



Welcome!

**TRAVEL PRIMER FOR FIRST TIME VISITORS ~
*Being Prepared for the Experience of a Lifetime!***

We want your stay at La Villa Bella (LVB) and Punta el Custodio (PEC) to be a memorable, exciting and a unique experience ...*so you will want to return again and again!*
By understanding our location and environment, some simple preparation information can ensure that your stay is amazing!

This basic reference will serve you well during your preparations and visit.
LVB is a destination community in a tropical area of the Mexican pacific coast located about the same latitude as Hawaii ...*discovered but still untouched or developed.*

❑ THERE IS NO COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THIS AREA.

At the villa, you will have every comfort and amenity at your disposable. We want you to know however that our beautiful location is not near any commercial retail, quick stop stores, food or boutique shops on this section of the Riviera Nayarit. Plan accordingly and bring your own if you need particular personal items and toiletries during your stay.

On the way to LVB from the Puerto Vallarta airport however, our driver will make a stop at a shopping mall for any needed personal items you were unable to bring – and other miscellaneous needs that you may find useful during your stay.



❑ **DRINKS, SNACKS, MUNCHIES and other CONSUMABLES**

LVB meals, drinks and finger foods will be abundant, fresh and tasty with an adequate supply for any-time snacks and munchies. Our offerings will be based on the local fare and provide a true Mexican experience. If you have personal food or drink preferences, plan and purchase your own during the commercial stop on the way from the airport.

❑ **GENERAL SAFETY around the GROUNDS**

Depending on the time of year, in a tropical area like Punta El Custodio brief yet sudden rain showers are frequent and typically followed by sun shine and ocean breezes.

Bring flip flops or slippers and have them available 24/7.

Walkways, spas, pool and villa floors do use sculptured tile and concrete to reduce slippage when wet but the villas steps can be extremely slick so use caution. This is a humid tropical environment and slippery floors cannot be prevented.

Darkness. Bring a small wristlet or pocket flash light.

While night skies may be filled with a star studded galaxy of celestial entertainment, the area does become incredibly dark, quiet and filled with jungle sounds when the moon settles in the clouds.



CLOTHING

Bring comfortable, light, loose clothing

that dries fast and will protect you from the sun as well as tropical inhabitants (insects etc.)

Light, porous full body arm and leg coverage will be ideal for activities like beach walks, horse back riding and other outdoor exploration and occasions.

Tropical storms stir up quickly and reduce temperatures rapidly, so bring:

Full length pajamas for sleeping

A lightweight weather proof jacket

A cover up even when on the beach

Sun protection is essential and insect repellants are useful any time of year, especially during the rainy season: April–July. We use general aerosols for clearing the area but personal repellants are useful. Lotion repellants like Skintastic or Skin-so-soft are usually adequate. **There is no need for strong repellants like Deet or Cutters – unless you plan a jungle trip!*

Colognes, perfumes and deodorants attract flying critters so this may be a good time to go without...at least during the day.

Note: If you leave the casita doors open, you may be visited by our local residents: Mapaches, Tejons or Raccoons – and occasionally a rodent. While harmless, they do make noise and a mess! We spray, set traps and generally have the critters under control but they are persistent and permanent local residents.

Remember, to discourage uninvited guests by keeping counters clear of food items. Use the sealed containers provided for personal storage and be sure to keep the tops securely closed on trash cans.



GENERAL PRECAUTIONS and INFORMATION

Bottled gas (Propane) is the source of heat energy for all cooking and hot water appliances. Appliances are checked regularly for leakage, safety and supply. Should you smell random gas – LEAVE IMMEDIATELY and report to the gate office for assistance!

Chelo (pronounced like the instrument), our villa host, will know if there is a supply shortage and arrange for a tank refill.

BEACH SAFETY

Beaches in our area have no undertow, but the estuary tides do empty twice daily and even strong swimmers should take care in avoiding the currents.

Safe swimming and snorkeling times are best on the incoming tides when the ocean will have maximum visibility and minimal waves. If in doubt ask ...*and never go into the ocean alone!*

Kayaks, boogie or surf boards are generally available for rental ...but they seem to disappear with the outgoing tide! Generally, it is a good idea to bring your own snorkel equipment (fins, mask and snorkel) - but some supplemental items are usually available. Ask the villa manager about rental arrangement and help us preserve what we have!

MEDICAL NEEDS

We do our best to assure safety and health in all activities at this compound but accidents beyond our control do happen ...and that is why we ask that you sign a disclaimer as a villa guest and make a refundable security deposit for household items. *Glass, concrete, the beach and feet do not mix anywhere - at any time:* Please help us prevent avoidable accidents by prevention and tidy use of the area. Think safety and think green!

