

Mexico Master - Know Before You Go

General Trip & Destination Information

- **Embarkation/Disembarkation:** Hotel El Ganzo*, Puerto Los Cabos Marina
- **Nearest Airport:** Los Cabos International - San José del Cabo (SJD)

*Please refer to your booking confirmation and itinerary details for the applicable embarkation and disembarkation times.

Flights and Transfers

Flights and transfers are not included in the liveboard price.

We strongly recommend arriving at least one day before the start of your Mexico Master liveboard itinerary, especially if you are joining a Magdalena Bay trip.

Advice on International Flights

SJD is well-served from North America. Airlines including Alaska, American, Delta, United, Southwest, Air Canada and WestJet all operate routes into Los Cabos, with a good spread of year-round and seasonal services from cities across the US and Canada. For European travellers, Condor currently operates the only non-stop service from Europe, flying seasonally from Frankfurt. All other European guests will need to connect via a US hub or Mexico City.

A note on flight delays

Flight delays at SJD are quite common, and with a single runway, disruptions can have a knock-on effect across the day's schedule. *We strongly recommend booking a flight that arrives the day before embarkation.* Missing your liveboard departure because of a delayed flight is entirely avoidable with an overnight buffer.

Airport Transfers

Puerto Los Cabos Marina is approximately 30 minutes from the airport by road. Pre-booking a private transfer is strongly recommended; it saves time on arrival and helps you sidestep the taxi touts who target new arrivals in the terminal exit hall. Uber is not permitted to collect passengers at SJD, so do not rely on app-based ride services for your airport pickup. Several reputable transfer companies operate from SJD; if you'd like help arranging your transfer, our team is happy to point you in the right direction.

Departure

Allow at least three hours before your international departure time when heading to the airport, and pre-book your return transfer rather than relying on finding a taxi on the day.

Should you need assistance in arranging embarkation and disembarkation transfers or hotels, the Master Liveboards reservations team will be happy to assist you.

Baja Tourist Tax

Also known as 'Embrace It', the Baja Tourist Tax applies to all foreign visitors staying in Baja California Sur for more than 24 hours, including those on liveboards.

The fee is 488 MXN per person for all visitors over the age of 12. Payment is made online via the official portal www.embracelt.bcs.gob.mx and takes just a few minutes. Once processed, you'll receive a QR code by email to present at the airport before departure. Paying in advance is strongly recommended as airport queues can be long during peak season.

Entry requirements

All visitors require a valid passport for air travel to Mexico. Your passport should be valid for at least six months beyond your intended date of entry.

NOTE: U.S. Passport cards are not accepted for flights.

Citizens of the USA, Canada, the UK, all EU countries, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Singapore and most of Latin America do not need a visa in advance. You'll simply clear immigration on arrival and receive a stamp in your passport.

Travellers who may need a visa in advance

Nationalities that require a visa before travelling include citizens of China, India, Russia, South Africa, most African nations and several Latin American and Caribbean countries, including Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Venezuela and Haiti.

If your nationality normally requires a visa to enter Mexico, it is worth noting that a valid visa or permanent residency from the USA, Canada, the UK, the EU or Japan may exempt you from needing one.

If you are unsure whether you need a visa, check with your nearest Mexican consulate or embassy well before your travel date. Visa processing times vary, and applying close to your departure date is risky.

Insurance

Travel and cancellation insurance are mandatory for all guests, as outlined under section 3 of our [Terms and Conditions](#). We cannot be held liable for delays occurring during the cruise, nor delays or cancellations of flights, accommodations, or tours and transfers that we organise on your behalf. ***Diving insurance is also mandatory.***

Your insurance must cover all scuba diving and snorkelling activities and costs that may be incurred for emergency air evacuation, recompression chamber or medical treatment. As some travel insurance policies may not fully cover all diving-related incidents, we strongly recommend purchasing diving-specific insurance to cover any eventuality.

For further details of why travel insurance is a crucial part of your holiday arrangements, take a look at our blog - '[Do You Really Need Travel Insurance?](#)'

We strongly recommend insurance that covers trip curtailment and missed dives that may occur in the event of an incident requiring the boat to return to Los Cabos. (Please refer to the [Diving Emergencies](#) section for further information.)

