

Trip Details

Baja Breakaway

From Isla Espirito Santo in the Sea of Cortez, to charming Todos Santos on the Pacific Ocean.

> Trip Dates: March 19 – 23, 2023 Length of Trip: 5 days / 4 nights

from \$2398usp A deposit of \$300 is due with registration.

This trip begins at San Jose Del Cabo airport (SJD) on the early afternoon of Day 1. This trip ends at San Jose Del Cabo airport (SJD) on the afternoon of Day 5. Post option available.

Optional extension:

Glamping amid the mountains of the Sierra La Laguna Biosphere Trip Dates: March 23 - 25, 2023 Length of Trip: 3 days / 2 nights

Guest Itinerary

Please note that the details of this itinerary are subject to change. Many of the planned activities are organized according to availability, events or seasonal dates, appropriate weather conditions or the discretion of our guides. We make every effort to provide the experience described in the itinerary with the understanding that some things may change.

Day 1 – Todos Santos

Today you will arrive at the airport in San Jose del Cabo (SJD) where you'll be met by your guides and transferred to Todos Santos and Los Colibris Casitas, about a 90-minute drive pleasurable drive along the coast. This group transfer will depart at a prescheduled time.

Upon arrival, get settled into your lovely room with beautiful ocean views. If time allows, we will take a leisurely beach walk and look for migrating whales close to shore. Our walk will be followed by a private gourmet taco welcome dinner prepared for us by Chef Iker Algorri at Los Colibris. During dinner, our guides will host a trip briefing, outlining the adventures to come. Overnight at Los Colibris with an ocean lullaby.

Meals Included: Dinner

Accommodation: Los Colibris Casitas



Day 2 – Isla Espiritu Santo

We are off to Isla Espiritu Santo and Camp Cecil today! After breakfast we will go to our bodega to get snorkeling gear and wet suits (included), 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 Blue-footed 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 is even an endemic ring-tailed cat, the babisuri. It is a remarkable place to explore.

Spend the days doing exactly what pleases you – hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, swimming with sea lions, stand up paddle boarding, bird watching, and walking in search of hidden lagoons and desert beaches. Hanging around doing nothing, reading, and sipping margaritas also accepted. This is your break!

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Accommodation: Camp Cecil de la Isla*

Day 3 – Isla Espiritu Santo

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!

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner *Accommodation:* Camp Cecil de la Isla*

Day 4 – Back to Todos Santos, but first...

Whale Sharks!

Today we will depart from Camp Cecil and head for one of the most amazing experiences yet - swimming with the largest fish in the world - the whale shark! Of course, you may be asking yourself: is it a whale or is it a shark? Hint: whales are mammals and sharks are fish. These gentle giants feed on plankton in the Bay of La Paz (so all human flesh is safe), and it is here that we have the remarkable experience of observing and swimming with them.

For anyone that prefers not to swim with whale sharks you have the opportunity to spend free time exploring La

In the afternoon we will return to Todos Santos, check back into Los Colibris Casitas, then enjoy a farewell evening with tapas on the terrace at sunset.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Accommodation: Los Colibris Casitas

Day 5 - Adios...Or Not! (Post tour Option Available March 23 - 25)

After breakfast, depart with the group transfer to the airport.

Meals Included: Breakfast

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Optional Post Extension

This option is available March 23 – 25, 2023 (Please Email Us For Pricing)

Day 1 - Sierra La Laguna Biosphere

Would you like to stay a little longer? You are invited to join us for two more nights glamping in the Sierra La Laguna Biosphere.

Transfer to this special reserve of Baja California Sur. We will be heading to Camp Cecil de la Sierra, a luxury tented camp in a shady mango and grapefruit grove.

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. 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.

This exclusive camp 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 our meals, teaching guests how to make tortillas and cheese in the traditional manner, and acting as guides in the reserve.

Meals Included: Dinner

Accommodation: Camp Cecil de la Sierra

Day 2 – Discover the diversity of Baja

Early risers may start the day with some birding around camp early as the sun rises. Enjoy an amazing ranch breakfast, then head out for a great hike through the mountains.

Our optional hikes in the reserve will be rewarded by terrific views of the Pacific Ocean, a refreshing swim in watering holes and a picnic by waterfalls. We will be accompanied by bilingual guides that are all great interpretive naturalists, so not only are all the activities a total blast, but you have a font of information on everything from Sierra mammals to local ecology to Mexican history and more at our disposal all day long.

The day will also have plenty of opportunities to interact with the ranch family and work with them making cheese, tortillas and other products in the traditional manner. What is unique about this authentic experience is learning about the ranchero culture of Baja California Sur which is quite distinct from that of the rest of México.

