UCLA Alumni

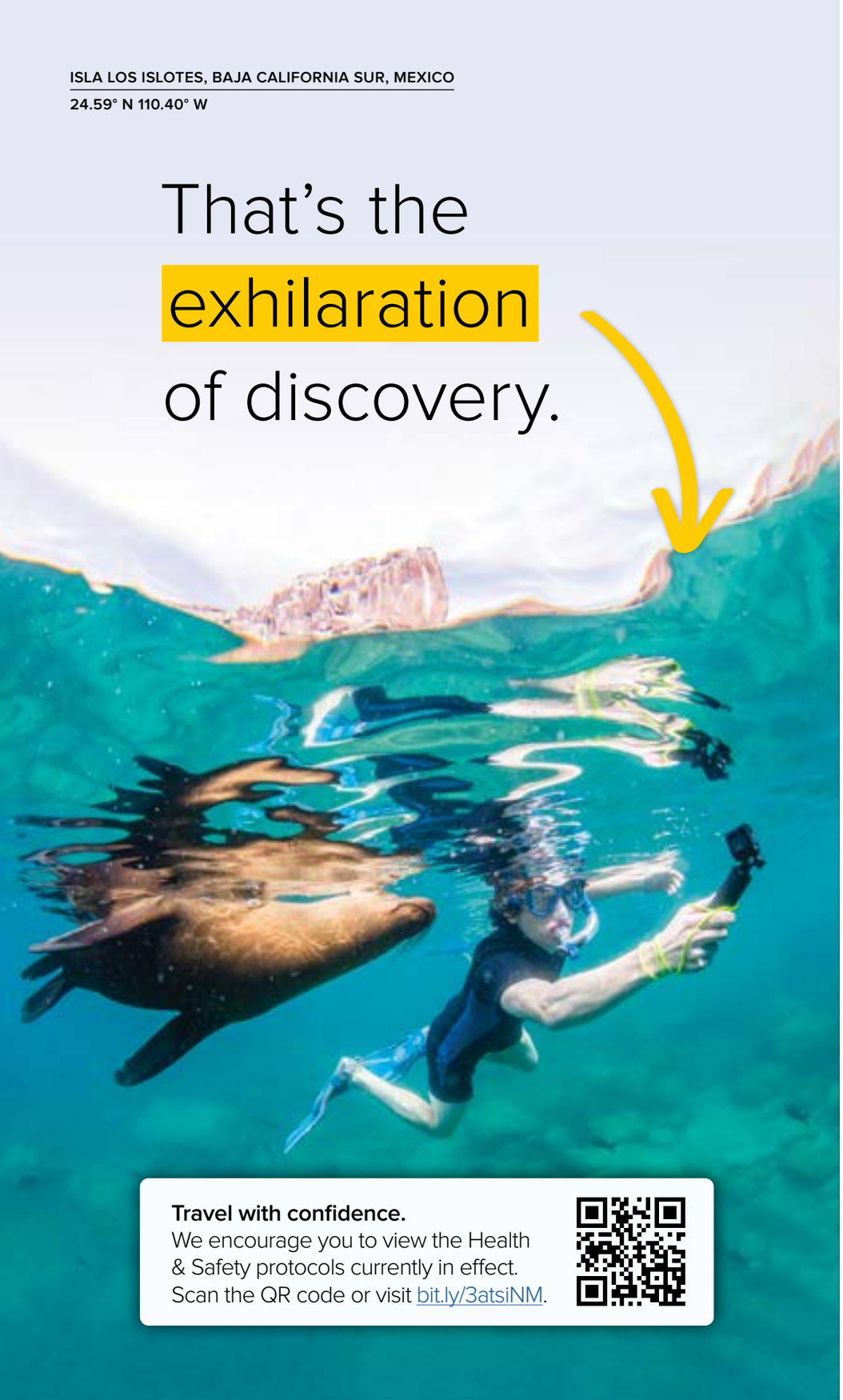
BAJA CALIFORNIA & THE SEA OF CORTEZ

AMONG THE GREAT WHALES

FEBRUARY 19-26, 2022 | ABOARD *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE*

ISLA LOS ISLOTES, BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MEXICO
24.59° N 110.40° W

That's the exhilaration of discovery.



