



December 2014 Newsletter



BAJA NEWS

For more Baja news, see:
www.discoverbaja.com/baja-california-information/baja-news/



Border Pilot Program Canceled

After only a few days in effect, the Mexican immigration canceled a pilot program at the Otay Mesa and the San Ysidro borders where non-Mexican citizens were being stopped on their way into Mexico and asked about the length of their stay. The canceled program was put into place in order to enforce FMM tourist permits. While they are no longer stopping traffic at the border, tourists are still required to have an FMM for visits to Baja that are over 72 hours and/or beyond the 20 km border zone. www.discoverbaja.com/go/fmm-tourist-permits

Loreto Road Construction Complete

The road construction south of Loreto that often held traffic at a standstill while they were working to install a retaining wall on the hillside is now complete. No further delays are expected. For other Baja road conditions, see: www.discoverbaja.com/baja-california-information/road-conditions/



From the DBTC Office

Happy holidays from the entire staff at Discover Baja! Don't forget to check out the new Discover Baja gift guide to take care of all the Baja lovers on your shopping list (page 4).

Our gift to you this season is our special "Back to Baja" campaign, offering Discover Baja members discounts of up to 40% at hotels, restaurants, campsites and activities in Baja California Sur. We encourage you to get back to BCS to help the economy recover after Hurricane Odile (page 5).

The Discover Baja office will be closed Thursday Dec. 25th and Thursday Jan. 1st for Christmas and New Years.

We wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year!

Happy Holidays!
Hugh, Carol, Jen, Maythé & Monica

DBTC BAJA CAJA *All of the Baja info you need in one box!*

PESO EXCHANGE RATE: \$14.1 to \$1 U.S. dollar

PEMEX PRICES: Northern Baja: Magna: \$3.83/gal, Premium: \$4.04/gal, Diesel: \$3.93/gal

Southern Baja: Magna: \$3.90/gal, Premium: \$3.98/gal, Diesel: \$3.93/gal

FISHING LICENSES: Day: \$12.25, Week: \$31.20, Month: \$42.80, Year: \$54.40 for members.

www.discoverbaja.com/go/fishing-licenses

PREPAID FMMs: \$35 DBTC members only. www.discoverbaja.com/go/fmm-tourist-permits

BOAT TEMPORARY IMPORT PERMITS (TIPs): \$45 fee for DBTC to handle processing. Service for DBTC members only. www.discoverbaja.com/go/temporary-boat-importation/

NAUTICAL FMMs: \$10 fee for DBTC to process. Service for DBTC members only.

www.discoverbaja.com/go/nautical-sportfishing-fmm/

MEXICAN AUTO INSURANCE: www.discoverbajaonline.com

You're Invited...

THIS SUNDAY!!!

To the Discover Baja Holiday Fiesta!

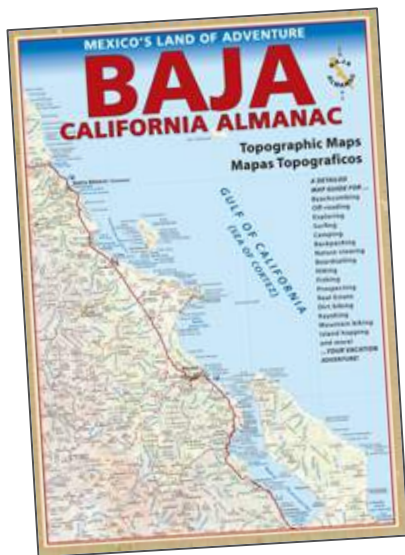
**Sunday, December 7th, 2014
1pm – 4pm**

**At the Discover Baja offices:
3264 Governor Dr., San Diego, CA 92122**

We wouldn't want to celebrate the holiday season without our members! Join us for food, drinks, music, Baja holiday shopping, great company and general holiday merriment.

*This event is free for Discover Baja members.
Please RSVP to ask@discoverbaja.com or 800-727-2252*

For more information: www.discoverbaja.com/event/discover-baja-holiday-fiesta/



It's Baaaaack....

We've come across a few rare copies of the out-of-print **Baja California Almanac**! Available only for Discover Baja members, these copies of the Almanac will sell fast so call 800-727-2252 or email ask@discoverbaja.com today! \$45 plus tax and shipping.

