

Ensenada, Mexico

Ensenada has two piers for cruise ships. The port is in the center of the city, more of an industrial area, it's a bit of a walk to shopping and eateries. There is a tourist seaside boardwalk, take the bridge on your left as you leave the ship. There are shuttle services available for \$4 that will take you to Ventana al Mar, a park a distance down the boardwalk near the shops and businesses.

History

Founded in 1882 Ensenada started as a mining town. The surrounding mountains contain gold, copper, silver, and iron. During Prohibition in the US, Americans seeking entertainment and alcohol transformed the city into a popular tourist destination as it remains today. The city is also home to several universities and a busy shipping port.

Unique Foods

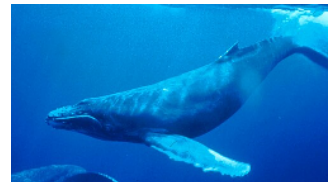
- Fish Tacos: popular here as well as Cabo, the difference is in the toppings, many variations are available.
- Street Seafood Trucks offering many choices!
- Margarita's at Hussong's Cantina - where the drink was invented!
- Almejas Gratinadas - clams with shrimp on top, seasoned with white wine and cheese topped.
- Chocolate Clams; named for their brown shells, found only on the Baja peninsula. Served raw with lime and salsa or backed with butter and cheese.



Unique Animals

So much sealife; gray whales, sperm whales, blue whales, humpback whales, orcas, and finback whales. Endangered land animals found in this area; Peninsular Pronghorn and the Black Jackrabbit. The elusive Ringtailed Cat, actually a raccoon, is also found here.

Unique animal encounters await at Pai Pai Ecotourism Park! Interact with monkeys, tigers, giraffes, lemurs, capaybaras, hippos, capybaras, raccoons, jaguar and albino lions are housed here. They offer hands-on feeding and petting experiences.



Unique Plants

This area is home to Lemonade Berry, Golden pothos, chaparral yucca, several unique varieties of cactus, wild tomatoes, white sage, bush rue, mission manzanita, and many others.

Language

Spanish is the official language of Mexico. English is spoken exclusively in the port area.

Currency

Is the Peso. 1 US Dollar = \$20.39 in Pesos. Vendors near the port will take US dollars and handle the conversion math. Major credit cards accepted in many locations.

Cell Service

Widespread 4G coverage.

Internet

Free wifi in many public spaces and tourist beaches. Available at most cafes and pubs with your purchase.

Excursions

La Bufadora Punta Banda Tour

Discover La Bufadora, about 45 minutes from Ensenada Port on this tour that will drive you around, showing landmarks along the way to make the most of your time. You'll have time to explore the more than 80 Mexican handicraft stores and restaurants with local cuisine. A highlight is seeing the impressive marine geyser, which shoots in the air, sometimes reaching more than 30 meters during high tide.

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Ensenada/La-Bufadora/d26218-328756P1?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086¤cy=USD>

Tacos, Brews and Views Tour

Embark on a foodie adventure of Ensenada—and head to locals-loved spots you might miss if exploring alone—on this small-group tasting tour. With your guide in the lead, enjoy bites everywhere from a street-food cart beloved by Anthony Bourdain to the taqueria credited with inventing Baja fish and shrimp tacos. To accompany the food, sample craft beer at local breweries, and admire ocean views along the way.

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Ensenada/Tacos-Brews-and-Views-Tour/d26218-378712P1?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086¤cy=USD>

Shore Excursion Ensenada: ATV + Taco & Bufadora

Take an exhilarating private ATV ride through Ensenada's Las Canadas Park and feel the thrill of jolting along its off-road tracks, surrounded by lush jungle. Enjoy a full hour of quad biking before stopping at a street food stand to refuel on some tasty tacos.

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Ensenada/ATV-Tour-and-Transporation-Las-Canadas/d26218-256866P4?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086¤cy=USD>

Pai Pai Animal Park: Private Ride and Ticket Assistance

Enjoy a scenic ride through Ensenada with your very own private driver, ready and waiting with a personalized sign just for you! You'll feel like a VIP for the day, riding in clean, comfortable transportation — with zero stress about getting back to your ship on time. Along the way, stop for a photo at the colorful Ensenada Beach Sign, a favorite Instagram-worthy spot near the ocean. As you journey to Pai Pai Eco Park, you'll pass through a charming Mexican town, agricultural fields, and a peaceful estuary, offering you a unique look at local Baja scenery. Your friendly local guide will share fun facts about life in Ensenada, and give you insider tips on the best taco spots and where to shop after your animal encounter.

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Ensenada/Pai-Pai-Eco-Park-Transporation/d26218-256866P8?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086¤cy=USD>

Horseback Riding on the Beach

Ride horses on both desert trails and on the beach during this small-group horseback riding adventure in Ensenada. This is great for those vacationing in Ensenada, or stopping off for a cruise visit. Families are welcome, as are all levels of horseback riders. Your guide takes you to the best places for riding and enjoying Ensenada's sunshine.

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Ensenada/Experience-the-Magic-of-Horseback-Riding-on-the-Beach/d26218-362590P2?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086¤cy=USD>

Exploring on your own

- Walk the seaside boardwalk around the marinas to the shopping and restaurant area.