

Tour Report Baja's Ultimate Whale Safari 2 – 10 March 2026

Humpback whale



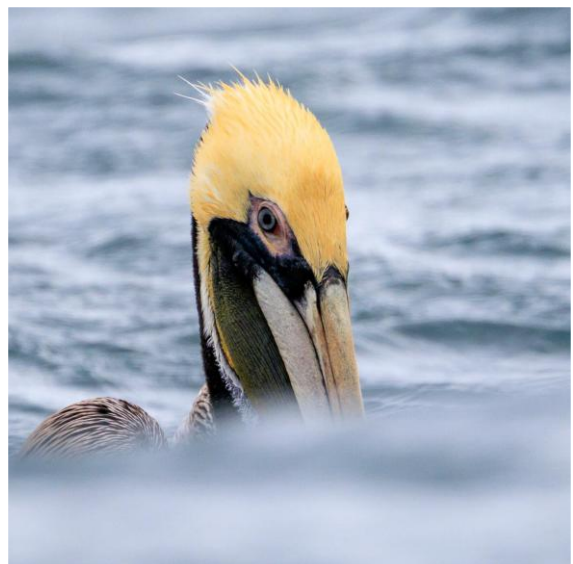
Mobula ray



Common dolphin



American brown pelican



Compiled by Chris Breen

Tour Leader: Chris Breen

Monday 2 March 2026

Day 1:

Arrive at Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

Weather: clear sky, sunny & warm, up to 30°C

The flight arrived early in San Jose del Cabo, and Chris was waiting at Hotel Casa Bella when everyone arrived shortly before 11 am. The group was weary after a long journey from London (one of the group, Achim, had arrived the previous day) but delighted to be in Cabo and to have arrived at the hotel. Although the official check-in isn't until later in the day, Barbara (the wonderful owner of Casa Bella) was able to get two couples into their rooms straight away and the other two weren't too far behind.

Chris gave the group a bit of an orientation with respect to places to go exploring over the course of the afternoon, and everyone agreed to meet in the hotel gardens at 5:30 pm to run through the trip in a bit more detail.

Hotel Casa Bella is an oasis of calm in what is an otherwise busy and growing town. Set away from the marina, but only five minutes' walk, and opposite a lovely public square, Casa Bella was a family home and is now run by Barbara who grew up here. There is a small swimming pool (more of a plunge pool, but most welcome on hot days!), and lots of greenery which makes it great for birds, and the perfect starting point for our trip. Throughout the afternoon, there were gila woodpeckers calling and flying in and out of a nest in a dead palm tree, house finches, house sparrows, Clarke's oriole and white-winged dove, and turkey vultures were passing overhead regularly.



Most of the group went down to the marina, some had lunch nearby and a couple just stayed and enjoyed the tranquillity of the garden.

At 5:30 pm, everyone gathered in the garden and Chris went through the plan for the week, showing a few images that he had taken over the past couple of visits and talking through the logistics of tomorrow – the first day of excursions!

At 6:30 pm, as a group, we ambled across the square to Mi Casa, a lovely outdoor Mexican restaurant. The service was good; the food was good and Kim (whose birthday it was) was serenaded by a roving band consisting of two guitarists and a double-base player. They then asked if we wanted them to play anything else to which Ted proposed that they play Hotel California. It was a rousing 'Mexicanized' rendition!

Dinner over, it was early to bed – tomorrow is a busy day!

Tuesday 3 March 2026

Day 2:

Whale-watching from Cabo and drive to La Paz

Weather: clear sky, sunny & warm, up to 30°C

Most of the group were up fairly early (recovering from jetlag!) and were sitting in the gardens with binoculars (and a tea or coffee), looking at the house finches, white-winged doves and woodpeckers flying in and out of their nest by the time it had got to 7:30 am. By 8:30 am everyone was checked out of their

rooms and had moved next door to the See Creatures office and were checking in for the first full day of our expedition. Most importantly we met our guide for the week – Natalia – who has been working in the lagoon for some years and has been leading since completing her marine biology degree some years ago. Natalia was clearly as excited as us about the prospect of going out to look for humpbacks this morning! Our bags were tagged to be taken up to La Paz and then we went the short distance by minibus to Marina Del Rey where we met our captain for the morning and boarded our whale-watching boat – Indie2.



