Casa Escondida, Loreto, Baja California Sur, Mexico

Most Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do we get to Loreto and how much can we expect the airfare to cost?

You need to fly to Los Angeles (LAX) and then go to the international terminal to connect with the Alaska Airlines direct, nonstop, flight to Loreto. Alaska does not fly every day to Loreto, currently it flies to Loreto on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. One way adult fares currently range from $185 to $475 one way and average about $225.

1. Will I need to rent a car?

Once at the Loreto Airport you are a ten minute ride from Casa Escondida, which is located in the Central part of Loreto, just half a block from the Sea of Cortez. There are airport transport vans and taxis that will drop you at the door. Cost is about $10.00 US per person. The villa is walking distance to the main plaza, about three blocks, and more than twenty restaurants are within 5 blocks of the villa, the closest being half a block away at the Hotel Oasis. We also have five bicycles for the use of our guests. You may want to rent a car for a side trip to San Javier, a village located in the mountains 25 miles west of town or to drive over to the Pacific side to see the whales (100 miles west of Loreto, about 2 hours) in season (mid January through March). Several rental car agencies are located in Loreto, Fox Rent a Car, ACE Rent a Car, Europcar and Alamo Rent a Car among others. Google “Rent a Car Loreto BCS Mexico” for a complete list and prices.

1. How many people can stay comfortably at the villa?

The villa has three bedrooms in the main house, two with king size beds that can be split into two twin beds, if desired, and one with a queen size bed. There are two additional bedrooms with full size (double) beds in the detached ‘casita’ that share a ‘Jack and Jill’ bathroom between them. There a total of five bathrooms and showers. Five couples can comfortably enjoy this space.

1. What amenities are available at the villa?

Every morning except Sunday, Ramona, our housekeeper, comes to the house for 3 or 4 hours to clean and maintain the property.

There is a washer and dryer on the property that is to be used only by Ramona. Ramona will do your laundry for you, she is very protective of her machines.

There is a small pool (18’ X 12’) that is heated by solar panels. The solar panels work well from the beginning of March until the end of November. The sun is too low in the sky for the panels to work well in December, January and February, but there is a hot tub that can accommodate up to four people during the colder months.

The villa is surrounded by a 10 foot wall, providing both privacy and security.

The main kitchen downstairs has a commercial six burner restaurant stove and oven, dishwasher and sink. There is also an indoor dining table that seats 10 and an outdoor dining table that seats 10, as well as a game table, living room suite and fireplace. The upstairs suite is actually a one bedroom apartment complete with refrigerator, stove and sink.

Hi-speed internet and wifi are available throughout the house (the passcode is located on the bulletin board in the office). An Apple TV (Roku) and smart TV are available for streaming from your Netflix and Amazon accounts.

1. Is Mexico safe?

Mexico is safer than many cities in the U.S. (go to [www.howsafeismexico.com](http://www.howsafeismexico.com)). More than 150,000 Americans safely visit Mexico EVERY DAY. And while the media sensationalizes stories of violence in Mexico, Mexico is safer than many major U.S. cities. Travelers feel relatively safe visiting popular U.S. cities like Miami, Philadelphia, Chicago, New Orleans, Washington D.C., or Atlanta. Visitors from around the world enjoy these vibrant American cities in relative, reasonable safety. Yet each of these cities is statistically less safe than Mexico. When you travel, you must use some common sense as to where and when you visit certain places. You wouldn’t take a vacation in East Los Angeles, and likewise you shouldn’t take one in East Tijuana!

1. Is the villa located in a safe area?

The entire town of Loreto is very safe and welcoming to ‘gringos’. Tourism is the mainstay of this community. Many Americans and Canadians own homes here. The ‘policia’ are readily available at all times.

1. What can we expect in terms of weather?

While December, January and February can see night time temperatures that can be very chilly, day time temps are usually in the low to mid 70’s. October is usually comfortably warm with Sea of Cortez water temperatures in the 80’s. March through June are very nice with temps in the 80’s and nights comfortably warm. July can be very warm, not bad if you are out on the Sea of Cortez fishing, swimming or snorkeling. August and September are usually very warm and this is hurricane season. Check Google for weather stats to determine when you might want to visit. This being said, the house is not available over Christmas and New Years or during the Easter holiday week.

1. Does one need to speak Spanish in order to get by?

No, most of the personnel that work in the restaurants, tourist agencies and stores speak passable English, however, locals always appreciate seeing gringos try to speak their language.

1. What is there to do in Loreto?

Depending on your interests and the time you choose to visit, there are many activities to choose from. Mid January through March is whale watching season. With Gray Whales a two hour drive on the Pacific coast to Blue Whales right here in the Sea of Cortez. Loreto has always been a mecca for fishermen. Loreto is also considered one of the worlds best sea kayaking areas. The white sand beaches on the islands fronting Loreto are great for sun bathing and snorkeling. There is an 18 hole golf course just 10 miles south of town and costs just $130.00 US for unlimited weekly play. Excursions to San Javier, the location of the second of the California missions, cave paintings, mule treks into the mountains, a visit to the first mission in the Californias is right in the center of Loreto. And of course, shopping for local artesanias and eating in great local restaurants are always enjoyable past times.

1. Is there someone we can contact if we have any questions?

Paul Yandre at PYandre@aol.com or Bob Nuzzo at 262-515-4832.

1. Is medical assistance available if needed?

There are several English speaking doctors in Loreto and we have a small hospital. Major medical help is available in La Paz.

1. Can we drink the water?

Unlike mainland Mexico, the water in Loreto comes from deep wells located about 20 miles north of the city and is safe to use for brushing your teeth and bathing. It is rather hard water with lots of minerals, and as such, for drinking purposes it is best to drink the purified water that is supplied in the 5 gallon bottles in the house.

1. To see a video of the villa, go to the following web link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_M2HynPMQU>

1. Dates the villa is available:

October to mid December

March through August (excluding Easter week)