Electronic Travel Story Magazine - Volume 04 - January 2010 Journey to Santa Cruz Beach, California

Introduction

Volume Four (04) - Title Page



welcome to the
Electronic Magazine
Antonio the Explorer
and his
Magical Journeys
to interesting places near
San Francisco, CA

this episode describes his journeys to Santa Cruz Beach

a city and beach area
with one of the oldest boardwalks
and entertainment center for
children and young adults on the west coast
of the United States!

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Who is Antonio the Explorer?



Antonio the Explorer is the story of a young man on a Spiritual Mission.

Cursed with a disabilty some people take for takes for granted and only one family members to cares for him:

Blessed with a desire for adventure by traveling to unique places in and near his home town.

Outside of digital images and stories of special places in and near the San Francisco Bay, "Antonio the Explorer" is a person looking for compassion, hoping and praying someone will support his journey with a financial donation and read about his special journeys.

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What is Antonio the Explorer?



"Antonio the Explorer" is an online magazine that tells journeys of a son and father in mostly Northern California but also to other parts of the United States.

Published by A M Benjamin Services, an Ebook Publisher in San Francisco, CA this electronic magazine tells the stories of two men who became addicted to traveling around the city by the bay.

The words and digital images in this magazine was written to inspire tourists and local residents to visit other places in San Francisco instead of the Fisherman Wharf and Union Square.

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Why the visits to Santa Cruz, CA?



Antonio the Explorer and myself choose to visit
Santa Cruz so many times in the last two years
(3) partially because I had so many good times on
other visits and also because of advertisements for
musical concert I seen advertised on television.

In 2008 and 2009 I drove twice to Santa Cruz with
Antonio the Explorer and once with my female friend
Gwen as a treat for her birthday.

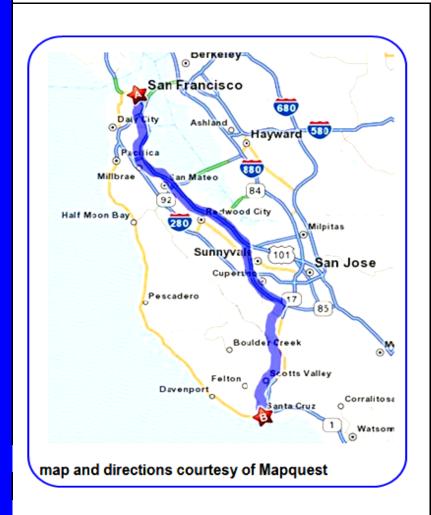
Every visit to Santa Cruz was pure magic in that I had fantastic times exploring the landscapes and rides in the amuzement parks.

I would recommend tourist visit the Santa Cruz beach boardwalk because of its low entrance fee, great rides and beautiful beach.

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Directions to Santa Cruz from San Francisco?



START	Start out going EAST on O'FARRELL ST toward MASON ST.	0.2 mi
	O PARRELL ST toward MASON ST.	
*	Turn RIGHT onto STOCKTON ST.	0.1 mi
1	3. STOCKTON ST becomes 4TH ST.	0.5 mi
🧼 🐨	Merge onto I-80 W.	1.2 mi
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	5. I-80 W becomes US-101 S.	34.5 mi
** @	Merge onto CA-85 S via EXIT 398B toward CUPERTINO/SANTA CRUZ.	13.3 mi
40 TE	7. Merge onto CA-17 S toward SANTA CRUZ.	22.7 mi
1	8. CA-17 S becomes OCEAN ST.	1.2 mi
↔	Turn RIGHT onto SAN LORENZO BLVD.	0.2 mi
•	10. Turn LEFT onto RIVERSIDE AVE.	0.2 mi
•	11. Turn RIGHT onto 2ND ST.	0.2 mi
•	12. Turn LEFT onto CLIFF ST.	0.1 mi
•	13. Turn LEFT onto BEACH ST.	0.0 mi

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Traveling to Santa Cruz via Highway "101 South"!



map and directions courtesy of Mapquest

While my preference is ride the Pacific Coast route to and from Santa Cruz during the day; highway 101 is also a scenic ride with many interesting things to look at like trees and homes.

