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ORCAS IN THE SEA OF CORTEZ

Spotter Airplane Supported

Sample Itinerary

8 Days / 7 Nights Trip



Day 1 - Welcome Aboard!

Our Nautilus owned [SeeCreatures](#) is located near the harbour in downtown Cabo San Lucas and is your home away from home. We encourage you to fly in early and allow us to arrange for some local diving. Your trip includes a [complimentary photo lesson](#) at 1:00pm. Our photo pros will coach you on how to get that perfect underwater image, help set up, service or repair your camera gear, and assist with camera rentals. You are welcome to drop your bags off and check-in whenever it's most convenient. We ask that you please check-in at SeeCreatures Cabo by 4:30pm latest for your complimentary coach transfer to La Paz, where our hosties will be waiting on the back deck for you with trays of margaritas and champagne..

This trip is predominantly focused on snorkelling and freediving, however if you would like to dive we have rental gear available at SeeCreatures before boarding, or you can bring your own gear.

[View Safety Video](#)

[Baja Expeditions](#) has been doing this for 48 years, and our crew is comprised of pioneering old timers who know these waters, and its wildlife, better than anyone.

Days 2-7 - Sea of Cortez & Aerial Support

We have our own spotter airplane with 2-person crew, flying up to 2 missions a day / 6 days a week. Our new Citabria is the perfect plane for this mission, flying as low as an ultralight for enhanced observation, with speed to scout north to Loreto national park and south to Cabo, providing the best coverage. Our pilot and naturalist/observer specialize in finding marine animals and are the very best in the business. They have one goal in mind: to maximize your encounters with the animals.

You might have heard that the best place to find the mobulas is in the triangle between Espiritu Santo, Carpenter Rock on the west side of Cerralvo, and Las Ventanas on Baja and, well, this might have been true in the days before our spotter aircraft. Our Citabria aircraft working in tandem with our expedition yacht and high speed RHIB changes the

calculus on this completely. We are finding animals like never before and will take you to where a mama blue whale and calf might be waiting for you, or humpback whales, whale sharks, cow nose rays, and hundreds of dolphins. Be patient, as it might take ten splashes for the mobulas to allow snorkelers and freedivers into the middle of the pack, but you'll be rewarded with truly spectacular encounters.

Your day might start with a dive or snorkel with typical RHIB missions heading out at 11am after the local Corumuel wind lies down making it easier to critter spot. Our RHIB, or high-speed skiff, carries 12 guests, so everyone is welcome onboard at the same time.

After a delicious lunch on deck, we'll head back out on the water in the afternoon. We will keep our support boat running as late as anyone wants up until dusk. You will get plenty of time in the water.

Your ship will always be close by. Take a break whenever you want and relax on the sundeck with a good book or soaking in the hot tub. We also have kayaks and stand-up paddleboards.

In the evening, you'll have the chance to see the mobula rays in a different light. Literally. There will be the opportunity to go snorkeling at night in a calm, protected bay, where we will suspend lights off the bottom of the boat to attract swarms of mobulas. The mobulas come in to feed on the plankton exposed by the lights, providing a spectacular show against the inky ocean. If you're a certified diver with your own gear, we can also arrange for you to go night diving.

The highlight of any trip is if we spot the black fins of orcas slicing through the water. All interactions are conducted in compliance with the laws and regulations of Mexico. For our diving friends, bring your dive gear, and we will be sure to get you some splashes on local dive sites.

Day 8 - Disembark

Morning breakfast. Disembark at 8:30 am in La Paz and complimentary transfer back to either SeeCreatures Cabo San Lucas or SJD Airport.

WHAT TO BRING

What do I need to pack?

Personal toiletries. Dive gear (or travel light and use our rental gear!) Summer wear, noting that nights can sometimes be chilly which makes a sweater or fleece jacket a good addition. Sunscreen (reef-safe sunscreen will be available onboard with our compliments). Towels and bed linen are provided onboard.

What wetsuit should I bring?

The Sea of Cortez is warming up. In May it is in the mid-70°F range, and it just gets warmer from there. We recommend a 5mm wetsuit and a hooded vest, or a 7mm wetsuit and a hooded vest.

What dive gear should I bring?

