



La Conexión *Mexicana*

Escapes RV Club Chapter 8

Fall 2018

2019 Rolling Rally Bulletin 3

**Buen provecho en Baja California
(Enjoy Your Meal in Baja California)**

**Más arte por todos lados
(More Art Everywhere)**

La Conexión Mexicana

Escapees RV Club Chapter 8

Member of Escapees Social Network, Inc.

© 2018 Escapees RV Club Chapter 8

Fall 2018 - Volume 39, No. 3

Website: www.mexicanconnection08.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/EscapeesMexicanConnection

On the cover:

Shrimp cocktail is among the most popular of coastal Mexican dishes. With its fresh supply of produce and seafood, Baja California's *cocktail de camarón* is hard to beat in value, presentation, and flavor. Photo by Bob Pettit.

Reports and Information

Mission statement, Chapter 8 Officers	3
Rolling Rally Q&A	4
Editor's Notebook	6
President's Message	7
Historian's Note	9
Next Issue & Submitting Content	26

Features

2019 Rolling Rally Bulletin 3	10
Buen provecho en Baja California (Enjoy Your Meal)	14
Más arte por todos lados (More Art Everywhere)	22

The Mission of Chapter 8, which was organized in 1985, is to:

- ◆ Expose Escapees Chapter 8 Mexican Connection members to RV travel in Mexico, its traditions, culture, scenery, food, and folklore.
- ◆ Travel South of the Border and give back more than the enriching experiences we gain, through charity donations and business patronization.
- ◆ Enable Chapter 8 members to feel comfortable to return to Mexico for future Rallies as well as their own road trip adventures.



Website: www.mexicanconnection08.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/EscapesMexicanConnection

Membership Reminder: Chapter 8 membership is due in April of each year. If you haven't already, please renew on the Chapter 8 website's [Membership Renewal page](#).

Escapees Chapter 8 Officers

President — Ed Dennis, ed@ekdennis.com

Immediate Past President — Cynthia Ponder, cynacat@gmail.com

1st VP & 2019 Wagonmaster — Kassandra Dennis, kassandra@ekdennis.com

2nd VP & 2020 Wagonmaster — Bob Payne, bobsapayne@aol.com

3rd VP & 2021 Wagonmaster — **Vacant, please volunteer**

Treasurer — Steve Bufty, stevebufty@yahoo.com

Secretary — Jean Pedersen, jeancarolp@yahoo.com

Membership — Jay Hault, hault2@yahoo.com

Webmaster — **Vacant, please volunteer**

Newsletter Editor — Joseph M. de Leon, chap8newsletter@gmail.com

Newsletter Layout/Graphics — Joseph M. de Leon, chap8newsletter@gmail.com

Historian — Debby Clark, debrv@me.com

Rolling Rally Q&A

Member-submitted questions

Have a question about the 2019 Rolling Rally? E-mail [Chapter 8 President Ed Dennis](#) or [2019 Wagonmaster Cassandra Dennis](#). You never know, we might even publish it so everyone can benefit from your curiosity!

Q: I have a 2016 Ford F250 diesel. I am concerned about how to get diesel fuel in Mexico. How do I determine the availability of diesel fuel during the rally?

- Tom Bartlett

A: If you are concerned about ULSD (Ultra Low Sulphur Diesel) in all of Baja California, Mexico, you need not be. ULSD from refineries in the United States provide all of the automotive diesel fuel in Baja California. Cassandra and I have a Newmar Dutch Star diesel pusher and we tow a Mercedes-Benz Sprinter that also requires ULSD.



High-quality fuel is available in Baja California, including Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel. Gas attendants rely on tips. Photo courtesy Mexico News Daily

Therefore, we had a lot to lose so we researched the issue diligently, before we drove our vehicles on ULSD purchased in Mexico from Tecate to Cabo San Lucas on a six week trip in February of 2018.

You will find some to the research on the "Wine to Whales Baja Caravan" articles on the Chapter 8 website: [page 3 of update 4](#) and [paragraph 2 of update 5](#).

You will find familiar fuel stations in Mexico like Shell, ARCO, BP, Gulf, etc. You will also find ULSD frequently on the Mexican mainland, particularly around Mexico City. ULSD is scheduled to be available all over Mexico in 2019.



Pemex, the Mexican government owned oil monopoly since 1938, still exists but now allows foreign fuel and fuel stations in Mexico. The reason is that Mexican oil wells cannot meet the current demands for fuel and Mexican refineries do not have the technology in place to make ULSD any time soon.

