

# September 2015 Newsletter



## BAJA NEWS

For more Baja news, see:  
[www.discoverbaja.com/baja-california-information/baja-news/](http://www.discoverbaja.com/baja-california-information/baja-news/)



### New Rules for FMM Tourist Permits

The rules for FMM tourist permits have recently changed and all tourists entering Baja now need to obtain an FMM when entering Mexico. The previous "free zone" of 72 hours within the border zone (20 km) no longer applies. If you will be in Baja for seven days or less, you can still get a free FMM. For stays over seven days, a paid FMM will be required. Visitors also no longer need to return their FMMs when leaving Mexico. Discover Baja members can still obtain a prepaid FMM saving time and hassle at the border. For more information: [www.discoverbaja.com/go/fmm-tourist-permits/](http://www.discoverbaja.com/go/fmm-tourist-permits/)



### T-Mobile Reveals New Flat Plan for U.S., Mexico and Canada

Phone provider T-Mobile has revealed a new North America phone plan that provides unlimited talk, text and data while on network in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

## From the DBTC Office

Labor Day is coming up and we hope you're all ready for a Baja adventure. Let us know if we can help you out with Mexican Auto Insurance, FMMs, Mexican Fishing Licenses or reservations. The DBTC offices will be closed Saturday, Sept. 5 - Monday, Sept. 7 in observance of the holiday.

Beloved friend and gifted cartographer, Landon Crumpton, best known for his personally mapped Baja Atlas (Baja California Almanac) succumbed to complications with pneumonia this past February. A celebration of life tribute will be held in San Diego on the evening of September 19<sup>th</sup>. See page 3 for more information.

See you in Baja!

Hugh, Carol, Jen, Maythé & Monica

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

**PESO EXCHANGE RATE:** \$16.8 to \$1 U.S. dollar

**PEMEX PRICES: Northern Baja:** Magna: \$3.13/gal, Premium: \$3.32/gal, Diesel: \$3.28/gal  
**Southern Baja:** Magna: \$3.13/gal, Premium: \$3.32/gal, Diesel: \$3.28/gal

**FISHING LICENSES:** Day: \$12.25, Week: \$31.20, Month: \$42.80, Year: \$54.40 for members.  
[www.discoverbaja.com/go/fishing-licenses](http://www.discoverbaja.com/go/fishing-licenses)

**PREPAID FMMs:** \$28 DBTC members only. Please allow two weeks for processing.  
[www.discoverbaja.com/go/fmm-tourist-permits](http://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/](http://www.discoverbaja.com/go/temporary-boat-importation/)

**NAUTICAL FMMs:** \$10/person fee for DBTC to process. Service for DBTC members only.  
[www.discoverbaja.com/go/nautical-sportfishing-fmm](http://www.discoverbaja.com/go/nautical-sportfishing-fmm)

**MEXICAN AUTO INSURANCE:** Special yearly rates for members. [www.discoverbajaonline.com](http://www.discoverbajaonline.com)

# ON OUR RADAR FOR SEPTEMBER

For more information about the events below and to keep up on all of the latest Baja events, see [www.discoverbaja.com/events](http://www.discoverbaja.com/events)

## SEPTEMBER 4, 5 & 6 FestiArte



Free entrance at this three day art festival in Playas de Tijuana. Live music, dance, film, paintings and regional food.

## SEPTEMBER 7 Labor Day



Any three-day weekend is a great reason to get down to Baja. Celebrate the end of summer with a long weekend on the peninsula.

## SEPTEMBER 12 Pacifica Beer Fest



The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Pacifica Beer Fest will take place in Ensenada and will feature local craft beers, food and music. [www.facebook.com/PacificaBeerFestEnsenada](http://www.facebook.com/PacificaBeerFestEnsenada)

## SEPTEMBER 16 Mexican Independence Day



Listen to a reenactment of the *Grito de Dolores* and eat some *chiles en nogada* to help Mexico celebrate their independence day. Banks and government offices will be closed in Baja. ¡Viva Mexico!

