

BAJA NEWS

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



Being Prepared for El Niño

El Niño is the highly anticipated event for the season and Baja travelers should be aware that heavy rains can easily cause road and structural damages along the peninsula. We will keep you up-to-date with road closures and conditions on our Road Conditions Page (http://www.discoverbaja.com/baja-california-information/road-conditions).

The state department advises all travelers to register with the Smart Travelers Enrollment Program (STEP) so that they can reach you if there's an emergency in the area where you are traveling. https://step.state.gov/step/

Passport Still Required for SENTRI Card Holders

A reminder to all SENTRI card holders that Mexico does not recognize your SENTRI card as a form of identification. This means you must always travel with your passport or passport card in addition to your SENTRI card.

From the DBTC Office

Fall is in swing and it's a very busy time to head down the peninsula. Call us at 800-727-2252 or go online to www.discoverbajaonline.com for your Mexican auto insurance before heading south. Mexican fishing licenses, boat TIPs, books, maps and everything you need for your trip can be obtained through Discover Baja.

A reminder that everyone traveling in Mexico needs to have an FMM tourist permit. If you are staying for seven days or less, free FMMs are available at the border. All stays over seven days require a paid FMM. The easiest way to get a tourist permit is to get a prepaid FMM through Discover Baja. See www.discoverbaja.com/go/fmmtourist-permits for more information.

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: \$16.8 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 OCTOBER

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

OCTOBER 8-11 Baja Culinary Fest



This culinary event showcases the regional cuisine, wine and beer of northern Baja through keynote speakers, demo workshops, gourmet dinners and a culinary expo.

www.bajaculinaryfest.com

OCTOBER 9-11 Los Cabos Green Fest



The eco-friendly event combines sports, music, arts, health, and environmental education.

www.loscabosgreenfest.com

OCTOBER 14-18 Tijuana Tequila Expo



The biggest Tequila event in all of Mexico features tequila tastings as well as an artistic program with regional dance and music.

www.expo-tequila.com

OCTOBER 15-17 60th Anniversary of Mercado Hidalgo



The three days of celebration will feature a cooking contest, a night of concerts, and a general festival.

mercadomiguelhidalgo.com

OCTOBER 16-18 San Felipe Tequila and Mariachi Festival



Enjoy mariachis, norteño, and folkloric ballet along with tequila tastings from 50 brands.

OCTOBER 16-18 Mexican Folk Art Market



This market will feature
Mexican artisans, traditional
food, live music, and dancing.
www.facebook.com/
mexicanfolkartmarket

OCTOBER 20-29 Baja California Missions Trip













Join Baja and Missions expert David Kier on this once-in-alifetime trip to visit the Baja missions, rock art and other historical and natural sites. See page 6 for more.

OCTOBER 24 "The Baja Kitchen Dinner"



Feast on six gourmet courses, each from one of Baja's famous chefs. All courses are paired with a local wine or beer. Dinner will be held at Rancho La Puerta in Tecate. www.rancholapuerta.com

OCTOBER 25 Daylight Savings Time Ends – Baja California SUR



Set your clock back an hour if you're in Baja California Sur. Baja California norte and California don't change until November 1

Día de los Muertos: Nov. 1-2

Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a Mexican holiday that focuses on remembering friends and family members who have died. Families construct elaborate altars in memory of loved ones who have passed away and decorate the altars with marigold flowers, photos of loved ones and food that the deceased liked to eat. Pan de muerto (sweet rolls) and sugar skulls are traditional treats and La Calavera Catrina skeleton has become somewhat of an icon for the holiday.

If you can't make it south of the border, there's a celebration at the Oceanside Mission (San Luis Rey) on October 25.





El Gran Concierto de Mariachi: Dec. 12

El Gran Concierto de Gala del Mariachi will be a grand concert in Baja California that combines the best of Mariachi with the timeless aesthetics of symphonic arrangement. The event will be held at the Baja California Center (the new convention center in Rosarito) on Saturday, December 12, 2015. The concert will feature the Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan combined with a bi-national USA/Mexico sixty-four-piece symphony orchestra conducted by Maestro Jose Flores to perform never-before-heard arrangements by Sr. Rueben Fuentes.

