



## Baja discovery tour

Autotour for 12 days/11 nights

*The tour and the activities presented in this document are not definitive. Mexcapade is willing to study and improve this offer according to the constraints; the tastes and the profile of the clients.*



### Day 1 / Arrival at La Paz

-Arrival at La Paz. The flights from France generally arrive at 10:40 pm at La Paz.

-Reception and handing over of the keys of your vehicle.

Overnight at a charming hotel. Your hotel is a unique place where every room is decorated differently, where breakfast is carefully prepared. The reception here is warm, away from the big resorts.

### Day 2 / La Paz...and its beaches

You will be up early because of the time difference, the best way of immortalizing one of the most beautiful places of interest in the region: the natural beaches of La Paz which you will discover after a thirty-minutes drive in the direction of Pichilingue, Bahia Balandra, with its crystal, shallow waters, is a natural and not very visited place of interest.

Playa El Tecolote, an appointed beach stretching along small dunes before dying at the bottom of a hill. You can take your breakfast there; the 2 restaurants cook very good fish and seafood dishes.

Possible activities:

- Snorkeling in Bahia Balandra, to observe the little sting rays which come there to hide, or in Tecolote at the bottom of the hill where you will undoubtedly run into the fascinating puffer fish.
- Sea Kayaking
- Hiking up on the Cerro Tecolote, a small hill overhanging the bay, the perfect place for nice point of view...

Late in the afternoon, we are inviting you to a welcome cocktail at La Bohème, our restaurant situated in an old hacienda in downtown; very close to Malecon (seaside). You can take a walk and enjoy the sunset.

#### **Overnight in B&B.**



#### **Restaurant recommendations:**

- Rancho Viejo : Specialities of Tacos of Arrachera (grilled beef) and other authentic Mexican dishes. (In Calle Marquez de Leon, at one block away from the seaside ). Simple but tasty!

- La Bohème (our restaurant) : French, Mexican and international cuisine. An old colonial house built in 1855, with an interior patio, calm and shady, situated in the heart of La Paz (in Calle Esquerro, not far from, the seaside). The offices of Mexcapade are situated in this setting.
- Azul Marino : Restaurant with International cuisine with a Mexican touch (inside the Marina Costa Baja)
- Il Rustico: Italian restaurant (Revolución at the corner with Bravo)
- La Envidia de Dali: Little coffee where you can find good express, teas and tisanes with a good pastries along with (Madero street inside Casa Parra Galery).

### **Day 3 / La Paz –Loreto (+/- 3H30 drive)**

This morning, explore the Sierra: departure to Loreto; the former capital of the Californias:

The road to Ciudad Constitución doesn't not present much interested just until it starts going east, from there the landscape becomes more dramatic and spectacular, specially the last part downhill to Loreto.

You can then continue the road to Loreto, a small charming town where you can admire the oldest of all the missions of Baja California, Nuestra Señora de Loreto.

Overnight in a renovated historical house, every room of this hotel is tastefully decorated with objects from the local and international artisans.

No restaurant in this hotel, you will have breakfast at "Café Olé" next door, and the owner will refer you to show you restaurants that match your wishes.

#### **Suggested visits:**

- Downtown and its monuments (mission, museum)
- A ride on the harbor, where the arrival of the sardine fishermen attract a swarm of hungry pelicans dive in to retrieve the remains torpedo!

#### **Restaurant suggestions:**

Tio Lupe: Mexican restaurant that prepares delicious dishes and has also excellent soups (which are not on the map).

### **Day 4 / Loreto, San Javier, Loreto (+ / - 2:30 hours walk)**

Depart for Mission San Javier, located at over 22 miles on foot from Loreto.

The road gets up to the Sierra La Giganta, after a couple of hours, you reach the mission, deep in the mountains in the middle of an oasis. Don't miss the olive trees, behind which Jesuit missionaries abandoned in the 18th century.

You can have lunch at a local restaurant, you return to the track in the opposite direction. The descent is equally spectacular on the intense blue canvass of the Sea of Cortez ...

Back to Loreto



### **Day 5 / Bahia Concepcion Loreto, Mulegé (+ / - 1h30 drive)**

Drive to Bahia Concepcion, heading north.

The road is lined with huge cardon cacti that exceed 50 feet high, then you arrive at Bahia Concepcion. You go along the Gulf Coast on the coast road through the beautiful bay in the Sea of Cortez. Beaches succeed in the hollow handles, lined with mangroves.

The beaches of Buenaventura, Coyote and Santispac are options for lunch.

After Bahia Concepcion, you arrive in Mulegé, a true oasis in the heart of the desert, with its palm trees along the river and its small central peaceful and colorful.

Small village rocked by the rhythm of the river that crosses it, we invite you to stroll in the heart of the oasis and visit the Mission and the former prison turned into a museum, and admire the cheap, omnipresent craft.

