

Tour Report Great Whales of Mexico's Pacific Coast 15 - 26 March 2024

Humpback whale



Common dolphin



Blue whale



Grey whale



Compiled by Chris Breen

Day 1:**Friday 15 March 2024**

Arrive in San Diego

A couple of our group were already in America, but most of the group arrived into San Diego this afternoon on the BA flight from London.

Chris was at the airport to meet everyone, and after jumping in a taxi to The Bay Club Hotel & Marina, and checking in, everyone gathered in the bar for a drink. Those that had arrived in from the UK were, not surprisingly, exhausted and after a couple of drinks opted for bed.

Day 2:**Saturday 16 March 2024**

San Diego, boarding & departure

We had breakfast as a group today at 8am in the upper section of the hotel restaurant. During breakfast Chris showed a series of images of Baja and ran through the logistics of the trip and what the group could expect during the course of the coming days. Then, shortly after 9am everyone headed off to begin their 'busy' day. Some were busy enjoying the pool at the hotel, others walking along the sea front to see if they could see nesting ospreys (they could, and the ospreys had three chicks), others went for a two-hour harbour cruise.

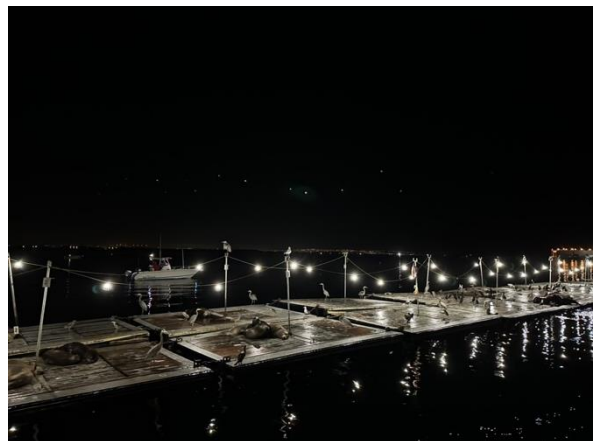
It was a beautiful day, the sun was shining and there was barely a cloud in the sky. Come mid-afternoon we all began to make our way to Fisherman's Landing to check-in and board Searcher. We were greeted by Celia (one of the owners) and her colleague Rachel as well as Rob (our naturalist for the voyage) and Sarah a trainee naturalist.

Before we had our safety briefing meeting at 8pm people grabbed a bite to eat at Pizza Nova or at the iconic Mitch's Seafood, both of which are close to where our boat was moored.

Shortly before 8pm Celia welcomed everyone aboard Searcher and went through some of the important details of what we all needed to know about the vessel's facilities. Rob spoke a little about how the days would pan out, and Captain Tod then went through safety procedures before introducing us to his crew... Jacob and Josh in the kitchen, Andrew, Ryan, Kaden and Kelly looking after everything else (including spotting for whales and other wildlife!).

At 9.30pm, as the captain was casting off, we had a glass of bubbly on the back deck to toast San Diego and our voyage to come. We photographed the magical San Diego skyline and looked at the birds on the live bait stations – black-crowned night heron (adults and young), western gull, great blue heron, and of course plenty of California sea lions.

As we got out past Point Loma we could feel the ocean swell, so Rob cleared the bow and we gradually retired to our cabins and bed.

**Day 3:****Sunday 17 March 2024**

Heading south

At 6am it was dark, and Searcher was already in Ensenada clearing customs and immigration as we emerged from our cabins for tea and coffee, and once cleared by the local authorities we began heading south. While leaving Ensenada Harbour, we saw several species of marine birds, as well as groups of California sea lions, both hauled-out and in the water.

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It was a beautiful day – clear, sunny, and warm. As we approached Todos Santos Island, Tod (the captain) made a call over the radio that there were common dolphins approaching the bow. This wasn't a pod; it was a herd – and a huge one at that. With such vast numbers of animals, it was almost impossible to estimate



how many there were but two or three people independently though the herd could easily number 5,000 or more. Dolphins were all around Searcher and visible way into the distance. It was a truly spectacular site.