The concert will benefit charitable organizations in Baja California and San Diego. Funds raised support new and current Youth Symphony Orchestras and Mariachi Academies designed to foster and promote Orchestral and Mariachi Music as a refined musical genre worldwide. Artists: Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan, José Guadalupe Flores Almaraz, Director General Orquesta Filarmónica de Querétaro, Sixty-four-piece bi-national symphony orchestra. For more information: **bajaconcert.com**

Baja Culinary Fest: Oct 8-11



The 2015 Baja Culinary Fest will take place October 8-11, 2015. This culinary event showcases the regional cuisine, wine and beer of northern Baja. The festival will feature keynote speakers, demo workshops, gourmet dinners and a culinary expo. If you have yet to explore the culinary scene that's bourgeoning in northern Baja, this is a great opportunity to experience it.

There's a large Opening Night Dinner on October 8 at CECUT that will feature the "Pioneers of Baja California's Cuisine." Other special dinners will be held at individual restaurants during the festival. For more information: www.bajaculinaryfest.com

3

What do you want to see in the next Baja Moon Handbook?

We're excited to announce that Discover Baja's own Jennifer Kramer (who brings you this newsletter each month) is writing the next edition of the Baja Moon Handbook and she wants to hear from you! What do you want to see in the next edition of Moon Baja? What hasn't been covered before but should be? Do you know a restaurant, hotel or attraction that deserves to be considered for inclusion? Let us know at:

www.discoverbaja.com/moonbaja



Rosarito Underwater Park

Plans to sink a ship to create an artificial reef and underwater park for divers in Rosarito are well underway. The Uribe 121, a Mexican Naval patrol vessel, is being prepared to be sunk off the coast from Puerto Nuevo/Primo Tapia area in November. The ship will be the first vessel intentionally sunk in Northwestern Mexico.



The sunken ship will have four areas for diving. The bow area will contain concrete sculptures recreating an underwater art gallery. Next will be a tribute to the Titanic (partly in homage to the movie of the same name that was filmed close to the site). Mid ship will be a pre-Hispanic Atlantis sculpture collection with replicas of Aztec calendars, Olmec heads, figures of pre-Hispanic gods and pyramids. At the aft of the ship will be the ship graveyard, originally the helicopter pad and machine shop. There will also be a museum on land in Puerto Nuevo which will give patrons a chance to experience real-time footage of the underwater experience on the ship through cameras placed a round the vessel. For more information: www.rosaritounderwaterpark.com



From the DBTC Baja Shop:



This Discover Baja t-shirt was designed specifically with our members in mind. DBTC logo on the back and "members only" on the front. Don't explore the peninsula without it!

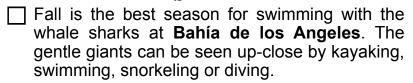
\$14.60-16.60 for members Available in sizes S-XXXL

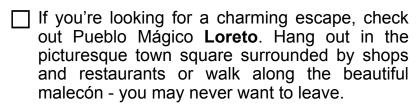
Purchase online:
https://squareup.com/
market/discover-baja/
members-only-discoverbaja-t-shirt

Or call the office at 800-727-2252

Fall Baja Checklist

If you're looking for a bit of inspiration for your next trip south, we've put together a few ideas for some exciting Baja adventures this season!



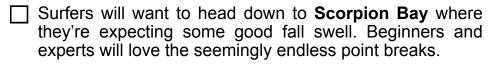


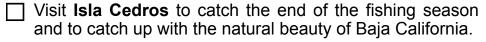


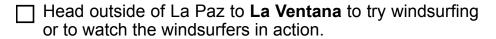


Now that the rush of the fiestas de la Vendimia are over, it's the perfect time to visit the **Valle de Guadalupe**. Don't know how to find the best wineries or just want to leave the task of navigating the dirt roads to someone else so that you can focus on drinking wine? Consider taking a custom tour with Baja Test Kitchen (see page 7 for more information).

