



## **Loreto Kayaking & Whale Watching Combo Tour**

*3 x 5 Combo, 3 days of whale watching and 5 days of Sea kayaking*

Our 10-day kayaking and whale watching combo tour is the ultimate Baja experience, combining watching the gray whales as they test the waters of the Pacific Ocean with their calve, exploring the beautiful desert islands in the Sea of Cortez by kayak and snorkeling along isolated coves in warm, turquoise waters.

It's truly the ultimate Baja tour. Enjoy 3 days of plush beach side camping at our exclusive Gray Whale Camp on Santo Domingo Island in Magdalena Bay; where you will get four chances to go eye-to-eye with gray whales then cross the Baja Peninsula to spend five days kayaking in the quaint town of Loreto.

January through March, hundreds of gray whales mate and bear their young in the protected waters of Magdalena Bay after traveling over 5000 miles from the Bering Strait. A motorized skiff will take you swiftly and safely into the deeper parts of the bay, where you won't just view the "mommy and me" action, you may be able to actually pet some of the whales that swim by. Staying on the island at our camp provides you with the opportunity to be delighted by a host of other wildlife such as dolphins, seals, sea lions, sea gulls, pelicans and more often right from camp! Plush camping allows you to relax and enjoy the scenery while your professional naturalist guides provide you with dinner, drinks, and plenty of education.

After you have had your fill of breaching, and spy hopping whales then head back over to Loreto for five days of Baja sea kayaking and camping on remote islands in Loreto Bay National Marine Park, where the surrounding water is a sanctuary for blue-footed boobies, fin and blue whales, dolphins and sea lions. The Sea of Cortez is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and offers the perfect blend of Baja kayaking, hiking and snorkeling. Abundant wildlife, massive whales, sunny weather and warm, crystalline waters make the Sea of Cortez one of the best winter adventure destinations in North America and Mexico.

With this tour, your first and last nights will be hotel-based in Loreto with an extra hotel night between kayaking and whale watching. All activities are led by naturalist guides, who dish out tasty chile rellenos and margaritas in tented beach camps at days end. You'll bring home a lifetime of memories.

**Note on Itinerary:** Approximate paddling distances listed and can vary depending on group size and weather. We will do our best to adhere to the schedule listed above. However, the itinerary may change due to reasons beyond our control such as wind, waves or inclement weather. Please Note: Although there is a very good chance we'll see whales and other marine life throughout the week, the frequency, proximity, and quality of sightings will ultimately be determined by the wildlife.

### **Day 1: Welcome to Loreto in Baja!**

Upon your arrival in Loreto take a quick cab ride to the tour hotel and check into your pre-assigned room (included in trip cost). Spend your afternoon exploring the beautiful town of Loreto. You can tour the historic Mission located in the center of town, stroll through the local market and dine on authentic Mexican cuisine before meeting your guides in the hotel lobby for an evening orientation meeting.

*Accommodations:* [La Mision Hotel](#) or similar

*Meals Included:* 0 (travel day)

### **Day 2: Whale Watching in Magdalena Bay**

At 7:30am SHARP a van will arrive to transport you two hours to Puerto Lopez Mateos, Magdalena Bay on the Pacific Coast. Here you will have your first whale watching session as you take a federally-licensed skiff from Puerto Lopez Mateos out to Santo Domingo Island where Whale Camp is located. Upon arrival to camp you will have a chance to unload your gear and settle into your pre-assembled tent before sitting down to a hearty lunch. After lunch, your guides will lead you on a hike across the dunes of Santo Domingo Island to the Pacific Ocean where you can then meander down the beach back to camp for happy hour and dinner under the stars.

*Accommodations:* Camping

*Meals Included:* L, D

### **Day 3: Whale Watching in Magdalena Bay**

Arise to the sounds of birds chirping and waves lapping the shore as coffee and tea are prepared to greet you and the morning sun. Feel free to stroll along the beach, sip your coffee, and watch the whales as your guides prepare a hot breakfast. You will have two whale watching sessions by federally-licensed skiff today, with plenty of time for dune walking, hiking, and relaxing on the sand while whales frolic offshore. You can also elect to do birding tours in the mangrove areas of the lagoon instead of whale watching, or part whale watching, part birding sessions.

