

Since 1989, Over
5,000 Happy Guests

#1 Baja Tripadvisor
Specialty Lodging

The Ultimate Swim with Gentle Baja Whale Sharks & Playful Sea Lions



Midriff Islands, Sea of Cortez, Baja Mexico
2025 Season

If you have marveled at the awesome beauty and size of whale sharks - even dreamed of swimming with these gentle giants - then Baja Spirit's Ultimate Ecolodge whale shark trip is just for you! Whale sharks are rare, elusive, magnificent, and gentle creatures.

There are only four places on the planet where whale sharks make predictable appearances at certain times of the year. The famous Midriff Island regions of the Sea of Cortez, Baja California, Mexico, very close to our award-winning Las Animas Ecolodge, is one of those four spots and the nearest to the US.

Whale Shark Central – The “Galapagos of Mexico”

Your 6-day all-inclusive multi-sport soft eco-adventure departs San Diego and is based at our award-winning [Las Animas Wilderness Ecolodge](#). Our private and remote ecolodge is the #1 Tripadvisor Specialty Lodging in Baja, Mexico, and has [186 outstanding reviews](#).

This is the ONLY boat-in ecolodge in Baja, Mexico, surrounded by Bahia de Los Cirios and Parque de Gulfo Island National Parks.

This one-of-a-kind destination, located in the heart of the “Midriff Islands Region” and the best whale shark feeding grounds, has been called the “*Galapagos of Mexico*” by author John Steinbeck and many seasoned global travelers.

Your days will be filled with locating [Whale Sharks and snorkeling with them](#), cruising uninhabited coves and islands looking for up to 10 species of whales—including blue and finback whales, sea turtles, dolphins, and manta rays—and discovering the abundant wonders of the Sea of Cortez's diverse marine life.



As a bonus, there's a Sea Lion rookery close by. Our guests love the easy, fun snorkeling with these curious and playful marine mammals in shallow, clear waters.



Each day's schedule can vary depending on wind and weather. We normally try to locate whale sharks in the calm morning hours. If we do not find whale sharks in our morning search, you can enjoy the other activities we offer.

Average Summertime to Fall water temperatures are around 78F—81F. Las Animas Ecolodge enjoys a cooler microclimate from the ocean's influence, with daytime temperatures between 80 – 90F and evenings a pleasant 66 – 76F.

Addition Fun Experience – All Included

- Kayaking (single & double)
- Snorkeling clear warm waters
- Swimming with Sea Lions
- Fishing (guaranteed catching)
- Walking
- Hiking
- Clamming
- Exploring
- Windsurfing
- Paddleboarding
- Laying in your hammock
- Taking in the beautiful untouched scenery
- Amazing dark skies
- Whale & Dolphin watching
- Ocean Bioluminescence
- Birding
- Photography

About Whale Sharks (*Rhiniodon Typus*)



Whale sharks are the largest fish in the world. They are **harmless plankton eaters**, which feed near the surface. Reported to reach 15 meters (49ft) but averaging 10 to 12 meters (32 - 39ft) in length, the whale shark is easily identified by its distinctive pattern of white spots, colossal size, and wide mouth. Despite their great size, very little is known about the biology of these gentle giants.

Whale sharks are rarely seen in shallow coastal waters (except near our [Las Animas Ecolodge](#) in the Midriff Islands regions, Baja California, Mexico), but they are regular visitors from August to early November.

Baja Spirit favors our whale shark encounters with curiosity and tolerance. Remember, we are visiting wild animals in their environment. We ask you to approach each encounter with caution and respect.

Watch This Quick Video Comment from This Global Eco-Traveler

Why She Loves Our Whale Shark Experience



<https://youtu.be/Did5wo3Ryuc?si=1IMOY6c5SohZGvB1>

Ultimate Whale Shark & Sea Lion Experience Itinerary (14 Guest Max.)

