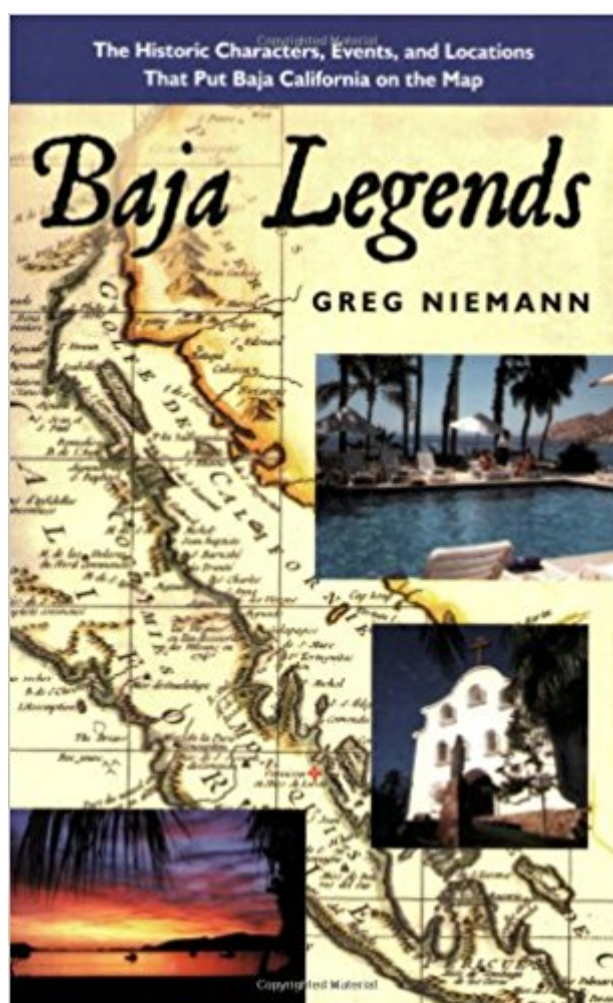


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# Baja Legends: The Historic Characters, Events, And Locations That Put Baja California On The Map (Sunbelt Cultural Heritage Books)



## Synopsis

Greg Niemann, long-time Baja California journalist and author of *Baja Fever*, shares his extensive knowledge of the peninsula's colorful past and booming present in this easy-to-read reference book. Get to know the "founding fathers" of Baja, the padres, pirates, and pioneers who scratched a living from the desert and the sea, plus the world-famous faces and still-famous places that keep this tiny finger of land in the international spotlight. All of the pertinent history and lore, every one of the amazing Baja stories, fill the pages of *Baja Legends* to overflowing and make it a "must have" for seasoned Bajaphiles as well as those who are planning their first trip south of the border.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

...covers nearly all the bases of Baja... *Baja Legends* has as much as any four books put together. -- Vee Webber, *Discover Baja*  
An easy-to-read contemporary history of the people and resorts that helped make Baja what it is today; -- Roberto Van Wormer Ruiz, State Tourism Coordinator, Baja California Sur  
This vivid old timer's story book must be considered required reading for all who fancy themselves as "Baja experts"; -- Gene Kira, author, *The Baja Catch*; *King of the Moon*; and *The Unforgettable Sea of Cortez*; editor of [www.bajadestinations.com](http://www.bajadestinations.com)  
What an amazing book of Baja lore and legends...an impressive collection of answers to those often-asked Baja questions..." -- Graham Mackintosh, author of *Into a Desert Place* and *Journey With a Baja Burro*

IF IT HAPPENED IN BAJA CALIFORNIA YOU'LL READ ABOUT IT IN 'BAJA LEGENDS'! Here's just a few of the intriguing things that happened in Baja California: The top grossing movie of all time ('Titanic') was filmed; a padre's lottery winnings restored an historic mission; the most significant cave paintings in North America were created; a giant slab of solid onyx was mined especially to be made into a bathtub for a famous actress; the real 'Robinson Crusoe' (along with fellow pirates) visited Cabo San Lucas; one restaurant hosted six different Mexican Presidents and dozens of American luminaries; a tourist industry was created around 'petting'; the 'friendly' whales; a small town's church was designed by the man who designed the Eiffel Tower; Learn about the famous Hotel California, the many Hollywood celebrities who frequent the exclusive Rancho La Puerta Spa, Bing Crosby's and Jack Dempsey's former hotels, the Cabo San Lucas resort that was the background for a Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition cover shot, the hotel where the Caesar salad was first concocted, and the Score Baja 1000; one of the world's most challenging off-road races. In Baja Legends: The Historic Characters, Events, and Locations That Put Baja California on the Map, Greg Niemann, long-time Baja traveler, journalist and author of Baja Fever, has given readers a thorough and easy-to-read reference to the colorful history and lore of this unique part of the world. Packed with fascinating stories, anecdotes, and little-known facts, Baja Legends is the result of the author's years of research on Baja California and his many personal interviews with the living legends of Baja.