Travel with confidence.
We encourage you to view the Health & Safety protocols currently in effect. Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/3atsiNM.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Baja California is a remarkable destination. It provides an opportunity to discover and revel in a pristine wilderness few people imagine exists in our North American 'backyard.' The Baja you explore is remote, wild, and untrammeled—and yet not far at all: a short hop from the West Coast. And for East Coast and Midwest travelers, Baja is worth your jet travel, especially in the winter with its desert warmth, beauty, scenic undersea, and amazing wildlife.

Roam freely aboard the new *National Geographic Venture*, a nimble expedition ship ruled by wind, wave, and weather, and have the kind of experiences that only nature can provide. In winter, California gray whales give birth and raise their calves in the nursery lagoons. Spend time among them, as you board local pangas for extraordinary up-close encounters with these gentle giants and their playful calves, who often surface to make heart-warming eye contact with you.

Explore the Sea of Cortez, where there are countless opportunities to experience a living sea. Observe dolphins by the score and encounter a variety of whales, including deep-diving sperm whales and perhaps even rare blue whales. Snorkel with sea lions, hike into cacti forests of surreal beauty, kayak along remote coastlines—and generally have the place to yourselves.

See, learn, and do more with a team of expert naturalists, including an undersea specialist, who know this area well. For photographers, this paradise offers extraordinary light to capture it all with the help of a certified photo instructor.

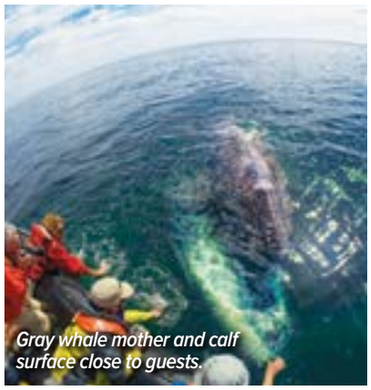
Baja is one of those places on the planet that supplies the human spirit the tonic of wildness it needs. Few experiences are as rewarding. I hope you will be able to join us February 19-26, 2022. **To reserve your place, please return the reservation form or call 310-206-0613 for more information.**

Sincerely,

Christel Aragon
Director, Alumni Travel

Cover photo: California gray whale surfaces close to panga. © Ralph Lee Hopkins
Opposite: Los Islotes, Baja California Sur, Mexico. © Michael S. Nolan

HAVE UP-CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH GRAY WHALES



Gray whale mother and calf surface close to guests.

You can whale watch in a number of places in the world, but only in Baja can you have a personal encounter—and you will have plenty of chances to get up close to these gentle giants. Gray whales migrate annually from their feeding grounds in Alaska to the nursery lagoons on the Baja California peninsula to give birth and nurture their young. Spend time among the mothers and their calves, observing them at water level aboard local pangas guided by expert locals. They are often incredibly social and have been known to push their newborn calves up to the pangas. Expert spotters and knowledgeable naturalists join you to ensure and enhance your experiences among these marvelous “friendlies.”

EXPLORE PRISTINE ISLES AND A LIVING SEA

Sunset is a magical time in the Sea of Cortez.

On the other side of the Baja peninsula, in the Sea of Cortez, you discover the uninhabited desert islands that dot the clear blue sea. Search for a variety of whale species, scores of leaping dolphins, and diving seabirds. Hike a forest of giant cacti, kayak or paddleboard in protected coves, snorkel with sea lions, and join a naturalist aboard a Zodiac to observe the diverse birdlife along the shores. When you see Baja’s islands with their desert landscape, rugged cliffs, and white sand beaches reflected in an azure sea, you’ll understand immediately why they have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): California sea lions basking in the sun; gray whales, Magdalena Bay; the sea often erupts with scores of leaping dolphins; breaching humpback whale; frigatebird.

