EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ: A LIVING SEA & DESERT ISLES

DECEMBER 27, 2020-JANUARY 3, 2021

TRAVEL WITH PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY, EMERITUS, SCOTT GILBERT

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE
That’s the exhilaration of discovery.
DEAR SWARTHMORE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

Called “the world’s aquarium” by Jacques Cousteau, the Sea of Cortez, and the rugged isles that lie within, are teeming with a jaw-dropping array of marine life and seabirds. Join us to discover this UNESCO World Heritage Site on an exhilarating voyage designed with flexibility and freedom in mind. Every day you’ll explore a new island with new activities and adventures to choose from daily.

Aboard the brand-new 50-cabin National Geographic Venture, you’ll be immersed in the region’s legendary biodiversity. Linger on the expansive bow to watch for swirling groups of plunge-diving brown pelicans, cormorants, and frigatebirds; large pods of leaping dolphins racing the ship; or some of the 20 species of whales you may encounter, including humpback, fin, gray, sperm, Bryde’s, and blue. Go ashore on some of the region’s 44 pristine desert islands to search for endemic flora and fauna like the San Esteban chuckwalla and the massive barrel cactus. Then end an active day with a relaxing beach barbecue as dusk shades into starlit night.

And it’s not just wildlife. You’ll also have the opportunity to explore the quaint Mexican town of Loreto, the first Spanish colonial city on the Baja Peninsula. Stroll through the vibrant streets, dine on authentic Mexican dishes, and discover the history behind Baja’s many Jesuit missions.

The National Geographic Venture is an inviting and comfortable basecamp for exploring this region, equipped with a suite of exploration tools: kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, Zodiacs, and snorkel gear to get you out there for up-close personal discoveries in and around these rich waters. The onboard expedition team, who has decades of experience in the region, will help you gain a singular appreciation of all you see and do. Plus, a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor is on hand to help you capture it all.

I hope you’ll join us for this adventure. It is sure to create memories that will last a lifetime. To reserve your place, please return the reservation form or call our group representative at Lindblad Expeditions toll free at 888-773-9007.

Cheers,

Lisa K. Shafer
Senior Director of Alumni & Parent Engagement

Sarah S. Doody
President
Engaging Journeys, Inc.

Scott Gilbert is a developmental biologist, evolutionary biologist, and historian of biology. He had taught at Swarthmore College for 35 years before he and his wife Anne moved to Portland, Oregon, where Scott is failing retirement miserably. This summer when the thirteenth edition of his developmental biology textbook was published, he gave the opening lecture at the Italian Society for Evolutionary Biology, and he received the educational service award from the Pan-American Society for Evolutionary Developmental Biology. Scott has pursued research with Swarthmore undergraduates, specializing in that age-old question: How does the turtle get its shell? He is considered one of the founders of evolutionary developmental biology (evo-devo), a science emphasizing how development is altered to acquire new variations for natural selection, and in 2016, he presented a lecture on this topic to his Holiness, the Dalai Lama. He and his wife (a retired obstetrician/gynecologist) raised three children in Swarthmore.

Ship’s Registry: United States
With improbably inviting shorelines and turquoise waters, it’s easy to call Baja California and the Sea of Cortez a beach destination. It is. But when you explore further, you’ll find that the surprisingly varied habitats and rich, endemic wildlife place it in a class all by itself.

The Sea of Cortez is bursting with marine life, but virtually empty of humans. In winter, it is the best place in the world to see many different kinds of whales. The ocean explodes with hundreds of dolphins racing to the ship, and the sea boils as boobies plunge in search of fish. The Sea of Cortez is one of the planet’s richest seas of similar latitude, so it is well deserved that Jacques Cousteau named it “the world’s aquarium.”

But this Baja expedition offers much more than sea life. Stroll the streets of Loreto and soak in the colonial culture of this quaint town. Kayak in protected lagoons and observe diverse birdlife along the shores. Join a naturalist aboard a Zodiac to explore a deserted island. Hike through an otherworldly forest of gigantic cacti that tower overhead. At the end of the day, relax at a beach barbecue and bask in the splendid solitude of Baja.
THE PERFECT PLATFORM TO DISCOVER BAJA

An expedition ship is an ideal way to explore regions like the Sea of Cortez. You travel in comfort aboard the new, 50-cabin National Geographic Venture which features open decks, step-out balconies, spacious cabins, generous windows, and an accommodating bow area. An onboard fleet of Zodiacs lets us land on islands unmarrred by tourist infrastructure. Our expedition style of travel offers the best way to experience Baja California. Since this is an expedition, not a cruise, flexibility is a hallmark. The itinerary draws on the extensive experience in the region of the expedition team and captain to maximize viewing opportunities. If a pod of dolphins approaches us, the ship will change course to take advantage of the encounter.

You’ll discover that life aboard is warm and welcoming, with everyone participating equally in the adventure. Evening Recaps in the lounge are a chance to swap stories of the day’s surprises with family and new friends over hors d’oeuvres and cocktails. And the ship’s generous decks, inviting lounge and dining room, and comfortable cabins ensure that it is the perfect mobile base camp for exploring.

TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY FOR EXPLORATION

ZODIACS: Experience up-close encounters with whales, dolphins, and sea lions, and land on otherwise inaccessible desert islands.
KAYAKS: Kayak along peaceful coastlines in one of the twelve double or eight single kayaks for a water-level look at stunning scenery.
PADDLEBOARDS: Get up and out on the fleet of stand-up paddleboards for a personal adventure.

SNORKELING GEAR: Don a mask, flippers, and wetsuit, and explore the undersea realm.
UNDERWATER VIDEO CAMERA: View live footage of the vibrant marine life, shot by an undersea specialist, in the comfort of the lounge.
HYDROPHONE: Listen to the awe-inspiring sounds of whales and dolphins in the surrounding waters.
VIDEO MICROSCOPE: Examine the intricacies of seldom-seen marine life.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): Mobula ray flying over the Sea of Cortez; undersea specialist captures a sea lion on video; National Geographic Venture; after a beach barbecue, guests gather around a bonfire; enjoy wildlife sightings on deck.
EXPLORE WITH AN A+ EXPEDITION TEAM

Learn, see, and do more by exploring with experts who know the region best. Your team consists of an expedition leader and six naturalists, including a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor and an undersea specialist. Additionally, a wellness specialist leads morning stretching and aerobic hikes, and a video chronicler films the story of your adventure.

BENEFIT FROM EXPEDITION PHOTOGRAPHY

Make the most of unrivaled photo ops of Baja California’s wild islands, whales, dolphins, seabirds, and peerless light with the unique Expedition Photography program. An onboard Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor offers guests of every skill and interest level assistance, instructions, and shooting tips in the field. His or her expertise will inspire you and help you improve your skills—so you can return home with great shots, or a complete photo record of your experience of a lifetime.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): Iguana on top of cardon cactus; shooting Baja’s stunning sunset; California sea lions basking in the sun; photo instructor shares photo tips in the field; hikers exploring shoreline, Isla San Jose; red-billed tropicbird.
EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ: A LIVING SEA & DESERT ISLES

8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS—NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE

Watch whales and dolphins from the deck of an intimate, 50-cabin expedition ship and at water level from a nimble Zodiac. The Sea of Cortez is the best place to see pods of dolphins and various species of whales—humpback, pilot, fin, and Bryde’s—all in the same week. Hike uninhabited beaches and desert landscapes. Observe myriad seabirds. Kayak in pristine waters, snorkel among reef fish, and enjoy the serenity of a sunset beach barbecue under a starry sky. This unique journey is designed with a flexible itinerary, with the expedition staff choosing sites based on conditions and to maximize wildlife sightings, adding a stimulating sense of adventure to each day.

DAY 1: HOME/LORETO/EMBARK
Arrive in Loreto and transfer to National Geographic Venture to set sail on the Sea of Cortez. (D)
DAYS 2-7: EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ
Our routing is designed with flexibility in mind, to maximize opportunities for wildlife sightings. It will most likely include the islands and activities listed below, although the order may vary. (B,L,D daily)

ISLAS SAN ESTEBAN AND SAN PEDRO MÁRTIR:
Walk up a desert wash to search for desert birds and the endemic pinto chuckwalla—a desert lizard. Later visit Isla San Pedro Mártir, a 1,000-foot-high guano-covered island that is home to thousands of seabirds. Blue-footed boobies, red-billed tropicbirds, pelicans, and frigatebirds are all found here.

ISLA SAN MARCOS:
At Isla San Marcos, there is a beautiful cove for swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking. In the afternoon, we are again in rich whale waters, near the mouth of Bahía Concepción where we stand a good chance of sighting several species of whales, including fin or sperm.

ISLA SAN JOSÉ:
One of the larger islands in the Sea of Cortez, San José offers several landing possibilities depending on conditions and the whim of the moment. Photograph the ochre cliffs of the island’s eastern shore, hike an enchanted arroyo, or visit the abandoned salt works to the west.

BAHÍA LORETO MARINE PARK:
This morning we’ll search the waters south of Isla Carmen, an area offering the possibility of encountering fin whales which researchers have recently concluded may be part of a resident population. Bottlenose and common dolphins are frequently encountered. Later, we visit one of the islands of Bahía Loreto Marine Park, with ample time for kayaking, snorkeling, stand-up paddleboarding, and possibly hiking. In the evening, enjoy a beach barbecue under the desert sky.

LOS ISLOTES AND ISLA SAN FRANCISCO:
At Los Islotes, don flippers, a mask, and snorkel (which we’ll gladly provide) and swim with curious sea lions. We have a leisurely afternoon to swim, kayak, or hike at Isla San Francisco. Look skyward for yellow-footed gulls, brown pelicans, and blue-footed boobies. Finish the day with a relaxing beach barbecue, complete with a bonfire and a star-filled sky.

DAY 8: DISEMBARK/LORETO/HOME
Disembark and explore Loreto where we will have the opportunity to 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 quaint shops and vibrant side streets. After lunch, transfer to Loreto Airport for flights home. (B,L)
CAPACITY: 50 outside cabins accommodating 100 guests. 
REGISTRY: United States. OVERALL LENGTH: 238 feet. 

