

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

"Cross Border Xpress" Airport Bridge **Opening Dec 9**



The "Cross Border Xpress" pedestrian bridge that will connect San Diego directly to Tijuana's Rodriguez airport is scheduled to open December 9th. Ticketed passengers will be able to park their cars in San Diego (or get dropped off by a taxi or Uber) and walk across the bridge to access the airport. The fee is \$15 fee for tickets purchased in advance, \$18 for tickets purchased on location. For more information: www.crossborderxpress.com

From the DBTC O

It was December of 1991 that Discover Baja opened for business and enrolled our first members. Some of you have been with us from those first days and have brought family and friends to join us too. We are thankful for all of you—for your friendship, your stories and your loyalty to DB. May Santa fill your stockings with all your favorite Baja adventures. We wish you all a very happy holiday season.

Holiday Hours:

Christmas: close at noon Dec 24th and

reopen Mon Dec 28th

New Years: close at noon Dec 31st and

reopen Mon Jan 4th

We hope you'll join us for the DBTC holiday fiesta on Saturday, December 12th from 3-5pm at the Discover Baja office in San Diego. This is the perfect opportunity to drop off your donation items for the Pequeños Hermanos Orphanage in Ensenada (see pages 3 & 4).

Happy holidays from our family to yours! Hugh, Carol, Jen, Maythé & Monica

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

PESO EXCHANGE RATE: \$16.5 to \$1 U.S. dollar

PEMEX PRICES: Northern Baja: Magna: \$3.13/gal, Premium: \$3.32/gal, Diesel: \$3.28/gal

Southern Baja: Magna: \$3.13/gal, Premium: \$3.32/gal, Diesel: \$3.28/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: \$33 DBTC members only. Please allow two weeks for processing.

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/person fee for DBTC to process. Service for DBTC members only.

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

MEXICAN AUTO INSURANCE: Special yearly rates for members. www.discoverbajaonline.com

ON OUR RADAR FOR DECEMBER

For more information about the events below and to keep up on all of the latest Baja events, see www.discoverbaja.com/events

DECEMBER 5 Sabor a Cabo



Forty restaurants and live entertainment will comprise the main event of Cabo's culinary festival.

www.saboracabo.mx

DECEMBER 6-14 Hanukkah



A very Happy Hanukkah to those who celebrate the Festival of Lights!

DECEMBER 12 Discover Baja Holiday Fiesta



All DBTC members are invited to stop by our office in San Diego on Saturday December 12th from 3-5pm for a holiday Fiesta. Wine, Baja craft beer, food, giveaways and more! See page 4 for more.

DECEMBER 12 El Gran Concierto



Don't miss the Mariachi Vargas with symphonic arrangement, performing at the Baja California Center in Rosarito.

www.bajaconcert.com

DECEMBER 25 Christmas



Whether you're celebrating in Baja or elsewhere, we wish you a Feliz Navidad from the Discover Baja family to yours!

DECEMBER 31 New Years Eve



Prospero año nuevo! May the new year be filled with happiness and adventure.

Las Posadas of Mexico

The posadas are a nine-day religious celebration that are celebrated in Mexico beginning on December 16th and ending on December 24th. The nine day devotion represents the nine months of pregnancy that Mary carried Jesus.

During the celebrations, two people dress up as Mary and Joseph and, along with a procession, go from door to door in the evening asking houses for accommodations (the word Posada means inn). Mary and Joseph are finally recognized and are allowed to enter. At the end of each night's journey, Christmas carols are sung, children break open a piñata, and food is consumed.



DONATION Orphanage Pequeños Hermanos REQUEST: Orphanage Pequeños Hermanos

Discover Baja is pleased to announce our partnership with the orphanage Casa Hogar Pequeños Hermanos in Ensenada. Pequeños Hermanos is home to 38 children who range in age from 3-18 with most of the children between the ages of 8-18. Discover Baja will be collecting items to donate to the orphanage as well as Christmas gifts for the children. We are partnering with Pequeños Hermanos through Corazón de Vida, a U.S. 501c3 nonprofit organization that supports a network of orphanages in northern Baja, helping some of the 6,000 children in the region who are living on the streets. You can read more about Corazón de Vida on our website at the link below.

Please visit the Pequeños Hermanos page on our website (www.discoverbaja.com/pequenoshermanos) that will be updated on a regular basis with needed donation items as well as Christmas wish lists from the children. There is also an option for making a tax-deductible monetary donation to the orphanage through Corazón de Vida. All physical donations should be dropped off at the Discover Baja office in San Diego by Saturday, December 12th.