Take a trip over to **San Felipe** to catch their famous shrimp festival in November. Don't forget to check out the Valle de los Gigantes and snap your photo with a huge cardón cactus while you're there.











Check out the Spanish Missions of Baja as well as rock art and other historical sites along the peninsula with expert David Kier on the **Baja Missions Trip**, **Oct. 20-29** (see page 6).

☐ The blue waters and white sandy shores of Bahía Concepcion are a thing of dreams and now that the summer heat has subsided, there's nothing holding you back from making those dreams a reality.









Baja California Missions Trip

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

October 20-29, 2015







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



Discover Baja is pleased to introduce Baja Test Kitchen, our new sister company (run by Jen Kramer and her husband, Chris Mejia) that offers custom-designed wine and food tours to Mexico's Valle de Guadalupe wine region. BTK is dedicated to the exploration of Baja California's emergent culinary movement and offers curated "tasting tours" of Northern Baja's most renowned eateries, wineries and craft breweries.

Whether you're a group of two or 20, looking for a daytrip or a weekend excursion, BTK will create a unique itinerary catering to your group's tastes. From famous hole-in-the-wall taco stands and craft breweries to elegant five-star eateries and boutique wineries, BTK tasting tours are designed to showcase the best that Northern Baja's culinary scene has to offer.

For more information about Baja Test Kitchen and their wine, food and craft beer tasting tours, visit their website at www.bajatestkitchen.com and follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BajaTestKitchen







BAJA FISHING REPORT

with Gary Graham

The five-village Pesca La Baja series that we have followed through their tour, along with their 700 fishing participants, came to an explosive end in Ensenada. Some concluded that the "El Nino of 2015" just keeps on giving. Let's be clear here: This entire report is influenced by that notion. So here we go...

Roberto Valadez Garcia from Mexicali won second place with his historic catch of a blue marlin weighing 318 pounds, the largest ever caught in Ensenada. There were also two wahoo weighed in, another first for that event.





While there are still yellowtail at the Coronado Islands, between the Mexican gunboat and the sea lions, most anglers are staying clear of the area and fishing in the blue water outside the Islands with extraordinary results. They have been taking many of the fish normally found farther down the Baja Coast -- striped, blue and black marlin, as well as dorado, yellowfin tuna and wahoo.

There are more wahoo down the Baja coast than I have ever seen. If you have never fished for them, the Marauders are the hot ticket. These heavy lures swim deep and can either be rigged with wire or

LEFT: Wahoo caught at the Pesca la Baja grand finale. RIGHT: Levi pulled that 39-pounder out of San Quintin Bay.

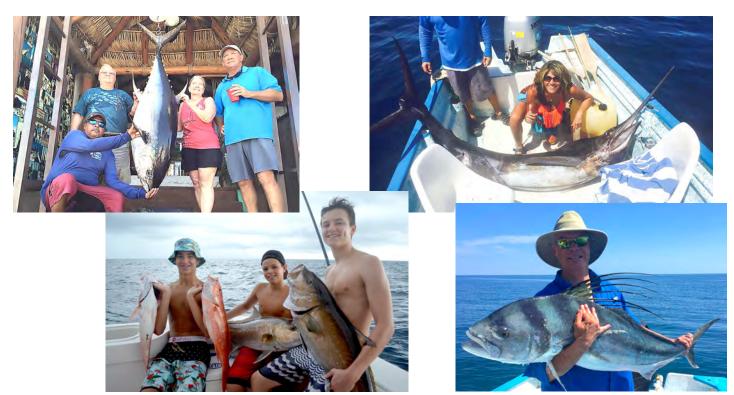
heavy fluorocarbon (100 pound). The difference between the two is that the leader will be bit more often than the wire; however, more lures will be lost.