If speed in getting to Santa Cruz is your main objective, highway 101 and the Santa Cruz expressway is the route you want to take.

Mainly because most of the journey you travel on 2 or 4 lanes roads going in one direction as compared to highway 1 where it is two lanes road with car traveling in opposite direction.

While highway 101 was supposed to be faster, each of my visits to Santa Cruz I was caught in traffic jams that made the time longer than mapquest suggested.

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Traveling to Santa Cruz via Highway "1" South!



map and directions courtesy of Mapquest

Traveling on highway one to Santa Cruz beach is my favorite route to the beach boardwalk.

While the route on higway 101 is a few minute faster, the route along Pacific Coast is a journey thru a dozen beautiful beach cities and many breath taking views of ocean.

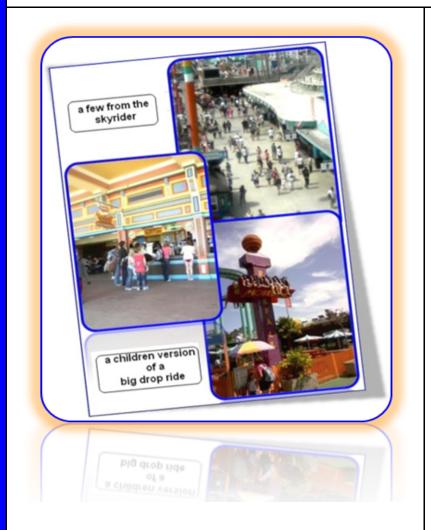
On our journey to Santa Cruz this school spring Break in April of 2009 we had just as much fun trying to memorize the beaches we seen going to Santa Cruz as as we did walking the boardwalk and riding the ride we did there.

Driving to Santa Cruz Beach on highway "1" lets me fantasize about living in a beach or cliff home and watching the sunrise and the sunset everyday.

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Santa Cruz Boardwalk Entertainment and Restaurants!



If you are in northern California and want to visits a place with a lot of rides for children and young adults then Santa Cruz Boardwalk is the place to go.

Different from Marine World and Great America;
Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk has no admission fees
so you are saving a lot of money from the start.

Depending on how big your entourage is, the ride can be expensive, but there are free things to do while like walking on the piers and beaches.

If you want to save some money, bring your own food; Antonio the Explorer and me spent over \$30.00 dollars on cheeseburger, fries and a drink.

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Santa Cruz Boardwalk Skyrider!



My favorite ride while visiting the Santa Cruz Boardwalk is the Skyrider.

Traveling my estimate of over 50 feet in the air with nothing under your feet left gave my mind a strange sensation that as if I was about to fall.

While my body felt a sense of fear, it was a strange and scary feeling that made me glad to see the end of the ride.

Thou it was a scary feeling for Antonio and me, when I took my friend Gwen on the ride she said she was not afraid at all and questioned me for riding the Skyrider if I felt afraid.

I would have loved to take one of my grandchildren while they are little children, but it looks like it will never be.

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Santa Cruz Water Log Ride!



As the pictures to my right demonstrate, a big part of my day was at the Boardwalk watching people ride the Water Log Ride.

Ending like a roller coaster gliding down a big slope, the ride is one of the most popular ride in the park having a very long line before getting on.

Thou I am sure the ride was fun, I spent most of my time there trying to capture pictures of water splashing in the air as demonstrated by the pictures to the left.

The splashes seemed so much bigger while watching them by the end of the ride, but I still like the pictures.

While I was trying to take images of water splashing, Gwen was by the water cooling off from sprinkles of water.

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Santa Cruz Boardwalk Ferris Wheel!



