

LORETO CLASS GUIDE & FAQ

WEST COAST MULTIHULLS

SAN DIEGO | LORETO | LA PAZ

Welcome sailors and thank you for joining us at **Marina Puerto Escondido** in beautiful Loreto, Mexico for an amazing Catamaran Sailing Adventure in the Sea of Cortez! We are so excited to have you onboard, and wanted to share some FAQs and travel information with you to help plan your journey.

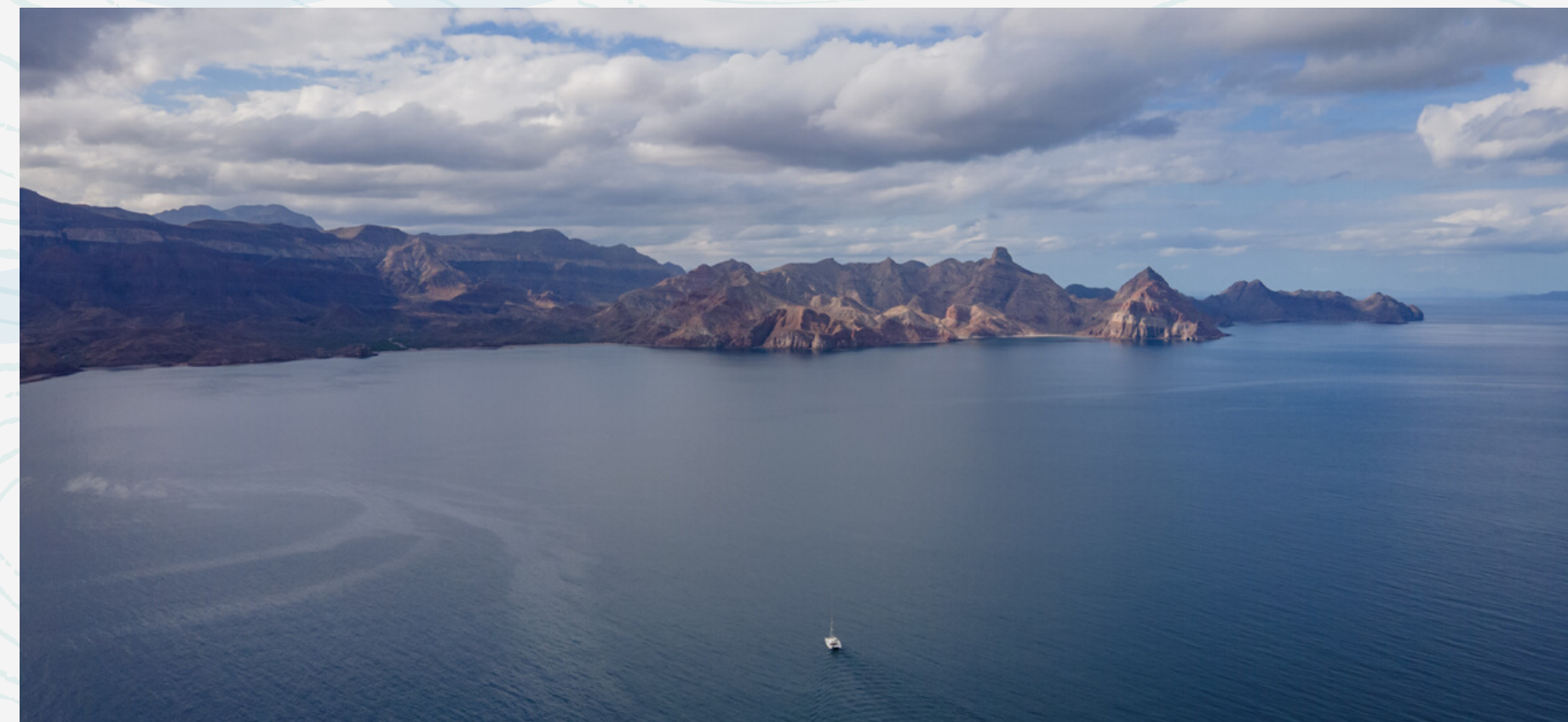


NEXT STEPS

Once your class is booked, you will need to order your ASA textbooks and read them prior to the start of your class. If you haven't already, you can order textbooks or download the ebooks here: <https://asa.com/textbooks/>.

If you are taking our ASA Intermediate or Advanced Courses, please make sure to **respond to the Welcome Email with your ASA number** prior to the start of your class so we can verify your prerequisites.

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Q: HOW DO WE GET THERE?