Day 1... Free local hotel pick-up or arrive at San Diego Brown Field at 7:00 AM. Private carriage transfer (3.5 hours) to San Felipe with a ½ hour rest stop at the halfway point. We will have muffins, fruit, and juice available. Scenic drive along the Sea of Cortez with amazing views of the



Isla Encantadas (1.5 hours) with a 20-minute rest stop in Gonzaga Bay. We will have deluxe deli lunches and abundant snacks and drinks available. We then travel south through the National Park of Valle de los Cirios and then down to the Midriff Island region of the Sea of Cortez (1 hour). Load boats and scenic boat transfer out to [Las Animas Wilderness Ecolodge](#), passing numerous bird nesting Islands and fantastic seashores on the way to the ecolodge (1 hour). Welcome, Happy Hour, & fun. (AM snacks, Lunch, Dinner)



Day 2 – 5... Mornings will be spent searching and swimming with Whale Sharks, weather permitting. We utilize the local fishermen community by radio and our boat as needed. We return to Las Animas for a delicious lunch.

Your afternoons give you many opportunities for more fun and sport at no additional cost.

This includes snorkeling with nearby Sea Lions and numerous local reefs, sport fishing, world-class kayaking, Exploring the shoreline on stand-up paddle boards, offshore island exploration by boat, amazing hiking (guided interpreted or on your own), or just simply relaxing in your hammock, taking in the peace and serenity of this untouched true wilderness area.

Evenings can provide some of the **best star gazing you have seen.** (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 6: Depart Las Animas at 7:00AM. A scenic 1-hour boat ride and the opportunity to see more marine mammals and birds on the way to the port. Ground transfer through the Valle de Los Cirrios to Gonzaga Bay for a 20-minute rest stop (1.5 hours). Scenic drive along the Sea of Cortez to San

Felipe (1.5 hours) with a 30-minute rest stop. We will have snacks, drinks, and lunches en route. Continue to San Diego. (3.5 hours) with a rest stop before we cross the border. Arrive at the US/Mexican border approx. 2:00 – 3:00 PM for border crossing. Arrive at Brown Field, San Diego, at approximately 4:00 – 5:00 PM. (Breakfast, Lunch).

Boat Accessible Only #1 Tripadvisor Specialty Baja Ecolodge

Our truly unique and private [Ecotourism Lodge](#) offers eight romantic, private beach-side yurts equipped with bathrooms, pressurized showers, Sun/Mar Eco-Toilets, California King-Sized Pillow-Top Memory Foam Mattresses, skylight roofs, and covered decks with Adirondack Chairs and a Hammock. Trips are limited to 14 guests to ensure the preservation of the environment and the private experience you seek.

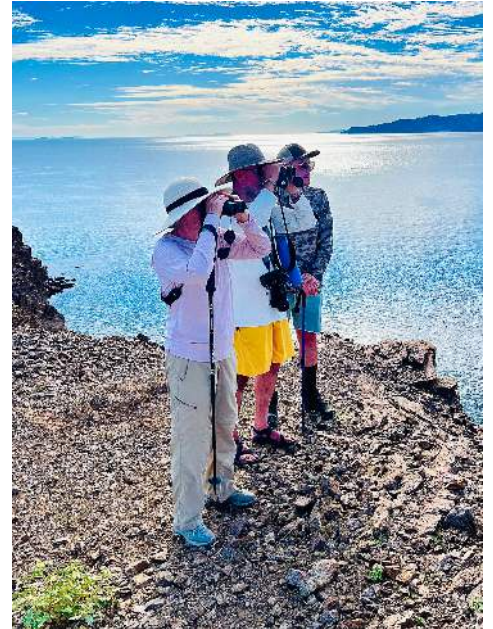


The yurts are built around the spacious main lodge yurt, with an expansive deck that serves as a central dining area, game area, and communal lounge space.

American Naturalist & Field Biologist With You The Whole Trip

From the moment you meet your [Baja Spirit naturalist guide](#) at departure, you will see they are deeply rooted in the unique ecosystems of the Baja peninsula, bringing decades of local knowledge and hands-on experience exploring the Sea of Cortez. With an intimate understanding of the region's wildlife, landscapes, and natural rhythms, our guides offer more than just a tour – they provide a genuine, personal connection to this extraordinary environment. Their wealth of local wisdom transforms each trip into an enlightening journey of discovery.

