

**CLIPPER**

*The Beauty of Small-Ship Adventure Travel*



**BAJA & SEA OF CORTEZ**

*Whale-Watching*  
EXPEDITION

Aboard the 138-Passenger Yorktown Clipper®

**WINTER 2006**



The Kuoni Travel Group



*Swim and snorkel in the rich blue waters of the Sea of Cortez.*

## JUAN MARTINEZ — Onboard Expert

Juan Martinez is a Mexican ornithologist currently involved in several conservation projects. He coordinates an international team that is working on the reintroduction of the Socorro Dove, which is extinct in the wild, to its ancestral island in the Mexican Pacific. Juan also participates in ongoing surveys on the island of Cozumel in the Mexican Caribbean aiming to detect and estimate the current population size of the Cozumel Thrasher, the most critically endangered Mexican bird. In June 2004, he led a team of biologists that produced the first confirmed sighting of the species in the last ten years. Juan also enjoys the night sky and is an experienced stargazer. He'll happily share his love of the varied birds of the Sea of Cortez, as well as the night sky, with passengers.

*While Clipper makes every effort to ensure the participation of the speaker listed, all are subject to substitution or cancellation without notice.*

## BAJA & SEA OF CORTEZ WHALE-WATCHING EXPEDITION

February 25–March 4 / March 4–11  
March 11–18 / March 18–25  
March 25–April 1, 2006

### DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

- 1 Depart the U.S.A./La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico (Embark)
- 2 La Paz/Punta Diablo
- 3 Isla Coronado/Loreto
- 4 Puerto Escondido (for Whale Watching in Bahía Magdalena)
- 5 Isla Carmen
- 6 Isla San Francisco
- 7 Los Islotes/Isla Espíritu Santo/La Paz
- 8 La Paz (Disembark)/Return to the U.S.A.

### COPPER CANYON OPTIONAL PRECRUISE EXTENSION\* • 3 HOTEL NIGHTS

*Enhance your trip with this exciting and worthwhile extension. Full details can be found at [www.clippercruise.com/extensions](http://www.clippercruise.com/extensions)*

*\* Minimum number of passengers required to operate*

*In Baja California Sur, whale watching is limited to those companies that have applied for and been given permits. The Permittees are required to comply with a set of regulations enforced by inspectors from Mexico's office of the Attorney General for the Environment ("PROFEPA").*

# BAJA & SEA OF CORTEZ

## Whale-Watching Expedition

**DAY 1 Depart the U.S.A./La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico (Embark)** Embark the *Yorktown Clipper* in La Paz on the eastern shore of the Baja Peninsula. You may explore this small, charming Mexican town at leisure before enjoying dinner on board.

The *Yorktown Clipper* departs tomorrow morning for the islands of the Sea of Cortez. During the next few days, watch for whales and other marine life with our experts who will also present interesting programs on the natural and cultural history of Mexico and the Sea of Cortez, as well as lead walks and hikes ashore to point out the area's diverse plants and wildlife.

**DAY 2 La Paz/Punta Diablo** Enjoy the early morning exploring La Paz, perhaps visiting the Misión de Nuestra Señora de La Paz, built in 1861. Depart La Paz in midmorning and sail to Punta Diablo, where you may swim, snorkel, and explore the white-sand beach.

**DAY 3 Isla Coronado/Loreto** Discovered by Francisco Ortega during a pearling expedition in 1633, Isla Coronado looks like one island, but is in fact a small volcanic island and a detached, low rocky islet. You'll have all morning to enjoy the unblemished beaches, shimmering sea, warm breezes, and an overhead sky so vivid it takes your breath away. Swim and snorkel in water so clear you can see the bottom a hundred feet below, or view the captivating rock formations created from long-ago volcanic eruptions.

*Boobies abound in the Sea of Cortez.*





Close encounters with the gray whales of Bahía Magdalena are common.

Early this afternoon, sail for Loreto, an unassuming, authentic Mexican village. The first European settlement in the Californias, Loreto was founded in 1697 by Jesuit priest and explorer Juan María Salvatierra with the establishment of La Misión de Nuestra Señora de Loreto. The town served as the Californias' secular and religious capital for 132 years.

You may explore the restored mission — the first in the Californias — with its carved stone walls, wood-beam ceiling, and primitive portraits of priests who have served here. You may also visit the Museo de las Californias, which chronicles the conquest of Baja California and contains many interesting artifacts, including a mission bell, religious art, and antique weapons.

Today's explorations will be capped with a Mexican fiesta and musical performance on board this evening.

**DAY 4 Puerto Escondido (for Whale Watching in Bahía Magdalena)** From our dock at Puerto Escondido, transfer to Bahía Magdalena on the Pacific side of the Baja Peninsula. Here, board local pangas to enjoy a day of whale watching.

