



BAJA NEWS

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

Hurricane Odile Aftermath

Hurricane Odile hit the Baja peninsula hard September 14, 2014 as a category 3 hurricane with heavy rains, 125-mph winds, and severe flooding. It caused extensive damage in Cabo San Lucas, San Jose del Cabo, La Paz, Todos Santos, LA Bay, Mulege and Loreto. Phone lines, electricity and water were lost and while it has been restored to many areas, some neighborhoods are still without services. Damage to buildings will take time to repair and they are still working to clean up debris. The San Jose del Cabo airport is closed for commercial flights until October 8. Roads are passable all the way from Tijuana to Cabo for all vehicles. There are a few places where there are some washouts and delays due to construction, but for the most part, the trip is good. Gas is available and ATMs are back in service. For more updates and road conditions and relief aid: www.discoverbaja.com/baja-california-information/baja-news/hurricane-odile/



San Ysidro Border Wait Times Reduced!

At long last the northbound border lanes at the San Ysidro land port of entry have reopened, and wait times at the border have gone from hours to minutes. There are now 25 double stacked lanes with 46 booths. The goal is to have the wait times for all lanes never more than 20 minutes.

From the DBTC Office

Our hearts go out to all those effected by the recent hurricanes in Baja. We empathize with the trauma and loss of homes, possessions and memories to tourists, expats and local Mexican families.

We are heartened by the response of the Mexican government to evacuate tourists, restore electricity, communication lines and water and help rebuild roads and structures.

The resiliency of the Mexican people shines through again.

Buena suerte, amigos.

DB members can assist with donations and by continuing with your plans to travel to the peninsula. Let us know if we can help you with your paperwork or by giving an update on current conditions.

-Hugh, Carol, Jen, Maythé & Monica



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

PESO EXCHANGE RATE: \$13.45 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

FISHING LICENSES: Day: \$12.25, Week: \$31.20, Month: \$42.80, Year: \$54.40 for members.

www.discoverbaja.com/go/fishing-licenses

PREPAID FMMs: \$35 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 per person fee for DBTC to process. Service for DBTC members only.

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

MEXICAN AUTO INSURANCE: www.discoverbajaonline.com

WRITERS WANTED! Are you an avid Baja adventurer with a talent for writing? Discover Baja is looking for Baja writers to submit articles for possible publication in our blog or newsletter. Please email stories to jen@discoverbaja.com

51 year old male diver looking for ride/friends to go to a place 30 miles south of Loreto around December 7. 530-249-4009

FMM Tourist Permit Crackdown. Officials are cracking down on FMM tourist permits in San Felipe. They've been sweeping the beaches and going door to door to check for FMMs or permanent resident cards. The official rule is that if you are going to be 20 kilometers past the border and/or in Baja for more than 72 hours, you must have an FMM. The easiest way to get an FMM is through Discover Baja. www.discoverbaja.com/go/fmm-tourist-permits/

HOW TO BE PREPARED IN AN EMERGENCY IN BAJA

◆ Before you travel, register with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). This is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. <https://step.state.gov/step/>

STEP allows you to:

- Receive important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.
- Help the U.S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency.
- Help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

◆ Get international travel insurance so that while traveling you have access to the following:

- International medical insurance
- Emergency evacuation, repatriation and worldwide travel assistance
- 24/7 emergency response center

www.discoverbaja.com/mexican-auto-insurance/travel-insurance/

◆ Be prepared. Have extra water, fuel, and an emergency car kit.

◆ Make extra copies of important paperwork (passport, drivers license, credit cards, Mexican auto insurance, tourist visa, etc). Bring a set with you and leave a set with a friend or family member at home and scan and email a set to yourself as well. Make sure someone at home has a copy of your trip itinerary.

◆ During Hurricane season (June through November with Aug-Oct being the worst months) check with weather forecasts like wunderground.com and the National Hurricane Center.

◆ If you dial **078** in Baja from any public, private or cell phone it will direct you to the tourist assistance hotline. Their bilingual staff can help you out with anything from emergency response to general travel information. **066** is the Mexican equivalent of 911 and will get you emergency response.

