

THE LA PAZ GOLD CUP 2022

In 2019 FC77 organized a tournament in La Paz Baja California. We had an incredible time. We really enjoyed it. So after our COVID break, we're doing it again!

The date of the tournament is February 12 & 13, 2022. Plan on staying a few extra days to take advantage of all that La Paz offers.

The process will start with those that attended last time. Then FC77 members and then non-FC77 members. The age grouping will depend on who signs up. So pass this email to people you think would be interested.

The first thing you should do – Get or renew your passport now! Even if you expedite the process it takes **3 months** to get it done. So doing it early is a good idea.

La Paz, Mexico

La Paz is the largest city in southern Baja California. The metro area has a population currently over 300,000. It is known for being a very safe city. It's a real foody place with very nice restaurants. And they like their coffee so they have some really nice coffee shops and even a brewpub. La Paz is turning into a Mexican version of Portland.

Check out: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Paz,_Baja_California_Sur

And the La Paz webcam: <https://webcamsdemexico.com/webcam/la-paz/>

Covid – La Paz is at an 80% vaccine rate and should be well above 90% by February. The Mexican league may require proof of vaccine. They haven't said yet.

Travel - That should improve greatly with American Airlines flying direct from Phoenix and Dallas-Fort Worth. Mary Anne and I flew the Phoenix route and it was great arriving in La Paz and not Cabo. It saves you about two and a half hours of riding or driving up from Cabo. But if you fly Alaska they often have discounted fairs that may make the 2 ½ hours worth it. You can rent a car and drive up or take the Eco Baja shuttle that drops you off on the malecon in La Paz.

Transportation - Car rentals should be pretty cheap this time of year. I would suggest not getting the add-on insurance. A lot of our group opted for Uber. It's easy and cheap. The average trip in town cost between \$3-\$5.

Money - Bank machines are everywhere. You also get the best exchange rate. So no reason to get a bunch of pesos ahead of time. Most places will take credit cards, but you should tip (10%) in cash.

Lodging - You can go from a resort to a boutique hotel to Air BnB, VRBO. On the first trip, about half of us stayed in hotels and half stayed in Air BnB's.

AIRB&B, VRBO - La Paz has gotten a reputation for having excellent vacation home rentals. This might be the easiest and least expensive way to stay in La Paz. If 4 couples or players share a house the cost is \$28 to \$65 per couple per night. The property managers who take care of our house, La Paz Bay Rentals have condos and houses available for vacation rentals. <https://lapazbayrentals.guestybookings.com/listings>. Or do your search through AIRB&B and VRBO. If you like something pass it by me so I can check on its location. Some "La Paz" homes are 20 or more miles out of town.

Hotels - There are good hotels and very reasonably priced. There are two Seven Crown Hotels. One in a central location and one on the malecon. Those that stayed at the central location found its location to be really good. Close to good restaurants, groceries, and the malecon.

Hotel Seven Crowns, Central - <https://www.sevencrownhotels.com/hotel/la-paz-centro-historico>

Hotel Seven Crowns - Malecon <https://www.sevencrownhotels.com/hotel/seven-crown-la-paz-malecon> (Their rooftop bar is great for watching sunsets.)

Hotel Cathedral (Catedral) La Paz <http://hotelcatedrallapaz.mx>

Club El Moro <https://www.clubelmoro.com.mx/>

Hotel Araiza Palmira <http://araizahoteles.com/palmira?lang=es>

Hotel La Concha <https://www.laconcha.com/>

Hotel Marina <http://waterfronthotel.com.mx/>

Puerta Cortes Resort Mar de Cortes <https://puertacortes.com/es/>

And I'll add to this list later.

Things to do other than play soccer - Like last time I'll arrange for some adventures for those that want to stay longer and enjoy the sites of La Paz.

Swim with the whale sharks. Oh My Gosh, this is fun. You swim alongside an adolescent whale shark. They're 8-12 ft long. And they only eat plankton. Unless you're Danish. They love eating Danes. They don't know why.

A day of kayaking - Baja Outdoor Activities will take us on a nice day trip and give us a tour of some of the Sea of Cortez. Lunch is included.

Snorkel with the Sea Lion pups in the Sea of Cortez - One of the most fun things to do. The pups are curious about us and keep you amused as they swim around us.

Go Whale Watching - February is in the middle of whale watching season. So you should be able to catch the mom whales with their babies. This is a trip up north to the Pacific ocean.

Sunset sailing - It's Valentine week so share the boat with a few couples and enjoy one of La Paz's romantic sunsets

Other things to do:

Hit the world-class beaches around La Paz

Stroll along the Malecón – morning, noon, and night.

Visit El Triunfo. It's a small town with a world-class museum. About a 45 minute drive south. Worth the trip.

Stroll Around the Old Town

Visit the Cathedral Nuestra Señora de La Paz

Don't miss the sunsets

Explore the Museum of Anthropology & History

Rent a paddleboard or kayak at Harkers and paddle around the bay.

Go to Todo Santos, about an hours drive south, for souvenirs and a good brewpub.

Hike up the hills around La Paz.

Medical Tourism

Mary Anne and I only have experience with dental services in La Paz. They are excellent and much cheaper than the states. Mary Vogel made use of their services last time. So let me know and I'll find out what our many contacts in La Paz who to see.

So let me know if you're interested in the 2022 gold cup. Declare what age team you would prefer and we'll start from there.

Feel free to forward this email to people you would think would be interested.

Mike Calder