

Carolyn & Brian

Welcome



February 05, 2011





Getting to Sayulita

... is amazingly easy. Here are few essential pieces of info make it a breeze:

Passports:

Every person needs one, including brand new babies. If you don't have one yet, you still can use an expediter to get one in just a few days.

<http://www.passportsandvisas.com/passport/index.asp>

Transportation from the airport:

Once you get to PVR, you have several options to get to Sayulita -- the best of which we've listed below. Suffice it to say, you do not need a car to get to, or to get around, Sayulita. It's a small town with lots to do for a week or more. That being said, if you plan on making side trips, to Guadalajara (Antiques), a car is indispensable and easy to obtain.

Round Trip Service

Co-ordinated by our wedding planner Olga Viellgas and our local friends Justin and Katy, this is probably the best no hassle option. Justin, Katy, Angel or a member of his team will meet you at customs holding a sign with your name on it. Their fee is \$130 round trip. That means that they will pick you up at the airport at the beginning of your trip, stop at a local supermarket (Walmart is on the way) so that you can get a few provisions (if you rented a house), and then take you back to the airport at the end of your trip. Contact Olga here: Olga (626)793-9595
weddingsinsayulita@hotmail.com

Take a Taxi!

The stand is located right outside of customs when you arrive. You pay a cashier, who give you a ticket for the fare. It's easy and there is no hassle over price. It's about \$50 each way.



Gecko Rent-A-Car

[View Website](#)



Having a car in Sayulita is not necessary, but it can make side trips convenient. If you choose to rent a car, we recommend Gecko Rent-a-Car because their rates are better than the majors, they pick up at customs (!!), and the usual hidden costs of collision and liability insurance are included in the price! Contact them via the link to their website above.

Getting Around in Town

Once in town you can walk to most things around town. However, should you want a cab at anytime, you can almost always find one at the taxi stand in the town square. A ride anywhere in town costs about 50 pesos (a tad over \$4).

You can also rent a golf cart from the folks at Pacific Coast Golf Cars.

