

San Carlos, Sonora

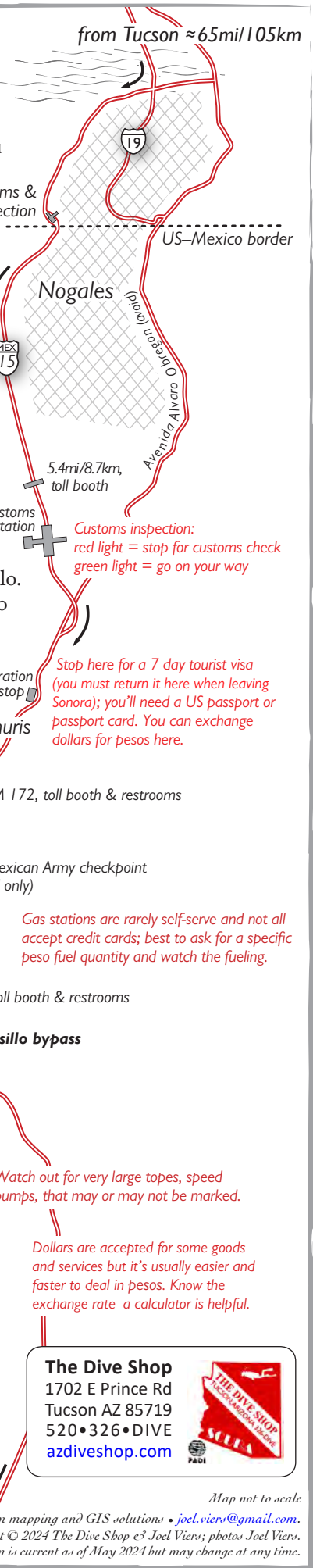
Dive San Carlos, Sonora, Mexico with *The Dive Shop*! A top location, San Carlos offers fantastic diving and the diversity of marine life is phenomenal—you won't be disappointed! Great dives include Isla San Pedro Nolasco where you can interact with sea lions; Punta San Pedro featuring two wrecks, a 350-foot ferry and a 100-foot tuna boat; the Sea Mount, Window Rock, San Antonio, Tres Marias, Eagle Rock, Lalo's Cove, Martini Cove, and many more spectacular and fun spots.

Your accommodations in San Carlos are at the comfortable and convenient Marinaterra Hotel & Spa, a fully air conditioned four-star hotel. It is located on the San Carlos marina, within easy walking distance to your well-equipped dive boats and good dining opportunities. The Dive Shop runs three-day, two-night trips throughout the year.

Traveling to San Carlos

- You need Mexico-valid insurance for your vehicle
- You need a valid US passport or passport card
- Get a free 7-day tourist visa just south of Nogales
- Most places will accept US dollars—check the rate
- Get pesos at exchange houses or Mexican banks
- ATMs are available but you may be charged fees
- Gas is plentiful at Pemex stations, best to use pesos

San Carlos is about six hours south of Tucson. You will need car insurance valid in Mexico and a current US passport or passport card. From Tucson head south on I-19 to Nogales and exit at the Mariposa commercial crossing (Exit 4). Go west-southwest to the border. Once across, head south stopping in a few miles at a toll booth. Customs is next where you'll drive through a set of signal lights. If you get a green light ("PASE") you're good to go. If you get a red "REVISION" light and buzzer, pull over and answer a few routine questions. Proceed to the 21km Immigration office for a free seven-day visa (you must return it here on your way home). Continue south on Mex 15 following signs for, in turn, Imuris, Santa Ana, Hermosillo (see map), and Guaymas. Pay tolls at Magdalena and just north of Hermosillo. Soon after the toll, you'll see signs for the bypass to the east, take the exit. Near San Carlos stay west on the free (non-cuota) road to Guaymas then turn toward San Carlos off Mex 15 at about KM132 (approximately 83 miles/134km south of Hermosillo). The exit west is clearly marked and the road is well signed. From the turn, San Carlos is only about 6mi/10km and the Marinaterra Hotel & Spa another 1.5mi/2.4km. For San Carlos info visit www.sancarlosmexico.com or whatsupsancarlos.com.



Customs inspection:
red light = stop for customs check
green light = go on your way

Stop here for a 7 day tourist visa
(you must return it here when leaving
Sonora); you'll need a US passport or
passport card. You can exchange
dollars for pesos here.

Gas stations are rarely self-serve and not all
accept credit cards; best to ask for a specific
peso fuel quantity and watch the fueling.

Watch out for very large topes, speed
bumps, that may or may not be marked.

Dollars are accepted for some goods
and services but it's usually easier and
faster to deal in pesos. Know the
exchange rate—a calculator is helpful.



The Dive Shop
1702 E Prince Rd
Tucson AZ 85719
520•326•DIVE
azdiveshop.com

Map continued on other side



California sea lion



Isla San Pedro Nolasco

This island, about 17 miles west of San Carlos, is known for fantastic sea lion encounters for scuba divers and snorkelers alike. The island's sea lions are quite playful, twirling and twisting and zooming right up to your mask. Large schools of colorful fish congregate here and you may spot hammerhead sharks as well as mantas, yellowfin tuna, and big sea turtles.

Map continued from other side

from Hermosillo



Crossing the border

- Driver's license
- US and Mexican vehicle insurance
- Current passport or passport card
- DO NOT bring any drugs, firearms, or ammunition into Mexico

Travel etiquette

- Obey Mexican law, you are a visitor
- Be friendly and courteous—even "por favor" (please) and "gracias" (thank you) will go a long way

Dive gear

- Fins, booties/socks, mask (plus anti-fog), and snorkel
- Exposure protection—3mm wetsuit, skin, hood, gloves (temps vary)
- Regulator, BCD, and weights/weight belt
- Dive computer or RDP/dive table
- Dive watch
- Dive knife
- Save-a-dive kit
- Surface signal (mirror, whistle, horn, safety sausage)
- Underwater slate and pencil
- Lights and extra batteries and bulbs (primary, back-up, and tank marker)
- Underwater camera and spare batteries, digital storage cards, and O-rings/seals
- Gear bag(s)
- Certification card and log

- Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return; leave hotel contact information
- US dollars are widely accepted but pesos are faster and easier for most things

Clothing and personal items

- Swimsuits, shorts, long pants
- Short- and long-sleeve shirts
- Hat, sandals, and sunglasses
- Towels and toiletries
- Sunscreen and mosquito repellent
- First aid kit and personal medications
- Cash (pesos and dollars)
- Camera, spare batteries, digital cards
- Local weather: www.wunderground.com/weather/mx/guaymas
- Deep-sea fishing is excellent, check whatsupsancarlos.com/fishing-reports



Returning to the US

- Current passport or passport card
- Do not bring back illicit or Rx drugs (unless you have an Rx), most meats, eggs, fruit, or vegetables. Before your trip check www.cbp.gov for more info.
- Expect delays, be patient and courteous



Many of San Carlos' popular dive spots are shown here. Our friendly and knowledgeable dive staff can help you explore these and many other great sites in comfort and safety.

≈ KM132, exit freeway, swing RIGHT west to San Carlos, well-signed

Hotels ≈ 7.5mi/12km

to Guaymas <7mi/11km



Our feature accommodations are in the heart of San Carlos near Mexico's largest natural marina and Tetakawi Peak. Our hotels feature convenience, luxury, service, and majestic views and stunning sunsets. Close to dive boat departures. Check out www.marinaterra.com and www.sawarihote.com