

Welcome to Barra and to Marina Puerto de la Navidad!



Ask any cruiser what they think about Barra and the overwhelming majority will reply, “I should have spent more time there.” There is truly something magical about this place. It’s been described as a beach town, a fishing village, a tourist destination, a working-class pueblo, an expat’s dream, and “Puerto Vallarta 40 years ago.” In truth, it’s all those things. And if you’re staying in the Marina, you can add “Four-Star Resort” to the mix.

We hope you find this guide useful and that it enhances your stay. However, it is by no means comprehensive—so please explore, experience, and report back. We’re always looking to add new favorite restaurants, businesses, and services to share with future cruisers.

Also, don’t forget that you’re on “Mexico Time” and that all listed Hours/Days of Operation are subject to change depending on season, circumstance, weather, and whim.

Recommendations, Questions, Comments? lovebarra@outlook.com

IN THIS GUIDE:

Marina Staff	2
Cruiser Communication	2
Panama Posse	3
Maps of Barra	4 & 5
Port Captain	6
Emergency Services & Tourist Information	7
Boat Services	9
Getting Around	12
Health & Well Being	15
Got Pets?	18
Useful Stuff	19
Groceries, Specialty Foods, & Provisioning	27
Restaurants & Bars	32
Things to Do	36
Holidays & Festivals	38



MARINA STAFF & CONTACT INFORMATION

You'll be hard pressed to find a friendlier or more accommodating staff than at Marina Puerto de la Navidad. The office is located in the villa across from the entrance to F Dock.



Office Hours: Weekdays from 8:00 am to 1:00 and 3:00 to 6:30 pm;
Weekends from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Phone Number: 314.337.9014
Email: harbormaster@islaresort.mx
Hailing Channel: 16



Secundino “Dino” Alvarez, Harbormaster

Your host at Marina Puerto de la Navidad and the Grand Isla Navidad Resort.



Nery Corona, Assistant Marina Operations

If you need help with anything at all—marina services, recommendations, shipping/receiving, translating, etc.—think of Nery as your personal assistant.

CRUISERS’ COMMUNICATION INFO

Hailing Channel: 22

Morning Cruisers’ Net

Monday through Saturday at 8:30 am (high season only) on Channel 22

Arrivals & departures, announcements, upcoming events, weather, and “Treasures from the Bilge” are just some of the topics covered.





BARRA ACTIVITIES: 2022

Dec 1st: Intro & Overview at 10:00; Route Planning & Navigation at 13:00

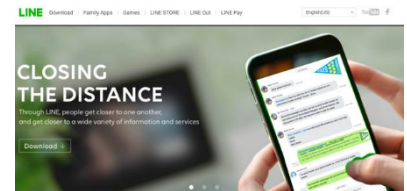
Dec 2nd: Dangers & Safety at 10:00; Communications & Weather at 13:00; Kick Off Party at 17:30

Dec 3rd: Swap Meet at 10:00; Satellite Charts/Open CPN/Good Nautical at 13:00; Over the Top Potluck at 17:30

Dec 4th: Provisioning & What to See and Do/Recap & Q&A at 13:00

STAY CONNECTED WHILE UNDERWAY!

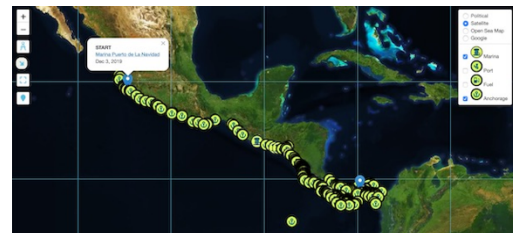
Please make sure to sign up with Line.me so you can participate in our weekly LINA calls on Mondays at 16:00 UTC and be part of the 24/7 chatroom!



Once you have downloaded it, find **dietmarpetutschnig (Carinthia)** and we'll add you to the **2019-2020 Panama Posse group**.

GOODNAUTICAL.ORG: GO WHERE THE OTHER COCONUTS HAVE GONE!

All the nautical knowledge from the last few years resides within Good Nautical! With your paid registration, you will have received your login credentials. Please login and check out your route and points of interest. We will have a full day of seminars to cover all the details and encourage you to share information.



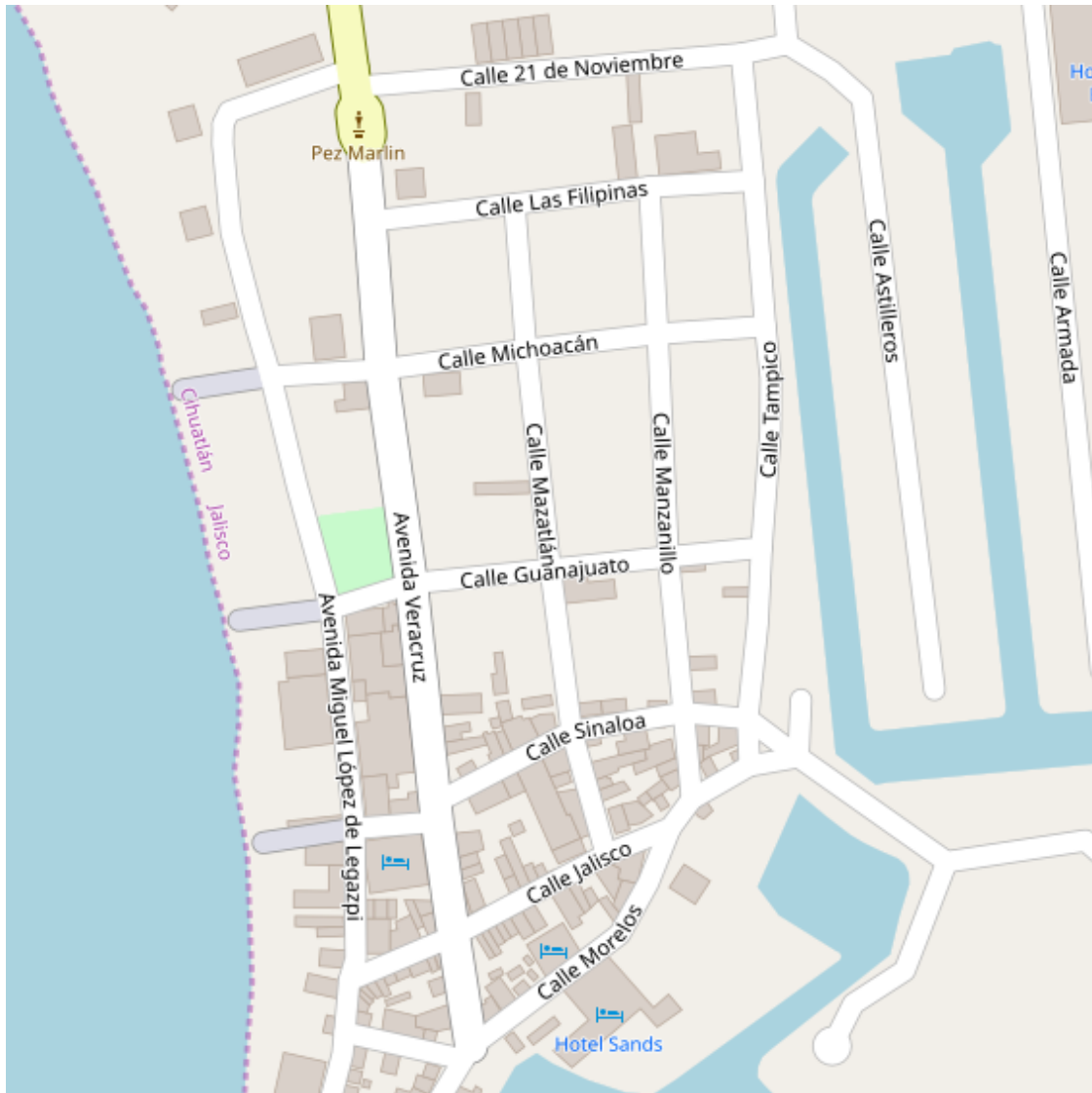
Good Nautical is a passion project and is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization so please **consider a donation next** tax season.