## SEPTEMBER 18-19 Pesca la Baja Fishing Tournament Grand Finale: Ensenada



Ensenada will be the grand finale of the Pesca la Baja fishing tournament. [www.pescalabaja.com](http://www.pescalabaja.com)

## SEPTEMBER 19 Festival de Queso, Vino y Cerveza Artesanal



This cheese, wine and beer festival will take place at the new Rosarito Baja California Center. [www.facebook.com/FestivalDeQuesoVinoYCervezaArtesanal](http://www.facebook.com/FestivalDeQuesoVinoYCervezaArtesanal)

## SEPTEMBER 25-27 Baja Seafood Expo Ensenada



Producers, and consumers gather in Ensenada every year to enjoy some of the best seafood the world has to offer. [www.bajaseafoodexpo.com](http://www.bajaseafoodexpo.com)

## SEPTEMBER 25- OCTOBER 11 Fiestas del Sol



The 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this Mexicali fair will be filled with rides, food, concerts and fun. [www.fiestasdelosol.com.mx](http://www.fiestasdelosol.com.mx)

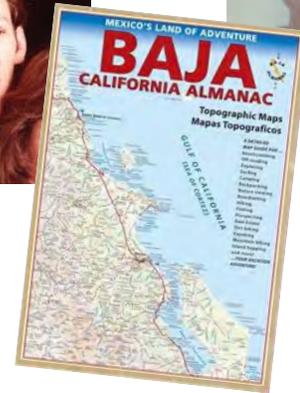
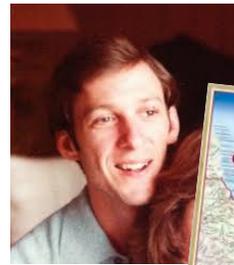
## SEPTEMBER 26 Rosarito Ensenada Bike Ride



This 80 kilometer fun bike ride begins in Rosarito and ends with a fiesta in Ensenada. [www.rosaritoensenada.com](http://www.rosaritoensenada.com)

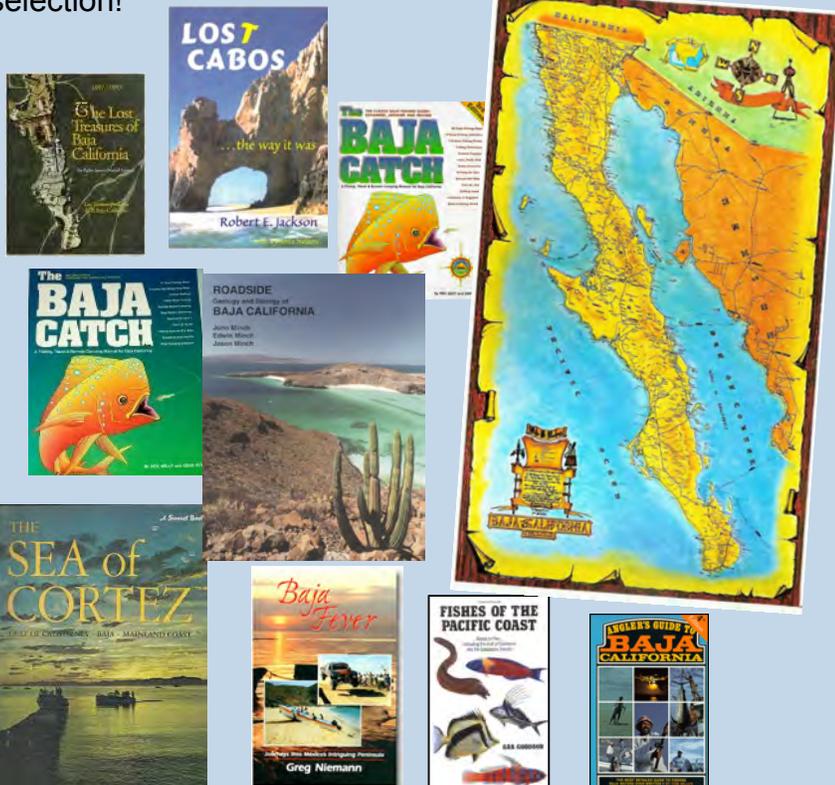
# Celebration of Life for Landon Crumpton, creator of Baja California Almanac

