

Tondelayo's Voyage

Leaving La Paz, on to Puerto Vallarta, and down to Zihua

Nov 5 - Dec 3, 2002

	See Map - press your browser <i>back</i> button when finished.
Nov 5-8	Hanging around La Paz, waiting for a few parts. Came back 1 afternoon, and some friends had moved my boat since it was being thrown dangerously close to another boat by the vicious La Paz current. Im starting to get really tired of this place.
?	<p>Lost track of time waiting for stuff to come down from the States. In no particular order:</p> <p>Bought lots of stuff.</p> <p>Dinner on Corrie Doon. Robert is heading for Polynesia</p> <p>Waiting... I hate waiting.</p> <p>Andrew learns to play Mexican Train, a form of Dominoes, and wins (of course) the pennant for a week.</p> <p>Went to the Disco on Saturday night and stayed out dancing with the senioritas till 3:30am.</p>
Nov 16	Jim and Janine arrive, and meet Jim and I with the Liferaft and other goodies.
Nov 17	Sunday, 6:30am: figured out that Jim and Janine still had a couple things from my Downwind Marine order. Stopped by Amazing Grace and Mike said that Quuesta was hailing me on the radio, so at least I knew they were looking for me. Went over to shore and started walking toward the area that they said that they had a hotel room. Somehow, navigated straight there throught a few unmarked dirt roads. So, got the stuff, went to CCC to buy fresh groceries, and got a taxi back to the dink. Had a wet ride back to the boat, sonce it was blowing the usual 18-20 in the La Paz Harbor. Headed out of the harbor...
Nov 17 cont	<p>10am, Motoring out of the harbor, about a 4 mile channel. 11am, hoisted sail, and began beating north into La Paz Bay. 1pm, made the channel out of La Paz Bay, and encountered 8 sailboats heading for La Paz. OK, picture this, 15-18 knots of wind from the north. I am pounding pretty hard into weather and 4 of the 8 sailboats I pass (heading south) are not sailing. Why? Perfect downwind sailing and they are flogging all over the place under power. BUY A FUCKING TRAWLER!!!! You're making the rest of us look bad. OK, enough ranting. Anyway, by dark we were bearing off the wind to head south, just as the wind died. Rolled around for a while, motored a bit and then caught a real light land breeze about midnight and ghosted along until sunrise, and the wind died.</p>
Nov 18	No wind, so we dropped all sail and waited. About 10am a whisper of wind started out of the north so I set full sail and got the boat moving, 2-3knots. By noon, we were cooking at 5-6 knots. By sundown we were making 6k with 1 reef in. By 9pm that night we were making 6+ with 2 reefs in, and By midnight, near 7knots. Jim got to see what steep, 6-8 foot waves look like, with a gorgeous full moon, and a minor meteor shower. (Leonid)
Nov 19	Sailing, sailing and more sailing. Wind slowly abateing, by midnight we were barely moving.
Nov 20	Began motoring sometime in the wee hours of the morning. Unfortunatley, the motor was overheating, so we could only make about 2.5 knots. Arrived at Isla Isabela at 9 or 10 am. Went for a swim, and then took a nice long nap. Woke up for sunset.
Nov 21	<p>Went spearfising and poked, a triggerfish and a nice lobster. We cooked it all up for lunch with some tortillas and guacamole. Then took apart the cooling system to find a small blockage. Put everything back together, and ran the motor for a while, and everything seemed fine. Decided to go over to the Island so Jim could see the teeming masses of birds and get a few shots. Played dominoes and got pretty drunk that night.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p> booby3_t.jpg (13845 bytes)</p> <p> iguana_t.jpg (18192 bytes)</p> </div> </div> <p>A Frigate Bird, Blue Footed Booby, and an Iguana.</p>

Nov 22	<p>Awakened by splashing on the hull around sunrise. Went back to sleep for an hour and awoke with 10 knots or so of south wind. BAD, this anchorage is totally exposed to south wind, and waves were already starting to rock Tondelayo. Made a mad dash around the boat to get everything ready to sail, and left in less than half an hour. By then the wind was 15-18 knots and wind chop was forming with whitecaps everywhere. Wind reached about 25 or so, with 5-6 foot wind waves, but we were on a close reach, so it was great sailing. At least once we got settled with and had some coffee. By 3pm the wind had died and we were making less than 1knot so we started motoring. Overheating problem seems to be fixed, so we ran Matilda (the engine) pretty hard to test her out, and all was well. About sundown the onshore sea breeze started, so we were able to catch that and start sailing again.</p>
Nov 23-24	<p>La Cruz. again. Dropped by Philo's. Went downtown, to Zaragosa Marine, and to old town. Checked out the Hurricane damage, not much except the waterfront, which was battered pretty good.</p>
Nov 25-26	<p>Travelling to Tenacatita. Mostly light winds, and adverse currents, up to 1.5 knots at times. Got in around noon. Only 3 other boats in the anchorage when we arrived, but a few more came in the next couple days. Last time I was here there were 54 boats.</p> <p>Went over to the hotel, and spilled the dingy trying to land in the surf break. Only about 2 feet high, but it breaks a really long time because the beach slopes so slowly. Thankfully, the dingy did not flip, so I did not have to rip the motor apart. Jim did get ashore to make a phone call and left a message.</p>
Nov 27	<p>Tenacatita Jungle cruise, lunch on the Tenacatita beach, and siestas.</p> <div data-bbox="220 732 1166 968" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Tourists in a Panga, Tondelayo off the Beach, and Andrew with a Sally Lightfoot Crab</p>
Nov 28 - 29	<p>Lounging around on the beach, a Cocktails on Misty Sea with all the fellow cruisers on Thanksgiving. Another trip to the Hotel for Jim to make a phone call. Snorkeling with Curt and Becky of Journey at the Aquarium. A few odds and ends around the boat, and getting ready to sail on Saturday.</p>
Nov 30 - Dec 1	<div data-bbox="220 1161 578 1396" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Motoring, followed by good sailing most of the day and well into the dark. New moon made for brilliant stars, and an inky black ocean glittering with bioluminescence. About midnight the wind abruptly changed to be directly in our face, so we started tacking upwind. By sunup, it was blowing about 20, and seas were getting up. With no safe anchorages ahead for 100 miles, we decided to turn around and go back about 15 miles to what looked like a somewhat protected anchorage, Cabeza Negra. The guidebook says it is a private compound with armed guards on the beach. What we found was a beautifully protected anchorage, creamy sand beach, and a small resort community on the beach. Never did see the armed guards. So much for cruiser rumor.</p>
Dec 02 - Dec 03	<div data-bbox="266 1440 423 1675" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Headed out early to make up for the ground that we lost yesterday. By noon we were back where we turned around and sailing in light wind, on a beam reach. As the day wore on, the wind veered around behind us, and began building. So we flew wing and wing, straight downwind for about 10 hours in up to 20 knots, with the wind vane steering the whole time. Beautiful sailing. Late night the wind finally veered again and promptly died. Motorsailed for 14 hours to get into Zihua by dark. Dolphins, turtles, and seasnakes everywhere the last few days. Went to Rick's for Showers and a more than a few Cervezas.</p>
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	Legendary Zihuatenejo
Next	Life in Zihua, on to Acapulco and beyond...