Baja Road Log
From Tijuana to Cabo
Includes Mexicali to San Filipe
and other side trips
Welcome - Bienvenidos
Thank you for purchasing our Mexico Road Logs and Driving Guides. We are confident that it will make your driving experience just that much better and easier.
Regardless of whether you are driving an RV or a suburban, a bike or a pick-up, the Mexico Road Logs and Driving Guides will assist your journey. Even 20 year veterans of the route have benefited from the information.
The KM markings are the markings that you will see as you drive. It doesn't matter if your vehicle reads in miles or kilometers. You just read the signs on the road to get your bearings.
Sometimes one highway combines with another and old kilometer signs are left up. Not to worry, just continue to read the guide.
Some of the best navigation points are the Pemex Station numbers clearly marked on all gas station signs. Topes (Mexican speed bumps) are marked in the guide just to remind you to go slow.
We have included Military and Agriculture check points even though we know these can change frequently. (Generally they are on one side of the border or another between the Mexican states.)
This is the fourth edition. We hope to continually improve the guides to ensure road conditions are well noted before you hit the border. Conditions change, new roads are built, construction starts, ends and old "landmarks" are torn down.
Please write us at editor@ontheroadin.com if you have found some new information or problems with the log.
Adios and Happy Trails,
Dorothy and Bill Bell

FROM OUR READERS
"Valuable, up-to-date information that saves headaches on the road and makes sense to drivers and their navigators. Great work."
Ken Stokes

"This is the second year we have used Bill and Dots 'On the Road In" Mexican logs for travel on the coast and interior of Mexico.
They are easy to use, save a lot of indecision and more than a lot of arguments as to where one should turn or where there is a Pemex large enough for a large rig with a tow.
We appreciate all the work they have done to make traveling in Mexico a great and easy adventure."
Bill and Char Wilkerson

"We were thrilled to be able to contemplate our next stops and fill-ups along the way. It was like we were driving with experienced guides every step of the way."
"Bravo"
Pat and John Briar

Warning & Disclosure
The authors have done their best to ensure the accuracy of the information provided in the Mexico Road Logs and Driving Guides at the time of publishing. They do not assume and thereby disclaim any liability to any party for any loss or damages caused by omissions or errors. Please contact the authors with any oversights or mistakes.
Contact: editor@ontheroadin.com

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Cover Photo by Dorothy Bell  
California Grey Whale in Ojo de Libre - Scammon’s Lagoon
How to Use the Baja Road Log

Pedestrian Overpass

Indicates 4 lane highway with lateral lanes

Indicates 4 lanes with shoulder

Indicates 2 lanes with shoulder

Indicates 2 lanes

Mexican KM Markers

KM 175

Gas Station with ID Number

PEMEX 5083

State Border

SONORA SINALOA

S

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N

O

R

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S

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A

Speed Bump

~ ~ Topes ~ ~

Various Warnings

MILITARY

NOTE: Military and Agriculture checkpoints can change often

Indicates a local road

HWY 15

RD to Tualac

Toll

Toll. Get out your wallet! Note the latest fee and GPS

Highway Sign and Number. "D" indicates a Toll or "Cuota" Highway

GPS: N20°43.733
W088°34.995
Car 124 Pesos

Bridge

Puente Cibuta

Indicates town or city

Bellville

TURN LEFT TO XCOB

AFTER TURN

TURN TO BELLVILLE
(RED Instructions means a critical direction)
### Baja Distance Chart (Kilometers)

**Highway 1 (Tijuana to Cabo San Lucas)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>City</th>
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<th>City</th>
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<td>San Jose del Cabo</td>
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### West Coast Distance Chart (Miles)

**Highway 1 (Tijuana to Cabo San Lucas)**

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<tr>
<td>Highway 5 Junction</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>Todo Santos</td>
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</table>
Documents Required

BORDER CROSSINGS
San Ysidro Border and Immigration Open 24 Hours The Banjercito (Army Bank) is open 8am to 12 pm.
Ottay Mesa Open 6 am to 10 pm. The Banjercito is open 8am to 12 pm.
Tecate Open 6am to 12 midnight. The Banjercito is open 8am to 8 pm.
Calexico Downtown Both Immigration & Banjercito are open 24 Hours
Calexico East Open 6 am to 10 pm. Banjercito M - F 8 am to 4pm, Sat 10 am to 2pm, Sun Closed.
San Luis Open Both Immigration & Banjercito are open 8 to 12.
La Paz Pichilingue Banjercito for the Ferry 9am to 2 pm.
The Banjercito is the Army Bank and is required if you need a Vehicle Permit because you are traveling out of the Baja to the mainland of Mexico.

TOURIST CARDS
Canadians and US Citizens going into Mexico for more than 72 hours or travelers going beyond the border area MUST get a Tourist card. This requires a passport. The cards are usually issued for up to 180 days (check to make sure they haven't given you less) and are payable at a bank. One member of the family can process the total family by themselves. The cost is approximately $30USD per person – (fees increase annually) payable at a Bank. You may get checked for the permit when stopped at Military checkpoints so pay for it as soon as possible. The Tourist Cards technically are supposed to be turned in when you make your final exit from Mexico.

VEHICLE PERMITS
Vehicle Permits are required if you travel to the mainland. (Motorcycles under 500 CC’s are exempt) Vehicle must be registered in the name of the driver and the driver must have a valid Canadian or American driver’s license.
You are also required to have a passport, driver’s license, vehicle registration and/or title. You must have an official letter from the lien holder if your vehicle is leased. It should be as formal letter as possible indicating permission AND for a specific period of time. You must pay the fee with a credit card in registered owners name issued by a Canadian Bank or US Bank.
You are now ALSO required to pay a vehicle deposit payable in cash or credit card. The deposit is returned to you when your vehicle is returned. The cost of the deposit is $200 - $400 depending on the age of your car.
Motor homes can now get a 10 year vehicle permit for approximately $45 USD. 1 person can bring 1 motor home and a tow car into Mexico but 1 person cannot import 2 cars
YOU MUST TURN THE PERMIT IN WHEN YOU LEAVE MEXICO so keep the permit, packaging etc. in a safe place. The permit return office is located at migration offices at the border where one would normally pick up papers.

VEHICLE INSURANCE
Your American or Canadian vehicle insurance is not recognized in Mexico. Get your insurance over the internet before you leave home. On the Road In offers the best coverage available in the marketplace and carry GMAC Finance and other Lender approved insurance policies. Low priced policies are available.
Be represented by the most financially secure insurance companies in the world. Each company, or their parent company, carries an A- or better rating from AM Best. Search www.ontheroadin.com

FISHING LICENSES
Fishing licenses are required if you have tackle onboard. They are available at “Pesca” Offices in large port cities. The easiest way to obtain one is by faxing the office in San Diego California Oficina de Pesca, 2550 Fifth Ave., Ste. 101, San Diego, CA 92103 Telephone 619-233-6956; Fax 619-233-0344 and they will fax you a confirmation. The cost continues to change but is under $25 per week or $60 annually.

PET DOCUMENTS
While often not enforced, you are required to have a Health Certificate from your vet stating that your cat or dog is in good health and shots are up to date. It is likely that you will NOT be asked for this when you are entering Mexico but will be when you return back to the US.
SPANISH

ACOTAMIENTO
ALTO
AREA DE DESCANSO
ASCENSO Y DESCENSO DE PEAJE A 250 m
CALLE SIN SALIDA
CAMELON CENTRAL
CAMINO CERRADO
CAMINO SINUOSO
CARRIL IZQUIERDO SOLO PARA REBASAR
CARRIL LATERAL SOLO POR
VEHICULOS LIGROS
CASETA DE COBRO
CEDA EL PASO AL PEATON
CICLOPISTA
CON LLUVIA DISMINUYA SU VELOCIDAD
CON NEBLINA ENCIENDA SUS LUCES
CONCEDA CAMBIO DE CIERRE SU ESCAPE
CONCEDA CAMBIO DE LUCES
CONSERVE LIMPIO BCS
CONSERVE SU DISTANCIA
CONSERVE SU DERECHA
CRUCE DE ESCOLARES
CRUCE DE PEATONES
CUANDO TOME NO MANEJE
CUIDADO CON EL TREN
CURVA PELIGROSO
DESPACIO
DEPOSITOS DE BASURA EN
CASETAS TELEFONICAS
DESVIACION A 500 MTS
DISMINUYA SU VELOCIDAD
DISMINUYA SU VELOCIDAD
CASETA DE COBRO A 1Km
ELIJA SU CARRIL OPORTUNAMENTE
EN B.C.S ES OBLIGATORIO
EL CINTURON DE SEGURIDAD
ENTRADA
ENTRADA Y SALIDA DE CAMIONES
ENTRONQUE PROXIMO
ENTRONQUE PELIGROSO
ESTA CARRETERA NO ES DE ALTA VELOCIDAD
ESTACIONAMIENTO SOLO PARA EMERGENCIAS
ESTE CAMINO NO ES DE ALTA VELOCIDAD
EVITE ACCIDENTES
EVITE LA INSTALACION DE TOPES
FELIZ VIAJE REBASE CON PRECAUCION
GRACIAS POR USAR EL
CINTURON DE SUGURIDAD

