

## The Small Cruise Ship Collection

www.small-cruise-ships.com

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info@small-cruise-ships.com

## FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TO BAJA: SAILING THE PACIFIC COAST

Enter a time machine: see the SoCal coast as it is and as it was while making time-warping discoveries. Depart Los Angeles's bustling port for the nearby Channel Islands to witness intact wildness, complete with thriving endemic species, mere nautical miles from a sprawling metropolis. Sail south, going behind the scenes at a world-class vineyard and dining at a private lunch at a boutique vineyard in the world-renowned Valle de Guadalupe. Meet the residents of Isla Natividad, an incredibly successful co-op within the Vizcaino Biosphere, and learn the inspiring story of their sustainable fishing practices. And throughout, keep an eye to the horizon for migrating whales.



### ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Los Angeles / Embark NG Venture

Arrive in Los Angeles, where you'll embark NG Venture. (D)

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### DAY 2: Channel Islands National Park

Not far from the city lights, these islands are a world away; home to incredibly diverse and endemic flora and fauna. Spend the day kayaking, hiking one of the many trails, or simply relaxing ashore. Join our naturalists for a more strenuous hike out to the base of the Torrey Pines, considered one of the world's rarest pines, and one of only two naturally occurring groves in the world. (B,L,D)

### DAY 3: Ensenada and the Valle de Guadalupe

Vineyards and culinary marvels await as we explore one of the world's emerging wine regions, the Valle de Guadalupe. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4: San Quintin Exploration

Join our naturalists to explore the marshlands surrounding Bahía San Quintín, spotting dozens of birds, including several threatened species. The bay is located along the Pacific Flyway migration route and sees more than 25,000 birds pass through in the winter. (B,L,D)

### DAY 5-7: El Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve / Islas San Benito / Isla Natividad / At Sea

Tour the world's largest salt works in Guerrero Negro and learn about the communities' efforts to balance booming industry with fragile environments. Explore El Vizcaino Biosphere reserve and its plentiful wildlife, sailing to Islas San Benito, home to thousands of breeding elephant seals, and on to Isla Natividad to learn of the community's exemplary protection of the fragile ecosystems of the Reserve. We'll be at sea the following day searching for a wide variety of marine life, including the largest animal on Earth, the blue whale, listening to naturalist talks, and learning photography tips and tricks. (B,L,D)

### DAY 8: Bahía Magdalena

Isla Magdalena and the bay of the same name are irresistible treats for the nature lover. Come to know this island while hiking the ever-shifting, wind-sculpted dunes on our cross-island transit to Sand Dollar Beach. Watch for coyote tracks in the soft dunes and spot migratory shorebirds. Many— including western sandpipers, whimbrels, willets, Wilson's and black-bellied plovers and marbled godwits—are concluding their southbound journeys here. Observe astounding fauna, like the endemic and sideways-growing creeping devil, a columnar cactus thick with spines packed together to protect against herbivores and the relentless sun. This evening, as we exit the bay, be on the lookout for beaked dolphins and, with luck, a humpback whale. (B,L,D)

### DAY 9: Los Cabos and Gorda Banks

Cruise past Friars Rocks and visit the historic town center of San José del Cabo before cruising Gorda Banks seamount or La Fortuna, renowned gathering places for whales, dolphins and other marine life. (B,L,D)

### DAY 10-11: Cabo Pulmo / Los Islotes

Snorkel the pristine reefs of Cabo Pulmo National Park and chat with locals about their advocacy to protect this unique place. With luck, swim with sea lions before relaxing ashore. (B,L,D)

### DAY 12: La Paz / Disembark / San Jose del Cabo

Disembark in La Paz and transfer to Los Cabos airport for flights home. (B)

#### Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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## YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURE

**YOUR SHIP:** National Geographic Venture

**VESSEL TYPE:**

**LENGTH:**

**PASSENGER CAPACITY:**

**BUILT/REFURBISHED:**

Launched 2018 Designed with over 50 years of expedition heritage, National Geographic Venture is able to explore the same remote locations as National Geographic have sought out for decades while setting a new standard in comfort and style. She will follow National Geographic Quest in featuring step-out balconies (available in 22 of the 50 spacious cabins), plus 6 sets of connecting cabins for families and groups; a Sun Deck bar, and a designated mudroom for expedition gear. Comfortably accommodating 100 guests, Venture has a shallow draft depth, allowing us to navigate the same inner reaches and provide the same intimate experiences of the charismatic regions we explore. Her twin expedition craft landing platforms allow you to get on and off the ship quickly to take advantage of wildlife sightings and to ensure we maximize our time off the ship exploring. Designed with decades of expedition experience in the region, the purpose-built vessel also features open decks, generous windows, and specialty tools for exploration--the ideal platform for sailing into the fast-moving channels and shallow coves of Alaska and the Pacific Northwest and for exploring the tropical waterways of Central America. Remotely Operated Vehicle Capable of reaching 1,000 feet, far beyond the range of

