

Thank you for joining our tour with Bici Bucerias! You will be staying at Casa Victoria Villas.

We hope that your stay will be wonderful in every way. One of the best parts of your vacation (especially if this is your first visit) is discovering on the bike and on your own all that is Mexico. Having vacationed in this area for almost 10 years we are still discovering new adventures both on and off the bike!

INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THIS RENTAL PROPERTY:

Maid Service

Our maid, Kris will come 2 times per week. She doesn't speak English. If you are staying longer than one week, please tip her at the end of each week. Our suggestion for a tip is 30 – 60 peso/per person/per cleaning day. This money is what she “lives” on and we appreciate all the work she does for us. There will be weekly visits from the gardener/pool guy and it is suggested that you also leave him a small gratuity at the end of your stay.

Property Manager/Tour Leader

Joel Goralski or one of the other Bici Bucerias crew will meet you upon your arrival at the airport. You will be driven to the Villa and supplied keys for apt. and main gate. If you have any maintenance issues, etc. please contact him.

Contact in Mexico

If you need to get in touch with us please do not hesitate. Our email joel@niklasgroup.com or jillian@niklasgroup.com. Of course, we also live just a few blocks away so you can always pop in to say hi. We will also give you a number to text us after you arrive in Mexico.

INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE VILLA:

Villa Equipment and Furnishings

All our villas are equipped with linens, towels including beach towels, fridge, propane stove/oven, toaster, microwave, blender, coffee maker as well as basic dishes, pots, pans, etc. Outside furnishings for the casita include a patio set with a round table, umbrella and chairs as well as a couple of deck-style chairs. There are 2 folding camp chairs for the beach.

Laundry/Linens

Your linens will be changed 1/wk. There is no access to a washer/dryer, however for a small fee (whatever amt. you feel is fair) Kris will be happy to do the laundry for you.

Internet

We have wireless internet at the Villas. Also there are several internet cafés in Bucerias. These cafés have wireless as well, so you can bring your laptop or tablets there. We however cannot be responsible for the consistency of the service on the property.

TV/Cable and/or Satellite

Your unit is equipped with Telemex Cable TV with some English channels. Channel guide can be found on-line. Select Telemex and then Puerto Vallata.

Air Conditioning

Please do not leave the air conditioning units on when you are out for the day. This also applies when you have the doors open. It only takes a short while to cool the place down. Basically, turn the A/C on 15 or 20 minutes before you are ready for bed and that will usually do the trick for the night. The electricity rates are extremely high in Mexico and are a huge percentage of our operating costs. **Please help us out by remembering to use the air conditioning just when needed.**

Recycling

Presently Bucerias recycles plastic bottles, etc. Please deposit your bottles in the special bins on street corners. Also you can help reduce waste by using your cloth and plastic tote bags from home for shopping and groceries.

Quiet Time – Please respect your neighbours. No disturbances after 11:00 p.m. please.

Keys – Please hang on to your keys. There will be a \$\$\$ charge for lost keys!

Note: Please respect our property. We expect normal wear and tear but damage to property/furnishings, theft and heavily soiled upholstery requiring additional cleaning, will be charged back to your credit card.

Safety

Although Bucerias is a very safe town, please use common sense when out of the house. Put your passports and valuables in a safe place and keep the doors and windows locked at night and when you are out of the casa, along with the outside gates. Also although we feel it is very safe to walk at night, please be vigilant and stick to the main roads.

Tip: Carry a flashlight at night.

Common areas

Shared use of propane barbecue, pool loungers, palapa and umbrella, pool toys.

Please – no glass by the pool area!

BUCERIAS SERVICES

Doctor - Dr. Victor Sainz. He speaks English. He is on the east side of the highway, north of the Cactus Hotel. Cell # 322-294-0446, Office #329-298-0157 / 329-298-0107.

Pharmacy – Guadalajara Pharmacy, just south of Flamingos Blvd. (by the Oxxo).

ATM's - There are several in town. There is one beside the OXXO at Banamex on the corner of the highway and Las Palmas, also one at the southbound lateral a bit north of Agustin Melgar.

Dentist - Dr. Adrian Malja

On the north side of town, past the Town Square, Mexico No 23 Centro Bucerias. Ph.(329) 298 1249. Speaks fluent English and has a large tourist clientele.

