

# The ultimate week with the Giants in Mexico!

#### **General Information**

There is hardly any other region in the world with such an extraordinary diversity and density of marine life as the Baja California region in Mexico during the winter months.

Grey whales and their young in the Bahia Magdalena, gigantic blue whales off Loreto, gentle whale sharks and sea lions near La Paz, and acrobatic humpback whales around Cabo San Lucas - all this and much more is possible in just one eventful eight-day round trip in a picturesque region!

Climatically, Mexico impresses with extremely pleasant temperatures at the end of February. During the day, the thermometer reaches up to 30 degrees, at night it is much cooler. The weather is extremely stable - this means lots of sunshine and fantastic sunsets with beautiful colours. A dream for every photographer!

The guided tour is completely organised for you. All accommodations are reserved, transport and tours are included. So, you do not need to worry about anything.

We stay in very clean and nice 3 and 4 star accommodations at all locations. The restaurants are also carefully selected by us - you are free to choose your meal from the menu!

Our tour starts at the beginning of March (March 9th 2024), the best time of the whale season. During these days we have the best chance to see all species.

# Whales

After getting to know each other and an optional first whale tour in Cabo San Lucas, we set off early on the second day for the famous Bahia Magdalena – a world-famous nursery for grey whales. Every winter they enter the waters of Southern California and Mexico to mate or give birth to their calves. The Bahia Magdalena is one of the main breeding grounds. The protected bay offers hundreds of whales protection from natural enemies and the young animals enjoy safe first weeks of life. It is also incredibly special that the animals here are not shy of people and with a little luck they will swim actively towards our boat to be stroked!

After the Bahia Magdalena, we set off from Loreto in the Sea of Cortez in search of the largest creatures that have ever inhabited our planet - the blue whales! These giants of the sea spend several weeks a year off Loreto - a fantastic oppor-

tunity to observe these animals.

South of Loreto is the city of La Paz. The bay in front of the city is home to the biggest fish in the world - whale sharks! We experience these gentle giants not only from the boat - but also under from below the surface by snorkeling. We also have the chance to meet sea lions in La Paz. These nimble joyful creatures dance all around us through the water, a wonderful experience!

Back in Cabo San Lucas we set sail for the last time to watch the acrobats of the sea - humpback whales! These whales are also here in Mexico to mate and give birth to their young. Especially the area around Cabo San Lucas seems to be very popular with the humpback whales!

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Besides the humpback whales, grey whales, dolphins, schools of devil rays or orcas also appear here frequently. Nowhere else can you find so many species in such a small area as here in Baja California!

Please note that it is not allowed to swim with whales in Mexico. Therefore, we observe grey, blue and humpback whales from the boat. On the other hand, we are allowed to go into the water to snorkel with whale sharks and sea lions.



#### Accommodation

On our round trip we will spend two nights in Cabo San Lucas, two nights in Loreto and La Paz, as well as one night in the Bahia Magdalena.

All accommodations are 3 or 4 star hotels, selected for their facilities, comfort and cleanliness. Also the friendly staff impresses with the typical Mexican hospitality so that we feel at home right away.

#### Meals

Also from a culinary point of view there is a lot to discover on this trip. The Mexican cuisine is world famous and offers an abundance of fantastic dishes for all tastes. At all the places we visit, we will take you to selected local restaurants to introduce you to the Mexican cuisine. It offers way more than tacos and fajitas! Since we are located near the sea, there is often the opportunity to taste fresh fish and sea food. Of course, vegetarian meals are also available.

# **Other Activities**

In addition to our numerous tours on the sea, we would like to show you other places and some sights of this unique region.

In Cabo San Lucas we visit the local museum, which tells us a lot about the historical and cultural aspects of the area. We also take one of the popular sunset rides to see the famous rock arch of Cabo in a special light. In Bahia Magdalena we climb the local dunes that form the bay and in La Paz we visit the Whale Museum, among other places.

Of course, you also have the possibility to relax or to do something on your own. We will be happy to advise you about

#### different options.

Especially Cabo San Lucas is a very popular holiday resort, which invites us to stay. Why don't you stay a few more days after our round trip? We are happy to give you further information.





# **Our Itinerary**

**Day I:** Arrival in Cabo San Lucas and depending on your arrival time, you will have the possibility of a visit to a local museum or a first tour on the sea to admire the sunset and possibly the first whales.

We will get to know each other at a nice dinner.



**Day 2:** We start early in the morning towards Bahia Magdalena, where we arrive around noon.

After check-in and a light lunch, we go on a tour to see the grey whales and their calves in the bay in the afternoon. With a bit of luck, we might even be able to stroke these very trusting animals!