A number of diesel rigs joined the 2018 Wine to Whales Caravan, including Ed and Kassandra's Newmar Dutch Star diesel pusher, which tows a diesel-powered Mercedes-Benz Sprinter, shown at left. Photo by Joseph M. de Leon

Most Pemex stations are actually franchises owned by local investors. Many Pemex franchise owners are converting from being Pemex stations to being familiar American Brand stations as mentioned above.

Happy Trails...

Ed Dennis,

Escapees RV Club, Chapter 8 president

Editor's Notebook

Joseph M. de Leon

My 6-month seasonal job with the U.S. Forest Service has been funded through April. I enjoy my job so much that I've also applied to several permanent positions. There's a slim chance I'll be able to get enough time off to join the 2019 Rolling Rally, but I'm not counting on it. For now, my priority will be to build inroads into what I hope will become a wonderful new line of work.



As winter approaches the Inland Northwest and the temperatures drop, my mind wanders to Baja California. Escaping the harsh winter to visit warmer climates is not likely to happen soon. Photo by Joseph M. de Leon

Soon, I'll be winterizing Loretta and storing her until the weather warms. Winters in Northeast Washington can be brutal, with temperatures below zero and snow topping 50 inches. It's no wonder some people refer to this area as "Little Alaska."

Living in a motorhome for the past year and a half has taught me opportunity is around every corner, to go with the flow, and to make the most over every moment and every mile. Best of all, it's given me an opportunity to meet people and see places I never would have otherwise. I can't wait to see what's to come!

Joseph is a former graphics and web producer and newspaper reporter currently working for the U.S. Forest Service. He travels in a Class C motorhome with his wife Denise and their dog Kimbo.

President's Message

Ed Dennis

iHola a todos!

We are on Grand Isle in Lake Champlain, Vermont (2,894 miles from the Rolling Rally beginning in Potrero County Park, California). Here we were surprisingly able to buy two farm fresh Poblano peppers and a perky bunch of cilantro to whet our appetite for Mexico! We just finished our last RV Rally of the season and can now put our full attention toward blending the past thirty odd years of Chapter 8 experience south of the border to the new realities of modern Mexico today. For example, the 2018 Wine to Whales Baja Caravan was able to have an official of the Secretary of Tourism to meet the Caravan at the Border to assure a smooth crossing from Tecate, U.S.A. to Tecate, Mexico.

We also had an escort from the *Angeles Verdes* (Green Angels). They are mechanics employed by the Mexican government to patrol the roads in pickup trucks with water, fuel, etc. to help stranded tourists.

It is the collective intent of the Executive Board to continue these efforts and more to make our rallies better year-by-year. Debby Clark, our ever-busy Historian and Utility Communication Infielder, has placed all the previously saved Chapter 8 records in Dropbox for approval by the Executive Board after which the most important ones can be added to the MexicanConnection08.com website for all to see. We also have the U.S. Forest Service communicator and our Newsletter Editor Joseph de Leon to thank for the continuing professional upgrades to Chapter 8 publications. Membership Chairperson, Jay Hoult, has distinguished himself in upgrading 2018 membership records into an up-to-date modern format. Since elected Secretary at last February's "Wine to Whales" expedition, Jean Pederson has brought forth excellent questions, ideas and fine photos



Ed Dennis, Chapter 8 Mexican Connection President and 2018 Wine to Whales Wagonmaster. Chapter 8 archival photo

for Chapter 8. The Charity Committee will be formed earlier this year so that the many positive suggestions of the membership can be implemented to make the gathering of funds, the joy of helping, and the disbursement of in-kind and financial charity better for all concerned.

Destinations for the Mexican Connection events in Baja California were chosen for 2018 and 2019 due to the general availability of *bona fide* Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) from the U.S.A. throughout Baja Peninsula. However, due to a mid-2017 Mexican Government regulation, fuel may be imported for the first time since 1938. ULSD was slated to be freely available in all of Mexico years ago... but in the Land of *Mañana* ... it is better to see tomorrow than plan hopefully today.

Our friends Dan & Lisa Goy of *Baja Amigos* have been leading small commercial tours all over *Baja California* for many years. Due to concerns over road conditions and safe fuel availability, they have restricted their tours to *Baja California*... but are planning to add tours to Colonial Mexico as conditions improve... so in the next few years, Chapter 8 Rallies will again have the option to explore deeper into Old Mexico. As it is, Rolling Rally attendees with a yen to venture further south to marvel at the whale sharks of *Bahía de Los Angeles*, enjoy four wheeling amid the Boulders & Boojums of *Cataviña*, or touching a 2,000 lb. baby Gray Whale in *Ojos de Liebre* Lagoon (which sounds a hare better than Scammons Lagoon), the road is way better than ever!



