



September 2013 Newsletter

Shorter Border Waits Coming Soon to San Ysidro

The San Ysidro northbound border had all of its double-stacked 25 lanes (50 booths) open to vehicles for a test weekend August 16-18. Border waits were drastically reduced with some waits reported at just over 15 minutes! A portion of the lanes closed down again on August 19th for the construction of a new canopy that will serve as an architectural landmark as well as provide energy efficiency and added security. Sections

of lanes will be closed down, working from east to west, over the next few months to allow for this construction. Currently lanes 2-9 are closed until the middle of September. The U.S. General Services Administration, who is in charge of the new border crossing, expects to have all of the lanes reopened again in time for the holiday season in a few months. We think a short border wait will be the best holiday gift we could ever ask for!

PEMEX PRICES:

Magna: \$3.47/gal
Premium: \$3.63/gal
Diesel: \$3.51/gal

PESO EXCHANGE RATE:

13.3 to \$1 U.S. dollar

SOCIALIZE WITH DBTC

If you just can't get enough of us (who could blame you?), and you're looking for more Baja information and updates, we've got you covered! Follow us on the social media platforms below where we're all Baja, all the time. Also be sure to check out our new blog –

discoverbaja.wordpress.com (you can also find a link to it on our homepage at discoverbaja.com). If you have a story to submit to our blog, email us at ask@discoverbaja.com



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ON OUR RADAR FOR SEPTEMBER

SEPT 4-8

National Surf Games of Rosarito

- The pier at Rosarito Beach
- Come watch the best surfers in Mexico competing for waves and the title.



SEPT 5-15

Mexico Fest in Vancouver

- mexicofest.ca
- Vancouver, Canada
- For our friends up north, Mexico is coming to you with a festival celebrating the cultural wonders of Mexico. Don't miss the grand fiesta on Sept 7th.



SEPT 16

Mexican Independence Day

- On September 16, 1810, a Catholic priest, Miguel Hidalgo, rang the church bell in the small town of Dolores, Mexico and called for the people to rise up against Spain. This event, known as "El Grito de la Independencia" or "Grito Dolores" (grito means cry) marked the beginning of the Mexican War of Independence.
- These days, the celebration starts on the night of Sept 15th when the Mexican President rings the bell of the National Palace in Mexico City (the same bell, brought from Dolores, that Hidalgo rang) and recites a "grito" similar to the one delivered in 1810.
- Expect fiestas, fireworks, chile en nogada, and tequila to celebrate. ¡Viva Mexico!



SEPT 18-22

Baja Seafood Expo in Ensenada

- bajaseafoodexpo.com
- This exhibition is a chance for the food industry and the public to come together to present the local seafood products from Ensenada
- One of the most exciting events of the expo will be the "35th Fish and Seafood Festival" on the 22nd with local seafood, wine, beer and entertainment.



SEPT 26

Discover Baja Member Dinner at Romesco in San Diego

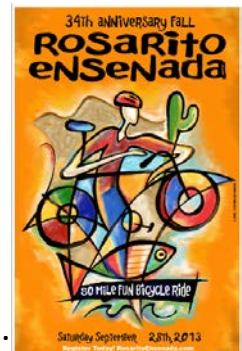
- If you're in the San Diego area, please join the DBTC staff and other DBTC members for dinner at Romesco restaurant in Bonita at 7pm.
- romescobajamed.com
- See our article on the next page



SEPT 28

Fall Rosarito Ensenada Bike Ride

- rosaritoensenada.org
- A 50-mile bicycle ride that goes from Rosarito Beach to Ensenada
- After the ride, enjoy the "Finish Line Fiesta" with food, drinks and live music until sunset.



DBTC Dinner Club: Romesco

Please join us on Thursday, September 26th at 7 pm for a special dinner at famed restaurant Romesco in Bonita, San Diego.

We're restarting DBTC Dinner Club where DBTC staff and members will get together at restaurants for an evening of dining and socializing. We'll be kicking off the series with a restaurant north of the border and will work our way south of the border with subsequent dinners. This is a chance for you to get together with other Baja lovers, make some new friends and explore new restaurants.

Romesco is owned by the Plascencia family from Tijuana. They own four of the five top-

rated restaurants in TJ—Mision 19, Villa Saverios, Caesars and Casa Plascencia. Romesco is their only restaurant in the U.S. and is known for the phenomenal tapas that echo Mexican street snacks.

