

February 2016 Newsletter



BAJA NEWS

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

PedWest: New Northbound Pedestrian Crossing to open at San Ysidro

A new northbound pedestrian crossing is scheduled to open at San Ysidro in June 2016. The crossing will be located on the west side of the port's vehicle lanes and will have 12 lanes that can be reversed into southbound lanes depending on demand. The current pedestrian crossing will be replaced with a new structure slated to open in 2019.



Passport Renewal - Early

If you have a passport expiring at any point in the year 2016, the state department recommends that you start the renewal process now. The department anticipates a surge in passport demand and renewals this year, which may cause delays.

From the DBTC Office

Presidents' Day is coming up and we urge you to get your Mexican auto insurance, FMM tourist permits, and other paperwork in advance. Reservations for hotels should be made in advance for the three-day weekend.

Discover Baja can now process the free FMM tourist permits for seven days or less in advance for DBTC members. There will be a \$5 processing fee.

*See you in Baja!
Hugh, Carol, Jen, Maythé & Monica*

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

PESO EXCHANGE RATE: \$18.3 to \$1 U.S. dollar

PEMEX PRICES: Northern Baja: Magna: \$2.93/gal, Premium: \$3.11/gal, Diesel: \$3.06/gal
Southern Baja: Magna: \$2.93/gal, Premium: \$3.11/gal, Diesel: \$3.06/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: \$30 DBTC members only. Advance seven-day FMMs now available as well.
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 FEBRUARY

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

FEBRUARY 4-9 Carnaval



La Paz and Ensenada both host carnaval festivals, celebrating with parades and festivities. See the next page for more details.

FEBRUARY 6-7 Open Studios Tour in Todos Santos



The artists of Todos Santos open their studios to the public for two days of touring and exploring. Tickets are \$200 pesos.

www.artistsoftodosantos.com

FEBRUARY 11-13 Loreto Blue Whale Festival



Loreto will be hosting its first festival of the blue whale. The festival will take place along the malecón with booths and activities for the whole family to enjoy.

FEBRUARY 14 Valentine's Day



Why not spend Valentine's Day in Baja enjoying margaritas on the beach or a romantic weekend in the Valle de Guadalupe wine region?

FEBRUARY 15 Presidents' Day



President's Day brings us a three-day weekend in February. It also coincides with Valentine's Day so go ahead and treat yourself to a special Baja weekend. Make hotel reservations in advance.

FEBRUARY 25-28 Score San Felipe 250



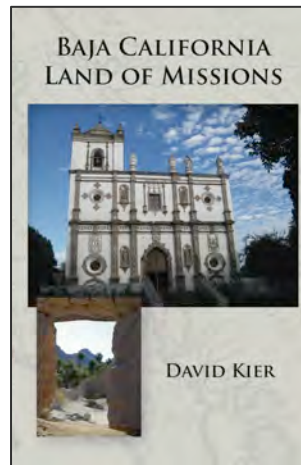
The Score San Felipe will be a 250 mile-race through the deserts around San Felipe, Baja. www.score-international.com



Valle de Guadalupe Custom Wine Tours

Spring is right around the corner and so is busy season for Valle de Guadalupe wine region. Make sure you book your wine tasting tour now! Baja Test Kitchen crafts custom tours for groups of 2 to 20. To book and for more information, visit: www.bajatestkitchen.com

New Baja California Missions Book by David Kier!



We're anxiously awaiting the release of the new "Baja California Land of Missions" book by missions expert David Kier. The new book will cover all of the Spanish missions in Baja California with even more information and detail, making it an indispensable guide for history buffs traveling Baja. The book should be available soon—stay tuned!



New SENTRI Vehicle Approval Process:

New vehicles being approved for SENTRI will no longer need to be taken in for vehicle inspection. After applying for a new vehicle approval, SENTRI participants will receive notice that the vehicle is temporarily approved. The vehicle is now allowed to use the SENTRI lane at the border, but will be pulled over into secondary inspection at some point for a full check and approval.

Your Vote Counts!

Did you know that many U.S. elections for House and Senate seats have been decided by a margin smaller than the number of ballots cast by absentee voters? If you're an American citizen living in Mexico, make sure you get your vote in for 2016. Visit: www.fvap.gov to get the process started.



Carnaval Celebrations in Baja California

Both La Paz and Ensenada have Carnaval celebrations that will take place from February 4-9. Both cities will celebrate with parties, parades, and events. The theme for La Paz carnaval this will be "Muses of Glory" and the Ensenada theme will be "Celebrating the Cultures"



Discover Baja is now processing FMM tourist permits for seven days or less in advance for Discover Baja members. There will be a \$5 processing fee. For more information about FMM tourist permits: www.discoverbaja.com/go/fmm-tourist-permits/

Want more help planning out the best time to head to Baja? Visit our website for a list of Mexican holidays in 2016:
www.discoverbaja.com/baja-california-information/mexican-holidays/

Help Us Build a Home for the Kids at Rancho de los Niños Orphanage!

