



BAJA NEWS

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

Shops Closed at La Bufadora

Many of the shops and stalls that once lined the street leading down to Ensenada's famous blowhole, La Bufadora, are currently closed due to land disputes. People can still visit La Bufadora to see the natural geyser. Stay tuned for further information.



Auto Insurance for Mexican-Registered Vehicles

For our members who have imported your vehicle and now have Mexican registrations, we are working with our insurance company HDI, to provide domestic insurance policies. If you have, or are going to have, a Mexican registered vehicle, give us a call and we can work with you to get a Mexican insurance policy.

From the DBTC Office

The Discover Baja offices will close early at 12:30pm this Saturday, February 7th. We will also be closed on Monday, February 16th, in observance of Presidents' Day.

Our Back to Baja campaign is still bringing you discounts at hotels, restaurants and activities in BCS through the end of February (see page 4).

It's shaping up to be a great year for the gray whales! There are still spots open on the gray whales/Graham Mackintosh trip in February (see page 9), and we're offering a special discounted price of \$1,295 for any last-minute takers!

Contact us for your Mexican auto insurance, prepaid FMM tourist permits, fishing licenses, or help with making reservations.

Let's Baja!
Hugh, Carol, Jen, Maythé & Monica

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

PESO EXCHANGE RATE: \$14.8 to \$1 U.S. dollar

PEMEX PRICES: Northern Baja: Magna: \$2.64/gal, Premium: \$2.86/gal, Diesel: \$2.93/gal

Southern Baja: Magna: \$3.49/gal, Premium: \$3.59/gal, Diesel: \$3.65/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: \$37 DBTC members only. 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 fee for DBTC to process. Service for DBTC members only.

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

MEXICAN AUTO INSURANCE: 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

Feb. 7-8 Todos Santos Open Studio Tours

<http://artistsoftodosantos.com/>



The Open Studios Tour is a two-day event where visitors will be able to see art, visit studios and spend time with local artists. With a map showing all of the studios, visitors will get to see what goes on inside the studios of painters, sculptors, photographers, muralists, plein air painters, encaustic artists, jewelers, printmakers, collage artists, potters, and wood turners.

Feb 12-17 Carnaval

www.facebook.com/CarnavalLPZ



Rio isn't the only Latin city with a fun-filled Carnaval celebration. La Paz has a family-friendly celebration along the Malecón every year to celebrate before the onset of Lent. See more about Carnaval in La Paz on the next page.

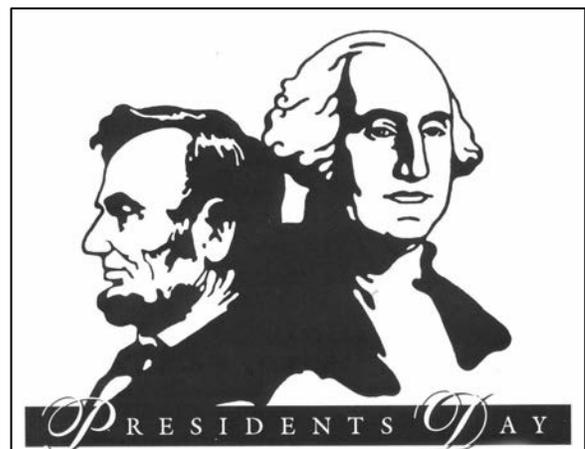
Feb 14 Valentine's Day



There's no better way to celebrate the designated day of love than with this exclusive "I Heart Baja" t-shirt. Treat your special valentine or yourself!

<https://squareup.com/market/discover-baja/i-heart-baja-t-shirt>

Feb 16 Presidents' Day



We wish you a Happy Presidents' Day and hope you get to spend the day relaxing down in Baja! Discover Baja offices will be closed in observance of the holiday, but you can still go online to www.discoverbaja.com to get your insurance or renew membership.

Carnaval: Baja-Style in La Paz

You may be surprised to learn that one of the best places to celebrate Carnaval is in Baja's own La Paz. This family-oriented event includes bands, festive booths, delicious foods, rides, and parades with decorated floats and costumes. The dates for the 2015 Carnaval La Paz will be February 12-17 and the theme for this year is "Plumajes Ancestrales" or "Ancestral Plumage."

