



July 2013 Newsletter



Graham Mackintosh: Thirty Years of Baja Adventures

We're excited to announce that Discover Baja Travel Club is restarting our lecture series, bringing you presentations from some of the most knowledgeable and entertaining experts on the Baja peninsula. We're kicking off the series with the legendary Graham Mackintosh who has been exploring and writing about Baja for over 30 years.



Graham is the author of four books on Baja, including *Into a Desert Place*, which was first published in 1988 and tells of his almost two-year, 3000-mile solo walk around the peninsula coastline. The journey, which began in 1983, won him the 1986 British "Adventurous Traveler of the Year Award" in London. His other books are *Journey With A Baja Burro*, *Nearer My Dog to Thee*, and *Marooned With Very Little Beer*.

Graham's fascination with the wonderful deserts, mountains, islands, and people of Baja has never abated and will be the subject of the evening's presentation. For those of you who have never heard Graham present before, you're in for a very special treat. Please call the DBTC office at 800.727.2252 or email ask@discoverbaja.com to RSVP.

WHEN: Wednesday, July 31st 7pm

WHERE: A16 San Diego: 4620 Alvarado Canyon Rd.
San Diego, CA 92120 619.283.2374

JULY 4TH DBTC OFFICE CLOSURE

Discover Baja will be closed Thursday July 4th. We will be open Friday July 5th and closed on the weekend July 6th and 7th. Happy 4th!

PEMEX PRICES:

Magna: \$3.35/gal
Premium: \$3.51/gal
Diesel: \$3.39/gal

PESO EXCHANGE RATE:

As of June 28th, the Mexican peso was exchanging at 12.9 to 1 U.S. dollar.



Discover Baja is partnering with the new "Baja Joe" from Baja's Back Now. You may have heard the commercials on the radio or seen articles on "Baja Joe" in the *Baja Times* or *San Diego Reader*. We're working together to let people know that Baja is a safe and fun place to go. If you have friends who are still doubtful about Mexico, please send them to the site for information.

www.bajasbacknow.com



The Guadalupe Valley Fiestas de la Vendimia, or wine harvest festival, will take place this year from August 2-18. Along with the usual tastings and tours that take place throughout the valley, there are special ticketed events taking place at specific wineries each evening. Tickets for the evening events do cost money and are in limited quantity, so we recommend contacting the specific wineries now.

Hotels in the valley book up quickly. If you're planning on staying the night in Baja, it may be easier to find a hotel in Ensenada or Rosarito and then make the short drive to the valley for the wine festivities.

www.fiestasdelavendimia2013.com and www.provinoac.org have calendars listing the events taking place during the festival. For more information and to purchase tickets for the events, you can contact the wineries directly. www.provinoac.org lists all of the contact information for the individual wineries and events.

Festival Highlights

- Each Saturday during the festival: Provino AC is providing "visitas enologicas" bus tours. Each excursion includes a visit to three wineries and is guided by an experienced wine expert.*
 - August 3rd: Reception, auction and dinner gala at Adobe Guadalupe. (\$150 USD)*
 - August 4th: Spend the afternoon enjoying wine, regional food and live music at Vina de Liceaga. (350 pesos)*
 - August 11th: Special event at famed restaurant LAJA featuring wines from Moebius. (820 pesos)*
 - If you haven't been to the new Museum of Vine and Wine yet, don't miss the chance to learn about the history of the Guadalupe Valley and the winemaking process.*
- www.museodelvinobc.org



1. Ensenada

Who it's for: Families, couples, anyone looking for a fun or relaxing weekend featuring the city and beach.

What to do: Avenida Lopez Mateos (Calle Primera) is full of shops with beautiful leather goods, Mexican artisan crafts and lively cafes. If you've never made it to the legendary Hussong's Cantina, stop in to have a cerveza at the bar that's been frequented by figures such as Bing Crosby, Marilyn Monroe and John Wayne in the 120 years that it's been open. Just south of town, enjoy the breathtaking drive out to La Bufadora to take in the famous blowhole and to get your fill of seafood.