In the continuing partnership between Discover Baja and Corazón de Vida, we ask for your support as we help to build the children at Rancho de los Niños a new dorm to call home. Donate and learn more at: www.classy.org/rdndorm



In January of 2016, a Valle de Guadalupe orphanage that Corazon de Vida supported had to shut its doors. This was a home for teen girls, a tough age group since most orphanages don't take kids older than 12. Fearing that the girls would be sent to various orphanages and possibly even rehab centers, another Corazon de Vida orphanage, Rancho de los Niños, took in the 20 displaced girls, even though they didn't have the space for them. The girls are temporarily housed in the volunteer dorms, which are one step above a camping site. As difficult as this move has been for the girls, they are settling in, glad to be together and able to attend the same schools and be around their friends.

Rancho de los Niños has one empty dorm (an empty shell) that needs to be completely rebuilt to house the girls. The estimate to rebuild this dorm is \$25,000.

Rancho de los Niños (formerly Casa de Paz) is an orphanage located in the Valle de Guadalupe, about 90 minutes from the San Diego border. The home is located on several acres of open land. They now have 85 children in their care. Jorge and Ely Fonseca, who were both raised in the orphanage, now run the home as the directors.

You can donate and learn more about the project at the link below. Please join us in helping to support this project. Any amount will help! www.classy.org/rdndorm



corazón de vida

About Corazon de Vida:

Corazon de Vida (CDV) is a 20+ year U.S. 501c3 non-profit organization providing life-changing support for orphaned and abandoned children in Baja, Mexico by funding local orphanages, providing quality of life improvement services and investing in the children's future by funding higher education. Through their life-sustaining program they provide monthly funding for the orphanages under their care. These orphanages give abandoned children security, nutrition, shelter and access to a reliable education.



MOTORCYCLE TOUR SEASON HAS ARRIVED!

BY CARLA KING

January brought a stream of motorcycling friends to my doorstep near Mulegé, a few leisurely days south of the border. Some arrived on road bikes, others on big dual-sport bikes, one on a Harley, and there were also a few on little 250s and 450s.

All started out in ones or twos but remarked on the vortex of camaraderie here in Baja, finding other riders at lunch stops, gas stations, campgrounds, and hotels. After all, there are just two roads here - Highway 1 and Highway 5. You're likely to meet your new best friend at common stops like San Quintín, Cataviña, El Rosario, and the Mulegé beaches.

So don't be afraid to hop across the border on your own bike or to get a rental and come on down on your own. For those who prefer the certainty of a tour, whether for an assurance of safety or companionship, here's a list. And yes, I'm planning to lead a tour or two (stay tuned!) but for now I'd like to point you to companies I know and which have been recommended by friends. Prices quoted are with your own bike, though rental bikes are available, unless otherwise noted.

MOTORCYCLE RENTAL IN SAN DIEGO

To the best of my knowledge [360 Motorcycle Adventures](#) is the only bike rental company in San Diego that allows you to take their bikes, unsupervised, into Baja. My friend [Sharon Faith](#) flew from Florida to rent a BMW F650GS from their facility near the airport for our ride to Mulegé.

360's fleet also includes the Yamaha Super Tenere, KTM 1190, KLR 650, V-Strom 1000, and Yamaha XT225.

Phillip, the owner, can lead an off-road weekend adventure for you and your friends (your bikes or his) to [Mike's Sky Ranch](#) starting at \$389, and he plans a Cabo San Lucas tour later in the year. Contact him for bike availability and to organize a custom tour for your group.

SMALL BIKE DUAL-SPORT ADVENTURES

[Enduro360](#) is led by ex-racer Chilli White who offers KTM dual-sport motorcycle tours with a "backpack and sense of adventure" as the only requirements. His self-supported tours don't have a chase truck or crew, and there's an open itinerary based upon a general overall ride plan touring in dirt. You'll be roughing it a bit though a nightly bed, good food and spirits are also on the menu. Bring your own bike (consult with Chilli on setup and proper gear) or rent one of his KTMs. Next tour dates are March 18 and April 8, 2016.

TIP! If you are planning an off-road or dual-sport ride on your own, you'll benefit from reading Chilli's [Need to Know](#) page.

While I'm on the subject, here's cautionary note about off-road Baja tours. I've heard from people I trust that Chilli's tours are awesome, and I can't wait to go on one! But I've heard horror stories from riders who have used tour companies whose bikes constantly break down, or who don't screen their riders (so the group is held up by the lowest common denominator, whether untrained or reckless), or who take too many people at one time, which makes it a dust (or mud) fest. So please do a thorough job of researching any company you plan to ride with before booking.

Continued on next page 5

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MEDIUM-SIZED BIKE DUAL-SPORT ADVENTURES

As mentioned above, [360 Motorcycle Adventures](#) offers various sizes of bikes for rent for solo rides into Baja as well as for organized tours.

