

Baja Whale Watching Multisport Tour

A Whale Watching, Hiking, Kayaking, Snorkeling and Surfing Adventure

Experience the sun-drenched beauty of Baja, Mexico and the awesome thrill of whale watching in world famous Magdalena Bay. Experience close encounters with these gentle giants plus snorkel and kayak the turquoise waters of the Sea of Cortez, hikes on remote mountain trails, tour tranquil colonial towns, relax on golden sand beaches ... even learn to surf!

Day 1. Arrive Los Cabos & Transfer to Villas Los Colibris (011-52-612-14-50189 / private baths / <http://www.loscolibris.com>) or **Todos Santos Inn** (011-52-612-1450-0040 / private baths/ <http://www.todossantosinn.com>) or equivalent

We meet at 4:30 p.m. at Los Cabos International airport and transfer to the Pacific coast and the colonial village cum artist colony of Todos Santos (All Saints). A palm-fringed oasis brimming with creative souls, this gentle sanctuary captivates with its timeworn beauty, laid-back ambience and hospitable people. Meet our group and tour leader in the lobby of your hotel at 8:00 p.m. for introductions and orientation. (no meals).

- Pick up at Los Cabos airport at 4:30pm for transfer to Todos Santos, approx. 1.5 hrs. Private transfers available on request at additional cost.

Day 2. Todos Santos Walking Tour & Sea Cliffs Hike, Villas Los Colibris or Todos Santos Inn or equivalent

This morning we meet in the hotel courtyard for the start of our walking tour of Todos Santos and learn about this fascinating town and its long history as a community center in Southern Baja.

After a delicious lunch, we explore the area's spectacular coast on a hike along sea cliffs overlooking miles of pristine beach with sweeping views of Baja's stark and rugged coastline (B,L,D)

- Todos Santos Walking Tour 3 hours
- Sea Cliff Hike 6 miles, approx 400' elevation gain/loss

Day 3. Waterfall Hike & Surfing, Villas Los Colibris or Todos Santos Inn or equivalent

Today we explore the Sierra de la Laguna Biosphere Reserve, an ecological treasure where cacti, palms and pine trees grow side by side on the slopes of 6000' peaks and spring fed pools form beneath towering granite boulders. We follow an ancient trail along an *arroyo* (dry river bed) that brings us to three hidden waterfalls. We swim, take pictures and relax with a wonderful picnic lunch.

After our hike we head to beautiful, crescent

shaped Los Cerritos Beach to swim, stroll or learn to surf on its gentle Pacific rollers (board rental and instruction extra). We then return to town and enjoy dinner at one of Todos Santos's fantastic eateries. (B,L,D)

- Sierra de la Laguna Waterfall Hike 5 miles, approx. gain/loss 200', some rock scrambling, swimming
- Los Cerritos Beach: surfboard rental surfing instruction additional cost.

Day 4. Sea of Cortez Snorkeling, Swimming, Hiking, El Angel Azul (011-52-612-125-5130 / private baths/ <http://www.elangelazul.com/en/hotel/index.html>) or equivalent

We're up early for the drive across the peninsula to La Paz and sea kayaking around incredible Espiritu Santo (Holy Ghost) Island in the magical Sea of Cortez. La Paz is the capital and largest city of Baja California Sur and the sunsets across the Bay of La Paz are spectacular!

The Sea of Cortez is home to one-third of the world's whale and dolphin species and more than 500 species of fish. Its islands provide habitat for more than 200 bird species and host breeding colonies of sea lions and sea turtles. Espiritu Santo is especially rich and beautiful, with rare cactus and wildlife, raw boned desert hills and dozens of hidden white sand beaches.

During the 45 minute run to the island, our guide instructs us on the basics of sea-kayaking. We then start paddling the turquoise waters of Espiritu Santo's sculptured coast beneath stark volcanic cliffs, stopping at one of the island's jaw dropping beaches for a picnic lunch.

After lunch and a guided nature hike, we're off to beautiful Los Islotes, off-shore islands home to a thriving colony of friendly sea lions. Prepare to experience the thrill of swimming with sea lion pups amid thousands of tropical fish!

Early this evening we're back in La Paz for dinner and relaxing and spend the night at the charming El Angel Azul or equivalent (B,L,D)

- Transfer Todos Santos - Las Paz approx 1.5 hours

- Sea Kayaking Espiritu Santo suitable for beginners, motor boat supported, up to 3 hour paddling.
- Motorboat trip to Espiritu Santo approx 45 minutes, to sea lion colony approx 15 minutes.
- Kayaking equipment, snorkeling gear and wet suits provided and included in tour price.

Days 5 La Paz- Magdalena Bay, Hotel Brennan (011-52-613-13-602-88 / private baths / <http://www.hotelbrennan.com.mx/>) or equivalent

This morning we take the 4-hour drive to Magdalena Bay, arriving at Lopez Mateos in time for an orientation and an afternoon exploring the bay in motorized 8-passenger *pangas* - 16'-22' open fishing boats.

