

Baja Women-only Whales and Kayaking Adventure

Itinerary dates: February 7 – 13, 2023

Trip Leader: Denise Kittleson

HIGHLIGHTS

- Three wonderful days of whale watching in Magdalena Bay
- Camping under the stars for two nights while listening to the waves of the Pacific Ocean
- Kayaking the pristine waters near Loreto, Mexico in the Sea of Cortez
- Snorkeling and swimming in water where upwards of 30 species of fish may be seen
- Enjoy locally-prepared and authentic Mexican cuisine

Our trip 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 Tuesday, February 7th.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

Meals: Dinner

Our exciting adventure begins upon arrival in the charming town of Loreto. From the airport, you'll head directly to the hotel (on your own) where you can unpack, relax poolside or grab a drink from the bar prior to our welcome dinner. The hotel is located on the malecon (boardwalk) of Loreto close to 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 [La Mision Hotel](#) or similar in Loreto.

Day 2

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After an early breakfast at the hotel, we'll depart by shuttle for the two-hour drive to Puerto Lopez Mateos, Magdalena Bay on the Pacific Coast. It's here that we'll head out via skiff to Santo Domingo Island. Along the way, we'll have our first whale watching session before arriving at Whale Camp!



At camp, we'll unload our gear and settle into our large tents before we enjoy a hearty lunch. Afterwards, our guides will lead us on a hike across the dunes that stretch to the Pacific Ocean. Back at camp, our naturalist guide will talk to us about...whales!!! Their migration, feeding, nursing, and pretty much any and all things we want to know about whales, in particular the gray whales we'll be seeing in these waters.

We'll have dinner under the stars and overnight at Whale Camp. *Note that there are limited single tents available for an additional charge (see single supplement cost at bottom). These will be assigned on a first come/first served basis.

Day 3

Thursday, February 9, 2023

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning you'll wake up to the sound of birds chirping and waves lapping along the shoreline. If you're up early enough, you can grab a coffee (sorry, no Starbucks here!), stroll along the beach and watch the whales offshore as our guides prepare a hot meal.



We'll depart after breakfast for the first of two whale watching sessions today. Again we'll head out by skiff where we'll get to see the whales up close and personal. We'll take a break back at camp for lunch before heading out again in the afternoon for more whale watching!

Once again we'll have dinner under the stars and overnight at Whale Camp. *Note that there are limited single tents available for an additional charge (see single supplement cost at bottom). These will be assigned on a first come/first served basis.

Day 4

Friday, February 10, 2023

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today after breakfast, we'll enjoy another whale watching excursion before returning to Puerto Lopez Mateo by skiff. We'll have a chance to explore the local shops at the port for souvenirs before heading out to enjoy a seafood lunch (vegetarian options available) at a local restaurant.

After lunch, we'll check back into our hotel where you can grab a shower (yay!) and then take a stroll along the waterfront before our orientation meeting for the kayaking portion of our tour.

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

Day 5

Saturday, February 11, 2023

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll drive south (about 20 minutes) 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 is located in the Loreto Bay National Marine Park. We'll be paddling about an hour there and an hour back. ** Note there is no option to boat to Isla Danzante so everyone will be getting their hearts pumping today by kayaking!



We'll paddle via Punta Coyote (*punta* is point in Spanish) where we'll 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 [La Mision Hotel](#) or similar in Loreto.



HIGHLIGHT! Sea kayakers come from around the world to paddle the turquoise waters of the Sea of Cortez. While you should be in good physical condition, you don't need to be an experienced kayaker to paddle these gentle waters!

Day 6

Sunday, February 12, 2023

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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.

We'll tour the mission and then have lunch at a charming nearby restaurant. Afterward, we'll return to Loreto for time to wander the town (on your own) for final souvenir shopping.

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

Day 7

Monday, February 13, 2023

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 choose to 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.**