



ADVENTURE ASSOCIATES

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SEA OF CORTEZ, BAJA, MEXICO: SEA KAYAK EXPEDITION FOR WOMEN

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: February 28 - March 8, 2015 (Whale Watching & Full Moon)

Price: \$1395

Trip length: 9 days All Women

8 Day Sample Tour Below

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.

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.) *Continued...*

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 A layover day is scheduled to take advantage of our favorite camp. Enjoy a slow morning, or do an early birding walk; ride canyon trails on sturdy mules or horses, or hike over desert garden hills to a hidden oasis. If weather permits, grab your paddle and cruise across the channel to snorkel on a nearby island. Or, simply relax on the beach.

DAY 7

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 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.

Land Costs	Deposit	In-country Flights	2015 Trip Dates	Group Size	Difficulty	Activities
\$1395	\$400 (\$200 non-refundable)	None	Feb 28-Mar 8	10	No Experience Necessary	Kayaking, Camping, Cultural Exchange

A FEW IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT YOUR 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...that, 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. On our women's trips, our guides are all female.

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: Please contact us for a full registration packet.

Payment Schedule: Please contact us regarding payments.

Note: Due to the fluctuating state of the American dollar, the trip price is based upon the dollar value at the time of printing, and is subject to change.

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

Full payment due two months prior to trip departure

Cancellation & Refund Policy

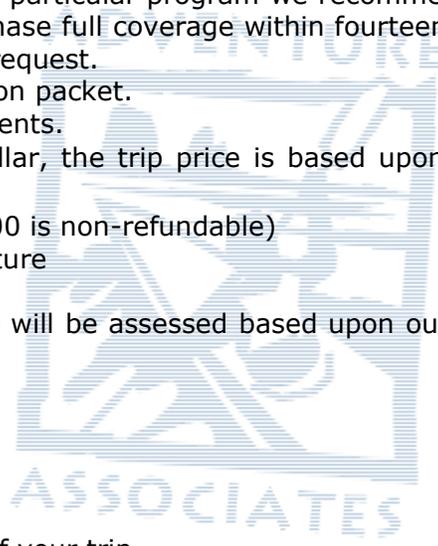
If you must cancel prior to departure, the following fee will be assessed based upon our receipt of your written cancellation request:

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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