This trip is predominantly focused on snorkeling and freediving, however if you would like to dive you will need to bring your own gear. High quality rentals are also available from SeeCreatures, including regulators, BCD, computer, mask, wetsuit, booties and fins. The park authorities prohibit divers from carrying a knife. Every diver should have their own [Nautilus LifeLine](#) but we will loan you one of ours if you haven't bought yours yet!

What kind of safety gear do you provide divers?

Nautilus LifeLines, DiveAlerts and SMB safety sausages.

Can I bring my own alcohol onboard?

Sorry, but NO. We carry a great selection of signature drinks, single malts, microbrew beer and a varied wine list, all at very reasonable prices.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Will we see orcas on these trips?

Maybe. We hope so. The iconic creature on these adventures is the orca, also known as the killer whale. The sight of those sleek black dorsal fins slicing through the water when the orcas make an appearance is truly unforgettable. With a combined experience of over 80 years between Baja Expeditions and Nautilus, we have had the privilege of respectfully interacting with these magnificent creatures, from the chilly waters of Alaska to Roca Partida and Socorro Island further south. Any interaction is always done in full compliance with the laws of Mexico.

Are orcas guaranteed?

No. We are confident that you will have great encounters with schools of mobula rays, California sea lions, mega pods of bottlenose dolphins, and much more. We will be on the lookout for sperm whales, fin whales, pseudorcas, pilot whales, Risso's dolphins, and the super-acrobatic spinner dolphins. We find whale sharks on almost every trip. You can be sure that when we receive reports of any sightings, we will check them out as soon as possible with our spotter airplane, dispatch our fast boats in that direction, and if needed, travel overnight on your liveaboard to position ourselves where we think the orcas will be the next day.

When will we be able to get in the water?

Most snorkelling and freediving will be done either from our 32-foot-high speed aluminum hulled "zodiac style" RHIB or even from the large water level platform at the stern (that's the back end) of your yacht. You can count on a couple of evening snorkels in a quiet bay with underwater lights and, hopefully, swarming mobulas. But you can spend as much time as you want in the water.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Do I need a passport and/or visa?

All guests must have a passport valid six months from entry. Visas are required from certain countries, please check your specific requirements online. All non-Mexican guests will require an FMM tourist visa.

Do I need dive and travel interruption insurance?

Guests are required to have medical evacuation insurance from a recognized provider before participating in any of our activities. [Click here](#) to purchase coverage. We highly recommend this provider because they are very dependable, reliable, and their policies are reasonably priced. Other providers may not offer the same level of reliability. We also highly recommend the optional purchase of trip interruption insurance, which covers everything from cancelled flights, weather-related delays, lost baggage, and reimbursement if another guest has a medical issue that affects your trip. If you decline coverage, please know that we do not issue credit refunds for anything that's beyond our immediate control.

Do I need dive medical insurance?

YES. Dive and evacuation insurance is mandatory.

What airport do I fly into?

SJD Los Cabos International for both commercial airlines and private aircraft.

When should I fly in?

These trips are planned around the guests having the option of flying in and going straight to SeeCreatures to check in and then board the ship later that day. We recommend flying in several days early to take full advantage of our hospitality and all the neat stuff that we offer as pre-trip extensions.

How do I get from SJD into town?

Sealine Cabo Transfers is our recommended provider of airport transfers to and from Cabo San Lucas. For booking, please email Martin at mmoreno@sealinecabotransfers.com

We also recommend Miguel from Fara Nuevo as an alternative option.

Email: mfc949@gmail.com

Phone: +52 (624) 141 6254

Can you recommend a local hotel?

Yes. For sure. We have our favourite hotels that we recommend and we have arranged discounted rates for Nautilus and Baja Expeditions's guests.

For hotel recommendations, or any other pre-trips, questions, concerns, or comments, please contact our concierge's directly:

Phone: +1 (604) 241-1918 - Please ask for Daniela or Maria

WhatsApp: +1 (604) 360-9400

Email: concierge@nautilusdive.com



BEFORE DEPARTURE

Where do we meet the boat?

We will meet at SeeCreatures Cabo San Lucas located at: *Calle Miguel Hidalgo 10, Centro CSL. C.P. 23450, Cabo San Lucas, BCS.* We will coach transfer everyone to La Paz where your boat will be waiting for you.

What time do we meet?

Please be back at SeeCreatures Cabo and ready for your transfer to La Paz by 4:30 pm latest.