*Accommodations:* Camping

*Meals Included:* B, L, D

### **Day 4: Return to Loreto**

You will enjoy one final two hour whale watching session after breakfast in the morning before returning to Puerto Lopez Mateo by skiff. Take a few minutes when returning to Puerto Lopez Mateo to explore the small local shops at the port and possibly purchase a commemorative token before heading out to enjoy a hot seafood lunch at a local

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restaurant. After lunch check back into the tour hotel for a shower or stroll along the waterfront malecon before an orientation meeting, located in the lobby of the tour hotel, for the kayaking portion of your tour.

*Accommodations:* [La Mision Hotel](#) or similar

*Meals Included:* B, L

### **Day 5: Time to go kayaking**

Please eat breakfast and be packed by the meeting time, where you will be shuttled to the kayak put-in site. After loading the boats, your guides will teach you the basics of paddling and thoroughly review safety procedures. The group won't leave shore until all participants feel comfortable. You'll make 50-minute, 2 to 3-mile crossings to the off-shore islands where you'll have a chance to snorkel and hike before lunch, and then kayak to your first night's campsite. Several campsites have desert arroyo hikes which offer spectacular views as well as some of the desert flora unique to Baja.

*Accommodations:* Camping

*Meals Included:* L, D

*Paddling duration:* 3-4 hours

### **Day 6-8: Camping and kayaking in the Sea of Cortez**

The days begin with spectacular sunrises and end with delightfully cool evenings, enjoying sunsets, star-gazing, moonrise, or even bioluminescence in the sea on moonless nights. You will paddle and explore the scenic cliffs and coves of Danzante and Carmen in the Loreto Bay National Marine Park/UNESCO World Heritage Site. Camping on sandy beaches allows for superb swimming, tide pooling, snorkeling, beachcombing and hiking. Plan to paddle to a new camp site every day, wind permitting, with one layover day at the same site. Roomy dome tents are provided, although with Baja's lack of insects you may be tempted to sleep out under the stars. Several campsites have desert arroyo hikes which offer spectacular views as well as some of the desert flora unique to Baja.

*Accommodations:* Camping

*Meals Included:* B, L, D

*Paddling duration:* 3-4 hours per day

### **Day 9: Return to Loreto**

After a final breakfast, you will paddle to the take-out site and unpack your kayak while the guides prepare lunch. A van will return you to the hotel mid-afternoon to relax and clean up. In the evening, you are invited to join your group for an optional final farewell dinner (no host) to say good-bye and toast new found kayaking skills and friends.

*Accommodations:* [La Mision Hotel](#) or similar

*Meals Included:* B, L

### **Day 10: Departure Day**

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There are no scheduled activities today so you may depart Loreto at any time. Travel home or continue on another adventure such as one of our single day [Trip Extension options](#).

*Meals Included: 0 (travel day)*

**Trip Includes:**

- Full services of our Adventure Consultants
- Professional naturalist and bi-lingual guides
- All meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Hotel before and after the tour (and between activities when dictated by the itinerary)
- All transportation while on tour
- All kayaking, camping and snorkeling equipment
- Whale watching sessions by Panga
- Taxes

**Trip Does Not Include:**

- Airfare
- Transportation to and from the airport
- \$25 National Park fee
- Gratuities
- Items of a personal nature

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## Terms & Conditions

### Our Commitment

Our hope is that your first trip with ROW Sea Kayak Adventures is just one of many. Thus our goal is to provide thorough and complete communications and be clear with the details of our agreement with you. Because the fine print sometimes changes, you will receive the most current Terms & Conditions along with your travel documents at the time of booking.

### Preparing for your Trip

We do our best to provide you with all kinds of useful resources to prepare for your trip. These include packing lists, reading lists, detailed itineraries and more. The reservation packet that we send you will include a detailed gear list of what you should bring. Our Adventure Consultants will send you a full packing list when you make a reservation. They will also be in contact leading up to your trip departure with important reminders and any information specific to your tour date.

### Choosing an Appropriate Trip

Most of our trips are suitable for beginners; however, some are more active, physically challenging or demanding than others. A spirit of flexibility and adventure is a good thing to bring along. It's important that you understand the physical requirements for whatever trip you choose. If you're not sure if an itinerary is right for you, please call one of our Adventure Consultants for advice. Be sure to read the "Trip Member's Responsibility" below and if you have any medical concerns we encourage you to speak with your doctor before making a reservation reserving space on a trip.

