



DISCOVERY SEA CAVE KAYAK TOURS AT SCORPION ANCHORAGE, SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

THIS IS NOT A BOOKING CONFIRMATION.

The information below is only for reference. Please be sure to reference your booking confirmation sent via email for exact times and locations. If you have any questions, please email letsgo@sbadventureco.com.

Discovery Tour Time (~2.5 hours)

~1 hr – Orientation, gearing up, and paddle talk

~1-1.5 hrs – Kayaking

Paddling Distance

1.25 miles

Tour Level of Difficulty

Beginner through advanced levels are welcome. Children under 12 must ride in a double kayak with an adult and should be confident swimmers. For more information on difficulty levels please review our [recent blog post](#).

Discovery Sea Cave Kayak Tour Itinerary

Your morning will begin at the Island Packers ferry dock. You'll meet your Channel Islands Adventure Company guides just outside of the Island Packers building. Your guide will have your tickets. Detailed driving directions will be sent upon booking in your confirmation email. The ferry ride is generally 1-1.5 hours depending on wildlife sightings.

For the **morning Discovery Sea Cave Kayak Tour**, you can book the 8am ferry for the 9:30 tour (7am check-in time) or the 9am ferry for the 10:30am tour (8am check-in time). For the **afternoon Discovery Sea Cave Kayak Tour**, you can book any ferry that departs Ventura at 10am or earlier (check-in time 1hr prior to departure).

After arriving to Scorpion Anchorage on Santa Cruz Island, you'll meet your guides at the kayak staging area at the following times:

Morning tour - 9:30am or 10:30am

Afternoon tour - 12:30pm or 1:30pm

The Island Packers crew or Channel Islands National Park rangers can assist in pointing you in the right direction towards the kayak staging area. After suiting up in all necessary gear, our guides will provide a basic paddling instruction and safety talk. We will then begin the guided paddle along the island, exploring the sea caves and coves as we go. You'll return to the beach around 11:45am (9:30 tour), 12:45pm (10:30 tour), 2:45pm (12:30 tour) or 3:45pm (1:30 tour).

Before or after your tour, we highly recommend hiking to Cavern Point and Potato Harbor (free guided hikes are available most mornings with a Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteer), swimming, bird watching, a picnic lunch or spending time exploring the visitor's center. Also, if you rented snorkel equipment, you may go snorkeling before or after the kayak tour.

Discovery Sea Cave Kayak Tour Includes:

- Double kayak; single kayaks are available for solo travelers and odd numbered parties
- Kayaking gear (paddle jackets, helmets and wet suits as necessary)
- PFD (personal flotation device)
- Knowledgeable guide(s) on exploring sea caves as well as the local natural history and marine ecology
- Basic kayaking instruction



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YOU MUST PURCHASE A FERRY TICKET TO GET TO THE ISLAND. You can do this through our checkout when you book online or book directly with [Island Packers](#). For the Discovery Sea Cave Kayak, please see ferry times above.

If camping, ferry tickets must be purchased directly with Island Packers and the campsite should be booked through [Recreation.gov](#). For more information on camping, check out our blog [Guide to Camping on Santa Cruz Island](#).

Interested in a longer kayak and camp trip? We can organize trips up to 5 days in length. Please call us for prices and options.

CHECK IN TIME

Times vary by day & tour. Please see your confirmation email for the correct check in time. Your check-in time is calculated to allow ample time to park and unload gear at the dock. Island Packers, the ferry boat service, will depart on time so your check-in time is important—much like an airplane flight. If meeting your guide at the dock, you'll locate your guide in front of the Island Packers building (they will be wearing CIACo gear). They'll have you fill out your paperwork and you'll receive your boarding passes. You'll be disembarking the boat at the first stop, Scorpion Anchorage/Ranch.

HOW TO AVOID SEASICKNESS

- **Rest.** A body that is well-rested is better able to handle the stressors associated with traveling.
- **Stability.** Avoid sitting inside in the galley; choose a seat on the lower deck, outside, at the stern of the boat.
- **Sit.** Do not stand. Standing will have your body in a constant state of trying to maintain balance.
- **Focus.** Keep eyes focused on the horizon or on a stationary object that is off in the distance.
- **Don't read.** Reading can trigger a sudden onset of motion sickness.
- **Don't travel on a full or empty stomach.** If you start to feel ill, eat some crackers and a carbonated beverage to settle your stomach.
- **Hydrate.** Dehydration while traveling can aggravate motion sickness. Drink plenty of water.
- **Dramamine or Bonine.** Take an over-the-counter medication for motion sickness or an over-the-counter antihistamine, especially if you are a person that knows they are susceptible to motion sickness. These medications can make you drowsy or cause other side effects so use with caution.

