



Finally! It's here! Time to sign up for our Chapter 8 Mexican Connection
2022 ¡Vamos a Baja! Rally!

Registration begins promptly at 12 p.m., NOON (CST) on Sept. 1st!

Please thoroughly read this registration cover letter!

Rally Dates: Feb. 9 – Feb. 25, 2022.

Price: \$739 per rig (two people), solo pricing is \$629 (per rig), each additional person is \$400.

COVID Vaccinations: **Proof of COVID Vaccination is required to attend our Rally.** Please bring your **original vaccination record** with you to Check-In at Potrero Regional Park (pictures and photocopies not accepted). See below for other required documentation. **Please note, there will be no exceptions nor exemptions to this requirement.**

Please understand that through our Charity outreach and other Chapter activities we work very closely with vulnerable populations (destitute families, abused and at-risk women and children, elderly, etc.), and we simply cannot potentially expose them to any additional risk. Please note that we will also follow all COVID protocols set forth by the Mexican government, wearing masks, etc.

We will continue to monitor the situation with COVID and its variants and will adjust our requirements if necessary or prudent. Please continue to visit our [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) for updates.

Thank you for your understanding.

Other Required Documentation: In addition to Proof of Vaccination, you must also have a current Driver's License for each potential driver, current vehicle registration, passport, and proof of Mexican insurance with you at Check-In for the Rally. (Please read through this letter carefully and utilize the [resources](#) we've provided to acquire [insurance](#) for your travels in Baja).

We would hate to have to turn anyone away because they didn't have the required documentation with them at the Check-In at Potrero Regional Park. Again, thank you for your understanding.

FMM Tourist card: The FMM tourist card, Forma Migratoria Múltiple, which is similar to a US Visa, is required for all visitors to Mexico, and it is valid for up to 180 days. We will get our FMM cards stamped at the Instituto Nacional de Migración (aka, immigration or INM Office) when we walk into Tecate the day before we cross the border in our RV's. The cost is around \$38 (USD) per FMM card.

We ask that you utilize the option to get your FMM card online through the following link: [Instituto Nacional de Migración - Forma Migratoria Múltiple \(inm.gob.mx\)](https://www.inm.gob.mx). Note, you cannot fill this form out sooner than 30 days prior to entering Mexico.

Regarding the Date of Departure question on the online form, it is our recommendation that you add at least 3 - 5 days onto your last expected date in Mexico. Or you may want to indicate that you'll be in Baja for the full 180 days allowed for an FMM card, which will give you more flexibility, and would put the Departure Date as August 10, 2022 (assuming your Passport will not expire before then). Also, for the Trip Information question about the address where you are staying in Baja, use "La Jolla Beach Camp, Ensenada, BC". FYI, you will need your passport information to fill out the form. Once the form has been completed you should receive an email with a .pdf file attached. **You must print the .pdf and have it with you to be stamped by the agent at the INM Office.** We will go to the INM Office when we do our Walking Tour of Tecate (see [Itinerary](#) below). You may be able to pay the fee (~\$38) online as well, however **the FMM card must still be approved and stamped at the INM Office.**

If you have not filled out the form online, you will be able to get the FMM card in the INM Office on the day we walk into Tecate. However, it will take more time (potentially significantly more time) and require at least two trips in and out of the INM Office to get the FMM card issued, paid for, and stamped. If at all possible, **please use the online option and have your card printed ahead of time**, everyone in your travel group will greatly appreciate it!

Insurance: Please review the webinar on our [FB page](#) on Mexico insurance, and read through the [FAQ section](#) on our [website](#). Briefly, there are several options for insurance in Mexico. If your current US-based insurance carrier insures you for driving in Mexico, you may not have to pay extra for this. Some of our members are insured by Progressive, which covers their rigs (and toads, if applicable) for travel in Mexico, at no additional cost. However, this varies from state to state, and not all Progressive agents may offer this option. Please remember, **the additional Mexico liability insurance issued by a Mexican insurance company is mandatory.** Another option, which many of our members choose, is to purchase full coverage through a Mexican insurance company. Lastly, there is also an option to insure only your driver license. While many of our members use Proalliance, there are a number of insurance companies to choose from ([click here for a list of Insurance Agencies](#)).

Additionally, regarding the coverage period, we recommend you include at least 3 - 5 extra days past the end of the rally for your Mexican liability insurance (we will be in Baja, Feb. 11 – Feb 25, 2022). **We do NOT recommend getting insurance for your Rally days only.** If you are planning on attending one of the Add-On trips, ensure that you include that additional time in your coverage period. You may find it worthwhile to purchase a 6-month, or even a 12-month, insurance policy. The cost difference is minimal.

