



ADVENTURE ASSOCIATES

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SEA OF CORTEZ, BAJA, MEXICO: SEA KAYAK EXPEDITION

The Sea of Cortez offers miles of spectacular coastline and crystal waters - it's a sea kayaker's dream! This is one of the richest environments in the world with over 30% of all marine mammal species represented. Sea kayaking is the ideal way of viewing this dramatic landscape! Each day we paddle 3-4 hours (5 to 10 miles), exploring the remote coastline that most travellers to Baja never see. Our trips are self-sufficient. We load equipment, food and water into our kayaks and cruise along the coast in confidence. Plenty of time for snorkeling, swimming, hiking, kicking back, eating tortillas and soaking up the Baja sun! No sea kayak experience is needed.

Trip Dates: Oct - May

Land Cost: \$995 - \$1595 (BASED ON TOUR)

General Note: On our tours we spend a day or two exploring the islands - then, to be safe from the possibility of high winds changing our route, we cross back to the coast. Like a floating backpack we load the boats with our gear and travel 3 or 4 hours each day. While paddling south of the islands in a self-sufficient pod we'll find even more of the peninsula's hidden treasures. [Optional extension: Motor boat Whale Watch day trips available mid-January through mid-March.](#)

DAY 1

Arrival. For personal service we greet you at the airport and arrange transfers to your waterfront hotel in Loreto. Then, join a group orientation meeting with your trip leader. We'll answer questions and discuss the next day's plan to help you get ready for a great adventure. This evening there's time to explore the quaint cobbled streets of Loreto, and we'll offer some local restaurant recommendations. Ground transfers, route and town maps, a Bienvenidos! Drink and hotel are included. Meals on your own.

DAY 2

A breakfast buffet is served at the hotel patio or at the beach put-in, and, hosted by your guides. Town luggage or items not needed for the tour will be stored for you. Then, we're off to a great adventure. Enjoy views of the five marine park islands and dramatic volcanic ridges on your way to the heart of Baja's paddling paradise. On the beach, guides will teach the basics of kayak touring, safety and ecological camping techniques. Today's destination: Isla Danzante or Isla del Carmen for our first night's camp. These islands offer pristine camping at an easy paddling distance. After setting up camp, there is plenty of time for exploring by foot, fin or paddle, depending on the afternoon weather. Snorkel gear is included and a complete natural history library is packed in the hatches. We provide quality tents, but most folks prefer to sleep out. Rain and bugs are few; starry skies and the sound of the sea will lull you to sleep at night. (BLD)

DAY 3

Calm water, a colorful sunrise, and a great breakfast start the day. Early morning is the best time to kayak. Gliding along in a silent craft, dolphins, whales and pelicans provide a natural history show. This week, you'll soon feel at home in turquoise coves surrounded by majestic red-rock cliffs. Relax on warm sand beaches, hike winding canyons and discover swirling schools of rainbow wrasse. For a time, allow yourself live a more simple life, in a beautiful place. (BLD)



DAY 4

Learn about Baja's weather, geography, and natural history from our experienced, local guides. To avoid disturbing wildlife we'll paddle at a safe distance past craggy isolates (small bird-nesting islands). See if you can spot the brilliant blue of a booby's feet on its cliff-side perch, or the distinctive red eyes and beak of an Oyster Catcher as it hunts along a reef. Ospreys winter in Mexico; they have the right idea. (BLD)

DAY 5

A popular highlight on the kayak route south of Loreto is a visit to a small island hot spring. At low tide, wade across a sand spit and soak in the warm mineral water. It's a

short walk from camp and halfway along the trail to a friend's ranch where we arrange for a meal at the family's outdoor restaurant. Traditional beans, rice, fish or stew is complimented by homemade tortillas-hot off the comal! (BLD)

Continued...