THE PERFECT MOBILE BASE CAMP TO DISCOVER BAJA

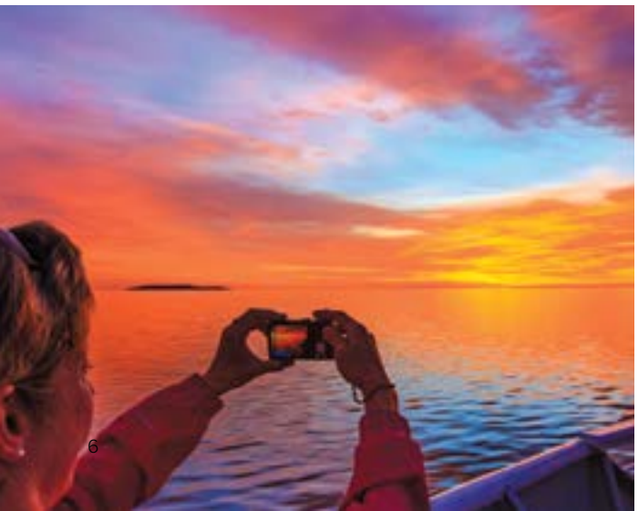
The lounge is the center of life aboard ship.

With generous decks that take full advantage of the sun and ocean breezes, and create front-row seats on the remarkable spectacle of marine life in Baja, the new expedition ship *National Geographic Venture* is uniquely designed to make the most of being in this remote, soul-satisfying geography. The ship is more than comfortable, with spacious cabins, some with step-out balconies, generous windows, and top amenities. Inviting public spaces foster an atmosphere of camaraderie—the lounge, which accommodates the entire expedition community, is where evening Recaps take place, and the casual dining room provides unassigned seating for easy mingling.

ONBOARD TOOLS FOR DEEPER EXPLORATION

Because there is much to discover here—cactus forests, desert islands, beautifully indented shores, a calm sea with vivid life beneath the surface, and more, *National Geographic Venture* is equipped so you can explore. A fleet of Zodiacs lets you experience up-close encounters with whales, dolphins, and sea lions, and land on otherwise inaccessible uninhabited islands. Board one of the single or double kayaks for water-level views of the stunning scenery. Get up and out on a stand-up paddleboard for a personal adventure. Snorkeling gear for all aboard enables you to explore the thriving undersea. There's even a hydrophone for whale listening and a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) which can operate up to 1,000 feet below the surface.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): The National Geographic Venture *is equipped to explore in comfort; kayaking in the calm water of the Sea of Cortez; snorkeling with sea lions; enjoy yoga on deck; beach barbecue and bonfire under the stars; go paddleboarding for a personal perspective.*



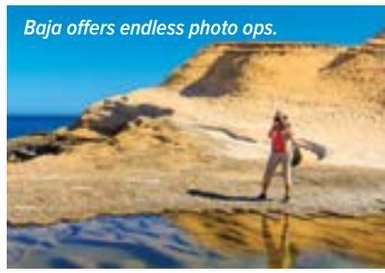
TRAVEL WITH AN A+ EXPEDITION TEAM

Naturalists are always on hand to point out wildlife.

Discover Baja with a veteran expedition leader and a team of naturalists well versed in the region's flora and fauna. An undersea specialist/videographer shoots video for you to enjoy in the comfort of the ship's lounge, maximizing your understanding of Baja's incredible marine environment. A certified photo instructor assists you in capturing moments at the heart of your experience. Plus, a wellness specialist helps enhance the relaxing and revitalizing benefits of life in this magical region.

