



# Sea Trek Baja Packing List

## Air Temperature and Sun Protection

During February, March and April, daytime air temperatures in Loreto range from low 70s earlier in the season to the mid-80s later on with light afternoon breezes to sometimes strong Northerly winds. With the aridity the nights can drop to the 50s on the earlier dates, occasionally into the 40s, thus requiring warm layers. By mid-March on, there are often evenings where no layers are needed. October and November trips are characteristically warm and comfortable, with very little needed in the way of extra layers. 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.

## 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 earlier in the 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 do have sizes running from XS – XXL) 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.

After you have arrived in Loreto and met with your guides, your bulk gear will be repacked into "boat bags" which will be given to you, along with a small personal "dry bag" for incidentals and a mesh bag for snorkeling gear. Your boat bags will be transported on our support boat while you are on the water (kayaking/paddleboarding). If you are unsure whether or not to bring an item on the packing list, we recommend you bring it. You will have enough boat bags to fit all the gear on the list, and the gear will be transported on the support boat from campsite to campsite.

Here's an example of how things will be packed:

- The large and medium size boat bags Sea Trek provides will hold your clothes and gear that need to stay dry.
- The small dry bag Sea Trek provides can be used as a "deck bag" that you will keep with you while on the water. It will hold the items you might want while paddling (sunscreen, camera, windbreaker, lip balm etc.).
- The mesh bag Sea Trek provides is convenient for carrying snorkel gear, etc.

Extra baggage, clothing, etc., that you don't need while "on the water" will be stored securely in our storage facility, and there will be no access to these items until the end of your trip. Valuables will go with you (passport, wallet). (In the event that you have an emergency which requires you to return to the United States, your passport is required, so having it with you gets you where you need to go as quickly as possible.) If you have small laptop, talk to your guide about storage.

## What Sea Trek Provides

- All commissary gear (meals, drinks etc.).
- Sun shade and camp chairs for use during the day and at meal times.
- Sun "shower": we bring a limited amount of fresh water which is available for a quick "final rinse" if desired after a wonderful bath in the Sea of Cortez.
- 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, a couple paddleboards (to try out), lightweight Werner paddles, PFDs, sprayskirts and paddling jackets.
- **For Stand Up paddling trips** gear includes: Paddleboards, paddles, PFDs & paddling jackets.
- Enough boat bags (2 large/medium and 1 small) for all your clothing, a large mesh bag (for carrying snorkel gear).
- A roomy one or two person tent.
- Light wetsuits and snorkeling gear you are welcome to use. You are also welcome to bring your own custom gear.
- Sleeping bags and pads are not included, but can be rented from us for an extra charge of \$30 per week per item.

## Packing List – What To Bring

### CLOTHING

#### Tops

- 1 thin capilene shirt for paddling: a quick dry material (not cotton).
- 1 long sleeve shirt: some sort of light fabric for sun protection during the day (UPF suggested).
- 3 - 4 extra shirts: some people like 1 more long sleeve shirt (for bug protection if needed in the evening), a shirt to sleep in (the one you always keep clean), a tank top, an extra short sleeve shirt. The mix is up to you.
- 1 fleece sweater: cotton is not recommended
- 1 "puffy" jacket: any warm jacket (down, synthetic), you may not need it, but the desert can get very chilly at night (not needed for April trips).
- 1 wind/rain jacket: some sort of waterproof / water resistant jacket in case of wind and (unlikely case) of rain.
- 1 warm fleece hat or beanie (especially for earlier trips).
- 1 sun hat with tie down strap (for wind) secured via a barrel lock.

#### Bottoms

- 2 pair's shorts: one quick drying nylon for paddling, one for hiking.
- 2 pair socks for hiking or the evening
- 1 lightweight pair of socks to wear with sandals for sun protection.
- 1 pair lightweight pants for daytime sun protection (lightweight, comfortable, non-cotton): any kind of light hiking pants work well). Many folks enjoy having a sarong for covering legs while sitting on the beach.
- 1 pair warm pants for night time warmth: fleece pants work great, or warm long underwear under a second pair of pants is another good option.
- Swimsuit.
- Underwear.

## **Town Clothes**

- Casual clothes for 2 travel days and evenings in Loreto: these are clothes you will leave with your luggage staying in our secure storage while you are "on the water". It's always nice to have a fresh set of clothing ready for you when you finish your trip.

