

ENSENADA, MEXICO

"La Cenicienta del Pacífico" (The Cinderella of the Pacific), Ensenada is a vibrant coastal city in Baja California, celebrated for its stunning ocean views, rich wine culture, and diverse culinary scene.

KEY INFO

Currency: Mexican Peso (1 USD: 20.2 MXN)

Population: 357,801 (130.9 million Mexico)

Emergency #: 911

Drinking Water: Tap water is not recommended

Time Zone: GMT-8 (Pacific Time Zone)

ID Requirements: Gov't issued photo ID

Languages: Spanish (English widely spoken)

Drive on the: Right

Pharmacy: [Happy Pharmacy, Zona Centro, 22800](#)

Protection: SPF 30+, bug spray, stay hydrated

Wi-Fi: McDonalds, Parque Revolucion, Public Library

Post Office: [Correos de Mexico, Club Rotario 93, Centro](#)

PORT LOCATION

Ships dock in at the Ensenada Cruise Terminal, which is a short walk (0.5 mile) to the city center.

Getting Around: Many attractions are within walking distance, including shops, restaurants, and cultural sites.

Taxis: Taxis and Uber are available. Negotiate rates before your ride.

Tourist Bus: There is no Hop-On Hop-Off Bus

Tourist Information: Tourist information and private tour operators at port

Port Facilities: shops, restaurants and public toilets (\$) are nearby

Port Address: [Muelle de Cruceros Ensenada, Bahia Ensenada, 22880 Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico](#)

BEACHES NEAR ENSENADA

Playa Hermosa: The closest beach to the cruise port, ideal for a relaxing stroll or sunbathing. 2 miles (3.2km) from port.

Playa San Miguel: Known for its excellent surfing conditions. 10 miles (16 km) north of the port.

Estero Beach: Part of a resort and offers a tranquil setting with opportunities for swimming, snorkeling, and other water activities. 7 miles (11 km) south of the port.

El Faro Beach: Stunning views and less crowded; a great spot for a peaceful day. 5 miles (8 km) from port.

ENSENADA HIGHLIGHTS

Avenida López Mateos: The main shopping street, with souvenirs, local crafts, and clothing.

Mercado Negro: A bustling fish market where you can buy fresh seafood and unique local products. 8a-8p | Free | 0.5 miles (0.8 km) from port

Riviera del Pacífico Cultural Center: Explore this historic building – once a luxury hotel and casino - which now houses art exhibits and a museum. 8a-2p | Free | 1 mile (1.6 km) from port.

Museo Histórico Regional: Interesting local museum housed in a former military barracks, jail, and hospital, with exhibits from ancient times through the colonial era to today. 9a-5p (Tue-Sun) | Free | 0.6 miles (1km)

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

La Bufadora: A marine geyser that shoots water up to 100 feet in the air. One of the largest blowholes in North America. 9a-5p | Free | 20 miles (32 km) south of Ensenada | 45-min drive

Valle de Guadalupe: Known as Mexico's wine country, this area offers beautiful vineyards and wine tours. Enjoy guided tours of local wineries, specializing in tempting varietals including Cabernet Sauvignon, Nebbiolo, and Chardonnay. 20 miles (32 km) | 40-min drive

Museo de la Vid y el Vino: Set in the beautiful Valle de Guadalupe, dedicated to the history and culture of winemaking in the region. 9a-5p (Tue-Sun) | 50 MXN | 20 miles (32 km) | 40-min drive

Whale Watching: From December to April, Ensenada is a great place for watching gray whales as they migrate north from Hawaii, up the west coast of America.

Las Cañadas Campamento: Popular adventure park with lots of activities to enjoy, from a water park to horse-riding, fishing and ATV rentals. 7:30a-11:30p | 190-460 MXN Day Pass | 20 miles (32 km) from port

SOMETHING TO EAT ...

Fish Tacos: Ensenada is famous for its fish tacos, typically made with battered and fried fish, served on a corn tortilla with cabbage, pico de gallo, and a creamy sauce.

Ceviche: A world-famous Mexican favourite, made with fresh seafood marinated in lime juice, mixed with tomatoes, onions, coriander, and sometimes avocado.

Seafood: the Baja California region is known for its seafood, including **chocolate clams** (disappointingly not made of chocolate), **tostadas de Mariscos** (crispy tortillas topped with seafood), and **shrimp poppers** (deep-fried peppers stuffed with cheese and shrimp).

... AND DRINK

In addition to the obvious local wines, look out for **tejuino**, a traditional Mexican drink made from fermented corn dough, sweetened with piloncillo (unrefined sugar cane) and often served with lime and salt. For a refreshing and local non-alcoholic drink, **aguas frescas** is commonly found at street stalls and is made from fruits, cereals, flowers, or seeds, blended with sugar and water. Popular flavours include horchata (rice and cinnamon), Jamaica (hibiscus), and tamarindo (tamarind).

LOCAL SOUVENIRS

Pick up a **bottle of wine from a local winery** like Monte Xanic and L.A. Cetto or shops in the city. Traditional **talavera pottery**, is known for its colourful and intricate designs and the region is also celebrated for its **silver jewellery** and **leather goods**. Other keepsakes include **Day of the Dead crafts**, such as decorated skulls, and **Mexican vanilla** (best enjoyed while still living).

LOCAL LINGO

Hello	Hola	Please	Por favor
Goodbye	Adiós	Thank you	Gracias
Toilet/Restroom	Baño	Cruise Ship Port	Puerto de cruceros