

# “Gold Coast Cruisers Guide”

## Tenacatita and Barra Info and Useful Waypoints

**WARNING:** This information is provided “as is” without any warranty of accuracy. YOU are responsible for the safe navigation of your vessel – use all resources available to you. All waypoints listed are WGS84 datum.

**Acknowledgements:** Original information provided courtesy of Chris & Heather Stockard, SV Legacy, <http://www.legacysailing.com> – [stockard@123mail.net](mailto:stockard@123mail.net) and Steve & Kay Van Slyke, SV Kavenga [kavenga@att.net](mailto:kavenga@att.net).

Recent updates courtesy of Bruce Powell, SV Legacy; SV Calou [bruce@calou.com](mailto:bruce@calou.com); Archie & Beverly Ackart, SV Sea-tacean [WCZ4090@sailmail.com](mailto:WCZ4090@sailmail.com); and Bill Finkelstein & Mary Mack, SV Raptor Dance <http://raptordance.com> – [bill@raptordance.com](mailto:bill@raptordance.com) – please send any corrections to Bill. Updates will be posted on the [Raptor Dance website](http://Raptor Dance website). The permanent short address of this information (for publication) is: <http://bit.ly/1EHHto>

### Tenacatita Bay Waypoints

Roca Centro	19° 17.402'N	104° 49.692'W	Small rocky island in the approach to the inner anchorage of Tenacatita Bay.
Sentinel Rock	19° 17.474'N	104° 50.106'W	Tall, free-standing rock off the shore of the western entrance to the inner anchorage.
Charlie's Rock??	19° 17.343'N	104° 50.120'W	Charlie's Charts reports a dangerous submerged rock between Sentinel & Centro Rocks. Cruisers have tried but can't find it. This waypoint is a submerged rock off Punta Chubasco and is the best candidate since a boat coming from the Aquarium close-in might hit it.
Libertad Wreck	19° 17.804'N	104° 50.068'W	Reported position of the sunken yacht Libertad, which burned & sank in Tenacatita in 2002.
Cabeza de Navidad Reef	19° 12.795'N	104° 49.420'W	Dangerous reef off the islands at the tip of Cabeza de Navidad (point between Tenacatita and Barra).

### General Information

This area is in the **Central Time** Zone. Mexico goes off Daylight Savings Time earlier and goes onto DST later than the US (ask locally if near the transition, things may change).

**VHF 22a** is the general cruisers hailing channel.

The VHF “Gold Coast Cruisers Net” is 9AM Mon. – Sat. on Channel 22a.

If there's not active net when you get here – just start one! The Cheat Sheet (script) is on the [Raptor Dance Website](http://Raptor Dance Website).

**DO NOT USE** VHF Channels 17, 18a (Vessel Traffic Service), 23a or 71 (Water Taxi) or 77 (Fortino's Restaurant) while in the Tenacatita / Barra / Manzanillo areas or 05a (Harbor Pilot) in Santiago/Manzanillo. Also remember to go to low power on your VHF, especially on channel 21 so you don't bleed over in the Marina or crowded anchorages.

**Port Captain:** The Barra de Navidad Port Capitan's office is open M-F, 9AM to 2:30PM. You should check into the Port Captain when you arrive or leave the Barra area. Bring your checkout papers from your last port of call and a copy of your vessel registration. You don't need to make extra copies of your forms, the Port Captain will do that for you.

**Internet:** WiFi is available in some locations, but coverage is spotty. You need a high power Internet adapter to get the best service. As of 2013 most cruisers are using TelCel Banda Ancha for internet access.

Telcel Banda Acha (High Speed Internet over the Cell Phone network) is available pretty much anywhere and is relatively inexpensive. In late 2009 the Huawei USB Telcel Banda Acha adapter (recommended over the other brands) cost 770 Pesos and it includes the first month's service. Additional months are available for \$499 (or less).

Almost everywhere has Edge data and more and more areas are getting 3G service all the time. 3G is available in popular anchorages such as Tenacatita and Barra in 2013.

You can go to a Telcel Office to purchase additional months. You cannot currently get this through a Telcel Agent store. If you have an unlocked smart phone capable of tethering or wi-fi sharing you can get a data enabled SIM chip which will give you a Mexican cell number AND the ability to purchase Banda Ancha data services. The mini SIMs used in late model iPhones may not be available.

When you buy the adapter, you are given a phone number. After a few days (your record needs to get into their computer system) you can go back to the Telcel office and buy additional months.

In addition to providing Internet Connectivity, the adapter can also send and receive SMS (text) messages. When you first plug the adapter into the USB port your PC, the driver software and management program installs. The adapter also works on some versions of the MacIntosh. Best to check for the latest information on the Yahoo Groups Southbound List files section.

An alternative to going to TelCel to purchase additional cell phone or data service is to set up an account with Babblebug.com. Before your data connection expires, put money on your TelCel account via Babblebug. There are a couple of nuances with Babblebug so check out the detailed info on the Southbound List's files.

When a month of service expires, you activate the next month by sending an SMS (text) message from the adapter to the special number “5050” saying “BAT30”. (Or the appropriate command for the amount of data you wish to buy.) If you use up your data before the month is up you can start a new month anytime

### Tenacatita Geographic Information

**Good Dog Beach:** This small beach is tucked into the western corner of the anchorage. The break is generally very mild and is easy for pets to get ashore. Watch the rocks!

