

Cornell University

Baja California Discovery: Exploring Mexico's Gulf of California

Aboard National Geographic Venture

April 7-17, 2026

Travel with Cornell's Adult University (CAU) and Kelia Dhondt, Senior Lecturer, Microbiology & Immunology, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine.



Baja California Discovery: Exploring Mexico's Gulf of California



Expedition Highlights

- ✓ Immerse yourself in striking desert landscapes, pristine coastal waters and extraordinary biodiversity.
- ✓ Embark on regular marine safaris in search of dolphins, sea lions, up to six species of whales, and—if you're lucky—whale sharks.
- ✓ Explore the lesser-visited Midriff Islands including Isla Rasa, where half a million nesting seabirds occupy a 150-acre island.
- ✓ Visit multiple UNESCO World Heritage sites and snorkel in the crystalline waters of protected marine reserves.
- ✓ Enjoy a rare opportunity to see and photograph one of the strangest plants on earth, the otherworldly Boojum tree.
- ✓ Kayak and paddleboard clear blue waters to search for wildlife, including magnificent frigatebirds, and investigate the intricacies of the shoreline.



Keila Dhondt is a Senior Lecturer at Cornell University, a veterinarian, enthusiastic educator, and Faculty Fellow with the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future. She holds appointments in the Departments of Microbiology & Immunology and Biomedical Sciences, where she teaches core veterinary and undergraduate courses—including histology, biomedical terminology, physiology, and microbiology labs—while mentoring students with a strong commitment to inclusion and scientific curiosity.

Her teaching also extends into the field of wildlife conservation, where she helps students explore the vital connections between animal health and environmental change. Keila is passionate about bridging classroom learning with real-world science and fostering an inspiring environment for future veterinarians and health professionals.

As a researcher, Keila focuses on infectious diseases in wild birds. Her current projects examine avian blood parasites in Arctic gyrfalcons and the role of climate change in shaping disease dynamics. She also conducts research on avian influenza, studying its transmission in wild populations to better understand ecological and public health threats.

Itinerary

DAY 1

SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO/LA PAZ/EMBARK

Arrive in San José del Cabo by early afternoon. Transfer to La Paz and embark the *National Geographic Venture* this evening. (D)

DAYS 2-4

EXPLORING SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS

The journey begins in the southern Gulf of California. These islands and waters are celebrated for their conservation stories, marine life and the many thrilling experiences on offer. Below is a sampling of places you may visit. (B,L,D Daily)

CABO PULMO NATIONAL MARINE PARK

Snorkel the pristine reefs of Cabo Pulmo National Marine Park, one of the most successful marine parks in the world. Chat with locals about their advocacy to protect this unique place, including a cessation of fishing to protect the reef.

ISLA ESPÍRITU SANTO

A national park and UNESCO World Heritage Site, this magical volcanic island offers excellent hiking opportunities and crystal-clear waters for snorkeling. It's also a popular destination for researchers monitoring sea turtles.

LOS ISLOTES

Located at the northern tip of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Los Islotes is home to a large colony of sea lions. Conditions permitting, we'll anchor off the rocky island and don flippers, a mask and a snorkel to swim with these curious creatures.

ISLA SAN JOSÉ

One of the larger islands in the Gulf of California, San José offers several landing possibilities depending on conditions. Photograph the ochre cliffs of the island's eastern shore; hike an enchanted, cactus-laden arroyo; or visit the abandoned salt works.

DAYS 5-7

EXPLORING THE MIDRIFF ISLANDS/BAHÍA LORETO MARINE PARK

The islands of the Midriff region in the northern Gulf of California are favorites among the naturalists for their remoteness and exceptional wildlife. A sampling of possible anchorages is listed below. (B,L,D Daily)

ISLA SAN PEDRO MÁRTIR

This 1,000-foot-high island is home to the world's largest nesting colonies of blue-footed and brown boobies. The surrounding waters boast 14 species of marine mammals, including fin whales, Bryde's whales and a resident group of sperm whales.





ISLA SAN ESTEBAN

Featuring volcanic slopes and cliffs, Isla San Esteban is home to spiny-tailed iguana and chuckwallas, cohabitant lizards with fascinating evolutionary traits. As you hike an arroyo, keep an eye out for the spiny-tailed iguana feeding on flowers atop cardon cacti, and the chuckwalla dining on low-lying plants.