Taxi - There is a Taxi stand on Av. Las Palmas (runs between highway and DeCameron). You can walk there to arrange a taxi or call (329) 298-1991. Fare back to airport approx. \$25.00 (depending on how many people)

Tip: It is wise to negotiate the price before hand.

Bus - There are buse) that run along the lateral on both sides of the highway. Look for a sign "Parada" (or flag them down). Buses will have writing on the windows to indicate where they go. You can take a bus to the beaches north of Bucerias and also for shopping south of Bucerias...Mega, Walmart and to Puerto Vallarta. To go to Puerto Vallarta by bus requires a change of bus. People on the bus will help you even if they don't understand much English; they are very kind and seem to know where you want to go! However they often sit in the "outside seat" and don't move over to the window when you want to sit down. That seems to be the custom. Be prepared to be entertained on the bus by locals who hop on and off the bus...it is kind of a hoot! Have a few spare pesos handy. Also additional transportation is available by combi van (collectivos) that charge the same as the bus. These vans are air conditioned and would be fewer stops. It is nice to tip the driver.

Tip: Buses stop running approximately 10 p.m.

Groceries - There are several little grocery stores in town. You can get just about everything you need. The large "Mega" store which sells everything from groceries, clothes, to electronics is 1.8 km. walk or less than 5 minute drive south along the highway (towards P.V.). Tip the baggers (usually kids) 10 – 15 p. for a couple bags, and a bit more if you have lots of groceries.

There is also a Wal-Mart on highway...Neuvo Vallarta area and a Sam's Club soon to open.

The closest "corner store" to the villas is on the corner of the lateral and Fibba. It is called Betos Mini Super and includes a nice selection of wine and liquor. There is also one that recently opened on Lazaro Cardenas just south of Fibba and they have a pretty good selection of groceries for a small store.

Tip: When you purchase beer, you get about the same amount of money you spent on the beer for the empties. Save them and your receipt; then return empties to the store where you purchased them.

Tip: Bucerias Market – Sundays...Go early, this is on the other side of highway, close to the riverbed. Fresh produce at ridiculously cheap prices.

Tip: Bucerias Monday Market – Art Walk Plaza. Nice selection of fresh roasted coffee, fresh fruit and vegetables and homemade soups, entries, desserts.

Other Tours - You don't have to look for them, they will find you. There are several places in town that sell various tours. There is one at the corner of Lazaro Cardenas and Flamingos (in front of the Decameron). There are also several along Lazaro Cardenas, Scott's near the bridge is very popular.

DeCameron - This is the all-inclusive hotel in town. Beach facilities are for guests.

Tip: You can also go to the hotel and pay for a day pass, this will allow you to use all the facilities and participate in the activities (kayaking, windsurfing, etc.)

The Chicken Ladies - This is one of our favorite meals – they are located under the bridge on the east side of the highway. You can get 2 full bbq'd chickens, rice, onions and tortillas for \$12 - \$14 US. You can re-heat them in the oven... Fantastic!! (Also great are the roasted chickens from Mega.)

RESTAURANTS

There are a lot of great restaurants in Bucerias. Five dinners are included in your package. Here is a sampling of some of the restaurants we may visit.

Encore Restaurant – Lazaro Cardenas. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Entertainment by owner, jazz singer Armi Grano.

Karen's- on the beach. It is on the property of Costa Dorada – just walk through the open air building and you will see the restaurant on the beach. Also a great place to take the children as they can play on the beach while you watch the sunset. Great food, Mexican with a North American touch. Don't miss Karen's for Sunday Brunch!!

Rosa Mexicano –Lazaro Cardenas. Rated #1 on TripAdvisor. Authentic Mexican cuisine, terrific atmosphere and service and mariachi band on certain nights.

La Toscana Mia – Amazing Italian restaurant with great pasta and pizza. This is run by a true Italian family!

Other Restaurants in the area:

El Gordo (Fat Boy) – Just beyond the Flee Market on the beach. Great seafood and burgers.

Mar y Sol – Great for lunch, grilled fish for supper....good prices, friendly staff.

Mezzogiorno's - a beautiful Italian restaurant at the very end of restaurant row (n. side of the town square along the ocean). Lovely spot to watch the sunset.

