



# Winter 2009 - 2010

## SEA KAYAKING IN BAJA

### Baja Quick Escape

Baja's Isla Espiritu Santo is a kayak wonderland in the Sea of Cortez near La Paz in Mexico. The island is a fabulous wilderness of deserted beaches, protected coves and rugged cliffs. Kayak along this spectacular and varied coastline, camp on pristine beaches, snorkel in the blue waters, swim with sea lion pups and bask in the warm Mexican sunshine. With four days of paddling and three nights camping, the Quick Escape is a perfect winter getaway. No kayak experience is required to have a great time. Skill level 1.



West coast - Isla Espiritu Santo - Mexico

We offer 2 types of Quick Escape trips:

**Self-Contained Trips:** We carry all our food and gear in our kayaks and everyone contributes to setting up camp and cooking wonderful meals with help from the exceptional local guides.

Dates:	Fees: ex La Paz, Mexico
Oct 18-21, 21-24	\$490.00 US
Nov 1-4, 4-7	\$450.00 US
Jan 10-13, 13-16	\$490.00 US
Feb 10-13, Feb 28 - Mar 3	\$490.00 US
Mar 3-6	\$490.00 US
Mar 14-17, 17-20	\$530.00 US
Apr 11-14, 14-17, 25-28 28- May 2	\$490.00 US

**Fully-Catered Trips:** These trips have full time motorboat (called a Panga) support. The Panga carries all our food and gear to the next campsite while we paddle light kayaks. Coolers aboard the Panga allow for special food and drink throughout the trip. The Panga crew and guides take care of all the cooking and clean up.

Dates:	Fees: ex La Paz, Mexico
Oct 11-14, 14-17	\$590.00 US
Nov 8-11, 11-14, 15-18	\$620.00 US
Nov 18-21, 22-25, 25-28	\$620.00 US
Dec 13-16, 16-19	\$590.00 US
Dec 20-23, 23-26, 27-30, 30 - Jan 2	\$620.00 US
Jan 3-6, 6-9, 17-20, 20-23	\$590.00 US
Jan 24-27, 27-30, 30 - Feb 3	\$590.00 US
Feb 3-6, 7-10, 17-20, 24-27	\$590.00 US
Mar 6-14, 7-10, 10-13, 21-24, 24-27	\$640.00 US
Apr 4-7, 7-10	\$640.00 US
Apr 18-21, 21-24	\$590.00 US

**Family Trips:** Families with pre-teens may register for a Fully-Catered Trips only. Families with teens may register for either type of trip. We'll use tandem kayaks so younger kids can paddle with an adult. Children under 14 receive a 20% discount.

### Circumnavigation of Isla Espiritu Santo

Baja's Isla Espiritu Santo is a kayak wonderland in the Sea of Cortez near La Paz in Mexico. The island is a fabulous wilderness of deserted beaches, protected coves and rugged cliffs. Kayak along this spectacular and varied coastline, camp on pristine beaches, snorkel in the blue waters, swim with sea lion pups and bask in the warm Mexican sunshine. We will paddle

### *Detailed Information Packages*

A detailed information package with photos, itinerary, flight, travel info, maps, etc. is available by e-mail for each trip.

E-mail: [info@blackfeather.com](mailto:info@blackfeather.com)

or order the package from our website:

[www.blackfeather.com](http://www.blackfeather.com)

around the entire group of islands exploring both sides of this kayaking paradise. The trip includes 7 days paddling, 6 nights camping with two night's hotel in La Paz and a farewell dinner at an excellent La Paz restaurant. Skill level 1.

We offer 2 types of Circumnavigation trips:

**Self-Contained Trips:** We carry all our food and gear in our kayaks and everyone contributes to setting up camp and cooking wonderful meals with help from the exceptional local guides.

