

Mazatlán

Sinaloa · Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Mazatlán is a Pacific port city in Sinaloa with a restored 19th-century old town and one of the longest seafront promenades in Mexico. It mixes a historic centre, long beaches, a fishing harbour and a hotel zone. The city is known for seafood, its carnival and the sea.

It suits two to four nights, with beach time, history and food. The old town is the best base for sights, and the hotel zone suits a beach stay.

When to visit

November to May is dry and warm. Summer is hot and humid, with storms and hurricane risk from about June to November. Whales visit the coast between December and March.

The Carnival, in February or March, is one of the largest in Mexico.

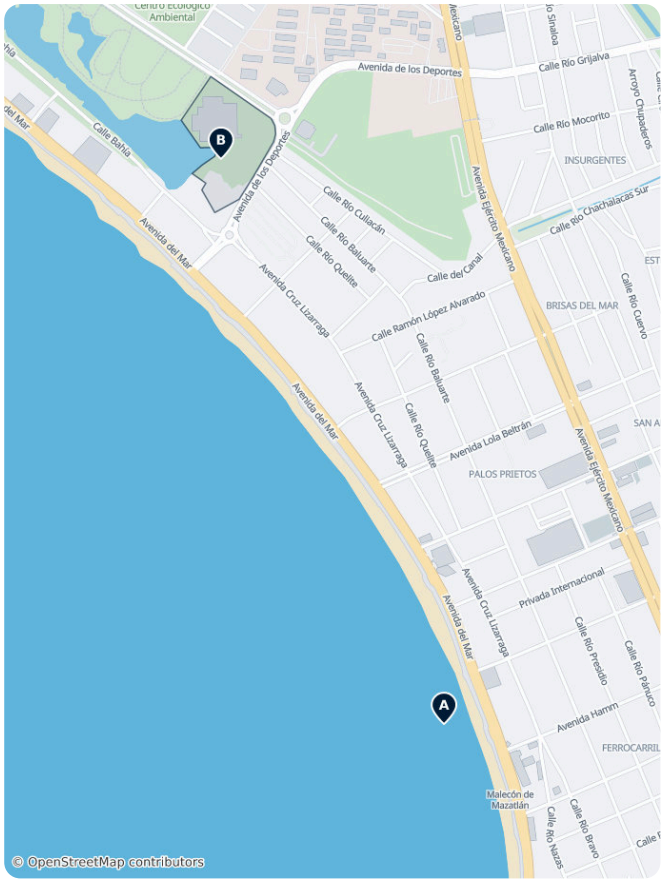
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for the beach	26° / 28°	16° / 13°	22 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for the beach	26° / 28°	16° / 14°	22 sunny days · Calm winds
March	Great Great for the beach	27° / 29°	17° / 14°	27 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
April	Great Great for the beach	28° / 30°	18° / 16°	26 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
May	Great Great for the beach	30° / 32°	21° / 18°	28 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
June	Great Great for watersports	31° / 33° Feels like 35°	24° / 22°	20 sunny days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
July	Fair Fair for watersports	31° / 33° Feels like 36°	25° / 24°	18 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
August	Poor Poor for watersports	30° / 33° Feels like 36°	26° / 24°	23 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
September	Fair Fair for watersports	30° / 32° Feels like 35°	25° / 24°	22 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
October	Great Great for watersports	30° / 32° Feels like 34°	24° / 21°	24 sunny days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
November	Great Great for the beach	28° / 31°	21° / 17°	26 sunny days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for the beach	26° / 29°	18° / 15°	23 sunny days · Humid air · Calm winds

Best months: January, February, March, April, May, November, December

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Malecón is a long seafront promenade of about 20 km, with beaches, statues and sunsets.
- Plazuela Machado is a square in the old town with cafes, restaurants and the Angela Peralta Theatre nearby.
- B Acuario Mazatlán is an aquarium with sharks, sea turtles and fish of the Pacific.
- The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception stands in the old town, with a yellow front and twin towers.
- The lighthouse on Cerro del Crestón is one of the highest natural lighthouses in the world, with a steep walk and big views.
- La Puntilla and the cliff divers on the south headland are part of the city's seafront scene.



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What to experience

- Ride a pulmonía along the seafront at sunset.
- Climb to the lighthouse for views of the coast.
- Try fresh shrimp and aguachile in a local restaurant.
- Take a boat trip to Stone Island or to see whales in winter.