[4YourAdventure](#) uses a fleet of classic BMW R100GS dual-sport motorcycles (a great bike!) for tours from San Diego to Loreto and back. The tour is led by founder/owner Jan Vykoukal, who promises an “alternative” travel experience, with accommodation a mixture of motels, cabins, and camping and cookouts. The ride includes pavement, graded roads, and a somewhat technical section across the middle of the peninsula. His support van carries tools and spares along with camping gear and inflatable paddleboards...and you're going to want to paddleboard on the beaches south of Mulegé!

Jan and I met at [Horizons Unlimited in Yosemite](#) last year, and several mutual friends know him and highly recommend his tours. The 14-day tour, including rental, costs \$4120.

BIG-BIKE DUAL-SPORT TOURS

BlackSwanMoto, BajaVoyager, and RawHyde lead tours from San Diego to San Felipe and halfway down the peninsula to Loreto and beyond on dual-sport bikes like the BMW 1200 GSA, the KTM 1190, and the classic BMW R100GS.

[BlackSwanMoto](#) in San Felipe offers fully-supported dual-sport adventure motorcycling tours with your own bike (or one from one of their rental partners).

Coming up March 4-7 is their [Baja Explorer Tour](#) of the North featuring the infamous Lisa and Simon Thomas of [2 Ride The World](#). This lively couple has been on the road continuously for 12 years now, traveling all over the world, and Baja is their latest conquest. Cost is an affordable \$1495.

April 11th they come my way with their 12-day [Baja Backcountry Tour](#) for \$4995. Later this year, BlackSwanMoto comes down my way with a 12-day dual-sport tour for \$4995.

[BajaVoyager](#) just popped onto my radar as a concierge service that “does everything from guided and supported, relaxed, scenic, “big bike” tours to SCORE, NORRA, BAJA 1000 Race support.”

Strangely, their site doesn't provide details on tours, but my friend Brad Barker recommends them and passed me this flyer on their fully-supported tour from Ensenada to San Quintin March 25-April 2 for \$1950.

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Jan Vykoukal of [4YourAdventure](#) stops by for a quick hello.



Ride with Lisa and Simon Thomas on BlackSwanMoto's Tour in March.

Live your best ADventure

Join us for this awesome 9 + day trip From Ensenada to the grey whale paradise San Ignacio ending in the Guadalupe Valley Wine Route.

Photo courtesy of: TheRideLife.net

in Baja California, Mexico

BAJA MOTO RUN 2016

DUALSPORT PLUS THE RIDE OF MY LIFE KIT

\$1,950.00 US PER PERSON INCLUDES:

Experienced riding tour guides, chase 4x4 support vehicle, motorcycle trailer, mechanic, paramedic on duty during the trip, two way radio w headset, double occupancy accommodations, breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

March 25th	Ensenada (departure)
March 26th	Mike's Sky Ranch
March 27th	Gonzaga Bay
March 28th	Bahia de Los Angeles
March 29th	San Ignacio (whale watching)
March 30th	Guerrero Negro
March 31st	Cataviña
April 1st	San Quintin
April 2nd	Valle de Guadalupe (Wine Route)

[BajaVoyager's](#) 9 Day Tour from Ensenada to San Ignacio.

“DON'T BE
AFRAID TO HOP
ACROSS THE
BORDER ON YOUR
OWN BIKE OR TO
GET A RENTAL
AND COME ON
DOWN ON YOUR
OWN”



Rawhyde Adventures Tour is Reviewed in [MotoUSA Magazine](#).

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[RawHyde](#) enjoys near-cult status with the big BMW dual-sport adventure motorcycle crowd. They run a 7-day, fully-supported [Big Bikes in Baja](#) tour that goes as far south as San Quintin for \$2995, date not yet announced. The word on the dirt is that this is an testosterone-fueled tour with guys who have invested big bucks in these bikes and training, and are determined to ride them to full capacity.

TIP TO TIP ROAD TRIPS

Eagle Rider, MotoDiscovery, and MotoQuest all offer Baja road bike and dual-sport tours running the length of the peninsula.

[Eagle Rider](#) is widely known as a Harley tour operator but in December, I learned at the [Long Beach International Motorcycle Show](#) that they've had dual-sport bikes in their fleet for quite a while. They offer an 8-day northbound or southbound tour between Los Angeles and Cabo San Lucas starting at \$1899 per person riding 2-up one way, or both ways starting at \$3334. Rental bikes are available. The next date is southbound on April 9, 2016.

[MotoDiscovery](#) offers a fully-supported 14-day, 1800 mile Baja and Copper Canyon road bike tour for \$4847, all on paved roads. Dates are Feb 20 and Nov 5. Bring your own bike to the starting line in Nogales, Arizona for the tour that ends in Tecate, California. Motorcycle rentals are not available. I've known and respected this company for years, have talked with them at industry events and have heard good things about them from riders I know. I also know them via friends like [Christopher Baker](#), who leads their Cuba tours.

