



# July 2014 Newsletter

## DISCOVER BAJA NOW PROCESSING NAUTICAL SPORTFISHING FMMs

Discover Baja is pleased to announce that we are now processing Nautical Sportfishing FMMs for DBTC members crossing into Baja by sea north of Ensenada. Save yourself the hassle of dealing with the complicated and vague online system for just a \$10 processing fee per person. Please allow three days time for processing. A nautical FMM is required each time you enter into Mexican waters and the FMM is not good for multiple entry. For an application and more information, please see [www.discoverbaja.com/go/nautical-sportfishing-fmm/](http://www.discoverbaja.com/go/nautical-sportfishing-fmm/)

## DRIVERS LICENSE INSURANCE POLICIES

Discover Baja has a new multiple-named drivers license insurance policy that includes roadside assistance and up to three drivers on the policy for the same price. If you drive multiple vehicles and want only liability insurance, this is a great deal for you. See [www.discoverbajaonline.com](http://www.discoverbajaonline.com) or call 800-727-2252 for more information.

## THE NEW LOOK OF WWW.DISCOVERBAJA.COM

You may have noticed some recent changes going on at [discoverbaja.com](http://discoverbaja.com).

We're working to bring you more information, more access and more tools for your next trip to Baja. Here are some of the features:

- Road conditions page
- Events page
- Information on regulations, paperwork, and everything you need before heading to Baja
- Travel information for planning your trip
- We've moved our popular DBTC Blog to the website. It can now be found at [www.discoverbaja.com/dbtc-blog/](http://www.discoverbaja.com/dbtc-blog/)

We're continuously working on the site to bring you more and more information so check back often!



## From the DBTC Office

*We hope that everyone is enjoying summer! We have a number of exciting things going on this month:*

*-Fishermen will be glad to hear that we are now processing nautical FMMs for Discover Baja members. See the article on this page or call us at 800-727-2252 for more information*

*-We have new Mexican auto insurance drivers license policies featuring up to three drivers on the policy for the same price*

*-David Kier and Max Kurillo will be giving a lecture on the Missions of Baja & Alta California in San Diego on July 24<sup>th</sup>. See page 5 for more.*

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



**PESO EXCHANGE RATE:**  
\$12.98 to \$1 U.S. dollar

### PEMEX PRICES

#### Northern Baja:

Magna: \$3.83/gal  
Premium: \$4.04/gal  
Diesel: \$3.93/gal

#### Southern Baja:

Magna: \$3.90/gal  
Premium: \$3.98/gal  
Diesel: \$3.93/gal

## From our members...

We love to hear your feedback on things you'd like to read about, great places you've been to and comments on what we can do to better serve you.

Please email us at  
[ask@discoverbaja.com](mailto:ask@discoverbaja.com)

*Hello Discover Baja.*

*I just ate at Hierbabuena restaurant in El Pescadero covered by Nat Geo and it was outstanding. You might want to mention it to your readers.*

*Joe McKenzie*

**DBTC Note: Thanks, Joe! It looks amazing. We definitely recommend that people check out the Baja episodes of "One Wey" on National Geographic:**

**[www.ngenespanol.com/traveler/one-vey/](http://www.ngenespanol.com/traveler/one-vey/)**



-There is some construction in Tijuana along Second St. close to the border and west of Via Internacional right before the first toll booth. Southbound traffic is being rerouted along both sides of the median due to lane closures.

-Expect major delays between Loreto and Tripui due to construction.

-The toll road between Rosarito and Ensenada is still closed with traffic being rerouted inland along the free road. The toll road is expected to reopen this fall.

**Visit [www.discoverbaja.com](http://www.discoverbaja.com) for more road conditions.**

**If you have a recent road condition report, please email us at [ask@discoverbaja.com](mailto:ask@discoverbaja.com)**

## EDITOR'S NOTE: THE NORTHERN BAJA RENAISSANCE

For most of southern Baja, summertime can bring a heat that sends most people running north of the border. But for northern Baja, summertime is the busiest time of year. Seasonal businesses are in full swing, the beaches are calling and the Baja med food and craft beers are awaiting your visit.

As a child, when we took family adventures down the peninsula, Tijuana and the rest of northern Baja were usually a small blip on the radar as we passed through, anxious to get farther south to our destination. But northern Baja (specifically, Tijuana, Rosarito & Ensenada) is going through a tremendous renaissance right now with a booming art scene, gourmet restaurants, craft beer breweries and boutique wineries. No longer just for passing through, northern Baja has become a destination of its own.

I've been living in Rosarito for a year now and have fallen in love with life down here in northern Baja. When I tell people in the U.S. that I live in Mexico, reactions generally range from confused to horrified. I challenge any of those people to come spend a weekend along the coast of northern Baja experiencing the beautiful beaches, the Guadalupe Valley wine region, foodie hot spots, welcoming people and not want to stay forever. I recommend you check it out if it's been a while. Here are some tools to help you out with your explorations:

**-Barrio.mx** A review site for restaurants, bars and activities in northern Baja (it's basically the Mexican Yelp). It's the best resource if you're looking for where to go and what to do in cities in northern Baja. It's also the only source I use for addresses and getting directions to places as it is literally the only way to get the correct information (good luck trying to find a place in Rosarito by just typing the address into Google Maps, you'll end up in Guadalajara.).

