

Baja Peninsula: Gray Whales and Desert Landscapes



Each year, gray whales travel thousands of miles from the Arctic Ocean to the warm waters of Baja California's lagoons to court, mate, give birth, and care for their young. Join us for the best of Baja! Take part in one of the unique natural wonders of the world. Visit the peninsula's whale sanctuaries for arm's length encounters with these giant mammals.

Plus, you can sample local foods in La Paz, look for birds among the mangroves, and explore the arid peninsula of Baja California, home to over 600 endemic plants including the unique Boojum tree, towering Cardon cactus, and the contorted Elephant tree.

You won't want to miss this unforgettable learning adventure. We expect our limited space will fill up quickly. Please make your reservation as soon as possible to guarantee your spot!

March 5 - 13, 2021

- Day 1: Arrive La Paz**
- Day 2: La Paz**
- Day 3: Loreto**
- Day 4: Loreto**
- Day 5: San Ignacio**
- Day 6: San Ignacio**
- Day 7: Catavina**
- Day 8: Ensenada**
- Day 9: Ensenada to San Diego**

Includes:

Non-alcoholic beverages with meals, Full time guide for duration of program, Tips/gratuities for guide & driver, Bottled water on the bus, Carbon offset, Departure tax



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- See gray whales up close! Enjoy thrilling opportunities to encounter these gentle giants from a small boat.
- Experience the crystal-clear waters, pristine beach, hidden coves, and tropical marine life of the protected island of Espíritu Santo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Seek out birds among the mangroves, shore, and prickly desert vegetation of the highlands.
- Walk through the scenic desert garden landscapes of gigantic granite boulders, Boojum trees, Cardon cacti and Elephant trees.
- Stroll the charming Malecón boardwalk in La Paz.



Baja Itinerary Highlights

Friday 03/05/2021 La Paz Hyatt Place (D)

This evening 7 pm welcome dinner and orientation at the hotel.

Saturday 03/06/2021 La Paz Hyatt Place (BLD)

Walk along the marina to board a boat and depart for the island for the day's activities. Return to La Paz and get to know the downtown. Dinner is in a traditional fish and seafood restaurant on the malecon.

Sunday 03/07/2021 Loreto La Mision (BLD) Depart for Loreto. The road crosses an important agricultural area where Crested Caracaras are often seen perched on fence posts. Take a detour to Bahía Magdalena for an unforgettable experience: a boat ride in a Gray Whale Sanctuary to view these giant mammals at arm's length; some even let themselves be petted!

Monday 03/08/2021 Loreto La Mision (BL) Take a boat to encircle dramatic Coronado Island which offers azure waters, interesting geology, a colony of sea lions, and more. Return to Loreto for lunch and head for the mountains! Stop at a goat ranch to learn about life on a ranch and the process of making goat cheese. Practice hands-on tortilla making for your cheese and beans snack. The evening is free to enjoy dinner at a restaurant of your choice.

Tuesday 03/09/2021 San Ignacio La Huerta (BLD) Drive along the crystal blue waters of Bahía de Concepción, with a stop at one of its unspoiled beaches, where you can see mangroves rich in bird life. Continue to Mulege, a mission settlement on a riverbed lined with palm trees. In Santa Rosalia visit the old French Quarter and the Boleo mine museum to learn how the French established this copper mining town and brought over the prefabricated iron church designed by Mr. Eiffel that is still standing today.. Stop to bird in the highlands among prickly desert vegetation before arriving to San Ignacio, a charming town that developed around its imposing 18th century mission, still in use today, in the midst of a lush, tranquil oasis and a plaza filled with Indian Laurel trees.

Wednesday 03/10/2021 San Ignacio La Huerta (BLD) Continue the whale experience in San Ignacio Lagoon. To reach the isolated remote lagoon, cross an open stretch of desert and a salty mudflat. Again board small pangas for a memorable rides among the whales. After lunch enjoy the tranquility of the lagoon and spot migrant birds along the shore. Return to San Ignacio to visit the mission and stroll in the laurel-filled plaza.

Thursday 03/11/2021 Catavina Mision Santa Maria (BLD) Depart for Guerrero Negro, home of the largest salt plant in the world, an immense salt marsh, and a whale sanctuary which receives a record number of migrant gray whales each year. Drive through the salt plant to reach Scammon's Lagoon and depart for a fourth and final outing among the whales. Arrive in the famed Cataviña boulder fields located in the enchanting Central Desert. Settle in at the hotel and enjoy a dinner fiesta evening.

Friday 03/12/2021 Ensenada La Rosas Hotel & Spa (BLD) Begin the day with a beautiful walk in the magnificent Cataviña desert garden, including a visit to a small cave with simple rock art. Lunch is in a San Quintín restaurant to taste traditional platters. Arrive at Ensenada and take some time to stroll in the main streets and along the waterfront. Check in at the oceanfront hotel and relax, admiring the spectacular view. Farewell dinner is at the hotel accompanied by the sound of crashing waves.

Saturday 03/13/2021 San Diego (B) Depart for the last stretch along Highway One, a very scenic portion with stunning views on the Pacific Ocean coastline. Cross the border into the United States and continue to the San Diego airport for your return flight. Arrival time at the airport approximately noon. Do not schedule flight earlier than 2 pm.



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Affiliation(s)

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Affiliation(s)

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