

Mazatlán Beach Guide 2017!

Descriptions and map to the beaches of Mazatlán

Stone Island | Playa Olas Altas | Playa Los Pinos | Playa Marlin

Playa Norte | Playa Camaron | Playa Gaviotas | Playa Sabalo

Playa Cerritos | Playa Bruja | Playa El Verde Camacho



About this guide to Mazatlán beaches

Our Mazatlan beach information is presented South to North: from the beaches of Stone Island and Olas Altas at the Southern end of the city to Playa Bruja and Playa El Verde Camacho at the very Northern tip of Nuevo Mazatlan.

Three beaches are not included in this map: Las Labradas and Barras de Piaxtla, both of which are roughly 40 miles north of Mazatlan, and Playa El Caimanero, which is roughly 40 miles south.

Extensive information about day trips to all three of these spectacular Sinaloa beaches -- along with maps -- can be found in the Day Trips section of mazatlantoday.net

Stone Island Beaches Isla de la Piedra Mazatlan Island Beach

No guide to the best Mazatlan beaches can overlook Stone Island -- many believe that Isla de la Piedra has some of the nicest beaches in Mazatlan.

The 5 minute boat trip is enough to keep some travelers away, allowing a less crowded environment for those who take the few minutes to visit these beautiful Mazatlan beaches.

Because of its sheltered orientation, the beaches of Isla de la Piedra are usually calm, and the water is often warmer than at most of the beaches within The Pearl of The Pacific. When you reach Stone Island you will find open air restaurants and miles and miles of pristine beach.

Enjoy a variety of activities, snorkeling, and other watersports, or walk barefoot without seeing another human being -- all the while enjoying the company of majestic tropical palm trees for as far as the eye can see.

With about 4,000 residents, Stone Island day trips from Mazatlan have just the right combination of amenities and tranquility. Palapa restaurants line the Stone Island beach where you land. Populated by vendors and, sometimes, mariachis, these breezy and shady Stone Island restaurants are make a lovely gateway to the island and a great place to cool off in the shade and enjoy the ocean view.

Most Stone Island restaurants also offer umbrella-shaded areas with lounging chairs and hammocks if you'd just like to kick back on your Mazatlan day trip and and enjoy a margarita, fresh limeade, or an ice-cold Pacifico beer.

Many Stone Island restaurants and small businesses rent out ATVs, catamarans, banana boats, snorkeling equipment, and horses to those on Mazatlan day trips. Showers and volleyball courts are sometimes available from other Stone Island businesses -- sometimes free of charge -- making Mazatlan day trips to Stone Island beaches inexpensive and stress-free.

A few of the long-time Stone Island restaurant favorites that have been drawing Mazatlan beach goers for years are:

Benji's Pizza on Stone Island

You want a pizza pie?

Benji's Pizza is the only restaurant that serves pizza on Stone Island. They offer traditional pizzas and unusual Mexican pizzas such as shrimp garlic pizza.

Pizza Benji's on Stone Island also serves a number of non-pizza offerings, like Shrimp Diablo. Benji's Pizza serves both alcohol and non-alcohol drinks.

Carmelita's / Stone Island Restaurant

Carmelita's on Stone Island was founded in 1938 by Senor Rodrigo Aguirre and Señora Maria del Carmen Ruvalcaba. Like all Stone Island seafood restaurants, Carmelita's fresh fish is caught daily.

Carmelita's on Stone Island also serves excellent hamburgers and fresh tangy ceviche.

Carmelita's is within the Hotel Stone Island Gardens, an excellent budget priced Mazatlan hotel offers Mazatlan day trippers consistently excellent service, a terrific relaxed atmosphere, and delicious food.

Telephone 669 981 9274

Lety's / Stone Island Restaurant

Lety Aguirre was the founder of Lety's restaurant on Stone Island, a highly recommended and very popular family-run palapa restaurant located right on the beach.