*Boulders & boojums abound,
photo by Bob Pettit*

Eduardo

Ed Dennis, *Su capitulo 8 presidente*

Historian's Note

Debby Clark

I'm beginning to explore more of the historical documents that we have for Chapter 8. I'm also working with the rest of the Board to ensure that any needed documents or correspondence are retained for historical use.

Here are some interesting facts I've found so far:

- The 1996 Rally to San Felipe, México, was the largest gathering of SKPs outside the USA, with 167 RVs and 327 people.
- Chapter 8 has been conducting rally trips to México since 1990 and have done 28 in total. Some of the past Rally locations in México have been: San Carlos, Copper Canyon, Puerto Peñasco, Alamos (Sierra Madre), San Felipe (Baja), Ciudad Victoria & Monterrey, Guanajuato, México City, Guaymas, Costa Esmeralda, Bahia de Kino, and Zacatecas.

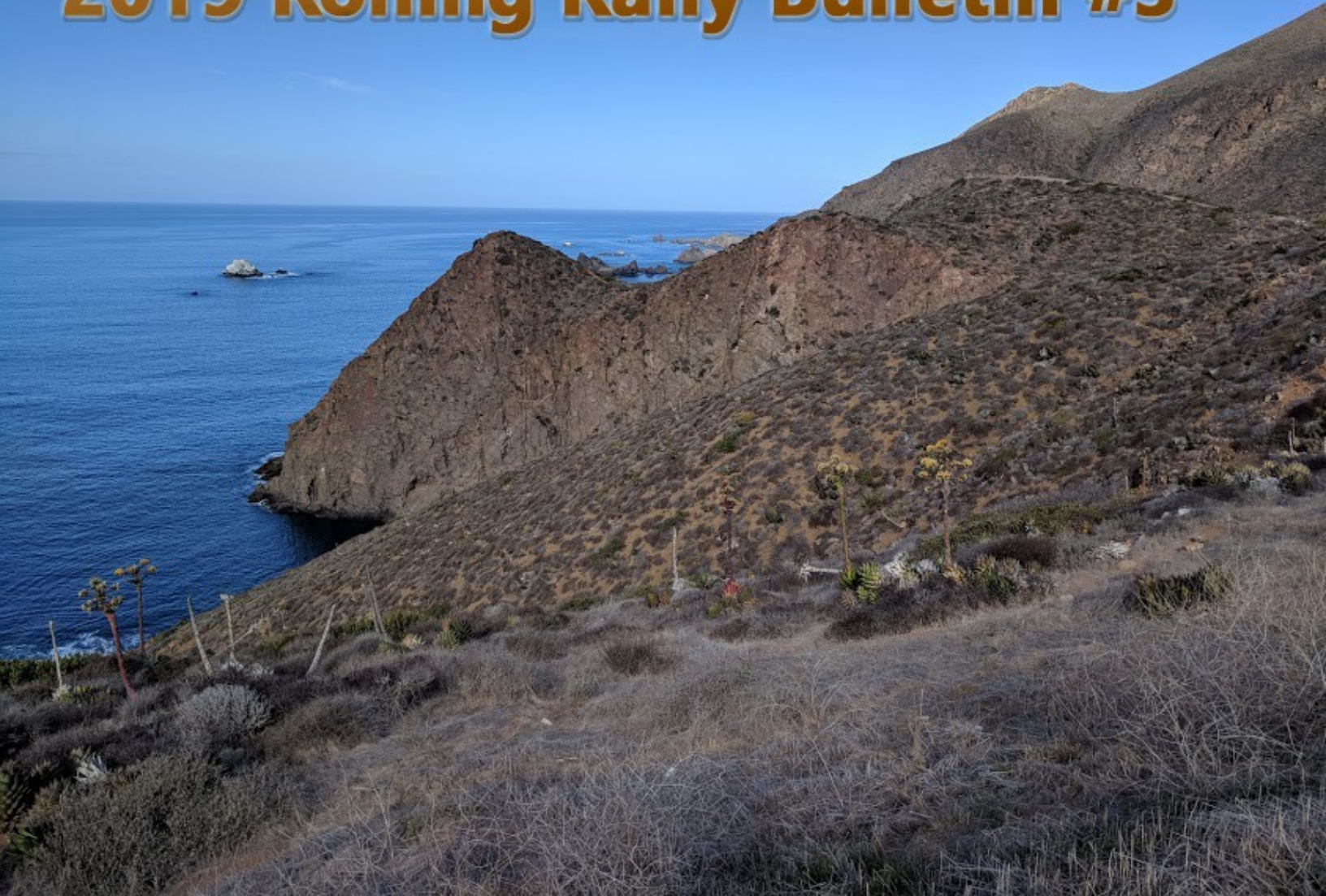
We are continuing this wonderful tradition of exploring México next year with our Rolling Rally to Baja California.