Most of the events are centered around the Malecón, although events and stages will be in place in many locations along the waterfront. The Parades will be Sunday, Monday and Tuesday (the last three days of Carnaval). The parades have traditionally started from opposite ends of the Malecón, beginning around 5:30pm. For more information:

www.facebook.com/CarnavalLPZ





We're pleased to announce the launch of the Discover Baja "Back to Baja" program, bringing you discounts up to 40% off at hotels, resorts, campsites, restaurants and spas in Baja California Sur. Visit www.discoverbaja.com/backtobaja for more!



Hurricane Odile struck the Baja peninsula on September 14, 2014, as a category 3 hurricane bringing heavy rains, winds over 125 mph, and severe flooding that caused extensive damage to many areas of Baja California Sur. The Mexican government and relief aid groups were quick to respond making sure that power, water and internet were restored to areas as quickly as possible and that rebuilding was able to take place as soon as possible. The resilience of the area has been incredible.

The Cabo airport is reopened, the roads are drivable, restaurants, hotels and activities are open and ready for business. All that's missing is you! The economic impact from the loss of tourists was far more damaging to the area than the physical damage from Odile itself. Hotels had to close doors and cancel reservations while they were rebuilding, resort employees were laid off, and many locals still have homes that need repair from storm damages. We encourage you to return to Baja California Sur to help stimulate the economy so that the area can continue to rebuild and rebound. While relief aid from the Mexican government and other organizations was necessary in the immediate aftermath of the storm, what's needed now is support and business from the people who love Baja and want to help the area return to normal (that's you!).

In case you needed some extra encouragement, we've partnered with many establishments in Baja Sur to help invite you back to BCS with discounts of up to 40% off at hotels, restaurants, spas and RV parks in Baja. It's our way of welcoming you Back to Baja.

All you have to do to take advantage of these special deals is to show your Discover Baja membership card. Valid for travel now through end of February 2015. See www.discoverbaja.com/backtobaja for more information.



Cabañas CuatroCuatros



By Caitlin Trimble
Photos by Antonio Flores

During the last week of October, I spent the weekend at Cabañas CuatroCuatros. Located eight miles away from Ensenada and 18 miles from the Guadalupe Valley, this concept resort is easily viewable from the road and stands out for its circular shaped vineyards, dotted with wooden sailboats used as garden art, and a settlement of fourteen white tents serving as the resort's hotel.

The luxurious tent feels more like a cabin once you are inside, complete with a wood burning stove, wood furniture, a comfy bed with a white down comforter and white flannel sheets. The tents are set up on raised wooden decks, which elevate you off the ground and provide for better views of the surrounding mountains and vineyards.

The back of the tent opens up into a glass room that serves as the bathroom. The shower stall has two self-contained decks on either side, with exterior wooden walls providing total privacy. The resort prides itself on making guests feel at one with nature, and this is never more apparent than as you take a shower with a full view of hills around you. After you get over the initial sensation that you may

be being watched, there is something strangely calming about taking a shower nearly out in the open with rays of sunlight hitting your body.

We arrived right as the sun was setting, and our receptionist Marco Polo urged us to make our way up to the ocean view restaurant bar located on top of a bluff on the edge of the 144 acre property. Even if you are not a guest at CuatroCuatros, the ocean view bar is a highly recommended place to enjoy the sunset with a spectacular view of the Pacific Ocean, Todos Santos Bay, and Salsipuedes Bay. With a glass of wine in hand and the sunset unfolding before your eyes, there is really nowhere else in the Ensenada (and possibly, the world) you would rather be.

CuatroCuatros produces its own varieties of wine, including Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc, and a mixed wine of Cab, Merlot, and Tempranillo grapes. Both the Merlot and mixed wine were delicious; and the restaurant offers many appetizers such as the delicious fish *ceviche* we paired our wine with.

The bar is completely out in the open other than a canopy providing shade, and feels more like a lounge as you sit on cloth-

covered bales of hay surrounding small tables. In the winter, it probably gets too cold to hang out for a long period of time, but even so it is worth stopping by to check out the view as the sun sets. The view alone is enough to make you temporarily forget about the cold weather.

To get to the bar, you must park at the viewpoint and ride in one of their vehicles down to the bar via a semi-treacherous path. You'll be glad you are not driving. The entire resort is unpaved. Ladies, leave your high heels at home.