### How to Sign Up

To make a reservation, please contact us by one of the following methods:

- 1). Call us at 800-616-1943 – Monday-Friday from 8:00 to 6:00 pm Pacific Time.
- 2). Send us an email at [info@seakayakadventures.com](mailto:info@seakayakadventures.com)
- 3). Use the "Book Now" tab found on every trip page on our website.

When we confirm the availability of your desired date and adventure, we will send you an electronic reservation packet and detailed invoice.

### Deposits

A deposit is required within 7-10 days of making your reservation for all trips booked 90 days or more in advance.

Confirmation is not final until we also receive a copy of your completed trip application and signed waiver. We accept all major credit cards for the initial deposit. Credit cards are accepted for deposits only – the balance must be paid by check.

Alternatively, if you wish to use a credit card for final payment, you may do so for an additional 3% administrative fee.

Complete details on deposit amounts and payment due dates for your specific adventure will be sent to you on your initial invoice. All monies must be paid in US dollars.

Early reservations are recommended as space is limited. While it is often possible to join one of our trips on short notice, space is limited and we recommend you sign up well in advance.

### Balance Due

Full payment is due 60 - 90 days prior to departure. Specific payment terms will be included in your reservation invoice. Reservations made after the balance due date must be paid in full at the time of booking. We reserve the right to cancel your reservation if full payment is not received by the due date.

### Travel Protection Plan

We strongly recommend that you protect yourself and your equipment through the purchase of a short-term travelers' insurance policy, covering baggage, accident/life and trip cancellation. Baggage is carried entirely at owner's risk, and ROW Sea Kayak Adventures accepts no responsibility whatsoever for loss, damage, or delayed property. ROW Sea Kayak Adventures assumes no liability regarding provisions of medical care. Participants should realize that hospital facilities for serious problems may be remote and evacuation prolonged and expensive. Participants are urged to check their medical coverage to be sure it is adequate. US residents may purchase reliable coverage through our office. You will receive additional information in your electronic reservation packet. You should purchase cancellation insurance soon after signing up, as the policy will cover any deposits paid if you need to cancel for covered reasons. Participants are responsible for researching the terms of their insurance coverage.

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### **Transfers**

You may transfer your payment to another trip four (4) months or more prior to departure without penalty. Within four (4) months you are subject to the applicable cancellation fees stated above. The trip date you transfer to must be within 12 months of your original departure date.

### **Cancellations & Refunds**

If you find it necessary to cancel your trip, you should notify ROW Sea Kayak Adventures in writing, by e-mail or fax immediately. If written cancellation is received (call to verify) before the final balance is due, you will be given a refund less the amount of the deposit. Deposits are not refundable. If cancellations are made on or after the final balance due date, no money will be refunded. If you are unable to go on the trip, you are welcome to find a replacement for yourself. Any replacement participant must be able to meet trip criteria, complete a trip application, sign a waiver form and agree to the Terms and Conditions. Please understand that once you've signed up, we lose the right to sell your reserved space to other individuals or groups. Therefore we regret that we cannot make exceptions for personal emergencies. For this reason as well as those listed above we strongly recommend you consider purchasing a travel protection plan.

ROW Sea Kayak Adventures, Inc. must normally make substantial payments to its suppliers far in advance of scheduled departures. If a trip is canceled due to force majeure (acts of God, war, labor strikes, flooding, earthquake, etc.), ROW Sea Kayak Adventures, Inc. will promptly refund the portion of the trip cost not advanced to suppliers and use its best efforts to recover and refund the balance as promptly as possible. However, ROW Sea Kayak Adventures, Inc. does not guarantee recovery of any or all of the advance payments made, and our use of best efforts to recover these payments will not include the institution of any legal proceedings in foreign jurisdictions.

### **Single Travelers**

On most camping trips that do not include hotel accommodations we do have a limited number of single tents available at no extra charge. On tours that include hotel accommodations, tour prices are based on double occupancy. If you are a single traveler, and request individual accommodations, we will apply a single supplement fee to your reservation. If you are willing to share accommodations, we will pair you with a roommate, should there be one available, allowing us to waive the single supplement fee. For some of our tours we have a limited number of single accommodations available. A select few of our tours do not offer single accommodations, regardless of traveler's interest.