*National Geographic Venture* is the latest addition to the Lindblad-National Geographic fleet in Baja California. Designed with over 50 years of expedition heritage and built in the U.S.A., the ship sets a new standard in exploration comfort and style. 

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 and 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, wetsuits, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera, and video microscope. 

SPECIAL FEATURES: Guest Wi-Fi access, elevator, Lindblad-National Geographic 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. 

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

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

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<tr>
<th>ITINERARY</th>
<th>CAT. 1</th>
<th>CAT. 2</th>
<th>CAT. 3</th>
<th>CAT. 4</th>
<th>CAT. 5 SUITE</th>
<th>CAT. 1 SOLO</th>
<th>CAT. 2 SOLO</th>
<th>ADVANCE PAYMENT</th>
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<td>Exploring the Sea of Cortez: A Living Sea &amp; Desert Isles</td>
<td>$6,690</td>
<td>$7,350</td>
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<td>$9,590</td>
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<td>$750</td>
<td>Sample Airfares: Round-trip Los Angeles/Loreto: Economy from $650; Business from $1,140.</td>
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INCLUSIVE PRICING

ABOARD SHIP
✓ All meals—from breakfast, lunch and dinner in the dining room, to outdoor BBQ, hors d’oeuvres and snacks during evening recaps, and tea time cookies
✓ All nonalcoholic beverages including unlimited cappuccinos, lattes, coffee, tea and soda
✓ Environmentally friendly refillable water bottle
✓ Fully stocked library
✓ Fitness center
✓ The guidance and expertise of the expedition staff
✓ Access to the Bridge to learn about navigation

ASHORE
✓ Special access permits, park fees, port taxes
✓ Transfers to and from group flights
✓ The expertise of the expedition staff

ACTIVITIES
✓ All the daily activities—from Zodiac explorations to kayaking, paddleboarding, hiking, and snorkeling (ship carries complete snorkeling gear)
✓ Lectures, presentations, daily recaps and briefings by the knowledgeable expedition staff in the lounge
✓ Photo instruction from a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor
✓ Daily stretching class with wellness specialist

SPECIAL OFFER:
BRING THE KIDS: We believe sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. So, take $500 off the double occupancy price for each person under 18.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

COST INCLUDES: 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, wetsuits, 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, and laundry gratuities to ship’s crew at your discretion.

AIRFARE: Airfare is an additional cost. Sample airfares are subject to change. Lindblad Expeditions 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$750 per person is payable by check, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover.

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.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN: Trip insurance information will be mailed to you upon the receipt of your reservation. Please contact Sarah Doody at Engaging Journeys at 904.432.3141 or sarah@engagingjourneys.com for insurance information.

ENTRY AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: Guests are advised to verify travel documents (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 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 Society’s 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: Itinerary 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, the 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, the right is reserved 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.

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<th>CANCELLATION POLICY</th>
<th>Per Person Cancellation Fee</th>
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<tr>
<td>120 or more days</td>
<td>$350</td>
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<td>119–90 days</td>
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<td>44–0 days</td>
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We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan.

Photo Credits: Christian Brechesi/Corbis, Linda Burback, Rab Cummings, Ralph Lee Hopkins, Sven-Olof Lindblad, Michael S. Nolan, Marco Ricca, Susan Seubert, Jack Swenson, Rikki Swenson.
RESERVATION FORM:
EXPLORING THE SEA OF CORTEZ:
A LIVING SEA & DESERT ISLES
ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE • DECEMBER 27, 2020-JANUARY 3, 2021

Please reserve __________ place(s).

Name 1:_____________________________________________________________________________
(As it appears on passport)

Name 1:____________________________________Date of Birth: _____________________________
(Preferred name for name badge)

Name 2: ____________________________________________________________________________
(As it appears on passport)

Name 2: ___________________________________Date of Birth: _____________________________
(Preferred name for name badge)

Street Address: ______________________________________________________________________

City:_____________________________________ State:  _________________Zip: _______________

Home Phone:  _____________________________ Cell Phone:_______________________________

Business Phone: __________________________________Fax:  ______________________________

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:_______________________________

□ Enclosed is my advance payment of $ ______________________(US$750 per person).

Check made payable to Lindblad Maritime Enterprises, Ltd.

□ Charge my advance payment of $____________________________(US$750 per person).

□ Visa  □ MasterCard  □ American Express  □ Discover

Account Number: ___________________________________________________ Expires: __________

Cardholder Signature: _______________________________________________ Date: __________
EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

» Join Professor of Biology, Emeritus, Scott Gilbert, to explore the Sea of Cortez, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

» Travel aboard a 50-cabin expedition ship with expert naturalists and a Lindblad-National Geographic certified photo instructor.

» See large pods of dolphins, various species of whales, abundant bird life, and giant cardon cacti.

» Kayak, swim, paddleboard, and snorkel with sea lions in pristine waters, and hike desert landscapes.

» Enjoy daily cocktail hour Recap with engaging presentations by naturalists and photographers.