Magdalena Bay is world renown as an extraordinarily marine ecosystem and the breeding ground of the Pacific Gray Whale which visits each winter to court, breed and give birth as part of its annual 12, 400 mile round trip migration along the Pacific coast from arctic Alaska.

We venture into the bay's protected waters guided by expert local boatmen to observe these gentle cetaceans. Arms length encounters are not uncommon but whales are approached only on their

terms and the number of boats allowed in the bay is strictly limited.

We also enjoy hikes exploring miles of secluded beaches, mangroves and windswept dunes, and there's swimming for the hardy (water temps in low 60's).

Returning to the shore it is then just a quick drive to our accommodation in San Carlos. Relax and freshen up before or evening dinner of fresh seafood. (B,L,D)

Day 6 Magdalena Bay Whale-watching. El Angel Azul or equivalent (011-52-612-125-5130 / private baths/ <http://www.elangelazul.com/en/hotel/index.html>)

This morning is devoted to whale watching, hiking and exploring. Besides whales, the mangroves and beaches of Magdalena Bay are home to an amazing array of other life – cormorants, pelicans, osprey, dolphins, sharks, sea turtles and much more.

After a deliciously prepared lunch we then transfer back to La Paz, arriving around 4pm. (B,L,D)

- Transfer La Paz – Magdalena Bay approx 4 hours
- Whale watching 1-3 hours

Day 7. Departure day La Paz – Home

Group transfer to Los Cabos International Airport. (B only)

Trip Details

Trip Type: Boutique Hotels (5 nights)/ Safari Camping (1 night). Specific hotels for each departure will be confirmed at least 1 month before departure. Please contact us for information on your trip.

Trip Length: 7 days/ 6 nights

Activities: Hiking (3 half days), sea kayaking (1/2 day), swimming and snorkeling (1/2 day), whale watching (2 half days), boat trip, and town tour.

Group Size: Minimum 4 / maximum 12

2012 Dates: January 6-12, January 13-19, January 29-26, January 27-February 2, March 5-11, March 12-18, March 19-25

Price: \$2298 per person double occupancy

Single Supplement: \$575

Trip Rating: Moderately Easy

Meeting Time & Place: Day 1 at 4:30 p.m. Los Cabos International Airport

Trip Conclusion: Day 7 group transfer to Los Cabos International Airport

Trip Fees Include: Meals as indicated on the itinerary (B=breakfast,L=lunch,D=dinner), accommodations Day 1 to Day 7, activities as described in the itinerary, snorkeling and kayaking equipment and wet suits, transportation on the tour, group airport transfers Day 1 Los Cabos airport to Todos Santos and Day 8 La Paz to Los Cabos airport, gratuities for wait staff, maids and porters, park fees and the services of a bi-lingual tour leader and local guides.

For Reservations and Information call 800-488-8483 or Reserve 24 hours a day at www.TheWorldOutdoors.com

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Address: 2840 Wilderness Place, Suite D Boulder, CO 80301 Fax: 303-413-0926 Email: fun@TheWorldOutdoors.com

Trip Fees Exclude: Airfare, pre- or post-trip lodging, optional activities, surf board rental and instruction, alcoholic beverages, gratuities for local guides and trip leader (see recommendations below), airport departure taxes and screening fees, immigration card (\$17), airport transfers not with the group on the designated arrival/departure days, personal expenses such as insurance, laundry, phone call, etc.

Itinerary Changes: We reserve the right to change the tour's itinerary including accommodations, route, activities, etc. due to availability, safety considerations, transportation requirements, price changes or any other factors as we deem necessary.

The Next Step...

References Don't take our word for it that The World Outdoors trips are the finest in the adventure travel industry. Ask our past guests. *Call about any of our trips and we'll be happy to refer you to someone who's been there with us.*

The Best Value in Active Travel Guarantee: *We commit to you that all of our trips are of the highest quality at the best value. If you find a trip of equal quality that matches our itinerary and inclusions at a lower fare within 30 days of booking your trip with us, we will gladly refund the difference. A simple guarantee that assures you of the best trip at the best fare!*

How do I join this trip? Call The World Outdoors at (800) 488-8483 and a Trip Consultant will reserve your space(s) or register online at www.TheWorldOutdoors.com. Your travel agent can also book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

Special Requests: If you have any special dietary needs or any special request that will make your trip more enjoyable, please be sure to notify your Trip Consultant or travel agent upon booking.

Then Leave the Rest to Us... Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including your reservation payment receipt and confirmation, travel insurance application, suggestions for preparing for your trip, a packing list, information on pre- and post-trip arrangements, a guest questionnaire and a liability release agreement.

Travel Protection: To make your trip with The World Outdoors even more carefree, we strongly recommend the purchase of our travel insurance plan. Offering comprehensive coverage and peace of mind, our travel insurance plan is designed to protect you in case of lost or damaged luggage, a sudden illness or death in the family, emergency medical expenses and transportation costs, and flight delays. We'd be happy to arrange travel insurance coverage for you, so contact us at (800) 488-8483 with any questions.