**Main Beach & Palapa:** The main beach is north of the anchorage. The main dinghy landing is to the right of the small bluff on the beach. The palapa is back from the beach in the palm trees west of the small bluff. The all-inclusive Blue Bay Hotel is to the far east of the beach.

**Jungle River Trip:** The entrance to the river is at the west end of the main beach, between the reef and the palapa. Entering & exiting is easier during high tide. The trip is about 2.5 miles through mangroves and ends at the fenced off (closed since mid-2010) dinghy landing on the lagoon side of Playa Tenacatita. You can land at the dinghy dock but can't proceed beyond; armed guards patrol beyond the fence. There are two forks in the channel along the trip. Take a left at each going in and a right coming out. In 2012 a canal was cut off the north side of the jungle river about 1 mile in. It leads about ¼ of a mile to higher ground and a road that leads over the hills to Revelcito.

**Hiking Trails:** There are a number of trails near Tenacatita suitable for walkers, runners, or mountain bike riders. They are very buggy so use repellent! And keep moving: if you slow down, you will get chomped! From the center of Good Dog Beach a rough trail leads a couple of hundred yards into the bush where it meets a rough jeep road. Turn left on this road to go about 2.5 miles over the hills to the east end of Playa Tenacatita. Turn right on this road to reach the river opposite the panga dock.

From behind the horse stables by the Blue Bay Hotel a jeep trail leads north, bears left around the mangroves, and eventually reaches Revelcito (about 4.5 miles). **As of 2012 the land along Playa Tenacatita is still in dispute. In 2013 armed Municipal Police are patrolling and forbid any access from the jungle river lagoon (blocked by a chain link fence a few yards beyond the dinghy dock), from the ocean, or from Revelcito.**

**Alternate Anchorages:** In strong easterly or southerly weather boats may find protected anchorage off La Manzanilla or off the Tamarindo Resort beach. In normal weather conditions, the beach off La Manzanilla is very windy and roly in the afternoons. Shopping trips to La Manzanilla

should generally be planned for the mornings as you may not be able to get through the surf in your dingy in the afternoon.

The Aquarium anchorage off Playa Tenacatita can be OK during calm weather for a day anchorage if you want to dive or snorkel. But it's not as protected and the holding isn't as good.

### Tenacatita Goods & Services

**Trash:** May be deposited in the barrels located about 150' west of the palapa in the camping area, but be sure to patronize the Palapa restaurant in return.

**Food & Beverage:** The La Vena palapa is open from about 8AM to 5PM, closed Tuesdays. Playa Tenacatita's restaurants were removed in mid-2010.

**Provisions:** (See the La Manzanilla section)

**Water & Ice:** Can sometimes be arranged through the palapa.

**Laundry:** Is available in La Manzanilla, or can sometimes be arranged through the palapa. Ask on 22a about the current situation.

**Fuel:** Can sometimes be arranged through the palapa (gas only). Otherwise, fuel is available at the fuel dock in Barra or the tire store in La Manzanilla.

**Propane:** Not available locally (see Barra info).

**ATMs & Banks:** Not available locally (see Barra info).

**Internet & Telephone:** Telcel (AT&T roaming) cell phone service is available with 3G service if you have Telcel's Internet Banda Acha adapter or an appropriate smart phone.

**Transportation:** Taxi service is available from the Blue Bay hotel to La Manzanilla and back for MX\$200 each way for 3 regular size folks or four skinnier ones. "Juan" operates a panga water taxi from the anchorage to La Manzanilla. For groups of 6 or more the price was MX\$150 per person round trip in 2013. Check on 22a for latest contact info. In large swell conditions, or when the wind chop is up on the Bay the panga ride can be very wet. Pack your purchases accordingly.

**Blue Bay Hotel:** Cruisers have purchased "day" passes for about \$45 US which covers use of the pool & other facilities, and all food & drink, from 10AM to 6PM. Check on current availability – Day passes are generally not available during the major holidays around New Years and Semana Santa (Easter) if the hotel is full.

**Medical Assistance:** There is a doctor in residence at the Blue Bay Hotel who has provided "emergency" services in the past.

### La Manzanilla Geographic Information

**Location:** The community on the eastern side of Bahia Tenacatita (incorrectly labeled as Tenacatita in Rains' Guide).

**Dinghy Landing:** Troublesome surf dampens many. Most cruisers pack their clothes and groceries in dry bags expecting to get wet coming and/or going. The break is generally milder in the morning, building rapidly in the afternoon as the NW wind builds.

**Anchorage:** Exposed to the NW; large swell and wind, especially in the afternoon. Anchor off the main part of town. Holding appears to be good, and is a viable anchorage in strong SE winds. The cove towards the south end is shallow and foul.

### La Manzanilla Goods & Services

**Supplies:** There are many small tiendas and depositos for supplies. Cruiser favorites include Abarrotes Lydia and Fruiteria Dalia. Established in the last couple of years is the Deli Mariscos, known locally as "The Canadian Deli." They have become well known for their fine meat pies, Canadian beef, and shop-made goodies. Good source for cold cuts and cheeses not usually found in Mexico.

**Restaurants:** Several good restaurants are available. Cruiser favorites include Palapa Joes (big screen TV for sports), Yolanda's, and Martine's Restaurant for French inspired Mexican dishes (off the SW corner of plaza 1 block). For great fish tacos (Baja style or grilled) look for Pedro's Taco truck near the Cocodrillos. Table service is across the street in the shade.

**Internet & Telephone:** Available in La Manzanilla. Sporadic WiFi access reported off La Manzanilla with hi-gain antenna. Telcel cell service.

