

Foodorama

Letter # 11: Crossing Lower California 2/2

By Foodorama, December 27, 2018



Hi everyone! We hope you all had a Merry Christmas with your families and enjoyed your holidays! We are writing from La Paz where we rest a few days before taking the ferry to Mazatlan. So we finished our crossing of Baja California! It's time for an appraisal for this first portion in the state of Mexico. We really loved this area of Mexico. We had the chance to camp several times in the middle of nature in the middle of cacti, at the edge of Cortes Sea and under a starry sky. Sleeping in nature is an out of the ordinary experience and we appreciate more and more these moments of loneliness.



Overall we passed through Baja California at the right time of the year, without too much heat, cold, or rain ... Our only enemy of the moment, the WIND, often in the back but when it was in front or at the side, it can be terrible. In a violent gust Sylvain even went off the road. We had descents that looked like climbs as the headwind was strong. The other challenge was driving with sometimes chaotic traffic. Here there is no more space on the roadside for bikes and it is up to us to impose ourselves. The traffic is certainly very limited especially in comparison with California but some Mexicans have a way of their own to drive. The big trucks always leave us a lot of space and departed themselves on the other lane. The problem comes from some cars that sometimes pass us on the climb without knowing if a car comes in front or even seeing that a car comes in front and that there is hardly room on the road for two cars and our bike. We understand why there are so many crosses on the side of the road in memory of people who have left their lives.



In addition of crosses we see a lot of small alter for the Virgin of Guadalupe. Here we find her everywhere, in taxis, restaurants, in front of farms, on the roadside. The devotion to the Virgin of Guadalupe is incredible here. It's a real national Mexican symbol. The Virgin Mary appeared in Mexico in 1531 to an Indian named Juan Diego, and her portrait would have miraculously been printed on his coat. Since the Mexicans devote a cult to the Guadalupe and her portrait.



After these last miles of straight line, we arrive in La Paz on Christmas Eve. We are hosted by Edouardo, a friend of Pablo whom we met by chance a few weeks before at Ensenada. Pablo is a bicycle traveler like us. He has just completed his 8 months trip from Mexico to Peru and brings us good advices. This is an opportunity for us to rest a few days and improve our Spanish. Edouardo invites us to his family for Christmas. We had a wonderful evening. Jesus, the father of the family, even sang some Mexican songs accompanied by his guitar. (cf video) We eat a meal quite far from Mexican gastronomy. The influence of the United States is very present. The Christmas turkey is the reference dish for Christmas. A delight!



It is also the time for an appraisal and to see what completely useless things we transported for 3 months in our bags (see video) 9 pounds of clothes, 2 hammocks, 1 plate, 1 headrest will be sent back in France for our greatest comfort... in the mountains! We leave Saturday for Mazatlan, ready to discover a very different Mexico than Baja California! See you soon for new adventures! Kalima and Sylvain