<http://www.sayulitalife.com/pacificcoast.htm>

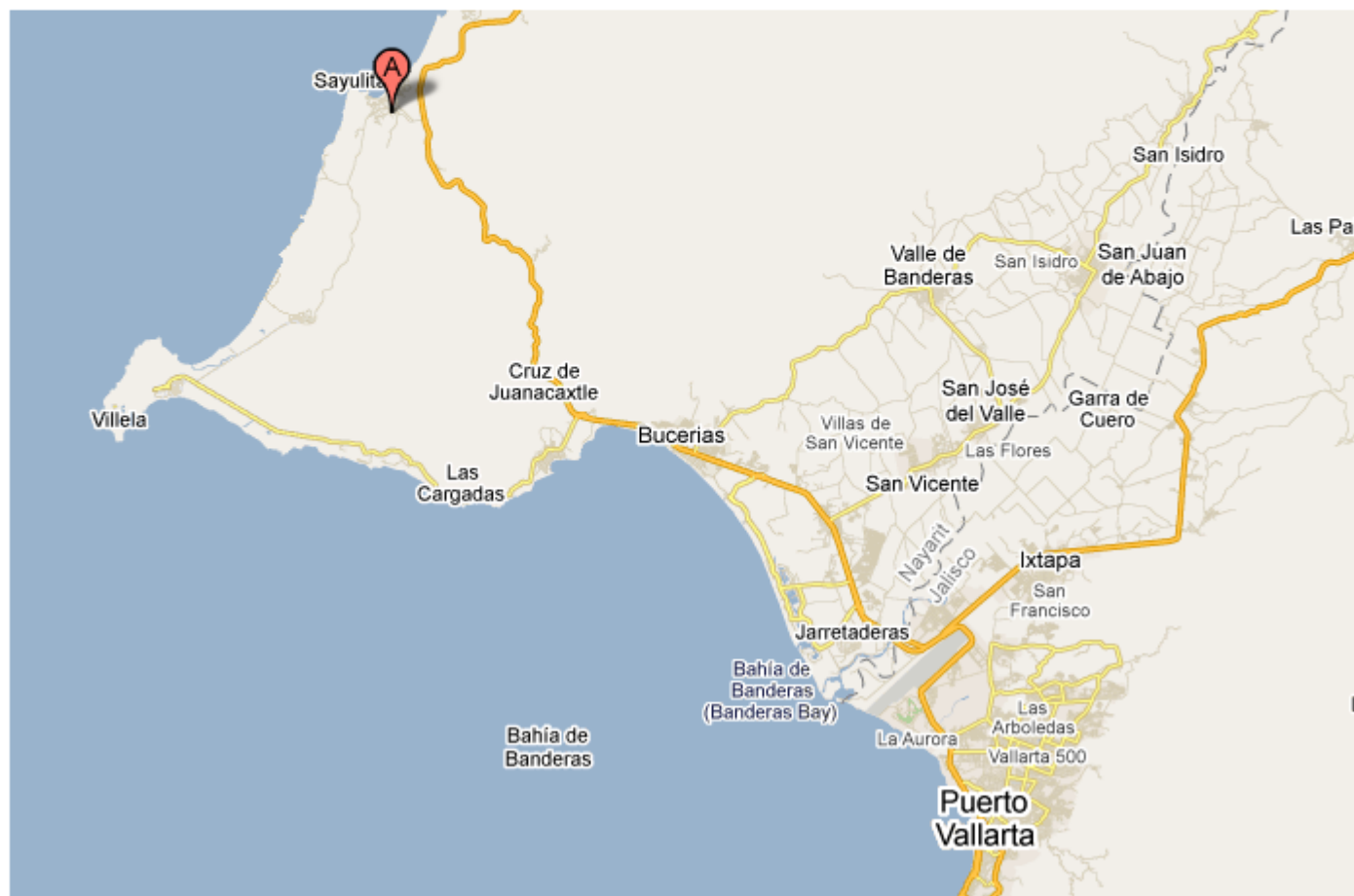


Geographical information and Time Zone:

Sayulita is in the Mexican state of Nayarit. Puerto Vallarta is in the Mexican state of Jalisco. Both PV and Sayulita are on Central Standard Time -- two hours ahead of California; one hour behind the East Coast.

Sayulita sits just below the Tropic of Cancer at 20 degrees latitude -- the same latitude as Hawaii. Our wedding is on Saturday, February 5th -- February is the dry season with almost no rainfall expected. Daytime temperatures range from the mid 70's to the low 90's with a fair amount of humidity though decidedly less in February. Pack shorts!

It can cool down into the low 60's at night so bring a sweater too.





Wedding Schedule

Rehearsal Dinner: Friday, February 4th 5pm. On the beach on the North side of town. Take Avenue Del Palmar and look for a sign on the left hand side. Bring a sweater.

Ceremony: Saturday February 5th, 2:30 pm on the same beach as the rehearsal dinner. Those of you staying on the north side can walk. Anyone else can take a short taxi ride from the main square. There is a taxi stand that nearly always has a waiting cab.

Wedding Reception: to follow the ceremony at approximately 4pm at Casa Vela, which is up the hill from the wedding site. Transportation will be provided to the reception and back to where you are staying at the end of the evening.

See the map on the following page.



[Close Map](#)

Oceano Pacifico

San Pancho/
San Francisco

**Ceremony & Rehearsal
Dinner Site**
(there will be signs)

Las Hamacas

Los Delfines

Las Gemelas

Guayabitos

Casa Vela
(Reception Site &
where we're staying)

Chacala

Plantanitos

North Side

Town Square

South Side

Punta de Mita

La Cruz

Bucerias

Puerto Vallarta



Finding us at Casa Vela

Yeah... Google maps and standard directions come up short here. However we won't be hard to find. Take Avenue del Palmar, shown on the map on the preceding page, north and look for signs that we've put up guiding you in the rest of the way. Use the map above as a basic guide, and have fun exploring.