over the proceedings! A few photographs later, together with a number of other boats, we went round the headland and were almost immediately greeted by a breaching humpback – what a way to start! It breached a second time, and then it breached again – I think we counted nine or ten breaches. A wonderful display of



‘whale power’! Many in the group had never seen humpbacks breaching so it was a particularly wonderful display to see at the beginning of our trip. After everyone on board got some wonderful photos and video, we decided to move away from the hubbub of the other boats and, quite simply, go in the other direction to find our own! Which we did ☺. Over the course of the morning, we had more whales breaching and saw plenty of whales fin-slapping. But it was their apparently relaxed rolling movement in the ocean, culminating in raised flukes and then a dive which many of us found so captivating.

However, perhaps the most special moment of the morning came when Natalia put a hydrophone in the water to establish if we could hear any whales. At the time, we were alone – there were no other boats around – but we had seen three separate groups of humpbacks, at different distances away from the boat and in different directions. Almost as soon as Natalia lowered the hydrophone, we could hear whales – not singing but calling to one another, and responding. It was a truly magical moment... and then it was time to return to the marina. But of course, the whales had other ideas and on the way back we were ‘compelled’ to stop to watch more wonderful displays. But then time really did get the better of us and we needed to get back to port.



Once back, we bid farewell to the captain and then went back to See Creatures by minibus for a quick pitstop before beginning our journey north. Still weary from travelling, there were a few weary eyes in the minibus as we headed to our lunch stop at Cerritos Beach. Cerritos is a busy surfing beach, and we spent a relaxing our at a beachfront restaurant eating tacos and fish-of-the-day.



From here it was only about 90 minutes to La Paz and we were soon settled into our hotel. There were plenty of birds in the gardens and down towards the beach – loggerhead shrike, northern mockingbird, osprey (with a huge fish in its talons), yellow-footed gull, laughing gull and American oystercatcher, amongst other things.

At 7 pm we gathered with a drink in the lounge and Chris gave a short presentation about humpback whales and Natalia gave everyone a briefing about our activities for tomorrow. Dinner on the terrace followed and then it was time to retire for the night.

It was a great first day!

Wednesday 4 March 2026

Day 3:

Swimming with whale sharks & boarding Gallant Lady

Weather: clear skies, 28°C

We were greeted with clear skies and a balmy start to the day in La Paz. Most of the group were up by 7:30 am and enjoying breakfast on the hotel patio shortly after. Everyone was ready and in the lobby, adorned in swimwear in preparation for putting on wetsuits at the dock, which was a short drive away. Armed with mask, snorkel, fins we walked the short distance along the jetty to our panga, and after a short briefing from Natalia (and our captain Danny), we headed out to the whale shark zone – en route making sure to register with the ‘whale shark police’ before entering the zone.



We saw a whale shark within minutes of getting into the zone – which was an exciting way to begin. There were already a few other boats in the whale shark zone and there was clearly no shortage of whale sharks. A little further on we found a whale shark that was stationary – and an ideal one to swim with because it was at the surface and feeding in one place. Our routine for the next couple of hours was to be ready to with mask, snorkel and fins on. And, at the call of the captain or Natalia, to jump into the water and swim to Natalia who would be with the whale shark. It is an incredibly exciting, well controlled experience and utterly wonderful experience

to be able to be in the (warmish) water with the biggest fish in the sea. The visibility was poor, however, but it was poor because it was full of plankton which is exactly what attracts the whale sharks into the bay in the first place.

We spent nearly 30 minutes with the first whale shark, each small group taking it in turns to get in the water

and spend time with the whale shark. Over the course of our couple of hours in the whale shark zone everyone had fantastic views and a fabulous experience... due in very considerable part to excellent guiding from Natalia.

Sadly, our time was up though and was time to head out of the zone and to another boat that was going to take us north to a resident colony of California sea lions. After about 30 minutes we were boarding the boat, there were burritos and cold drinks waiting and we began heading north. The magnificent scenery of Espiritu Santo Island was on our right-hand side as we headed north, and after a couple of hours we arrived at the tiny little archipelago known as Los Islotes just off the northern tip of Espiritu Santo.