Master Liveboards act as a referrer for DAN World, which offers short-term diving accident cover for up to 30 days, and for DiveAssure, who offer dive and travel insurance policies, including short-term and multiple-trip policies. Dive Assure's comprehensive 'Dive & Travel Plus' plan has been specifically developed for diving liveboard holidays and covers expenses in the event of missing your liveboard departure due to flight delays or missed connections, and also provides cover for lost diving days if for any reason the boat is required to abort the cruise; for instance, due to a guest injury, mechanical breakdown of the ship, air supply failure, inclement weather conditions, etc.

Please consult our insurance webpage for details and direct links to DiveAssure and DAN World booking portals: www.masterliveboards.com/insurance.

Diving Information

Diving in Mexico's Pacific waters varies depending on the location and season.

Dive sites in the Revillagigedo Archipelago (**Socorro Islands**) are deep and exposed, making them *unsuitable for entry-level divers* and those who are not comfortable in strong currents.

The Sea of Cortez is generally calmer and suitable for all experience levels, although, due to depths, some sites are best suited to divers with Advanced Open Water certification or Deep Adventure Dive training.

All dives are conducted from the dive tenders (pangas). Entry is typically a backward roll, and exits are via the stern ladder.

Minimum experience requirements

Before confirming your booking, please refer to the separate itinerary documents or webpages to check the certification requirements and minimum number of logged dives for the trip you would like to join.

You will need to upload copies of your certification card(s) with your pre-embarkation [API](#) and may also be asked to show them, and a record of your logged dives, as proof of experience when you board.

Any guests who do not meet the minimum certification and experience requirements, or who the crew feel have insufficient experience or skills to dive safely in certain conditions, may be denied participation in some or all dives during the liveboard itinerary.

Dive Groups

All guests must dive with a guide and in buddy teams. Guests will be assigned to groups of 6–8 divers led by Mexico Master's divemasters.

Solo diving is not permitted.

Non-Divers

While we are happy to welcome non-divers on board, snorkelling possibilities depend on the itinerary. In the Socorro Islands, snorkelling is not possible due to the exposed nature of the sites and ocean currents. The Sea of Cortez offers some possibilities in sheltered areas, and Magdalena Bay is snorkelling and freediving only, but in open ocean.

Additionally, it is either not permitted or not viable to go onto the islands in most areas, so non-divers will be confined to relaxing on the boat.

Fit to Dive

All divers are responsible for ensuring that they are fit to dive and are required to provide a completed medical statement before their liveaboard departure. ***Guests who are taking medication or have any medical conditions or symptoms that could be restrictive to diving need to obtain a doctor's evaluation and clearance to dive before embarkation.*** As this may not be possible in the destination, we strongly advise guests to do so before travelling.

The medical statement is available in English, German, Mandarin and Spanish and can be downloaded from the Master Liveaboards' website at www.masterliveaboards.com/forms.

If you are unable to complete the medical statement as instructed, or provide a current doctor's certificate (less than a year old) clearing you to dive, you accept that you will not be able to take part in scuba diving activities on the liveaboard you have booked with us.

Diving Safety

Use of a dive computer and safety sausage (SMB) is compulsory. We provide SMBs, Nautilus Lifelines and DiveAlerts, free of charge, to all divers in case of separation.

NOTE: Guests will be charged the replacement cost of any items that they lose.

All divers are responsible for their own dive profiles, must stay within the limits of their certification and dive computer and make a safety stop before surfacing from each dive.

We request all guests to dive conservatively at all times, follow their dive guides' advice and have dive-specific insurance which covers emergency evacuation, recompression chamber and medical treatment costs.

Diving Emergencies

In the unlikely event of a diving-related accident, there are hyperbaric chambers in Baja California Sur, located at Cabo San Lucas and La Paz. There is a Mexican Navy recompression chamber on Socorro Island in the Revillagigedo Archipelago, but it is not regularly staffed and not guaranteed to be operational for civilian use.

Medical-grade Emergency Oxygen is available on board, which will be administered by our crew in suspected DCI cases. Should recompression treatment be required, depending on the location of Mexico Master, and under the advice of the emergency services, transfer to the chamber while in the Sea of Cortez may be by speedboat. Emergency situations in the Socorro Islands typically require medical evacuation by air (medevac) to Cabo San Lucas. All emergency evacuation costs are the responsibility of the patient (or their insurance).

