

Escapees Chapter 8

Wine to Whales Baja Caravan

February 4-25, 2018



Hola Mexican Connection Amigos...

Our attraction packed, event driven, charity laced Caravan to Baja California is shaping up to be an adventure worth far more than its SKP price!

Kassandra & Ed Dennis, Wagonmasters 2018



The 2018 Caravan is a 500 mile "Rolling Rally" filled with multiple venues, fascinating tours, select wine tasting opportunities, dramatic geologic panoramas, bizarre trees, fantastic cacti, old Spanish missions, picturesque ocean beaches, whales and their newborns. All with the joyful camaraderie and adventuresome spirit of Caravan SKPs and Happy Hours galore!

We gather in the U.S. just north of Tecate, Mexico and then head for the heart of the wine country, then Ensenada just in time for the parades, and excitement of "Carnaval," followed by camping on an ocean beach, the otherworldly treasures of Catavina... and finally reach Guerrero Negro for the height of gray whale activity with the world's greatest concentration of gray whales in nearby Ojo de Liebre Lagoon.

The Caravan provides an opportunity to travel safely with old and new SKP friends to some of the most beautiful places in Baja California, to learn about the warm hearted friendly people, their culture and customs. In the tradition of Chapter 8, our Caravan will not only hit the tourist highlights but will take you behind the "Gringo Scene" to savor the sights and tastes of the real Mexico.



The 2018 Wines to Whales Caravan begins on the U.S. side of the border where we will gather at the beautiful Potrero Regional Park in Potrero California, just north of the safe and tranquil border crossing at Tecate, Baja California, Mexico.

Upon crossing the border we will head for an exotic dry camping opportunity in the heart of the Valle Guadalupe where 90% of Mexican wines are created. There will be ample opportunity for the tours, tastings, the Wine Museum and exceptional dining in an area said to be the future "Napa Valley" of Mexico.



Our next stop will be in the vicinity of the deep-water port of Ensenada, a favorite port of major cruise lines. We will arrive in time to enjoy the third largest Carnival (Mardi Gras) in Mexico. The Ensenada City Tour includes the many landmarks that have kept Ensenada, the third largest Mexican city, an ever-popular cruise ship, auto and tour bus destination.



Visit Mother Nature's dancing waters, "La Bufadora" where huge ocean waves hit a unique cliff formation throwing massive salt water sprays high overhead.

It is also the site of a thriving tourist marketplace and an several mariscos restaurants serving fresh seafood. The road to La Bufadora is dotted with street vendors and small shops and offers many scenic ocean views. Be sure to go up the stairs and watch from the ledge above the main view area.





Midway between Ensenada and La Bufadora is the friendly oceanside community and relaxed resort known as La Jolla Beach Camp. This ocean beach has a hidden asset. Beneath the beach are hot springs waiting to be uncovered. Visitors dig shallow holes in the sandy beach and hot water bubbles up to make a natural "hot tub." We have reserved every La Jolla RV site for our Caravan. There is much more to learn about this unique venue... so be sure to check it out the details that will be in the next



This year's caravan is longer than those of recent years, with more to see and do along the way. Just like last year's event this will be a mostly dry camping adventure and a great opportunity to learn more about dry camping from seasoned SKP's. Travelling between towns in Baja usually results in areas of little or no cell coverage, so it is the policy of the Mexican Connection to have a CB Radio with an outside antenna for each rig.

Emergency medical facilities and pharmacies are available in most larger towns. You will find familiar products at Costco and Walmart. It's great to try shopping at a local supermarket.

This is at least a four week trip: Three weeks of Caravan and one week (or more if you like) to return to the good old U.S.A.

Charity is uniquely part of Chapter 8's purpose in Mexico... and a reason our annual event is so well respected by the local residents at every stop along the way. Any member of the Caravan can come along with the Charity Committee to visit local organizations that need a helping hand. SKP volunteers bring items to donate to the always hilarious charity auction or help distribute donated items to local charity organizations... and know firsthand the empowering feeling of providing a pathway for people to rise above their current condition.



This number of venues and the 21 day length of this Caravan requires volunteer Group Leaders and Tail Gunners at every turn. The 2018 Parking Team will be at the forefront of every venue change. Group Leaders will have an expanded role in making this Caravan successful and fun! Volunteers make it possible to see and do more things for a fraction of the cost of commercial tours! Usually, almost half the Caravan will be seasoned Mexican Connection travelers and the rest will be newbies. Helping SKPs cross the border confidently is what Chapter 8 was created to do.



To Be Continued in the next Newsletter