IN A LAND WITH PERFECT LIGHT, SHOOT GREAT PHOTOS

Make the most of the unrivaled photo ops of Baja California's wild islands, whales, dolphins, and seabirds with the Expedition Photography program. The onboard certified photo instructor offers assistance, instructions, and shooting tips in the field. Their 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.



Baja offers endless photo ops.

EXCLUSIVE ONBOARD GEAR LOCKER

Dive into the onboard B&H Photo Video Gear Locker to field test new glass, camera bodies, and more—free. Plus, ask about pre-voyage discounts and benefits.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): Hiking amidst giant cacti; guests spot mobula rays during Zodiac outing; photo instructor shares tips in the field; undersea specialist captures a sea lion on video; smartphone user photographs sunset in the Sea of Cortez.

BAJA CALIFORNIA & THE SEA OF CORTEZ: AMONG THE GREAT WHALES

8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS—ABOARD *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE*

The gray whales winter in the breeding grounds of Magdalena Bay.

Seeing gray whales in their natural habitat is one of the great delights of this voyage. In Magdalena Bay, venture out in small boats among these magnificent creatures. In the Sea of Cortez, search for a variety of whales, plus dolphins, blue-footed boobies, pelicans, cormorants, and magnificent frigatebirds. You'll also snorkel among sea lions, join naturalists on hikes amid barrel cacti and sculpted sand dunes, and see a variety of desert flora and fauna.

DAY 1: LORETO/EMBARK

Upon arrival in Loreto, embark *National Geographic Venture.* Savor the sunset as we set sail. (D)

DAY 2: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ

Our plan is flexible as we explore some of the sea's many uninhabited islands. The captain and expedition leader will choose the perfect combination of activities for the day. We may go ashore at Isla San Francisco, where a sweeping arc of white sand beach beckons you to kayak or stand-up paddleboard. Or, hike to the nearby ridge for unparalleled views over Isla Danzante with your naturalist. You may also visit the abandoned salt works on Isla Carmen. You'll get a chance to see the great diversity offered in the Sea of Cortez, and with some luck, spot the amazing wildlife. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: LOS ISLOTES AND LA PAZ

Awake this morning off the rocky island of Los Islotes, where we'll don flippers, a mask, and snorkel (which we provide) and swim with curious sea lions. Then we'll reposition to the colorful city of La Paz to garner insight into the culture of Mexico, soak in the vibrant street art, and stroll the lively *malecon* on a guided walking tour. Dinner will be an unforgettable cultural experience, complete with local cuisine, dancing, and folklore (B,L,D).

DAY 4: CABO PULMO AND GORDA BANKS

Kickstart your day snorkeling the pristine reefs of Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park, one of the most successful national marine parks in the world, and chat with locals about their advocacy to protect this unique place. We'll spend the afternoon searching the seas of Gorda Banks seamount, a renowned gathering place for whales, especially humpbacks, dolphins, and other sea life, capping off our day with a majestic sunset over the iconic Friars Rocks at Land's End. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: CRUISING AND MAGDALENA BAY

Ease into your day with morning stretch hosted by the onboard wellness specialist on the sundeck, enjoy a lecture, or join your naturalists onboard as we travel north along the coast of the peninsula. There is a chance of seeing a wide variety of marine life, including the largest animal on Earth, the blue whale. Midday, we'll arrive into Magdalena and anchor in the the northern reaches of Magdalena Bay where we'll explore the vast mangrove system via kayak, stand-up paddleboard, and Zodiac, and learn how these massive ecosystems support their surroundings. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: BOCA DE SOLEDAD

Each winter, during their long migration, gray whales travel south from their Arctic feeding grounds to breed and give birth and raise their calves in these sheltered waters. We'll transfer by motorcoach to López Mateos and spend the full day observing, and with luck, interacting with these majestic creatures. Together with savvy local Mexican fishermen, we'll venture out in local pangas to view the numerous mother-calf pairs that thrive in this sheltering region. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before heading back to the ship in late afternoon. (B,L,D)

Guest hiking across sand dunes, Bahía Magdalena.