Accidents do happen however, and should interventional medical services be required, several clinics are in the local vicinity and staffed with medical personnel trained in most basic emergency services. The best treatment is prevention *so always think safety!*

Should after hours or nocturnal assistance be necessary, Luis the night watchman can summon the appropriate individual for problem solving. Again, anticipate personal or group needs and avoid emergencies.



WiFi, Computers, Laptops, Phones

The electrical supply and internet connection at a remote destination resort like La Villa Bella is generally reliable - but there are periodic disruptions, line voltage surges and total outages at times for hours!

Do not plug your system into the villa outlets. Always power up from your own portable battery pack with a surge protector!

While periodic rain showers and spontaneous lightening storms are a dramatic - and a beautiful display of nature ... **the static electricity will fry any ON system in the vicinity.**

Exercise caution with portable computers and electronic equipment, and use the OFF button – not just the ‘hibernate’ function. *Warm salt water breezes, tropical showers and luscious vegetation renew the body, the mind and the spirit – but devour everything electronic.* Keep hardware systems closed when not in use!

A tropical vacation destination is a great time to close the lid, turn off the system and disconnect from electronic intrusions – however, we also function in the real world and know that will be a challenge for many. Our remote, isolated and tropical location is the attraction – so enjoy, renew and return home invigorated by the power of the natural environment and the private luxury of a Mexican hacienda .

Electronic ‘integration’ can be challenging at La Villa Bella, and we recommend opting for a tranquil green lifestyle during your visit when possible. The less electronic intrusion the better...for you as well as us!

Good luck! Our recommendation? Leave them at home or packed away.



ABOUT THE STAFF and YOUR PREFERENCES

Our purpose is to maximize your vacation experience without excessive presence or intrusion into personal space.

Chelo ~ our villa host ~ is an experienced manager with an inherent sense for the correct level of service and assistance desired - but making your preferences known is appreciated.

When necessary, due to work load, group size or special requests, Chelo will coordinate the daily duties with another host for the purpose of maximum efficiency and minimal staff presence.

Our daily duties generally involve three areas:

- Meal Preparation
- Villa Housekeeping
- Grounds Maintenance

Meal preparation ~ planning, serving and clearing ~ requires significant staff time and represents a major function of guest hosting.

Please review the Meal Plan and please ask questions if additional clarity is required.

General villa cleaning and guest room services is the second most time consuming daily duty and again depending on group size and desired services. Generally, bedding is changed every-other-day and clean linen and towels are always available on request.

Spa and pool maintenance is performed daily – quietly during the morning hours. Grounds maintenance, when required, is coordinated for minimal disruption in guest areas.



Lounging and Relaxation

Personal laundry usage is discouraged; however, Chelo will be happy to coordinate or provide assistance at times if it not disruptive to daily villa management.

LVB maintains a sizable collection of DVDs suitable for private viewing, if you have the equipment and prefer that type of video entertainment. We also have a library stash of paperbacks collected over time and appreciate updates!

Trades are always welcome.

Bon Appetite! The current interest in food preparation has encouraged amateur chefs to perfect their skills and the abundance of fresh produce and seafood in our community is a tempting opportunity. If personal participation in meal preparation is desired, please coordinate meal plans and kitchen time with Chelo to assure minimal disruption in anticipated meals for everyone.

Area excursions are also available, and the following brief explanation will highlight a few special attractions and events that might be of interest to more adventuresome guests. The list is not complete and only a short explanation is provided. If there is an area of special interest, let us know and we will provide more details and assist in the activity planning.



ACTIVITIES and EXCURSIONS

Horseback riding on the beach:

This activity is a safe and memorable experience that can usually be arranged on short notice with our local rancher. This is a popular minimal cost activity that few people will ever experience again. Enjoy it!

Punta El Custodio and La Villa Bella is located within an environmentally sensitive zone with a Wild Bird Estuary, Crocodile Breeding Farm and Turtle Preservation Preserve (Playa Las Tortugas) that borders our community - on the South. As such, we have exceptional observation and preservation opportunities and a significant environmental responsibility to preserve the fragile ecological system. *We invite you to learn more and participate in this exceptional preservation program.*

La Cora Waterfall: This natural jungle water fall and diving platform descends into a topical lagoon and is a scene right out of the movies! Note that this excursion is for those individuals with a sizable need for adventure and requires transportation and a one hour ride. Let us know if you are interested. It is worth the trip!

