

ALUMNI ADVENTURES

Explore the world with Carleton College

Baja by Schooner February 10-19, 2016

We will spend eight days sailing along the eastern coast of lower Baja California del Sur, departing from La Paz and arriving at the town of San Jose del Cabo near the southern tip of the peninsula.

Baja California is the land that John Steinbeck described as possessing “profound and unworldly beauty.” Desert scenery, sport fishing, and fine beaches, together with convenient access from California, have made Baja California a popular destination for both tourists and retirees from the north. Our plan is to avoid the tourist hot spots and sail to uninhabited islands and fishing villages not reached by highways.

The Sea of Cortez (or, less romantically, the Gulf of California) separates the peninsula of Baja California from the Mexican mainland. This is one of the most ecologically diverse seas on the planet, and we will probably see whales, dolphins, rays, and sea lions, as well as such birds as the blue-footed booby and the magnificent frigate bird. (That’s its official name, honest!)

John Steinbeck’s *The Log from the Sea of Cortez* will be our touchstone for thinking about and discussing our cruises, the region, its flora and fauna, and its inhabitants. We will be a small group, just 11 in all, so we can tailor our other activities to peoples’ wishes. Hiking, geology, bird watching, snorkeling, and even celestial navigation are possibilities, as well as time on the beach.

Our explorations will be aboard the sailing schooner *Seaward*, a graceful 82-foot steel sailing ship (details below). For those who would like, there will be plenty of opportunity to steer the ship, to help set and trim the sails, and to share in other activities involved in cruising on such a vessel. The nav station is open to everyone, with its charts and instruments, and the captain and crew will be eager to explain both the operations of the vessel and navigation.



Schooner Seaward in action. Photo credit: Beth Lewis '71



Carleton Faculty Leader

Perry Mason, the John E. Sawyer Professor of Philosophy and Liberal Learning, Emeritus, at Carleton.

Perry's fondness for sailing and long-time leadership of this favorite trip make him an excellent guide both around the boat and on land. If you've never had a class with Perry, this is your chance for remedy! During the trip, Perry will lead discussions of John Steinbeck's *The Log from the Sea of Cortez*.

When not off on Carleton Alumni Adventures, Perry lives in Northfield and sails his own boat on Lake Superior.

Perry Mason aboard the Schooner Seaward in 2015. Photo credit: Catherine Hernandez '98

Tentative Itinerary

Wednesday, February 10

Leave your worries at home as you travel to beautiful Mexico, arrive in La Paz, meet your travel partners, and enjoy a group dinner.

Thursday, February 11

After a group breakfast, and time for a quick trip to the market for any last-minute necessities, board the schooner *Seaward*. Meet the captain and crew, receive an orientation, and stow your bag.

Thursday-Thursday, February 11-18

Sail the Sea of Cortez. The islands offer fine beaches, excellent snorkeling, and colonies of sea lions. We often sight dolphins, rays, and whales.

Thursday, February 18

Arrive in San Jose del Cabo. Bid farewell to the schooner and transfer to the hotel for a shower and rest, or explore the city of San Jose del Cabo before a final group dinner.

Friday, February 19

Fly home

What to Expect

This is a good introduction for new sailors or refresher course for people who haven't been sailing for a while. Good physical fitness and balance are necessary. Passengers will need to be able to climb a rope ladder, enter and exit a Zodiac in the water, and walk unassisted. Daily sails will be long and provide excellent views of islands, coves, and sea life.

The weather in February can vary from proper summer conditions to something much cooler, windier, and wetter, then back again within a day. Temperatures will range from 75°F for daytime highs and down to 50°F for nighttime lows. With the humid sea air and varying temperatures, you should be prepared with clothes to support cool, warm, and wet weather.



Photo credit: Catherine Hernandez '98

Pricing

Cost: \$1,790 per person (plus airfare)

Your Trip Includes:

- Leadership of Carleton faculty leader Perry Mason;
- One night in a hotel in La Paz and one night in a hotel in San Jose del Cabo;
- Eight days and seven nights aboard the schooner *Seaward*;
- All meals beginning with welcome dinner on February 10 and ending with breakfast (if you haven't left for your flight home) on February 19;
- All transportation between hotel and boat;
- Services of and gratuities to *Seaward's* captain and crew.

Rates Do Not Include: Airfare from/to home; passport and visa fees; inoculation fees; all airport fees and taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; personal tips; items of a personal nature, such as laundry, alcoholic or other beverages (except those served at the welcome and farewell dinners on February 10 and 18); taxi, telephone, and fax charges (except taxi to and from the schooner); optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour.

Payment and Refund Policy: A deposit of \$200 per person is required to reserve your space on the trip and may be made online or by USPS, check payable to Carleton College, Attn: Jeanne Estrem, Carleton College, 1 N. College Street, Northfield, MN 55057. This deposit is **non-refundable**. The balance is due by October 31, 2015. Any cancellation must be made in writing. **Please note:** Because we charter the whole schooner for a fixed fee, after October 31, 2015, payments will be refunded only if we can fill the space on the trip. We recommend that you purchase travel insurance, and we'll send information to confirmed travelers.

Air Arrangements & Transfers: Round-trip airfare between home and La Paz or San Jose del Cabo is not included. We suggest flying into La Paz (Manuel Marquez de Leon International Airport) and out of San Jose del Cabo (SJD). If you choose to fly round trip through SJD, we recommend reserving a shuttle through ecobajatours.com to take you from SJD to our La Paz

hotel. Keep in mind that although the cost is approximately \$40 per person, it is a three-hour drive.



Photo credit: Dianna Mistele '98

**For questions and to make a reservation please contact
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Photo credit: Alison Rieber '82