You are always welcome to drop by during the week.





For those of you bringing babies and kids

We have secured enough high chairs for the reception, but you may want to rent a crib, stroller, swing, or even some toys for your baby while in Sayulita. There is a very inexpensive rental service available. Take a look at the web site below and then send an email to our friend Katy at katy@playablissweddings.com and she will coordinate the rental for you. They can even coordinate airport transportation with a car seat. Let her know if you want baby sitting also!

<http://www.sayulitalife.com/bebe.htm>



Our favorite places to eat

The food in Sayulita is really inexpensive and not fancy at all. Much of it is excellent and our favorite places are defined by an abundance of personality or offer unique experience to go along with the good grub. Here are a few of our favorites:

Sayulita Cafe



From the business: Located just once block before Sayulita's main plaza, the Sayulita Café restaurant offers locals and visitors an incredible and authentic dining experience. A full bar with a plentiful wine list is available. Make sure to try one of the famous margaritas while you wait to be seated.

From us: Fantastic Chile Rellnos. Great margaritas. We spent a New Years Eve here a couple years back.

From the business: Tacos El Ivan in Sayulita serves the marinated pork meat tacos on fresh corn tortillas, topped with a slice of juicy roasted pineapple and finely chopped onions and cilantro. Choose from a variety of spicy and/or flavorful sauces and salsas to add to your tacos. Tacos El Ivan in Sayulita is located on Calle Revolucion and offers seating on the street or an upstairs sitting area above the taco stand.

From us: Incredible tacos. A true Sayulita experience. Cheap. BYOB.

Tacos El Ivan



Our favorite places to eat

Pollo Yolanda



From us: The best lunch, and probably our favorite food item in Sayulita. We recommend getting an entire chicken (pollo entero) from Yolanda's stand. She's located on a little side lane running off Jose Mariscal, which is one side of the plaza. For \$85pesos you get a whole, delicious, grilled chicken, rice, cole slaw, a stack of tortillas and extra dipping sauce. Definitely enough for two full meals for two hungry people. She sells out by about 2-3pm so get it early, take it home and have it hot or cold late. Street food to the max – she was written up in Food & Wine magazine.



From the business: The local Sayulita residents come to Choco Banana for Eve's fresh home baked goods, the great environment, the best coffee in Sayulita, and the expansive menu.

From us: we like going here for breakfast. Good people watching right on the main square, serve both Mexican and American food. Free wifi!

ChocoBanana



Our favorite places to eat

Capitan Cook



From the business: At Capitan Cook Restaurant in Sayulita enjoy a meal from our wide menu selection and cocktails right on the Sayulita beach-front while you watch the waves and surfers.

From us: we end up here a lot because they offer beach chairs, and an umbrella and continuous flow of cheap beer and good food.



"A Bicyclette Restaurante"

From the business: A Bicyclette Restaurante opened its door to the public in January, 2005 and has welcomed Sayulita residents and guests to a very comfortable yet relaxing elegant French dining atmosphere complete with a sitting room, bar, and small art gallery.

From us: Yes, really! A French restaurant in Sayulita that is not to be missed! A true Heart of Darkness experience. We took a chance on this place late in our trip once and loved it. Near the main square.



Don Pedro's beachfront restaurant



From the business: Under a giant thatched palapa surrounded by panoramic views of ocean and forest, Don Pedro's offers expertly prepared Mediterranean-style cuisine with a Mexican influence.

From us: The most upscale experience in town. Great sunsets, good food, great drinks. Right on the beach.

Activities

There is a wealth of activities for all ages to take advantage of in Sayulita, all at prices that are less expensive than those of typical resorts.