Item Donations - Please drop off at DBTC offices by Dec. 12th!

As of November 2015, the orphanage is in need of the items below. All items can be brought to the Discover Baja office in San Diego by **Saturday, December 12th** (3264 Governor Dr., San Diego, CA 92122) and we will take the items down to Pequeños Hermanos. (items marked with * are needed urgently)

FOOD:

Milk, Eggs, Canned goods, Beans, Pancake mix, Meat of all kinds/Bacon, Fruit, Bread, Bottled water

CLOTHES:

Black school shoes for all ages, Socks for young boys, Sewing Kit & needles, *Hangers, *Clothespins, Clothing for children

SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

Scientific Calculators, White out, Geometry Kit

KITCHEN THINGS:

*Large 45-Gallon Garbage bags, *Potato Peelers, *Tongs, *Whisks, *Pot Holders, *Can Openers, Sponges, Napkins, Paper Towels, A set of sauce pans with lids

CLEANING:

Pinol/Clorox, Laundry detergent, Dish Soap, *Mops, Mop buckets, Brooms

TOILETRIES:

Toilet Paper, Sunscreen, Hair Gel/Mousse

GAMES/SPORTING GOODS

*Patch Kits for Bikes, Board Games in Spanish, Dominoes, Chess Sets, English Flashcards/games **MISC**.:

*AA & AAA Batteries, *Reina Valera 1960 Bibles

This collaboration between Discover Baja and Pequeños Hermanos will be ongoing. When there are opportunities to visit and volunteer at the orphanage, we will let you all know. We hope you'll join us in this worthy cause.





Saturday, December 12th 3 – 5 p.m. Discover Baja Travel Club Office 3264 Governor Dr. San Diego, CA 92122 Stop by for a Baja craft beer and to drop off your donations for the Pequeños Hermanos orphanage! See page 3

Join us on Saturday, December 12th from 3-5pm at the Discover Baja office in San Diego for a holiday drop-by. We have several boxes filled with Baja giveaways, just for you! We'll have some drinks (Baja craft beer!), snacks and holiday shopping (you don't want to miss out on perusing our rare vintage Baja collectors items!). Please RSVP by emailing ask@discoverbaja.com or calling 800-727-2252.

From the DBTC Baja Shop:



Into a Desert Place

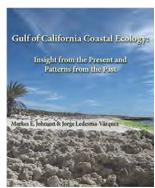
by Graham Mackintosh

We have some of the last copies in print of Graham Mackintosh's Baja classic, "Into a Desert Place." An Englishman, Mackintosh fell in love with Baja California on a visit and, despite a glaring shortage of both experience and money, determined to walk its entire coast. *Into a Desert Place* is his account of how he equipped himself, what he saw and learned, and how he survived on this harsh and beautiful journey. This Baja classic makes a great gift for any Baja or adventure lover. These are sure to sell fast! *Paperback. Non-member* \$32.40, member \$29.15. Call the office at 800-727-2252 or email ask@discoverbaja.com to purchase.

Gulf of California Coastal Ecology: Insight from the Present and Patterns from the Past

by Markes E. Johnson and Jorge Ledesma-Vázquez

This handbook on ecology and paleoecology is infused with insights on the origins and development of Mexico's Sea of Cortez during a span of more than 12 million years. This book makes the connection and brings the past alive. It deals with multiple and interlocking ecosystems and their fossil counterparts, providing a holistic overview on geography, ecology, and geology. Students, scholars, and outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds will find this guide an indispensable resource for exploration of virtually any stretch of coastline on the Gulf of California. *Non-member* \$21.55, *member* \$19.40 To purchase online: http://squ.re/1NrjAyP





The Discover Baja 2016 Gift Guide is here! We've got books, maps, field guides, DVDs, t-shirts, Mata Ortiz pottery, vintage collectible items and more! We have you covered for every Baja lover on your list — and while you're at it, go ahead and get something for yourself, too!