**-[www.discoverbaja.com/baja-california-information/cityregion-guide/](http://www.discoverbaja.com/baja-california-information/cityregion-guide/)** We're in the process of putting together a travel guide for all cities/regions of Baja. We've started with some big cities in northern Baja. Descriptions, things to see/do checklist, tourist information, and the links to all of the hotels in that city that offer DBTC members a discount!

**-[bajatheothercalifornia.com](http://bajatheothercalifornia.com)** I invite you to follow along on my personal blog where I chronicle many of my favorite places to eat, drink and explore around northern Baja.

Feel free to email me for any recommendations or travel questions. Likewise, I hope you'll share with me some of your favorite places that you love. I encourage you to get out and discover Baja.

Jen Kramer  
[jen@discoverbaja.com](mailto:jen@discoverbaja.com)

## Donation Drive for Immigrants

There is an immediate need for donations for the unaccompanied Central American children immigrants being held in California. Border Angels is collecting the following supplies for the children and women immigrants:

instant ramen soup (cup-of-noodles), bottled water and gatorade, flavored pedialyte for dehydration, sweaters or hooded sweatshirts for children and adults, socks for children, children's blankets, diapers (size 3 and 4), sanitary supplies for women, toothbrushes and toothpaste, clean stuffed animals.

You can drop off items at the **Discover Baja office by Monday, July 14th** or take items directly to: 2258 Island Ave. San Diego, CA 92102. [Borderangels.org](http://Borderangels.org)

# ON OUR RADAR FOR JULY

To keep up on the latest Baja events, check out [www.discoverbaja.com/events](http://www.discoverbaja.com/events)



**JULY 12**  
**Dia y Noche de Estrellas**  
•Rosarito Beach Hotel  
•This 12-hour

music festival benefits the Boys & Girls Club of Rosarito

•Expect a star-studded event with performances by the Mariachi Divas, Fuerza de Tijuana, Spettacalore and Angel Lopez

•[www.clubrosarito.org](http://www.clubrosarito.org)

**JULY 18**  
**Celebrate Tijuana in San Diego**  
•Mingei Museum  
•Celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of

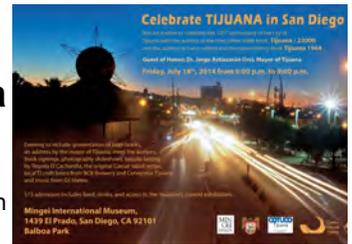
Tijuana in San Diego with the authors of “Tijuana/22000” and “Tijuana 1964”

•An evening of food, music, tequila, Baja craft beers and a special guest

appearance from the Mayor of Tijuana

•\$15 admission

•[www.mingei.org](http://www.mingei.org)



**JULY 19**  
**DBTC Guadalupe Valley Wine Trip**

•Join us as we spend the day experiencing the wineries in Baja's Valle de Guadalupe. Topped off with lobster and margaritas in Puerto Nuevo!

•For more information, see the next page



**JULY 24**  
**Lecture on the Missions of Baja & Alta California**

•Liberty Station in San Diego

•Join us as David Kier and Max Kurillo share the history of the missions of Baja & Alta California. A treat for history buffs and Baja lovers!

•Free for Discover Baja members

•For more information see page 5



While there have been land disputes at Scorpion Bay resulting in the destruction of the old cantina, the campsites are still operational with functioning bathrooms (water and electricity have been restored) and a new cantina tent will be up and running soon. For current updates, please see [www.scorpionbay.net](http://www.scorpionbay.net)

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

-Boat insurance is required at all marinas in Baja. Discover Baja sells on-the-water liability. See [www.discoverbaja.com/mexican-auto-insurance/boat-insurance/](http://www.discoverbaja.com/mexican-auto-insurance/boat-insurance/) for more.

-All Discover Baja Mexican auto insurance policies are for *tourists only*. This means that Mexican citizens with a Mexican drivers license will not be covered when driving your vehicle and your insurance will be rendered invalid.

Saturday, July 19th

# Guadalupe Valley Wine Trip

*Come spend a day experiencing Mexico's Napa Valley with Discover Baja and Baja Custom Tours!*



Enjoy a day with us in Baja's Guadalupe Valley as we explore some of the wineries and attractions that the region has to offer. We'll provide the round-trip transportation, a tour of the new Museum of Wine and Vine, tastings at two wineries, traditional Mexican lunch at a local restaurant, a behind-the-scenes winery tour and a local wine guide to help explain everything in English. Oh, and a full lobster dinner with endless margaritas in Puerto Nuevo to top it all off.

