



← Sea of Cortez Liveaboard



YOUNG NATURALIST EXPEDITIONS

México
LIVE IT TO BELIEVE IT

A Scientific Adventure
8-Day Sea and Land Expedition
La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico



PANTERRA
Adventure Travel

Trip Overview

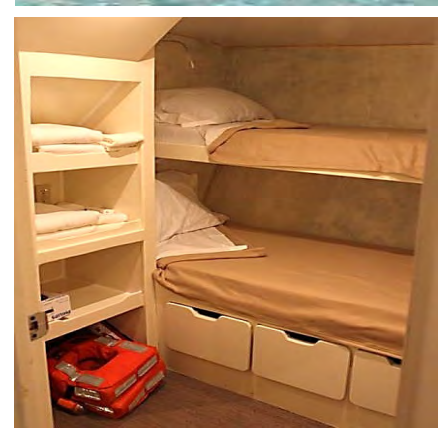
Panterra – Over the past 40 years, [Panterra](#) has developed the Young Naturalist Expeditions as a scientific adventure into the study of the natural history of a marine environment. In the past few decades, the Sea of Cortez has been a perfect, world-class outdoor classroom with overwhelming success in experiential learning. In response to our changing world, climate, environment and impact on biodiversity, we have made the decision to expand our scientific adventures to marine and desert terrestrial studies. Students will be able to observe and participate alongside scientists in the field as they conduct their research. Whether students are participating experientially or participating in the Panterra specially designed curriculum for credits, the student's experience will be life-changing. It is a scientific adventure in educational and cultural experiences, inspiring students towards further learning. Many of our past students have used their experience with Panterra to make the world a better place.

What to Expect – The expedition has an activity rating of novice to moderate level. For our land excursions, participants should be comfortable walking or standing for periods of time and able to engage in multiple hours of activity on most days. Hikes range from 1 – 2 hours on uneven terrain at low elevations in warm and humid conditions. Our water-based activities require participants to have basic swimming skills and some experience snorkelling. The expedition is educational, cultural, and wildlife focused. All activities and excursions are carefully planned with consideration of safety, weather, and sea conditions. Participants are able to opt out of any activity they feel uncomfortable participating in. **If any of the suggested activities mentioned in this brochure are not approved by your schoolboard we can easily change to other approved activities.**

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 LAYOUT](#)

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 to relax on and a TV for evening presentations. The main deck (stern) is ideal for storing snorkel gear and hanging wet close to dry. The below deck offers 8 cabins with dbl/trpl occupancy, 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 girls.





Trip Overview continued

Ships Crew - The Captain(s), 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 and offer the warmth and kindness that reflects the beauty and hospitality of the people of Baja, Mexico. Ratio: 2 to 1, 16 guests to 9 crew/Panterra staff.



Camp Information - Camp Ceseña by Panterra, is located 1.5 hours north of La Paz set in a desert environment on 1000 hectares of the 100-year-old Ceseña Family Ranch. It offers glamping-style accommodations with guided activities from our experts in the field and range from desert hikes exploring flora, fauna, and geological areas of significance to cultural historic sites and interactions.

Camp Staff – The camp staff are part of three generations of the Ceseña family. Ranging from the grandparents, grown children and 38 grandchildren (of which 14 grandchildren are in university), it is a family-supported project in partnership with Panterra.



Experts in the Field - Our experts in the field (naturalists, scientists, and/or conservationists) will offer evening presentations engaging guests on local conservation efforts, the health of the environment, and adaptations animals are making to the ever-changing environment. The experts will depend on the expedition focus, and a portion of the expedition cost goes toward supporting our scientific and conservation efforts. Part of the support staff includes an onboard certified lifeguard who will work alongside the crew to ensure safety during water activities and land excursions. The camp will include wilderness first aid personnel.

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. On the camp portion of the trip, students will have an opportunity to learn how to make fresh ranch cheese, tortillas, and more.



Hotel Accommodations - [Hotel Catedral](#), La Paz (4.5-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. The hotel offers its guests a service of excellence and quality.

