

THE BAJA HWY SAN IGNACIO

HOW TO SELF ARRIVE IN CAMPO RAMON



Before you start your drive make sure you have a spare tire, correct level for oil, brake and coolant fluids. Always have at least a gallon of purified water with you, per person. If your car breaks down on Hwy. 1, don't worry, every 2 hours a "Green Angel" will pass by, a skilled mechanic & highway patrol combination, whose primary job is to help stranded tourists get rolling again. GPS or not, a classic Baja road map makes a great souvenir and a handy companion, so does a tire gauge.

The 167 mile / 268 km drive from Loreto to the village of San Ignacio takes between 3 and 4 hours. If you manage to get lost, congratulations, you would be the first to do so since 1848, since there is only one road from one end of the peninsula to the other, referred to as The Baja Hwy. or Mex 1.

Arrive in Loreto late afternoon. It will get dark at around 7 PM (MST = UTC-7).

UNO: Loreto to Mulegé: Head north for 90 minutes with beautiful scenery (84 mi / 135 km) passing through Mulegé, a palm studded oasis definitely worth checking out on your way back.

DOS: After another 38 miles / 61 km, stop in Santa Rosalia for lunch. Drive a few minutes through town, see the little metal church, designed by Gustave Eiffel in the 1800s and if you want a nice vista of the area, find your way up the hill to Hotel Frances for a sweeping view.

TRES: 45 miles / 72 km later you'll arrive at the San Ignacio turn off. To get into town, you'll have to leave the Baja Hwy. making a left and driving about 2 miles west, well marked. San Ignacio village is a rustic little place with a 17th century Jesuit mission at a Ficus-lined plaza worth a stroll on your return trip.

From the village of San Ignacio you will pass several turn-offs for other camps before your reach Campo Ramon. The road conditions vary, but are always safe for any vehicle. From the village, pass the church on your right and then turn left on Hidalgo street adjacent to the central plaza. Follow this street looking for signs to "La Laguna". You will turn right at the first Laguna sign, then left at the second sign. As the road pavement ends, set your trip odometer.

Soon you will see a large sign for "El Vizcaino Laguna" pointing to an unpaved road. Continue and after a few hundred "metric yards" you will start driving on pavement again. The total distance from the town of San Ignacio to the lagoon is 41 miles / 65 km. The first 29 miles / 47 km are paved, followed by dirt road for the rest of the distance, which is perfectly fine for any sedan but is often wash-boarded so driving slower is safer. Total driving time is under 90 minutes..

Depending on your mood and the condition of the dirt road, you might want to decrease your tire pressure from an average 35 PSI to 30 or even 25 PSI. This will make your ride more comfortable and put your tire gauge to the test.

There will be a "Campo Cortez 11 km" sign with yellow caution tape bow-tied to it. Depending on the tide, there may be a stretch where water covers the road. Drive slowly between the white PVC posts that help direct you over solid ground through the shallow tide puddle in the salt flats. Eventually you will see a sign "Campo Cortez 1 km" pointing to the right. Go past that one until you see a sign for "Campo Ramon".

Continue to the larger green tent and meet the Baja Expeditions team. Your adventure continues.

GPS

- Longitude North 26 degrees
- 47 minutes 39.6 seconds
- Latitude West 113 degrees
- 13 minutes 37.7 seconds

PHONES

- In San Ignacio send a WhatsApp: to José at 517 643 6780 to announce your arrival as phone signals are sketchy down the road

On your way down you might be stopped at a friendly military check points doing routine revisions. Be cooperative and step out of your vehicle if they wish to search it, but first retrieve your personal items, like wallet, cell phone etc, and do not step far away from your vehicle, actually it is advisable to watch them closely as they do their job.



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