



# BAJA CALIFORNIA

AMONG THE GREAT WHALES

**UIW**  
**ALUMNI**  
ASSOCIATION

February 2-9, 2008  
Aboard the *Sea Lion*





## Dear UW Alumni and Friends,

**E**ach winter, one of the world's most exciting wildlife phenomena takes place in the bays and lagoons of Baja California's Pacific coast — gray whales arrive by the thousands to breed, give birth and nurture their young. Why not follow the whales on your own migration to the warm and sunny climate of Baja?

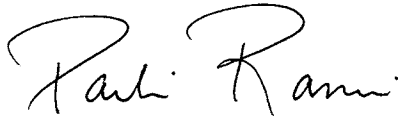
This **February 2-9, 2008**, you can be part of this awesome event. Join us on an eight-day voyage around the coast of the Baja Peninsula. Cruising aboard our 62-guest expedition ship *Sea Lion*, experience firsthand the age-old migration patterns of the California grays. Sail around the tip of Baja, searching for fin, blue, sperm, and humpback whales in the crystal waters of the Sea of Cortez. The *Sea Lion* is the ideal vessel for exploring this remarkable region. She can easily maneuver to follow whales or a school of playful dolphins. And, where our ship can't go, our Zodiac landing craft and kayaks can, allowing for an up-close and personal view of these gentle and majestic giants.

Although the whales are a highlight of the journey, your voyage includes much more. Awake to a desert-hued sunrise; look for the green flash on the horizon at sunset; savor a beach barbecue as stars move across the desert sky; snorkel among playful sea lions in the clear waters of an isolated cove; kayak through the crystalline waters.

Most importantly, a dedicated staff of Naturalists, experts in their fields who know this region well and take pleasure in sharing their vast knowledge, will accompany you throughout your voyage. The Captain and his crew also keep a constant watch, surveying the seas for the next whale blow or giant fluke slapping the water's surface.

I hope you will join fellow alumni and UW Professor Sue Moore for an adventure that is both enriching and fun. You will come away refreshed — with new perspectives, a new understanding of the natural world and some new friends, too. To reserve your place, please return the enclosed reservation form or call 206-685-9276 or toll free at 800-289-2586.

Sincerely,



Pauline Ranieri

Director, UW Alumni Tours

University of Washington Alumni Association

P.S. As we strive to make getting to and from our ships easier, we have arranged for an exclusive charter flight between Los Angeles and La Paz. To further entice you, **we've decided to provide this round-trip flight to you with our compliments!**

**Sue Moore** received a BA in Biology from the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), a MS in Biology from San Diego State University (SDSU), and a PhD from Scripps



Institution of Oceanography, with a dissertation entitled "Cetacean Habitats in the Alaskan Arctic." For the past 25 years, her research has focused on the behavioral ecology and natural history of whales and dolphins, work that has taken her from the Arctic to the Antarctic, with 'stops in the middle' for study of blue whales offshore California and gray whales in the lagoons of Baja California, Mexico. Sue has served as Director, and as Cetacean Program Leader, at the NOAA's National Marine Mammal Laboratory (NMML). She is currently on detail to the Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) at the University of Washington (UW) to develop and support acoustic and Arctic-related research programs for the Alaska Fisheries Science Center.





Fin whale



Blue whale



Orca whale



Pilot whale

# The Whales of Baja

I've sailed all the world's oceans in my 40 years as an oceanographer and nowhere else have I seen the variety and numbers of whales that I have seen in Baja California. On a two-week voyage we saw thirteen species, including pygmy sperm and false killer whales. When most people think of Baja and whales, they think of the California grays which migrate yearly to the calving lagoons on the west side of the peninsula. An estimated 17,000 animals make the migration every year and so they are very much in evidence. But it is in the Sea of Cortez that the greatest variety is observed, beginning with thousands of common



Sperm whale



Humpback whale

dolphins, hundreds of bottlenose dolphins and going all the way to the largest animals to ever exist on the planet, the blue whales. We also observe the second largest whales, fin whales, sometimes in large numbers, as well as Bryde's, humpbacks, and the largest of the toothed whales, sperm whales. In addition we can see other toothed whales including killer whales, pilot whales, beaked whales, false killer whales, pygmy sperm whales and spinner dolphins. On special occasions we observe rarely seen behaviors, such as dolphins "bow-riding" on the great whales, life-and-death struggles between killer whales and their prey, and lunge-feeding by fin whales. In no other place can all these things be seen together.

