In 1932, he wrote to his agent Elizabeth Otis that he was going to Mazatlan:

“...and from there I shall go on horseback in the general direction of Guadalajara . . . [I want] entrée into a number of tiny villages . . . I plan to do a series of little stories on the road—local sagas. . . . Such things might well be done with simplicity, with color and with some charm, if one were able to present the incident against its background and at the same time permeate it with the state of mind of its community.”
Viva Zapata! 1952
Sea of Cortez

John Steinbeck & E. F. Ricketts

A Leisurely Journal of Travel and Research

STEINBECK the novelist and RICKETTS the biologist joined forces in a unique “fishing trip.” This is the personal story of their expedition; a separate section records their scientific findings with a scientific appendix on the marine animals of the Panamic Faunal Province.
Periwinkle snails and barnacles
Heliaster and Sea fan
“We at least have kept our vulgar sense of wonder. We are no better than the animals; in fact in a lot of ways we aren’t as good. And so we’ll let this book fall where it may.” (58)