

— B A J A —

MEXICO

THE REWILD WAY



REWILD
SAFARISSM

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Welcome!

We are excited and grateful you have entrusted us to guide and support you on your journey. Please consider this guidebook essential instructions for your upcoming adventure.

Refer to it for everything from passport and visa instructions to tipping etiquette, as well as important health, safety, and conservation information.

At Rewild Safaris, our “what” is providing sustainable luxury for travelers and continuing our growth as a leader in conservation-centered premium travel. Our “why” is to inspire traveler commitment to wildlife protection, preservation, and the rehabilitation of the wild.

We hope to help “rewild” your soul and spirit through these life-changing escapes from an overdeveloped world, to profoundly connect you to the wild, and inspire support for vital global conservation efforts.

By joining us on this adventure, you are helping to protect Mexico’s incredible wildlife and support sustainable tourism. Together, we can ensure these wild spaces thrive for generations to come. So let the rewilding begin!



Tom LaRock
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER



James Ward
CHIEF EXPLORATIONS OFFICER



WHERE DESERT MEETS THE SEA, THE WILD THRIVES.

Baja California is a peninsula of striking contrasts. Red desert cliffs plunging into sapphire seas, ancient cactus forests giving way to mangrove lagoons, and waters alive with the movement of giants. In winter, gray whales return to Magdalena Bay to calve and nurture their young, while dolphins, mobula rays, and sea lions fill the rich currents of the Sea of Cortez, once called "the world's aquarium" by Jacques Cousteau.

Here, wilderness takes many forms. Paddle a kayak through quiet estuaries at sunset as herons stalk the shallows, snorkel beside whale sharks in turquoise bays, or watch pelicans skim the surf where the desert meets the Pacific. Offshore, humpbacks breach against a horizon of endless blue, while inland, the stillness of the desert holds its own kind of magic. Cardón cacti reaching skyward, canyons carved by time, and night skies blazing with stars.

Baja is a land of edges and encounters, where sea and sand, silence and abundance, create moments that linger long after the tide recedes.



Baja Wild Facts



TIME ZONE

Baja California spans two time zones. Northern Baja (including Tijuana and Ensenada) follows Pacific Standard Time (GMT −8), while southern Baja (including La Paz, Los Cabos, and Loreto) is on Mountain Standard Time (GMT −7). Most of Baja observes Daylight Saving Time, shifting one hour forward from March to November.



LANGUAGES

Spanish is the official and most widely spoken language. In major tourism areas like Los Cabos and La Paz, English is also common, particularly in hotels, restaurants, and with guides. A simple greeting in Spanish goes a long way—"Hola" (Hello), "Buenos días" (Good morning), or "Gracias" (Thank you).



CURRENCY

The Mexican Peso (MXN) is the official currency. US dollars are widely accepted in Baja's main tourism hubs, but pesos are preferred for small purchases, local markets, and tipping. ATMs are available in towns and cities, and credit cards are accepted in most hotels, restaurants, and tour operators, though carrying some cash is recommended in remote areas.



GEOGRAPHY

Stretching 775 miles (1,250 km), the Baja California peninsula is flanked by the Pacific Ocean to the west and the Sea of Cortez to the east. Its dramatic landscapes range from cactus-dotted deserts and volcanic sierras to mangrove estuaries and turquoise bays. UNESCO World Heritage Sites include the islands and protected areas of the Gulf of California, famed for their marine life and rugged beauty.



CLIMATE

Baja's desert climate blends sun, sand, and sea breezes.

Winters (December–March) are mild and ideal for whale watching, with daytime highs around 70°F (21°C).

Summers (June–September) can be very hot, reaching 95°F (35°C) or higher, especially inland. The Sea of Cortez moderates coastal areas, while occasional tropical storms bring rain in late summer and early fall. Spring and fall offer warm days, cooler nights, and excellent conditions for both land and sea adventures.



FINDS

Handwoven textiles and blankets, silver jewelry, Huichol beadwork, Baja wines from Valle de Guadalupe, local ceramics, leather goods, organic coffee, and regional specialties like vanilla, hot sauces, and artisanal chocolate.

NOTE: Avoid buying items made from coral, sea turtle shell, or other endangered marine species. Choose crafts and souvenirs from recognized cooperatives that support local artisans and sustainable practices.



The sea, once it casts its spell,
—Jacques-Yves Cousteau
holds one in its net of wonder forèver.

