



Jean-Christophe Arbonne - Tour Opérateur-Réceptif spécialiste de la Basse Californie
Calle Esquerro #10, col. centro - La Paz, 23000, B.C.S.- MEXICO
Tel.0052 (1) 612 125 60 89 - Skype: 0870 405
info@mexcapade.com

Baja from stem to stern''

Auto-Tour 23 days / 22 nights proposed by Mexcapade all year long*

***Mid-April to Mid-January, the excursions of days 10 and 12 do not take place.**

“Options and circuits presented in this page constitute only some examples of tours. Mexcapade is able to study various personalized or customized propositions according to the budget, the tastes and to the typology of every traveller.

Information and precise quotation by contacting us at this address:

info@mexcapade.com

During this tour, discover an original way to discover the multiple facets of our desert and our natural protected spaces. Immerse yourself in these landscapes and in the surprising contrasts and live completely the Baja adventure”



Day 1/ Tijuana

- Arrival in Tijuana at the end of evening.
- Recovery of your rented vehicle.
- Road towards your hotel (30 minutes) .Night at El Conquistador in base standard double room with breakfast, situated not far from the centre in Zona Rio (business district)

Day 2/ Tijuana / Ensenada

- In the morning, you take the freeway towards Ensenada (+/-2 hours of road), the most important port of the peninsula. Roads are as hanged on the cliff in places; and below, the raged Pacific Ocean comes to strike the rocky coast.
- The road arrives then on an immense bay and in the distance flies a huge Mexican flag. Here is Ensenada.
- You will find full of street life, shops and restaurants there of all kinds.
- Do not miss the visit of the fish market if you arrive early enough.
 - Finally, a visit of the cultural center Riviera Del Pacifico and its southern Californian architecture is an option.
- Night at the Desert Inn in standard room with breakfast.

Day 3 / Ensenada / San Pedro Mártir



- Direction the south and the National park of San Pedro Mártir "The roof of Baja California" (+/-4:30 hours of road among which 2 hours of trail).
- You cross the vineyards of the valley of Santo Tomas, then the agricultural plain of the neighbourhoods of San Quintin. You fork then to the left and begin the ascent of the sierra.
- Rich in a big variety of pines, whom certain centenarians, this park lends itself perfectly to hiking, with a multitude of tracks and paths thanks to which you will discover various landscapes in accordance with the height. In winter it is not rare to see some snow above 2300 metres.
 - Night in Rancho Meling situated at approximately one hour of the entrance of the park.
- Base: standard room in full board.

Day 4 & Day 5 / National park San Pedro Mártir

- Two whole days to take the most of the park of the best way: walking.

You will so have the opportunity to rise up to the observatory which peaks in more than 2 800 metres. There you will have an open view on the Pacific and the Sea of Cortez, but you can also admire El Picacho del Diablo (3 096m).

2 Nights in Rancho Meling in double standard room in full board.

Day 6/ San Pedro Mártir / Cataviña



- Breakfast, and spare time around the swimming pool of the ranch.

In the morning, route towards San Quintin (+/-2:30 am of road)

- Continuation towards Cataviña, (+/-2:30 am of road)

- The region of Cataviña is interesting due to its very particular desert formed by enormous round rocks which we call collectively "boulders", but also of cirios, endemic plant of the centre of Baja California.

- Night in/at Cataviña in La Pinta in double standard room in full board.

It is possible to walk behind the hotel to discover the so particular and plentiful flora.

Day 7/ Cataviña / Bahia Los Angeles

- Breakfast then road towards Bahia Los Angeles (+/-3 hours of road).

The desert does not stop changing, passing from cactus forests to areas of rock and stone or green "arroyos" (dried up river bed).

You discover for the first time the Sea of Cortez by arriving in Bahia of Los Angeles. The deep blue colour of the water seems as a mirage in the middle of this set of an extreme aridity.

- Night at the Costa del Sol in standard room in half board.



Day 8/ Bahia Los Angeles

Various possibilities are offered to you for this day:

- Sport fishing in the bay of Los Angeles
- The numerous beaches in pristine waters
- Snorkeling
- Hiking in the surrounding desert
- Boat trip on the bay.

Night at hotel Costa Del Sol in standard room with breakfast.

Day 9 / Bahía Los Ángeles - Guerrero Negro

After having taken a quiet morning, you take back the road for Guerrero Negro. Before arriving, you change state and pass in Baja California Sur (South).

Night at Guerrero Negro in the hotel Desert Inn in standard room without breakfast.

Day 10 / Guerrero Negro / San Ignacio

(Mid-January to Mid-April)

In The morning, Where our partner is waiting for you and is going to take you for a second time to the meeting of the grey whales in Laguna Ojo de Liebre.

You will also have the occasion to visit the biggest salt works of the world to reach the lagoon.

In the afternoon, you get back on the road for San Ignacio.

Night at San Ignacio in Ignacio springs in double standard yurt in half pension.

