

Beautiful Baja Kayaking Adventure

Itinerary dates: May 30 – June 3, 2021

Trip Leader: Beth Whitman

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Kayak** the pristine waters off of Loreto, Mexico in the Sea of Cortez
- **Snorkel and swim** in waters where upwards of 30 species of fish may be seen
- Take **short hikes** including one to see cave paintings from **ancient civilizations**
- Enjoy locally-prepared and **authentic Mexican cuisine**

Our adventure begins in the laid-back town of Loreto (population about 20,000), located on the east coast of the Baja Peninsula. It's just over four hours north of La Paz and about six hours north of Cabo San Lucas. There are a number of flight options from the U.S. that fly directly into Loreto. We meet on the afternoon of Sunday, May 30th.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Sunday, May 30, 2021

Meals: Dinner

Our exciting adventure begins upon arrival in the charming town of Loreto. From the airport, you'll head directly to the hotel where you can unpack, relax poolside or grab a drink from the bar prior to our welcome dinner. The hotel is located close to the malecon (boardwalk) of Loreto as well as the town square. There are many shops and cafes nearby to enjoy and explore and you'll feel completely safe doing so.

We'll have dinner at a nearby restaurant and overnight at [Hotel Mangos](#) or similar in Loreto..

Day 2

Monday, May 31, 2021

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll drive north (about 25 minutes) to a beach from which we'll make our way to beautiful **Isla Coronado**. You may travel either on a **small fishing boat** or **kayak the two miles** to the island. Both options will be available! (If kayaking, we'll have a short orientation and kayak safety talk before setting out. Expect to be kayaking for about an hour there and back.) Either way, our destination is this **volcanic island** that is part of the Loreto Bay National Marine Park.

This beautiful region has expansive **white-sand beaches** and a **sea lion colony**. To make the



most of our visit, we'll have a naturalist guide sharing their extensive knowledge of the flora and fauna of this area.

From the main beach, we'll take a **one-hour hike** to enjoy the landscape and beauty of the island before enjoying a picnic lunch.

Afterwards, we'll all board the boat to circumnavigate the island, stopping along the way to **swim and snorkel** (both are optional). This is the Sea of Cortez (also known as the Gulf of California) and it's here that we may see upwards of **30 species of fish!**

Later in the afternoon, we'll return to the main beach and either kayak (if that's how you arrived) or take the boat back to the mainland.

We'll have dinner at a nearby restaurant and overnight at [Hotel Mangos](#) or similar in Loreto.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** Sea kayakers come from around the world to paddle the turquoise waters of the Sea of Cortez. But you don't need to be an experienced kayaker to paddle these gentle waters!

Day 3

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Today, after breakfast, we'll get out on the water once again—this time heading to **Isla Danzante!** With input from our guide (and our weather app), we'll decide the best launching point for our boats (we'll drive there via shuttle) before paddling east towards the island which, like Isla Coronado, is also located in the Loreto Bay National Marine Park. ** Note there is no option to boat to Isla Danzante so we'll all be getting our hearts pumping today by kayaking!

We'll paddle via Punta Coyote (*punta* is point in Spanish) where we'll stop for a short hike to see cactus and other desert plants. We'll also take some time to snorkel, swim and have our picnic lunch here!

In the afternoon, we'll paddle back to our launch point and return (via shuttle) to Loreto for the evening.

We'll have dinner at a nearby restaurant and overnight at [Hotel Mangos](#) or similar in Loreto.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** Punta Coyote is a spectacular and quiet cove where we may see **dolphins and plenty of seabirds.**

Day 4

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today will be a bit different as we'll be off the water and on land!

After breakfast, we'll head to **San Javier Mission** (about 50 minutes away). Located in the tiny town of San Javier (population just over 100), the big draw here is the **restored church** which is now maintained by the National Institute of Anthropology and History.



After our visit, we'll drive another 30 minutes or so along a dirt road to a locally-owned ranch. From here, we'll take a short hike (20 – 30 minutes) along a rocky trail to see ancient pictographs (cave paintings) before driving back to Loreto.

We'll have our final dinner at a nearby restaurant and then overnight at [Hotel Mangos](#) or similar in Loreto.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** It's thought that indigenous civilization dates back about **7,000 years** in this area!! While not a lot is known about these early peoples, through these cave paintings we'll be able to imagine how they lived.

Day 5

Thursday, June 3, 2021

Meals: Breakfast

We'll have one final breakfast at the hotel before checking out. Most flights depart around mid-afternoon and, because the airport is close by and small, you'll have time to wander around Loreto for last-minute shopping and lunch.

You may arrive days early or stay late to extend your trip. If this is the case, you might consider venturing on to La Paz or Cabo, but note that neither are anywhere near as relaxing as Loreto! Also note that flights might be limited on some days of the week.

**** Itinerary subject to change without notice.**