- For more information about insurance in Mexico, click [here](#)
- Click [here](#) to watch a 40-minute August 8, 2019, Insurance webinar
- For a list of Insurance Agencies, click [here](#)

As stated above, proof of Mexican insurance is required to travel with the Rally. Acquiring the insurance is usually a fast and simple process that can be accomplished over the phone or through email.

***Disclaimer: We are NOT insurance professionals. You are responsible for determining your personal insurance needs and subsequently purchasing adequate insurance to satisfy Mexican requirements and protect yourself and your property. Chapter 8 is not liable for any damage(s) to yourself, anyone traveling with you, or your property while traveling with our Rally, or during your post-rally travels.**

CB radio: We require each rig to have a CB radio with an external antenna installed for the rally. **(Please ensure your CB is working PRIOR to arrival at Potrero.)** We **must** be able to communicate with each rig. We use our CBs to communicate road conditions, potholes, vehicles passing, road construction, any unexpected issues – animals on the road, bicyclists, etc. And, on the off chance that someone in the group has a problem with their rig, they need to be able to reach their Group Leader and/or Sweep. Please note that you may not always have cell phone coverage in Mexico, and CB communication is the most reliable (and FUN!) way to travel in Mexico. You can find more information on CB radios on our [website](#).

Charity: As in years past, in 2022 we will be working with several charities and local groups that need our help. Each year we look for a different local organization where we can put our hands, our hearts, and our money to work. For the 2022 ***jVamos a Baja!*** rally, we will be doing our hands-on service work with [Casa Esperanza](#), a Domestic Violence shelter for women and children who have been abandoned or abused. They have several areas in their living quarters and schoolhouse where we may be helping them. We'll provide more specific information as the time gets closer. You may want to bring some old clothes and shoes as we may be painting and doing other "dirty" work.

We also support the "Zoo", Zoológico Parque del Niño Jersey, which is a donation-based organization that is not just a "zoo". It's also a wonderful family and children's play area with many educational, recreational, and interactive play areas. The "Zoo" is just part of the Parque, but it's a very special part. The animals at this Zoo come from a variety of situations, not just exchanges with other zoos. They are often animals that have been confiscated by the authorities due to the lack of proper paperwork, animals that have been confiscated and are injured, and wild animals that have been injured that need veterinary care and rehabilitation to be released back into the wild. The Zoo does not receive any funding from the government when they take on confiscated or injured animals. The donations that have come from our Chapter in the past have been used for everything from animal feed to veterinary care and medicine to a nationally recognized award-winning enrichment exhibit.

Additionally, we provide monetary donations to the wonderfully charming and delightful children's dance group, Folkloric Anahuac Punta Banda Children's Folkloric Ballet, which is for at-risk children in the Punta Banda (Ensenada) area. The cost of the dance uniforms alone is over \$200 per child, and there are currently twenty-three children in the group! Many of these children have been in the group since they were 4 or 5 years old!

We also help our wonderful host from La Jolla Beach Camp, Miguel Pabloff and family, with providing food, blankets, etc., to those in need in the Ensenada/Manadero area. This is **where we need gently used, QUALITY items for donations to these families.**

In addition to straight-up monetary donations, the single most important source of our donation funding comes from our Auction. Which, I must say, is a sight to behold! (Check our [website](#) for pics of last year's Auction!) For the Auction to be a success, **we need QUALITY items to sell, and the more the better!** The items will be auctioned off to our group and whomever else may join us from the local La

Jolla community (there is a large ex-pat community that lives in that area). Many of the locals look forward each year to the Auction! Last year we sold everything from Native American flutes to beautiful handmade quilts to some AMAZING handmade chocolates (thank you Ms. Perlita from the Zoo!), to some REALLY nice (and expensive 😊) Tequila! Please help us to make the 2022 Auction the best ever! Bring quality items for the auction and an open wallet to help us help our wonderful Mexican hosts, friends, and those in need! If you're a quilter or crafter, we can always use good quality handmade items for both the auction and in-kind donations!

Pets: Currently, as of August 11, 2021, there are no known special requirements for bringing pets into Mexico. They *may* be inspected at the border if they appear unhealthy. Please ensure that you have control over your pets at all times. When coming back into the US, you may be asked for proof of Rabies vaccination for each pet. Please review pet related information on our [website](#).