Lety was a native of Stone Island, and took great pride in her restaurant.

Now deceased, her tradition of only using fresh and delicious ingredients continues.

Fresh grilled chicken, homemade soup, quesadillas, and combination plates are all offered, along with great seafood.

Visitors to Stone Island appreciate that showers with changing rooms are available at Lety's on Stone Island -- which makes this a great place to cool off after hours playing beach volleyball or body surfing.

Take a day trip to Stone Island, visit Lety's, enjoy a home-made limeade, and nap the afternoon away in a hammock!

Telephone 669 981 9255

Molokay on Stone Island

Molokay has been a Stone Island restaurant favorite since 1954!

Located right on the main beach, this restaurant delivers cold beer, fresh shrimp, delicious octopus and all sorts of other Mexican seafood treats -- all delivered by a friendly and efficient wait-staff.

If you're looking for a relaxed but surprisingly elegant place -- think linens and tablecloths -- to kick it on Stone Island you can't make a better choice than Molokay.

Telephone 669 981 9347

Victor's / Stone Island Restaurant

Lunch at Victor's restaurant on Stone Island is a great Stone Island beach day trip decision!

At Victor's restaurant on Stone Island you can relax in the sun or shade, and there are hammocks to swing in. Victor's is inexpensive, and the portions ample. The garlic shrimp, for example, has 10 jumbo shrimp, and comes with onion rings, rice, vegetable, cole slaw and fruit!

Those on Mazatlan day trips to Stone Island appreciate that beach chairs, boogie boards and other fun beach stuff is free at Victor's, and the chips and home made salsa are delicious.

Victor's is also a bar, and is one of the few places on Stone Island where Margarita's are served.

Telephone 669 914 1444

Directions from Mazatlan to Stone Island

Getting to Isla de la Piedra couldn't be easier! Drive (or take a taxi) to the Playa Sur Embarcadero near the ferry terminal -- you'll see signs for various lancha operators. The ride is short, the lancha's leave about every 20 minutes, and they cost only 20p!

Playa Olas Altas Mazatlan Beach Guide recommended

Information about the best beaches, surfing, snorkeling, parasailing, and watersports

Playa Olas Altas means "Beach of Big Waves", and Playa Olas Altas is one of the most popular beaches for surfers during the summer.

Situated at the southern end of of the Malecon -- just steps from the heart of the Centro Historico -- Playa Olas Altas has been drawing tourists to Mazatlan from around the world for decades.

Playa Olas Altas was the first of our tourist beaches.

Discovered by tourists immediately after WWII, it has remained a favorite beach for both Mazatlecos and visitors ever since.

This beach offers lovely views of our islands, is especially beautiful at sunset, and offers ideal opportunities to take a break and relax at one of the Malecon cafés while surfers entertain you!

Now lined with delightful Malecon restaurants like El Shrimp Bucket, Olas Altas beach attracts surfers and tourists from around the globe.

For those who would like to stay right at Olas Altas beach there are classic hotels right on the Malecon, notably including the La Siesta and the Posada Freeman.

Occasionally not ideal for swimming because of waves -- usually during Summer rainy season -- Playa Olas Altas remains one of the best beaches in Mazatlan Mexico.

For those who want to get wet safely on rough days -- or who have children they'd rather see in an enclosed setting -- there is a very cool public saltwater pool, La Carpa Olivera, located at the northern end of Olas Altas beach. Swimming and splashing at La Carpa Olivera has been a tradition for Mazatlan families for decades. The saltwater pool was renovated in 2014 - 2015.

Playa Los Pinos Mazatlan Beach Guide recommended

Information about the best beaches, surfing, snorkeling, parasailing, and watersports

One of the less-visited Mazatlan beaches, the small wave-tossed Playa Los Pinos is located just north of the Ciencias del Mar (Marine Sciences) college, between that facility and the Fisherman's Monument -- right in Centro!