\$175 per person. For more Information:  
[bit.ly/1kFdo8b](https://bit.ly/1kFdo8b)

*Call or email today to book your spot!*  
[ask@discoverbaja.com](mailto:ask@discoverbaja.com) or  
800.727.2252

## Tour includes:

- Wine tasting at two wineries – L.A. Cetto and Las Nubes
- Behind-the-scenes tour at L.A. Cetto, one of the oldest and largest wineries in Baja
- Traditional homemade, sit-down lunch with wine
- Guided tour of the new Wine and Vine Museum
  - Local wine expert
- Lobster dinner with margaritas in Puerto Nuevo
  - Round trip transportation from Discover Baja offices in San Diego



# DAVID KIER AND MAX KURILLO PRESENT: *The Missions of Baja & Alta California*



THURSDAY, JULY 24<sup>TH</sup> 7 PM



Discover Baja is pleased to announce that David Kier and Max Kurillo, co-authors of "The Old Missions of Baja & Alta California 1697-1834" will be giving a lecture about the missions of Baja & Alta California on Thursday, July 24th at 7:00pm in San Diego. Join us as we learn about where and when the missions were founded and how they interact. The lecture will highlight how the Baja and Alta missions were built during the same years and relate to one another. The missions are an important part of California history for both Baja and Alta California. Many of the missions or mission sites are still accessible today. This will be a treat for history buffs, adventure seekers and Baja lovers. You'll learn about the missions like you've never seen or realized before!

Copies of "The Old Missions of Baja & Alta California 1697-1834" will be available for purchase and signing.

7:00 pm

*Liberty Station - NTC Command Center, Meeting Room 1  
2640 Historic Decatur Road, San Diego, CA 92106*

*FREE for Discover Baja members. \$5 for nonmembers. Please RSVP to  
ask@discoverbaja.com or 800-727-2252.*

***For more information, please see [bit.ly/1oGjdCV](http://bit.ly/1oGjdCV)***

# VALLE DE GUADALUPE 2014 VENDIMIA

august 1-17



*It's summertime in the Valle de Guadalupe. The wine is flowing, the seasonal, open-air campestre restaurants are in full swing, and the vines are heavy with grapes, which all means one thing – it's time for Vendimia! The official Valle de Guadalupe Vendimia (wine harvest) festival will take place this year from August 1-17. Throughout the course of the festival, individual events take place at wineries and restaurants throughout the valley. The events vary, but you can almost always count on there being food, music and, of course, wine.*

*Tickets to events can often be expensive and hard to get. But don't be deterred! There are some free events around the valley as well as Ensenada and Vendimia is a fun time to be in the Guadalupe Valley even to go to wineries on days that they aren't having events.*

*As you may know from your own frustration, information in English about the Vendimia is extremely limited. We've put together some resources to help you through the logistics so that you can focus on the important part – drinking, eating and enjoying!*

## resources

-We've put together a full calendar of Vendimia events in English (the only one that exists to date!) with all of the information that you need on our website at [bit.ly/1iVypMQ](http://bit.ly/1iVypMQ)

-We also have a Valle de Guadalupe page that has helpful information about the valley. [bit.ly/1rW8FTK](http://bit.ly/1rW8FTK)

-See the next page for recommendations on some of our favorite wineries, restaurants, hotels and activities

-The Provino, the official sponsors of the Vendimia, have a website [www.provinoac.org](http://www.provinoac.org) with information and events in Spanish.

## highlight events

August 2: Adobe Guadalupe Gala Dinner

August 2: Wine, Dinner & Jazz at Las Nubes

August 6: Dinner & Wine Pairing at Laja

August 9: Santo Tomás Free Festival in Ensenada

August 14: Free party in the Valley at the park

August 14: Dinner & Wine at Viñas de Garza

August 14: Dinner at Vena Cava Winery

August 16: Dinner & Wine at Finca Altozano

August 17: Paella Contest at Liceaga

Full event calendar can be seen at [bit.ly/1iVypMQ](http://bit.ly/1iVypMQ)

## insider tips

**Book Early.** Tickets to events sell out early, as do hotel rooms. There are a very limited amount of hotel rooms available in the valley and the prices are expensive during Vendimia.

**Find a Hotel Outside of the Valley.** If you aren't lucky enough to book one of the coveted rooms in the valley, we recommend staying in Ensenada where there are lots of wonderful options just a 30-minute drive away (and places that DB members get a discount) or even Rosarito (about an hour drive).

**Don't Be Confined by Official Dates.** A fact little known by tourists is that while the "official" vendimia festival promoted by Provino runs from August 1-17, many wineries celebrate vendimia events from July through the end of September. L.A. Cetto, Barón Balch'e and many of the other larger wineries have events on an ongoing basis.

**Still Feel Overwhelmed?** Join us on one of our Guadalupe Valley trips. With scheduling, planning and round-trip transportation from San Diego taken care of, all you have to do is show up and enjoy! See page 4.

