

# Welcome to *La Casa Serena*



Playa Conchal LLC



## Playa Conchal LLC

THE BEACH HOME OF YOUR DREAMS.

# WELCOME!

You made it! We're so happy you're here!

Welcome to La Casa Serena! This is our home away from home, and we hope that you are as comfortable here as we are!

We've created this book as a way of offering you a sincere welcome, and sharing information that will make your stay more comfortable and enjoyable. We've found it a blessing to travel as a family and as individuals throughout this beautiful planet. Early in 2020, after having discovered many amazing and relaxing locales around this world of ours, we discovered a peaceful little village called San Crisanto. At the time, we had no idea how quickly and completely we would fall in love with this community. We originally came for the beautiful sunny weather and the warm sand and seas. As we spent more time here we recognized how tranquil and peaceful this part of the Yucatán was. We met many of the local people, as well as the ex-pats who have either relocated or come for extended visits. These are generally happy and industrious people who love their community and their heritage as much as we have come to love them.

So, enjoy your stay! Feel free to reach out to us at any time on WhatsApp (or any of our social media platforms) and we will try to give you a quick and informative reply. Whether you are looking for information on how to operate the toaster, or where to find the nearest Mayan cenotes and Pyramids, we are here to help!

Don & Renae Dixon

(WhatsApp is the preferred local choice for communication)

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# CHECK IN & OUT

## CHECK IN

Check in starts at 3 PM daily. Other arrangements can be made with the owner, under special circumstance.

## CHECK OUT

Check out is by 11 AM at the end of your stay. This will allow us time to refresh our home prior to the next guests arrival.

**Please help us by leaving our home in the following condition after your stay:**

Please leave all used bedding in place, and towels etc. in a pile in the bathroom.

Please return all kitchen ware and utensils to the kitchen sink. Place any open leftover perishable food items in the garbage can in the kitchen. You're welcome to leave any unopened dry goods or refrigerated food in the refrigerator.

Please clean up all household trash and garbage, and take the garbage bag out to the can in front of the house.

If you've noticed any specific maintenance issues, or if there has been any damage incurred during your stay, please alert our housekeeper or maintenance person. Their contact information is on the Emergency Contact page.

Please make arrangements to turn the keys back over to our housekeeper prior to your leaving. (WhatsApp is the preferred local choice for communication).



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# HOUSE

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## Guide

Of course, we think we've tried to think of everything! All of the items that you find throughout our home, are here for your use. Please feel free to make yourself at home and enjoy the amenities that we've provided. If you notice there are things not available, that would make your stay more enjoyable, please leave us a note or a comment and we will see if we are able to provide those items.

OK, the two most important questions we're sure you will have: yes, you can flush the toilet paper! No, you shouldn't drink the tap water.

The obvious things that you'll find available are full sets of bedding for the two queen size beds, and a couple of hammocks for those who are more adventurous.

We've also tried to stock the bathrooms with the basic comfort items. There is a hair dryer available as well as shampoo, conditioner and bar soap. There are of course hand and body towels available, as well as beach towels. Please do us a favor and use the bathroom towels for inside only, the beach towels are available for use poolside, up on the terrace or even down at the beach!

The kitchen is fully stocked with the basic appliances. We will also try to keep available ground coffee (kept in the freezer) as well as instant coffee located on the shelf at the coffee station. Please feel free to use all of the supplies, gadgets and appliances to make your stay more pleasant and convenient.

We've installed a water dispenser in the kitchen that offers both chilled and hot water for drinking or cooking.



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# HOUSE

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## Guide

We do have a fairly strong Wi-Fi service. The password is located on the router.

Feel free to run the air conditioning units in the bedrooms, and the ceiling fans throughout the house as needed. We do ask that you run the AC units only when you will be in the bedrooms, to keep necessary maintenance at a minimum.

The water heater and the stove are gas operated. We keep extra canisters of propane on hand. Please feel free to reach out to our local experts, Jose and Alajandra for help in changing tanks, should one of them run out. They will also take care of any emergencies such as plumbing or electrical that might occur. They handle all of our housekeeping, landscaping and pool maintenance as well.

One of the bodegas is a fully equipped laundry facility.

There are small paddle/kick boards and life jackets available for use in the pool or at the beach. There are lounge recliners and poolside chairs available. Feel free to use these on the patio or around the pool as well as upstairs on the terrace. We have full-size lounge pads that can also be used on the terrace benches, under the pergola.

The TV is functional and offers access to Roku programming, with your personal sign in.

We have found our community here to be safe and welcoming. We do however suggest locking the front and back doors whenever leaving the property.

(WhatsApp is the preferred local choice for communication)



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# POOL

## Safety

So, we think everyone knows this, but we still say it out loud for everyone's benefit, just in case: please, don't pee in our pool!

OK, we've got that out-of-the-way.

For your safety and the safety of those you're enjoying time with, please don't jump or dive into the pool.

No running or excessive pushing or shoving near the pool.

We ask you to use the plastic glasses, cups and other utensils we've supplied, around the pool. We've chosen these to be functional and also to keep you safe.

There are adult and children's lifejackets available for pool and beach use, as well as small kick/paddle boards.