Want information on next year's Posse? Go to www.panamaposse.com!

BARRA AT A GLANCE...



BARRA ABOVE CALLE SONORA...



...AND BELOW



FIRST THINGS FIRST...

All boats are required to check in and out with the Port Captain! Bring your paperwork and don't forget USCG docs, passports, zarpe from previous port (even if it's another Mexican port), Temporary Import Permit, crew lists, etc.

Port Captain (Capitania de Puerto)

Calle San Pedro #64

48987 Barra de Navidad, Jal

315.355.5779

Open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm



The most straightforward way there...

From the Water Taxi stand, take a right onto Avenida Veracruz

After a couple very long blocks, Ave Veracruz will jog to the left at Calle Sonora (look for the giant tree on the corner—it's hard to miss!)

Continue up Ave Veracruz all the way through town and past the Marlin Statue

Turn right onto Puerto de la Navidad (right before Ave Veracruz widens)

Turn left onto Calle San Pedro

The Port Captain will be a block and a half up on your left

Or grab a taxi! The drivers all know where to go and they'll gladly wait for you...all for less than 100 pesos round trip.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

In case of emergency: **Dial 911**

Civil Protection System: FIRE, RESCUE, DISASTER

The Civil Protection Paramedics Group (Proteccion Civil del Estado, Region Melaque) provides ambulance, rescue, firefighting, and disaster relief services. Contact them directly at **315.355.6375**.

Police (Policia Municipal)

Avenida Veracruz #179 (next door to the ATM)

315.355.5399 or 315.355.8549

Supposed to be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but the rust on the padlock seems to indicate otherwise. To contact the Federal Police, the number is 333.629.5072.

Tourist Police for Barra and Melaque (Policia Turistica)

315.100.7451 (English Spoken)

MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Dr. Luis Fernando Cota is the resident doctor at the Grand Isla. To contact him, call the front desk at 314.331.0500 and ask them to send him to your boat. If you don't have a phone, someone from security or the marina office can radio or call. Dr. Cota maintains a medical facility onsite and has an ambulance at his disposal.

Emergency Health Clinic (Centro de Salud)

On Calle Puerto de la Navidad just a half block off Hwy 80

315.355.6220

24-hour emergency services

Regular clinic hours: Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and 5:00 to 7:00 pm



Ambulance

The ambulance service works a little differently here. Rather than calling for an ambulance, you must first contact either the Civil Protection at **315.355.6375** or the Policia Municipal at **315.355.5080**. They will dispatch officers to your location at which time they will determine if an ambulance is needed. If so, they will arrange an ambulance to come and take you to the Centro de Salud of your choosing (Barra, Melaque, Cihuatlan) where a doctor will then determine if you need to go to Manzanillo. Ambulance services are free of charge, but a donation is appreciated.

Purportedly, the Red Cross (Cruz Roja Mexicana) is the only organization that provides an ambulance service with an EMT on board. They can be contacted directly at **315.335.5230**. They will take you to Manzanillo where there are several well-equipped, private hospitals. Red Cross ambulances are free of charge, although a donation is expected.

PLEASE NOTE: It's difficult to get an ambulance. There aren't many in the area and if it's a holiday or weekend you can be waiting for hours. Unless you are in a situation where the patient can't or shouldn't be moved, it's recommended that you take a taxi to the nearest Centre de Salud.

NEAREST CONSULATES

US Consulate

Paseo de los Cocoteros #85

Sur Paradise Plaza, Interior Local L-7

Nuevo Vallarta, NAY

334.624.2102

Open Monday through Thursday from 8:30 to 12:30 pm

For after-hours emergencies, call 800.681.9374 or 555.080.2000, ext. 0

Canadian Consulate

Plaza Peninsula Local Sub F

Blvd Francisco Medina Ascencio 2485

Zona Hotelera Norte

Puerto Vallarta, JAL

322.293.0098 or 322.293.0099

Open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

For after-hours emergencies, call 800.706.2900 or 555.724.7900

For Cruisers from Other Countries

Guadalajara hosts 48 consulates from around the world.

BOAT SERVICES

MAINTENANCE

Pancho and Arturo are the recommended go-to guys for boat services including washing, waxing, bottom scrubbing, varnishing, and stainless polishing. Need some help with plumbing? Electric? Carpentry? Upholstery? Hull paint? Give one of them a call. If they can't do it, they know someone who can.



Pancho

315.104.3289



Arturo

315.109.8970

MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL

Eloy Ruiz & Juan Ruiz

Eloy: 315.104.1821

Juan: 315.105.2118

These are the guys the owners of the local fishing boats use so you know they know their stuff! They're both experienced in diesel and gas engines, hydraulics, transmissions, electrical, and boosters. And yes, English spoken!

Jonco Marine Repair

315.355.8158 or 315.104.3382 (cell)

Jonco services and repairs engines, transmissions, outboards, hydraulics, electrical, and cooling systems. He also puts up a mean whiskey.

CHANDLERY

La Casa del Pescador

Calle 28 de Agosto in Santiago (Manzanillo)

314.335.3095

www.lacasadelpecador1.com

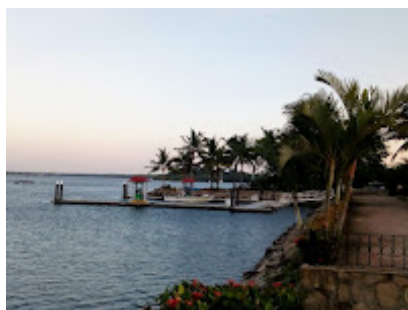
This seemingly small shop has been the go-to place for local sport-fishermen for over 30 years. Yet amongst the fishing gear are a surprising variety of boat parts, fixtures, and accessories. From deck fittings and bilge pumps to fenders and dinghy motors, you never know what you might find. And what they don't stock in-store may be ordered through their catalog—a copy of which is available for perusal in the Marina Office.

If they don't have what you need—in the timeframe that you need it—other chandleries in Mexico will ship within the country...

Todo Vela in La Cruz: www.todovelamexico.com

Zaragoza in Puerto Vallarta: www.zaragoza.com.mx

FUEL



The PEMEX fuel dock is located just beyond the marina. Run parallel to the breakwater and mind your depth finder as—much like the rest of the lagoon—it can get real shallow, real fast. The diesel is clean, and the dock is in good condition. They do levy a per-liter surcharge to fuel up at the dock, so best to verify the cost up front. If you wish to avoid the surcharge, you can also fill up jerry cans at the fuel pumps up top and tote them back to your boat. The PEMEX station also sells motor oil. Open daily at 7:00 am. Closes around 6:00 pm.

