

# Tailwind Frequently Asked Questions



## Most Frequently Asked Questions

1. How far is the lodge from the beach?
2. How far is the lodge from San Pancho?
  3. Is the jungle safe for kids?
  4. Are there bugs?
  5. Should I rent a car?
6. Do we need to bring our own drinking water?
  7. Does Tailwind provide food?

## Answers:

1. **BEACH.** The Tailwind lodge is about a 5 minute walk through along a jungle path to a beautiful secluded cove that is great for swimming and lounging. This beach is actually one of the most protected in the area (more so than San Pancho beach) so it's generally great for kids.
2. **LOCATION.** We are located approximately 3 miles outside of San Pancho. The road is a lovely winding dirt road that is fun to hike. It takes about an hour to walk into town.
3. **KIDS.** We've had many children of all ages visit the jungle and they've loved it! Parents should know that there are many steps, and railings, and that children must be watched, but they are not in danger. It's actually wonderful to have kids in the jungle because it brings out the inner child in everyone!
4. **BUGS.** People are always amazed to arrive in the jungle and find that there are relatively no bugs. This is why we love this place! For 10 months out of the year this is a dry jungle, which keeps the insect populations at bay. Regardless, all of the beds have cascading bug nets for sleeping. Most guests choose not to use the nets.
5. **CAR.** We highly recommend that guests rent a car. In the end, this will give you the most freedom during your stay (to drive into town for dinner, explore local villages and beaches, get to different surf breaks, etc.). There are other options, but renting a car is the best. This can be done easily through the Puerto Vallarta airport.
6. **WATER.** No, you do not need to bring your own drinking water. This is provided at the lodge. We do recommend that you bring a reusable water bottle with you to use throughout the day.
7. **FOOD.** No, the Tailwind Lodge does not provide food and does not have a restaurant. All guest accommodations have kitchenettes and guests may enjoy creating some fun meals of local Mexican food. There are some simple grocery stores and a wide variety of restaurants in San Pancho (from taco stands to 4 star). By special request, a chef can deliver meals to the jungle. Guests may use the chef for one meal during their stay. Please inquire.

Please scroll down to see answers to questions in all of the following categories.

**Our location:**

Airport information  
Directions to Tailwind from Airport (Puerto Vallarta)  
Tailwind and surrounding villages  
Transportation around the area

**Facilities information:**

Tailwind capacity  
What's the difference between bungalows, casitas and palapas?  
How far to the beach?  
Kitchenettes  
Towels  
Cleaning Service  
Security  
Kids and safety

**Food & Dining**

Meals at Tailwind  
Dining in San Pancho  
Kitchenettes

**Activities:**

Tailwind's guided tours  
Things to do in San Pancho and the greater area

**Climate & Jungle life:**

Wildlife  
Are there bugs? Mosquitos?  
Should I bring a sweater?  
What to bring (packing list)

**Services:**

Internet  
ATM, banks  
Medical Emergencies

**Reservation Information**

How do I reserve my stay?

Still have questions? e-mail [Info@tailwindoutdoor.com](mailto:Info@tailwindoutdoor.com)

**AIRPORT & LOCATION**

**Which airport do I fly into?**

Tailwind guests should fly into the Puerto Vallarta airport, which is in the state of Jalisco,

quite confusing). Also, if possible, try to arrive either morning or early-mid afternoon to avoid having to drive in the dark.

Where is Tailwind in relation to the airport?

Tailwind is located 30 miles north of Puerto Vallarta, about a 50 minute drive up highway 200. We are just outside of Bahia de Banders (Bay of Flags). Please see downloadable pdf “Directions to the Tailwind Jungle Lodge”.

### **What is the best method of transportation from the airport to Tailwind?**

a) Rent a car.

