenities: Composting toilet cabanas (not en suite); no showers (we recommend dry shampoo and body wipes); no electricity or charging stations; campsite is off grid

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Included:

- ▶ Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- ▶ All meals as listed in the itinerary
- ▶ Guided sightseeing and activities as indicated in the itinerary
- ▶ Bi-lingual, naturalist guides throughout the trip
- ▶ All ground transportation
- ▶ One group transfer on arrival and departure
- ▶ Drinking water available in large jugs to refill personal bottles
- ▶ Happy hour on Isla Espiritu Santo
- ▶ Gratuities for drivers, hotel staff, wait staff, and luggage porters

Not Included:

- ▶ International airfare to and from Baja
- ▶ Optional activities
- ▶ Meals not specified in the itinerary
- ▶ Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- ▶ Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
- ▶ Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- ▶ Items of a personal nature
- ▶ Gratuities for main guides, island staff, and boat captain

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Cancellations and Refunds

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

For cancellations received 61-90 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable. For cancellations received 1-60 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. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

Switching Trips

Our deposits are nonrefundable and nontransferable. If for some reason you need to switch to a different trip, please call us and we will do our best to accommodate you, but switching is not guaranteed.

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.

Health Insurance

You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

Adventure Travel Today

At AdventureWomen, we want everyone to 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!**

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!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a