



Central Pacific Coast

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Best Places to Eat

- Ocean Grill (p526)
- Café des Artistes (p524)
- El Faro de Bucerías (p539)
- Pedro & Lola (p499)
- Mariscos El Aliviane (p536)
- La Alberca (p504)

Best Places to Stay

- Casa Dulce Vida (p522)
- Imanta (p514)
- Hacienda San Angel (p523)
- Mar de Jade (p510)
- Aura del Mar (p551)

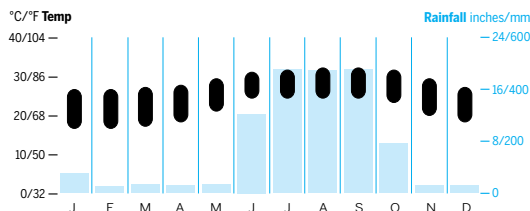
Why Go?

Those gigantic aquamarine waves have forever provided that primal, pulsating rhythm that backs any visit to Mexico's Central Pacific Coast, a land of stunning beaches and giant sunsets. Here, you can lounge on the sand and spy humpback whales breaching on the horizon, pelicans flying in formation or a pod of dolphins rising from the waves. Surf world-class breaks, kayak through mangrove-fringed lagoons, munch fresh lobster in ramshackle fishing villages, or hang onto the back of a pickup packed with locals roaring inland toward the blue silhouette of the lofty Sierra Madre. Or switch into lounge mode, margarita in hand, poolside, at a world-class luxury hotel.

Whether you're here for a week of cushy beachfront decadence, or months of down-to-earth exploration on the cheap, the good life on the Pacific coast means finding your own beat.

When to Go

Puerto Vallarta



Feb Perfect beach weather. Carnaval reigns in Mazatlán.

Jun–Aug Surf's up and prices are down at Pacific Mexico's prime surfing destinations.

Nov–Dec Puerto Vallarta celebrates everything from gay pride to the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Central Pacific Coast Highlights

- 1 Take the pulse of the new **Old Mazatlán** (p491) in its renovated historic center
- 2 People-watch and promenade on the beautiful beachfront *malecón* (oceanfront promenade) in **Puerto Vallarta** (p514)
- 3 Surf the aggressive barrel swells in **Boca de Pascuales** (p537)
- 4 Thrill at the fearless finesse of **La Quebrada Clavadistas** (p561) (cliff divers) in Acapulco
- 5 Soak up the mellow party vibe along the surfer-happy sands and the cafe-encircled plaza in **Sayulita** (p511)
- 6 Enjoy the easy tempo and local hospitality in charming **Zihuatanejo** (p546)
- 7 Watch sunrise over the lagoon and sunset over the Pacific in **Pie de la Cuesta** (p557)

