

Things to do while staying at Casa de Olé

Here is a list of some of our favorite things to do when we come here to play. We hope you enjoy the warm hospitality of the people, the colorful adventures in town, and the beautiful, restful days as much as we do!

While at the House

Spend the day on the **quiet beaches** of Playa La Jolla. Bring a book, some cold beverages, maybe football or Frisbee to toss. You also want to keep a few dollars with you so you can barter with beach vendors as they come by... It doesn't get any better than this. Check out the tide chart in the back of this book so you can know when high and low tides are. If you are setting up a shade structure, please do so only in front of Casa de Ole. Do not set up in front of other houses.

Snorkel out to some reefs. These run in ribbons, not quite parallel to the shore. They run roughly from town out to Bird Island. We recommend trying it at low tide so you can be out where the fish are.... If you swim out in front of the house you'll find some areas with vegetation. You will find lots of fish out there.

Watch for **dolphins** (year round) and whales during the winter months. We usually spot dolphins very close to shore in the morning and then again later in the afternoon. What a treat! If they are close enough to shore, and you are ready with the kayaks, launch and have a dolphin encounter up close!

Keep a keen eye out for **whales** (typically Jan – Mar). The whales migrate from Alaska to Baja during the winter months. Our neighbors have all spotted them from shore, but we're still looking!



Use the Olé **ocean kayaks** and have a blast! We provide a double and a single for your use while staying at Casa de Olé! These are very stable and easy to maneuver.

Watch the **sunset**... A must! It is just spectacular, and a great time to soak in the peace and beauty of the area! (And also a great time to make a pitcher of Margaritas!) We all watch for a green flash as the sun disappears on the horizon. It's supposed to be a rare occurrence. We don't understand anything about this phenomenon but enjoy the goal!

Enjoy the Fire pit! In cooler weather, enjoy the wonderful gas Fire pit on the Olé back patio. This is a wonderful place to gather your group and enjoy the evening on the beach! When it's over, no smoky wood smell in your hair and clothes! This is one of our favorite features and we are glad to share it with you.



Banana Boat Rides - You will see many boats passing the house pulling a banana boat.(a long inflatable ride-on tube.) They are trolling for customers!!!!. If you are interested, run down on the beach and wave your hands. They can usually hold up to 8 people, and it usually costs about \$5 a head. They provide life jackets.

Go **fishing!** Karla can arrange a Mexican Ponga fishing boat to meet you right in front of the house, early in the morning. They know where to take you out to the reefs – you'll typically be in sight of the house all morning, and guests report coming back with an impressive amount of fish!

Oysteria

Located very close to Olé is a local Oyster Farm. Locally grown right on site, they are an amazing destination for some fresh or grilled oysters! In the spring, they often have crab as well! The Oysteria sits on the estuary, just behind us, and they actually pull the oysters right out of the water as you order them. The kids can play in the water (if it's high tide) as you enjoy your snack! Bring your own beer/beverages!. There is a Google Earth image in the coffee table binder showing you how to get there – only 7 min from Olé!

Massages, Braids and Henna Tattoos

Be on the lookout for "massage" vendors on the beach. They will be wearing white jackets, and will set up their tables on the patio or inside the house, your choice. It's a wonderful treat! There are also plenty of vendors who will braid your hair or do henna tattoos! And all, right out your backdoor! In the coffee table binder, we have included the phone number of our favorite masseuse.

Hire Musicians for Sunset!

Make your vacation extra special! We can help you set this up before your head down, or Karla can help you once you are there! You can have your own little dance party. Expect to pay anywhere from \$150 to \$220 for 1 to 2 hours.

While in Town

Go to the Malecón. This is the **fish market area** – Buy fresh shrimp and fish! You can get large shrimp for about \$6.00 to \$11.00 a pound, depending on the season. They will negotiate with you some, depending on how much you want to buy. They will also clean the shrimp for you, if you ask (so ask!) Bring a cooler and they'll even fill it with ice! You can even find a Margarita there after all your hard bargaining! And while you are down there, keep a lookout for the beautiful new pedestrian area near the fish markets. Check out the statue of the "Shrimp Fishermen", a tribute to Penasco's earlier economy.