FLIGHTS

You can fly directly into Loreto International Airport from the following airports:

Calgary (YYC) - West Jet

Dallas/Ft. Worth (DFW) - American Airlines

Los Angeles (LAX) - Alaska Air

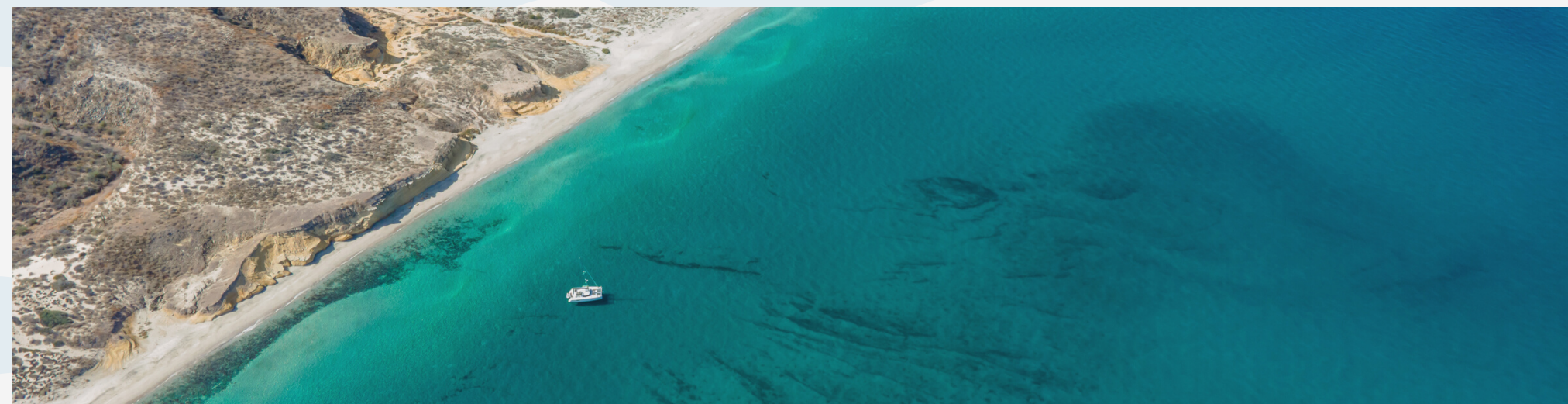
Phoenix (PHX) - American Airlines

Tijuana (TJX) - Volaris & Calafia Airlines

TRANSPORTATION & CURRENCY

Once you land in Loreto, you can either rent a car which costs approximately \$70 USD per day for a standard car or you can take a taxi from the airport to Marina Puerto Escondido which is approximately \$50 USD and takes about 20 minutes each way. Most places in Loreto accept US dollars and/or credit cards, but you will need pesos for taxis and for tips at restaurants. **It is highly recommended that you bring US dollars and/or pesos with you to avoid daily ATM withdrawal limits and bank/exchange fees.**

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COVID TESTS

As of June 12, 2022, the CDC will no longer require air passengers traveling from a foreign country to the United States to show a negative COVID-19 viral test or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before they board their flight.

Q: WHERE CAN WE STAY?

LODGING

We recommend flying into Loreto a day or two prior to the start of your class to enjoy the majestic beauty of this charming and historic fishing town. **Your class starts at 9am on the 1st day at Marina Puerto Escondido and you will spend the night onboard the catamaran for the duration of the course until class ends at 5pm on the last day.**

HOTELS

Hotel 1697 - authentic charm in the heart of town

La Mision - upscale hotel with ocean views on the Malecon in Loreto

Hotel Oasis - affordable location on the beach in downtown Loreto

Villa Del Pal Mar - Award-Winning Luxury Golf Resort & Spa with iconic 17th hole

Hotel Tripui - the only hotel within walking distance to the Marina with peaceful bungalows, pool & free breakfast ★

Coco Cabanas & Casitas - 8 individual cabanas with community pool & BBQ area

La Posada - unique hotel with walking distance to restaurants, shops, and the Mission

Loreto Bay Golf Resort - moderately priced golf resort near colorful custom homes in the Loreto Bay community

One of our partners and friend - Kathy Hunter is an superhost and has a great **Airbnb** in Loreto. Great for sharing a house with family and/or a group of friends. Highly recommended!



Q: WHAT ABOUT FOOD?

