

Day 1: Todos Santos

Welcome to Baja California Sur!

Today you'll arrive at the airport in San Jose del Cabo where you will be met by your guides. You will go with them for the 90 minute transfer to Todos Santos. Upon arrival we'll let you get settled into your lovely rooms, then we'll have a gourmet taco welcome dinner at Iker's Colibris Café. During dinner your guides will host a trip briefing, outlining the adventures to come.

Day 2: Todos Santos

Surfing Lessons/Historical Town Tour/Mexican Cooking Class

We'll start off this great vacation learning to surf the waves at Los Cerritos, one of the best surf breaks in Baja. Our instructors guarantee that you'll ride the waves—at least for a moment! It's a total blast!

After lunch we'll head into town for a historical town tour. Todos Santos has a rich and varied history, from the early missionaries, through the booming sugar years, through its current incarnation as an artists' colony, agricultural center and surfing hotspot. On this walking tour we'll visit many of the historic homes and buildings throughout town, earning fascinating stories of the global forces and colorful personalities that brought these buildings into existence and shaped Todos Santos over the years.

This evening we'll start the festivities with a mezcal tasting conducted by our local mezcal experts in which we learn about the history and variety of this quintessential Mexican drink. This will be followed by a Mexican Survival Cooking Class with local lawyer turned chef Iker Algorri, author of *Cooking Adventures in Baja California Sur* and chef-in-residence at Los Colibris Casitas. The emphasis is on having as much fun as humanly possible, learning to make the perfect margarita, and gaining the skill to make some truly memorable Mexican dishes following Chef Iker's cooking philosophy, the Magnificence of Simplicity. You'll also probably learn about some great Latin music you've never heard before. But be warned—dancing is often known to follow!

Day 3: Magdalena Bay

Magdalena Bay Whale Watching Adventure

Magdalena Bay is the largest wetlands ecosystem on the west coast of Baja and one of the most important in North America. The World Wildlife Fund ranks it as one of the most important coastal habitats in Mexico. The Bay is the prime calving ground for the gray whale, and January to March it is possible to see a large number of whales, including mothers and calves. Magdalena Bay also has mangrove forests, barrier beaches and sand dune islands, all of which contribute to the incredible scenery and biological diversity of the area.

Today we'll drive about 4.5 hours to Magdalena Bay, have lunch in one of the local restaurants, then head out on the water for 3 hours of interacting with the amazing gray whale mothers, calves, juveniles and sporting males.

Day 4: La Paz

This morning we'll have three more hours with the whales in the lagoons, then head to La Paz with a celebratory lunch stop along the way. In the late afternoon we'll check into Hotel Blue, then enjoy a wonderful dinner out on the town.

Day 5: Isla Espiritu Santo

Sea of Cortez and Isla Espiritu Santo Luxury Tent Camping Adventure

We're off to Isla Espiritu Santo and Camp Cecil today! After breakfast we'll go to our bodega to get snorkeling gear and wet suits, then it's on to the boats and out into the Sea of Cortez!

Camp Cecil is on Isla Espiritu Santo, which is in a National Marine Park, part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and is one of the best marine life viewing destinations in the world. Whales, dolphins, whale sharks, sea turtles, manta rays and plenty of beautiful tropical fish call the surrounding waters home, while a terrific range of bird species including blue-footed boobies, reddish egrets, great blue herons and yellow-footed gulls frequent the island's skies and shores. The island itself is stunning, with magnificent towering cliffs, spectacular sandy bays, amazing lava rock formations, and rock art left by the now-extinct Guaycura and Pericu Indians. There's even an endemic ring-tailed cat, the *babisuri*. It's a remarkable place to explore. We'll spend the days doing exactly what pleases us—kayaking, snorkeling, hiking, swimming with sea lions, stand up paddle boarding, bird watching, and exploring hidden lagoons and deserted beaches.

Day 6: Isla Espiritu Santo

Who knows what adventures the day may bring?! Perhaps paddle board with sea turtles, or snorkel with sea lions, maybe spot some whales, or dance with some blue-footed boobies. Whatever surprises the day by hold, you can be sure that it will also include magnificent food and drink.

Also, for those of you that are dive certified—this might be a day of diving depending on the weather conditions.

Day 7: Isla Espiritu Santo

Another day of island bliss and adventures.

Day 8: Todos Santos

Whale Sharks!

Today we'll depart from Camp Cecil and head for one of the most amazing experiences yet—swimming with the largest fish in the world—the whale shark! These gentle giants feed on plankton in the Bay of La Paz, and it is here that we have the remarkable experience of observing and swimming with them.

In the afternoon we'll return to Todos Santos and Los Colibris Casitas. We'll have a wonderful farewell dinner and celebration at one of the great restaurants in town.

Day 9: Homeward Bound

Say adios but not goodbye! Transfer to the airport for your flight home.