Day trips

- A Isla de la Piedra (Stone Island): a short boat ride from the harbour. A quiet island with a long beach.
- Concordia: about 1 hour by car. A small colonial town with a church and furniture workshops.
- Copala: about 1.5 hours by car. A mining town with a baroque church and a bakery.



Where to explore

- Isla de la Piedra (Stone Island) for a quiet beach island close to the harbour.

Getting there

- **By air**: Mazatlán International Airport (MZT) is about 30 minutes south of the city. It has flights from Mexico City, other cities in Mexico, the US and Canada.
- **By bus**: Coaches run to Guadalajara, Tepic, Culiacán and Mexico City. The bus station is east of the centre.
- **By road**: The toll highway to Durango crosses the mountains. The coast road goes north to Culiacán.

Getting around

- **Pulmonía**: Open-air taxis are the symbol of Mazatlán. Agree the fare first.
- **On foot**: The old town is compact and walkable.
- **Bus and taxi**: City buses run along the seafront. Taxis and ride apps are cheap.
- **Bike**: The seafront path is flat and long.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The old town is walkable. The long seafront and the hotel zone are spread out.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

A long, flat seafront path suits cycling. Heat and traffic limit rides elsewhere.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Useful for Concordia, Copala and remote beaches. Not needed in the old town.
- **Roads**: Highways are in good condition. Mountain roads have bends.
- **Parking**: Hotels have parking. Street parking is easy in most areas.

Food & drink

Mazatlán is known for seafood: shrimp in many styles, aguachile, ceviche and fish tacos. Zarandeado fish is grilled over fire. Local beer is part of the culture.

Seafood stalls near the harbour are cheap, and restaurants around Plazuela Machado offer more formal dining.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Cochinita Pibil
Slow-roasted, citrus- and achiote-marinated pork, a Yucatán specialty traditionally cooked in an underground pit.

DINNER

Mole
A complex sauce, often built from chiles, spices, and sometimes chocolate; mole poblano and Oaxaca's several moles are the best known versions.

Chiles en Nogada
A Puebla dish of stuffed poblano chiles topped with a walnut cream sauce and pomegranate seeds, in the colors of the Mexican flag.

Pozole
A hominy stew with pork or chicken, topped with shredded cabbage, radish, and chile, traditionally eaten on special occasions.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Tacos
Corn or flour tortillas filled with meat, fish, or vegetables, with endless regional and stall-to-stall variation.

Tamales
Corn dough filled with meat, cheese, or vegetables, wrapped in a corn husk or banana leaf and steamed.

Elote/Esquites · Elote / Esquites
Grilled or boiled corn on the cob (elote) or served off the cob in a cup (esquites), topped with mayonnaise, cheese, chile, and lime.

DRINKS

Mezcal
A smoky agave spirit from Oaxaca and several other states, distinct from tequila, traditionally sipped neat.

Tequila
An agave spirit from the region around the town of Tequila in Jalisco, Mexico's best-known export spirit.

Horchata
A sweet, cinnamon-spiced rice-based drink, popular as a non-alcoholic accompaniment to spicy food.

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Safety & health

The old town and tourist zones are generally safe. Take usual care with bags and phones at night. Check local advice before travelling by road in Sinaloa.

- Swim only at beaches with safe water. Currents can be strong.
- The sun is strong. Use sun protection and drink water.
- Hurricane season is June to November. Follow weather news.
- Drink purified or bottled water.

History

Mazatlán grew in the 19th century as a port, with German merchants and silver exports. The old town was rebuilt in the 1990s and 2000s, and it is now a popular destination.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Mexico at a glance:

