

**SAN IGNACIO LAGOON WHALE WATCHING TRIP
MARCH 27-31, 2017**



A private chartered flight from San Diego/Tijuana delivers you to the remote and pristine Laguna San Ignacio in Baja California Sur. Enjoy three full days of intimate encounters with the friendly gray whales and learn from local experts about the history of the region, all from the comfort and safety of our base camp.

TRIP DATES: March 27 – 31, 2017. (5 days, 4 nights. 3 full days of whale watching, Lectures from conservation experts, and other optional activities including kayaking, bird watching, etc)

P/PERSON COST*: US\$3,500, with private-chartered flight from San Diego. US\$1,845 for Self-Arrivals (ICF is looking into transportation options from Cabo San Lucas – please let us know if you are interested and we will notify you when we have a price available). **Price in US Dollars, based on double occupancy. Includes the conservation fee of \$25p/p and a donation to the Laguna San Ignacio Conservation Fund at ICF.*

CONDITIONS: Payment in-full to reserve space in the camp. Maximum Flight Passengers (from San Diego): 12 people. Maximum group size: 24 people (double-occupancy tents).

INCLUDES: Comfortable, catered camping on nights 1 to 5; Walk-in double tent and cots; sleep kit (sleeping pad, sleeping bag, liner and pillow); Snack/Lunch/Dinner on day 1, Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner on Days 2 to 4 and Breakfast/Lunch on Day 5; 2 whale watching expeditions on days 2 to 4; kayaks available in camp; Ground transfer from your location in San Diego to air field on day 1 and return on day 5; Private chartered Air transportation to San Ignacio camp on day 1 and return on day 5; Services of knowledgeable guides, lectures by whale & conservation experts such as Jorge Urban, and caring crew members; Detailed pre-departure information to help you plan your trip.

CONTACT: International Community Foundation staff, Eliza Brennan: eliza@icfdn.org and Marisa Quiroz: marisa@icfdn.org. Tel: 619-336-2250.

SAN IGNACIO LAGOON WHALE WATCHING TRIP TRIP DETAILS



A privately chartered flight delivers you to the lagoon of San Ignacio, a remote and pristine desert world—the perfect place from which to observe and interact with the grey whales in their winter breeding grounds.

During this exclusive ICF-sponsored visit, each day you have the opportunity to attend lectures and interact with conservation experts who have worked and studied in the region, including **Dr. Jorge Urbán Ramírez** – a renowned conservation biologist, member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources-World Conservation Union (IUCN), and President of the Whale Watching Sub-Committee at the International Whaling Commission. Other experts from the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur (UABCS) will also be in attendance.

In between whale watching excursions, you can kayak through the labyrinth mangrove estuaries to bird watch in this natural aviary, relax with a book at camp, or comb the peaceful shoreline to discover treasures of the sea. Our catered camp is situated at water's edge with safari-style tents, cots, and propane-heated showers to make your days and nights comfortable and carefree. With delicious Mexican food and happy hour each evening, capture a lifetime of memories as you grow to love and respect the gray whales as much as we do.

TRIP ITINERARY: *This is a general itinerary and is subject to change*

DAY 1: SAN DIEGO/TIJUANA TO SAN IGNACIO LAGOON Transfer from a central location in San Diego by comfortable motor coach, to one of the air fields near San Diego, having a light snack en route. Our privately chartered airplane will be waiting and after a quick baggage inspection, take you directly to the Laguna San Ignacio landing strip. Flight time is approximately two hours,

depending on weather conditions and type of aircraft. Our guides will greet you and serve you lunch (sandwiches, fruits, beverages) on your way to the base camp. After settling in, there will be time to relax and explore the surroundings or walk the beach before Happy Hour begins at 5:30 PM, followed by a delicious welcome dinner.

DAYS 2 to 4: SAN IGNACIO LAGOON BASE CAMP Time for whale-watching! Each excursion starts with a short, 10-minute skiff ride into the whale-viewing area of the Lagoon, where we can observe the gray whales spy hopping, breaching, and nurturing their young. Each skiff is accompanied by an experienced guide who can point out and describe the different whale behaviors. After approx. two hours of whale watching, we return to our camp where you have the opportunity to take a warm shower and enjoy lunch; then it's time for a short walk along the beach or a kayaking excursion, or just some relaxing with a book at camp. We'll try to spot more gray whales and their calves in the Laguna during our early afternoon excursion.

In addition to the local guides, you will have access to **expert biologist Dr. Jorge Urbán Ramírez and other experts from UABCS**, who have years of experience studying these unique species and working to conserve their precious habitats such as Laguna San Ignacio. Learn directly from those involved in achieving this **first conservation concession** in the region!

In the evenings there will be time to explore or relax before a daily Happy Hour, where you can enjoy beverages and appetizers as you watch a breathtaking sunset over the Laguna. Dinner is buffet-style, and often includes fresh fish and homemade tortillas. After dinner, one of our experienced guides will present a natural history talk to help you learn more about the Baja peninsula, its local people and the marine wildlife of the Laguna. Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to stargaze while you are here! On your last evening, we'll have a Mexican Fiesta farewell dinner, where you can dance to Baja folk songs played by local musicians.

DAY 5: SAN IGNACIO LAGOON TO SAN DIEGO After breakfast, we pack-up and say our last good-byes to the Laguna San Ignacio. We will depart mid-morning to the landing strip where you will board the airplane to return to San Diego. A chartered bus will be waiting to deliver you to a central location in San Diego in early evening. If you are flying to another location, we recommend that you schedule your flight for the following morning in case of any delays.

The Laguna San Ignacio Whale Conservation Fund at the International Community Foundation supports the long-term protection of Laguna San Ignacio and the gray whales who use the Laguna as a nursery for their young. From 2000-2015, ICF and the Laguna San Ignacio Conservation Alliance have partnered with the local community to successfully secure the permanent protection of over 340,000 acres of critical habitat, virtually eliminating the threat of any industrial or large-scale commercial activity. ICF and the LSI Conservation Alliance continue to work with the people of Laguna San Ignacio to identify sustainable economic alternatives and to protect this beautiful and wild place through research, grantmaking, and capacity building. Contact Eliza Brennan at ICF (eliza@icfdn.org or 619-336-2250).

Since 1976, **Baja Expeditions** has been the leader in eco-adventures encouraging sustainable tourism and supporting local conservation in Baja California, Mexico. Baja Expeditions collaborates with many partners across sectors to help provide access to the rich-biodiversity in the deserts and seas of the peninsula's Natural Protected areas with the help of the communities of people advocating for their sustainable management and conservation. Baja Ex supports both local and international educational and research projects, intentional tourism, and always enjoys welcoming both local and visiting folks from children to grandparents to explore the UNESCO heritage site of the Sea of Cortez and the diversity of Baja's Pacific and Eastern coastal wilderness, wildlife, and communities.