

DISCOVER THE WORLD OF PANTERRA



Santisouk Photography



## A PASSION FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

with Santisouk Phommachakr

Apr. 19 – 26, 2024 – 8 Day Expedition  
La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico

**México**  
LIVE IT TO BELIEVE IT

  
**PANTERRA**  
Adventure Travel



## Trip Overview

**Introduction** - Experience the breathtaking beauty of the Sea of Cortez and elevate your photography skills with guidance from renowned nature photographer Santisouk Phommachakr. With hands-on experience, you'll perfect your techniques for capturing stunning wildlife and landscape images that showcase the natural wonders around you.

During informative classroom sessions, Santisouk will share her in-depth photography approach, helping you develop your skills and techniques. In the field, she'll guide you to open your senses to the surroundings and breathtaking nature and wildlife, providing ample opportunities to collaborate and share experiences and images.

Spot a diverse range of wildlife amid the stunning Sea of Cortez landscape with the expertise of experts in the field. This once-in-a-lifetime experience is sure to leave a lasting impression, and who knows, you may find yourself returning for more!

**Santisouk Phommachakr Nature Photographer** - An avid traveller who loves to capture memories through photography and share them with others. She has been passionate about nature and photography for many years and has found that it has had a positive impact on her life. Santisouk's favorite type of photography is wildlife photography, and she began taking classes in 2011 to improve her skills. She obtained her Photography Certificate of Achievement in 2014.

After completing her Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering at McGill University in Montreal, Santisouk moved to Calgary, Alberta, where she has lived for the past 25 years. She loves living near the Rocky Mountains because it gives her access to many different wildlife habitats. Santisouk enjoys sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm for photography with others. She fell in love with the Sea of Cortez on her first trip there in July 2019 and has been back once since then.

If you want to improve your photography skills and experience the beauty of the Sea of Cortez, Santisouk is the perfect guide. She will provide in-depth insights into her photographic approach during "classroom" sessions and assist you in developing your skills. You will also have the chance to collaborate with other participants and share your experiences and images.

The Sea of Cortez offers diverse wildlife and stunning landscapes, making it a once-in-a-lifetime experience. You may even want to return for more, like many of our previous guests.

[A Passion for Photography](#) – photo reel, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) by Santisouk

**Panterra** – Discover the world of Panterra, where we have been exploring and creating eco expeditions in the Sea of Cortez for over 35 years. Join us on our 110-foot ship, the MV Adventure, for a true wilderness adventure with stunning Galapagos-style settings. This environment is perfect for wildlife and landscape photography, hiking, snorkelling, kayaking, and rare encounters. Embark on a journey of discovery to a world of a different time, place, and rhythm!



**What to Expect** (land and cruise excursions) - Our photographic expedition is meticulously designed with years of experience and research. We have considerable knowledge of locations, wildlife habits, stark landscapes, and timing for the best light. You'll achieve a perfect blend of anticipated shots, creative twists, and opportunities to enhance your photography skills by learning more about your camera.



The expedition is rated novice to moderate level, and travellers should be comfortable in a panga (skiff) on the water, hiking, walking, or standing for short periods. Hikes usually range from 1-2 hours on uneven terrain at low elevations in warm and humid conditions. Basic swimming skills and some snorkelling experiences are required. Travellers can opt out of any activity at any time, and we never engage in activities that compromise comfort or safety.



**Panterra Experts in the Field** – Join Lela Sankeralli, your lead naturalist and a local scientist from the Panterra team, for an informative evening presentation on local conservation efforts, environmental health, and the adaptations of animals to changing conditions. Your experts in the field will also provide cultural insights and share knowledge about the natural history of the flora, fauna, and geological sites you will visit. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn and engage with experts in the field.



**Hotel Accommodations** - [Hotel Catedral](#), La Paz (4-star rating) is a new concept of lodging that adapts to the needs of today's travellers. The hotel is situated in the historic center of the city, surrounded by several points of interest and located next to the oldest church in La Paz. With its sophisticated architecture in a contemporary modernist style, the hotel offers its guests a service of excellence and quality, both in the rooms and in its haute cuisine restaurant. It is more than a lodging. It is an invitation to an elegant, comfortable and relaxing stay.

**Ground Transportation** - As per your itinerary for the expedition, we have taken care of all your transportation needs. All the transporters we have arranged are certified and registered with both the Department of Transport and the Mexican Board of Tourism. If you decide to arrive early or extend your stay and explore independently, we would gladly suggest suitable transportation options if you need them.



**Land Excursions** – We have arranged for two half-day trips at the start and end of the expedition. The first trip will entail a cultural tour of La Paz, including a visit to a Modern Art Museum. The second trip will take you to explore El Triunfo, a quaint town rich in cultural history. Both trips are highly educational and culturally enriching.

## The MV Adventure - [SHIPS LAYOUT](#)

**Ships Crew** - The Captain, engineer, and crew are onboard to ensure the safety and well-being of the group. They bring many years of mariner experience in the Sea of Cortez, reflecting the warmth, kindness, and hospitality of the people of Baja, Mexico. Ratio: 2 to 1, 16 guests to 8 crew/Panterra staff.

**Ship Information** - The "MV Adventure" is a 117' 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 ship's inventory includes kayaks, snorkel gear, a ship's library, scientific equipment and two 28' pangas for ship-to-shore transport.