[MotoQuest](#) leads a 9-day, all-pavement guided tour southbound or northbound between Long Beach and Cabo with bike rental included starting at \$4500. I know and respect this company from meeting them at industry events, word of mouth, and via friends like [Sarah Shilke](#) who leads their Alaska women's tour.

YOUR QUESTIONS AND EXPERIENCES?

I know there must be more tour operators who run trips to Baja, and I'd love to hear about them. I'd especially like to hear about your experiences with any tour--good and bad--via email at carla@carlaking.com. Much appreciated!

ABOUT CARLA

Carla King is an adventure travel journalist and author of the Motorcycle Misadventures series of realtime online dispatches and books about her travels around the world. She's based just south of Mulegé, an oasis town on the Sea of Cortez, and San Diego. She rides anything but is currently enjoying a Kawasaki KLR650, BMW R100GS Bumble Bee, and a KTM 350 EXC. Follow her on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and sign up to get news via her website at www.CarlaKing.com.

BAJA FISHING REPORT

with Gary Graham



Jack Nash, guest of Ricky Sonada, flashes his catch among the many hooked and lost, according to Captain Juan Cook.

Chris Holmes, a Louisiana Field Reporter and Columnist, shared this live bait set up while we were filming a Hobie Kayak trip at Loreto – the best live bait set up I've seen in a while -- simplicity itself. It's so good I carry a sample in my wallet to show folks. Check out their website.

<http://livebaitclip.com/>

Yellowtail are a common catch in the *Sea of Cortez* in winter, but this year, my inbox is filled with photos of 'tails caught from the *Coronado Islands* all the way to *San Quintin*.

It should be noted that weather is a factor; storms have continued to arrive from the north bringing wind

and high surf!

Excellent yellowtail action for the few boats running out to the *Coronado Islands*. The story remains the same with fish being found on the sonar and then being caught on yoyo irons and dropper loop sardine from the north end of South Island from the Gap, around and down the lee side to about the *Ribbon Kelp*. Most of these yellows are under 10 pounds with the average about 5- to 6-pounds. There are a few bigger fish on the weather side of North Island in the afternoon.

Bonito are around in fair numbers, decent-sized fish in the 4- to 7-pound class, and they are spread

over the Middle Grounds down to the *Ribbon Kelp*.

For these, try trolling a silver/black Rapala or a small blue/white or red/white tuna feather and fish with anchovies after you get a jig stop.

Lastly, there are a small number of barracuda at the *Ribbon* and *South Kelp*.

For those wanting in on the yellowtail action but preferring not to drive to one of the ports, several sport fishing boats from the San Diego fleet are offering 1.5-day trips to Colonet, approximately 112 miles south of San Diego with excellent results. Call one of the San Diego landings for information.

Friends at San Quintin echo reports of good fishing interspersed with a few days of grumpy weather.

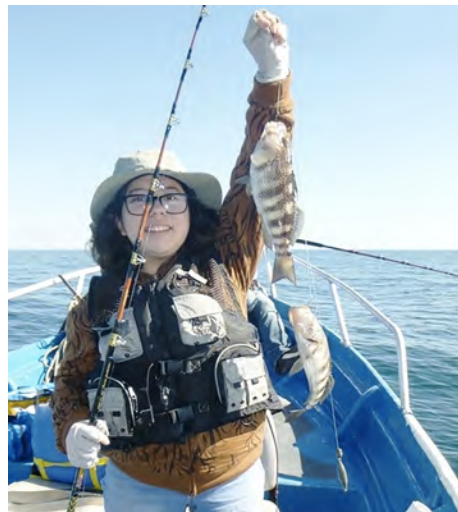
Jumping over to the upper Gulf area, a favorable family trip was reported from Gonzaga Bay while the winds were quiet. Bahia de Los Angeles has been seasonally quiet.

On the west coast of Laguna Ojo de Liebre, south of Guerrero Negro, good numbers of whales are reported with more arriving daily.

Continued on next page 8



Catches in Colonet and Gonzaga





LEFT: Loreto anglers. CENTER: Mossback weighing 52 pounds caught at La Bocana. RIGHT: Halibut caught at the "Glory Hole" in La Bocana

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While the villages dotting the Vizcaino peninsula coast have mixed reports, Bahía Asunción is featuring surfing, which probably means there haven't been many anglers visiting.

At La Bocana, the estero produced good catches of spotted bay bass, corvina, pompano, grouper and snook on plastics and live bait, plus an impressive halibut from the "Glory Hole."

Offshore grouper, yellowtail, and a mossback weighing 52-pounds taken in 35-feet of water close to shore and yellowfin tuna are biting like it's still fall -- go figure! There were even a few striped marlin spotted offshore.

In Mulege, locals are planning a

Yellowtail Tournament -- February 17 – 21, 2016.

