

Getting to Casa Lizzie



Things to know before you go

Water

Do not drink the tap water. Anywhere. Some resorts claim to have filtered water, but I would not trust them. I did once and paid for the mistake for a few days.

There are water stores available everywhere including two in Mulegé. We have three, five gallon water jugs at the house. It costs 17 pesos (less than a dollar) to fill a jug. There is a rack at the house that makes the jugs easy to handle and a pitcher that you can fill and leave in the refrigerator.

It should go without saying but people do make this mistake, be careful about ice. There are ice trays in the refrigerator. Don't use any ice you find there unless you filled them yourself with filtered water. We just buy ice when we are having the water jugs filled. The ice at the water stores is usually fresher than what you find at the store.

Toilet Paper, etc.

In Baja, most places do not have public sewer and they do not have septic tanks. What they call a septic tank is more of a cesspool. Only human waste can go down the toilet, no paper of any kind. If the tank fills up, it needs to be dug up and pumped (there is no riser). You really want to avoid that, it puts a big damper on your vacation if the toilets, sinks, and showers all back up.

We have handheld bidet nozzles on both toilets for your convenience. If you use toilet paper, please dispose of it in the trash can next to the toilet. If you empty them every couple of days, things stay very pleasant.

In the kitchen, please do your best to avoid letting anything go down the drain. There are good strainers on the kitchen drains that make it pretty easy to catch everything and put it in the trash.

Pesos and ATMs

There used to be a bank conveniently located in downtown Mulegé. The landlord raised the rent last year and the bank moved out. Today there are no ATMs in Mulegé, the closest one is in Santa Rosalía (an hour away unless you get stuck behind a truck).

There is a rumor that an ATM will be installed at the bus station soon so this situation may be resolved by the time of your visit. I've been told that the blue grocery store (Abarrotes el Pingüino) will give you cash back from credit card purchases but I haven't tried this.

Most grocery stores and bigger restaurants in Mulegé take credit cards but smaller shops and taco stands do not. You will need cash. We recommend that you stop at an ATM in Loreto before driving up and get what you need.

There is an ATM in the airport. I like that one because some ATMs only give you \$500 peso notes which the smaller vendors have trouble making change for. The one at the airport will

give you a mix of smaller notes unless they run out. The BBVA in the center of Loreto also gives some smaller notes.

When you come out of the arrivals in Loreto, turn left and walk towards departures. You'll see the ATM against the wall on the left before you get to the checking gates.

Weather

Mulegé is in the desert with weather moderated a bit by the Sea of Cortez. You can experience pretty big temperature changes from day to night. If you are there from mid-November to April, it's a good idea to bring some warm clothes for the evenings.

Phone Service and using your phone for navigation

Most mobile carriers that I'm aware of have service in Mexico. Some charge a fee for voice, text, and/or data service, some do not. Check with your carrier before going to make sure that service in Mexico is enabled and to make sure that you understand the costs.

There is cellular service in Loreto, Mulegé, and Santa Rosalía and one or two places in between. Most places in between have none. If you want tunes in the car, download them before you go, you won't be streaming music on the drive to Mulegé.

For the same reason, you should make sure that the maps you need are on your phone before you leave from Loreto. If you use Google Maps and get directions for the drive to Mulegé before you leave Loreto, it will download the maps you need for the trip. To get Google Maps to download more comprehensive maps of the area:

- Open Google Maps and make sure that you are logged in with your Google account
- Zoom out to show everything from Loreto to Santa Rosalía
- Press your photo (icon if you don't have a photo) in the upper right corner to access your account
- Press "Offline maps"
- Press "Select your own map"

Most locals communicate through WhatsApp. If you don't have it, it would be handy to install the app and set up an account.

Car Insurance

If you are using our car, you will need to purchase liability insurance before you go. We use "Baja Bound" for this service (bajabound.com). You can buy insurance for just the period of time that you are there. The information that you will need is:

- Blue, 2008 Toyota RAV 4
- Oregon license plate 217 NHW
- VIN JTMBD33V686083416

Getting to Casa Lizzie

These directions assume that you are flying into Loreto. If you are driving, boating, or something else, contact us for customized directions.

If you are picking up our car:

We keep our car at Loreto Storage, next to the airport. We will have notified Carlos that you are coming. You will have been copied on the e-mail. Carlos will track your flight and have someone there to meet you when you land.