No quite sure exactly how to describe this book. It's listed as history/travel - I don't know if I misunderstood the description or not as the notes on the listing actually don't describe it well. The title is compelling but the reading is not. As soon as I opened it I knew I had made a mistake. I read some random pages but didn't and won't read the entire book. I wanted history and this book hardly qualifies as such. The publisher's notes make it sound like it's a historical work but the history it contains is, like much of the rest, more anecdotal than consequential. The list of the author's credits looks like a series of small/local newspapers or travel publications and the book is made of articles very much like that. Most of the topics are covered in a page or two - many just a couple of paragraphs. If you're looking for a real history of Baja California I'd look elsewhere. The information here is hardly different than you'd get leaning on a bar chatting with the local bartender or speaking with a hotel clerk. I rely heavily on reader reviews before buying a book and for some reason didn't with this one. My mistake. I wish I hadn't bought it and now that I have wish I had some legitimate

reason to return it. If you're looking for chatty tourist information it may be for you. If you want a well researched history of the Baja, forget it. I don't like giving reviews like this because it may in fact be unfair. If you're looking for a sprinkling of history and local lore/legend to spice up a trip and not tax your mind then maybe you'd think this is a five star book. The description seems to imply a different kind of book. So in that case I guess I should give the description a one star and just leave the book alone.

Very readable, and the sections are broken up in a way that makes it easy to look up stories from one particular area. Much of the stories Baja Legends covers can be found in greater depth in other books, but this is good as an overview or brief introduction. The book is legends as much as history - there are several accounts in here, such as supposedly gold-rich 'lost mission' of Santa Isabel, which are certainly more fiction than fact. But it's a good, readable overview of many of the more colorful episodes and characters of this part of the world.

This book was a little different than I expected. The content really got deep into many of the individuals who impacted Baja California from the 1600's through the 20th century. The book talks extensively about how different areas of Baja got developed or left behind. This included many details about the different missions. Normally I don't spend too much time thinking about the missions. But I found the details of what these people went through to be very enlightening. We often drive down the road, both paved and unpaved, with little regard to what travel was like before roads. You really can't image what it took without spending the time that the author did. The development details can sometimes be overly drawn out. But I think that was more my fault. I was reading the book very quickly and I think I was getting tired. Also covered was many of the important political aspects of Baja. Didn't realize how much history was rapped up into this isolated peninsula. At times the book can be a long read. But it is very educational and I highly recommend this book to anybody who is interested in really understanding Baja more than a billboard advertisement.

Having spent a great deal of time, over many years, in Baja California, I am aware of most of places and people that Niemann describes. It was enjoyable to lose myself in his narrative. My complaint is the limitation of trying to cram the story into too small a basket. The omission of wonderful details of some of the material I know from first-hand makes me wish that there were more details about things with which I am less familiar. If you are a 'newbie', you will be amused and

astonished. If you are an old hand, you will be leave unsatisfied'. I'd love to meet with Niemann and spin yarns.

The stories are a delight. Read many out loud to My "boys" all 60 and older. They are a lot of fun!

Picks up little known facts about the characters who lived and explored this great peninsula of Mexico.

This is an interesting collection of true stories about the people and places that have made Baja such an exciting and very different place from the Mexico mainland. You can pick it up and open it at any place and get sucked in to the stories. The most fascinating are about the people who visited and stayed, loving the people, the climate and saw an opportunity to bring their business or craft to the area where they

the book is very interesting in that it goes town by town and tells the stories that are real or legendary about real people who lived there. it is the type of book that you can read and reread and put down and pick up at a later date. quite enjoyable and i recommend it for anyone who wants to know what came before !!

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