Passionate about sharing the wonders of Baja, our guides and boat captains are true stewards of the natural world. Their deep respect for the local environment, combined with decades of firsthand observation and exploration, ensures that every guest experiences the magic of this remarkable region through the eyes of those who know it best. From marine life to desert ecosystems, our naturalists' guides, field biologists, and local boat captains bring the landscape and Sea to life with engaging stories, keen insights, and an infectious love for the natural world.



Your Private Retreat Destination



Discover our award-winning [Las Animas eco-lodge](#), ranked #1 on TripAdvisor for Specialty Lodging in Baja, nestled in the heart of a breathtaking landscape of mountains, deserts and the Sea of Cortez. Our all-inclusive sanctuary offers a versatile, private venue perfect for

transformative experiences of all kinds – from wellness retreats and yoga workshops to family reunions, corporate team-building events, and intimate weddings. Our boat-accessible-only Eco-lodge provides accommodations for up to 16 guests and a serene and totally private backdrop for meaningful connections, personal growth, and unforgettable group experiences.

Immerse yourself in the natural beauty of Baja, where every detail of our all-inclusive retreat center is thoughtfully curated to support your unique gathering. From cozy, comfortable beachside yurts to a main lodge with indoor and outdoor spaces that can be customized for various activities, our eco-lodge invites groups to create deeply personal and memorable moments. Whether you're seeking a peaceful corporate retreat, a soulful wellness experience, a family celebration, or a romantic wedding destination, we offer the perfect environment for connection, rejuvenation, and inspiration – all seamlessly included in your stay.



Amazing Fresh Food is a Key Element of Our Baja Eco-travel Experience

In our case, the source of a good deal of positive feedback from our clients. We use only the freshest local ingredients to prepare top-quality meals for our guests.



Our staff and guests harvest seafood from the ocean by fishing and snorkeling whenever possible. Fresh from the sea, Baja Spirit's team creates cuisine that would make any chef envious. Meals are well-balanced, and servings are ample.

We can also accommodate special vegetarian or vegan diets.

Our happy hour and handmade agave margaritas are world-famous, so our guests say. 😊

Our Mission

Baja Spirit's mission is to combine excellent service, lodging, and safety with transformative nature-based Baja soft eco-adventure vacation experiences. We strive to create a fun and relaxing environment for our small groups of guests in the remote pristine areas of Baja, Mexico, and the Sea of Cortez.

We promote and encourage a greater appreciation, awareness, and preservation of our environment.

Our Goals

- To operate responsible Baja ecotours in undeveloped pristine areas of Baja
- To facilitate local community involvement in our programs and operations
- To maintain a sustainable level of small group size at all levels of our operation
- To protect and conserve the environment, and the wildlife and cultures that live within it
- To provide ongoing, quality training for all staff and guides

Las Animas Ecolodge: Best Dark Skies on the Planet



2025 Ultimate Whale Shark and Sea Lion Experience

Availability*: End of Aug – Early Nov.

- August 26 - 31 **Sold Out**
- September 1 – 6 **Sold Out**
- September 8 – 13 **2 available**
- September 15 – 20 **6 available**
- September 22 – 27 **5 available**
- September 29 – Oct 4 **2 available**
- October 6 – 11 **8 available**
- October 13 – 18 **SOLD OUT**
- October 20 – 25 **2 available**
- October 27 – Nov 1 **SOLD OUT**



* Please call the office for current availability and questions because trip departures can fill quickly.
(619) 421-2235

All-Inclusive Package from San Diego

- Call or email us today for special pricing

Join us. You'll be glad you did.

Please call us with ANY questions and to secure your ultimate Baja Bucket List experience.

PS If you have a group of 8 – 14, call us about having your own private retreat and save a lot of \$\$ too.



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