Captains' meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb 17 at 3p.m. at **Jungle Jims!**

The protocol will be identical to all other events with a few options -- namely an opportunity to enter a separate event started by Stulege last year *for the largest yellowtail caught in a specified time frame: say Feb. 17 until April 17.* The entry for this is \$500 pesos. Any questions or comments can be emailed to bill.ochs702@gmail.com phone 153-0168

Loreto anglers can make or buy live bait recently and put it to good use in-between blows by catching

a mixed-bag of pargo, grouper, sierra and a few yellows in deep water.

At Magdalena Bay both San Carlos and Lopez Mateos have begun their annual whale watching season. Another interesting development is that a few boast fishing offshore are seeing more marlin than they did during the normal peak month of November. La Paz and Muertos Bay are enjoying unseasonal success for billfish, wahoo and a dorado or two on good days.

Same story at East Cape; just a few miles outside the entrance to La Ribera Marina there are stripers on the surface and yellowtail on the bottom.

Toward the tip, San Jose and Cabo are reporting slow striper and dorado bites. Inshore the sierra seem to be the best target. Photo 9 snook

Underlining additional odd catches recently are black snook along the beaches on both sides of the tip near Cabo -- an extraordinary catch as well as elusive. Although once you hear about a "snook bite," you are probably too late. Good Luck and Tight Lines...

Questions or comments are welcome.
garyg@garycgraham.com



Snook bite caught along the beaches near Cabo

THREE-DAY GETAWAY: Loreto

By Jennifer Kramer

Nestled in between the Sea of Cortez and the Sierra de la Giganta mountain range is the quaint, picturesque town of Loreto. The town's historic plaza, examples of colonial architecture, and California's oldest mission (in both Baja and Alta California), provide a magical background for this Baja destination. Appropriately enough, Loreto was designated a *Pueblo Mágico* in 2012 (a recognition given to cities in Mexico that offer visitors a "magical" experience – by reason of their natural beauty, cultural riches, or historical relevance) and this charming town has grown into a must-see for any Baja traveler.

Loreto is a town as diverse as it is beautiful. This is a place where culture and history come alive. Where the outdoor calls to those who enjoy fishing, snorkeling, golfing, kayaking, and hiking. Where you can spend your morning swimming with sea lions and your afternoon exploring 300-year-old missions. History buffs, foodies, outdoor adventurers, avid shoppers, and fishermen will all find plenty to do here.

With a commercial international airport offering regular flights from Los Angeles, Tijuana, and Calgary (among other places), Loreto is now an easy weekend escape from the U.S. or Canada.



DAY 1

Morning

Loreto is a great place to get outside and get active. The nearby Sierra de la Giganta mountain range is a beautiful region to explore and is full of hidden waterfalls, pools, canyons, and sea views for those up for the adventure. Grab a copy of the book **Hiking Loreto** (www.hikingloreto.com) and get out and explore some of the trails featured in the handy guide. If you're a golfer, head out to the 18-hole **Loreto Bay Golf Course** (the much-anticipated **Danzante Bay Gold Course** at Villa del Palmar is slated to open by the end of April 2016).

Afternoon

Spend the afternoon exploring the historic center of Loreto. Start with a stroll along the *malecón* on the Sea of Cortez. Head east on Calle Salvatierra, a pedestrian walkway covered with trees that will lead you right into Loreto's Plaza Juárez. The Plaza is surrounded by colonial buildings, restaurants, shops and the Loreto tourist office. Stop in for lunch at **Orlando's** (www.facebook.com/OrlandosRestaurante/) or an artisanal beer at Loreto's first craft beer brewery, **El Zopilote** (at 1697 Restaurant) right on the plaza.

Continuing to walk east along Salvatierra will take you to **Misión Nuestra Señora de Loreto Conchó**, the first mission founded in California (Baja or Alta) on October 25, 1697. There's a small museum next door to the church for those who want to learn more about the history of the missions and what life was like during the missionary times. There are plenty of curios shops along here where shoppers can purchase souvenirs and handicrafts like Mexican blankets, colorful Talavera pottery, and silver jewelry.



Continued on next page 10

Continued from previous page

Evening

Many of the restaurants and bars around the plaza have two-for-one happy hour. Try the exotic margaritas at **Agave** (happy hour 5p.m.-7p.m. daily) with flavors ranging from avocado, basil, cilantro, jalepeño, kiwi or peach. We recommend the pepino (cucumber) or jamaica (hibiscus). For dinner, walk over to the new restaurant, **Mi Loreto** (www.facebook.com/MiLoretoRestaurante/) where you can sit outside and people watch while enjoying enchiladas with mole sauce or chile relleno stuffed with banana.