Three easy ways to shop:

 Download the full Gift Guide PDF at: www.discoverbaja.com/wpcontent/uploads/DBTC-Gift-Guide-2016.pdf and send us the completed order form

2. Go to www.squareup.com/market/discover-baja to shop our selection online

3. Come into the office in San Diego and shop the complete collection in person.







We're pleased to introduce you to Carla King, an avid world traveler, accomplished writer, and expert motorcyclist. We know you'll enjoy her stories and information about motorcycling and traveling in Baja California as much as we do. For more information about Carla, visit www.carlaking.com

About a day's ride south of San Diego my chain went slack. Foolishly, I hadn't packed my chain-tightening tool. Limping and scraping into El Rosario at dusk, I checked in at one of the town's two motels and went looking for el mecánico. There's always a mechanic in these little towns and they always have the right tools, especially along the route of the famous Baja 1000 off-road race. Even if I couldn't find the mechanic, I knew I'd be able to count on the owner of at least one of the dozen or so bikes parked outside of the motel. A few steps later I spotted them at Mama Espinoza's. I grinned when I recognized my friend Joe. It's a small world along Highway 1. We had a great dinner and my 10 newest best friends formed an enthusiastic pit crew to tighten the chain.

Experienced motorcycle travelers will tell you that you're never alone when you ride and that's especially true in Baja now that major improvements have been made to stretches of

Transpeninsular Highway (Mexico Highway 1). Though a few areas of potholes remain, it's mostly smooth blacktop from one end to the other, that is, if you don't count the *vados* (where you may be riding through a small stream if it's rained in the mountains) and *topes* (speed bumps at the beginning of every town).

Highway 5 along the Sea of Cortez is also paved until you turn inland after Gonzaga Bay. From there the road is graded dirt for about 20 miles past the legendary Coco's Corner before it joins Highway 1.

What kind of bike do you need to tour Baja? Ride anything you can. Trailer your dirt bike to the border. Superslab your big adventure bike, your low-slung cruiser, a dual-sport or even one of the big scooters. You don't need reservations, just the right paperwork, protective gear, and an attitude to match the latitude.

Paperwork

You never know when you'll need

your paperwork, but when you do, you *really* do! Be sure to have all the following in order:

- Your drivers license with the M1 endorsement.
- · Passport or passport card.
- Your vehicle registration or paperwork from the rental company that allows you to ride it in Baja.
- FMM tourist permit from Discover Baja (the only place that offers them in advance).
- Vehicle liability insurance from Discover Baja is much more comprehensive than anything you can get at the border.

Gear

I see too many bikers riding in inadequate gear: t-shirts, jeans, and the tiny and largely ineffectual "brain-bucket" helmets. It's smarter to gear up from head to toe, not only in case of an accident, but to protect yourself from the elements. Here's a list:

Continued from previous page

- A mesh jacket and pants protects you from the rays of the Baja sun and prevents dehydration but allows air to flow through to keep you cool(er). Brands I like include Olympia Moto Sports' Airglide, Firstgear Mesh Tek, and Fieldsheer High Temp, but there are lots of others. They all include padding at shoulders, elbow, back, hip, and knee, but I switch them out for 3DO pads, which are more protective in case of a crash.
- A wicking base layer will keep you cool under your protective layer. These are available from motorcycle gear manufacturers but base layers from bicycle, climbing and other sport-specific companies work just as well.
- Cooling vests and neck wraps really work and can make all the difference in the enjoyment of your ride.
- A good pair of riding gloves can ensure that your grip is solid on the bars and prevents sunburn on the tops of your hands. Many of the manufacturers I've already mentioned make ventilated gloves, with the addition of Held, whose "Airstream" model is very comfortable for hot-weather riding. A model like this with a gauntlet will protect your wrists from sunburn and road rash.
- For riders who don't want to look "all adventured up," you'll be well protected (though perhaps not quite as well ventilated) in motorcycle jeans (Harley, Rokker, AGV, Scorpion, Dainese, Klim, RevIt, among many other brands), as long as you add the removable knee and hip pads. You can also buy armored shorts and kneepads to wear under your favorite jeans or cargo pants.
- An alternative to a motorcycle jacket is a <u>stretchy armored shirt</u> to wear over a wicking base layer and under a long-sleeved cotton shirt. You might also consider motocross gear like upper body armor harness, elbow and kneepads.



- In Mexico, you're required by law to wear a helmet. A fullface helmet protects your head and jaw in an accident, works better than sunscreen, wind-proofs your head, and is quieter and less fatiguing than a beanie or a halfhelmet. Consider a dual-sport or <u>"adventure" helmet</u> with a bill that will shade your eyes.
- Wear polarized sunglasses and/or face shield.
- Motorcycle boots protect your feet, ankles, and shins from bashes and bumps, and in an accident, can prevent a break. (See my review of dual-sport boots.)
- Dehydration is a real danger in sun and wind. A hydration backpack lets you sip water as you ride. I like Geigerrig's pressurized hydration system

What Bike?

