

Duke TRAVELS

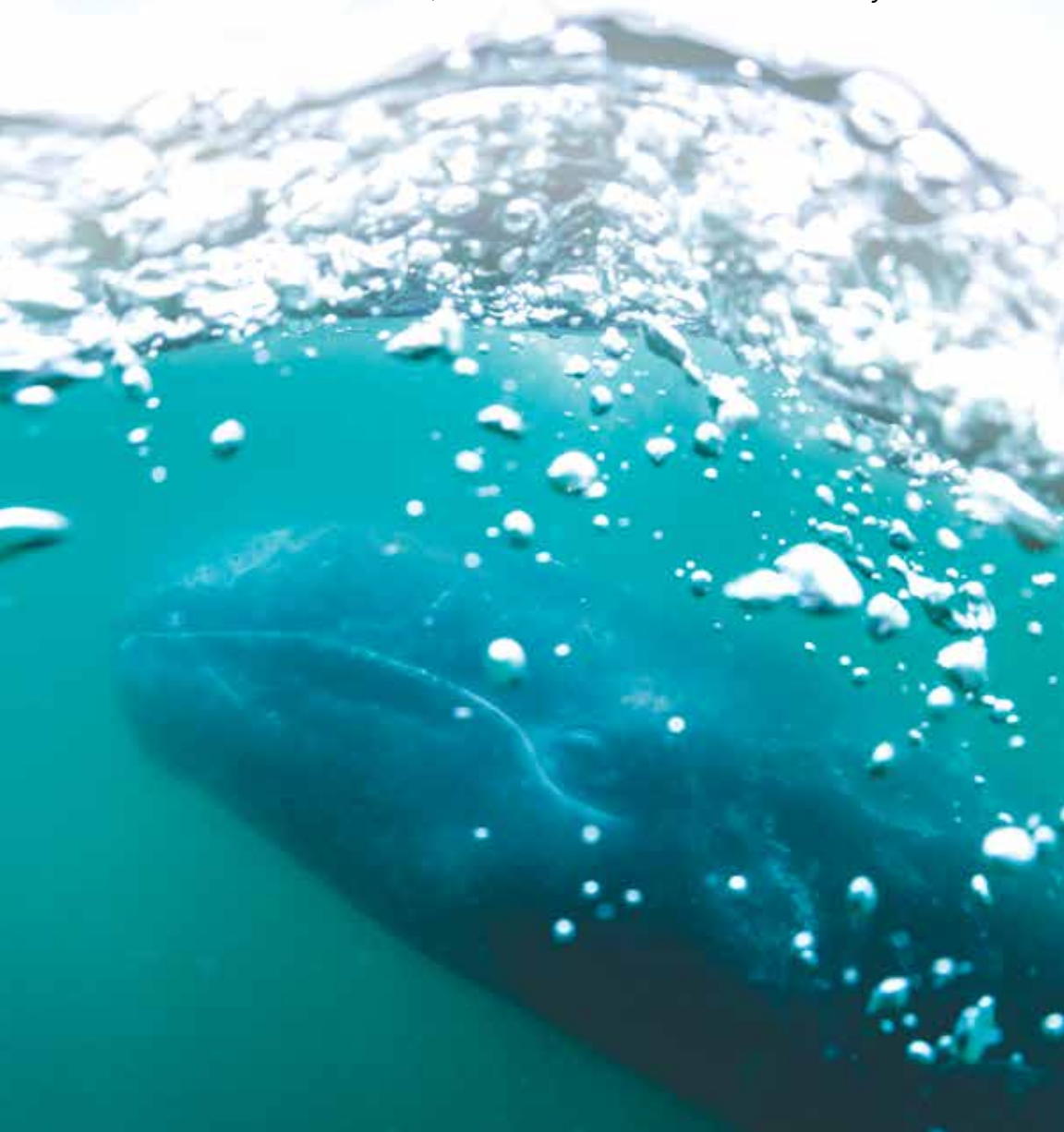
WILD BAJA ESCAPE

THE WHALES OF MAGDALENA BAY

MARCH 4-9, 2022

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD

Travel with Dr. Xavier Basurto, Associate Professor of Sustainability Science



duke-travels.com



BOCA DE SOLEDAD

"Grand Central" for California gray whales. Together with the savvy local fishermen, we will observe numerous cow-calf pairs.