This B&B is run by adorable Canadians (English speakers), who prepare excellent breakfasts, and as the river is very near, the customers benefit from kayaks or small boat to sail up the watercourse.

Day 11/ San Ignacio / Sierra San Francisco / San Ignacio

En route to the sierra of San Francisco. You take the road northward and after some kilometres, you fork on the right. From there, the trail rises on the crest of the mountain between two canyons. It is during this day that you will have the opportunity to see the biggest variety of plants of your entire journey, notably the “cirio”, endemic plant with strange forms.

Points of view are spectacular on the plain, the canyons and the surrounding mountains.

After approximately two hours, you reach San Francisco de la Sierra. Small village lost in the middle of the mountains, living essentially on the breeding and on the tourism.

If you wish it, you can visit the Cueva Del Raton (if you have before bought your ticket at THE INAH offices which are situated under the courtyard of the mission (Open at 8 am), and have retrieved your guide in San Francisco de la Sierra). The cave contains rock paintings dating from more than 4000 years testifying of the ethnological past of the peninsula.

Day 12/ San Ignacio

(Mid-January to Mid-April)

During this day, direction Laguna San Ignacio to meet, for a second time, the grey whales...

Approximately two hours of road until the Lagoon and then 1:30 hours or two with boat in the lagoon. In this period of the year, it is possible to see tens of whales and even petting them for the luckier!

Lunch in the ecological camp Kuyima and then return to San Ignacio.

(The trail between San Ignacio and the lagoon is very beautiful and offers changeable and contrasted landscapes). Night in Ignacio Springs in standard bungalow with breakfast.



Day 13 / San Ignacio / Santa Rosalia

Departure to/for Santa Rosalía.

On the road you can admire the majesty of Tres Virgenes and Azufre volcanoes, what allows you to observe very close the solidified lava flows.

The last eruption dates from the 18th century.

Later you stop at Santa Rosalía, former mining city today reconverted into the fishing of the Squid of Humboldt.

The singular colonial French architecture give this place a resemblance of a city of the Wild West.

The church conceived by Gustave Eiffel and the bakery are two curiosities which are worth being seen. The state and the municipality launched in 2006 a project of restoration of the ancient buildings to return to the city its atypical historic heritage.

Night in the hotel Frances in standard room with breakfast.

The hotel is a former wooden building very well preserved and maintained run with love by Irma the owner.

The place was formerly used for welcoming mines operators and their families.

[Day 14 / Santa Rosalía / Mulegé](#)

Continuation towards Mulegé, Small typical village rocked by the rhythm of the stream which across it, we invites you to walk in the heart of the oasis, to visit the Mission and the ancient prison now a museum, and admire the very present and cheap crafts.

[In the daytime 15 / Mulegé](#)

You will have all the time today to take the most of wonderful Bahia Concepción whose first beaches are only in about twenty kilometres more in the South...

Optional, possibility to do kayak or scuba diving.

Night at Hotel Serenidad in base double standard room with breakfast.



[Day 16 / Mulegé / Loreto](#)

- Today, direction Loreto. The road is lined with immense Cardon cactus which exceed 15 meters (45 feet), then you open onto Bahia Concepcion. You follow the coast of the gulf on the road in ledge via the wonderful Bay, above the Sea of Cortez. Beaches succeed one another, lined with mangrove swamp.

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

You arrive at Loreto. The former capital of “Californias” where was built the first Jesuit mission in 1697.

- Possibility of visiting islands Coronados, Danzante or Carmen who make part of 5 islands of the Marine National park of the Bay of Loreto, as named in 1966 by the president at that time, to protect one of the biggest underwater ecosystems of the northern hemisphere.

We can observe colonies of sea lions, dolphins, pelicans and other birds as the blue footed booby there, as well as many lizards and iguanas.

The fauna underwater of the region is exceptional because it is a place where tepid tropical waters meet colder subtropical waters, what explains the big variety of the species.

- Night at hotel Hacienda Suites situated in the entry of the city.

Base standard room without breakfast.

Day 17 / Loreto / San Javier / Loreto

Departure for San Javier situated to 36 km of trail of Loreto. The trail rises through the Sierra of Giganta and overhang green canyons. At the end of some hours, you reach the mission, in the hollow of mountains in the middle of an oasis.

Do not miss to go to see the hundred-years-old olive trees situated behind and which were planted by Jesuit missionaries in 18th century.

After the lunch in a local restaurant, you take back the dirt road in the other direction. The descent is also spectacular with in the background, the intense blue of the Sea of Cortez...

Return to Loreto.

Night at Hotel Hacienda Suites in standard room without breakfast.



Day 18 / Loreto / La Paz

In the morning, you take back the road for La Paz, you climb up the Sierra of Giganta to come down again in the fertile plain of Magdalena. After Ciudad Constitución, you will need two "good" hours to join La Paz and its wonderful bay which appears suddenly after a bend.