Road conditions: The roads in much of Baja are similar to the roads in the US, some are great, some, well, not so much. The highways we use from Potrero to the Zoo, and then on to La Jolla Beach Camp are pretty good. But, Ensenada, which we will pass through on the way to La Jolla Beach Camp, is known for its potholes. We have picked a route that will help minimize the potholes, but we can't avoid all of them. Please do ensure that your rig and tires are in great shape! I'd recommend you have a spare, too. While there are tire shops everywhere, we don't want you to need one (and they may not have your tire in stock)!

If you choose to go on one of the Add-On trips, you may experience more of the "typical" Baja highways. Which means you'll probably experience some roads with notable erosion and potholes, narrower lanes (the lanes in Baja are approximately one foot narrower than US roads), and many with virtually no shoulder. But as the speed limits in Baja are in km, and the max speed is generally around 45 mph, the roads are completely manageable. You just have to slow down and drive smart, and you should be fine.

Camping: Like most Mexican camping, this is mostly a dry camping rally. Potrero Regional Park, where we meet for the Rally, has 37 sites available with 30-amp electric and water. **These sites will be assigned by order of Registration sign-up, so if you want an electric/water hookup site, DON'T WAIT TO SIGN UP!** For the remaining registrants it will be dry camping/boondocking. Fresh well water is available, as well as a dump station on site. There are also hot showers available!

There are no electrical or water hook-ups available at the Zoo, however restrooms and hot showers will be available. Reverse osmosis water can be purchased in town. We encourage you to fill your freshwater tank and ensure your gray and black tanks are empty prior to leaving Potrero.

La Jolla Beach Camp has some 15-amp electric sites available; there will be an additional \$2 fee per day for an electric site. Please note that there are no electric sites on the beach front, but you will still have a great view! There is a dump station available. Reverse Osmosis water, propane, and pump-outs are available for delivery, fees are minimal. There are also hot showers available, however please note they are salt-water showers.

Generators: We will park people according to generator usage. No generator, and up to two hours of generator usage per day (1st row beach front camping), or max generator/electric (when applicable) (2nd row). Ensure your generators are working prior to coming to the rally.

Fuel: Excellent Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) and other types of fuel are available in Baja. You will find BP, ARCO, Chevron, and Pemex fuel stations. While DEF is available for purchase, we recommend you bring some with you. Also, if you use Premium gasoline in your RV you may want to bring some octane booster with you as Premium gasoline isn't always available at every station. You can usually buy octane booster at the gas stations or Auto Zone's, etc., if you need to.

Food: We will have a potluck Welcome Dinner our first night at Potrero Regional Park, so please come prepared! However, please keep your other fresh food items and **especially alcohol to a minimum for the border crossing** (most likely the border agents will not mind if you bring a small amount of food, just don't stuff your entire refrigerator and freezer full as they do have the right to discard it). You will have opportunities to shop at the local grocery store in Guadalupe Valley (near the Zoo). And, again at our stay at La Jolla Beach Camp. Both locations have very nice grocery stores nearby that should have most anything you might need. Also, on your free days, you are encouraged to explore Ensenada, which has a multitude of typical US big-box stores like Staples, Costco, Walmart, Sam's club, etc.

Photo Roster: Please send a photo of yourself, and whoever you may be traveling with, (one where we can clearly see your face(s)) to ch8wagonmaster@gmail.com. We will have a photo roster of all attendees, which really helps us to learn who all is traveling with us on the Rally, and it makes a great memento of the Rally.

Tentative Itinerary: Please be advised that some changes may still occur to the Itinerary as we are constantly trying to add value to these all-volunteer rallies. (See the Tentative [Itinerary below](#).)

Cancellation Policy: A full refund (minus a \$50 cancellation fee per rig) will be given for cancellations received prior to November 30, 2021. To request a cancellation refund, please send an email to the Wagonmaster at ch8wagonmaster@gmail.com with **REFUND REQUEST** in the Subject line. If there is a cancellation between December 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021, a refund of 75% (less the \$50 Cancellation Fee) may be given providing a replacement registrant can be found for the cancelling party before December 31, 2021. No refunds will be granted after January 1, 2022. In all cases, the Wagonmaster has sole discretion to grant or deny a rally refund. If you are interested in Cancellation Insurance visit <https://www.travelinsurance.com>. Please note this is not affiliated with Chapter 8.

