

Clothing, Equipment and Resource List

Sea of Cortez, Baja, Mexico

General trip information

Pacific Catalyst II, Inc. trips are low impact, eco-friendly nature adventures carefully designed for our guests to enjoy quiet days away from the hectic pace of city life and to detox from technology. Our journey will take us into federally protected, remote areas, where we often find ourselves silently observing and photographing wildlife. Because we want to be good stewards of our environment, and because federal law prohibits drones in many of these areas, we ask our guests not to bring them on board. Additionally, we are asking that music and games on personal devices be enjoyed with headphones only, so as not to disturb the other guests.

This list will help you prepare for temperatures which may range from a low in the upper 50s at night to a possible high of 80 degrees on sunny days. Several things on the list will also prepare you for rain. If you're dressed appropriately, the weather is always perfect. We don't have room for large hard suit cases, so please pack in softer bags or soft cases (with wheels okay). We do not have laundry facilities for guests, but you can hand wash and dry items in engine room if necessary.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, special needs, or concerns. You can reach us at 360.378.7123 or email: info@pacificcatalyst.com

Clothing and Personal Gear

- Short sleeved and sleeveless shirts
- Long sleeved shirt: light cotton for sun protection
- Long pants (2): 1 pair warm for nighttime and 1 pair lightweight for daytime sun protection if needed (nylon windbreaker type pants work well)
- Shorts: quick drying nylon for kayaking and hiking (2)
- Casual clothes for town and travel
- Skirt or light weight dress for woman (optional)
- Undergarments
- Thermal undergarments or layered warm clothing for the chillier winter months (it can get quite cold during the night at the grey whale lagoons)
- Jacket/fleece for cooler nights
- Rain jacket with hat or hood
- Rain pants
- Light sweater
- Socks
- Light athletic shoes/slip ons and/or sandals
- Comfortable hiking boots (optional)
- Water shoes, Teva style sports sandals for beach walks and kayaking (closed-toe recommended)
- Personal toiletries including soap and shampoo
- Waterproof Sun block/sunscreen as well as lip screen
- Insect repellent (waterproof)
- Personal medication including seasick medicine if needed
- Sun glasses with retention strap
- Swimsuit (beach towels provided)
- One one-quart water bottle
- Hand laundry soap such as Woolite, as we have no laundry facilities on board for guests

Other Suggested Items

- Day pack
- Spare batteries
- Sun Hat with tie down strap (for wind) secured via a barrel lock
- Reading matter (library aboard)
- Own Binoculars or spotting scope – we have binoculars for your use
- Field guides – we have a library
- Camera, lens, memory cards, batteries (we will download pictures to Zip Drives and share)
- Trip diary or note paper
- Nautical charts for noting route and other information-if so inclined. We have charts.
- Personal kayak gear if you want, such as gloves, booties
- Snorkel, mask and fins (we will have them onboard for use)
- Bandanna
- Light-weight Wetsuit, “shorty” style is sufficient (we have some onboard)

Cell Phones

Cell phones work in some areas while in Baja, as well as in the main towns, but don't count on them to work all the time. We do not have internet service. Check with your wireless provider about international roaming and phone call costs.

Electricity

We have regular 110 electrical outlets on the boat and in each cabin, so you can plug in battery chargers, computers, CPAP Machines, etc. We suggest that you don't bring hair dryers, as you will be limited in your use of them. We don't run our generator at night to maintain silence. Electricity is still available at night, but we're on batteries then and are restricted in the use of high-draw appliances. If you use a CPAP Machine, do bring a battery back-up, just in case.

Prohibited Items

Weapons, illegal drugs and other items that could interfere with the safe operation of the ship or the safe and secure environment of our guests and crew are prohibited. **Note:** Marijuana is illegal under US Federal law and in Mexico and therefore is illegal on our boat.

Drones

Drones may be used on our Photo Tours only. Drones may be deployed in areas where their usage is permitted, in accordance with Federal law and at the discretion of the ship's crew. Drones may not interfere with the safe operation of the ship or any of the activities.

Smoking

Participants may not smoke below decks or within any enclosed area of the vessel. Smoking is allowed on the leeward rail only.

Alcohol

We supply wine, beer, and well spirits, but if you have a specific preference for an aged single malt, you should bring your own.

Travel and Medical Insurance

We strongly recommend that you protect your vacation through the purchase of a short-term traveler's insurance, as well as evacuation insurance, should you need to cancel for some unforeseen reason or have a medical emergency. Pacific Catalyst II, Inc. cannot refund any of your cost within 90 days of your departure, unless we have to cancel the trip. You might also consider insuring your luggage, as Pacific Catalyst does not accept responsibility for lost, damaged or delayed property.

Pacific Catalyst II, Inc. has an unblemished safety record. Although every effort is made to ensure a safe trip, you should realize that in the event of illness or injury, evacuation can be expensive. Please check your medical coverage and be sure it is adequate. Everyone is required to sign an Acknowledgement of Risk and Liability Release before the trip, acknowledging their awareness that some risks are associated with ocean kayaking, boating and wilderness travel.