On our second visit to Santa Cruz Beach Board

Antonio the Explorer and myself decided to be more
adventurous and ride the Ferris Wheel.

Remembering my experiences of riding the Ferris Wheel as a teenager in the state of Maryland, I thought the ride on Ferris Wheel would be non threatening and my son would feel safe.

But sitting on a bench without that much protection over 50 feet in the air the ride suddenly became a bit frightening.

The view of the amuzement park, beach front homes and ocean water was spectacular from high in the air, Antonio got sick after we got off the rides because the food he ate before we got on upset his stomach.

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Santa Cruz Beach Pier!



Santa Cruz Beach is a great experience within itself.

With plenty of restaurants, gift shops, facilities for fishings, benches for resting and boat docks, the pier at Santa Cruz is entertainment location someone could spend an entire day at.

All of the restaurant on the pier have excellent view of the Pacific Ocean or Santa Cruz Bay.

In my visit to Santa Cruz in April of 2009 I listened to a live band play music in a restaurant, but on my return visit in August of 2009 someone told me live bands no longer play their music on the pier.

Outside of food and gifts, the pier is good place to watch people fishing, exercising or just looking at the ocean water.

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Santa Cruz Beach Pier Seals!



One of main highlight at the Pier in Santa Cruz is watching the seals rest on some platforms thru some big openings on the pier deck.

It was amazing to watch the huge animals jump out of the water and rest on the narrow platforms.

On our visit to the Pier on August 29, 2009 we watched two seal fighting over space on the platform.

We also seen one seal show human qualities by defending a smaller seal who was being bullied by a bigger seal.

While watching the seals I was kinda of afraid because there was a little girl hanging to far over the edge, but she survived.

Gwen really enjoyed the show put on by the seals.

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Santa Cruz Boardwalk Train Tracks!



At the southern end of Santa Cruz Boardwalk are inactive trains tracks that goes into the city of Santa Cruz.

Every time I visited the boardwalk the train tracks bridge is full of people and bike riders going to and from Santa Cruz boardwalk.

In my opinion to walk across the bridge train tracks was as thrilling as the rides at the amuzement park.

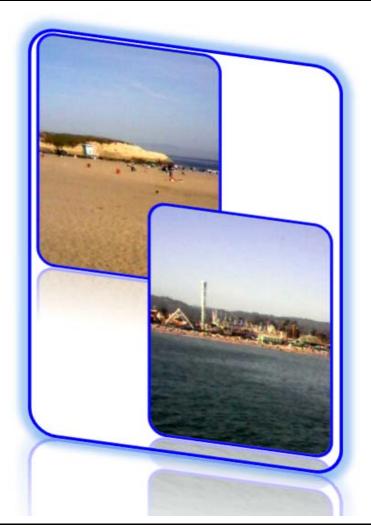
Thou the train track had a warning stating "Danger", many people walked across the bridge train tracks because they like to be rebellious and seeking adventure.

Even walking across the bridge walkway is exciting because you get a unique view of the river going to the ocean, the houses by the ocean and the amuzement park.

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Santa Cruz Beach Shoreline!



In my opinion Santa Cruz Beach shoreline is a lot like the shoreline in San Francisco by the Pacific Ocean.

Both shoreline having very long walks to street from the shoreline water.

Different from the Monterey Beach shoreline in that it was a very short walk to streets, Santa Cruz shoreline was a walk 3 to 4 time as long to the water.

I guess so many people visit the Santa Cruz beach because the water along the coast is much milder than the shoreline by the San Francisco Pacific Ocean side with its constant warning of riptides and dangerous underwater currents.

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Santa Cruz Beach Little Park 1!



My fondest memories of my visit to Santa Cruz beach was the time Antonio the Explorer and me spent at a little park at the southern end of the Santa Cruz Beach Board.

Located across some trains tracks and near some homes and apartments on a quiet street, this park had a few seats, a barbeque pit but most of all a unique view of the beach, the boardwalk and the pier to the north.

