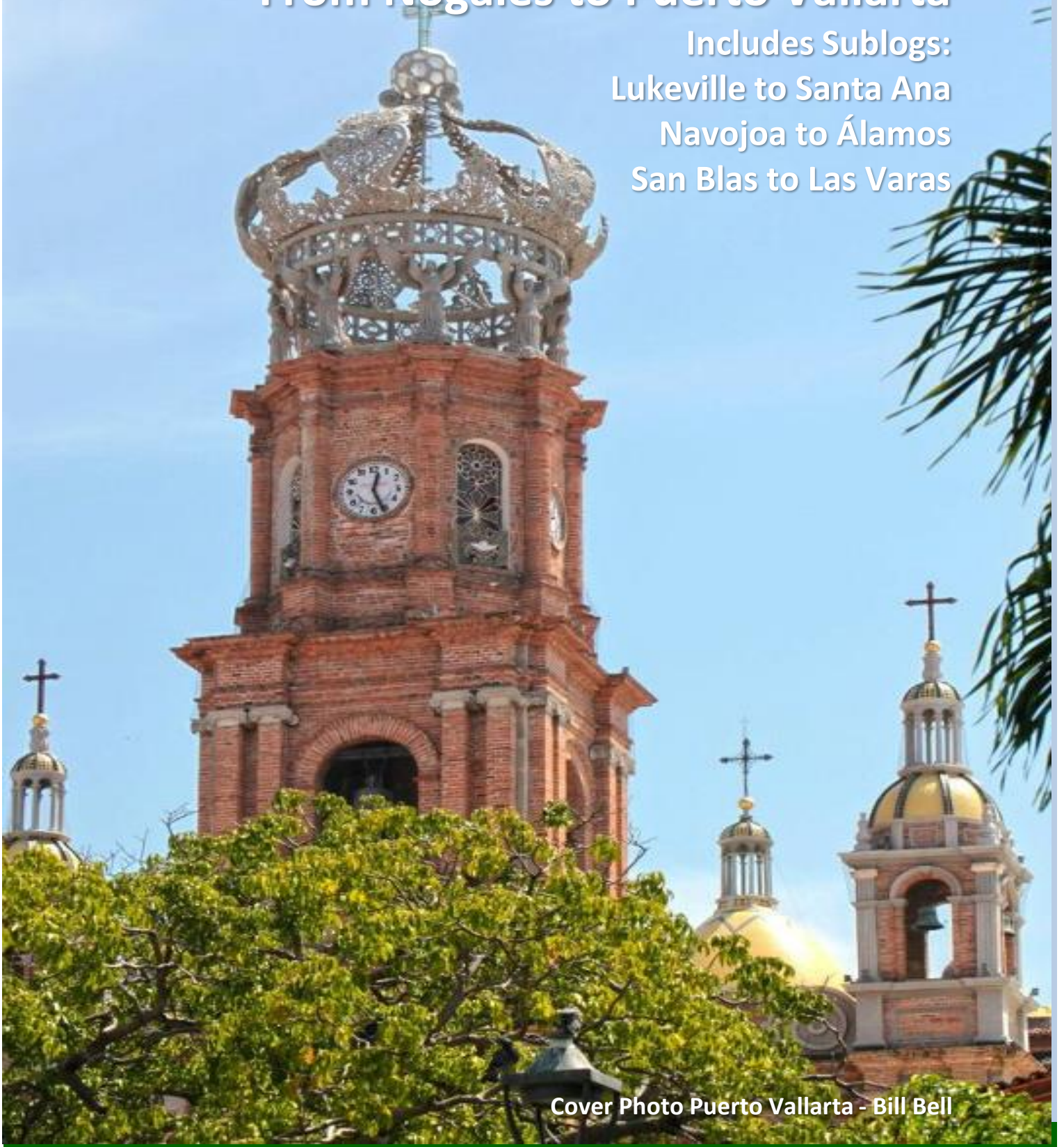


Pacific Coast Road Log

From Nogales to Puerto Vallarta

Includes Sublogs:
Lukeville to Santa Ana
Navojoa to Álamos
San Blas to Las Varas



Cover Photo Puerto Vallarta - Bill Bell



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 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."

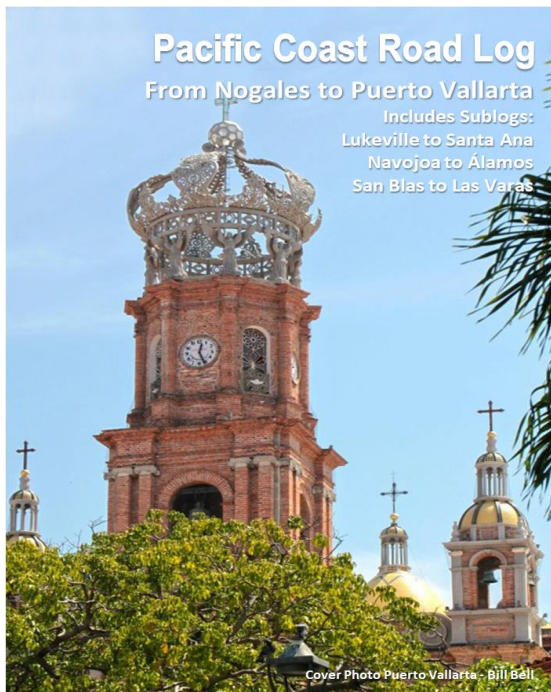
"Bravo"

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



Cover Photo - Puerto Vallarta

Photo by Bill Bell

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish (Church)

Dominating downtown architecture, the Parish Church, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe is a city icon. It is one of the favorite symbols and landmarks of the city.

The foundations of the church were constructed in 1903 and slowly the church was completed in 1987.

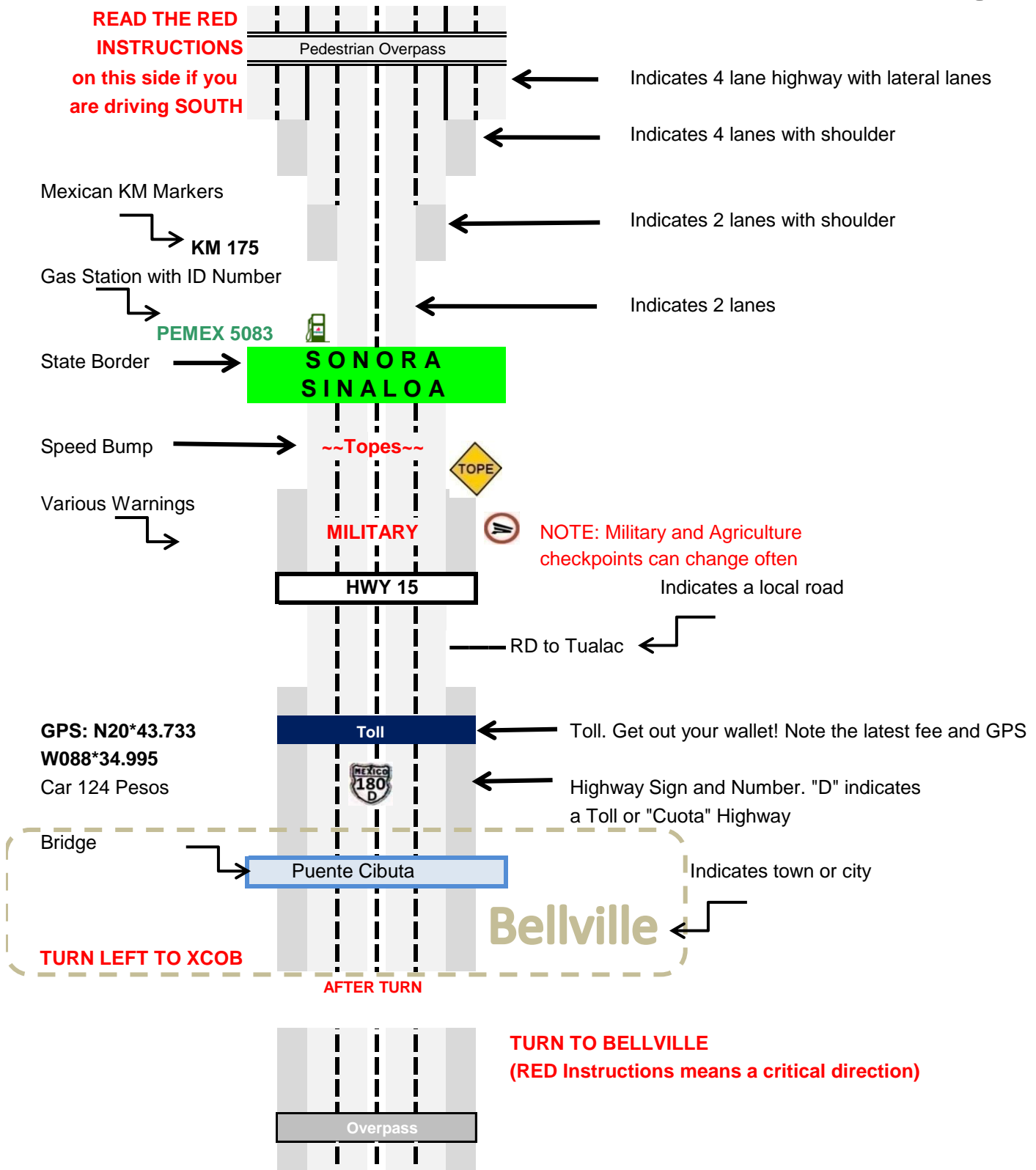


Pacific Coast to Puerto Vallarta

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How to Use the Pacific Coast Road Log



West Coast Distance Chart (Kilometers)

Highway 15 & 200 (Nogales to Puerto Vallarta)

Nogales

85	Magdalena													
105	20	Santa Anna												
278	193	173	Hermosillo											
400	315	295	122	San Carlos										
411	326	306	133	11	Guaymas									
543	458	438	265	143	132	Cuidad Obregon								
611	526	506	333	211	200	68	Navojoa							
772	687	667	494	372	361	229	161	Los Mochis						
983	898	878	705	583	572	440	372	211	Culiacan					
1203	1118	1098	925	803	792	660	592	481	220	Mazatlan				
1489	1404	1384	1211	1089	1078	946	878	767	506	286	Tepic			
1530	1445	1425	1252	1130	1119	987	919	808	547	327	41	Compostela		
1565	1480	1460	1287	1165	1154	1022	954	843	582	362	76	35	Las Varas	
1664	1579	1559	1386	1264	1253	1121	1053	942	681	461	175	134	99	Puerto Vallarta

West Coast Distance Chart (Miles)

Highway 15 & 200 (Nogales to Puerto Vallarta)

Nogales

53	Magdalena													
65	12	Santa Anna												
173	120	107	Hermosillo											
249	196	183	76	San Carlos										
255	203	190	83	7	Guaymas									
337	285	272	165	89	82	Cuidad Obregon								
380	327	314	207	131	124	42	Navojoa							
480	427	414	307	231	224	142	100	Los Mochis						
611	558	546	438	362	355	273	231	131	Culiacan					
748	695	682	575	499	492	410	368	299	137	Mazatlan				
925	872	860	752	677	670	588	546	477	314	178	Tepic			
951	898	885	778	702	695	613	571	502	340	203	25	Compostela		
972	920	907	800	724	717	635	593	524	362	225	47	22	Las Varas	
1034	981	969	861	785	779	697	654	585	423	286	109	83	62	Puerto Vallarta

Nogales Border and Immigration - Mariposa Truck Route

Open 6am to 10pm. only. The Migration and Banjercito (Army Bank) offices are open 24 hours between KM 258 and 259 on Highway 15. Parking is usually easy in non-rush hour periods and very clearly marked just before the Migration buildings. Enter the most northerly building (Migration) and get your tourist Cards. Proceed to the copy booth just outside the Migration exit. Walk south and look to your right. The Banjercito offices will then process your vehicle documentation papers. You pay here.

The vehicle permit return office is easy to return your documents - at a hut of the same location on the Northbound lanes.

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.

HIGHWAY ROAD SIGNS



Stop



Speed Limit



Truck Speed Limit



Trucks use right lane



Inspection



Yield



No Trucks



No Parking



No Passing



No Entry



No Horns



No Horse Carriages



No Crossing



No U Turn



No Right Turn



Parking



No Passenger Unloading



No Farm Vehicles



No Bicycles



No Left Turn



2 Way Traffic



Weight Restriction



Height Restriction



Max Clearance



Center Divide



Turn Right



Turn Left



Railroad Crossing



Railroad Crossing



Railroad Crossing



2 Way Traffic



School Zone



Lane Ends



Height Restrictions



Low Clearance



Road Narrows



Speed Bump



Speed Bump



Men Working



Hospital or Clinic



Dip In Road



Falling Rock



Narrow Clearance



Parking



Mechanic



Rest Area



Beach



Archeological Site



RV Camping



Gas Station



Public Swimming



Recreation Area



Railway Station



Airport



Garbage



Restaurant



Phone



Marina



Information



Trolley



Trolley



Beach



Crafts & Artists



Ferry



Ferry



Camping



Bullring



Aqueduct



Lagoon



Colonial Site



Tourist Services



Metro



Waterfall



Cave



Taxi



Park



Detour

HIGHWAY ROAD SIGNS

SPANISH

ACOTAMIENTO

ALTO

AREA DE DESCANSO

ASCENSO Y DESCENSO DE PEAJE A 250 m

CALLE SIN SALIDA

CAMELLON 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

CASSETAS 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

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
 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 ACOTAMIENTO
 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
 PEREMENTO 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 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
 Narrow Bridge

SPANISH

RADAR EN OPERACION
REDUCCION DE ACOTAMIENTOSA
REDUCCION A DOS CARRILES
REDUCTOR DE VELOCIDAD
RESPETE LIMITE DE VELOCIDAD
RETURNO A 2KM CARRIL IZQUIERDO
RUTA DE CAMIONES
SALIDA
SALIDA A 150 MTS RAMPA DE
SEGURIDAD 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 PELIGROSO
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

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and subscribe to
www.mexicoheadline.com
for News About Mexico

READ THE RED INSTRUCTIONS on this side if you are driving SOUTH

MARIPOSA ROAD

Nogales Arizona USA

USA MEXICO

US Customs Inspection

DO NOT turn right. Stay Straight. KEEP IN RIGHT LANE as the Height Restrictions are extremely low as you pass the Customs Inspection Booths.

Puente Ensueño

Nogales Sonora Mexico

Overpass

KM 10 Overpass

Overpass

Puente El Carpintero

KM 5 Overpass

Check Mexican Border

Open 6-10 Prepare for Inspection

Car 47 pesos Toll

KM 4

Proceed Straight to Immigration and

~~Topes~~

Go to Frontera USA Nogales III

KM 263

TURN TOWARDS TRUCK CROSSING
Go Straight to Frontera USA

RD to Nogales Airport

RD to Nogales Airport

MILITARY Inspection

PEMEX 6305 OXXO

PEMEX 7438

KM 258

PEMEX 3771

~~Topes~~

MEXICAN Immigration

Car Permit Returns Here

HWY 15

Get Tourist Card & Vehicle Permits Here

KM 255

Puente Cibuta

PEMEX 8316

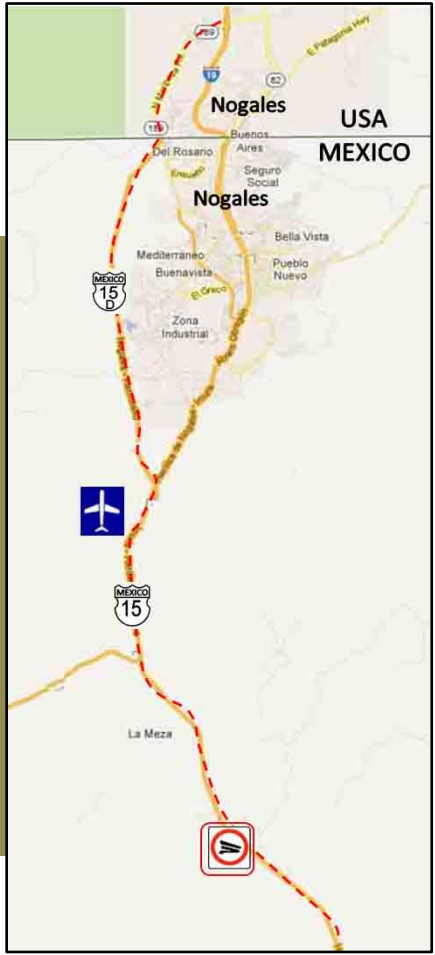
~~Topes~~

KM 242

Flashing Light

OXXO PEMEX 10747

Cibuta

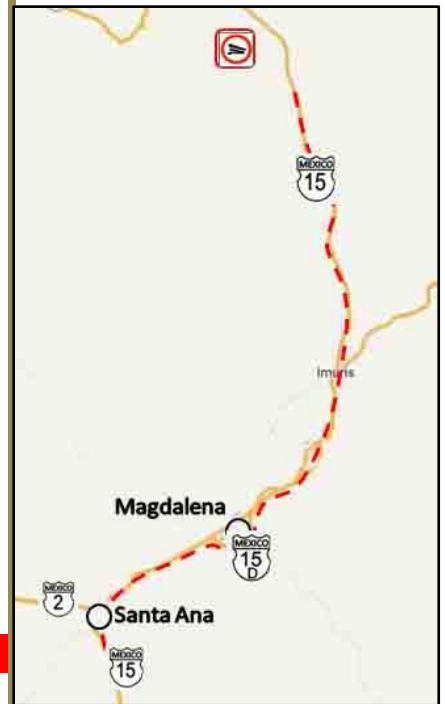
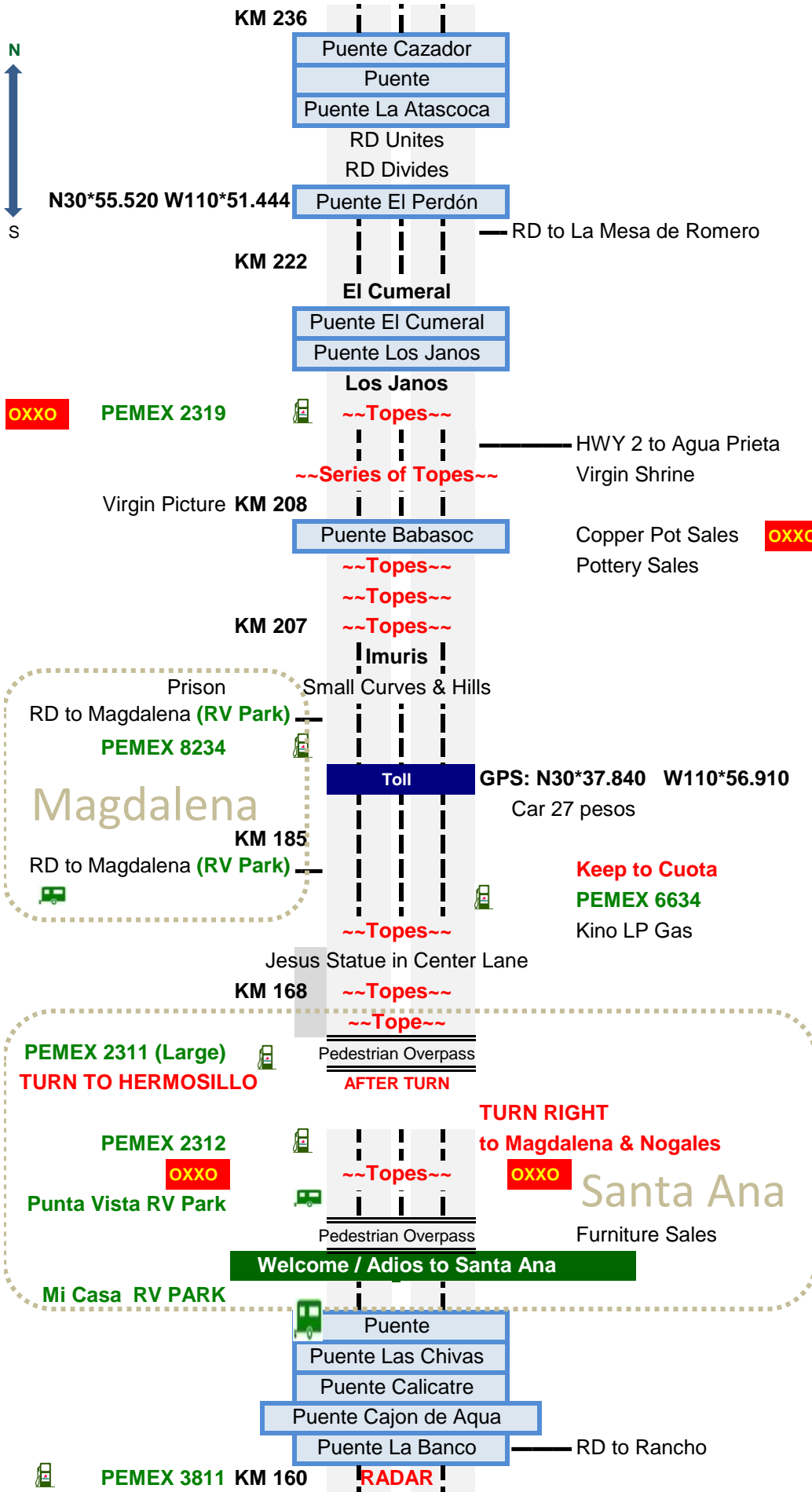


Nogales

“Black Walnut Trees”

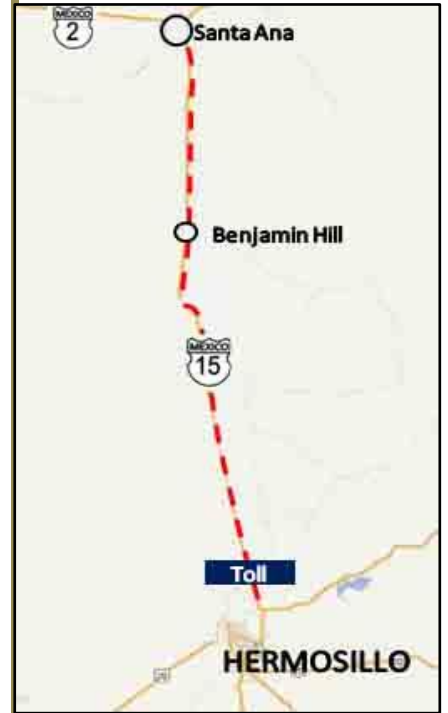
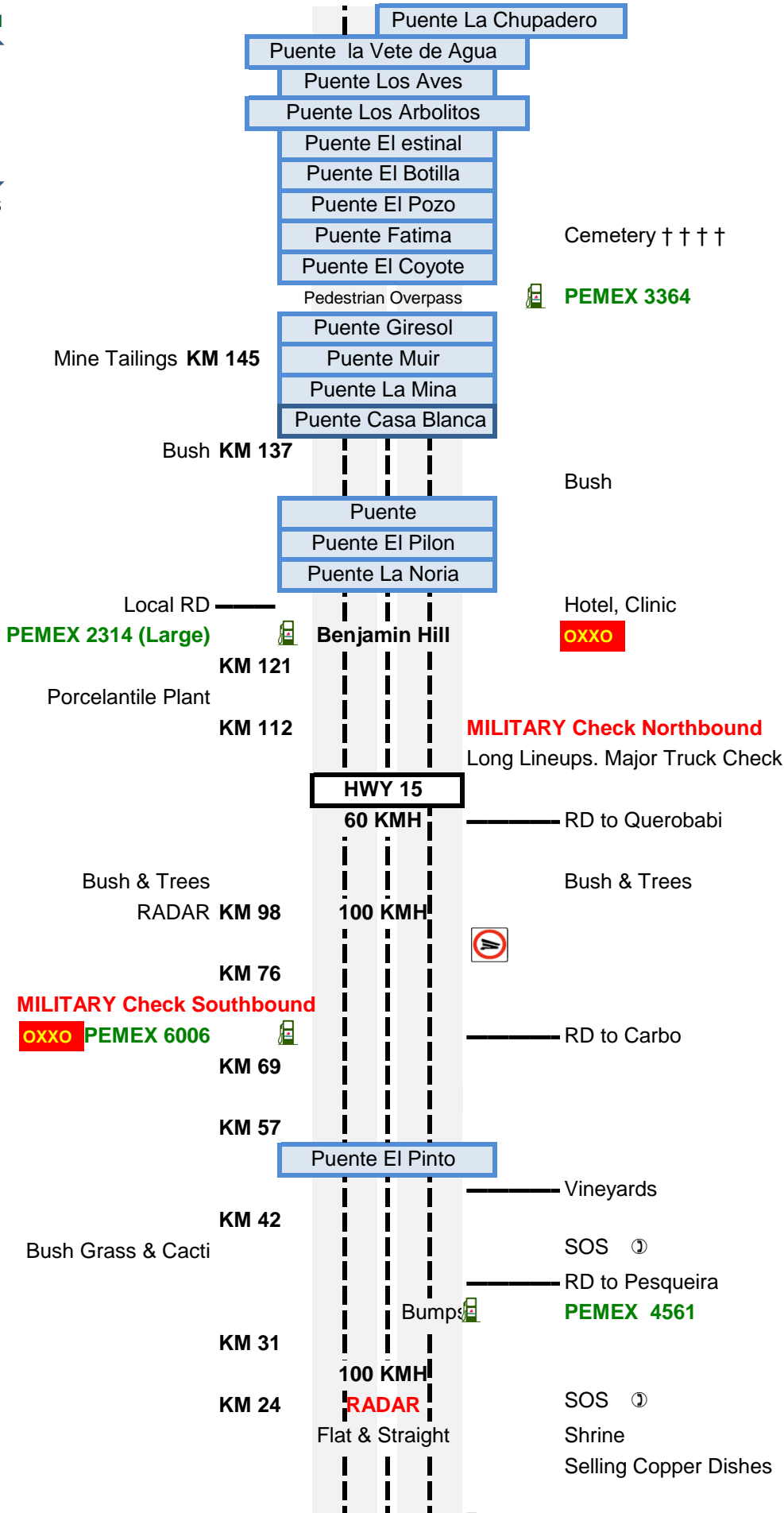
Located 60 KMs south of Tucson.

