

## ITINERARY

### A TASTE OF BAJA CALIFORNIA PENINSULA

Get off your Rockers

2020

#### Day 1. San Diego –Tijuana –San Vicente – San Quintin

##### THE NORTH / SCENIC COAST

Begin your trip in San Diego. Cross the “busiest border in the world” process the permit to enter Mexico and start the Mexican experience walking through a colorful lively market reminiscent of the markets in Central Mexico. Begin the drive south along Highway One, the gateway to the peninsula. Stop in Puerto Nuevo for a delicious lobster lunch in a traditional restaurant. The drive to Ensenada skirts the Pacific Ocean offering breathtaking views. Then the road turns inland and crosses one of the peninsula’s most important agricultural areas to reach San Quintin. A rest stop in San Vicente allows a visit to a small Community Museum. The hotel for the night fronts a wide-open beach

Hotel Mision Santa Maria, San Quintín

Meals Lunch in Puerto Nuevo. Dinner at the hotel

#### Day 2. San Quintin – Cataviña

##### WELCOME TO THE DESERT

Spend a relaxing morning walking along the beach or resting at the hotel. Depart for the desert with a stop for lunch at the famed Mama Espinoza restaurant. Afterward, plunge into the enchanting Central Desert rich in vegetation. Stop for nature walks in beautiful desert landscape. Arrive in Cataviña where a combination of sun, sand, gigantic granite boulders, and amusing combinations of Boo Jums, Cardons and Elephant trees make a superb desert garden. Spend the evening admiring the enchanting desert sky in the secluded hotel.

Hotel Mision Cataviña

Meals Breakfast at hotel. Lunch at Mama Espinoza. Finger food dinner at hotel

#### Day 3. Cataviña – Guerrero Negro

##### UNIQUE DESERT GARDEN / SALT MARSH BIRDING

Morning walks in Cataviña’s memorable landscape include a visit to a small cave with simple rock art and exploring the vegetation among the boulder fields. Depart for Guerrero Negro with nature walks along the way. Guerrero Negro is the home of the largest salt plant in the world and one of the gray whale sanctuaries. At sunset, drive to and walk through a pristine bird filled salt marsh.

Hotel Half Way Inn, Guerrero Negro

Meals Breakfast at hotel. Lunch in Cataviña. Dinner at hotel

#### Day 4. Guerrero Negro – whale watching excursion # 1 – San Ignacio

##### MEET THE WHALES

Scammon’s Lagoon (Ojo de Liebre) is located in Guerrero Negro. A unique, unforgettable experience is a boat ride among whales in Scammon’s Lagoon Gray Whale Sanctuary, to view these enormous mammals at arm’s length; some even let themselves be petted! Each year, gray whales travel thousands of miles from the Arctic Ocean to the warm waters of this wildlife refuge to court, mate, give birth and care for their young. The four-hour whale watching excursion includes a drive through the salt beds, the boat ride among the whales and lunch. Continue to San Ignacio, a charming town that developed around its famous 18<sup>th</sup> century mission in the midst of a lush, tranquil oasis. Visit the town and the oasis followed by dinner.

Hotel Desert Inn, San Ignacio  
Meals Breakfast at hotel. Box lunch. Dinner at hotel

## **Day 5 .** San Ignacio - Laguna de San Ignacio – whale watching excursión # 2 - San Ignacio

### MORE WHALES / MISSION / OASIS

Board local vehicles for the one hour drive partly on a graded road to reach the secluded San Ignacio Lagoon. Again, board pangas in the San Ignacio Sanctuary for another adventuresome ride among whales. A hot lunch is served at the lagoon. Migrating birds can be spotted along the shore. Back in San Ignacio, enjoy a relaxed evening.

Hotel Desert Inn, San Ignacio  
Meals Breakfast at hotel. Lunch at the lagoon. Dinner on own.

## **Day 6.** San Ignacio – Mulegé – Loreto

### OLD FRENCH COLONY / PALM RIVER / BLUE WATERS

The variety of scenery makes this part of the road most interesting. Follow the “Tres Virgenes” volcanoes, cones of red lava rock dotted with gracious white elephant trees with a walk near the base of the volcano. One of the steepest grades in the peninsula leads to the blue waters of the Sea of Cortes. The town of Mulege was established as a mission settlement along a palm-filled riverbed. A visit to its mission and a meal stop gives us a chance to enjoy this pleasant community. As we leave town, a beautiful coastal stretch along Bahia de Concepcion reminds us of the beaches of the Caribbean. Loreto is the oldest mission and permanent settlement of the Californias. It also served as the capital of the territory for over 100 years. The mission is still standing today and houses a museum. The beautiful hotel faces the Sea of Cortes.