Sayulita is a great place to learn to surf because of the reliable and gentle waves. But there are a number of other activities from scuba diving, snorkeling, ziplines, and ATV tours of the jungle. Also February is PRIME whale watching time.

All excursions can be coordinated with Katy who is acting as concierge for our wedding.

Take a look at the links below and then feel free to reach out to Katy for booking at katy@playablissweddings.com

<http://www.sayulitalife.com/surfschools.htm>

<http://www.sayulitalife.com/sayulita-massage.htm>

<http://www.sayulitalife.com/sayulita-tours.htm>

http://www.sayulitalife.com/sayulita_golf

<http://www.sayulitalife.com/sayulita-yoga-fitness.htm>



Mobile Phones and Internet in Sayulita

All of the major US carriers have partnerships with Mexican firms and cell phone reception is pretty good in Sayulita.

However, do not take for granted that your phone or your plan work down there.

The best thing you can do is to call your provider BEFORE you leave. Make sure that your phone works in Mexico where they use GSM technology.

Also ask your provider to set you up with an international calling plan. For a fee, generally around \$5 per month you can then get access to discounted rates.

Make no mistake about it, using your US cell phone in a foreign country is not cheap, even with discounted rates – checking your email or surfing the web (using the data plan) is also quite expensive. Use it sparingly.

If you know that you are going to need to make lots of calls, your best option is to rent a local phone. Telcel rents local phones for about \$10 per day. They are located right on the main square.

<http://www.sayulitalife.com/business/telcel.htm>

Dial the plus sign (to get +, generally you hold down 0 until it appears) before the 1 and you don't have to worry about dialing the proper international access code.

There is also an internet cafe in town, and Choco Banana offers free wifi if you bring your laptop.

Both Carolyn and I will have our phones with us: Carolyn +1-510-690-4428; Brian +1-510-333-2263. We will also be checking our email daily.



Money

One of the reasons we love Sayulita is that it's generally an inexpensive town. That being said, it's important to consider the different ways to pay for things down there.

\$1 US is about \$12 Mexican pesos at the moment. Many business including taxi drivers will generally take American dollars as well as pesos, however they won't give you the best exchange rate. Paying pesos is always cheaper.

The following is a list of different ways to access your money starting with the least expensive and working your way up to the most convenient:

Use your ATM card: More convenient than bringing lots of cash down, using an ATM is a great way to go. There are several ATMs located in the various convenience stores around the main square as well as ATMs at the airport when you arrive in PV. Many dispense both pesos and dollars. Expect to pay a small fee at the ATM as well as fee to your bank. US Banks generally give a good exchange rate using your ATM card.

Use credit cards: Most businesses in Sayulita take Visa, Master Card, American Express, etc. Using your plastic certainly is convenient and safe. However it's also the most costly way to spend. Credit card companies don't give as good of an exchange rate as you'll get with your ATM card, plus they generally charge an international fee that can be as much as 3% of the transaction amount. Those fees add up. Before you leave make sure that you call your credit card issuer and let them know that you are headed to Mexico -- some cards may block your transactions as potentially fraudulent if don't notify them.





Gifts

Thank you so much for being part of our wedding. You have already given us a tremendous gift by taking the time and effort to get down to Sayulita.

Still, many people have asked us if there is anything we would like, and to be honest we already have most of the things we need, but for those who feel the desire we have set up this special gift registry:

<http://www.ourwishingwell.com/registries/view/198550305/>

We have chosen this website because it is safe and secure and very convenient (please do not bring gifts to Mexico, or mail or bring money in an envelope as this is hard for us to manage and easy to lose).

This website is our first preference of how you can best help us if you like, but please know that what we desire most is your presence (not presents).

We have also chosen a wonderful local charity, Sayulita Animals, that you can choose to donate to in our name. You can also it through our registry. 100% of the donated proceeds go to assisting local dogs and cats get spayed, neutered, and cared for.

We look forward to seeing you at our wedding,

Love from Carolyn Finnegan and Brian Strauss

