

2017 Whale watching schedule

Prices beginning at \$1,695, the lowest price and highest quality you can find & NO single fee

We offer several very different kinds of whale watching experience in Baja.

1. Combination Blue whales on the Sea of Cortez and gray whales at a Pacific Coast lagoon.
2. Gray Whales at Laguna Ojo de Liebre (Scammon's Lagoon) with accommodations either in our upscale camp or by special request - in a local hotel near to the lagoon.

Combination Gray Whale and Blue Whale trips

Each combination trip is unique with specific start and end points that vary with the itinerary date.

Fly in gray whale trips beginning in San Diego or Ensenada to Guerrero Negro.

Once again offering 3, 4, 5, 6 & 8 day gray whale trips, flying to Guerrero Negro, NOT the 12 hour drive we did for **twenty previous years**. Flight time is only a couple hours. So smooth!

Your adventure begins when our driver meets you at the Holiday Inn Bayside and transports you about 70 miles to the Ensenada Airport. Or when you arrive at the Ensenada Airport to meet the flight south. Upon arrival in Guerrero Negro our driver meets you at the Guerrero Negro Airport and transports you approximately one hour to our shore side upscale camp. If you choose not to stay at the shore side camp, we can provide accommodations in a local hotel.

Gray whale trip schedule

Departures from San Diego three times weekly from February 1 through March 27, 2017.

Dual pricing below - you choose for us to meet you in San Diego at the Holiday Inn Bayside or you choose the less expensive option and you get to the Ensenada Airport on your own. The Holiday Inn has a free Airport shuttle to make your entire trip very easy to plan. Just get a flight to San Diego! Or save a few dollars and organize your own transfer to the Ensenada Airport.

3 day trips \$1,695 or \$1,995 Any Monday to Wednesday or Wednesday to Friday

4 day trips \$2,295 or \$2,595 Any Friday to Monday

5 day trips \$2,395 or \$2,695 Any Monday to Friday

6 day trip \$2,595 or \$2,895 Any Friday to Wednesday or Wednesday to Monday

8 day trips \$2,895 or \$3,195 Any Friday to Friday, Wednesday to Wednesday or Monday to Monday

Combination Gray whale and Blue whale trips

February 10 – 17 \$3,195 or \$3,495 eight days. Start point San Diego or you get to the Ensenada Airport on your own for your flight to Guerrero Negro. Gray whales at Laguna Ojo de Liebre and blue whales in the Sea of Cortez. Upgrade your hotel in Loreto \$450 P/P This is the shortest trip duration we recommend for seeing both species of whales, blue and gray. On this trip you fly north and south from Ensenada.

February 10 - 20 \$3,695 or \$3,995 ten day combo gray and blue whales. Start point San Diego or you get to the Ensenada Airport on your own for your flight to Guerrero Negro. Gray whale watching at Laguna Ojo de Liebre and blue whales on the Sea of Cortez. Upgrade your Loreto accommodations \$450 P/P. The most whale watching of any of our trips. On this trip you fly north and south from Ensenada.

February 10 - 21 \$4,095 or \$4,295 **The World's Greatest Whale Watching Event**

twelve days, combo gray, blue and fin whales. Start point San Diego fly south, but ride north as you explore several very different whale watching locations. We made the World's Greatest even Greater this year with the addition of two days of whale watching at Bahia de Los Angeles.

Please read our full brochure below for detailed trip itineraries plus very detailed information about our trips. Below are itineraries and details about how our trips and our shore side camp operate. Ours is the most upscale camp on the Baja Peninsula with gas fired heated showers not solar, comfortable beds with fluffy blankets and pillows, robes, slippers, beach sized towels and bath towels and absolutely the best food you will find in Baja. Our kitchen turns out surprising meals, some like you have never eaten before.

Special start of season pricing:

February 3 - 6 four day. \$2,095 or \$2,395

February 6 – 10 five day whale watching trip for the price of our four day trips. \$2,295 or 2,595

All our trips are guided and are very easy on you. Please read each itinerary to see exactly what is included and not included. Most of the trips are relatively all inclusive. Some trips exclude some meals. This is all detailed clearly in each trip itinerary below.