Jacob and Josh (our chefs) had made a beautiful breakfast of French toast and sausages which we had to keep interrupting as the dolphins kept coming back for more. They stayed with the boat for well over an hour and everyone spent time looking at them and 'had their fill' (if that's possible!).

Welcome to B.e.a.u.t.i.f.u.l B.a.j.a!! It was an incredible way to begin the trip.

With the magnificent weather and the calm ocean, many of the group were sat outside scanning for whales, gulls, albatrosses and anything that moved. It was even calm and warm enough for some of the group to eat lunch out on the back deck.

Over the course of the day, we were rewarded with black-footed albatross, two of the shearwaters – pink-footed and black-vented – California and western gulls, royal tern, and perhaps the bird of the day... red-billed tropicbird.

Dinner at 6pm was a delicious, marinated pork tenderloin with roast potatoes and asparagus followed by a lemon tart with cream.

After dinner Rob ran through the programme for tomorrow and then did his 'feature presentation' about seals, sea lions and elephant seals.



Then, by 9pm it was time to retire and be ready for the busy day tomorrow on San Benitos Island.

Day 4:
West San Benito

Monday 18 March 2024



What an incredible day – whilst every day is the 'best day' on the trip – today is undoubtedly the best day on the trip – well, until tomorrow comes of course!

Breakfast of fresh fruit, omelettes, toast and orange juice, began at the rather early hour of 5.45am in order that we would all be finished in time for the safety briefing on getting in and out of the skiffs which was due to take place at 7am. We were finished in good time, and some of the group were on the back deck as the onboard crew were getting the skiffs from the top of Searcher and

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launching them in readiness for us to board and transfer over to the small beach on West San Benito.



We were all onshore by 8am, there were two or three elephant seal weaners on the beach to welcome us, and then we all headed to the south-western side of the island (led by Rob) in order to see a small colony northern elephant seals. By this time of the year almost all of the males have left the area, and many (though by no means all) of the females have left too and the weaners are simply left on the beach waiting for their mothers to return... which they won't. So, at a certain point, the weaners will simply make their way to the water and head into the open ocean to begin their lives. Nature really is incredible.

Whilst we were at the colony and Rob was telling us more about the elephant seals, Chris called out 'peregrine falcon' which dashed past at high speed though most of the group managed to get a sighting.



Some of the group experienced cholla (pronounced "choya") a most 'aggressive' type of cactus that seems to leap off the ground and attach itself to unsuspecting walking shoes and trousers and is almost impossible to get off without the use of a pair of pliers or a stiff comb. But all lived to tell the tale before we returned to the village at the top of the beach. At this point we split into two with most of the group heading off on a 'round-the-island' walk with Rob, whilst Chris took three of the group to another elephant seal colony on a different part of the island that they could simply sit, photograph and enjoy for the rest of the morning. As we arrived at this next

beach there was a group of 20-30 Brant geese on the water.



Rob's group (which Chris re-joined later in the morning) hiked from the village along a rocky path looking at and photographing a number of the succulents including the tall coastal agave though only a couple of them were in flower, San Benito tarweed and island bush mallow. All extremely beautiful plants and well worth the energy of a magnificent walk.

There were incredible views from almost every turn and there were three or four magnificent Cedro's barrel cacti in flower that we paused to look at.

We walked past the new lighthouse (which somewhat curiously looks older than the old lighthouse!) and down to the lighthouse that was decommissioned many years ago where we had our packed lunch. As we walked towards the lighthouse we could see the blows of three humpbacked whales, and as we were enjoying lunch one of them breached, then breached again, and then breached a third time.