**Medical:** A farmacia is run by Dr. Martha who handles simple medical problems. Two dentists run a practice a couple of blocks out the access road to town. Cruisers have given them good reviews.

**Book Exchange:** A small book exchange supporting a local youth program is located on the seaward arm of the "Y" leading to the plaza..

**Cocodrillos:** A large number of crocodiles can be seen from the viewing area at the north end of town from the main street & beach access road.

**Transportation:** Bus service to Melaque (MX\$10) starts at 8:30 AM and runs about every 2 hours until late afternoon. Taxi service is also available.

**Veterinarian:** There is a veterinarian (Rocio) and pet supply 1 ½ blocks uphill from Palapa Joe's. Her cell phone is 315-112-9708

**Assistance:** Larry and Nancy of Casa Alegre (yellow house on the beach in the middle of town) often monitor the morning net and can provide information concerning La Manzanilla.

### Cuastacomantes – "The Secret Anchorage"

A small resort town on a bay located between Cabeza de Navidad and Melaque with a hotel, a few restaurants, small tiendas, and a couple of streets of private residences. Entry to the small bay is mid-channel between the headlands. What looks to be a nicely protected corner deep in the southern end of the bay is foul and too shallow for anchorage. Anchor in sand in front of the town beach. The NW swell can work its way in and make the anchorage roly.

Approach - 19 13.39 N, 104 44.47 W

Waypoint 1 - 19 13.64 N, 104 44.45 W

Waypoint 2 - 19 13.82 N, 104 44.34 W

Waypoint 3 - 19 13.87 N, 104 44.23 W

Waypoint 4 - 19 13.86 N, 104 44.06 W

Anchorage - 19 13.83 N, 104 43.94 W

Probably all the waypoints are not necessary but should keep you away from a reef that will be off your starboard side as you approach the actual anchorage area. There are several palapa restaurants and a VERY small tienda. Melaque is a 50 peso taxi ride from here. (courtesy of Louis Kruk, SV CIRQUE)

### Barra de Navidad Goods & Services

**Colimilla Village:** This is the small village on the south western shore of the lagoon just past the fuel dock. As well as several good restaurants. Colimilla is also the home of **Maria**. Although Maria's Tienda is no longer in operation, she still provides water, laundry, and propane delivery to the anchorage. You can arrange pick-up and delivery by phone (314-337-9086) or you can drop off laundry and tanks at Fortino's Restaurant.

If you land on the beach near the beach front outboard repair and walk up the hill you will find Maria's uncle's pescadaria, a great source for nicely frozen and packaged fish and shrimp.

The outboard service shop on the beach does stainless welding.

Rosalba's truck with fresh fruits, vegetables, pies, tamales and more can be found on the main street in Colimilla, down the street from the hotel gate every Mon, Wed and Sat. 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM and in front of Sea Masters in Barra from 3:00 to 4:00 PM, Mon thru Sat.

**Grand Bay Hotel:** This is a Five Star Resort owned by a local family, managed by staff hired by the family and affiliated with the Wyndham Resort group. This group consistently wins awards for the best resort in Mexico.

Marina guests can use all the hotel facilities, pool, restaurants, health club and Spa (with extra fees), Tennis courts (with extra fees) and many other services. After you check into the Marina, proceed up to the hotel lobby on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the hotel and open a folio at the front desk. You will be given Towel Cards for the pool (be sure to ask for extras if you are expecting guests) and a Folio (virtual room) number.

Most weeks there is also Thursday event that marina guests are welcome to attend at no charge. This is usually the 6 PM Managers Reception, but may instead be a wine and food pairing event (which would require a reservation).

The hotel also provides premium provisioning to cruisers in the Marina. Fill out a shopping list with the concierge for fruits, vegetables, seafood, poultry, meat and bakery items and these items will be delivered to your vessel. Turnaround time is generally two days.

In 2013 the marina was offering many deep discounts to encourage more cruisers to use their services.

**Trash:** In Barra use the blue barrels on the street outside the Sands Hotel (seal in black plastic trash bags) and elsewhere around town; in Colimilla, use the blue barrel labeled "Basura" on the street.

In the Marina use the trash barrels around on the hotel property. Do not set out your trash at the dock gate, especially in the late afternoon or evening. The raccoons and coatamundis will get into it and make a mess.

**Water & Ice:** Water is available at the fuel dock, arrange for bottled water delivery at Fortino's, or call Maria at 314-337-9086. Ice is available at tiendas in town and block ice at the Ice House in Barra (Map "Q").

**Propane:** Drop off tanks or arrange for delivery at Fortino's, or contact Maria (phone 314-337-9086).

**Provisions:** There are many small mercados (markets) in Barra and a good fruiteria by the bus terminal, however the shopping is generally better in Melaque. (Also better than Barra is La Manzanilla across from Tenacatita.)

**French Baker:** Delivers fresh croissants, baguettes and individual pies via panga in the marina & lagoon between 8:30 & 9:30 AM+/- (VHF 22a). He accepts advance orders either when he is delivering or at his store in Barra on Legazpi, across from the Alondra Hotel (Map "K"). Prices in the store are slightly cheaper.

**Pool:** Cruisers are welcome to use the pool at the Hotel Sands if they buy drinks and/or meals.

**ATMs & Banks:** The only bank close by, a Banamex w/ATM, is in Melaque, a bus or taxi ride away. In Barra there is an ATM on Veracruz between Guanajuato & Michoacán, and another behind the concierge desk in the lobby of the Grand Bay Resort at the marina.

