

MEXICO DISCOVERY 4

341-015



BAJA CALIFORNIA: WHERE THE WHALES ARE STROKED

Dreamy beaches, secluded bays and lagoons where whales congregate to breed and "take on" their young; the desert, oases and rare species of animals and plants; rock paintings, many Catholic missions and beautiful towns, typical relaxed atmosphere: these, in a nutshell, are the major attractions of this corner of the world.

Whalewatching is one of Baja's most important attractions: these majestic creatures can be observed, approached and even stroked. The fauna observed in Baja is not limited to whales, certainly along the coast there are colonies of fur seals, sea lions, dolphins, several species of birds and, inside, in desert areas, lynx, cougar, bighorn sheep and white-tailed deer. Baja will not disappoint those who love outdoor activities: Here you can practice surfing, windsurfing, parasailing, canoeing, kayaking, snorkeling and scuba diving.



ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN PUNTA CHIVATO

After being welcomed by our representative who will deliver our road book and will assist you in the withdrawal of your rental 4WD, you will get introduced to "Baja" along the way from Loreto to Punta Chivato, in the charming "posada", an ideal base for excursions both on the coast and inside lands.

Accommodation, dinner at the same posada and overnight. Breakfast is included.



DAY 2: A BIT OF RELAX



After the hardships of the trip, now you can relax on the beach. Those who are fond of activities, will not get bored anyway: you can enjoy tennis or kayaking, or fishing boats hired by posada. Those who want to immediately dive into the atmosphere of dreamlike landscapes of Baja, can indulge in hiking or even mountain biking and have the chance to observe, on the same day, the landscapes of mountains, sea and desert.

At the end of the day, return to posada and overnight stay.





DAY 3: THE WHALES OF OJO DE LIEBRE BAY

Today is the day of your "contact", almost always very, very tight, with the whales in Ojo de Lievre, one of the pair and "nursing" of grey whales, ideal to observe these magnificent giants, meanwhile, because the area, from December to March, is the scene of one of the largest concentrations of whales in the world, where you can easily approach them and even touch: this is a really memorable experience and a truly incomparable sensation.

This relaxation is even more remarkable as these giant mammals are here in a particular season for them: the time of coupling and then nursing, a period during which other species are particularly "nervous" and unapproachable.

Return to posada, dinner and overnight stay.





DAY 4: LORETO

Transfer from Punta Chivato to Loreto, where you will stay, including breakfast, in a posada characterized by typical Mexican atmosphere. Guests can spend the afternoon relaxing at the beach to rest from the (nice) fatigue of travel, or go fishing, play tennis, golf or take advantage of other opportunities offered by posada for the outdoors activities. Once again it will be our road book to direct you through the most interesting activities. Dinner and overnight in the new posada



DAY 5: MISSION OF SAN JAVIER AND CAVE PAINTINGS



35 km along a dirt road, climbing with your off-road on the Sierra Giganta, between cactus and palms, then the San Javier mission, dating back to the end of 1600 and considered one of the most beautiful and best preserved ones in Baja: its remarkable stained glass and the wooden altar windows back of 1700.



After the mission you will join a guided excursion to the cave paintings of the place: it's prehistoric works, paintings of deer, humans, reptiles, birds, but also fish, squid, turtles, and whales, often beyond the caves 300 meters above sea level.

Return to posada, dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 6: ISLA CORONADO





8 km from the coast, lies the island, or rather the Islands of Coronados: it looks like a single island but is indeed a mini-archipelago. It takes about 20 minutes to reach them with a spear (panga) or with a zodiac. On this island sea lions, dolphins



and pelicans are easily observable: it's a reservation for these birds and other 160 fauna species. It is an ideal place for snorkeling and fishing or simply for sunbathing in one of its thousands of small beaches, which can be easily reached by paddling on a kayak. Return to posada with dinner

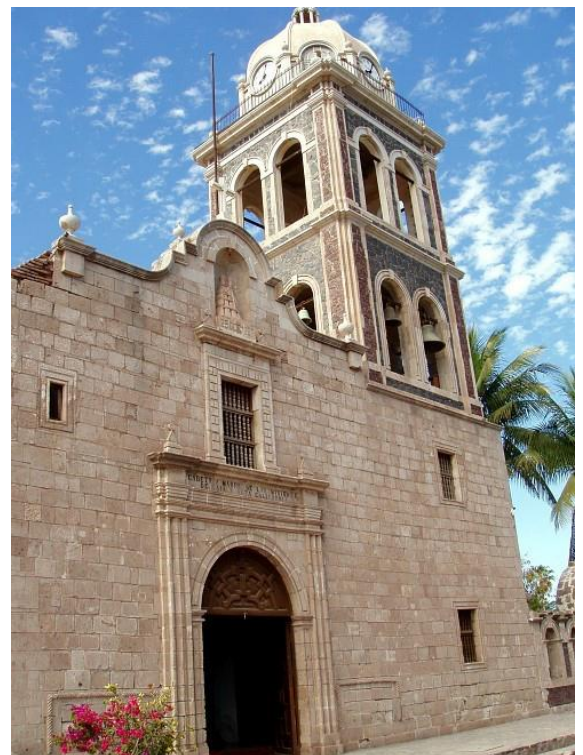
DAY 7: LORETO

Today your time will be split between the beach and a visit to the town of Loreto, especially to see the Mission of Nuestra Señora de Loreto, dating back to the 17th century and the adjacent Museum.