Europeans visited the area in the mid-1600, Father Kino put down roots through establishing a chain of missions in both Sonora and Arizona. Nogales was officially founded in 1882, after the establishment of a US/Mexico rail line. Nogales is one of the fastest growing border cities in Mexico. Mexicans flock to the area to secure work through the maquiladora; programs which allow the import of material and equipment duty free. Nogales current population hovers at 194,000, up from 160,000 in 2000. Housing and social services have not kept up with the rapid increase in population.



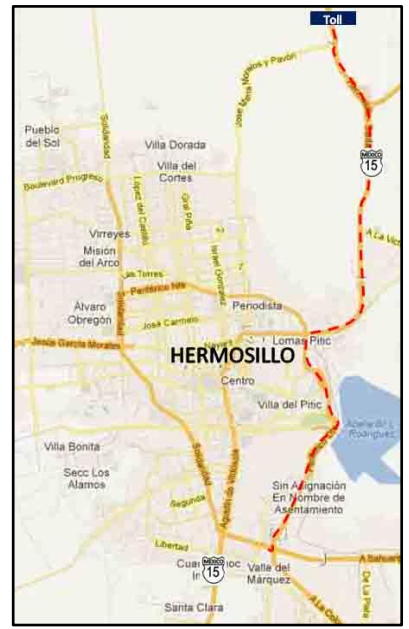
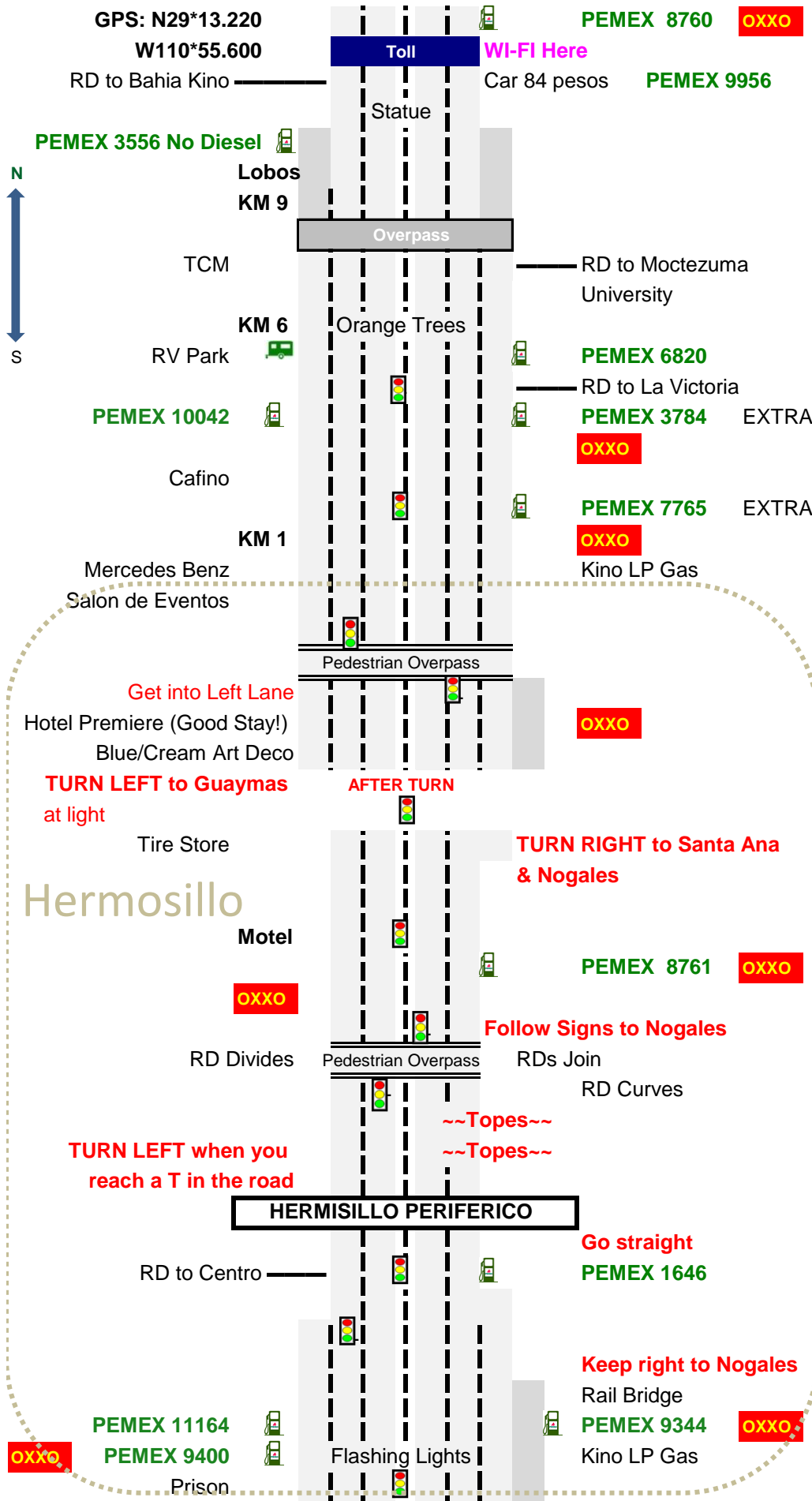
Magdalena de Kino

Formally named "Santa María Magdalena de Buquivaba", when in 1966: it changed to Magdalena de Kino after Padre Kino who established missions in Sonora and Arizona. The territory was historically populated by Pimas and Papagos Indians. A pleasant small city (approx. 25,000) people whose main industry is agriculture. Magdalena has a charming plaza, temple of Santa María Magdalena, Museum and crypt for Father Kino's remains. Magdalena was also the birthplace of Donald Colosio, the presidential candidate who was assassinated.



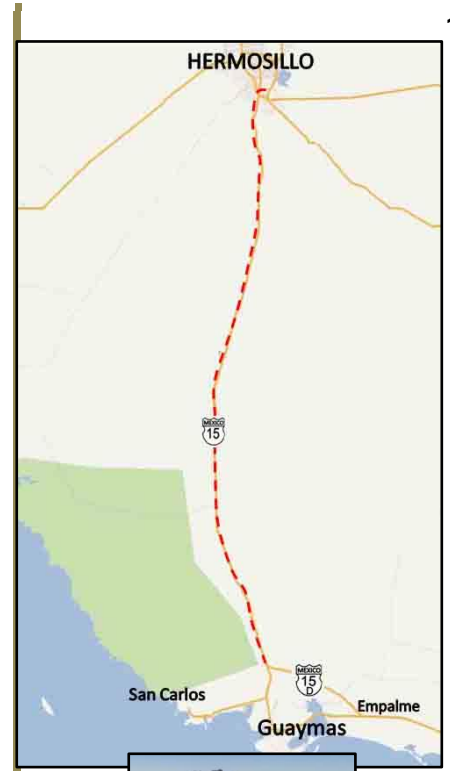
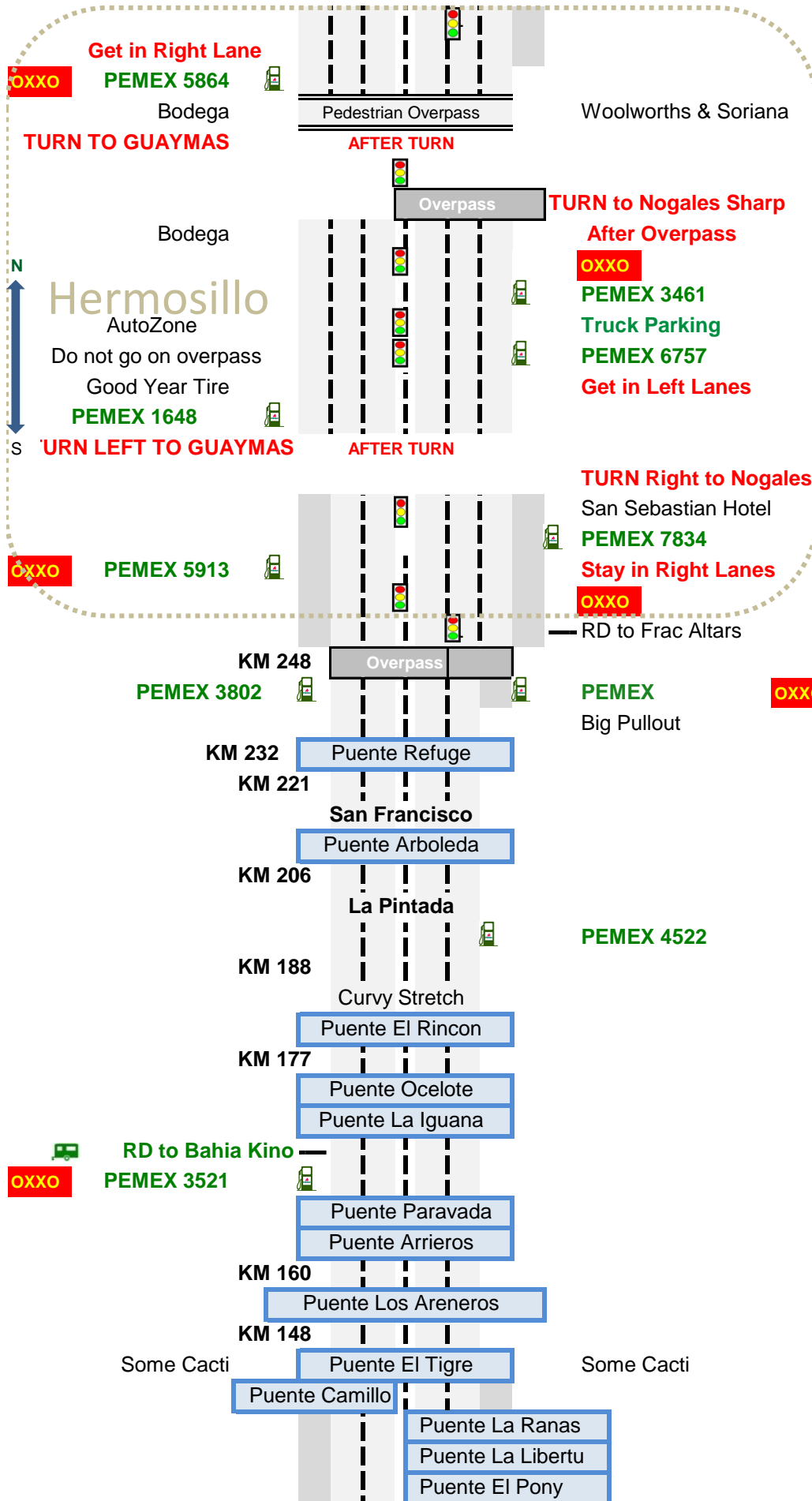
Santa Ana

The Pimas occupied the area and when the Jesuits came, the native population was attracted to the settlement mission. Then called Upper Pimas until 1883 when the Sonora Railway began construction and Diego Moreno name it Santa Ana Viejo. With a population of approximately 15,000 people, the primary industries are ranching (for beef export), light industry and commerce. Located on the crossroad of Highway 15 (North - South) and Highway 2 (East - West)



Hermosillo

Hermosillo is the capital and largest city in Sonora. Formerly named Santísima Trinidad del Pitivc and later renamed Hermosillo after José María González de Hermosillo who fought in the War of Independence in 1810. The city was declared the capital of the country (5 months) during the Mexican Revolution. Hermosillo has a population of approximately 650,000 people. It is the fifth fastest growing city in Mexico (behind Playa del Carmen, Cancun, Reynosa and San Juan del Rio) largely due to the manufacturing and automobile industry. Hermosillo offers the visitor a number of attractions. Head for the beautiful Plaza and gardens of Zaragoza and see the Cathedral of the Assumption (1877). It has a neo-classical façade, towers and dome. The Governor's Palace is worth visiting for the murals depicting historic events. Other sites are the ecological center and zoo, Bubble Museum for Kids, and Regional Museums. As the Capital and largest city in the state, Hermosillo of course offers a fun nightlife.



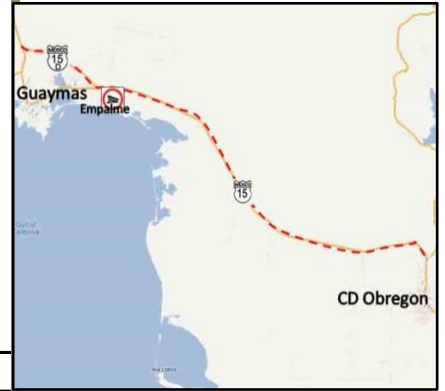
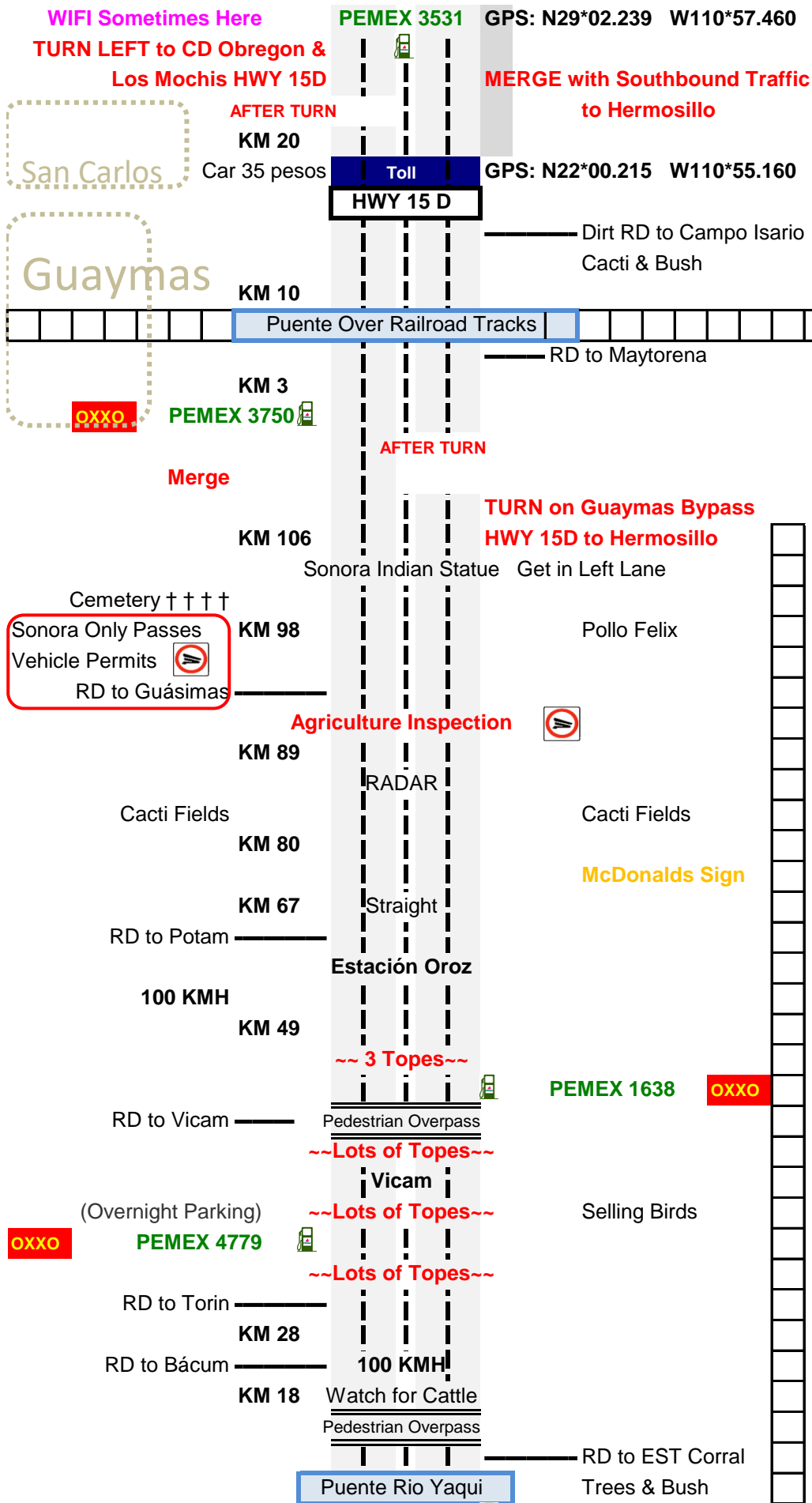
Bahía Kino

Bahía Kino is a small fishing village, come tourist spot named after Padre Kino, the Priest who founded missions throughout Sonora and Arizona. "Kino" was founded in 1920 as a fishing camp and is now a growing community of over 7,000 people.

There are two distinct towns; Kino Viejo 'Old Kino' a Mexican fishing town and Kino Nuevo 'New Kino' a low key tourist strip which is dominated by RV Parks, bungalows, restaurants and winter homes for Americans.

There are no harbors, only 2 boat ramps. There is a driving range, social club and a Museo de los Seri which displays examples of the Seri Indian ironwood and handi-craft work.

Future plans include three marinas, a 100-acre golf course, and eventually, a series of hotels with 50,000 rooms.



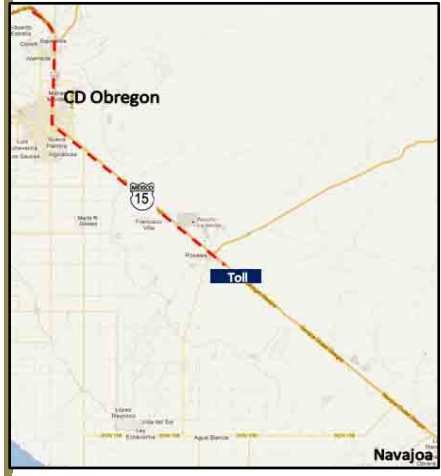
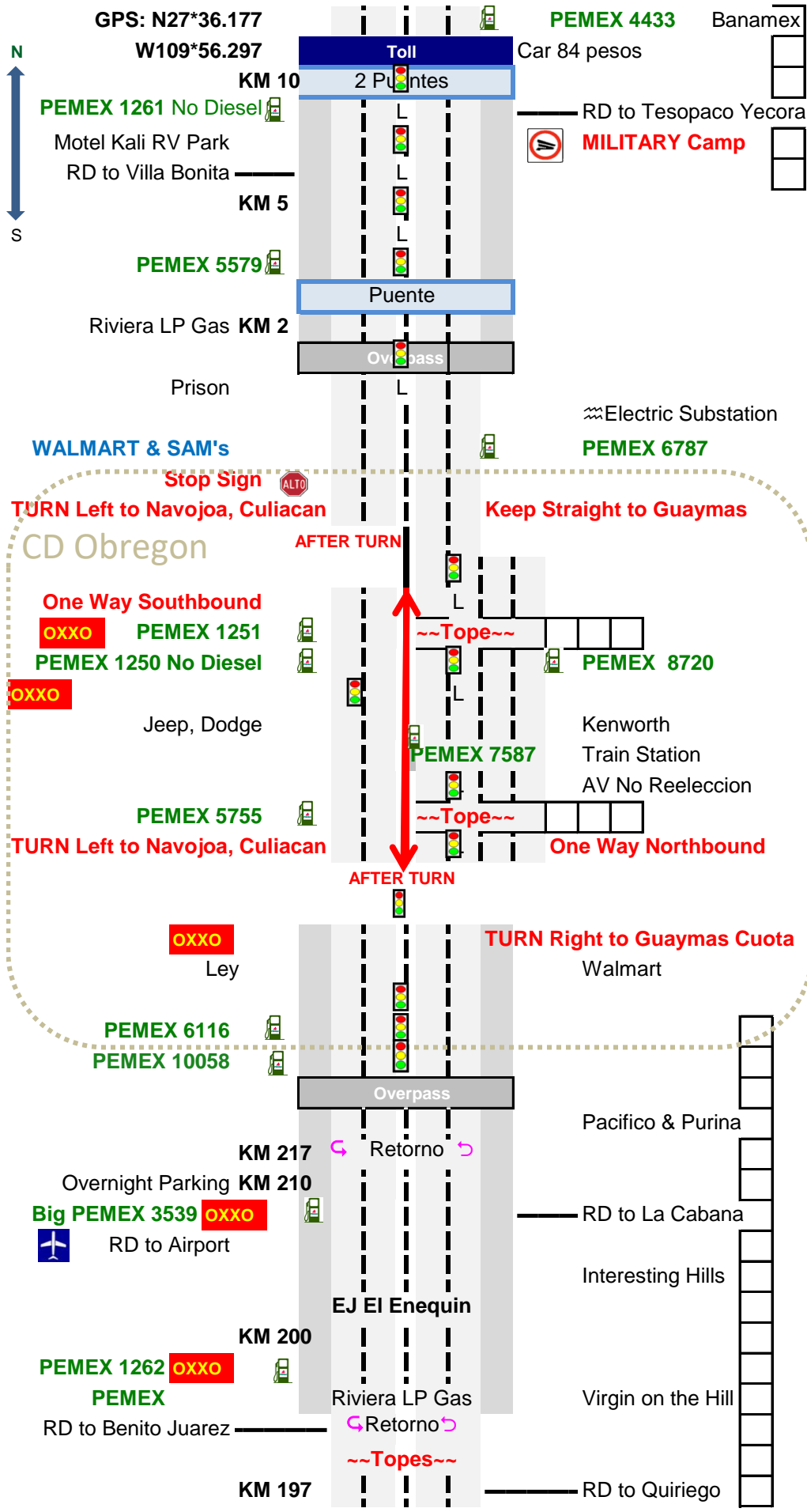
San Carlos

San Carlos is a beachside municipality of Guaymas and has a population of 7000. Historically San Carlos was known as Baviso de Navarro, a large cattle ranch. In the 1980's it was declared a tourist zone. There are numerous RV Parks, hotels, condos and private homes. The Sea of Cortez has blessed San Carlos with shallow bays and spectacular clear waters – perfect for the many divers and water enthusiasts located here. San Carlos has two marinas with paved launch ramps, dry storage, marine repair and maintenance, fuel docks and slip rentals.