ISLA MAGDALENA

The beaches along the Pacific coast go on for miles and miles, unmarred by any infrastructure. You can hike or run for a mile or ten—it's up to you.

SAND DOLLAR BEACH

At this point, the distance across the dunes from the bay to the Pacific is only a few hundred yards. Search for treasures on the aptly named sand dollar beach. These dunes are a great place for sunrise yoga or sunset cocktails.



25 MILES

SAN CARLOS

MAGDALENA BAY

LA ENTRADA

The entrance to Magdalena Bay is dramatic and a great place to view whales from the ship. It's also a place where large pods of dolphins can often be seen.

LORETO

The historic, charming town where our expedition begins and ends. Home to Baja's first mission, a lovely museum, and vibrant streets. A perfect place to experience the culture of the region.

BAJA CALIFORNIA

Pacific Ocean

Travel with confidence. Please read the Health & Safety protocols in effect by aiming your smartphone camera at this QR code, or visit bit.ly/3atsiNM.



DEAR DUKE TRAVELERS,

Magdalena Bay is well known as one of three lagoons on Baja California's Pacific coast that becomes home to over 20,000 California gray whales each winter. This extraordinary inland water system is absolutely the best place to be to view this remarkable gathering. Mid-January until early April is the season for the whales, and our voyage there aboard the *National Geographic Sea Bird* occurs at peak time for possible encounters with active, curious calves and mothers.

Although never guaranteed, the phenomenon known as "friendly whales" was first documented in 1972. These encounters have increased over the years, becoming quite common. Our visit is timed to provide us with the greatest chance to observe and, if we are fortunate, interact with these overwintering cetaceans.

Explorations of Magdalena Bay traditionally have been a part of longer voyages around Baja California. But now, for the first time, you have an opportunity to focus on this remarkable place, and with a nimble and comfortable expedition ship as your base camp.

Magdalena Bay is so much more than the gray whales. There are untouched beaches that go on for miles, full of shells and sand dollars; sand dunes which are spectacular to explore by day and, if you wish, by night when all kinds of critters emerge; intricate, intimate mangrove channels to explore by Zodiac or kayak; and seabirds—large flocks of grebes, pelicans, and frigatebirds. As an added bonus for those shy about being in open ocean, rest assured, you will always be in protected waters.

Duke Travels is pleased to have engaged Lindblad Expeditions to operate this tour. Share the adventure with **Dr. Xavier Basurto, Associate Professor** and fellow alumni. I encourage you to book now while space is still available! **To reserve your space, please return the reservation form or call (919) 684-2988.**

Forever Duke,



Beth Ray-Schroeder '83

Director, Duke Travels

Duke Alumni Engagement and Development



Dr. Xavier Basurto is Associate Professor of Sustainability Science at the Nicholas School of the Environment and director of the Coasts and Commons Co-Laboratory at Duke University. A native from Mexico, Xavier has almost 30 years of experience exploring and doing research in the Baja California and Northwest Mexico. As an undergraduate student Xavier studied the unique island biology and ecology of the Islands of Baja California. As a graduate student Xavier lived in several fishing communities and was exposed to the complex ways in which coastal communities interact with these beautiful and rich marine ecosystems. One of the enduring questions his research explores is: why some communities in the Baja peninsula can organize and succeed at using their resources sustainably while others fail?

Xavier has developed large scale collaborations between academia, practitioners, and fishing organizations in Baja California and globally, and has published more than 70 articles in a diversity of outlets. His work has been funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation and a diversity of philanthropic organizations based in the U.S. and Europe.



WHALES, BEACHES, YOGA, HIKES & SERENITY



Treasures from sand dollar beach.