My husband and I went on the Rally this year, and it was a blast! We found traveling in México to be easy, and it was very fulfilling to travel with a group who were engaged in wonderful charitable works.



**Destinations of Past
Chapter 8 Rallies**

2019 Rolling Rally Bulletin #3



The landscape surrounding North America's largest blowhole, La Bufadora, is rugged and beautiful. Just a few miles from La Jolla Beach Camp, Rolling Rally participants will have ample time to explore the area and enjoy its essence. Photo by Jean Pedersen

By 2019 Rolling Rally Wagonmaster Kassandra Dennis

iHola amigos y amigas!

It is with great joy that our Rolling Rally is filling up with new and familiar faces alike. Thankfully, we have quite a few repeat attendees from the 2018 Wine to Whales Baja Caravan who are stepping up as special volunteers in Group Leader, Parking Chair, Charity Committee, and other positions. This will help ensure a smooth rally experience

for all. I also have had email and phone exchanges with many of the first-time Chapter 8 registrants and what a great group you are! We are going to have so much fun together!

I would like to ask all of you who have registered for the 2019 Rolling Rally to send in a photograph taken from your smartphone or camera to ch8comms@gmail.com. If there are two of you, please only send one picture of both of you. With Chapter 8 Historian Debby Clark's help, I am compiling a rally roster. Each participant will receive this roster in the coming weeks with each participants' picture, their contact information, rig type, parking choice, volunteer choice, etc. This way, we can all find each other easily during the rally and maintain our newfound friendships long after the rally. This also gives you the opportunity early on to see who else is attending. Who knows, you might see a familiar face or two you already know! We still have a few openings for our upcoming Rolling Rally, so invite a friend along if you wish! As the temperatures are starting to drop in the U.S., the mild winter climate of *Baja California* is even more inviting! There will be a final roster update before the rally begins as a memento of the great times we will enjoy.

As far as Rally preparations go, it is never too early to get your CB radio and antenna taken care of or to look into what kind of insurance you would like to have during your trip to Mexico. If you want full coverage in Mexico, we still find that Progressive is by far the best deal as Mexico and Canada are included in their policy at no or little extra cost. There is a wealth of information on CBs and insurance



Beachcombers explore the beach at El Pabellon in San Quintin during the 2018 Wine to Whales caravan. Even on overcast days in February, some folks wore shorts and dipped their toes into the surf. Photo by Bob Petitt

(including mandatory Mexican liability insurance) on our fabulous website, mexicanconnection08.com. Feel free to also post a question or comment on our Chapter 8 Facebook page: [Escapees Mexican Connection](#).

Some of you might even consider taking an online Spanish course. You will be amazed how much you can learn in just 10 minutes a day or a couple of times a week. It would be preferable for all participants to be able to say very basic sentences/words in Spanish such as: Good morning/afternoon/evening, goodbye, thank you, please and you are welcome, how much does it cost, where is the bathroom/next fuel station/campground/grocery store, and last but not least, where can I find beer?! With today's internet tools this can be such an adventure!



A trio of pelicans rest on the beach near Bahia de Los Angeles. Photo by Bob Pettit

As to road conditions, we have heard that the road south of *Ensenada* going towards *Guerrero Negro* is in much better shape than in February of 2018. The pot holes have been filled and some new pavement has gone in. Some of you might consider staying in Mexico when our Rally ends and continue the beautiful journey south to go whale watching in Guerrero Negro or hang out at the beautiful beach of *Playa Santispac*

near *Mulege*. The turquoise water and boats on the water provide an exceptionally scenic view. Many of us continued traveling south after the end of the caravan this year and have wonderful memories from our adventures. Some of us traveled east towards the Sea of Cortez and visited the beautiful *Bahia de los Angeles*.