CURRENCY
MXN $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY



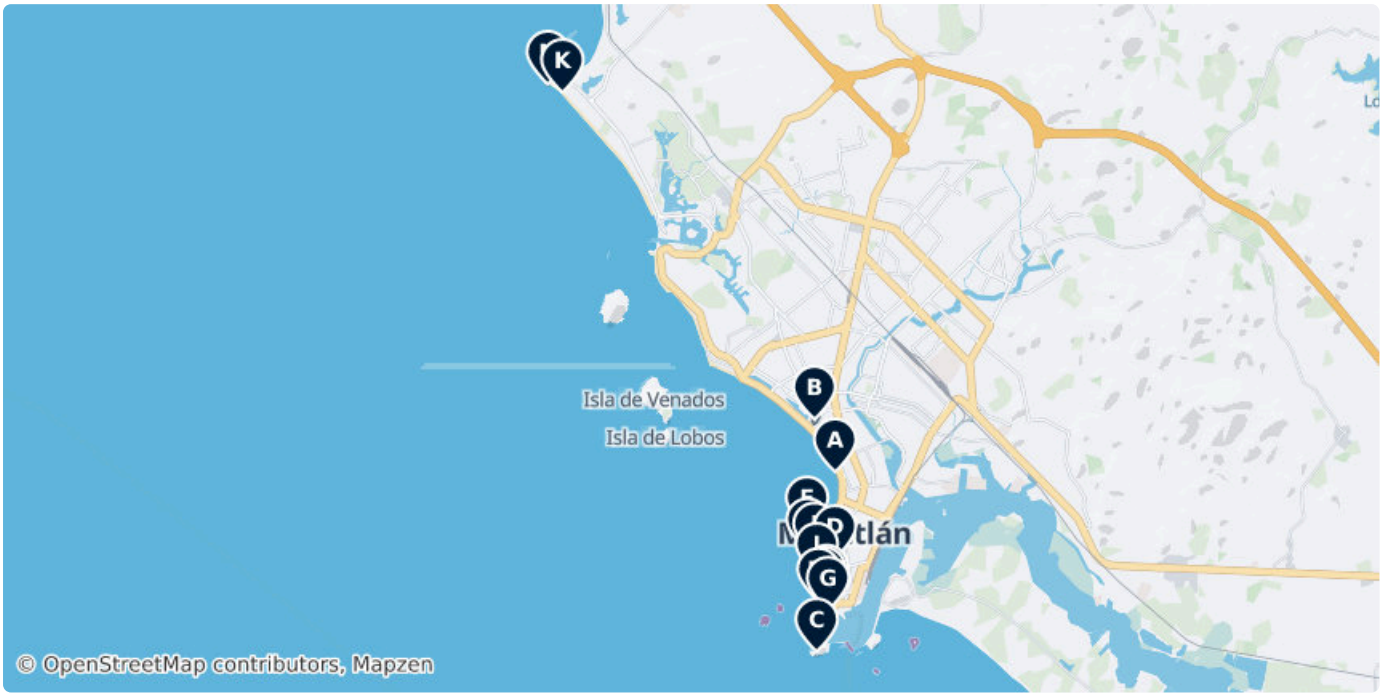
Type A / Type B
127 V · 60 Hz

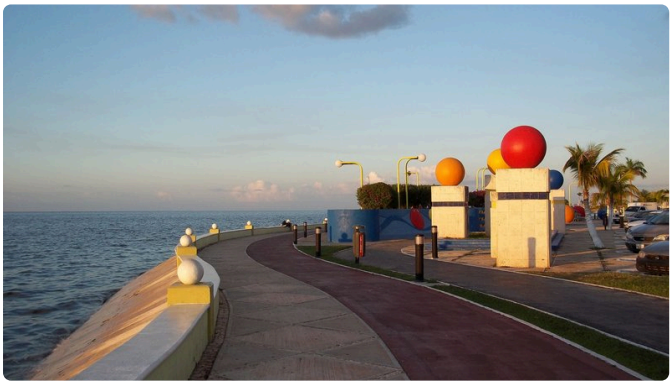
LANGUAGES
Spanish

TAP WATER
Not safe to drink

Mazatlán Essentials

Mazatlán combines a 19th-century historic district with a 13-mile coastal promenade. The city's landmarks include the world's highest natural lighthouse on Cerro del Crestón and the colonial Plazuela Machado, the heart of the old town. Cultural highlights range from monuments honoring cinema icon Pedro Infante to modern marine conservation at the National Whale Museum. The coastline offers diverse experiences, from the high-surf waves of Playa Las Brujas to the traditional cliff divers at the Olas Altas mirador.

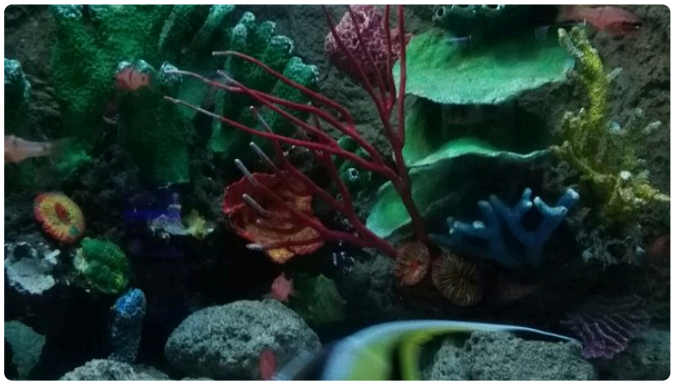




A Malecon Promenade

A very long promenade, that is full of shops, restaurants and bars. It is a great place to watch sunset or romantic walks.