ENJOY

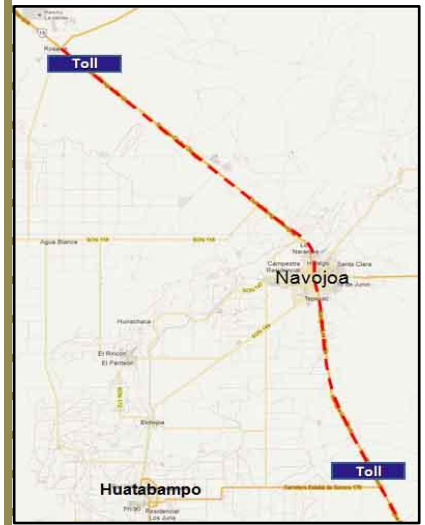
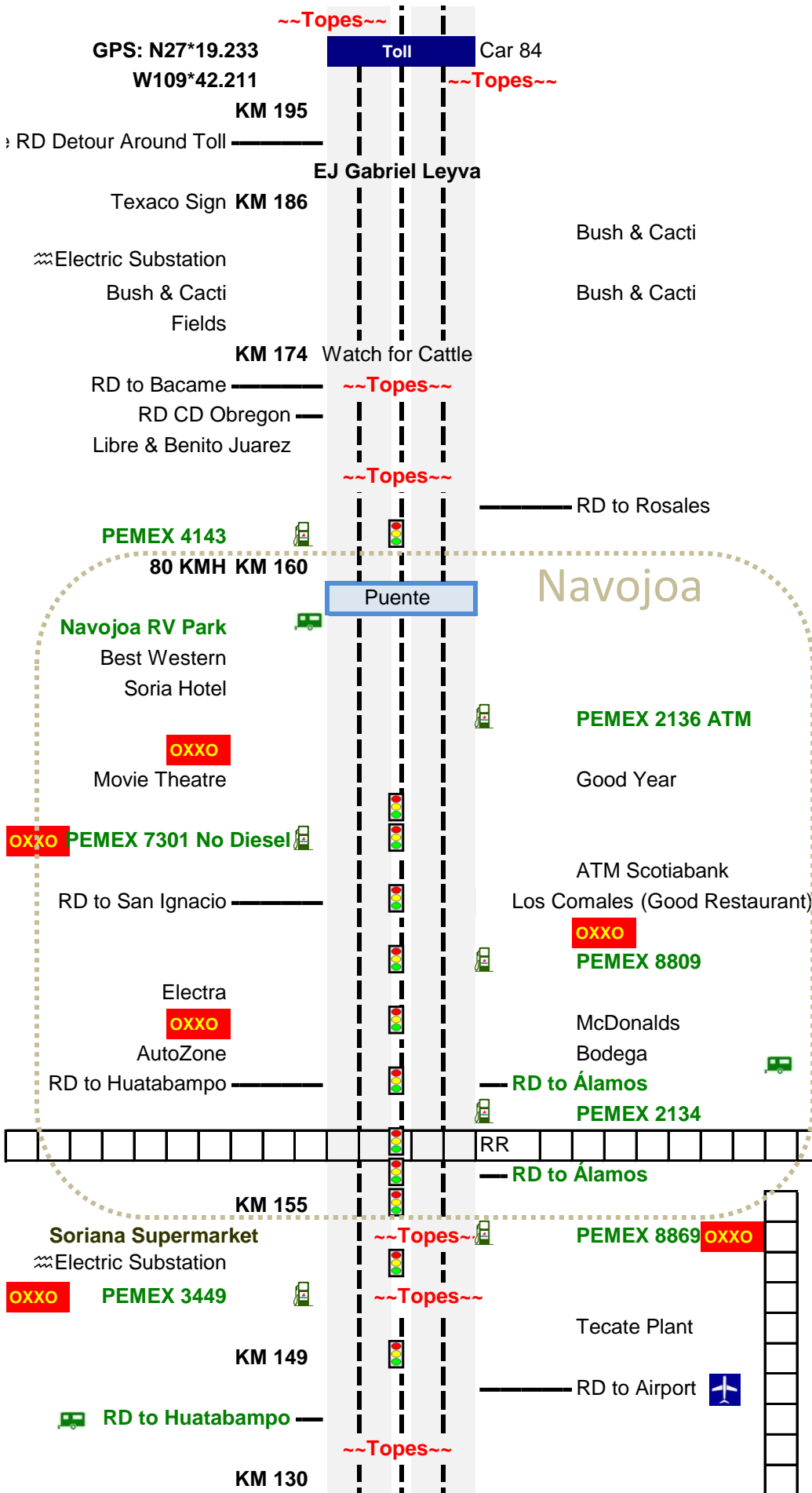
Guaymas

The Spanish explorers arrived in the area in 1535 and named it Guame after the local Seri tribe. In the early 1700's, Father Kino founded the mission station of San José de Guaymas near the harbor and established the town in 1769. A natural port, Guaymas was often attacked by pirates, adventurers, Indians and foreign counties. In 1847-48 the US occupied Guaymas; they fended off an attack by a French count in 1854 and in 1865 were occupied by French troops. Guaymas has a ferry service to Santa Rosalia on the Baja.



President Obregon
CD Obregon

Ciudad Obregon has a population of 340,000 people and is the second largest city in Sonora after Hermosillo. Originally called Cajeme after a Yaqui leader, it was re-named Obregon after Alvaro Obregon, a Mexican revolutionary and later, President of the country. Obregon developed the agricultural revolution to the Yaqui Valley and it is now one of the most prosperous areas in the country. The Yaqui Museum is a goo visit with information and displays about the history and culture of this founding people. There is ample accommodation in CD Obregon in a range of prices.



Navojoa

“Cactus House”

The Mayo Indians inhabited the area before the arrival of the Spanish and named the city. Many Mayo geoglyphs can be found along the Mayo River.

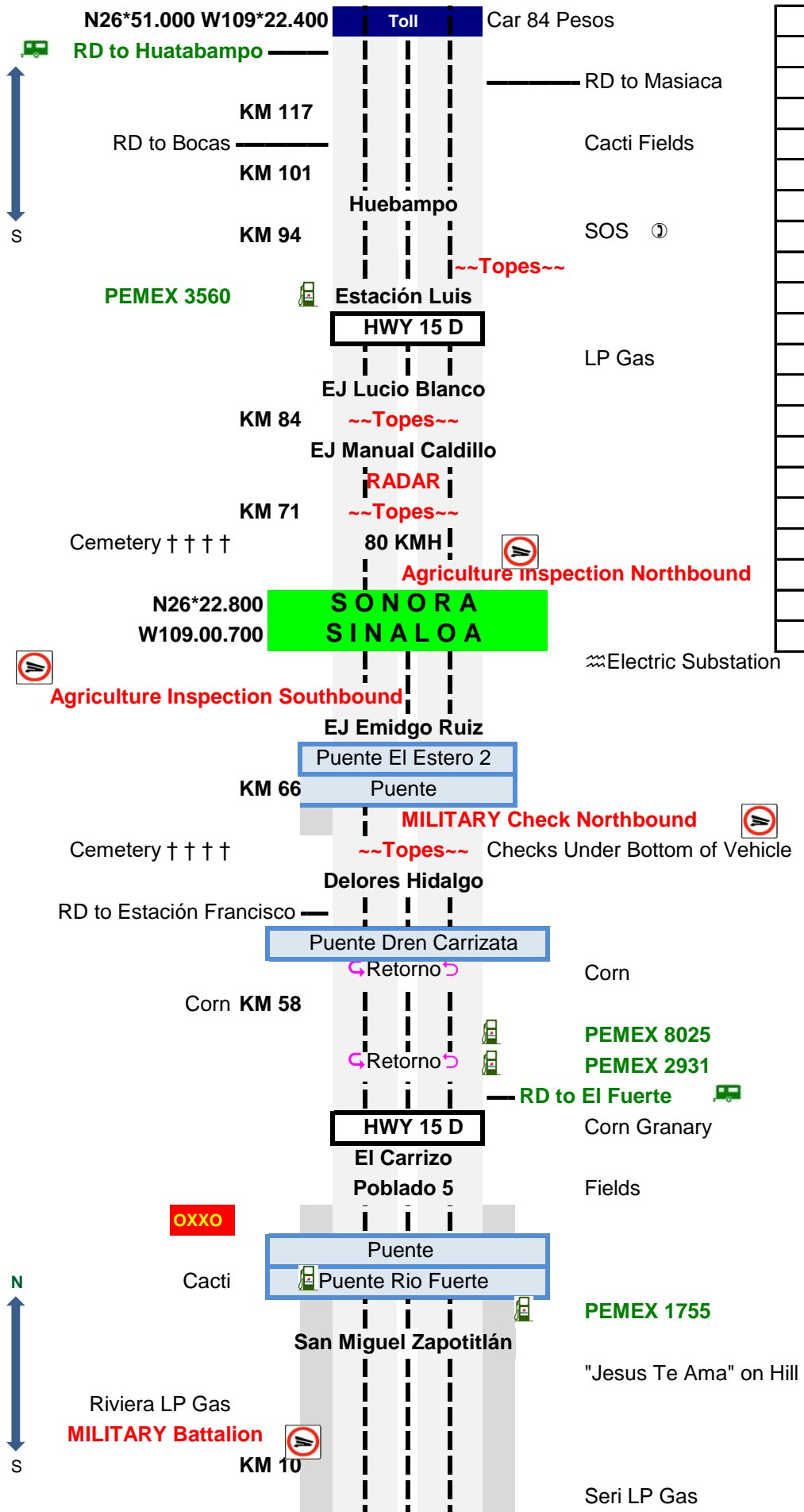
In 1536 Guzman, the Spanish Conquistador arrived and 78 years later the missionaries came to settle and convert the Indians in the area. Álvaro Obregón, revolutionary and President of Mexico, created the Agricultural Revolution and modernized farming techniques of the area.

Navojoa has a population of 145,000 people and the main industry is agriculture. Shrimp farming is an emergent industry.

Visitors to Navojoa travel directly through the city via Highway 15. It is also the turning point for those who are traveling to Alamos or to the coastal communities.



Sonora
Coat of Arms

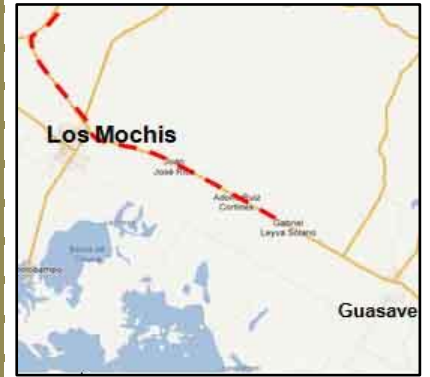
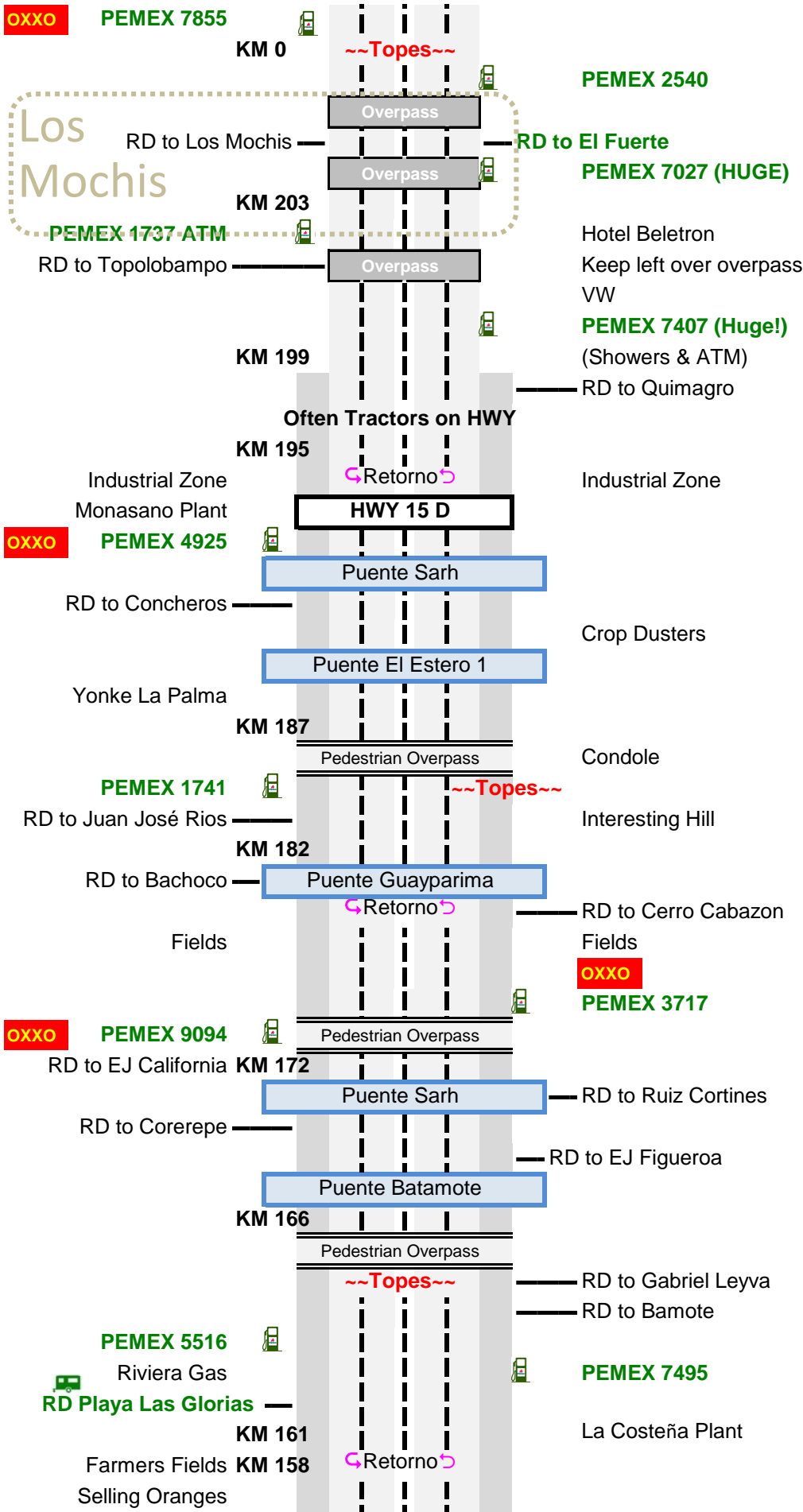


El Fuerte

“The Fortress”

Founded by Spanish Conquistador Francisco de Ibarra in 1563 and was named San Juan Bautista de Carapoa. Later in 1610 a fort was built in 1610 to deter the Indian invasions. El Fuerte was a trading post and gateway to Sonora, Arizona and California. In 1834 it became the capital of the then combined state of Sonora y Sinaloa. Today El Fuerte is a small tourist town for both hunting and fishing enthusiasts and as a major gateway to the Copper Canyon via the Railway.

Seri LP Gas

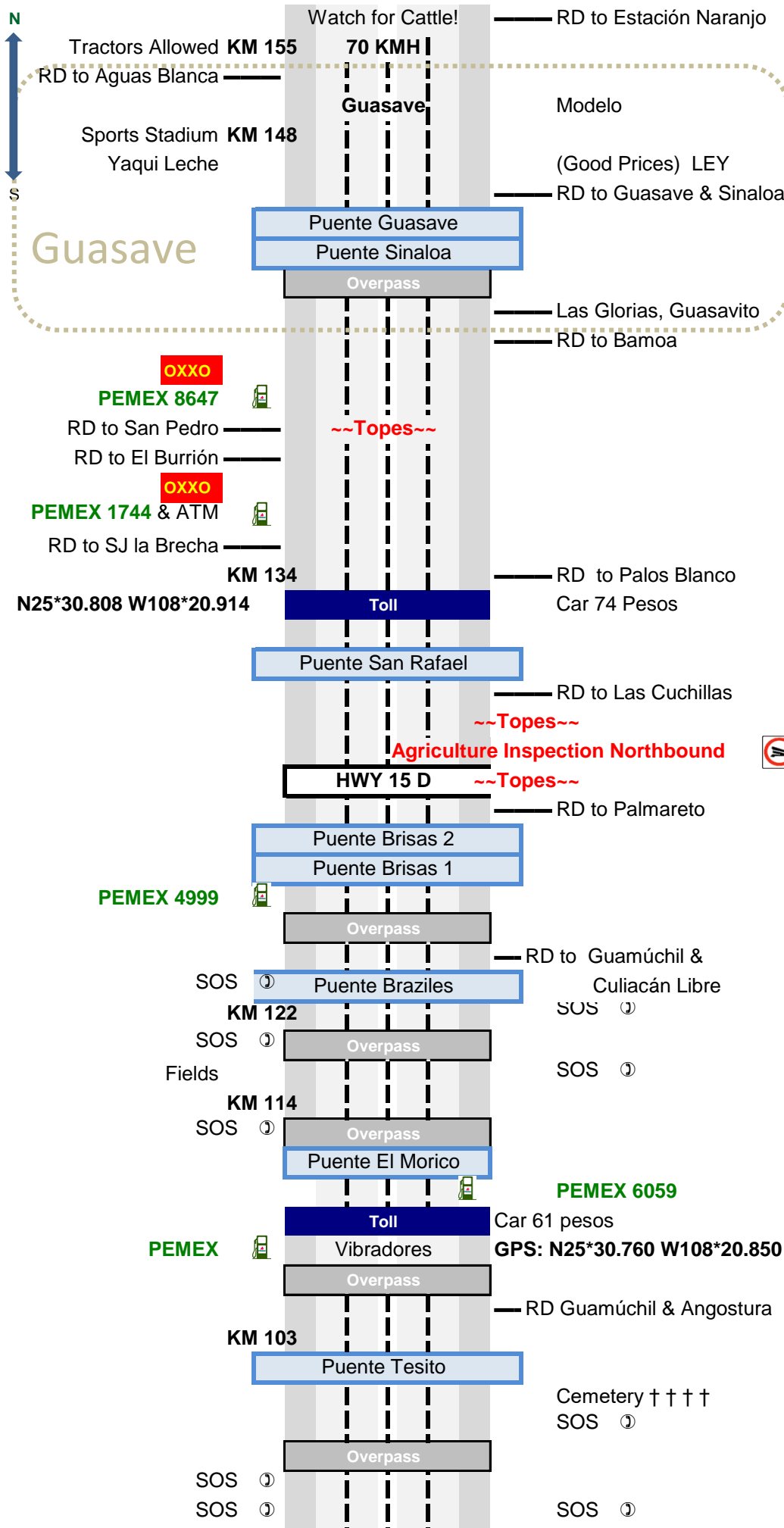


Los Mochis

Los Mochis is a relatively new city, having no colonial or Pre-Hispanic roots. However it does have an interesting history. In 1872 Albert Owen came to the area to develop a utopian society. He also envisioned and sold shares to colonists and others to develop the railway. After years of hard work developing irrigation canals and infrastructure, most colonists returned to their home country. The railway was completed by Mexico. Los Mochis is an important transportation hub, carrying cargo and tourists along the rail lines. It is also home to the La Paz ferry on the Baja.

Barranca del Cobre Copper Canyon

6 distinct canyons form the Copper Canyon. Longer, narrower and deeper than the Grand Canyon, the Copper Canyon is lush and green. This green copper color is where the Copper name originates. The canyon was formed by 6 rivers which merge into the Rio Fuerte and then drain into the Sea of Cortez. The Copper Canyon Railway began as a transportation route to the Pacific by Texas farmers. After giving up the "impossible task," Mexicans restarted the project and the line was finally finished. The cost was over \$100 million.



Guasave

"Inheritance in the Water"

Guasave is considered the northern border of Mesoamerica. The Indians of the area were the Cahita's who practiced agriculture - mainly corn and beans. They fished the rivers for mullet, catfish and bream, and hunted deer, wild boar and rabbits. After the arrival of the Spanish, Jesuit missionaries built temples in Nio and in Old Guasave. Both can be viewed today.

Agriculture and commerce continues to be the main industry of the city. It has become the supply center for the area.

Sports are an important part of Guasave life. There are 4 stadiums – 2 for Football (soccer), 1 for basketball and one for baseball.

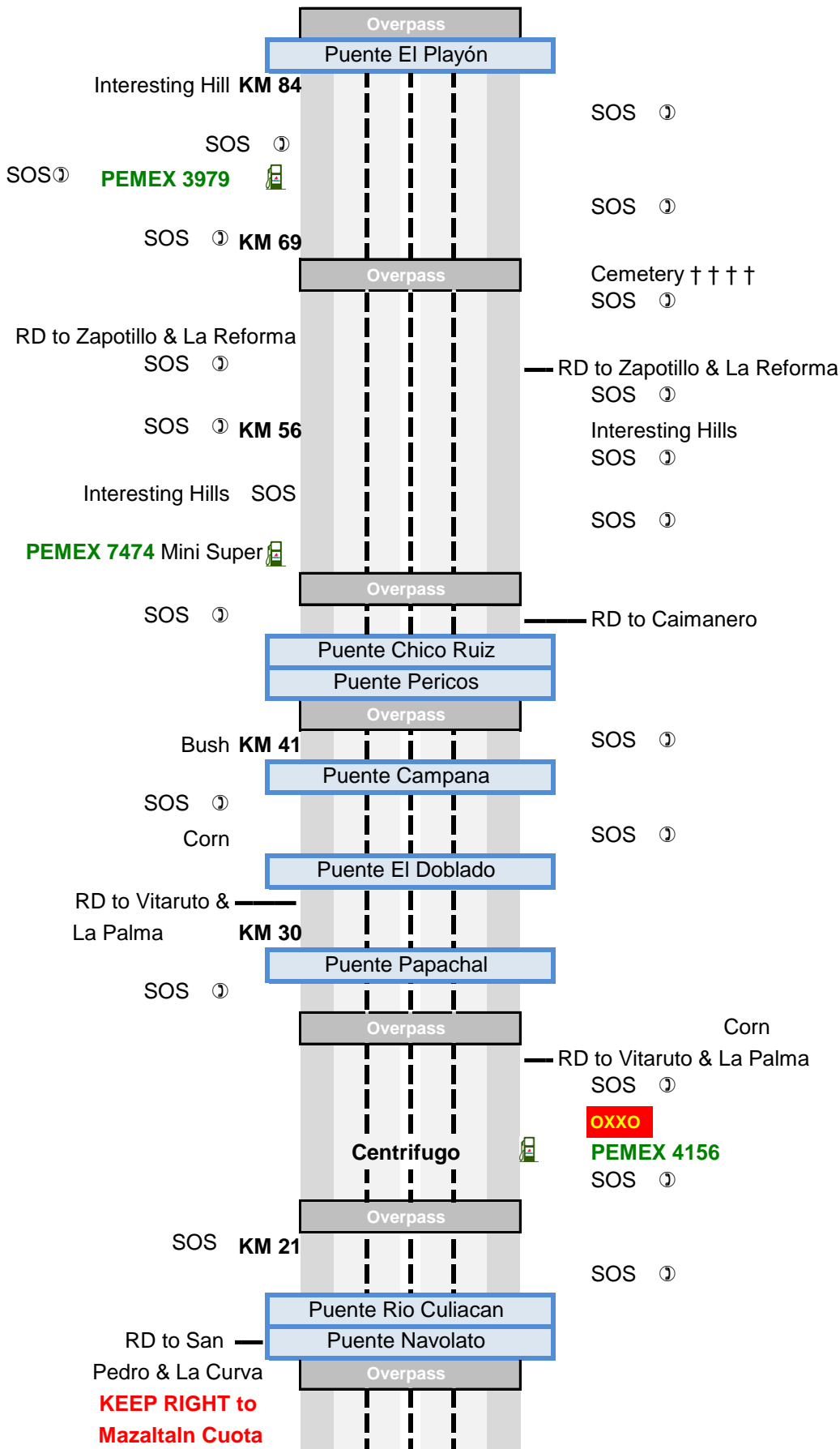
Playa Las Glorias

Playa las Glorias is a small beach-side community with an RV Park, some smaller hotels and an agricultural / farming community. MR. Moro RV Park and Motel is a fun spot to stay.



Sinaloa Coat of Arms





Seat Belts

Most Mexican states require that you use seat belts. Many folks from

North of the border will get stopped by the police and asked for a "on-the-spot fine" if they are not wearing them.

Avoid "the bite" and be concerned for you safety. Always wear seat belts.