◆ U.S. Consulates in Mexico:

Tijuana:

Paseo de las Culturas s/n
Mesa de Otay
Delegación Centenario C.P. 22425
Tijuana, Baja California
664-977-2000
After-hour emergency hotline:
001-619-692-2154

Los Cabos:

Tiendas de Palmilla
Carretera Transpeninsular Km 27.5
Local B221
San José del Cabo, Baja California
Sur, C.P. 23406:
Telephone: (624) 143-3566
Fax: (624) 143-6750

ON OUR RADAR FOR OCTOBER

To keep up on the latest Baja events, check out www.discoverbaja.com/events

OCT 3-5

Entijuanarte

- Celebrate the arts with this three day festival which will be held at the Tijuana cultural Center (CECUT)
- entijuanarte.org



OCT 4-5

Mariachi y Ballet Folklórico Concert

- Rosarito Beach Hotel
- Entertainment by the Mariachi Divas and Mariachi Vargas
- clubrosarito.org



OCT 16

DBTC Graham Mackintosh Lecture

- 7pm Liberty Station
- Enjoy an evening with famous Baja author Graham Mackintosh
- bit.ly/1pD0xBn



OCT 12

Puerto Nuevo Lobster Festival

- 1pm-6pm Puerto Nuevo
- Celebrate the kick off to lobster fest with music, entertainment, drinks and lobster!



OCT 26

Daylight Savings Time Ends for Baja Sur

- Time to set your clocks back an hour if you're in Baja Sur. Baja norte follows the U.S. schedule for Daylight Savings and won't fall back until the rest of the U.S. on Nov. 2



OCT 29 - NOV 2

BC Culinary Fest

- Three days of culinary events featuring local and international chefs
- Events will take place in Tijuana, Ensenada and the Valle de Guadalupe.
- bcculinaryfest.com



Dia de los Muertos

The Mexican celebration of the dead is coming up on Nov. 1 and 2. Celebrate by creating an altar adorned with photos of lost loved ones, flowers and sweets as offerings.

47th Annual Tecate SCORE Baja 1000

The 2014 Tecate Score Baja 1000 will take place Nov. 12-16. This off road races will be point to point from Ensenada to La Paz (approximately 1,130 miles)

- score-international.com/2014-tecate-score-baja-1000/



Discover Baja Lecture Series Presents...

Graham Mackintosh's Baja Adventures!

Join us Thursday, October 16th at 7 pm in San Diego for an entertaining evening as legendary Baja author, Graham Mackintosh, regales us with his tales of recent adventures in Baja.

Graham Mackintosh is the author of the Baja books "Into a Desert Place," "Journey with a Baja Burro," "Marooned with Very Little Beer," and "Nearer My Dog to Thee"
www.grahammackintosh.com



Thursday, October 16th at 7pm
Liberty Station - NTC Command Center
Meeting Room 1
2640 Historic Decatur Road
San Diego, CA 92106

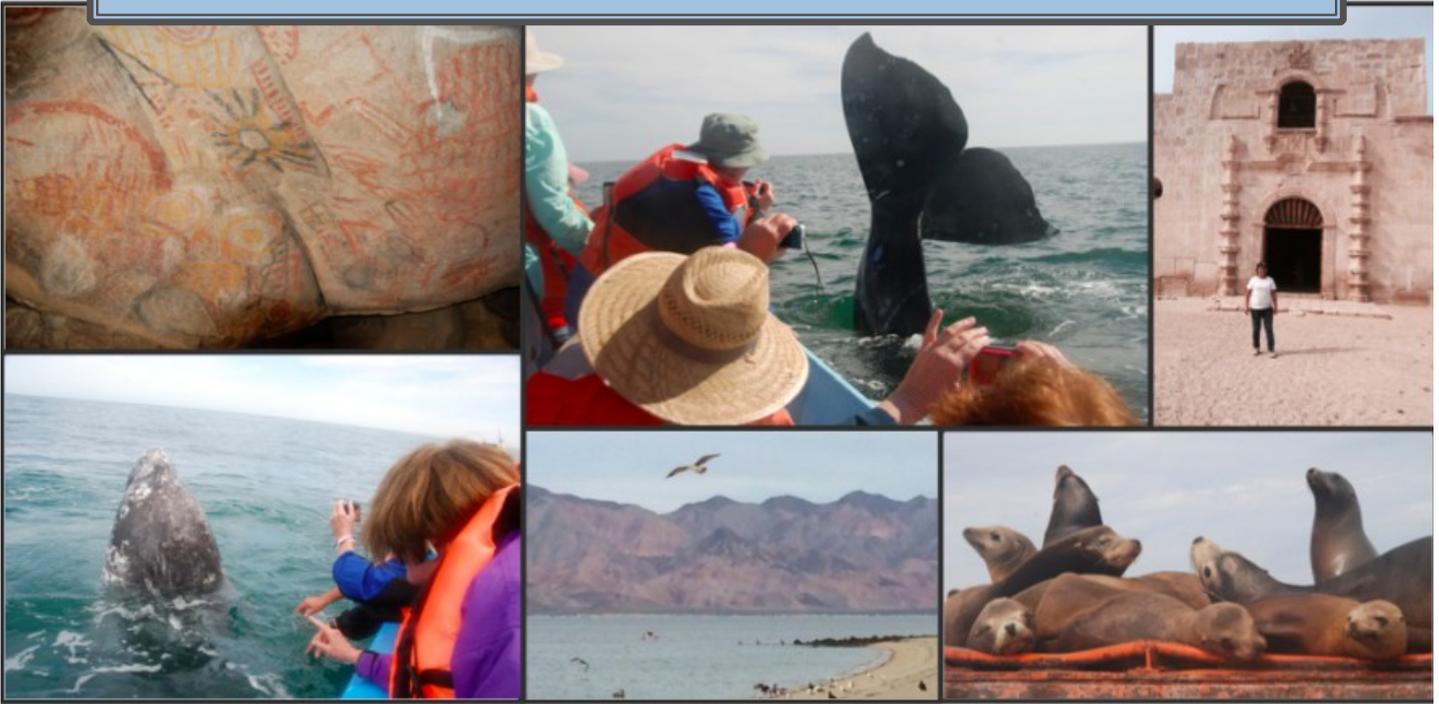
Free for Discover Baja members.
\$5 for nonmembers.

