

The Baja Peninsula supports an amazing diversity of marine life, including many species of reef fish, sharks, whales and marine turtles. As tourists flock to the beautiful landscapes and unique coastline, WWF works with partners to ensure that the region remains a healthy and productive ecosystem that can support local communities as well as the abundant wildlife within and near its waters.



RED TRAVEL MEXICO

On this expedition, accompanied by marine scientists and researchers from WWF-Mexico, we begin in Los Cabos for a private humpback whale watching excursion. We travel to La Paz where experts will take us to the beautiful island of Espiritu Santo. While visiting the island, we will have a chance to swim with the local sea lion colony and lookout for humpback whales. Dolphins, whale sharks, and other species of whales are among the marine animals we hope to encounter. After La Paz, we escape to Magdalena Bay for a two-night camping adventure to see the amazing gray whales that travel to these protected waters. We will also participate in a marine turtle monitoring project with Grupo Tortuguero, which partners with WWF to monitor endangered sea turtles.

As a marine scientist by training, I find the Baja Peninsula to be the most rewarding place to visit. The variety of marine life—iconic humpback and gray whales, massive whale sharks, charismatic sea turtles, and playful sea lions—all make the blue waters of the Peninsula that much more inspiring.

—Maria Jose Villanueva, WWF-Mexico Conservation Director



WWF Partner Adventures is an invitation-only conservation travel program for our closest supporters, along with friends and family, to see firsthand the positive impact World Wildlife Fund is making.

These custom-designed journeys are led by WWF experts and offer exclusive opportunities to discover the wildlife and ecosystems we protect; meet community members whose lives are being improved because of our work and immerse yourself in the worlds of our field staff and partners on the ground.

Come explore the best of the natural world and see how together we are making a difference for our planet.



BACK COVER: GARY LUNA/PHOTOGRAPHY / DANITA DELMONT
FRONT COVER: RALPH PAGE

MEXICO'S BAJA PENINSULA

A WWF Partner Adventure to Mexico's Sea of Cortez and Southern Baja Peninsula with WWF-Mexico's Maria Jose Villanueva

March 8–15, 2020





Meet Our Expert

For over eight years **Maria Jose Villanueva** has worked with WWF-Mexico, helping establish a nationwide partnership with over 60 NGO's, indigenous communities, local and federal governments, and private sector businesses to conserve Mexico's unique biodiversity. She also helped develop WWF-Mexico's five-year strategic conservation plan and worked to protect species such as the monarch butterfly and the vaquita. As the current Conservation Director, she now leads the Ocean, Terrestrial Ecosystem, Climate Change, and Freshwater programs. Prior to WWF, Maria Jose earned her PhD in Marine Sciences and Limnology with an emphasis in marine mammals from the Institute of Marine Sciences and Limnology as well as worked for several conservation organizations in Mexico, and taught biology and conservation courses.



RED TRAVEL MEXICO

Day 1-2: Los Cabos

Upon arrival to Mexico at the San José del Cabo Airport, you will be transferred to Hotel Casa Natalia. This evening we'll join WWF local staff for a welcome dinner.



ANDREA ZOTTI / SHUTTERSTOCK

In the morning, we'll depart for a private humpback whale watching excursion.

This is our opportunity to meet the humpback whale in the deep blue waters of Los Cabos. WWF staff will demonstrate how humpback whale populations are monitored and explore how monitoring impacts conservation efforts.

In the afternoon, we will meet with local officials to discuss how whale watching can sustainably exist in the region. We'll have time to relax before dinner at Flora Farms, a local favorite for fresh farm-to-table dining.

To register or if you have questions, please contact Emily Schulman at 844-642-6642 or emilys@iconicadventures.com



Day 3-4: La Paz

En route to La Paz we stop for lunch in Todos Santos, a historic town on the Pacific. In La Paz, we check-in to Costa Baja Resort with time to unwind or explore the city.

The next morning, we boat to Isla Espiritu Santo. Here, we meet whale sharks, the "gentle giants" of the ocean. You'll have several opportunities to snorkel with these wondrous animals while learning about their protection. Step ashore where we will picnic on the beach with time to kayak or paddleboard in crystal-clear waters. After lunch, we'll travel by boat to Los Islotes, the Sea Lion Colony; there we can snorkel with playful sea lions.

Day 5-8: Magdalena Bay/La Paz

We depart La Paz to Magdalena Bay for a two-night fully supported camping adventure. RED's Magdalena Bay Eco Camp offers a shower facility and roomy tents with raised mattresses and comfortable bedding.



RED TRAVEL MEXICO

After an afternoon in search of gray whales, we spend the evening preparing for the next day's sea turtle monitoring activities.

After waking in your seaside tent, spend your day with sea turtles! With researchers from WWF-supported Grupo Tortuguero, small groups will examine black turtles and release them back to the sea. Throughout the day, there will also be opportunities to kayak or hike along picturesque beaches. On the last morning at the camp, we'll have another gray whale watching excursion before returning to La Paz for our final evening together, with airport transfers provided the following morning.



CARLOS AGUILERA / WWF MEXICO

Reservation Information & Trip Details

Dates: March 8–15, 2020

Cost: \$5,925 per person, based on double occupancy (\$500 deposit due at registration)

Group size: Limited to 14 participants

To register or if you have questions, please contact Emily Schulman at Iconic Adventures at (844) 642-6642 or emilys@iconicadventures.com

For more information and a full itinerary please visit: www.worldwildlife.org/partneradventures