A region as diverse as Baja California means you can choose from a variety of options. If getting up close with the local wildlife is your main priority, the *National Geographic Sea Bird* is the perfect ship for establishing a floating base camp in Magdalena Bay. The ship is ideally sized to enter and anchor in the protected waters of the bay, providing you a unique opportunity to be among the gray whale

mothers and calves drawn to the calm nursery lagoons. Curious, playful, and friendly, they often approach the small Zodiacs we deploy for close-up views. You can stand on deck and watch diving pelicans and ospreys, and marvel at the scores of leaping dolphins.

There are also sand dunes to wander, stretches of beach to bike, mangroves to kayak, and many species of birds to spot and add to your life list. For those who want to have a healthy amount of physical activity, you can go paddleboarding on the aquamarine water, stretch out with yoga on deck, or join a naturalist on a trail walk, or fat-tire bike down seemingly endless remote beaches. Just want to relax and enjoy some delicious food on board ship or a barbecue on shore? The choices are yours to make.

“The baby is pushing us!

The baby is literally pushing the boat right now!”

“When you think about a California gray whale mother, bringing her calf and literally putting it on her body and lifting it up to be touched, to be rubbed along the side of the boat. We aren’t just watching whales, we are interacting with them. And they are just as curious about us as we are with them. What in the world is going on? We took these whales to the brink of extinction twice in the last two centuries. These are very sentient beings, these are very intelligent animals, they’re mammals after all. They have very large, well-developed brains. Why in the world would these whales now approach the very shaped boats that were hunting them in times past? It’s hard to say if they’ve forgiven or forgotten? ...There are a lot of theories about it, but no one really knows.”

— MICHAEL NOLAN, CERTIFIED PHOTO INSTRUCTOR

Opposite page (clockwise from top): Elegant tern; gray whale; sand dunes at sunrise; gray whale encounter, Magdalena Bay; leaping mobula ray.



THE PERFECT PLATFORM TO DISCOVER WHALES AND MORE



The *National Geographic Sea Bird* is purpose-built to explore regions like Baja California. A nimble design allows us to venture into shallow lagoons where whales give birth and to islands unmarred by tourist infrastructure. Since this is an expedition, not a cruise, flexibility is a hallmark. The itinerary draws on the extensive experience in the region of the expedition team and captain to

maximize viewing opportunities. If a pod of dolphins approaches us, the ship will change course to take advantage of the encounter. You'll discover that life aboard is warm and welcoming, with everyone participating equally in the adventure. Evening Recaps in the lounge are a chance to swap stories of the day's surprises with family and new friends over hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. And the ship's smartly furnished cabins, lounge, bar, and dining room ensure that it is more than comfortable as our base for exploration.

TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY FOR EXPLORATION

ZODIACS: Experience up-close encounters with whales and dolphins, and land on otherwise inaccessible desert islands.

KAYAKS: Paddle along peaceful coastlines in one of the twelve double or eight single kayaks for a water-level look at stunning scenery.

PADDLEBOARDS: Get up and out on the fleet of stand-up paddleboards for a personal adventure.

FAT-TIRE BIKES: Cover more ground by roaming the seemingly endless beaches on one of the fat-tire bikes.

UNDERWATER VIDEO CAMERA: View live footage of the vibrant marine life, shot by an undersea specialist, in the comfort of the lounge.

HYDROPHONE: Listen to the awe-inspiring sounds of whales and dolphins in the surrounding waters.

VIDEO MICROSCOPE: Examine the intricacies of seldom-seen marine life.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): Enjoy opportunities to paddleboard; kayakers have an up-close experience with wildness; Baja is a paradise for birders; a sunset Zodiac cruise, Isla Magdalena.



DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES TO MAKE YOUR EXPERIENCE EXTRAORDINARY



Whether it means staying up until the wee hours to scan for rare sightings, taking advantage of an opportunity to view a pod of leaping dolphins, or holding an impromptu stargazing on a beach at night, the expedition team is dedicated to revealing Baja and making sure your experience is exceptional. Benefit from the personalities and knowledge of an expedition leader, naturalists, an undersea specialist, a certified photo instructor, and a video chronicler, plus a wellness specialist to enhance the revitalizing effects of life in Baja.