Wildlife & Safari Highlights

In Baja, the wild comes alive where desert and ocean meet. Each winter, gray whales gather in sheltered lagoons, their curious calves often approaching boats with gentle wonder. Offshore, humpbacks breach against the horizon, while sea lions sprawl across sunlit rocks and dolphins carve through turquoise waves. Beneath the surface, the Sea of Cortez reveals whale sharks, kaleidoscopic fish, and coral-studded reefs. On land, vast cactus forests stretch across silent desert plains, canyons glow red in the fading light, and nights open into skies dense with stars. Baja is a place where every turn holds a contrast—sea and sand, stillness and abundance, intimacy and immensity.



Colin Ruggiero





Colin Ruggiero

Conservation: Literally, A Way of Life

Baja California is a place where ocean and desert meet in a landscape of extraordinary biodiversity. Much of its conservation legacy is tied to the surrounding seas: the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez) is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, celebrated for its abundance of marine life, while gray whale sanctuaries along the Pacific coast are protected as UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. These waters shelter migratory whales, whale sharks, sea lions, dolphins, and countless fish species. On land, protected desert reserves safeguard cactus forests, oases, and endemic species found nowhere else on earth. Conservation efforts here focus on both habitat protection and community-based eco-tourism, ensuring that local fishing and ranching communities benefit from preserving the wild richness of Baja.

10+

federally protected areas,
including islands, deserts,
and marine zones

2

UNESCO World
Heritage natural sites

900+

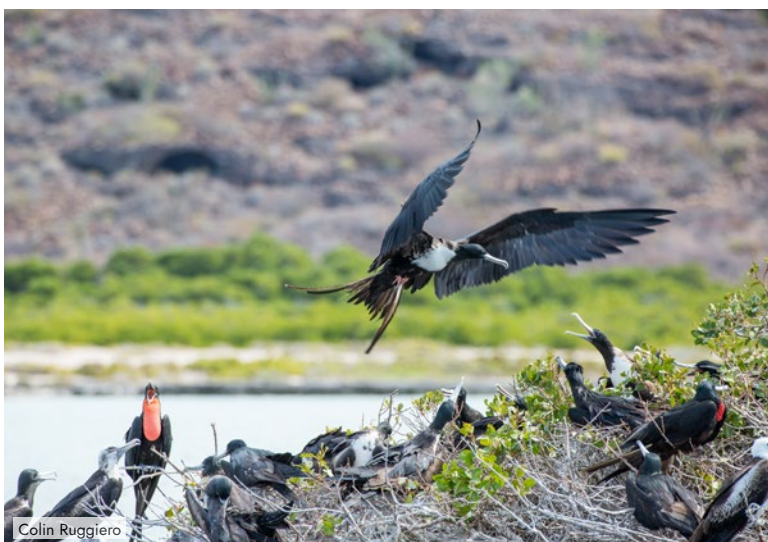
species of fish

68%

of the world's marine
mammal species



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Getting the Shots

James Ward, our Chief Explorations Officer, is also a professional wildlife and conservation photographer. Here are a few tips he'd like you to consider.

Know your light, know your lens: On the open ocean or along rocky shores, bright midday sun can be harsh. Use a polarizing filter to cut glare from water and deepen blues. At sunrise and sunset, adjust ISO and shutter speed to capture silhouettes of whales breaching or dolphins slicing through waves. Beneath the surface, light fades quickly: wide-angle lenses and strobes help bring color and clarity to whale sharks, sea lions, and schools of fish in the Sea of Cortez.

Gear up but stay mobile: A zoom lens (200–400mm) helps frame distant whales or seabirds, while a wide-angle is essential for desert landscapes and underwater scenes. Dry bags, waterproof housings, and minimal setups keep you nimble.

Go low, go wide: Crouch low to frame sea lions basking or shorebirds feeding at the waterline. In the sea, move slowly and keep eye level with your subject, whether drifting beside a whale shark or floating with playful sea lions for images that feel both intimate and alive. Wide-angle lenses work especially well underwater, allowing you to capture the scale of Baja's marine life against the vast blue of the ocean.

Underwater cameras: For snorkeling and casual underwater photography, a compact action camera or small waterproof set-up is ideal. They're easy to carry, handle well in currents, and can capture wide-angle shots of whale sharks, rays, and playful sea lions without weighing you down. For those wanting more detail, underwater housings for mirrorless or DSLR systems provide flexibility, but require more preparation and care.