The 4th edition of the Almanac brings you full-color topographic maps detailing every inch of Mexico's Baja California peninsula. With over 10,000 entries, the Baja Almanac lets you pinpoint any location anywhere in Baja down to the most remote ranch or campsite. A must-have for any Baja traveler. *Softcover, 10.75" x 15.25", 52pp*

The Almanac is available for purchase by Discover Baja members only. Cost is \$45.00 plus tax and shipping. Limit 2 per member.

DBTC STAFF PICKS: BAJA GIFT GUIDE

'Tis the holiday season and we're all about giving (ok, ok and getting too). Check out our staff favorites from the Discover Baja gift guide, which is full of books, maps, DVDs, clothing and more for Baja aficionados everywhere.



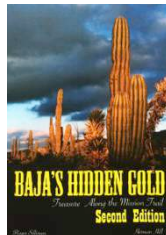
STAFF MEMBER: Monica
PICK: "Members Only"
Discover Baja T-Shirt
WHY: I love the new design and easy care for these t-shirts. They make great holiday gifts!



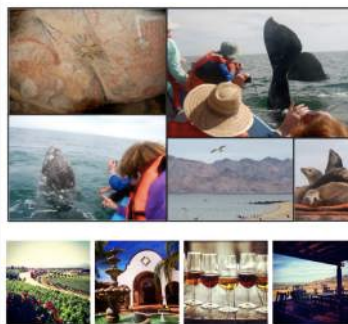
STAFF MEMBER: Hugh
PICK: "I Heart Baja" T-shirt
WHY: Several of my Baja friends will be receiving the new Discover Baja "I Heart Baja" t-shirts for the holidays. What a fun, comfortable way to enjoy your Baja adventures, and let the world know how much you love exploring this amazing peninsula.



STAFF MEMBER: Carol
PICK: Mata Ortiz Pottery
WHY: The village of Mata Ortiz in Chihuahua, Mexico has captured my heart. The home of Juan Quezada, a master potter who has taught his village how to make breath-taking pottery, is nestled at the base of gorgeous mountains. The pots they make are true treasures of art. We have some of those treasures in our office to share with others.



STAFF MEMBER: Maythé
PICK: Baja's Hidden Gold
WHY: I like all the interesting stories about the adventures of gold mining in Baja. This is a fun and exciting book to read that any Baja lover will enjoy.



STAFF MEMBER: Jen
PICK: Baja Trips
WHY: I can't imagine a better present than a trip to Baja! We've got two pre-arranged trips to choose from – wine tasting in the Valle de Guadalupe and visiting the gray whales with Graham Mackintosh. All you have to do is show up and enjoy!

See the entire gift guide PDF at: <http://bit.ly/1CCO3WR>
Shop online at: squareup.com/market/discover-baja
Or come into the Discover Baja office to check it all out yourself!



Discover Baja 2015 Gift Guide



Who needs Black Friday or Cyber Monday deals when Discover Baja members get 10% off all of the best Baja goods every day? Check out the new Discover Baja gift guide for new Baja t-shirts, books, maps, collectors' items and more. And for the person who already has it all? A trip to see the gray whales or to the Valle de Guadalupe wine country. We've got something for every Baja lover.

Three ways to shop:

1. Download the full PDF catalog gift guide at **bit.ly/1CCO3WR**
You can fax, mail, e-mail or call us with your completed order form.
2. Shop online **squareup.com/market/discover-baja**
3. Stop by our office in San Diego to peruse all of the items available for sale, including Mata Ortiz pottery that's only available for pick up from the DBTC office



We're pleased to announce the launch of the Discover Baja "Back to Baja" program, bringing you discounts up to 40% off at hotels, resorts, campsites, restaurants and spas in Baja California Sur. Visit www.discoverbaja.com/backtobaja for more!

Hurricane Odile struck the Baja peninsula on September 14, 2014, as a category 3 hurricane bringing heavy rains, winds over 125 mph, and severe flooding that caused extensive damage to many areas of Baja California Sur. The Mexican government and relief aid groups were quick to respond making sure that power, water and internet were restored to areas as quickly as possible and that rebuilding was able to take place as soon as possible. The resilience of the area has been incredible.

