



Gary Martin, Eunice Martin and Alexis Rovira caught the very first session in front of the hotel.



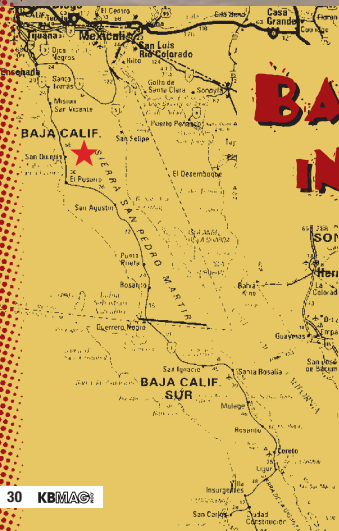
Davey Blair boosts an indy glide off a Mexican crumb.



Toss a peso in and wish for wind!



Ian Aldridge slays the shore break.



BAJA BOARDER BASH IN SAN QUINTIN, MEXICO

By Gary Martin Photos Ryan Riccitelli

“Squirrel Boy this is Dude! What is your position?” crackled through the walkie talkie. Davey Blair, in his typical southern drawl, fired back, “What’s taking you boys so long?” We were on a mission to Baja heading southbound on Mexico’s main highway to San Quintin. Davey was riding in the vehicle ahead of us with Tom Loeser, a federal prosecutor and avid kiteboarder, who had rallied down for the event. West Coast Kiteboarding’s, Paul Lang had lined us up some hotel rooms at La Pinta Hotel and invited any and every kiteboarder to come down and ride together for the first ever Baja Boarder Bash.

The ad hoc event drew over 30 people to the sleepy little fishing village of San Quintin, Mexico. Professional kiteboarders Davey Blair from Gastra; Greg Norman from Liquid Force; Corky Cullen from Liquid Force; Ian Aldridge from Caution and Bri Chmel from RRD rallied down to hang and ride with the public. The lighter than expected wind did not stop Davey and Greg from using the 2-foot shore break as a kicker to throw down their favorite handle pass variations. Ian Aldridge busted out his Channel Islands surfboard with straps and slayed the shore break in typical southern California surf fashion.

Slingshot Kiteboarding sent down their technical rep, Greg Jonutz, who had an arsenal of Fuel and Machine kites on hand for anyone to demo. West Coast Kiteboarding’s coach Paul Lang gave two solid days of beginner lessons. The event drew new kiteboarders from as far away as Colorado, Nevada and Guadalajara, Mexico. Alexis Rovira and Gary Martin along with many of the local West Coast riders trekked down and showed off their wave riding skills.

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San Quintin Fact File

By Paul Lang

Season:

Best Season is May through October.

How to get there:

Take California’s I-5 South to the border. Once in Mexico, follow the Mexican Highway 1 about 200 miles south to San Quintin. For the high rollers out there, you can hire a Baja bush pilot to fly you in.

Where to stay:

The best riding conditions are directly in front of the La Pinta Hotel. It’s the nicest, cleanest, and closest to the water. Rooms start at about \$80 a night, and each room has a balcony with a view of the ocean. www.lapintahotels.com If you are into camping, check out www.bajabeachcamp.com

Where to eat:

The La Pinta Hotel has a restaurant, but you’ll also want to try out Cielito Lindo (order the Cracked Crab - it’s unreal!) and the Wet Buzzard (Killer Breakfast Burritos for \$1). Cielito Lindo has a happy hour everyday at 4pm to help you relax after a full day of riding. Rumor has it John Wayne used to hang out here.

Where to Ride:

The best place to ride is right in front of the La Pinta, a side-on to side beach with small surf and lots of room. If butter water is your thing, take a drive up to San Quintin Bay.

Lessons:

West Coast Kiteboarding offers lessons and camps in San Quintin. The next scheduled trip is August 26-28. Check out www.westcoastkiteboarding.com for more info.

Travel Tips:

Remember that you are traveling in a different country. Mexico is a very safe place if you act with common sense. Many people think of Mexico as a land without rules, and thinking this way can get you in trouble. Act as you would on any vacation in the U.S. DO NOT bring any drugs or guns with you. They are both illegal in Mexico and a quick way into a Mexican jail. Don’t worry about changing your money into Pesos. American money is accepted everywhere. Bring small bills, as many places don’t always have change to break a \$20. Make sure to get Mexican Auto Insurance. There are plenty of places online to purchase insurance. A club or auto alarm is also a great theft deterrent.

After adjusting to the cold water, Florida groom Greg Norman warmed up to the inside kicker.



BAJA BOARDER BASH

By the end of the weekend everyone had a new respect for San Quintin, Mexico. Greg, Davey and Bri were blown away by the miles and miles of coast with pristine sand, constant waves and wind as well as the bars carrying large supplies of Tecate beer and Tequila. Corky learned that Mexican auto insurance is imperative and a Club is not a bad investment if you are traveling into Mexico. His car was stolen out of La Pinta's parking lot with all his brand new gear inside. The new friendships that were developed made the weekend of lighter than expected wind more than worthwhile.

The Baja Boarder Bash kicks off the new ownership of West Coast Kiteboarding based in San Diego, California. WCK offers beginner lessons in San Diego, California and two day beginner camps in San Quintin, Mexico. West Coast Kiteboarding plans on doing another event this summer. Stay tuned to www.westcoastkiteboarding.com for future trips. Rumor has it there is a local kid ripping on new Liquid Force gear. ■



Greg, Corky and Bri chill between sessions.



Slingshot's Greg Jonutz drove 10 hours to ride with the crew.

KITEBOARDING ADVENTURES IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



NO CROWDS! JUST YOU AND YOUR BEST FRIENDS

EH Kiteboarding, Cabarete, is now offering kitesurfari tours to explore all the secret spots in and around the north coast of the DR. The tours are guided and feature the new EH Truck with on-board air compressor, rescue boat, fridge. Kitesurfari trips also offer surfing, wake boarding, exploring back-country Dominican culture, and downwind kiting treks away from crowds in the most ideal locations the country has to offer with experienced and fun guides. EH Kiteboarding Adventure Tours organizes day trips, customized tours, and all-in-1 packages for one or two weeks to all levels of kitesurfers keen on exploring the country.



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