ENGLISH

Soft Shoulders
Stop
Rest Area
Toll Booth Barrier Ahead in 250 M
Dead End
Center Divider
Road Closed
Winding Road
Left lane Only for Passing
Laterals Only for Light Vehicles
Toll Booth
Give Way to Pedestrians
Bicycle Path
In Rain Reduce Your Speed
In Fog Turn on Lights
Close Muffler By-Pass
Dim Your Lights Approaching Traffic
Keep Baja California Sur Clean
Keep Your Distance
Keep to Your Right
School Crossing
Pedestrian Crossing
When You Drink Don’t Drive
Careful Rail Road Crossing
Dangerous Curve
Slow
Deposit Trash at the Telephone Booth
Detour in 500 Meters
Slow Down
Reduce Your Speed Toll Booth in 1Km
Select Your Lane At Earliest Opportunity
In Baja California South Seatbelts Are Mandatory
Entrance
Trucks Entering and Exiting
Intersection Near
Dangerous Intersection
This is Not a High Speed Road
Emergency Parking Only
Not a High-Speed Road
Avoid Accidents
Avoid the Installation of Speed Bumps
Have a Good Trip Pass with Caution
Thanks For Using Your Seatbelt
SPANISH
GRAVA SUELTA
GUARDE SU DISTANCIA
HOMBRES TRABAJANDO
LO MEJOR TUS VACACIONES
UN BUEN REGRESO A CASA
LUCES
MANEJE CON PRECAUCION
SU FAMILIA LE ESPERA
MAQUINA TRABAJANDO
MIRADOR DE MOLINERO
NO CIRCULAR POR EL ACOTAMIENTO
NO DE FRENTE
NO DEJE PIEDRAS EL ACOTAMIENTO
NO DOBLE RODADO
NO ESTACIONARSE EN ACOTAMIENTO
NO FRENE CON MOTOR
NO MALTRATE LAS SENALES
NO MANEJE
NO REBASE CON RAYA CONTINUA
NO REBASE POR EL ACONTAMIENTO
NO REBASE
NO TIRE BASURA
NO TRANSITE POR FRANJAS LATERALES
NO UTILIZAR FRENO CON MOTOR
OBEDEZCA LAS SENALES
PARA VUELTA IZQUIERDA ESPERE SU LUZ
PARADERO
PERAMENTO DERRAPANTE AL ESTAR HUMEDO
PERMITA REBASAR UNTILICE SU EXTREMA DERECHA
PLAZA DE COBRO
POBLADO PROXIMO
POR TU SEGURIDAD REPETE LAS SENALES
PELIGROSO
PRECUACION CRUCE DE PEATONES
PRECAUCION ZONA ESCOLAR
PRECAUCION ZONA DE GUANDO
PRECAUCION ZONA DE TOLVANERAS
PRINCIPIA TRAMO EN REPARACION
PRINCIPIA ZONA DE DERRUMBES
PRINCIPIA ZONA DE VADOS
PROHIBIDO ESTACIONARSE
PROHIBIDO TIRAR BASURA
PROHIBIDO TIRAR BASURA MULTA O CARCEL
PUENTE
PUENTE ANGOSTO

ENGLISH
Loose Gravel
Keep Your Distance
Men at Work
The Best of Your Vacation is a Good Return Home
Dim Your Lights
Drive with Caution
Drive with Caution Your Family Waits For You
Heavy Machines at Work
View Point Of Mill
No Driving On the Shoulders
No Entry
No Driving On the Shoulder
No Trucks with Duals
No Parking On Shoulders
No Engine Brakes
Don’t Disregard the Signs
Don’t Drive Tired
No Passing on a Continuous Line
No Passing on Shoulders
No Passing
Don’t Throw Trash
Do Not Drive on Shoulders
No Engine Brakes
Obey the Signs
Turning Left on Light
Bus Stop
Pavement Slick When Wet
Allow Passing Use Extreme Right
Toll Booth
Town Near
For your Safety Respect The Signs
Dangerous
Caution Pedestrian Crossing
Caution School Zone
Caution Livestock Zone
Precaution Wind Zone
Main Highway Under Repair
Begin Rockslide Area
Begin Area of Dips
No Parking
Throwing Thrash Prohibited
Throwing Trash Prohibited by Fine or Jail
Bridge
Narrow Bridge
SPANISH
RADAR EN OPERACION
REDUCCION DE ACOTAMIENTOSA
REDUCCION A DOS CARRILES
REDUCTOR DE VELOCIDAD
RESPETE LIMITE DE VELOCIDAD
RETORNO A 2KM CARRIL IZQUIERDO
RUTA DE CAMIONES
SALIDA
SALIDA A 150 MTS RAMPA DE
SEGUINDAD VEHULOS SIN FRENOS
SEAMFORO EN OPERACION
SE USARA GRUA
SI TOMA NO MANEJE
TERMINA AMPLIACION
TERMINA ZONA DE DERRUMBES
TOPES
TRAFFICO PESADO
TRAMO EN REPARACION
TRANSITO LENTO CARRIL DERECHO
TRANSITO PESADO POR LIBRAMIENTO
TROPICO DE CANCER
UN SOLO CARRIL
VADO PELGROSO
VEHICULOS LIGEROS
VEHICULOS PESADO
ZONA DE FALLAS
ZONA DE GANADO
ZONA URBANA

ENGLISH
Radar in Operation
Reduction of Shoulders
Reduction to Two Lanes
Speed Bumps
Obey the Speed Limit
U-Turn In 2km Left Lane
Truck Route
Exit
Exit in 150 MTS for Vehicles without Brakes
Stop Light In Operation
Tow-Away Zone
Don't Drink and Drive
End of Shoulders
End Rockslide Area
Speed Bumps
Heavy Traffic Go Right
Road Repairs
Slow Traffic Keep Right
Heavy Traffic by Libramiento or Circle Route
Tropic of Cancer
Single Lane
Dangerous Dip
Light Vehicles
Heavy Vehicles
Landslide Area
Cattle Area
Urban Zone Slow Down

Visit
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for Mexico travel by vehicle
and subscribe to
www.mexicoheadline.com
for News About Mexico
The New Route

At the time of research and publishing, the new route was yet to be implemented. The exact route from Highways I 5 and 805 was yet to have signs on the US side.

From the Mexican side we could see a bridge from the entry. There were two lanes. One of the lanes was going directly to Tijuana and the other was going to Highway 1D. They are calling this one the Scenic Route.

Have small denomination bills. The tolls only take $20USD or MX 200 max.
This is the Current Route Southbound

Keep Right for I 805
Keep Left for HWY I-5

Tijuana

"D Roads or Cuotas"
Use toll Roads when available. "1 D" for example.

The area was originally populated by the hunter-gathering Kumeyaay Indians. The Europeans "discovered" the area and built ranches and small settlements.

In 1848 the Mexican American War ended and Mexico lost California. An international border was created and has shaped Tijuana’s character and economy ever since.

In the late 1800’s and early 1900’s tourists from California came to Tijuana for entertainment and later, continued to come for regional fairs, the racetrack, casinos and hotels. While tourism continues to play an important role today, the maquiladoras provide good employment opportunities.

Tijuana has 1,483,992, residents and is one of the country’s fastest growing cities.
Rosarito Beach was inhabited by the Kumeyaay Indians and much like Tijuana became a ranching community once the Europeans arrived.

In 1925 the Barbachano family built the Rosarito Beach Hotel and a highway from the border to increase tourism from the US. Hollywood stars soon followed including Orson Wells, Rita Hayworth, Prince Aly Khan, Ava Gardener, Katherine Hepburn and others. The city was incorporated in 1995 and continues to attract tourists especially on long weekends, spring break and holidays. The city offers over 900 hotel rooms and 25 resorts as well as an abundance of motels, hotels, spas and golf courses. Real estate has boomed and condos and time shares abound.

