

# **GLAMPING THE SEAS AND SIERRAS OF BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR**

**Remote Luxury for Small Groups** 



## Remote Luxury for Small Groups in Baja California Sur

Todos Santos - Sierra de la Laguna - Isla Espiritu Santo 8 Days / 7 Nights

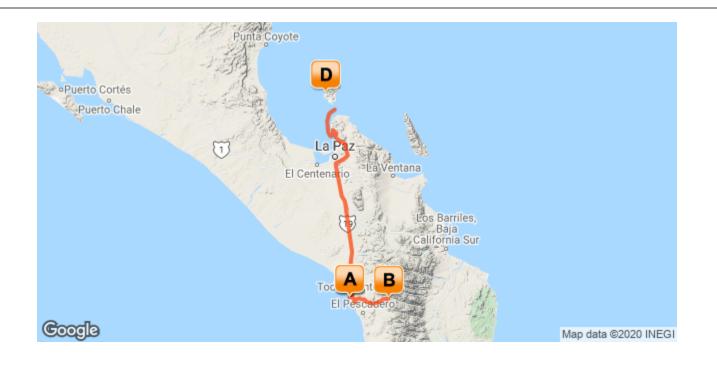
### Best time to visit is October 2020 to May 2021

#### Costing:

2-3 people USD 3335.00 per person

4-5 people USD 2950.00 per person

#### 6 people 2695.00 per person



## Introduction

### Welcome to Remote Luxury for Small Groups in Baja California Sur!

We have established luxury tent camps in two of Baja California Sur's most beautiful and remote nature reserves - Isla Espiritu Santo in the Sea of Cortez and the Sierra La Laguna Biosphere Reserve in the mountains that form the spine of the peninsula. Through these camps you can experience the luxury of Baja Sur's pristine wilderness while also enjoying the luxury of "camping" with real beds, soft linens, lovely furnishings, chef-prepared meals and daily happy hour. It is truly the best of both worlds!

Trip highlights include:

- Hiking in the Sierra La Laguna Biosphere Reserve
- Swimming with sea lions
- Bird watching in mountain and coastal areas
- Kayaking, paddle boarding and snorkeling in the Sea of Cortez
- Mexican cooking class with local chef
- Private accommodations in luxury tent camps and boutique hotels
- Adventures in two of Baja's most beautiful nature reserves

Start	Accommodation	Destination	Duration
Day 1	Los Colibris Casitas	Todos Santos	1 Night
Day 2	Camp Cecil de la Sierra	Sierra de la Laguna	2 Nights
Day 4	Los Colibris Casitas	Todos Santos	1 Night
Day 5	Camp Cecil de la Isla	Isla Espiritu Santo	2 Nights
Day 7	Los Colibris Casitas	Todos Santos	1 Night

## Included

- All transportation including roundtrip airport transfer
- All accommodations in hotels and camps as indicated in itinerary
- All meals from welcome dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day
- Daily happy hour and two drinks with dinner at Camp Cecil de la Sierra and Camp Cecil de la Isla; drinks at welcome dinner and cooking class
- All adventures and related equipment as indicated in the itinerary
- Bilingual naturalist guide(s) who is a certified Wilderness First Responder
- Entrance fees and permits

# Excluded

- International airfare
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities
- Any activities, meals or drinks not explicitly identified in the itinerary