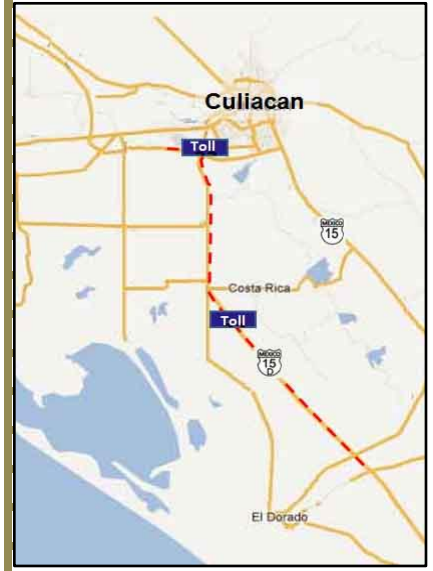
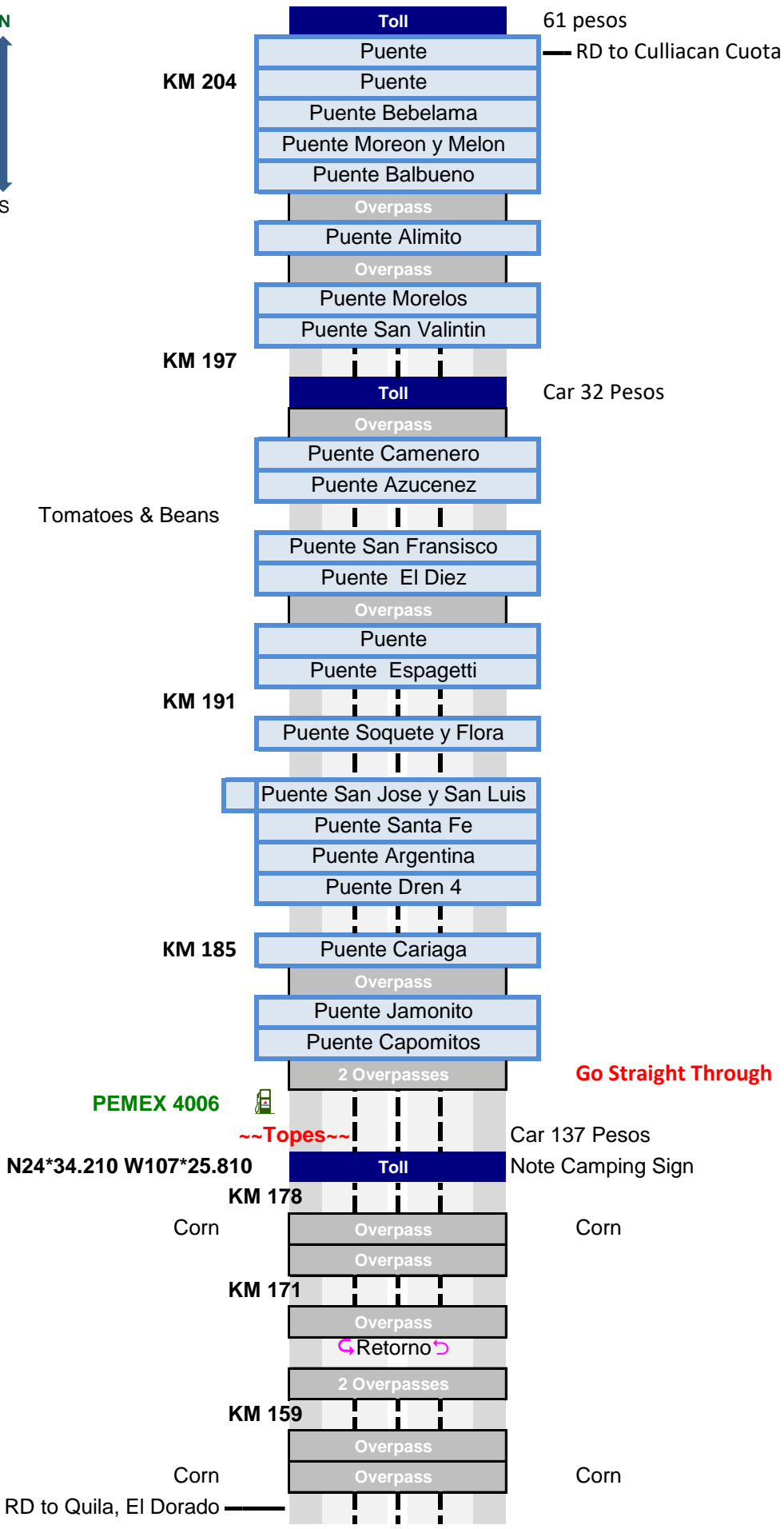
Also called Turista

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 & 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.

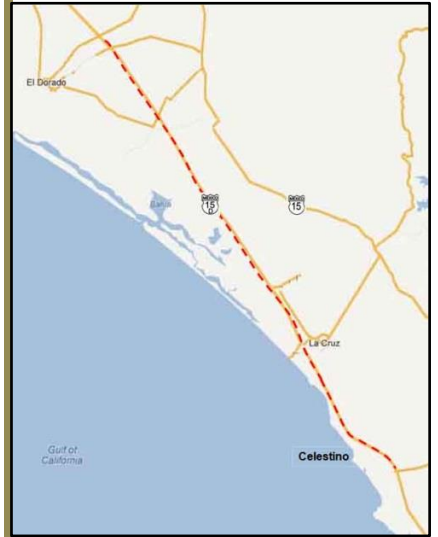
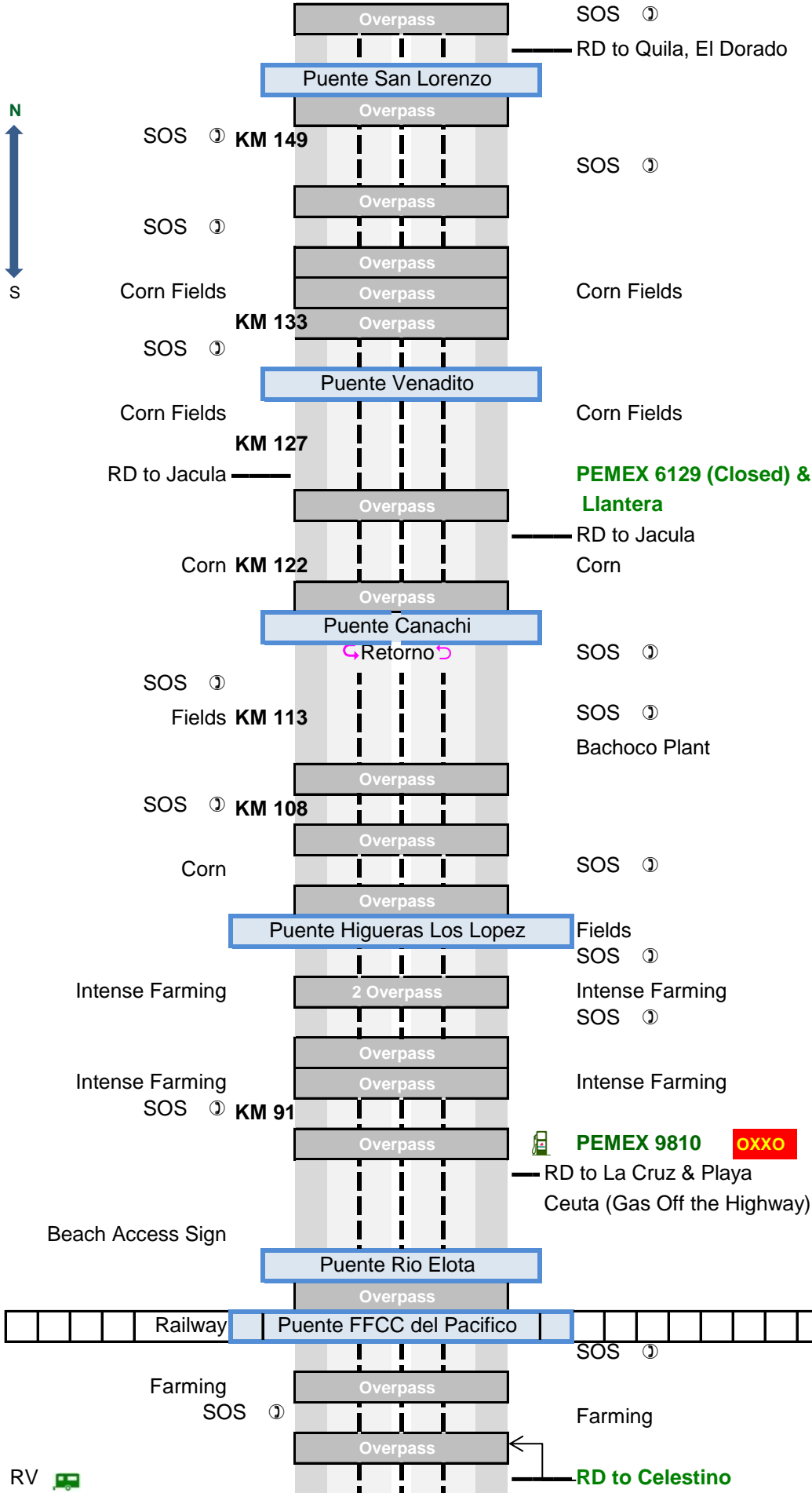


Culiacán

"Place where Roads Turn"
 Culiacán is the capital city of the State of Sonora. Located almost equal distance between Los Mochis and Mazatlan along Highway 15, it is the largest city with over 745,000 people. It is also located on a rail junction.

In the 1950's the agriculture industry grew partially due to the dams built by the Mexican government. Culiacán's main produce is tomatoes and you can see the fields as you drive Highway 15. Culiacán is also known for the illegal drugs trade and is the home of the Sinaloa Cartel.

Photo Tip
 Shoot photos early in the morning and late in the afternoon. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. the sun is overhead and the light is flat.



OXXO

We use OXXO stores as a guiding beacon for our readers simply because the signs are easily visible from the highway and too, because they contain refreshment and drinks and refreshments for the traveler.

Green Angeles

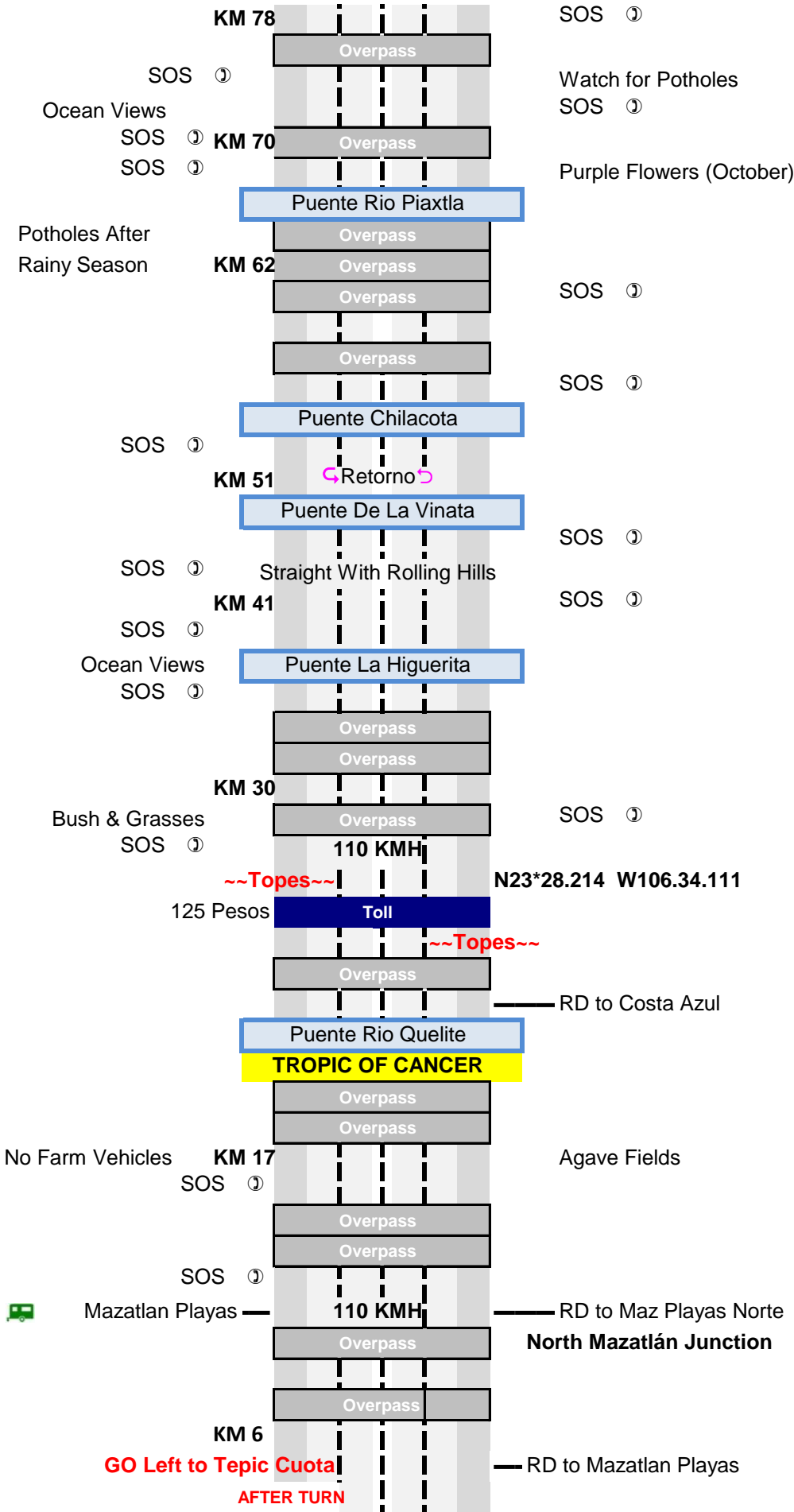


If you have an emergency while driving call the ministry or tourism's Hotline or (55) 5250-8221, extension 130/297, to obtain help from the "Green Angels," a fleet of radio dispatched trucks with (sometimes) bilingual crews.

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.



SOS ①

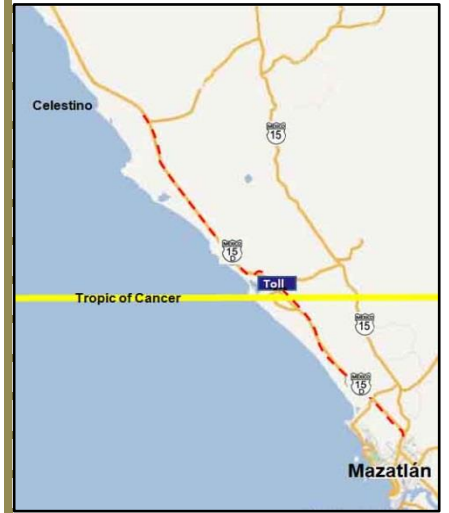
Watch for Potholes

SOS ①

Purple Flowers (October)

SOS ①

SOS ①



Tropic of Cancer



Named when the sun was in the direction of the constellation of Cancer (Latin for Crab) at the June Solstice.

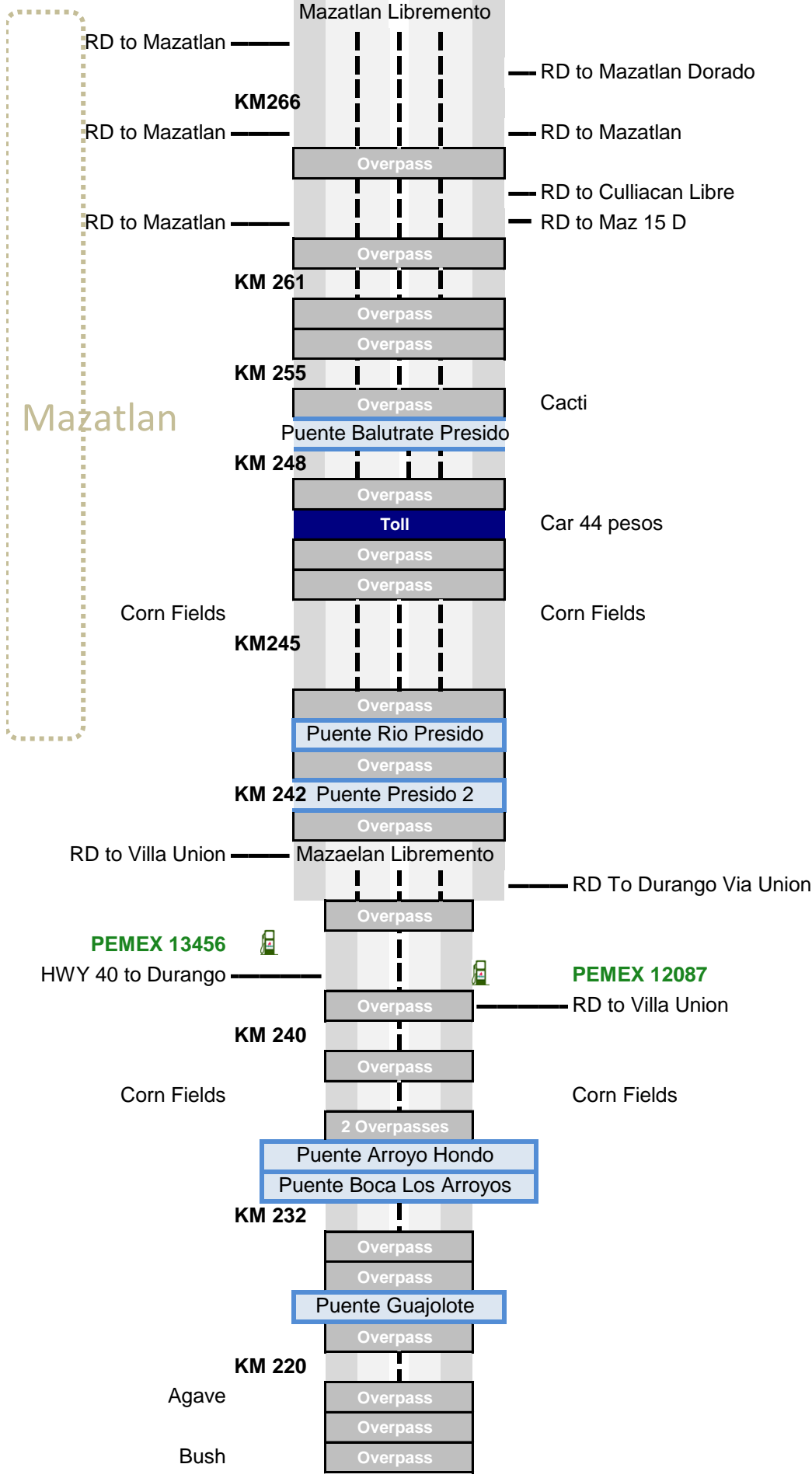
If it were named today it would be called the Tropic of Taurus... The Tropic of Cancer touches on the Mexican states of Baja California Sur, Sinaloa, Durango, Zacatecas, San Luis Potosí, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas. In the US it crosses the Hawaiian Islands.

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.

If you think we are joking take a good look the next time you see a horse or a cow beside a road. Take a look at the fence. Does it appear sturdy? Does the animal have a tether? How will you see the unmarked topes? How about a breakdown?

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 problems.




Mazatlán

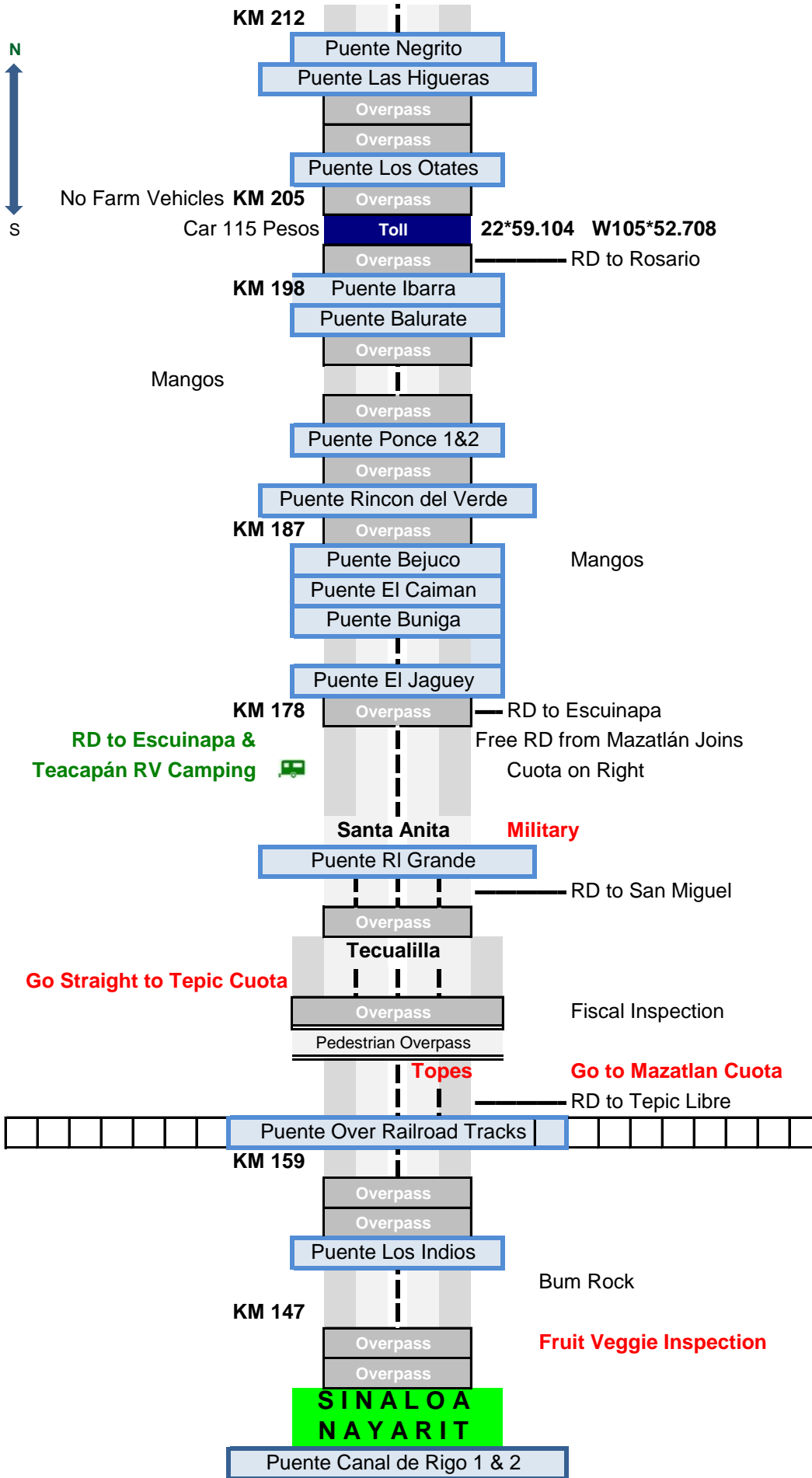
"Place of the deer."

Mazatlán is a fun Mexican resort city of approximately 360,000 people situated in the tropics on the Pacific Coast of Mexico. Overlooking Olas Altas Bay on the Sea of Cortez, it is Mexico's largest Pacific Ocean port. It is also the Eastern Ferry Link with La Paz and the Baja Peninsula. Until the early 19th century, Mazatlán was a tiny fishing collective but grew through trading vessels to 4-500 people in 1840. One story has it that German and Polish immigrants who arrived in Mexico influenced Mazatlán's beer (Pacifico) which is similar to a German Lager and that they brought Bavarian folk music which heavily influenced Banda.

Left Turns on a Light

 If you are turning left at a light and there is no oncoming traffic youDON'T GO!

You cannot turn if the light has a green arrow to indicate a turn is possible.



Teacapan

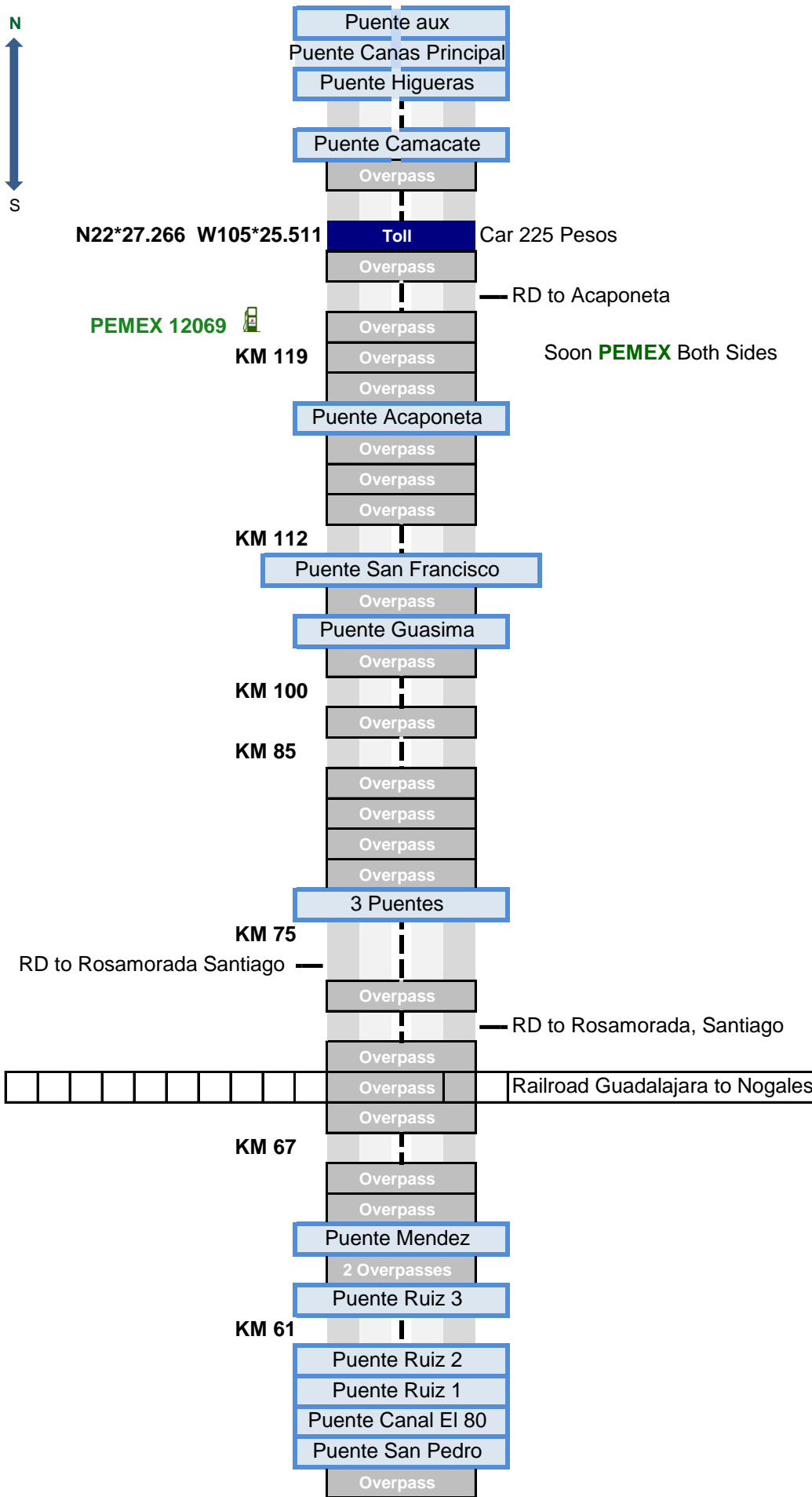
Cancun Times Two

Construction has commenced for Teacapan, the newest area selected by the Mexican Government for a mega beach resort. The resort will be twice as large as Cancun if all goes according to plans. President Felipe Calderon says the resort will boast 12 kilometers of beach, marina, golf courses, hotels and condominiums - it is the most important development in 25 years.

Teacapan remains a sleep coastal village with RV Parks, a few clusters of houses and a few small hotels. The area has abundant palm and mango groves, cattle ranches, and of course, miles upon mile of beach. Bird-watchers go to the lagoons, where they can see herons, Canadian ducks, and countless other species of birds.

BUM ROCK



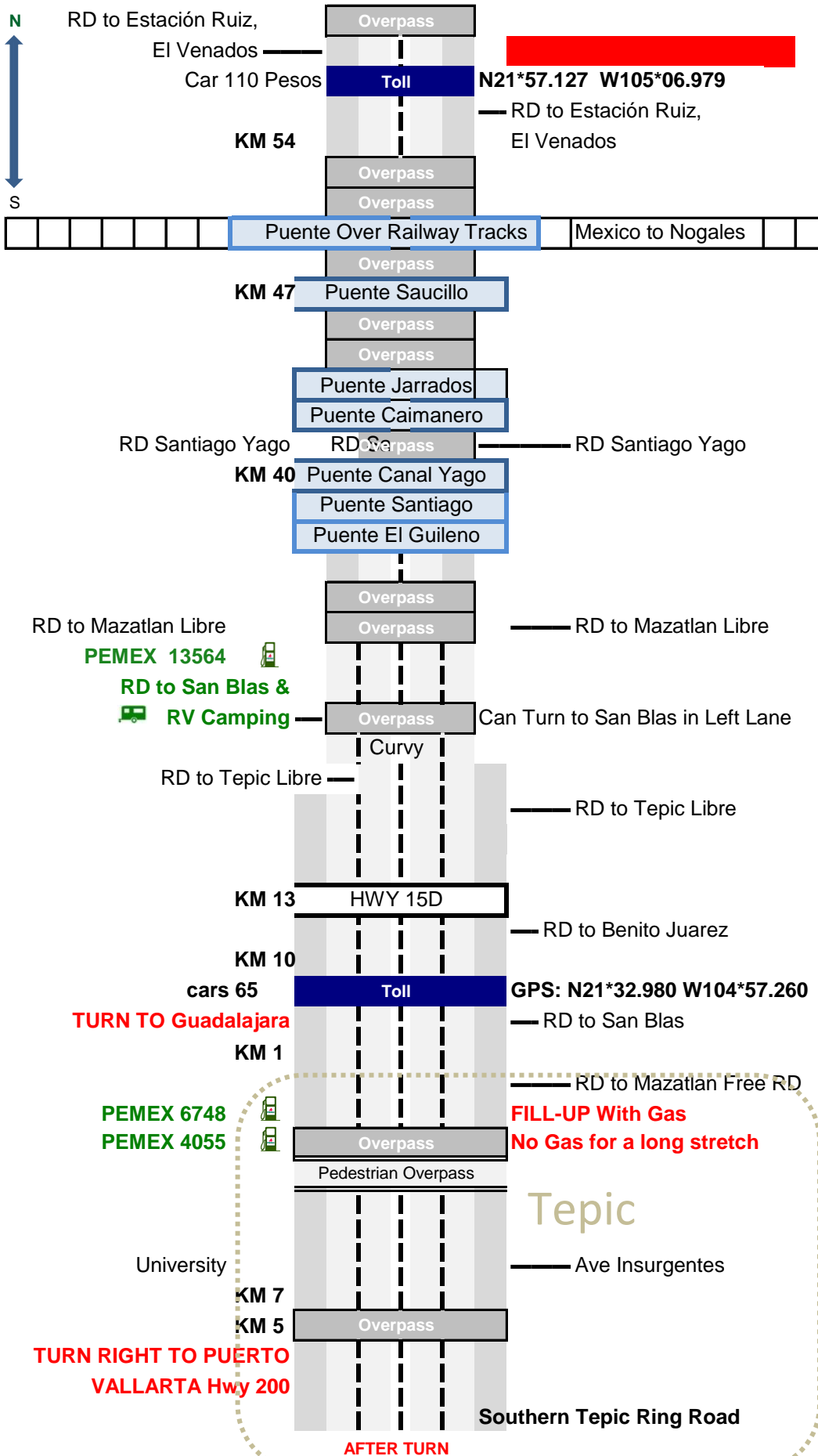


Mexcaltitán

Mexcaltitán is a small island in the coastal mangrove just northeast of San Blas. It is currently thought to be the original home of the Aztecs "Azatlan" before they left on their journey to find the promise land. If you remember their promise land was to be marked by an eagle eating a snake atop a cactus – Mexico City. There is some linguistic evidence to support the theory. A stone carving housed in the museum reflects the eagle / snake legend. The swamp, island setting of Mexcaltitán also reflects Mexico City's layout that the Aztecs built many years ago. Today Mexcaltitán remains a tiny shrimping village with a fish coop. In the rainy season, June - September, the streets become flooded. Dubbed the Venice of Mexico one gets around on boats. There are two restaurants on the island.

Codo

If someone rubs or lightly hits their elbow while looking at you, it means they are accusing you of being cheap. Ditto if they call you CODO (literally elbow).



San Blas

San Blas is a low key tourist town in Nayarit. San Blas was founded in 1531 and in 1768, 116 families arrived on the orders of the Viceroy. The town grew to 30,000 people, The fort was built in response to piracy and to defend trade with the Philippines. You can visit the ruins today and the ruins of the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary. Built in 1769, the church bells inspired Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, 'The Bells of San Blas.'



TEPIC

Tepic is the capital and largest city of Nayarit with nearly 300,000 people. Originally named 'Santiago de Galicia de Compostela' (capital city of Nueva Galicia) by Nuño Beltran Guzman until 1917 when Nayarit became a state. Tepic has the second largest indigenous population in the state; Huicholes, Coras, Purepechas and Mazahuas live and work here and you can purchase their wares at the market and plaza.



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.

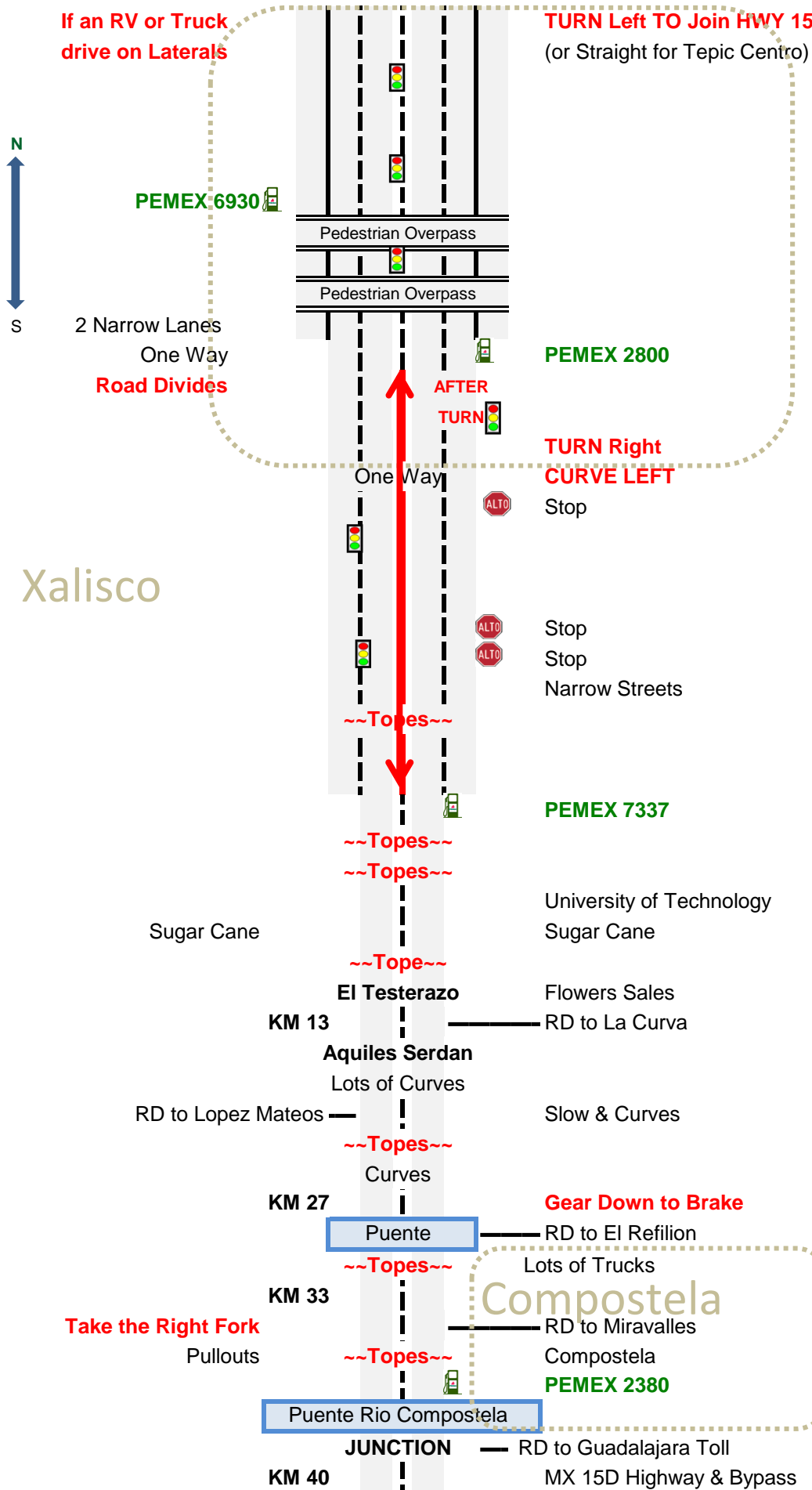
Compostela

"Field of Stars"

Founded 1535 Compostela was the first capital of Nueva Galicia (the area that would later be called Jalisco, Nayarit, as well as part of many of the nearby states). In 1539 of red volcanic stones and is one of the oldest churches in the country. Compostela has a population of approximately 16,000 inhabitants and is the municipal seat of government for the area. This political control extends down the mountains and to the coast to Lo de Marcos. It includes Las Varas, La Peñita, Rincon de Guayabitos and Los Ayala.

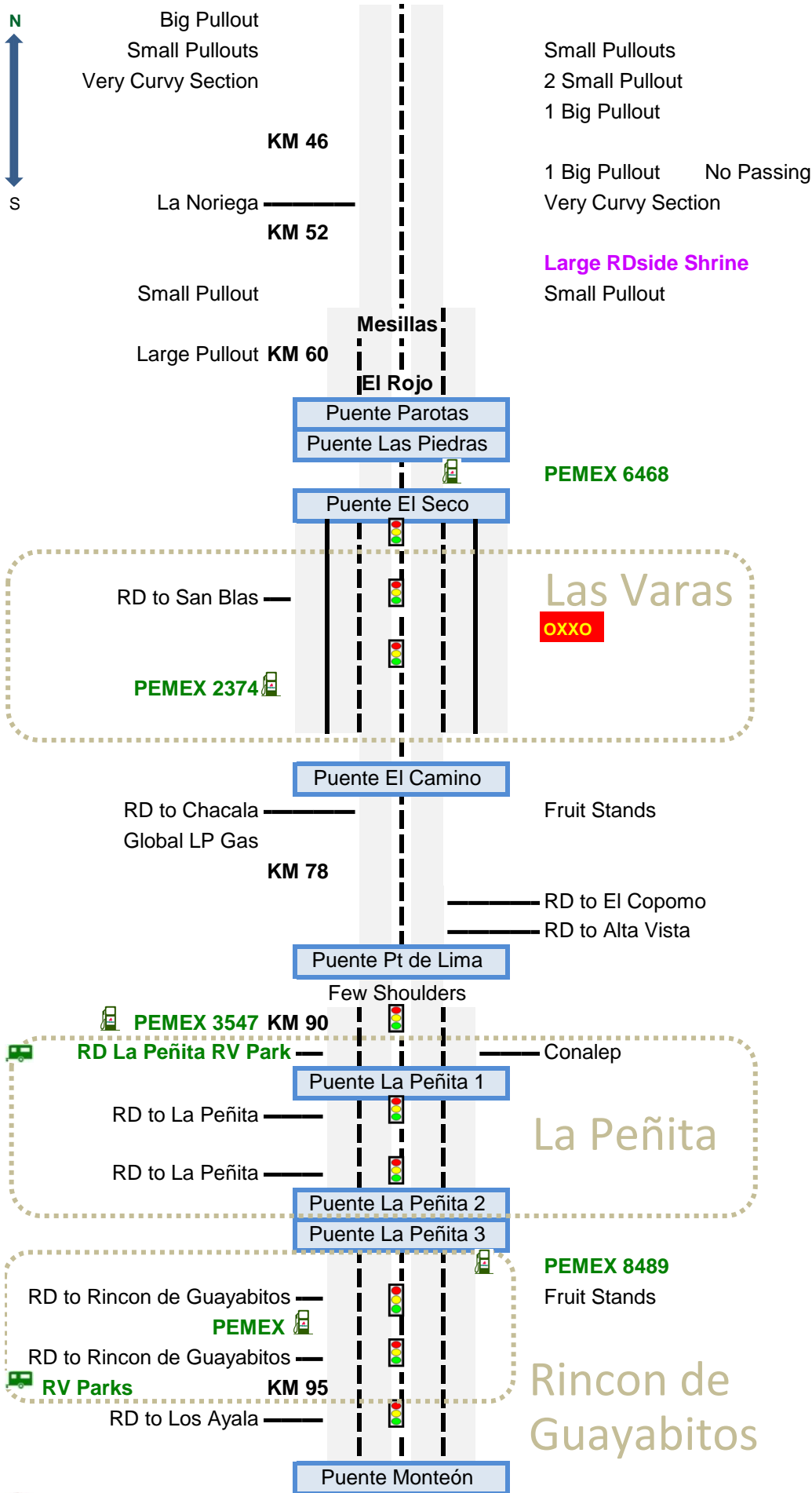


NAYARIT
Coat of Arms



Xalisco





Roadside Shrine

There are many roadside shrines along the highways of Mexico from a simple cross commemorating the death of a loved one on the highway to large sculptures and rooms for worship.

This particular shrine has been here since we started driving here 20 years ago. The road is so curvy and dangerous that there is no wonder that there is a place to ask for blessings and "Good Luck."

La Peñita RV Park

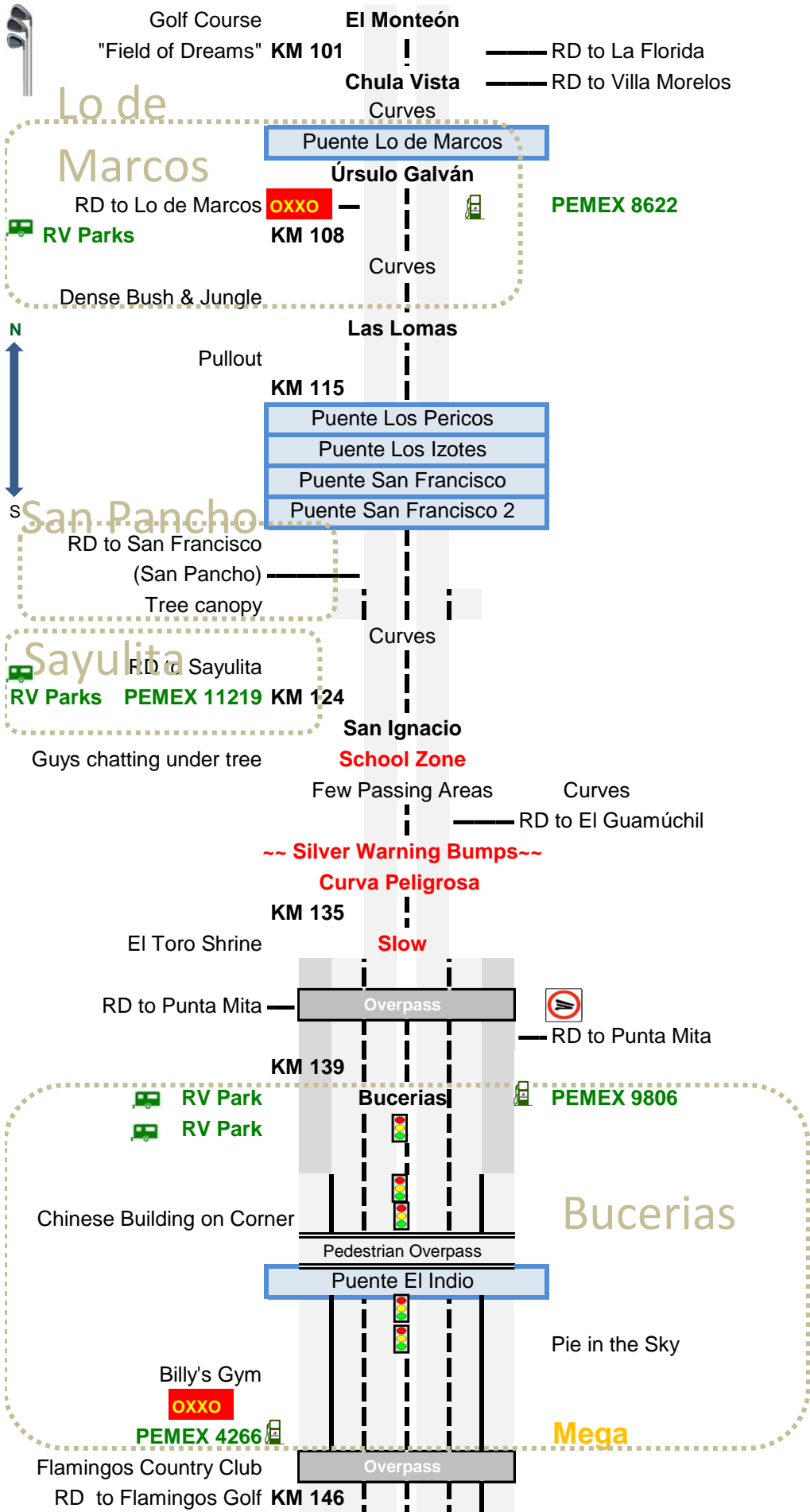
We took free caravans of people here and lost a few folks. We started the road logs because we wanted people to have fool-proof directions so they wouldn't get lost.

This is one of the many great parks in the area that snowbirds call home for 6 months a year.

Jaltemba Bay

The three communities of La Peñita, Rincon de Guayabitos and Los Ayala are interwoven on Jaltemba Bay. La Peñita acts as a service town to the other tourist areas.

Thousands of snowbirds, primarily from Canada, flock to this area annually because it is a wonderful low- key destination.



San Pancho

San Pancho (San Francisco) is another quaint village on the Riviera Nayarit. A close knit community with a number of American full time residents.

Sayulita

Sayulita is know as the surfer beach and has a young surfer, international feel to it. Great beaches!

Punta Mita

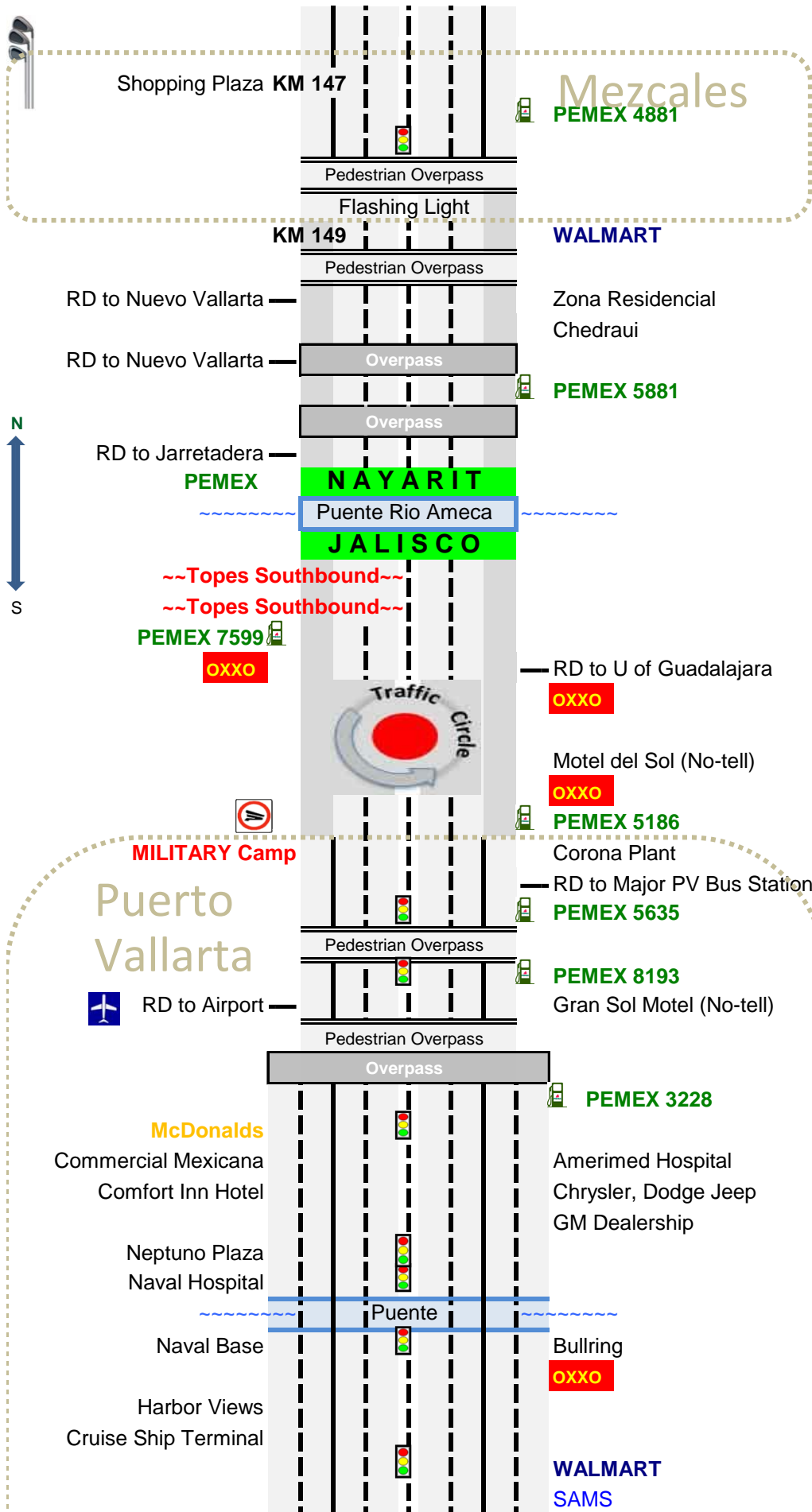
Punta Mita is a new development that is considered an ultra-exclusive resort area: Luxury homes, golf courses, shopping precincts, medical centers and other local amenities. Jennifer Anniston and other celebs vacation here as they can easily hide away with other rich folk.

