

Mexico Sardine Run 2027

Magdalena Bay 7-day Liveaboard



Cost Twin Share: \$US 3,890 + Airfares

Travel Dates ex Australia 2nd -11th December

Voyage Dates 3rd - 9th December



The Cast: Prey: Millions of Sardines, Mackerel, Anchovies.

Predators: Striped Marlin, Dolphins, Sea Lions, Mahi Mahi, Brydie's, Humpbacks, and rare Sei Whales, Orcas, Mako Sharks, Shearwaters, Pelicans, Boobies, Frigate Birds. **Observers: YOU & your ship mates**

“M.V.Galant Lady”



The Ship: Imagine a 36-metre yacht accommodating a small group of 12-divers / snorkellers in 6 large cabins with their own ensuites. The beautiful “Galant Lady” combines the luxury of a yacht with the thoughtful design of a dive deck built for divers.

“Galant Lady” features a main lounge / dining room with a wrap-around view, sky lounge, sun deck and even a crow’s nest. Add to this a large water level dive platform

1700 H.P. engines & hydraulic stabilizers, the Lady comfortably sails her voyages of discovery



This is arguably our planet's most incredible, exciting snorkelling and free-diving

Imagine predators of all species from giant Brydie's whales to speedy blue marlin to sharks and sea birds swarming around tightly packed schools of sardine with you right in the midst of it.

This destination on the Pacific side of Baja is becoming legendary.

It's always been done using shore-based pangas and a long run, 3-hours plus, out to the bait balls every morning.

Now there is a better option by our Liveaboard anchoring at the entrance to Magdalena Bay and from there using local highly experienced panga captains, ex-fishermen who know the area like the back of their hand, with a much shorter, think 3-hours less, run time from the ship to all of the action

Each day the ship's engines start before sunrise, weighing anchor, and head out with our pangas in tow, to be with the bait balls as early as possible.



The liveaboard advantage. By the time shore-based pangas arrive, we may have already been in the water for up to 4-hours, with the action all to ourselves.

Back onboard, we can then enjoy a nice shower and brunch in air-conditioned comfort, whilst the shore-based pangas have their turn with the bait balls.

Then, we will be back in the water for as long and late as we want, knowing that the local pangas must head back to shore by mid-afternoon or earlier.

Short day or long day in the water? It's totally up to you, as your liveaboard will be on station with our pangas close to the action all day long.

This is an experience not to be missed. Note that scuba is not allowed around the bait balls. Snorkelling and free diving only.

December 2027:

Thursday 2nd Arrive at San Jose del Cabo Airport (SJD)

Transfer to Cabo San Lucas Hotel for one-night's accommodation, incl. breakfast.

Friday 3rd Meet at SeeCreatures Cabo San Lucas at 16:30 pm at the latest.

From SeeCreatures we have transfers arranged to board the ship at 17:30

Meet the Crew and your shipmates, stow your luggage, and watch the sunset

Ship sets sail shortly after, enjoy dinner and great night's rest onboard

Saturday 4th thru Wednesday 8th Five days of Sardine Run Action

Thursday 9th arrive Cabo San Lucas early a.m. breakfast onboard , disembark 08:30

transfer is organised for you to San Jose del Cabo Airport (SJD) for your flight home

There is the opportunity to spend more time in Cabo or other parts of Mexico, plenty of time to think about this; ask for help or advice



THE VOYAGE:

Day 1 - Board and Get Underway Meet at SeeCreatures Cabo for 16:30. Board and set sail at 17:30, the voyage is up the beautiful coast of Baja California. Our destination, the sheltered waters & outer Islands of Magdalena Bay, here the annual sardine run occurs

Day 2 - Welcome to Magdalena Bay! Mid-morning arrival in Magdalena Bay. Today is our warmup and tune-up day at the south end of Margarita Island. While this adventure is primarily about snorkelling and free diving with the schooling sardine and bait balls, you will have the opportunity to snorkel with sea lions, which are in their hundreds here

Days 3-6 - Enjoy Peak Season of Mag Bay Let's find some bait balls! These next days are about snorkelling and freediving. We never know quite what Mother Ocean has in store for us, but on the vast majority of these voyages, we can enjoy usually calm seas with a low swell and loads of critters.

Striped Marlin, Sealions, Bryde's Sei & Humpback Whales, if we are lucky, Orcas are the stars of the show. But there's lots more. Think 25,000 *Grey Whales; *you can't swim with

This is a cooperative eco-tourism program working with local pangas and captains who pivoted from fishing to tourism. Nobody knows these waters and where to find the animals better than these guys. Quest's Ron witnessed their skills in February '25

You should also see Turtles, more Sea lions, lots of Silky & maybe Mako sharks. Imagine hundreds of Dolphins and Sealions chasing the Sardines, with flocks of Pelicans and other seabirds plummeting into the sea all around you. Exciting? Well yes, and so much more

Day 6: Departing for Cabo mid- afternoon on what is almost always a pleasant downhill ride with gentle motion. Party on the top deck this evening, Margaritas anyone?