Mexico (23.21768, -106.42302)



B Mazatlán Aquarium

A wonderful aquarium, where you can see many both saltwater and freshwater fish and water birds. Sea lions shows take place regularly.

Avenida de los Deportes 111, 82017 (23.22940, -106.42804)

Mo–Su 09:30–17:30

acuariomazatlan.com, 6699817815

C Faro Mazatlán

Located atop Cerro del Crestón, this is one of the highest natural lighthouses in the world. A steep hiking trail leads to a glass-bottomed observation deck overlooking the Pacific Ocean and the city bay.

(23.17761, -106.42749)

D Plazuela Machado

Dating to 1837, this historic square is the center of Mazatlán's cultural life. It is surrounded by 19th-century buildings featuring French and Spanish colonial architecture, now housing restaurants, cafes, and art galleries.

(23.19835, -106.42306)

E Observatorio 1873 Mazatlán

A restored 19th-century military lookout on Cerro del Vigía. Accessible via funicular, the site includes a historical museum, a bird sanctuary, and a botanical garden featuring regional agave and cacti species.

(23.18910, -106.42570)

F Monuments A La Continuidad de La...

A bronze sculpture by artist James Moore located on the Malecon. It depicts a group of dolphins and a human couple, symbolizing the continuity of life and the city's connection to the sea.

(23.20477, -106.42984)

G Mirador

A scenic viewpoint along the Olas Altas coastal road, known as the site where traditional cliff divers jump from a high platform into the shallow ocean waters below.

Calle Paseo del Centenario, Los Pinos, 82000 Mazatlán, SIN, Mexico (23.18686, -106.42472)

H Monumento a la Mujer Mazatleca

A bronze statue on the Malecon dedicated to the women of Mazatlán. The monument honors their contribution to the local community, set against a backdrop of the Pacific coastline.

(23.19994, -106.42971)

I Pedro infante

A monument honoring the famous Mexican singer and actor born in Mazatlán. The statue depicts the Golden Age of Cinema star on a motorcycle, referencing his iconic film roles.

(23.19445, -106.42747)

J Arcos Olas Altas

Stone arches situated along the historic Olas Altas beach. This section of the waterfront is one of the oldest parts of the city and serves as a gateway to the historic district.

Calle General Ángel Flores, CENTRO, 82000 Mazatlán, SIN, Mexico (23.19896, -106.42804)

K Playa Las Brujas

A beach at the northern end of Mazatlán known for its powerful waves and golden sand. It is a favored spot for surfing and offers a quieter alternative to the central hotel zone.

(23.30228, -106.48924)

L MUNBA Museo Nacional de la Ballena

A museum focused on marine biology and whale conservation. It features educational exhibits and skeletal displays of various whale species migratory to the Sea of Cortez.

(23.18958, -106.42505)

M Corazón de Mazatlán

A heart-shaped metal sculpture located on the Paseo del Centenario. It serves as a scenic viewpoint overlooking the bay and the southern end of the city.

(23.18883, -106.42707)