## wineries



### Las Nubes

[www.vinoslasnubesbc.com](http://www.vinoslasnubesbc.com)  
Sweeping views, great wines  
and a beautiful indoor/outdoor  
tasting room

### Viñas de Garza

[www.vinosdegarza.com](http://www.vinosdegarza.com)  
Boutique winery with a beautiful  
outdoor tasting room and  
delicious wines



### Alximia

[www.alximia.com](http://www.alximia.com)  
One of the new wineries in the  
valley is sure to delight with it's  
carefully crafted wines

### Vena Cava

[www.venacavawine.com](http://www.venacavawine.com)  
Upside down boats create the  
roof for this wine cave housing  
delicious wines



## restaurants



### Finca Altozano

[www.fincaaltozano.com](http://www.fincaaltozano.com)  
The seasonal campestre of  
Javier Plascencia is a favorite  
of locals and tourists

### Deckman's en el Mogor

[www.deckmans.com](http://www.deckmans.com)  
This is outdoor dining at its best  
– gourmet food, beautiful setting  
and great wine.



### Laja

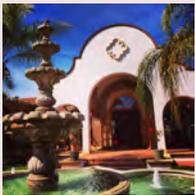
[www.lajamexico.com](http://www.lajamexico.com)  
The original gourmet restaurant in  
town, Laja is often called the  
French Laundry of the valley

### Ochentos

[www.ochentospizza.com](http://www.ochentospizza.com)  
Great pizza and some of the  
best views in town await you at  
this local's spot



## hotels



### Adobe Guadalupe

[www.adobeguadalupe.com](http://www.adobeguadalupe.com)  
Beautiful architecture, service,  
food and wine at this lovely bed  
& breakfast

### Encuentro Guadalupe

[www.encuentroguadalupe.com](http://www.encuentroguadalupe.com)  
Luxury eco-cabins and a  
gourmet restaurant make this a  
truly unique experience



### La Villa del Valle

[www.lavilladelvalle.com](http://www.lavilladelvalle.com)  
This Tuscan-style hotel also has  
the award-winning Corazón de  
Tierra restaurant on property

## activities



### Wine Muesum

[www.museodelvinobc.com](http://www.museodelvinobc.com)  
Learn all about the history of  
wine, the Valle de Guadalupe  
and the wine making process

### Rancho Cortes

This working dairy and meat  
farm is renowned for their  
cheese and olive oil. Stop by for  
the sample cheese plate



### La Escuelita

Stop by to see the wine school  
in the valley to drink and eat at the  
café and marvel at the buildings  
all made of different materials

## Learn the lingo

*vendimia* = wine harvest ♦ *vino* = wine ♦ *copa de vino* = glass of wine ♦ *botella* =  
bottle ♦ *muestra* = tasting ♦ *degustación* = tasting ♦ *maridaje* = wine pairing ♦  
*campestre* = country ♦ *viñedo* = vineyard ♦ *bodega* = wine cellar

# ASK A LOCAL: Ensenada



**OUR LOCAL:** Miguel Arroyo  
**HOMETOWN:** Ensenada B.C Mexico  
**HOW LONG:** 30 years  
**OCCUPATION:** Tour guide & surf instructor

**BIO:** I love the ocean. I am a diver, surfer, sailor and tour guide. I have my own surf school, [www.surfensenada.com](http://www.surfensenada.com). People from the cruise ships and tourists from Canada and the U.S contact me for surf lesson and local tours while they are here. [DBTC Note: If you've been lucky enough to join us on one of our Guadalupe Valley trips, Miguel is our wonderfully charismatic tour guide in the valley!]

**If you had to describe Ensenada in three words, what would they be?** Love The Weather

**Best activities to enjoy in Ensenada?** There are lots of activities to do in the ocean such as fishing, kayaking, scuba diving and surfing. There's also lots of things to do in the Valle de Guadalupe like wine tasting, winery tours, horseback riding and great restaurants to enjoy.

**Any good street food?** Good food? GREAT Food!! Ensenada started as a fishing town so fishing is one of the oldest activities here in Ensenada. Now with the wine valley there's an incredible fusion between seafood and wine. ¡Delicioso! Ensenada has some of the best fish tacos ever. There's also incredible ceviche, clam, shrimp, tuna, octopus and great Margaritas too. Don't miss little

street food stands like fish tacos El Fenix, Mariscos La Guerrerense, Mariscos Yiyos, and Muelle 3.

**Favorite sit-down restaurants** Sanos, Ophelia, El Rey Sol, Boules and in Ensenada and in the Valle de Guadalupe there's Finca Altozano, Laja, and Latitud 32 at El Cielo.

**What are some of the best hotels in the area?** Hotel Coral & Marina, Estero Beach Resort, Corona Hotel & Spa, San Nicolas Hotel in town and the Hacienda Guadalupe and Encuentro Guadalupe in the Valle de Guadalupe.