The mission is considered the first and the origin of all the missions of Baja and has withstood the blows inflicted upon him by hurricanes



and earthquakes. In the Museum you can admire artefacts that bear witness to the life and activities of missions and various equipment for horses and wagons.





DAY 8: CONCEPCION BAY

This beautiful Bay is located 77 km from North of Loreto and according to travelers, it is one of the most beautiful bays in the world. Along Highway 1, which runs along the Bay, you can admire unforgettable views of towering mountains, and desert beaches following one another along the coast, from groomed undertow of calm waters. Needless to say, you can relax on these beaches, but there is also a possibility of snorkeling.

Return to posada in Loreto, dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 9: BAHIA MAGDALENA

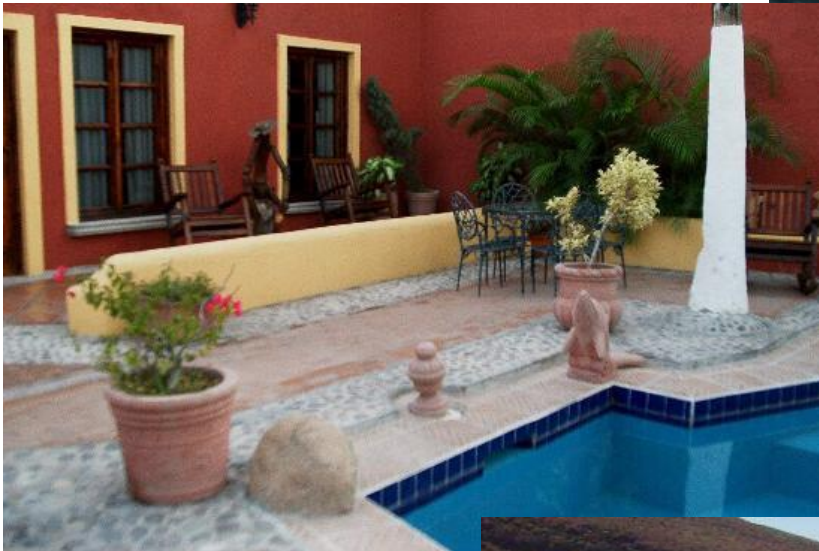
Free time in the morning, then transfer to Magdalena Bay, on the West coast of Baja for whale watching.

Puerto San Carlos, where you will sleep tonight, has no particular interest points. However it is an ideal base for whale watching tours in Bahia Magdalena



DAY 10: WHALES OF BAHIA MAGDALENA AND THEN LA PAZ

Protected from the waves of the Pacific from the islands of Magdalena and Margarita, the Bay is another favorite spots of grey whales for their mating. Its mangroves also provide shelter to many species of seabirds. Lopez Mateos and San Carlos are the best locations for viewing. Better the first though, because its waters are deeper.



After the excursion, transfer to La Paz and overnight stay, including breakfast, at la Posada de Las Flores

DAY 11: THE ISLAND OF ESPIRITU SANTO

This day is dedicated to the excursion to the island of Espiritu Santo. The island is approximately 8 km from the coast and it is one of the best locations for diving and underwater observation (both snorkeling and scuba diving). On its rocks you can easily spot colonies of sea lions, boobies, etc ... Paddling in a kayak or aboard a panga, you can easily reach the ravines of the island and the most hidden beaches.



Returning back to La Paz and overnight stay.

DAY 12: RELAXING ON THE BEACH



DAY 13: RETURN FLIGHT

Airport transfer, car delivery and return flight



LIST OF SERVICES:

- 4WD hire 13 days Loreto/La Paz
- 3 nights full Board Punta Chivato x 2 pax Posada de las Flores or similar one
- Excursion to Guerrero negro x 2
- 5 nights Hotel Loreto in Junior Suite with breakfast x 2 pax
- boat tour to Isla Coronadas x 2
- 1 night Hotel Puerto san Carlos double
- 5 hour whale watching excursion, Dolphins, Sea Lions, Birds, Dunes, Mangrove Channels, Quiet Beaches, Remote Island Fishing Outposts
- 3 nights in La Paz in Junior Suite with breakfast for 2 pax
- excursion to Espiritu Santo X 2 pax (sea lions, dolphins, tropical birds, etc ...) x 8 hours

Lunch on board is included.

Mini yacht cruise option from Loreto 3 days for 2 pax

Period: from March to November

Price: from 1910 euro per person.

The basic package includes only:

- auto rental off-road without Casco insurance
- overnight stay in double room hotel and/or lodges of 3/4 stars category
- 3 days full Board (in Punta Chivato)
- 8 breakfasts (5 in Loreto, 1 in Puerto San Carlos, 3 La Paz)

Exclusions: everything not included in the abovementioned list. Fixed priced subject to fluctuation of not over 10% + or – exchange, fixed at the receipt of the bank transfer

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