PROPANE

The marina office can assist you with propane or call Pancho (315.104.3289) or Arturo (315.109.8970) to pick up your tanks and arrange to have them filled. Turnaround is usually next day.

If you need to fill your tank ASAP and have transportation, there is a Gaseria just outside of Cihuatlan. Upon leaving the resort, the Isla Road will wind its way toward and ultimately end at the highway. Turn left on Hwy 200 going toward Cihuatlan - it will be on the right about ten minutes up the road right next to the Coca-Cola distributor (big sign!). There are a couple places in Melaque that will also fill propane tanks.



SAILS & SAIL REPAIR

Unfortunately, there are no local sail lofts of which we're aware (Bob Hogan closed shop). The closest recommended is north of Puerto Vallarta.

OneSails Mexico (Rodrigo Cuellar)

Ave Estaciones #1099, Col. Oriente near Bucerias

333.814.8331 or 329.398.2558

mexico@onesails.mx

UPHOLSTERY



Decoraciones Aguilar (Ruben Aguilar Alarcon)

Calle Emiliano Zapata #168 in *Melaque*
322.156.8108 or 333.968.8360

Ruben does a lot of work for the Grand Isla and has recently taken on some projects for cruisers in the marina. So far, the results have exceeded expectations. He does not speak English but is very personable and makes it work with Google Translate. Someone in the marina office can help with translating as well if you're not comfortable with your Spanish!

WATER

The water on the docks is not potable (dissolved solvents register at about 500 parts per million) so filtering is a must. A two-part UV water filtration system is highly recommended.

Water delivery (in 20-liter garafones) is available to boats in the marina or anchored in the lagoon by contacting (via phone or WhatsApp) either:

Rueben at 315.104.2116

Silva Arias at 315.101.0704

If, for some reason, you can't reach either one, call Restaurant Fortino at **314.337.9075** to arrange a water delivery.

Water may also be purchased at the resort tienda if you don't mind schlepping.



WELDING & FABRICATION

Neil on S/V Raven (Blue ketch at the end of C Dock) is set up to do TIG, Aluminum, and Stainless welding as well as Plasma Cutting. Call him at 314.217.2800 or knock on the door or hull (loudly as it's thick!)

GETTING AROUND

WATER TAXIS (TAXI ACUATICO)

The water taxi is fast, reliable, and affordable—only 40 pesos round trip (50 from the lagoon)—plus they operate 24/7. Hail them on **Channel 23** and let them know what dock you're on ("Marina Muelle X"). Most pangas are yellow so they're easily identifiable.



If you're anchored in the lagoon, just let them know the name of the boat and give them a wave as they approach. The pangas take you straight to the "Taxi Acuatico" dock located just down from the entrance to the Malecon. Fares are paid at the top of the dock. *Please tip your pangero!*



Upon request, the water taxis will also take you to the lagoon-side restaurants in Colimilla or to any of the properties along the canals including Hotel Cabo Blanco or Hotel Sands. Let the dispatcher know where you want to go when you hail them on 23.

PRO TIP: If you're returning from town late at night and the place is dark, turn on the light. That's the signal for whoever is on duty to come get you.

DINGHY

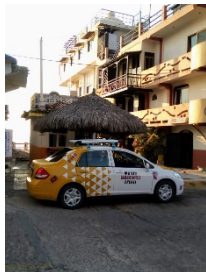
If you want to take your dinghy into town, the **Hotel Sands** is amenable to cruisers using their dock provided you spend some money at their bar. See map on page 4 for location.

Hotel Cabo Blanco—at the end of the right-most canal—has a dinghy dock as well and will let you tie up there so long as you patronize the bar or the restaurant. For a nominal fee (I believe it is \$100 pesos), you can spend all day at their pool, which is quite nice. They also have a pickle ball court. See the map on page 4 for exact location.

Note: If you're planning to dinghy in to see the Port Captain, Cabo Blanco is your best option as they are only a few blocks from his office.

TAXIS

There are several taxi stands in Barra. In fact, there is one right outside of the Taxi Acuatico dock. The primary taxi stand (i.e., the one that's (almost) always manned by a wrangler with a radio) is on Avenida Miguel Lopez de Legazpi where it intersects with Calle Sinaloa, right next to Hotel Casa Chips. The third one is on Calle Michoacan right around the corner from the bus station.



As an example of fares: a taxi to central Melaque costs 90 pesos; a trip to the airport will run around 550 pesos (or 650-700 from the marina.)

If you stick to the official yellow taxis, you shouldn't have any problems, although it's always a good idea to set the price before you go. And if you really like the driver, get his business card and call him whenever/wherever you need him.

BUSES

All the bus "stations" are on Avenida Veracruz between Calle Michoacan and Calle 21 de Noviembre (near the Marlin Statue).

Local service to San Patricio/Melaque or Cihuatlan is via the Orange buses or the Green. Orange buses take the scenic route and cost 12 pesos. Green buses are more direct but cost a few pesos more. Look for the destination in the window. Pay the driver when you get on the bus.

They all stop on Avenida Veracruz where it intersects with Calle Michoacan. It's not a bus station so much as a sheltered place to wait but since all buses automatically stop here, it's the best place to catch one. Otherwise, you can just flag the driver down.



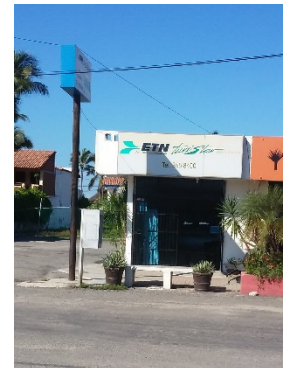
If you're planning any **long-distance travel** by bus, the first-class busses are the only recommended mode of transportation in terms of safety, reliability, and cleanliness. They are also the most comfortable: upholstered seats, climate-controlled cabins, bathrooms on board, etc. **PRO TIP:** Bring a light jacket or shawl, the buses can get quite cold. And if you're going to Puerto Vallarta, bring something for motion sickness if you're prone. The road winds up, down and around in a couple places.

There are two companies in the area that operate first-class busses to cities like Puerto Vallarta, Manzanillo, Colima, Guadalajara, and Mexico City:

ETN

Avenida Veracruz #273C
315.355.8400
Etn.com.mx

From Barra, ETN provides bus service to Manzanillo, Colima, Guadalajara, and Mexico City. If you're planning a trip into Manzanillo, they have quite a few departure times during the day and fares run around 100 pesos. Tickets may be purchased at ETN or online.



PRIMERA PLUS



Calle Venustiano Carranza #53
(In Melaque across from the local bus station)
477.710.0060
www.primeraplus.com.mx

We have taken the Primera Plus bus to Puerto Vallarta several times without incident. They generally have three departures daily; fares run around \$369 one way. Tickets may be purchased at Primera Plus or online.

CAR RENTALS

For provisioning runs and/or sightseeing trips, both **Pancho** and **Arturo** can provide cars to their customers!

Pancho: 315.104.3289

Arturo: 315.109.8970

Crazy Cactus

Calle 21 de Noviembre #60

315.355.6091

Crazycactus.net

During the high season, they have a small fleet of clean, dependable cars available at good rates.

Many of the local tour companies also rent cars: Barra Tours & Rents, Ecojoy Adventures, etc.

