



The Great Canadian Travel Group Inc.

greatcanadiantravel.com
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Treasures of Mexico's Sea of Cortez

Born in an era marked by volcanic eruptions and ongoing earthquakes more than 5 million years ago, the Sea of Cortez beckons with natural wonders, amazing wildlife, spectacular islands, and much more to explore. Come experience an unparalleled ecosystem, featuring breathtaking nature infused with the incredible Mexican cultural essence.



YOUR
ADVENTURE
AWAITS

8 days/7 nights

ITINERARY

Day 1: Transfer from Phoenix, AZ - Puerto Penasco, Rocky Point, Mexico

Discover some of the best kept secret destinations of Mexico – embarking in the beautiful seaside town of Puerto Peñasco or “Rocky Point” and sailing along to Topolobampo, Mazatlan, Cabo San Lucas, La Paz, Bahia Loreto, Santa Rosalia, and Guaymas. Unforgettable moments await you!

Situated just 60 miles from the Arizona border, the spectacular seaside town of Penasco, also known as Rocky Point, is the ideal launch point for embarking on your Sea of Cortez soft expedition cruise.

You can pre-book the coach transfer from central Phoenix to the port or arrange your own transportation.

Day 2: At sea, Gulf of California

Voyage aboard the boutique -style Astoria that offers a truly distinctive cruise experience. With her handsome profile, traditional walk-around promenade deck and high standard of service, Astoria is a classic, beautifully upgraded or designed ocean-going cruise ship offering very well appointed and comfortable facilities and cabin accommodations. Carrying just 500 guests, she features all the benefits of cruise ship travel within an intimate and very friendly ambience.

The Sea of Cortez is a unique destination that has been described as a “living aquarium” by Jacques Cousteau and has served as an inspiration to many including John Steinbeck. With its many islands designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, it is home to an impressive array of marine mammals, more than 900 species of fish and a lavish array of birds. Diverse land creatures provide even more fantastic wildlife encounters.

Days 3: Topolobampo, Mexico

Bottlenose dolphins greet you as you enter the deep port here at the gateway to the Sierra Madre mountain range in the state of Sinaloa. The area's history and culture beckon with nearby attractions including the town of Los Mochis known for its 35-acre Sinaloa Park & Botanical Garden and El Fuerte, said to be the home of “El Zorro.” Topolobampo Bay and Punta de Copas sandbar set just across the way features splendid beaches, such as Maviri Beach.

Optional tours to add-on: The Best of Topolobampo (full day) / Land of Zorro & Native Culture (full day) / Los Mochis & Mexican Hacienda (half-day) / Topolobampo Bay Sunset Cruise (evening)

Day 4: At sea

Explore the natural splendors and wildlife of the Baja California Peninsula and Mexico's mainland coast that border the sparkling waters of the Sea of Cortez. The Gulf of California is one of the most ecologically diverse places on the planet. From exotic islands to world-renowned vacation destinations, discover truly breathtaking nature infused with authentically rich Mexican culture and amazing experiences to cherish always.



Day 5: Mazatlan, Mexico

The southernmost point of the Baja California Peninsula beckons with plenty of opportunities for relaxation, rejuvenation, and lively fun alongside the glitterati in this renowned resort town. Cabo San Lucas is famous for its beaches, lively nightlife, plentiful restaurants and bars, as well as opportunities for exploring the great outdoors, from world-class diving to zip-lining to its extraordinary rock formations of 'Lands End' and 'El Arco' that jut out from the ocean.

Optional tours to add-on: Mazatlan Highlights (half day) / Stone Island Beach Getaway (half day) / Land & Sea (half day) / ATV Adventure (half day) / Villages of the Sierra Madre (full day) / Hike to the Lighthouse (half day)

Day 6: Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

The southernmost point of the Baja California Peninsula beckons with plenty of opportunities for relaxation, rejuvenation, and lively fun alongside the glitterati in this renowned resort town. Cabo San Lucas is famous for its beaches, lively nightlife, plentiful restaurants and bars, as well as opportunities for exploring the great outdoors, from world-class diving to zip-lining to its extraordinary rock formations of 'Lands End' and 'El Arco' that jut out from the ocean.

