

Overview of Common Golfo de Fonseca Anchorages and Approximate Distances



PUNTA AMAPALA

Punta Amapala, about 45nm from Barillas, protects this large bay from most of the ocean swell. The low point usually has dramatic surf breaking across the reefs and opens into a 2 mile wide bay on the opposite side. The beach is a nice sandy stretch with some vacation homes and a very colorful panga fishing fleet. There is a small side lagoon where the little town of Tamarindo is located.

Approaching the

Give Punta Amapala a wide berth because of currents and the breaking waves can be quite strong. Try to get in at least 50-60 feet and you will be into the bay behind Punta Amapala.

There are lots of panga boats and nets and the nets are typically strung down so as long as you avoid the fleets you should be safe.

Approach waypoint

➤ 13° 04.0' N and 087° 53.9' W ◀

Anchoring

The bay has a fairly uniform bottom made up of sand. Move to the western edge of the bay to get a break from the swell. Sometimes daily there are rain squalls so the anchorage is not the best choice for the heavy going.

Don't forget to check the tidal range before anchoring too soon.

Approach way

13° 10.8' N and 87° 54.45' W ◀

Weather

At night there is usually a light NW to SE breeze and stronger on-shore winds from the S to SW during the day.

Watch out for the development of *Papagayos* (October to February) in this anchorage as they will blow right down the shore into the bay. If it gets too rough, just reach over to Isla Meanguera's southern anchorage.

