



Baja Ecotours

Whale Watching at San Ignacio Lagoon

5 Day Air Trip Packing List

San Ignacio Lagoon – A Desert Oasis & Land of Contrasting Daily Climates

You'll soon be joining us at our remote eco-lodge at San Ignacio Lagoon. This area is part of the Sonoran Desert and as with every desert, you will be subjected to ever changing climatic conditions. Please be prepared for extreme changes in weather and follow our suggested packing list as best you can.

Suggested Packing List

We suggest that you keep it simple and light. Don't forget nametags on your luggage. Try to limit your luggage to no more than one small checked bag not more than 35lbs or 17 kilos and one small carry-on bag-no larger than a small backpack or camera bag or purse.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ___ Windbreaker ___ Rain Pants or Slickers (optional) ___ Warm Jacket or Sweater ___ Long-sleeved Shirt (2) ___ T shirts (3) ___ Pants (2) ___ Sweat Pants (1) ___ Shorts (2) ___ Socks & Underwear | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ___ Sandals or Flip-flops ___ Tennis / Hiking shoes (1 pair) ___ Towel & Wash Cloth ___ Small Flashlight or Headlamp (need) ___ Camera & Charger ___ Refillable Water Bottle (optional) ___ Sunscreen & Sunglasses ___ Hat or Head Cover (sun) ___ Extra Batteries |
|---|--|

Optional Items: binoculars, journal or sketchbook, paperback book, small daypack or fanny pack for hikes; video camera & charger. If you get cold easily, bring clothing to layer yourself. Kneepads: these come in handy when you are kneeling on the boat to reach over the side and pet a whale-test them first before buying.

**Shoes: normally an old pair of tennis shoes works great for everything from walking the beach and in the low tide and muddy areas—sandals & flip flops don't hold up in the muddy tidal areas.*

Luggage – How to Pack

How to pack: We suggest you travel light. We have a luggage limitation of 35lbs / 17kilo per guest plus your handbag or camera bag and request you pack your items in a **soft sided canvas style bag**. No large (hard) luggage please. It will not fit in the aircraft.

Luggage: it is very important that you keep your luggage with you at ALL times. DO NOT rely on ANYONE to load your luggage or carry it for you. Many bags have been left behind in the airport lobby, on the bus or sitting in the parking area next to the plane because someone just simply forgot to load their luggage. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR BELONGINGS – and we ask you to keep them in sight at all times.

Typical Weather & Temperatures

Months	Daytime Temps.	Morning-Evening Temps.	Remarks
Dec thru Feb	60-75 F / 15-24C	40-60 F / 4.5-15.5C	Possible mild / strong winds and rain can occur (but not usual)
Mar thru Apr	70-88 F / 21-31C	50-60 F / 10-18C	Milder weather mid March through April – hot during day

Typically you will find the mornings brisk and cool and you'll want to wear pants and a sweater or jacket. By noon however, you will be back in shorts and a t-shirt. Then as the sun sets you will want to change back into your pants and sweater or jacket.

Final Checklist

Don't Forget To Bring Along:

- Tourist Card (print online before trip to expedite border crossing-do not pay)
 - <https://www.bajabound.com/before/permits/visa.php>
- Luggage with address tags
- Camera and plenty of film or hard drive space
- Passport (required)
- Pocket money for (pesos are not necessary but may be changed at bus station)
 - meals & snacks while traveling
 - Gratuity (usually 8-12% of the trip fee) – US bank checks accepted
 - Shopping, etc.

Proof of Citizenship:

Mexico & The USA require you have a valid passport when transiting across the border or while boarding an airplane. You **MUST** have a valid passport. Apply well in advance (usually 4-5 weeks to get your passport).

Minors: Minors traveling with one parent or a guardian **MUST** have a notarized letter of consent from the other/both parents to take the minor out of the country. It is your responsibility to have all necessary documents for your trip.

Photography

Cameras: The most versatile cameras are digital still and video cameras. Be sure to bring plenty of spare batteries if your battery is not rechargeable. If you have a rechargeable battery in your camera, then you can charge it at our solar charging station or your cabin during daylight hours. If you have just purchased a new camera, you should try shooting a few practice shots to find the settings that best work for you or run in full auto mode.

Cameras on boats: Wind, waves and whales splashing near the boat can cause a salty mist that will cover your camera and lens in a salty solution. It is a good idea to bring a few ziplock bags to keep your camera in a waterproof enclosure. It is also very helpful to keep your camera inside of a ziplock bag while shooting under any wet conditions or while whales are beside the boat. Cutting a small hole at the front of the ziplock for your lens to stick out of and keeping the camera body covered is an inexpensive and safe solution

to keeping your camera and wonderful memories safe from exposure. You should also bring a small towel or shirt to dry off your camera in case it does get sprayed by water.

Lenses: You can make use of practically any lens available but the most useful are wide angle lenses for close photos when a thirty five foot whale is next to the boat. A preferred zoom lens is something from 16mm or 18mm at the wide end and up to 85 to 200mm at the long end. There really is no need for long telephoto lenses unless you plan to shoot from a tripod on land. In addition, a Polarizing filter for your lenses can help to cut down the glare on the surface of the water.

Film cameras: Film is expensive in Mexico and not usually available at our camp. You'll find that it is easy to go through 3-4 rolls of film in a day. We recommend that you bring plenty of film, usually color slide or print film with an ASA of 64 to 200. If you are bringing a telephoto lens you should also pack faster film ASA 200-400.

Video Equipment: Once again, bring plenty of digital storage or film/tape. You'll also want to bring extra batteries and a variety of polarizing filters (to help cut the glare).

Helpful Websites

Obtaining Tourist Card Online:

<https://www.bajabound.com/before/permits/visa.php>

Discover Baja Travel Club is an excellent information source. They offer Mexican auto insurance, tourist card processing and other services.

Telephone: (619)275-4225 web: www.discoverbaja.com

Journey North: Tracking the Gray Whale Migration. Web:

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/gwhale/>

Recommended Reading

“Eye of the Whale” by Dick Russell: chronicles the journey of the Pacific Gray Whale from the Bering Sea to the warm water lagoons of Baja.

“The Biology and Human History of Gray Whales” by Dr. James Sumich.

www.thegraywhalebook.com/

“Gray Whales” by Gordon & Baldrige

“Gray Whales Wandering Giants” by Busch

“The Magnificent Peninsula: The Comprehensive Guidebook to Mexico’s Baja California”

by Jack and Patty Williams

AAA “Baja California Travel Guide”

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is available in order to secure your entire trip against any unforeseen incidents such as medical cancellations (*the most common cancellation*), mechanical failure, weather, etc... If you would like to secure your trip against any unforeseen cancellation, just call or email us and we will supply you with our insurance agency that offers a variety of travel insurance policies. Or visit our travel insurance provider CSA Travel at: www.CSATravelPro.com/83332891

(HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)

Our Contact Information:

Office in San Diego, CA, USA: (619) 819-2966 Toll Free: (877) 506-0557 Fax: (858) 300-5392

Office in Baja: +52 (612)125-9081

(use these numbers as emergency contact as well)

Web: www.bajaecotours.com E-mail: info@bajaecotours.com