Medical and Health

It is vital that trip members with any medical problems or disabilities make them known to Pacific Catalyst II, Inc. by completely filling out our Personal Information sheet and returning it well before departure.

Our guides have C.P.R. and advanced first-aid training, and both boats have a well-equipped first-aid kit and an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for emergencies. The conditions are those found on any long wilderness trip: inaccessibility to civilization and vulnerability to the elements. Immediate evacuation to the U.S. can be difficult, so medical emergencies must be handled in the field. Pacific Catalyst II, Inc. assumes no liability regarding provision of health care. Please review your medical insurance.

A Note about Tips

Wishing to express their appreciation, passengers often inquire about tipping. *All tips are given at the total discretion of the guests, and are neither mandatory nor expected.* We are aware that in many countries tipping is not a standard policy. For those who wish to tip, the current standards suggest 5 to 15% of the cost of the trip. Tips are given discreetly to the captain in cash or check in the envelope provided, and are divided equally amongst all the crew. If you prefer to use a personal check, please write one to each crew member and give it to the captain to distribute. Note: Our local guide, Carlos Gajon, cannot cash or deposit checks on non-Mexican banks, please plan on giving Carlos his tip in cash. We cannot accept credit cards. We will pay all tips on our off-boat activities.

The crew normally consists of three: the captain, the chef and the naturalist/kayak guide.

Suggested Reading

- *Sea of Cortez: A Leisurely Journal of Travel and Research* by John Steinbeck and Edward F. Ricketts
- *The Log from the Sea of Cortez* (Penguin Classics) by John Steinbeck
- *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck
- *Telling Our Way to the Sea: A Voyage of Discovery in the Sea of Cortez* by Aaron Hirsh
- *The Desert Islands of Mexico's Sea of Cortez* by Stewart Aitchison
- *Baja California Plant Field Guide* by Rebman, Jon P. Roberts, Norman C.
- *Amphibians and Reptiles of Baja California* by Ron H. McPeak
- *Sea of Cortez Marine Animals: A Guide to the Common Fishes and Invertebrates Baja California to Panama* by Daniell W. Gotshall
- *Reef Fish Identification: Baja to Panama* by Paul Humann, Ned DeLoach
- *Sea of Cortez Marine Invertebrates - 2nd Edition* by Alex Kerstitch and Hans Bertsch, Hans Bertsch (Editor)
- *Baja Legends: The Historic Characters, Events, and Locations That Put Baja California on the Map* by Greg Niemann
- *The Forgotten Peninsula: A Naturalist in Baja California* by Joseph Wood Krutch
- *Cave Paintings Of Baja California: Discovering the Great Murals of an Unknown People* by Harry W. Crosby
- *Las Misiones Antiguas: The Spanish Missions of Baja California* by Edward W. Vernon
- *The Old Missions of Baja & Alta California 1697-1834* by Max Kurillo, Erline Tuttle, David Kier

- *Baja California Missions: In the Footsteps of the Padres* by David Burckhalter , Mina Sedgwick, Bernard L. Fontana (Foreword)
- *The Hidden Heart of Baja* by Erle Stanley Gardner
- *Hovering over Baja* by E S Gardner
- *The Gulf of California: Biodiversity and Conservation* by Richard C Brusca (editor)
- *Best Guide: Loreto (Best Guides)* by Alan Axelrod
- *Moon Los Cabos: Including La Paz & Todos Santos* (Moon Handbooks) by Nikki Goth Itoi

Maps

- Baja California South [Mexico]: National Geographic: Adventure Map (National Geographic: Adventure Map (3104)) Map – Folded Map, January 1, 2008 by National Geographic Maps - Adventure (Author)
- Baja California North [Mexico]: National Geographic: Adventure Map (National Geographic: Adventure Map (3103)) Map – Folded Map, January 1, 2008 by National Geographic Maps - Adventure (Author)

Related Websites

- www.pacificcatalyst.com: Pacific Catalyst.
- www.bajainsider.com/weather/baja-weather108.htm: Weather report
- <http://www.history.com/topics/mexico/baja-california>: History of Baja California
- www.alaskaair.com
- www.visitmexico.com/en/loreto
- <http://www.kuyima.com/whales>
- <http://www.allaboutbaja.com>
- <http://www.visitmexico.com/en/la-paz>
- <https://www.diversalernetnetwork.org/trip>: Suggested travel insurance site

Air and Water Temperatures*:

Month	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Ave High	83 F	76 F	74 F	76 F	81 F	86 F	92 F
Ave Low	60 F	55 F	50 F	50 F	52 F	57 F	60 F
Ave Water	79 F	72 F	68 F	66 F	68 F	72 F	75 F

*Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Paz,_Baja_California_Sur#Climate

Fishing Rules and Licenses

- Fishing can be arranged with local fishermen