DAY 7: BAHÍA ALMEJAS/ REHUSA CHANNEL/ISLA MAGDALENA

Awake anchored in Bahía Almejas, the southernmost part of the Bay. We'll stop at a large frigatebird colony enroute to the spectacular whale grounds of Bahía Almejas. Whales in this part of the bay tend to be very active, seemingly oblivious to our presence, so settle in for some great 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. Bird-watching here can be excellent, with abundant seabirds in action and shorebirds patrolling the beaches as they fatten up for long journeys to Arctic breeding grounds. (B,L,D)

DAY 8: SAN CARLOS/LORETO/DISEMBARK

Disembark in San Carlos after breakfast and transfer to Loreto. Here 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)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE

CAPACITY: 50 cabins accommodating 100 guests.
REGISTRY: United States. **OVERALL LENGTH:** 238 feet.

National Geographic Venture, launched in 2019, is the latest addition to Lindblad's U.S. Fleet. Designed with over 50 years of expedition heritage and built in the U.S.A., *National Geographic Venture* sets a new standard in exploration and comfort.

PUBLIC AREAS: Global gallery; fitness center; LEXspa; lounge with full service bar and facilities for films and presentations; observation deck; mudroom with lockers for expedition gear, and a partially covered sundeck with chairs and tables. The open Bridge provides guests an opportunity to meet the officers and captain to 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. Cuisine is fresh, sustainable, and accented with regional flair.

CABINS: All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private facilities, and climate controls. Category 4 cabins have step-out balconies.

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: A fleet of 8 Zodiacs and 24 kayaks, paddleboards, snorkeling gear for all guests, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, and video microscope.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Guest Wi-Fi access, elevator, certified photo instructor, undersea specialist, video chronicler, and ship physician.

WELLNESS: The vessel is staffed by a wellness specialist and features a gym with an elliptical machine, treadmill, exercycles, handweights, and resistance bands. Treatments in the LEXspa are available by appointment.

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.

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

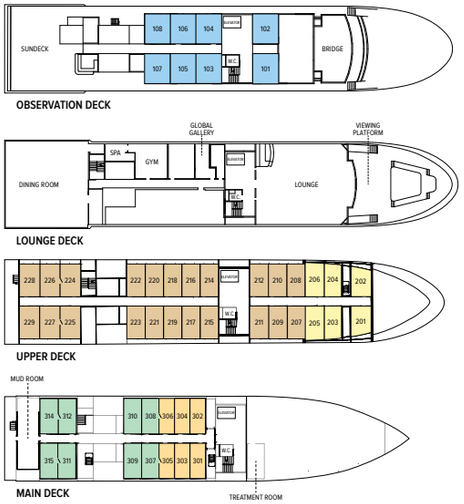
ITINERARY	CAT. 1	CAT. 2	CAT. 3	CAT. 4	CAT. 5 SUITE	CAT. 1 SOLO	CAT. 2 SOLO	ADVANCE PAYMENT	SAMPLE AIRFARES
Baja California & the Sea of Cortez	$6,400	$7,130	$7,720	$8,520	$9,460	$9,740	$10,610	$850	Round-trip Los Angeles/ Loreto: Economy from $300; Business from $650.

CATEGORY 1: Main Deck #301-306
Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, and two portholes.

CATEGORY 2: Main Deck #307-315
Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, and two portholes.

CATEGORY 3: Upper Deck #201-206
Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, and two large view windows.

CATEGORY 4: Upper Deck #207-229
Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, a writing desk, sliding glass door, and small, private balcony.



CATEGORY 5 (SUITE): Observation Deck #101-108
Cabins feature two lower single beds that can convert to a Queen, large view windows, an expanded bathroom, writing desk, ample storage space, and a convertible sofa bed to accommodate a third person.

NOTE: Solo Occupancy cabins are available in Categories 1 and 2 only. Third person rates are available in Category 5 cabins at one half the double occupancy rate.

