

BAJA  
MEXICO



Photo by Linda LaBarge



## BAJA, MEXICO

### GRAY WHALES AND DESERT TRAILS with MARIN NATURE ADVENTURES

February 17 – 22, 2026

#### HIGHLIGHTS

**Luxury** accommodations throughout:

- Loreto – Hotel La Mision overlooking the sparkling Sea of Cortez.
- San Ignacio – Ignacio Springs, a tranquillo, palm-treed oasis.

#### Close Encounters with friendly Gray Whales

- with Malarrimo on Scammon's Lagoon
- with Kuyima on San Ignacio Lagoon

**Easy walks** in the desert and on the beach

Bird watching & **fresh air**

Learn about the natural history of **Baja**

Good food, **new friendships**

#### ABOUT YOUR NATURALIST LEADERS



Sharon & Kevin design bespoke itineraries that combine wildlife encounters, outstanding scenery and easy walking. Experiencing the wonders of nature with friends, they create a lively group travel culture that promotes learning and well-being. They've designed and led extraordinary tours in Baja, Costa Rica, Alaska, Southern Africa, Peru and Ecuador. At home in Northern California, Sharon is the hiking instructor for College of Marin and a science teacher at Marin Country Day School. Kevin is a marine biologist with almost a thousand sea days observing fisheries, whales and seabirds. [www.MarinNature.com](http://www.MarinNature.com)



*This 6-day trip offers a unique opportunity to visit the two best gray whale calving lagoons without compromising comfort and amenities. Our trip begins and finishes at the luxurious Hotel La Mision in charming Loreto. We'll travel through the desert landscape in a comfortable motorcoach and settle in for three nights at the unique and tranquil Ignacio Springs. Working with local naturalists, Kevin & Sharon will introduce you to the behaviors and majesty of the migratory gray whales and lead you on short walks through the scenic desert landscape of Baja Peninsula.*

## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### FEBRUARY 17 - LORETO

Upon arrival at Loreto International Airport, you'll be met and transferred the short distance to Hotel La Mision. The quaint town of Loreto was the first Spanish colonial settlement in Baja, established 1697. The city centers around the very first mission church, still standing today. Together we'll stroll through the town and along the waterfront before a welcome dinner and orientation to the exciting days ahead. *Overnight at La Mision Hotel. (D)*

### FEBRUARY 18 - SAN IGNACIO

Our first boat tour of the trip is on the azure waters of the Loreto Bay National Marine Park. We'll gently motor around dramatic Coronado Island observing a colony of sea lions, with good chances to see Bottlenose Dolphins and Blue-footed Boobies. We'll stretch our legs on an island trail, then return to Loreto for lunch at La Palapa. During our four-hour drive to San Ignacio, we'll stop briefly to stretch at a mangrove beach. San Ignacio is a genuine oasis in the middle of the Baja Californian desert. Buffet dinner tonight. *Overnight at Ignacio Springs B & B. (BLD)*

### FEBRUARY 19 - SAN IGNACIO

After breakfast we'll travel through the El Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve, to spend the day observing Gray Whales in Laguna Ojo de Liebre (Scammon's Lagoon) This lagoon is the largest of three lagoons in Baja where most Gray Whales give birth and breed after their migration down the Pacific Coast from Alaska. Sharon & Kevin will teach the fascinating natural history of these migratory whales and interpret their behaviors as we enjoy morning and afternoon whale watching excursions. After a full day at the lagoon, we'll backtrack to the delightful Ignacio Springs B&B. *Overnight at Ignacio Springs B & B. (BLD)*

### FEBRUARY 20 - SAN IGNACIO

Today we drive across a strikingly beautiful open stretch of desert and a salty mudflat to reach Laguna San Ignacio Lagoon, a smaller lagoon but intact in its natural state. Aboard sturdy pangas operated by Mexican fisherman, we will seek additional close encounters with the graceful Gray Whales. After a hot lunch served at the lagoon, enjoy an hour or so walking/birding before returning to the pangas for an afternoon excursion with the whales. Dinner on your own tonight, or with Sharon, at one of the restaurants in town. *Overnight at Ignacio Springs B & B. (BL)*

### FEBRUARY 21 - LORETO

Relax and enjoy the shaded Ignacio Springs property or choose to visit a local home near the tree-filled central plaza for a tortilla making demonstration and visit the mission church. Returning through the desert to Loreto, we'll have lunch with a view of

Volcán Tres Virgenes, one of the tallest peaks on the peninsula. Kevin & Sharon will lead a short hike through the cactus desert. Special Farewell dinner this evening. *Overnight at La Mision Hotel. (BLD)*

### FEBRUARY 22 - DEPARTURE

Early risers will experience a spectacular sunrise over the Sea of Cortez before breakfast. Catch your return flight from Loreto Airport or consider extending your stay for additional days of Baja bliss. (B)



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## LAND COST

**\$4,440 per person**

Includes all meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, all transportation in Mexico, full-time bilingual local guide, expertly trained whale-watch operators and bottled water on the bus and all gratuities. Does not include alcoholic beverages or airfare to/from Loreto.

## THE FINE PRINT

*Cost is based on a minimum of 9 participants. Cost is based on double occupancy, for a single room throughout this trip add \$600. A \$500 per person non-refundable deposit is required to hold your space on this trip. Final payment is due November 14, 2025. Cancellations after this date are not refundable. Travel Insurance is suggested.*



Photo by Sharon Barnett

## FOR MORE INFO OR TO ENROLL

Visit [holbrook.travel/bajamna26](http://holbrook.travel/bajamna26)  
or contact Sharon Barnett at  
[Sharon@MarinNature.com](mailto:Sharon@MarinNature.com) or (415) 948-3086