IN A LAND WITH PERFECT LIGHT, BENEFIT FROM EXPEDITION PHOTOGRAPHY

Make the most of unrivaled photo opportunities of Baja California's wild islands, whales, dolphins, seabirds, and peerless light with the Expedition Photography program. Your voyage features a certified photo instructor who offers assistance, instructions, and shooting tips in the field. His or her expertise will inspire you and help you improve your skills—no matter your current ability or interest level—and ensure you return home with incredible photos.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): Photo instructor helps you take the perfect shot; beach BBQ ashore; playing among Baja's vast sand dunes; smartphone photographer.

WILD BAJA ESCAPE: THE WHALES OF MAGDALENA BAY

6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS—ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD



The gray whales winter in Bahía Magdalena before migrating north to the Bering and Chukchi Seas.

Spend several extraordinary days in the company of majestic gray whales in Mexico's Bahía Magdalena, one of the best places in the world to witness interactions between gray whale mothers and their curious calves. On this compact trip, we'll navigate the length of the bay aboard a nimble expedition ship, and set out by Zodiac for thrilling, up-close encounters. Kayak through mangrove forests and hike desert islands, watch pelicans and ospreys soar overhead, and soak up the sun on some of the Pacific's most pristine beaches. Beachcomb endless crescents of sand, studded with thousands of sand dollars. And revel in the vastness and serenity as you view the many species of birds in this world-renowned region.

DAY 1: LORETO, MEXICO/SAN CARLOS/EMBARK

Arrive in Loreto and transfer to the port town of San Carlos, where we embark the *National Geographic Sea Bird*. Tonight, unwind under a star-studded sky as we anchor in calm waters off the coast of Isla Santa Margarita. (D)

DAY 2: BAHÍA ALMEJAS/REHUSA CHANNEL/ISLA MAGDALENA

Awake anchored in Bahía Almejas, the southernmost part of the Bay. We'll make a special stop to view a large frigatebird colony on Isla Santa Margarita before heading out on our first whale-watching trip of the

voyage. The whales in Bahía Almejas tend to be very active, seemingly oblivious to our presence, so settle in for some great experiences. As we explore this bay and the Rehusa Channel via local panga, the expedition team will do whatever it takes to provide you with memorable and meaningful experiences. During lunch, the ship will reposition to Isla Magdalena where we'll head to shore to explore the ever-shifting sand dunes, on a cross-island walk to one of the most pristine beaches in the Pacific. Take a dip or tally the treasure found on what we affectionately call sand dollar beach. (B,L,D)



DAY 3: TRANSIT THE HULL CANAL/ BOCA DE SOLEDAD

Spend the morning transiting the scenic winding Hull Canal. Within its narrow channels, bordered by mangroves and sand dunes, and filled with abundant wildlife, we'll hang out on deck with our keen-eyed naturalists to spot species and hear expert commentary. Weather permitting, we'll explore the vast mangrove system via kayak and Zodiac. Bird-watching here can be excellent. Among the species we might see are pelicans as they plunge-dive from on high, cormorants actively fishing, terns, great blue herons, ibis, whimbrels, and willets. These fertile shorelines provide a bounty for migratory shorebirds as they refuel, preparing to commence their arduous northbound journeys. This afternoon, we'll head out to explore the breeding grounds of Boca de Soledad. (B,L,D)

DAYS 4 & 5: BOCA DE SOLEDAD

Each winter, during their long migration, gray whales travel south from their Arctic feeding grounds to breed and give birth to their calves in these sheltered waters. "Grand Central" for California gray whales, we'll spend two full days observing, and with luck, interacting with these majestic creatures. Together with savvy local Mexican fishermen, we'll venture out in Zodiacs to view the numerous mother-calf pairs that thrive in this sheltered region. We'll also have an opportunity to get out to the beaches to explore; if you're feeling up to it, grab one of our fat-tire bikes to roam the seemingly endless beaches. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: SAN CARLOS/DISEMBARK/LORETO