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Lunch over, a couple of the group decided to climb the spiral staircase inside the lighthouse tower for even better views of the surrounding area. Then we were off down the hill towards the rocky coastline. As we descended, we



could see an osprey perched on its nest at the top of a large rocky outcrop, there were two further rocky outcrops that ran along the same ridgeline and on the furthest of these was an American kestrel.



We gathered together at the bottom of the hill and walked swiftly past the osprey's nest in order to cause as little disturbance as possible, and when we were far enough past the nest turned to watch the ospreys (since there were now two) circling the nest – one with a fish in its talons – and coming into land.

As we were now heading in the direction of our landing beach, we were on the lookout for Guadalupe fur seals. These are slightly smaller than California sea lions and with a rather 'shaggier' coat. And we found them... camouflaged

by the dark rocks, and sometimes sitting high up on the rocks they were there in plenty. If there were 50, then there were probably 250 or more. They were coming in and out of the water, play fighting, climbing the rocky outcrops and sunbathing. And this is a very special fur seal to see as it almost reached extinction having been mercilessly hunted in the 19th and 20th centuries.



Then, as we headed back towards the beach to be collected, we took time on another elephant seal beach as this would be the last time we would see them on this trip.



At 2pm Searcher's skiffs pulled up to the shore and took us all back to the boat – we were buzzing and were those who had opted to sit for the entire morning with the elephant seals. What a day – so far!

With everyone back on board the crew hauled the anchor and we set off in a southerly direction towards San Ignacio Lagoon... we had only been travelling for 10 minutes when the captain announced that there had been a blow seen fairly close by – a blue whale. We all abandoned what we were doing (eating a deliciously fresh snack made by Jacob in the

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galley and rehydrating with cold drinks) piled out on deck to see the blue whale. We spent 20 minutes or so with it (at a fair distance) and some of the group managed to get some great photos of the back of the whale. Excitement over and we headed back inside to finish where we had left off, but it was no good as Pacific white-sided dolphins were seen and this is about the southernmost point in their range. So, we headed back outside again and watched in awe as they rode the bow wave of Searcher. Even more impressive still was the fact that a number of

common dolphins joined them – which whilst it isn't a particularly rare sighting, it isn't common either. What a privilege.

Just as we were about to head inside a fin whale appeared briefly – but for long enough that a few photographs for identification purposes were possible. Despite the fact that we had been on the move for about two and a half hours we still had West San Benito in view, but it was finally time to head south otherwise we wouldn't be able to make our appointment with San Ignacio Lagoon tomorrow morning (and that would be a disaster!).

After a delicious dinner of beef, roasted vegetables and mashed potatoes, Rob did a recap of the day, Chris read a piece about blue whales that had been written by Simon Barnes, and then Rob did a 'feature presentation' on baleen whales. Then it was time for bed – tomorrow is another day!

Day 5:

Tuesday 19 March 2024

Arriving in San Ignacio Lagoon

Today was a tremendous day. Some of the group were up before the sun, and whilst we were still travelling south to the mouth of the lagoon, our captain (Tod) had reduced our cruising speed as he was approaching the entrance to the lagoon. The ocean was calm, there was no swell, and it was a clear and 'positive looking' sky. Before we entered the lagoon, we managed to sight half a dozen or more grey whales – it was a promising start.

Tod slowly manoeuvred Searcher through the narrow, and more specifically shallow, channel that marks the lagoon's entrance – with a team of spotters on the upper deck to look for hazards – and then, as we crossed the sand bar to come into the lagoon we had four bottlenose dolphins bow riding. We had arrived inside one of the most wonderful wildlife locations there is, and the jewel in the crown of Mexico's protected areas.



We slowly made our way to our anchorage (inside the whale-watching zone) and came to a halt at around 8am. Almost immediately the 'pangeros' (panga drivers) pulled alongside Searcher in their skiffs, we got kitted out with life jackets and we were off on our first whale-watch in San Ignacio.