You'll be responsible for your own bill, but we're working out a special deal for our group. Please email us at ask@discoverbaja.com if you're interested in joining in on this special dinner. For more information on Romesco: romescobajamed.com



DISCOVER BAJA MEETUP at Paradise Cove

Jen will be hosting a Meetup for all Discover Baja members and other Baja lovers at Paradise Cove Tiki Bar and Grill in Rosarito (km 36 on the free road, just south of Calafia) on Wednesday October 2 from 6:30 to 8:30. Join us for a casual night of mingling, pupus and margaritas. If you haven't experienced Paradise Cove yet, get ready for a fun bar with a 70s Hawaiian vibe, fabulous outdoor space, killer food and drinks and friendly staff. Come and bring your friends!

For more information, see our Meetup invite:

www.meetup.com/Discover-Baja-Meetup/events/138399372/

or email

ask@discoverbaja.com



There's a new website we love that shows how safe it is to travel to Mexico compared to other parts of the world and the U.S. The data will have you jumping at the next chance to get down to Baja.
www.howsafeismexico.com



100% OF THE NET PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CLUB DE NIÑOS Y NIÑAS DE ROSARITO

MARIACHI Y BALLET FOLKLORICO
COMPETENCIA MEXICO VS USA
4TH ANNUAL EDITION

OCTOBER 2ND THRU 6TH @ ROSARITO BEACH HOTEL
Extravaganza concert, Saturday Oct. 5th; seating begins at 6p.m.
Mexican Film premiers of 'Canto de Familia,' 'A Mexican Sound,' and 'Mariachi High'
Student Workshops/Showcase/Professional Performances/Sing-Off Competition

El Mejor del Mundo
Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán

Alto Apogeo
Mariachi Teseo de Teseo
Gabriela Tapia
Mariachi Aguayo de Toluca
Arnel de la Sosa

Grammy Award Winners
The Mariachi Divas

Mariachi Voz de America
Juno Seki
Mariachi Sordo de Mexico
Olga Flores and Friends

Ballet Folklórico Interoceanico
Angel Lopez
Ballet Folklórico Tapatio
Beto Jimenez

Mariachi & Folklórico groups representing México and the USA battle for two days to win their share of over **\$10,000 IN PRIZE MONEY.**

MARIACHI DIVAS COMING TO ROSARITO

The Mariachi y Ballet Folklórico Festival will be taking place at the Rosarito Beach Hotel from October 2-6. The event features three days of instruction and workshops to teach young Mariachi and Folklórico dancers.

There will also be a concert on Saturday, October 5th at 6pm that will feature the Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan and the Grammy award-winning Mariachi Divas. It promises to

be an entertaining evening. 100% of proceeds benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Rosarito, a non-profit organization that helps local at-risk children.

You can also get involved by sponsoring a student for the workshops which helps to keep Mariachi and Folklórico culture alive in Mexico. For tickets, sponsorship and more information:

www.rosaritobeachmariachifolkloricofestival.com

ENTIJUANARTE: THE TJ ART SCENE



If there's a cultural sensation in Tijuana growing nearly as fast as the food scene, it's the art scene. With the pasajes (little covered alleyways with small storefronts that have been converted into studios and galleries) making a comeback in Tijuana, the city has a burgeoning and accessible art and gallery scene. That art

scene will be celebrated Oct 4-6 during Entijuanarte, a festival to promote the exhibition and sale of local and foreign artists. Mediums such as painting, sculpture, photography, drawing, printmaking digital media, installation and performance art will be represented and crowds of over 60,000 are



expected. Entijuanarte will take place at CECUT, the Tijuana Cultural Center. For more information:

www.entijuanarte.com

DBTC STAFF PENINSULA PICKS: FALL VACATIONS

There's no time like the fall to travel to Baja. The temperate weather is ideal for all activities and perfect for road trips down the peninsula or weekend trips full of wine tasting and lobster feasts. Here's where the DBTC staff is hoping to travel to this season:



I'd love to take my family down to La Paz to visit friends and enjoy the beautiful beaches such as Playa Balandra and Tecolote. La Paz is so wonderful for strolling along the Malecon and enjoying paletas de nieve when it's hot out. And I never miss tacos de mantararraya for breakfast! –Maythé