Particularly for couples and small groups, it is strongly recommended that you rent a car for your stay with Tailwind. In the end, this will be the cheapest option. As well, renting a car will give you much more freedom to explore the area throughout your stay. There are many rental car agencies online and at the Puerto Vallarta airport—Usave (a good option), National, Budget, etc. You can either reserve a car in advance, or get one when you arrive at the airport. You can expect to pay between \$20-\$40/per day for a car (depending on the variety) It is an easy drive on the only highway heading north along the coastline (HWY 20). For larger groups and retreats, renting a van is also a good option.

b) Taxi Service

For groups and retreats, taking a van taxi to/from the airport to Tailwind is also an option. Van taxis can range from \$70 (one way) for a small van to \$150 for a larger van. For Taxi info, contact Pedro at [www.divatours.net](http://www.divatours.net), or contact [info@tailwindoutdoor.com](mailto:info@tailwindoutdoor.com)

c) Public Bus

Another way to get to Tailwind is take the public bus north on Hwy 200, from Puerto Vallarta to San Pancho. (approx. 20 pesos/person) You will then need to take a cab from San Pancho to Tailwind (approx. 100 pesos). Some hearty travelers choose this option, though taking the bus is the longest option and requires the most patience!

### **If I rent a car, does it need to be 4wheel drive?**

No, 4wheeldrive is not necessary from Nov. - May. The road is bumpy and rough, but 2wheeldrive is fine. From May – Oct. the road is impassible without 4wheel drive.

### **How far is Tailwind from the nearest town? Do we need transportation to get into town? Are San Pancho and San Francisco the same place?**

San Pancho and San Francisco are the same town, San Pancho is the nickname for San Francisco. Tailwind is located 3 miles outside of the town of San Pancho (just north). The best option is to rent a car to get in and out of town, though walking (partly on the beach), biking and relying on the taxi service are also options.

## **FACILITIES INFO**

### **How many people maximum can Tailwind accommodate?**

Starting Nov. 1, 2009, Tailwind will have a capacity for 16-17 guests. Please visit the Bungalows, Casitas and Palapas page of our website for more information on our units. Please inquire about inflatable beds for additional guests.

### **What is the difference between a bungalow, a casita and a palapa?**

Palapas: We have 2 palapas that make up the Tailwind main house. The palapas are open-air units with thatched roofs and tile floors.

Casitas: We have 2 casitas, which means small house. Both of these units have open deck spaces, but bedroom/living room areas that have the option of being left open or enclosed.

Bungalows: We have 2 bungalows, which are canvas safari tents on wooden platforms.

Please see: [Casitas, Bungalows, Palapas 2010 pdf](#) for more information.

### **How far to the beach? Are the beaches swimmable? Good for snorkeling?**

There are three beautiful beaches within short walking distance (all with varying degrees of seclusions). The closest is a 5 minute walk, the furthest (only accessible by foot or boat) is 15 minute walk. The closest beach is the safest beach for swimming, as it is a nice protected cove (good for kids). The other two beaches have slightly larger waves (depending on the swell) that can be great for body surfing.

This stretch of coastline is known more for its surfing than for its snorkeling, which means that the water can be fairly churned up and cloudy by the swells. Occasionally, when the swell is completely flat, the snorkeling is great. However, generally the snorkeling is mediocre. Tailwind does have a few sets of snorkeling gear available to our guests.

### **Are Tailwind's facilities suitable for young children?**

This is a jungle, and as with any wild place there are always risks for young children. Our units have high decks and our property is quite steep with many steps. However, there have been many young children (aged 1 +) who have stayed at Tailwind and have simply adored it (the parents had a great time too!). Please inquire as to which of Tailwind's bungalows and palapas would be best suited for young children.

### **Does Tailwind have electricity?**

We try to minimize electricity use as much as possible, but yes, we are connected to the grid and have electrical lights and outlets. You will be able to charge any personal electronics. It is however, a good idea to bring a headlamp or flashing for additional light when navigating the path to your bungalow at night.

### **Does Tailwind provide towels?**

Yes, we provide our guests with both beach and bath towels, as well as hand towels and face cloths. However, we like to conserve water in the jungle so guests only receive one set of towels per guests for their stay (to minimize on laundry).