Dates:	Fees: ex La Paz, Mexico
Oct 17-25, Oct 31-Nov 8	\$790.00 US
Nov 14-22	\$830.00 US
Dec 19-27	\$830.00 US
Jan 9-17	\$790.00 US
Feb 27 - Mar 7	\$790.00 US
Mar 13-21, 27-Apr 4	\$850.00 US
Apr 10-18, 24-May 2	\$790.00 US
Single supplement fee:	\$80 US

**Fully-Catered Trips:** These trips have full time motorboat (called a Panga) support. The Panga carries all our food and gear to the next campsite while we paddle light kayaks. Coolers aboard the Panga allow for special food and drink throughout the trip. The Panga crew and guides take care of all the cooking and clean up.

Dates:	Fees: ex La Paz, Mexico
Oct 10-18	\$990.00 US
Nov 7-15, 14-22, 21-29	\$1040.00 US
Dec 12-20, 26-Jan 3	\$1040.00 US
Jan 2-10, 16-24	\$990.00 US
Feb 13-21, 20-28, 30 - Mar 7	\$990.00 US
Mar 6-14, 14-22, 20-28	\$1040.00 US
Mar 27-Apr 4, Apr 3-11	\$1040.00 US
Apr 17-25	\$990.00 US
Single supplement fee:	\$110 US

**Families** with teenage children may register on either type of trip. We accept pre-teens on the Fully-Catered trips only. Children under 14 receive a 20% discount.

## Sea Kayak and Whale Watching

The absolute best of both seas! We spend 4 days sea-kayaking and snorkeling in the shimmering, turquoise Sea of Cortez camping out on Espiritu Santo Island. Then we have a mid week pause to relax and explore the enchanting seaside town of La Paz with its beautiful boardwalk and sensational dining. Finally we transfer to the tranquil lagoons in Magdalena Bay on the Pacific coast of Baja. Here we are hotel based and embark on 2 days of whale watching expeditions by motor skiff. Every year the Gray Whale makes its annual migration from the Chirikof Basin to Magdalena Bay, a round trip of some 12,400 miles making it the longest migration by any mammal. During the Gray's winter visit, they calve and nurse in the shallow lagoons. These amazing Gray Whale nursing grounds are protected by strict Mexican environmental and ecological legislation. We are careful to observe these regulations by exclusively working with licensed cooperatives that have trained boat drivers. This in turn helps support local fishermen and their families. This trip combines 4 days paddling and 3 nights camping with 2 days whale watching and a total of 5 night's hotel accommodation. Skill Level 1

Dates:	Fee: ex La Paz, Mexico
Jan 23 - 31	\$1,030.00 US
Feb 7 - 14, 13 - 21	\$1,030.00 US
Single supplement fee:	\$250.00 US



Beach campsite - Baja - Mexico

## Baja Coastal Trip - Agua Verda to San Evaristo

7 days /6 nights exploring the superb coastal scenery north of La Paz in the Sea of Cortez. This remote stretch has no maintained road access and only a few small villages where fisherman live, untouched by the tappings of our modern world. Our 50 mile route is overlooked by the spectacular mountains of the Sierra La Giganta range - a marvelous backdrop to the rugged coastline and secret caves accessible only boat. After paddling an average of 4 hours a day we'll spend the afternoons snorkeling, fishing or exploring the adjacent canyonlands. We'll camp on extraordinarily beautiful white sand beaches. Depending on the time of year we may see dolphins, giant manta rays or whales.

We will have fulltime motorboat (Panga) support. The Panga



Gray whale - Magdalena Bay - Mexico

will carry all our gear and food, leaving us the luxury of paddling lightly loaded kayaks. The panga crew will prepare our excellent meals and take care of the clean up. The package includes your hotel in La Paz on the first and last night. Skill Level 1+.