# Day 1: Los Colibris Casitas, Todos Santos

## **Todos Santos**

About 50 miles north of Cabo on the Pacific side of the Baja peninsula is a pueblo magico called Todos Santos – All Saints. And truly, the handiwork of all the saints seems to be reflected everywhere in our home town. It's easy to imagine that St. Anthony (San Antonio), the Patron Saint of the Desert, had his hand in the underground springs that make the town a true desert oasis, thick with palms, lush with lagoons and filled with the birds they attract. St. Francis (San Francisco), Patron Saint of the Environment, seems like a sure bet for the town's seemingly endless miles of pristine beach – home to 5 of the 7 turtle species found in the world, host to surf breaks that make the town one of the best surfing destinations on the Cape, and favored people watching spot of gray whales on their annual trip to Baja because they can get so close to shore. St. Isidore (San Isidro), Patron Saint of Agriculture, almost certainly got in on the act with the vast orchards of mango trees and fields filled with strawberries, chilies and herbs, while St. Peter (San Pedro), Patron Saint of Fishermen, could easily be the wily soul who ensured no natural harbor in the town to keep the waters from being overfished and therefore full of bounty for the intrepid local fishermen, masters of the surf launch and landing. But perhaps the saint who most shaped the town with his piece of manna was St. Aaron (San Aron), the Patron Saint of anyone who lives a passionate life. Todos Santos may be a tiny town but it is filled with Mexican and expatriate artists, chefs, musicians, fishermen, photographers, philanthropists, surfers, sculptors, farmers, film-makers, potters, spiritualists, naturalists, adventurers, entrepreneurs, explorers, yogis and more, all pursuing their passions in this paradise that draws, inspires and drives them. The result is one heckuva place to indulge your passions for travel and adventure so grab your St. Christopher (the Patron Saint of Travelers) and head to Todos Santos!

### Day Itinerary Welcome to Baja California Sur!

Today you'll arrive at the airport in San Jose del Cabo (please see INFORMATION page for arrival details and procedures) where you'll be met by your guides and transferred to Todos Santos and Los Colibris Casitas, about a 90 minute drive. Upon arrival we'll get you get settled into your lovely rooms with beautiful ocean views, then we'll have a private gourmet taco welcome dinner prepared for us by Chef Iker Algorri at Los Colibris. During dinner your guides will host a trip briefing, outlining the adventures to come. Overnight at Los Colibris with an ocean lullaby.

## **Overnight: Los Colibris Casitas**

Los Colibris Casitas was made for nature lovers seeking beauty and tranquility. We offer the services and amenities of a boutique hotel, combined with the privacy and comfort of a vacation rental. Each of our casas and casitas has magnificent views of the Pacific ocean, a freshwater estuary and a palm grove oasis to the front, and the Sierra de la Laguna mountains to the side and back.

From your casa you can watch the fishermen cast their nets on the beach in the early morning light, wait for the green flash of a magnificent Baja sunset in the late afternoon, and enjoy the vast expanse of a star-filled sky at night. Los Colibris is just a 10-minute walk to 70 miles of pristine, virtually empty beach, and a 5-minute drive to the delightful restaurants, artists' galleries and shops of Todos Santos



### Activities

Bienvenidos!

## Day 2: Camp Cecil de la Sierra, Sierra de la Laguna

#### Sierra de la Laguna

The Sierra La Laguna Biosphere Reserve on the southern tip of the Baja peninsula is one of Baja's most beautiful but least explored areas. Part of an island off the coast of Baja 10 million years ago, the Reserve is one of the most biodiverse areas in the world. Reflecting its long history of island isolation, almost 25% of plants and 10% of animals found in the Reserve are endemic to the area, i.e, they are not found anywhere else on the planet. In a recent study in the Reserve, scientists documented entirely new species of plants and insects that had never been seen before, and they believe there are many more yet to be discovered. In addition to wildlife such as mountain lions, mule deer, gophers and badgers, a wonderful array of birdlife inhabits the reserve, including the endemic cape pygmy owl, Xantus hummingbird and Belding's yellowthroat.

The Sierra La Laguna Biosphere Reserve is nestled between Todos Santos to the west and Los Barriles to the east, La Paz to the north and Los Cabos to the south. It is an island of lushness surrounded by shores of desert and sand.

#### **Day Itinerary**

#### Camp Cecil de la Sierra and the Sierra La Laguna Biosphere Reserve

Camp Cecil de la Sierra is a luxury tent camp in a mango and grapefruit grove in the Sierra La Laguna Biosphere Reserve of Baja California Sur, about 90 minutes from Todos Santos. It is the sister property to our award-winning Camp Cecil de la Isla on Isla Espiritu Santo. Camp Cecil de la Sierra is on the property of a local ranching family, and the camp highlights both the cultural and natural heritage of the Sierras. The family is an integral part of the experience, providing all the meat, cheese and tortillas for the camp, teaching guests how to make tortillas and cheese in the traditional manner, and acting as guides in the reserve.