### **Waiting Lists**

If you wish to be waitlisted for a full trip, the normal deposit is required. If an opening occurs on the trip, you will be informed and automatically transferred to the trip roster. If you accept the slot you will be subject to the normal cancellation policy. Otherwise, your deposit will be refunded in full.

### **Entry Requirements**

US Citizens are required to have a valid passport when traveling to another country. It is your responsibility to be sure that your passport is valid for 6 months after your tour dates. For some of our destinations you may also be required to get a Tourist Visa; for these tours we will provide specific instructions in your reservation materials.

### **Air Reservations**

You may book air transportation for this trip through online booking sites, by working with a local travel agent, or contacting our preferred provider – Exito Travel at 800-655-4053 or online at [www.exitotravel.com](http://www.exitotravel.com). This is an independent company that has wholesale agreements with several airlines and can often get very good fares. If you do book online or buy discount tickets through a consolidator, the tickets can be restrictive and you should review the booking conditions carefully. These tickets tend to have stiff penalties for changes or cancellations. Once you have booked your flights, please fax or mail us a copy of your air itinerary so we can inform your trip leader of your expected arrival.

### **Tipping**

If you are happy with the service you receive, it will be more than welcome. Tipping is a very personal matter and the decision to tip and how much to give is entirely yours. If you believe your guide deserves a tip, a suggested range is from 7-12% of your trip cost. If you had the time of your life, then the sky's the limit! We also appreciate your comments. We use your feedback to recognize extraordinary guest service and to discover areas where we can make improvements. Our goal is to exceed your expectations! Tips can be given to the "ROW Team Leader", who will distribute them equally among the crew.

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**Guide Requests**

ROW Sea Kayak Adventures is proud of the fact that we can sometimes bring guests together with their favorite guides. However, guide requests are often not possible and cannot be guaranteed for a variety of reasons. We will do everything we can to schedule you with the guide you have requested, but in the end, please understand, your request may not be feasible.

**Trip Members Responsibility**

Trip members have the responsibility to choose a trip appropriate to their abilities and interests. We are happy to discuss this with you. Trip members are held responsible for being in sufficient good health to undertake the trip and for preparing for the trip by studying the itinerary and pre-departure information sent by ROW Sea Kayak Adventures.

While most travel, including travel to international destinations, is completed without incident, travel to certain destinations may involve greater risk than others. ROW Sea Kayak Adventures urges passengers to review current announcements and advisories, travel warnings, and restrictions issued by the United States Government prior to booking travel to any international destination. Up to date information on various international travel conditions can be found at [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov), [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov), [www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov), [www.faa.gov](http://www.faa.gov), [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), [www.treas.gov/ofac](http://www.treas.gov/ofac) and [www.customs.gov](http://www.customs.gov). By offering travel to particular international destinations, ROW Sea Kayak Adventures does not represent or guarantee that travel to such locations is advisable or without risk, and ROW Sea Kayak Adventures is not liable for damages or losses that may result from travel to such destinations.

ROW Sea Kayak Adventures reserves the right to disqualify anyone at any time before or during the trip for medical or psychological reasons. Each trip member is ultimately responsible for his or her own medical expenses. We cannot refund costs of medical examinations or other expenses incurred while preparing for a trip. If you arrive at the start of your trip with a pre-existing condition or injury that was not disclosed in writing to ROW Sea Kayak Adventures and you are subsequently forced to leave the trip because of this condition, you will be charged all extra evacuation expenses and will not receive a refund of any unused trip services. All health information is treated as confidential.

**Responsibility ~ An Important Notice**

These paragraphs define our responsibility with respect to all of our trips. Please read carefully. Payment of deposit represents an acceptance by the tour member of these terms and conditions.

