

Bret Spears
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PACKING LIST

Here at Casa La Caleta, we live by the ABCs: Always Be Crushing. You'll be fishing and exploring in a hot, dry, sunny part of Baja, with long days on the water and two nights in La Paz—one before and one after your stay at the lodge. This packing list is designed to be simple, focused, and easy to scan so you can arrive prepared and ready to practice those ABCs from the moment you hit the water. Please read carefully and come ready to crush.

We provide all the essentials on-site (boats, captains, food, drinks, flies, etc.); This list is what you should bring to stay comfortable, protected, and ready to fish hard.

PERSONAL DOCUMENTS & ESSENTIALS

- ◆ Passport (valid 6+ months)
- ◆ Flight itinerary (printed or digital)
- ◆ Shuttle / pickup details (Marco Antonio / transfer info)
- ◆ Travel insurance (optional)
- ◆ Emergency contact info
- ◆ Credit/debit cards (notify bank of Mexico travel)
- ◆ Cash USD (small bills helpful for tips & incidentals)
- ◆ Driver's license
- ◆ Phone
- ◆ Charging cables + small wall adapter
- ◆ Portable battery pack (optional but handy)
- ◆ WhatsApp installed (primary communication in Baja)

CLOTHING

ON THE WATER / AT THE LODGE (BAJA HOT & DRY 95% OF THE TIME)

- ◆ Lightweight long-sleeve sun shirts (2–4)
- ◆ Quick-dry fishing shorts (2–3)
- ◆ Lightweight pants (optional but nice for sun protection)
- ◆ Buff / neck gaiter
- ◆ Sun hat with brim
- ◆ Light fleece or hoodie (for breezy mornings on the panga)
- ◆ Swim trunks
- ◆ Deck shoes or water sandals (non-marking soles)
- ◆ Flip-flops or slides for around the lodge
- ◆ Wading shoes or boots for walk wading the beaches and stalking triggers on the flats

TWO NIGHTS IN LA PAZ

- ◆ 1–2 "Baja casual" outfits for dinners & walking the Malecón. Collared shirt or clean tee + shorts or light pants.
- ◆ Comfortable walking shoes or sandals

TOILETRIES, PERSONAL CARE, & SUN PROTECTION

TOILETRIES

- ◆ Toothbrush & toothpaste
- ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Shampoo & conditioner (travel size)
- ◆ Razor & shaving supplies
- ◆ Personal medications (enough for entire trip)
- ◆ Small personal first-aid items (Band-Aids, ibuprofen, etc.)

PERSONAL CARE

- ◆ Lip balm with SPF
- ◆ Electrolyte / hydration packets (PLEASE BRING PLENTY!!)
- ◆ Moisturizer (Baja is very dry)
- ◆ After-sun lotion or aloe (optional)
- ◆ Saline drops or eye hydration (optional)
- ◆ Hand sanitizer

SUN PROTECTION (NON-NEGOTIABLE IN BAJA)

- ◆ Reef-safe sunscreen SPF 30–50 (water-resistant)
- ◆ Zinc or face-specific sunscreen
- ◆ UPF long-sleeve shirts
- ◆ Buffs / neck gaiters
- ◆ UPF gloves (optional but helpful for long days stripping line)
- ◆ Polarized sunglasses + retainer strap

BOAT BAG ESSENTIALS

TO BRING ON THE PANGA EACH DAY

- ◆ Waterproof boat bag (Fishpond, Simms, Yeti, Patagonia, etc.)
- ◆ Hydration pack or water bottle (stay ahead of the heat)
- ◆ Sun hoodie or spare long-sleeve shirt
- ◆ Buff / neck gaiter
- ◆ Polarized sunglasses (blue or greened mirror lenses)
- ◆ Sunscreen + SPF lip balm (for reapplication)
- ◆ Small towel
- ◆ Phone (ideally in a small dry pouch)
- ◆ Light wind jacket or shell for morning runs

OPTIONAL FISHING ITEMS TO KEEP HANDY

- ◆ Leader material (20–60 lb fluorocarbon)
- ◆ Nippers / pliers / multi-tool
- ◆ Personal fly box (if you like your own patterns – not required)

GEAR (RODS, LINES, & FLIES)

We have high-quality tackle and flies on hand, but if you enjoy fishing your own here's what works best in our fishery.

RODS

- ◆ 2 × 10-weight rods – your primary workhorses
- ◆ 1 × 12-weight rod – for bigger fish & heavier wind
- ◆ There are triggerfish on the flats. If you desire to pursue these guys, bring one 8wt with floating line and a few bonefish/permit flies)

REELS

- ◆ Saltwater-safe reels with strong, smooth drag systems
- ◆ Make sure they're well-maintained and loaded with 250-300 meters of quality backing. We have had giant roosters almost spool us.

FLY LINES

Intermediate tropical lines are the standard here:

- ◆ Rio Tropical Outbound Short – Intermediate
 - ◆ Scientific Anglers Jungle Clear Tip – Intermediate
 - ◆ Scientific Anglers Sonar Titan – Intermediate
 - ◆ You can fish poppers here ... and it can be exhilarating!!
- If you are focused on popper fishing, prepare one of your reels with a good floating GT style line.

LEADER MATERIAL

Fluorocarbon spools:

- ◆ 20 lb
- ◆ 30 lb
- ◆ 40 lb
- ◆ 50 lb
- ◆ 60 lb

FLIES

Casa La Caleta provides flies, but if you like to bring your own, focus on sardina profiles and lively baitfish patterns:

- ◆ EP Sardine (olive/white or tan/white)
- ◆ Other sardine-style baitfish in similar colorways
- ◆ Shaughnessy's Nyacca Batifish (cotton candy or olive)
- ◆ Gym Sock Fly
- ◆ Joe Dirt Fly
- ◆ Kinky Muddler
- ◆ Other sparse, synthetic baitfish flies with good movement
- ◆ For Popper fishing, we like the NYAP fly!
- ◆ If it looks like a panicked sardina trying not to get eaten, it probably belongs in your box.

BRING YOUR OWN FUN

Fishing pristine waters means finding untouched places ... and that means limited options in terms of night life and entertainment. Our lodge is no exception. So, don't hesitate to bring along a good novel, a deck of cards, an ukulele, a book of crosswords, a game to share, or anything you feel would add to the experience. We've already got a bunch of things to share with y'all, too, with these same ideas in mind :)