

Before you leave to the islands

Don't take animals (including pets) or plants.



Remove soil and seeds from your clothes and shoes.

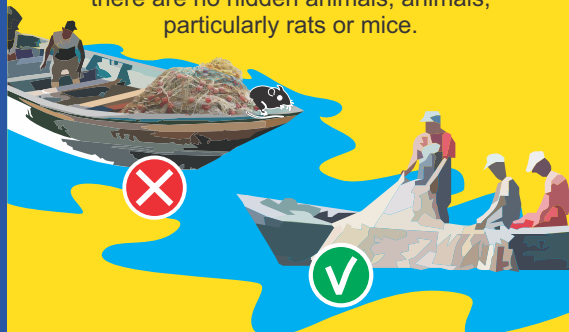


Pack your belongings in closed containers. Clean and check all your equipment.



Clean and check your boat; always keep it free of pests.

If you take fishing nets, submerge them entirely in the ocean and make sure there are no hidden animals, animals, particularly rats or mice.



If you are travelling to the islands, please follow these simple biosecurity measures.

Most importantly: spread the word!



Have you seen a rat, a cat, or its tracks? call CONANP

When arriving at the islands

Don't dock your boat or anchor it closer than 100 meters to the island. Don't throw living rodents into the ocean. Don't land at night.



Keep your boat and camping area clean. When unpacking your food, place it on a tarp and make sure it is free of insects.



Don't leave garbage on the islands (not even biodegradable); take it with you back to the mainland.

Plastics must be kept in closed containers (rodents use them to build their nests) and then should be taken out of the islands.

If you can, pick up and take back any trash that you may find.



Join our effort to keep Islas Marietas free of invasive species! Clean boats – living islands!



Islas Marietas National Park

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Biosecurity on Islas Marietas



RAT / MOUSE

PETS

INSECTS

SEEDS





Islas Marietas host the largest breeding colony of the endangered Bridled Tern.

Why are islands so important to Mexico?

There are 4300 islands in Mexico, and together they are home to 8% of all plants and vertebrates in the country. Many of these species are endemic: natural isolation has made them unique, and they cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Islands are also an important refuge for birds and marine mammals.

Islands provide vital functions: protection against natural disasters, nutrient cycling, climate regulation, and expansion of Mexico's sovereignty and national territory. Thousands of fishermen and their families benefit from the artisanal fisheries relying on the rich waters surrounding the islands.

Fragility of islands and their species

Native island species are very vulnerable to invasive species introduced by humans, (whether intentionally or not) because of competition for resources, predation, habitat degradation and disease transmission. In fact, 81% of all extinctions of terrestrial vertebrates recorded in the Mexican islands (endemic birds and mammals), occurred after the introduction of exotic species, such as rats, cats, dogs and sheep.

Islas Marietas

Islas Marietas National Park was created in 2005 and comprises two islands, Redonda and Larga, as well as several islets. They are part of the *Man and the Biosphere Program* from UNESCO, and are also internationally recognized as Important Bird Areas (IBA) because they host several important seabird breeding colonies (Brown Booby, Brown Noddy and Laughing Gull).

There are no native terrestrial mammals on Islas Marietas National Park. However, in 2008 a group of feral cats was recorded on Isla Redonda. Since 2011, the Mexican NGO Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas has been working with the National Commission of Protected Areas (CONANP) to eradicate the feral cat population. An ongoing environmental learning campaign raises awareness to prevent introductions of invasive species.



Brown Noddy



Nesting Brown Booby



Islas Marietas

How can you help to prevent the introduction of exotic species?

It is common for rats, mice, insects and seeds to travel in boats and personal luggage without being detected. Prevention is therefore the only way to avoid accidental introductions. By following the simple biosecurity measures shown here every time you visit an island, you can help to prevent, detect and respond to any introduction quickly and effectively.

Biosecurity measures need to be implemented routinely and require a strong commitment from all visitors to the islands. Observing them will prevent the introduction of invasive species to Islas Marietas National Park and help to conserve them as a natural heritage of the Mexican people.

Heermann's Gull is one of the 44 species from Islas Marietas, which are under protection by Mexican law.



Laughing Gull