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And guess what? The grey whales let us into their world. Although at this time of year the number of grey whales in the lagoon is decreasing as many of them are heading north to their feeding grounds, there are still plenty here and throughout our first 90-minute whale watch we saw mother and calf pairs playing and rolling, occasionally spy-hopping. There was no contact behaviour for either of the boats, but it was a fabulous introduction to the lagoon.

We returned to Searcher for coffee and cake and then headed out again 30 minutes later.

On this second excursion one of the boats had good close encounters with whales, but the other was much 'quieter'... However, 'quieter' is only by a matter of degree – in fact if we had had the 'quiet' whale watch before all of the other wonderful whale watching we have had, everyone would have been delighted but of course now the bar has been raised!

Back to Searcher for lunch and then we went out for our final whale watch of the day. One of the boats had fairly continuous views of the whales and one of them had very little until... on their way back to Searcher they came across a mother calf pair and slowed down to see if they would approach the boat – which they did, and the encounter was incredible. The calf came to the boat and simply wouldn't leave it alone. It was with the boat for nearly 30 minutes, and everyone was able to stroke, and play with the calf.

We all came back to the boat, and everyone was over the moon with their final whale watch of the day. Showers, pre-dinner drinks and dinner then followed, after which we headed outside onto the back deck. There was no evening presentation today, instead Tod turned the ship's generator off, and we spent 20 minutes or so looking at the night sky. Many of the stars, planets and constellations we could see are also visible from home – the Great Bear, Orion and Jupiter – but there are few places in the world these days with absolutely no light pollution at all. And we listened to whale blows in the distance. Magical.



Day 6:
San Ignacio Lagoon

Wednesday 20 March 2024

Breakfast this morning was at 6.30am and everyone was ready to jump in the pangas for their first excursion of the day. Rob took one group into the mangroves for an morning of birding and exploration while Chris took the other group out looking for whales. Each of the trips was a great success.

The mangrove group had exceptional birding and added a significant number of birds to the list including great blue heron, great egret, snowy egret, tricoloured heron, black-crowned and yellow-crowned night heron, belted kingfisher, green heron, white ibis, savannah sparrow, willet, long-billed curlew, peregrine, and the bird to end them all... mangrove warbler.

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The whale boat had some great sightings and almost had contact with a young whale, but not quite!

For the second excursion of the morning both boats were whale watching and they both headed out in the same direction (towards the breakers at the edge of the lagoon). As we got closer to the breakers we picked up a mother and calf pair and the pangeros worked together to keep the whales in view, and the whales appeared to be enjoying their playful morning of non-contact interaction and plenty of spy-hopping.



When we returned to Searcher for lunch (a delicious tomato bisque with cheese and ham sandwiches) the pangeros had brought various of their t-shirts and other items to sell.

By 1pm were kitted out again and off looking at mother and calf pairs of grey whales in the lagoon, sometimes singing to the whales when we saw them, sometimes just taking photographs and sometimes just watching in awe as these almost prehistoric looking mammals cruised past our boats.

Back on Searcher, there was an afternoon snack of a light pasta with goat's cheese – delicious!

The final activity of the day saw the groups split again, with some of the group going to do a beach walk with Rob, and the other enjoying a final whale watch with Chris. Both had wonderful afternoons and once back onboard Searcher there was a tremendous buzz about the previous couple of days at San Ignacio Lagoon.

We were onboard for a very short period before the crew hauled the anchor and we set sail out of the lagoon. The sun was dipping down, and two or three of us went out to the front deck to look at the waves crashing over the sand bar entrance to the lagoon. There were grey whales blowing throughout the channel as we passed. And that was it... we had left the lagoon for the trip and said goodbye to the grey whales. It was time to head further south and see what other adventures awaited us.



After dinner, Rob did an excellent presentation on toothed whales and told stories about his time with whales over the course of the past few decades. Then, it was time for bed.