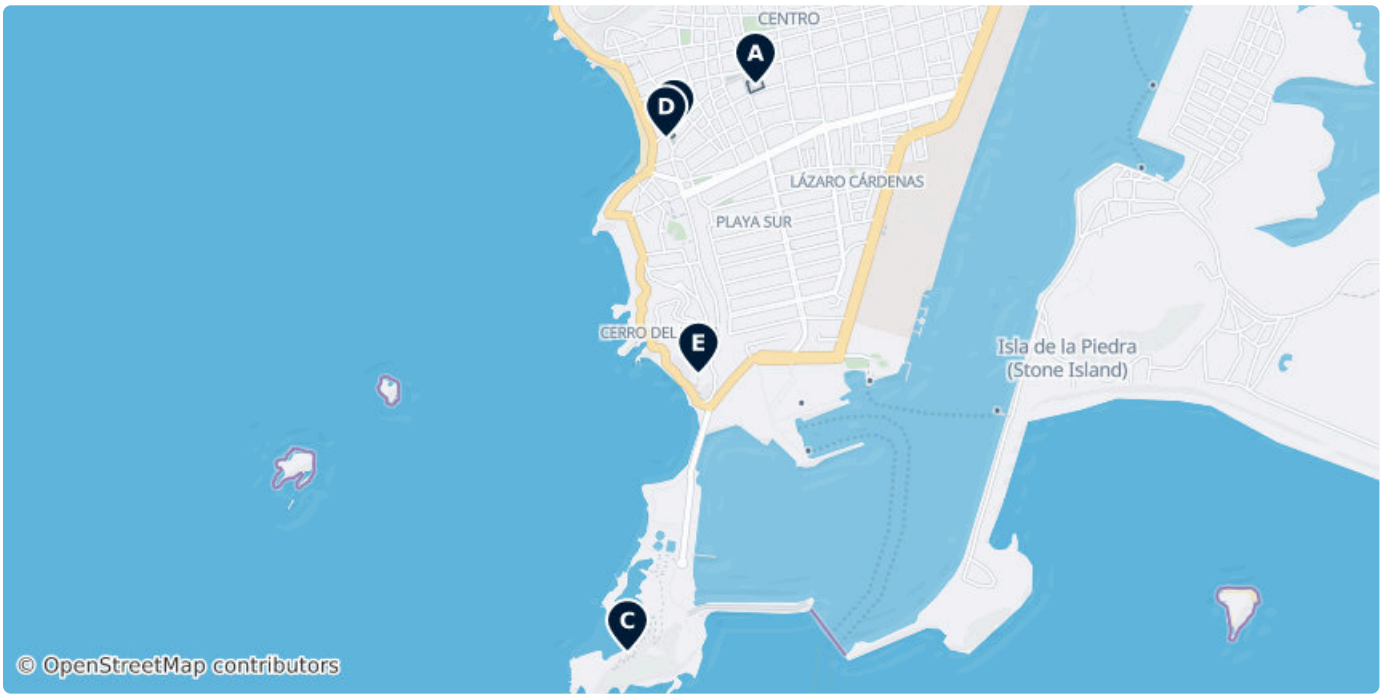
N Punta cerritos

A rocky point marking the northern boundary of the city's main tourist zone. The area is known for its surfing conditions, tide pools, and open-air seafood restaurants.

82000 Mazatlán, SIN, Mexico (23.30411, -106.49277)

Mazatlán Hidden Gems

Mazatlán's cultural landscape blends 19th-century architecture with contemporary artistic expression. This selection features the restored Ángela Peralta Theater, a neoclassical venue for international opera and ballet, alongside the Museum of Art which showcases modern Mexican works. For coastal perspectives, the hike to El Faro reaches one of the world's highest natural lighthouses on Cerro del Crestón, while El Mirador La Marea offers views of the Pacific coastline and the city's historic harbor. Mexicolors Gallery rounds out the experience with regional photography.



A Ángela Peralta Theater

This theater is very popular. It is a venue for various performances such as opera, theater plays or concerts,

Carnaval, 82000 mazatlan (23.19806, -106.42233)

B Museum of Art Mazatlán

A museum of contemporary Mexican art that has impressive exhibition of paintings, photographs, sculptures and prints.

70 Calle Sixto Osuna, Mazatlán 82000, Mexico (23.19642, -106.42546)

Mo–Sa 10:00–16:00

+5266 9985 3502

C el faro de mazatlan

Situated atop Cerro del Crestón at 157 meters above sea level, this is one of the world's highest natural lighthouses. The site features a glass-bottomed observation deck and panoramic views of the Pacific coastline.

(23.17802, -106.42725)

D Mexicolors Gallery

A gallery that is focused on photography. You can buy here amazing art canvas prints, they are great souvenir and may be used as great...

