



Baja is one of my very favorite places - often called "the Last Frontier", most of it is a hidden gem, little populated and unknown by most - yet with some of the most spectacular scenery on earth. If you do make the effort to travel to a lagoon midway down the Pacific side of the peninsula, located in a desolate place far from "civilization", you'll be rewarded with what most people refer to as an event that changed their lives - the only place where Grey Whales seek human interaction in the wild.



There is one main road on the Baja peninsula, the Transpeninsular Highway, two lanes with no shoulder and no room for error, running the 1,063 miles between Tijuana and Cabo San Lucas. Over the last 20 years, I've traveled this road many, many times and have grown to love it. Last week, with a small group of adventurers, we drove the section between the beautiful, old Spanish town of Loreto on the Sea of Cortez, to San Ignacio Lagoon on the Pacific Ocean to spend time with some of my friends, the Grey Whales - and what an adventure it was!

No one knows why these whales started seeking human touch here, in a place that just 100 years ago ran red with their blood. This is one of the lagoons where they were hunted for their oil, because they returned every year to mate and bear their young - the longest migration of any mammal on earth. Since then, those whales who first initiated interaction with us 35 years ago have continued to teach their offspring to approach the pangas (18 ft. boats) and ask to be petted and scratched. And, that's what we do!

Adult grey whales are up to 49 ft. in length and 30-40 tons. Their tails are so powerful that they could easily slice our boat in two with one little flick. However, in all the years people have been coming to the lagoon, there has never been one adverse incident - the whales are gentle and thoughtful in all of their interactions with us. I say thoughtful because their brains are larger and more complex than ours, and it is clear when they swim up to us and look us straight in the eye, that it is a deliberate action. From the moment you see them "spy-hopping" to check out our boats from a distance in the vast lagoon, until one of the babies decides to spin the boat around like a bathtub toy, every minute with them is pure joy!



There are other lagoons in Baja where the Grey Whales come every year, and I've been to them all. But, there is nothing like what you will experience in San Ignacio Lagoon. I think it belongs on everyone's "Bucket List"!

I hope you enjoy a couple of the photos taken last week by some of my group!

~Deborah