Complete list of available 2017 Baja Winter Whale Watching Trips

Trip date	duration	Price USD per person	Trip description
Combination gray and blue whale trips			
Feb 10 – 17	8 days	3,195 or 3,495	Gray whales at Ojo de Liebre & blue whales at Loreto on Sea of Cortez. Start point San Diego or Ensenada Airport
Feb 10 – 20	11 days	3,495 or 3,795	
Feb 10 - 21	12 days		
Fly in Gray Whale Watching at Laguna Ojo de Liebre in our upscale shore side camp			
Feb 3 - 6	4 days	\$2,095 or \$2,395	Sometimes it pays to be first in line
Feb 6 - 8	3 days	\$1,695 or #1,995	We do not recommend as 3 day trip are too short
Feb 6 - 10	5 days	2,395 or 2,695	
Feb 10 - 13	4 days	2,295 or 2,595	
Feb 13 - 17	5 days	2,395 or 2,695	Valentines Day special
Feb 17 - 20	4 days	2,295 or 2,595	President's Day Weekend
Feb 17 - 22	6 days	2,595 or 2,895	This is perhaps the ideal length gray whale trip
Feb 20 - 24	5 days	2,395 or 2,695	
Feb 22 - 27	6 days	2,595 or 2,895	
Feb 22 – March 1	8 days	2,895 or 3,195	
Feb 24 - 27	4 days	2,295 or 2,595	
Feb 27 – March 3	5 days	2,395 or 2,695	
March 1 - 6	6 days	2,595 or 2,895	
March 3 - 6	4 days	2,295 or 2,595	
March 3 - 8	6 days	2,595 or 2,895	
March 6 - 10	5 days	2,395 or 2,695	
March 10 - 13	4 days	2,295 or 2,595	
March 13 - 17	5 days	2,395 or 2,695	
March 17 – 20	4 days	2,295 or 2,595	
March 20 - 24	5 days	2,395 or 2,595	
March 24 - 27	4 days	2,395 or 2,695	

What's included in the price of a trip?

Food and drinks:

During your stay at our seaside whale watching tented lodge we provide purified water, hot drip brewed coffee, hot chocolate and hot or cold tea all day without charge. We provide breakfast, lunch and dinner at the lodge. Please see our separate menu. Basically breakfast and lunch have a fairly wide range of food you can choose from. Dinners are a very special affair and thus are a set meal menu. We will adjust this menu to suit almost any special dietary restrictions.

Whale tale bar:

Our Cantina provides a wide range of drinks and snack food at normal prices. Soda, American and Mexican beer, wine and bubbly choices ranging from budget to expensive and a full bar that makes terrific margaritas.

When at locations other than our seaside lodge (such as during the combo trips) meals are provided as noted in the trip itinerary. To allow guests the widest range of food choices the combo trip itineraries do not include **all** meals. Included meals are ordered from restaurant menus. The included meals include one entree and one drink (Beer, soda, purified bottle of water, tea or coffee). Not included are wine, alcoholic beverages and premium juice and blended drinks. Appetizers and dessert are not included in these meals, but you should feel comfortable about ordering and paying for these if you want to have them.

Drinks and water:

We carry purified water in our vehicles at all times. If possible your guide will have a quart or a 2 liter bottle of water for you to take to your room at night when on the combo trip. Some days due to the travel schedule we will not be able to do this and you will have to refill your personal water bottle from our bulk supply. We generally have large container bulk purified water available and **suggest each tour participant bring along his or her personal Nalgene water bottle to refill from our bulk supply.** This is a measure we have put in place to try to eliminate putting thousands of empty plastic water bottles into the environment each whale watching season.

When the combo group is traveling we like to carry an ice chest with soda and beer for you. These drinks are available for you while we're driving and at roadside stops during the travel day.

Generally after the active part of our day is finished, you will purchase your own beer, wine and soda. When staying at some locations such as Mag Bay we are able to offer hot water in thermoses along with tea, coffee powders and hot chocolate mix for in your room. Thermos' of hot water and coffee available all day and night at the seaside lodge.