*Beloved friend and gifted cartographer, Landon Crumpton, best known for his personally mapped Baja Atlas (Baja California Almanac) succumbed to complications with pneumonia this past February. A celebration of life tribute will be held in San Diego on September 19th from 5-7pm. Please bring memories and stories to tell. If you are interested in attending, please call the Discover Baja office at 800-727-2252 or email Kadie at [kdurocher858@aol.com](mailto:kdurocher858@aol.com) for the address and more information.*



## From the DBTC Baja Shop:

We recently acquired a collection of vintage Baja books and maps from the collection of Mike McMahan. In addition to copies of the famous McMahan Baja map, we have a number of collectable Baja books – “The Baja Catch” 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> editions, “Lost Cabos,” “The Lost Treasures of Baja California,” “Anglers Guide to Baja California,” “Roadside Geology and Biology of Baja California” and more! Some of these out-of-print, books are still in the shrink wrap. Call the office at 800-727-2252 or stop by to have a look at the selection!



## Wine Tasting Tours to the Valle de Guadalupe

Baja Test Kitchen, a sister company to Discover Baja (run by Jen Kramer and her husband, Chris Mejia) are offering private wine tasting tours to the Valle de Guadalupe, Mexico's famed wine region. BTK is dedicated to the exploration of Baja California's emergent culinary movement and offers curated “tasting tours” of Northern Baja's most renowned eateries, wineries and craft breweries.



For more information, visit Baja Test Kitchen online at

[www.bajatestkitchen.com](http://www.bajatestkitchen.com)

# Rock Art Sites of Baja California

By David Kier

Rock art sites are some of Baja California's most interesting attractions. They are found throughout the peninsula and the art takes on many forms and styles from place to place. The native people recorded their culture by depicting animals, food, battles, weather and more. Probably more is unknown than known as to what was the full message.

Two varieties of rock art found are petroglyphs and pictographs. A petroglyph is art that is 'pecked' or rubbed into a rock face by contacting the surface with a harder stone and exposing the lighter colored rock beneath. A pictograph is actual painted art on a rock face where the paint was created using different mineral sands mixed with water, vegetable matter, or blood. Red, yellow and black being the most common colors.

Because the number of visitors to these ancient sites has grown over the past century, great care must be exercised to preserve these windows into man's past. The rock art sites in Baja California have been estimated to range in age from 700 to over 7,000 years. Never touch the rock surface of an ancient site because skin oil and rubbing will damage the art. Leave the art work where it has been for centuries so future visitors may also enjoy them.

The state of Baja California Sur is perhaps best known for the giant cave art made famous by author and Baja explorer Erle Stanley Gardner in the 1960's and later by researcher and history author Harry Crosby. The art is world famous and tours to them create an important resource for the local economy. Less known to the outside world are the rock art sites of the northern half of Baja California. Here are some examples:

## Las Pintas

1) **Las Pintas** is a large boulder area with petroglyphs dating back 2,000 years and perhaps to 3,000 years ago. The art has been added at the site up to mission times, based on the subject matter displayed. It is believed that Las Pintas is the southernmost example of Great Basin Abstract rock art. It contains very little hunting imagery (common at many other sites). Instead there is more religious ritual style art. This tends to indicate Las Pintas was a ceremonial location and not a native village site.

