

# Mobula Rays and Orcas

## Snorkel the Sea of Cortez

May 22 to 29, 2027



Mobula Ray

## SAFARI OVERVIEW

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Slip into turquoise waters as thousands of **mobula rays** glide and leap around you! Join us for an unforgettable **liveaboard** expedition through the wildlife-rich waters of the **Sea of Cortez**, timed to coincide with the **annual mobula ray migration**, when these graceful “flying” rays gather in extraordinary numbers. Guided by an expert crew and supported by **aerial tracking**, you’ll spend your days **snorkeling** and **freediving** among some of the ocean’s most captivating creatures, from vast schools of mobulas and playful **dolphins** to **humpback** and **blue whales**, **whale sharks**, **cow nose rays**, and even the occasional **orca pod**. Enjoy multiple chances to get in the water from the skiffs, with time to unwind on deck between outings. After sunset, experience the magic of **night snorkeling**, where swarms of feeding mobulas swirl gracefully beneath the lights. Whether you’re a passionate snorkeler, freediver, or **underwater photographer**, this voyage promises an unparalleled immersion into the wild beauty and vibrant marine life of the Sea of Cortez, a place Jacques Cousteau once called “*the world’s aquarium*”.

### WHY CHOOSE THIS EXPEDITION?

- **Front-row Access to Natural Wonder:** Spend six days in the water with the exhilarating, acrobatic mobula ray during the annual migration.
- **Aerial-supported Wildlife Tracking:** Maximize encounters with mobulas, orcas, other dolphin pods, and possibly other various species of whales.

- **Comfortable, Immersive Exploration:** Spend the week aboard the luxury vessel, *Gallant Lady*, with gourmet cuisine, cozy cabins, and inviting sundecks.
- **Expert-led Adventure:** Learn from an experienced crew and leader, passionate about marine life and photography.

**LEADER:** Scott Davis, assisted by ship staff and crew.

**DAYS:** 8, including estimated travel time. 7 nights aboard the *Gallant Lady*.

**GROUP SIZE:** 11.

**SHIP:** The *Gallant Lady*. See the *Ship* section on page 3.

**COST:** \$5,550 to \$6,050 per person, double occupancy, depending on cabin type, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 4.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
May 22	<b>Arrival and Embarkation Day.</b> Arrive in Cabo, Mexico. In the early evening, journey to La Paz where you will board the ship.	On board the <i>Gallant Lady</i>	D
May 23–27	<b>Snorkel in the Sea of Cortez.</b> Spend five days in the water for maximum snorkeling time with mobula ray congregations, and, fingers crossed, orcas.		B, L, D
May 28	<b>Final Encounters at Sea.</b> Enjoy one final day in the water with the mobula rays and other wildlife, before sailing back to La Paz		B, L, D
May 29	<b>Disembarkation.</b> After breakfast disembark and begin the drive back to Cabo for your flights home.		B

## LEADER

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Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris carefully selects leaders who are experts in their field to ensure that your experience is the best it can be. One leader assisted by the ship's staff and crew will provide a range of expertise for your trip.



**Scott Davis** ~ Leader, Ecologist, Photographer

Scott is Cheesemans' Co-Owner and a professional photographer specializing in wildlife, nature, and travel. Originally trained as a wildlife and marine biologist, his research and photo assignments took him to the far corners of the globe. National Geographic, BBC, Animal Planet, and renowned magazines have used his photography. His patience for teaching and love of capturing the essence of his subjects make him one of our most popular tour leaders.

## SHIP

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### The Gallant Lady

The 12-passenger 116-ft *Gallant Lady* combines the luxury of a yacht with the thoughtful design of a dive deck. She has a steel hull and superstructure, sea stabilizers, and is International Safety Management (ISM) certified. Equipped with one 32-ft, high-speed, aluminum-hulled “Zodiac style” inflatable boat, 6 passengers can be in the water at a time. Cabins feature windows and/or portholes, air conditioning, and private bathrooms with showers, and you can stay connected via Wi-Fi Internet.



The Gallant Lady

Imaginative and fresh cuisine is proudly served.

Soups are handmade, and bread, pastries, and desserts are baked on board. Food is plentiful with ample snacks and up to four meals per day with a choice of entrees.

