

Gray Whale Trip Itinerary and FAQ.

When to arrive in Cabo:

Our charter flight to San Ignacio Lagoon is on March 6. Please arrive in Cabo San Lucas on March 4 as charter flight check-in is the morning of March 5th. After check-in a whale watching cruise is scheduled (included in the trip cost) from the marina in Cabo San Lucas looking for Humpback Whales, Fin Whales and pods of dolphins. Group hotel recommendation will be sent at a later date.

Your Gray Whale Adventure Begins:

Day 1 – March 6, 2023 Depart by Private Charter for San Ignacio Lagoon.

There will be an early morning group pick-up from the Barcelo Gran Faro Beach Resort in San Jose del Cabo on March 6th for the charter flight to San Ignacio Lagoon. Our private Cessna charter aircraft, complete with leather seats and air conditioning makes the two-hour flight up to remote San Ignacio a breeze! Upon arrival to Camp Tio Timo, you will be welcomed by our expert naturalist guides and attentive hostesses with champagne mimosas before whisking you away to get straight out onto the water with the gray whales!

Get ready to watch out for spouts! Following your first whale encounters, you will return to camp for fully catered meals and to enjoy all our camp has on offer. Take out a kayak or paddleboard, or grab an ice cream or cold drink from the bar to enjoy the spectacular sunsets over the lagoon from our prime beachfront location.

Days 2-3 – March 7-8. Whales, Whales, Whales! Whale watching to your heart's content!

We will start our whale watching sessions at 8:00am and continue through sunset. You can expect 2 - 3, 90-minute encounters each day, returning to camp between our whale excursion. Our goal is to ensure you get the most out of this once in a lifetime experience with these incredible cetaceans. Accompanied by our knowledgeable guides, watch them roll, breach, spy hop, and tend to their young. You may have the incredible opportunity to stroke, pet and hug these Ancient Beings of the Sea as they seek out human interaction.

In your downtime, you can take out one of our kayaks for a paddle on the calm lagoon waters or explore the shoreline tide pools, watching out for the diverse bird life in the surrounding mangroves. Or relax with a good book on the deck of your superior glamping tent. Our attentive staff will assure you are served delicious, fresh meals and have everything you need to enjoy your time at our Eco-Camp.

Day 4 – March 9. Departure: Charter flight back to Cabo airport.

We will have our final whale excursion before we depart on our charter flight back to Cabo. to bid Farewell and thank the whales for spending time with us humans. To allow for any possible charter flight delays due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, we suggest you plan to overnight on March 9 in Cabo and schedule your flight home on March 10.

**Trip Cost: \$2,630.00 per person shared glamping tent
\$500 non-refundable deposit to reserve your space**

What's Included:

Superior glamping tents with real beds, linens, private bathroom with toiletries
Healthy, delicious and fresh chef prepared meals
Chartered, private flight from Cabo San Lucas to San Ignacio and return
Non-alcoholic beverages and guide service
All tents are double occupancy / there are no single tents
Two to three whale watching excursions per day
battery charging station / complimentary Wifi

what's Not Included:

Flight to Cabo San Lucas and additional nights at hotels
Charter flight airport landing fee of \$35 USD cash per person, paid at camp
alcoholic beverages
Suggested crew gratuities - typically between \$250-300 USD per person.
Travel Insurance is mandatory and proof of current policy is required

FAQ:

Where do I fly into? SJD - Los Cabos International Airport

Why does our trip leave out of Cabo San Lucas? Because the shortest charter flight to the Lagoon is from Cabo with service from 15 different US cities, most of Mexico and even direct flights from overseas. Cabo San Lucas in the spring is a really fun place to visit!! There are all sorts of other activities you can enjoy from Cabo including swimming with whale sharks, scuba diving, snorkeling, kayaking and other adventures into the Sea of Cortez. Great shopping, restaurants or just relaxing at the lovely beaches.

What can I do in my free time? Kayak on the calm lagoon waters with a guide or take a ride on a beach bike. Take a walk and explore the pristine shoreline and tidal pools. Birders Delight with the local avian population. Relax at camp with a good book, naps are optional, shoot pool or have a cold drink at the bar

What about special dietary requests? we can provide delicious vegetarian, vegan, and gluten free options.

How many people in the boat for whale watching?

Only six guests per panga to provide the highest quality, most personalized experience for each visitor.

How much time will I get with the whales?

We reckon that if you have travelled all the way to San Ignacio Lagoon for gray whale encounters, we will facilitate as much time with the whales as possible. On average, you will have 2 – 3 whale encounter sessions a day; with 2 sessions day of arrival, 3 sessions on day 2&3 and a final session before you depart the camp.

Is touching the whales bad for them? Gray whales are normally shy and reclusive but their behavior changes when they are in the lagoon. These whales were thought of as dangerous because they fought back hard against the whalers who nearly exterminated them when they discovered the breeding and birthing lagoons in the 19th century. It was only 30 years ago that a local fisherman bravely put his hand out to touch a whale who approached his panga. Much like the misunderstood orca - or “killer whale” - it became apparent that these highly intelligent animals in the lagoon were actively seeking out physical interaction with humans. It's entirely their choice to approach our pangas and desire to be touched and stroked. Amazingly enough, the whales will grow bored with humans after several minutes if we don't physically interact with them. It's clear to us that the whales are actually reaching out to us to connect; not the other way around. It touches your heart, it's amazing and emotional. We will never betray their trust nor allow any whale to be harassed.

Do I need a passport or visa? All USA guests must have a passport valid for six months from trip date. Visas are required from certain countries, please check your specific country requirements

Do I need travel insurance? Yes, Due to San Ignacio Lagoon's remote location, you must purchase trip insurance that covers medical and emergency evacuation. Proof of insurance will be required.

COVID Protocol 2023 season: All trips ran in the 2021 and 2022 season with strict COVID protocol, negative COVID tests were required and thorough sanitation and disinfection guidelines observed in all camp areas. We are expecting the 2023 gray whale season and trips to run smoothly and that COVID will not be a concern and COVID testing not required. But should it be, rest assured that Baja Expeditions will take all precautions necessary to keep our guests safe and healthy during their time at camp enjoying the whales.

