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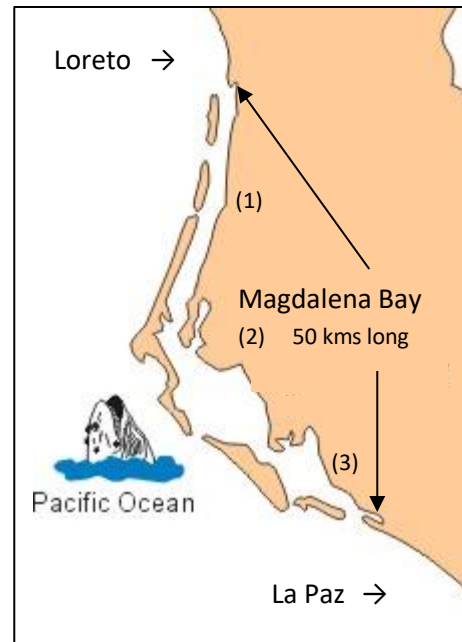
JOURNEY OF THE PACIFIC GRAY WHALE

February 20 – 24, 2021 - 5 Day Expedition

Gray Whale Birthing Lagoons of Magdalena Bay
La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico

Gray Whale Natural History

- Seasonal migration from the warm, shallow waters of Mexico (calving and mating) to the nutrient-rich waters of Alaska (feeding).
- Identified by their mottled gray coloration, head narrow and triangular, heart-shaped spout, and absent dorsal fin.
- Adults grow to 15 meters (49 feet) long, weighs up to 36 tonnes and live between 55 – 70 years.
- Baleen whale - bottom feeders – feed on the sea floor by rolling on their sides and swimming slowly along sucking sediment and prey (mostly amphipods, tubeworms and mollusks) from the sea floor.
- Female gray whales usually give birth every two to three years, gestation period lasts 11 - 13 months.
- They were hunted to near extinction in the mid-1800s and again in the early 1900s where floating slaughter factories were set up at the entrance to the lagoons. Their blubber produced oil used mainly for lamps.



Areas to be explored:

- (1) Lopez Mateos (north)
- (2) San Carlos (central)
- (3) Puerto Chale (south)

Magdalena Bay

- 50 kms (30 miles) long, located on the western coast of Baja California Sur.
- On the eastern shores (where we will be exploring) are 250 kms (150 miles) of meandering, pristine estuaries offering support to a plethora of marine life and amazing bird populations.
- Protected from the wild Pacific Ocean by two barrier islands; Isla Santa Margarita and Isla Magdalena. The islands have created a series of lagoons ideal for the safety of the gray whales giving birth and mating.
- The expedition is designed to take you on a journey to 3 main areas of Magdalena Bay, most southerly of the 3 whale nurseries; Magdalena Bay, San Ignacio & Guerrero Negro.
- Experience the behaviors and interactions of the males, females, moms and their newborn calves.
- World renowned for gray whale interaction with humans.

Climate

- Expect the warmth of the sun in the day, wind in the afternoon and very cool temperatures in the evening.
- Feb. temperatures range from 80 F during the day to 55 F during the evening (great sleeping weather).

Clothing

- Shorts and a sun hat, with appropriate sun screen during the day, and a thick fleece, pants and warm jacket at night.
- A warm, layered wardrobe is highly recommended while out on the water. ***Do not under-estimate your clothing needs!***



Itinerary

The expedition has been thoughtfully designed to take you on a journey to the three main gray whale areas of Magdalena Bay. Each area of the bay (north, central and south) have unique geological features ideal for the safety, protection and well-being of the gray whales and their newborn calves and dictates certain behaviors. Weather and sea conditions can determine the planned daily activities.

Please Note: Weather and sea conditions can affect the planned daily activities. As with all travel related to wildlife viewing and encounters, weather plays a role in the safety of the activity, especially at sea. We asked guests to be flexible in their expectations as we may have to change the itinerary and in rare cases cancel an activity. Embrace any changes to include replacing one activity with another due to circumstances beyond our control.

Day 1 (Feb. 20): Arriving to La Paz

- Upon your arrival to the Cabo Airport (SJD) or La Paz airport (LAP))you will be greeted by our driver(s). A beautiful 2.5-hour drive through the coastal bluffs from Cabo to the [Hotel Catedral](#) in La Paz.
- Enjoy a special evening dinner courtesy of Panterra while getting to know fellow guests joining you on the trip.

Day 2: Puerto Chale – Magdalena Bay

- 5:30 am morning departure to Puerto Chale (approx. 4 hour drive).
- Stop for an authentic Mexican Ranch breakfast enroute.
- Upon arrival in Puerto Chale we begin our whale watching adventure to include exploring a mangrove of nesting Frigate birds and Cormorants.
- Depart Puerto Chale, with stops for bird watching and photography. Arrive at [Villas Isabela](#) at San Carlos in time for drinks, appetizers and a presentation on whales. A quaint, rustic setting making you feel at home Baja style.

Day 3: San Carlos – Magdalena Bay

- Breakfast at 7:00 am, followed by an 8:00 am departure whale watching and exploring the lagoons and estuaries of San Carlos.
- Enjoy lunch at Isla Magdalena, followed by beachwalking/hiking the sand dunes.
- Once again arrive back to Villa Isabella in time for drinks, appetizers and a presentation on birds and the natural history of Magdalena Bay.

Day 4: Lopez Mateos – Magdalena Bay

- After breakfast we will pack up our gear and head to Lopez Mateos for our last day of whale watching.
- Before leaving Lopez Mateos for our return to Hotel Catedral, enjoy a fresh lobster lunch at a local restaurant.
- Check into Hotel Cathedral in the early evening. Plan on getting together for our last group dinner at one of the local restaurants in La Paz.

Day 5 (Feb. 24): Expedition Concludes

- Breakfast and hotel check-out. Our drivers will return you to the airport for your return flight home or continue with the Recommended Add-On adventures.

Activities

- Daily whale watching
- approx. 12 -15 hrs in 3 sessions
- Hiking desert flora and fauna
- Beach walking
- Exploring mangroves
- Bird watching

Recommended Add-Ons for an Extended Stay:

- Monarch Butterflies - multiday
- Copper Canyon by Train - multiday
- Snorkel with Whale Sharks Tour
- Espiritu Santo Island Tour
- East Cape Adventure (wildlife and history)
- West Cape Adventure (arts and culture)

Meals

- Fresh local dishes include seafood from the bay, and fresh meats, fruits and vegetables from the local farmers.
- All meals are included with the exception of the last evening meal of the trip.
- Dietary needs can be accommodated with advanced notice.



Expedition Includes:

- 2-night stay at the Hotel Catedral in La Paz (first and last night)
- All ground transfers to include SJD and LAP airport transfers
- 12 – 15 hours whale watching and all activities mentioned above
- All meals (with the exception of the last evening meal in La Paz)
- 2-night stay at Villas Isabela in San Carlos

Expedition DOES NOT Include:

- Airfare
- Medical / Travel Insurance
- Alcohol beverages and last evening dinner
- Service provider gratuities

Expedition Cost:

- **\$1695** USD per person based on dbl occ
- group size is limited to 16 participants

Panterra Facebook Photo Album Links to past trips:

- [Journey of the Gray Whale 2020](#)
- [Journey of the Gray Whale 2018](#)

Additional links:

- [Trip Advisor Reviews](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Trip Payment](#)
- [Cancellation and Refund Policy](#)

Panterra Eco Expeditions

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