any Scuba diver, the ROV allows you to literally view parts of the undersea that are as unexplored as the moon. Chances are you, like many of our guests, will be struck by how surprisingly colorful undersea life is in these unlikely places. And this glimpse may fundamentally change how you view the ocean. Kayaks National Geographic Venture is equipped with 24 two-person kayaks--a fleet large enough to ensure everyone who wants to can paddle at every opportunity. Consequently, prior kayaking experience isn't necessary--many of our guests have their first kayaking experience in extraordinary locations. Our custom-designed floating platform lets us deploy kayaks from the ship, or any location we want--including far from shore. Kayakers are usually free to explore where they want within boundaries set by the undersea specialist and officer of the watch. Underwater camera Our undersea specialist will dive often during your expedition, even in Alaska, with cold-water gear, to shoot high-definition, Cousteau-like footage of the deep. Colorful nudibranchs, swimming, plant-like crinoids, and mysterious fish with antifreeze blood that thrive in the frigid sea will give you an entirely new appreciation of the marine environment. Video microscope Naturalists will use the video microscope to help explain all elements of the environment, including tiny organisms that are the building block of the marine ecosystem. Spellbinding live views of krill at 80x magnification fills the high-definition screens in the lounge with vivid detail, and fills every onlooker with a sense of wonder at the importance of otherwise unobservable creatures. Hydrophone This underwater microphone is deployed to listen to the vocalizations of marine mammals. Real time transmissions

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of their eerie, haunting sounds can be broadcast through the ship or recorded for later playback. Few experiences in nature are as captivating as watching humpback whales feed close to the ship as their vocalizations play through the ship's PA system. Electronic charts An electronic chart showing the ship's location, course, and speed is almost always on display in the lounge. Open bridge You'll find our captains are engaged, knowledgeable members of your expedition who are eager to share their passion with you. Venture's open bridge features comfortable spaces to sit, enjoy the view, drink your morning coffee, or simply chat with the officers. Snorkeling gear & wetsuits On warm weather itineraries where there will be snorkeling, you'll select a mask, snorkel, fins, and wetsuit that remain yours for the duration of the expedition. There's no need to pack and tote your own gear, although guests who prefer to are welcome to bring



their own.

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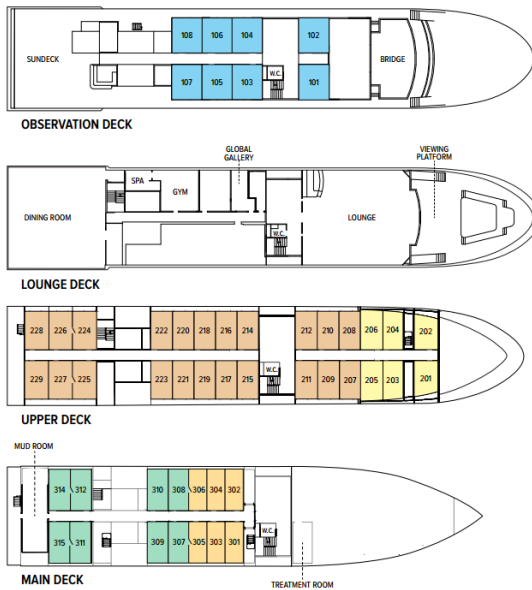
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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Category 1



Category 1 Solo



Category 2



Category 2 Solo



Category 3

Category 4



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## PRICING

### 02-Dec-2024 to 13-Dec-2024

Category 4	£7874 GBP pp
Category 3	£7078 GBP pp
Category 2	£6344 GBP pp
Category 2 Solo	£9577 GBP pp
Category 5 Suite	£8761 GBP pp
Category 1 Solo	£8246 GBP pp
Category 1	£5472 GBP pp

### 27-Nov-2025 to 08-Dec-2025

Category 2	£7982 GBP pp
Category 3	£8909 GBP pp
Category 5 Suite	£11024 GBP pp
Category 4	£9914 GBP pp
Category 1	£6880 GBP pp