Thankfully many of you have been generous and signed up for several volunteer positions. However, there are limited spots available for Special Volunteer positions such as Group Leader and Parking Team. Those who have been selected to fill these Special Volunteer positions will be personally contacted by me and notified of their earlier arrival dates. Special volunteers will arrive 1 - 3 days earlier, all others on February 11th before 3 p.m. It is important that you do **NOT ARRIVE BEFORE** your scheduled arrival date. The Board and Special Volunteers need this once a year opportunity to attend meetings and be able to focus on organizing the best rally we can for you!



Two very popular volunteers, Tony Sparks, left, and Bob Pettit, mixed and served margaritas during the live auction at La Jolla Beach Camp during the 2018 Wine to Whales caravan. Photo by Joseph M. de Leon

Once you arrive at Potrero County Park, you will be assigned to your Group Leader and your Travel Group. As you might remember, we travel in groups of approx. 5-7 rigs, each having an experienced Group Leader and also a Tail Gunner, the nickname we use for the last person in a group who makes sure no one stays behind. You will also be assigned a number for your place in your group. Let's say you are in group 6 and third in line, your number will be 6-3. We will provide you with two large orange bumper stickers to put on the front and rear of your rig so you and others can see your assigned place in the travel group. Your parking space will be pre-assigned for you at Potrero and at La Jolla Beach, therefore it does not matter if you are traveling in group 1 (Parking Team) or the last group (recommended for late risers); your assigned parking space will be saved for you.

My last scouting trip to Mexico will be approximately Dec. 10–28, 2018. This serves to make sure that all the final details are in place as best as they can be. I will have internet access during that time and if you have specific questions, send them to me and I will do what I can to answer them. Last details and possible itinerary updates will be coming out in the winter newsletter (early January 2019). The Chapter 8 Charity Committee (a five-person group appointed under Bylaw provisions) will also send all attendees a special email in late November addressing in-kind donations. This will still give you a chance to start collecting some of those gently used items for our famous SKP auction or for a direct donation to a needy charity. A second email from the Charity Committee will most likely be sent out in late December with an update on the school project. I will also send out a checklist in December to all registrants. I encourage you to print out all Wagonmaster newsletter bulletins and Rolling Rally group emails. I will label the emails sequentially, #1, #2, etc. for easier accessibility. We recommend that you print out the final Attendee Roster, the Checklist, Charity Committee emails, etc. as well and bring them along with you in a file folder. This is a good way to look up an item when you are in the middle of the Rolling Rally and need a quick refresher.



Ed and Cassandra Dennis discuss the 2018 Wine to Whales caravan with attendees at Potrero County Park. Photo by Joseph M. de Leon

That's it for now, safe travels to all of you!

Hasta la próxima,

Kassandra Dennis

Wagonmaster, Rolling Rally 2019
Escapees RV Club, Chapter 8
The Mexican Connection

Buen Aprovecho en Baja California

Enjoy Your Meal in Baja California

By Joseph M. de Leon

The focus for many first-timers preparing to join a Chapter 8 caravan often revolves around such matters as [buying insurance](#), making sure the [right fuel is available](#), and having proper documentation for pets and people. Food is a huge, sometimes overlooked, part of the trip planning. Sure, we all need to eat every day, but, more importantly, sharing in local cuisine is one of the best ways to really appreciate another culture. So much so, that it's even written right into the [Chapter 8 mission statement!](#)

Every year, folks who travel with Chapter 8 experience some of the best dishes around. From catered meals to potlucks or even just exploring on your own, eating local food is one of the great joys of traveling in *Baja California*.

Bringing Your Own Food

Unless you simply don't enjoy cooking or your rig doesn't lend itself to preparing food, you'll want to bring some of your favorite staples. Much of what you're used to buying in grocery stores close to home won't be available on the caravan. Even the Wal-Mart in Ensenada won't – they rely on different supply chains and cater to Mexican tastes.



The fish tacos were one of the best catered meals I enjoyed at the Wine to Whales caravan. Photo by Bob Pettit



Topped with pickled onions, pico de gallo, and salsa, attendees picked from fish or shrimp tacos. Photo by Joseph M. de Leon



Clockwise from top left: Spontaneous pot lucks can happen at any time. Roadside markets offer an amazing variety of produce. Many markets have specialties, such as bulk spices or spicy candy. in Photos by Jean Pedersen

Fresh produce and uncooked meat is not allowed to cross the border in either direction. Make sure to consume, cook, or freeze any produce or meat well before you cross the border. There will be plenty of opportunity to buy groceries during the 2019 Rolling Rally, which we highly encourage because not only will it give you superb local ingredients, but it's also a way for Chapter 8 to support the communities we're visiting.