How do I book airfare for this trip? Call our in-house travel agent, Sherry Malanify, at 800-488-8483 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time Monday through Friday or you can email her at sherrym@theworldoutdoors.com. Sherry is also available to assist you with pre- and post-lodging needs. If Sherry is unavailable and your needs are urgent, please call James TravelPoints, a local travel agency, at 800-538-7461 and ask for Georgia (ext 251) or email her at GeorgiaT@travelpoints.com. Be sure to tell her you are traveling with The World Outdoors. Alternatively, you are welcome to book your airfare online, directly with the airline or through your personal travel agent.

General Information, Questions & Answers

Passports and Visas: Effective **January 8, 2007**, all U.S. citizens traveling by air to and from Mexico are required to have a valid passport to enter the U.S. This requirement will include those traveling by land or sea (including ferries) in January 2008. Generally, citizens of all nations require a passport to enter Mexico and most can stay for 90 days without a visa. Be sure your passport is valid for at least six months from your planned arrival date in Mexico. Visit <http://www.traveldocs.com/mx/> for the latest requirements.

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Accommodations: The lodging described in the above itinerary is what is most often used on the tour. However, alternatives are sometimes used. In Magdalena Bay, we use fixed, walk-in canvass safari tents with linens and pillows. We sleep on cushioned cots with sleeping bags. Cold water showers are available with warm water showers on request. Drop toilets. Accommodations are twin-share.

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Meals at the camp are served buffet style and include fresh fish and chicken along with fruit and cereals for breakfast. Snacks are provided as well as local wine, beer, and spirits (margaritas abound!). Meals are served in a walk-in dining tent with solar powered lighting. Comfortable plastic chairs, dinning tables and tablecloths. No camp fires are permitted but margaritas help to keep everyone warm!

What weather can I expect? In La Paz and Todos Santos expect daytime highs in the 70's to 80's and nighttime lows in the 50's and 60's. Water temps vary from mid 60's to mid 70's. At Magdalena Bay temps are generally a bit cooler and conditions are often windy. Nighttime lows can fall to the 40s with wind chills even colder! Warm layers are a must! Many people find a wetsuit desirable for water activities. For more weather information visit <http://caboweather.com/>

How difficult is this trip...really? No prior experience is required for any activities on this tour but it is an active trip designed for healthy adults who want to spend three to six hours a day in moderately strenuous activities. The tour is suitable for children 10 and older.

Is this tour suitable for children? The tour is fine for children as young as 10. Babysitting can be arranged in Todos Santos and La Paz

Tour Operator: This tour was designed by The World Outdoors and is conducted by a local Mexican tour operator *Journey Mexico* selected for their reputation, service and reliability. Bilingual guides accompany all activities.

Emergency Contact Information: Our office in Boulder, Colorado is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time 1-800-488-8483. For emergencies outside of our normal business hours call Bill Marriner at 720-289-0460, Sherry Malanify at 303-915-9660, Darcie Carr at 303-595-8561 or Eric Wagner at 303-324-7795.

Journey Mexico is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturdays (October-April) 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. They can be reached from the U.S. at 1-800-513-1587 or 011-52-322-225-9872, from outside Mexico +52-322-225-9872 or within Mexico 322-225-9872. After hours, call from the U.S. 011-52-322-225-9821, from outside Mexico +52-322-225-9821 or within Mexico 322-225-9821. + means you need to dial the appropriate international calling code for the country you are calling from before the rest of the number. Ask local information for the correct code.

Medical Information: You should be vaccinated within the past five years for tetanus and we recommend that you talk to your doctor about hepatitis A, and allergic reactions to marine life. The biggest hazard on our trip is sunburn, so be careful for the first few days, it can spoil your trip. For more information visit <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/regionCentralAmerica.aspx>

Tipping: Tips for waiters (for included meals), hotel staff, porters and maid service are included in the trip fee. The only tips that are not included are those for the local guides and the trip leader. The trip leader will help to organize the tip for the local guides and is customarily between \$5 - \$10 U.S. a day or \$3 - \$5 US for a half day tour. At the end of the trip it is customary for each client to contribute towards a tip for the trip leader who has organized and coordinated the journey. The normal amount given by each client to the tour leader is between \$7 and \$15 a day for each day of the trip. Of course, it is up to the client to decide on how much they would like to give. This is typically presented by one of the group to the guide at the end of the trip.

Pre and Post Trip Accommodation Recommendation:

Posada la Poza	Todos Santos, 011-52-612-145-0400, http://www.lapoza.com
Todos Santos Inn,	Todos Santos, 011-52-612-145-0040, http://www.todosantosinn.com
Posada de las Flores,	La Paz, 011-52-612-125-5871, http://www.posadadelasflores.com
El Angel Azul,	La Paz, 011-52-612-125-5871, http://www.elangelazul.com

We're Always Improving! While the information presented here details this trip's planned activities, routes, accommodations, departure and conclusion times, we are consistently seeking new opportunities to enhance this itinerary and your experience. Our actual activities and sites may vary due to season, special events, or weather. As a result, we reserve the right to alter the itinerary since unforeseen circumstances that mandate change may arise. Naturally, we will keep you up-to-date on any changes that may affect your arrival or departure times.

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