PROVISIONING & MEAL PLANNING

All of our ASA liveaboard classes in Loreto include provisions and provision services. You will receive the class menu in your Welcome Email. **Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions, meal preferences and/or food allergies as soon as possible so we can plan the menu accordingly.** We will do all the grocery shopping and place all the food onboard the catamaran before your arrival. **If you are taking our ASA 101 basic keelboat course, you will need to provide food and beverages for the 1st day of class.**

We have a set budget for class provisions, but are happy to accommodate special requests and meal plan suggestions when possible. Additional costs for food & beverages above our class budget will be added to your invoice as incidental expenses. Alcohol is not included in our class budget. You can purchase alcoholic beverages in town before your class or at the Marina Market.



ONBOARD CHEF

When available, you can hire an onboard chef to do all the cooking and cleaning for you so you can focus on your studies! **This service is highly recommended and greatly appreciated by our students.** The cost is split between the students and is \$200/day.





Q: WHERE DO WE GO GROCERY SHOPPING?

There is a Market at Marina Puerto Escondido for basic provisions, snacks, adult beverages, sundries, clothing, gifts and supplies. For full provisioning, you will need to go into Loreto and visit one or all of these locations:

Super Ley.

Supermarket with large produce section, bakery, Mexican products & ATM machines for pesos

El Pescador

Medium-sized market with good selection of produce, seafood, international & local products

Delicatessen

Specialty foods & imports, meats, cheeses, wine & champagne

Cactus

Beer & liquor





Q: WHAT RESTAURANTS DO YOU RECOMMEND?

Enjoy a refreshing house-made margarita with wood-fired pizzas and fresh fish specials at **La Brisa** restaurant right at Marina Puerto Escondido. Or you can go into town to experience the local cuisine. Click [here](#) for popular restaurants in Loreto. Some of our personal favorites are:

Pan Que Pan - homemade breads, pastries, fresh smoothies, healthy breakfast & lunch

La Picazon - hidden gem on the water! Beautiful atmosphere, family run, delicious local fare and seafood

Mi Loreto - local favorite, great service, vibey atmosphere in the heart of town

Orlando's - lively atmosphere and authentic local fare - try the Cilantro fish!

El Rey - Our favorite tacos en Loreto!

Super Burro - local spot for tacos and burritos

Mita Gourmet - known for chocolate clams, and seafood paella

Santo Cielo - Grilled meats & seafood with views of the Mission

Azul - fine dining in Loreto Bay with beautiful farm to table creations

Mezzaluna - South American/Italian fare, empanadas and oven-fired pizzas





Q: WHAT IS THE WEATHER LIKE?

Loreto has a tropical desert climate with abundant sunshine most of the year. **Average temperatures** June through October are 34 °C (93 °F) with year-round temperatures averaging 24.4 °C (76 °F). Spring and Autumn temperatures are moderate and temperate with Winter months bringing windy conditions typically blowing from the North and NW. **Sea Temperatures** range from an average of 84°F in summer to 64 °F in winter.

Loreto's yearly precipitation averages about 160 mm (6.3 in). The wettest months are August and September when there are occasional short-lived rainfalls. The hurricane season in Baja California Sur runs from mid-August through mid-October. Although a handful of hurricanes have affected the northern state of Baja California, the tropical cyclone season is almost exclusively a Baja California Sur issue. Since 1948, only four Category 1 Hurricanes, including 2014's Odile, and four Tropical Storms have made it to northern Baja California.

Fortunately, Marina Puerto Escondido has amazing natural protection that makes our location one of the safest hurricane holes in all of the Sea of Cortez.

More Loreto wind and tide info [here](#)

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We recommend checking the weather frequently and downloading these apps

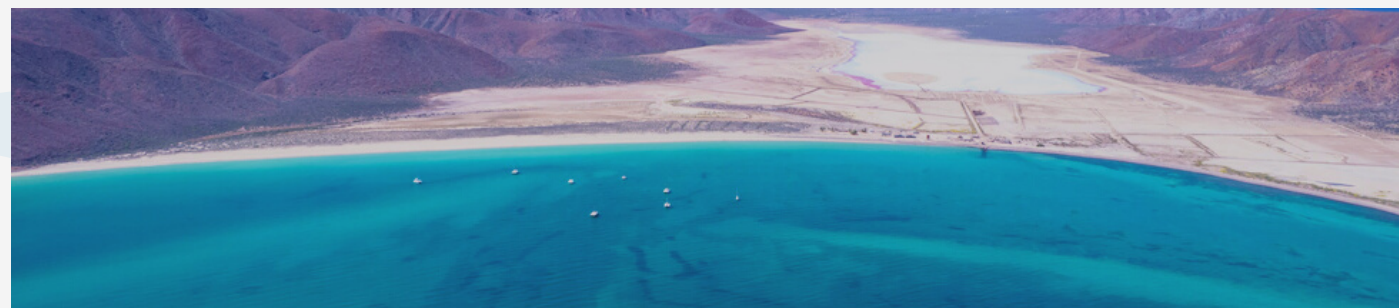
[Navionics](#)

[Predict Wind](#)

[Windy](#)

[NOAA](#)

Make sure to download the Loreto area map!