**“Foxploration” Movie Theme Park**

James Cameron’s film "Titanic" was shot from this location and many of the artifacts from the film were rescued from the trash bins by Charlie Arneson, vice president of Fox Studios in Rosarito. The set has now become a tourist attraction-theme park that features props and costumes from Titanic as well as other films produced here including Pearl Harbor, and Master and Commander. The park covers 19 acres and takes at least two hours to view.
**PLANNING YOUR ROADTRIP**

Plan your trip daily so that you know exactly how long you can comfortably drive. Some people say 4 hours max. We drive for extended periods but spell each other off. Don't try to calculate your daily distance by comparing driving distances in the US or Canada. In Mexico you will be going much slower. Think 200 - 300 kms per day. KNOW YOUR OWN SAFETY LIMITS. Pit stop every 2 – 4 hours Rest 10 minutes and proceed. Travel early in the morning - preferably at the crack of dawn. If your vehicle breaks down you can make arrangements before nightfall.

**REMEMBER**

Place all of your border documents including the wrapper portion of your vehicle document, in a safe dry place as you MUST return them to immigration when leaving Mexico. This includes your vehicle and your FMT or tourist visa. *(You MUST have a vehicle permit if you are going to mainland Mexico.)*

We put our documents in a Ziploc baggie and put them in a safe place inside the vehicle.

**RV Camping**

RV Park Locations go to [www.ontheroadin.com](http://www.ontheroadin.com)
Discovered by the Spanish in 1542 and sixty days later named Ensenada de Todos los Santos. The city became an important seaport during the Mexican American War and later with adventurers seeking gold.

Ensenada today is an important fishing and commercial port. There is a navy base, cruise ship terminal and military airfield.

The mild year-round weather is conducive to grapes and Ensenada is the heart of wine country. These grapes are said to be the stock that Padre Juan de Ugarte planted in 1703.

There is a thriving tourist industry in Ensenada with souvenir shops and restaurants that cater to the young and young at heart; Hussongs and Papas and Beer to name two. There is a large variety of hotels and accommodation.

Just to the north are several surfing spots and windsurfing is popular in spots to the south.

There are numerous seasonal events. The California Gray whales migrate close to the coast from Alaska to the Baja Lagoons from December to March and there are daily tours available.

Carnival attracts many tourists in February, Semana Santa before and during Easter. Fiestas de la Vendimia, or harvest/wine festival is celebrated in August.

The Baja 500 road race is held in June and the Baja 1000 in late November. Enjoy Ensenada! Lots of fun.
First Margarita...Maybe

Hussong’s is the oldest cantina in the Californias established in 1892 - and claims to be the place that created the first margarita in 1941. It was named after Margarita Henkel, daughter of the German Ambassador to Mexico. It is a fun place and worth a visit.

Other Margarita claimants include Willie (1934) from restaurant Los Dos Republicas in Matamoros – named after a beautiful girl called Marguerite Hemery; Danny Negrete, (1936) from the Garci Crispo Hotel for Margarita Negrete; Enrique Bastate Gutierrez (1940) Tijuana as a homage to actress Margarita Cansino (Rita Hayworth), “Pancho” Morales (1942) Tommy’s Place Cuidad Juarez after a mistake in mixing; Santos Cruz (1948) Balinese Room Galveston Texas named after Peggy Lee and Margaret Sames (1948)

La Bufadora

La Bufadora is a marine blowhole created by ocean waves hitting an underground cave. The trapped air explodes in an upward direction every other minute with a loud explosive sound effect.
Puente Las Fresas
Puente San Miguel

MILITARY Checkpoint

La Grulla

Puente Las Animals

Fields
River

Fields

General Store

EJ Uruapan Camping
Grape Vines

KM 40
HWY 1

Curves

Puente Santo Tomás

Santo Tomás

Fields

Store

~~Tope~~

PEMEX 2632
Santo Tomás

School Zone

~~Tope~~

IMSS

Cattle

Wear Seatbelts

Incline

KM 60

Dirt RD to El Trebolar

Decline

Curva Peligrosa

Incline

RD to Rancho

Puente Jaquinto

Orchard

KM 70

Hills

RD to Eréndira

& Malibu Beach RV

Hills & Bush

KM 82

Pullout

Puente Buenos Aires

RD Misión San Vincente Ferrer

Puente San Vincente Ferrer

Corona

San Vincente Ferrer

Puente Ferrer

Winery
Vineyard
Trees Line RD

Santo Tomás

Named after Misión Santo Tomás de Aquino located nearby. The mission was established in 1791 by José Lorient and was eventually given to the military. The town is in the heart of wine country and many of Mexico’s best grapes are grown here.

BEWARE

About Those
Left Hand Turn Signals

In Mexico you must be very careful when you see the driver in front of you turn on his left hand signal. North of the border means he is turning. Not so in Mexico. When you see the left hand signal it CAN mean that the coast is clear and that it is safe for you to pass. Think about this for a minute. Do you want to put your life in the hands of another driver who is tired of you riding his bumper?

We suggest you think twice. Think that the driver JUST MIGHT BE TURNING LEFT!

So….if you try and pass him – after all he said it was safe – but he really meant that he is turning….well you get the point. CRASH!

It is dangerous out there!

Misión San Vicente Ferrer

The mission was founded in August 1780 and was one of the most important missions because of central location, fertile lands and abundant water. (Abandoned in 1833)
“I have found out that there ain’t no surer way to find out whether you like people or hate them than to travel with them.”

Mark Twain, Tom Sawyer Abroad

Best Road Map Hands Down
The best road map to purchase for your Mexican road trip is Guia Roji. Many folks mistakenly think this translates to Red (roja) Guide. In fact the name is derived from the authors last name. In 1928 the Roji brothers published their first map and since then it has always had a red cover. Hence the confusion. Strangely enough in Japanese Roji means a “path through which one passes” on the way (home)

You can purchase the maps on line at www.ontheroadin.com.

Once in Mexico you can usually purchase them at Wal-Mart (such as in CD Obregon) in the magazine section. Besides highway maps Guia Roji Atlas’ also contain some city maps.

IMSS
IMSS is government medical insurance available to Mexican workers & foreign residents with FM3s and FM2s.
**Hotel Rates**

Usually Hotel Rates are posted in Mexico at the reception desk. Take a look and if they are acceptable ask clearly "Are these your best rates or do you have any promotions for … " (then state your circumstances – for 2 people needing one bed or for one person)

Often there is a promotion and they will tell you then. If you don’t ask you won’t get the deal.

Once the money is sorted out, ASK TO SEE THE ROOM. Rooms differ greatly as does cleanliness, noise factors, traffic etc. Check it out yourself. Even in the nicest of establishments it is considered prudent to do this. Additionally they are going to show you the BEST room they have before the deal is struck. They can give you the worst room if money has already been exchanged.

**PEMEX NUMBERS**

Every Pemex Gas Station has unique numbers which make it a perfect meeting place or directional guide. We tell you if the Station does NOT carry Diesel.

“Not all those who wander are lost.” – J. R. R. Tolkien
Eusebio Francisco Kino was a Jesuit priest and missionary who explored northwestern Mexico and southern Arizona in the late 1600s. He was a noted mathematician, astronomer and cartographer. Kino proved that Baja California was not an island but rather a peninsula. He led many expeditions on a horse and covered over 50,000 square miles. Kino taught the Indians farming techniques and with 20 imported cattle helped develop them into a herd of over 70,000. He died in 1711 in Magdalena Sonora.

Lázaro Cárdenas

Lázaro Cárdenas is named after the Michoacán born President Lázaro Cárdenas who is remembered by Mexicans as being one of the only honest politicians in history. He is also known by capitalists as the President who in 1934 expropriated oil production equipment and property in Mexico and nationalized the resource and industry. He also delivered land reform and established the ejido system..
If you are like us and not really into going to night school or wanting to partake in an immersion course, then consider taking a good Spanish course on your computer. We have had nothing but positive comments on the course Visual Link Spanish. We sell it on our web and you can buy it there and it will be shipped to you before you leave home. It has a six month guarantee and we are confident you too will love the presentation. Just to ensure you are going to like it, they give you a few classes free. Give it a try.

Chicharrón
Chicharrón is a popular Mexico Food. It is deep fried pork skin and are quite crunchy and if well-prepared slightly oily. Heavenly spread with guacamole.
Check Your Brakes

Decline

KM 54

EL Rosario

Incline

PEMEX ALERT

Curva Peligrosa

Mama Esposito's Restaurant

Super Market

School

~Topes~

HWY 1

~Topes~

RD to Col La Mesa

Incline

PEMEX ALERT

Curva Peligrosa

Mama Esposito's Restaurant

Super Market

School

~Topes~

HWY 1

~Topes~

RD to Rosario Arriba

Motel Sinai

EJ Nuevo Uruapan

RD to Campamento

KM 60

Puente El Rosario 1 & 2

Incline & Curves

KM 67

Beautiful Cactus!