During our stay, the toll road to Ensenada remained closed to traffic, as repairs to the collapsed portion of the freeway were ongoing. In fact, from the ocean-view bar you could see the repair site as soon as night fell, when they would use powerful lamps to light up the construction zone. Locals and tourist alike were forced to take alternative routes for nearly a year to and from Ensenada either via Tecate or the El Sauzal Freeway, better known as the "free road". This past December, the toll road finally reopened to the great relief of locals, tourists, and the economy as a whole.

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During the road closure, the forced detour away from the comfort of the toll road was a great opportunity to discover (or rediscover) the almost equally beautiful free road, which offers spectacular views of the ocean and passes through small towns tucked away in the mountainside. Now that the free road will not be as heavily transited, it is a great way to get to CuatroCuatros during the daytime if you are feeling adventurous.

If you are interested in staying at CuatroCuatros, another benefit of the toll road reopening is that the free road that passes next to the resort will not be as heavily transited — making for a quieter stay for guests. The especially noisy trucks should no longer have a reason to travel the free road at night now. During our stay, this was our only complaint — the sound of the nearby highway— but, even so, was not enough to ruin our stay. Thankfully, it has now returned to being the sleepy rural road that it used to be.

In addition to the resort and the spectacular ocean view bar, the CuatroCuatros also has a restaurant that is open to the public. The restaurant is located near the cabins, housed in a larger tent that has both indoor and outdoor seating. The breakfasts are delicious, and the prices are very accessible especially when considering that this is pretty much the only option around. They offer plenty of Mexican breakfast options such as *Chilaquiles*, *Huevos Rancheros*, and Eggs doused in *Mole* sauce, all served with a side of non-refried black beans and fresh tortillas.



The restaurant is located among the circular vineyards, and can be reached via a lavender-lined bridge from either the cabins or from a public parking lot. Next to the restaurant, they have their own herb garden. Although the ambiance at night is not that lively when compared to restaurants in the nearby Valle de Guadalupe, the restaurant is also a good choice for dinner if you are still hungry after you finally manage to pry yourself away from the ocean view. We tried a delicious margarita pizza with plenty of fresh basil one night that was far more delicious than many others

we had tried in Ensenada.

If you plan on staying there, make sure to pack your tennis shoes and exercise clothing. Many guests choose to wake up early and go for a walk or bike ride around the property and up to the various watch points. You can also walk around the vineyard and wooden sailboats, which make a great backdrop for your photos. There is also a more strenuous path leading down to the beach where, if requested, the hotel can set up beach chairs, umbrellas, and can serve you wine. We were told that this is the only nearby sandy beach.

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The resort has some complementary bikes for guest use. Other activities include a private sailing tour that is hosted by the owner of the resort, or use of their spa, which is located in the middle of one of the circular vineyards. Both of these latter activities are by reservation only, and should probably be booked in advance of your stay.

Once you've explored all that the resort has to offer, make sure to spend at least an afternoon in the Valle de Guadalupe. Take advantage of the hotel's location to take the back road into the Valle, which is a little bit longer route than if you were to head south to the toll road, and then enter the Valle via its main entrance. If you go the back route, you will pass by the newer, and more popular wineries such as El Cielo and Las Nubes.

We stopped by a brand new restaurant for tapas and wine

called Santa Brasa, where he had some delicious wood smoked shrimp tostadas. We then ate lunch at Chef Javier Plascencia's Finca Altozano, where we ate the most delicious octopus I have ever tried in my life. Both places are located out in the open, and may close seasonally or depending on the weather.

Valle de Guadalupe is characterized by its open-air, or "campestre", style dining. The outdoor setting is therapy to those of us that visit the Valle to escape city life for a day or a weekend. As the Valle gains more and more popularity both in Mexico and abroad, it is likely that things will start to change quickly. But, for now, soak in all that it has to offer, take it slow, drink lots of wine, eat to your heart's desire, and enjoy the scenery of one of Baja's crown jewels.

