

BAJA

A Mother-Daughter Adventure



February 16 - 23, 2019

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TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Get up close to wildlife where the desert meets the sea
- ▶ Go paddle boarding and ride the waves during a surfing lesson
- ▶ Enjoy a Mexican cooking class, including how to make the perfect margarita!
- ▶ Snorkel with sea lions and explore hidden lagoons by kayak
- ▶ Observe mother and baby whales in Magdalena Bay

TRIP ROUTE



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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

- Day 1: welcome dinner and trip orientation
- Day 2: surfing lesson, picnic on the beach, mexican cooking class
- Day 3: glamping at an AW exclusive campsite, kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding
- Day 4: swimming with sea lions, beach walk
- Day 5: morning kayaking and snorkeling, transfer to Magdalena Bay
- Day 6: whale watching in Magdalena Bay
- Day 7: return to Los Colibris, farewell dinner
- Day 8: depart Baja

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: \$3,590

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your adventure
in depth

DAY 1

Saturday
2/16/19

Arrive in Todos Santos

Welcome to Baja! Bordered by both the wild Pacific Ocean and the protected Sea of Cortez, this finger-like desert peninsula is a haven for exotic plants, birds and animals (both terrestrial and marine) and is home to friendly and welcoming people.

Pick-up and Transfer

Your guide will greet you at the San Jose del Cabo airport and transfer you to Los Colibris Casitas in Todos Santos.

Welcome Dinner and Trip Orientation

Tonight's Welcome Dinner and trip briefing is at Santo Vino, Chef Dany Lamote's "love letter to Baja."

At Santo Vino Bistro, Chef Dany Lamote has created an intimate dining space in the traditional style of a European bistro. He will transport you to the comfortable elegance of Baja food with his own creative, culinary twists. Fusing different cultures and knowledge into unique inspirational recipes, he lovingly takes traditional Mexican recipes and then personalizes and adapts them by mixing in his life experiences. What better way to begin your week in Baja!

Accommodations

Los Colibris Casitas

Meals Included

dinner

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DAY 2

Sunday
2/17/19

Accommodations

Los Colibris Casitas

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

Todos Santos

Todos Santos is an undiscovered gem, back-dropped by the Sierra de Laguna Mountains and rimmed with gorgeous beaches and lush gardens. It's an official Pueblo Magico, one of Mexico's 50 off-the-beaten-path towns known for their "magical ambiance."

Breakfast Start off your first day with a terrific Mexican breakfast prepared by Los Colibris Chef Iker Algorri.

Tortilla-Making Class Start your tortilla-making class right after breakfast to ensure that there are plenty of tortillas on hand for your cooking class tonight.

Surfing Class Hit the waves at beautiful Playa Los Cerritos, one of the best surf breaks in Baja, where your veteran instructor will work with you one-on-one, and guarantee that you'll ride the waves - at least for a moment! A spectacular crescent of sand, Los Cerritos is one of the best surf breaks in Baja. And with a smooth, sandy bottom and small waves breaking close to shore, it is the perfect place to introduce beginners to the joy of surfing. Haven't you always wanted to try this?

Picnic Lunch Enjoy a delicious picnic lunch on the beach.

Playa Punto Lobos Head to Playa Punta Lobos to greet the local fishermen as they come in with the daily catch. Chef Iker will instruct the group on the local fish and how he makes his buying decisions, and of course purchase the fish for the cooking class to follow.

Evening Cooking Class Head back to Iker's Colibris Café at Los Colibris Casitas to learn how to make the perfect margarita and Punta Lobos Fish Stew.

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DAY 3

Monday
2/18/19

Todos Santos to Isla Espiritu Santo

Espiritu Santo National Park in the Sea of Cortez is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and is one of the best marine life viewing destinations in the world. Whales, dolphins, whale sharks, sea turtles, manta rays and plenty of beautiful tropical fish call the surrounding waters home, while a terrific range of bird species including Blue-footed Boobies, Reddish Egrets, Great Blue Herons, and Yellow-footed Gulls frequent the island's skies and shores. The island itself is stunning, with magnificent towering cliffs, spectacular sandy bays, amazing lava rock formations, and rock art left by the now-extinct Guaycura and Pericu Indians. There's even an endemic ring-tailed cat, the babisuri. It's a remarkable place to explore.