Special COVID Notice: On the off chance that the rally gets cancelled due to Covid, you will receive a full refund.

Chapter 8 Rallies end in Mexico: As our bylaws state that our rallies end in Mexico, we do not include travel plans back to the US as part of our rally. However, for those who wish to return directly to the US after the rally finishes, there is generally at least one other person who also wants to return directly to the US, so you probably won't have to return alone. For those who wish to take advantage of the Add-On trips (and why wouldn't you?!), we will have Sign-Up sheets available toward the end of the Rally.

Add-On Trips: Add-On trips are for those who wish to travel further into Baja with other Rally members, after the Rally ends on 2/25/22. Please note, Add-On trips are **NOT** part of the Rally. All costs and activities associated with the Add-On trips are separate from the Rally. There will be a

volunteer group leader for each trip destination, i.e., Gary Hatt will lead the group to San Felipe, Shari Nova will lead the group to Bahia de los Angeles, etc.

Reservations will not be made at any of the add-on locations, nor will activities be planned. However, due to the time of year that we do the trips, historically there has not been any issues getting into RV parks/beach camping locations. All decisions regarding the Add-On trips will be decided within the individual groups going on the trips. All that said, the Add-On trips are AMAZING, and if you can, you will definitely want to go on one! They are a great way to see other parts of Mexico and get more comfortable driving your RV in Mexico!

There is a question on the Registration form asking about your post-Rally plans, please indicate if you think you **MAY** be interested in going on one of the Add-On trips. We are looking to get a general idea of where and how many people may want to do an Add-On trip. Your answer on the Registration does NOT obligate you to go, it's just a survey question for us for tentative planning purposes. We will have a short meeting prior to setting out the Sign-Up sheets to discuss each location, what to expect from an Add-On trip, etc. You don't have to make a final decision until the last few days of the Rally. As a reminder, here is the list of the Add-On trips and options:

- Return directly to the US
- Venture off on your own
- Stay at La Jolla Beach Camp after the Rally has ended
- San Felipe – one week will be spent there, and then the group will go to Puerto Peñasco for one week (this is flexible, and will be decided by the group at that time)
- Bahía de los Ángeles
- Guerrero Negro – whale watching
- Playa Santispac

Homework: If you haven't previously attended one of our Chapter 8 rallies, please read the newsletters and bulletins ([on the website](#)) from the previous Rallies, especially the last three. They can provide you with a lot of useful information, especially for those who plan on continuing further south after the Rally has ended.

More Questions? Between the [FAQ section](#) and the previous [newsletters and rally bulletins](#), you should find answers to most of your questions. We especially encourage all newcomers to read through the FAQ thoroughly. If after thoroughly reviewing the links provided in this letter and reading through the previous newsletters and bulletins you still have a question, please contact me at ch8wagonmaster@gmail.com. Please note that I live full-time in my RV, and don't always have connectivity, but I will answer your emails as quickly as I can. Again, I greatly appreciate your efforts in trying to find your answers online or on our FB page before contacting me. By the way, there are many experienced Rally travelers on the FB page who are always happy to help, and posting a question there may get you a much faster response.

The entire Board of Chapter 8 is dedicated to making this a trip of your lifetime! We look forward to seeing those who have traveled with us before and want to extend an especially warm welcome to our newcomers! Together, shoulder to shoulder, we fulfill our Mission statement of introducing people to

Mexico, helping them to feel comfortable traveling in Mexico, and providing help, support, and business to our wonderful Mexican neighbors.

On behalf of myself and the Assistant Wagonmasters, Shari Nova and Gary Hatt, we look forward to seeing YOU at our Chapter 8 2022 ***¡Vamos a Baja!*** Rally!

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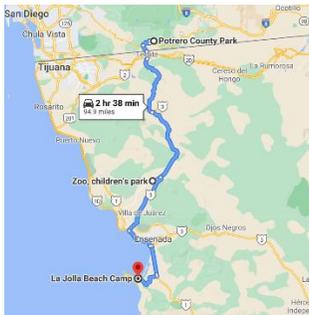
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2022 ***¡Vamos a Baja!*** Rally Itinerary



This is the route we'll be taking from Potrero Regional Park (aka Potrero County Park) to Zoológico Parque del Niño Jersey in Guadalupe Valley, and then finishing up at La Jolla Beach Camp in Maneadero. In total, we'll be traveling less than 100 miles into Baja for our Rally.

For an interactive map, click [here](#).