Whale watching:

When going out on the boats at Loreto & Bahia de Los Angeles, on the Sea of Cortez, the trip duration is set by the weather conditions. You can expect to leave the dock at 8 a.m. sharp and to return anytime between noon and 4 pm. The boat captain is the sole decision maker about when to end a trip because of impending or strengthening wind or other sea conditions. Afternoon wind is an almost daily factor on the Sea of Cortez. Some of our boat trips each year are canceled due to weather.

Magdalena Bay boat trips are 1 1/2 hours or 2 hours in duration. The itinerary states each day what the trip duration is for your trip and how many boat trips are scheduled each day.

San Ignacio we go out on one boat trip. You must WADE into the water to get into the boats at San Ignacio. The whale watching is limited to 1 1/2 hours in the observation area. Only one boat trip is planned here. We only visit San Ignacio on the World's Greatest Whale Watching Event.

Laguna Ojo de Liebre whale watching is 1 1/2 hours duration, but frequently this stretches out informally to 2 hours or more. The trip itinerary details how many trips daily.

Ground transportation and air transportation:

We provide all ground transportation related to the tour each day. In Loreto, we walk to most of our activities from the hotel as everything is close to our hotel.

No airfare is included EXCEPT for our fly in trips originating in San Diego and going to Guerrero Negro and Laguna Ojo de Liebre. Start point for these fly in trips is the Holiday Inn - Bayside San Diego OR the Ensenada Airport. If you have any questions about this please be sure to ask us before making your vacation plans. We can advise you about flights, but we do not act as a ticketing agency.

Accommodations

Our shore side tented lodge at Laguna Ojo de Liebre is the finest "camp" situation in the Baja Peninsula. Here we provide gas fired hot water showers, real flush toilets, comfortable beds with mattresses, pillows and comforters. If you do not want to stay in our camp, then we will place you in a local hotel in the town of Guerrero Negro for a **small up charge** to cover the daily round trip travel to and from the lagoon to the town about 25 miles from our lodge.

At all other locations the hotels we use are safe, secure, clean and basic Baja quality hotels. They are not resort 5 star quality, but they provide everything an adventure traveler normally needs in a room. If you you want to upgrade, please let us know and we'll discuss the various options that are available, depending on the day and location.

Hotel choices can be an issue of contention if you, the guest, are not prepared for the level and quality of the accommodation. We do not want to have issues during the tour, so you can request photos and a tentative hotel name list and we'll gladly provide these to you. We have some hotel photos online, but because the places we stay change from time to time asking us for the current details will ensure you have the latest information. Please remember this is an adventure tour to remote and relatively undeveloped locations. We are not offering some resort luxury spa tour.

Hotel upgrades

For our one night in San Ignacio we stay at a motel style hotel called Rice and Beans. The rooms are large with comfortable beds. This is a somewhat basic Baja style motel. If you absolutely cannot stay in a motel style accommodation we will upgrade you to the Desert Inn for \$100 per person per night, but we really prefer to keep the group all at the Rice and Beans this one night.

For Magdalena Bay, upgrades are not possible. If you cannot accept very basic motel style accommodations you should not choose The World's Greatest trip that includes overnight stays in Puerto Lopez Mateos (Magdalena Bay).

For Laguna Ojo de Liebre (Guerrero Negro) all our trips are scheduled to stay at our up scale tented resort. The camp is the upgrade option. If for some reason you must stay in town, then there would be a charge of \$250 per person to cover transportation (50 miles round trip) and guide for the time in GN.

Hotel upgrades available for Loreto:

In Loreto if you have chosen the DELUXE accommodations you will be staying at Posada de Flores Hotel located on the edge of the Loreto town square or similar. This is an elegant hotel that should satisfy the most discriminating of travelers. Or the waterfront accommodations we can put you at the Mision Inn or Oasis Hotel on the Malecone sea front. Upgrade cost dependent on hotel and cost at time of booking, but around \$500 per room.

Below are the trip itineraries for all of our trips this year

Itinerary for 3 day fly in gray whale trip

Day one (Monday or Wednesday): Our driver meets you at 6:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Bayside in San Diego. From there he drives you approximately 1 1/2 hours to the Ensenada Airport where you will meet your flight to Guerrero Negro. If you have chosen to arrive at the Airport on your own, you should plan on arriving no later than 9:00 a.m. for the 11:20 a.m. departure. We will send you detailed instructions before the trip.