Travel to Isla Espiritu Santo

Drive to La Paz, where you will get on a boat for your 90-minute ride to your exclusive camp (AdventureWomen only!) on the beach. Wear your bathing suit this morning, just in case you get to swim along the way!

Afternoon Activities

After lunch, spend your afternoon kayaking or stand up paddle boarding exploring hidden lagoons and desert beaches. Take a late afternoon hike as a group to explore the area and enjoy the sunset!

Accommodations

Glamping on the Beach

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 4

Tuesday
2/19/19

Isla Espiritu Santo

Spend the day on Isla Espiritu Santo. Go hiking to explore the lava rock formations and striking cliffs of the island and look for all of the strange birds in the air and curious animals on the mainland. When the time comes to get in the water, go for a swim, kayak, snorkel, or stand up paddle board.

Swimming with Sea Lions

Swimming with sea lions is magical, with unforgettable nose-to-nose encounters. Grab some snorkel gear provided and jump in with them. If weather permits, you will also be able to swim with whale sharks.

Enjoy the Beach

Spend the afternoon enjoying the beach, or choose to spend some more time on a kayak or a paddle board!

Accommodations

Glamping on the Beach

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 5

Wednesday
2/20/19

Isla Espiritu Santo to Magdalena Bay

Magdalena Bay is the largest wetlands ecosystem on the west coast of Baja and one of the most important in North America. The World Wildlife Fund ranks it as one of the most important coastal habitats in Mexico. Magdalena Bay has mangrove forests, barrier beaches and sand dune islands, all of which contribute to the incredible scenery and biological diversity of the area. The Bay is also the prime calving ground for the gray whale, and January to March it is possible to see - and often touch - a large number of whales, including mothers and calves.

Morning at Leisure

Enjoy one last morning on the beach at your spectacular glamping site.

Transfer to Magdalena Bay

Take a boat to La Paz, and then transfer the 4.5 hours by road to Magdalena Bay. Settle into your hotel and get excited for whale watching tomorrow!

Accommodations

Mar Y Arena

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 6

Thursday
2/21/19

Magdalena Bay

The Gray whale is the largest animal to have ever exhibited friendliness towards humans. There is little to compare with the experience of closely observing a mother nurse her calf, or seeing juveniles leaping exuberantly out of the water. They frolic, breach, spyhop, and lobtail, while spouting heart-shaped clouds of mist into the cool midday air. The young calves are especially curious, following and sometimes even nuzzling up to the whale-watching skiffs. Sometimes they catch a ride on their mother's backs!

Full Day of Whale Watching

Head out onto the water for a full day of interacting with whales. Highly experienced local staff will ferry you through the waters of Magdalena Bay to whale watch from motorized skiffs, perfect conveyances from which to have a "whale's eye view" of the Great Grays!

Dinner

Enjoy dinner at your hotel tonight.

Accommodations

Mar Y Arena

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 7

Friday
2/22/19

Magdalena Bay to Todos Santos

One of the most striking things about the Baja peninsula is the incredible juxtaposition of desert and sea, happy home to both cactus and seagull. Artists and photographers are lured here by the quality of light, marine sports enthusiasts come to enjoy the challenging fun above and below the surface of the inviting big blue sea, and the local residents enjoy a stress-free lifestyle, welcoming visitors who seek a multi-layered getaway.

Return to Todos Santos

The drive back to Todos Santos and Los Colibris Casitas will take about four hours. Stop for lunch along the way. This evening, enjoy a final Baja sunset from a patio or balcony.

Farewell Dinner

End your spectacular week with a Farewell Dinner at the Restaurante La Casita Tapas and Wine Bar. One reviewer said that “each dish exceeds in every way what taste buds expect of well-concentrated and carefully prepared dishes. ‘Succulent’ as a description doesn’t do the food justice. Think ‘excellent’ and you’ll be close.”

Accommodations

Los Colibris Casitas

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 8

Saturday
2/23/19

Depart Todos Santos

After a fond farewell and breakfast, say “hasta luego” to your guide and new friends!

Breakfast and Transfer

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport. Your flight should leave no earlier than 12:00.