Can you help me get dive certified before the trip?

Yes. We specialize in introducing as many people to scuba diving as possible. We offer a full array of diving courses at SeeCreatures.

Can I get nitrox certified?

Yes, we could do it. This is a one day course at SeeCreatures.

Will I need to show my dive certification card before boarding?

YES.

Will I get seasick on this trip?

The Sea of Cortez is generally very calm. For anyone worried about seasickness, we recommend prophylactic use of the scopolamine “patch” as an anti-seasickness medication. The patch has revolutionized the dive boat industry and made going to sea practical for almost everyone. You will most likely not get seasick using the patch.

DON'T FORGET

What time do we arrive back in port?

Reminder that most Sea of Cortez trips board and return to La Paz with an included transfer to SeeCreatures Cabo San Lucas, or SJD Airport. We are usually back in port by 8 am. Disembarking by 8:30 am after breakfast. It's a 2-1/2 hour transfer to SJD. For that reason we recommend booking your outward flight 2:00 pm or later.

Do you have a storm policy?

We highly recommend trip interruption insurance, which will cover you in this unlikely eventuality.

Can you accommodate special dietary requests?

Yes, with reasonable advance notice, we are pleased to accommodate vegetarian, vegan, lactose intolerant, gluten free, low sugar, quasi-kosher and quasi-halal. We are likely unable to accommodate other special dietary requests, or guests with severe allergic challenges.

What IS NOT included in the trip price?

Bar, gift shop, high-speed Internet connection, rentals, nitrox, crew gratuities. A \$35 port fee must be paid on board in cash at the end of the trip.

ABOUT DIVING

How much experience do I need?

This trip is for everybody! This trip is primarily snorkeling and freediving. There is an opportunity to do night dives with the mobulas.

Is the diving from the big boat or skiffs?

We take a maximum of 12 guests on Nautilus Gallant Lady expeditions. All guests can comfortably fit on our 32-foot, high-speed ‘zodiac style’ skiff. With twin 250 hp engines, we are able to speed around in excess of 35 mph to get you in the right place at just the right time, onto the large squadrons of mobulas. We'll go out for a few hours, splash in the water, come back, have lunch, and repeat in the afternoon!

How many dives will I do?

Please keep in mind, this is primarily a snorkeling and freediving trip. There will be an opportunity for 3-4 dives total during the trip, including a night dive. The majority of the trip will be spent in the water seeking the incredible experience the mobulas will bring us.

I am a diver, why would I want to go on a snorkeling trip?

While we are typically all about scuba diving, the best way to interact with the mobulas is by snorkeling or freediving.

Are the boats camera friendly?

YES, VERY! Ask about rental cameras and photo pro services.

Where is the closest decompression chamber?

The closest chambers are located in La Paz and Cabo San Lucas.

What happens if I need a medevac flight?

Medevac can be arranged with a boat transfer to shore.

Do you have an AED and medical kit onboard?

OF COURSE! All of our crew are trained in first aid and a number of our crew are trained first responders.



Pre-Trip Extensions & Adventures



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Pre-trip extensions. Come and take advantage of us! Whether it's a day of diving or a four day mobula rays & ocean safari adventure before you board a trip to Socorro. We do it all, from Cabo Pulmo or La Paz excursions to our new 48-ft fast boats to the Mexico sardine run.

Loads of options, [click here for details!](#)

Rental Locker

Borrowing safety equipment is always complimentary to all our guests

- Nautilus LifeLine Marine Rescue Radio
- SMB
- Dive Alert Signaling Device

Sample Pricing (USD)

Might we suggest booking your rental gear ahead of time. While our ships carry emergency loaners, visiting SeeCreatures is the best way to check out that perfectly fitted rental wetsuit and ensure that your camera and dive gear is working just right.

Nitrox	\$120	Go-pro Camera	\$150
Steel 95 cf Cylinder	\$36		

Packages

Wetsuit, BCD, Regulator	\$180	Fins, Booties, Hood/Mask	\$75
BCD, Regulator, Dive computer	\$170	Full Gear (Wetsuite, BCD, Reg, Computer, Booties, Hood, Fins, Snorkel and mask)	\$320

Items

Wetsuit	\$70	Hood	\$25
BCD	\$70	Mask	\$25
Regulator	\$70	Snorkel	\$20
Dive Computer	\$50	Hooded Vest	\$25
Fins	\$30	Dive Lights	\$15
Booties	\$30		

Zorb	\$7.63 per pound
Oxygen fills	\$100 / \$20 each additional day more than 5 days
Oxygen Rebreather Cylinder	\$50 / \$10 each additional day
Diluent Rebreather Cylinder	\$50 / \$10 each additional day

* Clients are responsible for the cost of repairing any damage except normal wear and tear. Prices subject to change without notice.