Bucerias

Bucerias is a less touristy alternative Puerto Vallarta; less crowded beaches, less traffic and a more authentic experience at lower prices. Lots of accommodation from RV Parks to all-inclusive hotels.

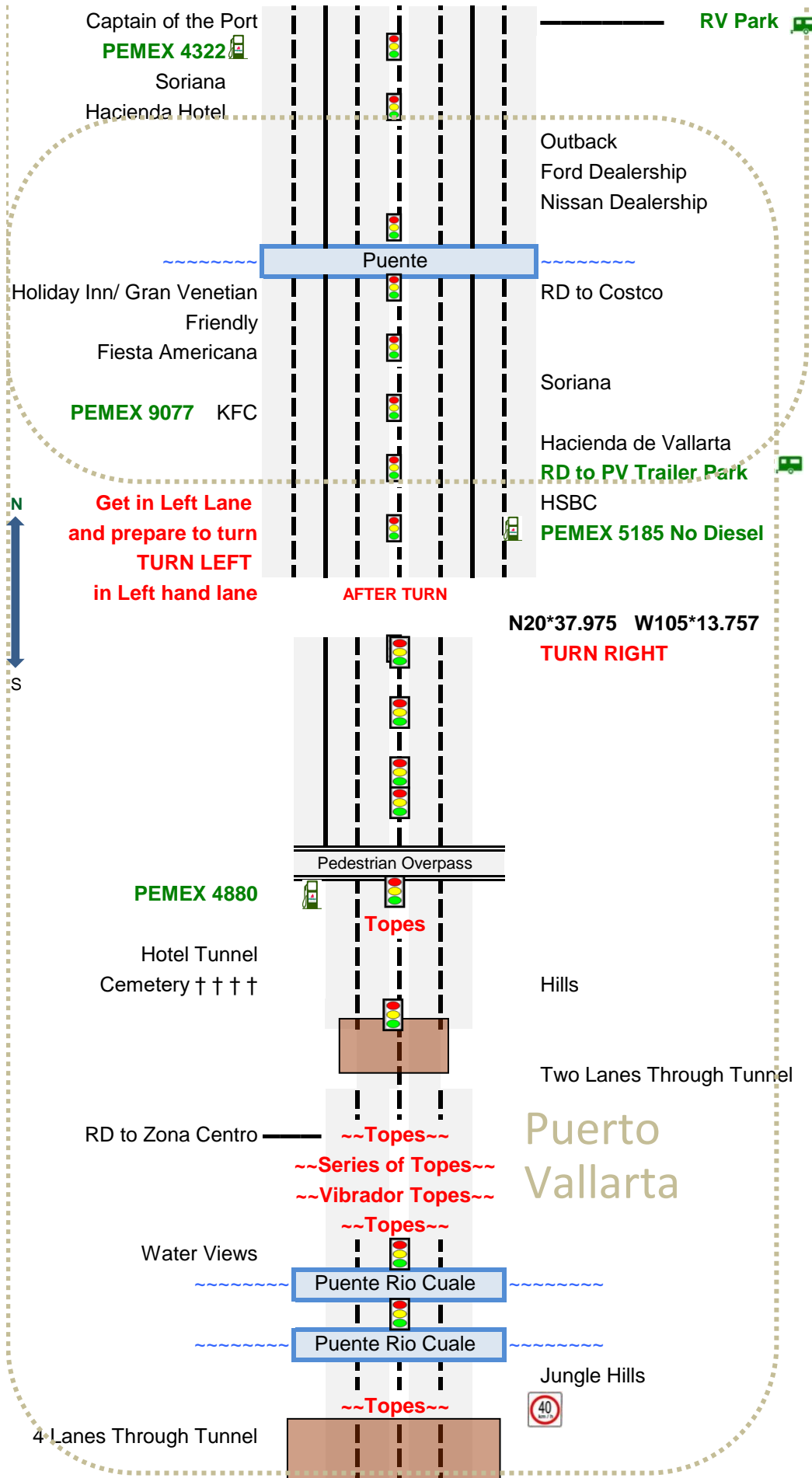
Mezcales

The town of Mezcales is primarily a Mexican supply and service town to various resort pueblos.



Puerto Vallarta

Puerto Vallarta is a destination resort for thousands of visitors a year. The area was inhabited since 580 BC - likely from the Aztatlán culture. Spanish missionaries and conquistadors had skirmishes with the local people and in 1524 a battle ensued between Hernán Cortes and an army of 10,000 Indians. Cortés took control of the Ameca valley and named it Banderas (flags) Bay after the colorful flags carried by the Indians. Vallarta served as a small seaport, fishing and pearl diving village until the early part of the 20th Century. In 1918, the village was renamed after former Jalisco Governor Ignacio Vallarta. Early transportation and infrastructure began in 1932; Electricity was installed, airplane service began and a road link to Compostela was built.



Puerto Vallarta

Continued from previous page
 In 1942 the first advertisement appeared in a US paper for a Puerto Vallarta vacation.

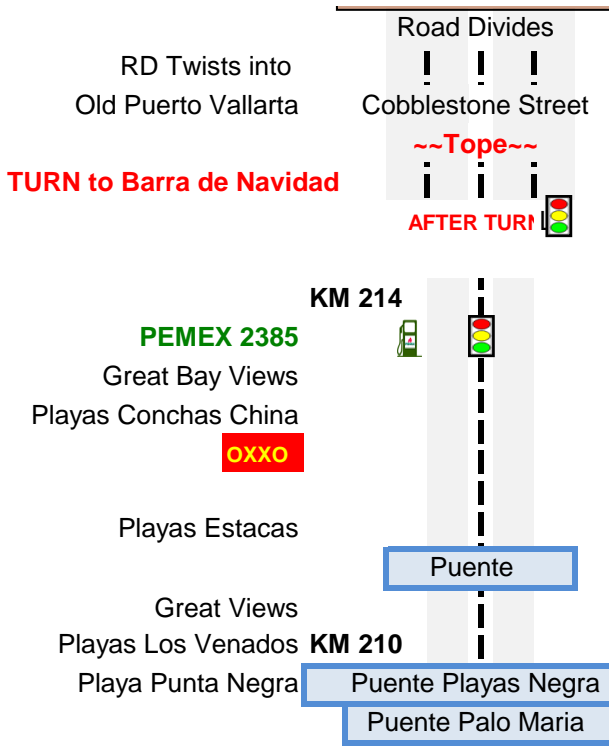


The 1950's saw Americans arrive and populate "Gringo Gulch." The 60's introduced a new airport and package trips.

Puerto Vallarta launched from village to tourist destination in the 60's after the John Huston Movie "Night of the Iguana" was filmed nearby. The star of the film, Richard Burton was having an extramarital affair with Elizabeth Taylor and American news media were introduced to the area via the paparazzi.

Today with a population of 177,830 residents, tourism accounts for 50% of all economic activity. Tourists originate mainly from the US and Canadian West Coast.

Puerto Vallarta



SUBLOGS

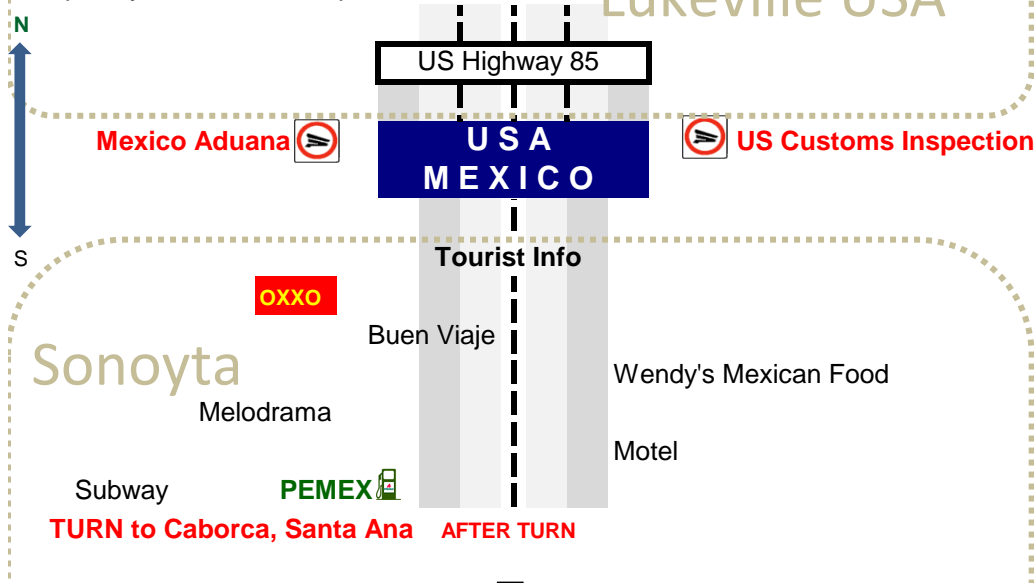
LUKEVILLE / SONOYTA to SANTA ANA

This sublog begins in Lukeville Arizona and meets Highway 15 at Santa Ana. It is the main border crossing when travelling from Arizona to Puerto Peñasco and is now being used more often by people who are traveling from California or the western states to destinations along the Mexican West Coast on Highway 15 or Highway 200. The US Lukeville entry is open Monday to Sunday to vehicles from 6 am to 12 pm / Commercial from 8 am to 4:30. Sonoyta is open for vehicles daily from 7 am to 12 am. Commercial vehicles Monday to Friday 8 am to 3 pm.

Ensure you fill up your tanks. There are no Pemex Stations between Sonoyta and Caborca.

There is an Immigration and Banjercito office just South East of Caborca for you to complete your visa and car permits.

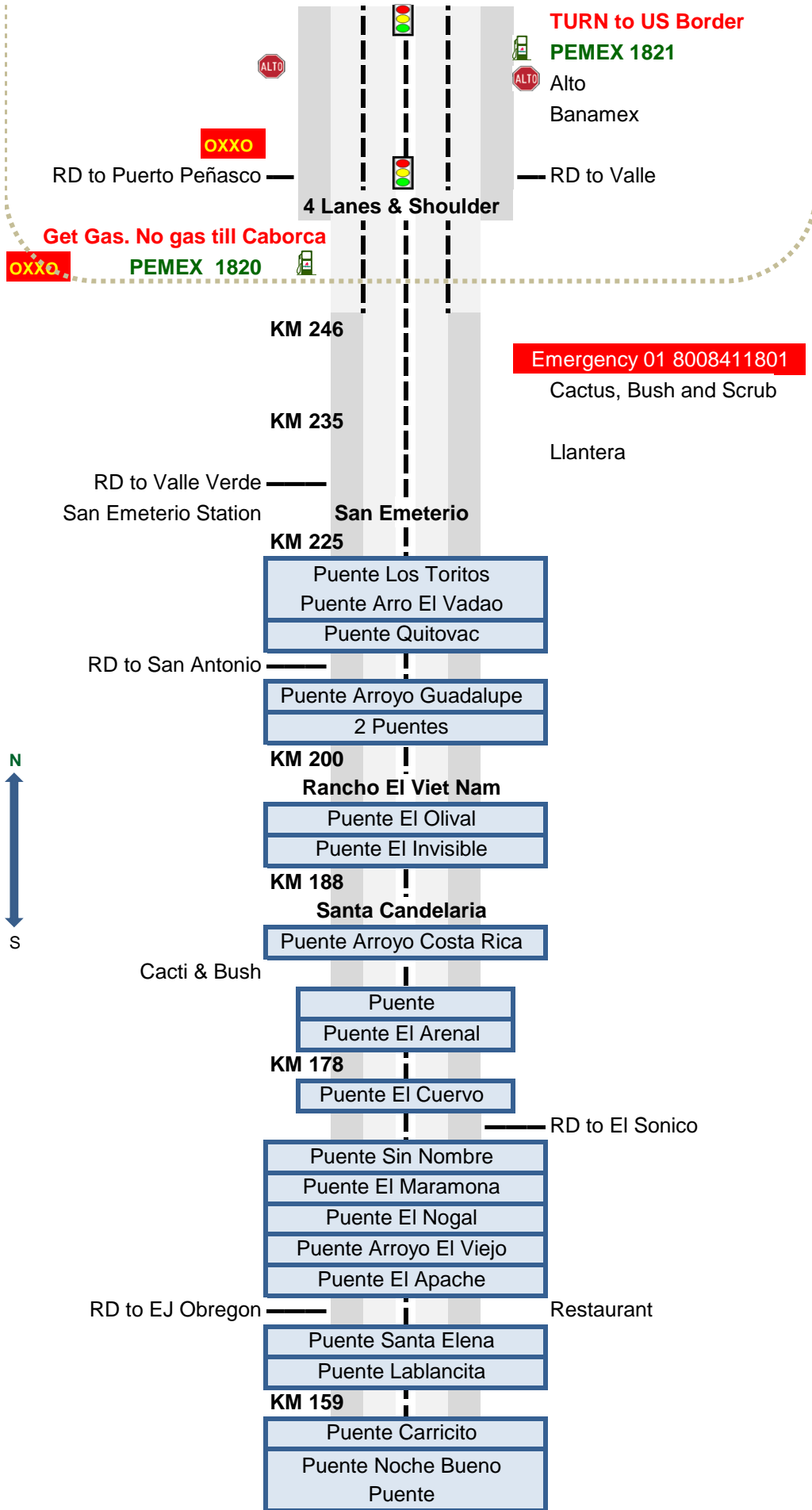
Lukeville USA



Lukeville

Lukeville is a small community of 35 people located on the border. The border crossing was originally called Gringo pass.

The community is situated in Organ Pipe Cactus National Park and offers a gas station, auto insurance, motel, bus terminus and RV park.

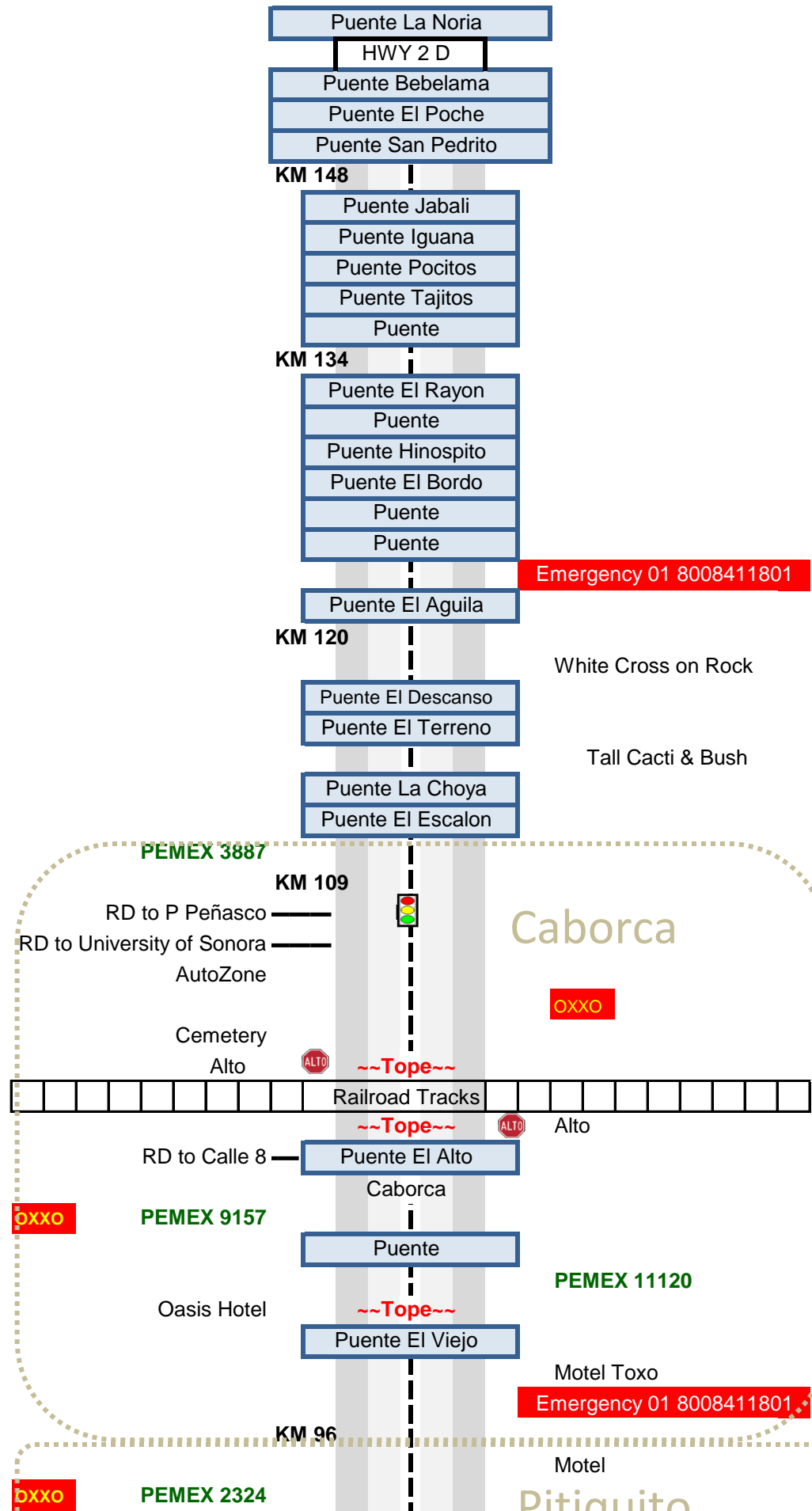


Sonoyta

The Tohono O'odham Indians originally populated the area. The Jesuit Missionaries arrived and began the process of converting the Indians to Christianity. In 1693 Father Kino founded a mission called Nuestra Senora de Loreto y San Marcelo de Sonoyta. The town is on the crossroads; the US border crossing to Mexico. Sonoyta today boasts a population of approximately 13,000 people. It has a bank, Pemex Stations, motels, restaurants and many other services available to travelers.

PLANNING YOUR ROADTRIP

Plan your trip daily so that you know 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.



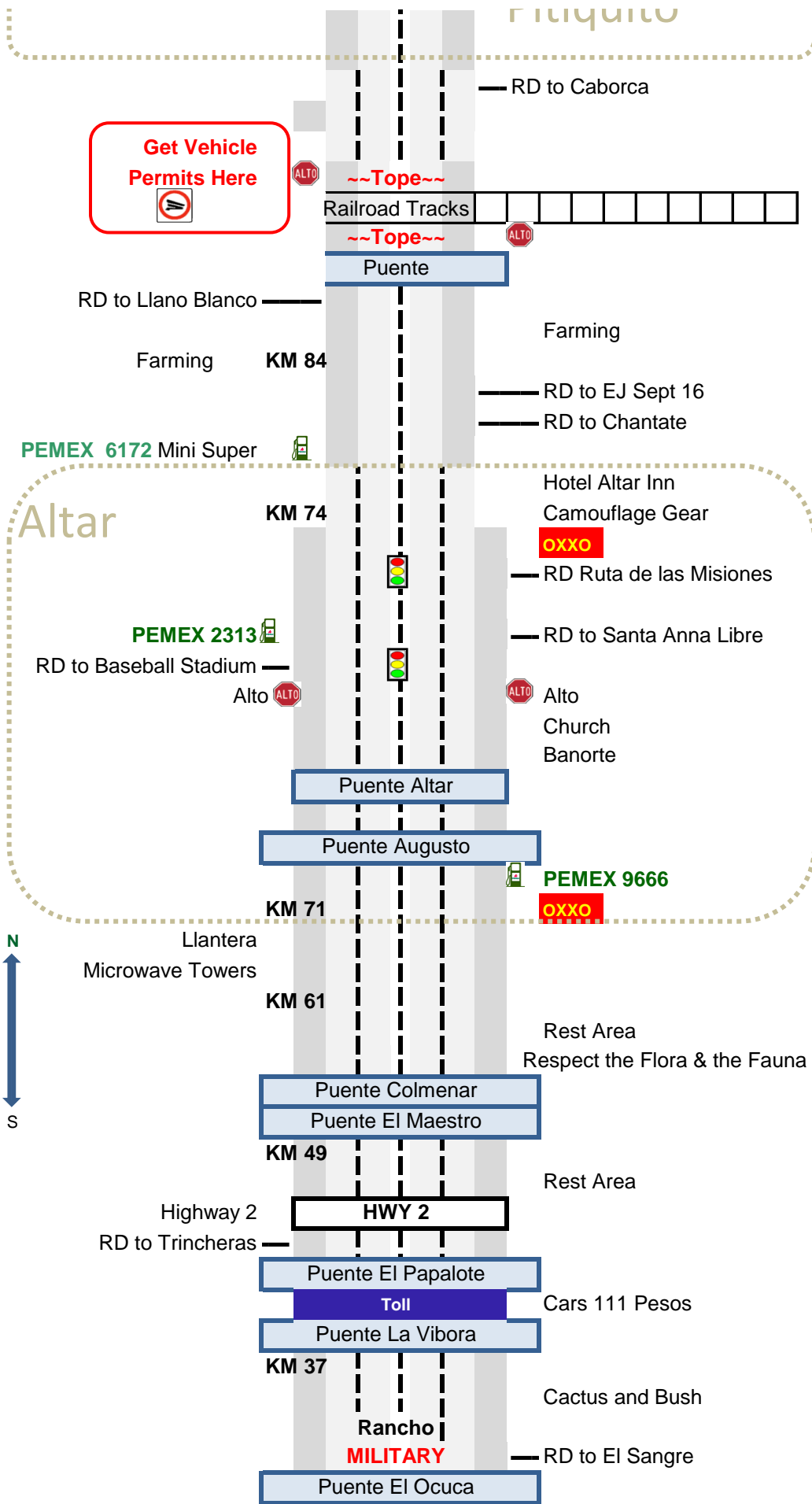
REMEMBER

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 permit and your Visa or FMT.



Caborca

"Hill with Rocks and Boulders"
 The Mogollon occupied the area from 600 BC to 1400AD. The Hohokam Indians were also early inhabitants of the area (300BC to 1400AD) as were the Azasazi (100 BC to 1450 AD)
 In 1688 the mission town was founded by Father Francisco Eusebio Kino – the famous Jesuit Missionary and explorer on the spot now called Caborca Viejo (Old Caborca) The town was completed in 1692. 100 years later the town was relocated to it's current spot on the East bank of the Asunción River.
 Caborca has a few interesting tourist attractions including petroglyphs, Kino Mission Church, Guadalupe Shrine, museum, water park and charming city scapes.