Shop at the **Mexican markets** – Across the street from the fish markets are fun, open air markets where you will find everything and anything! Lots of silver, brightly painted pots, embroidered clothing, beautiful Mexican pewter...it's a feast for the eyes! Just remember, they never expect you to pay the price they first quote you. There is definitely room for a little negotiation. If you get tired of all the negotiating, head over to the best store in Rocky Point, **Mercedes**. Her glassware, pewter, embroidery and ceramics are top quality and really special. Prices are as marked. She is right across the street from the Friendly Dolphin restaurant.

CEDO is located in Las Conchas. It is formally called the Intercultural Center for the study of Deserts and Oceans. It has kayak tours of Estuary (only once a month and reservations are required), as well as a variety of programs geared to the local and tourist community. Visitors can participate in regularly scheduled tours of the facility (2:00pm Tuesday s and 4:00pm Saturday s), nature walks, inter-tribal exploration, informative lectures and more. The kids always enjoy the huge whale skeleton that is next to the building. Check out their website at www.cedointercultural.org for their current schedule of special events and tours.

Parasailing –El Golfo Parasail Services will help you see Rocky Point like never before! And most of the time you don't even have to get wet! Check out their website at www.elgolfoparasail@cox.net

Bird Island Boat Trip:

This is one of our favorites! Take a boat trip out to Bird Island, those 3 large rock formations in the ocean as you look straight off the back deck into the water, than to your left. Once out there, you can actually snorkel with the sea lions! There are thousands and they love to swim all around you. There are several companies that offer this adventure, but EcoFun will actually pick you up right in front of our house with a small tender boat, and take you out to the bigger one. This is a huge advantage than having to drive all the way into town!) \$99 for adults and less for kids and they provide a wonderful trip out to the island including lunch and open bar, and all your snorkel gear. We did this years ago and our kids still talk about it! Learn more at www.ecofunrental.com.

Deep Sea Fishing You can also make arrangements to charter a larger fishing boat in town as you head to the Malecón area (fish market). You can phone ahead to make reservations as well 383-5834. On this type of trip, you'll typically catch the larger fish that make this area their home (grouper, dorado, etc).

Go on a **Whale Watch Cruise** (typically Jan – Mar). The whales migrate from Alaska to Baja during the winter months. Since they typically hang out farther from shore, the best way to see them is to go on a cruise. We recommend Del Mar Charters (www.delmarcharters.com)

Sunset Sailing Cruise

Enjoy this 42' sailing catamaran during the day or at sunset. The cost is only \$30 per person, and Margaritas are included! Check them out at www.delmarcharters.com. It is a family favorite!

Go to **Manny's Tequila Factory** for a fun tequila tasting! They are located in town, on the main road as you head North, just before the overpass, and Ban Serfin, on the right. They are open 10am to 6pm, closed on Tues. It is a fun stop! <http://www.tequilafactory.mx/>

Other Locations

Play **Golf** at Mayan Palace! This Nicklaus Legacy course (Jack Nicklaus and Jack Nicklaus II co-design) is situated on a two-mile peninsula with a tidal estuary on one side, the Sea of Cortez on another and an inlet to the south. A challenging 7,210 yard, 18 hole, par 72 sand dune course is a work of art surrounded by incomparable natural beauty hosting a wealth of flora and fauna. Nine ocean side holes make this course a golfing experience beyond anyone's expectations. Hole 3 is the Nicklaus signature hole and will keep you guessing from tee to green. And here's the best part...18 holes for \$55. Head South on Caborca highway to get there! For more details on their course, go to: www.mayanpalace.com/resorts/la-jolla/golf. For reservations, they can be reached via speed dial 42 on the Olé phone or via email at: conciergepp@mayanpalace.com.mx .

Pinacate National Park and Wildlife Refuge – About half way between the border and Puerto Peñasco, a small road (there is a sign), leads off to the Pinacate National Park and Wildlife Refuge. This is an interesting area full of volcanic rock and wildlife, and is also where the U.S. Apollo Astronauts trained for moon landings.