**What are the best beaches to visit in Ensenada?** San Miguel, Playa Hermosa, La Jolla, Arbolitos and Campo Kennedy.

**Things people shouldn't visit Ensenada without seeing or**

**doing?** You have to stop and drink a tequila shot in Hussong's Cantina. It's classic.

**Annual events that are worth making a trip to Ensenada for?** The Fiestas de la Vendimia take place in the Valle de Guadalupe every August with the famous Paella event at the end of the festival. The Baja 1000 off-road race starts (and sometimes ends) in Ensenada every November.

**Any good shopping?** First Street has great shopping.

**Your best insider tip about visiting Ensenada?** Don't be afraid to try something new.

**What's the best time of year to visit?** There's great weather year round, but I personally love spring and autumn.

**The best "local spot" in town?** El Mirador lookout on Chapultepec Hill.

# Baja Charity Corner **THOUSAND SMILES**

Improving Lives, One Smile at a Time



## By Hugh Kramer

Along with the happy memories one returns home with after an adventurous trip to Baja are often some sad ones.

Among them perhaps are images of families scavenging for food to get through another day or cribs full of abandoned babies from an orphanage visit.

Such was the case nearly thirty years ago, when several Rotarians from San Diego met a family that had an infant horribly disfigured with a cleft palate. Learning how prevalent this condition is in Mexico, they recruited other Rotarians who were oral surgeons, plastic surgeons, dental specialists, along with their assistants to immediately address this devastating issue.

That's when Thousand Smiles began providing cleft palate surgeries and dental care at no cost to needy Mexican families. Since 1985, Thousand Smiles has provided over two thousand cleft palate surgeries and provided tens of thousands of needy kids with dental care.

Thousand Smiles is a U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, but unlike some other similar, and better known, organizations with multi-million

dollar budgets and payrolls, Thousand Smiles is 100% run by volunteers with no staff and no office to maintain, with all funding going to provide for the needs of children.

Every three months, over one hundred skilled volunteer medical and dental professionals (some regarded as the best in the country) along with ordinary volunteers travel to Ensenada to provide well into the hundreds of thousands of dollars of free services to these desperate children.

The work literally transforms lives—and families. Children who have not had treatment for their disfigurements rarely go to school and are ridiculed and often live as outcasts all their lives. Many parents believe that a cleft-palate baby is a punishment for some wrongdoing, and some fathers abandon their families.

Fortunately, word of the miracles that Thousand Smiles provides has spread, and families from various parts of Mexico come to our quarterly clinics. Last month I watched the nurses bring a baby out of the recovery room to present to the parents. Both the mom and dad burst into tears to see their

new “normal” baby, and then the nurses burst into tears. “It’s what keeps us coming to every clinic,” they said.

My wife, Carol, and I have been volunteering at Thousand Smiles clinics for over six years, and I have been honored to serve on the board of directors for the past four years. One young man who had his cleft palate repaired at the clinic twenty-five years ago, stopped by our May clinic to thank the Thousand Smiles volunteers for giving him a normal life. He is now married, has two kids, went to college and now has a good job.

*If you would have any interest in learning more about Thousand Smiles or assisting in our efforts to provide medical and dental assistance for families in Mexico, some dealing with unimaginable medical issues with their children, you may enjoy this video:*

**[www.thousandsmiles.org/promotional-video-2/](http://www.thousandsmiles.org/promotional-video-2/) check out the Thousand Smiles website:**

**[www.thousandsmiles.org](http://www.thousandsmiles.org) or call the Discover Baja office (800.727.2252). Many thanks from Discover Baja and the families served by Thousand Smiles.**

# THE SPANISH MISSIONS ON THE CALIFORNIA PENINSULA: #25, *Santa Catalina Virgen y Mártir (1797-1839)*

By David Kier

The Mission Santa Catalina story begins with the actions of Padre Juan Crisóstomo Gómez while serving as Dominican President from 1790 to 1793. Padre Gómez had recently completed the construction of the great stone church of Mission San Ignacio, and also had practiced immunization to halt the spread of disease among the Indians. Gómez authorized three mountain missions be founded to secure the inland areas of the northern peninsula and to Christianize the natives. Immediately after the founding of the first mountain mission at San Pedro Mártir, the search for the second mission site began in the region instructed by the Viceroy.

In October of 1794, Sergeant José Manuel Ruiz and Padre Tomás Valdellon examined the place named Santa Catalina midway between the mission of San Vicente and the Colorado River. The most important aspect of a mission site was a reliable year-round source of water. A year later, Ensign Alférez Bernal led an expedition and explored the region. Governor Borica provided Bernal with a list of 'prime essentials' a mission site must possess. The list included: a constant source of water, land for raising wheat and maize, near-by firewood and pasture, and numerous available *heathen*.

Lieutenant-Governor José Joaquín de Arrillaga, traveling north from his home in Loreto, left Mission San Vicente on September 5, 1796 to examine Santa Catalina and the route to the Colorado River. This was but one of four expeditions that year to determine if a land route to Sonora was feasible. Arrillaga had met hostile Indians at the Colorado River and returned to



Pai-pai Indians at mission ruins in 1949. Photo by Marquis McDonald.