To reach Las Pintas, a four wheel drive is recommended for the final miles. Go 14 miles southbound on Highway 1 from El Rosario to the graded dirt road to Punta San Carlos (near Km. 80). Go just over 17 miles south on the San Carlos road and take a dirt track to the left. Then travel along and eventually down into the Arroyo San Fernando riverbed for 5 miles. Take a faint track to the left, leaving the big arroyo for 2/10 of a mile to a fork and go right. In less than two miles the road ends at the base of the boulders that are Las Pintas. Passageways are between and under the boulders. A trail climbs to the right up to the top, and more rock art is along the top to the right. A road also circles around to the top, on the west side. A full day is not enough time to see all that is at Las Pintas!

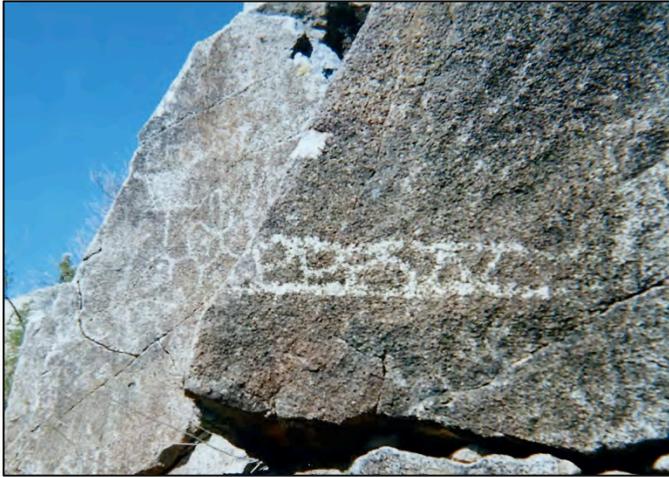
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## San Fernando de Velicatá

2) **San Fernando de Velicatá** is the 1769 mission founded by Junípero Serra on his overland journey from Loreto to San Diego. On a cliff face just  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile west of the mission are some curious petroglyphs believed to date back up to 1,000 years. The site, about 35 miles southeast of El Rosario, was more extensive and easier to view in the past. The river erosion and intentional destruction by missionaries during their building of an irrigation canal have reduced the site. Odd figures, and what appears to be Roman numerals, and a Spanish galleon shape, have made this site interesting to ponder by many over the years.

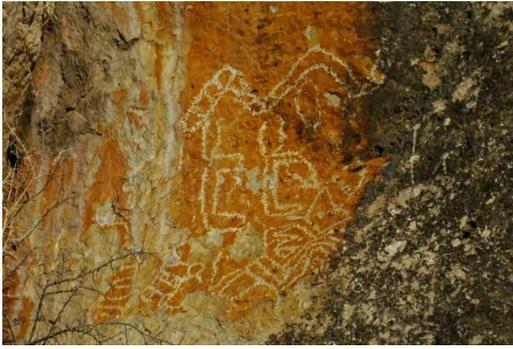


## Montevideo

3) **Montevideo** is one of the extensive pictograph (painted) rock art sites that is easily reached in a four wheel drive vehicle. The tall cliff face was a giant easel for ancient artists who began painting here as much as 10,000 years ago. Many colorful patterns, including lightning bolts, await those who make the trip in through one of Baja California's finest examples of desert vegetation. Take the signed road to Mission San Borja from the Bahía de los Angeles highway (27 miles from Highway 1 or 13 miles from Bahía de los Angeles). Go south two miles to a side road left and go 5.8 miles to the side of the cliff. The rock art is all along the cliff face.



**David Kier is a history and Baja expert and co-author of "The Old Missions of Baja & Alta California: 1697 - 1834." He'll be leading our Baja California Missions Trip this October to see all three of these rock art sites as well as Missions and other archaeological and historical sites. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime trip! See the next page for more details**



# Baja California Missions Trip

Come explore Baja's missions, architecture, historical sites, rock art, nature and more!