Day 7:
Heading south

Thursday 21 March 2024

Today was a mega day. Breakfast was at 7am and by 8am we were already looking at blue whales. Judging by the number of blows we could see; they were all around the boat. With a blow that it is almost 12 metres high and virtually straight up into the sky they are difficult to miss. It was a virtually cloudless sky, and the sea was calm. We had cruised south from San Ignacio overnight and were now slowly making our way past Isla Magdalena that sits at the entrance to Magdalena Bay. The sea is deep here (at around 100 metres) and this is a place that the blue whales seem to congregate at this time of year – and today was no exception!

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Although one of the blue whales appeared to be traveling at high speed, most were close to the surface moving from one place to the next and then diving in order to feed. It was compelling viewing and we stayed in the area until gone midday as there was so much to see and enjoy.

The time finally came to depart the area and head south, but as we did so we had a sighting of a couple of humpbacks which was great, shortly followed by a pair of Bryde's whales. The sighting of the Bryde's was a fleeting one, but it still counts!

Pushing on south again we came across another pair of humpbacks – heading north – it was a mother calf pair. Captain Tod manoeuvred the boat to give us fabulous views and we watched as the calf continually came up for a breath (which was almost always at the top of a wave), and then dived down again, but we

could clearly see that the mother was cruising along at exactly the same speed as the calf, but a few metres below the calf in the water. After we had been watching them for a while (they weren't at all concerned about us travelling with them), we realised that in fact there was a third humpback – an 'escort' whale – that would have been a male that was hoping to mate with the female. And even though the mother and calf pair were only 25-30 metres away from Searcher, the escort humpback was swimming between the boat and the mother and calf. They were all swimming so close to the surface that we could see their incredibly long pectoral fins shining brightly under the water. It was an almost impossible scene to describe, but for many of the group it was quite simply a spiritual experience looking down from the boat as the male humpback was almost bow riding Searcher and the mother and calf were swimming along beside them. We finally decided that we needed to return south again after 90 minutes of sheer joy. It was simply spectacular.



There was only time for a very quick drink before Captain Tod called to say that another two blue whales had been seen in the distance, so everyone dashed outside once again and sure enough there was a blue whale swimming across our bow at about 50 metres.

By now the sun was beginning to go down, but Baja's whales still had one more trick up their sleeve for us. Tod had seen a humpback breaching repeatedly in the distance and suggested that we get



outside to have a look as we got closer to it. And guess what? It continued to breach repeatedly, as we got

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closer to where it was, we must have watched it breach 15 or 20 times before it had finally had enough. What a way to end the day's whale watching.

A delicious dinner was followed by Rob's evening presentation and then it was time for bed – exhausted after seeing some much incredible wildlife activity during the day!



Day 8:
Gorda Bank

Friday 22 March 2024



What an incredible day - there is a recurring theme here!

We passed Land's End (at the tip of the Baja Peninsula) at 7.42am, the sun was shining, the air was still, the sea almost greasy, it was warm, and we were in the tropics. After a quick breakfast most of the group was out on deck looking for (and seeing) humpback blows, though they tended to be quite a way away from the boat. It didn't matter too much because we were confident that Captain Tod was going to be able to steer us to some good humpback whale activity. And crucially, finding a single humpback wasn't what we were after, we wanted a small group. And we weren't disappointed.



At 11.10am we saw a humpback breaching relatively close to our boat and Tod manoeuvred the boat closer, and we watched what could only be described as a 'breaching fiesta'. Over the course of the next hour 'our' humpback breached no less than 43 times and tail-slapped 14 times it was utterly spectacular. But this one humpback wasn't the only one that was breaching there were others too, and there were also fin-slapping humpbacks and groups of two and three humpbacks cruising together.



Today was due to have been 'Humpback Day', and it came up trumps.

After some hours of magnificent humpback viewing, we finally had to move away and head off up the coast towards Punta Arena where we anchored up. Once we anchored up Tod and Team Searcher put wetsuits and snorkelling gear out on the back deck for us all to try on and then practice in the water with, in advance of tomorrow's activity. The water was a balmy 72 degrees and everyone did brilliantly – and enjoyed the opportunity to get off Searcher and into the water.