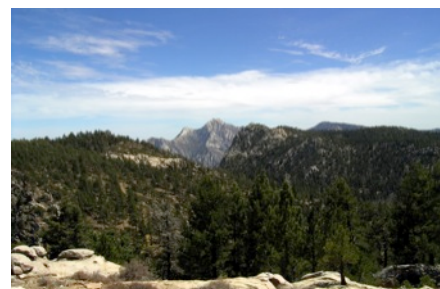
Where to eat: You can't go wrong at El Rey Sol, Mexico's

oldest French restaurant (don't miss the pastries!). Mariscos Bahia de Ensenada is famed for its fabulous seafood. Or if you follow the foodie scene, La Guerrerense seafood cart, with 15 types of ceviches, has been featured by the likes of Anthony Bourdain and *Newsweek*.

alone (few trails are marked so you'll need a GPS or topographic maps). San Pedro Martir is also home to the rare borregon (bighorn sheep) and the world-class National Astronomical Observatory. With several large telescopes, the observatory is open to the public but hours are limited and vary by season.

Where to stay: Self-contained camping is permitted within the park. For those less adventurous,

the nearby Meling Ranch offers wonderful accommodations and is a great jumping-off point for lots of activities the area has to offer with mountain biking, fishing, swimming, horseback riding and hiking guides for hire.



Three "cool" weekend getaways

If the heat of summer has you pining for the cool ocean or mountain breezes, check out or rediscover these three easy weekend destinations where the temperatures stay moderately cool even in the hottest months of the year.

3. San Quintin

Who it's for: Fishermen, surfers, water-sport enthusiasts, anyone looking for a deserted-beach getaway.

What to do: San Quintin is an excellent area for surf casting and inshore fishing with a highly concentrated supply of fish. You can charter a fishing boat from various places around town. San Quintin also attracts windsurfers, kiteboarders and surfers with spots like Playa Santa Maria and Pabellon. The nearby San Martin Island is a great spot for divers, kayakers and fishermen alike. Or spend the afternoon on the deserted beaches taking in the sand dunes or doing some clam digging.

Where to eat: The Hotel Jardines opened its restaurant to rave reviews. It's also a lovely option for lodging. Cieto Lindo Motel's bar and restaurant is an old San Quintin standby for seafood and margaritas.

Where to stay: Hotel Mision Santa Maria offers nice accommodations with a prime location on a stretch of deserted beach. If you're a true angler, the Old Mill Motel, which occupies the old gristmill site, has been a modest favorite for decades.

Queen of Tequila Tours

Our good friend Mike Essary, owner of Baja Custom Tours, has joined forces with the Queen of Tequila to invite their guests for an afternoon of decadent gourmet indulgence in Tijuana. The day trip includes round-trip transportation from San Diego with gourmet chocolate tasting, shopping on Revolucion, a Tequila tutorial and tasting, topped off with a three-course dinner at Caesars.

www.queenoftequila.com



FOR SALE IN ROSARITO:

Listed at only \$85,000 USD but we accept offers; owner very motivated to sell - MAKE US AN OFFER WE CAN'T REFUSE!

This home is a perfect, affordable retirement home. It's very comfortable and it's ready to build on a second story if you wish. Hurry! Information:

http://www.bajaoceanside.com/Rosarito/Baja_California/Homes/Puesta_del_Sol/Agent/Listing_12424415.html

CASITA IN TRIPUI

Beautiful, completely-furnished, turn-key house available in Tripui, south of Loreto. Space A-19, with parking and patio in front and cactus garden in the back.



Living area has two-ton air conditioner and four ceiling fans. Includes TV-VCR, Telmex telephone, landline with internet connection.

Bedroom has walk-in closet, and full bathroom with tub. Lots of storage, drawers, bookcase, leather sofa with end tables. Kitchen area has two refrigerators, chest freezer and gas stove top. Dining area has tile table with six chairs. Mexican dishes and pots and pans included. Detached brick bodega with hot water heater, washer and dryer, sink, toilet and plenty of storage space. Just \$95,000 USD. Local phone 133-0504, or US phone 619 467-5958.