The captain and Natalia assessed the sea conditions, and everyone got ready to get in the water. On the count of three we all got into the water off the side of the skiff at the same time – it had disaster potential written all over it, but we managed it! With Natalia at the front, we swam as a group towards the rocks - staying a safe distance away – and watched, and listened to, the California sea lions. They weren't especially playful (although a couple swam under us), but they were interacting with each other, calling loudly and swimming back and forth along the shore.

Natalia led us into a cave where we could hear young sea lions playing in the background and we could see the head of an adult peering out from a comfortable perch a couple of metres above sea level. Then sadly, it was time to return to our skiff, and the boat. Once aboard, we sailed south for 20 minutes or so before pulling into a cove and setting anchor. The crystal-clear turquoise sea was tempting and a few of the group decided to swim.

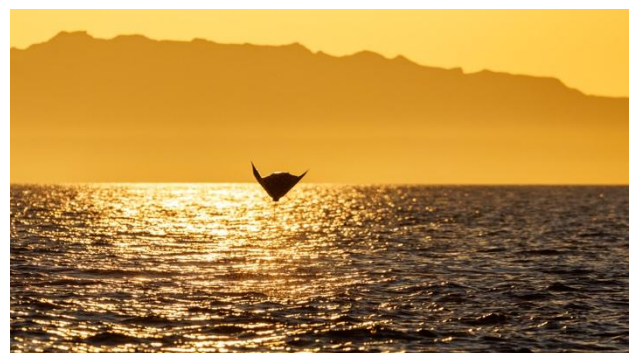


Cerviche was served as was beer and soft drinks and we spent an hour or more enjoying the tranquillity of this magical spot in the Sea of Cortez before heading south to rendezvous with Gallant Lady – our vessel home for the next three nights.

We had been travelling for half an hour or so, and the sun was dipping over the horizon and the sky was turning incredible shades of red and orange, and then the magic happened... we started to see mobula rays jumping. Not one

or two but tens, perhaps hundreds of them jumping – near and far. The captain slowed our boat so we could watch, film and photograph. It was a spectacular way to end our wildlife watching day.

Before long, we were approaching Gallant Lady and soon enough we were onboard being greeted by Mateus our Captain, Eric the second in command, Laura our host, Rodriguez the chef and Jay, the engineer. Mateus introduced himself, gave an orientation of the vessel and we were shown to our cabins. After a safety briefing, it was time for dinner and bed. Another outstanding day.



Thursday 5 March 2026

Day 4:

Whale watching aboard Gallant Lady

Weather: clear skies and 28°C

It was a remarkable day today from the moment we got up until the time we retired - whales, whales, whales and more whales.

When the first in the group got up the sun was beginning to think about coming over the horizon in the east, but the moon was still high in the sky to the west. Ten minutes later, the sun was higher in the sky, the rusty early morning oranges and browns on the rocks were being replaced by brighter colours and the air was becoming warmer.

By the time continental breakfast was served at 7:00 am (almost) everyone was up and ready for the first whales if luck were to come our way. Which it did.

The first whale blows were seen at about 7:30 am, but it was shortly after 8 am that the first whales actually appeared for all to see. Two humpbacks, mum and young, cruising along together. It was obvious when we first saw them that they were mum and young, not because of what was an obvious size difference, but because when we first saw them swimming together, their bodies were touching, or at least they were so close to each other that if they weren't touching, then they appeared to be. First one fluked - a huge car-wash full of water draining from the back of the flukes as they glinted in the morning sunlight. And then the second - not quite so much water, not quite such a big car wash, and not such a flamboyant disappearance into the ocean.



We timed their dives - initially nine-minute dives, then seven-minute dives, then six minutes, consistently for the rest of the time we watched them.

"Blue whale blow!" was the shout that came at 10:00 am - a gigantic blow that we could see nearly three miles away and that hung in the air for two or three minutes. Then there was a second blow, then a third. All the same whale or more than one? That was the question that needed answering. The captain turned the boat and we headed for the blows - it was definitely more than one. At 10:40 am, we had a blue whale very close to Gallant Lady, and bottlenose dolphins too. We were able to watch the blue (with at least two others

slightly further away from us) until at 11:25 am we found more humpbacks (another mum and calf pair), but this time they had bottlenose dolphins around them and bow-wave riding.