ISLA RASA

This tiny uninhabited island is crucial to the survival of two species of seabirds; 95 percent of the world's Heermann's gulls and elegant terns use it as their nesting grounds, creating a cacophonous, avian spectacle seen nowhere else on Earth.

BAHÍA LORETO MARINE PARK

This protected area offers a variety of pristine landscapes and a plethora of marine life. Search for bottlenose and common dolphins, with the possibility of encountering fin whales, which researchers have recently concluded may be part of a resident population.

DAY 8

BAHÍA DE LOS ÁNGELES

Get active this morning with options to hike, kayak, swim, snorkel or beachcomb in the Bahía de los Ángeles Biosphere Reserve. Board Zodiacs to seek out diverse marine populations, including endangered species such as fin whales, California sea lions and five species of sea turtles. Later, enjoy a rare opportunity to see one of the strangest plants on Earth, the boojum tree. Sacred to Indigenous people, this evolutionary oddity takes its name from a Lewis Carroll poem. (B,L,D)

DAY 9

SANTA ROSALÍA/CRUISING

Disembark in Santa Rosalía, established as a French copper mining town in 1884. The French influence remains in the architecture—including a steel church designed by Gustave Eiffel—and the mining facilities are intact, with old locomotives and machinery still visible. Tour the city, stopping at a world-famous French bakery for a treat. (B,L,D)

DAY 10

BAHÍA CONCEPCIÓN

Bahía Concepción is one of the largest bays of the Baja California peninsula, with over 50 miles of beaches. Board Zodiacs in search of whale sharks and other marine life, kayak through lush mangrove systems and snorkel in turquoise waters. On land, join an invigorating hike among towering cacti or stroll the pristine beaches and learn about the ecology from our naturalists. (B,L,D)

DAY 11

LORETO/DISEMBARK

Disembark in Loreto after breakfast and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)



National Geographic Venture

CAPACITY: 50 cabins accommodating 100 guests.

REGISTRY: United States. **OVERALL LENGTH:** 239 feet.

PUBLIC AREAS: Global gallery; fitness center; LEXspa; lounge with full service bar and facilities for films and presentations; observation deck; mudroom with lockers for expedition gear, and a partially covered sundeck with chairs and tables. The open Bridge provides guests an opportunity to meet the officers and captain and learn about navigation.

MEALS: Served in single seatings with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere. Cuisine is fresh, sustainable, accented with regional flair and served plated.

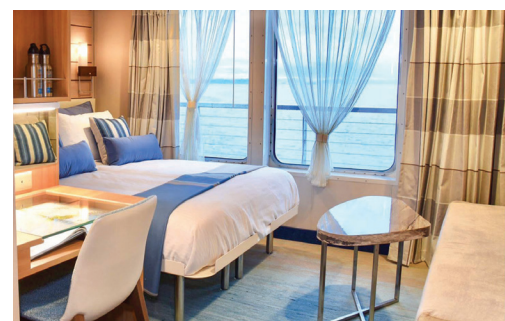
CABINS: All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private facilities and climate controls. Category 4 cabins have step-out balconies.

EXPEDITION EQUIPMENT: A fleet of 8 Zodiacs and 24 kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, ROV (remotely operated vehicle); hydrophone, splash-cam, underwater video camera and video microscope.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Guest Wi-Fi access, elevator, National Geographic certified photo instructor, undersea specialist and a medical professional.