Meals Included
breakfast

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

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Accommodation Details

Los Colibris Casitas

Los Colibris—The Hummingbirds—is located in Todos Santos, just a ten-minute walk from the area’s beautiful beaches. The property features two big casas (houses) and two casitas (little houses). Each building is configured and decorated in a unique way. The accommodations all include a kitchen or kitchenette with appliances, a dining area, a balcony, porch or patio, ceiling fans, and lovely views of the Pacific Ocean and lagoon.

Glamping on the Beach

You will LOVE your base camp on one of the island’s most beautiful beaches! It features walk-in safari-style tents with twin beds, mattresses, pillows, sheets, and lamps. The accommodations are so comfortable and beautiful that you won’t want to leave. This is GLAMPING (glamorous camping) at its best! There is a kitchen tent where our on-site chef makes wonderful meals for you every day, and there is a separate tent for the sun showers. There are even little cabañas for the compost toilets.

Mar Y Arena

The Villas Mar & Arena is located just opposite Magdalena Bay. The rooms have sea views, each with a TV, private bathroom and free Wi-Fi. Puerta San Carlos is a very small town with limited options. Mar Y Arena is centrally located, clean, comfortable and accords excellent service.

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Included/Not Included

Included:

- ▶ Accommodations based on double occupancy
- ▶ Meals as noted in the itinerary
- ▶ All transportation throughout the trip
- ▶ All activities as listed in the itinerary
- ▶ On Isla Espiritu Santo: drinks, a glass of wine/beer during happy hour
- ▶ English-speaking guide throughout the trip
- ▶ One AdventureWomen Ambassador

Not Included:

- ▶ Round-trip airfare
- ▶ Meals not specified in itinerary
- ▶ Alcoholic beverages, unless otherwise specified
- ▶ Items of a personal nature
- ▶ Gratuities

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Activity Level:

Moderate

Active

High Energy

Challenging

We rate this trip as Active. Our Active adventures get you on your feet. You should be in good physical condition and be prepared to hike for up to five hours, multiple days in a row, on uneven surfaces with some steep ascents and descents.

We recommend training before your trip (with your doctor's permission!) to make the most of your adventure. We have a partnership with FitForTrips, a company that will design an individualized fitness plan for you with this itinerary in mind. Best of all, AdventureWomen guests get a 25% discount with the code FITWOMEN. Learn more at: <https://fitfortrips.com/partners/adventure-women/>

You should come with a flexible, adventurous, and enthusiastic spirit, and a wonderful sense of humor that adventure travel requires.

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Once you book, you will need to fill out and return to AdventureWomen:

- Information Form
- Booking Conditions Form
- Copy of Flight Information
- Copy of Issuing Page of Passport (Photo Page)

Final payment is due to AdventureWomen in a cash form (check, money order, or wire transfer) on or before November 18, 2018.

Health Considerations:

Make an appointment with a travel clinic. There are no immunization requirements for travel to Mexico, however your local travel clinic may have recommendations for you based on your age, health, and past vaccination history.

For more health information, go to www.cdc.gov/travel and navigate to the page about Mexico.

Passports and Visas:

For US citizens traveling to or from Mexico, all travelers must have a valid United States passport. The US Department of State recommends that your passport be valid for at least six months after your expected return. No visa is required for travel to Mexico from the United States.

Money:

On this trip, US cash is accepted nearly everywhere. You should have enough money in small bills in US dollars (fives, tens, twenties, and some ones) to leave for tips. Credit cards are accepted in downtown Todos Santos and La Paz.

Suggestions for Gratuities:

- ▶ Main guide: \$10-15 per person per day
- ▶ Los Colibris Chef and Staff: \$10 per person
- ▶ Island Chef and Staff: \$10 per person
- ▶ Boat/skiff drivers for Espiritu Santo and Magdalena Bay: \$10 per group for each outing

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Arrive: Arrive at the San Jose del Cabo Airport (SJD) in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico by 3:30pm February 3, 2019.

Depart: Depart from the San Jose del Cabo Airport (SJD) after noon on February 10, 2019.

We are happy to help you make your flight and travel arrangements. Please contact us at:

(800) 804-8686 or (617) 544-9393
email: info@adventurewomen.com

If you'd like to do anything prior to or following the AdventureWomen trip, we'd be delighted to help you arrange any trip extensions you're interested in.