DAY 2

Morning

Start the morning with a quick breakfast of *huevos rancheros* at **Café Ole** or pick up fresh pastries or a chocolate croissant from the bakery at **Pan Que Pan** for breakfast on the go. Then head out of town to the mountain village of San Javier. The beautiful drive through the Sierra de la Giganta is paved all the way to San Javier (except for a small section between Km 13 and 14) and the craggy and lush mountains provide a scenic background for the hour-long drive. Once at San Javier, the main attraction is the stunning stone mission, **Misión San Francisco Xavier de Viggé-Biaundó**. Don't miss taking a walk around the back of the mission, exploring the old gardens of the mission and stopping to see the 300-plus year old olive tree. There's an even older olive tree in town behind a row of buildings on the street leading to the mission. Ask at the artisan shop **Vigé Biandó Arts & Crafts** to have them point you in the right direction of the olive tree. While you're at the shop, don't forget to pick up a bottle of Damiana, a sweet herbal liqueur from Mexico believed to be an aphrodisiac.

Afternoon

Spend a relaxing afternoon lounging at **La Picazón** (www.facebook.com/LaPicazonLoreto). The space is less like a restaurant and more like a hip oasis lounge that just happens to serve food and drinks. The large open-air palapa sits right on the Sea of Cortez with a view of Isla Coronado, and has tables for dining, couches and arm chairs for lounging, and hammocks for resting. This is the type of place where you come to wile away the afternoon while sipping on margaritas and enjoying wraps, seafood, burgers, and salads. Owner and chef, Esmerelda is half of the reason that patrons keep frequenting La Picazon, with her warm hospitality and "mi casa es su casa" mantra. Located on a dirt road 8 kilometers north of Loreto, the location is off the beaten path and can be difficult to find, but that makes the paradise that awaits you all the more rewarding.

Evening

At some point in their time in Loreto, tourists, locals, Mexicans and gringos all find themselves at **Asadero Super Burro**. This glorified taqueria stand specializes in burros (giant burritos) made with melted cheese, savory meat, (they specialize in arrachera), and an accouterment of vegetables and salsas. Their papa rellenas (stuffed baked potatoes) are equally as filling and delicious. After dinner, head down to the malecón for a drink upstairs at **Augie's Bar & Bait Shop** (www.augiesbarloreto.net) to enjoy views of the Sea of Cortez. The party may move down the malecón to the owners' other spot, **Evening Shade**.

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DAY 3

Morning/Afternoon

No trip to Loreto is complete without taking a boat trip out onto the Sea of Cortez. Fishermen will want to head out on a fishing charter to have a shot at some of the yellowtail, dorado, cabrilla, and snapper in the area. Non-fishermen will love taking a boat out to explore the **Parque Marítimo Nacional Bahía de Loreto** (National Marine Park), a protected area and UNESCO World Heritage site comprised of five islands off the coast. Beautiful deserted island beaches with crystal clear turquoise waters, swimming with sea lions, world-class snorkeling, and cruising with pods of dolphin are just some of the treasures you may encounter.

Evening

If you caught fish earlier in the day, have it freshly prepared for you at any of the many restaurants in town that specialize in doing so. **La Palapa** (<http://restaurantlapalapaloreto.com/>) is a fun and popular spot for this, as is the **Giggling Dolphin Restaurant and Boat Bar** (tel. 613/109-9853), a large palapa space serving up seafood as well as beer and margaritas from the boat that's been converted to a bar.



RESOURCES

Maps:

The Got Baja? Loreto map is an indispensable guide to the region. Pick up your free copy in advance at the Discover Baja offices in San Diego or get the online version at www.gotbaja.mx.

Where to Stay:

Cabañas de Loreto (\$\$)

www.lascabanasdeloreto.com

Coco Cabañas (\$\$)

www.cococabanasloreto.com

Hostal Casa Loreto (\$)

011-52-613-116-7014

Villa del Palmar (\$\$\$)

www.villadelpalmarloreto.com

Getting There:

The airlines below fly into the Loreto Airport from the following cities:

Alaska Air: Los Angeles

Aéreo Calafia: Tijuana, La Paz, and Cabo

WestJet: Calgary (seasonal)

Loreto is about a 15 hour drive from San Diego. Cataviña or El Rosario are popular choices for an overnight stay on the drive down.

Sailing the Baja Ha-Ha



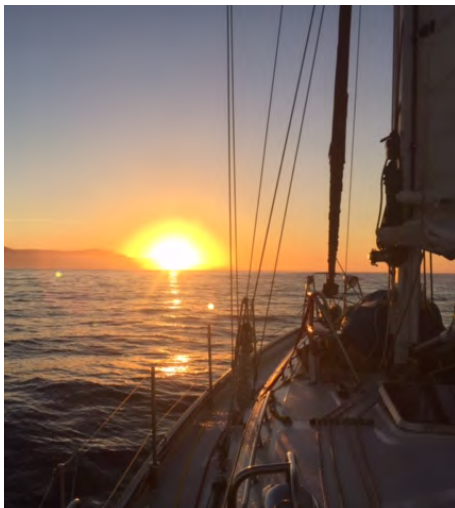
By Jeff Stansfield

Mid October 2015 fellow Ventura Yacht Club member Scott Nordeng and I left on the sailboat Joy for a journey south. With Scott's insistence we were off to participate in the Baja Ha-Ha. I had planned to head south to Mexico on Joy with my son, Mason, after he graduated from CU Boulder, leaving in early January 2016. Instead, Scott and I, along with Jeff Nelson (Catalina Island Harbor Patrolman), joined the Ha-Ha. It was a last minute endeavor and I was the very last entry of 135 boats. As it turned out, leaving

early in the year kept us on "pins and needles" watching hurricane Olaf and Patricia in October. Looking at the El Niño storms of December and January, I am very glad we went south early. The weather in Bendaris Bay is warm and calm most of the time with only a little rain now and then.