ROW Sea Kayak Adventures, Inc. an Idaho Corporation, and its owners, agents and employees give notice that services provided in connection with its itineraries, including transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurants, and other services, are purchased from various independent suppliers who are not affiliated with ROW Sea Kayak Adventures, Inc. Although it endeavors to choose the best suppliers possible, ROW Sea Kayak Adventures, Inc. has no right to control their operations and therefore makes these travel arrangements upon the express condition that

ROW Sea Kayak Adventures, Inc. and its own agents and employees shall not be liable for any delay, expense, mishap, inconvenience, bodily injury or death to person, or damage to property occasioned through the conduct or default of any company or individual engaged in providing these services. Each of these passenger conveyance companies, hotels, tour companies, restaurants, etc. is subject to the laws of the state or country where the service is provided.

ROW Sea Kayak Adventures, Inc. shall not be liable for bodily injury or property damage for any reason, including but not limited to acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, thefts, pilferage, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, government restrictions or regulation, discrepancies or change in transit over which it has no control.

ROW Sea Kayak Adventures reserves the right, either prior to or after departure, in its good-faith discretion and in circumstances that warrant it, to change or re-price any tour, trip, or expedition. This includes the possibility of moving to an alternate location due to extreme water conditions, wind conditions, forest fires, road closures and/or acts of God.

ROW Sea Kayak Adventures, Inc. reserves the right to substitute hotels and leaders and to alter the itinerary when deemed necessary or advisable.

ROW Sea Kayak Adventures, Inc. reserves the right to take photographic or film records of any of our trips and may use any such records for promotional and/or commercial purposes.

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**Liability Release**

All of our guests are required to sign a liability release form acknowledging that there are inherent risks associated with the nature of activities planned prior to traveling with ROW Sea Kayak Adventures. Your trip is not confirmed until ROW Sea Kayak Adventures receives this signed liability release form. Participation in the tour will not be allowed with our signed completed liability release form, and consistent with ROW Sea Kayak Adventures' cancellation policy, no refund will be granted.

**Foreign Travel**

ROW Sea Kayak Adventures, Inc. operates our trips in British Columbia, Canada. All other trips in foreign countries are arranged through and are operated by independent suppliers that provide the goods and services for your trip including, for example, food service providers, equipment suppliers, yacht and other transportation companies, lodging facilities, local ground operators, certain guides, etc. As a result, we have no right to control their operations and therefore make the described travel arrangements upon the express condition that the ROW Sea Kayak Adventures, Inc. its subsidiaries, agents and employees, shall not be liable for any delay, mishap, inconvenience, expense, irregularity, bodily injury or death to person, or damage to property occasioned through the conduct or fault of any company or individual engaged in providing these services.

**Itinerary Changes**

We do our best to follow our itinerary as published; however, the nature of adventure travel is such that each trip will be slightly different. Weather, park regulation changes, hotel availability, guest ability, and other factors may require modifications. We always do our best to substitute equivalent destinations and activities. ROW Sea Kayak Adventures will not be held responsible for any refunds whatsoever for changes to the printed or scheduled itinerary.

**Delays**

Travel requires a flexible attitude. Due to factors out of our control, including but not limited to weather, unannounced road construction, etc., delays do occur. For example, flights sometimes don't operate as scheduled, roads may wash out, or detours may be necessary. We advise you to consider these potential factors when planning your travel to our tour destinations, as well as ask for your flexibility and understanding when delays due to factors out of our control necessitate changes to your tour itinerary.

**Cancelled Trips**

ROW Sea Kayak Adventures reserves the right to cancel any trip prior to departure for any reason whatsoever, including insufficient sign-ups or logistical problems, which may impede trip operations. The refund of all land payments received shall release ROW Sea Kayak Adventures from any further liability. In the event of trip cancellation, ROW Sea Kayak Adventures, Inc. is not responsible for expenses incurred by trip members in preparing for a cancelled trip (e.g. visa fees, equipment, nonrefundable advance purchase air tickets, etc.) or for any additional arrangements should the trip member have embarked prior to the scheduled group departure date. A trip cancellation due to insufficient sign-ups would normally occur at least 30 days prior to departure.

**Miscellaneous Matters**

ROW Sea Kayak Adventures shall not be liable for (a) expenses such as additional hotel nights and meals not specified in the individual trip itineraries, but which may be required to get to and from a trip start or end; (b) expenses due to the delay of a trip for any reason (e.g. bad weather, trail conditions, landslides, flooding, sickness, etc.); (c) expenses incurred in recovering luggage lost by airlines, belongings left behind on a trip or in shipping purchases or other goods home from abroad.

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