Note: The recent trend in travel is for travelers to finalize their plans much closer to departure time than was customary in the past. While we try to be as flexible as possible booking last-minute registrants, we must release hotel rooms two to three months prior to departure! Please keep this in mind when making your travel plans.

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As you get ready to pack for your adventure, have a look at The AdventureWomen Store at www.theadventurewomenstore.com - we have picked out our favorite travel clothes and outdoor gear to help make packing easy for you. You can also see our recommendations for this trip on the [AdventureWomen Pinterest](#) page.

Baja has two seasons: a dry season and a green season. Verano, the dry season, runs from December to April, and invierno, the rainy or “green” season runs from May to November. It can, however, rain in the dry season and be dry in the rainy season, so you should be prepared for precipitation regardless of the season! As far as temperatures, expect highs in the high 70s and 80s and lows in the high 50s or 60s.

In general, you can dress very casually on this Baja vacation. The temperatures and weather on the Baja Peninsula in Mexico can be quite warm, but can also be quite cool during the mornings and evenings, especially if it is windy. Dressing in layers while whale watching on Magdalena Bay and while sea kayaking is recommended.

Clothing and Gear:

- 1 soft-sided suitcase or duffel bag (no hard-sided suitcases allowed)
- 1 small daypack to carry camera, hat, layers etc. on excursions
- 3 t-shirts
- 1 light-weight long-sleeved shirt
- 1 sweater or light jacket
- 2 pairs quick-dry shorts
- 1 pair light-weight pants
- 1 pair pants (for cool evenings)
- 1 rain jacket
- 1 pair rain pants
- 1-2 bathing suits
- 1 pair comfortable sneakers or shoes you can hike in
- 1 pair sport water sandals
- 1 sun hat
- Underwear/bras
- Pajamas

AdventureWomen Essentials:

- Travel documents (identification documents, airline tickets, money)
- Write down/print out travel insurance number
- Locks for your suitcase/duffel bag
- Travel alarm clock with spare batteries
- Headlamp or small flashlight with spare batteries
- Binoculars (8x40/42 models are excellent choices; center

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Essentials Continued:

- focus models are easiest)
- Digital camera, memory cards, battery charger
- Sunglasses, case, and strap
- Spare glasses, contact lenses, cleaner, saline, etc.
- Money belt or neck pouch
- Your AdventureWomen insulated bottle (good for hot or cold drinks!)
- Sunscreen and lip balm with SPF
- Hand wipes/hand sanitizer
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Soap, shampoo, and conditioner
- Small packet of tissues
- Tampons and panty liners (avoid plastic applicators)
- Earplugs: We recommend Mack's Pillow Soft White Moldable Silicone Snore Proof Earplugs. Available at most drugstores or at www.earplugstore.com
- Assortment of stuff sacks and Ziploc bags
- 1-2 bandanas/Buff
- Reading material/journal and pens

Personal First Aid Kit:

- Prescription medicine you usually take
- Personal epi pen (if you need one, don't forget to pack it!)
- Bandages, Gauze, Ace bandage, blister prevention
- Antiseptic wipes/spray
- Antibiotic ointment
- Cotton-tipped applicators
- Oral rehydration tablets/packets
- Antidiarrheal medication
- Mild laxative
- Antacid
- Cold remedies
- Ibuprofen/acetaminophen
- Eye drops
- Tweezers, scissors (travel size), safety pins

If you prefer to buy a complete kit, we recommend the Smart Travel first aid kit.

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Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date, and the registration deposit is non-refundable.

For cancellations received 61-90 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable. For cancellations received 1-60 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance to cover emergency situations. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

Switching Trips

If for some reason you need to switch to a different trip, please call us and we will do our best to accommodate you.

No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen vacations.

Health Insurance

You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

Adventure Travel Today

At AdventureWomen, we want everyone to understand that our excursions are adventure travel vacations and not "tours." We define "adventure travel" as travel in which one **actively participates**, as opposed to a "tour," in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes vacations all over the world for women who want to **experience an active, out of the ordinary vacation, and meet new friends**. Most of all, we want our trips to be **fun!**

good-natured realist and have a sense of humor! Adventure vacations, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. **Being on time** is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well-being of both individuals and the group!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a