

# 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, Tres Marias, Eagle Rock, Lalo's 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 dive boats. **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 US 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 to the border. Once across, head south slowly over some serious speed bumps (*topes*) and through a set of signal lights. If you get a red "REVISION" light and buzzer, pull over and you'll be asked a few routine questions. If you get a green light ("PASE") you're good to go. Proceed south, stopping in a few miles at a toll booth and then continue on to a Vehicle Inspection Station—be sure to stop here for a free seven-day visa. Once you have your visa, continue on Highway 15 following signs for, in turn, Imuris, Santa Ana, Hermosillo (see map), and Guaymas. Stay on highway 15 and stop at a few more toll booths along the way. Turn toward San Carlos at approximately KM132, about 83 miles/134 km south of Hermosillo—the exit west is clearly marked and the road is well signed. From the freeway turnoff, San Carlos is only about 6 mi/10 km, and the Marinaterra Hotel & Spa another 1.5 mi/2.4 km. Follow map directions. For San Carlos info visit [www.sancarlosmexico.com](http://www.sancarlosmexico.com).

from Tucson ≈ 65 mi / 105 km

US Customs and Border Protection

US-Mexico border

Nogales

Avenida Alvaro Obregón

Stop here for a free seven-day tourist visa; you'll need a US passport or passport card. You can exchange dollars for pesos here as well.

Vehicle Inspection

Toll booth

Mex ≈ \$47

Imuris

Magdalena

Santa Ana  
KMI68

KMI72, toll booth & restrooms  
Mex ≈ \$20

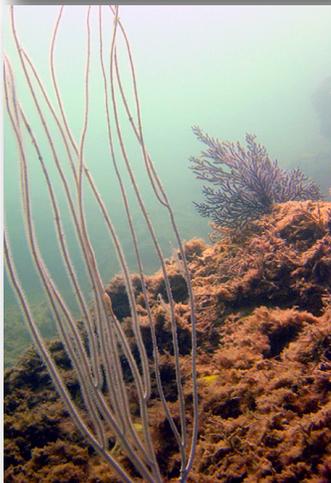
KMI12, Mexican Army checkpoint  
(northbound only)

KMI6, toll booth & restrooms  
Mex ≈ \$61

Pemex stations are not self-serve; it's best to ask for a specific peso fuel quantity and to watch the attendant fuel your vehicle.

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

Toll booth fees are between US \$2–\$6. They may accept dollars but as for most goods and services it is usually easier and faster to deal in pesos. Know the exchange rate—a calculator is helpful.



Chocolate Chip Sea Star

Alternate route

Hermosillo

Prison

KM260, traffic light

to Guaymas

MEX 16

MEX 20



**The Dive Shop**  
1702 E Prince Rd  
Tucson AZ 85719  
520-326-DIVE  
[azdiveshop.com](http://azdiveshop.com)

Map continued on other side



### 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—"por favor" (please) and "gracias" (thank you) will go a long way

- 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

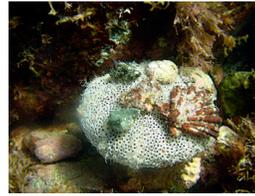
- Swimsuits, shorts, long pants
- Short- and long-sleeve shirts
- Hat, sandals, and sunglasses
- Towels and toiletries
- Sunscreen and mosquito repellent
- First aid kit and personal medications
- Cash (dollars and pesos)
- Camera, spare batteries, digital cards
- Local weather check Guaymas at [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com)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

#### 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](http://www.cbp.gov) for more info.
- Expect delays, be patient and courteous

#### 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 book



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

≈ 7.5mi / 12km to Marinaterra Hotel & Spa

to Guaymas <7mi / 11km



Marinaterra Hotel & Spa is located in the heart of San Carlos, adjacent to Mexico's largest natural marina and in front of famous Tetakawi Peak. We feature convenience, luxury, service, and majestic views and stunning sunsets. Close to dive boat departures. Check us out at [www.marinaterra.com](http://www.marinaterra.com)