

DISCOVER THE WORLD OF PANTERRA



BLUE WHALES AND CAVE PAINTINGS

February 27 – March 6, 2022

8 Day Expedition

La Paz/Loreto, Baja California Sur, Mexico

México
LIVE IT TO BELIEVE IT


PANTERRA
Adventure Travel

Blue Whales – Natural History

- Blue whales are the largest animal on Earth.
- Approx. 10% (300) of the NE Pacific blue whales that feed off of the west coast of California in the summer months, migrate to their winter grounds in the Sea of Cortez to calve and feed from Feb. through to April.
- Identified by their long, streamlined body, mottled blue/gray color, pale underbelly, huge broad U-shaped heads which make up about a quarter length of the body.
- Adults (females) grow to 33 meters (100 ft), weighs up to 190 tons and live 80 - 90 years.
- Baleen whales - surface feeders – feed primarily on krill by gulping large schools with an open mouth, trapping the krill inside their baleen plates.
- Female blue whales usually give birth every 2 - 3 years, gestation period lasts 10 -12 months.
- They were hunted to near extinction until the IWF banned all hunting of blue whales in 1967.



Climate

- Expect the warmth of the sun in the day, wind in the afternoon and much cooler temperatures in the evening.
- Feb. temperatures range from 80 F during the day to 55 F during the evening (great sleeping weather).
- Still considered winter in the Baja, the temps. Can be cool.

Clothing

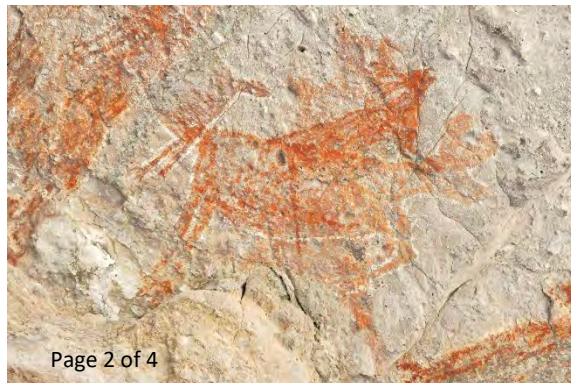
- Shorts, sun hat and a sturdy pair of hiking boots, with appropriate sun screen during the day, and a thick fleece, pants and warm jacket at night.
- A warm, layered wardrobe is highly recommended while out on the water.
- It is better to have it and peel it off, then to not have it at all.
- *Do not under-estimate your clothing needs!*

Cave Paintings and Petroglyphs

- The cave paintings and petroglyphs we will be exploring were painted/carved by the Cochimi people, who were indigenous, nomadic people.
- The rock art dates as far back as 7000 years.
- As we hike to the different sites, learn about the local flora, fauna and natural history as well as the unique geology of the Sierra de la Giganta mountain range.

Jesuit Missions

- Established by the Franciscan order, the first Catholic missions were located in Baja Mexico and founded by the Spanish Jesuits.
- The missions were all established within one day's horseback ride from each other.
- We will visit 2 of the 17 missions:
 - Misión de Nuestra Señora de Loreto Conchó Loreto, built in 1697.
 - Misión San Francisco Javier de Viggé-Biaundó, built in 1699



Itinerary

Day 1 (Feb. 27): Arriving to La Paz (B,L,D)

- Upon your arrival to the Cabo Airport (SJD) or La Paz airport (LAP) you will be greeted by our driver. 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: Heading to Loreto and the Loreto Misión de Nuestra Señora de Loreto Conchó (B,L,D)

- 7:30 am morning departure to Loreto
- Enroute to Loreto, enjoy a day of spectacular geology, flora and fauna with amazing photo opportunities as we make our way to Loreto.
- Once we have arrived in Loreto, our first stop will be to visit the oldest mission in Baja California, Misión de Nuestra Señora de Loreto Conchó.
- Check into the [Santa Fe Hotel](#) in Loreto, meet for group appetizers, drink and dinner courtesy of Panterra.

Day 3 - 6: Blue Whales of Loreto, Cave Paintings and the Misión San Francisco Javier de Viggé-Biaundó (B,L)

- Over the next few days we will be spending 2 x 6 – 8 hr. days on the water observing the blue whales and other species of whales and dolphins. We have also allowed for some beachwalking time during the water excursions.
- A full day will be spent exploring the different cave paintings, desert flora, fauna and geology of the area.
- Daily breakfasts and lunches are included and do not forget your camera, the photo opportunities will be spectacular!
- Day 6: Check out of the Santa Fe Hotel, enjoy a day of adventure enroute to La Paz where we will check back into the Hotel Catedral for our last 2 night stay.

Day 7 (Mar. 5): Free Day in La Paz (B,D)

- Enjoy a day poolside, stroll along the famous “Malecon” seawalk and enjoy the local cuisine.
- La Paz has 2 museums; (1) Anthropology and (2) Indigenous Art well worth visiting to learn more about the unique history of La Paz and Mexico.
- Enjoy a special final evening dinner with fellow guests courtesy of Panterra.

Day 8 (Mar. 6): Expedition Concludes (B)

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

Activities

- 2 x 6 – 8 hrs. blue whale watching to include encounters with other species of whales, dolphins and sea lions
- Explore mangroves and enjoy spectacular birdwatching (marine)
- Enjoy a break from the water with time for a leisure stroll along the beach
- Day trips to explore the indigenous cave paintings and petroglyphs
- Visits to the oldest missions in Baja
- Natural history hiking to learn about the geology, desert flora and fauna
- While exploring the desert fauna enjoy bird watching (terrestrial)

[Recommended Add-Ons](#)

- [Journey of the Pacific Gray Whale](#) – multiday
- [Gray Whales and Whale Sharks](#) - multiday
- Monarch Butterflies - multiday
- Copper Canyon by Train - multiday
- Snorkel with Whale Sharks Tour – day trip
- Espiritu Santo Island Snorkel and Tour – day trip



Misiones of Baja California



Expedition Includes:

- 3 night stay at the Hotel Catedral in La Paz (first and last 2 nights)
- 4 night stay at the Santa Fe Hotel in Loreto
- All ground transfers to include SJD and LAP airport transfers
- 12 – 16 hours whale watching and all activities mentioned above
- Meals (with the exception of below)

Expedition DOES NOT Include:

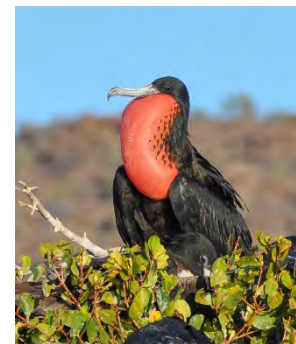
- 4 of 7 evening dinners and 1 of 7 lunches
- Airfare
- Medical / Travel Insurance
- Alcohol beverages
- Service provider gratuities
- We have not scheduled any snorkeling activities due to the cold water temperatures at this time of year

Expedition Cost:

- **\$2295** USD per person based on double occupancy
- group size 8 – 12 guests

Additional links:

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



Where the impossible adventure is possible!