Lunch was at 1:00 pm, but it was abandoned after a second mum and calf pair breached (for the first time) fairly close to Gallant Lady.

At 3:00 pm we had another blue whale and we were able to follow this one for some time, until, very obligingly, it fluked in front of and very close

to out boat. We watched as its long, long, long back disappeared into the water and its massive flukes, a staggering seven metres wide, rose up, shed gallons of water, and disappeared below the surface of the ocean.

It was time to head to our evening anchorage, so we turned to the south and made our way into the bay at Agua Verde. Most of the group jumped into the Zodiac and made their way over to the beach, while Steve and Kim took to the sea kayaks, and Dave and Gill stayed on board for a chilled hour or two. Whilst on land Chris and Ian headed up a nearby track to see what was around, and the others variously enjoyed photography, snorkelling, swimming, or simply soaking up the magnificent Mexican atmosphere on the beach.

Back on board, there was time for a shower before pre-dinner cheese and wine was served on the upper deck which was followed soon after by dinner. The captain's briefing for tomorrow followed dinner and then Chris read a wonderful piece by Simon Barnes about his first-ever sighting of a blue whale.

Throughout the day, from our first sighting to our last, there was hardly a moment that we were without whales. Baja is incredible.

Friday 6 March 2026

Day 5:

Whale watching aboard Gallant Lady

Weather: mostly clear skies with a light wind and 28°C

This could go down as the best day of whale-watching in Baja California so far, but we got off to a slow start; it was a full hour after continental breakfast was available at 7:00 am before we saw the first cetaceans. In this case, it was a small group of bottlenose dolphins, apparently half-sleeping as they were slowly and gently rolling across the surface of the water. But at 9:20 am it all started to happen – this was when we sighted our first blue whale of the day. They are always stunning to see, so huge, and apparently endless, from nose to tail. We stayed with this one for 30 minutes or more before our spotter plane came overhead. Low and quite fast it cruised past Gallant Lady to say hello in the early morning light.

The captain had been given a heads-up by the plane that south of our position there was a collection of three blue whales and a pod of around 300 dolphins (most probably common dolphins). We were excited at the prospect of travelling south – for about an hour – to where the plane had seen them, knowing of course that there was no guarantee that they would still be there. However, it was no more than 45 minutes before we came across a pair of blue whales. One is gigantic; two together are unspeakably huge. What a privilege. And what made it even more so was that as we were looking at the blue whales there was a pair of humpbacks in view at the same time and another blue whale a little further away. This is the best problem to have!

In essence, throughout the morning, we were moving between blue whales and humpback whales with a smattering of bottlenose dolphins thrown in for good measure. But the next blue whale wasn't a blue whale at all. Despite its huge stature, its obviously hooked dorsal fin, and much darker colouration told that it was a fin whale, and we all got some cracking photos and video to prove it.

We tore ourselves away from the whales as another delicious lunch was calling us at around 1:30 pm. Having had such an amazing morning of whales and photography, the captain and Chris decided that we should head south towards the Mechudo Corridor which is a known hotspot for large pods of common dolphins – something that so far we were missing from the cetacean experience. To get there was going to take about three hours, but we were ultimately heading that way anyway.

Immediately post lunch, Natalia did an excellent talk on whale sharks which raised a number of interesting questions and discussion points from the group. After which, some of the group retired to look at photos or



read a book, others went back out on deck to keep eyes out for more cetaceans. And of course, it wasn't long before another humpback was spotted and we slowed down for yet another blue whale. Closer to land, though, we caught sight of a pod of dolphins and we are all keen to see if they would come to the boat and bow ride. The captain spoke to a nearby sailing vessel to ask if they would

pass through the area as he wanted to start turning the boat in large circles to see if the dolphins would come in to play. But (and it was a big 'but') we saw the blow of a whale that we didn't immediately recognise.



A slightly different shape from anything that we had seen so far, with an unusually shaped hump on its back for a dorsal fin and a single blow at a rather unusual angle. Sperm whale! Wow, what a sighting. It was cruising on the surface for some time and we were able to get very close to it as it was moving very slowly and breathing regularly. Then, right in front of Gallant Lady the sperm whale began to dive and its tail flukes rolled into view and it was gone.

