Whales and Birds of the Baja

Apr. 17 - 24, 2017 – 8 Day Expedition
La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico
Whales and Birds of the Baja:

- Join us onboard our 110’ motor yacht, the MV Adventure, as we take you on a journey to the Sea of Cortez.
- We have taken two popular activities and dedicated it to this expedition. Whale encounters and bird watching.
- April is an amazing month to encounter several different species of whales and birds. Track the movement of migratory animals such as the Purple Martin and the Humpback whale.
- The expedition offers the opportunity to reconnect with nature in a meaningful way. Nature, eco-education and culture inclusive!
- Experiences like this leave our guests with memories of a lifetime. Often guests return to continue a journey they did not realize they started!

Trip Highlights and Natural History:

- **Birdwatching** - Observe coastal and land birds in their natural habitats. Identify and learn how they have developed body forms to survive in their environmental niche.
- **Whale Encounters** - The Sea of Cortez supports the largest population of cetaceans in the world. Each day we will spend time in search of Humpbacks, Blues, Finbacks, Sperm, Pilot, and more.
- **Wildlife Conservation Project** - Participate in one of our two Wildlife Conservation Projects; a sea turtle or whale shark research program. Scientist / animal availability and weather permitting.
- The **Sea of Cortez** and its’ desert islands offers an amazing biodiversity of marine and terrestrial life. From sea to sky we will explore the natural history of this unique marine environment.

The Ship, the MV Adventure:

- The "MV Adventure" is a 110’ aluminum hull ship.
- Certified passenger vessel, crew, vessel paperwork, safety and navigation equipment meet the legal requirements under the “Nacional de Seguridad Maritima” laws.
- Multiple level decks are ideal for wildlife viewing.
- Accommodations are private staterooms with single berths (upper/lower), double/quad occupancy.
- Each stateroom comes complete with air conditioning, cupboards and draws to un-pack in, sink/vanity and comfortable spacious bunks.
- Shared restrooms and showers are separate to the staterooms.
- The Captain, engineer and crew are onboard to insure the safety and well-being of the group. They bring many years of marine experience offering the warmth and kindness that reflects the people of Baja, Mexico.

Climate:

- During the month of April the average temperature in the Sea of Cortez ranges from 22-26º C (72-79º F).
- In the Baja the days are warm and beautiful however the evenings cool down and often require light pants and a jacket.
- The water temperature ranges from 18-22º C (65-72º F) and can be surprisingly cool. It is not the tropical waters one would expect.
Itinerary:

Day 1 (April 17): Arrival
- Our drivers will pick you up at the Cabo (SJD) or La Paz (LAP) airport and transfer you to the ship in La Paz. Anticipate a beautiful 2.5 hour drive from the Cabo Airport.
- Once guests have boarded the ship we will depart for the islands.

Day 2 - 6: At Sea
- Today we begin our adventure at sea. Islands to be explored include; Isla Espiritu Santos, Isla Partida, Isla San Francisco, Isla San Jose, San Dieguito, Isla Pardito and mainland Baja Peninsula.
- Each day offers hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, wildlife encounters to include whale encounters and birdwatching.
- Day 6 - Disembark at 3:00 pm and check into the Seven Crown Hotel for our last 2 night stay.
  - Plan on getting together for an evening meal at one of the local Mexican restaurants.

Day 7: Desert / Estuary Birdwatching
- Today we will head out by van to explore two different environments; desert and estuary birdwatching.
- Upon our return a special Mexican buffet dinner has been arranged for our guests.

Day 8 (Apr. 24): Departure
- Hotel check-out. As this now ends the expedition our drivers will return you to the Cabo Airport.

Planned Activities:
- Snorkeling
- Kayaking
- Hiking
- Astronomy
- Nightlight
- Wildlife Encounters
  - sea lions
  - whales and dolphins
  - birds
  - desert island flora / fauna
- Cultural interaction – visits to remote island communities.
- Desert / bird estuary day trip.
Expedition Includes:

- Airport and ground transfers while in Mexico (expedition dates)
- 6 days / 5 nights onboard our ship the MV Adventure.
- Ship amenities (meals, alcohol / non-alcohol beverages, accommodations, snorkel gear, kayaks and ships library)
- National Park fees
- 2 day / 2 night stay at the Seven Crown Hotel Malecon in La Paz
- Desert / estuary day trip

Expedition DOES NOT Include:

- Airfare
- Medical / Travel Cancellation / Trip Interruption Insurance
- Meals during hotel stay
- Service provider gratuities
- Items of a personal nature

Expedition Cost:

- **$2295.00** USD per person
- group size 16 participants

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Panterra Facebook Photo Album links to expeditions with similar encounters:

- Travel Works Expedition 2016
- ESSMY High School Expedition 2016

Panterra Trip Advisor Reviews

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