You can ride any kind of bike in Baja. Cruisers, sport bikers, and big scooters stick to the highways and maintained dirt roads. Adventure motorcyclists, dual-sport and dirt bike riders wander everywhere.

The cast wheels on a cruiser or

standard touring bike may crack if it hits an obstacle at speed, like a rock. Spoke wheels are less susceptible to damage from rocks, bumps, and *topes* seen too late.

If you're looking for a little adventure but you're intimidated by the high seat heights of the dual sport bikes, check out the scramblers made by Triumph and Ducati. They're easier to ride with shorter suspension and lower seat heights. Actually, any street bike can become a scrambler. Just throw a set of spoke wheels on it, along with dirt-capable tires and high pipes that won't get flooded or dented on low-lying rocks and water crossings.

Whatever bike you ride, make sure its up to the task with a recent tune-up, good battery, brakes and plenty of tire tread. Mechanics in Baja are brilliant, but they can't always get bike-specific parts.

If your bike isn't outfitted with luggage, take a look at the panniers offered at your dealership, or the versatile luggage systems sold by Nelson Rigg, Mosko Moto, Giant Loop, and Enduristan.





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Know Your Bike

It's important to know what you and your bike are capable of. On one ride I met three guys who had managed—just barely—to complete a route that looks doable on the map but which is very difficult for all but the smaller dirt bikes. (take a look at the "road" that runs south from Bahia Los Angeles to Punta San Francisquito through El Arco and back to Highway 1.)

Two of the three riders were on big adventure bikes with spoke wheels (a BMW GS1200 and KTM 1190), but the third was on a Ducati Multistrada sport touring bike. The Multistrada is a lovely machine capable of navigating fire roads but it was never built to take on rough trails. The cast aluminum wheel in front was cracked, as was the rider's collarbone and ankle, not to mention bent handlebars and all the plastic bits on the Ducati's right side. The other two bikes, outfitted with engine guards and skid plates, fared better physically, but their riders were also lightly injured with sprains and possibly a separated shoulder. All three were exhausted from numerous falls and the strain of riding in sand and navigating boulders, repeatedly falling and picking up the heavy bikes.

If they hadn't been all geared up in hardcore adventure suits, kneehigh boots, gloves, and full-face helmets, packing toolkits and plenty of water, they wouldn't have faired nearly as well.

Road Conditions

Though Baja's highways are paved, most side roads are dirt, gravel, and sand, with plenty of sharp rocks. Because erosion and weather can change their condition at any moment, it's good to seek out local advice before setting off. You don't need much Spanish to ask if the way is passable.

Ask locals at the turnoff, other motorcyclists and owners of 4x4s for advice. Many of these roads were built for access by local fishermen and vaqueros (cowboys), so don't hesitate to wave them over and ask. You can also stop at any of the fishing camps and ranchitas you pass along the way to fill up on water and information. Yes, the locals are friendly, and many of them have actually ridden "the Baja."

Back to the three guys in Vizcaino. As I sat on the porch of the gas station sipping a fluorescent orange soda in the shade, I watched the three men inspect their vehicles after their ordeal. The Ducati rider was furious at his friends for dragging him along that trail. Privately, I thought he should have been furious at himself for not having the *huevos* to ride his own ride...without the broken bike and bones.

Baja is a spectacular place to ride. But be prepared if you're going off the main roads. And remember, no matter who you ride with, you are the captain of your own ride. So ride your own ride!

Security

You can park your bike inside the motel courtyard in front of your door. Most motels, if not all, employ a security guard. You probably won't recognize him. He's just one of those guys who seems to be hanging around doing nothing. But believe me, he knows who belongs where. So far, our touring bikes and our Land Cruiser, loaded up with dirt bikes and other gear (securely tied down with ROK Straps), have remained unmolested.

If you're camping, the guy who collects your fee (he'll wander over eventually) acts as security. Many beaches are generally controlled by the ejido communal landholders and any local petty thieves steer clear.

Gas

Gas is supplied by Pemex in Mexico. All stations are full service though most attendants will let you take the pump.

Generally, gas will find you when you need it. But if you see a truck on the roadside with a big sign advertising GAS, stop and fill up. These entrepreneurs charge about one American dollar more per gallon (25 cents a liter) than at the gas station, which barely covers the cost of their time and transportation.

