



BAJA EXPERIENCED KAYAKER TRIP

Sea of Cortez Single Kayak Touring

MEXICO ~ Sea Kayaking ~ 8 DAYS

TRIP DETAILS

8 days
Intermediate
sea kayaking in single
kayaks, hiking,
snorkeling,
whale-watching

5 nights camping
2 nights hotel

2010 DATES

February 21—28
March 7—14
March 14—21
March 21—28
March 28—April 4

LAND COST

\$1245 US / \$1375 CDN
Youth Discount 15%
From: Loreto
Group Size: 10
Single Sup.: US \$90 /
CDN \$100

Youth Discount 15%
(17 and under)

National Park User
Fee US\$25

Small Group Supplement.
(Groups of 6 and under)
\$150 US / CDN

These trips are geared for the experienced sea kayaker who wants a no-fuss paddling trip in Baja. Operated entirely in sporty single kayaks these trips combine the smooth logistics and great food of our other tours with the independence and goals of a private trip. Led by seasoned guides who are also avid paddlers this route will show you some of the hidden gems of the Sea of Cortez including Islas Carmen and Danzante. The guides are happy to coach and assist with paddling skills development over the course of the trip. While somewhat more physically challenging this is still a vacation with the familiar Baja rhythm of early starts, morning paddles, afternoon siestas, snorkeling and hiking.

The clear waters between Isla Carmen, its neighboring islands and the Baja mainland – the “Blue Diamond” are favored by Blue and Fin Whales and these massive animals can be observed frequently along the course of this trip. Lying out in your sleeping bag under a sky ablaze with stars and listening to the sound of the sonorous breathing of great whales from just offshore is an unforgettable experience. Small coves teem with exotically colored fish and this trip affords many opportunities for snorkeling in what is considered one of the finest fishing areas in Baja. Bird life abounds on the islands: ospreys nest on high headlands, brown pelicans congregate on partially submerged reefs, and blue footed boobies roost on white seaside cliffs.

The Baja peninsula is one of North America’s popular paddling destinations. An agreeable climate, one of the most ecologically intact archipelagos in the world, and a wide range of routes make it an ideal winter escape.

ITINERARY

Day 1 — After arriving in Loreto guests will be met by an English speaking Tofino Expeditions representative and taken by airport vans to the Desert Inn Hotel. Your trip guides will meet the group at 8:30 PM in the lobby for an orientation and discussion of trip details. Supper this evening is on your own and our representatives will be happy to offer suggestions as well as directions to Loreto’s many good restaurants. The is happy to store your extra luggage in a secure room while you are out kayaking.

Day 2 — Meet in outside the main entrance to the hotel at 7:00 AM and board the van for the drive to the launch point. After loading the kayaks we’ll set off for the paddle to our first campsite. After arriving at camp we’ll get back on the water and run through assisted and self-rescues and re-entries. Competent rescue skills and

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a buddy system are the keys to the higher level of autonomy on this trip compared to a typical guided kayak expedition. There should be time for snorkeling before we enjoy our first beach “Happy Hour” with margaritas and botanas (snacks) followed by a gourmet Tofino Expeditions’ dinner as the sun sets over the peaks of the Sierra Giganta.

Days 3 – 6 — We kayak a route through the islands of Parque Nacional Bahia Loreto in classic Baja style. Spectacular sunrises and morning paddles through clear blue waters past beautiful terrain are followed leisurely afternoons of hiking, snorkeling and exploring. Delightfully cool evenings are spent enjoying fine food and good company.

DAY 7 — Crossing from Isla Danzante we reach our take out at Puerto Escondido. We’ll be met there by vans for transport back to Loreto. We’ll celebrate our return with a classic lunch of fish tacos at El Rey de Tacos (the king of tacos). Tofino Expeditions’ guides, after extensive research, have decided that “El Rey” has the best tacos in Baja. After checking back into the hotel there is time to shower and explore this rustic old mission town. This evening there is an optional no-host group dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY 8 — After check out from the hotel it’s time to catch a taxi to the airport in time (2 hours before flight time) for the return flight north.