Excursion Risk



We are excited to have you join us, but feel compelled to point out [some of the risks](#) involved in our adventures around Baja, Mexico and the surrounding ocean.

We operate at the whim of Mother Nature. Our ships and camps have connectivity with shore operations, and we carefully monitor weather conditions while maintaining communication lines for urgent and emergency situations. Our ocean-going ships are equipped with satellite communication technology, full-time data links, internet at sea, and marine radios. We need you to be aware that there is always a risk of adverse weather, mechanical breakdown, errors, or mistakes made by our crew, medical evacuations, or other interruptions to your trip that are beyond our control.

Dealing with animals involves risk. Camping out in the desert involves risk. Going to sea involves risk. This is not Disneyland. We give careful guidance on peak seasons and our previous experiences with the animals. But there is no guarantee that you will see the animals you are hoping for; Mother Nature doesn't work that way. Guests and crew alike are susceptible to accidents, tripping and falling, sprains, or broken bones, strokes, heart attacks, or medical conditions such as appendicitis, pancreatitis, diabetic complications, heat or sun exhaustion, dehydration, severe infections, abscesses, or other emergency conditions.

Diving can be challenging and may not be suitable for less experienced divers. You must be a trained and certified scuba diver to dive with us unless you are enrolled in one of our training programs. Guests are responsible for their own dive safety. Our dive guides and instructors are primarily responsible for ensuring top-quality dives, critter pointing, and the best possible guest experience. You must have good buoyancy control. Our guides are not responsible for teaching primary dive skills or looking after guests who do not have basic buoyancy skills.

Aerial medevac is available at or close by most of our destinations. We require that all guests have insurance that covers emergency care in Mexico, including aerial medevac and hospital procedures. A medical evacuation flight might cost \$10,000, and local hospital charges could be in excess of \$20,000. You will have to arrange for payment upfront for these costs if you require evacuation or a hospital stay and your insurance won't cover the charges. **'Dive Assure'** offers excellent coverage and is highly recommended. [Click here](#) to arrange coverage.

A sample [liability release and waiver can be viewed here](#) and requires your acceptance, agreement and signature when you visit SeeCreatures before boarding your ship.

We wish you an excellent trip, meet loads of animals and have a beautiful and safe experience.



PASSENGER GUEST WAIVER, RELEASE AND INDEMNITY (the "Waiver")

In consideration of you allowing me to participate in your camping and/or whale watching and/or excursion (the "Excursion"):

I voluntarily waive, release and forever discharge NAUTILUS DIVE ADVENTURES AND/OR all its related entities: ICARUS AVIATION LTD also doing business as "Lever Diving" AND/OR NAUTILUS EXPLORER MEXICO, S. DE R.L DE C.V. AND/OR BAJA EXPEDITIONS AND/OR BSK, S.A. DE C.V. AND/OR SEECREATURES AND/OR CABO DIVE CENTRE, S. DE R.L. DE C.V (collectively the "Company") and its employees, directors, officers, agents and contractors (collectively the "Operators") from any and all liability, including but not limited to liability arising from the negligence (including gross negligence) or fault of the Operators or any of them for personal injury or death, property loss or damage or any other claims of any kind which may occur to me during or in connection with the Excursion and/or the use or misuse of any equipment, vessels or vehicles.

I agree that all agreements made between the Operators and myself (including this Waiver) shall be governed by the laws of Mexico and the courts of Mexico City, shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any matter relating to the said agreements or this Waiver.

I agree that this Waiver shall be binding upon my heirs, executors, administrators, successors, assigns and my estate and I agree that in the event that a claim is made against the Operators or any one of them in respect of any cause of action relating to me, I will indemnify the Operator(s) for their losses, damage and expenses arising from such claim.

