



New SENTRI Entrance at San Ysidro

At the beginning of March 2014, the entrance for the SENTRI lanes at San Ysidro changed. In an attempt to lessen traffic congestion, the lane entrance has been moved to Padre Kino Blvd. The city of Tijuana has plans to put up signs to help direct drivers to

the lane entrance in the future, but there are very few up currently.

We've identified the best options for routes and even a shortcut for you. See the DBTC blog bit.ly/1k1v4sp for more information and directions.






From the DBTC Office

There's no time like the springtime to get down to Baja and the DBTC staff has been taking that advice seriously. We've been busy with trips all around the peninsula for petting the gray whales, studying Spanish in Ensenada, discovering the old missions, drinking wine in the Guadalupe Valley, exploring the San Pedro Martir and more!

Follow along with us on the DBTC blog and social media for the latest on our trips as well as the best Baja info, photos and news!

Let's Baja!

Hugh, Carol, Jen, Maythé & Monica

-  www.discoverbaja.wordpress.com
-  www.facebook.com/discoverbaja
-  www.pinterest.com/discoverbajac
-  www.instagram.com/discoverbaja
-  www.twitter.com/discoverbajac

Discover Baja Prize Pack Giveaway!



Want to win this Baja Prize Pack? All you have to do is go to www.yelp.com/biz/discover-baja-travel-club-san-diego and give us a good review. Anyone who gives us a five-star review in the month of April will be automatically entered into a drawing to receive the prize pack.

PEMEX PRICES

Northern Baja:

Magna: \$3.70/gal
Premium: \$3.88/gal
Diesel: \$3.83/gal

Southern Baja:

Magna: \$3.90/gal
Premium: \$3.98/gal
Diesel: \$3.93/gal

PESO EXCHANGE RATE:

\$13.13 to \$1 U.S. dollar

DBTC INSIDER TIP: GETTING THE MOST PESO FOR YOUR DOLLAR

You'll notice when traveling in Baja that many businesses do not give an exchange rate that is anywhere near what the current bank rate is. In order to get the current bank exchange rate for your dollar you must get pesos out of an ATM in Mexico or use a credit card for purchases. We recommend using pesos instead of dollars to pay for purchases as you'll get a much better exchange rate. As with traveling anywhere in the world, exercise caution with your money. Don't carry around large amounts of cash or flash your money around. Always deal with reputable sources.

ATMs

The best way to get pesos is to withdraw them from an ATM in Baja. We recommend using ATMs at banks if you have that option. You should call your bank in the U.S. before traveling to ask if they have branches or any sister banks in Baja where you can withdrawal money using your ATM card

without being charged a fee. You should also alert your bank to the fact that you will be traveling in Mexico so that they will not reject your attempts to use your card in Baja. If you travel frequently to Baja (or anywhere out of the U.S.), you may want to consider opening a free checking account with Charles Schwab. They do not charge you foreign ATM fees, and if the ATM that you're using charges you a fee on that end, Charles Schwab will refund you the amount.

Credit Cards

Many places in Baja do not take credit cards, but there are a few large hotels and restaurants that will. In cities that are closer to the U.S. border, you'll find that more establishments accept credit cards than you will find farther south in Baja. Many credit card companies will charge you a foreign transaction fee, but there are credit cards available that will not charge fees for charges made outside of

the U.S. Capital One credit cards and the Chase Sapphire Preferred card are two credit cards that do not charge foreign transaction fees. Make sure to call or read the fine print to find out what your card will charge before you travel. If using a credit card, ask the establishment to run the amount in pesos, not dollars, as you'll get a better deal.

Exchanging Cash

If you are carrying cash in dollars and need to exchange it for pesos, many banks in Mexico will not allow you to do this unless you have an account with them. You can exchange your dollars for pesos at any of the exchange houses in San Ysidro, CA before crossing into Baja. If you are a Costco member, the Costco in Chula Vista at 1130 Broadway does not charge a commission fee to exchange. At time of publication, they were buying at \$12.60 and selling at \$12.87 but you should call ahead to confirm the current rate 619-426-2620.

SHOP BAJA For any of the items below, call us at 800-727-2252 or stop by the office to browse our large selection of Baja books, maps, guides, DVDs and more!

