Visit: www.adventurewomen.com
Email: info@adventurewomen.com
Call: 1.800.804.8686

Baja: Sea of Cortez, Marine life, Birding and Conservation

DURATION | 9 Days

TRIP LEVEL | Level 2 - Moderate

Trip Overview

Join AdventureWomen for an immersive Baja journey that blends desert landscapes, vibrant culture, and extraordinary marine encounters in the Sea of Cortez. Begin at a traditional ranch in the Sierra, hiking mountain trails, birding with locals, and learning local crafts. Continue to La Paz for art, history, and coastal charm before venturing by boat to remote islands and a secluded beachfront camp hosted by a local family, passionate stewards of this ecosystem. Kayak mangroves, snorkel rich waters, spot wildlife, and witness bioluminescence. The adventure concludes with hands-on conservation work and inspiring community leaders, leaving you deeply connected to Baja's land, sea, and people.

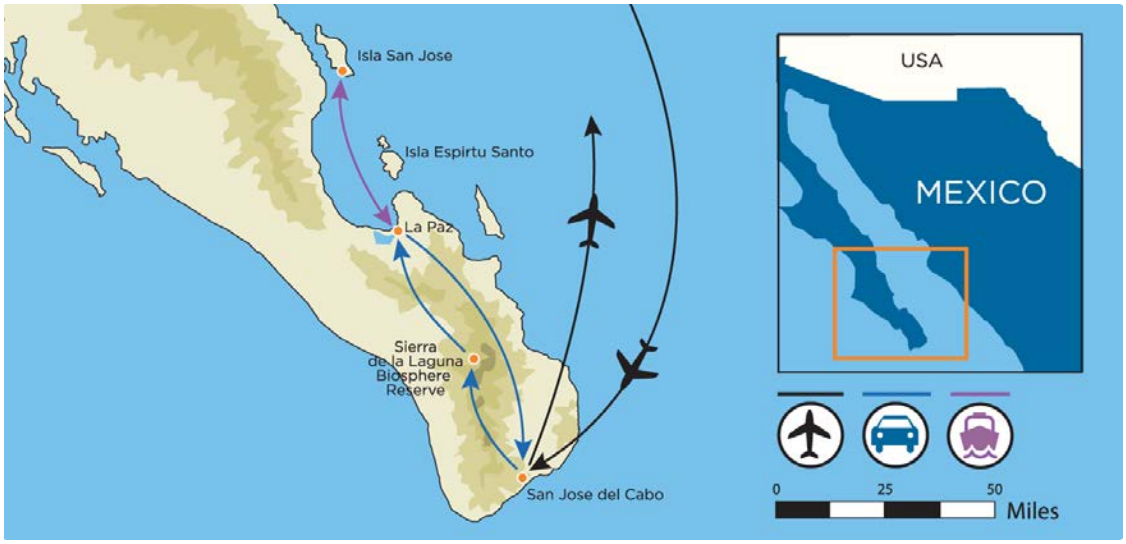
Trip Highlights

• Kayak, snorkel, and boat through one of the world's richest marine ecosystems, encountering diverse wildlife, dramatic coastlines, and remote islands guided by local conservationists.

• Participate in coral restoration, meet marine protectors, and learn firsthand how local communities are safeguarding turtles, mangroves, and fish populations

• From ranch life and mural walks to shared meals with island families and inspiring women leaders, experience Baja through authentic human connections.

Map View



Arrival: Arrive in San José del Cabo, Mexico (SJD) on Day 1 by 2:00 PM.

Departure: Depart from San José del Cabo, Mexico (SJD) on Day 9 after 2:00 PM.

Trip Itinerary

Day 1

Welcome to Baja!

Today you'll arrive at the Los Cabos international (SJD) airport where your guides will meet you and take you to Camp Cecil de la Sierra, a 90 minute drive away. Please arrive no later than 2pm. A group transfer from the airport will be provided at that time. Private transfers at other times are available for purchase. Settle in and then enjoy a welcome dinner as you get ready for your exciting adventures ahead!

Meals: dinner | Overnight: Camp Cecil de la Sierra

Camp Cecil de la Sierra

Camp Cecil de la Sierra is a luxury tent camp in the beautiful canyonlands of a local ranching family in the Sierra La Laguna Biosphere Reserve of Baja California Sur. The accommodations are beautifully decorated walk-in tents with real beds, linens, rugs, bedside tables, lamps, mirrors, chairs, towels, and rocking chairs on the patio. Each tent has a compost toilet cabaña attached. There is a shared shower cabaña.

Amenities: Real beds, lovely linens, solar powered lamps, ensuite compost toilet, towels. No wifi. Separate shower cabanas

Trip Itinerary

Day 2

Hike Beautiful Baja

Start the day with some birding around camp early in the morning and enjoy an amazing ranch breakfast. Then, head out for a hike through the mountains, taking in spectacular views. Upon your return, enjoy lunch and a dip in a mountain pool to cool off. You have an option of taking a leather-working workshop and/or tortilla-making class with Don Cata and Doña Luz. Afterwards indulge in happy hour, followed by a great ranch dinner prepared by the chef under the stars.