Upon arrival at the Guerrero Negro Airport you will be transferred approximately 1 1/2 hours to our secluded and very nice seaside camp location. You should arrive in camp around 5:30 pm, in time for a very nice dinner. (D)

Day two Tuesday or Thursday: Today you are scheduled for two gray whale watching boat rides. We always expect to have fun on every boat trip. Every trip seems different, but you can be assured that you will see hundreds of whales while out on your whale watching trip. But no trip to see the gray whales would be complete without a very close encounter with a friendly whale. We do not offer a guarantee that this will happen. But we have a perfect 20 year record for close encounters for our five day and longer trips. These three and four day trips are new on our schedule so we don't have statistics available for them as yet. But our expectations are that you will have a great short time whale watching experience. (B, L, D)

Day three Wednesday or Friday: After breakfast at camp you will transfer to the Guerrero Negro Airport to meet your flight north. Upon arrival in Ensenada our driver will meet your flight and transport you back to the Holiday Inn Bayside. You can expect to arrive at the hotel around 5 to 6 p.m. (B)

Itinerary 4 day fly in gray whale trip

Day one Friday: Our driver meets you at 6:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Bayside in San Diego. From there he drives you approximately 1 1/2 hours to the Ensenada Airport where you will meet your flight to Guerrero Negro. Upon arrival at the Guerrero Negro Airport you will be transferred approximately 1 1/2 hours to our secluded and very nice seaside camp location. You will be scheduled to arrive in time for a very nice dinner. (D)

Day two and day three Saturday & Sunday: During these two days you are scheduled for two gray whale watching boat rides each day. We always expect to have fun on every boat trip. Every trip seems different, but you can be assured that you will see hundreds of whales while out on your whale watching trip. But no trip to see the gray whales would be complete without a very close encounter with a friendly whale. We do not offer a guarantee that this will happen. But we have a perfect 20 year record for close encounters for our five day and longer trips. These three and four day trips are new on our schedule so we don't have statistics available for them as yet. But our expectations are that you will have a great short time whale watching experience. (B, L, D)

Day four Monday: After breakfast at camp you will transfer to the Guerrero Negro Airport to meet your flight north. Upon arrival in Ensenada our driver will meet your flight and transport you back to the Holiday Inn Bayside in San Diego. You can expect to arrive back at the hotel around 5 - 6 p.m. (B)

Itineraries for 5, 6 & 8 day trips are the same as the four day trip above with the exception of more days of whale watching.

Meals provided as part of the tour are indicated by **(B, L, D)**. In this example breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided that day as part of the tour package.

Itinerary for 5 day fly in gray whale trip

Day one (Monday): Our driver meets you at 6:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Bayside in San Diego. From there he drives you approximately 1 1/2 hours to the Ensenada Airport where you will meet your flight to Guerrero Negro. Upon arrival at the Guerrero Negro Airport you will be transferred approximately 1 1/2 hours to our secluded and very nice seaside camp location. You will be scheduled to arrive in time for a very nice dinner. (D)

Day two Tuesday: Today you are scheduled for two gray whale watching boat rides. We always expect to have fun on every boat trip. Every trip seems different, but you can be assured that you will see hundreds of whales while out on your whale watching trip. But no trip to see the gray whales would be complete without a very close encounter with a friendly whale. We do not offer a guarantee that this will happen. But we have a perfect 20 year record for close encounters for our five day and longer trips. These three and four day trips are new on our schedule so we don't have statistics available for them as yet. But our expectations are that you will have a great short time whale watching experience. (B, L, D)

Day three and four, Wednesday and Thursday:

Two more days filled with whale watching and great food. By now you're beginning to relax and really enjoy our shore side lodge. The anticipation and worry about whether or not you will see a lot of whales is surely gone. You'll undoubtedly spend some time sitting outside your tent watching the whales jump and play while you sip a drink and soak up the relaxing atmosphere. (B, L, D)