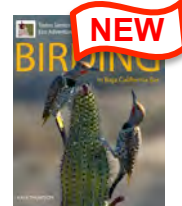


NEW: CROSSING SOUTH SEASON II DVDs

Jorge Meraz is back for Season II of Crossing South. Follow him on his exciting and delicious adventures as he continues exploring Baja California, Mexico. This 4 DVD set includes 14 episodes of adventures from seafood farming in San Quintin to visiting the observatory in San Pedro Martir. Join Jorge as he mountain bikes, kayaks, sandboards, rides horseback and jet skis his way around northern Baja. \$39.95 +tax

NEW: BIRDING IN BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR By Kaia Thomson & Todos Santos Eco Adventures

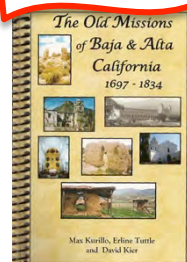
Birding in Baja California Sur is a collection of over 140 stunning bird photographs captured by Kaia Thomson over the course of her 12 years of birding in the Baja peninsula. Taken in the many diverse eco systems that define Baja, these photos show the birds of BCS in their many facets: lovers, fighters, hunters, players. This book is an invitation to bird lovers of all kinds to not only explore the remarkable nature of Baja that attracted the birds in the first place, but to actively engage in the conservation of these habitats. *Softcover, 6.5" X 9", 64 pp. \$19.95*



FEATURED

FEATURED ITEM OF THE MONTH! THE OLD MISSIONS OF BAJA & ALTA CALIFORNIA 1697-1834 By Max Kurillo, Erlene Tuttle and David Kier

This user-friendly guide to the missions of California is a perfect book for any Baja traveler. The book documents the chronological founding of the Jesuit, Franciscan and Dominican missions in Baja California and Alta California. With over 160 photographs, this spiral bound book is a concise account of the story of the California missions. It takes the reader back to a challenging frontier without borders and clarifies the interlocking history of the missions of Baja California and Alta California. *Softcover, 5.5" X 8.5", 144 pp., \$19.40*



ON OUR RADAR FOR APRIL

APRIL 6

Daylight Savings for Baja Sur

•Baja Sur finally jumps ahead to Daylight Savings time at 2 am on Sunday, April 6, regaining the hour that it is usually ahead of Baja Norte and California



APRIL 12

Mexicali Craft Beer Fest

- State Center for the Arts of the State in Mexicali (CEART)
- Must be 18 years or older
- If you love craft beer, food good and entertainment, you don't want to miss the Mexicali Craft Beer Fest!
- facebook.com/MexicaliBeerFest



APRIL 13

Day at the Docks

- San Diego Sportfishing Landings in Point Loma

- 9am-5pm, free admission
- Bring the family for a day of booths, boat rides, food and prizes. DBTC members who stop by our booth to say hello will get a free gift.
- www.sportfishing.org/DAD00/dad2014.html

APRIL 13

Los Barriles Art Festival

- 10am-4pm
- Hotel Palmas de Cortez de Cortez
- The 21st annual art festival in Los Barriles, on the East Cape will feature original artwork from regional artists, food, drinks, live music and entertainment.
- www.eastcapearts.com



APRIL 20

Easter Sunday

- Since Mexico is a Catholic country, the week leading up to Easter, *Semana Santa* (holy week),

is an important time of celebration and reflection. You may notice processions, passion plays and special masses throughout the week before Easter.



APRIL 25-27

Shellfish and New Wine Festival

- Hotel Coral and Marina, Ensenada
- The final tasting of

this three-day festival will take place on April 27th with shellfish from some of the best chefs and restaurants in Ensenada and a selection of 80 different wines.

- www.provinoac.org

Gourmet Guadalupe Valley Winery Day Trip

Saturday, May 10th

Come spend a day experiencing Mexico's Napa Valley with Discover Baja!

Enjoy a day with us in Baja's Guadalupe Valley as we explore some of the best wineries, food and attractions that the region has to offer. Spend the day enjoying delicious wines, sweeping views of the valley, and gourmet dinner. We'll provide the round-trip transportation, a tour the new Museum of Wine and Vine, tastings at two boutique wineries, traditional Mexican lunch at a local restaurant, a local wine guide to explain everything in English and a gourmet dinner at Finca Altozano.

\$245 per person. For more detailed information:
wp.me/p3Dlyc-c7

Call or email today to book your spot!
ask@discoverbaja.com or 800.727.2252

Trip includes:

- Guided tour of the new Wine and Vine Museum
- Wine tasting at two wineries – Las Nubes and Adobe Guadalupe
- Traditional homemade, sit-down lunch
- Local wine expert
- Gourmet dinner at Javier Plascencia's Finca Altozano
- Round trip transportation from Discover Baja offices in San Diego
- Expedited border crossing

