

DISCOVER THE WORLD OF PANTERRA



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Summer Cruise for Teachers

July 8 - 14, 2012

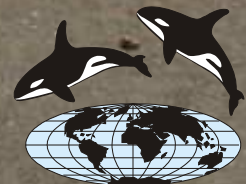
7 Day Expedition

La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico



A LEARNING VACATION JUST FOR TEACHERS!

Expedition Brochure
September 11, 2011





A Bottlenose Dolphin swims alongside the panga as we head to shore.

PANTERRA Educational and Cultural Training Society is a nonprofit, educational organization based in Sidney, BC and Calgary, AB. With over 20 years of experience, our goals are to impart a knowledge and awareness of the earth's natural history, demonstrate environmental conservation through educational endeavors, and inspire an interest in further learning.

For the fourth year running, we will be offering a professional development "Summer Cruise for Teachers". What better way to experience Baja California and the Sea of Cortez than on a beautiful yacht, snorkeling, kayaking, hiking, stargazing, exploring and discovering? This amazing expedition consists of 4 days/5 nights onboard our new the 110' motoryacht, the MV Adventure.

While onboard the yacht, our marine biologists/naturalists will facilitate a number of activities and field excursions introducing you the natural history of a marine environment. We will also take this opportunity to introduce you to our, "Young Naturalists Expedition - Journey to the Sea of Cortez", school program. Participants will also receive a Teachers Resource Package which will help you enhance your classroom lessons. Combine all of this with time to kick back and relax in the beauty that only the Baja can offer.

INTRODUCTION

The Baja Peninsula was formed approximately 5 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.



The beautiful Sally Lightfoot crab

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Kayak - through mangrove lagoons, over coral reefs, and in calm bays. The kayaks are a "sit-on" type, made of heavy duty plastic and requiring no previous kayak experience. They should not be confused with the "climb-in" seagoing type.

Snorkel - in shallow, crystal clear waters and observe the amazing diversity of undersea life. One of the most memorable experiences you will have on this trip is the exhilaration of snorkeling with California sea lions at their volcanic outcrop habitat.



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

Desert Island Nature Hikes - Explore and venture through many different environments. Meander through cactus forests observing native plants and their amazing adaptations to the harsh environment. Take a walk back in time as layers of fossilized rock beds reveal the area's geological past. Visit actively mined salt pans where the local fishermen produce salt to preserve the day's catch. Beachcomb along miles of white sandy beaches identifying bones, shells, and other treasures washed up on the beach. Visit an isolated community of goat herders or fishermen as they allow us to explore their "backyards".



Exploring a fossil beach

Marine Life Encounters - Marvel at the antics of hundreds of dolphins as they escort us on our journey; swimming along side 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. A morning visit to the fishing village of Isla Pardito is an excellent way to experience the simple traditional life of the fishermen of the Baja. The Sea of Cortez is known for its whales and while July is not a strong season it is still possible to encounter them.



California Sea Lions hanging out

Evening Activities - As the sun sets and the night falls upon us one of the most beautiful things you can do is stargaze. If you have never done it, it is a must. We will also be setting up the "nightlight" to observe the food chain in action. You may also choose to simply relax with a cocktail in hand, play some cards, get into a game of chess or grab a good book. It's your time to chillax and reflect on the days' adventures.

Wildlife Conservation Projects - As part of the expedition we will be engaging in one of the two Panterra Wildlife Conservation Projects. The Sea Turtle Monitoring Program where we assist a local fisherman from the fishing village of Isla Pardito, Felipe Cuevas. Once or twice a month Felipe sets up nets, for a 24 hour period, capturing and releasing sea turtles. During the time of their capture data is collected as an ongoing monitoring program of sea turtles along the Baja Peninsula. Panterra contributes monetary donations towards the project.

Baja Gifts Program (Optional) - The Baja Gifts Program was started in 2000 when a few of us decided to donate money and gifts to schools and families in the Baja South area. We had mentioned what we were doing to a few of the Panterra guests and the response was incredible! The program has grown from a few of us simply donating money, to the distribution of boxes upon boxes of clothing and community supplies. If you are interested in participating in the program please let us know so that we may include you in the seasons gift program. This is a gift giving opportunity and not a mandatory requirement of the expedition.