Local Dirt RD

KM 82

Sagebrush & Some Cacti

Incline & Curves

KM 90

Sagebrush & Some Cacti

Flat Top Hill in Distance

Incline & Curves

Pullout

Incline & Curves

Cirios Forest

~Vado~

Grasses & Cacti

Pullout

Incline & Curves

KM 100

Incline & Curves

Puente El Arenoso

El Rosario

"The Rosary"

Dominican friars established their first mission in 1774 here and the ruins can still be seen today just outside of town. El Rosario was the end of the road until 1973 when the Trans peninsular highway was built.

Fill up with Gas if going south!

Datilillo Vailida

"Strong Little Date"

From the agave family this plant strongly resembles the Joshua Tree but without the multiple branches. It can grow as a single trunk or have small branches at the top of the trunk. Datilillo is common to the Pacific side of the Baja from the Cape to El Rosario and grows from 3 to 7 meters in height on fine textured soils. The buds from the plant can be eaten alone or made into a tea beneficial for rheumatism and diabetes. The flowers are made into candy. Often you will see the roots used as fence posts on desert ranches.

“Tourists don’t know where they’ve been, travelers don’t know where they’re going.”

Paul Theroux
Puente El Arenoso 2

MC 108
Cacti & Cirios
Memorial to Hector

"Valle de Cirios"
Cattle
~Vado~

Curva Peligrosa

~Series of Tiny Topes~~

RD to San Fernando Misión
El Progresso

Curva Peligrosa

~Series of Tiny Topes~~
Plateau

KM 131
HWY 1 Rancho Pénjamo

Sagebrush & Small Cacti

Small Flat Top Hill

Valle de Santa Teresa

Some Tall Cacti

San Augustín

RV Park San Augustín

Sagebrush & Small Cacti

Flat Top Hill

KM 151

Flat Top Hills

Cirios & Small Cacti

KM 163

Rocks Everywhere

Tall Cacti, Big Rocks

Rocks & Rocks

Rocks & Rocks

Rocks & Rocks & Tall Cacti

KM 174

~Series of Tiny Topes~~ Museum, Camping, Hiking Trails

Rancho El Descanso

Sagebrush, Cacti & Cirios

Rancho Pénjamo

Puerto Santa Catrina

Sagebrush & Small Cacti

Rancho Pénjamo

San Augustín

RV Park San Augustín

Sagebrush & Small Cacti

Flat Top Hill

KM 151

Flat Top Hills

Cirios & Small Cacti

KM 163

Rocks Everywhere

Tall Cacti, Big Rocks

Rocks & Rocks

Rocks & Rocks

Rocks & Rocks & Tall Cacti

KM 174

~Series of Tiny Topes~~ Museum, Camping, Hiking Trails

Misión San Fernando
Rey de España de Velicatá

The only mission founded by Franciscans in Baja California. Established in the 1700s, the mission fell into decline as the population was decimated by epidemics. It was abandoned by 1818 and today only the stone foundations have survived.

Cardon Cactus

El Mármlol Mines

Mármol is Spanish for marble but this quarry mined onyx a substitute for marble. In the beginning of the 20th century a San Diego mining company established the operation. It was abandoned in the late 1950s. Only 15 kms off the highway, the site has the ruins of a schoolhouse built entirely of thick onyx blocks.

Cirio

Cirio or Boojum is a tree endemic to the Baja. It looks like a brown, hairy upside down carrot. The English name, Boojum, is taken from Lewis Carroll’s poem “the Hunting of the Snark.”

The Seri Indians believe that touching this plant will make the winds blow.
In 1767 the Jesuits built their last mission in the Baja before they were expelled from Mexico for political reasons; Misión Santa María de los Ángeles. It is located in a wide volcanic canyon surrounded with granite. Unlike other missions on the Baja, Santa Maria was built with adobe brick rather than stone. The Franciscans occupied the mission in 1768 but they preferred Mission San Fernando de Velicata to the north and the Santa Maria was reduced to an outpost until it was abandoned in 1818.

Laguna Chapala Seca & Legend of the Lost Mission

In the mid 1700’s, stories and rumors spread throughout Spain that the Jesuits that were hording precious metals, pearls and jewels and shipping them to a Venetian merchant in Spain. The story was that just before the Jesuits were expelled from the country, they stockpiled and hid their treasure in a mission they quickly built for that purpose: Santa Isabel. Many people have searched for this lost treasure and a prime location is the dry lakebed called Laguna Chapala Seca just south of the Road to Gonzaga Bay.
Bahia de Los Angeles is an easy drive and worth the visit. The road log Side Trip starts here!

See page 55.

Mexico – The Flag

Green is for hope and victory. White is for the purity of ideals. Red is for the blood the national heroes shed.

Nautical Drive Thru
Santa Rosalita is slated to be the highway hub for the environmentally notorious nautical ladder, a chain of 21 marinas geared to lure rich American boat owners. The Santa Rosalita hub would see boats lifted onto trailers and driven 84 miles across the desert to Coronado on the Sea of Cortez.
ROCKS ON ROAD

Be cautious if you see rocks on the pavement placed in a deliberate pile. It usually indicates a road hazard or that the road has crumbled beyond the normal 3 inch shoulder. Sometimes it means that someone has broken down ahead. If you can't see anything then it is likely that the road obstruction has moved and that the driver forgot to take the rocks away.

PEMEX ALERT

Note there are no Gas stations for the Next 300 KMS going north. If you are headed that way, ensure you have enough has to make it.

Guerrero Negro

"Black Warrior"

Named after a beached Boston whaling ship. The town was developed in 1957 when a salt works operation began here. It is now the greatest "salt mine" in the world via evaporation ponds. The salt is transported to the coast and barged to Isla Cedro 70 miles offshore where it is trans loaded onto ocean freighters for world-wide distribution.

It also has a burgeoning tourist industry from December to March with whale watching tours at "Ojo de Liebre" or "Scammon's Lagoon," a major birthing lagoon for California Gray Whales.
Pacific Ocean Views
RD to Airport

KM 126

~~Series of Tiny Topes~~

Hotel La Pinta Desert In
Benito Juarez Trailer Park
Time Zone Change
Pacific Time
Mountain Time

MILITARY Inspection Sometimes

Whale Bones

PEMEX 5946

1 hour difference

Guerrero Negro

KEEP LEFT to San Ignacio
RD to Guerrero Negro

KEEP RIGHT to Ensenada
Fork in RD

KEEP LEFT to San Ignacio

RD to Guerrero Negro

KEEP RIGHT to Ensenada
Fork in RD

RD to Whale Watching

Scrub Brush Plain

Scrub Brush & Bush Plain

Small Ranch

Scrub Brush & Bush Plain

Wind Break

MWY 1

Big Cross

Scrub Brush & Bush Plain

Cacti & Datilillo

Cacti & Datilillo

Little Ranch

Little Ranch

Cattle

Cattle

RD to Benito Juarez

RD to El Arco

RD to Benito Juarez

RD to EJ

RD to GMO Prito & Misión

Ojo de Liebre

"Eye of the Rabbit"

Also known as Scammon’s Lagoon, named after the whaling Captain Charles Scammon, who, in the 1850’s, discovered a population of 25,000 California Gray whales. After a decade whaling ceased as the Greys had been brought to the edge of extinction.

Approximately 27 miles inland, the Lagoon averages a width of 7 miles. The warm water is perfect for the birthing and calf nurturing.

Arriving in late December, the whales travel 3000 miles from Alaska and the cold Bering Sea. They stay until the end of March.

50% of all Grey whale calves are born in Ojo de Liebre – around 800. The total whale population is now approximately 2000.

We highly recommend a tour. The mammals will play and often come directly to tour boats. They are willing if not eager to be touched.

“Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness.”

Mark Twain
San Ignacio is a true oasis in the middle of the desert. Lush date palms sprout along the ravine lagoon. In the summer there is a spring with fresh water pools; in the winter it becomes a river and runs from twelve to eighteen miles.

When the Europeans came in 1716, the Cochimi had a settlement in this area called Kadacaaman (red grass river). The Jesuits started building the mission in 1778.

The San Ignacio mission was built with volcanic rock hauled from the nearby Three Virgin volcanoes. Unlike many Baja missions made with adobe, the San Ignacio Mission is in wonderful condition.
Three Virgins

The Three Virgins are a volcanic complex consisting of 3 volcanoes; La Virgen, in the southwest, El Azufre in the center, and El Viejo in the northeast. While missionaries reported an eruption in the 1700’s, science does not support this assertion. The geology indicates a massive explosion approximately 6,500 years ago that covered 500 square meters with ash. Mudflows that reached the Sea of Cortez. Today a geothermal plant produces power for Santa Rosalía and San Ignacio. Hikers and mountain climbers find the volcano a 2000 meter challenge and provides fantastic views of the Sea of Cortez and the crater itself.