Continued from previous page

The longest stretch of highway without gas is a 220 mile stretch on Highway 1 between El Rosario and Villa Jesus Maria (just north of Guerrero Negro). There are always gasolina vendors in Cataviña, a favorite base for dirt bike riders.

If you have a small gas tank or you're exploring remote trails, then carry a RotopaX or two for peace of mind.

Tires

Tire repair is the most common roadside fix you'll make, so practice before you leave. If you think you have a slow leak or just want to air up, stop at one of the plentiful *llanteras* (tire shops) for assistance. These guys are geniuses at fixing tires and wheels. They may not charge you for their time, but a few pesos for an air up or a patch is rarely refused. A sticker or keychain from your club will bring a big smile!

Night Riding

Riding at night is freaky so don't do it. There are no street lights and long-haul truckers rule the night, scraping livestock from the road as they go. They'll politely dim their lights but in the pitch black Baja night any bright light can temporarily blind you, and there is no room for error on these roads with no shoulder.

Even more dangerous are the cattle, wild horses, and goats hanging out on the asphalt, absorbing its heat. (It can be chilly

in the desert at night.) Mornings, you'll see vultures perched on Cordon cactus, waiting for the night's road kill to ripen.

Notice the roadside shrines for drivers and passengers who have lost their lives. The great majority of these accidents happen at night. So please, stop riding for the day before dusk falls.

Security Checkpoints

Most riders who hesitate to travel Baja fear the borders and security checkpoints. I have been living and riding in Baja for two years now. I've traveled alone (solo blonde female here!) and in groups, by motorcycle, in my Toyota Camry, and in a Land Cruiser with a trailer pulling dirt bikes.

Military personnel at security checkpoints are pretty chill. These young men, standing in the sun in fatigues over bulletproof vests, come from all over Mexico. They're looking for drug runners headed north. Usually, they're bored silly. A smile goes a long way.

The four things they want to know are 1) that you're on vacation, 2) your nationality, 3) the name of the town where you stayed last night, and 4) the name of the town where you're headed today.

They may look through your panniers in a cursory check for illegal drugs. Mostly, they'll enjoy looking at your bikes and your gear and chatting a little.

In short, gone are the days of scary border crossings and roadside shakedowns.

Tacos and Cervezas

Enjoy the shrimp tacos but don't indulge in *cervezas* until you've parked for the night. The road is good but like I said, there's no room for error. You'll need all your faculties to ride safely. Besides, the cops are not as relaxed as they used to be about gringos partying and driving. No breathalyzer test necessary... they'll use their judgment. Handcuffs out. Party over.

Tacos are made right in front of you, hot, delicious, cheap, and safe. Bottled water is sold everywhere. Use your judgment with the condiments. If it looks fresh, I'll always eat the guacamole, salsa, lettuce, and radishes, so far with no revenge.

Slow Down and Enjoy the Journey

People just aren't in as much of a hurry in Baja as they are in the USA, which is why you're here, anyway, isn't it?

Delays and even breakdowns can bring experiences and cultural connection that's more valuable than counting down mileage and reaching your planned destination.

Reservations are rarely necessary so, unless you're riding in a large group, don't make them. So what if you don't reach Cabo. There's always mañana.



About the Author

Carla King is an adventure travel journalist and author of the Motorcycle
Misadventures series of realtime online travelogues and books about her travels around the world. Wherever she is, you can find her at carlaking.com.

BAJA **FISHING** REPORT

with Gary Graham

Good news for air travelers beginning December 9, 2015. Ticketed airline passengers crossing the border between San Diego and Tijuana can walk across the 390-foot pedestrian bridge linking Tijuana's A.L. Rodríguez International Airport directly to Otay Mesa.

Users of the privately-operated Border Xpress will be charged for each crossing. Enrique Valle, Chief Executive Officer of Otay To begin with, 2015 sport fishing in Tijuana Ventures, builder and operator of purchase tickets ahead of time on along Baja Norte's west coast. the facility's website — and \$18 for those who pay on location.

