

Lunch with Ernesto

11 October 2008

We stopped at Cabo Blanco, Peru, for lunch today.

Cabo Blanco is popularly known for a couple of things, and less known for two additional things, both arguably more significant.

From our lunch spot, we could see the first of the less known, but more significant, features of Cabo Blanco.



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That feature is the fishing fleet of sailboats, one of the few fleets of working sailboats, as opposed to pleasure sailboats, remaining in the world.



In today's world, working sailboats are extremely rare, so to see a few fishing boats come in under sail was a very big treat for me.



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Of course, times change, and today, Cabo Blanco is much better known for its surfing than for its fishing fleet, and new sails have usurped the old.



Photo by Stephanie Hackney

Lunch with Ernesto

The same is true with the fishing fleet, as larger power boats capable of ranging further out into the ocean and returning with larger catches are moving in.



Photo by Stephanie Hackney

Lunch with Ernesto

In life, time marches on, and the past fades away. Or, in the case of Cabo Blanco, crumbles away.



Photo by Stephanie Hackney

Lunch with Ernesto

The grand hotel overlooking the beach at Cabo Blanco has eroded into a ruin.



The pool is empty.



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And the nightclub, once host to world famous celebrities, entertainers and movie stars, is no more.



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Those movie stars were from the days of black and white film, as were the sportsmen who came to Cabo Blanco for the annual marlin fishing tournament.



Photo by Stephanie Hackney

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Marlin fishing, the third notable feature, is what put Cabo Blanco on the map. It is also what drew the last, but not least, element of notoriety.

The marlin fishing drew an old man; a white-bearded, old man, named Ernesto.



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We had lunch in a place where the old man, Ernesto, used to eat, drink and hang out with his fishing buddies.



For me, it was a very special occasion to watch solo fisherman in their sailboats retuning to port while feeling the echoes of Ernesto's laughter.

What was the reason for my reverence? It was Ernesto, who you probably know better by the English version of his name, Ernest, who wrote the quintessential story of solo fishermen in sailboats, *The Old Man and the Sea*.

So, for me, the fourth feature of Cabo Blanco was the best feature, and it was the centerpiece of our lunch with Ernesto.

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The old man, Ernesto, was Ernest Hemmingway. His novella *The Old Man and the Sea* was published in 1952. It won Hemmingway the 1953 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the 1954 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Cabo Blanco was arguably the world's best know fishery for black marlin in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1953, Alfred Glassell Jr. caught the IGFA all tackle world record black marlin, weighing 1,560 pounds / 708 kilos, in the waters off of Cabo Blanco.

Cabo Blanco was one of the locations used in the filming of the 1958 film *The Old Man and the Sea*. The movie starred Spencer Tracy, who was nominated for a Best Actor in a Leading Role Oscar. The film won an Oscar for Best Music and was also nominated for Best Cinematography. The film won five awards in various worldwide categories.

Unless otherwise noted, all photos by Douglas Hackney.



Photo by Jorge Valdes

Douglas and Stephanie Hackney are on a two to three year global overland expedition.

You can learn more about their travels at: <http://www.hackneys.com/travel>