The Cabo airport is reopened, the roads are drivable, restaurants, hotels and activities are open and ready for business. All that's missing is you! The economic impact from the loss of tourists was far more damaging to the area than the physical damage from Odile itself. Hotels had to close doors and cancel reservations while they were rebuilding, resort employees were laid off, and many locals still have homes that need repair from storm damages. We encourage you to return to Baja California Sur to help stimulate the economy so that the area can continue to rebuild and rebound. While relief aid from the Mexican government and other organizations was necessary in the immediate aftermath of the storm, what's needed now is support and business from the people who love Baja and want to help the area return to normal (that's you!).

In case you needed some extra encouragement, we've partnered with many establishments in Baja Sur to help invite you back to BCS with discounts of up to 40% off at hotels, restaurants, spas and RV parks in Baja. It's our way of welcoming you Back to Baja.

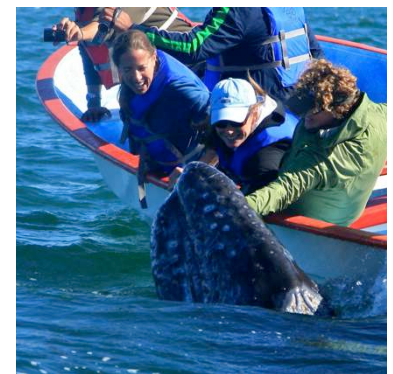
All you have to do to take advantage of these special deals is to show your Discover Baja membership card. Valid for travel now through end of February 2015. See www.discoverbaja.com/backtobaja for more information.





If you've never had the rush of kissing a baby whale or hugging a 40-ton gray whale in the wild, 2015 is your year to experience it! Baja is the only place where you can get up close and personal with nature's gentle giants – the gray whales.

The gray whales begin their two to three month, 14,000-mile round-trip migration in October every year and travel from the cold Alaskan seas to the warm waters of Baja where they breed and birth their calves. For the past 40 years or so, people have been traveling down to Baja in the winter months to visit the gray whales. Delighting people of all ages, the whales come right up to the small whale watching boats for pets, hugs and kisses from their new human friends.



DBTC insider tips for seeing the whales:

- There are three lagoons in Baja the whales migrate to for the winter – San Ignacio Lagoon, Scammon's Lagoon, and Magdalena Bay.
- Book early. Whale season runs from late January to April. The best viewing months are usually February and March. Whale watching is heavily regulated to protect the whales, so spots book up in advance.
- If you want to experience the whales but don't want to have to put a trip together on your own, check out the gray whale trip with Baja Custom Tours on the next page. All meals, lodging, activities, transportation and planning are included so all you have to do is enjoy.

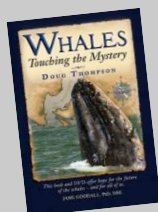
Some more whale inspiration from the DBTC Baja book store:



Lagoon Time "A Guide to Gray Whales and the Natural History of San Ignacio Lagoon"

Steven Swartz and Mary Lou Jones spent six whale seasons between 1977-1982 on the shores of San Ignacio Lagoon documenting the gray whales. There are over 250 color photographs, maps, graphs and grayscale illustrations in the book. Also included are a summary of the lagoon's natural history and a guide that illustrates native flora and fauna as well as whale behavior. *Softcover, 6"x 9", 200 pp., \$29.10*

Purchase at: squareup.com/market/discover-baja/lagoon-time



Whales: Touching the Mystery

Doug Thompson's book and DVD share the stories of encounters with gray whales, in particular the friendly gray whales of San Ignacio Lagoon. Weaving personal accounts with factual information, Thompson describes the hidden lives of whales, their mysterious migrations, and the modern threats they face. *Softcover, 8.9" x 6", 160 pp., \$24.25*

Purchase at: squareup.com/market/discover-baja/whales-touching-the-mystery

Explore the Peninsula with Baja Author Graham Mackintosh!



Join famous Baja author Graham Mackintosh (“Into a Desert Place,” “Journey with a Baja Burro,” “Marooned with Very Little Beer,” “Nearer My Dog to Thee”) on this special Baja Custom Tours trip to see the whales, the Sea of Cortez, and the mountains of San Pedro de Mártir. Share close encounters with the Gray Whales in Scammon’s Lagoon, experience stories and locations in Graham’s Baja books, and have a great time with friends in this all-inclusive seven day/six night tour.