This little park reminded of a miniature peninsula in that it was surrounded by water on three side with huge beaches on it northern and souther side.

We first seen the little peninsula while sitting on Santa Cruz Pier and wanted to get an up close look so we walked to the park from the pier which was a long walk.

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Santa Cruz Beach Little Park 2!



The park was everything we expected and more, not only could we see Santa Cruz boardwalk and pier, there was another side of the beach that was unseen from the boardwalk full of people with a lighthouse.

Another thing other than its spectacular view was the little peninsula mountain had trails that are shortcuts to the beach and boardwalk, but to use the shortcuts, you had to cross a river with water that was over four feet at times.

We must of spent two hours at that park exploring the trails, watching people and conversating about our dreams!

It was stranged in how things change in less than a year, when we returned in approximately a year time the trails had closed and we could only sit in the park, all though a few people explored the trail by jumping over the fence.

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Santa Cruz Beach Homes!



The building by the homes in the pictures to left represent some of the homes near the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.

Situated on a mountain overlooking (1) the amuzement park to the north and small river to the north (2) the Pacific Ocean to the west and (3) another big stretch of beach with a lighthouse to the south, these homes have to magical because they surrounded around so many inspirational landmarks.

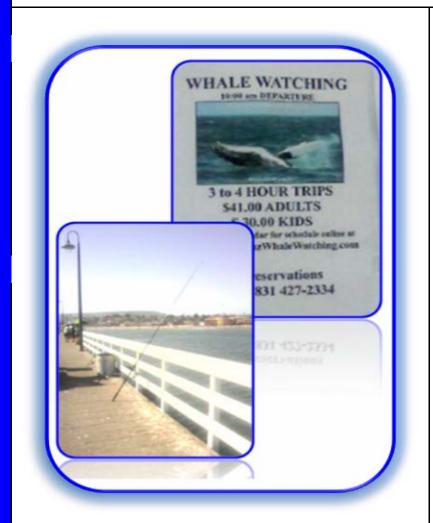
While I see the homes from a perspective of busy days at the boardwalk, the resident living in the homes on the mountain know the beach as an empty place as their own private playground.

Just like in many places I visited, to be able to live in homes like this would be a dream come true.

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Santa Cruz Boat Rides!



On Santa Cruz Pier in my opinion is one of life greatest opportunities and that opportunities is to witness with your own eyes some of the largest animals on being whales.

Leaving from a dock on this Santa Cruz pier, the pilot and crew of the fishing boats guarantee to give a view of a large sea creature while traveling in their boat.

If my memory serves me right, the whale watching poster promised a four hour tour in the pacific ocean with views of whales, porpoises and walruses.

Knowing whales travel along the Pacific coast is seasonal, tourist interest planning a whale watching trip should plan their trip in advance to see the whales of their dreams.

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The Journey Home from Santa Cruz Beach 1!

Antonio and my first journey from Santa Cruz Beach was the thrill of a lifetime filled with adventure and excitement.

While we took highway 101 to Santa Cruz that Saturday morning in 2008, we took the Pacific Coast route by accident on our return trip to San Francisco leaving about 6 PM in the afternoon.

Not expect fog and not knowing the nearest gas station was more 35 miles away, we rode in suspense wondering if we would ever reach San Francisco.

While the roads was free of fog when we left Santa Cruz, after three miles on journey back to San Francisco we ran into a blanket of fog so thick we could see two feet in front of us.

Not only did the fog make the road invisible, when ever a car came in the other direction it almost blinded you where you could not see anything.

The only thing that kept you on the road was to follow the white road markers on the right side of the road. I assume the paint was made with some type of illumination material specificly for the fog, and it save us that night.

What also made the ride so thrilling was right after about 10 miles into our journey the gas meter started saying the tank was empty. After traveling over 20 miles on empty on our journey to Maryland, I was still afraid we would not make to the next gas station in Half Moon Bay.