DAY 6

The final paddle day takes us down the coast to the remote fishing village of Agua Verde. A towering spire of rock marks the entrance to beautiful "green water bay". Our last camp is close enough to the village to wander and watch as local fishermen bring in their catch or to visit the rural school. Yachts anchor in the bay protected from seasonal winds. Reefs and points provide a final bit of snorkeling. Mañana we head back to town. (BLD)

DAY 7

Paddle into the sunrise as pelicans skim the water's surface. Last chance to slip away for an hour and catch a kaleidoscope of dawn colors on the cliffs. Mid-morning we load up gear and climb aboard our van at the take-out. In a few hours, we'll be back in Loreto for a taco lunch and hot showers at the hotel, while in the afternoon there's still time to do some last minute shopping before our farewell dinner at a favorite restaurant. Dinner is hosted locally and the hotel night is included. (BLD)

DAY 8

Breakfast is on your own this morning. For early departures the hotel restaurant can accommodate your schedule, or head downtown to Café Olé for a leisurely brunch at the locals' favorite. Your guides will pre-arrange an airport taxi for departures today or help you with transportation info. (Meals on your own)

Note: As everywhere in the outdoors, weather conditions might alter a trip itinerary. With itineraries of varying lengths, as in the chart below, fewer or additional days include whale watch excursions, layover days while kayaking, or other.

Land Costs	Deposit	In-country Flights	Trip Dates	Group Size	Difficulty	Activities
See chart below	\$400 (\$200 non-refundable)	none	Oct - May See chart below	Max. 10	No Experience Necessary	Kayaking, Camping, Cultural Exchange

Sea Kayaking Dates & Prices

Year	Date	Length	Price	Special Description
2011	October 9 - 15	7 days	\$ 995	Full Moon
	October 23 to November 3	12 days	\$1,295	Loreto to La Paz -Avid Paddler
	October 23 - 29	7 days	\$1,295	Best Snorkeling
	November 6 - 16	11 days	\$1,295	Mulege -Loreto Avid Paddler & Full Moon
	November 19 - 27	9 days	\$1,095	Thanksgiving
	December 4 - 12	9 days	\$1,095	Full Moon & Traditions
	December 17 - 25	9 days	\$1,095	Christmas
	December 24 to January 1	9 days	\$1,095	Holidays

2012	January 1 - 10	10 days	\$1,195	Island Highlight
	January 22 - 29	8 days	\$1,195	
	February 5 - 12	8 days	\$1,195	Full Moon
	February 12 - 19	8 days	\$1,295	with Whale Watch Day Trip
	February 19 - 26	8 days	\$1,295	with Whale Watch Day Trip
	February 26 to March 4	8 days	\$1,195	
	March 4 - 11	8 days	\$1,195	All Women – Full Moon
	March 11 - 18	8 days	\$1,195	
	March 18 - 25	8 days	\$1,195	
	March 25 to April 1	8 days	\$1,195	
	April 1 - 8	8 days	\$1,195	Easter Week
	April 8 - 19	12 days	\$1,495	Mulege to Loreto Avid Paddler
	April 15 - 22	8 days	\$1,195	
	April 22 – May 5	14 days	\$1,595	Loreto to La Paz - Avid Paddler
	May 6 - 12	7 days	\$995	Perfect Spring Paddling !

OTHER TOUR OPTIONS: Sea Kayak & Mountain Bike Combos

2 nights Loreto hotel, 2 nights beach camp, 2 nights B&B mountain village
 Add a whale watch trip for \$100. An 8-day itinerary includes another day of beach camping unless group preference is for more biking. Please call for more details.

Year	Date	Length	Price	Special Description
2011	TBA			
2012	TBA			

Saddling South Dates and Prices

Contact **ADVENTURE ASSOCIATES** for specific itineraries (206) 932-8352 or
 Email: info@adventureassociates.net

TOURS and RIDES - Ride the cowboy trails and experience life as it was on the California frontier. Multi day pack trips are designed to visit historic missions, traditional ranches and the waterholes used for centuries by local travelers. A campfire by a palm-lined pool ends a fantastic day on the trail.

Bungalow Base Camp Trips - Enjoy quiet village life in the tiny mountain town of mission San Javier. Have the luxury of a bed in a flower covered bungalow, with daily rides on historic trails and visits to picturesque ranches.

TOUR COST INCLUDES - We make your trip easy and convenient. Our full service tours include airport greeting and ground transfer, hotel nights according to tour, guides, riding and pack stock, all day-trip or expedition gear, great food on tour and an end of trip fiesta dinner.