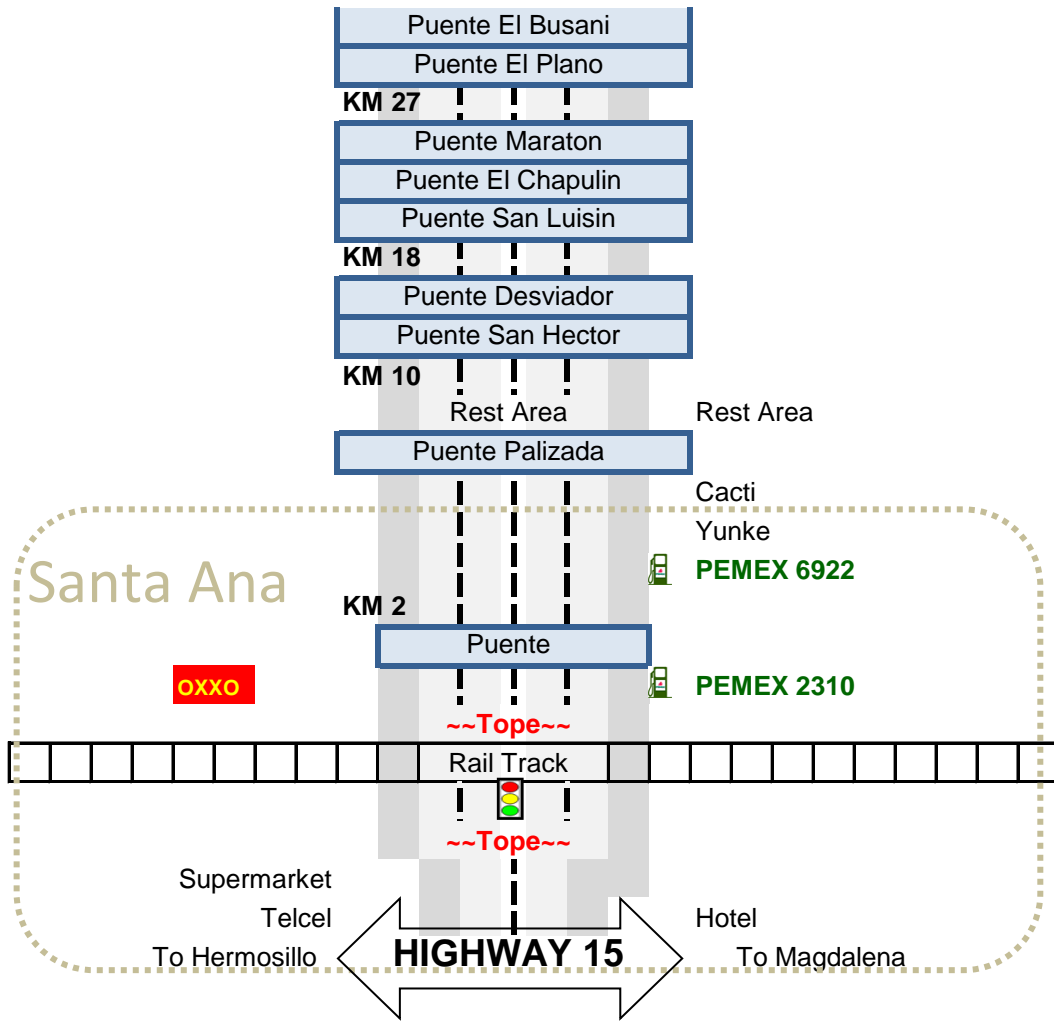


BEWARE About Those Left Hand Turn Signals

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!

Watch for Dirt Devils

This area is known for the mini-tornadoes known as Dirt Devils.



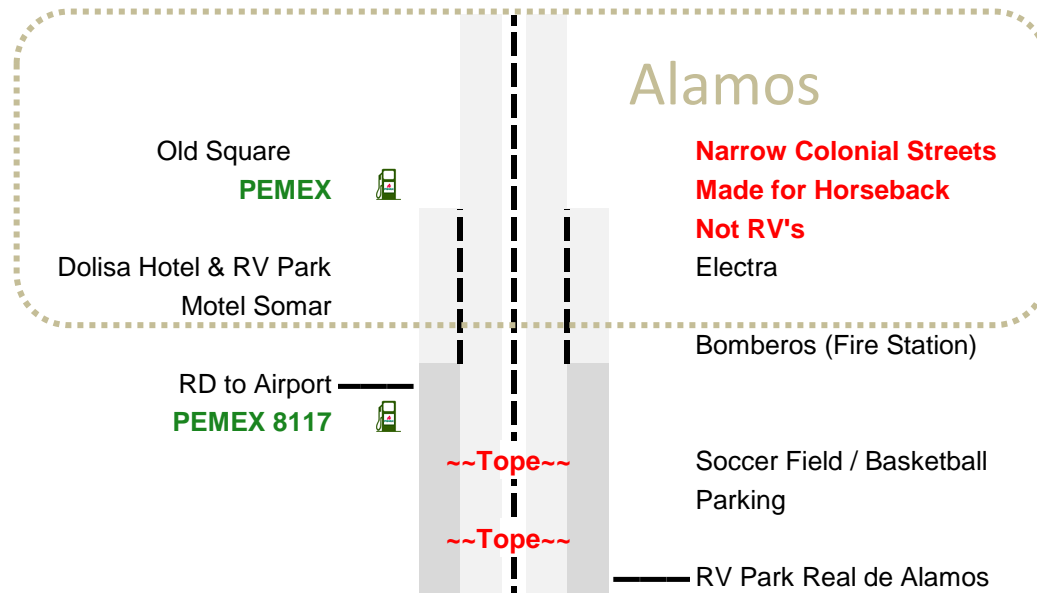
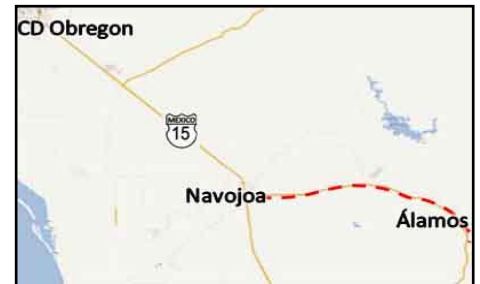
ROCKS ON ROAD

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.

SUBLOGS

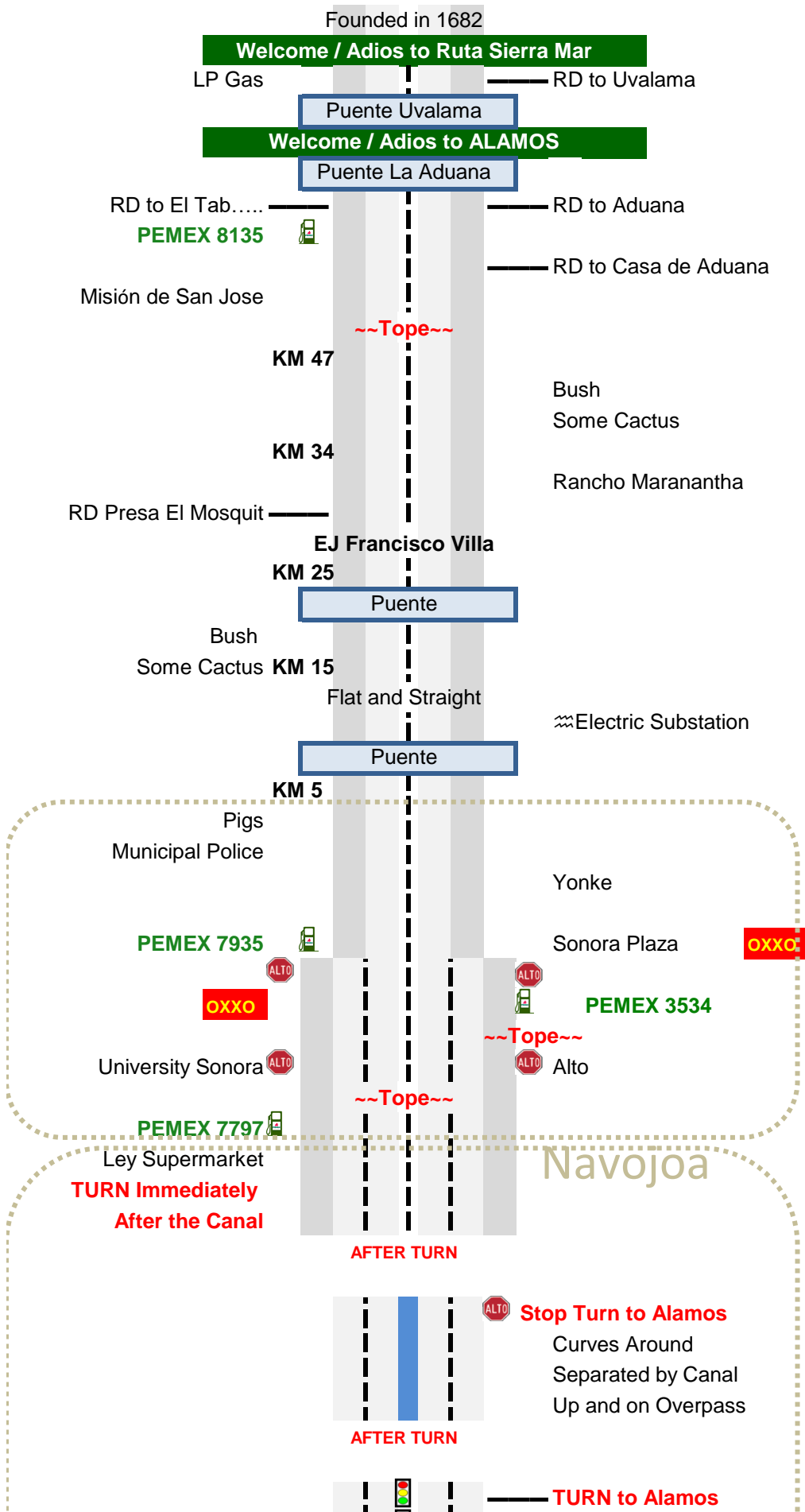
NAVOJOA to ALAMOS

This sublog begins / ends in Navojoa Sonora and ends in Alamos Sonora. It is a very easy 53 KM drive on Sonora Highway 13 and worth at least an afternoon to explore the colonial city.



RV Camping

For an up-to-date listing of RV Park locations go to www.ontheroadin.com



Alamos

The charming silver city of Alamos was founded in the 17th century following silver discoveries nearby. Today it is known for the colonial buildings and the rebuilding and refurbishing of many of Spanish mansions by Americans and Canadians. Some of the remarkable buildings to visit are the Plaza de Armas, the Church of La Purísima Concepción, La Capilla and the Palacio Municipal. These buildings reflect the wealth that was achieved through the neighboring silver mining towns. Visitor attractions include a tour of the restored mansion (the fees go towards local education).



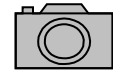
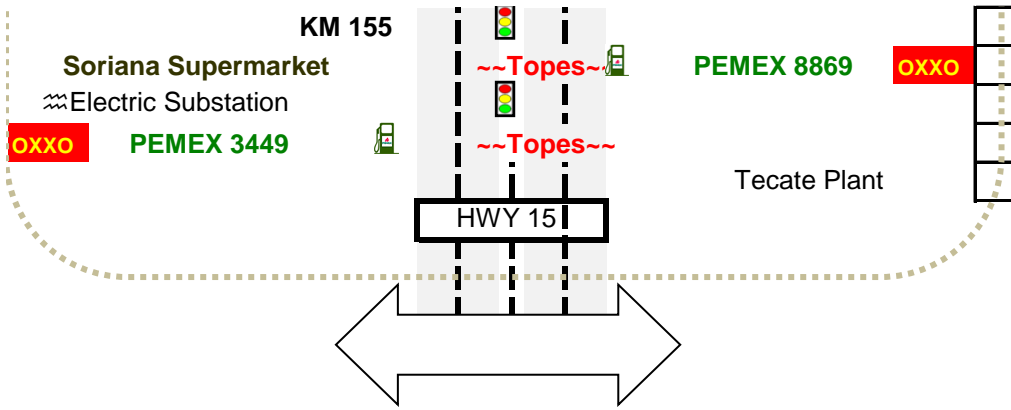


Photo Tip

Shoot lots of photos, edit and erase at night. Digital space is cheap. Shoot in the highest resolution possible. You can always erase or make your image smaller later.

SUBLOGS

HIGHWAY 15D to SAN BLAS to Las VARAS

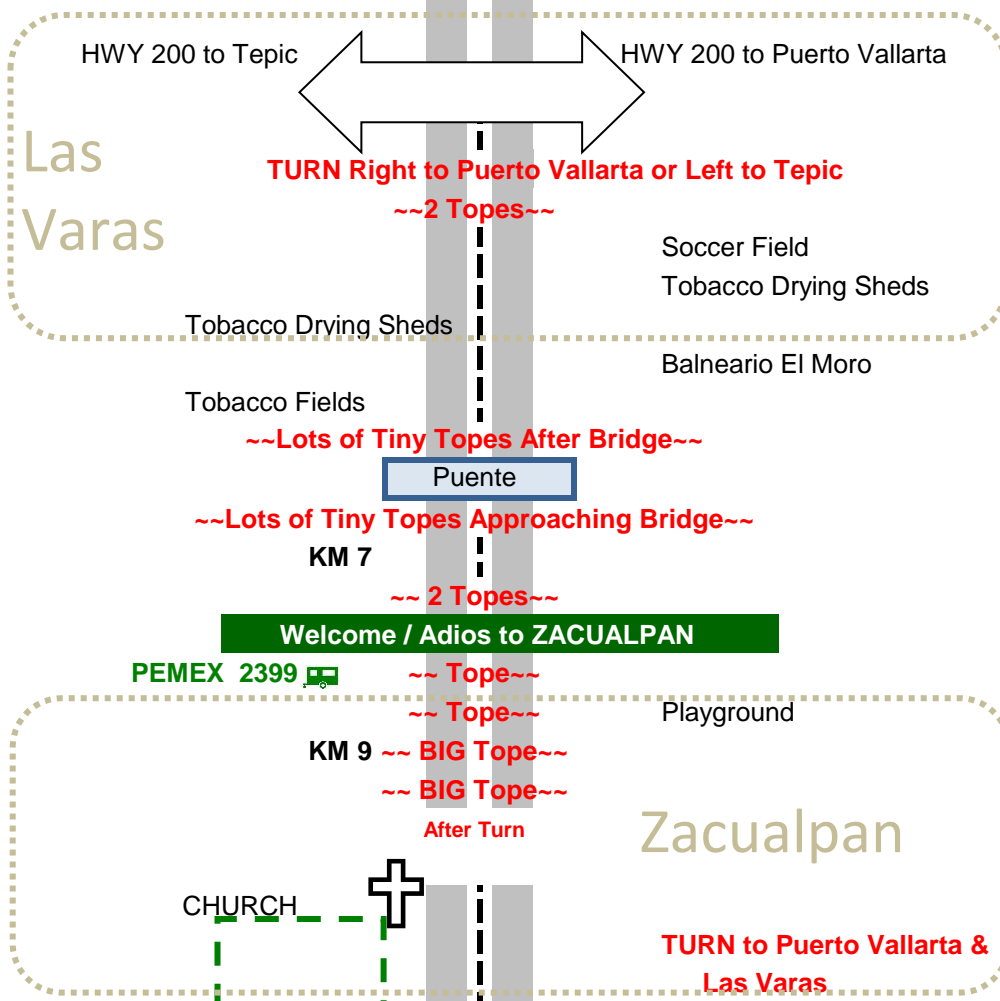
This sublog begins / ends on Highway 15D at approximately KM and ends in Las Varas Nayarit Highway 200. It is an approximately 100 KM drive on Highway 54 and is both curvy and filled with numerous topes.

Some prefer this route as it avoids the curvy downhill section of Highway 200 between Tepic and Las Varas. However beware of this route in the early fall. The roads right after rainy season can become quite potholed. Additionally the bush at the side of the road sometimes needs to be trimmed back. RVers especially complain about scratches from the overgrowth after the rains.

This Sublog has not been updated for a few years

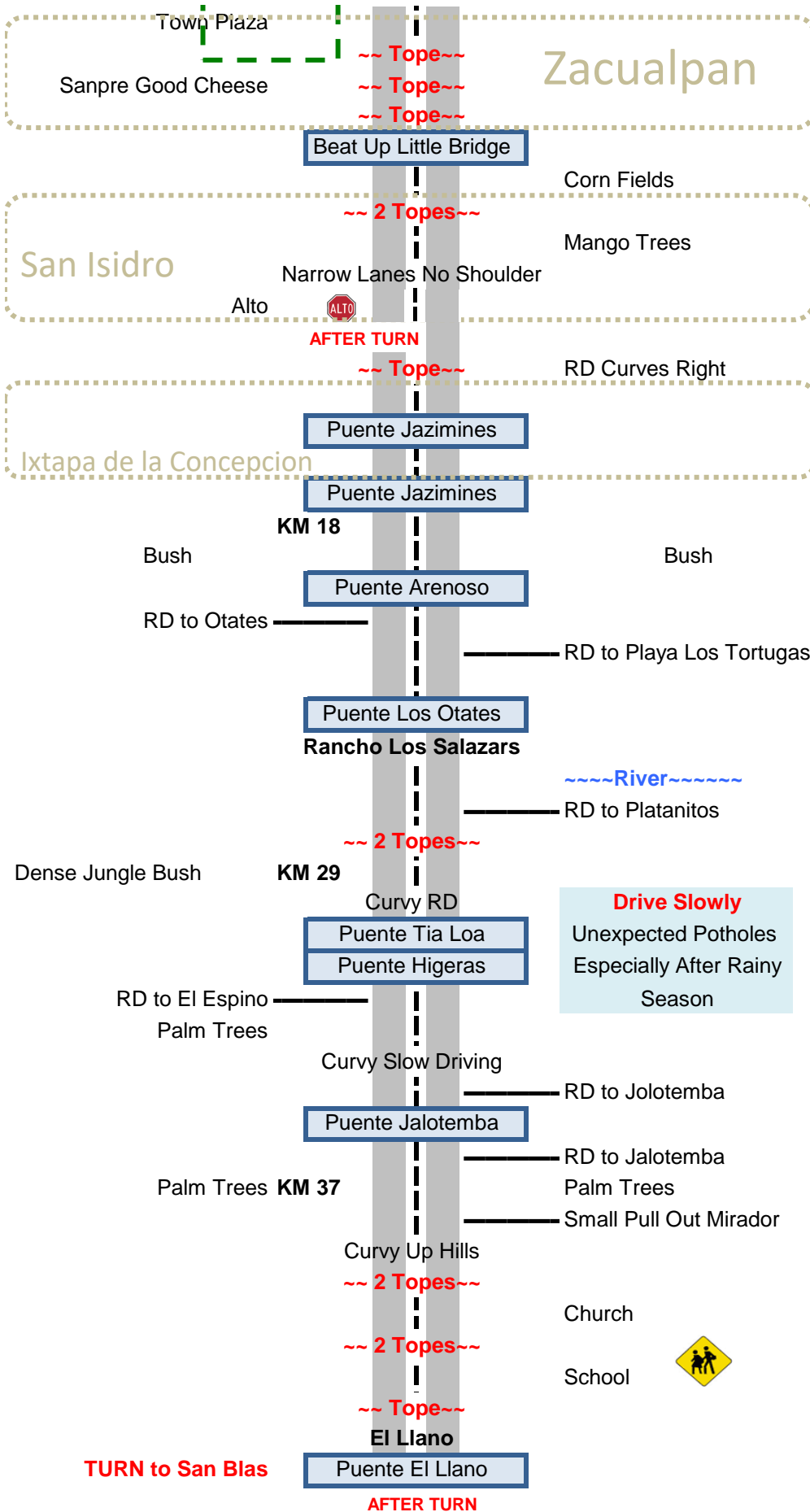


Las Varas



Las Varas

Las Varas in the state of Nayarit is a service and supply center for the farming and agricultural communities to the south and west of the town. It is part of the municipal seat of Compostela to the North. The population of La Varas is approximately 12,000. There is little tourism other than their carnival celebrations and drive by tourism generated by it's location between Guadalajara and Tepic and the beaches.



Zacualpan

Zacualpan is a small town of 4500 people. The predominant industry is agriculture and ranching. There is a church and charming plaza in the center of town. Zacualpan also has some excellent cheese shops that offer a variety of Mexican cheeses.

NICE TROPICAL DRIVE

This stretch of the road is an easy and interesting stretch of pavement. There is farming and ranching as well as tropical jungle areas. The jungle encroaches onto the road, often forming a canopy or jungle trellis over the asphalt. In some of the towns along the water they specialize in oysters. The fishermen swim to shore with inner-tubes fitted with a net. The tube serves as a floating bucket as the fishers bring the tasty shellfish to the surface. You will see many fruit stands along the way with fruits you have never seen before. Ask the locals which fruit is good for your eyesight, what helps a bee sting and what can enhance your libido.

TURN to San Blas

AFTER TURN

TURN RIGHT to PV

TURN LEFT to PV

Banana
KM 18

Banana
RD to Playa Mazanilla
Ocean Views

~~ 2 Topes~~

Playas Los Cocos



PEMEX Closed

Playa Amor RV Park 

~~ Tope~~

Aticama



~~ 2 Topes~~

Lots of Restaurants

~~ 3 Topes~~

~~ 11 Tiny Topes~~

RD to La Palma

Curvy

Beach & Palapa Restaurants
Beach

KM 8

Nice Straightaway

RD to Cocodrilarios

Rough Patchy Surface

~~ Tope~~

Modelo Factory
Restaurants Both sides

Boat Launch Jungle Tours
Mangrove

KM 1

TURN to Mazatlan

AFTER TURN

TURN LEFT to PV

or go Straight to San Blas
Bush & Occasional Palm

KM 33

Bush & Occasional Palm
RD to Techetan

Palillo

Puente Palillo

RD to Huaristema

KM 12

RD to Chiltera

Puente Navarrete

~~ Tope~~

~~ Tope~~

RD to Sauta

Navarrete

Curvy Downhill

Mangos



Hurricane Kenna

Hurricane Kenna struck near San Blas on October 25 2002 with winds of 225 km/h (140 mph) causing four direct deaths and over \$100 million USD damages. Kenna was the second-most intense Pacific Hurricane to hit Mexico's west coast in recorded history. Kenna began as a tropical wave in the Caribbean and on October 19 and developed into a tropical depression by October 22 off the coast of Manzanillo. The National Hurricane Center predicted that the storm would strengthen into 70kmh (45mph) winds before dissipating. However the depression – now a tropical storm- became stronger and intensified into a 135 km/h or 85 mph storm. Kenna quickly became a hurricane and on October 24 was classified as a major hurricane. A day later just to the south of Puerto Vallarta, Kenna sustained 265 km/h or 165 mph winds and became a category 5 storm. Kenna made landfall in San Blas and quickly weakened by the time it hit Tepic the state capital.

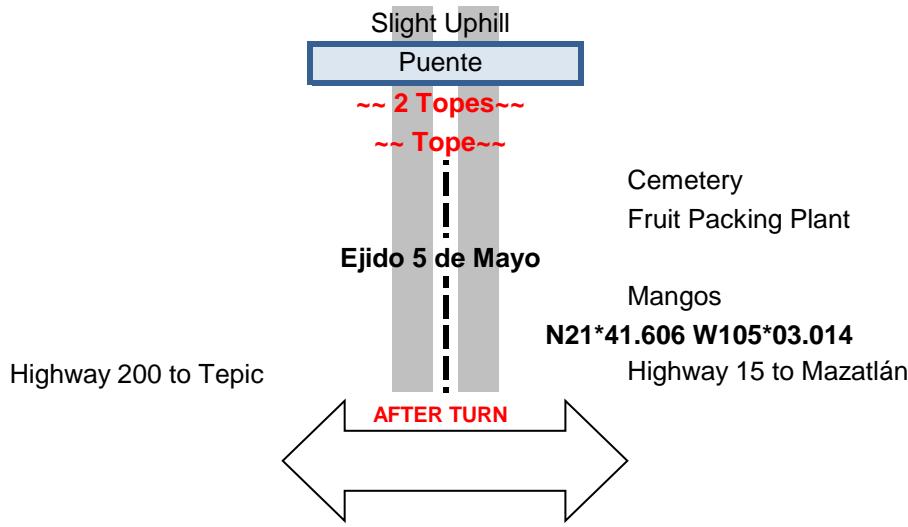


Photo Tip

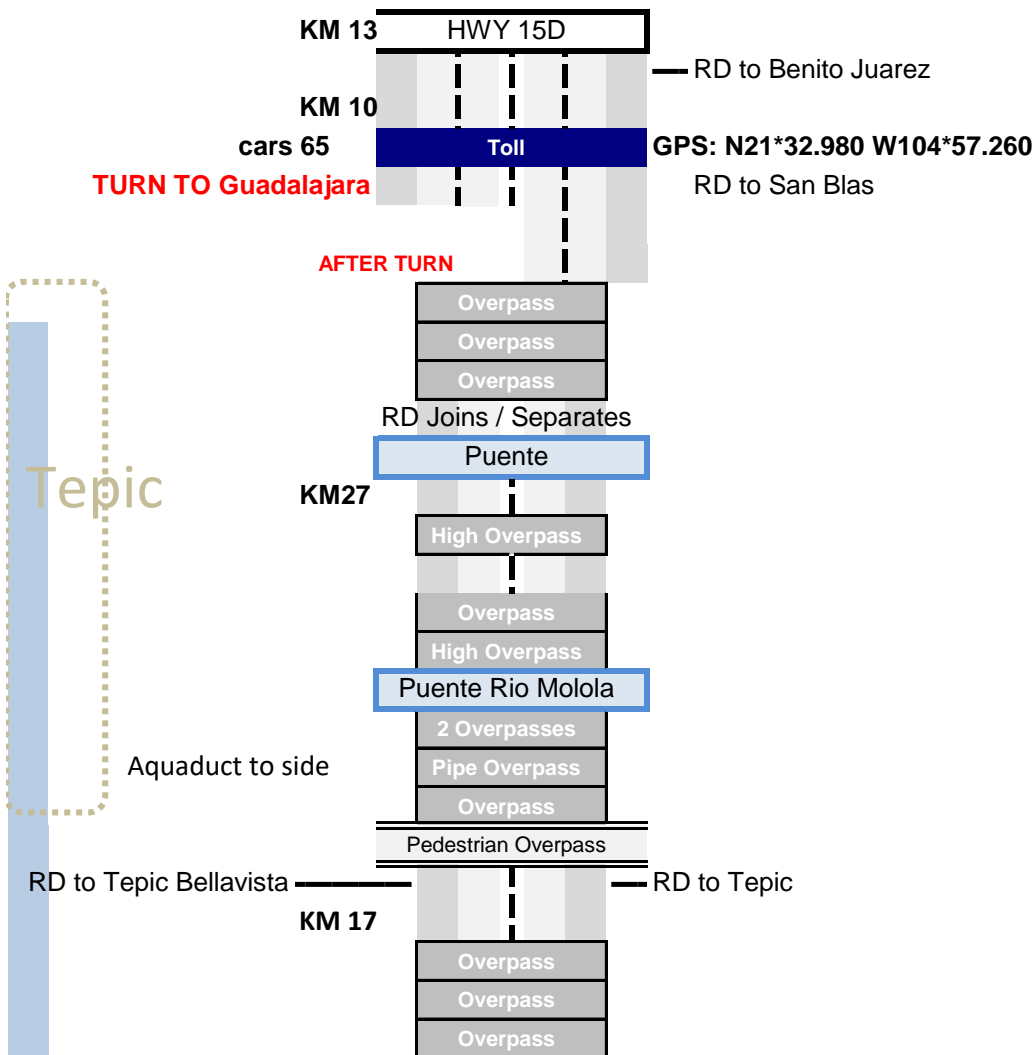
Don't be afraid to FLASH.