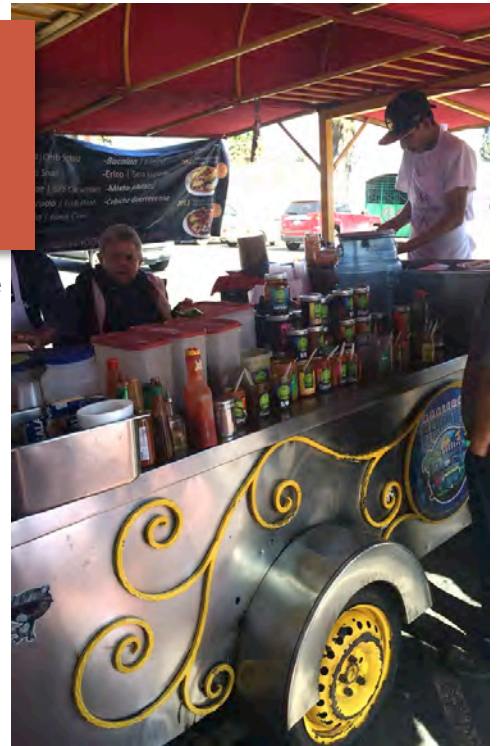
BUEN PROVECHO: *La Guerrerense, Ensenada*

It may surprise you to hear that one of the most famous food spots in Ensenada is nothing more than a seafood street cart. But this isn't your ordinary food cart. La Guerrerense has been featured by the likes of Anthony Bourdain, Rick Bayless, NatGeo, Travel+Leisure, the New York Times and the LA Times. The ingredients they use are local and the flavors are sophisticated and refined.

In 1960, Mariscos La Guerrerense was established by the late Alberto Oviedo and his wife Mrs. Celia Carranza. They handed their family secrets and recipes down to their son, Eduardo Oviedo. He and his wife, Sabina Bandera, are the ones who have made the cart what it is today. Sabina's innovation and hard work created a globally-recognized sensation. To top it all off (literally), Sabina makes salsas made from organic ingredients

from her own garden. There are 13 salsa flavors in total, all of which you can try on your food and are also available in jars to purchase and take home with you.

Today, Sabina, Eduardo and their three sons work the cart every day of the week except Tuesday. They're helpful and friendly, giving personalized attention to customers even though there's always a crowd. On a recent afternoon, we chatted with Sabina and she recommended dishes for us to try. On her suggestion, we ordered the Cebiche Guerrerense and the famous *erizo* (sea urchin) and *almeja* (clams) tostada, which won "The Showmanship Prize" at the LA Street Food Fest in 2011. We topped them off with a few varieties of salsa and spicy peanuts. Even with all the hype, it exceeded expectations. Delightfully delicious.



Open every day except Tuesday. 10:30am-5pm or until they run out of food (which can be very early in the afternoon on a busy Saturday or Sunday – so go early!)

*La Guerrerense
1st Street and Alvarado.
Ensenada, BCS
001-52-646-119-4530
(in front of perfumeria on corner)
laguerrerense.com
MAP*



THE SPANISH MISSIONS ON THE CALIFORNIA PENINSULA: #16, *San Francisco de Borja Adac (1762-1818)*



San Borja mission in 2013. Photo by Chris Glass.

By David Kier

The Jesuits had decided to expand their missions northward after Fernando Consag's sea voyage in 1746 when he proved (as others before) that California was not an island. Yet nearly 20 years later, that point was still debated. A chain of missions north from San Ignacio and around the Gulf of California to the missions in Sonora was started in 1752 with the founding of Mission Santa Gertrudis. The Jesuits were removed from the New World before the missions on both sides of the gulf could be connected.

Two land expeditions by Padre Consag in 1751 and again in 1753, failed to find an acceptable site for the next mission north. Padre Jorge Retz of Santa Gertrudis began to send his neophytes out in search of possible mission sites. By 1758, Padre Retz learned of some hot springs called Adac by the Cochimi Indians. The water smelled of sulfur, but once it cooled it could be drunk without ill-effect. Adac was nearly a three day journey from Santa Gertrudis, but relatively close to the fine natural harbor of Bahía de los Ángeles. Supplies and personnel could be offloaded at that bay to support the new mission.

The superior (or *Padre Visitador*) of

the California Jesuits in 1758 was Fernando Consag, and he desired to establish a new mission at Adac. However, Consag died in 1759 before seeing the project get underway. New mission funds were provided by an inheritance to the Jesuits from the Duchess of Gandía, Doña María de Borja (of the famous Borgia family in Spain). The inheritance was made in 1747 and delivered to California in 1756.

In advance of the new mission's founding, Padre Retz had a road built to Adac, and began construction there. The site became a *visita* (visiting station) of Santa Gertrudis on August 27, 1759. Padre José Rotea was chosen to be the new priest in charge, but when Padre Consag died, Rotea filled the vacancy created at San Ignacio. Padre Retz continued working at Adac where he had built a church, living quarters, a warehouse, and a hospital. Corn was planted in a small field by the hot spring. Retz had also baptized 300 Cochimi Indians for the new center.