It is your responsibility to ensure your insurance will fully cover and reimburse all evacuation costs, as well as recompression chamber and/or hospital treatment. We strongly urge all guests to purchase insurance that includes trip curtailment and missed dives before their trip.

As per our [Terms & Conditions](#), **dive insurance and travel insurance are mandatory.**

Water Temperatures

Water temperatures in Mexico's Pacific waters range from 21-30°C (70-86°F) depending on the area and time of year. Thermoclines with temperature drops of a few degrees are to be expected in many locations.

Please refer to the itinerary information documents for further details of the temperature ranges you may experience.

Diving Equipment

The use of a dive computer is mandatory.

Gloves and dive knives are not allowed in the Socorro Islands or at Cabo Pulmo National Park in the Sea of Cortez to enforce 'no-touch' regulations.

Recommended equipment:

- 5mm full-length wetsuit (also available to rent on board)
- Hood, or hooded vest
- Extra thermal layers

Rental Equipment

A 12 Litre (80 cu ft) cylinder, SMB, weight belt, weights, Nautilus Lifeline and DiveAlert are provided free of charge.

15 Litre (100 cu ft) cylinders are available by special request for an additional cost, which must be pre-booked.

Wetsuits, hooded vests, BCDs, fins and boots are available to rent in a variety of sizes, as well as regulators, dive computers, and masks.

Equipment rental costs can be viewed in the [Mexico Master - Onboard Extras](#), which can also be downloaded from the Master Liveboards website: [Downloads page](#).

All rental equipment is subject to availability and **must be pre-ordered**, as it is **not stored on the boat**. Please inform us of your requirements when confirming your liveboard booking so we can ensure your requested items are ready for you to try on before embarkation.

Destination Information

Time Zone:

The local time is 7 hours behind UTC/GMT, which is the same as U.S. MST.

Money Matters

The local currency is the Mexican Peso (MXN).

Across Baja California Sur, including San José del Cabo, Mexican pesos (MXN) and US dollars (USD) are widely accepted, but it's useful to carry a mix of both. USD is commonly used for tips, tours, and tourist services, although change will be given in pesos. Pesos are a better option for everyday expenses, such as taxis, small shops, and local restaurants.

ATMs are easy to find around San José del Cabo and are the easiest way to get pesos. You'll generally get a better rate withdrawing cash locally than exchanging currency at hotels or the airport. Most machines accept international cards and may offer the option to be charged in your home currency. Declining this and continuing in pesos will usually give you a better exchange rate, although it's worth checking with your bank ahead of time for any foreign transaction or withdrawal fees.

Credit and debit cards are accepted in most tourist hotels, larger restaurants and supermarkets. However, smaller businesses may prefer or only accept cash, or charge more for card payments. While it is illegal under Mexican federal law for businesses to add a surcharge for card payments, some smaller establishments get around this by offering a lower "cash price". Visa and Mastercard are the most widely accepted, while American Express is less common. In contrast to ATM withdrawals, *when making a payment by credit card, you should always choose your own currency instead of pesos.*

As a general guideline, plan to have some pesos on hand for day-to-day purchases, with USD as a backup. Even if you intend to rely on cards, carrying a small amount of local currency is recommended for convenience and flexibility.

Language

The primary language in Mexico is Spanish, although English is also widely spoken in the main tourist areas.

All Dive and Safety briefings on Mexico Master are conducted in English, but can also be presented in Spanish.

Climate & Weather

The Mexican Pacific coast enjoys a warm, dry climate with plenty of sunshine throughout the year, and temperatures ranging from 20°C to 35°C (68°F to 95°F) depending on location and season.

There are two distinct seasons: a dry season from November through May, when skies are clear, winds are light, and temperatures are comfortable at around 20°C to 28°C (68°F to 82°F); and a wetter season from June through October, when conditions are more humid and temperatures climb to 30°C to 35°C (86°F to 95°F), with occasional afternoon rain showers.

Further offshore, the Revillagigedo Archipelago sits in more exposed Pacific waters, and guests should expect some swell. Conditions at the islands tend to be slightly cooler and windier than on the mainland coast, particularly during the dry season when northerly winds can pick up.

Health

Comprehensive travel and medical insurance is essential, and guests should bring any personal medications with them, as they may not be available locally.

Baja California Sur is well served by modern private hospitals and clinics in La Paz, Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo. However, there are no medical facilities in the Revillagigedo Archipelago, and any accident or incident requiring hospital evaluation or treatment will mean emergency evacuation back to the mainland.

We recommend taking sensible precautions with local food and drinking bottled or boiled water only whilst on land. Insect repellent

Guests who are prone to motion sickness are advised to bring preventative medication, especially when joining a Socorro Islands or Magdalena Bay itinerary. Many over-the-counter products can cause drowsiness, so please check the side effects of any motion sickness tablets you intend to bring.

Please also bring insect repellent and cover exposed skin whilst on land to prevent insect-borne diseases.

Vaccinations

There are no mandatory vaccinations required for travel to Mexico. However, ensuring routine vaccinations such as MMR (measles, mumps and rubella), Td/IPV (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Polio) and Hepatitis A are up to date is strongly recommended.

Please contact your health adviser, pharmacy, or nearest travel clinic at least 8 weeks before departure for the latest advice.

Drones

Drones can be brought into Mexico, but their use is regulated by the Agencia Federal de Aviación Civil (AFAC). Flying them is not permitted within protected marine areas, including the Revillagigedo Archipelago, which, as a national park and UNESCO World Heritage Site, is subject to additional controls. For operational and safety reasons, liveaboards in Mexico do not generally allow drones to be used on board. However, in some locations, they may be flown within 300 metres of the boat, as long as it's not close to other vessels or over islands and islets where it could disturb the wildlife.

Guests wishing to bring a drone are responsible for checking the current regulations and obtaining the necessary permissions before travelling.

Pre-Trip Information

Advanced Passenger Information (API)

There are certain details that we require for administrative purposes before guests travel. All guests are required to submit the necessary information via our secure online portal at www.masterliveboards.com/portal.

Forms

All guests are required to complete the following forms before or upon arrival: medical statement, liability releases, and standard safe diving practices statement, which can be found at www.masterliveboards.com/forms.

To save some time and to ensure you have no pre-existing conditions that could affect your diving, you can download the forms from the above link, fill them in, and bring them with you. By completing and signing the forms, you are confirming that you have read, understood, and agree to the conditions outlined in the forms.

If you cannot, or are unwilling to complete the forms as instructed, you accept that you may not be able to take part in certain aspects of the holiday you booked with us.

Life on Board

The main features of Mexico Master can be viewed on the following page of the Master Liveboards website: www.masterliveboards.com/boats/mexico-master

Accessibility

Due to the boat layout and location of guest cabins, Mexico Master may provide challenges or be unsuitable for guests with limited mobility, and is generally not suitable for wheelchairs. Please contact us for further details if you have any questions or concerns.

Accommodation

The maximum capacity on Mexico Master is 22 guests in 10 double occupancy cabins and two single occupancy cabins. Single occupancy of two-person cabins may be available on request and is subject to an 80% supplemental charge.

Cabin Facilities

All cabins have individually controllable air-conditioning and private en-suite bathrooms with centrally heated hot water, towels, and complimentary toiletries.

Electricity

Most power outlets on board are 110V Type B (US 3-pin) sockets. The camera charging and preparation areas also have 2-pin sockets compatible with Type A, C and F (US and European) plugs, as well as some 220V outlets.

We advise bringing voltage and plug adapters if your equipment has UK, Australian or other European-style plugs to ensure you can charge your electronics correctly.

Food

Meals are provided on a full board basis, including an early morning light breakfast, cooked breakfast after the first dive, lunch, and dinner served in the indoor dining area, with snacks available between meals.

We offer a choice of International and locally inspired cuisine and can usually cater to most special dietary requirements with advance notice. Should you have any specific dietary needs or allergies, please let us know at the time of confirming your liveaboard trip to ensure we are able to make provisions for your needs.

Drinks

A complimentary selection of carbonated soft drinks, fruit juices and teas is also available, as well as instant and freshly brewed coffee. We produce our own purified water on Mexico Master and recommend the use of electrolyte powders to ensure adequate hydration.

Guests may also select beer, wine, or spirits from the bar for an additional charge.

Should you wish to bring alcohol with you, it is limited to one bottle of spirits or one bottle of wine per person and must be left at the bar managed by the vessel hosts. Guests are not allowed to bring beer on board or keep alcohol in their cabins.

Clothing and Footwear

Dress on board is very casual, and most guests feel comfortable in little more than swimwear, shorts and t-shirts during the day. A sweater or hoodie, and light trousers or jogging bottoms are advised for the cooler months and evenings, as temperatures can drop by several degrees, and repetitive diving adds to the chill. Refer to [Climate & Weather](#) for temperature guidance.

We ask guests to respect the wishes and sensibilities of others by donning clothing for meal times. Most guests prefer bare feet on board the vessel, which is actively encouraged, although clean, non-slip deck shoes or slip-ons may be allowed.

There is no laundry service available on Mexico Master.

Staying connected

Most mobile phones with 'roaming' enabled, or a locally purchased SIM card, will function while close to shore around Baja California Sur. However, signal strength can be weak in some locations and nonexistent in others; There is no cell phone coverage in the Socorro Islands.

Wi-Fi internet access is available on board Mexico Master for guests who wish to remain connected throughout their liveaboard itinerary. The cost is 100 USD per device, which must be paid on board, and allows unlimited access for the entire trip.

Underwater Photography and Videography

Mexico Master is equipped with features for underwater photographers and videographers, which include:

- Outdoor workstations for the preparation and maintenance of cameras.
- Individual storage drawers for cameras and peripheral items.
- Large, dedicated rinse tanks with frequently changed fresh water.

Our crew are thoroughly trained in handling delicate camera equipment and, if required, will provide assistance when entering and exiting the water.

Smoking

Smoking on board is permitted in designated outdoor areas only.

Fishing

Fishing is NOT permitted on Mexico Master.

Environmental considerations

We respectfully ask our guests to consider the following to help with our mission to reduce our environmental impact.

Batteries

We advise bringing extra batteries with you, especially if your equipment requires a unique battery size or is likely to need a lot of replacements during your trip. We also request that you take spent batteries home to be recycled or disposed of properly. Alternatively, **consider using rechargeable batteries** as there are plenty of sockets to plug in a charger on board.

Drinks Bottles

If you own a sports bottle, please bring it with you, or you can purchase one on board. If you don't have a sports bottle and you don't want to purchase one, we will provide you with a refillable plastic bottle to use for the duration of your itinerary, and we have plenty of cups on board that you can use to ensure you remain well hydrated.

Plastic bags and wrappers

We do not provide plastic bags for purchases made on board. Please help in our mission to reduce plastic waste by removing plastic wrappers and packaging from new items before travelling. If you bring plastic bags with you, please reuse them and take them home.

Toiletries & Sunscreens

We kindly ask that guests consider the type and quantity of products they are bringing with them, to only bring environmentally-friendly toiletries and reef-safe sunscreens for use on board, and to take partially or unused products home with them.

If you are bringing cotton buds (Q-tips) with you, please avoid the types that have plastic stems. There are many similar products available which use unbleached paper or bamboo instead of plastic and are therefore much more environmentally friendly.

Payments on Board

Onboard extras and payments

Additional charges for items such as alcoholic drinks and Mexico Master merchandise, as well as equipment rental and nitrox that have not been paid for in advance, can be paid on board in cash or by debit/credit card (Mastercard, Visa, AmEx and Carnet).

All onboard pricing is in USD, although we can also accept MXN and EUR.

Extras paid for onboard are subject to Mexican VAT, which is currently 16%.

PLEASE NOTE: *We can not accept crew tips by credit card payment.*

Tipping

We believe tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel that the Mexico Master crew has made your holiday extra special, a tip is always appreciated as recognition of their efforts. Our crew and guides are dedicated to ensuring your safety and enjoyment throughout your time onboard and work extremely hard night and day to do so.

If you would like to show your thanks for all their hard work, ***you can leave a tip, in cash only***, in the envelope provided. Please hand this directly to the Captain. Gratuities are divided equally between all crew members, including the dive guides.

