



# Searcher Natural History Tours

12-Day Planned Itinerary

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## Day 1

### San Diego

Travel to San Diego, CA. Check-in and board *Searcher* at Fisherman's Landing between 3:00–7:00 PM. Return by 7:30 PM for the 8:00 PM captain's orientation. Departure at 10:00 PM.

Motor overnight.

## Day 2

### Ensenada going South

Stop in Ensenada in the morning for Mexican Customs and Immigration Clearance. Spend the day observing wildlife at sea aboard *Searcher*.

Remain aboard *Searcher* all day.  
Motor overnight.

## Day 3

### Islas San Benito

Anchor at Islas San Benito with skiff transportation ashore for walking and wildlife observation. Hike to an old lighthouse and observe elephant seals in breeding season, jousting males, nursing pups, and resting females offer excellent wildlife photography. We'll also see nesting birds such as osprey and ravens, along with unique desert plants. Whale watch while aboard *Searcher* for remainder of the day.

Remain aboard *Searcher* all day.  
Motor overnight.

## Day 4 and 5

### Laguna San Ignacio

Anchor among the gray whales and make this famous lagoon your home for two days. Whale watch from smaller boats, called pangas, and see the whales up close. Watch mothers care for their calves and marvel at the power and grace of breaching and spy-hopping whales. Explore pristine beaches for shells, blooming plants, and tidal animals, and observe feeding birds in the mangrove channels.

**Day 4:** Remain anchored overnight.  
**Day 5:** Motor overnight.

## Day 6

### Offshore Bahía Magdalena

Spend the day at sea aboard *Searcher*, observing different whale species, herds of common dolphins, sea turtles, and pelagic seabirds with the scenic Baja California coastline as a stunning backdrop for wildlife photography.

Remain aboard *Searcher* all day.  
Motor overnight.

## Day 7

### Offshore Cabo San Lucas

Welcome to the Gulf of California! Whale watch where humpback whales gather while aboard *Searcher* for the morning. Humpback whales are very acrobatic, spectacular to observe, and great for photography. In the afternoon stop at a beach nearby for birding and a snorkel session. **NOTE:** If the Whale Shark Encounter at Bahia La Paz is available, the remainder of the itinerary may occur in a different order.

Motor overnight.

## Day 8

### La Paz/ Los Islotes

Arrive to La Paz area to observe the area's whale sharks and participate in the optional Whale Shark Encounter. Then we travel to Los Islotes, two islets and underwater rocky reefs used by sea lions as haul-out sites. Skiff rides around the islets give great views of the sea lions, fishes and invertebrates along the reefs, and nesting boobies and other birds. Or dive in for some great snorkeling. Then there's time to whale watch offshore for blue, fin, or other whales.

Anchor overnight.

## Day 9

### Isla San José

Skiff rides and snorkeling at Isla San José/Los Islotes. Visit one of Baja California's premier islands with giant cardón and barrel cacti and stunning scenery. Go ashore for a botanical walk in a vast arroyo, snorkel in clear waters, and whale watch for blue whales, fin whales, and other whales.

Anchor overnight.

## Day 10

### Mainland

Morning walk and snorkeling session in mainland. Whale watch while aboard *Searcher* for remainder of the day.

Anchor overnight.

## Day 11

### Isla San Jose/Islas

We'll stop at this small island with a beautiful sandy beach to explore sand dune community and snorkel in an area where Cortez Garden eels are found. This island has beautiful desert plants, and an early morning walk is an enjoyable option. Bird life is abundant too. Again, we'll spend time aboard *Searcher* for the afternoon whale watching in this productive area while we're headed South.

Anchor overnight.

## Day 12

### Cabo San Lucas

Disembark *Searcher* in Cabo San Lucas early morning. Transfer to Los Cabos (also called San José del Cabo) airport for return flights, or head downtown to a hotel in Cabo San Lucas or San José del Cabo (recommended) on your own. Arrange flights after 12:00 PM.

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

Itinerary, schedule, and activities could change based on weather, wildlife, passenger safety, Captain's discretion, and uncertainties operating within foreign preserve guidelines.