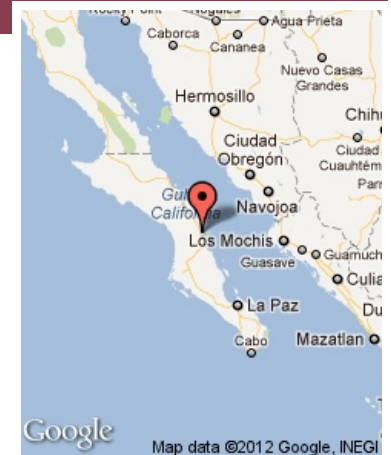


Sea Kayaking in Baja, Mexico



Highlights

The islands in the Sea of Cortez in the Baja Peninsula offer a treasure trove of marine activities and some of the most beautiful scenery in the Northern Hemisphere - a great way to tour them is by kayak, staying in a mix of luxury campsites and hotels in the town of Loreto.

There are almost 100 islands in the Californian Gulf, with half of them protected as ultra bio diverse reserve sites and all of them surrounded by crystal blue seas. The weather is temperate all year round and enjoys calmer seas thanks to its shielding by the peninsula itself. This tour sees you paddling in Loreto Bay National Marine Park which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the only one of its kind in Baja.

The tour is well designed to show off the amazing marine animals that visit this secluded paradise, all the while kayaking through easy-going and clear waters and marvelling at the enchanting backdrops of the lush islands. For three nights of the tour you'll return after a day on the water to a luxury campsite, sipping on cocktails as the sun sets on the horizon and talking about the day's adventure.

This six day tour is a great introduction to the Sea of Cortez and the myriad of things to see in the region. Aside from the kayaking integral to the itinerary, high on the list of recommendations is the snorkelling - due to the great conservation rules that have been implemented in the last few years, the region is now seeing a return to its unique biodiversity which was once threatened due to over fishing. Hiking is also a worthwhile activity, since there are large colonies of birds endemic to the region as well as a staggering number of rare plant species - some 3,500 in total, many of them found nowhere else on Earth.

Is it for me?

There are a few limitations imposed on the trip with regards to physicality. Ideally you are over 14 and under 70, physically fit and not overweight. Although you don't need previous kayak experience (it's an easy and fun skill to learn), you'll find the tour easier if you have a degree of upper body fitness.

This trip is supported by a motorboat, meaning that all of your gear will be transported ahead by boat so your kayak will be lighter.

Accommodation

For the first and fifth night of the six-day tour you'll be staying at a hotel in Loreto, the very first settlement in the region which has grown to become a city dedicated almost entirely to tourism. The hotel is lively with activity and the rooms have great en-suite facilities.

For the middle portion of the week of the week you'll be staying in camps stocked with the very best equipment, including quality tents, seating and self-inflating foam pads. You'll get a nice balance between staying in the wilderness of the outdoors with all the benefits of cosy indoor accommodation.

The food, it has to be said, is top-notch. Mainly comprising of Dutch oven cookery, you'll be feasting on filling gourmet meals from chicken mole to stuffed chile relleno and all the fresh fish you can eat. What's more, each meal is topped off with a delicious dessert (usually made from the fruits growing in the area), as well as freshly ground coffee and cocktails to sip while watching those perfect Pacific sunsets.

Itinerary

Prices from

651 GBP (6 days) per person

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The itinerary listed below is subject to weather and sea conditions, so some days may be swapped in the schedule at short notice.

Day One: Arrival in Loreto airport, where you'll be greeted by the ground team and transported to the hotel before checking into pre-assigned rooms. There will be a pre-trip meeting at the hotel later in evening to go through any questions and to finalise tour schedule.

Day Two: In the morning the group will enjoy breakfast at the hotel, then board a van for transfer to the launch site. You'll be taught the basics of paddling and thoroughly review safety procedures before launching the kayaks. Once everyone is happy and comfortable, the group will paddle to the first night's campsite.

Days Three and Four: Each day begins with a spectacular sunrise and ends with delightfully cool evenings. You'll spend the start of each morning kayaking to a new campsite on a different island. After lunch, there is plenty of time to snorkel, hike, swim or relax with a good book on one of the many sandy beaches. In the evening you and the group will feast on the finest freshly cooked food and enjoy margaritas as the sun sets on the horizon. Bliss!

Day Five: After a final lunch, you'll break camp and paddle to our take-out site in the early afternoon, loading the van and proceeding to back into the Loreto hotel. There will be a farewell group dinner at a highly recommended local restaurant (not included in the cost.)

Day Six: You are on your own for transportation to the airport for your flight homeward. You can use C&C English-speaking, air conditioned van transport for \$8 each, or taxis (Spanish-speaking) are easily found, approximately \$5-6/person; whichever you opt for, make sure you depart for the airport no later than 2 hours before flight.

Details

Getting there

International flights service to Loreto, the start and end point of the tour.

Price includes

Two nights of hotel accommodation in Loreto, three nights of open-air camping, airport transfer at start of tour, all sleeping bags/camping/kayak gear, meals at camp, guided instruction for the duration of the tour

Price details

Children (from 14 years) cost \$895

Comfort level

Down to earth (hostels, camping, huts)

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed