

Casa Lizzie House Manual



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. The corollary is to 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

Notes about the house

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, hmpanda@gmail.com

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

Keys

All of the doors in the house are keyed the same. The key is on the key ring with the car keys.



There is another key in the lock box to the right of the main entry. If you need it, contact us for the code.



There are padlocks on the garage and the propane shed. The keys for these are behind the curtain in the master bedroom to the left of the door.

Network Access

Wifi is available. Look for SSID "REBNB Guest." It's open, no password required. Open also means that all of your transmissions are unencrypted. The risk is low, there generally isn't anyone close enough to get on the network. You can always secure your connection by using a VPN.

Garbage

Garbage is picked up regularly. Go down to the bottom of the driveway, turn right on the road, and deposit your trash in this receptacle.



If the gate on the receptacle is open, please take a moment to close it. It helps keep the dogs out and things don't get as messy.

Propane and Hot Water



Hot water and the stove are both propane. We keep two propane tanks in the small outbuilding here.



One tank should always be full and will last a couple of months of normal usage. If you run out, flip the selector valve to the other tank and make sure that the valve on top of the tank is open. Let us know that you've switched to the backup tank so that we can have the other one filled.



Hot water for the guest bath and laundry are provided by this hot water tank. The pilot light should be lit when you get there. If it's not and you aren't comfortable doing it, let us know and we'll have Luis stop by.

Hot water for the Master Bedroom and Kitchen is an on-demand heater that is mounted on the wall outside under the stairs to the deck above. It's fully automatic and shouldn't give you any problems. You'll need to run the water for a couple minutes before it will warm up and it doesn't have the capacity to heat two taps at the same time so try to refrain from doing dishes when someone is in the shower. If you are having problems, contact us and we'll help you troubleshoot.

Water

City water is low pressure, low flow, and doesn't run all of the time. For our system, the city water fills a 2500 liter tank (pila) and the water from the house comes from the tank. We have a booster pump next to the stairs to the deck to provide reasonable pressure.

There are a number of things that can go wrong:

- If the city water is off for a couple of days, the pila will be drained and you will be without water until city water comes back on. This has only happened during the summer and when the city didn't pay it's power bill.
- If someone leaves the irrigation on, it can drain the pila. The valve for this is at the top of the drive below the tower that contains the pila.
- There are multiple valves that can shut off water to the house. One at the top of the drive below the tower that contains the pila and one in the shed that contains the water pump.
- Our water runs through a neighbor's utility room and there is a valve there that can cut it off. This has only happened when contractors were working and didn't know what the valves were for. If you like water though, it's a good idea to not piss off the neighbors.
- The pump can be shut off. There is a switch on the pump, a breaker for the plug the pump is plugged in to, and, of course, our power runs through the neighbor's utility room and there is a breaker there. There is a bypass valve on the pump that will at least give you gravity feed if the pump is inoperable for whatever reason.

If you are having problems and can't easily figure it out, contact us or Heather and we'll help trouble shoot.

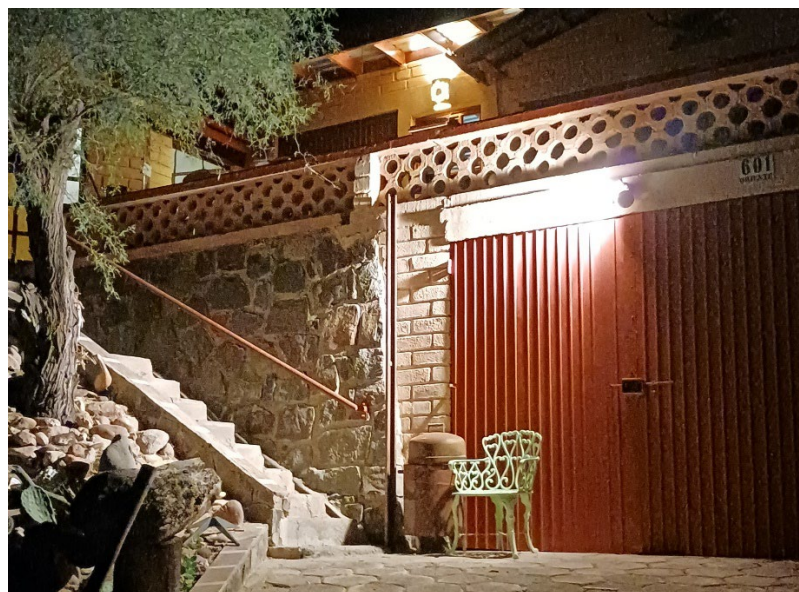
Stove

The stove is propane. It has an igniter, but it is only semi-automatic.



Lighting the burners is straightforward, push the knob in, turn to the desired temperature, and push the black button down towards the lightning symbol. Once the burner is lit you can release.

The oven can be a bit more problematic. You need to make sure that the oven is well warmed up before releasing the knob or it will shut itself off because the thermocouple isn't hot enough. If you push the knob in and turn it to 200, then hit the igniter until you hear the flame go on, and then continue to hold the knob in for 30 seconds. Release the knob but keep the temperature set to 200 for 5 minutes or so and then turn to whatever your cooking temperature is.



Around Town

Groceries

We buy most of our groceries at Mini Súper Ayleth, <https://goo.gl/maps/pAcLycbSb2xr5R7h9>. They generally have the biggest selection.

Saul's (Saul Davis Store) is the closest market and worth checking out because they make an effort to stock gringo stuff (half and half, sour cream, cheddar cheese...) that you won't find everywhere. <https://goo.gl/maps/RP8ZfHt7APzKh2uu7>

Just outside the Mulegé gate, there is a market that is just called "Super Market." They are notable because they carry a selection of gringo favorites and have the best selection of liquor in town. <https://goo.gl/maps/k4hr67C5bf1NNQ3E8>

If you are coming from Portland. We recommend that you bring your coffee with you. We have a grinder at the house so you can bring whole bean. If you run out the best bet is a local roaster at Casa Limon. He sources Mexican coffee and does two different roasts. He also hosts a Saturday market that is worth checking out. <https://goo.gl/maps/BPk7BsRs961Q8gUR7>

You can sometimes buy fish from people by the side of the road and Luly (+52-615-106-9004) sometimes stops by or will deliver if you give her a call. There is also a fish market that is open until early afternoon, Pescadería los Pioneros, just across from our favorite water store. <https://goo.gl/maps/MLbS8wxrpooqBvGP8>

Water

There are two water stores in town. We normally go to Super Aqua 2000 because they have parking and will carry the water out to the car for you. There are 5 gallon water jugs at the house and they will fill them for \$17 pesos. This is also where we buy ice.

Restaurants

It's best just to explore but here are a few of the places we frequent.

Birote's Everybody - <https://goo.gl/maps/TbhquPPkz9Gprpep9>.

This is Luis and Heather's place. They have good fish and shrimp tacos, they won the ceviche contest this year, and when he has them Luis makes these excellent clam ceviche kind of things. This is a 5 minute walk from the house and cheap.

Restaurant La Huerta - <https://goo.gl/maps/5yrN5ctcMM5mxBY98>

A nice place for a longer meal. They have good soup and decent margaritas. A 15 minute walk from the house.

Asadero Danny - <https://goo.gl/maps/ZgcBFor4s5Li5hvk7>

Good fish, shrimp, chicken tacos. On Saturday they abandon the normal menu and make only carnitas tacos and bean soup.

Restaurant Bar El Candil - <https://goo.gl/maps/hYCFggXfQvz7D7L26>

Not the best margaritas (although they won the margarita competition this year with a habanero margarita) but probably the best cheap margaritas. Food is OK.

Restaurant Bar Los Equipales - <https://goo.gl/maps/1efRzoK9jJnf3sAEA>

Good place for a more elaborate meal. Nice, 2nd floor dining room that frequently has humming birds in the flowers outside the window.