### **Cleaning Service**

Currently, Tailwind's casitas, bungalows and palapas are cleaned and readied for our guests once, and then left to the guests to keep tidy, like any rental house. For longer stays units are cleaned once a week. For large groups, a regular cleaning service is available for an additional fee. Please make a special request to the Tailwind staff. Guests receive one set of sheets and towels a week during their stay to minimize laundry and conserve water.

### **Is there a place to keep my valuables at Tailwind where they will be safe?**

We have never had a theft problem at Tailwind, however each of our units do have either locking closets or chests for your store your valuables during your stay.

## **FOOD & DINING**

### **Does Tailwind provide any meals for its guests?**

Tailwind currently does not provide meals for our guests, we encourage guests to use their kitchenettes for basic cooking (can be fun!) and to enjoy dining at the restaurants in San Pancho (from basic taco stands to 4 star restaurants).

However we do have a chef that is available to deliver one dinner during your stay. For large groups special catering arrangements can be made. Reservations must be made with the chef in advance and specific dishes may be requested (shrimp, fish, pasta, etc.).

### **What is a kitchenette and what does it include?**

Each unit (casita, bungalow or palapa), with the exception of Palapa Gecko, has its own kitchenette. The kitchenettes are basic kitchens which include a small fridge, 2 burn stove, pots, pans, plates, cutlery, etc. The kitchens in Palapa Tigre and Casita Pumita are larger and have more appliances (blender for margaritas!) and an oven.

There is also a shared BBQ pit that anyone is welcome to use. Just be sure to bring your own charcoal!

### **Do guests at Tailwind typically go out for dinner, cook in the kitchenettes or order meals from the Tailwind chef?**

You may reserve the Tailwind chef for one night of your stay in the jungle. The other nights, guests tend to enjoy both cooking in the jungle and going out to eat. Both are a fun experience. Buying fresh seafood and cooking it in your kitchenette is a lot of fun, as is visiting the taco stands (nice and cheap, kids love the quesadillas) or fancier restaurants in San Pancho. The Tailwind staff is happy to direct you towards our favorites place to eat or to buy groceries.

### **Should I buy groceries on the way from the airport to Tailwind?**

It is a good idea to buy groceries on your way to Tailwind so that you can stock your fridge and won't have to go back to town to shop. A good place to shop is the MEGA grocery store, about 20 minutes outside of Puerto Vallarta right on Hwy 200, you can't miss it. If you'd rather shop locally in San Pancho, look for the El Indio grocery store, it's on your way to the jungle right after you turn off San Pancho's main street.

### **What are the restaurants like in San Pancho?**

San Pancho has a lovely range of restaurants, from breakfast to dinner, taco stand to 4 star restaurants. Enjoy a sunset cocktail on the beach and then decide what kind of food you fancy! Ask the Tailwind staff about recommended San Pancho restaurants.

## **ACTIVITIES**

*More information available in the Tailwind Activities Brochure.*

### **What is there to do at Tailwind?**

A joke around the Tailwind headquarters is that "there is so much not to do!". Cramming your vacation schedule with too many plans generally backfires, as many people end up very

content to just hang out in the jungle and on the beaches within walking distance.

**A few things to do around the property:**

- Lounge in the hammock, by the pool or on the rooftop deck.
- Hike a jungle and beach loop (hikes vary from 30 min. to 2 hours)
- Request a yoga session
- Schedule a massage
- Schedule a bird watching tour.
- Watch the wildlife
- Hike to secluded beaches. (5-15 minute walk)
- Hike to San Pancho (3 miles into town)

**Tailwind Guided Tours**

- We specialize in sea kayaking tours of this fantastic coastline, please for more information on these tours.
- We also offer:
  - wild beach tours (Punta Raza, Divisaderos)

Surfing tours can be arranged.

**What is there to do in the San Pancho area?**

**Adventure:** Whale watching, deepsea fishing, surfing lessons, snorkeling around the Marietta Islands, ziplining, mountain biking, yoga classes, and more!

**Cultural excursions:** petroglyphs outside of Alta Vista, La Peñita Thursday market, visit the San Pancho organic garden or visit EntreAmigos (local non-profit for kids), watch sea turtles being released by the San Pancho Tortuga Non-profit.