Connecting Cabins via internal doorway access: Main Deck: #312-314, #311-315, #306-308, #305-307; Upper Deck: #224-226, #225-227

Clockwise from top left: The casual dining room with its expansive windows; Category 4 cabin with lower single beds (which can be converted to a Queen) and a private step-out balcony; the sundeck is a perfect place to relax and observe the scenery; Category 5 cabin is the most spacious aboard.

INCLUSIVE PRICING

ABOARD SHIP
- ✓ All meals served in the dining room
- ✓ All nonalcoholic beverages including unlimited cappuccinos, lattes, coffee, tea & soda
- ✓ Hors d'oeuvres & snacks during evening Recap
- ✓ Environmentally friendly refillable water bottle
- ✓ Fully stocked library
- ✓ Mac computers for downloading your camera's memory card & Internet access
- ✓ Fitness center
- ✓ The guidance & company of the expedition staff
- ✓ Access to the Bridge to learn about navigation

ASHORE
- ✓ Meals as indicated
- ✓ Special access permits, park fees, port taxes
- ✓ Transfers to & from group flights
- ✓ The expertise of the expedition staff & local guides

ACTIVITIES
- ✓ All shore activities
- ✓ Zodiac & kayak explorations
- ✓ Snorkeling & paddleboarding
- ✓ Lectures & presentations in the lounge
- ✓ Photo instruction
- ✓ Morning stretch class 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 snorkeling gear; 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 this program are non-refundable.
NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; meals not indicated; passport and visa fees; travel protection plan; items of a personal nature such as alcoholic beverages, voyage chronicle, Wi-Fi access, and laundry; gratuities to ship's crew at your discretion.
AIRFARE: Airfare is an additional cost. Sample airfares are subject to change. Lindblad will gladly assist in making your air arrangements for a $50 per person service charge.
RESERVATIONS: To confirm your place, an advance payment of US$850 per person is payable by check, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover. Receipt of advance payment indicates your acceptance of the terms and conditions.
FINAL PAYMENT: 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.
INSURANCE: Trip cancellation/interruption insurance is highly recommended and should be considered for your financial protection. Also important, especially if you are traveling internationally, is medical insurance and emergency medical evacuation coverage. A comprehensive package will be made available to you upon receipt of your initial deposit. Early purchase may provide coverage of preexisting medical problems.
ENTRY AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: Guests are advised to verify travel documents (REAL ID/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: Itineraries 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, our 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, we reserve the right 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.

CANCELLATION POLICY	
Number of Days Prior to Expedition Start	**Per Person Cancellation Fee**
120 or more days	$450
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.	

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Please send reservation to:
Lindblad Expeditions
96 Morton Street
New York, NY 10014
Phone: 310-206-0613
Fax: 310-209-4271
Email: travel@alumni.ucla.edu
Web: travel.alumni.ucla.edu

RESERVATION FORM: BAJA CALIFORNIA & THE SEA OF CORTEZ

ABOARD *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE* • FEBRUARY 19-26, 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: _____ Cell Phone:_____

Business 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:_____

Advance Payment Information: US$850 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.

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❑ I have made a $100 donation at travel.alumni.ucla.edu/donate.

Detailed Alumni Association benefit information can be found at **alumni.ucla.edu/benefits.**

*Sustaining donors include Gold, Life and Blue Members as well as anyone that has made a qualifying donation of $100 or more to the UCLA Alumni Association Support fund in the past year.

AMONG THE GREAT WHALES

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

» Get up close to gigantic gray whale mothers and their calves in the breeding grounds of Magdalena Bay or Boca del Soledad.

» Go snorkeling amid sea lions and schools of brilliant fish.

» Kayak and paddleboard in calm, blue waters for personal discoveries.

» Explore deserted isles amid sand dunes and cacti forests.

» Learn about marine and desert life from expert naturalists and an undersea specialist.

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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