Dates:	Fee: ex La Paz ,Mexico
Oct 24-Nov 1, 2009	\$1,280.00 US
Spring 2010 - TBA	
Single supplement fee:	\$110.00 US

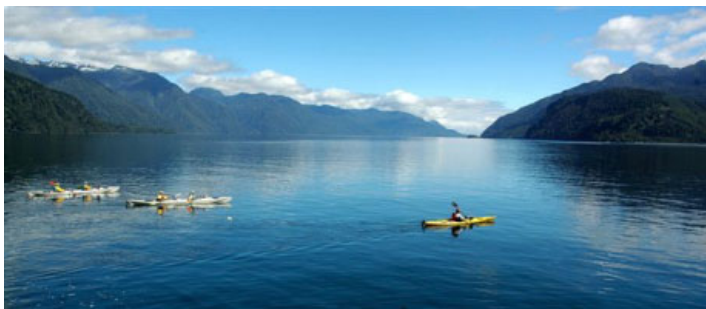
## ***New for 2009* Baja - Sea Kayaking and Yoga**

This trip offers the best of our Circumnavigation of Isla Espiritu Santo trip with the addition of daily yoga practice. Start your day on a serene white sand beach with a two hour pranayama and asana practice. Spend the day kayaking, snorkeling, hiking and relaxing, then take part in a restorative yoga session each evening. Both silent meditation and guided meditation practices are offered as well.

Your yoga instructor is Sophie Deschamps, a senior Blackfeather guide and very experienced yoga instructor. Her teaching style is intuitive, light hearted and flexible. Our sessions will explore our connection with nature as we follow the rhythms of sun and tide to experience the most profound yoga practice; yoga in the wilderness.

The package includes 2 nights at a nice hotel in La Paz, 7 days paddling with 6 nights camping on pristine wilderness beaches and a farewell dinner at an excellent restaurant in La Paz. No previous kayaking or yoga experience required. Skill Level 1+.

Dates:	Fee: ex La Paz ,Mexico
Nov 29 - Dec 6, 2009	\$1,190.00 US
Apr 10 - 18, 2010	\$1,190.00 US
Single supplement fee:	\$80.00 US



Kayaking in Patagonia, Chile - Altue Sea Kayaking

## **SEA KAYAKING IN CHILE**

### **The Andean Fjords of Northern Patagonia**

An unforgettable 6 day adventure in the magnificent fjords of Comau, Quintupeu and Cahuelmó, on the eastern side of the Gulf of Ancud, where wild mountain cliffs soar out of the dark waters to touch the sky. See spectacular glacial valleys, primeval temperate rainforests, and numerous kinds of marine wildlife, including dolphins, sea lions, penguins and other sea birds. Smack your lips over fresh salmon steaks, or steamed shellfish gathered from the cliffs at low tide, all prepared by our cook in the miniature galley of our picturesque support vessel. Watch the sunset on the peaks as you relax in hot pools. Spread your

sleeping bag under the diamond stars of the Southern Cross. With full time mother ship support and calm, protected waters, anyone can enjoy the unique beauty and variety of this majestic land.

Skill Level 1.

Dates:	Jan. 10-15, 24-29
	Feb. 7-12, 21-26
Fee:	\$1,250.00 US ex Puerto Montt, Chile



Kayaks and support ship - Patagonia, Chile

### **Additional Lake District Option**

This option adds a hotel based 2 day exploration of the beautiful lake district to the 6 day kayaking adventure.

Dates:	Jan. 8-15, 22-29
	Feb. 5-12, 19-26
Fee:	\$1,650.00 US ex Puerto Montt, Chile

## **CANOEING DESERT CANYONS**

### **Canoe the San Juan River**

Utah's San Juan River is born as snow on southern Colorado's Continental Divide. Meandering through sculpted, painted canyons, it eventually joins the Colorado River under what is now Lake Powell. Evidence of ancient inhabitants abounds in the San Juan River Basin. The basin was home to the Azanazi Culture, which flourished in the tributary canyons and in sheltered areas. They were a semi-nomadic people, who are



San Juan River - Wendy Grater

best known for their rock art, found on canyon walls and in sheltered overhangs. The river flows swiftly with an average drop of over 2.65 m/km, a pace faster than you can jog! There are few rapids, though there are several class II and III to add some excitement. As well, sand waves, a relatively rare phenomenon, add surprises and excitement. Sand waves are caused by the water's movement against the silted river bottom. Our 84 mile (137 km) trip goes through an ever-changing landscape of canyons and flood plains. The San Juan is suitable for both the novice and the experienced boater. Skill Level 1+.