The temperature of the water at Playa Los Pinos in Mazatlan varies between warm and delightfully cool.

Mazatlan's Playa Los Pinos is gently inclined and the sand is tan. Although the narrow strand of the Playa Los Pinos is more suitable for wading than swimming, the rocks provide good casting spots, and the swells challenge both beginning and intermediate surfers.

Low tide at Playa Los Pinos exposes a remarkable profusion of sea life within the puddles on the rocks.

One of the Mazatlan Beach Guide recommended best beaches in the Pearl of The Pacific, we encourage visitors to drop by -- if for no other reason than to experience the delightful tide pools!

It's not exactly insider-information that fishermen sell their daily catch at Playa Los Pinos. Drop by in the morning and see what they're selling -- maybe you can even score fish-on-a-stick, one of our more delicious street foods.

Playa Marlin Mazatlan Beach Guide recommended

Information about the best beaches, surfing, snorkeling, parasailing, and watersports

Mazatlan's Playa Marlin beach fronts the malecon along Avenida del Mar. A tunnel connects this beach with the Hotel Hacienda. Lined with beachfront restaurants, lots of tourists have found that a perfect street food meal in Mazatlan can be had at Playa Marlin. A really great way to spend an afternoon is to cruise the restaurants eating fresh shrimp, mahi mahi and coconut juice...or maybe some beer and / or tequila shots?

Playa Norte Mazatlan Beach Guide recommended

Information about the best beaches, surfing, snorkeling, parasailing, and watersports

Beginning where Paseo Claussen becomes Avenida del Mar -- at the Fisherman's Monument -- Playa Norte is a remarkably clean strip of sand that stretches north uninterrupted for about 3 miles toward the Golden Zone - Zona Dorada and making Playa Norte one of the longest city beaches in Mexico.

It is also one of the most popular Mazatlan beaches, and has been since the turn of the 20th century.

The water at Playa Norte is usually warm and the waves of moderate size most days.

One of the Mazatlan Beach Guide recommended Mazatlan beaches, Playa Norte is the perfect place to enjoy fresh seafood within the shady palapa restaurants scattered along Playa Norte facing the Sea of Cortez.

Despite being one of the most popular beaches in Mazatlan, because of the vast size of Playa Norte it is usually uncrowded except for holidays.

Playa Norte beach in Mazatlan MexicoUp at the far north end of Playa Norte, nearing the beginning of the Golden Zone - Zona Dorada and approaching the beginning of Playa Camaron just around the point at Valentino's, is one place where beginning and intermediate surfers hang-out and fishermen find that the rocks on the point provide good spots for some of the best beach fishing in Mazatlan.

Simply, Playa Norte is one of the best beaches in Mazatlan Mexico, and the southern end of Playa Norte is also the location of a skate park, so if you're a skateboarder Playa Norte is the place to be!

Playas Camaron and Gaviotas Beach guide recommended

Information about the best beaches, surfing, snorkeling, parasailing, and watersports

No listing of Mazatlan beach information can overlook the spectacular beaches Playa Camaron and Playa Gaviotas. The row of successful hotels in the Golden Zone - Zona Dorada testify to the beauty of Playa Camaron and Playa Gaviotas. Although these beaches are often described as being parts of one larger beach, they are really quite different.

Long considered one of the best beaches in The Pearl of The Pacific, the Golden Zone - Zona Dorada's more southerly Playa Camaron is relatively narrow, particularly at high tide. Waves at Playa Camaron often break suddenly and recede strongly. At such times, bodysurfing on Playa Camaron is thrilling!

Despite the popularity of Playa Camaron, exotic sea shells and other natural fruits of the ocean can often be found in large numbers.

About 500 yards north of the point -- near the Las Flores Hotel -- Playa Camaron becomes Playa Gaviotas. There, the beach changes to Playa Gaviotas' silky smooth sand, deeper depth and gentle slope.