**October 20-29, 2015**



Join famous Baja author and Baja Missions expert, David Kier, on this Discover Baja and Baja Custom Tours special trip to see many of the famous Baja Spanish Missions, other historical sites, and loads of natural/eco sites! This 10-day/9-night, all-inclusive trip will feature the best of Baja from Tecate to Loreto, highlighting many of the missions, ghost towns, rock art sites, museums and beautiful natural environment along the way!

**This is a once-in-a-lifetime trip that will fill quickly, so call Discover Baja at 800-727-2252 or email [ask@discoverbaja.com](mailto:ask@discoverbaja.com) to book your spot today!**

**For full itinerary and more information: [www.discoverbaja.com/2015/08/13/missions-trip](http://www.discoverbaja.com/2015/08/13/missions-trip)**

*\$2,095 all-inclusive per person, based on double occupancy*

# BAJA FISHING REPORT

with Gary Graham

The last event before the Pesca La Baja finale (which will be held in Ensenada on September 18 and 19) took place August 21 and 22 at San Quintin. It attracted 170 local and visiting anglers who gathered at the starting line in front of Old Mill (Molino Viejo). By the end of the second day after the final fish was weighed, two clear winners had emerged.

In the bottom category, Ernesto Emmanuel Carrillo Zepeda, with a 62.8-pound mero (black seabass) captured top honors.

Lawrence Biedebach dominated the surface division with an impressive 61.9-pound white seabass.

Coronado Islands has been overshadowed by all the action above the border. The southern California mosquito fleet is quite content to capitalize on the best



fishing season in many years and avoid all the hassle of the Mexican Patrol boat lurking around the Islands.

However, at Salsipuedes close to shore a short distance above Ensenada where there are a number of tuna pens, several yachts found some large bird schools feeding on bait balls. They trolled some lures along the edges and were rewarded with a few mossback yellowtail. Their next pass yielded an Indian attack as several striped marlin popped up behind the lures. This might be worth a look if you happen to be in the neighborhood.

There is also another group of tuna pens twenty miles off of Todos Santos where local boats are finding yellowtail and dorado under the kelp paddies, plus yellowfin and a few striped marlin

around the tuna pens.

From Ensenada down the coast to San Quintin, inshore action remains consistent with good catches of yellowtail, calico and white seabass on both bait or artificials. The few local boats that are venturing very far offshore have found the kelp paddies loaded with small dorado and yellowtail. The yellowfin tuna are hit or miss which is understandable with the few boats looking.

At Cedros, the yellows and calico bass have been joined by some exotics, including white seabass and dorado.

On down the coast, at Bahia Ascension, weather has been nice enough that some are even fishing the kelp close to shore from their paddleboards.

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**LEFT: Ernesto Emmanuel Carrillo Zepeda, with a 62.8-pound mero (black seabass). CENTER: Dorado caught in Ensenada. RIGHT: Lawrence Biedebach with his 61.9-pound white seabass**

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While farther down -- in fact all the way to Magdalena Bay -- the yellowfin tuna are abundant and often located traveling with porpoise schools in search of food.

According to locals at Magdalena Bay, there are already a few striped marlin filtering in the offshore area along with a few dorado and wahoo -- no bonanza but a good sign for the upcoming fall season.

At Bahia de Los Angeles, summer visitors have found warm -- no, hot -- weather and moderate fishing for dorado, (mostly the smaller variety), yellowtail and a few white seabass.

Farther down the Sea of Cortez, from Punta Chivato all the way to below Loreto, it's hot weather and many are heading out on the water just to cool off. There are few dorado along with some yellowtail on the deeper banks in 300 feet of water. Frankly, that's a bit of a stretch in my book. Winding a stubborn yellowtail up from the bottom that deep in the hot Baja sun falls into the category of *work*.

Speaking of work there are more than normal number of billfish hanging around. Some are being sighted jumping a few miles from shore. In addition, the roosterfish are certainly an option along with the usual cabrilla, grouper and snapper, plus triggerfish if you are desperate.