## **Footwear**

- 1 pair for walking (e.g. running shoes or light hiking shoes): closed-toes shoes with ankle support are recommended to protect your feet and ankles from loose rock, cactus, etc. when walking in the desert.
- 1 pair for kayaking (e.g. Teva type sport sandals; neoprene booties or water shoes): sturdy enough to walk over some rocks getting in and out of the water. Sandals without a heel-strap are not recommended for getting in and out of the water or kayaking. "Flip-flop" type sandals are not recommended for kayaking.
- 1 pair of sandals for the beach: some people enjoy a second pair of sandals (or Crocs) for the beach to change into after kayaking. Sandals with toe protection for the beach can be helpful.
- **For Stand Up paddling trips.** Since most SUP paddlers go barefoot you'll need something to hike in (see above) and something for camp wear (Sport sandals or Crocs have been the preference).

## **Miscellaneous**

- 1 pair paddling gloves: biking gloves work great if you don't have, or don't want to invest in paddling gloves.
- 1 one quart plastic water bottle.
- Pareo or sarong.
- 2 bandannas to clean sunglasses, etc.
- 1 pair sunglasses with retention strap (e.g. Chums or Croakies).
- Waterproof sunscreen.
- Lip protection: any kind of stick with sun protection in it.
- Toiletries: toothbrush, etc.
- Prescription and over-the-counter medications you require (**Motion sickness pills if needed**).
- 1 Saltwater shampoo and soap: The more biodegradable brands you can bring the better for the environment. (Sea Suds or Camp Suds work best).
- 1 medium size towel.
- 1 Ditty bag to hold your personal toiletries and medications.
- Head lamp + extra batteries.
- Earplugs: if you are sensitive to sounds while sleeping or if you need them while swimming.
- Bug spray: some trips are bug free, and on some trips we experience bugs such as mosquitoes and "no-see-ums" which are similar. A long sleeve shirt and pants are your best defense, but a bug spray of your choice is recommended.
- Battery or solar based charger for electronics if you choose to use electronics on the trip.

## **Important Items**

- Passport
- Wallet / Cash / Etc.
- Insurance Card / Travelers Insurance Info
- Copy of Passport
- Itinerary, Flight Confirmation Numbers, Tickets
- Names and phone numbers for hotels and contacts if travelling before or after the Sea Trek portion of the trip.
- Cell Phone. Watch

### **Snorkeling**

- Snorkel, mask, fins, wetsuit (Sea Trek can provide this gear or you can bring your own. The wetsuits we provide are "shorty" wetsuits, and the water temperature can be brisk early in the season). We recommend bringing your own full suit for February - early March trips if you run on the cold side. Anti-fog drops for your mask can be nice, but are not required. Some people like light water socks under their fins to prevent chafing.

### **Camping Equipment**

- Lightweight compact sleeping bag with stuff sack (Those who "sleep cold" should bring a bag rated to approximately 32° Fahrenheit.). Sea Trek can rent you a nice bag. Check box on Reservation questions form.
- Compact sleeping pad (self-inflating Thermarest or ensolite foam pad). Sea Trek can rent to you.

### **Optional**

- Camera (in a waterproof box or bag) and extra batteries.
- Waterproof case for phone (if using the phone for pictures around the water is desired).
- Binoculars.
- Fishing gear (medium weight collapsible). Call office for advice if you wish.
- Reading material.
- Pen and paper for journal.
- Lightweight carabiner or two to clip your water bottle or other gear to other things like your kayak
- Sunglasses / glasses cleaner or wipes (for getting some of the salt off at the end of the day)
- Aloe-vera or other if you know you are prone to sunburn.
- Anti-itch cream such as a hydrocortisone if you like to carry it with you (Sea Trek will have some as well).
- A small cloth for wiping sand off your feet before getting into your tent (an extra bandana works fine).
- Specialty beverages, snacks, or sweeteners of your choice. See the "Food Water and Beverages" section of the Pre-departure Packet for what Sea Trek provides.
- Small pillowcase (stuff down jacket/clothing in to make a pillow).

### **Additional comments:**

Ideally, on the water you are wearing quick drying clothes like a short or long sleeve lightweight capilene (non-cotton) shirt. At night it can get chilly so bring layers and don't forget a windbreaker.

Please try to bring all personal items with you from the States as Loreto can often have limited supplies of preferred items.