With the sperm whale out of view for a while, we went back to the common dolphins and the captain turned large circles in the water as the dolphins raced over to the boat, leaping and spinning – having such obvious, and playful fun. What a pleasure!

35 minutes after the sperm whale dived Jay saw another blow – it had finally surfaced from the deep. Again, we were able to get fairly close to it before it disappeared into the depths for another long dive – this time 45 minutes. But, everyone was keen to wait in the area until it resurfaced from its dive.... It did, another 45 minutes later. By now the sun was beginning to disappear the colours were changing, and it wasn't long before the whale rolled forward and the flukes raised up, and it disappeared for the last time – on our watch at least.



With whoops of delight, we turned to head south towards our evening destination – La Paz. The atmosphere at dinner was wonderful and after dinner the captain ran through the plan for tomorrow, everyone paid their bar bills and made their way to bed after what was one of the best ever days Baja could offer... until tomorrow!

Saturday 7 March 2026

Day 6:

To San Ignacio Lagoon by light aircraft

Weather: clear skies, 29°C

[Chris and Natalia (amongst others) were not 100% certain about yesterday's fin whale sighting due to the rather unusual shape of the dorsal fin so Chris sent a photo of it across to Mark Carwardine, who confirmed that it was in fact a fin/blue hybrid that has been being followed by cetacean experts for the past 20 years. Exciting stuff!]

It has been another fabulous day in Baja – though to be honest, there are few that are not! – but we got off to an early start. We were all up today by around 5:30 am in time for breakfast at 6:00 am, as we were sadly leaving Gallant Lady this morning. After breakfast, the bags we were taking to San Ignacio were put onto the zodiac and it wasn't too long before we all boarded and were taken the short distance by Jay to the jetty. We were accompanied by our captain and between us we shuttled our luggage to the awaiting van.



The airport was a 45-minute drive away and after half an hour or so at the airport we were taken through the very simple security procedures and walked across to our waiting Cessna Caravan. Boarding was straightforward (a simple clamber up a couple of steps!) and within minutes we were airborne. As we flew across La Paz bay, everyone was keeping an eye out for whale sharks in the ocean below, but whilst there were one or two possible sightings, there were no clear and obvious whale sharks

visible below us.

The Baja Peninsula is a parched and rugged land that is traversed by few tracks and even fewer roads. On a searingly hot day like it has been today, it looks as impenetrable now as it probably did to the early settlers here, and access to San Ignacio Lagoon by air probably saved a couple of days of road travel. Our arrival at the lagoon was early – 10:00 am – and we were greeted by a glass of champagne and some smiling faces from camp who swiftly bundled us into their vehicles and drove us the short distance to Tio Timo at the lagoon side.

After a short briefing, we had brunch and then collected our life-jackets before being shown to our tents, and at 1:00 pm we departed for the first of two consecutive whale-watches, beach of 90 minutes but separated by a 30-minute break on a sandy lagoon beach on the west side.

Grey whales – the first we have seen on the trip since this is their 'hideout' at this time of the year – were putting on a fine performance of spy-hopping, tail-slapping, and, despite the choppy seas, were swimming close to our boats and showing off their calves. This brought our total of cetacean species up to a very respectable seven. Humpback, blue, fin (hybrid) and sperm whale, together with bottlenose and common dolphin.

Notable birds of the day have included long-billed curlew, surf scoter, countless pelicans, American oystercatcher, Pomerine skua, brant geese and white ibis. No doubt we will add to the list tomorrow.

We arrived back in camp at around 5:00 pm and found a gravitational pull towards The Dive Bar – a lovely conversion of an old American yellow school bus – on the edge of the lagoon in a beautiful sunny spot.



Dinner was at 6 pm and was followed by a talk about grey whales from Natalia. And by then everyone was ready for bed ... even though it was only about 8 pm! Tomorrow is another day 😊

Sunday 8 March 2026

Day 7:

Whale-watching in San Ignacio Lagoon

Weather: variously windy, cloudy, rainy & sunny 25°C

Baja California really is a wonderful place, and a huge part of that is San Ignacio Lagoon which is just full of wonders... and whales. We had breakfast at 6:30 am and went out on our morning (double) whale-watch at 7:45 am. Split between two boats as on our previous excursions, we headed the 20 minutes or so out to the whale-watching zone, keeping our eyes open for birds and dolphins as we went. Unlike yesterday afternoon, which was quite choppy, this morning the water was smooth and calm.