The only Mexican Port of Entry on estimated to weigh 135 pounds. Border Xpress also will be the first Salsipuedes to Todos Santos



LEFT: Cesare Calor landed this huge broomtail grouper south of Abreojos RIGHT: "Pez Finder" caught a Mako shark estimated to weigh 135 lbs.

on the California border where users will be charged a toll. For updated information: www.crossborderxpress.com/

Baja seems to be burning the the \$120 million candle at both ends as remarkable facility, said recently that the toll reports of catches of wahoo, will be \$15 for those who marlin, dorado and tuna continue

"Pez Finder" caught several yellows and one Mako shark the U.S. Border that connects While Coronado Islands continue directly to an airport, the Cross to slumber, the coast from

continues to produce unique catches for this late in the year. Still a few exotics, including wahoo, dorado and even a Mako shark, along with a continued yellowtail bite stretches all the way to Cedros Island.

At San Quintin, Captain Juan Cook found limits of yellowtail for his clients who were fishing with vovo jigs; while farther south, Cedros Island continued to produce lunkersized vellows and calico bass for both sport boats stopping by and fly-ins eager to take advantage of the nice weather and excellent bite.

Continuing down the coast along the Vizcaino Peninsula, wahoo and yellowfin tuna added dimension to the expected seasonal yellowtail and calico bite.

Below Abreojos, Julio Meza is on a roll. Cesare Calor from Surinam landed a huge broomtail grouper south of Abreojos aboard Julio's Sea Vee 37 Z fishing with a live sand bass for bait, which upon approval, could be a new International Game Fish Association all-tackle length record. After measuring the monster it was released.













TOP LEFT: The catch at Magdalena Bay. TOP MIDDLE: Sierra Mackerel is being caught from East Cape down to Cabo. TOP RIGHT: Roosterfish caught in Mag Bay. BOTTOM LEFT AND RIGHT: Dorado caught on the peninsula.:

Continued from previous page

Finally, farther down at Magdalena Bay, the season is seemingly suffering from "El Nino-itus," kicking in with wahoo, dorado and striped marlin that are biting almost two months later than normal.

While not as unusual as most think, the Mag Bay roosterfish (in photo top right) was one of several caught this month. I've seen photos of much larger in the 40-pound range caught just outside the Bocas there in the open Pacific.

There has been a wide-open bite just outside the surf line below Todos Santos for some quality dorado from the beach like this one caught by Felipe Valdez, manager, Hotel Buena Vista Beach Resort.

Mixed with them are some equally nice-sized roosterfish, jack crevalle and even a small sailfish caught in the fray.

Moving over to the Sea of Cortez,

El Nino or not, the much maligned North Wind showed up on schedule . . . at times whistling all the way down the Sea from San Felipe.

Notwithstanding, yellowtail as well as spotted bay bass action, continues between blows and the occasional rain at Bahia de Los Angeles according to recent visitors.

This is the same basic story all the way to Loreto where there were a few good days recently according to Rick Hill. "The Coronado Island areas had been good for a variety of sizes of yellowtail and cabrilla. Later in the week near Puerto Almeja where near-limit action was happening, yellowtail and cabrilla on live bait was the rule -- not the exception. One day, one of our boats hooked up on a sailfish while soaking a mackerel for bottom monsters up at Almeja," he related. "Rick" from Loreto Shores worked over La Cholla area yesterday and moved out of a triggerfish ambush

only to hook up with another of our deep-water billfish, a marlin outside of the "cleaning rock."

La Paz, Las Arenas and East Cape all are reporting North Wind interspersed with enough "good days" to keep the alert anglers happy.

San Jose and Cabo San Lucas fleets are finding a fair amount of billfish, fewer yellowfin tuna and even fewer larger models as bait remains scarce. Surprisingly the wahoo bite continues far past the usual season.

Sierra mackerel, a perennial winter favorite, have been putting in a strong showing close to shore from East Cape all the way to Baja's tip -- all in all, not bad for a late November entering the Christmas season.

Good Luck and Tight Lines...

Questions or comments are welcome. garyg@garycgraham.com

THE FOOD COLECTIVOS OF NORTHERN BAJA

While the food truck rage has been sweeping the U.S. for some time, northern Baja was quick to catch on and then take the movement one step further. Colectivos (collectives) are groups of small food stands or food trucks gathered together, allowing customers to try a selection of food from various small independent eateries under one "roof." Here, we bring you five of our favorites in Tijuana and Ensenada that are worth checking out.