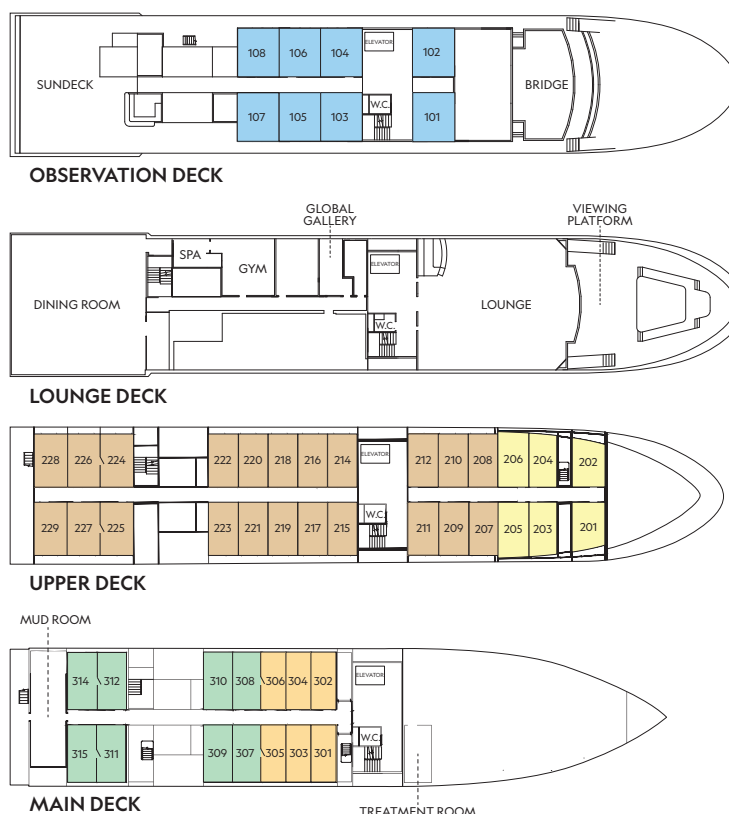
WELLNESS: The vessel is staffed by a wellness specialist and features a gym with an elliptical machine, treadmill, exercycles, hand weights and resistance bands. Massages in the LEXspa are available by appointment.

LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS-PIONEERING RESPONSIBLE EXPLORATION: From our consistent quest to improve our practices to offsetting 100% of our carbon emissions, supporting conservation, science and education initiatives around the planet and investing in the communities conservation, science and education initiatives in the places we explore, we are guided by our commitment to explore responsibly.



For reservations, please contact Lindblad Expeditions at 833-985-1261 or groups@expeditions.com, and identify yourself as a member of the CAU/Cornell group.

National Geographic Venture



CATEGORY 1

Main Deck #301-306
Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a queen, a writing desk and two portholes.

CATEGORY 2

Main Deck #307-315
Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a queen, a writing desk and two portholes.

CATEGORY 3

Upper Deck #201-206
Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a queen, a writing desk and two large view windows.

CATEGORY 4

Upper Deck #207-229
Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a queen, a writing desk, sliding glass door and small, private balcony.

CATEGORY 5

Observation Deck #101-108
Cabins feature two single beds that can convert to a queen, large view windows, an expanded bathroom, writing desk, ample storage space and a convertible sofa bed to accommodate a third person.

NOTE: Solo Occupancy cabins are available in Categories 1 and 2 only. Third person rates are available in Category 5 cabins at one half the double occupancy rate.

Connecting Cabins via internal doorway access: Main Deck: #312-314, #311-315, #306-308, #305-307; Upper Deck: #224-226, #225-227

Shared Accommodations: Shares can be arranged at the double occupancy rate in Categories 1 and 2.

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VOYAGE DATES	CAT. 1	CAT. 2	CAT. 3	CAT. 4	CAT. 5	CAT. 1 SOLO	CAT. 2 SOLO	ADVANCE PAYMENT
April 7-17, 2026	\$10,128 \$9,622	\$11,883 \$11,289	\$12,933 \$12,286	\$14,371 \$13,652	\$16,044 \$15,242	\$15,192 \$14,432	\$17,824 \$16,933	15% of the cabin fare, per person

SPECIAL AFFINITY GROUP SAVINGS: Save 5% on the cabin fare (as indicated) when traveling with Cornell University Alumni Affairs. Valid on this departure date of *Baja California Discovery: Exploring Mexico's Gulf of California*. For new bookings only, subject to availability, may not be combined with other offers, and is not applicable on airfare or extensions.

Terms and Conditions

PRICING: Prices quoted in this flyer are per person based on double occupancy in USD. Prices shown are subject to change and availability at time of booking. Under normal conditions the total expedition price is guaranteed at the time advanced payment is made. However, our expedition pricing is determined far in advance of initial departure on the basis of then-existing projections of fuel and other costs. In the event of increases in those costs, including but not limited to increases in the price of fuel, currency fluctuations, increases in government taxes or levies or increased security costs, we reserve the right to adjust the price of your expedition or add a surcharge to cover such unexpected increases. We will always provide an explanation of the reason for increase in costs.

