

Terra Incognita Ecotours  
and  
Houston Zoo, Houston, Texas

## Baja Escape: Exploring the Sea of Cortez

10<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010

Journey includes 5 Days/4 Nights – Aboard *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SEA BIRD*



### HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the underwater world of Baja alongside an Undersea Specialist.
- Utilize kayaks to uncover the coastal beauty of pristine islands and inlets.
  - Enjoy a beach barbecue under a starry sky.

Escape to a world teeming with wildlife; where the cactuses are the tallest on earth, the island beaches show no footprints except your own, and the setting sun seems to glow orange for hours.

This journey includes Naturalists and an Undersea Specialist, and a 4-night voyage in the Sea of Cortez that offers opportunities for kayaking, searching for whales and dolphins, hiking, Zodiac cruises, snorkeling with reef fish and sea lions, and a special beach barbecue under the desert sky.

**Please contact Houston Zoo Conservation Department to reserve your space at [conservation@houstonzoo.org](mailto:conservation@houstonzoo.org)**

**Cost per person is from \$2,490 per person double occupancy for Category 1 Cabin  
See itinerary for further details**

**Day 1 / December 10th: Houston to La Paz, Mexico**

Fly from Houston to La Paz and transfer to Hotel La Perla in downtown La Paz, adjacent to the waterfront. Settle in tonight and enjoy a Welcome Dinner with your fellow Houston Zoo supporters. Overnight at Hotel La Perla (D)

**Day 2 / December 11th : La Paz / embark National Geographic Sea Bird**

The morning is free to explore historic La Paz and try some of the local seafood restaurants for lunch on your own. At 4pm this afternoon we will embark the National Geographic Sea Bird which is moored close to our hotel in the heart of old La Paz. This four-night voyage in the Sea of Cortez, offers an escape to a world teeming with wildlife; where the cactuses are the tallest on earth, the island beaches show no footprints except your own, and the setting sun seems to glow orange for hours. There are opportunities for kayaking, searching for whales and dolphins, hiking, Zodiac cruises, snorkeling with reef fish and sea lions, as well as a special beach barbecue under the desert sky. Overnight on-board National Geographic Sea Bird (B, D)



**Day 3 / December 12th: Islas Los Islotes and Espiritu Santo**

At Isla Los Islotes, experience the delight of snorkeling with curious sea lions – one of life’s great pleasures. With a deeply indented shoreline and dramatically eroded cliff faces, Isla Espiritu Santo is perhaps the most beautiful island in the Sea of Cortez. Spend a leisurely afternoon here, perfect for snorkeling, kayaking or relaxing on deck. In the evening head ashore for a beach barbecue under the desert sky. Overnight on-board National Geographic Sea Bird (B, L, D)



**Day 4 / December 13th: Isla Santa Catalina**

This morning search the waters south of Isla Carmen, an area that has proven to be one of the best for finding whales, and often bottlenose and common dolphins. In the afternoon we’ll visit Isla Santa Catalina, famous for its giant barrel cactus and carbon forest. The protected bay of our anchorage is also an excellent site for snorkeling. With a full afternoon here there is time for swimming, snorkeling, hiking and kayaking. Overnight on-board National Geographic Sea Bird (B, L, D)

**Day 5 December 14th: Exploring the Sea of Cortez**

We let nature be our guide during our last full day in the Sea of Cortez and travel on a flexible itinerary. There are numerous islands to explore in the Bahia Loreto Marine Reserve, and it is also a rich area for whales and dolphins. We may spend part of the morning searching for marine life, and then anchor at an island such as Carmen, where there is a mountainous shoreline to explore by kayak, arroyos that beckon us to explore inland, and bays of turquoise waters for snorkeling.



Overnight on-board National Geographic Sea Bird (B, L, D)

**Day 6 / December 15th: La Paz / Disembark / Houston**

This morning disembark National Geographic Sea Bird at La Paz and transfer to the airport for the flight to Houston. (B)

**Aboard the 62-Guest - National Geographic Sea Bird**

We have a choice of cabin size and configuration and the price per person is dictated by your choice of cabin Category.

**Cost Per Person – based on Double Occupancy**

Category 1..... \$2,490  
Category 2..... \$2,790  
Category 3..... \$3,190

**Sole Occupancy**

Category 1..... \$3,490  
Category 2..... \$3,790

**Advance Payment/Deposit:** \$500 non-refundable deposit is needed to secure your participation

**Cost Includes:** One night accommodation at La Perla Hotel in La Paz, FOUR nights accommodations on ship; meals as indicated; transfer to and from La Paz airport (based on joining group flights); excursions; services of an Expedition Leader, Naturalist staff and expert guides; use of kayaks and snorkeling equipment; services of a ship physician; all port charges and service taxes, donation to the Houston Zoo Wildlife Conservation Program.

**Not Included:** Air transportation; passport, visa and immigration fees; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, emails, etc.; discretionary tips to ship's crew.

Please open SB.SL Deck Plan PDF for outline of ship and Cabin categories



**Category 1:** Main Deck #300-305 — Conveniently positioned between the dining room & lounge, these cabins feature two single lower beds, a writing desk and a large view window.

**Category 2:** Bridge Deck #100-104; Upper Deck #200-212, 215 — These well-located cabins include two lower single beds & a view window.

**Category 3:** Bridge Deck #105, 106; Upper Deck #214, 216, 217, 219 — 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.

**Cabins available on a first-come, first served basis.** \$500 deposit due upon reservation to hold cabin space. Full payment due by May 28th, 2010. Please see booking form for cancellation policies.