**Internet:** Free Internet WiFi is available at Fortino's Restaurant with purchase (ask for the password), at Los Arcos Restaurant in Barra and for a fee at the many Cyber Cafes in Barra. Internet is available at the Sands Hotel for \$20 Pesos per day.

Free WiFi Service is available in the Isla Navidad marina, but Banda Ancha is generally faster.

Telcel Banda Ancha service is available and is now mostly 3G.

**Engine and Outboard Repair:** Jorge (hor-hay), is in Cihuatlan, which is nearby, will come to your boat. Phone: (315) 355-4264.

John Jones, Jonco Marine Repair - also does stainless and aluminum fabrication, fuel polishing, portable steam cleaning, hydraulics, welding and other repairs. Call Jonco on VHF 22a. phone: (315) 355-8158, Cell: (315) 104-3382, USA phone: (866) 343-5171, email: [joncomarinerepair@yahoo.com](mailto:joncomarinerepair@yahoo.com) (Map: "Z")

**Sail Repair:** Hogin Sails Mexico - email: [bhogin@hotmail.com](mailto:bhogin@hotmail.com) Phone: (315) 355-8390 or hail "Hogin Sails" on VHF 22A. 104 San Pedro - 3 houses further than the Port Captain on the other side of street. Services: any and all sail repairs or re-cuts. New roller furler UV covers on jibs. Cover repairs. He also has a small selection of slides and slugs, fasteners for covers and such.

**Sewing and Custom Embroidery:** Mina at Taller de Costura. 38 Mazatlan Street, Phone: (315) 355 8227. Has been used for bimini repairs, canvas wall organizers to hold shoes, and to recover cushions. Be forewarned her projects always take more days than promised, so don't plan to pick up something the day before leaving. One of the cruisers swears by Mina for making her custom dresses.

**Hardware, Outboard Repair & Other Services:** In Barra there is a Mercury Outboard dealer/repair facility just beyond the Sands Hotel (Map: "X") and a Honda Outboard dealer/repair facility ((Map: "W" - cell: (315) 100-5100) near the large radio tower.

There are also a few small ferreterias around Barra; in Melaque there are hardware, welding & electrical repair shops.

**Water Taxi's, Barra Landing and Local Transport:** Water taxis are available and relatively inexpensive. They're also recommended for safety over dinghys at night or during times of high winds.

Fare is 25 Pesos roundtrip between the lagoon and Barra, and 20 Pesos roundtrip between the hotel or marina and Barra. You pay at the Barra end of the trip and get a ticket for your return.

Call "Taxi Aquatico" on VHF 23 (or 72 for the competing red pangas until 9pm) from the lagoon or marina. If you are in the Marina, it's usually a shorter wait if you go to the hotel water taxi dock (beyond the pool, by the activities center). The hotel water taxis run more frequently and they're also a drier trip in strong winds.

You can also use your dinghy; land at Hotel Sands and tie off on the seawall. **NOTE:** Drop a stern anchor out a ways & leave the painter slack. This will help hold you off the wall when the tide goes out so you don't end up on the rocks! Leave OB down to avoid damaging other dinghies. Patronize the bar and restaurant to thank The Sands.

From Barra, you can take a 6 peso bus or a 50 peso taxi to Melaque. Taxicabs are available at the cab stand by the Alondra Hotel and a sign is posted with the fixed fares to various destinations. Taxi Aquatico will on

request arrange for a Taxicab to pick you up at their Barra water taxi landing.

The Manzanillo airport is accessible only by taxi (no bus) and costs about 350 pesos from Barra or 500 pesos from the Grand Bay.

Also from Barra and Melaque there are buses available to many destinations in Mexico. Buses run frequently to Manzanillo, Guadalajara, Colima and Puerto Vallarta. The "Executive" class buses run less frequently, but provide luxurious accommodations at very reasonable prices.

**Tour Guide:** Guillermo "Memo" Ortega, Sitio Salahua, does a great all day tour of Colima for a very reasonable price. You can contact him at: [orvi42@hotmail.com](mailto:orvi42@hotmail.com) or [lorena@bay.net.mx](mailto:lorena@bay.net.mx), phone: (314) 334-0082 or cell: (314) 305-0380. He will pick you up in the Santiago Bay area or at the Isla Navidad Marina.

**Car Rental & Shopping Expeditions to Manzanillo from Barra:** Humberto at HumberTours cell: 314 118 0885

**Medical Assistance:** At the Grand Bay Hotel there is an English speaking doctor and a well equipped clinic available 24/7. This is highly recommended for emergency medical care.

For less critical care, we recommend Dr. Linda Rubio on Vera Cruz in Barra (#4 on map). There is a medical laboratory in Cihuatlan that often can draw blood and process tests in an hour or two.

**Dentist:** In Barra, Dr. Laura (#33 on map) is available, although recently cruisers, especially women, have reported less than satisfactory experiences. Dr. Wu in Melaque is recommended by cruisers. Dr. Gonzales in La Manzanilla has gotten good reviews.

**Eye Care:** In Manzanillo: Dr. Jose Joaquin Navatto Botonal, Av. Lazaro Cardenas No.1522-A, Phone: (314) 332-0427 and 314-333-6171. He speaks a little English.