COST INCLUDES: Accommodations aboard ship; all meals as indicated in the itinerary, beer, wine, cocktails and spirits with premium wines and liquors available for purchase; all shore excursions, sightseeing, special access permits and entrance fees; transfers to/from airport if traveling within recommended arrival and departure windows; morning stretch classes and access to the fitness center; access to the OM System Photo Gear Locker; 24-hour access to the lounge, observation decks, library and other shared spaces; complimentary reusable water bottle; gratuities to local guides; basic Wi-Fi with the option to upgrade; services of Lindblad Expeditions' natural history staff, National Geographic certified photo instructor, medical professional and local guides; port taxes and service charges. Unused services or items included in this program are non-refundable.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; meals not indicated; extensions; passport, visa and immigration fees; travel protection plan; gratuities to the ship's crew; items of a personal nature such as certain premium brands of wines and liquors, spa treatments, enhanced and premium Wi-Fi plans and laundry.

AIRFARE: Airfare is an additional cost. Lindblad Expeditions will gladly assist in making your air arrangements for a \$50 per person service fee.

RESERVATIONS: To confirm your place, an advance payment of 15% per person is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover or check. Receipt of advance payment indicates your acceptance of the terms and conditions.

FINAL PAYMENT: Due no later than 120 days prior to departure. Lindblad Expeditions reserves the right to cancel your reservation if payment has not been received by final payment due date.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN: Travel and medical insurance are available at an additional cost. Information will be sent to you upon registration.

ITINERARY MODIFICATIONS: Itineraries, routing and speakers listed are correct at time of publication, and are subject to change.

ENTRY AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: Guests are advised to verify travel documents (passport/transit visa/entry visa) for the country(s) through which they are transiting and/or entering. Reliable and most current information regarding international travel can be found by contacting the consulate/embassy of the country(s) you are visiting or transiting through. We will not be responsible if you are denied entry or transit into a country if you are unable to provide valid documents as per the country's requirement.

RESPONSIBILITY AND OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS: Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Expeditions' and National Geographic Expeditions' (a division of National Geographic Partners, LLC) liability for loss of property, injury, illness or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests on the ship's ticket sent prior to departure or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

CANCELLATION FEE POLICY (PER PERSON)

120 or more days prior to expedition start: **No penalty:** Advance Payment will be credited toward your next expedition**

119-90 days prior to expedition start: **50% of trip cost*****

89-0 days prior to expedition start: **100% of trip cost*****

**Advance payments will be credited in the form of a Lindblad Expeditions Travel Certificate, valid for 12 months from the date of cancellation, and which may only be applied towards final payment on any future booking.

***Trip cost is total price paid including extensions, charter airfare and other additional services.

We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan.

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RESERVATION FORM



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To register, please contact:

Lindblad Expeditions

96 Morton Street

New York, NY 10014

Ph: (833) 985-1261

Fax: (646) 390-2050

Email: groups@expeditions.com

Identify yourself as a member of
the CAU/Cornell group.

Passenger Information

Please reserve _____ place(s).

Guest 1: _____

(As it appears on passport)

Date of Birth: _____ M/F: _____

Email: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Guest 2: _____

(As it appears on passport)

Date of Birth: _____ M/F: _____

Email: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Accommodations: ☐ Double ☐ Single ☐ Twin share with a friend

☐ Share with roommate assigned by tour operator.

Please indicate choice of cabin category in order of preference:

1st choice: _____ 2nd choice: _____

Advance Payment Information: 15% of the cabin fare, per person.

☐ If paying by check, please make payable to: **Lindblad Maritime Enterprises, Ltd.**

Enclosed is my advance payment of \$ _____

☐ If paying by credit card, we will contact you to finalize your booking and collect payment
information.

While Cornell is pleased to facilitate travel opportunities for its alumni and friends with tour operators that specialize in high-quality educational travel, please be aware that Cornell does not conduct, manage, or operate these travel experiences, or act as an agent for travelers interested in tours. Tour operators and travelers are responsible for making their own safety decisions concerning this travel, and, as a facilitator between travelers and the tour operators with whom travelers make arrangements for completing travel, Cornell's role and liability are strictly limited. Specific tour operator and national health and safety protocols will apply to each trip, and travelers should review all protocols and trip terms and conditions, including terms and conditions regarding cancellations, refunds, health and safety, and insurance prior to making a reservation. Cornell is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses, expenses, damages, or injuries resulting from travel.