We left San Diego with the Ha-Ha fleet on October 26th and after a 54-hour passage (350 nautical miles) we arrived in Turtle Bay. There, we refueled with diesel and "rested" for two days. The rest included a quest for fish (Jeff found a fresh Grouper) to make a world class

ceviche, a baseball game with cruisers and local kids, a beach party (where we served the ceviche to the fleet), sail repairs for the fleet courtesy of Scott, and much socializing and getting to know all the players. After this "rest" we were off to Bahía Santa Maria, a 40-hour passage (250 Nautical miles). Bahía Santa Maria is a large bay at the north end of Magdalena Bay with fantastic holding ground, protection from the North Westerlies, a surf spot, an amazing estuary, and a year-round fishing village. Here we "rested" again for two days by surfing, socializing, dingy trips up the estuary, and capping it off with a beach party like no other. An enterprising fisherman brings in 1000 beers, serves fish dinner and brings in a rock and roll band from La Paz. They have to travel 150 miles and cross the bay by ferry (two pangas with a wood platform lashed to form a barge). The party is set up at a house on the cliff overlooking the anchorage. With the food, drinking, and music came the dancing...



Continued on next page 13

Continued from previous page

After two days of "resting" in beautiful Santa Maria Bay we left for the final leg of the Ha-Ha on a short 180 nautical mile trip to Cabo San Lucas. Here we were to "rest" for three days before the fleet all went their separate ways. The first order of business was the "check in to Mexico" the Ha-Ha had arranged for an agent to meet us all on the dock and provide "one stop shopping" for all the paperwork. Complying with the papers for Mexico is really simple if you know the drill. Each boat needs Mexican Liability Insurance and a 10-year "Temporary Import Permit" or TIP, these can be purchased on line ahead of time. Each boat needs a "Crew List", each crew member needs a Passport, and the "*Forma Migratoria Multiple*" or FMM. As a Ha-Ha participant you are able to purchase all these documents from the agent in Cabo, I joined the Discover Baja Travel Club and was able to get everything ahead of time.

The parties in Cabo were nonstop and the final big party is held at the legendary Squid Row bar. For me this was over the

top... Scott and I stayed until 11:00 and since the panga taxis were no longer running, we had to hitch a ride back to our rock and roll anchorage just outside the harbor entrance. Jeff stayed at the party late, and early the next morning he was on a bus to Todos Santos Village to visit his aunt and go surfing. Early the next morning (with still two parties left to go) Scott and I left for San Jose Del Cabo, there we would be able to get fuel and tie up in a slip, go out for a nice quiet meal and prepare for the next leg of the journey. By comparison to Cabo San Lucas San Jose is quiet, inexpensive and quaint. We stayed two nights and after Jeff rejoined us we headed south 300 nautical miles to Puerto Vallarta. This was the best sailing of the trip and we only ran the motor for a few hours the entire voyage. Our journey ended in La Cruz Marina where just like Captain Ron, Jeff Nelson left within one hour and headed south on a bus to go surfing. Scott stayed several days and flew home to Ventura and I stayed several weeks cleaning the boat, varnishing,

waxing and preparing to leave Joy for two months while I returned home for the holidays. All told we traveled 1100 nautical miles and had the time of our lives. Scott is a great friend and long time sailing companion, Jeff Nelson's knowledge of cruising techniques, command of the Mexican language, familiarity with anchorages and surf spots was second to none and his gregarious personality kept a vast supply of new friends coming our way.

Prices in Mexico:

Baja Ha Ha entrance fee \$350

Diesel Fuel in Turtle Bay \$5.00 per gallon

Tie up at the fuel dock in Cabo \$100 to \$200

Diesel Fuel in Cabo \$4.50 per gallon

Slip fee in Cabo \$100 to \$200 per night

Slip fee in San Jose \$65 per night

Diesel Fuel in San Jose \$3.15 per gallon

Slip at Marina La Cruz \$1000 per month

2 Beers & Guacamole at the Gecko Rojo in La Cruz \$5.00



BUEN PROVECHO: Wendlandt, Ensenada



By Jennifer Kramer

Just like its neighbor north of the border in San Diego, northern Baja has been growing its own craft beer movement over the past few years. Tijuana, Ensenada, and Mexicali all have a handful of *cervecerías artesanales* (craft breweries) that are putting out some good artisanal brews. One of the most popular breweries in Ensenada, Wendlandt just took home the prize for “2015 Best Brewery in Mexico” at the Copa Cerveza Mexico competition, which is Mexico’s version of the Great American Beer Festival. They also took home an additional five awards for individual beers. Pretty impressive for a brewery that just opened its doors in 2012.

