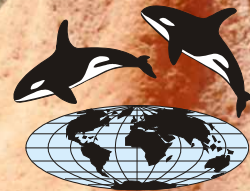


DISCOVER THE WORLD OF PANTERRA



Journey to the Sea of Cortez

7 Day Expedition - July 15 - 21, 2012
La Paz, BCS, Mexico



Expedition Brochure
January 19, 2012

JOURNEY TO THE SEA OF CORTEZ

Imagine sitting in bumper to bumper traffic. Your mind wanders and you lose yourself in thought, feeling the warmth of the sun beaming down on you as you swim in the warm crystal clear waters of a far away land. A world where you are simply inaccessible. Just as you reach for the Margarita being offered to you from the beach, you are rudely brought back to reality by honking horns and waving fists. Who needs it! It's time to break free from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Travel to one of the most beautiful places in North America; the Sea of Cortez. We will take you away to a world full of mystery and adventure with amazing marine life encounters around every corner.

The islands in the Sea of Cortez offers one of the most breathtaking marine environments in North America. It is a setting that will intrigue and inspire. All you have to do is join us onboard and leave the adventure making to us!

INTRODUCTION

The Baja Peninsula was formed approximately five million years ago when part of the earth's crust separated along the San Andreas Fault drifting in a northwesterly direction away from mainland Mexico. After colliding with southern California, an ocean basin was formed. This basin is known today as the Gulf of California or more commonly referred to as the Sea of Cortez.

Left in the wake of the collision was an explosion of natural geological wonders; a group of desert islands. The area has remained uninhabited, spellbinding and timeless. This amazing Galapagos type setting plays host to some of the rarest and most beautiful marine life encounters possible and offers an amazing environment for swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, and hiking. It's an ideal opportunity to explore, discover and learn.

On July 15, 2005 the islands of the Sea of Cortez were declared a World Heritage Site.

Rich in natural history, unspoiled in beauty, and unrivaled in marine life, the Sea of Cortez is a world of a different time, place and rhythm.

TRIP INFORMATION

Itinerary:

Day 1 (Mon. July 15): **Arrival and Boarding the Ship**

- Participants will be picked up at the La Paz/Cabo airport and transferred to the ship, the MV Adventure. The ship will be available for boarding after 5:00 pm.
- Once onboard and settled in, pre-dinner cocktails will be served, with dinner set for 7:30 pm as the ship departs the Bay of La Paz.

Day 2 - 5: **Our 4 Day Adventure at Sea**

- Today we begin our adventure at sea. Some of the islands



Exploring a fossil seabed.



Visiting a California sea lion habitat.



Snorkelling with a school of angelfish.



Common Dolphin encounter - mom and calf.

TRIP INFORMATION: Itinerary continued

to be explored include Isla Espiritu Santos, Isla San Francisco, Isla San Jose and Isla Partida.

Day 5 - 7: Enjoying La Paz

- We will arrive back at the marina in La Paz, in the late afternoon and transfer to the Marina Hotel for a 2 night stay. Once checked-in, the following couple of days are yours to stroll and shop along La Paz's famous sea walk, "The Malecon". In the evenings plan on meeting up with the group for dinner at one of the local restaurants.

Day 7 (Sun. July 21): Trips End

- Check out of the hotel and this now concludes our expedition. Group airport transfers will be provided.

Please Note: Due to sea conditions, accessibility to some of the areas may be limited or simply not possible. During our time at sea we will engage in the "Planned Activities" outlined below.

Planned Activities:

Snorkeling - in shallow, crystal clear waters observing the amazing diversity of undersea life. One of the most memorable experiences you will have is to snorkel in what Jacques Cousteau referred to as "the aquarium of the world".

Kayaking - Kayak along the pictureques coastline and in quiet bays. The kayaks are amateur "sit-on" type boats that are made of high impact plastic, requiring no previous kayak experience. They should not be confused with the enclosed seagoing type.

Desert Island Nature Hikes - Explore and venture through many different environments. Meander through cactus forests observing native plants and animals and their amazing adaptations to the harsh environment. Visit actively mined salt pans where the local fishermen produce salt to preserve the day's catch. Beach-comb along miles of white sandy beaches identifying bones, shells, and other treasures washed up on the beach. A morning visit to the fishing village of Isla Pardito is an excellent way to experience the simple, traditional lifestyle of the fishermen of the Baja.

Marine Life Encounters - Marvel at the antics of hundreds of dolphins as they escort us on our journey; swimming alongside the ship. Explore a sea lion habitat where males jostle for dominance, females nurture their young and juveniles come out to play. Encounter manta rays as they swim by the ship or do back flips in the distant horizon. Observe the remarkable lives of sea birds. Explore a low tide, where life beneath the sea is exposed for a very short period of the day, revealing some of the most bizarre, yet beautiful marine life. The Sea of Cortez is known for it's whales and while July is not the favored season it is still possible to encounter them.