San Vicente by way of San Diego. In an October, 1797 letter, Arrillaga determined that a garrison of soldiers should be stationed in the delta region with a presidio at the head of the gulf and a detachment at Sonoita and San Felipe, thus securing a sea route of escape. The first order of business however, was to establish a mission at Santa Catalina.

The order for a new mission was placed by the Viceroy and the governor. The mission was to be strongly fortified as it was known to be in dangerous territory. Santa Catalina would also be the last mission built on the peninsula that was authorized by the Spanish government. No other mission site was so greatly researched by repeated expeditions than Santa Catalina.

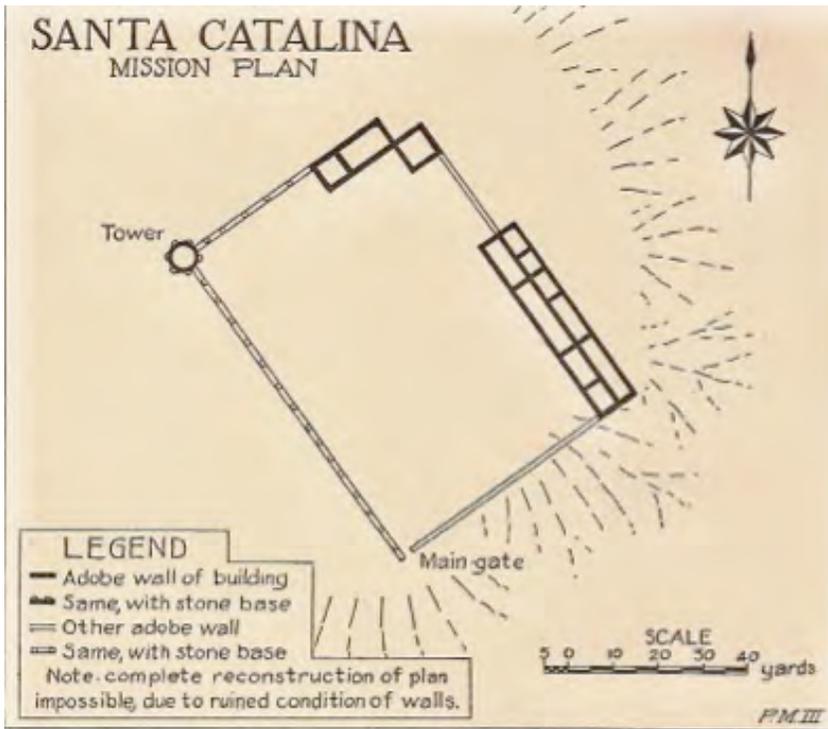
Lieutenant-Governor Arrillaga had desired to separate California into two political districts, and his 1796 expedition was to be influential in that happening. Governor Borica also favored the plan, yet nothing of it came for several more years. Governor Borica died in July, 1800, shortly after leaving Alta

California for Durango. Arrillaga was made governor but was allowed to remain at his residence in Loreto.

On August 6, 1797, building was begun at the future mission site for the guardhouse, church, and priest's house. November 12, 1797 was the day that Mission Santa Catalina Virgen y Mártir was officially founded by Padres José Loriente and Tomás Valdellon. It was the 7<sup>th</sup> Dominican California mission, the 25<sup>th</sup> mission on the peninsula, and the 42<sup>nd</sup> mission in all of California. The location was a place the natives called *Jaca-Tobojol*, which means "place where the water falls over stones". The elevation at Santa Catalina is 3,900 feet above sea level.

In 1798, an adobe house with two rooms was built with each room measuring 14 feet by 17 feet. In 1799, another adobe house measuring 14 feet by 20 feet was constructed to serve as a shelter for girls and single women. Santa Catalina had a population of 133 Indians in 1800. Another house measuring 17 feet by 17 feet was

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE 10**



The mission site plan as drawn by Peveril Meigs in 1929.

also built that year. In 1802, an adobe structure with two rooms measuring 14 foot square was constructed and may have served as a workshop.

Only four Dominicans are named serving Santa Catalina, José Loriente in 1797, Tomás Valdellon in 1797 and 1798, then a 10 year gap in the records until Manuel de Aguila was stationed at the mission in 1808 and 1809. Padre Felix Caballero was perhaps the last Dominican in charge at Santa Catalina (1819-1839) and is named as such in an October 3, 1822 letter from Padre José Miguel de Pineda, of Mission Santo Tomás.

California was officially divided into two districts on March 26, 1804. Arrillaga was made governor of Upper (Alta) California, and Captain Felipe de Goycochea was appointed to be governor of Lower (Baja) California. Alta California also was called Nueva (New) California, and Baja California

was called Antigua (Old) California. These names (Nueva and Antigua) appeared on documents describing the two regions of California for many years. The idea for a third mountain mission, ordered by Padre Gómez, was abandoned.

