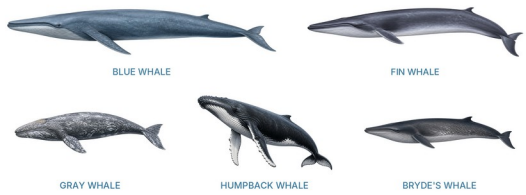
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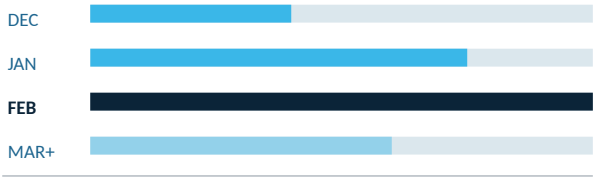
BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR · PACIFIC AND SEA OF CORTEZ (MEXICO)

Baja California Sur, Mexico

Gray, blue, fin, Bryde's and humpback whales · December – April



SIGHTING PROBABILITY



BEST MONTH
February

SEASON
Dec – Apr

§ 01 INTRODUCTION

Baja California Sur brings together, in a single region, two of the best whale-watching settings in the world: the Pacific lagoons where gray whales are born, and the Sea of Cortez, with one of the largest concentrations of blue whales on the planet.

In the San Ignacio and Ojo de Liebre lagoons, gray whales come to give birth and raise their calves between December and April, with a unique behaviour: they approach the pangas (small boats) of their own accord. In the Sea of Cortez (Loreto, La Paz), blue whales gather in February–March, alongside fin whales and Bryde's whales, which can be seen all year.

§ 02 ETHICS

Whale-watching ethics

San Ignacio and Ojo de Liebre are among the only lagoons in the world where gray whales approach boats voluntarily — they are never chased and contact is never forced. Both lie within the El Vizcaíno Biosphere Reserve, and an official standard (NOM-131-SEMARNAT-2010) limits the number of permits and of boats on the water at once; in the Sea of Cortez, choose operators holding a CONANP permit for blue whale watching.

§ 03 IN THE FIELD

Practical tips

01
Book ahead in high season (February–March): both the lagoons and Loreto have places capped by regulation.

02
In San Ignacio and Ojo de Liebre, let the whale come to you — never touch it first or force contact.

03
Combine the Pacific lagoons (gray whales) with the Sea of Cortez (blue, fin and Bryde's whales) if your trip allows for more than one base.

04
Bring warm layers for trips in open pangas, even when it is sunny.

05
A 100-400mm zoom for the Sea of Cortez; in the lagoons the whales often come so close that you won't need a zoom.

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