After breakfast, disembark the ship and transfer to Loreto's city center. Choose to visit the first mission in Baja California, as well as the nearby museum to learn more about what makes this town so special. Enjoy free time to explore the quaint shops and vibrant side streets. After lunch, transfer to Loreto Airport for flights home. (B,L)

LORETO + BLUE AND FIN WHALES POST-VOYAGE EXTENSION—3 DAYS/2 NIGHTS

Add an exploration of Loreto's inland wildness to your coastal expedition, and discover the region's human history through its missions and villages. Visit stunning San Javier, a mission built in the 1700s by Jesuits and see the surrounding town, with streets and buildings largely untouched since 1875, then hike outside the village to experience Baja's inland wildness. In the Loreto National Marine Reserve, board local boats for a chance to see magnificent blue and fin whales, the two largest animals on Earth. Hike through the fascinating ecosystems of the desert and canyons of the Sierra de la Gigante. *Call for details and pricing.*





NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD

CAPACITY: 31 outside cabins accommodating 62 guests.

REGISTRY: United States. **OVERALL LENGTH:** 152 feet.

PUBLIC AREAS: The ship features a library; global market; lounge with full-service bar and facilities for films, slide shows, and presentations; observation deck; partially covered sundeck with chairs and tables. The open Bridge provides guests an opportunity to meet the officers and captain and learn about navigation.

MEALS: Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Breakfast is a wide-selection buffet and lunch is often served family-style. Menu emphasizes local flair.

CABINS: All face outside with windows, private facilities, and climate controls.

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: Zodiacs, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, fat-tire bikes, bow camera, hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, and video microscope.

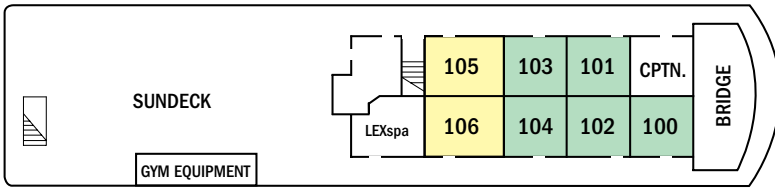
SPECIAL FEATURES: Guest Wi-Fi access. A video chronicler, certified photo instructor, undersea specialist, and ship's doctor are on board.

WELLNESS: The ship is staffed by a wellness specialist and features exercise equipment, LEXspa, and outdoor stretching area.

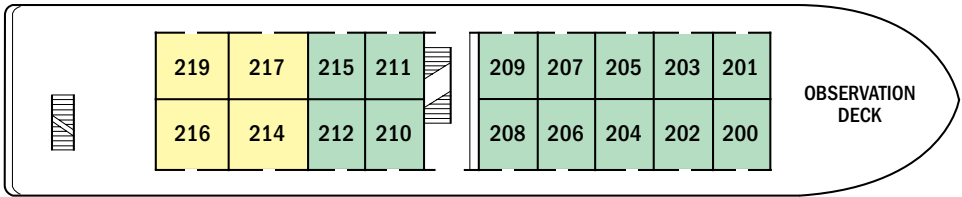
SELF-DISINFECTING SHIPS: Lindblad Expeditions became the first self-disinfecting fleet with the rollout of the ACT CleanCoat™ system in 2019. This photocatalytic cleaning process activates when illuminated, continuously breaking down unwanted microbes such as bacteria, viruses, mold, and airborne allergens. The positive environmental impacts of this non-toxic, chemical-free system are many: less plastic in the supply chain and waste stream, and more than 1 million gallons of water saved annually. The system lowers our carbon footprint and creates a cleaner, healthier shipboard environment for guests and crew alike.