In a letter written in Loreto on December 23, 1808, the Dominican Padre Ramon López wrote: *"The two missions in the hills, Santa Catalina and San Pedro, cannot give what they don't have. The minister at Santa Catalina formerly was able to send something, but now he struggles just to make ends meet."*

The population at Santa Catalina was reported as more than 600 in 1824 then down to 250 in 1834. This would have made Santa Catalina the most populous of the Dominican missions. In October of 1839, the Santa Catalina mission was attacked burned, and 16 neophytes were slain. Padre Caballero, nor any other

Dominican, ever returned to rebuild Santa Catalina.

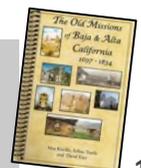
The walls have melted back to the ground leaving almost nothing to visualize the once important mission. Archeologists in recent years have excavated to the stone foundation at a corner of a mission room, and accurately mapped the site with sophisticated equipment. The Pai-pai Indians are still living near the mission. Their village is called Santa Catarina which is a slightly different spelling than the mission's name.

To reach the Santa Catalina mission site by Santa Catarina, use the Ensenada-San Felipe highway (Mexico #3) and drive just south of Km. 91, in the town of Ejido de los Heroes de la Independencia. Go east, on a well graded dirt road. Near the 5 mile mark from Hwy. 3, take the fork to the right and go downhill, then work left through the little town of Santa Catarina soon going over a hill to the cemetery. Turn left and go up the hill, above the cemetery. The mission site is 5.6 miles from Highway 3.

GPS data and satellite views of the mission sites in Baja California can be seen at: <http://vivabaja.com/missions4/>

In the book, 'The Old Missions of Baja & Alta California 1697-1834' are the details of the establishment of all 48 California missions, in the order they were founded. The peninsula of California is home to 27 missions and the land north, that many years later became part of the United States, is home to 21 missions. There was just one California when all but the final five missions were founded. The final two missions were founded after Mexico won its independence from Spain. All 48 missions were abandoned before 1850 when (Alta) California became the 31<sup>st</sup> state of the United States.

**David Kier** is co-author of 'The Old Missions of Baja & Alta California, 1697-1834'. The book is available for purchase at the DBTC offices (call 800-727-2252). You can follow along with the series to learn about the history of all of the Baja California missions on the DBTC blog and in future newsletters.



# BUEN PROVECHO: El Gaucho Argentino, Rosarito



By Jennifer Kramer  
[www.bajatheothercalifornia.com](http://www.bajatheothercalifornia.com)

It's true that there's no shortage of authentic street food in Rosarito. You could feast for weeks off of the tacos, carnitas and mariscos. But when you need a break from Mexican food and you're looking for a delicious meal with a different kind of latin flavor, it's time to try El Gaucho Argentino.

This hole-in-the-wall sandwich shop, just off of the main drag in Rosarito, had been on my radar for a while. Trip Advisor has it ranked as one of the top restaurants in Rosarito. "Best steak sandwich ever!" "Authentic and delicious!" "Awesome empanadas and chimichurri!" I had no choice but to check it out myself.

We went on a Wednesday evening to try it out. The owners, Gerardo and Flavia Marquiz, were there along with their two young daughters. The entire family speaks perfect English. We ordered our sandwiches and Gerardo got behind the grill to prepare the food as Flavia brought us bread with a delicious

homemade chimichurri sauce.

We chatted with Gerardo and Flavia, and they told us about El Gaucho and their story. Gerardo is from Mexico and Flavia is from the U.S., but her father is from Argentina, which is where the recipes for the restaurant come from. Gerardo and Flavia had been living with their daughters in Los Angeles, but moved the family down to Rosarito a few years ago and started their business as a street cart on the main drag in town. Now, two years later, they've upgraded to a little restaurant space just down the street from where the cart used to be located. The décor is sweet and welcoming with high-top wooden tables and stools at the tables as well as at a counter. There's seating for about 15 people inside and there are a few more tables and stools outside the storefront as well. A chalkboard inside lists the items on the menu. The grill is located behind a counter near the front of the restaurant so patrons can still watch Gerardo cook up the savory meats. And most importantly, the food hasn't lost its authentic street cart soul.

We ordered the lomito sandwich (steak) and the choripán sandwich (sausage). Both came topped with grilled onions and more of that delicious chimichurri sauce. French fries served on the side. The sandwiches were juicy, flavorful and satisfying. The empanadas, as I hear from the many rave reviews on Trip Advisor, are supposed to be delicious as well. On Saturdays, El Gaucho returns to its street food roots by bringing out a grill onto the sidewalk in front of the store and having a barbeque. I can assure you, I'll be back to check it out soon. ¡Buen provecho!