**Dinning in San Pancho:** San Pancho has a lovely range of restaurants, from breakfast to dinner, taco stand to 4 star restaurants. Enjoy a sunset cocktail on the beach and then decide what kind of food you fancy! Ask the Tailwind staff about recommended San Pancho restaurants.

**Popular Towns near San Pancho:** Yelapa (town accessed only by boat), San Blas (crocodiles, bird watching, culture), Sayulita (nightlife, surf break, trendy/hippy style town), Puerto Vallarta (restaurants, boardwalk, shopping)

## CLIMATE & JUNGLE LIFE

**What are the seasons in the Mexican pacific jungle?**

The rainy season (hot, humid, wet) is from June through October. This part of Mexico sees no rain from Nov. through April. Sunny skies shine on the jungle all through the winter time. During this time, day time temperatures hover around 80 -85 °F. Evening temperatures can be 65 °- 70 ° F. A sweater in the evenings feels good.

**How are the mosquitoes...are they a problem sleeping in the jungle in Tailwind's open units? When is the rainy season?**

W E B S I T E : [www.tailwind.com](http://www.tailwind.com) | P H O N E : + 5 2 1 3 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 | E M A I L : [info@tailwind.com](mailto:info@tailwind.com)

around sunset, we have a couple of bugs that come out. When hiking through the jungle it's not a bad idea to wear bug spray. However, bugs are not much of a factor at Tailwind. Regardless, for your comfort we have cascading bug nets to surround your bed so that your sleep will be carefree.

### **What about the wildlife?**

The jungle is home to many species of wildlife: birds, iguanas, geckos, Tejones (kind of like monkey/raccoons), squirrels, frogs, armadillos, and insects. Scorpion sightings are very rare and there is no need to fear!

### **Suggested Packing List (beyond the usual tropical vacation gear)**

- Biodegradable soap (Dr. Bronner's type recommended) Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash . . . Anything that goes down the drain waters the plants so make it biodegradable!!!
- Insect repellent (insects are not a problem unless you go hiking through narrow jungle trails, always good to have repellent just in case)
- Flashlight/headlamp (for additional light on trails at night)
- Sturdy walking shoes for walking and hiking around the area
- Sunscreen, the sun is strong here and sunscreen is very expensive in San Pancho
- Warm clothing for cool nights (pants and sweater in Dec./Jan/Feb)
- Ear plugs (if the birds are too loud for you!)
- Binoculars (if you're into that kind of thing)
- Texas or chaco sandals
- A rash guard (if you have one and want to surf)
- Don't forget your camera!

## **SERVICES**

### **Is there Internet in the jungle?**

Part of the beauty of this place is that there's no Internet! There is however, spotty cell phone service in the jungle and there is an Internet café and many cafes with WiFi in San Pancho. If you absolutely need to get work done while on holiday it's recommended that you bring your laptop to use the WiFi.

### **Is there an ATM in San Pancho?**

There are 2 ATMs in San Pancho. However, these ATMs can be quite unreliable so it's best to bring money with you. It is recommended that you exchange American dollars to pesos at the Puerto Vallarta airport, or prior to your visit to Mexico. There are no banks in San Pancho and most local businesses do not take credit cards (some fancier restaurants do).

### **Safety and emergency medical situations.**

San Pancho is very lucky to have a very clean and efficient hospital right in town. This is a very place for any medical emergencies any Tailwind guests might have.

## **RESERVATION INFO**

### **How do I reserve my stay?**

Please contact [info@tailwindoutdoor.com](mailto:info@tailwindoutdoor.com) for information on how to reserve your stay in the jungle. We do not accept drop ins and strongly recommend reservation at least 1-2 months prior. Large groups in particular should reserve many months in advance in order to ensure availability of all units. Tailwind is a small lodge and we fill up quickly, particularly in the high season. A 50% deposit is required for reservations.

Still have questions? E-mail [info@tailwindoutdoor.com](mailto:info@tailwindoutdoor.com)