Devils Grade

Cuesta del Infierno

check your brakes before you decide to decline. OH MY GOD! While the distance is less than 5kms long, this 12% grade will scare the beeegeesus out of the bravest. The seemingly endless switchbacks down and around at such a steep incline, leave permanent indentations on the steering wheel from your clenched fingers. Use your lower gears to ensure you go slow and don’t burn up your brakes.

Take note of the carnage that didn’t make it. Vehicle skeletons line the valley to the side as do numerous crosses that memorialize those that DIDN’T CHECK THEIR BRAKES.

Once the grade starts to level out, the most amazing view of the Sea of Cortez appears before you. It’s all worth it.
Ah the French influence! Wooden buildings, verandas and porches. A French mining company called El Boleo founded Santa Rosalía in 1884, developed the town, port and a copper mining operation in exchange for land, a 50 year tax exemption and a 99 year contract. The ore was shipped to Tacoma Washington and the ships returned with lumber from the Pacific Northwest. Experience the French bakery and stroll the streets. While there, take a look at the prefab church claimed to be made by Gustave Eiffel.

A ferry to the mainland (Guayamas) departs from the terminal Tues, Wed, Fri & Sun.

### Mulegé

"Large Ravine of the White Mouth"

Mulegé is perched on the edge of Rio Santa Rosalía (know as Rio Mulegé) a desert oasis river. Lined with palms, the river empties into the Sea of Cortez at the entrance to Bahía Concepción, Mulegé is considered one of the loveliest towns on the Baja. European discovery of the area began in 1702 and a mission was established in 1703. Construction of the church began in 1754. The mission church stands today on a small hill beside the river.

In 1848 during the Mexican American War, Mulegé was the setting for a heroic defense of Mexican territory. In 1907 a unique penitentiary was built without...
(Continued from previous page) bars. The inmates were allowed to go home daily, work and otherwise support a family. In the evening the prisoners returned to the jail. There were few "escapees" - if one person escaped the whole prison population suffered for it. It is now a local museum.

Today Mulegé is an easy laidback tourist destination.

Bahia Concepción

Bahia Concepción is quite simply paradise. Crystal clear calm waters are met by the stark desert yielding wide sandy beaches and incredible desert and sea views.

RVers have never had it so good. There are a number of beaches that offer hard pack sand and limited but acceptable facilities such as sanitary dumping, water / grocery delivery. The warm calm water is just a few steps from your vehicle. All this for under $10 a night.

Our favorite beach to camp is Playa Requesón. It is a small beach with a tiny spit that leads to an island. The 'bay in the bay' is warm and shallow; great for swimming and snorkeling. Concepción Bay is 43 kms long and offers protection from larger waves. It has been made a protected marine sanctuary.

The best time to visit is in the spring or fall as winters can still be a little cool and the summer offers furnace-like conditions.
Loreto
Founded by Jesuits in 1697, Loreto became the first Spanish settlement on the Baja. The mission of Our Lady of Loreto was built in 1752 and stands majestically today on the city square.

Loreto was the capital of the Californias from 1697 to 1777 when the capital moved to Monterrey. The city today is a tourist resort catering primarily to American tourists who drive Highway 1 or fly into the airport. It is a delightful city with a variety of hotels and restaurants that cater to every budget. There is an abundance of activities from fishing (primarily Dorado and Yellow Fin), to just hanging out at the numerous sandy beaches to the north and south of town. There is a golf course to the south which offers some of the most reasonable rates on the peninsula. Other diversions include sailing, kayaking, diving, horseback riding, mountain biking and visiting the numerous mission sites nearby.
The Sierra de La Gigante mountains, west of the highway, are a photographer’s delight. While there are few places to pull off the road, it is worth the effort for the view and photos. The craggy peaks resemble the backbone fins of giant dinosaurs and the vistas of the clear blue Sea of Cortez continues to charm. Absolutely beautiful.

Comondú
“Reedbed in the Ravine”
Originally a mission outpost, Comondú is situated on the western side of the Sierra de La Gigante. It is known for its tall palm trees, gardens, orchards and unbelievable view of the Pacific Ocean. The mission was relocated twice due to smallpox and a dwindling native population. Comondú has a population of 63,000 people and is an ideal jumping point for adventure lovers who enjoy eco-tourism, culture and history.
Welcome to Ciudad Constitución

Orange Orchard
Chapel

Puente Las Bramones 1 & 2
KM 222

LP Gas

School

KM 214

PEMEX 4036
Pasteurization Plant

Federal Police

RD to Palo Bola

Tractors OK on RD
Feedlot

~Vado~
~Vado~

~Tope~
~Tope~

~2 Topes~

RD to Cetis 81

Welcome to Ciudad Constitución

HWY 1
Misiones RV Park

PEMEX 2567
HWY 22 to San Carlos
Bank
Banamex

PEMEX 1708

Banamex ATM
Bancomer

PEMEX 8275 No Diesel
Hospital

PEMEX 9202
Statue

RD to La Pila RV Park

~Tope~

KM 208

School

Super Mercado al Mar

Experimental Camp

Puente Los Cajones

San Luis Gonzaga

PEMEX 10737

PEMEX 8275 No Diesel

Rio Palapa 206 & Motel

~Vado~

Few Date Palms

Villa Morelos

Pedestrian Overpass

~Vado~

Zona de Ganado

RD to San Luis Gonzaga
RD to Ihjil

SD Insurgentes
cde Constitución

San Carlos & Bahia Magdalena

One half hour west of town, Magdalena Bay is the southernmost bay used as a birthing nursery for the California Grey Whales. Visit in January until the end of March to see these giant mammals play.

San Carlos is a small fishing port with a few hotels, restaurants and a market. The area is known for salt water fly fishing and kayaking.

Ciudad Constitución

Situated on a fertile valley, Valle de Santo Domingo, Ciudad Constitución is the state’s 4th largest community. This is not a tourist town per se, although there are a few hotels and RV Parks. Rather the city is a farming center and supply town serving the smaller communities and ranches in the area.

It was settled in the 40’s around a successful ranch and others gathered nearby. You can get everything you want here, including medical services, gas, food and an abundance of fresh fruit and veggies.
On the Road in Mexico

If you aren't already a member, join On the Road in Mexico facebook. It is a fun group that shares information about Mexico travel.

No-tell Hotel

They are called many things: No-tell Motels, Love Palaces, .....You get the picture. These hotels are rented out by the hour and offer parking that is hidden from views of jealous spouses, the town gossip or the local priest. You can often spot the curtains or garage doors that hide the car from onlookers.

Many travelers swear by these hotels for their comfort, cleanliness and economy. Often a 6 hour stay will cost only $25 US and room service options are usually very economical.
**Falling Rock**

Expanding road

KM 80

Sagebrush & Flattop Mountains

**~Vado~**

Expanding to 4 lane Sagebrush

**Puente Conjeo**

~~Another Series of Topes~~

~~Series of Topes~~

KM 70

HWY 1

Datilillo & Cacti

White Cactus Memorial

Cattle

Curvy RDs

**Puente Conquista**

**Puente La Pila**

**Puente Chepe**

KM 50

Straight with Rolling Hills

**Puente Palo Blanco**

Lots of Datilillo

Curva Peligrosa

~~Vado~~

**Puente el Quemado**

**Puente La Yucca**

**Puente La Reforma**

Zona de Neblina

**Puente Matape**

Shrine

View of La Paz & the Bay

KM 30

~~Tope~~

~~Vado~~

Police Inspection

~~Vado~~

KEEP LEFT to CD Constitución

RD to San J de la Costa

PEMEX 6526

El Centenario

School Zone

~~Topes~~

~~Tope~~

~~Vado~~

~~Tope~~

~~Tope~~

~~Tope~~

~~Tope~~

~~Tope~~

~~Tope~~

Fish Models!

El Centenario

**oxxo**

RD to Ranch Campo Real

Old PEMEX (Not Operational)

Universidad International

**Hospital**

RV Park Maranatha

**Green Angeles**

If you have an emergency while driving call the Ministry of Tourism's Hotline or (55) 5250-8221, extension 130/297, to obtain help from the “Green Angels,” a fleet of radio dispatched trucks with (sometimes) bilingual crews.

Services include protection, medical first aid, mechanical aid for your car and basic supplies. You will not be charged for services, only for parts, gas and oil.