There were quite a few boats out in the lagoon and everyone was eagerly awaiting a grey whale sighting. Thankfully, it wasn't too long before we saw first a mum and calf, and then a single adult (almost certainly a female). None of the whales was playful, but we were able to watch them for an extended period of time before they disappeared below the surface in the direction of the lagoon entrance. And then the dark clouds came, and the rain followed, first a light drizzle, and then pounding rain. We all got absolutely soaked – but there were whales nearby, the rain stopped and everything was ok with the world, except that our first whale-watch had

now ended and it was time to go to the beach for a 20-minute break before setting off again.

After a comfort break, a slurp of water, a handful of trail mix and a look at some of the shoreline birds (including long-billed curlew, willet, grey plover and a few white ibises), it was time to head back to the whale zone to see what else it had to offer. And, predictably, there were a few more whales to be seen – a couple more mum and calf pairs and a very distinctive single adult with a large white patch to the rear of its right flank (known locally as Blanco). Royal and elegant terns were flying overhead, and in the distance we could see a truly gigantic flock of pelicans and cormorants fishing in what must have been an equally gigantic bait ball under the water's surface.



The time came to return to camp, and we had lunch at middayish and then headed back out onto the water. This time, however, part of the group decided to explore the mangroves rather than head out whale-watching. It was a good idea while it lasted, but the water level wasn't quite high enough (and the tide was falling), so it wasn't quite as productive as it might have been. Having said that, we saw a respectable collection of birds, including an osprey carrying its recently caught dinner, lots of surf scoters, willets, scores of marbled godwits, great and snowy egrets, white ibis and a small raft of Pacific loons.



Back in camp, it was time for a shower, a drink at the bar and dinner. This was followed by a talk about migration from Matteo, and then it was time to retire for the night.

Monday 9 March 2026

Day 8:

Whale-watching in San Ignacio Lagoon

Weather: clear for much of the day with big downpours coming later, 24°C

Today was another great day, but one of mixed successes. We were all up for the usual early breakfast followed by whale-watching at 7:45 am. The sea was fairly calm as we set out and both of our boats were looking hard for whales. There wasn't much tidal movement this morning and when we caught sight of a whale blow, we saw it, then saw it a couple more times and then lost the whale... well of course, it dived, and we didn't then see it, rather than actually losing it! This went on for much of our first session and then it was time for our 30-minute break on the sandbar. This has been productive for birds every day and today was no different – brown pelican, long-billed curlew, whimbrel, willet, grey plover and a fabulous double-crested cormorant in breeding plumage.



Back out in the lagoon for our second whale-watch, we had a similar experience – seeing whales for three or four blows and then they would disappear. However, at one point shortly after our break, we found ourselves right next to a massive flock of cormorants and pelicans that were clearly above a very large fish bait ball. There were hundreds of birds as well as bottlenose dolphins, coming in from miles around to fish what was clearly a substantial catch. The sky overhead was quite dark and the pale feathers of the incoming pelicans 'popped', as did the crisp white feathers of the royal and elegant terns. But sadly, our time in the sanctuary was coming to an end and we began to head over towards the east side of the lagoon when we came across a mother and calf grey whale that were swimming slowly towards the entrance of the lagoon. We slowed to see if they might be 'friendlies' that would like to come to our boat. Whilst they didn't come over, they slowed even more as they up for breath, first the mother and then the young whale – a very young one, probably less than a month old – but the young one had come up on its mother's back and was almost completely out of the water looking over at our boat. It was a magical moment that lit up the whole morning.



Back at camp, it was time for lunch and a short break to download images and catch our breath before we were ready to set off for the final afternoon activity of the trip. Some of the group had elected to go to the turtle research centre, where they catch and tag Pacific green turtles for research and re-release then into the ocean. Some of the group headed out whale-watching and one stayed behind. However, it was about to get very wet. The turtle group got to the turtle station but due to the sheer volume of rain and high wind they had to abandon the afternoon and return to camp, whereas the whale-watching group managed to get as far as the sanctuary before the weather began to close in. The sea was rough and some of the boats were returning to their respective camps but we were keen to stay out if at all possible. We had just got sight of a blow when the captain received notification from the 'whale police' that, for safety reasons, the sanctuary was being closed for the afternoon. And at that point, the heavens opened and we got incredibly wet! (But it didn't last for long.)

