

# Baja – Sea of Cortez



## Trip Summary

Our inclusive island-hopping cruise in the Sea of Cortés showcases adventure, culture, and wildlife—boobies, pelicans, frigate birds; humpback, gray, pilot, and blue whales; whale sharks, dolphins, and sea lions. Paddle and hike along desert landscape. Snorkel with sea lion pups. Ride a mule into the arroyos with local rancheros. And discover firsthand how small the human presence here truly is.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: San José del Cabo / La Paz - Embarkation

Bienvenidos! • You will be met at the Los Cabos International Airport in San José del Cabo and transferred to our hospitality area • Joined by your expedition team, an overland orientation transfer to La Paz acquaints you with the dramatic Baja landscape and the week that lies ahead • The captain and crew welcome you aboard just in time for a cocktail and dinner with your new mates • *Overnight Safari Endeavour (D)*

### Day 2: Gulf of California Biosphere Reserve

Settle into the desert-sea environment at a tucked away, remote beach like Bonanza or Ayla • Get a few tips with a snorkeling 101 lesson or just dive in. Hikers trek among the Palo Blanco bushes and cactus with interpretive guides • Whichever your option for adventure, relish in the privacy from other busy beaches • We bring the beach toys, chairs, and refreshments—you just kick back and play • *Overnight Safari Endeavour (B, L, D)*

### Day 3: Bahía Agua Verde

At Bahía Agua Verde, clear waters are bordered by sparse craggy mountains hemmed in green • Explore the coast by small skiff, visit with a local ranchero and his family, and take to the canyons and mountains on a mule ride and experience the “real Baja” • Scenic vistas, outstanding exploration, excellent birding, and unmatched camaraderie—the day is done • *Overnight Safari Endeavour (B, L, D)*

### Day 4: Isla San Francisco

Adventure in a playground of steep red bluffs and sweeping desert beach • Don some flippers for a snorkel among colorful sea life, put on your walking shoes for an exploratory romp along the ridge, grab a paddle and kayak, hop on a paddle board, or relax on the beach with the sand between your toes • The rugged beauty of the island makes it an ideal spot for escapades • *Overnight Safari Endeavour (B, L, D)*

### Day 5: Marine Life Search

Mother Nature is your guide today • Take your adventurous side and your binoculars in search of the largest baleen whales in the world • The Sea of Cortez is home to fin, blue, and sperm whales, and the dolphin pods number in the hundreds • Or, if the gray whales have arrived on Baja’s west coast (from mid-January to early March)—migrating more than 12,000 miles to calve in Bahía Magdalena—you’ll drive across the peninsula for a panga ride to observe these mammals and their babies in the lagoon • Whichever the day brings, there’s also a chance to head into the Sierra La Giganta Mountains for a tour of the crown jewel of Baja’s historic missions, San Javier; time for a brief exploration in magical Loreto; or more water play and hikes. Bring it on! • *Overnight Safari Endeavour (B, L, D)*



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## **Day 6: Los Islotes / Isla Partida**

At Los Islotes—a steep craggy seamount leaping straight from the sea—observe a sea lion colony from the boat and skiff, or slip into a wetsuit for an early morning snorkel with curious, agile young sea lion pups • Afterwards, heave anchor and set sail for Isla Partida, for an afternoon of water play or island hikes along desert beaches or into rocky arroyos • *Overnight Safari Endeavor (B, L, D)*

## **Day 7: Isla Espíritu Santo**

Tuck into a secluded cove surrounded by long fingers of red rock and a golden beach • Spend your last full day enjoying the feel of warm sand under your feet on a beach walk, investigate nooks and crannies in the rocks by kayak, or explore a little further afield on a guided hike • Celebrate your week at tonight's special farewell dinner with an entertaining slideshow by your expedition team • *Overnight Safari Endeavor (B, L, D)*

## **Day 8: La Paz / San José – Disembark**

After breakfast, it's "adios" La Paz, as you disembark the vessel and transfer back to San José del Cabo for your flight, or UnCruise hotel stay • *End of Services (B)*

*\* This trip is operated by UnCruise Adventures in partnership with Austin Adventures.*

*\*\* Due to the nature of our explorations, itineraries are guidelines and will change in order to maximize wildlife and natural encounters. Variations in itinerary and the order of days may occur.*

## **Our Partner – UnCruise Adventures**

Austin Adventures is proudly offering this trip in conjunction with UnCruise Adventures. Headquartered at historic Fishermen's Terminal in Seattle, Washington, UnCruise Adventures has been in the small ship adventure cruise business for over 20 years. The small size of UnCruise's ships allows them to access remote areas bigger ships can't get to providing guests with opportunities to experience off-the-map wilderness, up close, hands on, and with boots on the ground. Each day brings opportunity for adventure—kayaking, hiking, skiff explorations, snorkeling, paddle boarding. All activities are included and it's always your choice—do as many or as few as you want. The expert, knowledgeable, and mostly-local crew enthusiastically lead the way. UnCruise Adventures keeps a constant eye on treading lightly; their small ships introduce adventurers to new and breathtaking destinations sure to leave a lasting impression.