The Green Angels patrol daily, from dawn until sunset. If you are unable to call them, pull off the road and lift the hood of your car; chances are good they will find you.

The Green Angels patrol daily, from dawn until sunset. If you are unable to call them, pull off the road and lift the hood of your car; chances are good they will find you.

**Battery Power**

We have found that a power converter in our car is an invaluable tool on the road. Forget to charge those rechargeable batteries for your camera? No problema.

Want the passenger to use your computer as you drive? It's a snap Purchase one that is about double the power you need. Starting a computer, for example, requires more energy than normal run time.
Hacienda del Mar Auto Hotel
(No-tell Motel)

La Paz
"Peace"
First named Santa Cruz by Hernán Cortez in 1535 when he unsuccessfully tried to colonize the area. Later in the century Sebastian Vizcaino renamed the settlement La Paz, hoping for a little from the local native populations.

When you enter the city on the west end of town, there is a beautiful sculpture of what appears to be both a whale's tail or a peace dove.

La Paz is the 4th largest community in the state with nearly 250,000 people living in the city and surrounding pueblos. It is the capital of the state and home to the university, government and cultural activities.

La Paz sits on the bay and the Malecón along the water's edge has many restaurants, hotels and tourist facilities. It is a beautiful city with many shops and services. Typical water activities are available including, boating, fishing, kayaking, diving to name a few.

The ferry terminal nearby scoots cargo, cars and passengers to Los Mochis and Mazatlan on the mainland. It is expensive. You must have a vehicle permit if you plan to take your wheels.
El Triunfo was the largest city in the Baja in the late 19th century when miners, merchants and others were looking for gold, silver, precious metals or the opportunity to get rich in the boom town. They came to this area when the California fields ran dry. Silver from nearby mountains fueled the town and it became the cultural center of the area. Pianos were brought here from throughout the world and Francisca Mendoza taught and played piano. The mines shut down in 1926 and most folks returned home or to new dream. What remains are an interesting piano museum and the 35-meter-high smokestack designed by Gustav Eiffel.

San Bartolo
One of the many charming towns on the Cabo/La Paz Loop, San Bartolo is sure to please. It clings to the side of a canyon where the Santiago River cuts through the Sierras, San Bartolo is a pleasant stop that specializes in empanadas, small pasties filled with fruit, or salty cheese. The last two weeks of August liven up when a festival in honor of San Bartolo takes place.
Puente Saltito

~Vado~

Sea of Cortez View

Puente

KM 118

Curva Peligrosa
Curva Peligrosa
Curva Peligrosa

~Series of Small Topes~~

Puente Buenos Aires

~Series of Small Topes~~

Los Barriles

“The Barrels”

This is a small community that is home to a large American expat community. The beaches are lovely and windsurfing is king; Ballet on waves.

There are a few good hotels and half a dozen RV parks. There are small minimarkets, trinket shops and fish stores. There are two banks and lots of places to eat.

Puente Buenos Aires

Sea of Cortez Views

Los Barriles

“'The Barrels'”

This is a small community that is home to a large American expat community. The beaches are lovely and windsurfing is king; Ballet on waves.

There are a few good hotels and half a dozen RV parks. There are small minimarkets, trinket shops and fish stores. There are two banks and lots of places to eat.

The Tropic of Cancer touches on the Mexican states of Baja California Sur, Sinaloa, Durango, Zacatecas, San Luis Potosí, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas.

Tropic of Cancer

Named when the sun was in the direction of the constellation of Cancer (Latin for Crab) at the June Solstice. If it were named today it would be called the Tropic of Taurus...
**Photo Tip**
Always show a sense of place as to where you are. If in the tropics, frame the photo with palm trees; if in the mountains, frame it with pine trees.
Long before the invasion of the tourist hordes, Indians settled in this area because of the fresh water oasis and palm lined lagoons that lined the coast. It was the first settlement on the Cape.

Fresh water was also an important factor in the colonial times when ships would stop before or after a long voyage to refill their provisions and tanks with water.

San Jose was so perfect a spot for trading ships that pirates soon followed looking for loot in the form of coin but also after the silks and spices cargos brought back by the trading ships. In 1730 the Jesuits built a mission, in part to squash the pirate activity in the area. Since that time San Jose has seen a fair share of explorers and whalers stopping in the peaceful port for safe provisions.

San Jose del Cabo today continues to welcome travelers with a decidedly less flashy, more traditional style than Cabo San Lucas. The church on the city plaza is the center of the community and music from traditional Mexican to rock and roll can be heard often. The streets are unhurried and peaceful…
Cabo San Lucas did not have permanent inhabitants until the 1800’s. A nomadic hunters-gatherer Indian tribe called the Pericú passed through the area. In 1842 it was reported that 2 houses and less than 2 dozen people lived here.

In 1917 an American Company built a fishing platform to catch tuna and a village began to grow.

In 1974 the Mexican Government created Cabo by building the infrastructure for a world class tourist resort. It worked. Cabo San Lucas is now one of Mexico’s big successful tourist resorts that offers accommodation, restaurants, and activities at world class prices. It is a wild place where college students on Spring Break love to take over for a couple of weeks a year and visit the numerous bars in the city. Snowbirds fly in and fly out daily and often stay at all inclusive resorts.

The community has grown quickly and developments in the area have grown at a record breaking pace. Many Americans have purchased a second home, condo or time share in the general area.

Cabo offers fishing, parasailing, diving, boating and a plethora of other water activities.

The corridor between Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo has more expensive golf courses than anywhere else in Mexico.

Gracias!
Thanks for using our road log. If you have any new tips or information you wish to share, please send it along. We would love to hear about your travels!
editor@ontheroadin.com
Highway 5, from Mexicali to San Felipe is a quick, relatively flat road to San Felipe on the Sea of Cortez. The drive takes approximately 2 1/2 hours.

For us, the drive though Mexicali is our least favorite part of the trip. It is a medium sized Mexican city with all the hustle and bustle, aggressive drivers, poor signage and everything else that city driving entails.

Once on the highway you are home free. You travel down the Salton Trough - the Colorado River Delta wetlands. This was once Lake Cahuilla, and existed about 20,500 to 3,000 years ago. It is now a protected area for many species of animals and birds. Damming the Colorado river has had a huge negative impact on the area.

There is always a Military Checkpoint when Highway 3 from Ensenada meets Highway 5. Once past this point, you will see development on the Sea of Cortez. Campgrounds and small resort areas are continuing to sprout up along the coast. San Felipe is a fun spot for tourists with all kinds of water sports and land activities available. Campers have their choice of the many RV parks and there are a number of rooms, bungalows and casitas available to rent. Enjoy!
The area around Mexicali was inhabited by the Yuman peoples before the arrival of Europeans. The Jesuits evangelized the population when they arrived. After the Jesuits were expelled from the country, the Spanish ignored the area perceiving it to be untamable. In the 1800’s the rail lines went through the area and the rich farmlands were again rediscovered. Agriculture flourished and in 1900’s the valley was irrigated and produced abundant harvests of cotton, fruits, and vegetables. The settlement was called Mexicali on the Mexican side of the border and Calexico on the California side. The immigrant farmers were predominately Chinese. Cotton became the most important crop and a textile industry soon developed. Mexicali today remains an important agricultural center and exports broccoli, carrots, asparagus, green onions, peppers, radishes lettuce, peas, and tomatoes to the world.

*Sopa de Tortilla* is a big favorite! Tortilla soup is usually a base of chicken broth, plain or with a touch of tomato flavor, and usually mild and not at all hot. It is commonly served with diced avocado and fresh crumbled white cheese on top.
The Colorado River Delta produced the largest desert estuary in the world before major dams were erected upstream. The freshwater, brackish waters and tidal wetlands covered nearly 8,000 sq. meters and were a breeding grounds for animals, nesting area and spawning habitat for an abundance of birds and marine life. Jaguars, deer, beavers and coyotes thrived as well as numerous fish and waterfowl.

Human activity, specifically dam construction and irrigation has negatively affected the delta. When reservoirs were built and then filled, no freshwater reached the Sea of Cortez. The loss of the water has reduced the wetlands to 5% of their original size. Non-native plants have invaded the area and cottonwood and willow stands of trees have died.

In 1993 UNESCO designated million acres of the delta as a Biosphere Reserve.
San Felipe was founded in 1916 as a commercial fishing port and fishing has remained very important to the economy today. Tourism is now the principal income generator in the area with over 250,000 Canadians and American snowbirds visiting annually - mainly from November to March - to this remote desert community.

There is a steady increase in retirement and second homes in the area. Development stretches north almost to the Highway 3 junction. There are ample timeshares, condos, RV spots and homes available for purchase. Renters have a good selection of accommodation available as well.