The Sierra La Laguna Biosphere Reserve is one of Baja's most beautiful but least explored areas. Part of an island off the coast of Baja 10 million years ago, the Reserve is one of the most biodiverse areas in the world. Reflecting it's long history of island isolation, almost 25% of plants and 10% of animals found in the Reserve are endemic to the area, i.e, they are not found anywhere else on the planet. Activities at the camp include beautiful hikes in the reserve, with opportunities to get terrific views of the Pacific ocean, swim in watering holes and picnic by waterfalls. There is fantastic birding in the early mornings, amazing star gazing at night, and plenty of opportunities to interact with the ranch family and work with them making cheese, tortillas and other products in the traditional manner. You can also just hang out in the shade of the mango trees and enjoy the books in the library, perhaps while sipping a margarita.

## Overnight: Camp Cecil de la Sierra

Camp Cecil de la Sierra is a luxury tent camp in the mango and grapefruit grove of a local ranching family in the Sierra La Laguna Biosphere Reserve of Baja California Sur, close to the town of Todos Santos. The camp highlights both the cultural and natural heritage of the Sierras. The family is an integral part of the experience, providing all the meat, cheese and tortillas for the camp, teaching guests how to make traditional food and crafts, and acting as guides in the reserve.

The accommodations are beautifully decorated walk-in tents with real beds, linens, rugs, bedside tables, lamps, mirrors, chairs, towels, and rocking chairs on the patio. Each tent has a private compost toilet cabaña, and there is a shared shower cabaña. Activities include beautiful hikes in the reserve with spectacular views, swimming in watering holes and picnicking by waterfalls. There is fantastic birding in the mornings, amazing star gazing at night, and many opportunities to interact with the rancheros.

Your 3-day/2-night stay includes all meals from lunch on Day 1 through breakfast on the final day, all made in the camp's traditional kitchen, daily happy hour, bilingual naturalist guides, all adventures and transportation to/from Todos Santos.



### Activities

Zorro's Sierra Camp

### Camp Cecil de la Sierra

Camp Cecil de la Sierra is a luxury tent camp in a mango and grapefruit grove in the Sierra La Laguna Biosphere Reserve, one of Baja's more beautiful but least explored areas. It is the sister property to Todos Santos Eco Adventures's awardwinning Camp Cecil on Isla Espiritu Santo in the Sea of Cortez. It is in the huerta of a local ranching family, and highlights both the cultural and natural heritage of the Sierras. The family is an integral part of the experience, providing all the meat, cheese and tortillas for the camp, teaching guests how to make tortillas and cheese in the traditional manner, and acting as guides in the reserve.

Camp Cecil de la Sierra features beautifully decorated walk-in tents with real beds, lovely linens, bedside tables, lanterns, towels, yoga mats, fans, storage space, rugs, chairs, and more. Each tent has it's own compost toilet room.There is a library/reading area, a yoga space and a comfortable stargazing area where you can comfortably recline under the big mountain skies. Sierra Xantus Café is where our on-site chef makes three wonderful meals every day – and daily happy hour of course - and there is a shower cabaña with deliciously hot water from the solar water heater.



# Day 3: Camp Cecil de la Sierra, Sierra de la Laguna

## **Day Itinerary**

Perhaps we'll start the day with some birding around camp early in the morning, enjoy an amazing ranch breakfast, then head out for a great hike through the mountains, taking in some spectacular views. Upon our return we'll enjoy happy hour in the huerta, then a great ranch dinner prepared by our chef. And if you're awake late enough, we'll enjoy the stars in the clear mountain air. A magnificent day.