FOODGARDEN (TIJUANA)

The pioneer in the *colectivo* movement in northern Baja (before there even WAS a *colectivo* movement) was Foodgarden. The original location, on Ave. Rodolfo Sanchez Taboada has been a hit for a number of years. It features food stands from some of Tijuana's best restaurants centered around a courtyard with tables and seating for customers. Don't miss the Chilaquiles stand—their creative takes on the traditional chilaquiles are addictive. There's now a second location of Foodgarden in the Rio Plaza mall. This is anything but your average mall food court. They've brought together another grouping of Tijuana's best restaurants, different than the ones in the original Foodgarden (which gives you the excuse to check out both locations). They also have a *mercado* market area with a cheese shop, tamales, paletas and a wine shop (great place to get some of Baja's exclusive wines that you can't get on the other side of the border).



Blvd Rodolfo Sanchez Taboada 10650 www.facebook.com/foodgardentj

HOURS: Mon.-Thur: 9am-9pm, Fri.-Sat: 9am-11pm, Sun: 9am-7pm

Foodgarden, Plaza Rio

Plaza Rio Mall

www.facebook.com/foodgardenrio

HOURS: Sun-Thur: 10am-10pm, Fri.-Sat: 10am-11pm







TELEF6NICA GASTRO PARK (TIJUANA)

This is a collection of food trucks permanently parked in a lot in Tijuana. The Humo truck is one of the favorites of the group and serves up sausages and pulled pork sandwiches. Javier Plascencia has of course joined the food truck movement and his Don Ramen truck serves up bowls of the namesake noodle dish. The Creta truck serves up risotto with vegetables or the fresh catch of the day, and has become a favorite of many Tijuanenses. Telefónica Gastro Park is also opening up a location in the Valle de Guadalupe soon.

Telefónica Gastro Park

Av. Ocampo #2036, between Blvd. Agua Caliente Tijuana and Calle 11

www.facebook.com/Telefonica-Gastro-Park-948726705142941/

HOURS: 12pm-9pm every day of the week

COLECTIVO 9 (TIJUANA)

Located just off of Avenida Revolución in the heart of Tijuana, this intimate *colectivo* opens up like a secret surprise at the end of a small *pasaje*. There are—yes, you guessed it—nine food and beverage stands that are centered around a small courtyard with a fountain and table and chairs. You can find everything from empanadas, burgers, ceviche, Japanese food, craft beer and local wine. The selection is wide in scope and everything is wellcrafted, keeping in line with the concept.

Colectivo 9

Ave Revolucion between Calle 6 and 7

www.colectivo9.com

HOURS: Tues.-Thurs: 1pm-8pm, Fri.-Sat: 1pm-12am, Sun:

1-8pm, Closed Monday





EL CALLEJON (ENSENADA)

As the first colectivo in Ensenada, El Callejón (The Alley) is a little row of food stands next to a lovely outdoor seating area. Stands offer pizza, salads, wraps, Japanese food, Argentinian food and more. The selection of fresh food here is incredible and there's something for every taste. This bright and inviting *colectivo* is perfect on a lovely day in Ensenada (or for lunch on beach day as the location is just a few blocks up from one of the most popular beaches in Ensenada). Bring the whole family, there's a small playground where the kids can play.

El Callejón Floresta 320

www.facebook.com/elcallejoncolectivoculinario

HOURS: Wed.-Thur: 1-11pm, Fri.-Sat: 1pm-12am, Sun: 1-9pm, Closed Monday and Tuesday

REGIÓN GASTRONÓMICA (ENSENADA)

Right across the street from El Callejón is another smaller collection of food stalls called Región Gastronómica. The eclectic selection here includes burgers, Italian, seafood, desserts, coffees and a bar with craft beers and cocktails. Don't miss the incredibly unique Baja/Asian fusion ceviches and seafood at Península Cocina del Mar made by chef Daniel Llerenas. In true Baja culinary style, the food at Región Gastronómica is carefully crafted and the atmosphere is authentically bohemian Mexican.

Región Gastronómica

On the cornder of Floresta and Calle Veracruz www.facebook.com/regiongastronomica1

HOURS: Mon.-Tues: 1-10pm, Thur: 1-10pm, Fri.-Sat:

1-11pm, Sun: 1-10pm, Closed Wednesday









Baja California Missions Trip

Come explore Baja's missions, architecture, historical sites, rock art, nature and more!

April 19-28, 2016







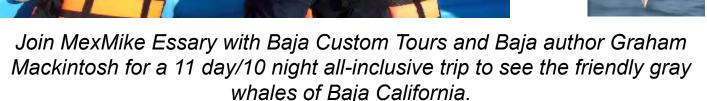
Join famous Baja author and Baja Missions expert, David Kier, on this Discover Baja and Baja Custom Tours special trip to see many of the famous Baja Spanish Missions, other historical sites, and loads of natural/eco sites! This 10-day/9-night, all-inclusive trip will feature the best of Baja from Tecate to Loreto, highlighting many of the missions, ghost towns, rock art sites, museums and beautiful natural environment along the way!