Potlucks will be planned at some stops and impromptu potlucks often break out spontaneously (especially after the caravan officially ends and folks head out to explore or return stateside), so make sure to bring a few of your favorite things to join in the fun.



Fresh seafood is plentiful at markets and roadside vendors. Photo by Joseph M. de Leon

Shopping at Markets, Stores

One of my favorite market and dining experiences from the 2018 Wine to Whales Baja Caravan was in downtown Ensenada – *El Mercado Negro*, literally “the black market,” but it doesn't have the same colloquial meaning as it does in English. A dazzling variety of fresh seafood is available and nearby restaurants offer some of the best cuisine available. [Read more about Ensenada's fish market at Baja's Best.](#)

Grocery stores are an excellent place to buy nonperishable and prepared foods, but markets are the backbone of *Baja California's* fresh food arena. Many vendors offer samples and almost all will be willing to haggle, especially if you're buying a variety of things or large quantities. Don't be surprised if a vendor offers you a cut-rate deal as you take a few steps away.



No well-stocked grocery would be complete without an entire aisle of hot sauce. Photo by Bob Pettit

Some calculating shoppers use that as a tactic to get the absolute lowest price, but please do consider that virtually everything up for sale is already a stellar bargain compared to buying a similar item at home. Plus, the few pesos you might save actually mean a lot to shopkeepers, so don't be too much of a Scrooge!

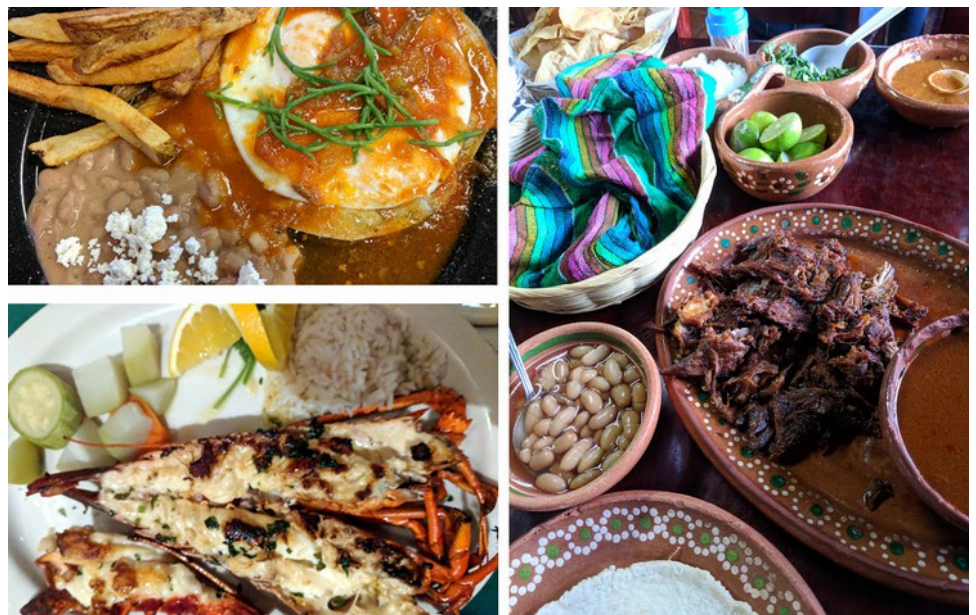
While you can't haggle at grocery stores, the value is still incredible compared to what you can find domestically.

One thing you may not expect at a grocery store is that baggers expect to be tipped, but it's not a sneaky way to extract money from you. It's a social program to help seniors make ends meet. Older folks are offered the position to supplement their income. What's an appropriate tip? It depends on how much they are bagging, but something in the neighborhood of a few pesos per bag would be considered proper. [More info on tipping in Mexico at Smarter Travel.](#)

Exploring Nearby Eateries

The food scene in Baja California is amazing. From street food vendors to wineries that offer wonderful *botanas* with their tastings, you'll find something to satisfy most tastes; however finding vegetarian fare can be a challenge and vegan dishes are virtually nonexistent.

Just like back home, some places will lack good service or the quality of food might not be what you expected, but the vast majority of places we visited were quite good.