**Day 3:** After a hearty breakfast we head back into the bay in the morning in search of great interactions with grey whales.

But then we have to say goodbye to the Bahia Magdalena and the greys. We continue our journey to Loreto, where we have several options in the afternoon. For example, we can take a break or visit the old Spanish mission San Javier.

**Day 4:** This day is dedicated to the largest creatures on earth - the blue whales!

On an extensive tour we will look out for these giants of the sea, which can be seen around Loreto, especially at the end of February and the beginning of March!

**Day 5:** After the second night in Loreto we drive south in the morning to the city of La Paz.

La Paz is famous for its whale sharks, which we want to snorkel with in the afternoon!

Later there are also the possibilities to visit the local whale museum, relax or explore La Paz on your own.

**Day 6:** From La Paz we take a boat to the island of Espiritu Santo. The island is home to a colony of about 200 sea lions. Also here we go into the water to meet these sociable animals. To see these acrobats flitting through the water is something unforgettable!

In the afternoon, we have a variety of options on the programme again!

**Day 7:** We drive back from La Paz to Cabo San Lucas, where we set sail in the afternoon to get closer to the acrobats of the sea, the humpback whales. With a little luck they will fascinate us with their powerful jumps out of the water!

During a last dinner together, we will review the impressions of the week.

**Day 8:** After a last tour on the sea and the animals off Cabo, it is time to say goodbye. We will be happy to arrange a transfer to another hotel or to the airport of Cabo San José.

Please note that the programme may change due to weather conditions. However, the weather is very stable, so we do not expect any changes.





# Arrival

Los Cabos International Airport (SJD) is a 40 minute drive from Cabo San Lucas. Various airlines offer connections to various American and Canadian cities. However, there are even direct connections to London Gatwick with TUI.



# Clothing

The temperatures in Baja California at the end of February are very pleasant. During the day short clothes are recommended. In the evening it can get cooler, so long trousers and a light jumper are a must.

At sea it can also be windy, so a windbreaker or jumper is not out of place.

Sunglasses, sunscreen and a cap are also very important and should not be forgotten.

#### Visa

Mexico does not require a visa for many citizens, such as EU or US, provided that they leave the country after a maximum of 180 days.

ATTENTION: Depending on the route of arrival, additional visa requirements must be taken into consideration. If, for example, the journey is via the United States for somebody from Europe, appropriate rules apply. Despite visa-free travel, we therefore recommend that you inform yourself thoroughly.

A good overview of the visa regulations can be found at the following address: <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visa\_pol-icy\_of\_Mexico</u>

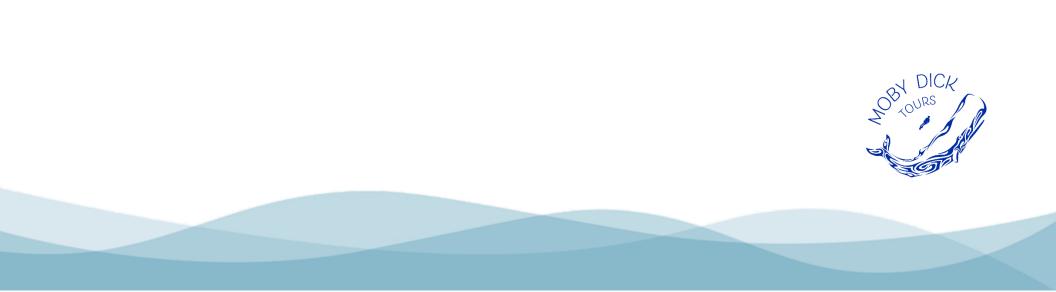
# **Travel advice**

Please find travel advice for Mexico by the UK government here: <u>https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/mexico</u>

Information about vaccinations can be found here: <u>https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/mexico/health</u>

# Insurances

Travel, liability and health insurance are the responsibility of the participants



# Including:

- English speaking travel guides
- All transfers
- All boat tours
- Snorkeling Equipment
- All Accommodations
- Trips in the group (see programme)
- Donation to the Whaleman Foundation & One Tree Planted
- CO2-Emmission offset for all activities

# **Excluding:**

- Flights to Mexico
- CO2-Offsetting of your flights (recommended)
- Meals
- Private Activities

# Dates

Saturday, March 9th 2024 – Saturday, March 16th 2024

The trip will be carried out provided that at least 4 people register for it. The trip is carried out in cooperation with CaboTrek.

# **Prices**

Price per person: USD 3'200.- (approx. CHF 2'900) in a shared room. Single room surcharge: USD 700.-

Interested? Inquire via email (info@experiencegiants.com) or through our website.



