

# San Ignacio Whale Watching

## Day: 1

### Welcome to Loreto in Baja!

Arrive in Loreto, headquarters for ROW Sea Kayak Adventures' operations in Baja! We have been based in this lovely town since 1993 and consider ourselves part of the fabric of the community. We are proud that we employ over 15 Mexican guides, support a number of local businesses, buy all our supplies locally and generally have a large economic impact within Baja California.

On your arrival catch a short cab ride to the tour hotel. Drop off your bags and head out to explore this tranquil colonial town. Founded in 1697 by Jesuit Missionaries, it is the region's oldest permanent settlement. Located on the Sea of Cortez, Loreto today remains idyllic in many ways. There are gorgeous beaches, whale watching opportunities, snorkeling, and superb hiking and, is our base for kayaking tours to nearby Islands of Loreto Bay National Marine Park. Enjoy the town and waterfront promenade before we gather an orientation meeting.

Accommodations: La Mision Hotel

Meals Included: 0 (travel day)

## Day: 2



### **Drive from Loreto to San Ignacio Lagoon**

Today is a fabulous day of discovery! We rise and shine with a hearty breakfast and then begin our drive north along the coast, and then west across the desert to the Pacific Ocean. This is the perfect introduction to the mountains and landscape of Baja California, and we will stop for some memorable highlights along the way. We will visit the old mining town of Santa Rosalia, founded in 1884 by a French copper mining company, where we see a handsome metal church designed by Gustave Eiffel, of Eiffel Tower fame!

By early afternoon we arrive in the old mission town of San Ignacio. This palm oasis gives a pleasant break from our drive and we visit the old Spanish Mission built in 1786 while also learning about the history of the California missions. After an hour or so in town we continue another hour and a half to San Ignacio Lagoon.

After a full day of learning and adventure, we arrive by late afternoon at our “whale camp” at the edge of San Ignacio Lagoon. Breathe in

the salty air of our secluded, quiet stretch of beach before settling into tonight's accommodations. Our beach camp is perfectly located on the Lagoon and we also have the option (for those who do want to camp) of modest hotel accommodations adjacent to our beach camp. We dine together either outside or in our large dining dome. Our seaside camp provides everything you need for a rustic, but comfortable experience.

Each evening, your guides provide informative presentations on whale natural history which are a highlight for many of our guests. We also have an extensive library with books on whales and other sea creatures.

Accommodations: Whale Camp at San Ignacio  
Meals Included: B,L,D

## **Day: 3 - 5**



### **Whale Watching Galore!**

It is hard to capture in words the powerful experience of an intimate whale encounter. To be close to these powerful, yet gentle animals, is the dream of many, and our whale watching adventure will fulfill that dream. We head out from our camp in small, motorized boats,

locally called “pangas” with expert skippers. During our whale-watching sessions we are likely to see whales spy hop, breach and even witness a rare mating romp. Our small pangas allow us to observe the whales at close range. Once we near a whale (or whales) at a respectful distance the engine is put into neutral and it’s up to the whale to come closer or not. It is not uncommon for a whale, or a whale and her calf, to come up right next to the boat for a back scratch or head rub! It’s impossible to know why they exhibit this behavior, but we are the lucky recipients! To look into the eye of a whale is truly one of life’s most rare and moving experiences.

Whale watching activity is closely monitored and a limited number of boats are allowed in the lagoon whale watching area each morning and afternoon. Generally, we spend a hour and a half whale watching per excursion, and take two excursions per day, but this could vary depending on whale activity, weather and regulations. On this tour we have three full days at San Ignacio and anticipate two whale watching excursions each day, for a minimum of six during our stay. Each excursion is different and a variety of whale behavior is witnessed while our naturalist guides offer you a wealth of knowledge to enrich your journey.

When not on the boats, we may hike, birdwatch, or explore the local mangrove estuaries.

Accommodations: Whale Camp at San Ignacio  
Meals Included: B,L,D

## **Day: 6**

### **San Ignacio back to Loreto**

Awake and say goodbye to San Ignacio Lagoon. We return to San Ignacio town where some may be continuing to our Cave Painting Tour, while others return to Loreto.

Accommodations: La Mision Loreto  
Meals Included: B,L

## Day: 7



### Depart Home or Extend Your Trip

Return to the Loreto Airport to catch your return flight home. Or, you may want to extend your trip with a kayaking tour around the islands of Loreto...or visit ancient cave paintings (read below).

Extension Suggestion: Our San Ignacio Lagoon whale watching tours are designed to combine perfectly with our journeys into the Sierra de San Francisco to see one of the most spectacular collection of pre-historic cave art in the world! Think Lascaux in southern France, Altamira in northern Spain, or the Tassili d'Anger in Algeria.

These Baja paintings are larger than life and located within remote canyons of volcanic rock, dotted with oasis of palms. Our cave painting adventures are hiking trips with mules that carry all our camping gear, so you travel with only a daypack. By extending your trip just four days you can not only see the whales of San Ignacio, but one of the world's most fabulous art collections!