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Back on deck we rinsed ourselves off, got changed and jumped aboard the skiffs for a beach 'amble'. Some chose to walk along the beach to the lighthouse, others just wanted to sit on the beach and watch the magnificent Baja scenery. At 6.15pm we gathered on the beach and Searcher's skiffs collected us and we headed back to the 'mothership' after a very 'different' day.

A number of the group chose to take a beer or a glass of wine and sit on the back deck as the sun went down toasting the whales and the wonderful day. And few elected to have their dinner on deck too. We all went inside for Rob's round-up of the day, preview for tomorrow and final presentation of the trip.



Day 9:

Saturday 23 March 2024

It was an early start today – breakfast at 5.45am – as we were heading out for a snorkel with whale sharks in La Paz Bay and we had to be ready for the pangas when they came to collect us. At 7am sharp two pangas appeared, and we split between the two and headed off.



The first port of call was at the edge of the whale shark sanctuary to register the boat and register how many of us were going into the zone. Once that was done, we slowly motored to where the whale sharks were most likely to be seen and then Marcos (our whale shark guide) gave us a briefing about the experience - what to expect, how to act around the whale shark and the likely timings of the activity. The snorkellers split into a group of five and a group of four, and three of our group just wanted to be observers and not get in the water.

It wasn't long before we saw the first dark shadow of a whale shark in the water and, all kitted out in our wetsuits, fins, mask and snorkel, we first waited for Marcos to enter the water, and then waited for the boat captain to give us instruction to jump in. It is a fairly fast (and initially chaotic) as everyone gets in the water as quickly as they can and then swims over to where the whale shark is. For our first jump four of us got in the water but only a couple of people had good views. For the second jump everyone managed to get good views as it swam gently and apparently effortlessly, but surprisingly quickly. It was over all too quickly, but then it was time for the second group to jump in and see it. Their first jump was quite short as they got used to the experience, and they were back on the boat quite quickly, but their second jump was longer, and they all had great views too.



There were third, fourth and fifth jumps for those that wanted a repeat experience and everyone in the group had a wonderful whale shark experience – even those who were initially quite nervous about getting in.

Unfortunately, the morning's activity ended all too quickly and we had to return to Searcher but not before we passed another whale shark cruising on the surface. It was a wonderful and memorable experience.

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Then, back on-board Searcher, we changed out of our wetsuits and had a hot drink and some freshly made cinnamon buns as the crew hauled anchor and we set sail northbound.

It wasn't long before we caught sight of a distant whale blow and shortly after seeing it we realised it was a blue. We watched it on the surface and recorded the time of its first dive to see how long it was going to be down - 8-minutes. The next dive was the same, and the following one a little longer. But of course, every time it came up it was a long way from where we had last seen it, and invariably quite a long way from the boat too. However, we were with it for a couple of hours as we were gradually making our way past Espiritu Santo Island on our way to Los Islotes where the sea lions are.



It was a seriously warm day, and the sun was beating down on us but there were still wonderful things to see in the Sea of Cortez. Almost as soon as Captain Tod said that we were heading for Los Islotes we saw common dolphins in the distance and, as soon as they saw (or more likely heard) Searcher they made a beeline for us. Not 100 or 200 of them, but more like 300 or 400 in view at any one time which is likely to only be 10% of the population - so it is most likely that we had anywhere between 3,000 and 4,000 dolphins with us. Tod did a spectacular job of keeping them with us by circling the boat which the dolphins seemed to love. They

were riding the bow wave, playing in the wake, flying out of the water, tail-slapping and seemed to want to play all afternoon, but we had other ideas.

Our next mission was to explore Los Islotes and we dropped anchor at 4pm. The Searcher crew unloaded two of their skiffs and we boarded and then cruised around the islands looking at the blue-footed and brown boobies, turkey vultures, yellow-footed gulls, brown pelicans, Brandt's cormorants, sally lightfoot crabs and of course California sea lions. Kenny and Ryan were our skiff drivers and they did a sterling job of ensuring that everyone got the photographs that they wanted - the light was beautiful and the wildlife very obliging!



