

Paddling South Baja Packing List

Air Temperature and Sun Protection

During February, March and April, daytime air temperatures in Loreto range from low 70's earlier in the season to the mid 80's later on with light afternoon breezes, to sometimes strong northerly winds. With the aridity the nights can drop to the 50's on the earlier dates, occasionally into the 40's, thus requiring warm layers. By mid-March on, there are often evenings where no layers are needed. October and November trip are characteristically warm and comfortable, with very little needed in the way of extra layers, until the end of November. December and January trips can be much cooler than one thinks of when they imagine beaches in Mexico, and a warm puffy jacket and fleece pants will not be unwelcomed in the evenings and early mornings. During the day, we erect shade tarps but light cotton clothing is also extremely important as it provides comfort and protection from the strong Baja sun. Feel free to call or email at any time for more specific advice on layering for your particular trip date.

Water Temperature and Snorkel Gear

Water temperatures range from 69 degrees early in our season to 77 degrees towards the end. Most people feel more comfortable snorkeling in full wetsuits in December and January and earlier in the Feb-Mid March Spring season when the water is cooler.

We have light wetsuits available which consist of a "farmer john" (sleeveless) suit that covers down to the knees and a wetsuit jacket which fits over the top. Depending upon the water temperature, some guests may be more comfortable in a fuller or thicker wetsuit. For trips earlier in the season, if you know you are more comfortable in a warmer suit, or if you want to check for fit beforehand, we recommend you bring your own. We also have masks, snorkels and fins available. If you are an avid snorkeler and have your own gear, you are welcome to bring it down.

Packing Guidelines

Although we expect beautiful balmy weather, stormy winds occasionally intrude into the usually gracious Sea of Cortez. Follow the list closely and you will be comfortable throughout the trip. Feel free to adapt according to previous camping and kayaking experience. Keep in mind the list is oriented to make sure you have enough nighttime and morning layers for the earlier/cooler trip dates.

What Paddling South Provides

- All commissary gear (meals, drinks etc.).
- Sun shade for use during the day and at meal times.
- A small “library” bag consisting of bird, fish and other interesting natural history books of the area.
- For kayak trips gear includes: fiberglass doubles and fiberglass/plastic singles, lightweight Werner paddles, PFDs, sprayskirts, pumps, paddle floats and paddling jackets.
- A one or two person tent.
- Light wetsuits and snorkeling gear. You are also welcome to bring your own custom gear. We recommend bringing your own full suit for December - early March trips if you run on the cold side
- Sleeping bags are not included, but can be rented from us for an extra charge of \$20 per item per week. (we ask you to bring your own sleeping pad. A Therma-rest type is most comfortable, but feel free to ask us for advice on other options).

PADDLING SOUTH SEA KAYAK TRIP EQUIPMENT

How to Pack:

Please pay special attention to allowable size of personal trip gear bags. Because we are self-sufficient on our tours, carrying all of our food and water with us, we have limited space in the kayaks and ask that you bring only the items on the equipment list. Clothing and gear listed here should be sufficient for the fall through spring paddling season and still allow room for us in the boats!

Allowable trip gear: 1 medium clothing bag or two small bags, 1 sleeping bag and pad, 1 daypack, personal snorkel gear (opt).

A medium size zippered nylon duffel, approx. 20 x 12 should be about the size of your largest bag, or two small duffels half that size. They work great with a plastic garbage bag stuffed inside for waterproofing, or you can use small or medium size dry bags. Two 20 litre and one 10 litre are ideal. (nothing larger than 20 litre please.) A small day or belt pack with plastic bag liner will allow you to keep notebook, camera, sunglasses, sunscreen, etc. handy while we're traveling.

Don't bother buying fancy new gear for your trip. Comfortable clothes and used gear is best for saltwater camping.

Gear List: (Starred (*) items are not necessary in October or May.)

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- 1 pair tennis shoes, river shoes, or dive booties for loading and unloading kayaks in water
- 1 pair of sturdy walking shoes (see note on reverse)
- Sleeping bag, synthetic fiberfill good to approx 35 degree F. (no cotton or Down)
- Sleeping pad, closed cell ensolite or thermarest type (please, no plastic air mattresses or non-water proof foam pads)
- Small ground cloth, could be your rain poncho
- Sleeping bag stuff sack or dry bag (lined inside with a plastic bag)
- Capilene or similar synthetic long underwear, top and bottom (no cotton)
- 1 wind jacket
- 1 waterproof jacket and pants, or poncho
- 1 warm layer (fleece or wool, sweater or jacket)
- 1 pair of long pants
- 1 lightweight long sleeved shirt
- 2 pair shorts (one quick-dry)
- 2 T-shirts
- 2 pair of socks (* 1 synthetic or wool)
- Underclothes

- Sunscreen (15, 20 or 30 +spf)
 - Lip balm
 - Insect repellent
 - Small container biodegradable soap (Sea Suds or Camp Suds, not Dr. Bronner)
 - Personal medications seasick medication if tendency to motion sickness
 - Washcloth
 - Headlamp (best), or flashlight and spare batteries (couples, this means two)
 - 1 quart size water bottle per person
 - 1 small sized day pack or belt pack
- Optional:**
- Camp chair (Crazy Creek type)
 - Pocket knife
 - Wrap-around cloth (sarong) for beachwear
 - Nylon wind pants
 - Notebook and pencil
 - Camera and memory cards in a waterproof bag (hard suitcase or Pelican case types don't pack well)
 - Mask & fins **
 - Binoculars
 - Cards or travel games

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 bathing suit <input type="checkbox"/> 1 towel, medium size <input type="checkbox"/> 1 bandana <input type="checkbox"/> Hat with brim <input type="checkbox"/> (*) Fleece or wool hat and gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses with retainer (Croakies, Chums) <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush and paste <input type="checkbox"/> Lotion	<input type="checkbox"/> Gloves for paddling <input type="checkbox"/> Small musical instrument <input type="checkbox"/> Reading book
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**** Paddling South supplies several masks, fins and wetsuit tops for shared guest use.**

Other Optional:

Fishing Gear saltwater rod and reel, line 15-30bs., 06 hooks, wire leader, lures (rapallas, rebels, 3-4?; feathers, Kast Masters, squids, your favorites)

Note: Because of rules on permits, fishing is restricted to certain areas which guides will describe at the beginning of the trip. Catch-and-release is often preferable. Please inform us if you wish to fish. We will apply for your license prior to the trip if you are bringing fishing gear. There is license fee.

Note: Please bring all personal items with you from the States as Loreto has very limited supplies.

Some folks are fine with day hikes in walking shoes; but if you are prone to weak ankles, or think one of your main pleasures of the trip will be to take long hikes in our beautiful, rugged canyons, a high-topped, lightweight shoe would be a good choice.