El Brujo – (by Mezzogiorno). Wonderful food and margaritas, reasonably priced. Excellent sunset views. Reservations for dinner are recommended.

Mark's – On Lazaro Cardenas. A high end restaurant, but still one that you can visit in your shorts. The food is fantastic and the atmosphere can't be beat!

Farmar Restaurant - a family favorite. Go up Fibba and cross the highway. It is right on the corner. You have to walk all the way to the back to where the restaurant seating is. Great portions, margaritas, service, and fantastic food. A great place to eat with children.

La Lomita – close by a couple cross streets north..... They have a set menu for a set price that includes starter, soup, salad, main course & dessert and coffee for low low price. Very good service.

Itxa – Close by on Lazaro Cardenas. Terrific food and atmosphere. Entertainment. Economical.

Sweet Thing Bakery...close by. A must for breaky, huge cinnamon buns...yummy! Cdn. Owner.

Tip: Beach Restaurants on the north side.... many have specials during the day on bucket of beer, etc. A great place to hang out for the day, some have loungers and good shade cover.

ENTERTAINMENT/NIGHT LIFE

Bucerias is a fairly quiet town but there are a few clubs to enjoy sports, music and dancing. Here is a sampling. Very close by...

Barcheleta bar – A very popular hang-out especially during hockey season. This is a 2 or 3 min. walk from the Villa. Walk to the end of Francisco I. Madero (towards DeCameron) and up the steps and you are there.

The Bar Above – Corner of Lazaro Cardenas and Av. Las Palmas (across from DeCameron) Watch for margarita specials in the afternoon, Tues. I think.

Adriatico Restaurant - live music and dancing (as well as dinner). Close to our villas (across from Mark's Restaurant). A beautiful atmosphere and a nice bar from which to view the dancers on the floor. Check for weekly show schedule.

Ixta – Live entertainment some evenings.

Encore Restaurant & Lounge -...live jazzy-type music....Lovely Armi Grano, proprietor and singer hails from Vancouver.

Yo Yo Mo's Sport & Pizza Bar - north side of town. Great reviews, pool table, darts. Cdn. Owner.

The Drunken Duck- across from Yo Yo Mo's. Same owner, good entertainment.

Luna Lounge – check website for entertainment schedule and evening meal specials. Terrific 2 for 1 spareribs.

BEACHES

Bucerias Beach – from our villa. You can access the beach from either cross street (north or south). Cross Lazaro Cardenas, walk a few more paces and there you are. The beach is generally safe for swimming but if you see big waves and the locals are not in the water, use common sense.

You can walk for miles in either direction. Lots of beach combing for shells, worn glass and tiles. Not too many vendors, but if you are buying they are around with beach umbrellas, trinkets, dresses, muffins, pies, etc. We love to go late afternoon and enjoy the surf, and see the sun set.

Sayulita We will be visiting Sayulita during our tour. You may like it so much that you will take another day to go back. It is easy to reach. Simply cross the highway and hop a north bound buss that says "Sayulita" (You will have to cross the highway, look for the sign "Parada" and wait on the lateral.) Sayulita is a small town with a "hippy" vibe with some great artisian shops. Great beach for surfing and spending a leisurely day under a palapa. You have to pay for the palapas in Sayulita but they are worth it. There are now bank machines in Sayulita.

Destiladeras – hop on the bus that says Punta de Mita. (Not quite sure how accurate the following info is as there has been some recent development in Destiladeras.) If you are not familiar with this spot you will have to tell the bus driver to stop there. It is half way between Bucerias and Punta de Mita. You will get off on the highway, cross the street and walk down the road to the beach. There are covered areas for each restaurant; you do need to pay for them as well. This is a beautiful beach with fine white sand that is great to walk. The water here is quite calm and great for children. If you are driving on your own there may be a parking charge.

Punta de Mita – this is one of our favorites, it just has a great vibe. We will ride through the town as well during our ride to Sayulita. The beach is very rocky but you can still swim and there is surfing here too. Again jump on the bus for Punta De Mita – this is a bit of a longer ride. At this beach there are several restaurants that you only have to eat or drink at to sit; you do not have to pay for the table. This is the spot to hire a panga for wale watching.awesome!!!

