

Magdalena Bay Whale Watching Tour

6 Days Whale Watching in Baja

Experience one of the most incredible close-up wildlife encounters on the planet from our exclusive base camp situated on a secluded island beach at the very heart of whale activity in Magdalena Bay, one of the major calving lagoons for gray whales. See these magnificent, gentle giants at the height of their calving season from the safety of motor skiffs as they allow you to reach down and actually touch the friendly giants! Whales are guaranteed on our gray whale watching tours.

Magdalena Bay is a series of lagoons sheltered from the Pacific Ocean by low barrier islands and is the world-renowned winter nursery grounds of the California Gray Whale. January through March, hundreds of gray whales mate and bear their young in these protected waters after traveling over 5000 miles from the Bering Strait. The gray whale lagoons in Baja enjoy strict federal protection, and one can only whale watch with a licensed tour operator. You can watch the whales and their newly born calves up close from the safety of motorized skiffs. Breaching, spy-hopping and fluking, the whales will captivate your attention with their behavior.

You can observe gray whales and discover Magdalena Bay's diverse, fascinating ecosystem of windswept sand dunes, vibrant desert flora and mangrove-lined estuaries. Only ROW Sea Kayak Adventures has exclusive permission to camp on the island. Our five-day Gray Whales of Magdalena Bay whale watching tours include three-days at our safari-style base camp situated on a secluded beach at the center of whale activity. It is the perfect place to see the gray whales as they surface and blow right in front of our camp!

The area around our camp boasts the highest concentration of whales in Baja. Each day motorized skiffs take you out to the deeper waters of the bay, where "friendly whales" swim up to the skiffs for a closer look and often let guests touch their noses. On shore your guides will take you dune hiking, beachcombing and birding in mangrove channels - a mecca for migratory shorebirds.

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Note on Itinerary: Approximate paddling distances listed and can vary depending on group size and weather. We will do our best to adhere to the schedule listed above. However, the itinerary may change due to reasons beyond our control such as wind, waves or inclement weather. Please Note: Although there is a very good chance we'll see whales and other marine life throughout the week, the frequency, proximity, and quality of sightings will ultimately be determined by the wildlife.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Welcome to Loreto in Baja!

Upon arrival at the Loreto Airport take a quick cab ride to the tour hotel. After checking into pre-assigned rooms (included in the tour cost) you are on your own to explore Loreto, take a walk down the malecon, or relax by the hotel pool before your evening orientation meeting. At the orientation meeting you will meet your guides who will give you details about the plan for the next morning and answer any questions you may have.

Accommodations: [La Mision Hotel](#) or similar

Meals Included: 0 (travel day)

Day 2: Whale Watching in Magdalena Bay

After a good hearty breakfast be ready to depart 7:30am sharp for van transportation two hours to the Pacific coast, to Puerto Lopez Mateos on Magdalena Bay. Your first whale watching session will start immediately upon arrival. You might even see whales right from the dock! At the end of the two-hour session, the boat driver will ferry you across the bay to our exclusive base camp on a sand-dune barrier island. You'll have a chance to unload your gear and settle into your pre-assembled tent before a hearty lunch. This afternoon, your guides will lead a hike across the dunes to the Pacific Ocean. You can meander back to camp along the beach in the sunset, just in time for happy hour and a dinner under the stars.

Accommodations: Camping

Meals Included: L, D

Day 3-4: Whale Watching in Magdalena Bay

Tea and coffee greet you with the morning sun, and you're welcome to stroll along the beach and watch the whales wake up while your guides prepare a hot breakfast. Your day is filled with whale watching, hiking along the sand dunes and beachcombing the Pacific beaches. In the morning and afternoon we will take a motorized skiff into the bay for two hours of close encounters with gray whales (included in price), leaving the afternoon free for swimming, dune walking, whale watching from shore and exploring. We can also lead skiff birding tours into the mangrove areas, or part whale watching, part birding sessions. Our bilingual naturalist guides include marine biology graduate students from the University of La Paz. Be sure to board the skiff as soon as it arrives, as the clock starts ticking on the strictly 2 hour whale-watching session.

Accommodations: Camping

Meals Included: B, L, D

Day 5: Whale Watching in Magdalena Bay/Return to Loreto

You'll enjoy one final whale watching session after breakfast in the morning before you are returned to Puerto Lopez Mateos by panga. After a chance to purchase a commemorative token in the small shops at the port, you'll enjoy a hot seafood lunch at a local restaurant before the van ride back to Loreto. Check back into the tour hotel for a shower or take a stroll along the malecon before a farewell dinner with your group where you can reminisce about spy hopping whales, and frolicking dolphins.

Accommodations: [La Mision Hotel](#) or similar

Meals Included: B, L

Day 6: Return home or extend your stay

There are no activities planned for this day so you are free to depart whenever you desire. Travel home or continue on another adventure such as sea kayaking in the [Loreto Bay National Marine Park](#) or one of our single day [Trip Extension options](#).

Meals Included: 0 (travel day)