If you want a thrilling ride, ride home from Santa Cruz on a foggy day.

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The Journey Home from Santa Cruz Beach 2!

On a warn sunny day in August after a beautiful experience in Santa Cruz celebrating my good friend Gwen birthday; we decided to take the Pacific Coast highway back home.

Not making the same mistake I did on my previous return trip to San Francisco, we left early enough not to be caught in the fog or have to ride in the dark.

Just like with Antonio the Explorer, Gwen and myself admired the beautiful homes, many farms, breath taking cliffs and panoramic ocean views.

While driving I fanatasize about purchasing a plot of land to grow marijuanna remembering policians suggested that the plant might be legalize soon. Gwen fantasized about opening a bread and breakfast inn and how nice it would be to serve customer in rooms overlooking the ocean.

It was sad to see how the economy has affected people living in this part of the country because the were quite a few "FOR SALF" on the road.

Another first for me was the traffic jams as we travel through Half Moon Bay. Almost all the way thru the city traffic was bumper to bumper traveling at less than 15 miles per hour.

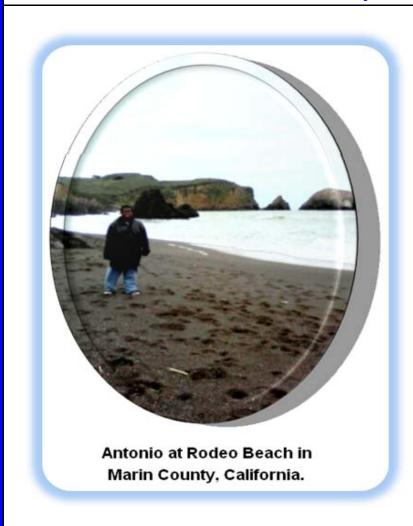
Gwen talked me into celebrating her birthday a little more taking to her Casino in Richmond, CA

The trips to Santa Cruz was a great, and I hope to do it again.

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next issue
Antonio the Explorer
Volume Five

Antonio the Explorer
magical journeys to
Rodeo Beach and Drakes Beach
in
Marin County, CA

Beaches short in length
but have great walking trails
exceptional scenic views and
observation points where whales swim by
on their journey to the north
Pacific Ocean.

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Advertisement 01 - Digital Image Tutoring

My story of digital image manipulation is the story of Microsoft Paint, a software program that is included in one of computers most popular operating system Internet Explorer.

What makes Microsoft Paint so popular is it allows us to create and story digital images that can be uploaded or downloaded to other computers.

While pictures can be stored in other software programs like word documents and spreadsheets, the most popular image transferring technique is in the JPEG or GIF format that is a feature of Microsoft Paint.

The major advantage of saving digital images in JPEG or GIF files is the images use less computer space which makes for easier emailing and downloading files.

If you are a novice photographer or artist and and want to learn more about "Paint" like:

- (1) Locating Paint on a computer
- (2) changing the picture size
- (3) type of pictures files
- (4) setting up the digital image for printing
- (5) adding text to the pictures
- (6) the names of picture tools icons
- (7) naming the files for saving

help on topic email me at: ambenjamin79@yahoo.com

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Advertisement 02 - Excel Book Tutoring

While Microsoft Paint in Internet Explorer is must for storing and saving documents because most pictures can only be download in a JPEG or GIF format; Microsoft Excel picture toolbox is great tool for modifying images and adding special features that is not available in Paint.

At a Microsoft Seminar I visited in 2003, Excel was compared to the human brain in that we would ever be able to use 10% of it capabilities.

Familiarizing myself with Excel because of my college educated professions as an accountant,
I later discovered it was an equally great tool for creating word documents and modifying images.

Beside using Excel to center images on sheets, this software program has a great art tools for

- (1) creating unique picture frames
- (2) adjusting digital images size and shape
- (3) precisely adding text
- (4) creating pages for books and
- (5) adding 3D feature like shadows and more this software program picture toolbox has the features to make an average artist sensational.