**Veterinarian:** In Barra, two young veterinarians have opened "Mi Mascota" on Guanajuato between Veracruz and Mazatlan. Their phone numbers are 314-141-8046 or 315-112-4433. In Melaque, "Beto" phone: (315) 355-6782, home (315) 355-6238 and Farmacia Veterinaria Av. Morelos No.82, Ph 315-355-6782 No English. In Cihuatlan, Dr. Francisco Contreras - office (315) 355-2095, cell (315) 104-0566, Libertad North 15.

**Legal:** a person that is the legal translator for the court system (also has a candy store) is Teresa Gonzalez Merriman. Phone: (315) 355-2122 (315) 355-1316 email: [teresa.gmerriman@gmail.com](mailto:teresa.gmerriman@gmail.com)

### Barra de Navidad Navigation

**Barra Entrance:** The entrance to Barra de Navidad is marked by red and green channel markers that begin outside the breakwater. Come straight into the entrance to avoid the submerged wave barrier (sometimes marked with a yellow buoy) that extends off the end of the Port Breakwater. Stay between the channel markers. The channel does take a jog to the left to avoid a sandbar near the Hotel water taxi dock. The channel markers end at the Isla Navidad Marina (to starboard).

Note Charlie's Charts and Rains cruising guides are inaccurate. There is NO anchorage off the Sand's hotel. Only the Lagoon anchorage and Marina are usable.

There is a shallow channel off the Marina entrance that extends up to the tiny (and full) Cabo Blanco Marina and canals in Barra, but it's not recommended.

**Isla Navidad Marina:** The marina monitors channel 16, though they are not good about responding to radio calls. Calling someone already in the marina and asking them to check with the office for a slip may be more reliable. There is also a reservation form on their website at: <http://www.islanavidad.com> that may work for you.

Cruisers have had good luck just going in and taking an open slip on "G" dock and reporting to the office after the fact. In 2013, the posted marina rate was US \$2.40/foot/night or \$27/foot/month (plus tax & flat rate electricity). However the marina was offering steep discounts (\$0.68/ft) during the 2013 cruising season, and a competitive summer rate. Be sure to request metered electricity if you think the flat rate is too high for your needs.

Marina phone: 314-337-9008 (press zero for an English speaking hotel operator).

### Waypoints for Fuel Dock and Anchoring Area

**NOTE:** There are no channel markers beyond the marina!  
**All latitudes** are 19 degrees, 11 minutes plus the fractional minute.  
**All longitudes** are 104 degrees, 40 minutes plus the fractional minute.  
Also, remember that standard GPS accuracy is about 15 meters (49') with Selective Availability OFF, & 3 meters (10') with a WAAS enabled GPS.

To save keystrokes, only the fractional portions are given in the following positions. Waypoint ID numbers were assigned to make correcting and referencing them easier if any users should find significant discrepancies.

**Barra Fuel Dock and Approach:** The fuel dock is past the marina to starboard entering the lagoon. There is a large shoal between the lagoon approach channel and the fuel dock, running from near the marina breakwater to near to the island (see Lagoon chartlet below).

**Do not cut the corner if going between the lagoon and the fuel dock! Go to the Marina break water to go around the end of the shoal!**

Other than this large shoal there are no obstructions. To access the fuel dock, turn next to and run parallel with the marina breakwater and then turn left and run parallel to the shore leading to the fuel dock.

SV Legacy charted the approach to the fuel dock as many folks run onto the shoal between the channel and the fuel dock. These WPs can be inserted between Kavenga's WPs 88 and 90 to chart the navigable area.

FD 01 - .673N, .869W	FD 05 - .658N, .792W
FD 02 - .579N, .811W	FD 06 - .671N, .795W
FD 03 - .606N, .771W	FD 07 - .663N, .775W
FD 04 - .623N, .769W	

**Lagoon Anchorage and Approach:** Review the chartlet on the next page and Legacy's and Kavenga's waypoints before entering the lagoon.

Start in the channel off the tip of the breakwater by the marina entrance and the opposite point of land. In 2013 the channel is approximately 15 feet deep at zero tide and very uniform in depth. The sides of the channel are very steep, so any depths in the 10 foot range indicate imminent grounding. As you leave the channel and enter the anchorage depths will drop to 11-13 feet.

These waypoints by Kavenga consist of soundings and corresponding GPS positions that were obtained on 12/25/2004 between 1305 and 1415 local time, which is reported to have corresponded with a tide range of +0.26 feet to -0.30 feet. So for all practical purposes it was a 0 tide (dumb luck, not design).

**Channel Margin Waypoints:** See Google Earth Image on Page 5. The following pairs of waypoints mark the approximate opposing edges of the channel leading into the lagoon anchorage. They start at a line drawn from the inner marina breakwater to the land point directly across from it. All soundings were 10 feet or better. Kavenga noted that the edges of the channel are fairly steep, that is, you could "just miss it" or "just hit it" depending on luck.

Wpt 90 - .731N, .830W	Wpt 87 - .645N, .723W
Wpt 89 - .748N, .794W	Wpt 86 - .557N, .666W
Wpt 88 - .633N, .743W	Wpt 85 - .565N, .640W

**Approaching the Lagoon Basin:** The next 2 waypoints are for the edges of the channel just before you arrive at the point where you can turn left into the anchorage. These are just as you come abreast of the nearest edge of the island with the sandy beach on your right side.

Wpt 47 - 8' sounding - .467N, .583W
Wpt 48 - 12' sounding - .488N, .560W

Two other guidelines for negotiating the channel are:

- 1) To use the natural range consisting of the left tangent of the small island and the tallest palm tree off in the far distance, or
- 2) To be about 3 boat lengths from the first fish pen and about 1 ½ from the second on the Colimilla side of the channel.

