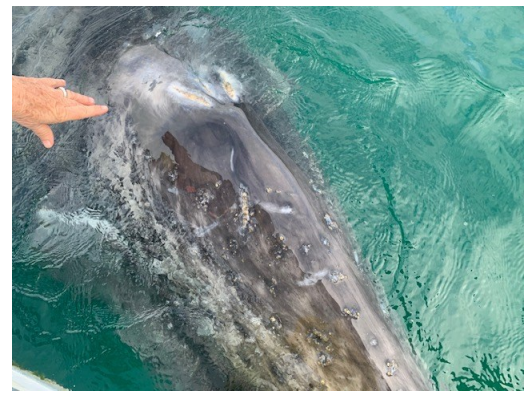


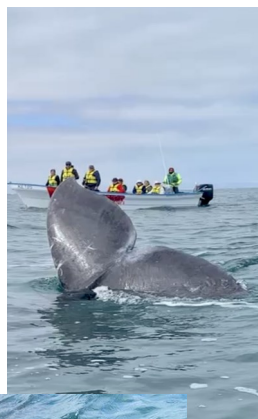
BAJA.....A whale of a trip March 2024

OMG what an experience! It exceeded all my expectations. This trip was in Guerrero Negro, Mexico and let me first say, that there is NO EASY way to get there. The good news is that it might keep mass tourism down and save the whales. The bad news is that it takes 11-12 hours– or more to drive and get there.



But of course....it's worth it. These are the grey whales. They are one of nature's largest mammals on earth, second in size only to the Blue whale. They come to this area each year to mate and give birth. The babies are then taught their first lessons of how to swim and surface for breathing. And THAT is where the fun begins for us!!! Newborns of all species are curious. These little ones– actually rather big even if still babies– pop up regularly and check out their new world. The Baja lagoon usually has thousands of mamma whales. This year there were only 100 but enough for us to be surrounded and get a whale of a show!

We started out in small boats that only seat around 12 people. We motored out about fifteen minutes and then stopped and waited. We didn't have to wait long. Whales are curious. The mamma's immediately "spied" to check out the situation and then encourage their babies start to interact with us. Some literally carry the babies on their backs towards the boat. We are told the whales are attracted to lullaby-like singing and higher pitched noises– I don't think it's true. But of course– and just in case- we all started singing and hoping to draw their attention to our boat.



We were the only entertainment around. No other boats could be seen and these whales surrounded our boat. The mamma whales stayed close and watchful as the babies came closer. We had no need for zooming in for pictures. They were at our boat and were playful. They rolled around and showed off and came close enough for a touch and rub on their back. FUN. FUN. A great experience for all.



Now it wouldn't be fair not to go back and mention the l.o.n.g ride to get to this area. Not on the best roads either.

But....it did allow us to see a lot of the countryside along the way. I found it quite interesting and with a beauty all to itself. I was surprised at the variety of terrain. There were red, white and even black mountains. Rolling green hills and fertile land. And then dry and desert landscapes with wonderful variety of cactus and rock formations I learned a lot about this part of Mexico. It has vast resources and is booming with new opportunity.. A

great place to explore and visit again. Wonderful trip.

