

**Foodorama**

**Letter # 10: Crossing Lower California 1/2**

**By Foodorama, December 11, 2018**



Hi everyone! After stopping in Ensenada for 10 days, we went back on the road a week ago. We are writing to you from Guerrero Negro where we stopped to recharge the batteries, do some laundry (we have a 7 days autonomy in clothes), rest and give news to everyone. We have just spent a week without internet, with very little access to water and without a village for several days: a real crossing of the desert! It was intense but beautiful! Here is a small summary of our adventures:

The landscape: we cross grandiose landscapes. It is a desert very different from the sand dunes found in the Sahara. Here it is quite mountainous, there are many rocks and vegetation is adapted to the lack of water.



The fauna and flora: it's the kingdom of cactus! There are hundreds of species, including the largest in the world, the "Cardon Cacti" a real giant! It can reach 60 feet high for 25 tons and the oldest cactus are more than 300 years old!!!



The region receives very little rain (except when we are there) 9 inches / year while in Paris it falls 25 inches / year. The plants have adapted to this lack of water. There are some with thorns and tiny leaves to prevent too much water loss through the leaves. We had the opportunity to cross coyotes several times and we hear them regularly at night. It is also the territory of animals less pleasant to cross such as scorpions, pumas, tarantulas and rattlesnakes. At a camp Sylvain passed very close to a small rattlesnake (see video). We have been extra cautious afterwards. It is not comfortable to be bitten here far from everything! All along the coast we also cross a lot of osprey, it is a large raptor that looks like an eagle and feeds mainly on fish. They make their nest on the electric piers even if everything is done to dissuade them (pikes on the pylons) and platforms are available nearby especially for them to nest there. On the coast the gray whales finish their migration towards the South. We have seen a lot in the United States and we hope to see some here soon.





The weather: we travel at the right time here. On the whole, it is not too hot or too cold in this season. We had 2 days of rain in the middle of the week. Belongings were soaked; it was hard to really dry them. It was also very strange to pass through the desert with large puddles of water near the cacti. Moreover, there were very big hurricanes in October which devastated the roads ... We were forced to take deviations in the dirt roads.



A special day: December 7th, it was Sylvain's birthday!! And yes, 37 years already ... We celebrated it so to speak in the middle of nowhere. We were fortunate to be hosted by "Coco" an 82 year old man who lives alone in the desert. He no longer has his legs but he kept a strong character even ... special. His nearest neighbor? 13 miles in one direction, 20 in the other! He only has electricity when his solar panels are functioning or when his generator (running on gasoline) does not break down. That night, neither sun nor generator, we celebrate the birthday in the dark with a bowl of freeze-dried noodles!



The documentary Foodorama We are not shooting at this moment episodes because we have not found initiatives on sustainable food in the region. Apart from fishery products, most fresh products do not grow here and are imported from other regions. We will catch up once we have crossed the Gulf of California and joined the continent. We zigzag to the south of Baja California following the road that brings us from the Pacific coast to the side of the Gulf of California (this is the second time we are on this coast). Next big city, La Paz, before crossing in Ferry. See you soon for new adventures! Kalima and Sylvain