### Activities

TOSEA Sierra de la Laguna Hiking II

Camp Cecil de la Sierra

### TOSEA Sierra de la Laguna Hiking II

TOSEA Sierra de la Laguna Hiking offers hikers the chance to enjoy the beauty of the Biosphere Reserve in one of two guided day hikes. The reaching for the sky hike takes hikers up the mountain as high as possible and then returns before dark. Depending on the pace, the walk will pass through the selva baja caducifolia and rich reserves of oak forest and

pine. This hike is recommended for experienced hikers. The riverbed stroll is a smooth flat hike along a beautiful riverbed in which magnificent flora and fauna surround hikers. Hikers will also encounter a stunning waterfall at certain times of the year. This hike can be as long or short as required, with no climbing and a small amount of walking over boulders.



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## Day 4: Los Colibris Casitas, Todos Santos

### **Todos Santos**

As previously described

### **Day Itinerary**

We'll enjoy some early morning bird watching then one more terrific hike, then we'll head back to Todos Santos in the late afternoon.

This evening local lawyer turned chef Iker Algorri, author of *Cooking Adventures in Baja California Sur* and chef-inresidence at Los Colibris Casitas, will lead this wonderful Mexican Survival Cooking Class. The emphasis is on having as much fun as humanly possible, learning to make the perfect margarita, and gaining the skill to make some truly memorable Mexican dishes following Chef Iker's cooking philosophy, the Magnificence of Simplicity. You'll also probably learn about some great Latin music you've never heard before. But be warned – dancing often known to follow!

### **Overnight: Los Colibris Casitas**

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From your casa you can watch the fishermen cast their nets on the beach in the early morning light, wait for the green flash of a magnificent Baja sunset in the late afternoon, and enjoy the vast expanse of a star-filled sky at night. Los Colibris is just a 10-minute walk to 70 miles of pristine, virtually empty beach, and a 5-minute drive to the delightful restaurants, artists' galleries and shops of Todos Santos



## Activities

**TOSEA Mexican Cooking Class** 

**TOSEA Bird Watching** 

### **TOSEA Mexican Cooking Class**

The TOSEA Mexican Cooking Class is hosted by a local lawyer turned chef, Iker Algorri. He is the author of Cooking Adventures in Baja California Sur and chef-in-residence at Los Colibris Casitas. The emphasis of the class is on having as much fun as possible, learning to make the perfect margarita, and gaining the skills to make delicious Mexican dishes following his cooking philosophy, the magnificence of simplicity. Guests will learn about great Latin music and dancing is known to follow the class.



#### **TOSEA Bird Watching**

TOSEA Bird Watching offers bird lovers the opportunity to experience the birdlife of Todo Santos up close. It has a unique tropical setting between desert and ocean which features a fantastic array of birds, with over 150 species having been spotted. Bird watchers will observe birds in fields, deserts, and saltwater marshes. Spotting will take place during the early morning and late afternoon when many species are most active. It is possible to see the following birds in pristine surroundings during the tour: Gila woodpeckers, roadrunners, nighthawks, hummingbirds, egrets, blue herons, frigatebirds, ospreys, pelicans, orioles, warblers, finches, turkey vultures, hawks, tanagers, mockingbirds, wrens, doves, flycatchers, ibis, sparrows, ducks, owls, caracaras, terns, gulls, cormorants, vireos, avocets, quails and kingfishers.



## Day 5: Camp Cecil de la Isla, Isla Espiritu Santo

### Isla Espiritu Santo

The amazing Isla Espiritu Santo is one of 900 islands in the Espiritu Santo Archipelago that are part of the Gulf of California Islands Flora and Fauna Protected Area established in 1978. In 2005 Espiritu Santo and 244 other islands in the Sea of Cortez were named a UNESCO World Heritage site, and in 2007 the Marine Zone of Espiritu Santo Archipelago National Park was established. This marine national park covers an area of 48,000 hectares and includes Isla Espiritu Santo and La Partida, the island right next door. Because of its protected status, no permanent structures of any sort are allowed in Isla Espiritu Santo, aside from the camps of the local fishermen who have traditionally made their living from the island and its surrounding waters, and from whom we regularly buy seafood for the camp. Ecotourism companies must be fully licensed and registered to conduct operations on the island, and basecamps must be completely dismantled for a few months each year to allow the beaches to rest. Every visitor to Espiritu Santo contributes to the maintenance of the park through park fees. Your guide will give you a full briefing on the park rules and regulations that help protect the flora and fauna of the area, and we ask everyone to do their part to maintain the wild natural beauty of this remarkable place.