Hike: 2-3 hours, slightly rocky terrain

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Camp Cecil de la Sierra

Trip Itinerary

Day 3

Day Three: Birding and La Paz

Go birding with locals today before making your way to La Paz, where youll settle into your hotel before lunch. Head to explore the town with renowned muralist Uli Martinez. He will share some of the history, lore and conservation efforts of La Paz through both his murals and those of other artists.

Then, enjoy a delicious dinner at a restaurant in town tonight.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Hotel Catedral La Paz

Hotel Catedral La Paz

Offering an outdoor pool and views of the city, Hotel Catedral La Paz is located in the historic section of La Paz. The hotel has a year-round outdoor pool and sun terrace, and guests can enjoy a drink at the bar.

Amenities: complimentray toiletries, hairdryer, wifi, safe, flat screen TV

Trip Itinerary

Day 4

Island Welcome & Sea of Cortez Escape

Depart La Paz this morning for a scenic 2.5-hour boat ride across the Sea of Cortez to El Pardito, a tiny island home to the Cuevas family since 1910. Enjoy a warm family welcome, a home-cooked lunch, and trip orientation before continuing by boat to Isla San José. Settle into Camp Cuevas, a secluded beachfront retreat with dome tents, real beds, and chef-prepared meals. Spend the afternoon kayaking, snorkeling, hiking,or savoring happy hour before dinner in pure island bliss.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Camp Cuevas

Camp Cuevas

Camp Cuevas at El Pardito in the Sea of Cortez is ran by the Cuevas brothers. Juan and Felipe are 4th generation shark hunters who have turned their unique marine life knowledge and tracking skills into a wildlife protection program. The camp is on a secluded beach on the breathtakingly beautiful Isla San Jose where we enjoy chef-prepared meals, large dome tents with real beds, and plenty of kayaking and paddle boarding.

Amenties: solar powered battery charging station, lovely linens, towels for beach and bath, outside chairs.

Trip Itinerary

Day 5

Marine Encounters & Coastal Kayaking

Begin the day with a delicious breakfast at camp before heading to Las Ánimas, a local seamount where hammerhead sharks, fur seals, and diverse marine life gather. Spend the morning exploring these rich waters alongside the Cuevas brothers, who share their deep knowledge of the Sea of Cortez. Return to camp for lunch and a relaxing siesta, then enjoy an afternoon kayak paddle along the island's dramatic coastline, spotting seabirds and striking geological formations. Cap the day with happy hour, dinner, and unforgettable stargazing.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Camp Cuevas

Trip Itinerary

Day 6

Mangroves, Turtles & Bioluminescence

Enjoy a flexible morning with the option of hiking or relaxing before lunch. In the afternoon, Juan and Felipe escort you to their home on El Pardito, where you'll kayak through lush, protected mangroves. Meet the Eastern Hawksbill turtles the Cuevas brothers have safeguarded for years and learn how they helped establish this vital no-catch zone, sharing their journey from hunters to conservationists. This evening, delight in a beachside dinner under the stars, with the option to night snorkel and witness shimmering bioluminescence.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Camp Cuevas

Trip Itinerary

Day 7

Return to La Paz

Today, return to La Paz from Isla San Jose and El Pardito, checking out wildlife and islands along the way. Enjoy a picnic lunch on the way before returning to the hotel around mid-afternoon and have a few hours to relax before dinner. Enjoy dinner at a delicious local restaurant tonight.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Hotel Catedral La Paz

Hotel Catedral La Paz

Offering an outdoor pool and views of the city, Hotel Catedral La Paz is located in the historic section of La Paz. The hotel has a year-round outdoor pool and sun terrace, and guests can enjoy a drink at the bar.

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Trip Itinerary

Day 8

Coral Restoration & Local Changemakers

Spend the morning in La Paz with Efecto Arena, a nonprofit dedicated to marine conservation and environmental education. Learn about coral ecosystems and take part in hands-on coral gardening, planting rescued fragments into nursery beds before snorkeling to see them growing beneath the surface. After lunch at a local favorite, meet Las Guardianas, an inspiring group of women transforming their community through environmental restoration and advocacy. Hear their powerful stories and see their impact firsthand. This evening, enjoy dinner at one of La Paz's standout restaurants.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Hotel Catedral La Paz

Trip Itinerary

Day 9

Until Next Time, Baja!

After an unforgettable adventure in the Sea of Cortez, it’s time to say farewell. Depart today from San José del Cabo Airport (SJD) after 2:00 pm, carrying memories of wild coastlines, meaningful connections, and extraordinary marine encounters. A group transfer to the airport is provided to align with most departures, with timing confirmed locally. Private transfers are also available for those departing at other times. Leave inspired, sun-kissed, and already dreaming about where your next AdventureWomen journey will take you.

What's Included

What's Included

• All meals as listed in the itinerary
• Guided sightseeing and activities as indicated in the itinerary
• Bi-lingual, naturalist guides throughout the trip
• All ground transportation
• One airport group transfer on scheduled arrival and departure days
• Drinking water available in large jugs to refill personal bottles
• As listed, based on double occupancy
• Activities as indicated in the itinerary
• As listed, based on double occupancy

Not Included

• International airfare to and from Baja
• Optional activities
• Meals not specified in the itinerary
• Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
• Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
• Items of a personal nature
• Gratuities for the main guide
• Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.