After a full day of exploring, soak under the stars in the hot tub or relax in the main dining and entertainment center, which features comfy couches, tables, a well-stocked bar, and select evening video showings, presentations, and slide shows.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

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### May 22 ~ Fly to Cabo, Mexico

Arrive in Cabo and transfer to the Sea Creatures Dive shop, where you can try on any snorkel gear you want to rent. Then board your bus for the drive to La Paz, where you will board the ship and enjoy a welcome dinner as you set sail.

### May 23–27 ~ In-water experiences

From March to July, the Sea of Cortez hosts one of the ocean’s most extraordinary natural events, the mobula ray migration. Thousands of these graceful rays gather to feed, mate, and leap spectacularly from the water. Over five incredible days, you’ll spend extended time in the water



Orcas

among vast congregations of mobulas during their peak season. On your first full day at sea, take advantage of a freediving lesson or explore the calm bays by kayak or stand-up paddleboard. Learning to freedive enhances your experience, allowing you to move effortlessly among the rays. For at least two days, aerial support from a spotter plane will guide the ship and skiffs to the most active areas, increasing the chances of encountering not only mobularays but possibly orcas, whale sharks, blue and fin whales, cow nose rays, and large pods of dolphins. Each evening brings another unforgettable opportunity—night snorkeling beneath the lights of the vessel, where feeding mobulas swirl in the illuminated depths, creating a breathtaking underwater ballet.

### May 28~ Final wildlife encounters and sail back to La Paz

Spend your last day snorkeling with the mobula rays and possibly other amazing marine wildlife before you sail back to La Paz for your final evening.

### May 29 ~ Disembark and fly home

Enjoy breakfast on the ship before disembarking and transferring back to Cabo Airport for your flights home

## COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

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### Costs and Cabin Options

Type	Description (see <i>Deck Plan on page 9</i> )	Cost per Person
Superior Suite	Double occupancy, with one quasi-king-sized bed or two full-sized beds, picture windows, air conditioning, dresser, and private bath. On Main Deck. (Rosario, Nautilus)	\$5,550
Superior Suite	Double occupancy, with one quasi-king-sized bed or two full-sized beds (Swell, Dofleini), two twin-sized beds (Indie), porthole windows, air conditioning, wardrobe or dresser, and private bath. On Lower Deck. (Dofleini, Swell, Indie)	\$5,550
Premium Suite	Double occupancy, with one quasi-king-sized bed or two full-sized beds, porthole windows, air conditioning, dresser, and private bath. On Lower Deck. (Emerald)	\$6,050

Costs are per person, depending on cabin type, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

If you are a single traveler, we will try to find a roommate for you, but if we cannot pair you with a roommate, we will not charge you a single supplement. If space is available, some cabins can be booked as a single by adding **90%** over the listed cabin cost.

We cannot guarantee a specific cabin number, but if changes occur, we will assign a cabin of equal or greater value.

### Payment Schedule

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	\$1,500
Final	December 13, 2026	Remaining Balance

Payments are due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit to confirm reservation of your space.

## Cancellations

Refunds are given depending on the time left before departure according to the following table. Through October 12, 2026, the cancellation fee of \$300 per person can be applied toward another trip if reserved within six months of the canceled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferable.

Dates	Forfeited Amount per Person
On or before October 12, 2026	\$300 (see terms above)
October 13 to November 12, 2026	10% of trip cost
November 13 to December 12, 2026	40% of trip cost
On or after December 13, 2026	100% of trip cost

## Included

- Carbon offsets for the duration of this trip.
- All leaders, transport, park entry fees, landing fees, and permits for all activities, unless described as optional or listed in the *Not Included* section.
- Seven nights on board the *Gallant Lady*.
- Meals from dinner on May 22 through breakfast on May 29, except meals listed in *Not Included* section.
- Group transfer on May 22 from Sea Creatures Dive shop to the ship marina in La Paz.
- Group Transfer on May 29 from the ship marina in La Paz to the Cabo Airport.
- Port fee of \$35 per participant.
- Non-alcoholic beverages while onboard the *Gallant Lady*.
- Trip Planning Materials – information about entry requirements, flights, packing, gratuities, etc.