**Legacy's Center Channel Waypoints into the Lagoon Anchorage**  
(See the Lagoon chartlet on the next page)

Wpt LE001 - .757N, .833W
Wpt LE002 - .630N, .725W
Wpt LE003 - .439N, .529W
Wpt LE004 - .380N, .406W

**Lagoon Anchorage Boundary:** The rest of the waypoints are all for 7' soundings. They approximately establish a 7-foot contour around the anchorage. The anchorage itself has soundings of up to 10 or 11 feet and gets progressively shallower as you approach the boundary.

Wpt 50 - .399N, .511W	Wpt 52 - .301N, .461W
Wpt 55 - .316N, .401W	Wpt 57 - .306N, .295W
Wpt 58 - .342N, .224W	Wpt 60 - .415N, .223W
Wpt 63 - .509N, .295W	Wpt 66 - .558N, .390W
Wpt 68 - .604N, .450W	Wpt 69 - .649N, .507W
Wpt 70 - .647N, .544W	Wpt 72 - .587N, .519W
Wpt 73 - .554N, .497W	Wpt 75 - .529N, .485W
Wpt 77 - .493N, .482W	Wpt 78 - .482N, .506W
Wpt 79 - .479N, .522W	

The gaps in WPT numbers are soundings that were in a straight line between the soundings listed and are not necessary to plot the 7' contour.

**Panga Wreck:** The submerged wreck of a small boat in the anchorage on the side away from the island is reported to lie at: .374N, .293W

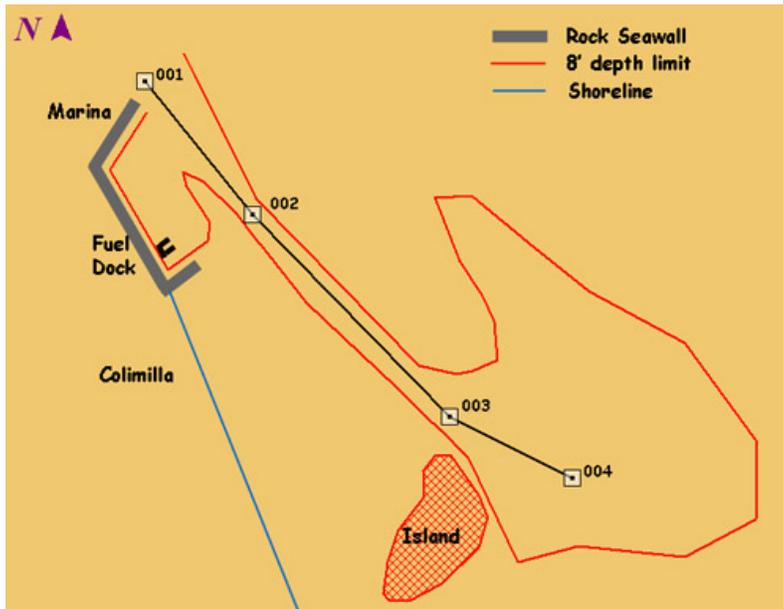
**Barra Lagoon Island:** SV Legacy charted the following waypoints that outline the island in the Barra Lagoon. Plotted together with the anchorage boundary they provide a useful reference.

IS01 - .402N, .528W	IS08 - .271N, .596W
IS02 - .364N, .500W	IS09 - .301N, .591W
IS03 - .344N, .491W	IS10 - .331N, .580W
IS04 - .315N, .500W	IS11 - .363N, .555W
IS05 - .280N, .537W	IS12 - .387N, .556W
IS06 - .264N, .570W	IS13 - .402N, .544W
IS07 - .265N, .590W	

**Anchoring Tips:** It can get quite windy in the lagoon. The bottom is mostly soft mud. Take your time setting your anchor so that it settles down in the muck. Several "light" tugs will help to bury it. Once you think you've got it, back down hard to make sure! Most people sit on 100 feet; more can create problems as boats swing and the anchorage becomes more crowded! JUST IN CASE: Sun shades can act like a parachute during strong winds. Take them down when leaving the boat. Take a hand held VHF on 22a with you into to town so you can be reached if your boat or a neighbor's starts dragging. Also, leave the windlass and engine breakers on and any key in the switch so others can help reset your anchor if no one is aboard.



Google Earth satellite overview of Barra showing orientation of street map and chartlet. North is up. Colimilla Village is positioned just above the word "Lagoon."