On our ride home, the captain asked if we would like to slow down and look for turtles, which everyone did – and we must have seen ten or more on our way back to camp. By the time we arrived, the weather had calmed down and the sun was shining. There were ospreys overhead and after dropping our cameras and other gear, we all gathered in the bar tent for a pre-dinner drink.

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The rain was finished with us yet though, because the heavens opened again and only stopped briefly for the next hour or two. Over dinner, the camp manager said that the San Ignacio Lagoon airstrip would be closed in the morning and that we would have to have an early start and drive to Loreto in order to catch our flight to San Jose del Cabo.



Tuesday 10 March 2026

Day 9:

Final whale-watch before returning to Cabo

Weather: mostly clear skies, 25°C

It was a different morning than we had originally planned due to the inclement weather conditions. We were up in the dark at 5ish and after collecting a packed breakfast from the dining room, we loaded our bags into the minivan and at 5.30 am we set off first for San Ignacio town and then Santa Rosalia where we had a leg stretch and a look stop. We were on our way again by 8.30 am and arrived at Loreto just before 11 am. Although it hadn't been originally planned, it was a beautiful drive from the west side of the peninsula to the east, past rugged mountain scenery and spectacular ocean-lined beaches of the Sea of Cortez... and there was plenty of discussion about the previous week's trip as we travelled.

We arrived at Loreto Airport and were swiftly taken out to our Cessna Caravan after the bags had been loaded and took off towards San Jose del Cabo. The captain told us to look for whales on the way south as he would be flying over the ocean and it wasn't long before Chris spotted a humpback and then Natalia and the captain saw a blue whale. He turned the aircraft to the left and flew over the top of it. We had the rugged mountain scenery in view for much of our flight and saw not one, but two more blue whales as we flew south, and then two huge pods of dolphins. What a way to end the trip!

We arrived safely in Cabo just after 12.30 pm and were reunited with our bags from La Paz. Sadly though, the trip was at an end. Chris and Natalia said farewell to everyone, and they went into Terminal 1 to board their flights to Mexico City and Europe.

This was Baja California at its best!

Images by Chris Breen

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Checklist for Baja's Ultimate Whale Safari



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
	BIRDS										
1	Western grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>						✓	✓		
2	Least storm-petrel	<i>Oceanodroma microsoma</i>				✓					
3	Brown pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Brown booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>			✓						
5	Blue-footed booby	<i>Sula nebouxii</i>		✓	✓						
6	Magnificent frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
7	Brandt's cormorant	<i>Urile penicillatus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
8	Double-crested cormorant	<i>Nannopterum auritus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9	Great blue heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>							✓	✓	
10	Reddish egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	
11	Snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>						✓			
12	White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>							✓		
13	White ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>					✓	✓	✓		
14	Surf scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
15	Turkey vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
16	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			✓		✓	✓		✓	
17	Semi-palmated plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>						✓	✓		
18	Lesser yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>		✓							
19	Long-billed curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>					✓	✓	✓		
20	Marbled godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>						✓	✓		
21	Willet	<i>Catotrophorus semipalmatus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
22	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>						✓			
23	Pomarine jaeger	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>							✓		
24	California gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	✓	✓							
25	Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓	✓							
26	Western gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	

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27	Heermann's gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
28	Yellow-footed gull	<i>Larus livens</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				
29	Caspian tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>		✓						✓	
30	Royal tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
31	White-winged dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	✓								
32	Common ground-dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>		✓							
33	Gila woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>	✓	✓							
34	Cactus wren	<i>Campylorhynchus</i>	✓	✓							
35	House finch	<i>Caropdacus mexicanus</i>	✓								
36	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓								
	MAMMALS										
1	Grey whale	<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Blue whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>		✓	✓						
3	Fin/Blue hybrid (probable)	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>				✓					
4	Humpback whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					
5	Common bottlenose dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6	Common dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>				✓					
7	California sealion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	