Snorkeling in shallow, crystal clear waters at one of the many beaches visited

Climate:

During the month of July the average temperature in the Sea of Cortez ranges from 28-38° C (82-100° f). In the Baja the days are hot and beautiful, with the evenings cooling down often requiring a long sleeve shirt or light jacket. The water temperature ranges from 24-30° C (78-86° f).

Menu:

Our meals consists of a variety of healthy and nutritious foods including fresh fruits, vegetables and meats. The ships cuisine reflects the Mexican culture and most dietary needs can be accommodated with advanced notice. Fresh blended alcohol and non-alcohol beverages will also be served.

Customs and Immigration:

Requires pre-immigration clearance prior to leaving the docks in La Paz. A valid passport is required and this information (Participant Information Form) must be submitted to the Panterra office with the initial deposit . A lengthy delay in getting this information to Panterra may result in a delay in departure from the docks of up to 3 days.

Expedition Staff:

The Panterra staff, Lela Sankeralli and Stasia Ferbey, bring to the expedition a science based educational component with over 30 years of combined experience in teaching marine sciences, natural history and astronomy in the Baja. Our goal is to blend adventure travel with environmental awareness, providing participants with an unforgettable cultural and educational experience.

Ship's Crew:

The Captain(s), engineer and crew are onboard to insure the safety and well being of the group. They bring many years of mariner experience in the Sea of Cortez and exemplify the warmth and kindness that reflects the beauty and hospitality of the people of Baja, Mexico.

Ship Info:

The "MV Adventure" is a newly built 110' aluminum hull ship. As a certified passenger vessel, all crew, vessel paperwork, safety and navigation equipment meet the legal requirements under the "Nacional de Seguridad Maritima" laws. The multiple level decks are ideal for wildlife viewing and accommodations are private staterooms with single berths, double/quad occupancy. Each stateroom comes complete with air conditioning, cupboards and draws to unpack in, sink/vanity and comfortable spacious bunks. Shared restrooms and showers are separate to the staterooms.



The MV Adventure (110') at anchor.



A visit to a fishing village on one of the islands.

Expedition Includes:

Airport transfers (on the designated days of travel), 2 night stay at the Marina Hotel in La Paz, amenities onboard the ship (meals, accommodations, snorkel gear, kayaks and ships library), tourism fees, pre-immigration clearance and an Expedition Notebook.

Expedition DOES NOT Include:

Airfare, Travel Insurance, meals during hotel stay, crew gratuities, spending money and items of a personal nature.

Expedition Cost:

- **\$1695.00** per person
- Expedition is open to 18 participants, based on dbl/trip occupancy.

We highly recommend that participants purchase trip cancellation insurance, in the event of an unexpected cancellation. We also recommend that you have adequate medical insurance to cover any unforeseen situations that may arise.

BOOKING INFORMATION

Reservations and Payments:

Payments by credit card can be made through PayPal on the Panterra website under heading "Trip Payment".

Cash payments can be made by cheque or money order and mailed to:

Panterra
9601 Sixth Street
Sidney, BC
V8L 2W1

Deposit - In order to reserve a space on the expedition a \$395.00 deposit is required.

Balance - of \$1300.00 is due June 1, 2012.



A pair of Blue-footed Boobie birds.

Cancellation and Refund Policy:

If you must cancel your trip the refund policy is as follows:

Prior to 30 days, if a replacement reservation is found a full refund less \$150.00 administrative fee. If a replacement reservation is not found the full amount paid is retained.

30 days or less, the trip fee is non-refundable. **Panterra** is not responsible for any additional costs that may arise from a trip alteration or delay, caused by circumstances beyond our control.

Medical Forms and Liability Release:

Each participant is required to complete the "Participant Information Form" which covers medical information and release of liability. This form must be submitted with the initial deposit and can be obtained from the Panterra website: www.panterra.com. Go to "Adult/Family Expeditions" scroll down to the bottom of the page click on "Participant Information Form".

Participant Responsibilities:

Although no experience is required on our trips, as with any adventure there is always an element of risk. We ask that you welcome adventure with an open mind and be able to have fun and embrace the unexpected. We are dedicated to providing safe, environmentally sensitive and well organized trips.

While our trips are not considered to be strenuous or physically demanding and we do not require a high level of fitness, good general physical condition is necessary. We do not require any previous experience, however it may be beneficial in some situations that may arise. If you have any physical limitations or concerns, please contact us.

If you would like to learn more about our expeditions, viewing the places we visit, the marine life we encounter and the kinds of activities we will be engaged in, you are invited to browse through the "Trip Journals" section of the website.

We also recommend that you read through the FAQ in the headings section of the Panterra website.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns at info@panterra.com.



Who's checking who out!

For more information or to book your spot on the expedition please contact:

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Phone: 1 800 665 6639