After our hour in the skiffs we were back on Searcher and about half of our group then put their wetsuits on and got back

into the skiffs to then get in the water and swim amongst the California sea lions. We were dropped off at

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the eastern end of the island and made our way west – swimming through a magnificent aquarium of parrot fish, needle fish, puffer fish and a wonderful array of others, including, of course, sea lions.

At 6pm we returned to the skiffs and headed back to Searcher for a hot shower. The anchor lifted shortly after we were all back onboard and we then headed round the eastern side of Isla Partida to El Portico where we anchored again – this time for the night. The wind was blowing strongly but we were still able to sit out on the back deck and have our margaritas and back-deck barbeque which was a wonderful way to end a truly fabulous day in Baja California.



Day 10:

Sunday 24 March 2024



At our anchorage after dinner, it became even windier than it had been when we were eating, and we were dragging our anchor so the Captain decided that it would be better to haul anchor and head north to our excursion location for tomorrow morning.

We were woken up at 5.45am in order to get up for the perfect sunrise which (if the stars aligned) would turn the sandstone cliff that we were anchored near turn a magnificent orange colour. The stars aligned and it was the most beautiful sunrise of the trip.

After a quick breakfast of freshly made fruit pancakes, bacon, and eggs, we then jumped into the skiffs and headed to shore on Isla San Jose for a walk. The island is largely made of sandstone, and as a result, there are numerous fossils embedded into the rock from around 5.5 million years ago. There are many fossil shells and even fossil whale bones and a turtle carapace. We gathered at the landing point at Punta Colorado and Rob gave us a quick briefing and explained that he was going to walk slowly up the arroyo (canyon) and anyone was welcome to join him, or if they preferred, they were welcome to disappear on their own to explore. We had a couple of ours at our disposal and everyone had a wonderful morning. We looked at fossilised coral, Rob pointed out the elephant tree and talked desert adaptation of plants and that in a desert environment the plants tend to be spiny rather than leafy.

We managed to see a nice array of birds too including red-tailed hawk, turkey vulture, verdin, house finch, rock wren, Costa's hummingbird and others. We were also lucky enough to see a tarantula.

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By 9.15am it was time to head back to the shoreline to transfer back to Searcher as a couple of the group were going snorkelling. We hauled anchor at around 10am and began our long journey south.

It wasn't long before we caught sight of another massive herd of common dolphins who (as ever) came charging at high speed towards our boat and rode the bow wave and played in the wake wave for some time before disappearing off. A lunch of king prawns and scallops followed shortly after.

The afternoon was a relaxed one, and there was little cetacean activity as we headed south, but most of the group were enjoying being outside on the back deck looking out for whales and birds and enjoying the fabulous Baja California scenery.

Before dinner We had a group photo on the back deck of the boat and then Tod gave us a briefing in respect of tomorrow's disembarkation. After dinner we went around the dining area and everyone said what their favourite moment of the trip was. Everything we have seen on the trip seemed to come up... from seeing blue whales to kissing grey whales in San Ignacio Lagoon, to the wonderful crew on Searcher to the camaraderie that we all felt onboard. There was an underlying message from everyone which was it had been a really wonderful holiday.

Day 11:

Disembarkation day

Monday 25 March 2024

Early this morning Searcher arrived at the marina in Cabo San Lucas (approximately 5.00am). Josh and Jacob had put a simple breakfast of fruit and bagels out for us to help ourselves to whilst the crew attended to refuelling and other boat-related matters.

Once done, we hauled everyone's bags up from their cabins and out to the back deck, loaded the waiting minibuses and (for those of us travelling home) headed off to the airport.

It had been a truly memorable voyage with some absolutely spectacular wildlife sightings.

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