Dates: Apr 10-16, 2010

Fee: \$1,695.00 US ex Grand Junction, CO



Chalets at Nipika Lodge - Wendy Grater

## CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

### X-C Ski Holiday in the Rockies

A perfect cross country getaway for recreational and advanced skiers - and a wonderful winter retreat. Nipika Lodge, our base, is nestled in the BC Rockies, between Kootenay National Park and Mt. Assiniboine Provincial Park. Nipika boasts over 50 km of groomed trails, suitable for both classic and skate techniques. The scenery is spectacular, with mountains rising up on all sides, and the Kootenay River flowing swiftly through the valley. Join Nipika director Lyle Wilson and BF director Wendy Grater for 5 days of friendly instruction and coaching, followed by participation in the fun 'Nipika Loppet' (with various distances and skill levels for both recreational and competitive skiers). Relax at the end of the day in the wood fired sauna or hot tub. Accommodation each night is in the comfortable lodge. Delicious, home-cooked meals and warm camaraderie make for a great winter escape.

*New for 2010* - optional 20km Skate Loppet on Sunday morning, Jan 24.

Skill Level 1.

Dates: Jan 17 - 24 (arrive in the afternoon)

Fee: \$1595 CAD plus GST ex Radium Hotsprings, BC  
add \$75 each way for transfer from Calgary Airport.

## DOGSLEDDING

### Dogsledding Adventure in the Yukon

An arctic dog sledding adventure vacation at a luxurious wilderness lodge. Learn to drive a dog team in the amazing scenery of the Yukon's Ibex Valley while enjoying gourmet meals and superb accommodation. You'll be outfitted with the finest dogsledding clothing and equipment. You'll progress from an introductory lesson to day trips and then a 3 day expedition into the wilderness - sleeping and dining at a deluxe heated Yurt Camp. This may be the most unique vacation of your life. Skill Level 1. In co-operation with Uncommon Journeys.



Mushing in the Yukon - Uncommon Journeys

Dates: Jan 3-9, 10-16, 17-23, 24-30 and 31-Feb 6

Feb 7-13, 28-Mar 6 and Mar 14-20

Fee: \$3,470.00 CAD ex Whitehorse, Yukon

### Dogsled in Algonquin

Mush a team of Alaskan sled dogs through the pristine winter Algonquin wilderness. Enjoy the crisp days on the trail with your trusty canine friends. Sleep in wood heated prospector tents amongst the howls of the dogs and the dancing of the stars, and perhaps the northern lights, in the winter sky. This is a trip designed for the beginner or intermediate winter camper who wants to enjoy the winter in a whole new way. Skill Level 1. Trip run in co-operation with Chocpaw Expeditions.

#### 2 Days/1 Night

Dates: Jan. 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, 23-24 and 30-31

Feb. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21 and 27-28

March 6-7, 13-14, 20-21 and 27-28

Fee: \$410.00 CAD plus GST, ex South River, ON

#### 3 Days/2 Nights

Dates: Jan. 1-3, 8-10, 15-17 and 22-24

Feb. 5-7, 12-14, 19-21 and 26-28

March 5-7, 12-14, 19-21 and 26-28

Fee: \$565.00 CAD plus GST, ex South River, ON

#### 5 Days/4 Nights

Dates: Jan 11-15, 25-29 and Feb 22-26

Fee: \$902.00 CAD plus GST, ex South River, ON