This is a once-in-a-lifetime trip that will fill quickly, so call Discover Baja at 800-727-2252 or email ask@discoverbaja.com to book your spot today!

For full itinerary and more information: www.discoverbaja.com/ 2015/08/13/missions-trip

\$2,095 all-inclusive per person, based on double occupancy





January 31 - February 10, 2016

**Includes: Recently paved San Felipe and Bahia Gonzaga route, Cataviña stay, Mission San Ignacio, Laguna San Ignacio at Antonio's Camp on the Lagoon with 3 whale tours, Guerrero Negro with inner and outer lagoon tours, Baja Berrendo Reserve visit, Bahia de Los Angeles with Island boat tour, Rancho Meling in the San Pedro Martir, Observatory tour, highest point in ALL of Baja, horseback riding, wine tasting in Valle de Guadalupe!

**All meals-drinks-transportation-lodgings-tours are included. You'll need to get a Mexican FMM tourist Permit. Tips and personal purchases are not included. Transportation is a 4x4 Ford E350 Van.

\$2,495 per person, double occupancy

Email ask@discoverbaja.com or call 800-727-2252 for more information.

Only NINE seats available! Book Now!



More Gray Whale Trips for 2016

8 days, 7 nights \$1,695 all-inclusive, double occupancy

Dates for Trips: February 18 – February 25, 2016 March 3 – March 10, 2016



Come join famous Baja author Graham Mackintosh on this Baja Custom Tours trip with MexMike Essary to see whales, the Sea of Cortez, and the mountains of San Pedro Mártir. Share close encounters with the Gray Whales in Scammon's Lagoon, stories and locations in Graham's Baja books, and a great time with friends in this all-inclusive, 8-day/7-night tour. Must provide your own Mexican FMM tourist permit. Personal purchases/tips not included.

Itineraries:

- **Day 1 -** Departure from San Diego 7am, El Marmol onyx quarry, lunch at Desert Inn Cataviña, free time, dinner Cataviña
- **Day 2** 7am breakfast in Cataviña, depart 8am for local cave paintings, drive to Guerrero Negro, stop at Baja berrendo (prong horn antelope) sanctuary, check in at motel, lunch, free time, dinner at Mario's Palapa
- **Day 3** 7am breakfast, drive to Ojo de Liebre lagoon for two-hour whale tour inner lagoon, lunch at Tony's Tacos, break, visit old town Guerrero Negro old lighthouse wetlands, 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, free time, Seafood extravaganza dinner!
- **Day 5 -** 8am breakfast, boat tour of bay and islands, lunch on a beach, visit Bahia Natural History Museo, dinner at Casa Essary
- **Day 6** Depart Bahía de Los Angeles at 8am after breakfast, tacos in Vincente Guerrero, drive to Meling Ranch, free time (hiking or horseback riding), family style dinner
- **Day 7** 8am breakfast, drive to Observatory for tour, picnic lunch at San Pedro Martir museum, return to Rancho Meling, free time, Special BBQ dinner with fireside S'mores
- **Day 8 –** Depart Meling Ranch at 8am after breakfast, torta lunch in El Sauzal, wine tasting in Valle de Guadalupe (Monte Xanic), cross border in Tecate.

Email ask@discoverbaja.com or call 800-727-2252 for more information.



RIVERFRONT HOUSE IN NORTHERN BAJA \$10,000 USD

Located in the quiet confines of Campo Mil, this 1900sq.ft. 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 story, adobe brick house is the perfect getaway "casa". Just a one hour drive from the US border, Campo Mil extends for 1 km along the tranquil waters of the Rio Hardy and is surrounded by thousands of acres of open desert. Repairs are needed, and can be completed by on site experienced labor (your chance to personalize it!). Several other homes are available at similar prices. Contact Don, 949-466-2069us, D1000@sbcglobal.net, and Campo Mil website: www.CampoMil.com.



SAN JOSE DEL CABO EAST CAPE RENTAL

This contemporary Mexicanstyle home in a gated community features a spacious interior with two bedrooms and two baths, and an expansive outdoor patio.

http://www.vrbo.com/199458



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 fediocomiso (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 asequias (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.