The cabins can hold between two and four people. If you plan on

visiting during the *vendimia* season (in August), make sure to book well in advance as the cabins sell out quickly. All stays are a two-night minimum, and children are welcome. The resort also hosts various wedding packages, which require that all rooms be reserved by the party and can make finding a room difficult during the wedding season. The pictures of the weddings that have been hosted there look spectacular. For more information on CuatroCuatros, or reservations, visit cabanascuatrocuatros.com.mx/en/

CuatroCuatros

*Carretera libre Tijuana-Ensenada
km 89*

*El sauzal de Rodriguez,
22760 Ensenada, BC, Mexico
+52 646 174 6595*

*Caitlin Trimble is a resident of
Tijuana and a freelance journalist.*



BUEN PROVECHO: *Mision 19, Tijuana*



By Jennifer Kramer
www.bajatheothercalifornia.com

If there's one restaurant in Tijuana that almost always makes the #1 spot on lists of best restaurants, it's Javier Plascencia's Mision 19. *The New York Times*, Anthony Bourdain, *Sunset Magazine* and *San Diego Magazine* have covered the restaurant (among many others) and it's sometimes hard to expect that a restaurant this hyped-up will live up to the publicity. But Mision 19 doesn't just live up to all the hype, it's somehow able to exceed expectations while remaining cool and collected.

Having lived in New York City for over a decade, I can't help but roll my eyes when people describe nice restaurants as being "New York-ish." But, well, there's no better way to describe the vibe of Mision 19 other than being "New York-ish" because, in fact, it is. There's a sleek interior with reclaimed wooden accents and beautiful floor-to-ceiling windows around the perimeter of the

restaurant. Except that when you look out all of those windows, you're not looking at the lights of Manhattan, but rather the lights of Tijuana. Located in one of Tijuana's tallest and nicest office buildings in the Zona Río business district, Mision 19 caters to a crowd of high-end patrons from Mexico and the U.S. Everyone who works at the restaurant is friendly and accommodating and speaks both Spanish and English.

Appetizers average around \$9 and entrees are in the \$25 range. For a gourmet fine-dining experience you can't beat the caliber of food, the impeccable service, or the price. Our group feasted roasted beef bone marrow, grilled octopus, beet salad, tripe tacos, center cut filet mignon and roasted suckling pig. The food was all incredibly well-crafted with a unique blend of ingredients and flavors. The menu is seasonal and the food is local, from within a 120-mile radius of the restaurant (this includes farms in San Diego as well as Mexico). The wines are all local as well. The extensive wine list includes

vintages from many of the favorite wineries down in the Valle de Guadalupe.

Just upstairs is Bar 20, a swanky lounge serving up mixologist cocktails. The "Sangria 20" and the "Mezcalero" were both incredibly delectable. They also have a selection of beers (including some good Baja craft beers) and regional wines. It's nice to start at Bar 20 for a drink and then make your way down to Mision 19 for dinner if you're looking for a special night on the town.

Mision 19
www.mision19.com/en
Misión San Javier 10643
2nd Floor, VIA Corporativo
Zona Río
Tijuana, B.C., Mexico
GPS: 32.521213, -117.007908
Phone: 011-52-664-634-2493

There's a secure parking garage under the building. Get your ticket validated at the restaurant. They also have a shuttle service from San Diego. You can find out more on their website.

Explore the Peninsula with Baja Author Graham Mackintosh!



Only a few spots left!
Discounted price of
\$1,295 for this all-
inclusive trip of a
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Join famous Baja author Graham Mackintosh (“Into a Desert Place,” “Journey with a Baja Burro,” “Marooned with Very Little Beer,” “Nearer My Dog to Thee”) on this special Baja Custom Tours trip to see the whales, the Sea of Cortez, and the mountains of San Pedro de Mártir. Share close encounters with the Gray Whales in Scammon’s Lagoon, experience stories and locations in Graham’s Baja books, and have a great time with friends in this all-inclusive seven day/six night tour.

February 10 – February 16, 2015

7 days, 6 nights, \$1,295 (reduced from \$1,395) for all-inclusive, double occupancy.