If you are a novice artist and want to learn more about Microsoft Excel I am available for private tutoring.

Email ambenjamin79@yahoo.com with Excel Tutoring in the subject line for more details.

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Advertisement 03 - PDF Book Tutoring

The preparation of electronic publications and manuscripts is a three phase project including (1) preparing graphic images (2) organizing the words and digital images on spreadsheets and (3) publishing a document that can be easily read by the public.

Thou the publications could be published in Excel, Adobe PDF publications have three major advantages.

The first advantage of publishing Ebooks in PDF documents as opposed to Excel is the issue of disk space usage. Excel publications requires four times as much space as PDF books, and many email attachment only allow 2MG or 10MG of space.

The second advantage of publishing documents in a PDF format is universal acceptance. Because Adobe PDF offer free reading software to general public, it has because the universal standard for reading and storing electronic documents of

The third advantage of PDF document is security. While you can make any electronic document completely safe from being copied or edited; Adobe PDF software programs has several features that was created to keep your work secure.

Anyone interest in learning how I created the PDF documents I used to make my journals email me at ambenjamin79@yahoo.com with PDF tutoring in the subject line for fees and times.

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Advertisement 04 - Other Ebooks by A M Benjamin Services

1. The Ultimate Accountant - a story on (1) finding a	4. Antonio Quest for Peace -The Enemies of Peace!	
great accountant (2) reconciling bank statements	a collection of poems and quotes about things	
and (3) reason to file income taxes.	that destroys Peace and Peace of Mind!	
http://www.a-m-benjamin-services.net	web page in progress	
2. Rediscover Painting with Antonio Painting Set -	6. Antonio - My Son, My Hero, My Friend	
a story that list 10 reason to start painting and a set	a son and father journeys to New York City,	
of sketches you can paint with a brush or software.	Los Angeles, Phoenix and the Grand Canyon.	
http://ambenjamin79.tripod.com/001-02_Painting.html	http://ambenjamin79.tripod.com/01-08_AS_01.html	
3. A J Search for Justice - the true story of a	7. Flowers thru the Lenses of a Cellphone Camera -	
black teenager fired from a job based on lies	an Ebook with a collection of digital image that	
and the place he went for help.	grow naturally in the San Francisco Bay Area.	
web page in progress	http://ambenjamin79.tripod.com/01-08_FnW_01.html	
4. Antonio Quest for Peace -The Friends of Peace!	8. The Magic Signature Act - a manual that teaches	
a collection of poems and quotes about things	the principles of reading names with indepth	
that bring Peace and Peace of Mind !	explanation of each parts with sample analysis.	
web page in progress	http://ambenjamin79.tripod.com/001-01_MSA-01.html	

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Words of Wisdom (01)

Of all things I want to be remembered for in this life is giving people HOPE:

and my definition of

HOPE

is a

Unconditional Belief

that

Peace of Mind and Happiness

is your

Divine Right.

But before this PEACE can come to you

I think you need to find away to accept the word
in the next two frames.

Prophecy of Peace Number One!

before you can find

Peace of Mind

Tomorrow

in the

Future

you first must find

Peace of Mind

with

Yesterday and the Past

but more importantly

right now this very second

Today and the Present!

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Words of Wisdom (02) - Spiritual Guarantee Number One



somewhere in the

Future

there is a

Dream

that will take you to

Paradise

the

Home of Peace

and there is

Absolutely Nothing

you can

Say or Do

to stop that

Dream

from coming to you!

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Volume Three - Monterey Beach - Conclusion

Thank you for reading volume three of Antonio the Explorer.

I hope you learnt something new and was entertain with the

- (1) digital images
- (2) narratives of words
- (3) selections of frames
- (4) marketing ideas
- (5) words of hope

May all your Dreams Come True

A M Benjamin Services May-09

