

About Boca

Boca de Tomatlán is an authentic Mexican fishing village, 10 miles (16 kms) south of downtown Vallarta, accessible by land or water. The village is situated on the mountainside, the Horcones river and the Boca Bay. You'll find most of the businesses, restaurants, many rentals and parking on the east side of the river.

We experience hot and humid weather with lots of precipitation in the summer/autumn, and then enjoy fantastic warm days and breezy evenings in the winter and spring months. Boca's beach and river transform annually, and offer the calmest waters anywhere in Vallarta. The Horcones reaches its maximum width during the rain season, flowing abundantly and forcefully.

The beach serves as port to watertaxi's heading towards Las Animas, Quimixto, Majahuitas, and Yelapa (beaches only accessible by sea). Boca de Tomatlán is the last stop on the highway connected to the southern coastline. If you continue south on the highway, you would drive into Las Juntas y los Veranos, and further ahead, at El Tuito, both rural towns.

There is lots of activity in Boca everyday. At sunrise every morning, the local fisherman return to the beach with the seasonal catch, and are amenable to offering their product to anyone interested. Convenience stores usually are open from 8am till late in the evening. Palapa beach restaurants and shops run between 10 am and 6pm. Several restaurants and taco stands may stay open till later in the evening, while others only open weekend evenings. There are public telephones located around the town and high speed internet is available at the dive shop. The bus service runs between Boca de Tomatlan and downtown Vallarta everyday, starting at about 6:30am, the last bus coming in at 11pm, at intervals of 5 minutes, and later in the evening (7pm), every 1/2 hour. The bus stops up on the hill of the Boca main street "Calle Pelicanos" and then u-turns back to it's downtown Vallarta stop at the corner of Basilio Badillo and Constitucion St., "Centro". Cost per person is 5 pesos one-way. Enrique runs the official yellow taxi, and may be easily located at the bottom of Pelicanos St. Also, several neighbors, with large cars or trucks, are always amenable to transporting tourists.

There is a long list of rental options in Boca, including villas, apartments, studios and rooms. These rentals are located on both sides of the river, but those on the west-side may be reached by foot only. To access the westside, you can choose to cross either a concrete or a hanging bridge, or walk across the river, water level permitting. Small pangas (boats) or "bellboys" are available to transport you and your luggage across, "don't forget their tip". All rentals offer once a week maid service, basic amenities, and property managers who are usually available during normal daylight hours. Some rentals offer extra maid and laundry service for an additional fee. Keep in mind that Boca de Tomatlan village is located in the jungle on irregular terrain. Consider your level of physical stamina and need for certain comforts when choosing to stay in Boca.

The adventure possibilities in the area are endless. If you are a water lover, you can engage in activities such as snorkeling and scuba diving, fishing, kayaking and swimming. Or perhaps trekking into the hillsides, or going for morning walks up a river system, or even exploring secret waterfalls created by the abundant rainfall during the rainy season. At very short distances from the town, you can go hook up on a Canopy Tour (zipping along the treetops), horseback riding through the jungle, or visit the Vallarta Botanical Gardens. To much action?...how about just enjoying a cold one and some "totopos y salsa" under a palapa on the beach!

The Boca cove is home to many birds, including the Military Green Macaws, wild parrots, Booby Birds, Brown Pelicans, Magnificent Frigatebird, Terns, Herons, Egrets and more. And in it's water, all kind of aquatic life may be observed. We've been privileged to enjoy the humpback whales, during their seasonal visits, as well as turtles and dolphins. Snorkeling can be done in the bay, just be cautious to remain along the coastline, away from the beach and boat traffic. Snorkel and scuba gear can be rented or purchased at the local PADI dive shop.

All in all, Boca de Tomatlan is a quaint, busy little village, with charming residents that will certainly make you feel at home. You'll surely find the many pleasures of paradise here, and yet be a comfortable distance from Vallarta.

Things to bring to Boca

Here is a handy checklist of items to bring to Boca de Tomatlan. Needs may vary depending on the individual budget, length of stay or accommodations selected.

Note: Most of these items are found locally or in Vallarta.

Basic Items

- sunglasses
- insect repellent
- mosquito bite relief
- sunscreen and/or suntan lotion
- flashlight
- Sun hat or cap
- camera, memory stick, film and batteries
- light sweater
- long sleeve shirt and pants for the evenings
- beach towel
- small backpack
- good footwear

Recreational Items

- binoculars
- fishing rod
- books
- deck of cards
- games
- note pad & pen
- art supplies

Personal Items

- toothbrush, paste
- shampoo
- deodorant
- dental floss
- razor, blades
- personal toiletries
- bath soap
- hair brush
- nail clippers

Clothing

- T-shirts
- shorts
- bathing suit
- beach towel
- short sleeve shirts
- long pants
- long sleeve shirt
- socks
- underwear

Footwear

- sandals
- flip flops
- tennis shoes
- hiking shoes

First-aid Kit

- Band-Aids
- tweezers
- hydrogen peroxide
- Tylenol or aspirin
- antiseptic
- antihistamines
- iodine
- antacid
- antibiotic cream

Available in Boca de Tomatlan

Accommodation Rentals	Villas Apartments Studios Rooms
Restaurants	Palapa beach restaurants Taco stands Restaurant / Bar
Water activities	Scuba, snorkel, rentals and instruction- PADI Dive Shop Kayak rentals Water taxis - to Las Animas, Quimixto, Majahuitas and Yelapa Fishing Tours Special Day Boat Tours
Shops	Souvenirs Beachwear PADI Dive Shop
Stores	Convenience and grocery stores Clothing and Shoe store Hardware store Basic fishing supplies -at the hardware store
Transportation	Bus stop Taxi service Water taxi service
Public telephones	
High speed internet - at the Dive Shop	
Public bathroom	
Laundry service	
Tortilla factory	
Art workshops - at the Casa de los Artistas	

Things you won't find in Boca

- *banks
- *ATM machine
- *money exchange
- *hospitals, yet there is a nurse living locally
- *post office

Businesses in Boca de Tomatlan accept cash only, US dollars or pesos.
The dive shop is the only local business which accepts VISA or Mastercard.
Travelers cheques are better cashed in downtown Vallarta.