



FRIENDS OF TAXCO

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April 2020

The History of Baja California Sur

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Seal of Baja California Sur

Baja California Sur's glorious colonial past has made it a center for historical architecture and traditional art forms, and it's also a great place to surf and fish. Since Baja California Sur occupies the southern end of a peninsula, overland travel to the rest of Mexico is time-consuming. To shorten the trip, daily ferries depart for the mainland, mostly to Mazatlán. The average trip by ferry takes five hours.

Early History

Baja California Sur was inhabited as early as 11000 B.C. Nomadic tribes left behind artifacts such as arrow heads and Clovis points, which have been discovered in the northern part of the state.

Primitive paintings dating to 1700 B.C. can be seen in Cueva de Palma, San Gregorio, Sierra de San Francisco and Sierra de Guadalupe. The paintings depict animals in motion, such as snakes, cougars, birds and wild cats. Hunters with arrowheads and primitive swords also appear in the paintings. These images are consistent with other evidence suggesting that most of the inhabitants were nomadic hunters and gatherers.

When early explorers and missionaries arrived, they found four ethnic groups, including the Pericú in the south, between Cabo San Lucas and La Paz and on several of the islands in the Gulf. The Guaycura occupied the area north of the Pericú, from La Paz to south of Loreto. The Monquil also lived near Loreto. The final group was the Cochimí, who ranged throughout the middle of the peninsula. Most of these tribes were hunters-gatherers lacking agriculture or metallurgy. However, they produced pottery and were fairly skilled fishermen. The Pericú enhanced their fishing methods by building wooden rafts and other simple forms of watercraft.

Middle History

The first Spaniard to arrive in Baja California Sur is believed to have been Fortún Ximénez who landed there in 1533. Hernán Cortés led an expedition in 1535 but did not stay long. Other explorers came and went over the next century and a half. Since Baja California Sur is one of the most isolated parts of Mexico, there were no serious efforts at colonization until the late 17th century. In 1697 the Jesuit missionary Juan María de Salvatierra established Misión de Nuestra Señora de Loreto Conchó, the first permanent mission in Baja California Sur. The Jesuits then extended their presence south to the Cape as well as north to the modern border with Baja California.

The Franciscans took control of Baja California Sur in 1768 and then ceded it to the Dominicans in 1773. These administrative changes reflected increasing Spanish interest in the region. As the Spanish presence grew, colonization bred disease and

The History of Baja California Cont.

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violence that caused a significant decrease in the population of the indigenous people during this period.

Recent History

During the Mexican War of Independence (1810-1821), Baja California Sur was largely isolated from the hostilities because of its remote location. After the war, the region was divided into four municipalities by President Guadalupe Victoria and Governor José María Echeandía.

Loreto, the oldest continuous settlement in the region, served as the capital until 1830. That year, heavy rains forced the government to move to La Paz, which has remained the capital since then.

At the conclusion of the Mexican-American War in 1847, the United States withdrew from Baja California Sur. The following year the two countries signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, in which Mexico agreed to sell the land that now comprises the modern states of California, Nevada and Utah, as well as portions of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming. In return, the United States acknowledged Mexico's ownership of the Baja Peninsula. Despite the agreement, in 1853 a journalist named William Walker led a group of 45 Americans to capture the city of La Paz. The expedition did not have the official support of the United States, however, and the Mexican Army quickly drove out the Americans.

The territories of Baja California Sur and Baja California were formally established in 1888 under the government of President Porfirio Díaz. Baja California Sur became a state on October 8, 1974.

Baja California Sur Today

Tourism, sport fishing, agriculture and salt mining make the biggest contributions to the state's economy. Salt is mined from the ocean and sold as table salt or a preservative. Major crops include garbanzo beans, sorghum, tomatoes, alfalfa, wheat, corn and green chilies. Ranchers raise pigs, cattle, goats and chickens. The state's extensive coastline ensures plentiful harvests of seafood such as lobster, shrimp, tuna, abalone and clams. Local bands traditionally play an accordion and two guitars, interpreting rhythms like corridos, waltzes, polkas and mazurkas.

From July to October, large Pacific waves draw crowds of surfers to the beaches of Todos Santos and Pescadero. East Cape and Scorpion Bay are also well known to surfing insiders.