Padre Wenceslao Linck arrived in California and spent a few months with Jorge Retz at Santa Gertrudis learning the Cochimi language. Linck then rode north and arrived at his new post on Sept. 1, 1762. In

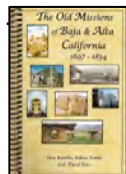
honor of the benefactor, the new mission was named San Francisco de Borja for the saint and Duchess María's ancestor. 142 addition baptisms were added during the mission's first month of service. Supplies were shipped from Loreto to Bahía de los Ángeles where a large Cochimi *ranchería* (Indian village) was located. The natives were able to provide overland transport to San Borja, a half-day's journey away.

The first snow observed in California by Europeans was witnessed in December, 1763 at Las Cabras. This was about 14 miles south of San Borja and over 4,200 feet in elevation and is where the mission's cattle were brought to graze. By 1764 the mission's neophyte population exceeded 1,000. Padre Linck got assistance with the arrival of Padre Victoriano Arnés who came to train under Linck and learn the Cochimi dialect. This training was also required in advance of Arnés establishing the next mission to the north. The population of Mission San Borja swelled to 1,700 neophytes in 1766. Another Jesuit, Padre Juan José Díez arrived to assist Linck and Arnés.

Continued on page 7

The neophytes could not all stay at San Borja as there was not enough food production there to sustain such a population. About 30-40 Indian families could live at the mission itself and others would come from their *rancherías* on rotation for instruction. The mission *visitas* or *rancherías* of Los Ángeles and Guadalupe were on the gulf coast; San Ignacio (San Ignacito today) and El Rosario (Rosarito today) were to the west; Santa Ana, San Miguel and San Régis were to the south, and one more called San Juan was included in a 1772 report. Further south is the canyon and ranch of El Paraiso, and it was listed as a mission farm. Nine miles southeast of San Borja is the abandoned adobe ranch house of San Gregorio. It is built on large cut stones, seemingly indicative of mission-era construction.

Linck made two major expeditions out from San Borja in search of new converts. One was in 1765 to the island of Angel de la Guarda in the Gulf of California where fires had been seen on the island and reported to Linck. Using the mission's launch they reached the island but after considerable exploration found no trace of human activity or sources of fresh water. The second expedition would take the Jesuit far north to pine covered mountains and within sight of the Colorado River Delta. It began on February 20, 1766 with 13 soldiers and several Indians. For almost two months Padre Linck explored up the center of the peninsula. Linck's discoveries included a future mission site, called Velicatá by the Indians.



David Kier is co-author of 'The Old Missions of Baja & Alta California, 1697-1834'. The book is available for purchase at the DBTC offices (call 800-727-2252). You can follow along with the series to learn about the history of all of the Baja California missions on the DBTC blog and in future newsletters.

The Franciscan Order replaced the Jesuits in 1768 and operated the California peninsula missions until mid-1773 when they divided California mission duties with the Dominican Order. Padre Fermín Francisco de Lasuén was the Franciscan priest stationed at San Borja. In 1773 he reported San Borja as having a new adobe church measuring 91 feet by 22 feet, with a roof of palm leaves. The Mission San Borja Indian population had dropped to 1,000 that year, as they succumbed to diseases and lifestyle changes.

The Dominicans operated and expanded the missions on the peninsula, now designated as Antigua (Old) California, and eventually named Baja (Lower) California. The Franciscans would operate in Nueva (New) California, which was all the Spanish claimed land north of the peninsula. Several Dominicans were stationed at San

Borja from 1775 to 1816, not all are known. In 1801, construction was reported as being nearly completed on the large cut-stone church. Sadly, the Indian population had continued to drop and was below 400. No missionary letters or reports are known to exist after 1816. The Mexican war of independence ran from 1810 through 1821 and contact between California and Spain was minimal at best. The war and rapidly declining Indian population spelled an end to San Borja, and the other Spanish missions.

San Borja is the furthest north stone mission church on the California peninsula. The graded dirt road is 22 miles long from both the Bahia de los Ángeles highway, and from Highway 1, at Rosarito. Best driven in an SUV or truck, the sight of this Spanish church in the center of Baja California is well worth the effort.



Adobe ruins in 1954, by Howard Gulick.

PROPERTY FOR SALE IN SAN MIGUEL DE COMONDÚ: A lot with a producing avocado orchard, equipped with aseguías (irrigation channels), approximately 1700 square meters in size. San Miguel de Comondú is located two hours on paved road from the port of Loreto. It is a quiet little town for vacationing and relaxing. The listing price is \$65,000 U.S., the first payment being \$30,000 U.S. and the remainder in two payments. The seller is Alberto Cota Murillo, whose cell phone number in Loreto is 613-114-7751.