Q: WHAT SHOULD WE BRING?

CLOTHING & SAILING GEAR

Typically, days are warm and nights are cool, so layered dry-wicking clothing is a must. Pack as light as possible to maximize space in the cabins onboard. **Duffle-style travel luggage is recommended for easier storage.**

RECOMMENDED ITEMS:

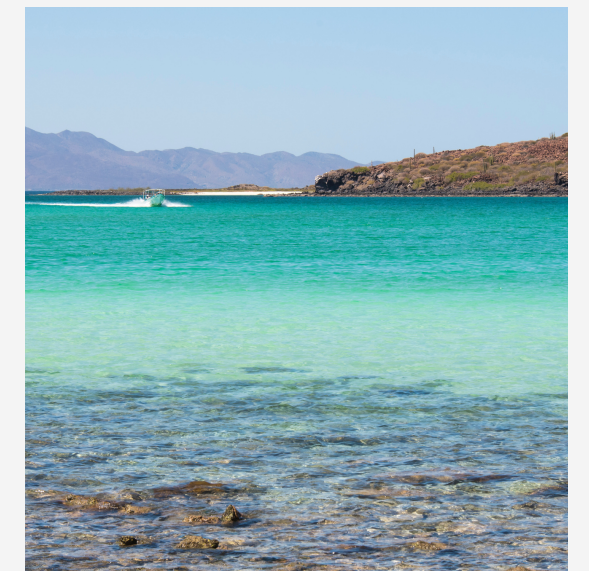
PFD (personal flotation device) - We have Type 2 life jackets on board, but it's easier to maneuver with [these](#) PFD's.

IMPORTANT: Click [here](#) for latest travel information from TSA about flying with CO2 cartridges.

You may bring a life vest with up to two CO2 cartridges inside, plus two spare cartridges in your carry-on or checked bag. You may not transport CO2 cartridges without the associated lifejacket. **The final decision rests with the TSA officer on whether an item is allowed through the checkpoint.g with CO2 cartridges.**

CHECKLIST

- Waterproof jacket/windbreaker
- [Helly Hansen](#) makes great sailing gear
- Sailing Gloves
- Boat Shoes (**No black-soled shoes, heels, or flip flops while sailing**)
- [Sperry](#) makes classic boat shoes for Men & Women
- Sun hat ([hat clips](#) like this are helpful)
- Sunscreen
- SPF Protective Clothing
- Swimsuit
- Warm clothes & Beanie (for cool evenings)
- Lip Balm
- Reusable water bottle
- Biodegradable shampoo/conditioner & body wash
- Wetsuit and/or wetsuit top (optional)
- Snorkel Gear (We have basic sets onboard)
- Bonine (for sea sickness)
- Downloaded music playlist for bluetooth



Q: WILL THERE BE TIME FOR RECREATION?

Ideally - yes! **The more prepared you are for the class (i.e. reading the ASA textbooks before your class) the more time you will have for recreational activities.** You can enjoy activities like swimming, snorkeling, paddle boarding, hiking, whale watching (in season) and even fishing! Let us know in advance if you would like to rent fishing rods and make sure to purchase your fishing license online [here](#). Marine park passes will be provided for you.

We can't guarantee the amount of time you have for recreation, but we can guarantee you will have a fun and memorable sailing vacation!

Want to get PADI certified in Loreto? Dive with the best at [Blue Nation](#)



Q: WHERE WILL WE BE SAILING?



Check out our (5) Day Sample Itinerary Videos on our [YouTube Channel](#) to see some of the beautiful anchorages you may explore during your class. Based on current weather conditions, you will work with your Instructor to create the sail plan that works best for you and crew. **It is customary to tip your Instructor for their knowledge, expertise, and guidance during or after your class. Cash works best and they are always appreciative!** You can also add gratuity to your invoice with an additional exchange rate fee.

We hope you have an amazing sailing adventure with us in Loreto and we look forward to hearing about your journey when you return! Please feel free to contact us if you have questions and/or need additional information about your class.

*Thank you for sailing with us and
Welcome Aboard!*



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Join the WCM [Catamaran Sailing Club](#) for a 20% Discount on Charters in San Diego & the Sea of Cortez!