Respect the wild: Follow your guides' lead and keep a safe, respectful distance from whales, whale sharks, and sea lions. Baja's wilderness (above and below the surface) is fragile and alive. Your best images will come from patience, presence, and deep respect for the place and its creatures.



Local Flavors

Baja offers a vibrant culinary journey, shaped by its desert landscapes, coastal waters, and rich cultural heritage. From the bounty of the Sea of Cortez to age-old ranching traditions, flavors here reflect both land and sea. Here are some Baja dishes and tastes you may encounter along the way:

Fish Tacos: Baja's signature dish, often made with fresh Pacific fish, lightly battered, and topped with cabbage and salsa

Ceviche: Fresh seafood cured in lime juice with onion, tomato, and cilantro

Chocolate Clams (Almejas Chocolatas): A regional delicacy from Baja Sur, often roasted on the beach

Machaca: Shredded, dried beef or pork, rehydrated and sautéed with onions, peppers, and eggs

Baja Wines & Craft Beer: From Valle de Guadalupe's world-class vineyards and Baja's brewery scene



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When not to be adventurous:

Drink only bottled, purified, or filtered water. Avoid tap water, ice cubes, and unpasteurized juices

Fruit & vegetables: Avoid raw salads & prepared fruit (peeled) outside of your safari accommodations

Street food: Avoid unless recommended by your guide

Seafood: Enjoy Baja's renowned fish, clams, and lobster, but ensure they are fresh, well-cooked, or from trusted restaurants and lodges.

If you have any dietary restrictions, make sure to include them on your safari registration

PRE-FLIGHT CHECKLIST



Entry Requirements

- Valid, signed passport
- Passport is valid at time of entry
- At least two blank pages in passport
- Passport name matches your booking exactly
- Forma Migratoria Múltiple (FMM), the official tourist entry permit, issued on arrival
- Proof of Tourist Travel: Travelers may be asked to present itinerary and/or to demonstrate sufficient funds for their stay

Share with us: Provide Rewild Safaris with a copy of your valid passport during your safari registration or, send via encrypted link: <https://rewildsafaris.com/passport-upload/>



PASSPORT TIPS



- ✓ Carry your passport securely and keep it with you at all times.
- ✓ Expedited Services: Use professional passport services if you need a fast renewal.
- ✓ Carry color photocopies of your passport's photo page at all times.
- ✓ Lost Passport? Report it immediately to the nearest embassy or consulate. Your photocopy can speed up replacement.

Visas

US, Canada, UK and EU passport holders do not require a visa to enter Mexico for stays of up to 180 days as tourists.

FLIGHT TIPS



- ✓ Book early: Reserve flights ahead of time for the best prices and seat options
- ✓ Allow extra time: We recommend allowing 2 - 3 hours before your international departures and for connections
- ✓ Early arrival: Consider arriving a day early in case of delays and to acclimate to your destination

Booking Flights

IMPORTANT: Once you've booked your flights, forward your confirmation to support@rewildsafaris.com so our Mexico team can coordinate a seamless safari.

PACK SOFT.
PACK LIGHT.
TRAVEL RIGHT.



Your Carry On

THE ESSENTIALS

- Passport
- Printed copy of eVisa
- Photocopies of your passport's photo page in a separate compartment
- Medications
- Cameras and Devices (plus memory cards, extra batteries, chargers, lens cleaning supplies)
- Change of clothes (in case of luggage delay)
- Spare eyeglasses or contacts (with a copy of your prescription)
- Credit Cards and Cash