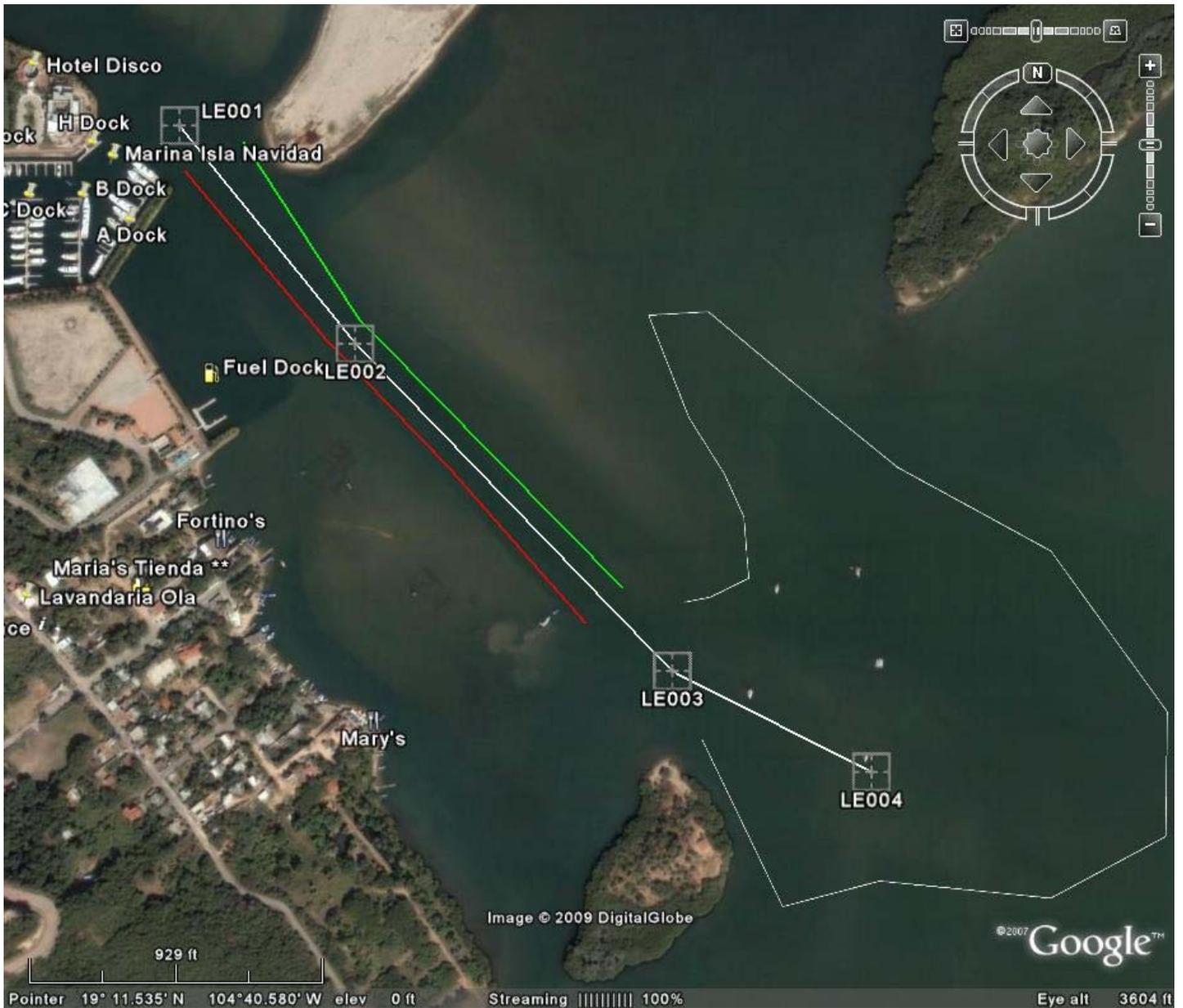


Barra Lagoon: Kavenga's channel and 8' anchorage limits (red outline), and Legacy's route into the anchorage (black route line) and fuel dock 8' navigable area

**“Back Alley” Anchorage:** One of the interesting things discovered in our survey was the existence of an anchorage area behind the shoal on your left as you enter. To the best of our knowledge no one was using this area, probably because it was assumed that any area beyond the edge of the channel was shoal. The “Back Alley” anchorage, as we call it, is delimited by waypoints 68 through 73.

In order to get there you first need to come all the way into the anchorage area, turn left into the anchorage. You can then turn left again into this area. You can continue back towards town until you are roughly due East of the fuel dock. The alley appears to be about 300 feet wide and possibly 1,000 to 1,200 feet long. So if a few boats anchored single file down the centerline of the alley, there should be plenty of swinging room since not much scope is needed (100'). More soundings would be helpful, but it looks usable if the rest of the anchorage is already crowded.

