



BAJA CALIFORNIA: JOURNEY IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ



December 15-22, 2012

\$4,250 per person, double occupancy

Singles from \$6,370

WHY WE PICKED IT This winter imagine yourself escaping to a world teeming with wildlife, where the cacti are the tallest on earth, the island beaches show no footprints except your own, and the setting sun seems to glow orange for hours. This is Baja California and the Sea of Cortez, a region so rich with wildlife and bird life that it is known as "Mexico's Galapagos."

LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS We believe that respectful adventure tourism can be a key factor in helping to sustain a region and, in some cases, can even repair it. Our efforts to encourage greater awareness and participation in conservation projects have included wildlife census projects, removal of invasive species, funding of field research, ecological restoration and the promotion of environmental awareness in local communities.

THE NWF CONNECTION Global warming is affecting whale populations all over the globe. When we look for these amazing creatures and other marine wildlife, we will also learn more about their migration patterns, the web of life that supports them, and how changing water temperatures can disrupt the delicate balance on which they depend.

PLEASE SEE THE REVERSE SIDE FOR A COMPLETE DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY.
TO ASK QUESTIONS OR TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE ON THIS TOUR,
PLEASE CALL 800-606-9563 OR EMAIL expeditions@nwf.org.

DECEMBER 15 Fly from Los Angeles to Los Cabos or La Paz, Mexico and transfer to La Paz. This afternoon we'll board our ship, the 62-guest National Geographic *Sea Bird*. There are opportunities for kayaking, searching for whales and dolphins, hiking, Zodiac cruises, snorkeling with reef fish and sea lions, as well as a special beach barbecue under the desert sky. *Overnight: National Geographic Sea Bird. D*

DECEMBER 16 Led by our expedition team including naturalists and an undersea specialist, today we will explore Isla San Jose. We'll take Zodiac cruises and kayaks into the mangrove channels in search of shorebirds and waders. Nearby are ancient shell mounds, or middens, that reveal traces of former occupation by the Guaicura Indians. *Overnight: National Geographic Sea Bird. B, L, D*

DECEMBER 17 Isla Idefonso is a small and rugged island that is home to many nesting seabirds, including blue-footed and brown boobies. We will have the opportunity to take a Zodiac cruise along the shoreline to closer observe the birdlife. Marine life also awaits our discovery; by way of snorkeling we can experience this colorful underwater world. *Overnight: National Geographic Sea Bird. B, L, D*

DECEMBER 18 This morning we search for marine life in the waters around Isla Danzante, another rich area for dolphins. In the afternoon, we visit Isla Santa Catalina, famous for its giant barrel cactus and cardon forest, and walk among the tallest cacti in the world. The protected bay of our anchorage is also an excellent site for snorkeling. With a full afternoon here, there will be time for swimming, snorkeling, hiking and

kayaking. *Overnight: National Geographic Sea Bird. B, L, D*

DECEMBER 19 Isla San Francisco and its natural harbor, a calm crescent-shaped bay, will allow us to consider activities such as Zodiac cruising, kayaking or relaxing on the beach. Walks ashore allow a different perspective in exploring the island and always provide spectacular views. *Overnight: National Geographic Sea Bird. B, L, D*

DECEMBER 20 We will let nature be our guide during our last full day of exploring in the Sea of Cortez, and travel on a flexible itinerary today. We may spend part of the morning searching for marine life, and then anchor at an island such as Carmen, where there is a mountainous shoreline to explore by kayak, arroyos that beckon us to explore inland, and bays of turquoise waters for snorkeling. *Overnight: National Geographic Sea Bird. B, L, D*

DECEMBER 21 With deeply indented shorelines and dramatically eroded cliff faces, Islas Los Islotes and Espiritu Santo are two of the most beautiful islands in the Sea of Cortez. Here we will be able to swim and snorkel in the turquoise waters, perhaps with some curious sea lions. Zodiac rides, rare bird sightings, the possibility of spotting an endemic black rabbit or beachcombing are all possibilities today. Or, just spend a leisurely afternoon relaxing on deck or pamper yourself with a massage from our wellness specialist. This evening we'll head ashore for a beach barbecue. *Overnight: National Geographic Sea Bird. B, L, D*

DECEMBER 22 Disembark at La Paz and transfer to the airport for our return flight home. *B*

TOUR PRICE INCLUDES: All accommodations, all transportation, all meals as listed in the itinerary (b=breakfast, l=lunch, d=dinner), all sites and excursions as specified, entrance fees to all sites, professional tour management throughout the entire program, gratuities for staff at hotels and restaurants included in the itinerary, taxes and service charges throughout, complete pre-departure materials to help you prepare for your tour.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare to and from departure city, optional guide and tour manager gratuities, alcoholic beverages, personal expenses such as laundry, souvenirs, and film.



\$500 DEPOSIT PER PERSON

CANCELLATION POLICY

Full refund minus \$150 per person prior to September 16, 2012

Full refund minus deposit per person from September 17–October 16, 2012

50% of the entire tour cost from October 17–November 15, 2012

No refunds after November 16, 2012

QUESTIONS AND RESERVATIONS

CALL: 800-606-9563

EMAIL: expeditions@nwf.org

ONLINE: www.nwf.org/expeditions



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION®

EXPEDITIONS

Wildlife Ahead