Day five Friday: After breakfast at camp you will transfer to the Guerrero Negro Airport to meet your flight north. Upon arrival in Ensenada our driver will meet your flight and transport you back to the Holiday Inn Bayside. You can expect to arrive at the hotel around 5 to 6 p.m. (B)

More below

Itinerary 6 day fly in gray whale trip

Day one

Friday or Wednesday: Our driver meets you at 6:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Bayside in San Diego. From there he drives you approximately 1 1/2 hours to the Ensenada Airport where you will meet your flight to Guerrero Negro. Upon arrival at the Guerrero Negro Airport you will be transferred approximately 1 1/2 hours to our secluded and very nice seaside camp location. You will be scheduled to arrive in time for a very nice dinner.
(D)

Day two and day three

Saturday & Sunday or Thursday & Friday: During these two days you are scheduled for two gray whale watching boat rides each day. We always expect to have fun on every boat trip. Every trip seems different, but you can be assured that you will see hundreds of whales while out on your whale watching trip. But no trip to see the gray whales would be complete without a very close encounter with a friendly whale. We do not offer a guarantee that this will happen. But we have a perfect 20 year record for close encounters for our five day and longer trips. These three and four day trips are new on our schedule so we don't have statistics available for them as yet. But our expectations are that you will have a great short time whale watching experience. (B, L, D)

Day four and five

Monday & Tuesday or Saturday & Sunday

Two more days filled with whale watching and great food. By now you're beginning to relax and really enjoy our shore side lodge. The anticipation and worry about whether or not you will see a lot of whales is surely gone. You'll undoubtedly spend some time sitting outside your tent watching the whales jump and play while you sip a drink and soak up the relaxing atmosphere.
(B, L, D)

Day six

Wednesday and Monday:

Day four Monday: After breakfast at camp you will transfer to the Guerrero Negro Airport to meet your flight north. Upon arrival in Ensenada our driver will meet your flight and transport you back to the Holiday Inn Bayside in San Diego. You can expect to arrive back at the hotel around 5 - 6 p.m. (B)

Itinerary for the 8 day trip is the same as the six day trip above with the exception of two more days of whale watching.

Combination blue and Gray whale trip details

2017

Combo blue and gray whale Itineraries

Eight day combo fly in & back - San Diego, February 10 – 17

Eleven day combo fly in & back -San Diego, February 10 – 20

Eleven day World's Greatest Whale Watching Event

Fly South and ride North, February 10 – 20

These three trips ALL start together, flying from the Ensenada Airport south to Guerrero Negro. Then after two days of blue whale watching near Loreto, the groups take different paths. Or Join with a group in Loreto and continue along the itinerary from there.

Pros of the various combo trip choices:

8 day trip is the shortest trip duration we recommend to do for both gray whales and blue whales.

11 day trip has the largest number of whale watchings, taking place in fewer different locations.

12 day The World's Greatest trip visits 5 very different Baja whale watching locales to give the very best opportunity to compare all the locations. Two Big whale locations and all three major gray whale nursery lagoons. This trip moves around more, giving you the opportunity to experience most of the truly wonderful and unique scenery of Baja California.

Whale watching boat trip comparison:

8 day trip = 4 gray whale boat trips, 2 blue whale boat trips, 2 locations

11 day trip = 10 gray whale boat trips, 2 blue whale boat trips, 2 locations

12 day World's Greatest = 6 gray whale boat trips, 4 blue whale boat trips, 5 locations