San Felipe has retained its small town charm. The small streets are easy to navigate and the Malecón is perfect for seaside walks and people watching.

Sunrises are spectacular and worth the effort to spend on the beach. If you stay on the beach you are awakened in the morning with the sound of vehicles dragging the pangas to the water’s edge for a day of fishing.
Side Trip
Highway 3 - Ensenada to Highway 5
Highway 3 Road Log is an easy 2 1/2 hour drive with a variety of scenery. From the city of Ensenada we travel west - up the curvy hills to a flat plateau area. There is always a Military check at the eastern end of Highway 3 at the Highway 5 Junction.

Expect to see some wild vegetation, desert and small towns.

Dress for Success
In most cities, dress is casual but not too.... The truth is you won’t see many shorts and sandals on Mexico City streets.

Not only will you look odd, but if you are wearing shorts and tank tops, you won’t be allowed to visit the churches or Cathedrals. You are simply not allowed in with what is considered disrespectful attire.

If you’re spending your time at the beach, shorts and tank tops are perfectly acceptable. Going topless is frowned upon by locals on most Mexican beaches. Some exceptions prevail on the Caribbean with the influx of European travelers.

Know where you are traveling! If you are driving from the coast to the interior, plan appropriately. Wear clothes in layers so you can add or subtract layers as you need - sometimes every hour!
Montezuma’s Revenge
Also called Turista

Montezuma’s revenge is the name jokingly given to tourists who suffer diarrhea while visiting Mexico. Montezuma (1466-1520) was the Aztec King who was defeated by Hernán Cortez and Spanish Conquistadores. Travelers diarrhea is common throughout the world and can be caused by a number of different reasons.

- contaminated water, ice
- contaminated food
- too much rich food
- too much alcohol
- excessive sun
- over exertion at high altitudes

The key here is hydration with purified water! (No not cerveza or soda) There are familiar over the counter remedies at pharmacies. Most instances clear up after a few days. If it doesn’t or you have blood in your stool, seek medical help.

Parque National Constitución

The Parque National Constitución is one of the few places on the Baja that have wood forests. Established by decree in 1962 as a center for recreation and for protection of forest resources and wildlife.
The cardón cactus is the world's largest cactus. It thrives almost exclusively on the Baja Peninsula. Similar to saguaro cactus, there are only a few plots of cardón on the mainland. The cardón has managed to adapt to all the various sub-regions of the Sonoran Desert in the Baja and in many areas it has become the predominant plant. A forest-like area of cardón is called a cardonales.

Slow growing it can reach heights of 21 meters (70 feet) and store over a ton of water in its trunk.

**Photo Tip**
Shoot photos early in morning and late in the afternoon. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. the sun is overhead and the light is flat. Shooting in early morning and late afternoon will add more color and shadows to your photos giving more definition to the subject. You will notice the difference immediately.

**DON'T DRIVE AT NIGHT**
Never drive at night. There are too many animals on the roads. There are no lights and too many hazards. There are few lights. Too many drunk drivers. The list goes on.

Nope. The best and safest advice is to drive in the morning when you and others can see hazards and are awake and alert to handle any situation.
Highway 12 from Highway 1 to Bahia de Los Angeles is an easy 1 hour drive - 65 Kilometers. It is desert and then more desert. Then you see it; the magnificent Sea of Cortez.

Bahia de los Angeles is a great place to camp. There are also hotels and motels. There are remarkable islands to visit, delicious fish to eat and turtle farms and remote areas to explore.

"SIDETRIPS"

Punta Prieta to Bahia de Los Angeles
Bahía de los Ángeles

"Bay of Angels"

The last expedition financed by Hernán Cortez’s in 1539 discovered a sweet tranquil bay - Bahía de los Ángeles. A loading dock was built in 1752 to explore the Baja. The area grew in the 1900’s when gold and silver obtained in nearby mines was discovered and shipped from the dock.

In 2007 the town received 24 hour electricity; it was previously serviced by gas powered generators in the late afternoon.

Bahía is a quiet little town with a few small hotels, restaurants and RV spots. Fishing, (especially for Yellow Fin and Dorado) boating, kayaking, exploring and generally kicking back are the main activities.

The bay has over 16 islands nearby - check first at the office in Bahía for regulations as this is a protected zone. There is an abundance of sea life including the whale shark.
Highway 19 is a fun trip - from Highway 1 just south of San Pedro on Highway 1 to Cabo san Lucas via Todos Santos. The drive is well under two hours but plan for more. It is hard to resist a stop at Todos Santos - a lovely small town that has developed into a Baja arts community. There is plenty of small accommodations along the way and often a place to pull over and plug in. Enjoy.

We have not logged this Highway in two years and have heard it has improved a lot. Write us and give us details!
In 1723 the Spanish founded the Misión of Nuestra Senora del Pilar de La Paz here and shortly thereafter became known as Santa Rosa de Todos Santos in honor of its benefactor. The town later prospered as eight sugar mills were built. The boom was short lived when the water table dropped as did the price for sugar.

The town changed agricultural direction and sugar cane was replaced by Poblano Chili, Avocado, Papaya and Mango orchards.

Fishing & Ranching have increased and tourism plays an important part in the economy.

The untrue rumor that the local Hotel California was the Eagles inspiration for the hit song persisted to such an extent that it put Todos Santo on the tourist radar screen. Regardless, the town and hotel are beautiful small gems worth visiting.
Souvenir Shops
Mission Church
Hotel California
Shops & Stores
Bancomer

RD Curves towards Cabo

PEMEX 1694
Shut Up Franks

RD to EL Litro RV Park
Hotel

~Topes~
RD Curves

~Topes~
School Zone

~Topes~

KM 54

~Vado~
Cacti & Bush

Curva Peligrosa

HWY 19

~Vado~
Cacti & Bush

~Vado~
Building Bridge

~Vado~
Real Estate

~Vado~
Laundry

~Vado~
Baja Serina RV Park
Local RD
Sandbar

~Vado~
Fields

~Vado~
Pescadero

~Vado~

KM 64

RD to Los Cerritos
Paraiso California

~Vado~
Big Resorts
~Vado~
Blankets Factory
~Vado~
Seahorse Fence
Rancho Nuevo

~Vado~
Shrine

Almost Free Phone Calls
One of the best ways to call home is through your computer. Create a "Skype" account before you leave home and practice using it. Buy a small USB handset as they are better than a standard headphone. You will find the rates very economical and even “free” if you call computer to computer.

Dorothy’s Favorite
Baja Magic Dos

"A great gift to yourself and to those who love food. Even if you don't like food...you will enjoy this book. It's funny and full of great tips about Mexico.”

Dorothy Bell

"Travel brings wisdom only to the wise. It renders the ignorant more ignorant than ever.”

Joe Abercrombie
BROWN BOTTLES PLEASE

Mexican beer comes in a variety of bottle colors. This is important because the color can often determine freshness. Brown bottles are considered the best at preserving the natural beer flavors, green second and lastly clear.

Light, (artificial lights at a store or the sun itself) can change the taste of beer dramatically and beer goes skunky quicker in clear glass. Corona can be purchased in brown bottles called "Ballenas" or whales or cans.

The Elephant Tree

The Elephant Tree is easily spotted with its fat white trunk.
Notes
San Ysidro & El Chaparral
This is the projected route for the new expanded border called El Chaparral. It is currently in transition.
San Ysidro is going through many changes with the development of the El Capparal Border Crossing. The procedures will not likely be changing.

If you are only staying in Mexico for 72 hours and staying North of Ensenada (an North of San Felipe for that matter), you DO NOT NEED A TOURIST CARD.

If you are going further south on the Baja Peninsula or traveling to the mainland of Mexico, you will need a tourist visa called an FMM.

Vehicle permits are only required for the mainland of Mexico. If you are ONLY staying on the Baja a vehicle permit is NOT required.

IF YOU NEED A TOURIST VISA (FMM) or A VEHICLE PERMIT follow the instructions below.

1. Drive through the Nothing to Declare lanes if your goods are your own, you are not bringing in items for gifts and the new goods you are importing do not exceed your customs limit. (If your goods DO exceed the limit, get in the other lane and fill out forms and pay the appropriate duties)

2. As you drive through the customs lane, your vehicle will activate a street light which randomly selects vehicles for a search. Generally speaking the officers will look at your paperwork and poke around your luggage looking for big ticket items or prohibited items. This is normal.

3. If you get the green light, look for a parking spot and park.

4. Go to Migration and ask for an FMM and fill it out. Return it to the desk and the officer ensure it is correct and will stamp the form and your passport. They may direct you to a place to pay (approximately $22 to 30 USD) If the Banjercito is not open or available, you will have to go to another bank sometime soon in your travel, to pay the fee.

