

## WHALE WATCHING AT SAN IGNACIO LAGOON

### 5 DAY AIR TRIP - OVERVIEW

#### INTIMATE WHALE WATCHING EXPERIENCES



A special moment

Join us at Campo Cortez, our private Ecolodge along the shores of San Ignacio Lagoon where Gray Whales have migrated to for thousands of generations. This Gray Whale sanctuary is in the heart of Mexico's largest protected area, [El Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve](#). Mother Gray Whales approach our boats and encourage us to scratch, pet and even sing to them and their newly born calves. Over the years, this has become a regular occurrence only at San Ignacio Lagoon. This truly unique location is the only Gray Whale birthing lagoon in the world that has been left untouched by man and has a local community striving to

keep the lagoon a sacred and protected sanctuary for these magnificent and friendly giants. Our Ecolodge is a low impact, sustainable way to come and experience this life changing interaction.

#### TRIP OVERVIEW

A great way to see the Baja landscape scenery from the air on this 2.5 hour flight via our commercially chartered aircraft. Our trip begins in San Diego and our experienced guides escort you to your flight. You'll spend four days and four nights at our Ecolodge in simple and comfortable solar powered cabins with views of the lagoon, comfortable beds, and electricity to charge your camera batteries or other small devices. Enjoy whale watching twice daily with our local guides and boat captains who are residents of the lagoon that share with you their local knowledge of this peaceful Gray Whale Sanctuary. Days are spent whale watching, beachcombing, and guided kayaking and tidepool walks while evenings are spent discussing the day's events with informal lectures and discussions. Enjoy delicious authentic meals made with fresh locally sourced ingredients and you'll love the sunsets, sunrises, and star gazing at night.



Spectacular views of Baja

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Round trip charter air direct to San Ignacio Lagoon
- Whale watching twice daily
- Solar powered beach cabins with lagoon views
- All inclusive: meals, beer, wine, margaritas & happy hour
- Experienced and knowledgeable local resident staff
- 4 days and 4 nights at our private Ecolodge

## HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

- Kayaking, hiking, beachcombing, tide pool exploration
- Naturalist lead discussions & field excursions
- Evening presentations
- Bird watching and star gazing
- Mangrove boat tour

## CAMPO CORTEZ - PRIVATE ECOLOGDE

Seemingly perched on the edge of civilization Campo Cortez Ecolodge offers modern amenities that are clean, comfortable, and low impact on the environment. Campo Cortez is a completely off the grid solar and wind powered community. Constructed from local materials and by traditional building methods, our palapa is the gathering point for all our daily activities and meals. Powered by a modern solar and wind generation system, our electrical system provides 110 ac or 12-volt DC power for all your charging needs. You can charge your phone, video camera or camera batteries anytime in the dining palapa or your cabin during the day. Our facilities include hot showers, flushing marine toilets, and numerous hand washing stations.



Dining Palapa at the Point

### Always available in the palapa are:

- Book and video library of Baja & marine mammals & plants
- Television to view our daily videos & presentations
- Science and weather monitoring station
- Sodas, beer, and wine
- Fresh drinking water
- Coffee and hot tea
- Snacks and fruit

## BEACHSIDE CABINS

Our beachside cabins come equipped with electricity, comfortable beds and are well protected from the wind and elements. Twelve cabins are double occupancy with two single beds and three cabins are triple occupancy with a double bed on one side and a single bed opposite. All our cabins are supplied with fresh linens, pillows, shelves along with countertop space, small desk and mirrors. They are cozy, efficient and leave a small footprint on the land while keeping with local Biosphere Regulations.



The Ecolodge at San Ignacio Lagoon – Campo Cortez

**Special Accommodations:** If you have any special needs, let us know and we will do everything we can to make your stay comfortable. If you use a CPAP machine, we have two cabins that provide power throughout the night to CPAP devices.

## BRIEF ITINERARY

Trip Departs & Returns:	San Diego – <a href="#">Handlery Hotel</a> - (parking available)
Night before departure meeting:	Meet guide in lobby at 6:30pm for informal gathering
Day 1:	After breakfast at the hotel, we depart at 9:15am to drive to the airport Arrive San Ignacio Lagoon for orientation, Happy Hour, and dinner.
Day 2, 3, 4:	3 full days & nights including 2 whale watching trips daily along with other camp activities – kayaking; natural history tours etc...
Day 5:	Depart camp after breakfast and arrive San Diego by 3:30pm to 5:30pm

## CAMP SCHEDULE AND ACTIVITIES

<p><b>Daily Camp Schedule:</b></p> <p>7:00am Coffee, cereals, fruit        8:00am Hot breakfast        8:45am Whale watching        12:00pm Lunch        2:00pm Whale watching        5:30pm Happy hour        6:30pm Dinner        9:00pm Lights out-Palapa (Baja Midnight)</p>	<p><b>Camp Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Guided tide pool exploration &amp; critter hunts</li> <li>▪ Guided kayaking* excursions to mangroves</li> <li>▪ Naturalist lead excursions &amp; lectures</li> <li>▪ Up close whale observation &amp; petting</li> <li>▪ Happy hour &amp; incredible sunsets</li> <li>▪ Gray whale boneyard</li> <li>▪ Beach combing and star gazing</li> <li>▪ Bird watching</li> </ul>
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\*Camp Schedule WILL vary day to day based on tidal movements and weather

\*Kayaking is dependent upon the tide. Camp guides will lead kayaking trips

## INCLUDED IN YOUR TRIP FEE

- All meals & beverages: sodas, beer, wine & margaritas while at Ecolodge
- Round trip transportation from San Diego to San Ignacio Lagoon
- Entrance fee to Vizcaino Biosphere
- Tourist card: Mexican tourist visa
- Naturalist lead walks & discussions
- Two whale watching trips per day
- Kayaking & tide pool exploration
- Snacks on bus and airplane

## NOT INCLUDED IN YOUR TRIP FEE

- Premium liquor or call drinks
- Transportation to & from San Diego
- Hotel stays in San Diego
- Travel insurance
- Staff gratuity



Group exploring the massive whale vertebrae in the Boneyard

## BOOKING AND AVAILABILITY

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Availability is on a limited basis. Please make your reservations well in advance to secure your space on the aircraft and at the Ecolodge. Many of our guests plan and book their trips at least six to twelve months in advance. For your comfort, space is limited at camp and all our reservations are taken on a first come basis. Please call or email us to check our schedule for availability.

### **Before your departure, you'll receive from us:**

- Comprehensive itinerary package & travel information
- Camp guidelines & whale watching information
- Guide information & contact information
- Detailed packing list

## HAPPY GUESTS

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We are consistently rated the #1 Travelers' Choice on Trip Advisor year after year for one reason: our Staff and Owners - who are residents and locals to San Ignacio Lagoon. We are four generations of family living and working in the lagoon since the settlement of San Ignacio Lagoon. We take pride in our efforts at our Ecolodge to have a low-impact presence at San Ignacio Lagoon and take seriously our roles and responsibility that we carry as Ambassadors to the lagoon, Gray Whales and its many other wildlife residents.