

Baja Voyage (cont'd) Day 20

We got up early and enjoyed the morning sunrise. Thankfully, we had no problem with bugs the previous night, since we anchored away from the mangroves in an area of cliffs and shingle beaches on the south side of Balandra cove. We left early and motored out, as there was no wind. The seas were very glassy. There was a great congregation of cormorants and pelicans at the entrance as we left. It seemed that like any good organization they were planning the day, who goes where and who gets the plum assignments. It sounded like a lot of complaining was going on.



The old mission of 1697, Loreto, Baja California

We arrived in Loreto about 9:30 am and tied up at the same floating dock, greeted by the same set of wharf urchins who wanted to watch the boat for us. . A priest in 1697 founded Loreto and a mission was constructed with the town growing up around it. Today there are about 10,000 people in and around Loreto depending mostly on fishing and tourism.

We walked through the town, wondering through alleys and streets, some unpaved, dusty and unattractive, others finished off with decorative pavement and bricks. Because Loreto has a good source of water there were many trees that provided shade and beauty. Much of the waterfront was repaired after the hurricane that passed through a year or so ago. Some work still had to be done and a couple of large hotels were deserted and damaged. The reason the harbor had a depth greater than that reported by the guide was because of the rebuilding process.



I took Alice on the tour of all the important places such as the frutiera, paneteria, and of course Beverage-and-liquor-teria. We wandered around town and took in the sights and a few pictures too, now that we had a real camera

After making trips to the Pemex gas station, and the aforementioned stores we loaded up and left the town just after noon. Alice wanted to be out on the sea and didn't want to spend time in a town. She said that

she missed the motion of the boat and the feel of the wind on her face, and me. Gee, what a perfect wife and sailing companion!

A nice southeast breeze sprang up as we were leaving. We cut the engine and sailed on a broad reach north, past the island of Coronados that I had stayed at a few days previously, toward our next safe haven. La Ramada had been on my itinerary coming south but I had pushed past it in order to reach Coronados. We swung into the well-protected (from the prevailing southerly and easterlies) bay and anchored in 15 feet in fine sand.



Alice in her environment

Almost immediately after dropping anchor there were several fish "boils" with the baitfish swirling and leaping. This provided much delight to all the pelicans, cormorants, and assorted gulls that began a frenzy of feeding. I could not clearly see the predator fish but they seem to be about 2 feet long and there were many of them. There were cliffs that merited exploring and a sandy beach with a couple of wheeled vehicle tracks I wanted to check out.

I rowed around the cove checking out the rock formations. These were sedimentary; mostly former beach and coral that eroded differentially causing the pock marking and caves.

We had a nice dinner of spaghetti and cheese and fruit for desert, plus something nice and cold to drink. With essentially no moon the stars were brilliant as we lay in the cockpit with the filler cushions in making a commodious king size bed. Well, not quite king-size, since I used only two of the three filler cushions. I did not want to seal in the gas cans for fear of fumes building up, and even when I turned off the master switch to both batteries I was still a bit of a worrywart. When I sail with only one 3 gal can I just put it on top of the outboard with it securely bungeed to the rail. But with a full load of 15 gallons in 3 cans it wasn't practical. So, with the diagonal cuddle perfected, we fell asleep to the gentle rocking of the boat.



Checking out the caves at La Ramada Cove

To Be Continued.....