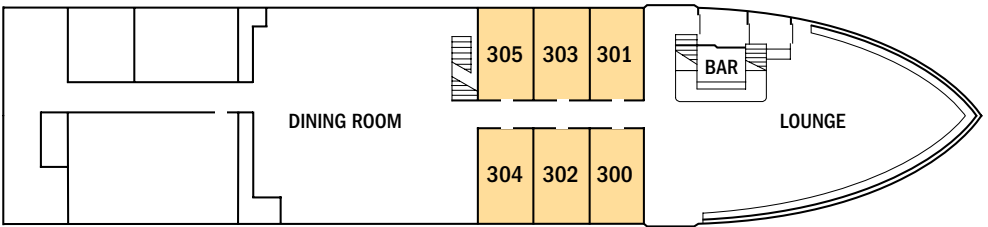
Right from top: Category 3 cabin, Upper Deck; Category 2 cabin; the casual dining room.



BRIDGE DECK



UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK

CATEGORY 1:

Main Deck #300-305 — Conveniently positioned between the dining room and lounge, these cabins feature two lower single beds and a large view window.

CATEGORY 2:

Bridge Deck #100-104; Upper Deck #200-212, 215 — These well-located cabins include two lower single beds and a window.

CATEGORY 3:

Bridge Deck #105, 106; Upper Deck #214, 216, 217, 219 — These cabins feature a seating unit with table and two large view windows. Upper Deck cabins include two lower single beds which can convert to a double bed and a pull-out single bed for a third person; Bridge Deck cabins include two lower single beds only.

NOTE: Solo occupancy cabins are available in Categories 1 and 2 only. Third person rates are available in certain categories at one half the double occupancy rate.

SHARED ACCOMMODATIONS: Shares can be arranged at the double occupancy rate in Categories 1 and 2 only.

Prices are per person, double occupancy unless indicated as solo.

ITINERARY	CAT. 1	CAT. 2	CAT. 3	CAT. 1 SOLO	CAT. 2 SOLO	ADVANCE PAYMENT	SAMPLE AIRFARES
Wild Baja Escape: The Whales of Magdalena Bay	\$3,810	\$4,460	\$5,030	\$5,730	\$6,680	\$750	Round-trip Los Angeles/Loreto: Economy from \$475; Business from \$1,140. Subject to change.

INCLUSIVE PRICING

ABOARD SHIP

- ✓ All meals served in the dining room
- ✓ All nonalcoholic beverages including unlimited cappuccinos, lattes, coffee, tea, and soda
- ✓ Hors d'oeuvres and snacks during nightly Recap
- ✓ Environmentally friendly refillable water bottle
- ✓ Computers for downloading your camera's memory card and Wi-Fi access
- ✓ Fully stocked library
- ✓ Exercise equipment
- ✓ The guidance and company of the expedition staff
- ✓ Access to the Bridge to learn about navigation

ASHORE

- ✓ Special access permits, park fees, and port taxes
- ✓ Transfers to and from group flights
- ✓ The expertise of the expedition staff

ACTIVITIES

- ✓ All shore activities
- ✓ Zodiac explorations
- ✓ Kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding
- ✓ Fat-tire biking
- ✓ Lectures and presentations in the lounge
- ✓ Photo instruction
- ✓ Morning stretch classes with wellness specialist

BRING THE KIDS: Sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. So, take \$500 off the double occupancy price for travelers under 18.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

COSTS INCLUDE: Accommodations aboard ship; all meals and nonalcoholic beverages aboard ship; shore excursions, sightseeing, special access permits, and entrance fees; transfers to/from airport if traveling on group flights; use of kayaks, paddleboards, and fat-tire bikes; taxes, service charges, and gratuities (except to ship's crew); services of Lindblad Expeditions' natural history staff and a ship physician. Unused services or items included in the program are non-refundable.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; meals not indicated; passport and visa fees; travel protection plan; items of a personal nature such as Wi-Fi access, voyage chronicle; gratuities to ship's crew at your discretion.

AIRFARE: Airfare is an additional cost. Sample airfares are subject to change. Lindblad Expeditions will assist in making your air arrangements for a \$50 per person service charge.