NOTE ON ITINERARY

Itineraries are intended as guidelines only and are subject to change at the discretion of your guides due to weather and other general logistical conditions at the time of the trip. Tofino Expeditions endeavors to produce trips of consistently high quality and safety without compromise.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

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Scheduling: All of our trips begin in Loreto, Baja California Sur, Mexico - airport code (LTO). The first scheduled day of all our itineraries is the arrival day and guests can arrive any time on this day. Likewise the final day of the itinerary is the departure day and guests can leave anytime on that day.

Airline Flights: At writing Alaska / Horizon Airlines, (800) 252-7522, offers direct flights between Los Angeles International airport (LAX) and Loreto airport (LTO) on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday and Friday (check alaskaair.com for added flights). During the winter/spring season demand is high so it is important to make reservations as early as possible. When scheduling flights on the homeward leg of your itinerary be sure to allow plenty of time between connections between your international and domestic flights as you’ll need to clear immigration and customs upon re-entering the US regardless of your final destination. Significantly more flight options are available by flying into Los Cabos (SJD) at the southern tip of the Baja peninsula please call our office for details or check the Travel Tips link for this trip.

Passports: Starting January 8, 2007 passports are required for all air and sea travel to or from Canada, Mex-

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ico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda. This is a change from prior travel requirements and will affect all United States citizens entering the United States from countries within the Western Hemisphere who do not currently possess valid passports.

Hotel: We use the beachfront Desert Inn Hotel in Loreto (011-52-613-135-0025). All rooms have balconies facing the sea with a great view of Isla Carmen. The hotel has a beach, a pool and a decent restaurant. It is quietly off the main roads but a short walk from restaurants and shopping in the town center. The hotel has a secure luggage check for items not brought on the kayaking trip.

Health Concerns: No immunizations or vaccinations are required for Mexico and as general rule conditions in Baja are more hygienic than mainland Mexico. For your protection our trip water comes from purification plant in Loreto. On the trip fresh fruits and vegetables (organic when available) are good quality and plentiful. The range of restaurant food in Loreto is very good and safe (ask our group service representative or your guides for advice). Bottled water is readily available.

Weather: Loreto and vicinity weather in is generally mild in the winter with day-time temperatures averaging 70°F to 85°F and night-time temperatures 45°F to 55°F between December and mid-March. Spring day-time temperatures average 75°F to 90°F degrees and night-time temperatures average 50 to 65 degrees between mid-March and May. While In October and November, air temperatures range from 80°F to 90°K degrees and water temperatures range from 75°F to 80°F. Loreto is Sonoran desert and the possibility of rain is very small, but on rare occasions it can happen. Wind is a possibility anytime but is more common from December through February. Sea of Cortez water temperatures range from 68°F degrees in December to 75°F degrees in May which typically requires the use of a 3mm shorty wet suit for extended snorkeling (available for rent).

Advice: If you have any questions give our office a call. We've traveled the Baja from border to tip and personally used all of the modes of transportation and routes listed above. We're happy to advise you on your travel plans and tell you about some our favorite Baja places.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- professional guides
- two nights hotel accommodation
- transportation and baggage transfer from and to the airport.
- expedition kayaks, PFD's and tents
- dry bags
- safety equipment including VHF radios, satellite phone and expedition first aid kit.
- all camp meals prepared by Tofino Expeditions staff
- group camping equipment
- group first aid kit

WHAT'S NOT

Airfares; insurance of any kind (we strongly suggest that you purchase travel insurance that covers medical and evacuation as well as cancellations for medical reasons); tipping of guides; town meals and beverages, items of a personal nature, snorkeling equipment or wet suits (both available for rent).

THE NEXT STEP

Ready to go? Registering is easy!

Just call us at 1-800-677-0877 and reserve your spot! You can also book a reservation online at our website (www.tofino.com). If you prefer to use a travel agent, he or she can book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

Leave the Rest to Us

Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including clothing recommendations, suggested reading lists, up-to-date health advice and other details.

Why Tofino Expeditions?

