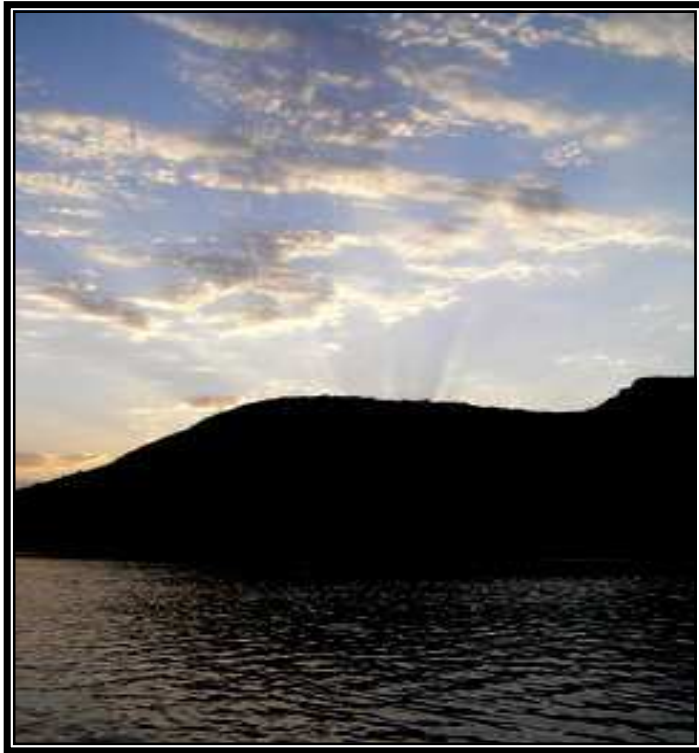


## Baja Voyage(cont'd)

### Day 19



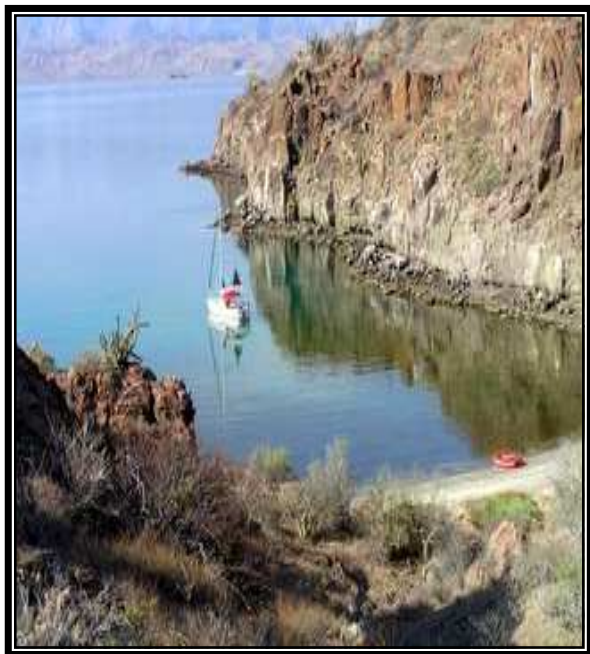
John Steinbeck wrote several books about the Sea of Cortez. One was a book called *The Log of the Sea of Cortez* a work of non-fiction and a novella called *The Pearl*, which most people have read. I brought both books with me to read and enjoy. I was thinking about *The Pearl* and how he described commonplace things in a lyrical manner. Even though I spoofed the book to describe a dawn in Mulege with my brother, Steinbeck's true description of dawn perfectly captured the first morning with Alice. I'll share his description. "*Specks of Gulf clouds flame high in the air. ....The dawn came quickly now, a wash, a glow, a lightness and then an explosion of fire as the sun arose out of the Gulf.*"

#### The first dawn on the boat with Alice

As we awoke, we looked east. The sun had not risen above the adjacent island, but beams of sunlight streamed out from the hidden sun. To the west the impossibly rugged mountains of Baja were glowing red and purple. I could not have given Alice a more wonderful welcome than nature did with this display. After this magnificent beginning, we decided we would head over to the island of Danzante (dancer) and have breakfast in a small anchorage called Honeymoon cove. It was a perfect spot for one boat and two people who had not seen each other in three weeks.



Looking west at sunrise with the high, convoluted and mysterious mountains of Baja in the background



**The perfect cove with the perfect name**

From here we sailed and motored to a bay on the south east side of Carmen Island passing a couple of dolphins in the process. Again the weird juxtaposition of blue water, beach and cactus seemed odd when we stopped for a swim. (Alice was immediately stung by a jellyfish.) While she tended her nasty and painful stings, I explored a cave on the island. To get to the cave I followed an arroyo to the interior of the island weaving among giant cactus and over a trail scattered with semi petrified marine fossils and old coral. We continued sailing up along the west side of Isla Carmen until we reached my previous anchorage of Ballandra where we anchored well away from the mangroves this time.



**Southern tip of Carmine with Danznate in the background**

Isla Danzante is less than four miles from Puerto Escondido, so we were over to the island before the day got hot. Alice relaxed and rested from her trip, while I decided to explore the island a bit. The water was clear and I could see many schools of fish as I rowed ashore. Once ashore, I took a trail to a ridge above the boat. We had seen 8 different kinds of birds from the boat, and when I got ashore I got an odd picture of Alice calmly resting in a serene anchorage overseen by a couple of vultures. I couldn't help but recall a cartoon...

**Patience my ass, I'm gonna kill something**



**Bahia Marquer, Isla Carmine, home of jellyfish**