## Not Included

- Carbon offsets for your flights to/from this trip.
- All airfare, airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Passport and visa fees.
- Transfers from the San Jose Del Cabo Airport to the Sea Creatures Dive shop on arrival.
- Extra hotel nights.
- Gratuities – tipping is always discretionary. However, we suggest budgeting about \$40 to \$50 per participant per day for 8 days for your drivers, ship crew, and staff (about \$320 to \$400 total per participant).
- Wetsuit and snorkeling equipment (mask, snorkel, and snorkel fins). Rental gear is available for an additional cost.
- Mandatory [dive insurance](#) or [emergency evacuation insurance](#) that covers you for in-water activities.
- Optional [trip cancellation insurance](#).
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Traveler Form.

## SIGN UP

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Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Traveler Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

[Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris](#)

Email: [info@cheesemans.com](mailto:info@cheesemans.com)

WhatsApp: (408) 741-5330

Phone: (800) 527-5330 or (408) 741-5330

## OTHER DETAILS

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### Climate

May air temperatures, on the Sea of Cortez, range from the mid-80s to 90s°F (26 to 32°C) during the day with island breezes, and can drop to 68 to 75°F (19 to 23°C) or lower at night, depending on wind conditions. Water temperatures average in the mid-70s°F (24°C).

### Fitness Level

Minimal fitness is required to join this trip, but your fitness and snorkeling ability enrich the experience. Getting in the water is not required, and travelers can still have a wonderful experience watching the wildlife from the ship. At minimum, you need to comfortably and safely move around the ship and embark/disembark from the skiff. To get the most out of this trip, you should be comfortable in the water, snorkeling, and getting in and out of the water via a boat ladder. Please contact us if you don't have experience snorkeling but would like to join this trip, and plan to spend time swimming at a pool or similar before your trip to make sure you are comfortable in the water. Strong swimming ability and the ability to free dive (i.e., dive underwater without SCUBA tanks) are not required, but will also enrich your experience, especially to let the mobula rays swim around you. Please contact us if you have any health concerns that may make this trip challenging.

### Motion Sickness

Don't let a fear of motion sickness keep you away! Even those who have experienced seasickness reported that the incredible wildlife and overall experience were well worth the temporary discomfort. If you are susceptible to seasickness or are concerned that you might be, please come prepared! The key to avoiding seasickness is to act before you experience nausea. Do your own research and consult your doctor before taking any medications. A good night of sleep, eating well, limiting alcohol, and using your favorite seasickness remedy is sufficient for most travelers. Find more information on our [Coping with Seasickness](#) webpage (this information is applicable to any form of motion sickness) and contact us if you have any questions.

### Flights

Detailed logistical information is included in the Trip Planning Materials we will send you.

**Please wait to book your flights** until you receive confirmation from your Coordinator that the minimum number of participants has been met to operate the trip. If you choose to book flights before receiving this confirmation, we strongly recommend purchasing flight cancellation insurance to protect your investment.

Flights you book

- Arrive in Cabo, Mexico (SJD) by 12:00pm on May 22.
- Depart from Cabo, Mexico (SJD) after 2:00pm on May 29.

### Terms and Conditions

Read our current [Terms and Conditions](#).

### Conservation

Our company ethos has always regarded conservation as inseparable from responsible tourism. We struggle with the dilemma that traveling worldwide expends climate-changing carbon. However, we wholeheartedly believe that traveling with us will cultivate your passion for conserving our beautiful world while stimulating each destination's local economy. We encourage you to explore the various ways in which Cheesemans' operates within this context:

- **Cheesemans' Trips are Carbon Neutral.**
- **Offsetting your Travel to/from our Trip:** We ask you to pledge to offset the carbon emissions for your travel to and from our trips. You can purchase offsets with most airlines (Delta includes them automatically), use our handy [carbon calculator](#) and donate to Sustainable Travel International, or contribute to your favorite offsetting organization.
- **Local Conservation:** Check out our [Conservation](#) pages to learn how we support conservation efforts through meaningful partnerships and responsible tourism practices.

Together, we can continue exploring and cherishing this planet while working toward its long-term protection. Thank you for being part of this important journey with us.

## FAQS

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### Do I have to be SCUBA certified for this safari?

This is a snorkel-focused trip, so you do *not* need a SCUBA certification to enjoy lots of time in the water with the mobula rays. If you are certified and are curious about possible dive opportunities, please contact us.