We have more than 20 years of experience as an expedition guide service, are leaders in sea-kayak instruction and have an industry wide reputation for safety, service and great food(*in the November 2007 issue of National Geographic Adventure we were ranked as one of the best outfitters in the world and the top-rated sea kayak specialty company*) . We have guided thousands of paddlers on wilderness trips and are thrilled that so many guests become repeat clientele. Our trips are physically satisfying vacations that are designed to be relaxing, safe, thought-provoking and fun

We pride ourselves in preparing high-quality meals from the freshest available ingredients. We are committed to using organic ingredients whenever we can, and we support local food producers. Our menu varies, but a day could include a substantial North American breakfast and freshly ground Green Mountain Organic™ coffee, wholesome sandwiches and fresh salads for lunch, tried-and-true international favorites for supper — and fresh baked goods almost every day. In Mexico, we integrate local produce with organic ingredients we have brought from home.

Our Commitment to Conservation

For over 12 years Tofino Expeditions actively supported the formation and implementation of the Gulf of California Ecological Reserve. First through the Conservation International NGO set up for purpose of protecting the islands and waters of the Gulf and then through participation with SEMARNAP the government agency charged with managing the Reserve. SEMARNAP has formally recognized Tofino Expeditions for “environmental excellence” in expedition practices and field management.

References

Don't take our word for how great our trips are. We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travelers.

Questions?

Feel free to call us at 1-800-677-0877 if you still have any questions or concerns. We're here to help you. You can also check out our website at www.tofino.com.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Questions?

Please don't hesitate to call us if you have questions or concerns. we're here to help you. You can also find answers to many questions on our website (www.tofino.com)=

To Register:

If you would like to reserve a space on one of our expeditions, you can either call (800-677-0877), fax (503-364-5326), email us (info@tofino.com) or register online at our website (www.tofino.com). We accept Visa and Mastercard for deposits and trip costs. If you have any questions about our trips please contact our office.

Deposits and Payment

A \$400 per person deposit holds your space until 60 days before trip departure, when payment is due in full. If your deposit is made by credit card we will process the balance 60 days prior to departure unless notified to do otherwise. Due to the nature of international operations, prices are subject to change.

Inclusive Services

The information package for each trip contains a comprehensive list of equipment and services which are included in the trip cost. Please read these carefully and call our office if you require further information.

Not included

Airfares, most meals in towns (to allow for individual choice), gratuities to staff, insurance of any kind, airport taxes (if any), alcoholic beverages or soft drinks and other items of a personal nature. Medical costs, costs of hospitalization, evacuation by helicopter or any other means are not covered in the trip cost.

Single Travelers

Hotel and tent accommodations are based on double occupancy. If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, we will match you with a room/tent mate of the same sex if one is available. If there is no one with whom you can share, or if you prefer single hotel accommodations, you are requested to pay the single supplement fee listed for your trip (not all trips include such fees).

Small Groups

In the event that a trip is under subscribed we will add a small-group surcharge rather than cancel the departure. For our Baja trips the small group surcharge is \$150 US per person for groups of 6 or less.

Trip Prices

Trip prices are subject to change due to currency fluctuations and other factors beyond Tofino Expeditions' control.

Cancellations

A significant portion of our expenses are committed long before departure. At the time we receive written notice that you must cancel your trip, the following fees will apply (all dates are from departure date):

Baja Mexico and British Columbia Departures:

From time of reservation until 90 days prior to departure: \$150

89 to 60 days prior to departure: \$400

59 to 30 days prior to departure: 50% of Land Cost

29 days or less prior to departure: 100% of Land Cost.

Canceled Trips

Due to the nature of operating in the wilderness and remote international areas, Tofino Expeditions reserves the right to cancel any trip prior to departure for any reason whatsoever, including inadequate sign-up which makes the trip economically unfeasible for us to operate or logistical problems which may impede trip operations. At least 1 month notice prior to the departure date will be given for a trip cancellation due to inadequate sign-up. In such a case, a full refund of the trip Cost is given, but Tofino Expeditions is not responsible for expenses incurred by trip members in preparation for the trip (e.g., non-refundable airline tickets, medical expenses, equipment etc.)