Saddling South Dates and Prices (continued)

Year	Date	Length	Price	Special Description
2011	October 16 - 22	7 days	\$895	Sierra Giganta Ridge Ride
	November 7 - 15	9 days	\$1295	Santa Marta - Serpent Cave and more
	November 18 to December 4	17 days	\$1,699	Fiesta de San Javier
	December 15 - 22	8 days	\$ 995	Sierra Giganta Ridge Ride - FULL
2012	January 8 – 15	8 days	\$995	Sierra Giganta Ridge Ride
	January 20 - 30	11 days	\$1,295	Lorenzo's Long-Ride / ask i
	February 26 to March 3	7 days	\$895	Ranch Garden Base Camp
	March 3 - 13	11 Days	\$3325	Sierra Club - Kayak, Whales & Rock Art
	March 17 - 25	9 days	\$1,295	Painted Caves of Baja -FULL
	April 12 - 22	11 days	\$1,495	Coast and Mountain Ride
		8 days	\$1,195	
		12 days	\$1,495	Mulege to Loreto Avid Paddler
	April 15 - 22	8 days	\$1,195	
	April 22 – May 5	14 days	\$1,595	Loreto to La Paz - Avid Paddler
	May 6 - 12	7 days	\$995	Perfect Spring Paddling !

Contact us for private tours in the summer months.

NOTE: Contact Adventure Associates of WA for Sea Kayak & Mountain Bike Combos and Saddling South Tours

A FEW IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT YOUR KAYAK TRIP...Read carefully

Included in your Trip Fee: All meals as indicated on itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner), kayaking equipment, tents, 2 nights hotel accommodation pre- and post- trip, and transportation from Day 1.

Not Included in your Trip Fee: International airfare; sleeping bag; meals not specified on itinerary; alcoholic beverages; airport departure tax; outdoor clothing and gear (complete information will be sent to you upon registration); tips to guides, driver and bellhops; personal travel/medical insurance.

How Strenuous is this trip: These tours are designed to give novices and advanced paddlers a great vacation. Basic skills are taught on the first day, and help is offered throughout the tour for those who wish to improve technique. Our kayaks are doubles - very stable and sea-worthy! Paddling time between campsites is about 2-4 hours. If you are an active person who likes to camp and learn about new environments, this is the ideal trip for you. We send you a set of exercises to help get you prepared, which, along with your adventurous attitude could make this a 'trip of a lifetime'!

How is the food: The food is excellent and healthy - Guides cook the meals and often add their favorite family recipes to our menus, making a very special addition to your cultural experience of Baja. If you have special dietary needs please inform us. We will work with you to satisfy those dietary needs or work out a means for you to supplement your diet. We recommend bringing some favorite "energy" type snacks, one per day. Tastes and individual needs/eating habits vary. It's nice to have something to grab without asking and to have different treats to offer around.

About our Guides: We are proud to claim that 80% of the Baja staff are Mexican nationals with special insights and local knowledge to share. All of the trip leaders are trained in kayaking and packing technique and safety, as well as wilderness first aid skills. Most of the guides are also graduates of the National Outdoor Leadership School's Baja Sea Kayak program, local courses in Natural History of the area, as well as the in-house training program.

Transportation/Flight Arrangements: Please consult with Adventure Associates as you prepare your flight arrangements for the best time of arrival/departure.

Trip & Travel Insurance: We strongly recommend that travel insurance be purchased immediately following your registration. The insurance protects you and your money from late cancellations, accidents or illness in remote areas, emergency evacuation, and loss of baggage, airline flight changes and other unexpected delays. The particular program we recommend (Access America) will cover "preexisting" conditions if you purchase full coverage within fourteen (14) days following your registration. Information available upon request.

How to Register: Do not download an application from the website. Please contact us.

Payment Schedule

\$400 deposit due at the time of registration (\$200 is non-refundable)

Full payment due two months prior to trip departure

* We accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express for your **deposit**. Any payments made after the deposit by credit card will incur a 4% administrative fee.

Cancellation & Refund Policy

If you must cancel prior to departure, the following fee will be assessed based upon our receipt of your written cancellation request:

Days Prior to Departure (trip destination)

90 or more \$200

60 to 89 \$300

45 to 59 50% fee

1 to 44 100% fee

No partial refunds are possible for any unused portion of your trip.

Penalties on airline tickets are subject to the individual air carrier's rules and regulations. Departure is defined as the date of the first flight, or the trip departure date as indicated on our Trip Schedule, whichever comes first.

Once a trip has been confirmed, medical circumstances will not be considered as exceptions to our cancellation policy. However, if you have purchased a comprehensive Travel Insurance plan that covers cancellation, you may be able to retrieve some of the funds.



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