**Overnight in a small local hotel in the village.**



### Day 6 / Mulegé, Santa Rosalia, Loreto

This morning, you can reach Santa Rosalia, a former mining town in converted fishing Humboldt squid.

The unique architecture of French influence gives the place an air of Old West town.

The church designed by Gustave Eiffel and the old bakery are two of the curiosities worth visiting.

The state and the municipality launched a project in 2006 to restore old buildings to give back to the city its atypical historical heritage. **La Damiana Inn**

You will leave in the direction of Loreto, where you will spend the night, before discovering the southern cape of Baja California.

### Overnight at Loreto.



## Day 7 / Loreto, Todos Santos (+ / - 4:30)

In the direction the small town of Todos Santos. This village is classified as a « magical Mexican village », where the atmosphere is peaceful and you walk the streets where art galleries and craft shops come one after the other.

Its freshwater lagoon, surrounded by palm trees, the waves breaking against miles of deserted beaches and the numerous pelicans and frigates will seduce you at sunset.

To enjoy the beaches, we suggest you to go to Poza, an immense beach near a freshwater lagoon.

If you like surfing, take the car to the south, and follow "Los Cerritos" to the right about 12.5 miles out of Todos Santos. Here the surf and bodyboarding defy the Pacific waves. You can have lunch there, in a bar restaurant run by an American sports fan and jazz!

You will stay at a boutique hotel located in front of the Pacific.

From the terrace you will enjoy a beautiful sunset while having a margarita.

### **Suggested restaurant in Todos Santos:**

Hotel California, in the center, the hotel offers international cuisine, you can enjoy a pleasant patio.

Los Adobes de Todos Santos: Mexican food, outside. Between Calle Hidalgo Juarez & Militar

Santa Fe: very pleasant, excellent Italian food, very good fish dishes, fresh home-made pasta. Closed Tuesdays. Street Centenario # 4

Tacos Chilakos: very good tacos for a very reasonable price. Calle Hidalgo Juarez é Hidalgo





## **Day 8 / Todos Santos-San Jose del Cabo (+ / - 1 hour drive)**

You go along the Pacific coast to the tip, where the famous arch, located at the junction of the ocean with the sea of Cortez.

Stop at Cabo San Lucas to go on an excursion to the famous natural arch.

Before returning to San Jose del Cabo, thrill can try to zip lines which recall an "eco-park" located in the corridor between Cabo San Lucas and San Jose.

Then arrived in San Jose, we propose you to visit the Botanical Garden of San Jose which features many cacti.

Your hotel is located in the heart of San Jose, in an old hacienda, with its fountain, its pool and garden. The atmosphere is cozy and warm.



## **Day 9 / San Jose del Cabo**

Getaway in Cabo Pulmo, going back on the coast of the Sea of Cortez.

Cabo Pulmo is the only place in the North American west coast home to coral reefs.

National marine park since 1995, Cabo Pulmo opens a window on the Sea of Cortez and... its people!

You can indulge in the unlimited pleasures of snorkeling!

### **Overnight in San Jose**



### **Day 10 / San Jose del Cabo-La Paz**

You return to La Paz, taking the mountain road and then continue north to La Duna, ecology center.

The concept is 100% ecological, lost amid the cacti, a few steps from the dunes looking the sea, it is a heaven of peace that opens its doors.

You have lunch and savor some organic products (production of the ranch).

You will join a Ranchero who will guide you on horseback on top of a mountain, then in the bottom of a canyon, then to the beach.

**Overnight at La Paz, in a hotel in front of the Malecon.**

### **Day 11 / La Paz**

Your last day in La Paz ...

You will leave the marina around 8:30 to discover the island Espiritu Santo, classified as World Heritage by UNESCO.

Programme: Discovery of geological curiosities, diving with sea lions and picnic on a small white sand beach.

Sea lions are present only on the coasts of California, Australia and New Zealand. Los Islotes, near islands of Espiritu Santo is home to a colony of about 200 individuals, who are bound to approach you when you're in the water!

**Overnight at La Paz.**

### **Day 12 / La Paz-Paris**

Departure for the airport where you return your rental vehicle.



Return flight to Mexico City and Paris.