I confirm that I have both read and fully understood the description of the risks involved in participating in the Excursion as set forth in the Company's disclosure information entitled "DIVING EXCURSION RISKS" published on the Company web site (<https://nautilusliveboards.com/diving-excursion-risks/>) and in the pre-trip information package provided to me.

I also confirm that I:

- (a) am physically fit; without any health related reasons that would otherwise preclude my;
- (b) have had sufficient instruction, preparation and/or training for; and
- (c) have not been advised by any medical professional to avoid participation in the Excursion.

Finally, I confirm that I read and fully understood this Waiver before signing and, that I had the opportunity to do so before making any commitment of whatsoever kind or nature to the Company.

Please note that you will be required to sign this waiver form upon the arrival at the hospitality suite.

Our Responsibilities, Your Responsibilities

Our Responsibilities

- To ensure your safety.
- To give you the best possible diving experience.
- To treat you with respect and consideration and to provide excellence in service onboard.
- To be responsive to special requests and needs.
- To plan each trip with respect to weather, sea conditions and animal behavior in order to maximize your diving experience.
- To keep our ships in top condition, clean and in good mechanical repair. Please note that each ship has many complex systems and it may be impossible to prevent some maintenance problems during your trip, despite our best efforts.

Your Responsibilities

1. Animals

We love Mother Ocean! Unfortunately, sometimes guests will demonstrate unsafe or irresponsible behavior towards animals that impedes other guest's experiences and/or may cause harm to the animals. It is your responsibility to follow the crew's directions and recommendations with respect to interaction with the animals. In the unlikely event that an individual is impeding other guests and/or causing harm to the animals, the captain will speak to that person and give them a formal warning. If the guest continues the same behavior, the captain has the authority to hold that guest out of the water for the remainder of the trip.

2. Diving Safety

It is your responsibility to attend dive briefings and comply with the principles of safe recreational diving. Deco diving or deliberately "going blue" is not allowed. The captain has the right to revoke the diving privileges of anyone who is diving in an unsafe manner.

3. Alcohol

With over 30 years of operational experience running dive charters, we have learned the safest alcohol policy is to restrict guests from bringing their own alcohol on board. We provide a wide selection of beer, wine and alcohol from the ship's bar at reasonable prices. We are also happy to hold your duty-free purchases or local purchases of alcohol in bond in the ship's storage until the end of your trip.

4. Government Rules

You must comply with all Mexican government rules and regulations. Please note that government regulations and laws may change without notice. Our contract with you is subject to "force majeure" without compensation.

5. Marijuana

Marijuana is illegal in Mexico including medicinal prescription marijuana. We have a zero tolerance policy regarding guests bringing marijuana onboard.

6. Illegal Substances

We maintain a zero tolerance for illegal narcotics or substances on board. We're required under Mexican law to report any problems to the Mexican Federal Police.

7. Crew

Treating our crew and staff with courtesy and respect.

8. Getting Sick

We sincerely hope that you stay healthy and don't get sick during your trip. Please let the crew know if you are not feeling well so that we can give you extra love and attention and also do our best to prevent anyone else onboard from getting sick.



Mexico Customs and Cameras

We have received reports of isolated incidents in which Mexican Customs (Aduanes) has charged taxes cameras and housings being brought into the country by divers. While this is a violation of both Mexican and international law, local officials have continued with this illegal behaviour. We are fighting it in every way that we can with the help of our lawyers and the tourism boards.

In the meantime, the easiest way to avoid problems with customs is to pack cameras and equipment in regular looking suitcases. NOT in pelican cases. No dive stickers. No destination stickers. Just plain old carry-in suitcases. Mexican customs seems to focus on luggage that looks like it contains dive or photography gear.

We are very sorry for this hassle. It's not fair. We sincerely hope that things will revert back to normal with the newly elected government in 2024.

Other steps that you can take in case your luggage is identified as dive gear

1. Carry invoices for the used depreciated value of your camera and housing. The lower the dollar amount, the less illegal duty you will be assessed.
2. If you do get assessed duty, make contemporaneous notes. Including the identification of the customs officer. They likely won't let you take their photo but they do have to show their badge number. Be sure you note the time, place, badge number and the amount you were assessed.
3. Use your credit card to pay any duties or taxes. That way you can dispute the charge with your credit company. This is where your contemporaneous notes will be very valuable.
4. Please let our concierges know what happened. We will fight hard on your behalf.