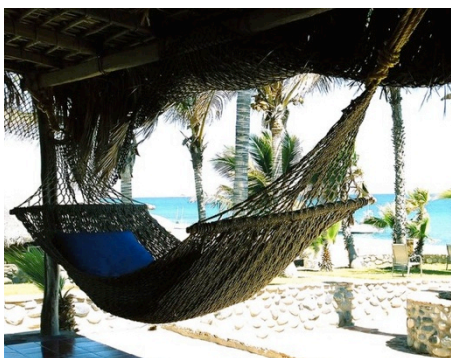


I'd like my next Baja trip to be to Cabo Pulmo. I can't wait to stay at the El Encanto de Cabo Pulmo and snorkel the reef where the fish mass has increased over 400% in the last few years—heaven! -Carol

I'm looking forward to weekend trips throughout the Sierra de Juarez and San Pedro Martir; staying on ranches, hiking through the incredible mountains and riding off into the sunset like the vaqueros. -Jen



I'm working on planning a family road trip through Baja to visit the gray whales at San Ignacio this winter and stopping at destinations along the way: Puerto Nuevo for lobster (we'll probably stop both ways!), El Rosario for dinner at Mama Espinoza's and a night at Baja Cactus, and Ignacio Springs for a stay in the yurts and some kayaking. -Monica

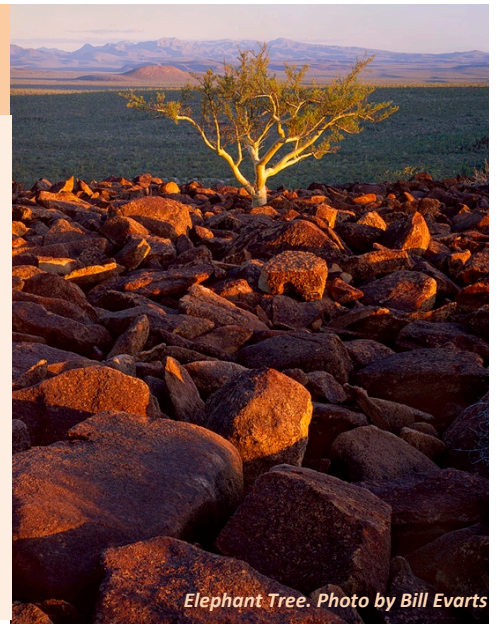


Autumn is my favorite season in Baja. And leave me at one of the East Cape resorts for a week and I'd be overcome with peace, tranquility and total relaxation. Make that Rancho Leonero and I'd be in heaven. Maybe it's the remoteness, maybe the tropical setting, maybe the beautiful sandy beach with offshore reefs and fabulous snorkeling. Or maybe, just maybe, it's lying in my favorite hammock overlooking the pool and the beach, feeling the soothing breezes and listening to Jimmy Buffett! When do we leave? -Hugh

Q&A with Baja Icon Bill Evarts

Bill Evarts has been photographing the landscapes of California and Baja California for decades. His work has appeared in national and regional calendars, books and magazines. He was commissioned for the photography and text for the book "Torrey Pines: Landscape and Legacy," a 1994 publication about Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. He's had major solo exhibits in Fresno, Palm Springs and San Diego as well as participated in various group exhibitions. His photographs from Baja were included in the San Diego Natural History Museum's exhibit, "Desert and Sea," which was displayed at the Smithsonian.

We asked him to answer a few questions about his travels in Baja, his photography and the non-profit that he and his wife started to provide health services to under-served communities in Baja--Amigos de los Californios. For more of Bill's work, go to billevarts.com



Elephant Tree. Photo by Bill Evarts

What was your first trip to Baja?

In 1952, our family camped at Laguna Hanson in the Sierra de Juárez. A friend of my father came along with his tiny Willy's Jeep as insurance should our overloaded station wagon get stuck or break down. I remember meadows full of wildflowers.

What's your favorite photo you've taken in Baja?

I am still partial to a shot I took 15 years ago of a lone elephant tree growing in a jumble of

volcanic blocks east of San Ignacio. I had hiked around the area unsuccessfully for several hours, and when I was ready to give up and hike back to camp, I noticed how the setting sun spotlighted the tree and foreground through a notch in the western skyline. I had only a couple of minutes to set up my view camera on the loose boulders and take a picture before all was in shadow. Landscape photography is as much about luck as skill, and one often has to make haste slowly.

What's your most memorable "Baja moment"?