Color does matter and unless a fishing buddy has some suggestions, switch colors around until you figure it out. We usually have a collection of spray paints and if we have a favorite color we just touch them up when paint gets chewed off by the wahoo's sharp teeth.

The offshore action is similar to that found from outside the Coronado's all the way down to Magdalena Bay. Other oddities showing are short-billed spearfish and sailfish with catches reported at Cedros and off Ensenada.

From Ensenada down to Punta Baja, around the islands as well as inshore, the good fishing includes yellowtail, with a few white seabass mixed in, plus always the prospect of limits of rockfish. Also tuna and dorado are found just outside San Martin to round out the list.

Recent squalls that swept up Baja dumped torrential rains in some areas. At Bahia de Los Angeles, fishing was reduced to mostly bottom fish for a time. Dorado and yellowtail are down but not out, and the bite should resume as the weather returns to sunny and hot days.



TOP LEFT: Jeff Hamm's catch down near Los Cabos area. TOP RIGHT: Angela Farrell with her blue marlin. BOTTOM LEFT: The Neilson boys with amberjack at Rancho Leonero. BOTTOM RIGHT: nice-sized roosterfish

Continued from previous page

Back on the Pacific side, the entire Viscaino Peninsula, from Turtle Bay to Abreojos, is reporting wahoo, tuna and a sprinkling of billfish farther offshore.

At Magdalena Bay, reports are that sea temps are in the low 80's on the banks outside Lopez Mateos. Fishing is good but not great. Bill Erhardt fished there recently and caught five wahoo and one tuna, but it took six hours to do it. Calm days are few and far between. Not a lot of wind, but usually between 10 to 15 knots which makes going and coming, as well as boating fish in a small boat, uncomfortable.

There have also been reports of a growing number of billfish showing up on the Thetis.

Punta Chivato had their access road flooded during the recent rains and repairs are underway. And while we are on the subject, there were wash outs reported near Loreto and between Constitution and La Paz.

Not to be outdone, Loreto also reported six inches of rain which put a dampener on the fishing for a few days. The commercial handline fishermen have been out since then and they report that their spots are producing normally ... reds, triggers with a few firecrackers and barred pargo.

Bait fishing has been restricted to the deeper spots away from the coast. The exception to that is the big-eyed jacks that are hitting trolled Sabikis outside of the Marina before sunrise.

Plus one sport boat from Tripui/ Escondido area fished the north side of Coronado and got limits of 20-pound (on average) yellowtail.

Live mackerel are being caught by the bait suppliers off the south side of Coronado at night. Lots of mackerel is the report, so it looks like another heavy yellowtail season according to local Rick Hill.

La Paz and Las Arenas endured its share of rain as well, according to Jonathan Roldan at Tailhunters International. However the catches have been impressive.

Angela Farrell, fishing out of Las Arenas, battled this huge blue marlin for almost two hours with the big fish pulling the panga around. The fish was not able to be released so the meat was donated to the pueblo of nearby San Pedro.

Still some nice-sized roosterfish there as well.

"Good fishing but different" is the story at East Cape. With bottom fishing producing a mixed bag catch -- including some whopper amberjack for the Neilson boys staying at Rancho Leonero.

Farther down Baja's tip, the larger tuna are filtering in as Jeff Hamm's catch confirms. Lots of small dorado and tuna account for the influx of the larger blue and black marlin that are the focus of a number of tournaments during October.

That wraps up the slightly soggy update with unbridled anticipation for what the "El Nino" thingy may offer in October.

Good Luck and Tight Lines...

Questions or comments are e l С 0 garyg@garycgraham.com

9





Join MexMike Essary with Baja Custom Tours and Baja author Graham Mackintosh for a 11 day/10 night all-inclusive trip to see the friendly gray whales of Baja California.

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 March 16 – March 23, 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 tranguil waters of the Rio Hardy and is surrounded by thousands of acres of open desert. Major repairs are needed, and can be completed on site by 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 aseguias (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.