La Tovar Jungle Cruise: This is a more organized version of our local estuary with similar inhabitants and objectives. The trip also includes a visit to the city of San Blas and their historical plaza ~ a fun trip for first time visitors.

Pizza Night at “Casa Manana:” A relatively close (approx. 20 minutes) long-standing local hotel with a full bar and restaurant. Once a week on Saturdays they have a wood burning oven which they fire up around 1:00 and go until 11:00. Delicious pizza (+)! Group rides can be arranged and taxi cost is minimal if you can find one.

Whale Watching - Up Close: From mid-November through March, whale watching - and even whale ‘touching’ is possible with experienced guides in the warm waters off the point of Costa Custodio. In addition to whales, the excursion will often find schools of dolphins, manta rays and an occasional spotted whale shark –a harmless and friendly species that likes human touch!

Fishing at “el Bajo” the Reef: in the shallow, warm waters near Costa Custodio, experienced fisherman can usually find sierra mackerel, red snapper and *toro* or skip jack tuna ...if you know tropical fish!

BEVERAGES , MEALS and SNACKS

Each casita has a suite size refrigerator and storage containers to preserve freshness and discourage uninvited nocturnal visitors. A nighttime visit to the villa kitchen can be quite thrilling for a real adventurer ...*so plan your personal food storage accordingly!*

PEC/LVB recently completed the installation connection to a clear water aquifer with the local village of Platanitos - but the supply is not yet potable (drinkable) at the tap ... so use prepared water for personal hydration and oral hygiene. We will provide daily basic quantities.

Special occasion wines, champagnes and liquors are available on request and ideally at the time of registration. Early notice is always appreciated.

Payment arraignment must be made prior to purchase.

Have questions or special beverage requests? Just ask! With prior agreement, guests may run a bar tab and the amount will be deducted from the initial security deposit at the time of departure.

MEAL PLAN - DAILY RATES

Adults (12 yrs +) \$30 USD

Children (5-12 yrs) \$20 USD (Under 5 yrs) Complimentary

GROUP RATES

Some guests - depending on the group size and length of stay - may qualify for a meal plan discount and this will be discussed at the time of reservation. A copy of our daily meal plan is available but that takes some of the surprise and pleasure from the dining process! We are continually updating and adding to our cuisine offerings and suggestions are also welcomed!

WATER CONSUMPTION

The water source at La Villa Bella (LVB) is supplied by the Platanitos aquifer and is chlorinated at the source – but not potable for hydration (drinking) at the faucet.

LVB has a US certified water filtration system for all water that is used in food and drink preparation. We attempt to utilize recyclable personal containers as well. Utility pricing, such as electricity and water, in remote communities like Punta el Custodio are *precious* commodities and approximately *three times the equivalent cost per unit than in the US*. Please help us conserve: use what you need – but save when possible. Think green and ...*Thank You!*



And REFUNDABLE BREAKAGE DEPOSIT AGREEMENT

It is understood and agreed by the guests of Punta El Custodio, referred to hereafter as “guests” that neither the ASOCIACION DE CONDOMINIOS DE “PUNTA EL CUSTODIO” or the owners of LA VILLA BELLA (LVB) or the owners of other individual villas in the compound or any of the staff or management are not liable for injury to guests or visitors of the guests – while at Punta El Custodio.

It is understood and agreed by the guests that there are dangers both on the premises and in the waters surrounding the Punta and the guests accept all risk associate with their stay at the Punta. It is understood any water sports or safety equipment associated with the water sports are the sole responsibility of the guests. It is understood there are no lifeguards or security personnel at the community pool or at the LVB spa. Children under the age of 18 should always be accompanied by an adult or directly under the supervision of a family member at all times. LVB and Punta El Custodio is an adult oriented compound: guests and family members should be considerate of others while enjoying the villa grounds, pool and surrounding area.

Punta El Custodio and La Villa Bella are gated and secure communities but individuals not associated with the community do have access to the grounds and villas on occasion. All valuables, personal property and import items should be managed in a way that does not create an attractive target. LVB *does* maintain a built in combination wall safe if desired.

Accidents do happen and almost anything is replaceable, it costs money however, and takes time to restore items that have been broken. LVB requires a \$300.00 USD deposit (cash/check) on arrival with a full refund on departure – pending no major mishap.

It is understood and agreed, any guest accepting auto shuttle services from LVB or a subcontractor - accept full responsibility for their personal safety while in transit. Your enjoyment and safety is our concern – we know you understand!

Guest: Date