You can also arrange a car rental through any of the agencies at the Manzanillo Airport. They will bring the car directly to the marina. **Alamo**, **Thrifty**, **Budget**, and **Sixt** all have kiosks there. Someone in the marina office or at the reception desk of the Grand Isla can arrange it for you.

ATV, SCOOTER, AND BIKE RENTALS

Barra Tours & Rents

Avenue Veracruz #204

315.109.8218 or 312.117.1785

315.104.0599

They have a nice selection of new bikes, scooters, and quads for rent at daily, weekly, and monthly rates; they also rent cars and SUVs and run a 24-hour taxi service. Area tours and airport transfers also available.



or

AIRPORT

The nearest airport is the Playa de Oro International Airport just north of Manzanillo. It's about 40-45 minutes by car from the marina. If you need to fly to the US or Canada, there are nonstop flights available on Saturdays to major cities such as Houston, Los Angeles, Vancouver, etc. On all other days, expect to change planes in Mexico City.

The alternative is to fly out of Puerto Vallarta or Guadalajara where there are more flights to choose from. Many people take the Primera Plus bus from Melaque to PV. It's relatively quick (four hours or so depending on stops) and inexpensive (under 400 pesos) and the main bus terminal is only a five- to 10-minute taxi ride from the airport.

Pancho and Arturo will always be available to take you to the airport as well!

HEALTH & WELLBEING

There are many good healthcare providers in the immediate area. Consultation and treatment fees are extremely reasonable (generally under \$30); payment is expected upon completion of services.

MEDICAL DOCTORS (TWO MOST RECOMMENDED)



Dra. Maria Herlinda Rubio Sanchez (Dr. Linda)

Avenida Veracruz #232

Located next door to Farmacia Rubio just down from the bus station

315.355.5412

Open Monday through Sunday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Speaks excellent English



Dr. Pedro David Crespo Contreras

Unidad Medica Crespo

Avenida Veracruz #45

Located north of the bus station, just past the Marlin statue

315.355.8082 or 315.107.1465 in case of emergency

Open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm

DENTISTS (THREE MOST RECOMMENDED)



Dr. Eduardo Pimienta Woo

Gordiana Guzman #17 in Melaque

Located just across the street from the San Patricio Centro de Salud

315.355.5426...call for an appointment (same day available) or in case of emergency

Or request an appointment via WhatsApp at 315.113.5638

Speaks excellent English; favorite of the local expat community!



Dr. Alberto Johann Duarte Solis

Crujano Dentista

Calle Emilio Zapata #131-C in Melaque

315.108.8753...call for an appointment or in case of emergency

Or mail him at: johann-10@hotmail.com

Speaks excellent English!

Dra. Zully Paulina Mariscal Torres

Implants, Endodontics, and Rehabilitation

Carretera Federal 200 #170 in San Patricio/Melaque

Open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Open Saturday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

315.110.5142

PHARMACIES

There are several pharmacies in Barra, but these are the most popular. Note: If the pharmacy does not have your medication, most can get it for you within one to two days.



Farmacias Similares (Generic drugs; 25% off on Mondays)

Avenida Veracruz #208

Open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm

Open Sunday from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm



Farmacia Rubio

Avenida Veracruz #232

Open Monday through Sunday from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm; closed 2:00 to 4:00 pm for siesta

Comprehensive inventory; good selection of personal hygiene products.



Farmacia Crespo

Avenida Veracruz #38

Open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm



ACUPUNCTURE

Doug Grootveld / Costalegre Acupuncture

Ave Veracruz in the Casa de Marco complex (#165)

By appointment only

315.355.0070 or email douggrootveld@yahoo.com

DERMATOLOGIST



Dr Gustavo A Garcia Gonzalez

Blvd Independencia #28 in Santiago (Manzanillo); runs parallel to Blvd Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado just north of the jardin

314.333.1212

Speaks excellent English; best in the area so well worth the trip!

MASSAGE & DAY SPAS

The **Grand Isla** has an on-site day spa two villas down from the marina office (the villa nearest the tennis courts.) They offer massages, facials, and beauty treatments. Contact the attendant on duty at the day spa for more information.

Corazon del Sol Massage y Spa

Avenida Miguel Lopez de Lagazpi in the Hotel Alondra

315.115.1817

Open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm; Saturdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Massage, mani/pedi, facials & skin treatments, waxing, etc.

Lucero Therapeutic Massage at Casa Holistica Sol

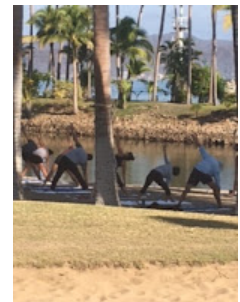
Calle San Lucas #64

315.355.5135

Massage, holistic therapy, Temazcal, reflexology, reiki, hot stones, etc.

YOGA

Yoga classes are held twice daily (9:00 am and 5:00 pm) beachside at the **Grand Isla** during high season. No yoga on Monday. Tune in the morning net or check the Isla Navidad Cruisers FB page for more information.



Buena Onda Centro de Yoga

Calle Morelos #26

315.112.4602

www.facebook.com/buenaondacentrodeyoga

Yoga classes, private sessions, massage

Daily drop-in classes (Gentle & Beginner) from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm; times for additional classes, meditation, and wellness events can be found on their Facebook page

Private message through their Facebook page for personal bookings or email buenaondabarra@outlook.com.

Open high season only

GOT PETS?

VETERINARIANS



Mi Mascota (Dr. Andres)

Calle Océano Indico #16 in the Barrio (one block off Avenida Nueva Espana)

Open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
315.355.8060

In addition to comprehensive veterinary services, he carries Taste of the Wild, Diamond, and Pro Plan pet food; pet meds and flea/tick treatments (including Bravecto); and a small assortment of pet accessories. He sometimes closes for a few hours on Mondays to provide spay/neuter services for the local animal rescues; call him for emergencies or if you arrive and he's not there. Dr. Andres speaks English. Credit cards accepted.



El Granero Farmacia Veterinaria (Dr. Beto)

Calle Morelos #82 (Located two blocks from the Jardin in Melaque)

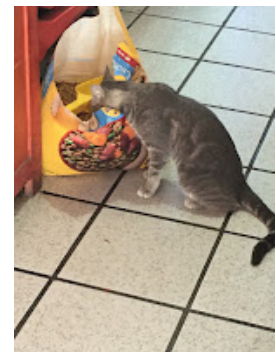
Open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 4:00 to 8:00 pm; and on Sundays from 9:00 to 11:00 am
315.355.6782 or 315.100.8983 (cell phone)

In addition to veterinary services, he also carries a decent supply of pet medications and flea/tick treatments (including Bravecto.) He carries Hill's, Royal Canin, Diamond, and Taste of the Wild pet foods along with a smattering of treats, leashes, collars, and toys. He usually has kitty litter! Dr Beto speaks English. Cash only.

Can't find your food?

The local vets carry a respectable sampling of higher-end foods for dogs and cats. Unfortunately, it's just not feasible for them to carry complete lines. And so far, we have not discovered a place in Manzanillo with a comprehensive selection. We have found, however, that most everything is available through Amazon Mexico. For example, I get Hill's Prescription Diet Joint Care for dogs and Science Diet Multiple Benefit for cats through Amazon and have it delivered to the marina office. It usually takes a week.