Day 7: Breakfast onboard and then disembark in Cabo by 08:30



THE FINE PRINT:

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- ĩ Number of on this trip 12, including your tour leader Gabby or Ron.
- ĩ If you wish your tour leader/ tour coordinator Gabby (Gabby@questtourscom.au) will organize your flights, transfers, accommodation and anything else you may need.
- ĩ Best flights thru Los Angeles are with Delta
- ĩ Best flights to avoid transiting USA are Air Canada through Vancouver
- ĩ If you wish to organize your own flights, please let us know
- ĩ We can accommodate experienced snorkellers only on this tour
- ĩ **Inclusions:**
 - ĩ 1 night's accommodation Twin Share or King in Cabo San Lucas (B)
 - ĩ 6 nights onboard M.V Galant Lady
 - ĩ Dive guides, Tour Leader, Fruit, tea, coffee, towels on Pangas
 - ĩ Unlimited snorkelling off the Pangas
 - ĩ Return Airport transfers included, if your flight times connect as follows
 - ĩ Flights must arrive **SJD** 02/12/2027 circa 14:30 to 15:30
 - ĩ Flights must depart **SJD** 09/12/2027 after 12:00 (noon)
 - ĩ Twin share Deluxe staterooms with Ensuites \$US 3,890 per person
 - ĩ Upgrade to "Master" stateroom; only king share \$US 4,490 per person
 - ĩ All gourmet meals whilst onboard "Galant Lady"

Optional Extensions: Extra nights Cabo San Lucas, other parts of Mexico

Budget for:

- ĩ **Meals** – in transit through airports, and at Cabo San Lucas (where only breakfasts are included)
- ĩ **Mexico Park Fees \$US 35 Paid onboard**, as of September 2025
- ĩ **Alcohol and Soft Drinks**
- ĩ **DAN** Diving Insurance if you plan SCUBA diving pre or post liveaboard
- ĩ **Travel insurance** (*compulsory*)
- ĩ **Extra Tours** in Mexico
- ĩ **Gratuities**

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December 2027 Dates:

Depart Australia: 2nd arrive San Jose del Cabo, Mexico SJD

Depart Mexico: 9th San Jose del Cabo SJD - Arrive Australia: 11th

Costs twin share per person, all plus Airfares:

Deluxe Stateroom: \$US 3,890

“Master” Stateroom: \$US 4,490

Payment schedule

With Booking Non-refundable Deposit: \$AU 2,000

Progress Payment ONE due 1st May '26: \$AU 1,000

Progress Payment TWO due 1st May '27: \$AU 1,500

Balance Payment due: (at \$AU 1:00 = \$US 0.65) 1st August '26: Deluxe \$AU 1,485

Balance Payment due: (at \$AU 1:00 = \$US 0.65) 1st August '26: Master: \$AU 2,408



Map of Magdalena Bay showing Puerto San Carlos, this is where the land-based Panga boats leave from, for their 3-hour, each way voyages, each day.

The “Galant Lady” moors at night, in the calm waters, just inside the Mag Bay entrance. Then early each morning sails out of Mag Bay into the Pacific Ocean where all the Sardine Run action takes place

Need to know

- Water temperature in Magdalena Bay in December **20.5°C** (2024) to **24°C** (2023)
- Water Temp **°C** in mid-December. over a decade in Mag Bay
- 2016 **21°**, '17 **23°**, '18 **22°**, '19 **22.5°**, '20 **21.5°**, '21 **23°**, '22 **22.5°**, '23 **24°**, '2024 **20.5°**
- Air temperature **15°C**, mornings, to **27°C** during the day, all days are usually sunny
- Snorkelling with hundreds of Sealions just inside the Mag Bay entrance
- Snorkelling with Whales is not allowed inside Magdalena Bay
- The “Gallant Lady” moors during the night, in the normally calm waters. inside the relatively narrow entrance to Mag Bay; and each morning ventures out through the Mag Bay entrance to where the Sardine Run and all the action occurs
- This is open ocean and sea conditions may be calm to choppy, depending on the wind
- It is essential that you are comfortable snorkelling in open ocean waters
- Practicing snorkelling in open ocean waters in the weeks before, is strongly suggested
- Suitable wetsuit: a good 3mm or 5mm full suit, added hood & socks are recommended
- Mask & snorkel: A good mask with a black skirt, definitely not clear, is essential
- Fins: Full foot fins are more efficient , split or long fins are best
- The Pangas are open boats, with a sun hood over only the rear section
- A windproof jacket and cap / hat are essential, as is reef safe sunscreen