MEETING POINT

Island Packers, Ventura Harbor: 1691 Spinnaker Dr #105B, Ventura, CA 93001. Phone: (805) 642-1393
Ventura, CA is about 30 miles south of Santa Barbara, CA. Look for Channel Islands Adventure Company guides just outside of the Island Packers building. Your guide will have your tickets.*

For more info: <http://www.islandpackers.com/DriveVenturaHarbor.html>

**On occasion, our guides camp the night before on Santa Cruz Island. When this happens, we will notify you in advance to tell you that your guide will meet you at Scorpion Anchorage on Santa Cruz Island, instead of at the Ventura Harbor. You will need to pick up your tickets inside the Island Packers building in this case, board the boat, and get off at the first stop, Scorpion Anchorage/Ranch. Detailed driving directions will be sent upon booking in your confirmation email.*

RETURN TIMES

Arrival time back to Ventura Harbor varies by day and range between 4:45pm and 6:00pm. Your guide will inform you of your return time upon check in. If you would like to know your exact return time in advance, please call or email us.

PARKING

There are no fees for parking. All overnight visitors will need to acquire a parking pass at check in and park in the long-term parking. Additionally, there are parallel parking spaces on Spinnaker Drive for day trip passengers ONLY.

FOOD

-Food is NOT INCLUDED in your trip and there are no food vendors on the island.

- o There is a snack bar on the boat but we recommend bringing lunch, snacks and water.
- o Bring a small snack in a waterproof container to eat during the kayak tour (e.g. granola bar, fruit or trail mix).



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WHERE TO BUY FOOD

Here are some options for buying food in or close to Ventura Harbor

- **Vons** opens at 6am and is a 10-minute drive from Island Packers at 2433 E Harbor Blvd, Ventura, CA 93001, (805) 642-6761
- **Island Packers Ferry** has some snacks and drinks on board to supplement any food that you bring. use with caution.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

- **Swimsuit or swim trunks** – To save time, we recommend wearing your bathing suit under your clothes in the morning; however, there is a changing area on the Island just a few minutes' walk from where we keep our kayaks and gear.
- **Water Shoes** – You'll need shoes for launching and landing as the beach is rocky. Please no flip flops. Old tennis shoes work just fine, as long as you have another pair to wear later if you plan to hike. We have some extra water shoes if you need to borrow.
- **Sun Protection** – A hat, sunglasses with a neck strap and sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) is all recommended.
- **Water bottle** – 1-quart (or greater) full, we will provide additional potable water
- **Clothing** – Synthetic sweatshirt or layers as well as a windbreaker for the boat ride. Please dress in layers, wearing synthetic clothing (avoid cotton if possible).
- **Towel**
- **Day Pack**
- **Hiking shoes** (tennis shoes are fine for shorter hikes)
- **Watch**
- **Cash** – If you want to tip your guide. It is customary, but always optional, to tip your guide (10-15% is standard).
- **Seasickness medication** (optional)
- **Waterproof camera** (optional)
- **Gloves** (optional) – Can be helpful to protect against abrasive cave surfaces.

IMPORTANT:

- Although we offer dry bags to help keep gear dry while kayaking, everything on the kayak runs the risk of getting wet.
- Islands Packers does not allow any bags greater than 45 lbs.
- Single use plastic bags are banned within the Channel Islands National Park, please bring reusable bags.

STORAGE

While we are kayaking you can place your extra belongings in our storage box on the island.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The Channel Islands National Park is a remote location and there are no medical services on the islands. Please bring any medications you may need and plan accordingly. All of our guides are CPR & First Aid Certified. Channel Island Adventure Company will provide you with a double kayak. Single kayaks are provided for solo travelers and odd-numbered parties at no additional charge. Guests under 12 years old must ride in a double kayak with an adult. This tour has a 2-person minimum; the tour may be canceled if less than 2 people book on any date. Dangerous conditions may exist at any time of the year, and we cannot guarantee cave exploration.

WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY FOR ISLAND PACKERS

In case of unfavorable weather or sea conditions, the ferry boat company will cancel at 5:30am on the day of your trip. On the morning of your departure, after 5:30am, please call (805) 642-1393, select option 4 and listen for the status of your trip.

QUESTIONS?

For more information, visit our [FAQ's page](#).



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