Here is a list of things you should bring in addition to your personal items, toiletries, prescriptions and other medications, and clothing. Some general advice: you will be spending lots of time in the water, so bring lots of bathing suits, swim trunks, etc... Bring cool clothing, including one or two long-sleeved shirts that can protect you from the sun. Expect it to be hot - bring a pair of long pants and one warmer shirt just in case it cools off, but you probably will never use them!

Keep the following in mind as you pack:

**Boating:**

When we pull up to a beach or an island, the water can be choppy, and the boats are often pushed up against rocks. To avoid damage to the boats, we want to be able to load and unload the boats swiftly. For this reason, we ask that you store your gear in two bags: one bag for dive gear (all of this will be wet after you have used your gear), and one bag for items that should remain dry. This way we load and unload two bags per person, rather than individual snorkels, fins, cameras, etc... There is limited space in the compartments under the seats where you can store items that you want to keep dry; everything outside of the compartments – including all of us! - is likely to get wet once the winds pick up in the late morning.

**Taking Notes:**

Bring notebooks, journals, pens, etc. As mentioned above, things get wet on the boats. This includes any notebook you may bring along to take notes about some of the natural history we talk about while in the field. For this reason, we recommend you bring a smaller notepad for taking notes in the field, rather than risking that your lecture notes and/or journal get soaked.

**List of things to bring to Baja:**

**Dive Gear :**

- **mask** (test it underwater to make sure it fits)
- **snorkel** (make sure it attaches to the snorkel)
- **fins** (and booties, if your fins require them)
- **wetsuit** (either a “shorty” or a full suit will do)
- **bag for dive gear**

  optional:  
  - **weight belt & weights**
  - **hood or hooded vest**
  - **dive light**
  - **underwater cameras** (the disposable ones work quite well)
Items you will need around the station and on our day trips:

**light hiking shoes**
**shoes you can wear in the water** (Tevas, Chacos, etc... you will have to wade through the water to enter and exit the boats, and the bottom is often rocky)
**sunglasses** (bring an extra pair in case yours break, sink to the ocean floor, etc...)
**hat** (a wide-brim straw hat is nice around the station, but keep in mind that most hats will blow away on the boats, so also bring something that will stay on)
**sunscreen** (waterproof)
**water bottles** (you should be able to carry 2L of water)
**day pack** (backpack for dry items that you want to take along on our boat outings)
**beach towel(s)**
**flashlight** (once the town generator stops supplying electricity, you will need a flashlight to find the baños at night, etc...)

optional:  
- **binoculars**
- **camera**

Sleeping/Bathing:

**sleeping bag**
**thermarest or other sleeping pad** (although you don’t need a thermarest for sleeping on the cots at the station, you will need a sleeping pad for our first and last nights, which we’ll spend in the desert)

optional:  
- **tent** (if you would prefer to sleep in a tent in the desert, you can bring one; we recommend sleeping on one of the large boulders that will surround our camp site - they store heat, and stay warm throughout the night - and the stars are amazing!)
- **pillow**
- **sheet(s)** (if it is too hot for a sleeping bag, it is nice to be able to put a sheet down on the cots, as well as cover oneself with a sheet)

**towel** (since beach towels quickly get crusty with salt, you may want to bring a separate towel for bathing)
**biodegradable soap/shampoo/etc...**

Books, Notepads, Journals, etc:

**journal** (we encourage everyone to keep a journal during our trip to Baja)
**notebook** (for taking notes during lectures)
**notepad** (for taking notes in the field)
**pens, pencils, etc...**
**Log from the Sea of Cortez**

optional:  
- **field guides**
Other:

**Pesos** (you may want to go into town to make a phone call, check email, get a cold drink, or purchase some souvenirs or a T-shirt at the museum; although dollars are accepted in most stores in town, you will get a better deal if you pay in pesos; we will have the opportunity to exchange money before we cross the border on Wednesday morning)

**Food** (we will supply breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks while in Bahía; the first meal we will provide is dinner at our campsite in the desert on Wednesday evening; on the drive down, you can buy some lunch when we stop in San Quintín for fish tacos; grilled corn-on-the-cob and other vegetarian items may be sold nearby, but this is not certain, so bring a pack-lunch if you do not eat fish; you are on your own for both dinners in San Diego, Aug.17 & Sept 3)

**Water** (plenty of fresh, potable water will be available at the station; for our trip south, please fill your water bottles and keep them accessible on the drive down)

**Passport** (make sure your passport is current)

**Medication** (make sure any prescription medication, vitamins, pills, etc... are in the original packaging that is clearly labeled and identifiable; i.e., do not bring a bunch of vitamin C tablets in a ziplock bag)

**A final word on packing...** you will have access to all of your bags when we stop to camp in Cataviña; nonetheless, think about what you will need that evening and the next morning, and make sure it is somewhat accessible so that you do not have to unpack your entire bag in the desert (keep your toothbrush, your flashlight, etc... somewhere near the top!)

See you in San Diego!