6 Calle Venustiano Carranza, Mazatlán 82000, Mexico
(23.19617, -106.42576)

mexicolors.com

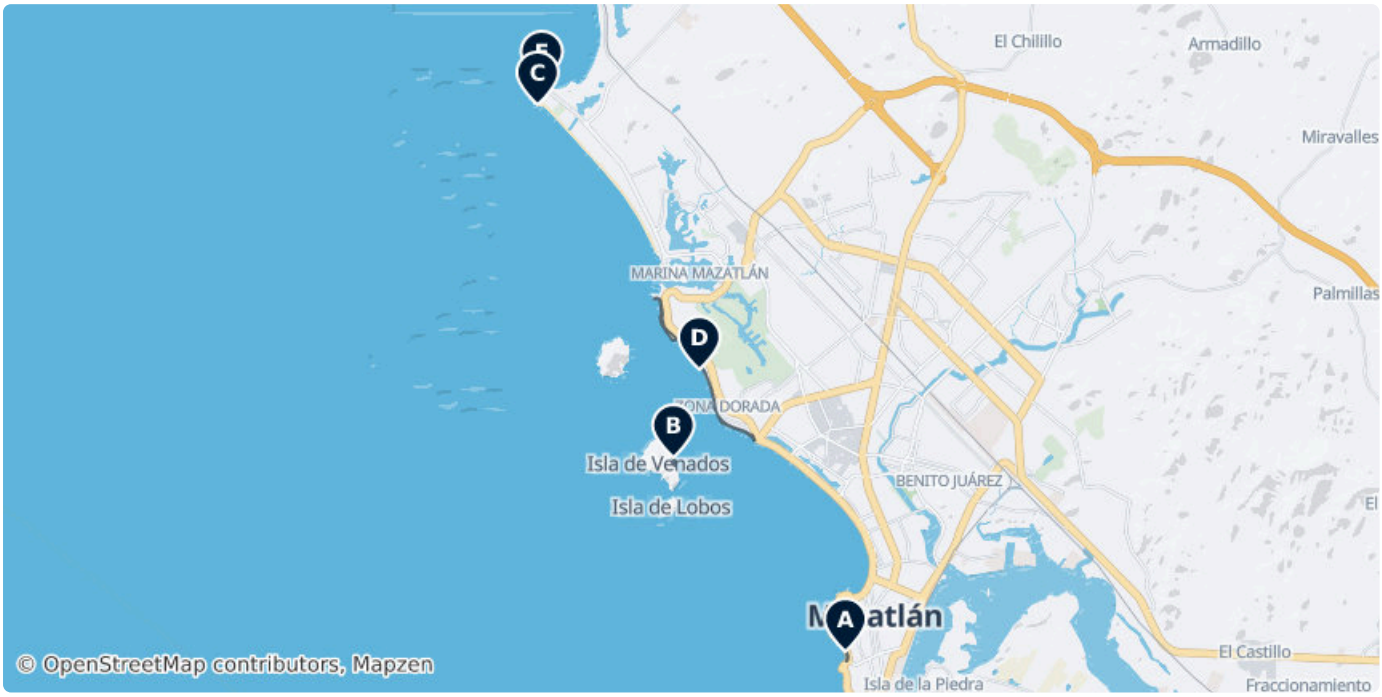
E el mirador la marea

An elevated observation point on the Paseo del Centenario. It offers direct views of the Pacific Ocean, the city's commercial shipping port, and the surrounding coastline.

(23.18783, -106.42453)

Best Beaches in Mazatlán

Mazatlán's coastline offers a diverse range of shorelines, from the historic Olas Altas in the south to the calm waters of Playa Sábalo in the Golden Zone. The northern end features the rocky formations of Punta Cerritos and the wide stretches of Playa Cerritos, known for surfing and natural tide pools. For a secluded experience, Deer Island provides a sheltered environment for snorkeling and swimming, accessible only by water taxi. These locations highlight the city's unique geography, where the Pacific surf meets offshore islands.



A Olas Altas Beach

One of the most famous beaches in Mazatlán, that offers great place for swimming and sunbathing. Its large waves are perfect for surfers.

1224 Avenida Olas Altas, Mazatlán 82000, Mexico (23.19693, -106.42704)

B Deer Island Beach

This island close to the Mazatlán offers amazing and not so busy beaches. You need to hire a boat to get here but it is worth it.

Mexico (23.23499, -106.46376)

C Punta cerritos

A rocky headland at the northern end of Mazatlán known for its surfing break and views of the coastline.

82000 Mazatlán, SIN, Mexico (23.30411, -106.49277)

D Playa Sábalo

Located in the Golden Zone, this beach features calm waters protected by offshore islands, frequently used for parasailing and jet skiing.

Mexico (23.25221, -106.45825)

E Playa Cerritos

A quieter stretch of coastline at the city's northern edge, characterized by strong currents and rocky areas that form tide pools during low tide.

Avenida Sábalo Cerritos, 82112, Mexico
(23.30819, -106.49186)

DATA SOURCES

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