Hotel La Misión, Loreto  
Meals Breakfast at hotel. Lunch at Las Casitas in Mulege. Dinner at hotel

## **Day 7.** Loreto – Sierra de La Giganta, San Javier Mission – La Paz

### ANCIENT MISSIONS / JAGGED PEAKS / PEACEFUL CITY

The city of Loreto is surrounded by the impressively rugged peaks of the Sierra de la Giganta. Drive into these mountains to visit San Javier, one of the best preserved of all the missions with an original Mission orchard. A stop is made along the way in a ranch to learn about the process of making goat cheese. Taste the cheese on a tortilla that you learned to make. Continue to La Paz driving along scenic sea-shores, through Sierra de la Giganta mountains and across an important agricultural area. Although La Paz is the most important city of the southern part of the peninsula, its tree-lined streets and calm clear beaches inspire tranquility. A walk along the “malecon” (boardwalk) is a treat.

Hotel Hyatt Place, La Paz  
Meals Breakfast at hotel. Lunch in San Javier. Taco dinner in La Paz

## **Day 8.** La Paz – Isla Espiritu Santo – La Paz.

### CRYSTAL WATERS, WHITE SAND, SEA LIFE

The Sea of Cortes has been defined as one of the most biologically diverse marine areas in the world, called by Cousteau “the aquarium of the world”. Within the Sea of Cortes Marine Park Reserve, the protected island of Espiritu Santo, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, offers a variety of attractions: fascinating geology, snorkeling with sea lions and tropical fish in crystal clear water, pristine beaches, hidden coves, and isolation. Take a boat out to the island for a day full of activities. Join the locals for an evening stroll and have dinner in a favorite La Paz restaurant on the boardwalk.

Hotel Hyatt Place, La Paz  
Meals Breakfast at hotel. Lunch on the island. Dinner at Bismarkcito Restaurant.

## Day 9. La Paz – Whale Sharks - Todos Santos - San Jose del Cabo

### WHALE SHARKS / ARTIST COLONY / LAND'S END

The morning offers another adventure in the Sea of Cortes! Take a boat excursion along the La Paz coastline to spot whale sharks that have been migrating regularly to the La Paz feeding grounds every winter. Lunch in La Paz before departing for San Jose del Cabo. On the way, stop at the fertile oasis of Todos Santos, now home to many artists and art galleries. Established to process sugar cane, the abandoned haciendas have been adapted into boutique hotels, restaurants and galleries. Brief free time to stroll through the town. Depart for the last stretch of the road to reach Los Cabos, the tip, land's end. In Cabo San Luca, take a short boat excursion to reach the famous arch which marks the spot where "land ends and heaven begins". The Los Cabos Corridor, a stretch of beautiful beaches dotted with conspicuous hotels, connects the busy resort of Cabo San Lucas to San Jose del Cabo, a rather quaint town of narrow streets and Spanish style buildings at the mouth of a palm-lined river. The cozy colonial hotel is off a restaurant and shopping street, one block from the main square with its restored mission church. Farewell dinner is in the hotel's well-known restaurant.

Hotel Tropicana Inn, San José del Cabo

Meals Breakfast at hotel. Lunch in La Paz. Farewell dinner at hotel

## Day 10. San Jose del Cabo – San Diego

### HOME SWEET HOME

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to the San José del Cabo Airport. **Return flight is not included.**

Meals Breakfast at hotel.

### INCLUDED SERVICES

- Comfortable private transportation San Diego – Los Cabos (days 1-9)
- Nine nights accommodations
- All meals with one drink, except two dinners and one lunch. Snacks and drinking water throughout the trip
- All visits and side excursions described in the itinerary
- Permit to enter Mexico
- Services of experienced Group Leader
- Taxes and tips of included meals and hotels

**2020 PRICE**     \$2,425.00 per person in double occupancy  
                         \$2,995.00 per person in single occupancy  
                         Minimum number of passengers: 15

**DATE**     March 17 – 26, 2020

### VALID PASSPORT MANDATORY

Passport must not expire within six months of travel date.

### PLEASE NOTE

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information featured on this itinerary. Itineraries are based on our best information at this time. Circumstances beyond our control may require us to adjust itineraries or other details. We regret any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.