



THE HIDDEN COAST

Kayaking Loreto to La Paz

MEXICO ~ MULTISPORT ~ 12 DAYS

TRIP DETAILS

*12 days sea kayaking
hiking, snorkeling, whale-
watching*

*9 nights camping
2 nights hotel*

2010 DATES

*March 28 —April 8
April 11—22*

LAND COST

*US \$1795 / Cdn \$1975 *
From: Loreto
Ends In: La paz
Group Size: 10
Single Sup.: US \$120/
CDN \$135*

*Youth Discount 15%
(17 and under)*

*National Park User
Fee US\$25*

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

Our Hidden coast trip explores the remote and road-less shores of the Sierra Giganta Range south between Loreto and La Paz. Experienced kayakers regard this route as one of Baja's long-range classics. The coast here is spectacular with many small picture-perfect coves and arching white sand beaches. The Sierra Giganta provides a dramatic backdrop for most of the way. The occasional isolated rancho or fish camp are the only signs of civilization.

This is a great trip for the avid kayaker and is an excellent opportunity for those who have paddled with us in the Loreto area to explore more of Baja's hidden treasures. A series of beautiful campsites, the ruins of a Jesuit mission, crystal clear coves, miles of beachcombing and hikes are only some of the attractions of this spectacular stretch of coastline.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 ~ Arrival

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

DAY 2

Transfer by van to the Aqua Verde. After an comprehensive introduction to the art of kayaking cross and a review of safety procedures we set off south down the Sierra Giganta Coast towards our first campsite. The adventure begins!. After settling into our first camp and having lunch, the balance of the day is devoted to orientation, kayak technique instruction, and snorkeling.

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DAYS 3 – 10 ~ The Hidden Coast

Each day we kayak for 4 to 5 hours of moderately paced paddling with frequent breaks and cover 7-10 miles. The afternoons are spent exploring the many facets of this trackless coast by foot and by snorkeling the many coves and grottoes alive with brightly colored fishes. Some of the highlights include natural history hikes up canyons and arroyos, and a walk to the ruins of the Jesuit Mission Los Dolores founded in 1720, and visits to the tiny isolated villages of Tembabiche and San Evaristo. The length of the trip allows you the time to really settle into the delicious rhythm of paddling in Baja; gorgeous sunrises, morning paddling, leisurely lunches and siestas, active afternoons of exploration and finally falling asleep under a sky ablaze with stars.

DAY 11 ~ La Paz

The last day on the Hidden Coast after breakfast we'll break camp and kayak to our take-out near Punta Coyote. We'll be met by vans for transport to the hotel in La Paz (any luggage left in Loreto will be transported to the takeout point). After check-in and a welcome hot shower there is time stroll the Malecone (seaside street) of this bustling port city and perhaps sit and enjoy a cold drink at one of the many open-air cafes. This evening we'll all meet for a no-host farewell dinner at a local restaurant overlooking the harbor. Here we'll toast the end of our great adventure and the beginning of new-found friendships.

DAY 12 ~ Departure

The guides will arrange the transportation for your trip to the La Paz airport this morning. If your flight is later in the day, or if you stay a few extra days, you'll have a chance to visit the excellent cultural museum and wander the downtown shopping district for gifts and crafts. Feliz viaje !

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

The trip starts in Loreto (LTO) and ends in La Paz (LAP). It begins with arrival on the first scheduled day of the trip and finishes on the final scheduled day. The air carrier servicing Loreto and La Paz is Alaska Airlines. There are also wide range of flights available into San Jose del Cabo (SJD) which is a 2.5 hour bus ride from La Paz (and a further 4 hours from Loreto). We suggest that you make your travel arrangements through Elizabeth Holmes Travel 1-800-588-8361. Elizabeth and Sarah are familiar with our itineraries and will ensure you the best connections. The flight is an international one so it is very important that you check in a full two hours before flight time. When scheduling flights home be sure to allow plenty of time between connections as you'll have to clear customs and immigration and then get to your domestic gate.

THE HIDDEN COAST – KAYAKING LORETO TO LA PAZ

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- professional guides
- two nights hotel accommodation
- transportation and baggage transfer from the airport to the hotel
- expedition kayaks, tents, lifejackets and safety equipment Continued.....
- dry bags
- 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); return transportation to Loreto airport (to allow individual timing), tipping of guides; town meals and beverages, items of a personal nature, snorkeling equipment and wet suits (available for rent).

AVERAGE WATER AND AIR TEMPERATURES IN BAJA

Month	Air	Water
January – February	65-80	60-68
March	70-85	60-68
April-May	75-90	65-70
June - July	80-95	78-82
August – September	80-95	78-82
October - November	75-85	65-75
December	65-75	65-75

BAJA BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jack Boyle 1992, *The Magnificent Peninsula*
Jon Dunn & Erik Blom 1983, *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*
Gar Goodson 1988, *Fishes of the Pacific Coast*
John Janovy Jr. 1992, *Vermillion Sea: A naturalist's journey in Baja*
S. Leatherwood & R. Reeves 1983, *The Sierra Club Handbook of Whales and Dolphins*
James A. MacMahon 1985, *Deserts; Audubon Society Nature Guide*
Norman C. Roberts 1989, *Baja California Plant Field Guide*
R. Peterson & E. Chaliff 1973, *A Field Guide to Mexican Birds*
A. Riding 1986, *Distant Neighbors: A portrait of the Mexicans*
John Steinbeck 1941, *The Log from the Sea of Cortez*

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.)