— James Kelley, Naturalist

## DR. JAMES KELLEY

A native of California, Jim has been going to sea for most of his life. After finishing his graduate work in geology, he joined the faculty in oceanography at the University of Washington in 1966. While on the faculty, he conducted research in most of the world's oceans. In 1975 he became Dean of the College of Science and Engineering at San Francisco State University. From 1981 to 1993 he was President of the California Academy of Sciences. In 2001 Jim retired from the University and now spends most of his time aboard our ships. He has worked for Lindblad Expeditions as Naturalist and Expedition Leader since 1985, first in Baja California, and he has been back every year since then to spend time with the whales of Baja.



**“The gray whales’ natural curiosity took them under our boats, near all sides of the Zodiacs and all around; close and near in the early morning light.”**

*— Sharon Grainger, Naturalist*



# Exploring the Desert

In the Baja desert, the primary citizens are the giant cardon cacti. Highly visible and widespread, these plants are emphatic greeters beckoning from an exotic and unique landscape. There are dozens of different kinds of cactus here, from the tiny fish hook, to the massive barrel, to the many-armed organ pipe. Each is a fortress, with row after row of crenate ribs and rank upon rank of star-bursting spines guarding the most precious desert commodity — moisture. And yet, most species also have their softer, almost fuzzy side; they show it during the warm days of



early spring, when they become focused on reproduction. As onlookers, we are dazzled by rare colors, gorgeous shapes, and often experience pleasant scents from cactus flowers. These are “animal pleasing” characteristics that many other plants also strive to achieve with their flowers. But unlike lots of plants, cacti do things on the grandest of scales and with the greatest of panache. Petals look like crumpled tissue paper as they unfurl to expose bountiful pollen and



**Clockwise from left:**  
A picturesque cove, hike desert trails, dogweed flower in morning light, iguana perched on top of cardon cactus.



nectar to bats, orioles and insects that carry the plant’s future to another flower for cross-pollination. Let us unravel some of the desert’s vast biological mysteries for you in Baja.

— Dennis Cornejo, Naturalist





## Beneath the Sea

**O**ur ship serves as a floating base camp from which we head out on daily discoveries — kayaking among mangroves and snorkeling with sea lions and among glorious fish. Zodiacs expand our range as we land on uninhabited shorelines to see what awaits us. Every day presents new sets of activities to engage in and new discoveries to make.

Encounter the rich tapestry of life beneath the surface by snorkeling (wet suits provided) in ideal conditions — calm seas, far-reaching visibility, and beckoning waters. Our Naturalists accompany all of your outings, identifying sea life and ensuring your safety. The inviting water is teeming with colorful fish, fanciful invertebrates and, at Isla Los Islotes, ballet-like sea lions that cross your watery path. And those who prefer a drier approach will be able to view this remarkable underwater footage — captured by our Undersea Specialist and by our special bow camera — in the comfort of our ship's lounge.



**Clockwise from top:**  
Common dolphins, kayaking up close to nature, snorkeling among playful sea lions, colorful reef fish.

# Baja California: Among the Great Whales

➤ ITINERARY – 8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS

## Day 1: Los Angeles/ La Paz/San Carlos/ Embark Ship

Arrive in La Paz on the charter flight from Los Angeles and drive across the Baja Peninsula to San Carlos and embark the ship. (D)



## Days 2, 3 and 4: Bahia Magdalena

Imagine a vast system of protected harbors and channels, surrounded by a fringe of mangrove swamps at one edge of a vast, windswept plain. Such is Bahia Magdalena on the Pacific Coast of Baja California. It is one of the main breeding and calving areas for California gray whales. Each winter, the whales make the longest migration of any mammal — south from their Arctic feeding grounds to breed and raise their calves in these sheltered waters.

In this calm water nursery, observe these enormous yet gentle animals from the ship and up close from our Zodiacs. One of nature's greatest spectacles, these mysterious leviathans will humble and amaze you. Also walk along sand dunes of incomparable beauty and discover dense mangroves by kayak and Zodiac. Bird watching in the mangroves can be excellent — magnificent frigate birds, pelicans, cormorants, terns and great blue herons, ibis and willets are among the species we might see. On mud flats, we'll often spot migrating

species at rest. It's not unusual to observe forty species of birds in just one day along these fertile shorelines. (B,L,D)

## Day 5: Gorda Banks and Los Cabos

The morning is spent at the Gorda Banks sea-mount, a gathering place for whales, especially humpbacks, as well as dolphins and other sea life. Later cruise past Friars Rocks at Land's End. For those who wish, we will arrange a visit to the historic town center of San Jose del Cabo. (B,L,D)

## Day 6: Exploring the Sea of Cortez

At Los Islotes, experience one of life's great







pleasures — snorkeling with curious sea lions. Don flippers, a mask and snorkel (which we'll gladly provide) and swim among these graceful creatures. With deeply indented bays, Espiritu Santo may be the most beautiful island in the Sea of Cortez. We have a leisurely afternoon to swim, kayak or hike. Enjoy a long walk or lazy beachcombing. Brown pelicans, gulls, wandering tattlers, great blue herons and boobies are all part of the landscape. End the day with a relaxing beach barbecue complete with campfire and a star-filled sky. (B,L,D)

### **Day 7: Islas Los Islotes and Espiritu Santo**

With the luxury of no specific plan, we may search for whales among the islands of the southern Sea of Cortez, an area that has proven to be one of the best for finding blue whales, and often common and bottlenose dolphins. Explore one of the many uninhabited islands such as Isla San Jose or Isla Santa Catalina to walk

among huge cacti, swim, snorkel, and observe the great diversity of bird life — verdins, ladder-backed woodpeckers and Costa's

hummingbirds. Swim and snorkel in the clear bay of our anchorage. Below the surface, observe king angelfish, butterfly fish, damselfish and beautiful parrotfish. (B,L,D)



### **Day 8: La Paz/Disembark/Los Angeles**

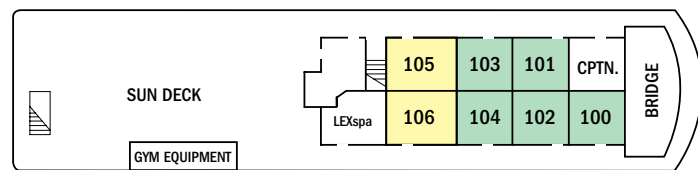
Disembark after breakfast in La Paz and drive to the airport for the charter flight to Los Angeles. (B)

(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)

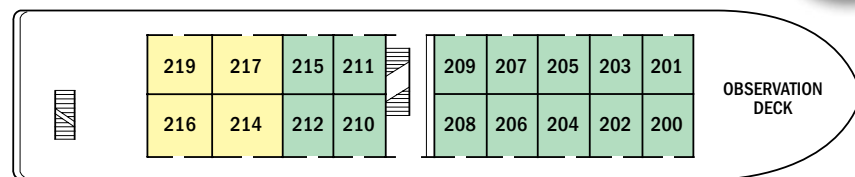
## **Experience Baja with a Passionate and Expert Team**

One of the hallmarks of Lindblad Expeditions is the caliber of our expedition team and ship's crew. Our expeditions set out with a generous complement of experts aboard, under the direction of an experienced Expedition Leader (EL). Our Baja team includes marine biologists, ornithologists, botanists, geologists, cetacean specialists, as well as professional wildlife photographers. In addition to their expertise, there's another important distinction between our expedition team and the idea of a "tour guide." They aren't there to herd you around. Whether you're hanging out on deck with them whale watching, snorkeling a reef, or hiking up a desert wash, you'll find that their company — their passion and respect for the life we observe, and their sense of humor — will prove as vital to your enjoyment as the marine mammals and seabirds you'll see.