East Cape is kicking out some nice wahoo like the one below caught by Matt Clifton.

Typical weather for August will continue into September with thunderstorms almost every day up in the mountains.

Good bait is available -- caballito, ballyhoo and dead sardina. The dead sardina are proving deadly on the tuna being caught from Palmas Bay to San Jose.

Although there are some larger tuna down on the Gordo and Iman Banks, with a good showing of striped marlin, blues and even a few blacks in the mix, dorado remain sparse in most areas all the way to the tip of Baja. (note that blue fin tuna are only allowed

to be caught on catch-and-release right now).

Here is a tip for the tin-boat fleet or anyone else fishing trailer boats with limited bait capacity ... dead rigged ballyhoo have become a popular choice for trolling universally if they are available. Often they aren't and decent live bait is difficult to find and not easy to keep alive.

A clever trick is to combine a large swim-bait with a large octopus skirt that has a similar appearance and action of a rigged ballyhoo.



Here are a couple examples -- use your imagination to come up with your version. They have become very popular for tuna and billfish on the East Coast.

There are many companies that offer large plastic swim baits and plastic skirts in a variety of colors.



[http://www.cousinstackle.com/blog1/?page\\_id=676](http://www.cousinstackle.com/blog1/?page_id=676)



<http://www.mc-swimbait.com/Slugs.htm>

Good Luck and Tight Lines...  
Questions or comments are welcome.  
garyg@garycgraham.com



**TOP LEFT: Tuna caught down on the Gordo and Iman Banks . TOP RIGHT: Matt Clifton and a wahoo. BOTTOM LEFT: 8th grader from Del Mar CA Andrew Harvey with big catch and release rooster . BOTTOM RIGHT: The catch at Magdalena Bay**

# DBTC STAFF PENINSULA PICKS: FALL BAJA TRIPS

The smell of fall is in the air and for the team at Discover Baja, that means we're dreaming of heading south where the weather on the peninsula is perfect and the food, relaxation and adventures are calling.



I would love to go on a week spa trip at Rancho La Puerta. I could use a nice massage, facial and just escape with a glass of champagne by the pool. **-Monica**

I'm hoping to make it on the Baja Missions Trip with David Kier in October (see page 6) to see the Baja Spanish missions, rock art and other fascinating historical and archaeological treasures on the peninsula. I know it's going to be the trip of a lifetime! **-Jen**

Fall is a perfect season to visit the Valle de Guadalupe. The summer crowds are gone and I still get to eat al fresco at delicious places like TROIka and Finca Altozano. **-Maythé**

Looking for beautiful Fall weather with colorful Aspen-covered mountainsides? Then head to Meling Ranch for a cozy room, great food and a side trip for enjoyable hiking in the San Pedro Mártir National Park. Then continue on, with a visit to the National Astronomical Observatory, and don't miss the condors along the way. Unforgettable. **-Hugh**



*Photo by Paul J Curtis*

My ideal fall trip would be to head to Bahia de los Angeles to see and swim with the big, beautiful whale sharks. **-Carol**





**Visit the Gray Whales in  
San Ignacio and  
Guerrero Negro on the  
“Dos Lagoons Tour”  
11 Days / 10 Nights  
With Baja Author Graham  
Mackintosh!**



*Join MexMike Essary with Baja Custom Tours and Baja author Graham Mackintosh for a 11 day/10 night all-inclusive trip to see the friendly gray whales of Baja California.*

***January 31 – February 10, 2016***

**\*\*Includes:** Recently paved San Felipe and Bahia Gonzaga route, Cataviña stay, Mission San Ignacio, Laguna San Ignacio at Antonio’s Camp on the Lagoon with 3 whale tours, Guerrero Negro with inner and outer lagoon tours, Baja Berrendo Reserve visit, Bahia de Los Angeles with Island boat tour, Rancho Meling in the San Pedro Martir, Observatory tour, highest point in ALL of Baja, horseback riding, wine tasting in Valle de Guadalupe!