Waves usually roll in softly at Playa Gaviotas, and this beach is almost always favored by a gentle sea breeze. Arguably the most popular beach in Mazatlan, the Mazatlan Beach Guide encourages every visitor to take a stroll on Playa Gaviotas, one of our best beaches.

Playa Sabalo Mazatlan Beach Guide recommended

Information about the best beaches, surfing, snorkeling, parasailing, and watersports

Playa Sabalo begins at the north end of the Golden Zone - Zona Dorada, and has long been considered one of the best beaches in Mazatlan.

Sheltered from the open ocean by our beautiful islands, the water at Playa Sabalo is usually calm, making Playa Sabalo ideal for swimming and watersports.

Sailing excursions, water skiing, parasailing, and banana-boat rides are all offered on Playa Sabalo.

Directions to Playa Sabalo

Just take a bus or taxi to the north end of the Golden Zone - Zona Dorada and walk north to Playa Sabalo -- you won't be sorry!

Playa Cerritos and Playa Bruja Beach Guide recommended

Information about the best beaches, surfing, snorkeling, parasailing, and watersports

The Mazatlan beaches of Playa Cerritos and Playa Bruja are at the north end of the Cerritos district. Playa Bruja, named for female witch doctors who used to perform their rituals there is one of the most beautiful of our beaches, and often largely empty -- many recommend it as the best place for a private beach picnic!

Or, if you've left the picnic basket at home, this northern tip of the new Mazatlan not only has a number of inexpensive traditional Mexican seafood palapa restaurants, but has become a hotbed of new restaurants like **Roy's**, **The Last Drop**, and **Looney Bean Coffee** and the traditionally popular **Mr. Lionso Playa Bruja**. On wavy days these beaches are very popular with surfers and body boarders!

At the very end of the boulevard a rocky tidepool shelf juts out into the waves, forming a protected cove. It is widely believed that this is the best shore fishing spot in The Pearl of The Pacific. That information is accurate -- half a dozen lanchas are usually pulled up on the rocky beach, while just off shore divers hunt for oysters in the clear, calm sheltered waters.

Directions to Playa Cerritos / Playa Bruja

Take any Cerritos bus north from the Golden Zone - Zona Dorada and enjoy Playa Bruja and Playa Cerritos, two of the most beautiful and isolated Mazatlan beaches.

Playa El Verde Camacho Mazatlan Beach Guide recommended

Information about this unique beach and Sinaloa ecological reserve, home to the Ridley Turtle!

Playa El Verde Camacho is way more than a pretty beach -- it is one of the most important eco-reserves in Mexico and home to one of the primary nesting habitats of the Olive Ridley Sea Turtle.

Located just north of the Pueblo Bonito Emerald Bay resort, this four mile stretch of pristine beach stretches all the way to the mouth of the Quelite River, and has been certified as a conservation area and restricted development zone by the Instituto Mexicano de Normalizacion y Certificacion -- the first beach in Sinaloa to receive this prestigious designation.

More than just a turtle sanctuary, Playa El Verde Camacho and the vegetation that surrounds it are home to many types of birds and other native Sinaloa wildlife.

A note to possible visitors

Playa El Verde Camacho is a natural treasure, and protecting its pristine character is every visitors responsibility.

Re-certification as an ecological reserve depends on re-inspection every two years, and that certifying authorities are convinced that the location is not being polluted by human presence.

Beyond the mechanics of certification, this is the home of beautiful wild creatures, and we are the visitors here.

Never touch -- or attempt to touch -- any wildlife, and remember never to leave anything behind when you go.

Directions to Playa El Verde Camacho for responsible eco-tourists

It is strongly advised that those who want to visit Playa El Verde Camacho go with an eco-tour. Your tour company will assure that you get the most out of your visit by explaining the flora and fauna you see, as well as make sure that your entry to and exit from the beach are as low impact as possible.