Pedigree is the main distributor to the local tiendas. Soft food in pouches for cats and dogs are usually found on display stands. Kibble may be purchased in small individual packs or by the scoopful. The locals seem to like it...



LOOKING FOR KITTY LITTER? Super Hawaii carries Sam's Club brand in the big buckets.

DOG WALKER/PET SITTER



Alonso AV

315.112.1108

www.facebook.com/dogwalkerBDN

He's good with dogs of all sizes—especially the big ones—and will make boat calls! Achieved his certification in training and working towards becoming a Vet Assistant. Provides a dog washing service as well. Speaks English!

USEFUL STUFF

ATMS (CAJEROS) & BANKS

There is a BBVA Bancomer ATM in the lobby of the **Grand Isla** for the use of those staying in the marina. It is in an anteroom just to the right of the Concierge Counter. Unless the hotel is busy, it almost always has cash.

There are currently no ATMs in Barra.

There are three ATMs in Melaque (four if you count the military base on the outside of town, but that one is hit or miss.)



Banamex

Calle Gomez Farias (kitty corner of the OXXO just down from the bus station)
24-hour access

When fully stocked, these ATMs give a nice variety of small and large denominations.



Intercam

Calle Lopez Mateos #8 (across from the OXXO about a block from the water)
Open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

People who prefer to take out large amounts (over 9000), often have better luck at Intercam – specifically at the larger of the two ATMs.



Banco Azteca

Calle Gordiano Guzman #27
ATM is located inside the bank; hours are 9:00 am to 9:00 pm

PRO TIP: Try to plan ahead! Mexican workers are typically paid on the 15th and the last day of the month so be prepared for long lines at the banks and ATMs. During high season, it's not unusual for the ATMs to run out of cash, especially if a pay day falls on a weekend or holiday.

Speaking of lines...a long line going out the door and spilling into the street is most likely for the bank itself and not the ATM. At Banamex and Banco Azteca, it's okay to walk up to the machines and ascertain if there's a line or not. The Intercam ATMs are in their own room with their own door.

COMPUTER/CELL PHONE REPAIR

PC Doctor (Jose Luis Thon)

Calle 19 de Septiembre #141 in Jaluca (the town you pass through to get to Melaque)

315.355.7677 or 314.145.5384

Open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

PC and Mac repair; cell phone repair; can also procure equipment and accessories. The owner, "Wily", speaks English.

Servicell Melaque (Alejandro Vigil)

Calle Pino Suarez #2 in San Patricio/Melaque

315.113.3052

Open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Cell phone and tablet repair (Android and iPhone) and accessories. Alejandro speaks English.

AS Movil (Chavita Ruiz)

Alvaro Obregon #13c in San Patricio/Melaque

315.100.1305

Open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm and Sunday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Cell phone and table repair. An authorized Telcel store, he also sells new phones, modems, routers, ear buds, and accessories. English spoken.

DIALING TO AND FROM MEXICO

The Mexican phone system has recently been streamlined! Gone are the days when you had dial one prefix for a cell phone, one for a land line to a cell phone, and another for long distance.

If you are calling **WITHIN** Mexico, you need simply dial the 10-digit phone number.

If you are calling the US or Canada **FROM** Mexico, you must dial 00 + 1 + 10-digit phone number.

If you are calling from the US or Canada **TO** Mexico, you will need to dial 011 + 52 + 10-digit phone number.

Pro tip: Trying to call a 1-800 number in the States? Dial 880 instead: 00 + 1 + 880 + XXX.XXXX

ELECTRONICS REPAIR (TV, DVD, Small Appliance, etc.)



Electonica y Servicios (Gabriel Torres Alvarez)

Calle Benito Juarez #53 in Melaque

Hours not posted but generally Open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to late with a siesta mid-afternoon.

315.110.7230 or 315.112.8483

FISHING GEAR



Black Marlin Fishing Co.

Aven Miguel Lopez de Legazpi #64
Open daily from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm

Wide range of fishing gear plus swimsuits, flip flops, and beach gear



Farmacia Zurich (Pharmacy up front; gear & tackle shop in back)

Avenida Miguel Lopez de Legazpi #111

Open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm; closes for lunch

GR Fishing Gear

Calle Jalisco #54

Open daily from 8:30 am to 9:00 pm

FUEL (You're not having dejavu. This was also in the "Services" section.)



The PEMEX fuel dock is located just beyond the marina. Run parallel to the breakwater and mind your depth finder as—much like the rest of the lagoon—it can get real shallow, real fast. The diesel is clean, and the dock is in good condition. They do levy a per-liter surcharge to fuel up at the dock, so best to verify the cost up front. If you wish to avoid the surcharge, you can also fill up jerry cans at the fuel pumps up top and tote them back to your boat. The PEMEX station also sells motor oil. Open daily at 6:00 am.

HAIR SALONS/BARBERSHOPS, MANI/PEDI, ETC



Anthony Diseno de Cabello Salon & Day Spa

Calle Lopez Cotilla #12A in Jaluco

315.102.2517 (very responsive via WhatsApp)

Open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and 4:00 to 7:00 pm

Cut, color, style, men and women's hair, mani/pedi, massage, make up, and more.

Anthony speaks English. Credit cards accepted. He is arguably the most in-demand stylist in the area so he can get booked up during high season.



Estetica Margarita

Calle Michoacan #132 (next door to La Noria Restaurant)

315.355.6790

Cut, color, mani/pedi, massage, skin care, barbershop, shaves

Estetica Nelly Marin

Avenida Veracruz #196-A

315.100.0895

Open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm

Cut, color, mani/pedi, eyebrows/eyelashes

HARDWARE STORES (FERRETERIAS)



Ferreteria Tolteca

Calle Nuevo Espana #81 in the Barrio

Open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm; closed Sundays

There are several hardware/lumber stores in Melaque, but the popular ones seem to be:

Ferrepacifico

Calle Emiliano Zapata #6

Open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 am to 6:30 pm; closed Sundays

Construrama

Calle Lopez Mateos #87

Open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm; closed Sundays

ICE

Bags of cubed ice are available for 30 pesos at the tienda here at Grand Isla (in the villa next to the Marina Office.)

Cubed ice is also available at the tienda right next door to the Taxi Acuatico for 25 pesos—very handy if you're coming from town as the pangero will drop you and your very big, very cold bag of ice off practically at your doorstep.



Block ice is available at the Icehouse on Avenida Veracruz right across the street from the Jardin. Blue building on the corner.

INTERNET

Free Wi-Fi is available for those staying in the marina. Request a code from the office. There is a repeater that sends the signal to the marina, and it helps if you have a booster on board. We have found the WIFI to be adequate most of the year. During high season when the marina is full, we often resort to a phone hotspot to get anything done. The strongest and most consistent signal at any time of year will be in the hotel lobby where there is a desk and several comfy couches.

In town, many of the restaurants have WIFI for their patrons although it's not always advertised so it doesn't hurt to ask the servers. If you are here in high season, La Bruja Coffee on Calle Veracruz is a great place to have a latte and use the internet. Year round - or if you'd like a good meal with your email - we recommend Ramon's and La Noria.



LAUNDRY

There is a drop-off laundry service at the **Grand Isla**. It's located in the villa across from the marina office, next door to the ice locker/tienda. Ellie maintains some of the villas, so if the doors are closed during business hours, someone in the marina office can call her for you. She is there Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Cash only.