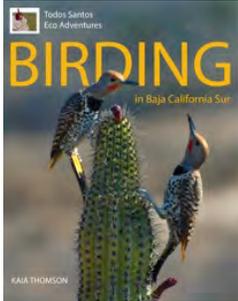
*El Gaucho Argentino*  
*Calle Rene Ortiz Canopy*  
*Rosarito, 22710*  
*(When you reach the Banamex on the main street in town, turn toward the ocean. Restaurant will be on that block on the left.)*  
*664-440-5984*  
*[www.facebook.com/elgauchoargentinosarito](http://www.facebook.com/elgauchoargentinosarito)*  
*GPS: 32.341539, -117.057647*  
*Open Monday-Saturday from 10-7, Sunday 12-5*  
*Cash only*



# DBTC STAFF PENINSULA PICKS: SUMMER READS

Summer means it's time to explore, learn new things, or grab a hammock and a good book. Here's what's on our Baja summer reading lists:

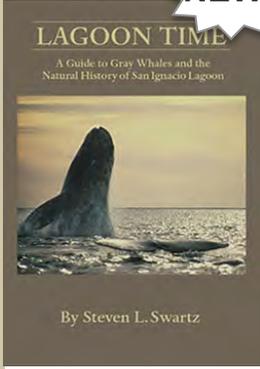
All books can be purchased online at [squareup.com/market/discover-baja](http://squareup.com/market/discover-baja). Or give us a call at 800-727-2252



**STAFF MEMBER:** Carol  
**PICK:** *Birding in Baja California Sur* by Kaia Thomson  
**WHY:** As I listen more intently to my family and friends who are avid "birders," I get more interested in our little feathered friends. *Birding* is perfect for me. It is a collection of over 140 stunning colored photographs of the birds of Baja Sur. It pictures the birds in their specific eco habitats and captures many diverse behaviors. It's an essential for your next trip to BCS.

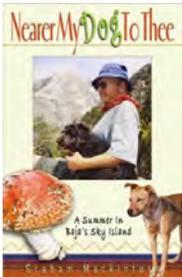


**STAFF MEMBER:** Monica  
**PICK:** *Lagoon Time* by Steven L. Swartz  
**WHY:** I wish this book had been out before I went on my trip to see the whales at San Ignacio. It has a lot of information about whale behavior and the history of the whales in the Lagoon. It's a great book for first time whale watchers as well as experienced visitors.

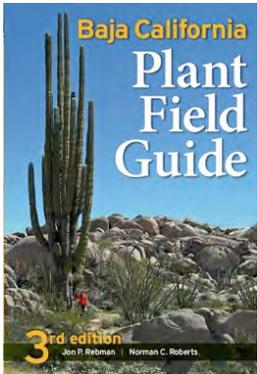


**NEW!**

**STAFF MEMBER:** Maythé  
**PICK:** *Crossing South* DVD, season II  
**WHY:** Jorge Meraz is really entertaining to watch as he explores activities and cuisine in Baja. He inspired me to try zip-lining!



**STAFF MEMBER:** Jen  
**PICK:** *Nearer My Dog to Thee* by Graham Mackintosh  
**WHY:** Graham is one of my favorite authors and his books are deliciously entertaining. This is the perfect light-hearted beach read for summer!



**STAFF MEMBER:** Hugh  
**PICK:** *Baja California Plant Field Guide, 3rd Edition* by Jon P. Rebman and Norman C. Roberts  
**WHY:** Although God and Mr. Gomez has got to be my all-time favorite Baja book, this summer I find myself deep into the pages of Jon Rebman's and the late Norm Roberts' Baja California Plant Field Guide. This is the indispensable handbook for anyone interested in the diverse and often endemic plants you will encounter throughout the peninsula. Beautiful color photography and important info on Baja's climate and geology. A valuable companion to bring along on your next adventure south.

# MELING RANCH HORSEBACK ADVENTURES

Meling Ranch is now offering multi-day horseback trail ride adventures through the high desert country along the base of the Sierra San Pedro Mártir, some of the highest mountains in Baja. The Trail Ride Adventure will begin and end at the Meling Ranch, with overnight campouts on different neighboring ranches each night. Time in the saddle will be approximately 3-4 hours each day. Both novice and experienced riders welcome.



Riders will experience four days and three nights of life on-the-trail, much like that lived by cowboys during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A wide variety of terrain will be traversed during the four-day ride exposing the riders to several different types of scenery – some of which includes riverside, dry arroyo, and densely-strewn boulder covered hills. The area covered by the ride is home to many wildlife species, including coyotes, fox, quail, kangaroo rats, rabbits, and many varieties of birds.

For more details, visit [www.ranchomeling.com](http://www.ranchomeling.com). Email information requests to [info@ranchomeling.com](mailto:info@ranchomeling.com), or telephone Lorenzo DeAn at 646-132-5240 (in Mexico) or 619-272-8335 (in the U.S.).

## Why We Baja: Member Travel Photos



**San Juanico, Scorpion Bay. Photo courtesy of "Friends of Scorpion Bay Campground and Cantina"**

Why do you Baja? Is it for the taco stand you can't get enough of? The father/son fishing trips? The encounters with nature and wildlife that you can't get at home? Or the peaceful moments before the sun goes down when the whole world is aglow? Email your "Why We Baja" photo moment to [jen@discoverbaja.com](mailto:jen@discoverbaja.com) and we may publish it in the next newsletter. Or, if you Instagram, follow us @discoverbaja and tag your photo with #whywebaja

## 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.