Get in the habit of taking a few shots with your flash every time you shoot.

SUBLOGS

Liberiemento Around Tepic

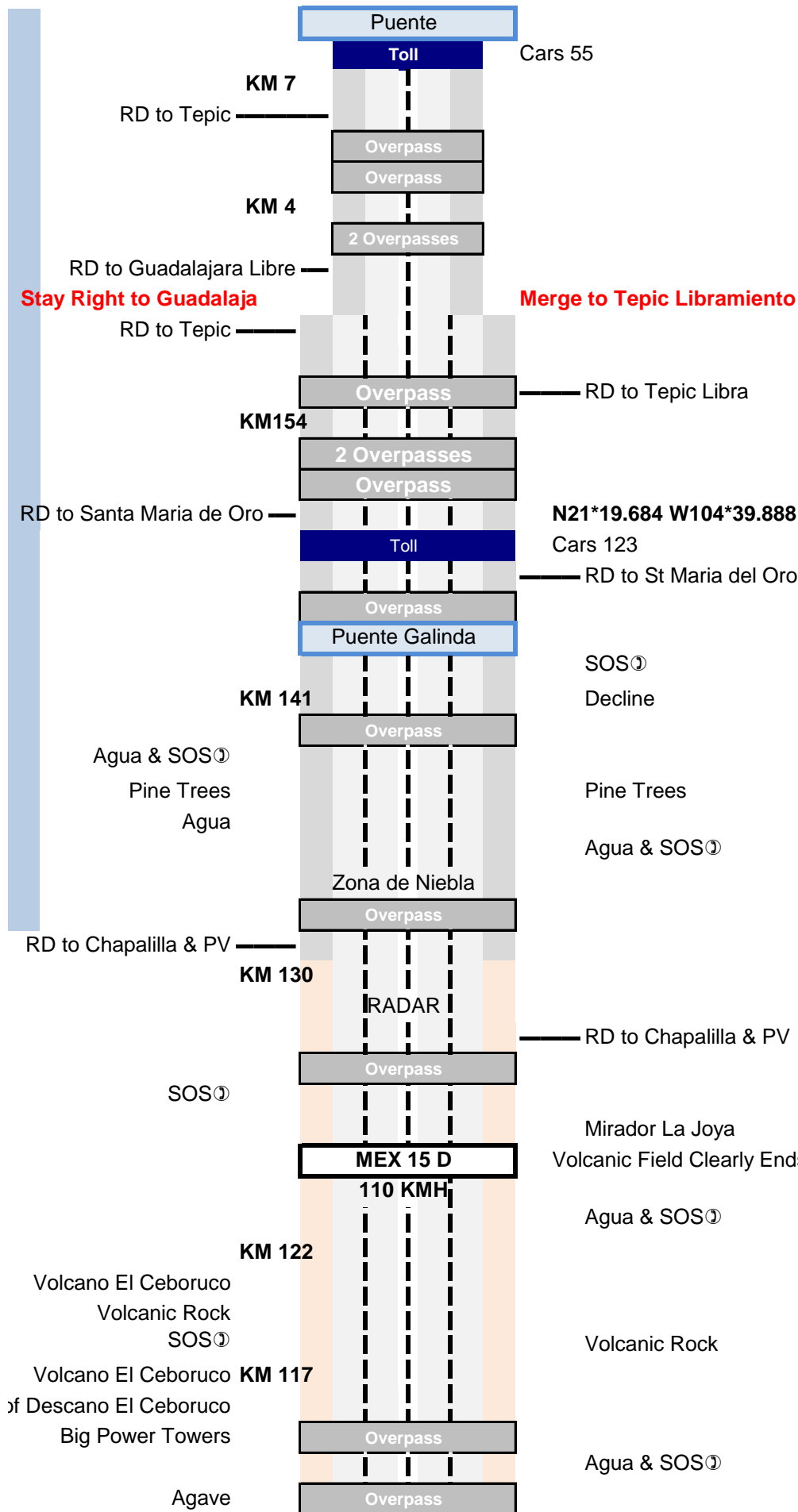
This sublog begins / ends on Highway 15D. It is the new ring road around Tepic. We found this route easy to navigate and easy to drive. Highway 15D continues to Guadalajara.



Balneario

A Balneario refers to a seaside resort in Latin America overall but in Mexico it can refer to a place that simply is open to the public and has a swimming pool.

Balneario can be very elaborate entertainment centers. Often what we would call "Water Parks" in Gringoland, would be called a Balneario.



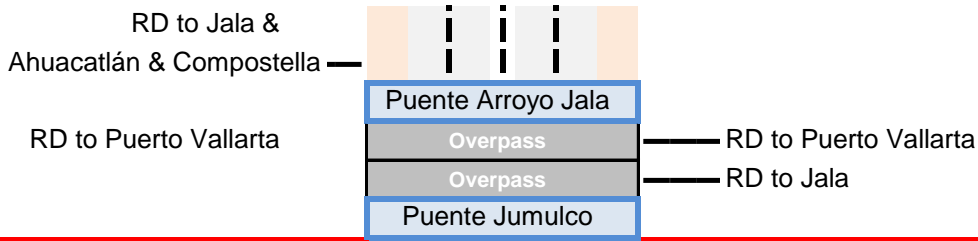
Volcán Ceboruco "Spongy Rocks"

Volcán Ceboruco is a stratovolcano or complex volcano located on the North Western Mexican volcanic belt. 1542, 1567, and 1870-1875. Sometimes affectionately called the Black Giant, Ceboruco rises to a height of 2280 m or 7,480 ft. The volcanic crater or caldera is 4 **KMs wide and was formed about 1000 years ago.** The Lava flows are **extensive and at KM125 you can clearly see where the flow ends....** Get out of your car and take a picture with some lava! Have fun.

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.



SIDE TRIP

JALA TO PV

This is a new connector RD from Jala to Compostela. Once this Highway is complete it will expand to Bucerias and have various feeder roads to coastal communities along the current highway 200.

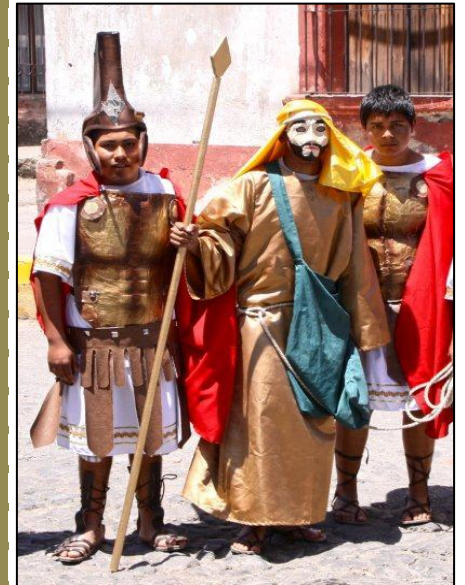
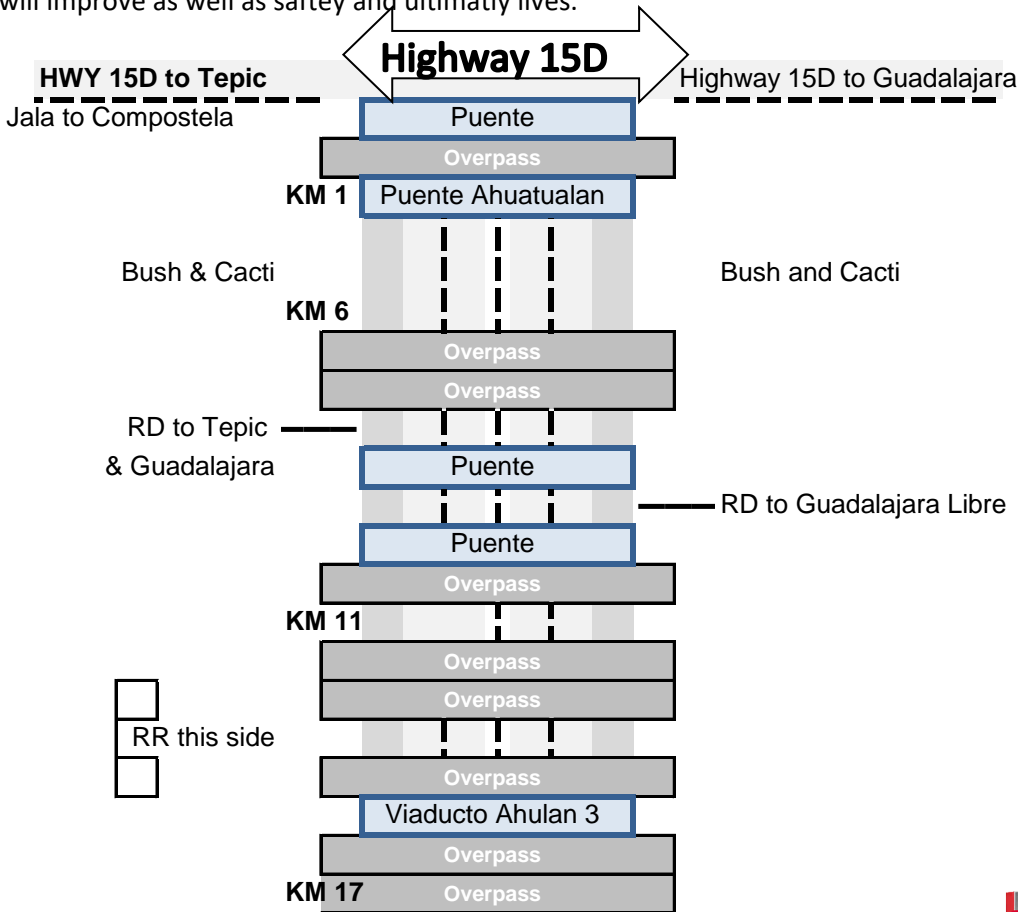
We were hesitant to even include this portion of the highway as we are not sure when it will be complete and somewhat question the value of the road as is.

If you are going to North of Tepic from PV, Highway 70 is expensive and longer than the current road to Tepic. Additionally you must still drive the worst part - Las Varas to Compostela - with numerous curves and slow traffic.

If you are driving south from Guadalajara to PV the new Highway 70 cuts some time and city traffic from your drive.

If you are driving towards Guadalajara from PV, the new Highway 70 is also a time saver.

The current Highway 200 from Tepic to Compostela is dangerous both day and night. There are numerous curves with steep grades, no shoulders, slow trucks and busses. When the highway from Bucerias to Jala is complete, traffic will improve as well as safety and ultimately lives.



Jala's Passion Play

Jala

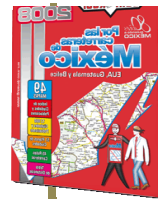
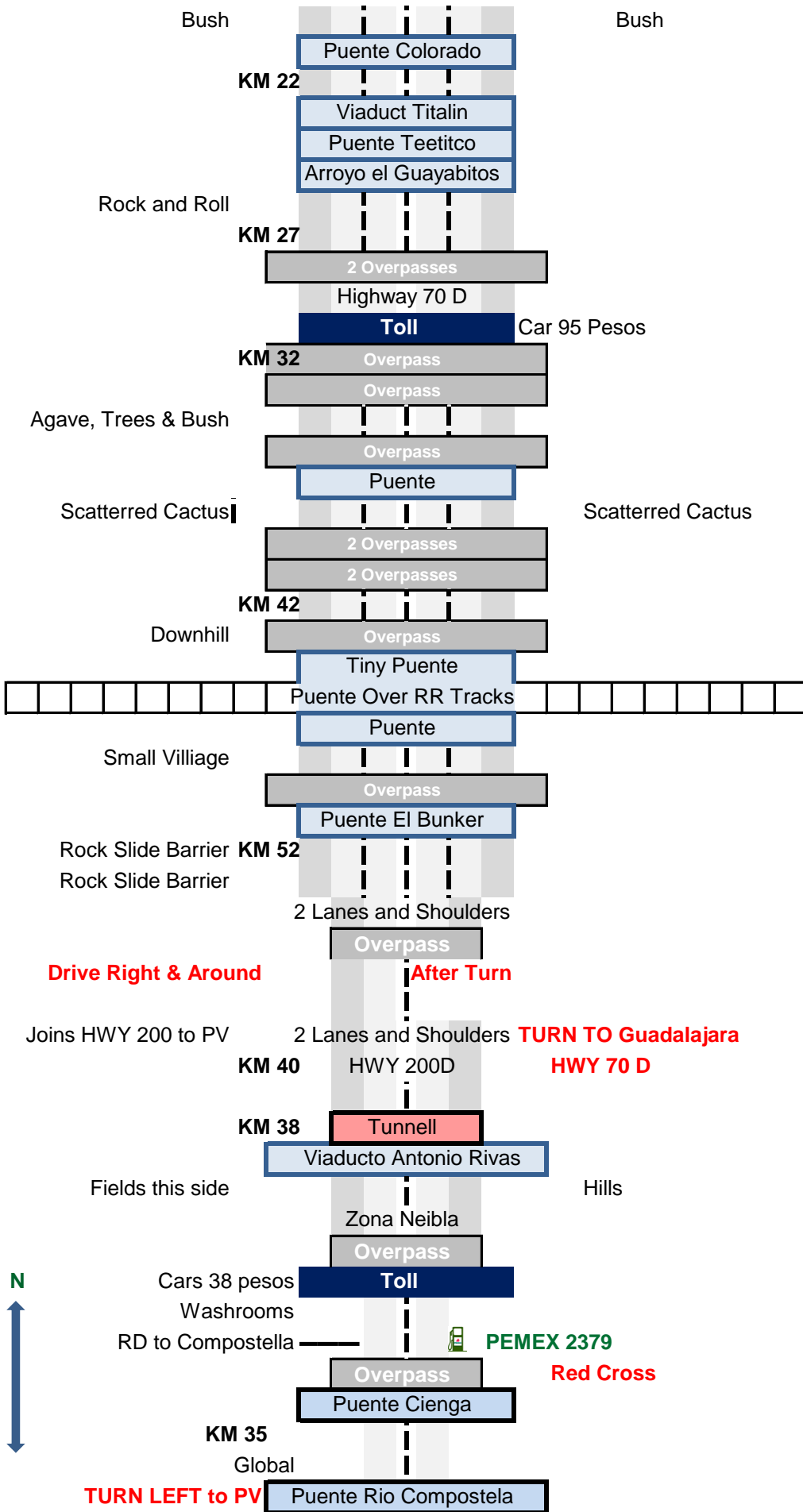
Place with a lot of sand

Jala is a small agricultural center of 10,000 people. The main crops are corn, sorghum, sugarcane and peanuts. It also has small industrial from a sugarcane mill, furniture factories and packing plants.

The main tourist activity is visiting the local volcano Ceboruco whose last eruption was 1872. You can clearly see the volcanic stone on Highway 15D.

If you are close to Jala during Semana Santa, (Easter Week) Jala is also known for its Passion Play or reenactment of the events leading to and including Christ on the cross. Jala is now the terminus of Highway 70 D; a stretch of asphalt from Compostela to Highway 15D.





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.

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.



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.



AFTER TURN**OXXO****KM 40**

Small Pullouts
Very Curvy Section

JUNCTION**TURN RIGHT TO****Guadalajara Toll Cuota**

MX 15D Highway & Bypass
Small Pullouts
Falling Rock

**Gracias - Thanks**

We want to thank you for using our Road Logs and we hope they added to some of your fun and exciting travels throughout this spectacular country. We hope you love it just as much as we do.

Please write and tell us how you did and what great adventures you had. Share a picture or two on our facebook page Mexico On the Road In and Friends of Riviera Nayarit.

Adios and Happy Trails.

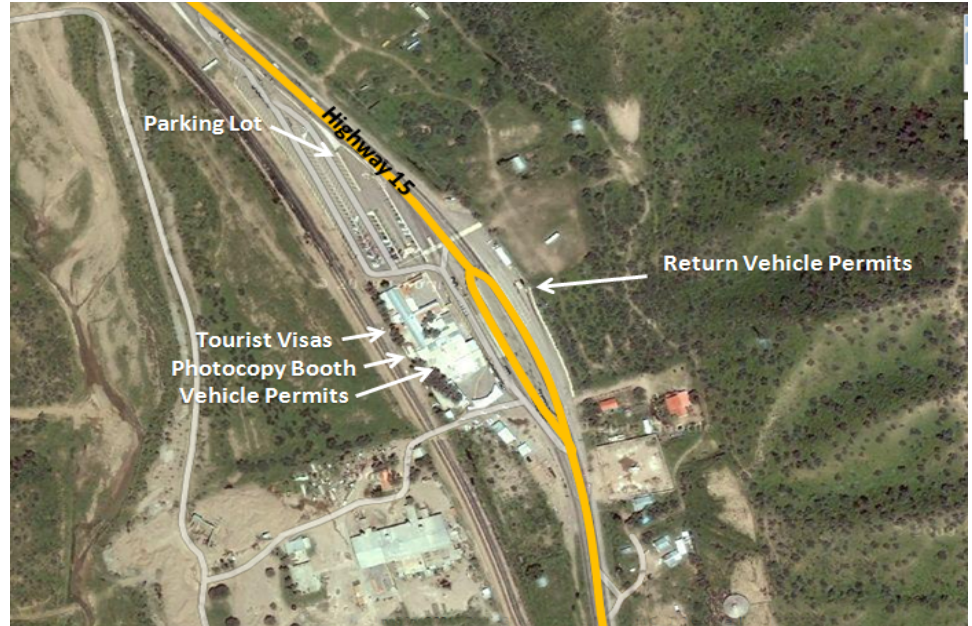
Dot and Bill Bell

Notes

Nogales Immigration

Procedure

1. Park
2. Go to Migration. Get FMM form and fill out the form. The official views your documents and stamps the form.
3. Step outside the Migration office and you will see a photocopy hut. They will need to copy your FMM, passport, vehicle registration, drivers license. Pay the copy fees.
- 4 You continue to walk south from the photocopy booth where you will see a line of tellers. This is 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.
- 5 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
- 6 Drive out of the parking lot and into the nothing to declare line if your goods are your own, you are not bringing in items for sale and the goods you are bringing for gifts fall below the customs limits. 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 may look at your paperwork and poke around your luggage. This is normal. See allowed customs limits here.
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.



Customs Limits



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

Calexico, California - Mexicali, Baja California
Phone: (619) 357-7310
Open: 24 hours

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

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.

Progreso Lakes, Tx - Nuevo Progreso, 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

Tourist Cards (FMM)

ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS			ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS		
FORMA MIGRATORIA MÚLTIPLE (FMM) <small>ESTA FORMA DEBE SER LLENADA DE MANERA INDIVIDUAL POR TODO EXTRANJERO QUE SE INTERINE A MÉXICO, INCLUIDO EL PERSONAL DIPLOMÁTICO.</small>			FORMA MIGRATORIA MÚLTIPLE (FMM) <small>ESTE FORMA DEBE SER LLENADA DE MANERA INDIVIDUAL POR TODO EXTRANJERO QUE INGRESA A MÉXICO, INCLUIDO EL PERSONAL DIPLOMÁTICO Y SERÁ ENTREGADA A SU SALIDA DEL PAÍS.</small>		
REGISTRO DE ENTRADA			REGISTRO DE SALIDA		
Datos como aparecen en el pasaporte					
1. Nombre:		2. Apellido (s):		3. Nacionalidad:	
4. Fecha de nacimiento:		5. Sexo:		6. Núm. Pasaporte:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Femenino <input type="checkbox"/> Masculino					
7. Medio de Transporte		8. Aerolínea y núm. vuelo, embarcación o matrícula en la que arriba:		9. País de inicio de viaje:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aireo <input type="checkbox"/> Terrestre <input type="checkbox"/> Marítimo <input type="checkbox"/> No aplica					
10. Si es extranjero residente ante el núm. de FMA o FMI o Futocredencial de Inmigración (no conteste la pregunta si)		11. Lugar o ciudad de destino en México o en el Extranjero		12. Tipo de viaje	
				<input type="checkbox"/> Turismo <input type="checkbox"/> Trabajo <input type="checkbox"/> Negocios <input type="checkbox"/> Oficial/Diplomático <input type="checkbox"/> Tripulante <input type="checkbox"/> Tránsito Otro: _____	
13. Domicilio en México:		14. Actividad principal en su país de residencia:		Días de estancia en México o en el Extranjero:	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Trabajo <input type="checkbox"/> Estudiar <input type="checkbox"/> Hogar <input type="checkbox"/> Ministro de culto <input type="checkbox"/> Retiro <input type="checkbox"/> Desempleado			
Declaro bajo protesta de decir verdad que toda la información que aquí he proporcionado es correcta y completa, consciente de las consecuencias legales de declarar con falsedad ante la autoridad.					
Fecha			Firma del extranjero		
<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>		
USO OFICIAL					
El agente migratorio marcará la opción correspondiente conforme a la VISA					
<input type="checkbox"/> Transmigrante (30 días) <input type="checkbox"/> Visitante Local (3 días) <input type="checkbox"/> Visitante Provisional (30 días) <input type="checkbox"/> Dependiente Económico					
Estancia máxima hasta 180 días.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Turista <input type="checkbox"/> Ministro de Culto o Asociado Religioso <input type="checkbox"/> Visitante Distinguido <input type="checkbox"/> Estudiante <input type="checkbox"/> Concesional					
Visitante. Actividad NO Lucrativa. Estancia máxima hasta 180 días.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Persona de Negocios <input type="checkbox"/> Derechos Humanos <input type="checkbox"/> Procesos Electorales <input type="checkbox"/> Artista Deportista <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperante <input type="checkbox"/> Técnica Científica <input type="checkbox"/> Otros					
Visitante. Actividad Lucrativa. Estancia máxima hasta 180 días.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Profesional <input type="checkbox"/> Consejero <input type="checkbox"/> Artista Deportista <input type="checkbox"/> Cargo de Coordinación <input type="checkbox"/> Técnico Científico <input type="checkbox"/> Otros					
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa para cambio por FMI (forma migratoria de No Inmigrante) <input type="checkbox"/> Visa para cambio por FMA (forma migratoria de Inmigrante)					
Únicamente para efectos estadísticos					
<input type="checkbox"/> Oficial o Diplomático <input type="checkbox"/> Titular de Forma Migratoria <input type="checkbox"/> Tripulantes Aéreos					
Núm. de RNE					

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, Luxemburg, 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.

Mexican Consulate Website