An alternative on this side of the lagoon is **Malena in Colimilla**. Her lavanderia is just off the main street in Colimilla about a block past El Pescador Sushi Bar on Ave General Manuel Avila Camacho.

Malena is sometimes able to pick up and drop off at the marina. You can reach her via WhatsApp at 315.117.5094. Cash only.



If you don't mind schlepping your stuff, the lavanderias in town are a bit cheaper. Some popular ones include:

Lavanderia Mary

Avenida Veracruz #205-B

Open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm; Sundays from 8:00 to 2:00 pm

Lavanderia La Barrita

Calle Manzanillo #100

Open daily from 8.00 am to 7:00 pm

Lavanderia Mats

Avenida Miguel Lopez de Legazpi #111

Open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 6:30 pm (closed 2:00 to 4:00 pm); Saturday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm; closed Sundays

SHIPPING AND (HOPEFULLY) RECEIVING

Shipping to Mexico is not easy. Just when you think you have it figured out—or have found a carrier that seems to have their act together—something happens to make you question everything you thought you knew about international shipping. That being said, things do get delivered here. How quickly it takes depends upon what is being shipped, who is doing the shipping, and—most importantly—how accurately the paperwork has been completed.

Seriously...make sure that shipping labels, bills of lading, and accompanying invoices are filled out accurately and thoroughly. Names on labels should match those on passports; content descriptions should be detailed and have the correct HS code. Errors in paperwork—especially on shipments with values of over \$1,000—can result in your shipment being “red flagged” in Customs (Aduano) which could lead to long delays, massive amounts of paperwork, storage and administrative fees, and will most likely necessitate the hiring of a customs broker. Pro tip: If possible, try to split up shipments so that values on any given invoice don't surpass \$500.

DHL*, FedEx, and UPS are recommended although none of them like making the trip with just one package (especially if it's small) so it's not uncommon for them to wait until they have more. Don't panic if you get an email saying the address is incomplete as they will most likely deliver the next day. Estafeta—though reliable—will come up with 101 reasons why not to deliver to the marina, so you'll end up picking up your stuff from their counter in the barrio.

If you need something shipped to the marina, here is the best address:

Marina Puerto de la Navidad – Your Name/Boat/Slip #

Paseo del Pescadore

Isla Navidad

Manzanillo, COL 28838

Mexico

On international shipments, you will need to pay duty upon delivery of your package. In some cases, the shipping company will call and tell you how much it will be. Barring this, figure 20% of the value of your shipment—different items are assessed at different rates so always aim high and, yes, you get to pay duty on the shipping charges, too! The drivers only accept cash so be prepared with pesos.

*If you have something coming in from Europe, DHL is not the best choice. European DHL is a separate entity and doesn't coordinate with regular DHL (i.e., the service centers and delivery trucks.) Instead, they ship to Mexico and then hand it off to the Mexican Post Office at which point all bets are off as to when the package will actually arrive.

To Send Packages, Express Shipments, Etc.

All the major shipping companies have “locations” in Barra and Melaque, but these are generally tiendas where shipping/receiving is more of a sideline business. The following are storefront businesses that not only ship but sell envelopes, boxes, and packaging supplies and usually take credit cards...

DHL Shipping Center

Calle Aquiles Serdan #125-A in Cihuatlan

Open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm; Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Multipaqs Shipping Center: FedEx & UPS

Calle Alvaro Obregon #18 in Cihuatlan

Open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and 4:30 to 7:30 pm

Estefeta Shipping Center

Calle Alvaro Obregon #29 in Cihuatlan

Open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and 4:00 to 8:00 pm; Saturday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Post Office (Correos de Mexico)

The post office in Barra was recently closed. The nearest ones are in Melaque on Calle Clemente Orozco #13 or in Cihuatlan on Calle 8 de Marzo #6. Pro tip: Don't use the post office. Delivery times range from two weeks to never.



TRASH & RECYCLING

For marina residents, garbage and recycling bins are located behind the cinderblock walls next to the guardhouse.

For those anchored in the lagoon, trash may be deposited in any of the large blue barrels marked “Basura” located throughout Barra and Colimilla.

WATER (You’re not going crazy. This was also in the “Services” section.)

The water on the docks is not potable (dissolved solvents register at about 500 parts per million) so filtering is a must. A two-part UV water filtration system is highly recommended.

Water delivery (in 20-liter garafones) is available to boats in the marina or anchored in the lagoon by contacting (via phone or WhatsApp) either:

Rueben at 315.104.2116

Silva Arias at 315.101.0704

If, for some reason, you can't reach either one, call Restaurant Fortino at **314.337.9075** to arrange a water delivery.

Water may also be purchased at the resort tienda if you don't mind schlepping.

GROCERIES, SPECIALTY ITEMS, & PROVISIONS

ABAROTTES (GROCERY STORES)

It seems that there is a tienda, bodega, or “minisuper” on just about every street corner but the following have a wider range of fresh food, non-perishables, and household supplies as well as good selections of fruits and vegetables...



Abarottes Super Arce
Avenida Veracruz #94
Open daily morning till late



El Mercadito
Calle Mazatlan #109
Open daily morning till late



Super Hawaii Melaque
Calle Lopez Mateos #45 in Melaque, just off the jardin.
Open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 am to 9:00 pm; Sundays from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. Credit cards accepted.

If you're craving gringo stuff, this is the place to go! From French butter to Stove Top Stuffing to Cheezits, they cater to the North American palate. Gluten-free items available. Excellent fruit and veggie section. A lot of their stuff comes from Costco, so if you need something from there, you can place a special order.

Super Hawaii will deliver to the marina! Contact Alex via WhatsApp at 314.141.9457. Delivery fee is 150 pesos, and they have a portable credit card reader. Delivery is normally same day, although it might be next day if they're really busy. We recommend looking at their FB page (search “Super Hawaii Costalegre”) as they often post pictures of incoming items.



Almacenes Parisany
Calle Morelos in *Melaque* (on the corner of Morelos and Venustiano Carranza across the street from CarneExpress)
Open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 am to 10:30 pm; Sundays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Credit cards accepted

One of the larger stores in the area (and by "larger" we mean it has room for small shopping carts), it has a good selection of the basics at very reasonable prices.



Mini Hawaii

Avenida Lopez de Legazpi next to the OXXO
Open in the evenings

They don't have near the selection of their big brother in Melaque, but the wine and liquor section is quite good and you never know what else you might find.



OXXO

Avenida Lopez de Legazpi (across from the church)
Some OXXOS close at 10:00, others at 11:00. This one claims to be 24 hours.
Credit cards accepted.

Pretty much the Mexican 7-11. Good beer/soda/juice/etc. selection; convenient place to recharge your cell phone; excellent air conditioning! Not exactly a grocery store per se; but if you have a hankering for a Dr. Pepper and a Snickers bar at 10:00 pm, this is your only option.

There is another OXXO as well as a KIOSKO on Calle Veracruz near the marlin statue. A third OXXO can be found in the Barrio as well as several in Melaque.



Grand Isla Tienda

Open daily 9:00 am to 6:00 pm; closed 2:00 to 3:00
Credit cards accepted.

Located in the villa to the right of the marina office (where the laundry is located), the tienda stocks ice, water, soda, beer, snacks, ice cream, and a small smattering of sundries.