2/5-2/8/22 – Arrival at Potrero Regional Park, San Diego County, California: Wagonmaster, Assistant Wagonmasters, Parking Chairs (2/5), Board Members (2/6), Group Leaders (2/7), other rally volunteers – Parking Team, Charity Team (2/8), arrive on the dates specified.

2/9/22 - Rally Start at Potrero Regional Park, Potrero, CA – all Rally attendees should arrive no later than noon as we'll have lots to do that day! Later in the day we'll have a potluck Welcome Dinner and Travel Orientation, and you'll meet your assigned traveling group leader and companions. (If you arrive early at Potrero, please understand you may be moved out of your spot as parking spots are assigned for the Rally Leadership Team and special committees. In general, all parking will be assigned by the Parking Chair, with Potrero full hook-up sites being assigned based on date and time of registration.)

2/10/22 – Split up into our small, assigned traveling groups and drive to the border (we will carpool for this as it's only 6 miles from Potrero Park), we'll walk across and get our FMM cards signed and stamped, and do a small walking tour of the lovely border town of Tecate. While in Tecate, we'll visit the Tecate brewery, get pesos, grab some lunch, and go to the AMAZING Tecate Bakery! That evening we'll meet up for a Happy Hour Social and finalize plans for our departure the following day.

2/11/22 – Depart Potrero Regional Park in our small, assigned groups, cross the border at Tecate, and drive to Zoológico Parque del Niño Jersey, Valle de Guadalupe, BC (it's approximately 51 miles from Potrero to the Zoo); Welcome Dinner at Zoo (Parking at the Zoo is based upon solar/generator usage.)

2/12/22 – Exclusive Chapter 8 Guided Tour of the Zoo (approximately 4 hours); Free time; Happy Hour Social

2/13/22 – Olive or Wine Tour (this has yet to be finalized)

2/14/22 – Be a Zookeeper for a Day (approximately five hours); If you don't want to participate in the event, you will have Free time during the day; Happy Hour Social in the evening.

2/15/22 – Olive or Wine Tour (this has yet to be finalized); Happy Hour Social with travel orientation and plans for the next day's departure to La Jolla Beach Campground

2/16/22 – Travel in our assigned groups to La Jolla Beach Campground (it's approximately 44 miles from the Zoo); reverse osmosis water and propane is available for a small fee; dump site on location; Welcome Fiesta with live music and dancing. (Parking is based upon solar/generator usage and electrical hook-up; electric sites are not located on the beach front, but you'll still have a great view!)

2/17/22 – Free Day**

2/18/22 – Ensenada bus tour, which includes the Caracol Museo de Ciencias (Science Museum), historical jail visit, shopping, lunch and open-air market at Los Globos (fresh food market!).

2/19/22 – Hands-on Charity ([Casa Esperanza – see article by Shari Nova in our Spring Newsletter](#)); p.m. Donation drop-off for auction, and auction prep (Please bring QUALITY items to sell at the fundraising auction.); in-kind donation sorting.

2/20/22 – Folkloric Anahuac - Punta Banda Children's Folkloric Ballet; tamales fundraising event for the dance group; SECRET GUEST SPEAKER (you will NOT want to miss this!)

2/21/22 – Auction prep; Auction

2/22/22 – Add-on trips or travel back to the US border (Tecate) travel orientation; Free Day**

2/23/22 – General Meeting (all attendees) with election of 2023 Board members, 2023 Wagonmaster/Assist. Wagonmaster and announcement of 2023 Rally location! Followed by our Farewell Dinner.

2/24/22 – Final Add-on trips or travel back to the US border (Tecate) travel orientation; dump tanks, water, and propane available for those who will be continuing onto the add-on trips.

2/25/22 – ¡Vamos a Baja! 2022 Rally Ends – SKP hugs and farewell! ¡Adiós y viajes seguros!

**Events/activities not scheduled, or included in the rally fee, but available at La Jolla Beach Camp:

- Cooking class – there will be an additional nominal fee for this class (TBD), which will be offered on one of the free days.
- Daily walks on the beach or nearby hills
- Natural hot springs in the beach (yes, IN, the beach!) Bring a shovel, or do like many of the locals, just dig a big hole with your hands! It's part of the fun!
- La Bufadora – one of the world's largest marine geysers, or "blowholes"
- Onsite RV/vehicle wash, and wax (for a fee)
- Possibly other activities not yet planned

Now, that you have read through all of this carefully, let's do this!

Please click [Here](#) to register for the 2022 *¡Vamos a Baja!* rally.