Many gray whales migrate annually through this area to give birth and rear their young. These whales are famous not only for their size and number, but also for their enthusiastic encounters with humans. Most show no fear of people or boats; instead, they tend to exhibit a friendly, playful curiosity that's very rare for animals in their wild habitats. Pangas will allow you to interact with these mothers and their young; some may even invite you to touch their soft, rubbery skin. You'll find that they watch you as closely and intently as you watch them.

After your full-day encounters with the whales, return to the *Yorktown Clipper*, possibly for a late-afternoon siesta and a glorious sunset.

**DAY 5 Isla Carmen** Watch for whale species that inhabit the Sea of Cortez — pilot, blue, and sperm — as the *Yorktown Clipper* makes her way this morning to Isla Carmen,



Onboard experts le



home to an endemic subspecies of miniature barrel cactus and the true elephant tree, *Pachycormus*. The ship's landing craft take you ashore, where you may join our onboard experts for a hike into the interior. Watch for tiny Costas hummingbirds, flashing jewel tones of blue, emerald, and magenta in the sunlight. Relax on the beach, explore the shoreline tidal pools, or enjoy a refreshing swim.

#### DAY 6 **Isla San Francisco**

Another morning of cruising allows more possible sightings of whales, dolphins, and sea lions as you make your way to

Isla San Francisco. Like most of the other islands in the Sea of Cortez, Isla San Francisco is uninhabited and represents an irresistible natural laboratory. In addition to spotting birds such as yellow-footed gulls, sandpipers, and white-throated swifts that nest along holes in the cliffs, you may also see the fascinating cacti that thrive in this volcanic-rock and salt-flat environment. Snorkelers will want to keep a lookout for beautiful Cortez angelfish, which are endemic to the Sea of Cortez.



*Copper Canyon has been compared in scope and grandeur to the Grand*



*Head walks ashore; here, through giant cardon cacti.*

#### DAY 7 **Los Islotes/Isla Espiritu Santo/La Paz**

Begin the day with an excursion to Los Islotes, a group of islets just north of Isla Partida. Our ship's small size will give you a closer view of the various shipwrecks and sealion colonies scattered around the islets.

The afternoon takes you to Isla Espiritu Santo, considered by many experts to be the most pristine environment in the Sea of Cortez. Our landing craft whisk you ashore for exploration of this geologically unique island. You will have an opportunity to hike inland with our experts to view the many species of cacti, birds, and wildlife that have adapted to this dry environment; perhaps you'll see the island's famed black-tailed jackrabbits that are found nowhere else on Earth. You may also relax on the beach, or swim and snorkel in the beautiful, clear water in search of rare garden eels.

**DAY 8 La Paz (Disembark)/Return to the U.S.A.** Disembark the *Yorktown Clipper* after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your return flight home.



red in  
d Canyon.

### COPPER CANYON OPTIONAL PRECRUISE EXTENSION\* • 3 Hotel Nights

Discover the striking beauty of the Sierra Madre Mountains from Chihuahua to Los Mochis, traveling from approximately 8,000 feet to sea level. Explore the historic towns — Chihuahua, Divisadero, El fuerte, and Los Mochis — that reflect the rich colonial and Tarahumara Indian heritage. Overnight accommodations are in Mexican first-class hotels, and delicious meals are prepared locally.

**Rates:** \$1,100 per person, double occupancy;  
\$1,260, single occupancy

Enhance your trip with this exciting and worthwhile extension. Full details can be found at [www.clippercruise.com/extensions](http://www.clippercruise.com/extensions)

\* Minimum number of passengers required to operate

## Your Clipper Adventure Includes

- Seven nights aboard the *Yorktown Clipper* in fully air-conditioned, outside staterooms with lower beds, individual temperature controls, and private bathroom facilities
- All meals, starting with dinner on the day of embarkation and ending with breakfast on the day of disembarkation, served at single leisurely seatings and prepared to order by chefs trained at some of the most prestigious culinary institutes in America
- All excursions and shoreside exploration throughout the voyage, including a full day of whale watching in Bahía Magdalena aboard local *panga* boats
- Snorkeling equipment provided free of charge
- All port charges
- All transfers between airport and ship for Clipper-Air passengers traveling on scheduled dates of departure and return
- Onboard staff of experts to enhance your enjoyment of the places visited
- Captain's welcome aboard and farewell receptions and dinners
- Friendly and efficient American crew to assist and serve you
- Services of Clipper's hospitality staff, including cruise director and hotel manager
- U.S.-certified physician on board throughout the voyage

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[www.clippercruise.com](http://www.clippercruise.com)



♻️ Printed on recycled paper.

**CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** All cancellations, for any reason, must be received in writing and are subject to a \$100 per-person administrative fee, which may be applied toward a future Clipper trip within three years from date of issue. Cancellations made 89 to 60 days prior to departure are also subject to a ten percent (10%) of total trip cost cancellation fee; cancellations made within 59 days of departure or nonappearance will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. Airfares are subject to applicable airline cancellation fees, are subject to change without notice, and are not included in the trip cancellation fee above. **RESPONSIBILITY:** Clipper Cruise Line, Inc., ("Clipper")

# The 138-Passenger Yorktown Clipper®

The Yorktown Clipper was built in 1988 in Green Cove Springs, Florida, by American craftsmen. She measures 257 feet long, 43 feet wide, and has a draft of eight feet. Power is provided by two Detroit diesel propulsion engines rated approximately 900 SHP each, and maneuverability is increased by a 300 HP bowthruster.

The Yorktown Clipper is classified +A1 Passenger Vessel +AMS by the American Bureau of Shipping. She is certified for coastwise and international service by the United States Coast Guard. She carries a Passenger Ship Safety Certificate issued under the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). The vessel carries a Certificate of Sanitary Construction issued by the FDA.

For detailed information about our Yorktown Clipper, please visit us on the Web at [www.clippercruise.com/yorktown](http://www.clippercruise.com/yorktown)

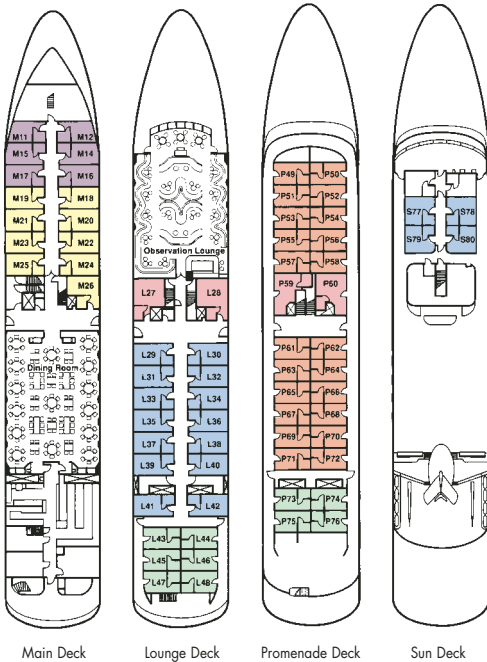


Categories 4 & 5

- ① Main Deck
- ② Lounge Deck
- ③ Promenade Deck
- ④ Sun Deck



U.S. Registry



## CRUISE RATES PER PERSON are in U.S. dollars and based on double occupancy. Airfare is not included.

Category	Deck(s)	Rate
1	Main, portholes	\$2,610
2	Lounge & Promenade, windows	\$3,220
3	Promenade, windows	\$3,480
4	Main, large window	\$3,750
5	Lounge & Sun, large window	\$4,150
6	Lounge & Promenade, large window	\$4,350

Single Occupancy (Based on Category 2) \$4,710

Third Person in Stateroom (Includes children sharing stateroom with two full-fare paying adults) \$1,425

Port charges and service fees of \$130 are included in the cruise rates above; government taxes and fees are additional and will be advised at time of booking.

**Reservations:** A deposit of \$500 per person is required to confirm reservations. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

Optional Cancel-for-Any-Reason Protection Plan and insurance coverage for baggage, accident, and trip cancellation/interruption are available.

Clipper-Air offers a comprehensive air program. Below are sample round-trip economy airfares to/from La Paz. Business/First-class upgrades and fares from other cities are provided upon request.

Chicago \$1,075      Dallas \$950  
Los Angeles \$625      New York \$1,025

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EXPERIENCE CLOSE-TO-HOME CRUISING®

— Aboard the Yachtlike Yorktown Clipper

*Discover the natural history, beautiful scenery, and diverse wildlife of the all-but-deserted islands and bays of the Sea of Cortez aboard the 138-passenger Yorktown Clipper. Escorted by our onboard naturalists and other experts, you will explore islands virtually uninhabited by humans, but home to such a variety of plants and animals that naturalists have been moved to compare this area to the legendary Galapagos Islands. Walk on secluded beaches and see wild desert landscapes dotted with cacti. Enjoy close-up encounters with the legendary gray whales of Bahía Magdalena, as well as the resident pilot, fin, sperm, and blue whales of the Sea of Cortez. Swim and snorkel in some of the clearest, bluest waters imaginable. Large cruise ships are not permitted to visit the islands in these waters, 47 of which have been declared wildlife refuges by the Mexican government.*



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