RESERVATIONS: To confirm your place, an advance payment of US\$750 per person is required at the time of reservation and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or check. Receipt of advance payment indicates your acceptance of the terms and conditions.

FINAL PAYMENT: Payment is due no later than 90 days prior to departure. Lindblad Expeditions reserves the right to cancel your reservation if payment has not been received by final payment due date.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN: Travel and medical insurance are available at an additional cost. Information will be sent to you by Duke Travels upon registration

ENTRY AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: Guests are advised to verify travel documents (passport/transit visa/entry visa) for the country through which they are transiting and/or entering. Reliable and most current information regarding international travel can be found by contacting the consulate/embassy of the country(s) you are visiting or transiting through. We will not be responsible if you are denied entry or transit into a country, if you are unable to provide valid documents as per the country's requirement.

SMOKING AND VAPING POLICY: Allowed only in designated outdoor areas.

RESPONSIBILITY AND OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS: Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Expeditions' and the National Geographic Expeditions' (a division of National Geographic Partners, LLC) liability for loss of property, injury, illness, or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests on the ship's ticket sent prior to departure or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

Note: Itinerary and prices listed in this brochure are as of publication date and are subject to change. Under normal

conditions the total expedition price is guaranteed at the time of booking. However, the expedition pricing is determined far in advance of initial departure on the basis of then-existing projections of fuel and other costs. In the event of increases in those costs, including but not limited to increases in the price of fuel, currency fluctuations, increases in government taxes or levies, or increased security costs, the right is reserved to adjust the price of your expedition or add a surcharge to cover such unexpected increases. We will always provide an explanation of the reason for increase in costs.

Photo Credits: John Bodner, Rab Cummings, Stewart Cohen, Ralph Lee Hopkins, Sven-Olof Lindblad, Michael S. Nolan, Rich Reid, Marco Ricca, Max Seigal, Rikki Swenson.

CANCELLATION POLICY	
Number of Days Prior to Expedition Start	Per Person Cancellation Fee
120 or more days	\$350
119-90 days	Advance payment cost
89-60 days	25% of trip cost
59-45 days	50% of trip cost
44-0 days	No refund

This policy applies to the voyage only. We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan.



Please call to reserve:
Phone: (919) 684-2988

Or please send reservation to:
Duke Travels
Box 90572
Durham, NC 27708
Email: duketravels@duke.edu

RESERVATION FORM: WILD BAJA ESCAPE: THE WHALES OF MAGDALENA BAY

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD • MARCH 4-9, 2022

Please reserve _____ place(s).

Name 1: _____
(As it appears on I.D.)

Name 1: _____ Date of Birth: _____
(Preferred name for name badge)

Name 2: _____
(As it appears on I.D.)

Name 2: _____ Date of Birth: _____
(Preferred name for name badge)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Accommodations: Double Single Twin share w/friend

Share with roommate assigned by tour operator

Please indicate choice of cabin category in order of preference:

1st choice: _____ 2nd choice: _____

Please send me information on the **Blue and Fin Whale Loreto Extension**

Advance Payment Information: US\$750 per person.

If paying by check, please make payable to: **Lindblad Maritime Enterprises, Ltd.**
Enclosed is my advance payment of \$ _____


If paying by credit card, we will contact you to finalize your booking and collect payment information.

WILD BAJA ESCAPE: THE WHALES OF MAGDALENA BAY EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- » Travel with Dr. Xavier Basurto, Associate Professor of Sustainability Science.
- » Enjoy up-close encounters with gray whale mothers and their calves.
- » Kayak and paddleboard stunning mangroves or stroll endless beaches.
- » Hike diverse landscapes, from windswept sand dunes to cactus groves.
- » Learn about desert ecosystems and whale behavior from expert naturalists.

100% CARBON NEUTRAL SINGLE-USE PLASTIC FREE

We have chosen Lindblad Expeditions because they care deeply about the planet, and see travel as a powerful force for good.

 Printed on 10% recycled content paper with soy-based inks. We recommend that you pass this along for others to enjoy or recycle.



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TRAVELS

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