CARNECERIAS (MEAT MARKETS)



Ury's Carneceria

Calle Guanajuato
Open Monday through Saturday

Beef and pork cut to order, pre-packaged arrachera, fresh chorizo, great bacon!



Polleria El Tunco 2

Avenida Nueva España in the Barrio

Open daily 7:00 am to 4:00 pm

Located in the Barrio so it's kind of a hike, but they have great chicken along with a nice selection of beef, pork, and lamb.



Carniexpress

Calle Morelos #33 in *Melaque* (across from Parisany)

Open daily 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

315.111.1074

In our opinion, this is the best carniceria around! Fresh beef, pork, chicken, chorizo, etc.-- either out of the case or cut to order. If you're looking for a special cut -- filet, tomahawk, ribeye -- this is the place. Excellent bacon!

PESCADERIAS (FISH MARKETS)

Pescaderia: Cooperative Society of Production, Fisheries & Consumption

Avenida Veracruz #72

Open daily 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; sometimes closes early on Sundays



PANADERIAS & PASTELERIAS (BAKED GOODS, PASTRIES, & MORE)



El Horno Frances aka The French Bakery

Avenida Lopez de Legazpi #127

Open high season only

Open daily 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; closed Wednesdays

In addition to an assortment of breads, pastries, and pies, they have a café that serves paninis, sandwiches, and quiches. Full coffee bar, too!

Yes, it's true! The French Baker comes into the marina between 9:00 and 9:30 am every day but Wednesday selling fresh baked goods (as well as coffee, wine, and pate) out of his panga. He'll announce his arrival on **Channel 22** or listen for

the bell. After the marina, he heads out to the lagoon. Items sell out fast so reserve your order the day before via WhatsApp at **315.107.7697**. Credit cards accepted!

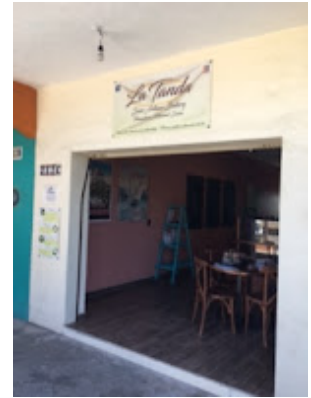
La Tanda Bakery

Avenue Veracruz #212c

Wednesday through Saturday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

315.104.7529

Swiss bakery with a good selection of artisanal breads, croissants, and bagels as well as some of the best pastries in town. Cakes, pies, cream puffs, tarts, and more are available in store or may be ordered specially from an extensive menu. Gluten free items as well. Check out their menu on their FB page (search La Tanda Bakery) or request to be put on the list and receive the week's menu ahead of time to reserve your favorites: roland.fischer13@gmail.com.



La Bruja Coffee Bar & Hang Spot

Avenida Veracruz #208

Open high season only

Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

All manner of coffee drinks (obviously!) and a large assortment of baked goods; also, the best place to get locally roasted coffee beans.



Norma's Pasteles

On the corner of Avenida Veracruz and Avenida Lopez de Lagazpi

Open daily 3:00 to 10:30 pm (may vary according to weather)

Norma sets up her kiosk at the entrance to the Malecon each evening and serves up home-made cakes, pies, and flan by the (big) slice. Specialties include flan, chocoflan, and pasteles de tres leches (three milk cake.)

TIANGUIS (OPEN-AIR MARKET)

A great place to find fresh fruits and vegetables, nuts, coffee, and sweets as well as household goods, used clothing, DVDs, crafts, jewelry, and touristy items is the travelling market.

Mondays: Manzanillo

Tuesdays: Cihuatlan

Wednesdays: Villa Obregon (Melaque)

Thursdays: Barra de Navidad

Fridays: Off

Saturdays: Santiago

Sundays: Saluhua



The Barra Tianguis starts at the Jardin and continues down Calle Guanajuato for about five or six blocks. Best time to go is between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.

Pro tip: The Melaque Tianguis is about two to three times bigger than the Barra market so well worth the trip if you're looking for more variety. The Santiago Tianguis is massive but tends to get repetitive.

BOX STORE PROVISIONING

Manzanillo has just about all the big stores and, fortunately, they're all located quite near one another on the main road. If you're coming from Santiago, as you pass the golf course at Las Hadas (heading toward El Centro), they'll be in this order...

LA COMER (COMERCIAL MEXICANA)

Blvd Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado #1337

Open daily from 9:00 am to 11:00 pm

WALMART

Blvd Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado #17

Open daily from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm

AUTOZONE

Blvd Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado #1246

Open daily from 8:00 am to 9:30 pm; closes at 9:00 pm on Sundays

SORIANA HIPER

Blvd Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado #1580

Open daily from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm

HOME DEPOT

Blvd Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado #1550

Open daily from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm; opens at 8:00 am on Sundays

SAM'S CLUB

Blvd Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado #1518

Open daily from 9:00 am to 10:00 pm

RESTAURANTS & BARS

Counting the establishments in Colimilla, there are around 40 eateries in the immediate area--more if you count the pop-up breakfast joints and taco carts. Everyone has their personal preferences so recommendations can be subjective, but these are our and our friends' personal favorites. To keep it under control, only restaurants in Barra and Colimilla are listed.

THE YEAR-ROUND FAVORITES...



Bananas

Located inside the Hotel Barra de Navidad

Avenida Lopez de Legazpi #250

Open daily from 6:00 am to 12:00 pm and 6:00 to 10:00 pm; closed Monday evenings

Menu highlight: Anything on the breakfast menu! (Voted #1 on TripAdvisor)



Barra Mia Snack Bar

Avenida Lopez de Legazpi #54

Open daily 6:00 pm to late; open earlier on special game days (i.e., futbol championships, Super Bowl)

Drinks specials and good bar food; sports on tv; DJs and live bands most weekends.



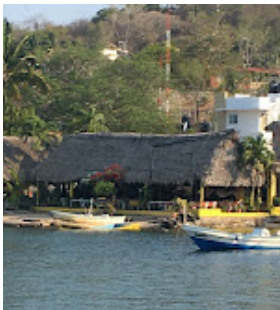
El Manglito

Avenida Veracruz #17

Open daily 11:00 am to 10:00 pm

Menu highlights: Molcajetes, fresh fish and seafood, arrachera, BBQ ribs

Live music most nights!



Fortino's & El Pescado Sushi Bar

Waterfront Colimilla on Isle Navidad – accessible via dinghy or water taxi

Open daily from 1:00 to 8:00 pm

Menu highlights: Lobster, Hawaiian shrimp

Sushi menu highlights: Best sushi rolls, poke, and sashimi this side of Japan

Live music on select nights during high season!



La Noria

On the corner of Calle Michoacan and Mazatlan
Open daily from 12:00 pm to midnight
Menu highlights: Chili, various hot sandwiches, chicken tenders. Best fish & chips in town!
Live music Monday and Friday nights during high season!



Minerva Asadero Al Pastor & Grill

Av Veracruz #51-A (Next to the Kiosko)
Open Wednesday through Sunday from 12:00 to 10:00 pm (closes at 8:30 on Wednesdays)
Menu highlights: Barra’s first and only Al Pastor restaurant where the meats are slow cooked on spits in a fire pit. Chorizo, ribs, lamb, etc.



