



Journey Along the Baja

Day to Day Itinerary:

Day 1: San Diego Embarkation / Departure

4:00 – 7:30pm Boarding, hors d' oeuvres and welcome aboard drinks. Dinner off the boat shore side

8:00pm Trip and safety orientation

9:00 – 10:00pm Departure

Day 2: Customs Clearance Ensenada / Todos Santos Islands / Travel Day

After a brief stop in Ensenada to clear customs we head out across the Bahia Ensenada enroute to Todos Santos Islands.

Todos Santos Island is home to fantastic birding, sea lion and harbor seal viewing opportunities! From the deck of Horizon you will take in the sights and sounds of small island living, while being serenaded by the local animals. Pull out your cameras as the photographic opportunities are fantastic.

After a brief stop we will start our trek southward toward Islas San Benito, 220 miles to our south. Initially we will be close to the Baja coastline, but as the day progresses land will fade into the distance and you will notice the change from near coastal birds and mammals to the offshore variety.

Pelagic Birding, whale watching and relaxation are the main course for today. Get to know your fellow adventurers and enjoy the beauty of a day at sea. But keep your camera and binoculars close as you never know what will be just over the next swell!

The captains and naturalist will be on the lookout for all varieties of offshore animals including: California gray, blue, minke, sperm and humpback whales. We commonly see common dolphin, Pacific whitesided dolphin and Risso's dolphin this time of the year as well. Shearwaters, petrels, albatross, terns, kittiwake and auklets along with multiple species of gull are quite often seen offshore as well.

Day 3: Islas San Benito

We arrive mid-morning to this offshore oasis, 279 miles south of San Diego and 40 miles from the Baja peninsula. In the morning you will have the opportunity to join our naturalist for a hike to the old lighthouse, take in the sites of a California sea lion and northern elephant seal colony, enjoy Pacific island birding and botany! You'll also have a chance to socialize with the local fishermen that call San Benito their home.



During lunch we may reposition Horizon to the central or eastern islands. The afternoon will be dedicated to the ocean where you'll have the opportunity to scuba dive, snorkel or kayak in a beautiful kelp forest. California sea lions and Guadalupe fur seals call San Benito home and provide fun interaction opportunities. Unique to this section of Baja, temperate and tropical fish species intermingle. This experience should not be missed for the ocean lover in all of us!

We will spend the evening in the calm of San Benito and will depart early morning for Cedros Island.

Day 4: Cedros Island

With peaks rising over 3000 feet from the sea, Cedros is the largest of Baja's Pacific coastal islands. You'll have the opportunity to join our naturalist for a beautiful hike to experience desert island botany and fantastic topographic scenery, If you'd like to have an ocean experience, strap on your mask and fins. Sea lions, kelp forests and temperate fish species are pervasive in this region.

We'll depart Cedros early afternoon traveling down the islands eastern shore, past Baja's central point, Punta Eugenia and then along the coast enroute to Laguna San Ignacio. As we travel south bird and whale watching will be at a premium, with albatross, gulls, shearwater and majestic frigatebirds ruling the skies and the chance of encounters with blue, fin, minke and southbound gray whales.

Days 5 – 7: Laguna San Ignacio

Laguna San Ignacio is one of the largest breeding and calving grounds of the Pacific gray whale and each winter these whales make the 12,000 mile round-trip trek in order to give birth in the lagoons warm, protected waters.

We are honored to be allowed in among the whales and during our time in the lagoon you will have the opportunity to experience face to face "friendly" encounters with these whales. The friendly behavior displayed by these whales is unique, magical and experience to never be forgotten!

But Laguna San Ignacio holds more than whales, it is a life magnet attracting dozens of bird species, aquatic and terrestrial. Trips to the mangrove forests will highlight the bird life with up to 30 different species being seen in one tour! Plus, if weather and tides allow, we may be able to offer kayak tours into these mangrove forests canals and channels. A quiet kayak into these areas is the best way to truly appreciate all that the lagoon has to offer.



Days 8 - 9: Bahia Magdalena

Bahia Magdalena is the largest natural bay on the Baja peninsula and is home to dozens of species of birds, mammals, fish and desert plants. During our stay here we may witness gray whales from the mothership and if the whales are in close proximity to our anchorage you will be able to venture out in our skiffs for up close encounters.

Bahia Magdalena's mangrove forests are a place of wonder, with more birds here than the mangrove's of Laguna San Ignacio. Enjoy a quiet kayak through the canals, pull up on a quiet beach but most of all enjoy the beauty of your surroundings.

Day 10: Cabo San Lucas / Disembarkation

After an overnight steam from Bahia Magdalena we will round the world famous "Land's End arch" and make our way into the Cabo San Lucas Bay.

Disembark after breakfast and take a boat arranged shuttle to the airport or to your hotel.

This is a tentative itinerary that will be controlled by Mother Nature. Destinations, arrival and departure times may need to be adjusted accordingly.