For more information: bit.ly/1pD0xBn



RSVP to ask@discoverbaja.com or 800-727-2252

Explore the Peninsula with Baja Author Graham Mackintosh!



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 Baja Custom Tours special 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, stories and locations in Graham’s Baja books, and a great time with friends in this all-inclusive 7 day/6 night tour.

*There are three dates for this trip:
January 28 – February 3, 2015
February 10 – February 16, 2015
March 18 – March 24, 2015*

7 days, 6 nights \$1,395 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 Bahía de Los Angeles, check in Costa del Sol motel, visit Bahía 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 Bahía de Los Angeles at 7am after breakfast, tacos in Vicente 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.

BUEN PROVECHO: *La Justina, Tijuana*



By Jennifer Kramer
bajatheothercalifornia.com

There's no question that the cultural renaissance of northern Baja is being led by the chefs of Tijuana. A decade ago, the popular Avenida Revolución in downtown Tijuana was a rowdy scene of drunken gringos, zonkeys and cheap souvenir shops. With the decline of tourism over the past number of years, the Tijuanaenses have reclaimed their city and are slowly turning Revolución into an area with art galleries, craft beer breweries and restaurants that are being globally recognized for their gastronomic inventiveness. These new places are popping up amongst the old institutions and the still-shuttered doors. La Justina, a new gastro bar right in the heart of the avenue, embodies what the revolution on Revolución is all about – nouveau thinking and well-crafted creation in the midst of old school traditions and down-trodden surroundings. This is the new Tijuana.

About two years ago, Jaime Brambila, whose parents used to own Café La Especial (a now-closed Tijuana institution located just below the current space of La Justina in the Pasaje Gomez)

started working on creating a gastro bar upstairs from the old Café. He tapped chef Chad White (of San Diego restaurants Plancha Baja Med, Sea Rocket Bistro and the new Común) to create the local menu. Snake Oil Cocktail Co. (also from San Diego) was brought in to help create the inventive cocktail menu. The space was made into a haven of upcycled industrial materials. In early 2014 La Justina opened its doors.

The restaurant is decorated in reclaimed and raw materials – wooden tables and chairs, hanging light bulb fixtures, exposed brick walls, rope chandeliers, a vertical succulent garden on the entry wall. A neon sign, original to Café La Especial, welcomes the stylish Tijuanaense clientele. The vibe is effortless-chic by way of rustic-industrial.

We started with cocktails, which were all carefully crafted and delicious. The deconstructed cocktails contain all of the traditional ingredients with an extra kick or two. My Michelada was made with the usual beer and clamato along with a splash of tequila. The margarita adds a slice of cactus and a black ash salt rim. Everything on the menu (both

cocktails and food) is well thought-out and carefully executed.

While we sipped our cocktails and perused the menu, we munched on the deliciously spiced house palomitas (popcorn). In the end, I couldn't decide on trying just one thing, so I decided to try it all with the seasonal chef's tasting. The chef's tasting that consisted of courses of fresh salad, raw oysters, seasoned french fries, beets and soft white cheese, pork belly with corn arepas, and muscles and clams in a savory tomato broth. To top it all off for dessert we had tres leches with a crusted caramelized crust and house-made donuts. Perfection.

The full chef tasting plus drinks only came to about \$30 per person. You can't find this echelon of food and drinks at these prices anywhere north of the border. It's time to join the revolution.

La Justina Gastro Bar
Avenida Revolucion between 3rd and 4th St
22000 Tijuana, Baja California
Open Weds-Sat 5pm-12am
They do accept credit cards
www.facebook.com/lajustinatj
They don't accept reservations so arrive early
GPS: 32.533576, -117.038240

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.