Or if you prefer stay back and relax at the camp under the shade of the mango trees. Great time to catch up and make use of the library/reading area—the day is yours in wide open spaces away from any crowds.

As the day winds down, we will enjoy happy hour in the Huerta, then a great ranch dinner prepared by our chef. And if you are awake late enough, enjoy the stars in the clear mountain air. A magnificent day!

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner *Accommodation:* Camp Cecil de la Sierra

Day 3 – Farewell

Wake up to the sound of nature and enjoy one last leisurely morning. A hardy breakfast of fresh locally sourced ingredients will be served before it is time to say farewell.

Group transfer will be available to the airport.

Meals Included: Breakfast

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Inclusions

This Walking Connection trip includes:

- Unique itinerary overseen by Walking Connection co-founder, Jo Ann Taylor in partnership with our local team, Todos Santos Eco Adventures.
- Trip will be escorted by co-founder Jo Ann Taylor
- Bilingual expert local hiking and activity guides that are certified Wilderness First Responders.
- 2 nights lodging at boutique casitas in Todos Santos
- 2 nights *deluxe camping on Isla Espiritu Santo, as indicated in itinerary. (REI Kingdom 6 dome tents with two shared sun showers and two compost toilet cabañas.)
- Daily meals, as indicated in itinerary
- Daily happy hour and two drinks with dinner on the island; drinks at welcome and farewell dinners.
- Ground transfers throughout.
- Transportation of luggage
- All activities and related equipment as detailed in itinerary.
- Group airport transfers at prescheduled time when arriving and departing on dates of itinerary.
- Entrance fees and permits.
- Detailed Know Before You Go information, including recommended website, reading lists, packing list, and weather forecast.
- OPTIONAL EXTENSION (additional cost): 2 additional nights glamping in the Sierra La Laguna Biosphere (sun shower cabaña is shared), all meals, ground transfers and activities as indicated in itinerary.

This Walking Connection trip DOES NOT include:

- Local guide gratuities
- All international and domestic airfares with tax (not listed in the above inclusions)
- Private airport transfers if different than prescheduled time.
- All items of a personal nature, including beverages and shopping
- All passport and visa application fees, vaccination, and medical consulting fees
- All international departure taxes collected at airport of departure
- Additional hotel stay pre- or post- scheduled itinerary
- Early check-in or late check-out of rooms
- Optional tours
- Photographs or phone calls
- Discounts/Refunds on any unused portion of the tour
- Travel Insurance
- Anything that is not expressly stated in the itinerary or on the inclusion list above.

*Deluxe Camping

Camp Cecil de la Isla

Our base camp on one of the island's most beautiful beaches, features REI Kingdom 6, walk-in dome tents with regular sleeping mattresses that are ground-based including with lovely linens. Each tent can have either one king mattress or two twin mattresses. Espiritu Xantus Café is where the on-site chef makes wonderful meals for you every day - and daily happy hour of course! For sustainability there are two shared sun showers and two compost toilet cabañas.

Glamping

Camp Cecil de la Sierra

The camp is in a ranch's huerta, which is filled with beautiful mango and grapefruit trees. The accommodations are exclusive beautifully decorated walk-in tents with real beds, lovely linens, bedside tables, lanterns, towels, yoga mats, fans, storage space, rugs, chairs, and more. There is a library/reading area, a yoga space and a comfortable stargazing area where you can 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! Each tent has a sustainable en suite compost toilet and there is one shared shower cabañas in camp.



Price & Payments

Price per person:

Double Occupancy: from \$2398

Single Occupancy: supplement of \$500
 Extension: (Please Email Us For Pricing)

Deposits:

An initial deposit of \$300.00 USD per person is required to reserve your space. No space will be held without a complete deposit. See refund policy below. Click here to make a secure deposit.

Payments:

Payments must be made according to the schedule & are subject to cancellation and penalty policy. Final payment is due on or before 60 days prior to the trip. We request that all final payments be made by check, wire transfer or credit card/PayPal. Credit card and PayPal payments for final amount due are subject to a 3% surcharge of total due. Canadian (or other non-U.S. Credit cards) are subject to a 4.5% surcharge. Payments can be made online or by phone.

Price Variation:

Prices are based upon the current government fees for park, concession fees and sanctuary entry and all taxes at the time of publication of this information. Should the government impose any new taxes, raise the current tax or increase the entry cost to any park or sanctuary, the price increase will be passed along and charged to you. You will be notified of this increase at the time that Walking Connection is notified. All payments received by Walking Connection are subject to the cancellation policy already published and in effect.

Cancellation, Penalty & Refund Policies:

Should you have to cancel your tour the following terms will apply:

- A refund of your deposit (less \$100.00 admin. fee) will be given if we are notified 61 days or more prior to
 this trip. If your deposit was a credit from a previous trip postponement, the amount will be used as a
 future credit. After that:
- For cancellations and no shows 60 days or less prior to the trip, 100% of the trip price is nonrefundable.

