

## **TRAVEL TIPS BEFORE YOU GO TO CASA GORDON**

The following information will help you with the planning of your vacation on Cozumel Island:

### **DOCUMENTS:**

Proof of Citizenship Passport required to enter Mexico.

Non-US citizens, please contact the nearest consulate or embassy of the country to which you are traveling to determine your entry/visa requirements.

Please, do not forget your driver's license if you want to rent a car, and your c-card (certification card) if you are a diver and want to dive here on the Island.

### **LANGUAGE:**

-Spanish is spoken in Cozumel, but you will find that many people speak English, especially in the tourism industry.

### **CURRENCY:**

- Cozumel uses the US dollar and Mexican pesos.
- ATM's are widely available.
- Major international credit cards are accepted in many hotels and restaurants.
- Traveler's checks are accepted at most large hotels and stores.
- Tipping for service is 15%.
- It is not necessary to exchange your money into local currency (pesos).
- Some activities you might want to do, require only cash.
- Personal bank checks are NOT accepted.

### **LOCAL TRANSPORTATION:**

- A shuttle taxi from the airport is available
- The major US car rental agencies have offices at the airport. Rental rates vary depending on the size of the vehicle. Contact general manager.
- Most road signs use international symbols, but some are in Spanish only.

### **ELECTRICITY:**

- 120 volts/60 cycles, which is compatible with the US.

## **BAGGAGE:**

Allowances on baggage vary with each carrier, so please ask your airline representatives. Make sure to save room for all the souvenirs you will collect while on the Island.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY:**

- Use precaution with your valuables and passport.
- Water at Casa Gordon is purified on tap, ask for bottled water in restaurants and avoid street vendor food.
- Apply ample sun block and drink lots of water in the Caribbean heat.
- We do not recommend renting scooters in Cozumel. Scooter driving is very dangerous.
- Dive with certified scuba instructors with qualifications and safety equipment on boats.

## **MEDICAL SERVICES:**

English-speaking doctors are available in fully equipped private clinics, and will make house calls if needed.

## **WEATHER:**

The climate in Cozumel Island is very pleasant most of the year. The average temperature is about 80 degrees F (about 27 degrees C). Hottest season is between May and August. Rain is expected most in September and October. North wind system usually due in January and February. The water temperature ranges from about 77-82 degrees F (25-28 degrees C).

## **WHAT TO WEAR:**

Everyone here dresses casually. Shorts and t-shirts are the norm. Nice shirts in the restaurants in the evening. The only clothing restriction might be to wear close-toes shoes in the discos. Light jacket and umbrella will be useful in the rainy season.

## **NATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL EVENTS IN COZUMEL**

### **CARNIVAL:**

The most important yearly event on the Island is the five days preceding Ash Wednesday. If you have the chance, do not miss it!!

### **SPORTFISHING SEASON:** end of April to June

Various competitions are held during that time, including the weeklong International Bill Fishing Tournament. Various social activities celebrate the great catches and the great fun!

### **SANTA CRUZ FIESTA:** May 2 – 5

Celebrates the first island-town “EL CEDRAL”  
The islanders pay homage to El Cedral’s patron saint Santa Cruz with a town-wide flair.  
Do not miss the “pig’s head” dance!

### **MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY:** September 15 – 16

“VIVA MEXICO” cheer at midnight, fireworks, dances and music.  
No alcohol sold in the stores during these 2 days.

### **SAN MIGUEL ARCHANGEL FIESTA:** September 28

Cozumel’s patron saint of the island is honored with festivities and parades on the streets of the town.

### **VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE FIESTA:** December 11 and 12

The Blessed Saint of Mexico is honored in all the local churches and with a parade through the town of San Miguel.

### **CHRISTMAS POSADAS:** December 1 – 24

Open houses are the rule during that time of the year, with family and friends’ gatherings sharing the Christmas spirit.