San Francisco – you can jump on the bus for Sayulita and get off at "San Pancho". You will have a long walk into to town to get to the beach. If you aren't interested in the walk take a cab on this outing. There are cabs in San Pancho as well. Very nice beach, however the surf here is quite big, too big for children.

Los De Marcos / Las Manitas – This is a full day trip and can be a bit tricky to get to, as the "special beach", Las Manitas is a bit out of the town. I would suggest taking a cab (1 hr. drive), and asking him to come back or stay until you are done To get to the beach you have to go all the way into town and then take the road (to the left) that goes behind all the

houses on the beach. Follow this road all the way to the end (it will seem like a bit of a drive) to the top of a hill, there you will see the back side of 2 or 3 restaurants (there may only be one open), walk down the stairs and choose a table. This is a secluded beach, one with mostly locals. It is worth the adventure.

BUCERIAS FLEE MARKET – Daily, north side of town just over the kissing bridge and beyond.

Aquaventuras Water Park – Fun-filled activity centre, water slides, swim with dolphins, etc. Nuevo Vallarta, off highway on the East side.

La Cruz De Huanacaxtle - Our neighbouring town to the north just a few minutes by bus and otherwise a very, very long walk along the beach. Great restaurants, shops, and a beautiful new marina where you can enjoy a meal or drinks. You can also buy fresh fish from the fishermen. Their beach is at the north end of town.

There is a market in La Cruz on Sundays that is different from the Bucerias Sunday market. It normally starts up in the fall and if it is on during your tour we will recommend that you head out there after your ride. It leans toward cottage industry such as crafts and home baking however there are also fresh vegetables and fruits.

For more information regarding entertainment and nightlife in La Cruz, it is best to Google search.

CYCLING IN MEXICO & THE TOUR

Cycling in Mexico is really no different than cycling in Canada. The same general rules apply. The one thing that you will notice though is that the Mexican drivers seem to be a little more receptive to cyclists compared to Canadian drivers.

Things to consider:

- 1) Listen to your guides and tour leader. They know the routes and areas to be cautious. Your safety is important to us.
- 2) Don't ride off on your own. Stay with the group unless the guide is aware and you know where to wait at a pre-determined meet up re/group point.
- 3) Group riding rules are in force. So point out obstacles. Call out approaching traffic. Don't ride erratic. Keep single file in busier sections of road.
- 4) If you are not feeling good or the pace is too high, make sure you talk to your guide. They can adjust the ride.
- 5) Be friendly to the locals and waive thanks when cars pass slowly or purposely give you space. The more we do this the more respect we get on our rides.
- 6) While the routes that we ride have very little bus and truck traffic, busses, taxis and trucks are the worst when it comes to driver etiquette. That being said, they will usually

respond to hand signals (ie, asking to slow) and will give space when the group consciously takes more road space. The guide will help with this.

- 7) It is hot! Keep hydrated. For longer rides we will have a support vehicle with cold water and sport drinks. Make sure that you are drinking regularly.
- 8) Descending the Sierra Madres is super fun. However, do not take any unnecessary risk and keep your speed in check. There are sections of rough road and sometimes gravel or obstacles that have fallen on the road. Take note of these when you are doing the climb.
- 9) It is OK to take a day off. If you want to take a day off and go hang out at the beach that is ok. Just let your guide know.
- 10) Show up on time for departures. The daily departure time will be listed on your itinerary. We leave at those times and late arrivals will be left behind.

Other Information

Riders are encouraged to bring their own bike. Bike charges with West Jet and Air Transat are very reasonable. Be careful with the American based airlines. If you need a bike, we have a small selection of road and cross bikes for rent. Please let us know.

You will be provided secure storage for your bikes. Alternatively, they should be locked in your villa when you are away.

The tours are scheduled to depart early each day so that we can have you back to enjoy the rest of your day. Breakfast is included and you will be notified when you arrive where the breakfast meeting point will be.

All trips must be reserved with a 50% payment taken at reservation. The balance can be paid in cash upon your arrival. Alternatively, you can do an e-mail money transfer before you depart Canada.

Kids, family and significant others are welcome on all tours. We recognize that family is very important and we have designed our tours to give the utmost flexibility. If you have any specific requests or needs, just let us know and we will try our best to accommodate you.

Waiver. For insurance and liability purposes, you will be required to sign a waiver before your first ride.