Facts and Figures

Capital: La Paz

Major Cities (population): La Paz (219,596)
San Jose del Cabo (164,162) Ciudad Constitución (63,830)
Santa Rosalia (52,743) Loreto (11,839)

Size/Area: 28,369 square miles

Population: 512,170 (2005 Census)

Year of Statehood: 1974



Mission San Ignacio was founded by the Jesuit missionary Juan Bautista de Luyando in 1728 at the site of the modern town of San Ignacio. The site for the future mission was discovered in 1706 by Francisco María Piccolo at the palm-lined Cochimí oasis of Kadakaamán ("arroyo of the reeds"). The site proved to be a highly productive one agriculturally, and served as the base for later Jesuit expansion in the central peninsula. The impressive surviving church was constructed by the Dominican missionary Juan Gómez in 1786. The mission was finally abandoned in 1840.

Presidents Message

Hello all of you Friends of Taxco! Thanks to all who were able to come and eat the delicious Irish meal featuring the special stew, incredible potatoes, fresh salad and yummy brownies by our committee of Bobbie (the menu creator and head chef) with the help of Midge and Barb.

Thanks so much! Jo did an amazing job keeping us entertained by her bottomless book of knowledge as she led us through BINGO, and Bobbie, Midge, Dave, Randy and Linda did such a nice job of setting up and cleaning up. Cleaner than when we came! Of course, you can never forget our Bartender - Juan Bustamante, who transports all of the drinks to and from his place while keeping the bar (as well as all of us) well stocked. Thanks to all of you that worked and came to enjoy!

I know that many of you are fighting to stay healthy, although we would always welcome you, Your Health comes first. Take care of yourselves.

Our Board members are working diligently on the calendar for the year as we navigate this unfortunate event. We hope that all of you and your loved ones stay healthy in the months and year to come, as well as our Friends of Taxco in Taxco. Hope to See you all soon! Stay safe!

Bruce Troe



Bruce Troe

St. Patrick's Fun Event & Nifty Trivia!

While enjoying a great St. Pat's B (beef Irish stew) I (Iceberg lettuce salad) N (Neeps- aka potatoes),G (green beans), O (olives-baked) meal, 5 games of bingo, we learned a few important facts - St. Patrick was likely English definitely not Irish, he came into Irish history when he was kidnapped at the age of 16, taken to Ireland and sold as slave. He resided there until age 22, when he made his way to England and studied to be a priest. He returned to Ireland and spread the word of God for 40 years! What happened on March 17th the day we celebrate St. Patrick's Day - it was the day in the year 461 he ascended to heaven. 3 leaf clovers - they were used to explain the Holy Trinity and frequently symbolized the cross! Lastly 5.5 million pints of Guinness are consumed on any given day around the world - on St. Patrick's Day - it jumps to over 13 million pints!

The Colcannon Irish Potatoes were a hit! The first question - what was in them besides potatoes? The Irish had a horrid potato famine being in the year 1845 that lasted 4 years. When families could begin to get a few potatoes, they needed to stretch them across the family. What they did have was an abundance of cabbage! Colcannon mashed potatoes secret ingredient is minced cabbage! The recipe is below and most could not guess what the secret ingredient was!!

- 2.5 pounds of potatoes, peeling and cubed into 1-inch pieces
- 2 cups finely chopped cabbage
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 C butter
- 1 large onion Chopped
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1 C 2% milk- about

Boil potatoes under tender - about 8-10 minutes. Add cabbage and onion, cook covered until cabbage is tender about 5-6 minutes. Drain, return to pot. Add salt, pepper, butter, mash to desired consistency, gradually adding milk.





Bakeless Bake Sale



A bit of news from FOT today.

A Stuck-at Home “BAKELESS” BAKE SALE IS ON THE WAY

Join our “Bakeless” Bake Sale, and keep your kitchen spotless.

So we’ve thought of a plan that’s really grand,
and feel quite sure you’ll understand.
In an envelope, if you like, please include the price
of a pie or cake or anything nice.



Without fuss or bother, you’ve done your part.
We hope you’ll give with a willing heart.
Wishing success for our “BAKELESS” BAKE SALE,
This is the end of our little tale.



Just send FOT the money it would take to bake a dozen brownies or a homemade cake.
Or send in the money it takes to buy a box of cookies or a sweet apple pie.

Please send your checks to Linda Lewis - P.O. Box 9070, Canoga Park, 91309-0070

Calendar of Events 2020

- April 18** **Please Mail Your Bakeless Bakesale By Today**
Linda Lewis - P.O. Box 9070, Canoga Park 91309-0070
- April 25** **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch**
Possibly will have a ZOOM meeting - Details to Follow
- May 16** **Possible Ways and Means Event**
TBD
- May 30** **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch**
Location TBD



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