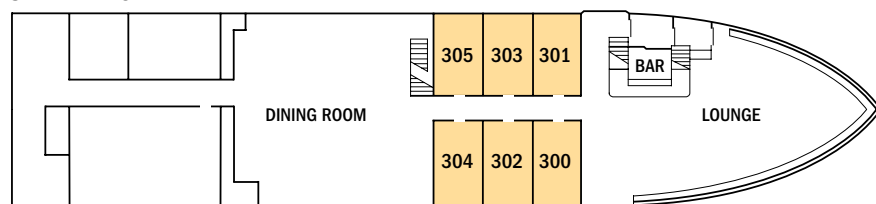




**BRIDGE DECK**



**UPPER DECK**



**MAIN DECK**

The *Sea Lion*, built in 1982, and *Sea Bird*, built in 1981, and refurbished in 2005, are of U.S. registry and comply fully with U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Gross Tonnage: 99; Overall Length: 152 feet; Draft: 8 feet; Cruising Speed: 12 knots.



**LEXspa** Wellness with nature in mind. After a morning of kayaking or a lazy day on deck, experience the escape of massage and other wellness treatments.

COMPLIMENTARY CHARTER FLIGHT

Twin expedition ships, *Sea Lion* and *Sea Bird*, comfortably accommodate 62 guests in 31 outside cabins. Each features a Library; Lounge with full-service bar and facilities for films and presentations; Observation Deck; partially covered Sun Deck, and LEXspa. "Open Bridge" provides guests an opportunity to meet our Officers and Captain and learn about navigation. Meals are served in a single seating with unassigned tables for easy mingling. Special expedition equipment includes a bow camera, hydrophone, kayaks, snorkeling gear, Splash-Cam, underwater video camera and video microscope.

Costs are Per Person Double Occupancy unless otherwise noted.

<b>Category 1:</b> Main Deck (#300-305)	<b>\$4,270</b>
Sole Occupancy	<b>\$6,410</b>

Conveniently positioned between the dining room & lounge, these cabins feature two single lower beds, a writing desk and a large view window.

<b>Category 2:</b> Upper Deck (#200-212, 215)	
Bridge Deck (#100-104)	<b>\$4,770</b>
Sole Occupancy: All of the above	<b>\$6,990</b>

These well-located cabins include two lower single beds & a view window.

<b>Category 3:</b> Upper Deck (#214, 216, 217, 219)	
Bridge Deck (#105, 106)	<b>\$5,390</b>

These cabins feature a seating unit with table and two large view windows. Upper Deck cabins include two lower single beds which can convert to a double bed and a pull-out single bed for a third person. Bridge Deck cabins include two lower single beds only.

**Note:** Sole Occupancy cabins are available in Categories 1 and 2 only. Third person rates are available in certain categories at one half the double occupancy rate.

**Shares:** If you wish to share accommodations, we will be glad to make arrangements at the double occupancy rate in Category 1 and 2 only.

**SPECIAL BOOKING OFFERS**

**COMPLIMENTARY AIRFARE:** Round-trip charter flight from Los Angeles to La Paz — approximate value of \$500.

**BRING THE KIDS:** We believe sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. So, take \$500 off the Double Occupancy price for each young person under 18.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**COST INCLUDES:** All accommodations aboard ship or in hotels per itinerary; all meals; nonalcoholic beverages aboard ship; entrance fees; excursions and sightseeing; taxes, service charges, and tips (except to ship's crew). There's never a charge for kayaks, Zodiacs, snorkeling equipment, or the services of the ship physician and Lindblad's expedition staff.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Airfare to and from Los Angeles, alcoholic beverages; personal items such as phone/fax/email charges, travel protection plan; discretionary gratuities to ship's crew; LEXspa; baggage/accident/travel protection plan.