No refunds will be made for any unused portion of the tour.

Please insure your trip <u>here</u>.

All cancellations must be made in writing and delivered to Walking Connection via e-mail and/or US Postal Service. Your cancellation date is the date your notice is received and confirmed by Walking Connection, not the date of postmark.

Travel Arrangements

Air Arrangements:

Arrival airport: Los Cabos International Airport (SJD), please arrive no later than 2:30 pm. There will be one group transfer from the airport to Todos Santos. (90-minute transfer)

Departure airport: Los Cabos International Airport (SJD), please do not make your departure flights earlier than noon or 2:00 pm if you are doing a post tour extension.

BEFORE you make your international airline arrangements, please contact Walking Connection by email or phone – (800)-295-9255 to reconfirm the details of the trip. Walking Connection will provide you with recommended arrival and departure airports, times and any additional information you may need **BEFORE** you book your flights.



Recommended Travel Insurance provided by: <u>Generali Global Assistance</u> https://www.generalitravelinsurance.com/?partner=81350509

Travel Roommates and Single Supplements:

There is limited availability, and a supplement will apply. Please contact us for details. If you have registered for double occupancy but do not have a travel roommate, you may be charged for a Single Supplement for any portion of the trip where you will be rooming as a single.

Trip Minimum and Maximum:

Minimum of 8 full paying guests. Walking Connection specializes in traveling in small groups, many times we stay in boutique hotel properties, historical inns, private homes and bed & breakfasts. For this and contractual related reasons, some trips may require a minimum number of guests traveling together to go. FOR THIS TRIP, an additional Small Group Surcharge of \$100.00 USD may be assessed, or the trip may be canceled at the option of Walking Connection if sign-ups do not meet the 8-person minimum. This trip will be guaranteed to be conducted either when we have reached the minimum number of guests or evaluated 90 or 45 days prior to departure. Also, should the minimum not be met, Walking Connection is at its sole discretion to elect to operate the trip without a Walking Connection host. Please do not make your international or domestic air arrangements until the trip is confirmed.

Maximum of 14 guests

Passports/Visas:

Valid passports must have a minimum of 6 months remaining before expiration. Visas are NOT required for all US and Canadian citizens to enter Mexico.

For passport applications and renewals:

http://www.passportvisasexpress.com/?affld=992183579f5e584ff2a965b511618cc9

More Details

Trip Grading – Moderate:

- Each day usually consists of 3-5 hours of varied activities which are optional.
- Most days have a range of activity levels available-- we will be accompanied by a certified Wilderness First Responder guide.
- · Walking terrain includes beaches, desert, and rocky paths with uphill and downhill components
- Your day pack will include a liter of water, snacks, sunscreen, personal items, and a camera

Gear & Personal Items:

We will provide a detailed list of personal items you will need that will make your journey safe and convenient. There is no special gear required for this trip though you will receive a list of recommended items, including supportive hiking boots/trail shoes and socks. We can help with information on types, brands and what to look for if you are purchasing new gear items for the trip.

Special Supplier Gifts & Items:

As a local custom, vendors, suppliers, ground operators, restaurants and hotel properties may offer complimentary beverages that may or may not contain alcohol. Should you elect not to accept this gift, complimentary water may not be offered as a replacement and may only be offered for sale. This is a local custom beyond the control of Walking Connection.



Your Local Guides and Trip Host/Escort:

At Walking Connection, our philosophy is simple: each trip is designed in partnership with locals and delivered by local legends. We work with a small number of trusted travel partners to deliver the best experiences in the safest way possible. During this trip, you and your small group will be accompanied and led by a highly trained professional guide. Walking Connection Co-Founders, Gene and Jo Ann Taylor, will be hosting this trip. **PLEASE NOTE that another host and guide maybe substituted should Gene or Jo Ann be unable to lead this adventure for any reason.

CONTACTS:

Jo Ann Taylor - +1 623.561.0846 | ja@WalkingConnection.com

QUESTIONS TO ASK? READY TO BOOK? If you want to get in touch, please send us an email or give us a call. We accept bookings online, by email, or over the phone. A deposit of \$300 USD is required at the time of booking to secure the trip with the balance payable 45 Days before departure. If booking less than 45 days before the trip start date, full payment of the adventure is due with registration.

Walking Connection – Person-to-Person Guest Hotlines: Info@WalkingConnection is your best way to ask and receive information about all departures. To chat directly, please call +1 623.561.0846.

We will do everything within our power to assure that you have a great adventure.

Thank you for choosing the Walking Connection.

"We Know The Way!"