One profound moment was the first time I saw Cueva Pintada. We arrived at the bottom of Arroyo San Pablo after dusk, too tired and late to appreciate our surroundings. In the morning, we were led along the canyon floor and then scrambled up a steep slope to the base of a cliff. As I peered up through the cholla at the top of our climb, I was moved to tears when I saw the immense paintings before me. It was comparable to the first time I saw the Parthenon in Athens.

Another humbling experience was on Isla Rasa in the Gulf. After several hot days, I was more than ready for an al fresco solar shower behind the tiny research station. As I doffed the last of my clothes and began to lather up, a nesting gull a few feet away began to cackle. Within seconds, thousands of others had joined the chorus. I felt as though I was on stage and the entire audience was roaring with laughter.



Mesa del Carmen Petroglyphs. Photo by Bill Evarts

Tell us about how you started your clinic, Amigos de los Californios.

Nearly 20 years ago, when Sue and I were returning from a visit to friends in the Sierra de San Francisco, a young man stepped out of his goat pens and flagged us down by the side of the road. His jaw was terribly swollen and he wanted some aspirin for his "toothache." The image stuck in my memory, and I described it to my dentist a year later. He casually mentioned he had done field clinics before and that compact dental equipment was available. The lights went on! By the end of my appointment, I had recruited him and part of his staff to join us the following spring. Within days we had ten volunteers. We would provide the logistics—food, transportation, camping gear, etc., and they their professional skills. What a learning curve!

We saw our clinic as a way to provide a needed service to the entire community, available

free of charge to anyone who wanted to attend. Prior to that we had brought food and clothes to our friends, but the distribution was always inequitable and actually generated some ill will and resentment.

After several clinics, we officially incorporated and became Amigos de los Californios. We are now planning our 18th season and visit the communities of San Francisco and Santa Martha in the Sierra de San Francisco, plus a satellite station in San Ignacio. Our staff runs between 15-20 each year. The logistics are a bit more complicated because we take everything with us—generators, air compressors, custom dental stations, sterilizers, a field kitchen and food for two weeks, camping gear, and backups for our backups. With our bilingual, binational staff, we offer general dental services, including restorative work and on site denture fabrication. Our medical volunteers are also very

popular, and have been able to diagnose some serious problems.

Although the clinic hours are long, and Amigos requires work all year long, we continue to be overwhelmed by the gratitude our patients show us—from gifts of fresh goat cheese and tortillas to elaborate school plays and even our own corrido, or ballad. A whole generation of mountain children is cavity free and their beaming smiles melt our hearts every year.

For more information about this non profit, 501(c)3 organization, please visit:

amigosdeloscalifornios.org

What would be your dream trip to Baja?

To circumnavigate the Sierra de San Francisco, from San Ignacio to Mission Santa Gertrudis and back by mule. By following the Camino Real and its various branches, this would offer a lush blend of scenery, cave paintings, history, and ranches.



Bill and his father on a trip to Baja in 1952. Photo courtesy of Bill Evarts



Bill and his wife, Sue, on an Amigos clinic



Laguna Hanson. Photo by Bill Evarts

Super Ley Express Now Open in Loreto



Loreto finally has its first big chain supermarket with a new Super Ley Express that opened in August. The store, located on Independencia between Heroes de Independencia and Padre Kino in the Colonia Centro is a one-stop-shop for groceries, clothing, appliances and

household items. With well-stocked shelves, competitive prices and even people to cook your purchased meat outside the store, it's no wonder the Ley has been extremely busy since opening. Next up for Loreto – a Coppel!

DBTC INSIDER TIP:

A reminder that alcohol purchased in a duty-free shop (or homemade wine) is subject to duty and federal excise taxes when crossing the border back into California from Mexico.

For more information:

[https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/190/~/bringing-alcohol-\(including-homemade-wine\)-to-the-u.s.-for-personal-use](https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/190/~/bringing-alcohol-(including-homemade-wine)-to-the-u.s.-for-personal-use)



IRON SPRINGS RANCH IN TECATE FOR SALE – \$355,000

Working ranch with over 50 head of cattle on 69.5 acres with natural springs and Cottonwood and Tecate Cypress trees. Three primary houses situated around a central courtyard. Property also includes corrals, pig house, bunk house, red barn, guest house, pump house, and an unfinished house with incredible views. Owner has clear title to property. Livestock not included in list price. Please call Ross Buck at 760-230-0229 or Debra O'Leary at 858-335-6560. <http://bit.ly/1avVhqJ>

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.



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