Optional tours to add-on: Coastal Highlights (full day) / Coastal Cruise & Whale Watching (2 hours) / Santa Maria Cove Sail & Snorkel (half day) / Cabo by Land & Sea (half day) / Chileno Bay Sail & Snorkel (half day) / ATV Off-road Adventure Self-driver (3 hours) / Sea of Cortez Zodiac Trip (half day) / Semi-sub Explorer (1 1/4 hours)

Day 7: La Paz, Mexico

Dotted with cacti that seamlessly lead you to the sea, this captivating destination literally meaning 'peace' invites you to discover her treasures. Here in the capital of Baja California Sur, warm ocean waters brimming with spectacular sea life, dozens of seaside restaurants, an oceanfront promenade and golden sand beaches, and a remarkable history dating back to when Hernan Cortez visited back in 1535 welcome travelers.

Optional tours to add-on: Highlights of La Paz (half day) / Kayak at Paradise Cove (2 hours) / Balandra Beach & Gaviota Island (half day) / SUP at Paradise Cove (2 hours)

Day 8: Loreto, Mexico

Situated on the Gulf of California, this fascinating coastal gem is believed to be the first human settlement on Mexico's Baja Peninsula, dating back nearly twelve thousand years. The city of Loreto is set against the Sierra de la Giganta mountain range, featuring trails that lead to caves adorned with prehistoric paintings. Cobblestone streets lead travelers to colonial buildings, including the peninsula's first mission dating back to 1697.

Optional tours to add-on: Traditional Clambake & Mexican Fiesta (3 hours) / San Javier Mission (half day) / Snorkelling at Coronado Island (half day) / Walking in the Baja Canyon (half day) / Whale Watching (full day) / Glass Bottom Boat at Nopolo Bay (half day)

Day 9: Santa Rosalia, Mexico

Known for its Dutch wood framed houses and black sand beaches, this Baja town has a character all its own. Santa Rosalia was originally a copper mining center founded by the French in 1855, and while its architecture is rooted in Europe and features pastel clapboard houses, its cultural heritage is pure Mexican. Unforgettable memories await here as winter is the perfect time to for whale watching in this area.

Optional tours to add-on: Santa Rosalia Historic City Tour (half day) / Mulege Town & Beach Escape (full day) / San Ignacio Lagoon Whale Watching (full day) / Tres Virgenes Volcano Nature Walk (full day)

Day 10: Guaymas, Mexico

This busy Sonora port showcases a great variety of ecosystems. Here a near endless range of watersports and recreational activities are available for all to enjoy. The resort town of San Carlos is an extension of the Guaymas port boasting a bounty of beautiful beaches, shops, and restaurants. Guaymas is also acclaimed for its food scene, featuring local favorites from giant shrimp and the freshest seafood to famed Sonora beef.

Optional tours to add-on: Guaymas Highlights & Pearl Farm (half day) / Coastal Nature Cruise (half day) / Window Rock Kayaking (half day)

Day 11: At sea

Retrace the route back up the Gulf of California, relaxing on board and enjoying the coastal views.

Day 12: Puerto Penasco, Rocky Point

Arrive back to Puerto Penasco. Take the coach transfer back to Phoenix, AZ, if booked, or make your own arrangements for onward travel.

Note: In the event of adverse weather/sea conditions that prevent the ship from calling at one of the scheduled ports,



alternative arrangements will be made where possible.

Details

2020 Departures:

January: 09, 20, 31

2020 Pricing:

From US\$1,599, Category 1 – twin to US\$6,249, Owner's Suite – twin

Coach transfer: Phoenix, AZ – Penasco, Mexico return, US\$118 per person

Prices are "starting from" rates, shown in US\$, per person based on two people sharing a twin cabin or one person in a single cabin. Once these special Saver Fares are sold out prices will increase to the regular tariff, which we will advise you of at the time of your inquiry.

Trip Code:

007790 - W20

INCLUDED

- Eleven nights of accommodation on board the ship
- Full board meals during cruise
- Afternoon teas and late night snack
- Captain's Cocktail Party
- Big-show entertainment, cabarets and classical interludes
- Child-free cruise ship, minimum age 16 (if accompanied by an adult)
- Special programming for solo travellers,
- Daytime activities and leisure facilities
- Guest speakers and arts & crafts sessions
- Portage of luggage from port to cabin and return
- Port taxes
- Full complement of qualified Ship Crew and Educational Staff

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights to/from Phoenix
- Transfers from Phoenix to the port, return (option to add-on to cruise program)
- Optional tours
- Meals while on tours
- Gratuities for staff
- Visa and passport fees, vaccinations as required
- Travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature

TOUR NOTES

Disclaimer: We do our utmost to ensure that information posted on our website is correct at the time of publication, however trip details are subject to change without notice by the suppliers and operators involved. We update the information as soon as possible when changes are advised to us, however, we cannot assume responsibility for such changes made by the suppliers and operators.

ROUTE MAP



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