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## Activities

**Hiking:** Difficulty varies depending on group, no experience necessary.

**Kayaking:** Protected coves and inlets, no experience necessary.

**Boating:** Interpretive small ship wildlife cruise with captain and crew; small skiffs provide easy access to tucked-away inlets and shorelines.

**Paddle boarding:** Stand up paddling, no experience necessary.

**Snorkeling:** No experience necessary.

**Wildlife Viewing:** No experience necessary but come prepared to look and listen.

*\* Note: Daily itinerary is kept purposefully flexible to maximize wildlife sightings and natural encounters.*

Austin Adventures and UnCruise Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, your guides will help you select the distance or activity that's right for you.

## Distinctive Accommodations

### Nights 1 – 7: *Safari Endeavour*

Polished, unwavering, and upscale, the *Safari Endeavour* may be the workhorse of the fleet but it's her zest-for-life persona that's remembered most. She looks sharp—a nod to the crew who work hard to keep her that way. Wood fixtures and accents shine and artwork highlights the warm and cool waters where she sails. No other UnCruise ship covers more territory, and like her namesake, Captain Cook's Endeavour, both the ship and crew are true explorers. Her roomy lounge, dining room, and sun deck are undisputed, but the *Safari Endeavour* claims to have the biggest heart, too.

### Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals aboard the ship: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). All non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages are included. Super premium wines and spirits and all related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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## Arrival and Departure

We suggest that you book your flight into San José del Cabo at least one day prior to your trip departure. You may arrive on day of departure as long as you arrive into the airport **no later than 1:30 pm**. If you are arriving on the day of embarkation, your airport transfer is included to the hospitality area in San José del Cabo. Guests that have arrived the day prior, need to have their luggage checked in with the representative in the hospitality area by 3:00 p.m. You will have time to explore the city and meet back no later than 3:45 pm for the included group sightseeing and orientation transfer to the Safari Endeavour. Your trip ends with a drop-off at either the airport or your UnCruise post-trip hotel. Please schedule departing flights for **after 1:00 pm**.

## Trip Price

From \$4,395

## Trip Length

8 days/ 7 nights

## 2020 Dates

Departs weekly, call for availability.

## Host City

San José Del Cabo, Mexico

Airport Code: SJD

## Reservations & Availability

1.800.575.1540

*The Sea of Cortez,  
a UNESCO World Heritage Site,  
is a marine life-rich natural aquarium*

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## Trip Reservations

### Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$750 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

**Toll free:** 800.575.1540

**Phone:** 406.655.4591

**Online:** [austinadventures.com](http://austinadventures.com)

**Email:** [reservations@austinadventures.com](mailto:reservations@austinadventures.com)

**Mail:** Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

\* You may also book your AA adventure with your preferred travel professional.

\*\* We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

### Included in the Trip Price

- All meals aboard ship.
- Double occupancy cabins with private baths.
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- All “from-the-ship” adventure activities and equipment.
- Premium spirits, wine, beer; non-alcoholic beverages.
- Wellness amenities: fitness equipment, and yoga mats Transfers and baggage handling between airport/vessel on embark/disembark day.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt and luggage tags.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Entry fees to national parks/preserves.

### Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to UnCruise Adventures’ crew.
- Port taxes and fees (\$300 per person).
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

### Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we’ll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you’ll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.



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## Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

## Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you.

## Child Age and Pricing on Family Adventures

Family Adventures are suitable for children 8 years old and up (5 years and older for our Yellowstone and Costa Rica Family Adventures). Children who share a room with one or more adults receive reduced rates. The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is 16 years old.

## Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

\*\*\*As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

**Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure** – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

**Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure** – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

**Cancellation 46-60 days before trip departure** – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

**Cancellation 31-45 days before trip departure** – 75% of the trip payment is refunded

**Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure** – No refund is given

## Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.