**SPECIAL FEATURES:** Guest internet access, Wellness Program, LEXmarket, Video Chronicer and Undersea Specialist.

**AIRFARE:** Airfare to/from Los Angeles is an additional cost. We will gladly assist in booking your flights. Please note, there will be a \$50 per person service fee if you elect for Lindblad Expeditions to handle your air arrangements.

**NOTE:** A complete packet of pre-journey information, including recommended reading and suggestions on what to bring, will be sent after your reservation is confirmed.

**RESERVATIONS:** To confirm your place, a completed reservation form and an advance payment of \$450 is required at the time of reservation and is payable by check, Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover.

**FINAL PAYMENT:** Due 60 days prior to departure.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Travel cancellation and medical insurance are highly recommended. Upon receipt of deposit, information on optional travel insurance will be mailed to you by UW Alumni Tours.

**SMOKING POLICY:** Allowed in designated outdoor areas.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of the Company's liability for loss of property, injury, illness or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests prior to final payment, and to prospective guests upon request.

**NOTE:** Prices listed in this brochure are as of publication date, and are subject to change. The company reserves the right to impose surcharges based on increases in the company's actual cost of fuel.

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

Number of Days Prior to Expedition Start	Per Person Cancellation Fee
90 or more days	\$250
89-60 days	Deposit
59-30 days	50% of trip cost
29-0 days	No refund

*This policy applies to expeditions and extensions. We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan.*



**Please return to:**

UW Alumni Association  
 Attn: UW Alumni Tours  
 1415 N.E. 45th Street  
 Seattle, WA 98105  
 Phone: 206-685-9276  
 Toll free: 800-289-2586

**Reservation Form: Among the Great Whales**

**Aboard the *Sea Lion* – February 2-9, 2008**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).

Name 1: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(As it appears on passport) (Preferred name for name badge)

Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
(As it appears on passport) (Preferred name for name badge)

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodations:  Double  Single  Twin share w/friend  Twin share (Roommate assigned by Tour operator.)

Please indicate choice of cabin category in order of preference: 1st choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my advance payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (US\$450 per person).

Check made payable to **Lindblad Expeditions**.

Charge my advance payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (US\$450 per person) to my

Visa  MasterCard  American Express or  Discover

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# DAILY EXPEDITION REPORT

{ D.E.R. } FEBRUARY 5, 2007, MAGDALENA BAY

The Zodiac boats went up to the northernmost entrance of the bay, called Boca de la Soledad (The Mouth of the Solitude), for whale watching. Most of us experienced close encounters with these gentle giants – the gray whales. Pairs of cows and calves were there and displayed a number of behaviors: rolling over the moms' backs, calves breaching and nursing. Single adults were also observed in their frenzy, wandering for mates, and many eventually showed their flukes, or spy hopped. Friendly behavior was detected by some of our guests, who stretched arms and hands and reached the animals' skins for a few seconds. In moments, the Zodiacs were surrounded by 8 or 9 whales, making their powerful exhalations sound like aquatic steam-locomotives. The day was closed with a delicious grouper and lobster aboard the *Sea Bird*, and delightful Mexican songs of love and fun performed by Los Coyotes de Magdalena, a group of local musicians – Adrian Cerda, Expedition Staff



**Travel + Leisure 2006 Small-ship  
Cruise Lines Award** Lindblad  
Expeditions is ranked among the  
best. **Travel + Leisure 2006 World's  
Best Tour Operators Award** ranked  
Lindblad Expeditions in the top ten  
by readers. **Condé Nast Traveler  
Gold List 2006** ranked Lindblad  
Expeditions among the best:  
“...a 93.9 score for Destinations/  
Itineraries, 96.2 Service and 89.3  
for Activities.”

COMPLIMENTARY AIRFARE

**UIW**  
**ALUMNI**  
ASSOCIATION

1415 N.E. 45th Street  
Seattle, WA 98105

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LINDBLAD  
EXPEDITIONS