You are back on the seaside of Cortez, in the shade of coconut palms, on the famous sea front called "malecón" of La Paz, Puerto de Illusion.

Day 19 & Day 20 / La Paz

Night in La Concha in standard room with breakfast.

For these 2 days, you can choose among the following options:

Paying excursions: (Your choice must be determined at least 8 days before the excursion)

- Boat trip has to Espiritu Santo Island (Sea lions, Dauphins, geologic formations). (Half day).
- Sea kayak in the bay of La Paz / La Paz Bay (half day)
- Scuba driving
- Excursion on horseback(by horse) / Horse riding in a canyon and on the beach (Half day)
- Quad on the beach and into dunes (3 hours)

Suggestions of visits:

- The city-centre and its ancient memorials.
- Excursion in the sanctuary of cactus near El Triunfo (Half-day) (Payable separately).
- Make the most of beautiful beaches of El Tesoro, of Balandra and Tecolote.
- Excursion to San Juan of Costa and San Evaristo (in the North of La Paz by following the coast). Very beautiful road which overhangs Gulf of California. Mountains coloured with green, pink, red and beige. Impressive geologic formations. Possibility of exploring one of the canyons which open onto the road. (Just before arriving in San Juan de la Costa) (Half day), (the light is ideal in the morning). It is possible to continue 2 rough hours by following the coast until San Evaristo, small fishermen/anglers village, but the trail becomes more and more difficult. (Whole day).

Suggestion of restaurants in La Paz:

- Rancho Viejo: specialities of tacos of Arrachera (grilled marinated beef) and the other Mexican authentic dishes. (In Calle Marquez de Leon, in a street of the sea front). Simple but good!
- La Bohème (our restaurant): French, Mexican and international Cooking. Setting in an ancient colonial house dating from 1855 and a shaded and quiet inside patio in full city-centre. (In Calle Esquerro one street from the malecon)
It is here that are located the offices of Mexcapade.
- Las Tres Virgenes: Restaurant of high Mexican gastronomy (In the Calle Madero in the angle/corner with the street Constitución).



Day 21 / La Paz / Todos Santos

After two days in La Paz, you take back the wheel for Todos Santos.

This village is classified among the "magic villages of Mexico", the atmosphere is relaxed, you walk in the streets where art galleries and shops of crafts succeed one another.

You are accommodated at the Posada La Poza, a boutique hotel situated in border of the palm grove in an exceptional set, in front of the beach of Poza.

Its lagoon of "fresh" water lined with palm trees, huge and powerful waves coming to break on kilometres of deserted beach and the numerous pelicans and the frigates birds shall seduce you at the sunset. (Impossible to swim).



Day 22 / Todos Santos / Cabo San Lucas

One more day, to get to the bottom of the peninsula...

Visiting the center of Cabo San Lucas. Optional you can take a boat up to the natural arch which marks the south end of the peninsula. It's here that the Sea of Cortez meets the Pacific ocean, often in a deafening crash.

You go then to San Jose del Cabo and pass in front of "the corridor" where succeed one another villas and luxury hotels.

Is planned to visit the historic centre of San Jose del Cabo, the estuary and its palm grove and why not cacti Mundo, a botanical garden exclusively dedicated to cacti and succulent plants. You will find numerous plants met during your stay there, and many of the others.

Night at Encanto Inn, small hotel situated in the centre of San Jose, not far from the palm grove. For this last night in Baja California, you will be accommodated In Pool suite, a very comfortable room without breakfast.

(The hotel does not possess any restaurant).

Day 23: Departure.

You leave your vehicle at the international airport of Los Cabos situated in 30 minutes in the North of San Jose Del Cabo.

Flight for France via Mexico City or the USA.

End of our services/performances

Our prices do not include:

*international flights,
meals others than those mentioned,
Tips and others personal expenses,
all other service which is not mentioned in this tour.*

Vehicle:

*Mexcapade signed a partnership agreement with the firm National of La Paz which allows to apply good prices of rent and which allows a wide choice of all-roads vehicles or "sedan".
"Quoted with the total insurance (equivalent WSC), unlimited mileage, abandonment, hour of overtime, fuel, as well as quite other expenses concerning the vehicle "in the direct responsibility" of the customer.*

In what season to travel?

We consider that this tour can be made all year long, but it is necessary to consider that in the South (from San Ignacio) the August and September is/are particularly warm (+/-40°C, 105°F) and very wet.

Furthermore, in September the risk of having hurricanes or big rains do not have to be underestimated.

All year long, Baja California enjoys a rather pleasant and warm climate generally speaking, with a little "cool" wind in winter, and sometimes cold nights (in the desert), and little rain. In a general way, the North is cooler, with more rain in winter, and the South is warmer with more rain in summer.

Here are the average temperatures:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Air (° C)	18	20	23	27	28	30	32	34	35	30	24	22
Water (° C)	19	19	19	19	18	18	22	27	27	27	25	20