## **From 1100 euros per person inclusive (based on 2 people)**

### **Price include:**

Accommodation in 4 star or charm (except Mulegé  
who does not have this type of infrastructure) in a double room with  
breakfast.  
Car rental insurance type VW Jetta total, unlimited mileage  
Horseback riding from day 10  
Excursion from day 8  
Boat Tour day 11 (picnic included)

### **Price does not include:**

**Airline tickets**  
**Fuel costs**  
**Meals other than those mentioned**  
**Personal expenses**  
**Tips**  
**Any other service not mentioned**

## ***PRACTICAL INFORMATION***

### ***Vehicle:***

*Caution: Be sure to carry enough water with you (at least 3 liters per person).  
In addition, ensure you have the equipment to change a wheel in case of puncture.  
You will be provided with a map to guide you. Finally, always full of gasoline when you are  
about to get away from cities because in some parts, gas stations are scarce.  
It is generally not recommended to take the road at night because there is a high risk of  
accidents with livestock that often drags on the roads.*

*Driving is on the right as in France, speed limits are quite low due to the lack of shoulders on  
most roads. These are in fairly good condition, though some parts have many potholes, so  
stay vigilant.*

### ***Walking and hiking:***

*Remember to bring sufficient quantities of water with you all year long and particularly in  
summer.*

*Dry air can give the impression that it is not too hot because you do not sweat a lot but in  
reality perspiration evaporates instantly leaving the skin, we must drink regularly to avoid  
losing too water.*

*Also remember to protect yourself from the sun which is very strong throughout the year.*

*There are very few marked hiking trails so make sure to guide you during walks. Take good shoes because the ground is often littered with cactus thorns which penetrate too thin soles ... Take a tweezers because it is very common to end up with spines on the legs or on other parts of one's clothes; the latter are painful and difficult to remove.*

### ***In which season to travel?***

*We believe that this tour can be done all year, but we must take into account that in the South (from San Ignacio) during August and September are especially hot (+ / - 104° F) and very wet. In addition, in September the risk of hurricanes and / or heavy rains, is not to underestimate. Throughout the year the Baja California's climate is quite pleasant, warm in general, with little wind "fees" in winter, and sometimes chilly evenings (in the desert), and very little rain. Generally the north is cooler with more rain in winter, and the south is warmer with more rain in summer.*

### **Here is the average temperature in La Paz.**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
<b>Air (° F)</b>	<b>64.4</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>73.4</b>	<b>80.6</b>	<b>82.4</b>	<b>89.6</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>95.0</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>68</b>	
<b>Water (° F)</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>64.4</b>	<b>82.4</b>	<b>80.6</b>	<b>80.6</b>	<b>80.6</b>	<b>80.6</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>68.0</b>	<b>71.6</b>

*This table shows the average temperature between day and night, you should be aware that they can be much lower at night in winter (especially land) and much higher in summer.*

*We believe that this tour can be done all year, however the months of August and September asking the walker a great capacity for adaptation to extreme heat. During these two months, we can remove some steps and replace them with water sports.*

*Baja California is sometimes affected by cyclones (September-October), it is therefore appropriate to inquire with the hotel if you arrive one of them. These often bring winds that can exceed almost 125 miles/ h and are sometimes accompanied by torrential rains. This risk is not taken lightly, but we're in a subtropical region and hurricanes tend to weaken before hitting land, as and when they fly north.*

### **Currency and exchange rates**

The national currency is the Mexican peso (MXN). It is a fairly volatile currency, for info at 1 Euro = 16.50 pesos. (value as on September 15, 2010).

There are distributors in almost all medium-sized cities, beware: not in San Ignacio, and remember to protect yourself well to Mulegé and Santa Rosalia.

Credit cards are accepted in major cities like La Paz and Los Cabos and Loreto eventually, but many shops or restaurants do not have credit card terminal, it is advisable to always have enough cash with you. Warning: many gas stations do not accept credit card.

### **Stores - ext.**

In general, shops are open 7 days a week with the exception of banks and government.

Most banks are open from 9:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m, same for the post (only place you can find stamps).

### **Electricity.**

The voltage is 110-140 volts, plug sockets are flat like the USA. European aircraft to use, no risk surge so but for example to charge a battery, it takes more time. No need for transformer.

### **Drink.**

It is not advisable to drink tap water is not drinkable. Always buy bottled water.

Here the queen is drinking beer (often mild), also focus on the weekend, it should be more vigilant.

### **Tips.**

The service in restaurants and bars is not included (except where noted), it is customary to leave a tip equivalent to 10 or 15% of your total bill. The French are not too familiar with this system but be aware that some employees almost doubled their salary (low) through the tip, it is important not to forget. Tipping is also customary with drivers and ship captains.

### **Phone.**

#### **The code for Mexico is +52.**

For example to call the following number: 612 125 6080 (landline) to 52 612 125 6080

To call a mobile number from France eg 044 612 168 1924, call this number:

+52 1 612 168 1924 (do not forget the one between the country code and number)

Finally when you are in Mexico, from a landline:

To call a landline number in the same area code away:

Ex for a landline number 612 125 6080 125 6060 to only

To call a mobile number from a landline, dial 044 then the mobile number

Ex 044 612 168 1924

Finally, to call a mobile from another phone, dial the number without 044.