BLA survival guide

- People are often surprised but google maps also is really well laid out for most of what you need in BLA these days (it used to not be). Most of the resources are well documented on the Noforeignland app. There's also a Facebook group for Bahia de los Angeles and you can find answers there or post questions.
- **Chubascos**:
  - There's a chubasco report that starts during chubasco season in July and concludes in September. It's updated nightly https://sonrisanet.tonybishop.org/chubasco.
  - The NOAA GOES Image Viewer, Band 13 is going to be your best resource for anticipating chubascos https://www.star.nesdis.noaa.gov/goes/sector_band.php?sat=G19&sector=mex&band=13&length=12&dim=1
  - If a chubasco is coming take everything down on deck that can blow away and keep Ch16 on (or whatever the cruiser channel is that year) in case anyone is dragging or needs help.
- **Provisioning**
  - La Isla: main grocery store. It's small, but will have everything you need. Decent selection of alcohol. Lots of Sam's Club and Costco brand stuff. More expensive than the Mexican groceries you're used to. This store has the best selection of produce and frozen meats. Accepts credit cards. You can dinghy to La Isla and park on the beach to provision at or around high tide but don't get stuck there at low tide or you'll be dragging your dinghy in the muck. La Isla will do cash back on a card purchase if you're in a bind- 500 peso max per transaction.
  - Xitlali (yellow store): Don't know the name, but this is up the street from the panga ramp and you'll want to hang out here just for the AC. Less stocked than La Isla but usually has produce and other basics. There's beer here, but very little other alcohol. Accepts credit cards.
  - Farmers market: Typically every Thursday and half day Friday. Lots of produce and non-refrigerated eggs. More expensive than the grocery stores. Cash or card. **Summer 2026 the veggie guy stopped coming in July because of the heat, you can get updates on the Bahia de los Angeles Facebook page.
- **Gas, Diesel, & Propane**
  - There's a Pemex station a short walk away from Guillermo's with gas and diesel. You can cart your jerry cans there or pay someone from Guillermo's to give you a ride.
  - There's a propane fill up on the main street. Careful, the lady that runs the place has a lot of Belgian malinois and some aren't friendly.
- **Water**
  - There's a potable water fill spot in the little market across the street from Guillermo's at La Mision Supermarket y Purificadora de Agua. Sometimes the water fill up spot may say "closed" but the nice lady inside the market can fill up your jerry cans.
- **Transportation**
  - Jesús Flores Transport and Errands. Jesús will pick you up at the beach and take you where ever you need to go in the village. He's super responsive on WhatsApp, helpful, and very patient waiting while you're shopping. Super affordable service and just a wonderful human being. Speaks some English. +52 616 108 3987

- **Mosquitos & Noseeums & Bees**
  - Some places will have more of them than others.
  - Get screens for ports and mosquito nets for companionways. SV Gladiator recommendation: use the ones for car seats (over large hatches) and a crib one for the companionway.
  - If the scouts can't find water in your galley the bees will leave you alone.
  - SV Cosmo Tip: Whenever bees invade your anchorage, put a small bucket or cut-off gallon jug with a bit of water and a floating sponge on the bow. Keeping this water station refilled gives the bees an easy landing spot outside and stops them from coming indoors. When you're ready to leave, use a boat hook to move the bucket so you can safely pull up anchor; once you get under way, the bees will naturally disperse.
  - Buy incense sticks, lots of them, they are the only thing that will get bees out of your boat.
  - The Zapper racket is useful for mosquitoes, flies, and noseeums.
  - Chigg-away, calomine lotion, & topical lidocaine can help relieve itching
  - Vix Vapo rub can help repel the biting SOBs too

- **Laundry**
  - There's a laundry service at Villa Hermosa that offers same day service. It's located a block up the road from Pizza Mamma Mia. Contact them via WhatsApp: Kenia Tarin +52 613 117 2030 or Yahi Torres +52 615 113 1246. For an extra 50 pesos Kenia can pick up and drop off your laundry at the beach.

Miscellaneous tips & recommendations
- Get cash before you come here, there are no ATMs.
- Deko Marine does **NOT** deliver to BLA anymore.
- MexPat movers can deliver to BLA and drop items off at Guillermos. https://mexpatmovers.com/
- There's no dinghy dock, but most people leave their dinghies at the beach in front of Guillermos or at the stretch of beach in front of the abandoned RV lot leading up to La Isla market.
- Don Juan is an excellent hurricane hole.
- There's a small medical clinic in town and a dentist that is in town every other Saturday (his office is across the street from the Pemex station) if you need to get some work done. The dental clinic doesn't have an X-ray machine so it's very basic services.
- La Gringa is the spot for full moon float parties, so bring some floaties with you or get creative with what you've got onboard.
- Bring spares of stuff and over provision before going up there because BLA village is very remote and there's not much up here.
- Get sunshades, even if it's cheap garden shade material from Home Depot, it will be very useful. Put your shades up in the morning and you'll feel a HUGE difference in your temperature below deck.
- If you can invest in an AC, there are portable options with rechargeable batteries. SV Cosmo can recommend ZeroBreeze from experience :)

- BLA village is the absolute hottest place in the area, its stale, its sticky, just provision and get outta there.
- There aren't many restaurants in town, but Pizza Mamma Mia is good and you can bring your own wine from across the street from La Isla. Sietes Filos is a bit of a walk if you leave your dinghy at the spit and its very good. Alejandrinas is also a tasty restaurant many cruisers miss because it's past the roundabout- just simple Mexican cuisine but they're open breakfast, lunch and dinner and accept credit cards and have air conditioning.
- Watch out for stingrays, especially the little ones, when walking around in the water. Stings can be very bad, but if you're stung first step is submerging the affected body part in hot water (as hot as you can handle).
- If you're bringing pets, watch out for coyotes. You'll see them lurking in the mornings and evenings in La Mona, El Pescador, Don Juan, and Quemado.
- There's some cool local things in BLA to check out-
  - The museum (if you can catch it when it's open- they close during the summer but if you're around early summer or in the fall it's worth a visit)
  - The Vermilion Sea Institue will give tours and also often will provide use of their van for provisioning for a donation (they'll drive you for diesel, water, groceries, etc) https://vermilionseainstitute.org/
  - Vermilion Institute collects donated items for their educational programs and also for the traveling veterinarian that sometimes stops by BLA. You can find this list here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KxlvHs8isZtbrJTcS30Vjl3v-mmMQJBkejgQ9QzZ0wU/edit?gid=0#gid=0 or contact Meghann, a marine biologist from the organization, via WhatsApp at +1619-316-6645.
- Marea Viva will accept plastic recycling and turn it into cool lil keychains and things they sell. https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088188367203 They also have a donation center for items in good repair (like goodwill). So you can lighten your load while you're there and if you find something you like, you can purchase it with a donation.

Special thanks to Liya of SV Cosmo for gathering and compiling this information.