**\*\*All meals-drinks-transportation-lodgings-tours are included.** You’ll need to get a Mexican FMM tourist Permit. Tips and personal purchases are not included. Transportation is a 4x4 Ford E350 Van.

\$2,495 per person, double occupancy

**Email [ask@discoverbaja.com](mailto:ask@discoverbaja.com) or call 800-727-2252 for more information.**

**Only NINE seats available! Book Now!**



# More Gray Whale Trips for 2016

*8 days, 7 nights*

*\$1,695 all-inclusive, double occupancy*

*Dates for Trips:*

*February 18 – February 25, 2016*

*March 3 – March 10, 2016*

*March 16 – March 23, 2016*



Come join famous Baja author Graham Mackintosh on this Baja Custom Tours trip with MexMike Essary to see whales, the Sea of Cortez, and the mountains of San Pedro 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, 8-day/7-night tour. Must provide your own Mexican FMM tourist permit.

Personal purchases/tips not included.

## **Itineraries:**

**Day 1** - Departure from San Diego 7am, El Marmol onyx quarry, lunch at Desert Inn Cataviña, free time, dinner Cataviña

**Day 2** - 7am breakfast in Cataviña, depart 8am for local cave paintings, drive to Guerrero Negro, stop at Baja berrendo (prong horn antelope) sanctuary, check in at motel, lunch, free time, dinner at Mario's Palapa

**Day 3** – 7am breakfast, drive to Ojo de Liebre lagoon for two-hour whale tour – inner lagoon, lunch at Tony's Tacos, break, visit old town Guerrero Negro – old lighthouse - wetlands, 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, free time, Seafood extravaganza dinner!

**Day 5** - 8am breakfast, boat tour of bay and islands, lunch on a beach, visit Bahia Natural History Museo, dinner at Casa Essary

**Day 6** – Depart Bahía de Los Angeles at 8am after breakfast, tacos in Vincente Guerrero, drive to Meling Ranch, free time (hiking or horseback riding), family style dinner

**Day 7** – 8am breakfast, drive to Observatory for tour, picnic lunch at San Pedro Martir museum, return to Rancho Meling, free time, Special BBQ dinner with fireside S'mores

**Day 8** – Depart Meling Ranch at 8am after breakfast, torta lunch in El Sauzal, wine tasting in Valle de Guadalupe (Monte Xanic), cross border in Tecate.

***Email ask@discoverbaja.com or call 800-727-2252 for more information.***

## CARAVAN NOTICE:

Departing from San Diego, caravan with me beginning early October 2015 to my final destination – monkeys in the rainforest of Lake Catemaco Mexico. Destinations on the way include historic Real de Catorce, the region of La Huesteca (Tomosopo) and thermal swimming pools, a possible overnight camp seeing an active volcano outside of the city of Puebla. If my 1987 VW can make it, so can you. For more details contact me [bajabrian@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bajabrian@sbcglobal.net) or leave me your telephone number (858) 483-5866 extension 3. Synchronaut, Brian Smith



*“This was a blue marlin my 19-year old son, Luke Budwig, hooked while in Bahia de Los Angeles this past July. He only had it hooked for about a minute ... just long enough for his buddy to get these shots ... he was fishing for yellowtail with 25lb test line which was no match for what appears to be an 8 foot/300lb marlin.” –Mark Budwig*



## 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 pills for water, extra large propane tank, solar. Asking US \$185,000 or best offer. Contact 760-889-4888 or [sherylkaonis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sherylkaonis@sbcglobal.net) or [slgordinier@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slgordinier@sbcglobal.net)

## PROPERTY FOR SALE IN SAN MIGUEL DE COMONDÚ:

A lot with a producing avocado orchard, equipped with asequeias (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.

