Jalisco, Colima & Michoacán Coasts

This lost coast is wild and lonely, an arcing firmament of rock, honey-sand beaches, rolling coastal hills, picturesque fishing villages, bird-choked lagoons and a few larger-than-life resort areas set against the ever-present waves and seemingly endless sunsets of the Pacific Ocean.

This is still relatively virgin territory, with large-scale resort development taking place in just a few select towns like Manzanillo and Barra de Navidad. Outside these pockets, unassuming beach towns where 20 pesos buys a palm-thatched camping spot for the night will delight travelers, as will plentiful surf breaks and locals who say *hola* and invite you over for a *cerveza*.

Traveling south from Puerto Vallarta, Hwy 200 jaunts inland through the state of Jalisco past Cabo Corrientes before heading back to the welcoming arms of the Pacific. This is the beginning of the Costa Alegre, where low-fi tourism development is taking place in towns like Playa Pérula, Tenacatita and La Manzanilla, before hitting grander notes in the Bahía de Navidad, home to one of the region’s stand-out coastal cities, Barra de Navidad.

Further south is the Colima coast, known mostly for the aging resort town of Manzanillo, and a few decent surfing and snorkeling spots. As the coast continues its march southeast, you hit the state of Michoacán. For the intrepid soul, this is the stuff of dreams: forgotten beaches, big surf, few travelers and a low-key defiance toward the march of time and ‘progress.’

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Soaking up some Vitamin D on the impossibly perfect bleached-blonde beaches of *Bahía Tenacatita* (p143) before heading out on a birding expedition in the neighboring *mangrove lagoon* (p143)
- Sucking down margaritas and shrimp cocktails after a hard day lounging in the mocha-chocolata sand of *Barra de Navidad* (p150), a chic and laid-back mini-resort
- Leaving the coast for a few days to explore the sights and sounds of the colonial capital of *Colima* (p157) or the verdant hills of the *Manantlán Biosphere* (p161)
- Starting your never-ending surf session on the adrenaline-charged breaks of *Boca de Pascuales* (p162), *La Tica* (p164) or *Barra de Nexpa* (p166)
- Witnessing the circle of life as sea turtles come ashore in summer and fall to lay precious eggs at *Playa Maruata* (p165)

**MANZANILLO JANUARY DAILY HIGH: 27°C | 80°F**

**MANZANILLO JULY DAILY HIGH: 30°C | 86°F**
JALISCO, COLIMA & MICHOACÁN COASTS

230km To Acapulco
260km To Tepic

Navidad
Bahía de Santiago
Bahía del Cuasteco

lonelyplanet.com