There are three dates for this trip:
 January 28 – February 3, 2015
 February 10 – February 16, 2015
 March 18 – March 24, 2015

7 days, 6 nights \$1,395 all-inclusive, double occupancy.

For questions, or to reserve your spot, contact Discover Baja at 800-727-2252 or ask@discoverbaja.com

For more info: bit.ly/WhRazN



TRIP ITINERARY:

Day 1: Departure from San Diego 6am, lunch at Desert Inn Cataviña, visit local cave paintings, dinner Cataviña

Day 2: 7am breakfast in Cataviña, depart 8am for Guerrero Negro, stop at Baja berrendo (prong horn antelope) sanctuary, check in at motel, visit light house and marshlands, dinner at Mario’s Palapa

Day 3: 7am breakfast, drive to Ojo de Liebre lagoon for 2 hour whale tour – inner lagoon, lunch at Tony’s Tacos, break, visit Guerrero Negro lagoon beach, special dinner at Mario’s

Day 4: Check out of rooms, 7am breakfast, bus tour to outer lagoon with Mario’s through salt plant, 3 hour whale tour outer lagoon with sack lunch, drive to Bahia de Los Angeles, check in Costa del Sol motel, visit Bahia Natural History Museo, Seafood extravaganza dinner!

Day 5: 8am breakfast, boat tour of bay and islands, lunch on beach, dinner at Casa Essary

Day 6: Depart Bahia de Los Angeles at 7am after breakfast, tacos in Vincente Guerrero, drive to Meling Ranch, tour to top of mountains, family style dinner

Day 7: Depart Meling Ranch at 8am after breakfast, torta lunch in El Sauzal, wine tasting in Valle de Guadalupe (Las Nubes), cross border in Tecate.

BUEN PROVECHO: Verde y Crema, Tijuana

By Jennifer Kramer
bajatheothercalifornia.com

One of the newer hot spots to hit the culinary scene in Tijuana is the understated but incredibly splendid restaurant, Verde y Crema. Owner Chef Jair Tellez is also responsible for bringing us us the acclaimed Laja in the Valle de Guadalupe so right away you know you're in for a treat. And Verde y Crema doesn't disappoint.

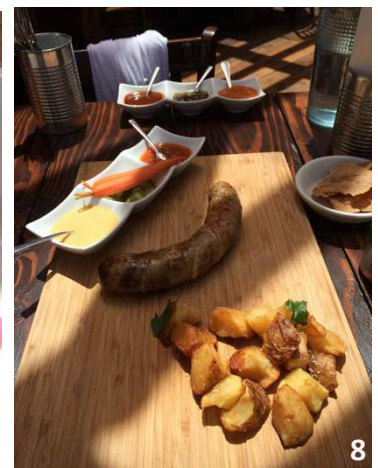
The food is, of course, all locally sourced and incredibly fresh. The menu changes on a regular basis depending on what's in season and available. Many items on the menu are more tapas-style, which makes it a great place to order a number of things to share. Pork shank tacos with avocado and salsa verde; blue corn gorditas with grilled octopus, cheese and pickled vegetables; beef hamburger with brioche bun; homemade sausage with pork and gouda cheese - all savory and delicious. Items like scallop ceviche, yellowtail, birria and geoduck clams, round out the diverse menu. The food is all cooked with a wood fire, which adds to the incredible flavors. Local craft beers and wines from the Valle de Guadalupe accompany the delectable food.

The restaurant is light and airy with rays of sunlight pouring through the mostly open roof and large windows. Reclaimed wood and corrugated tin give the space a simple but chic setting. It's the kind of place where you want to while away the afternoon with a group of friends, noshing on delicious small plates and enjoying a bottle (or two) of wine.

Set in an old industrial neighborhood, (the name comes from the fact that the neighborhood was once the union site for the "green and cream" Tijuana public transportation drivers), it's surrounded by warehouses that are now being converted into commercial spaces. Right across the street

from Verde y Crema is Baja Craft Beers Tasting Room so you can make a lovely afternoon out of going to both and enjoying some of the fine epicurean treats that Tijuana has to offer.