Their core beers at Wendlandt consist of: The Veraniega (American Wheat), Vaquita Marina (Pale Ale), Hann Zomer (Saison),

Perro del Mar (India Pale Ale), Harry Polanco (Red Ale), Humpy Humpy (Amber Ale) and Foca Parlante (Stout). They also have special releases as well as collaboration beers with U.S. breweries such as Pizza Port and Alpine.

Wendlandt also has a partnership with Diego Hernandez, of famed restaurant Corazón de Tierra, and they together created TROIKA food truck in the Valle de Guadalupe (on the same property as Corazón de Tierra, La Villa del Valle B&B, and Vena Cava winery). Here you can get Wendlandt beers on tap and find the beer integrated into the food as well in items such as beer-battered tomatoes on the sliders.

There are two options for Wendlandt tasting rooms in Ensenada, each with a distinct feel (just in case you needed an

excuse to visit both). Their BrewPub is located in downtown Ensenada on Mexico 1. The dark and intimate space has a cozy gastropub feel with lots of brick and wood. Impressive chalk art and light fixtures made from wine bottles bring a modern and chic twist to the space. Tostadas, sliders, wings, and pizzas are on the food menu to accompany your beer.

The actual *cervecería* (brewery) is located in an old industrial warehouse north of town in El Sauzal. They host special events here and can give brewery tours and tastings if previously arranged. (011-52-646-174-7060)

Wendlandt

www.wendlandt.com.mx

Blvd. Costero #248

011-52-646-178-2938

6 p.m.-midnight Tuesday-Sunday,
closed Monday



**NEW
DATES!**



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

Stay at this Beautiful Beach Villa in La Salina and Help Change a Life!



Casa Corazón

Average nightly: \$214
4 bedroom, 4.5 bath, Sleeps 10
www.vrbo.com/682538

There are many places to enjoy in the beautiful Mexican Baja, but why not change a life while you enjoy your vacation? Staying at Casa Corazon is unique because every dollar spent at Casa Corazon is used to improve the lives of orphans in 12 different orphanages in the Baja. Casa Corazon was generously donated to **Corazon de Vida** (www.corazondevida.org), a non-profit foundation which has been supporting orphanages in Baja for twenty years. If you are interested in adding humanitarian service to your leisure and bringing food or assistance to an orphanage, we are more than happy to assist you. House rental includes daily cleaning services from 10 a.m. to noon.

Casa Corazon is located in the upscale marina community of La Salina just 45 minutes south of San Diego. At km 73, it offers the very best of BC located midway between Rosario and Ensenada. It's secure and 24 hour guard gated community provides a peace of mind while providing some of the most beautiful coastal vistas of Baja California. The Mexican Craftsman Villa is ideally set up for 2 families with 2 masters and 2 additional rooms with multiple beds for children or other guests. All bedrooms have ensuite bathrooms. Enjoy ocean views and panoramic ocean vista from the expansive rooftop terrace, perfect for dining and entertaining or quietly enjoying a majestic sunset. Each level of the home has a beautiful covered terrace complete with artisan Mexican tile floor and stunning ocean views. Enjoy cooking in the gourmet kitchen, or hire a local personal chef to delight your culinary desire. A welcome dinner is provided upon request by a local chef.

Enjoy the beautiful and serene private white sand beach just steps away from the villa. Soak in the sun, snorkel, rent a sailboat or fish just in your backyard. Just a 3 min. drive up the scenic highway, you can ride horses on the beach. A little further you can rent ATVs for a exhilarating experience with the dramatic backdrop of the Pacific Ocean. Try a famous lobster dinner at Puerto Nuevo, or go whale watching in Ensenada. Enjoy a tour of the nearby wine county in Valle de Guadalupe.

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 Rancho 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, Rancho 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 Rancho Mil website: www.RanchoMil.com.



SAN JOSE DEL CABO EAST CAPE RENTAL

This contemporary Mexican-style 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>

FOR SALE: Fully furnished Historical Landmark Mansion in downtown La Paz

Nine rooms & one suite with full bathrooms each, spacious Mexican kitchen and big living area with bar, big landscaped garden, office, laundry & two storage rooms, one secure parking space.

Independent two bedroom apartment with kitchen and two terraces and two full bathrooms (rental income per month USD\$1,000.00). Two independent shop spaces with bathrooms and street access (rental income per month USD\$900.00). All rooms, apartment, shops and living spaces with mini-split a/c units. The Hacienda is currently used as a Boutique Hotel. Ready for a business or a private home. USD\$950,000

Contact: www.elangelazul.com