IF YOU ARE ONLY DRIVING IN THE BAJA, THEN YOU DO NOT NEED A VEHICLE PERMIT. IF YOU DO NEED A VEHICLE PERMIT THEN:

5. Ask / be directed to the photocopy booth. You will need copies of your FMM, passport, vehicle registration and driver's license. The copy attendant usually knows how many of each you require. Pay the copy fee.

6. Ask for the Banjercito or Army Bank. They will enter your information into the computer and charge you the appropriate fee and the vehicle return deposit. Pay for you FMM if you can. They will give you a sticker for you to place on your windshield.

6. Put the sticker on the windshield and place the sticker wrapper, any receipts and your FMM in a safe dry place as you will need to return your sticker and documents when you leave Mexico

7. Drive south and have a great trip. If you haven't paid the fee for your FMM, go to any bank and pay for it there.

When you leave Mexico you must have your sicker removed and your deposit processed. Do NOT omit this as you could loose your deposit and/or returning a vehicle to Mexico may be impossible.

### Border Crossings

**California**

San Ysidro, California - Tijuana, Baja California  
Phone: (619) 639-7100  
Open: 24 hours

Otay Mesa, California - Tijuana, Baja California  
Phone: (619) 661-3249  
Open: 6 A.M.-10 P.M

Tecate, California - Tecate, Baja California  
Phone: (619) 478-5545  
Open: 6 A.M.-12 P.M

Andrade, California - Los Algodones, Baja California  
Phone: (619) 572-0089  
Open: 6 A.M.-10 P.M.

**Arizona**

San Luis, Arizona - San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora  
Phone: (602) 627-8854  
Open: 24 hours
Lukeville, Arizona - Sonoyta, Sonora
Open: 7 A.M.-12 P.M.
Sasabe, Arizona - Altar, Sonora
Phone: (520) 823-4231
Open: 8 A.M.-8 P.M.

Nogales, Arizona Mariposa - Nogales, Sonora
Open: 6 A.M.-10 P.M.
Nogales, Arizona - Nogales, Sonora
Phone: (520) 287-1410
Open: 24 hours

Naco, Arizona - Naco, Sonora
Phone: (520) 432-5349
Open: 24 hours
Douglas, Arizona - Agua Prieta, Sonora
Phone: (602) 364-8486
Open: 24 hours

New Mexico

Antelope Wells, New Mexico - El Berrendo, Chihuahua
Phone: (505) 531-2686
Open: 8 A.M.-4 P.M.
Columbus, New Mexico - Palomas, Chihuahua
Phone: (505) 531-2686
Open: 24 hours

Santa Teresa, New Mexico - San Jerónimo, Chihuahua
Phone: (505) 589-9354
Open: 6 A.M.-10 P.M.
Fabens, Texas - Praxedis G. Guerrero, Chihuahua
Phone: (915) 764-2359
Open: 6 A.M.-10 P.M.

Texas

Presidio, Texas - Ojinaga, Chihuahua
Phone: (915) 229-3349
Open: 24 hours
Del Rio, Texas - Ciudad Acuna, Coahuila
Phone: (830) 703-2012
Open: 24 hours

Eagle Pass, Texas - Piedras Negras, Coahuila
Phone: (830) 773-9454
Open: 24 hours
Laredo, Texas - Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas
Phone: (956) 726-2360
Open: 24 hours

Laredo, Texas - Colombia, Nuevo Leon
Phone: (956) 417-5141
Open: 8 A.M.-12 A.M.
Roma, Texas - Ciudad Miguel Aleman, Tamaulipas
Phone: (956) 849-1678
Open: 24 hours

Rio Grande City, Texas - Ciudad Camargo, Tamaulipas
Phone: (956) 487-3498
Open: 7 A.M.-1 A.M.
Hidalgo, Texas - Reynosa, Tamaulipas
Phone: (956) 787-7556
Open: 24 hours

Pharr, Texas - Reynosa, Tamaulipas
Phone: (956) 787-7556
Open: 6 A.M.-12 A.M.
Progresso Lakes, Tx - Nuevo Progresso, Tamaulipas
Phone: (956) 565-3140
Open: 24 hours

Los Indios, Texas - Matamoros, Tamaulipas
Phone: (956) 361-0074
Open: 6 A.M.-12 A.M.
Brownsville, Texas - Matamoros, Tamaulipas
Phone: (956) 548-2762
Open: 24 hours
Requirements to obtain an FMM Mexico Tourist Visa:

Must be present
Valid Passport
Visa fee - if entering by land - about $30.00 USD
FMM's are the most common form required for non-resident tourists entering Mexico. Nationalities eligible for an FMM VISA include Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, "Hong Kong," Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta Monaco, Norway New, Zealand, Poland Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Uruguay, United States of America. Chinese citizens with passports issued by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region*

If you fly into Mexico, FMM's are distributed on the plane and the fees are included in the cost of the airfare.
Keep the FMM's in a safe place as you must hand it in when you exit Mexico. There is currently a large fine if you cannot produce the document.

While drive-in tourists can pick up the cards at official Mexican tourist offices before entry into Mexico, there is no real advantage in doing so. The cards must be stamped and processed at the border or airport. The cost for a card is approximately 300 pesos (payable at banks throughout Mexico before you leave the country) and is usually good for 180 days. You can re-enter on the same tourist card.
You should return your card on your final exit from the country.

Mexico Vehicle Import Permit

If you plan to drive a vehicle beyond the Mexico "Free Zone" you will need to purchase a Mexico Vehicle Import Permit. The Mexico Free Zone, is an area located along the Mexican international land borders and which run inward up to the point at which the Mexican Customs authorities have their first "interior" check point (this is usually about 20 to 26 kilometers in from the border towns - exceptions are on the peninsula of Baja California and places like Puerto Peñasco where it runs to the ocean front along the main highways.
YOU DO NOT NEED A VEHICLE IMPORT PERMIT FOR DRIVING IN ANY PART OF THE BAJA PENINSULA OR THE SONORA FREE ZONE (In Sonora, you are only required to obtain a permit if driving further than kilometer 98 of Mexican Federal Highway No. 15.)

NOTE: YOU CAN OBTAIN A "SONORA ONLY" VEHICLE IMPORT PERMIT IF YOU ONLY PLAN TO TRAVEL IN THE MEXICAN STATE OF SONORA.
The temporary vehicle import permit can be obtained from Banjercito, the official Mexican issuing agency. It is valid for any type of vehicle, weighing less than three tons, for up to six months (180 days). The permit may be purchased online at the Banjercito website.

**Important Documents Needed to Apply for a Mexico Vehicle Import Permit**

1. Evidence of Citizenship, i.e. A Government Issued Passport
2. If you are not a Mexican citizen, a Mexican immigration permit-such as a tourist, business or immigrant permit.
3. The Vehicle Title and registration certificate. A bill of sale is not valid proof.
4. A Valid Driver’s License with photo.
5. Certificate of canceled import permit for any prior temporary import permits.
6. If the vehicle is financed, is a rental car, is leased, and/or a company car, a notarized letter of permission for importation of the vehicle into Mexico is required from the lien holder or lending institution.
7. An International Credit Card (American Express, MasterCard, Visa) **in the name of the driver of the vehicle.**
8. If the title of the vehicle is in the name of a spouse, child, or parents - a birth certificate must be presented or a marriage license.

These documents are needed when you travel to Mexico whether or not you purchase your vehicle import permit online or not.

**Documents Required for Pets Entering Mexico**

While the regulations requiring a Pet Certificate of Good Health have been on the books for quite some time, in practice they were not readily enforced. This is no longer true. To avoid a costly quarantine or to be sent back, it is a better strategy to have the permits in hand.

Note that dogs and cats that are three months old or less may not legally enter Mexico.

The Mexican Consulate website (Consulate’s website) states that:

Travelers wishing to travel to Mexico with their dogs or cats must obtain beforehand the following documents:

1. A Health Certificate issued by an official authority or by a licensed veterinarian provided that his signature is approved by a State Veterinarian, and
2. Proof of vaccines against rabies and distemper, administered at least 15 days before the arrival of the pet in Mexico. No consular certification is required.

**Other**

*(Form 77-043) An International Certificate of Good Health is* issued by a licensed veterinarian and the signature must be approved by the State Veterinarian who has examined your pet.

Check before you leave the vet's office that the certificate:

a) states your full name and address
b) contains the actual vaccination dates
c) describes your pet species, age and sex
d) verifies your pet has been examined and has been found free of all contagious diseases.

As with all of your important documents, ensure you have more than one copy.