As a guideline, if you are unsure how much to tip, most liveaboards in Mexico typically suggest 15-20% of the normal cruise cost, per person.

Safety on Board

Emergency Management & Equipment

Mexico Master is equipped with many modern safety features, including automated life rafts, EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon), satellite communication, fire-fighting and detection systems and emergency pumps. Our crew undergo rigorous training in emergency management procedures and the use of the equipment that is on board.

A thorough boat briefing will be provided by your Cruise Director at the start of your trip, during which all guests will be requested to participate in a life jacket drill. Further practice scenarios may be performed during your cruise to assist our crew in keeping their skills sharp.

First Aid

The vessel has a fully stocked medical first aid kit for treating minor injuries and ailments, and there is a full complement of medical-grade oxygen, which can be administered to divers through DAN kits or unit-specific attachments. You will also find on board an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), which has been proven to greatly increase the survival rate in the event of cardiac fibrillation.

Our dive team are all qualified emergency responders. Should you feel unwell at any point during your cruise, please seek the advice of your cruise director, who will be able to assist you.

CCTV on board

As part of our commitment to the safety and security of our guests and crew members, all Master Liveaboards vessels are fitted with CCTV cameras, which are located in the following areas on each vessel:

- Engine room
- Wheelhouse
- Dive platform
- Dive deck
- Sun deck
- Corridors
- Galley (kitchen)
- Communal indoor area(s), i.e. salon and dining area

We wish to assure all guests that the placement of all CCTV cameras is for the safety of all on board and that they are not set up or intended to invade privacy in any way.

Extending your holiday

Travelling within Mexico can be made exceptionally easy and stress-free when you book with Master Liveaboards. As well as pre and post-cruise transfers and hotels, we can assist with domestic flights and land tours to help you experience more of Mexico.

Optional Los Cabos Package

To allow for potential flight disruptions and make your time in Baja California Sur an enjoyable and relaxing one, take advantage of our optional Los Cabos Package.

We will book a hotel of your choice in San Jose del Cabo for the night before and after your liveaboard and organise your arrival and departure airport transfers as well as to and from the boat. Of course, it doesn't need to be just one night; we can book additional nights and day trips for you too, so you fully experience the area's authentic Mexican charm and rich culture.

Please contact our reservations team at dive@masterliveaboards.com for more information and possibilities.

FAQs

Should you have any questions that have not been answered here, please visit our website at www.masterliveaboards.com/faq/mexico/ or contact our team via the [contact us page](#) or email.

Contact Information

Thailand Office - Master Liveboards

10/512 Moo 3,
Tambon Vichit,
Muang Phuket 83000,
Thailand

Open Monday - Friday 08:30 - 18:30 and Saturday 09:00 - 17:00 ICT (UTC+7)

Web: www.masterliveboards.com

Email: dive@masterliveboards.com

Thailand Office: +66 (0) 76 367 444

UK number: +44 (0) 208 099 2230

USA (Toll Free): +1 866 258 6398

WhatsApp: +66 (0) 62 668 7136

Master Liveboards 24hr emergency number (Calls only):

In the event of an emergency, *if you are unable to get a response from the numbers listed above,* please call: +44 7862 126398.

Please do NOT SMS this number.

What to Bring

Our blog, [Packing for a Scuba Diving Liveboard](#) provides useful tips on what to pack. The following is a checklist of essential items that you should ensure you bring with you for your liveboard diving holiday. A complete packing checklist can be downloaded [here](#)

Passport

6 months validity and at least 2 empty pages for visa stickers and stamps

Travel Documents

Flight tickets - International & Domestic; hotel booking; excursions

Cash & Credit Card for emergencies

Recommended amount (additional to park fees): 250 - 500 USD
Airport Departure Tax in local currency

Diving Certification & Logbook

Including Nitrox Card if certified & intending to use Nitrox

Travel and Diving Insurance Documents

To include emergency medical evacuation

Essential Diving Items

Dive computer with full battery

Gloves, hood, thermal layers, 20-30m reel

Toiletries & Medications

Including sunscreen & insect repellent
Inform booking team of medical conditions

Essential Clothing Items

Swimwear, hat and lightweight jacket

Guests are strongly advised to carry essential items in hand luggage in case of lost or delayed luggage through International or Domestic Flights.