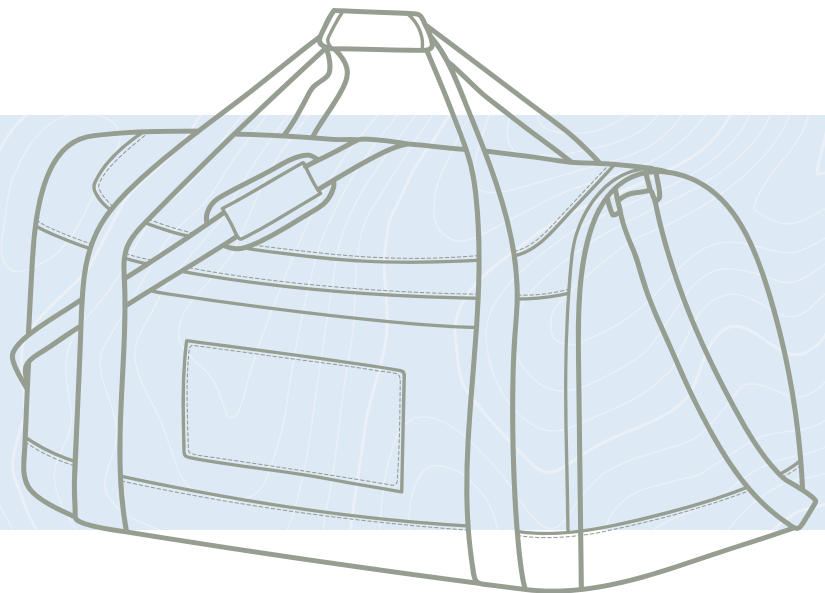
Luggage Limits

Safaris in Baja generally do not include domestic flights, so please check your international airline for baggage restrictions. We still strongly recommend packing light in soft-sided bags, as all luggage must fit comfortably in the vehicles used for transfers between locations.

Recommended luggage for your travels will be gifted to you by Rewild Safaris.



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DRESS FOR SUCCESS



What to Pack

CLOTHING

- Light, breathable, quick dry, SPF rated, moisture wicking layers for comfort and protection in variable weather
- Lightweight long and short sleeved shirts, pants, and shorts—light layers for sun protection and cooler temperatures
- Fleece—cooler temperatures at night
- Windbreaker / light shell jacket
- Water shoes or sandals e.g. Tevas, Chacos
- Comfortable walking or lightweight hiking shoes
- Casual shoes or sandals for hotels and the beach
- Swimwear
- Wide-brimmed hat for sun protection (chin strap recommended for boat rides)
- UV protective, polarized sunglasses
- Bandana or Buff for sun protection
- Optional: Clothing for city touring and dinner attire



OTHER ESSENTIALS

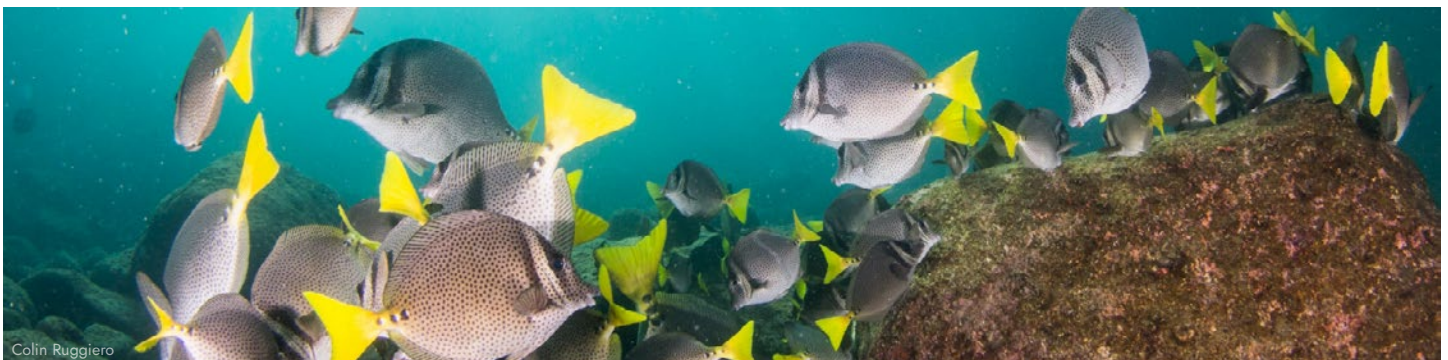
- Travel adapters: Electrical sockets in Mexico, including Baja, are typically **Type A and Type B** (the same as in the US and Canada). Voltage is **110V–127V at 60Hz**. Travelers from the US/Canada usually don't need an adapter or converter, while others will need a universal adapter.
- Good binoculars for wildlife viewing
- High-SPF, reef-safe sunscreen and lip balm
- Daypack and/or dry bag
- Insect repellent
- Headlamp or small flashlight
- Medications, including a small first-aid kit
- Device chargers
- Power bank / portable charger
- Extra batteries for your camera and devices
- Reusable water bottle

CLOTHING TIPS



Some suggestions for upscale performance (and fashionable) safari gear:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Patagonia | ✓ Arc'teryx |
| ✓ Orvis | ✓ LL Bean |
| ✓ Fjallraven | ✓ Tilley Endurables |



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SAFE TRAVELS



Health & Safety

VACCINATIONS AND MEDICATIONS

Consult your doctor or travel clinic at least six months before departure. Inform them of everywhere you're visiting, your current medications and conditions. Bring enough of your prescription medicines in their original packaging. It's also a good idea to pack medications for digestive discomfort, itching and rashes—just in case.