## Google Earth Image of Barra Lagoon



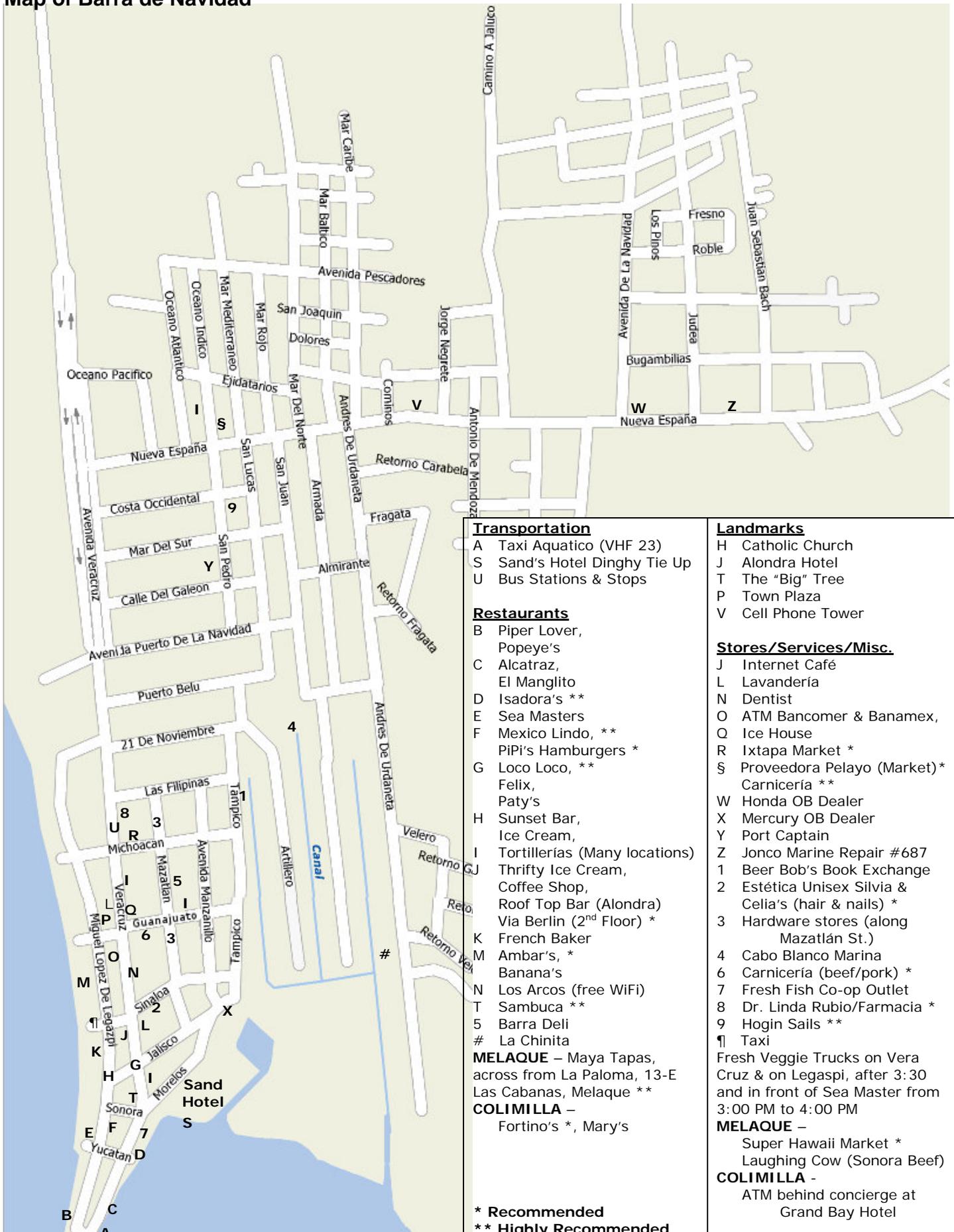
In particular note the areas of mud. Also note that coming in and out of the fuel dock you will need avoid the mud spur heading to the lagoon channel. We recommend staying about a boat length off the sea wall to keep from running aground.

NOTICE: For many years a mega yacht marina has been planned for the far end of Barra Lagoon. It will be in past the island and south by the golf course. A mega yacht boat yard is planned for next to and east of the marina. Slips are designed for up to 250' yachts. If and when construction begins, be alert in the general area for the beginning of dredging of the channel and a turning basin.

### Electronic Navigation

Nobeltec Users: All waypoints, boundaries, and routes listed here (and around Tenacatita) and on Kavenga's and Legacy's Barra Lagoon surveys are available as an IMPORT file from Legacy on their website <http://www.legacysailing.com> and Raptor Dance's website <http://raptordance.com>

# Map of Barra de Navidad



### Transportation

- A Taxi Aquatico (VHF 23)
- S Sand's Hotel Dinghy Tie Up
- U Bus Stations & Stops

### Restaurants

- B Piper Lover, Popeye's
- C Alcatraz, El Manglito
- D Isadora's \*\*
- E Sea Masters
- F Mexico Lindo, \*\*
- G Loco Loco, \*\*
- Felix, Paty's
- H Sunset Bar, Ice Cream,
- I Tortillerías (Many locations)
- GJ Thrifty Ice Cream, Coffee Shop, Roof Top Bar (Alondra) Via Berlin (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) \*
- K French Baker
- M Ambar's, \* Bananas
- N Los Arcos (free WiFi)
- T Sambuca \*\*
- 5 Barra Deli
- # La Chinita

**MELAQUE** – Maya Tapas, across from La Paloma, 13-E Las Cabanas, Melaque \*\*

**COLIMILLA** – Fortino's \*, Mary's

\* Recommended  
\*\* Highly Recommended

### Landmarks

- H Catholic Church
- J Alondra Hotel
- T The "Big" Tree
- P Town Plaza
- V Cell Phone Tower

### Stores/Services/Misc.

- J Internet Café
- L Lavandería
- N Dentist
- O ATM Bancomer & Banamex,
- Q Ice House
- R Ixtapa Market \*
- S Proveedora Pelayo (Market)\* Carnicería \*\*
- W Honda OB Dealer
- X Mercury OB Dealer
- Y Port Captain
- Z Jonco Marine Repair #687
- 1 Beer Bob's Book Exchange
- 2 Estética Unisex Silvia & Celia's (hair & nails) \*
- 3 Hardware stores (along Mazatlán St.)
- 4 Cabo Blanco Marina
- 6 Carnicería (beef/pork) \*
- 7 Fresh Fish Co-op Outlet
- 8 Dr. Linda Rubio/Farmacia \*
- 9 Hogin Sails \*\*
- ¶ Taxi
- Fresh Veggie Trucks on Vera Cruz & on Legaspi, after 3:30 and in front of Sea Master from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- MELAQUE** – Super Hawaii Market \* Laughing Cow (Sonora Beef)
- COLIMILLA** - ATM behind concierge at Grand Bay Hotel