2017 Day by day itinerary for all Combo trips			
Date	World's Greatest Whale Watching Event	Eleven day gray & blue	Eight day gray & blue
Day one (Friday) February 10	Our driver meets you at 6:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Bayside in San Diego. From there he drives you approximately 1 1/2 hours to the Ensenada Airport where you will meet your flight to Guerrero Negro. Upon arrival at the Guerrero Negro Airport you will be transferred approximately 1 1/2 hours to our secluded and very nice seaside camp location. (D)		
Day two February 11	Today we go on two gray whale watching boat rides. We always expect to have fun on every boat trip. Every trip seems different, but you can be assured that you will see hundreds of whales while out on your whale watching trip. But no trip to see the gray whales would be complete without a very close encounter with a friendly whale. We do not offer a guarantee that this will happen. But we have a perfect 20+ year record for close encounters for our five day and longer trips. We expect that you will have a great whale watching experience. (B, L, D)		
Day 3 February 12	After breakfast your group will drive across the Baja Peninsula to the Sea of Cortez where you will stay in Loreto tonight at the El Dorado Hotel. (B)		
Day 4 & 5 Feb 13 & 14	These are your blue whale watching days. Each day you will get up and have breakfast at 7:00 a.m., then arriving at the dock at 8:00 a.m. Our days of whale watching in Loreto are always started early because of the constant afternoon winds. Time on the water is dependent on many variables such as location of the whales, weather and sea conditions. (B & L)		
After our combined groups finish their two days of blue whale watching off shore of Loreto, the 3 different combo groups begin separate activities to match their itineraries.			

The itinerary continues on the next page

Combo blue and gray whale Itineraries.

Date	World's Greatest Whale Watching Event	Eleven day gray & blue	Eight day gray & blue
Day #6 February 15	World's Greatest group continues south to Magdalena Bay. We will enjoy an afternoon 1 ½ hour whale watching (B)	Today the 8 & 11 day groups will transfer back to our shore side accommodations at Laguna Ojo de Liebre. (B & D)	
Day #7 February 16	Those at Mag Bay get in two 1½ hour gray whale watch trips before returning to Loreto for the night at the El Dorado. (B)	We're scheduled for two gray whale boat rides. Then later those on the 8 day trip can enjoy one last sunset from the shore by their tents. (B, L, D)	
Day #8 February 17	Those who overnighted in Loreto will ride to San Ignacio Lagoon today and enjoy one afternoon gray whale watching trip. We stay the night at the Rice and Beans Hotel. (B)	For our 11 day group members two gray whale trips planned for today. (B, L, D)	Following breakfast we transfer our eight day group members to the airport. You fly back to Ensenada where once again our driver will transport you back to the Holiday Inn Bayside, expect to arrive around 4:00 to 6:00 PM. (B) END 8 DAY TRIP
Day #9 February 18	Our World's Greatest group leaves San Ignacio after breakfast and drives to Bahia de Los Angeles where tomorrow they will go out in search of big whales on the Sea of Cortez. (B)	Today our 11 day group is again scheduled for two gray whale watching boat rides. (B, L, D)	
Day 10 February 19	We go out and search for Fin Back, Humpback and other giant whales. Perhaps they will see one last blue whale before ending the Greatest Whale Watching event ever undertaken. (B,L)	The 11 day group undertakes their last two gray whale watching trips. (B,L,D)	
Day 11 February 20	This will be a repeat of yesterday. Search for big whales off shore.	The 11 day group leaves Laguna Ojo de Liebre and flies north to Ensenada. We cross the border arriving in San Diego 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. (B)	
Day 12, February 21	The World's Greatest group drives north from Bahia de Los Angeles to San Diego, expecting to arrive at the Holiday Inn Bayside around 6:00 to 8:00 PM. This will end the Greatest ever of our World's Greatest Whale Watching Events with whale watching experienced at every major Baja whale watch location. (B)		

Please see some small print notes on the next page

* Until we have accepted reservations for a trip date we reserve the absolute right to change, cancel or alter trip dates and itineraries. Once we accept a deposit, we have never canceled or changed a date without the willing agreement of all group members. We do our best to adhere to our published itineraries on a day by day basis, but frequently we must switch segments of the tour because of weather, animals, political or other unscheduled situations.

** We reserve the absolute right without limitation or restriction to make changes to the trip itineraries. Changes are made to accommodate local conditions, weather, animal behavior, legal or political situations, road conditions or other normal or unexpected life situations. We try our best to maintain the same whale watching opportunities regardless of any changes we make. We seldom make major changes, but every year some minor changes are made.

*** We do not REQUIRE trip/travelers emergency insurance. However we strongly urge every guest to purchase adequate insurance to cover any possible unexpected or unplanned for events. In the event you choose to not have travelers insurance for this trip, you will be asked to sign an additional waiver that simply says you were advised to get the insurance, but chose to not do so as you have the financial means readily available to handle any emergency.