Verde y Crema
Orizaba 3034 Col Neidhart,
Tijuana
Tel 011-52-664-681-2366
info@verdeycrema.com
verdeycrema.com
Open Tuesday-Saturday
1pm-1am; Sunday 1pm-6pm;
Closed Mondays
GPS: 32.515271, -117.012867



Socialize with us!

If hearing from us once a month just isn't enough, we're all Baja all the time on the following platforms. Follow along for all of the news, photos, information, adventure and inspiration you need for your next trip to Baja.



DBTC BLOG

www.discoverbaja.com/dbtc-blog

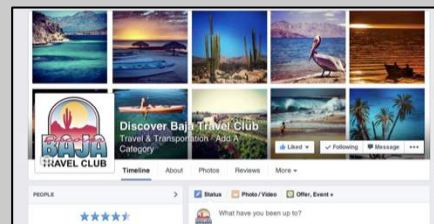
Filled with original and exclusive Baja content. Enter your email address to follow us and get updates whenever we post new content.



FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/discoverbaja

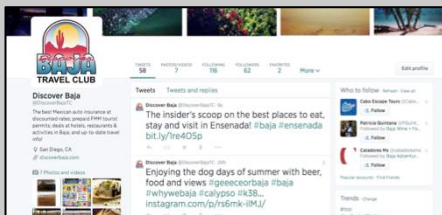
A great way to keep up to date with new content on our blog, news stories, the latest Baja events and more.



TWITTER

[@discoverbajattc](https://twitter.com/discoverbajattc)

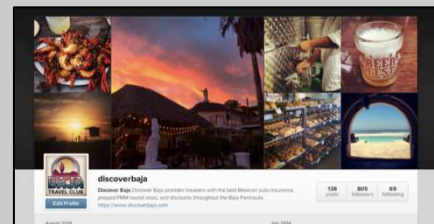
We bring you the latest Baja news, updates and stories all in under 140 characters.



INSTAGRAM

[@discoverbaja](https://www.instagram.com/discoverbaja)

It doesn't get more picture-perfect than Baja. Follow along as we capture our favorite aspects of the peninsula in photos.



PINTEREST

[@discoverbajattc](https://www.pinterest.com/discoverbajattc)

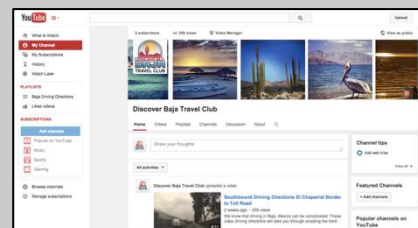
Inspiration boards for our favorite Baja beaches, restaurants, boutique hotels and wildlife.



YOUTUBE

www.youtube.com/user/discoverbaja

Videos of helpful Baja driving directions so that you know where you're going before you go.



**DISCOVER BAJA MEMBERS, WELCOME TO DON EDDIE'S
Hotel, Restaurant, Bar, Sportsfishing, Kayaking, RV Park, Camping**
Your home away from home on the bay of San Quintin, Baja



RV PARK: We have 20 full hookup spaces, 10 facing the bay, 10 inside the hotel parking lot. We also offer bathrooms and hot showers to all RV and camping customers.

\$15.00 dollars per day. Stay 5 days, get 2 free days! Stay 3 weeks, get 1 free week! (other discounts do not apply)

DISCOVER BAJA MEMBERS RECEIVE A 15% DISCOUNT ON RV SPACES AND 10% DISCOUNT ON MEALS!



RESERVATIONS: 1-866-989-6492 (US)

doneddie@hotmail.com, marqueztony@hotmail.com, website: www.doneddies.com



PARADISE FOR SALE IN MULEGE!

Paradise is for sale by owner located in Mulege on the Sea of Cortez at the mouth of Conception Bay, 8 miles south of Mulege. Approximately 1/3 of acre with a fedicomiso (ownership). Dwelling for camping, 3500 gallon pils for water, extra large propane tank, solar. Asking US \$185,000 or best offer. Contact 760-889-4888 or sherylkaonis@sbcglobal.net or slgordinier@sbcglobal.net

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. Call or text Alberto Cota Murillo, 011-52-613-114-7751.