Nelly's

Calle Jalisco #70
Open daily 12:00 to 8:00 pm; kitchen closed on Mondays
Menu highlights: Onion rings, burgers, tacos
Great place for live music. Happy hour 5:00 to 7:00 pm.



Pipi's

Calle Sonora #15
Open daily 11:00 am to 10:00 pm; closed some Wednesdays
Menu highlights: Shrimp cocktail, hamburgers, wings. Famous for their burritos!



Pizzeria Loco Loco

Avenida Veracruz #170
Open Tuesday through Sunday from 6:00 to 10:00 pm
Menu highlights: Wood fired pizzas, spaghetti carbonara, Mediterranean salad



Restaurant Bar Ramon

Avenida Lopez de Legazpi #262
Open daily 7:00 am to 11:00 pm
Menu highlights: Chili rellenos, fish & chips, arrachera, fish tacos.
Great breakfast as well!



Restaurant Nacho

Avenida Lopez de Legazpi #100
Open daily from 11:00 am to 10:00 pm; closed some Thursdays
Menu highlights: Fresh oysters, grilled fish, avocado stuffed with shrimp.
Famous for their micheladas!



Sea Master

Avenida Lopez de Legazpi #146
Open daily from 10:30 am to 11:30 pm
Menu highlights: Ribeye steak, arrachera, seafood stuffed pineapple, guacamole, artisanal mezcal
Live music most nights during high season; check out their new night club!



The View (in Colimilla)

Calle Adolfo Lopez Mateos in Colimilla (towards the end of town)
Open daily from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm; closed Sundays
Menu highlights: Great pizza, wings, tacos. Pool table!

The View will deliver to your boat in the marina! Contact them at 314.337.9177 or 315.109.8955. Be sure to ask about off-menu daily specials.



Villa Zapata

Calle Jalisco #70 (Upstairs above Nelly's Bar)
Open 2:00 pm till late
Menu highlights: Rib eye, chorizo, arrachera, pollo all cooked fresh on the grill. Daily specials include Paella on Sundays!

HIGH SEASON ONLY...



Barra Galleria de Arte

Calle Mazatlan #75

Open high season only

Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday from 5:00 to 10:00 pm; tequila specials on Tuesday

Reservations only: 315.109.6239 or via their website barragalleriadearte.com

Menu highlights: Two entree offerings per night from a rotating menu, artisan tequila



Besame Mucho

Calle Jalisco #13B

Open high season only

Open daily from 5:00 to 11:00 pm; closed Wednesdays

Reservations recommended: 315.100.9362

Menu highlights: Steak, pasta, salads

*not my photo (mine are never this good)



Isadora's

Avenida Veracruz #68

Open high season only

Open daily from 6:00 to 11:30 pm; closed Mondays

Menu highlights: Seafood, pasta, steak, gourmet mac n' cheese



Senor Froy's La Casa Mia

Calle Filipinas #66

Open high season only

Open daily from 12:00 to 10:00 pm

Menu highlights: Lasagna, salad bar, Thursday night BBQ ribs

*not my photo

MOST POPULAR POLLO ASADO IN BARRA:

Pollo "Los Gueros"

Avenue Nueva España #4

Located near the Barrio at the corner of Nueva Espana and Calle Veracruz (across from the football field)

Open daily 1:00 to 4:00 pm; closed Mondays

SEEKING OUT LIVE MUSIC?

Many of the restaurants feature live entertainment during the high season. The best resource to find out who is playing where are the Facebook pages "Music in Barra & Melaque" and "Barra de Navidad Restaurants and Entertainment."

THINGS TO DO, SEE, EXPERIENCE

SIGHTSEEING & TOURS

Ecojoy Adventures

On the corner of Calle Veracruz and Costa Occidental

315.100.9240

www.ecojoyadventure.com

Office open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Active tours (i.e., kayaking, biking, zip-lining, rock climbing, etc.); bike, car, and boat rentals

Flip Flop Nomad Tours

Calle Benito Juarez #71 in Melaque

315.355.9037

www.flipflopnomads.com

Office open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Cultural and historical tours throughout Mexico; single and multi-day trips; they also provide travel services.

Mex-ECO Tours

Valentin Gomez Farias #59-1 in Melaque

315.355.7027

www.mex-ecotours.com

Office open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and 5:00 to 7:00 pm; Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Cultural and historical tours throughout Mexico; single and multi-day trips; international tours to other countries in Latin America.

The Only Tours Costalegre

Privada Las Cabanas Lote 26 in Melaque

315.355.6777

www.theonlytours.com

Office open daily from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

ATV tours, snorkeling, guided tours to Colima, etc.

SPORT FISHING (SURF, OFFSHORE, INSHORE)

Fishing Costalegre (Luis Vargas)

315.106.8499

Find him on Facebook by searching "Fishing Costalegre".

Guen Chulao

Located here in the marina on Dock C

624.122.1003

Find them on Facebook by searching “Guen Chulao Sportfishing Barra de Navidad”.

Also do snorkeling and beach excursions

MaryChuy Sportfishing

Located on the lagoon just down from El Manglito

315.355.5416 or 315.109.9124

Marychuy.sportfishing@gmail.com

Find them on Facebook by searching “MaryChuy Sportfishing”.

SURFING

The locals surf right off the jetty in front of the Malecon. For the latest surf reports, visit the home page of La Bruja Coffee Bar and scroll to the bottom: labrujacoffeebar.com.



North Swell Surf Shop

Avenida Lopez de Legazpi #

Open daily 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Surf and paddle board rental and lessons; boards & board repair; boogie board rentals; snorkeling equipment

TENNIS

There are three, well-maintained courts at the **Grand Isla**. There is a nominal fee during high season. An attendant at the towel palapa by the swimming pool can set you up with a time/equipment.



Gabriel manages the activities at the resort as well as the tennis courts and gym. He’s also the resort’s Tennis Pro and gives one-on-one or couples lessons. Whether you’re a beginner, it’s been a while since you’ve played, or you just want to improve your game, he’s a great instructor. Speaks very good English; will work your butt off if you’re not careful! If he’s not at the towel palapa, the attendant there or someone in the marina office can page him for you.

Hotel Cabo Blanco (up the right-most canal in town) has two cement tennis courts that convert into pickle ball courts. Nominal fee to use the facilities; they also rent equipment.

HOLIDAYS & FESTIVALS

There are numerous holidays, feast days, and celebration days that are observed in Mexico. Here are some of the major ones with their 2023 dates...

Note: national holidays in which banks, government offices, and many businesses may be closed are in bold.

January 1st: New Year's Day

January 6th: Three Kings Day

February 6th: Constitution Day

February 24th: National Flag Day

Week before Ash Wednesday (Feb 22nd): Carnival

March 20th: Benito Juarez Day

March 17th: St Patrick's Day (two-week celebration in San Patricio/Melaque)

Semana Santa (Holy Week)

April 2nd: Palm Sunday

April 6th: Holy Thursday

April 7th: Good Friday

April 9th: Easter

April 30th: Children's Day

May 1st: Labor Day

May 5th: Cinco de Mayo (mainly for the tourists)

May 10th: Mother's Day

September 1st: Christ of the Hurricane Anniversary Celebration (Barra only)

September 16: Independence Day

October 12th: Day of the Race (Columbus Day)

November 1st-2nd: Día de los Muertos (All Souls Day)

November 20th: Revolution Day

December 12th: Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 25th: Christmas Day