Clockwise from top left: Huevos rancheros from El Merendero del Lobo in Maneadero; stewed sheep from La Cocina de Doña Estela in the Valle de Guadalupe; stuffed lobster from Mario's Restaurant in Guerrero Negro. Photos by Jean Pedersen

Food service in Mexico operates on a different level from what you are probably used to at home, so make sure to bring your patience and understanding. For example, very little food is prepared ahead of time, so it can take a long time to actually be served your meal, especially if you have a big party or are visiting a busy place. If you order water with your meal, you'll probably be charged for a bottle of water unless you specifically ask for *un vaso de agua* (a glass of water).

Speaking of big y parties, don't wait to eat until everyone at the table is served. Most kitchens are tiny and often can't prepare big volumes at once. Everyone is expected to eat when they are served. You also have to ask for the check when you're done, no one will simply bring you the ticket or even ask if you're done because they don't want to rush a good paying customer out the door. Besides, many folks stick around for awhile, chatting, ordering an after dinner drink or dessert.

Eateries also rarely split a check, expecting folks to divvy it up among themselves. Cash is king. Some places may offer credit card service, but often the phone lines are down. And don't freak out when you see the cashier enter the price in the credit card machine in pesos – your bank will automatically convert it to your home currency!



You may recall the top photo from the summer issue. El Lobo del Merendero is on the way from Ensenada to La Jolla Beach Camp. This must-visit restaurant offers exceptional coffee, wonderful food, and a tiny park that's part zoo and part sculpture garden. Courtesy photos

Harvesting Seafood

Taking advantage of freshly caught seafood is a favorite experience for many tourists. While markets and roadside vendors often offer up fresh catches, nothing beats the satisfaction of eating food you foraged from nature. A fishing license is required for any person fishing from a boat, but fishing from shore does not require a license. [Read more about fishing licenses at Discover Baja.](#)

One of the most memorable things I did in Baja California was to learn how to harvest and cook butter clams. I met a couple from Northern California in Guerrero Negro on the second to the last day of the 2018 Wine to Whales Baja Caravan. A few days later, we crossed paths again in *Bahia de Los Angeles*, 125 miles away and on the opposite coast of the peninsula from where we met. After treating us to a freshly-caught fish dinner cooked over coals, they invited me to join them the next day for a clam hunt. How could I refuse?

After wading through several rocky inlets and coming up with few clams, we pushed on to a slightly deeper and more flowing area and found exactly what we were looking for: beautiful, golden orbs of deliciousness. We collected only the largest clams, leaving the smaller ones to live another day. We also spread the harvest over about 50 yards so as not to hurt the population. Before we left, we



After spending a couple of hours finding the right spot, it took about 20 minutes to collect about 4 gallons of butter clams, which we split two ways. Photos by Joseph M. de Leon

replaced the rocks we dug up to reduce our impact on the environment.

That night, we filled the bucket we collected with sea water and added about a cup of cornmeal to encourage the clams to purge any grit they were holding inside. The following day, we rinsed the clams, then placed them in a container covered with a damp cloth and popped them in the fridge until we could cook them. While they can stay that way for a few days, it's best to cook them sooner than later.

The clams were absolutely delicious!

Steamed Clams a la Petitt

(Many thanks to Bob Petitt for teaching me how to steam clams. We met in 2017 while working in the employee dining hall of the Grant Village General Store in Yellowstone.)

Ingredients:

- 2 gallons fresh clams
- Half-cup of white wine
- Minced garlic
- Pasta with olive oil
- Grated Parmesan cheese



Steamed clams over pasta. Photo by Joseph M. de Leon

Directions:

Add clams to a pot so that it's no more than three-quarters full, then add enough white wine to make a pool about a quarter-inch deep, plus minced garlic to your preference. Cover the pot and cook on medium heat until the clams all pop open – you'll hear an audible pop as each clam opens. Soon, the pot will be full to the top with steamed clams. Toss clams in your choice of cooked pasta drizzled with olive oil. Serve immediately, topped with freshly-grated Parmesan cheese.

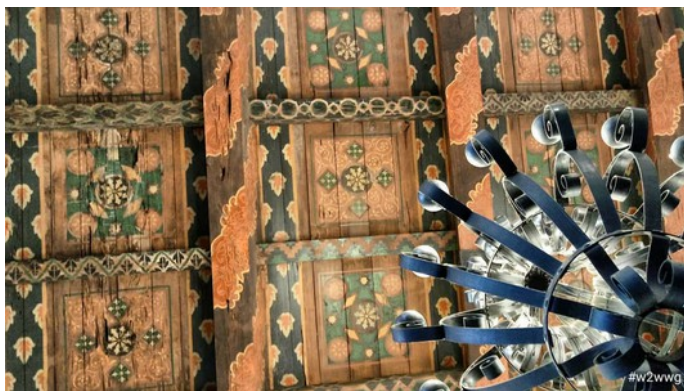
Más arte por todos lados

(More Art Everywhere)