**Ships Interior and Accommodations** - Multiple-level decks are ideal for wildlife viewing, group gatherings and areas for relaxing. The upper deck offers a bird's eye view and a comfortable seating area. The main deck (bow) offers sea-level viewing, ideal for closer wildlife viewing and often hearing the animals communicate. The main deck (salon) offers dining and classroom space, a couch, and a TV for evening presentations. The main deck (stern) is ideal for snorkel gear and hanging wet close to dry. The below deck offers eight cabins with dbl occupancy (upper/lower bunks), vanity, sink, drawers, and cupboard space to unpack. Shower/bathroom facilities are separate from the staterooms. There are two sets of facilities; one for guys and one for gals.

**Meals** - Our meals consist of a variety of healthy and nutritious foods including fresh fruits, veggies, meat, and seafood. The cuisine reflects the Mexican culture and most dietary needs can be accommodated with advanced notice.

**Daily Activities (during the cruise)** – Normal activities include wildlife viewing, hiking, kayaking and snorkeling. In addition, we have scheduled a 60 – 90 min. "classroom" session at the beginning of the trip. The goal will be to go over basic techniques, Santisouk's approach to photography and the list of recommended equipment she will be sending you. While at sea, and right after lunch, we will have a short session from the morning shoot and go over additional techniques and the plans for an evening shoot.

The daily schedule at sea will be:

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|--|--|
| - Wake up at sunrise, have a quick tea/coffee and pre-breakfast of fruit, yogurts and cereals. | - Rest, nap, personal time 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm |
| - Shoot from sunrise to maybe around 11:00 am  | - Snack 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm                    |
| - Brunch at 11:00 am   | - Shoot till sunset 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm        |
| - Short collaboration session 1:00 pm - 1:30 pm  | - Dinner at 8:00 pm                          |

At this time of the year, the Sea of Cortez is where great whales such as blues, humpbacks, and orcas spend their winter. This expedition offers unforgettable experiences with rare wildlife sightings and breathtaking landscapes.

[PRINT ITINERARY](#)

## Itinerary

The Baja California Peninsula is beautifully embraced by two bodies of water: the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Cortez. A striking natural beauty set in a dramatic backdrop of rugged mountains and desert islands with high cliffs dropping down to sandy beaches and crystal-clear turquoise waters. It is rich in natural history, unspoiled in beauty, and unrivalled in rare marine and terrestrial wildlife.

### Day 1 (Apr. 19) - Arriving in La Paz

Upon your arrival at the Cabo (SJD) or La Paz International Airport (LAP), our drivers will transfer you to the Hotel Catedral in La Paz for your first night's stay.

*Drive Time:* Cabo to La Paz - 2.5 hours / La Paz to Hotel - 20 mins. D

### Day 2 - 6 - Land Excursion and Boarding the Ship, the MV Adventure

On Day 2, we will check out of the hotel at 12 pm and depart on a half-day land excursion touring the City of La Paz. Our drivers will then transfer the group to the marina at 5:00 pm, where the ship will be docked. Once onboard, guests will be shown to their cabins as we ready the ship for immediate departure to the islands. Please see daily ship activities as outlined on page 3. On Day 6, disembark the ship at 10:00 am. *Cruising Time:* 4 - 6 hours sailing per day

### Day 6 (Apr. 24) – Disembarkation and By Land Half-Day Trip

On Day 6, at disembarkation, our drivers will pick guests up and depart on a half-day land excursion to explore a town rich in cultural history. Visit a Mining Museum, enjoy lunch and shopping, then complete the day trip with a visit to the Vaquero (Baja cowboys and ranching) Museum. Our drivers will then transfer the group to the Hotel Catedral for their 3/4:00 pm check-in. *Excursion Time:* 5/6 hours

### Day 7 (Apr. 25) – A Free Day to Explore La Paz

Enjoy a free day poolside and/or explore the famous Malecon seawalk. Stroll along the seaside and take in all the shops and restaurants. You may also want to visit one of the local museums. Enjoy a last evening group dinner on the shores of the Bay of La Paz.

### Day 8 (Apr. 26) - Hotel Check Out

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast, check out of the hotel and our driver will return guests to the La Paz or Cabo International Airport for your flight home.

*Drive Time:* La Paz to Cabo 2.5 hours







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## What's Included

- ❖ Airport/hotel transfers on arrival and departure dates
- ❖ All ground transportation provided on excursions
- ❖ Accommodations as indicated in the itinerary
- ❖ Meals and beverages as indicated in the itinerary
- ❖ Daily activities and excursions as indicated in the itinerary

## What's Not Included

- ❖ Airfare to and from the destination
- ❖ Trip cancellation insurance or any other form of travel insurance
- ❖ Two lunches and evening dinners during excursions and hotel stay
- ❖ Crew gratuities (Recommended 10%)
- ❖ Items of a personal nature

## Cost

**\$2495 USD**

- ❖ Prices are per person based on double occupancy.
- ❖ Single travellers are welcome at no additional cost for assigned shared accommodations.
- ❖ Single supplement \$500 USD. Limited space.

**Disclaimer:** Please be advised that all activities offered by Panterra are meticulously planned, taking into consideration various factors such as safety, weather, and sea conditions. We strive to ensure that every activity is possible, but in rare circumstances where it is not feasible, we reserve the right to substitute it with an alternative activity. Please note that Panterra cannot be held responsible for any unforeseen circumstances beyond our control.

*Where we make the impossible adventure possible!*