

A note from our founder, Jeff Devoll -

There are many conflicting media reports about the safety of Mexico. Baja is sometimes on the list of warnings. These warning apply recently to the Cabo San Lucas area and sometimes parts of Tijuana and/or Rosarito.

We would like to set the record straight: life in the San Quintin Valley where we work on the Baja peninsula is normal, safe and calm. People are going about their normal business, going to work and school, shopping and playing. We have brought teams many, many times and are in contact with other people who bring teams. There has never been any problem with any team that we have hosted or any that we have heard of. People who visit the area comment that they feel safer in rural Baja than in their hometown.

When we travel to San Quintin, we stay on the road that follows the border and do not go in to Tijuana and then the patrolled toll road to Ensenada. We travel directly through Ensenada...where four cruise ships a week allow thousands of people to disembark and stroll around the city, with no problems at all. From there, we take the Government-patrolled highway to San Quintin where thousands of trucks and other cars travel every day.

The state of crime that the news media is so quick to inflate and report is, for the most part, between drug cartels and between the cartels and, sometimes between cartels and the police/military. The Mexican Government has pledged to fight the drug cartels which means, if anything, we are seeing increased police and military presence, which we feel is a good sign. The major areas of violence are Juarez, Mexico (near El Paso Texas), the State of Guerrero which is almost 2000 miles away from where we work, and the Mexico City area, which is also close to 2000 miles from where we work. Many Mexican cities do have higher levels of violence than in the U.S., but not the San Quintin Valley.

The area we travel to is a routine destination for anglers, surfers, while watchers, naturalists, volunteers and taco lovers. If the safety situation changes (which has happened with trips to other countries in the past), we would cancel or re-route the trip.

On a personal note, I have been bringing my children to Baja since they were 3 and 5 years old respectively, 3-6 weeks each year and I wouldn't do that if I didn't believe it was safe. It is one man's opinion and travel/construction/activities carry inherent risk, but we do our best to keep people safe. Reach out to me personally with your concerns - I'll chat with you.

All participants are required to have medical and evacuation insurance (provided by uReach contractor at a low cost) even though it has never been needed in 25 years. That's how seriously we take your safety.

Jeff Devoll

Executive Director

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Disclaimer: This document is an opinion and is not intended to replace your own decision or research. Jeff Devoll is an experienced traveler but is not a certified travel safety expert. Travel at your own risk.