By Joseph M. de Leon



The Riviera Cultural Center is a must see in Ensenada. The former resort, credited for the margarita, is now a visitor center and museum. Photo by Joseph M. de Leon



An ornate ceiling at the Riviera Cultural Center. Photo by Joseph M. de Leon

[More about Riviera Cultural Center](#)



El Caracol, a science museum in Ensenada that emphasizes conservation, is gorgeously rendered with technology and interactive exhibits. Photo by Joseph M. de Leon



A mural at science museum El Caracol depicts a jellyfish made of plastic pollution in the ocean. Photo by Joseph M. de Leon

More about El Caracol



#w2wwg

Coco's Corner, a bar and low-brow art collection, sits on the way from Bahia de Los Angeles to San Felipe along Hwy 5. It's the only place to get a drink for many miles. Photo by Joseph M. de Leon



Ladies underwear and strings of beer cans adorn much of Coco's Corner. Cindy Pettit takes dictation while Bob Pettit sits in a board meeting. Photos by Joseph M. de Leon

More about Coco's Corner



The remains of tires find a new role as larger-than-life animal sculptures. Photos by Joseph M. de Leon



You'd never think an old tire could be a comfortable place to sit, but this masterfully crafted chair has all the right contours to allow guests to take a load off and enjoy the sights. This chair will last a very long time. Old tires are also turned into planters, parking lot borders, and even retaining walls. Photo by Joseph M. de Leon

Upcoming Issue & Submitting Content

Joseph M. de Leon

The next issue of *La Conexión Mexicana*, scheduled in your inbox and on the Chapter 8 website in early Jan., is shaping up nicely! Here's what's in store:

- **Road signs in Baja California** – Warnings and directions are vital to staying safe on the road, but if you don't understand what they mean, that could be a



*What does this sign say? And what are some other common signs you'll see while on the 2019 Rolling Rally? Check out the Winter 2019 issue of *La Conexión Mexicana*.*

problem. Get ready to learn about some of the signs you expect to see while driving in Mexico. I bet you saw more than a few road signs on a Chapter 8 rally. [Send in a photo](#) and a short description of any road signs you photographed.

- **Wild about wildlife** – Wildlife is abundant in Mexico, ranging from the tiniest of birds to hulking whales. You probably have a photo of wildlife you encountered in Mexico – please consider [submitting it](#) for consideration!

If you have any story or photo essay ideas, I'd love to hear them. Maybe it's a side trip you took. Or maybe you have a different perspective on a topic we've already covered. We're all eager to see something interesting, learn something new, or relive fun moments.

Until next time, happy travels!

Content Submission Guidelines:

Contributing to *La Conexión Mexicana* is easy and can be as long as a multi-page article or as simple as a single photo. Please follow the guidelines below or e-mail me if what you have in mind isn't covered.

1. **Meet the deadline** – Summer 2018: **June 30, 2018**, published mid-July; Fall 2018: **Sept. 30**, published mid-Oct.; Winter 2018: **Dec. 15**, published early Jan.
2. **Make articles lively** – Whether just a few paragraphs or a few pages, write short, descriptive sentences. Imagine you're telling the story to a friend. Write complete sentences and double check you spelled names and places correctly.
3. **Include photo captions** – make sure to write a caption for each photo you submit. Include captions in a text file, using the photo's file name to distinguish each caption. The best captions include the location, names of folks pictured, and offer a bit of additional information not obvious from the photo.
4. **Submit a few files by e-mail** – If you're submitting an article or a few photos, please send to josephmdeleon@gmail.com. Use a subject line that describes the attached files, for example "San Felipe article with photos," not "Here you go."
5. **Consider using "the cloud" if submitting lots of files** – There are many free services available, including DropBox and SmugMug. I'm happy to offer my opinion on how to do this. Alternatively, you can group photos in several e-mails.
6. **File formats** – for articles, Word (.doc), text (.txt), and Rich Text Format (.rtf) work well, or you can include the text of the article in the body of the e-mail. For photos, please submit photos in .jpg format. If at all possible, downsize photos to no larger than about 1 megabyte. It'll make your upload and my download quicker, especially when Wi-Fi is spotty or unavailable.

*Connie Farley hikes
Rancho Santa Inés near
Cataviña among boojum
trees and giant boulders.
Photo by Bob Petitt*