### **Day Itinerary**

### Sea of Cortez and Camp Cecil Adventure!

We're off to Isla Espiritu Santo and Camp Cecil today! After breakfast we'll go to our bodega to get snorkeling gear and wet suits, then it's on to the boats and out into the Sea of Cortez!

Camp Cecil is on Isla Espiritu Santo which is in a National Marine Park, part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and is one of the best marine life viewing destinations in the world. Whales, dolphins, whale sharks, sea turtles, manta rays and plenty of beautiful tropical fish call the surrounding waters home, while a terrific range of bird species including Bluefooted Boobies, Reddish Egrets, Great Blue Herons and Yellow-footed Gulls frequent the island's skies and shores. The island itself is stunning, with magnificent towering cliffs, spectacular sandy bays, amazing lava rock formations, and rock art left by the now-extinct Guaycura and Pericu Indians. There's even an endemic ring-tailed cat, the babisuri. It's a remarkable place to explore. We'll spend the days doing exactly what pleases us - kayaking, snorkeling, hiking, swimming with sea lions, stand up paddle boarding, bird watching, and exploring hidden lagoons and desert beaches. Hanging around doing nothing, reading trashy novels and sipping margaritas also highly encouraged.

### Overnight: Camp Cecil de la Isla

Espiritu Santo National Park in the Sea of Cortez is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and is one of the best marine life viewing destinations in the world. Whales, dolphins, whale sharks, sea turtles, manta rays and plenty of beautiful tropical fish call the surrounding waters home, while a terrific range of bird species including Blue-footed Boobies, Reddish Egrets, Great Blue Herons and Yellow-footed Gulls frequent the island's skies and shores. Camp Cecil base camp on one of the island's most beautiful beaches that features beautifully decorated walk-in tents with real beds, lovely linens, bedside tables, lanterns, beach towels, storage space, rugs, chairs, and more. Espiritu Xantus Café is where our on-site chef makes wonderful meals for you every day – and daily happy hour of course - and there are two sun showers and two compost toilet cabañas.



### Activities

Camp Cecil

### Camp Cecil de la Isla

Espiritu Santo National Park in the Sea of Cortez is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and is one of the best marine life viewing destinations in the world. Whales, dolphins, whale sharks, sea turtles, manta rays and plenty of beautiful tropical fish call the surrounding waters home, while a terrific range of bird species including Blue-footed Boobies, Reddish Egrets, Great Blue Herons and Yellow-footed Gulls frequent the island's skies and shores. Camp Cecil base camp on one of the island's most beautiful beaches that features beautifully decorated walk-in tents with real beds, lovely linens, bedside tables, lanterns, beach towels, storage space, rugs, chairs, and more. Espiritu Xantus Café is where our on-site chef makes wonderful meals for you every day – and daily happy hour of course - and there are two sun showers and two compost toilet cabañas.



# Day 6: Camp Cecil de la Isla, Isla Espiritu Santo

### **Day Itinerary**

Who know what adventures the day may bring?! Perhaps paddle board with sea turtles, or snorkel with sea lions, maybe spot some whales, or dance with some Blue-footed Boobies. Whatever surprises the day may hold, you can be sure that it will also include magnificent food and drink!

### Activities

TOSEA Marine Life	
TOSEA Snorkeling	

### **TOSEA Marine Life**

Isla Espiritu Santo is one of the best marine life viewing destinations in the world.



# Day 7: Los Colibris Casitas, Todos Santos

## **Todos Santos**

As previously described

## **Day Itinerary**

Today we'll enjoy one last morning of snorkeling, kayaking and/or paddle boarding, then head back to shore. If we have time, we'll stop at La Gaviota and check out the Blue-footed Booby rookery! In the afternoon we'll return to Todos Santos, check back in to our hotel, then enjoy a fabulous farewell dinner prepared for us by our private chef.

