



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR SCRIPPS' WHALE TRIPS

CHOOSING A DATE

Gray whales are present in the lagoons starting in mid-January through April. We offer 3.5 and 5day trips. Regardless of the time of year, each trip is a unique experience. The following information is provided to give you an idea of whale behavior and what might be of most interest to you.

Whale behaviors at the lagoons change as the season unfolds. Beginning in mid-January, whales arrive to give birth to their young outside the viewing areas. At this time, whales can be observed in the spectacular behavior of courting and mating. In February the lagoons reach the highest number of whales, up to 2,000 at one time! Spouts are visible at all times, mating still occurs and mothers with newborn calves begin to enter the observation areas. In March, as bulls and newly-pregnant whales depart, mother and baby pairs dominate the lagoons. Towards the end of the season, calves gain size and weight and mothers become less protective, offering a greater opportunity for close encounters. Whales remain in the lagoons up to mid April.

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

Contact Andiamo Tour Mexico:

Toll Free Number: 1 800 661 1325 or (619) 632 4571

E-mail: info@andiamo-travel.com

You will receive 2 packages:

#1 contains an itinerary and payment/enrollment form.

#2 is mailed after receipt of payment and contains general information pertinent to the trip.

CANCELLATION TERMS

A 25% fee will be held for cancellations made one month prior to the departure date.

A 50% fee will be held for cancellations made two weeks prior to the departure date.

No refunds for cancellations on the day of the trip.

Should Andiamo cancel the trip, a total refund is provided without any other liability.

All cancellations must be in writing.

MEETING PLACE

"SAN Park" located at 3302 Pacific Highway San Diego, CA 92102. Cars may be parked for \$10 per night.

TRANSPORTATION

Private charter bus with restroom, air conditioning, CD/DVD player.

LEADERS

Expert local guides and a Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography naturalist provide information on gray whales, native plants, history and culture of Mexico throughout the trip.

WHALE WATCHING BOATS

8 to 12 passengers "pangas" (small motorized fishing boats) with local guides to take guests into lagoons for 3-hour whale excursion.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Endure extended driving periods on charter bus.
- Be able to sit in pangas for three-hour lagoon excursion with the possibility of encountering swells and waves.
- For San Ignacio lagoon, endure up to 2 hours van ride on dirt roads each way and must board pangas from beach (wading into shallow water).
- Walks are usually short and on relatively flat terrain, however often on uneven ground. There are options for short but steep hikes. If traveler can't join, he/she may spend time around the flat area while the activity is in process.

WEATHER

February: 60°F to 70°F in the daytime dropping to as low as 40°F at night.

March: 70°F to low 80°F in the daytime. 60°F to low 70°F at night.

Possibility of rain in the northern region. Rain is very scarce in the lagoons.

HOTELS

Hotels are simple Mexican style accommodations with two double beds per room. Rooms are basic, clean and comfortable. Do not expect full amenities, such as hairdryer, Internet, and coffeemaker.

INSURANCE

It is the traveler's responsibility to carry proper insurance, protecting against any unforeseen situations or circumstance.

PASSPORT

A valid passport is mandatory. Non-US citizens must verify additional requirements with the Mexican Consulate and U.S. consulates (to re-enter the U.S.).

SUGGESTIONS FOR WHAT TO PACK/BRING:

- **Passport**
- Personal medication, in original cases/bottles
- If you are prone to motion sickness, over-the-counter medicine for bus ride and panga trips (motion sickness medicine, wristbands, or ginger pills)
- Prepare for both warm and cool weather. Dress in layers. A windbreaker or rain jacket is nice to have for the pangas and in case it rains.
- Casual attire - comfortable shorts, pants, long sleeve and short sleeve T-shirts.
- Comfortable walking shoes - sandals and tennis shoes.
- Warm pajamas (some hotels have limited heat)
- Sun hat, sunglasses, waterproof sunscreen
- Camera and binoculars
- Spending money (dollars accepted in small denominations)
- Books, magazines, etc
- Sense of adventure!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Upon returning to the U.S. you will have to personally carry all your belongings across the border.
- Cell phones do not work in Mexico unless a special coverage is arranged through your carrier.
- Internet is not readily available
- Mexico is a friendly, third world country. Travel to any foreign country requires good common sense, awareness of your surroundings, and appreciation of the local people and culture.