TRIP INFORMATION

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 consist 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.



A Turkey Vulture looks on.

Customs and Immigration - Requires pre-immigration clearance prior to leaving the docks in La Paz. A valid passport is required and this information must be submitted to the Panterra office 30 days prior to departure. A delay in getting this information to Panterra may result in up to 3 days departure from the docks.

Expedition Staff - Our senior marine naturalist has over 20 years of experience in the Baja spending much of her time exploring the many bays, beaches, mangroves, coral reefs, nature trails and geological sites in the area. Our goal is to blend adventure travel with environmental awareness, providing participants with an unforgettable experience.

Ships Crew - The Captain, 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 offering the warmth, kindness and beauty that reflects the people of Baja, Mexico.

Ships 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.

Getting to the Ship - The ship, the MV Adventure, is located at Marina Singular, in the city of La Paz. One can fly in and out of La Paz but the costs are far more expensive than flying in and out of Cabo San Lucas. If you fly in and out of Cabo on the expedition dates we can help arrange transport from Cabo to the ship. The cost (one way) is \$35.00 US per person and arrival time into Cabo must be no later than 5:00 pm. If you are flying into La Paz the cost for a taxi to the ship is approx. \$15.00 US per person.



Returning from an early morning hike



The MV Adventure underway.



Coral reef dwellers.

ITINERARY

Day 1 (Sat. July 8): Arrival and Boarding the Ship

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

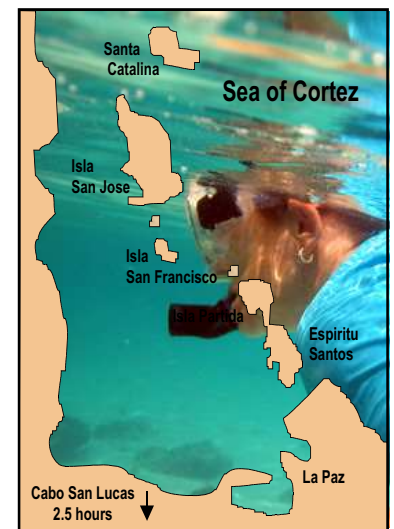
Day 5 - 7: Enjoying La Paz

- 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 (Sat. July 14): Trips End

- Check out is at 1:00 pm and this now concludes our expedition.

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 on pages 2 and 3.



continued from TRIP INFORMATION

EXPEDITION INCLUDES - All amenities onboard the ship (i.e. meals, accommodations, trip equipment, snorkel gear, kayaks and Ships Resource Library), Teacher Resource Package, pre-immigration clearance and tourism fees.

EXPEDITION DOES NOT INCLUDE - Airfare, airport transfers, Medical/Travel Cancellation/Interruption Insurance, Day 6 evening/Day 7 meals and items of a personal nature.

EXPEDITION COST - **\$995.00** per person. Accommodations are based on double occupancy. Space is limited early booking is advised. Group size: maximum 16 participants accompanied by 2 Panterra naturalists/guests.

BOOKING INFORMATION

INSURANCE - We highly recommend that participants purchase trip cancellation insurance, in the event of unexpected cancellations. We also recommend that you have adequate out-of-province/state medical insurance to cover any unforeseen situations that may arise.

RESERVATIONS and PAYMENT - Payments by credit card can be made through PayPal on the Panterra website under the 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 \$200.00 deposit is required.

Balance - of \$795.00 is due by May 1, 2012.

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. This form can be obtained from the Panterra website www.panterra.com. Go to "Expeditions" click on "Adult/Family Expeditions", towards 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 involved in, you are invited to browse through the "Trip Journals" section of the website.

If you would like more information on the ship, the MV Adventure, please go to our website and click on the heading "Destinations" in the Sea of Cortez section click on "MV Adventure".



Seastar with tube feet exposed

For more information or to book your space on the expedition:

Contact **PANTERRA** at: 1-800-665-6639 Email: info@panterra.com