ASK ABOUT

- **Vaccinations:** Share your itinerary with your doctor or travel clinic for accurate vaccination requirements or recommendations
- **Medication restrictions:** Some destinations have requirements, restrictions & penalties for traveling with certain medications.

Check the CDC website (US) or your local government travel advisory website for up-to-date information on your destination/s.

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list>

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Carry a letter from your physician with personal information on any existing needs or conditions
- Carry extra prescription medications and written prescriptions
- Inform Rewild Safaris in advance of any conditions that may require special care
- Review the details of your travel insurance coverage to be sure you're adequately covered on your journey and purchase additional insurance if needed



HEALTH TIPS



- ✓ Stay hydrated—carry a reusable water bottle and consider electrolytes
- ✓ Drink only bottled or purified water—including when brushing your teeth
- ✓ Eat mindfully—ease into local cuisine to avoid digestive upset
- ✓ Protect yourself from the sun—wear sunscreen, wear a hat & sunglasses always
- ✓ Pack motion-sickness medication—if needed, for boat rides



ON YOUR SAFARI



Good to Know

TRAVEL SMART

It's always wise to take basic precautions when traveling internationally: Be aware of your surroundings, especially in areas frequented by tourists. Do not leave your food or drink unattended. Being alert is a good way to help ensure a safe and enjoyable trip.

Check for travel advisory updates on your local government website. For the US: <https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/travel-advisories.html>

HEALTH CARE IN MEXICO

While Baja has hospitals and clinics in larger towns and cities, many coastal and remote areas are far from advanced medical facilities. In the event of a serious emergency, medical evacuation may be required, and response times can vary depending on location and conditions. Some lodges, camps, and expedition vessels can provide basic first aid, but staff and guides should only be relied upon for initial assistance, not full medical care. We strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance that includes medical evacuation coverage and always keeping your emergency contacts with you.

VALUABLES AND PACKING

Keep valuables with you or in safes when available. Travel light for easier mobility and smoother transfers.

CPAP MACHINES

Some lodges run on solar or generators with limited hours. If you need one, consider purchasing a portable, battery-powered model to take with you. If you can only use a CPAP that requires overnight electricity, contact us at support@rewildsafaris.com to ensure that the lodges and camps on your itinerary can accommodate your needs.

STAYING CONNECTED

Mobile coverage in Mexico is generally good in cities, towns, and along main highways, but it can be limited in remote areas of Baja and on the open sea. WhatsApp is widely used and often the most reliable way to communicate when Wi-Fi is available. Many hotels, lodges, and expedition vessels provide basic Wi-Fi, usually sufficient for messaging and checking emails, though not always strong enough for large uploads or streaming. Consider it an opportunity to stay lightly connected while embracing the rhythm of Mexico's landscapes and seas.

ETIQUETTE

Respect Mexico's extraordinary wildlife, environment and culture by following these guidelines:

- Follow local laws and customs
- Ask before photographing people, especially in local villages or markets
- Keep a respectful distance from all wildlife, on land and in the sea
- Do not touch, chase or feed wildlife
- Do not remove anything from the environment e.g. rocks, plants, shells, or coral
- Do not litter
- Rewild Safaris maintains a strict no smoking/no vaping policy
- Always follow your guide's instructions to minimize your impact
- Conserve resources like water and electricity
- Practice the "Leave No Trace" principal, both on land and at sea

TIPS ON TIPPING



PER PERSON, PER DAY, USD:

Hotel housekeeping staff: \$2

Guides: \$20

Remote Lodge Staff: \$45

Magdalena Bay Boat Captains: \$25 per boat

Restaurants (meals not included on safari): 10% of total bill

It's Go Time!

Thank you for choosing Rewild Safaris. This journey not only offers incredible wildlife and landscapes but also supports conservation efforts in Baja. Your trip makes a difference by helping preserve these ecosystems and uplift local communities.

Get ready for an unforgettable experience—Mexico awaits!