For questions, or to reserve your spot, contact Discover Baja at 800-727-2252 or ask@discoverbaja.com

For more info: bit.ly/WhRazN



TRIP ITINERARY:

Day 1: Departure from San Diego 6am, lunch at Desert Inn Cataviña, visit local cave paintings, dinner Cataviña

Day 2: 7am breakfast in Cataviña, depart 8am for Guerrero Negro, stop at Baja berrendo (prong horn antelope) sanctuary, check in at motel, visit light house and marshlands, dinner at Mario’s Palapa

Day 3: 7am breakfast, drive to Ojo de Liebre lagoon for 2 hour whale tour – inner lagoon, lunch at Tony’s Tacos, break, visit Guerrero Negro lagoon beach, 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, visit Bahia Natural History Museo, Seafood extravaganza dinner!

Day 5: 8am breakfast, boat tour of bay and islands, lunch on beach, dinner at Casa Essary

Day 6: Depart Bahia de Los Angeles at 7am after breakfast, tacos in Vincente Guerrero, drive to Meling Ranch, tour to top of mountains, family style dinner

Day 7: Depart Meling Ranch at 8am after breakfast, torta lunch in El Sauzal, wine tasting in Valle de Guadalupe (Las Nubes), cross border in Tecate.

Socialize with us!

If hearing from us once a month just isn't enough, we're all Baja all the time on the following platforms. Follow along for all of the news, photos, information, adventure and inspiration you need for your next trip to Baja.



DBTC BLOG

www.discoverbaja.com/dbtc-blog

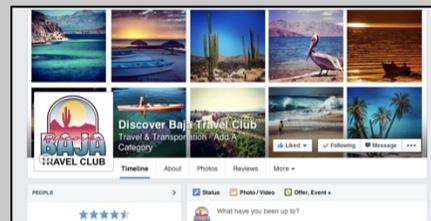
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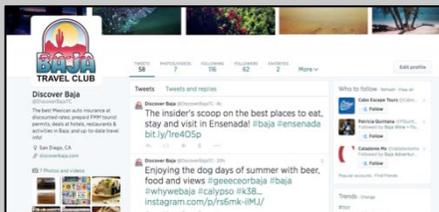
A great way to keep up to date with new content on our blog, news stories, the latest Baja events and more.



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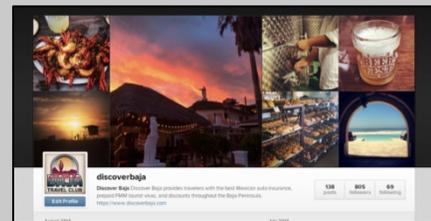
We bring you the latest Baja news, updates and stories all in under 140 characters.



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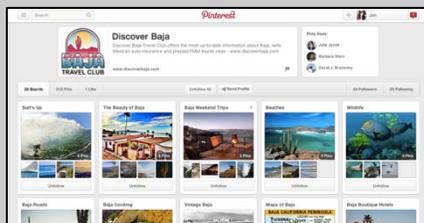
It doesn't get more picture-perfect than Baja. Follow along as we capture our favorite aspects of the peninsula in photos.



PINTEREST

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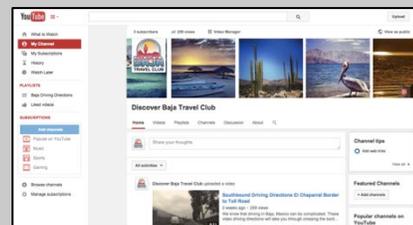
Inspiration boards for our favorite Baja beaches, restaurants, boutique hotels and wildlife.



YOUTUBE

www.youtube.com/user/discoverbaja

Videos of helpful Baja driving directions so that you know where you're going before you go.



DISCOVER BAJA MEMBERS, WELCOME TO DON EDDIE'S
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doneddie@hotmail.com, marqueztony@hotmail.com, website: www.doneddies.com



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 fedicomiso (ownership). Dwelling for camping, 3500 gallon pils for water, extra large propane tank, solar. Asking US \$185,000 or best offer. Contact 760-889-4888 or sherylkaonis@sbcglobal.net or slgordinier@sbcglobal.net

PROPERTY FOR SALE IN SAN MIGUEL DE COMONDÚ:

A lot with a producing avocado orchard, equipped with asequias (irrigation channels), approximately 1700 square meters in size. San Miguel de Comondú is located two hours on paved road from the port of Loreto. It is a quiet little town for vacationing and relaxing. The listing price is \$65,000 U.S., the first payment being \$30,000 U.S. and the remainder in two payments. Call or text Alberto Cota Murillo, 011-52-613-114-7751.