Air and Ground Transportation - Flights from Canada to Mexico direct can be arranged upon request for the group, with a possible plane change in Canada. As specified in the trip itinerary, we provide all ground transportation needs during the expedition. All ground transporters in Mexico are certified and registered with the Mexican Department of Transport and Board of Tourism. All drivers require a federal license for the transport of commercial passengers.



[PRINT ITINERARY](#)

Itinerary

The Baja California Peninsula is beautifully embraced by two bodies of water: the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Cortez. Set in a natural backdrop of rugged mountains and desert islands, it is rich in natural history, unspoiled in beauty, and unrivalled in marine and desert wildlife. It is a perfect outdoor classroom for experiential learning and scientific field studies.

Day 1 - 5 - Arriving in La Paz and Boarding the ship, the Adventure

The group will arrive at the Cabo International Airport (SJD) where our drivers will transfer you to the ship, the Adventure, for your first 4 night stay of the expedition. (B,L,D)

Drive Time: Cabo to La Paz 2.5-hour drive

Once onboard, the group will be shown to their cabins as the crew prepares the ship for departure to the islands. Please see daily activities as outlined on page 5. Day 5, disembark the ship at 10:00 am and head to our desert camp, Camp Ceseña, for a 3 -night stay.

Drive Time: 1.5 hours

Day 5 - 7 –Camp Ceseña by Panterra

On the way to the camp, a cultural land excursion includes a stop to enjoy a traditional Mexican lunch before checking into the camp. Please see daily activities as outlined on page 5. A full cultural and desert environment experience with many geological and historical sites to explore. On-site researchers will be giving an evening presentation on the current research underway at the camp and students will have the opportunity to assist (where legally possible) in the research. (B,L,D)

Excursion Time: 6 – 8+ hours per day

Day 7 – Panterra Camp Ceseña Checkout and Hotel Check In

Depart the camp after lunch and head back to La Paz where the group will check into the Hotel Catedral for the last night's stay. Visit the local art museum and enjoy an afternoon of strolling, shopping, and enjoying the famous Malecon seawalk. (B, L, dinner is guest responsibility)

Drive Time: Camp Ceseña to La Paz 1.5-hour drive

Day 8 – Hotel Check Out

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast, check out of the hotel and our drivers will return the group to the Cabo International Airport for your flight home. (B)

Drive Time: La Paz to Cabo 2.5-hour drive





Daily Activities

The expeditions differ slightly based on the seasonal marine and desert wildlife present. Water activities include *kayaking, *swimming, *snorkeling, and wildlife viewing. Land activities include visits to remote communities, beach walking, hiking trails, and arroyos, exploring the desert island flora and fauna, and discovering the geological makeup of the islands and peninsula. Groups doing the Panterra Workbook for credits will have designated time to work on the workbook. On-site experts in the field (Panterra-sponsored researchers) will be assisting in the educational component, conducting studies and will offer an evening presentation on their work.

* Kayaks (high-impact plastic sit-on and not the professional seagoing design), swimming, and snorkelling are all carried out with surface support from the pangas. Lifeguard supervised and in the safety of the shallow, protected bays we anchor in. If any of the suggested activities mentioned in this brochure are not approved by your schoolboard we can easily change to other approved activities.

What's Included

- ❖ Airport transfers and all ground transportation in Mexico
- ❖ Boat, camp, and hotel accommodations
- ❖ Meals and beverages as indicated
- ❖ Daily activities and excursions as indicated
- ❖ Service provider gratuities

What's Not Included

- ❖ Airfare and Travel Agency fee if arranged by Panterra
- ❖ All-Inclusive Travel Insurance (highly recommended)
- ❖ Meals during flight, airport transfer and the last evening dinner
- ❖ Items of a personal nature - suggested spending money - \$200 USD or equivalent in pesos

Cost: \$2995 CDN - Prices are per student based on dbl/trpl occupancy. Group size, 14 students plus 2 supervising teachers

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.

— Benjamin Franklin