



**Itinerary for  
Sea of Cortez, Baja - Prehistoric Petroglyphs  
On the MV *Westward***

*Itineraries are dependent on weather and tides and may change at the captain's discretion*

**An expedition among the scattered islands along the shore of the Baja peninsula. Snorkel with young sea lions, walk along desert island ridges and palm-lined arroyos. Visit a remote fishing village and kayak into a mangrove lagoon. An overland visit to ancient cave paintings is a highlight.**

**Day 1:** Plan to arrive in Loreto via the Alaska/Horizon Air flight from LAX. Our crew will meet you as you emerge from Customs and Immigration and escort you to our hotel in old Loreto. You will have a couple of hours to explore the many shops and sights, including the first mission church in the Californias, and milepost zero of El Camino Real, which was built to link the missions. We will have a group dinner in a garden restaurant near the old square.

**Day 2:** Our van will pick you up at the hotel at 07:00 for the two hour drive to Mulege. Using Mulege as a base, we will explore several cave painting sites in the area.

There are an unknown number of painted caves in the Sierra Mountains of southern Baja. Some are small, with paintings having been protected for thousands of years by small overhanging rock ledges. Other sites are large caves, with remarkably detailed drawings of people and animals. Experts place the ages of these paintings at between 6,000 and 10,000 years. They rival those in Western Europe for artistry and significance.

Returning from the mountains, we will enjoy dinner in one of the many small restaurants in Mulege before retiring to our lodgings for a well-earned night's sleep.

**Day 3:** After breakfast you will again board the van for another foray into the Sierras and several more painted caves. After all too short a time, we will return to Mulege for lunch, before driving back to Loreto. Back in Loreto, there will be time to explore the many shops surrounding the town square, or rest in your room before meeting for another group dinner, followed by a night back in the comfort of your hotel.

**Day 4:** Our guests will set a time to meet for breakfast in a small local café, after which there is time to re-visit your favorite shop in the square. Shopping is better and easier here than it is in La Paz, so this is the place to purchase your gifts to take home.

Our van will meet you at the hotel at 11:00AM and transport you the fifteen miles to the harbor where *Westward* awaits. After boarding and putting your gear into your stateroom, we will have a short orientation before getting underway for our first night's anchorage on the shore of Isla Danzante.

**Days 5 through 10:** We will spend these six days cruising through the scattered islands between Loreto and La Paz. On the way we will kayak along rugged cliffs and into quiet mangrove-lined lagoons, snorkel in impossibly clear water cataloging the myriad fish that seem to fly beneath us, and gather to enjoy truly gourmet meals.

Weather and sea conditions play a huge part in how we select our routes and anchorages, but with thousands of miles of experience in and among these islands, we will show our guests the very best of what is available during our time together.

In these waters we have seen blue, humpback, sperm and fin whales, orcas, common and bottlenose dolphins, pilot whales, and acres of leaping manta and mobula rays. We have had striped marlin swim right next to our boat, and taken so many sunrise and sunset pictures that we have struggled to choose our favorites.

**Day 11:** Today is whale shark swim day! Only a few outfitters are granted access to the whale shark swim area, and these operators are specially trained and follow strict regulations. Depending on the weather, we will either meet our outfitter inside the port of La Paz, or outside, closer to the designated whale shark swim area. We will board a small, open fishing boat, called a panga, which will be your transportation into whale shark waters. After your time with the whale sharks you will return to *Westward*.

After your swim, we will either already be moored in the marina in La Paz, where we will spend the night, or we may anchor in a nearby cove for the afternoon. In the evening, we will review our trip together in the form of an after dinner slide show.

**Day 12:** We will share an early breakfast aboard *Westward* before we are met by our van for transportation to the Los Cabos International Airport. The van will leave the marina at 8:00, which will get us to the airport by 11:00. Please plan your return flight accordingly.