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# EMERGENCY

## Contacts

WhatsApp seems to be the most effective and common form of communication, along with multiple local Facebook groups.

Don Dixon = WhatsApp

+1 541-944-5540

Renae Dixon = WhatsApp

+1 541-326-6863

Alajandra Galaz = WhatsApp (property manager / housekeeper)

+52 991 109 4271

Jose Coot = WhatsApp

+52 991 115 8719



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# LOCAL THINGS

## To Do & See

There are so many wonderful historic sites in this area of the Yucatán! Things to do and see within one hour or less of our home:

Progreso, the ultimate Beachtown with the ultimate holiday vibe! There is a wonderful boardwalk full of shops and vendors, as well as restaurants and food carts! Whether you are in need of essentials, or just want to do some vacation shopping for local goods, Progreso is a great day trip! Located just 25 minutes west.

Motul is a bustling little town just 35 minutes south of San Crisanto. It has many of the larger items the locals need, such as scooters and motorcycles, large kitchen appliances and household goods. You will also find a Walmart Bodega for grocery essentials. This is an easy drive, with an opportunity to enjoy local food, scenery and shopping.

Just East of Progreso on the main highway, you will find Reserva Natural El Corchito. This is an easy way for those not familiar with cenote's to take a leisurely boat ride across the river to the mangroves, and be able to walk through the reserve and swim in several different cenote's. There is an abundance of local wildlife to be enjoyed here.

There are many classic and quaint fishing villages along Highway 27, within a few minutes drive of our home. To the east there is Chabihau, Santa Clara and Dzilam de Bravo. To the west there is Telchac Puerto, Chicxulub Puerto and just east of Progreso you will find Chelem and Chuburna. Each one of these communities offers great local cuisine, limited shopping and beautiful scenery.



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# LOCAL THINGS

## To Do & See

If you were looking for a little longer day trip, the following attractions are all within an hour or two drive, and well worth the visit!

Chichen Itza, Valladolid, Izamal, Uxmal and Mayapan. There are organized adventure trips regularly scheduled to each of these attractions originating from Mérida, and some from Progreso.

For a little farther adventure into the Yucatán peninsula, consider a side trip to Campeche, a beautiful sundrenched beach town a couple hours east of Progreso. You will find some amazing local culture, food and wonderful shopping for locally produced goods in the Centro district of Merida.



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## How to Manage

# Getting Around

Although the larger towns and attractions in Yucatán can be separated by many miles, finding a way to get around and enjoy this beautiful area is not difficult.

Of course, the first option is a rental car. Although this can be generally expensive, it is not hard to find a car available through the rental agencies at Merida airport. Outside of the universal frustration that is renting a car in a foreign country, we've had good service and minimal challenges with this.

### **Here's a hot tip!**

Don't pay for the full coverage insurance through a third-party. For example, Expedia commonly advertises their full coverage insurance for rental cars. You will find when you arrive in Mexico, each of the rental car agencies requires their own comprehensive policy be placed on the rental car, and if you have pre-paid it through a third-party, you will wind up paying twice. We found this to be pretty non-negotiable.

There are also other local individuals who rent their cars, using apps such as Touro.

Uber is alive and well in Mexico! Rates are very reasonable, and the drivers are open to longer sightseeing type trips if you negotiate with them. They are not allowed to pick you up on airport grounds, but once you've arrived they are a great option. They will drop you off curbside at the airport for your return flights.

It is a very common practice to hire a private driver and car. This can offer a lot of flexibility and can save you a bit over scheduling multiple Uber's or taxis.

Taxis are also readily available at the airport. Each taxi service has a desk near the exit. You simply tell them where you want to go, pre-pay and go to the curb to meet your driver. Very simple and easy, although not the cheapest option.



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## How to Manage

# Getting Around

Most flights we've found landing in Mérida tend to arrive late in the evening. Our usual method is to take a taxi to a nearby hotel and spend the night. We will then return to the airport the next morning, and pick up a rental car. this allows us to shop for groceries before driving the 75 minutes to the house.

There are many amazing attractions around the Yucatán peninsula. These Mayan pyramids, cenotes and beautiful towns can be seen individually, or by scheduled tour from either Merida or Progresso. Whether you strike out on your own for an adventure, or join a group for a tour, don't hesitate to get out into this wonderful historically rich land!



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# PLACES TO EAT

Within the town of San Crisanto the restaurant options are limited. The most popular and easily accessible option is La Palapa. They are just two blocks west of the house on Calle 23. They have a delicious menu of fresh local seafood.

On Highway 27, the main road through town, you will find La Milpa de Valerio, and across the street and a half a block west of there, you will find La Ranita. These are all family operated restaurants with mainly local seafood on their menus.

For other various sundries, snacks and cold drinks, you will find two tiendas, a small hardware store and a fresh fruit and vegetable stand along Highway 27 as you pass through the main part of town. There are also a couple of small souvenir shops. Just a couple of minutes west in Telchac Puerto you will find another assortment of small family restaurants and souvenir shops.

In just under 30 minutes, you can visit Progreso. It has a vibrant food scene, with many choices for food and drink. There are family restaurants operated in the owner's home and served by the members of the family. There are also more sophisticated upscale options all along the Malecon.



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