When you arrive in Loreto, pass through immigration and customs, and come out into the lobby of the airport.

If you need local currency, use the ATM in the airport lobby. There are currently no ATMs in Mulegé. See note in "Things to know before you go"

Continue straight out the door and look for a guy leaning against a van labelled, "Loreto Storage." The vans are parked to the right of the door as you exit.



Carlos, our RAV 4, and the Loreto Storage van

Get his attention and he'll take you to the car and help with the luggage. It will probably be Manolo and he is the guy who washed the car and made sure that it was in working order for you. We usually tip him \$100 pesos.

Carlos will greet you and ask you to sign a small form confirming that the mileage hasn't changed and that there is no damage since the car was last dropped off. He'll give you the keys and you are set to go. Note that the key ring also has a key to the house.

We usually keep a cooler in the back of the car so that you can pick up groceries in Loreto if you wish before making the drive to Mulegé. There are also reusable shopping bags but they may be in the space under the floor of the luggage compartment.

Before leaving Loreto

Depending on when you arrive, you may or may not want to stop in Loreto before you go. The grocery stores have a bigger selection than what you will find once you get to Mulegé. If we're in early enough, we usually stop for lunch and a bit of grocery shopping before the drive.

Loreto grocery stores:

Súper Ley Express is probably the biggest grocery store in Loreto. Here is the location: <https://goo.gl/maps/Q98Dms1tp7LZjnCi8>.

El Pescador is a bit smaller than the Súper Ley Express but it caters more to gringos so has some things that you can't find there. It also has a better liquor selection if that is important to you. <https://goo.gl/maps/8XVEHGngLYX3ibbn8>

Getting to Casa Lizzie:

Getting to Mulegé is not hard. There is only one highway, Mexico 1, running North and South. When you exit the airport, turn right on Mexico 1, and drive until you get to Mulegé. It takes about two hours but that varies considerably depending on how many slow moving trucks you get behind.

About 20 minutes north of Loreto, you will go through a military checkpoint. It's routine. If you aren't transporting arms, they aren't too interested in you. They may wave you through, they may ask a couple of questions, and once in a while they'll ask you to roll down the rear window so they can take a quick look in the car. There is a bathroom here if you are feeling the need.

There are no real addresses in most of Mulegé. We're in an area called Colony Loma Azul to the left of the road to the lighthouse. The easiest thing to do is paste these coordinates into the search bar of Google Maps: 26.902198052767485, -111.95989401201514. That is the intersection of our driveway and the road to the lighthouse. You can't miss it.

Please see the note about cell phone reception and Google Maps in the "Things to know before you go section."



When you get to Mulegé, you'll see this, the ceremonial gate.

The roads through town are a bit convoluted and many are one way but if you just go through the gate and keep driving through town you'll eventually come out the other side and find the road to Loma Azul and the Lighthouse.



Exiting town, the sign to Loma Azul



Just past the sign to Loma Azul, the sign to the lighthouse. You are on the right road.

Follow the road to Loma Azul and the Lighthouse (Faro). You'll drive about 1.5 miles. Most of this is paved but the last bit is dirt. You'll pass Saul's store on the left (small shop, lots of gringo products), Restaurant La Huerta (good soup), Hotel Brisa del Mar, etc. When you get to the end of the pavement, look for the following:



The mysterious green symbol on the power pole marks the entry to our driveway.



Turn at the decorated power pole. This is the house you are looking for. Note the colorful RE-BNB sign reassuring you that you are on the correct driveway.



It was a long drive but you've arrived.

You've arrived at Casa Lizzie. Keep to the right of the house and follow the driveway up the hill. Park here to unload.



The main entrance to Casa Lizzie.

You can park here, in the carport, or down below at your convenience. The carport is generally best except for loading/unloading.

Getting into the house:

There is a key on the ring with the car keys. All doors are keyed the same.

Contact information in case you have questions

Ralph: +1-971-226-0519, ralph@chezlee.net

Elizabeth: +1-646-763-9069, gracerothan@gmail.com

Heather (and Luis): +52-615-113-6802, hmwpanda@gmail.com

Heather and Luis are local and are available to help if you have problems with anything, run out of propane, etc.