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## Activities

TOSEA Island Kayaking II

TOSEA Espiritu Santo Birds/Boobies

## TOSEA Espiritu Santo Birds/Boobies

Isla Espiritu Santo is a fabulous bird watching locale that features Blue-footed Booby and Magnificent Frigatebird rookeries, along with countless other coastal species.



# Day 8: End of Itinerary

### **Day Itinerary**

Say adios but not good-bye. Transfer to airport.

## Activities

Adios!

## Transport

Transfers									
Date	Company	Pick Up	Drop Off	Time	Vehicle				
		Los Cabos International Airport [SJD]	Los Colibris Casitas		Transfer				
		Los Colibris Casitas	Camp Cecil de la Sierra		Transfer				
		Camp Cecil de la Sierra	Los Colibris Casitas		Transfer				
		Los Colibris Casitas	Camp Cecil de la Isla		Transfer				
		Camp Cecil de la Isla	Los Colibris Casitas		Transfer				
		Los Colibris Casitas	Los Cabos International Airport [SJD]		Transfer				

# **Travel Information**

### Entry Requirements

All United States citizens and permanent residents visiting Mexico must have a valid US passport and/or permanent residency card to enter the country. When visiting us in Baja California Sur, your two airport options are San Jose del Cabo (SJD, typically the better-served airport) and La Paz (LAP). On your plane flight to Mexico the airline will give you two forms, one for immigration and one for customs. You must fully complete each form. When you disembark at the airport, you will first go through immigration and present your passport and completed immigration form. If you are not a hunted international criminal, they will welcome you to Mexico and put the bottom part of the immigration form in your passport. This is your tourist visa for the duration of your stay in Mexico, and you must present it when you exit the country. If you lose it they will charge you a fine to replace it. You will then go through baggage claim and, after that, customs. Here you will present your completed customs form. You will then be asked to push a button. If you push the button and the light glows green, you are free to go and exit the secure area. If the light glows red, you will be required to subject your luggage to further inspection before exiting the secure customs area. Guides and drivers are not allowed into the waiting area, so you *must* exit to the outside by heading right through the sliding glass doors and head to transportation umbrella No. 5. If your adventure includes airport transfers there you will see your driver holding a sign with your name on it. Go with him or her and let the adventure begin!

### **Banking and Currency**

The currency of Mexico is the Mexican peso (MXN). Current exchange rates can be found at http://x-rates.com. Dollars are widely accepted throughout Baja Sur, and many, but not all, locations accept credit cards, mainly Visa and MasterCard. In general, only the largest resorts accept American Express.

### **Climate and Weather**

The weather from November through April is generally perfect, with highs during the day in the mid to upper 70s and lows at night in the upper 50s to mid-60s. There may be windy days that can have an impact on certain adventures, and there is the occasional rainy day in those months as well. May and June are a bit warmer during the day but still delightful, and the truly warm weather starts in mid-July. Hurricane season is exactly the same as in the eastern United States, and officially runs June to November. However, most storms tend to occur August to mid-October. You can check weather forecasts for Todos Santos at: https://weather.com/weather/today/l/MXBS0126:1:MX

### **Electricity and Plug Standards**

Electrical outlets, plugs and voltage are all exactly the same as in the United States, so if your electronics work there, they will work in Mexico with no adaptors or converters required. If you are coming from other parts of the globe, you will need the same adaptations you would need for traveling to the United States. For those of you going to our luxury tent camp on Isla Espiritu Santo, we do have solar panels for charging phones and cameras.

#### WIFI

All the hotels we use onshore in Baja California Sur have wifi. Some places have faster/better service than others, but it is generally available. There is no internet or phone service available at Camp Cecil on Isla Espiritu Santo or at the ranches in the Sierra La Laguna mountains.

#### **General Guidance**

People often ask us about tipping on our trips so we will add in a few guidelines here: Hotel housekeeping staff: US\$2 per day per room Guides: US\$20/person/day Camp Cecil / Camp Colossus Staff: \$25/person/day Boat Captains in Magdalena Bay: US\$25/boat (this is per boat so everyone pools funds)

As elsewhere in the world, tipping is completely at your discretion, and these numbers are guidelines only.