



Central Pacific Coast

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Best Places to Eat

- Héctor's Bistro (p501)
- La Alberca (p506)
- Café des Artistes (p530)
- El Manglito (p537)
- Bistro del Mar (p557)

Best Places to Stay

- Techos de México (p513)
- Siete Lunas (p516)
- Pepe's Hideaway (p540)
- Troncones Point Hostel (p547)
- Aura del Mar (p554)

Why Go?

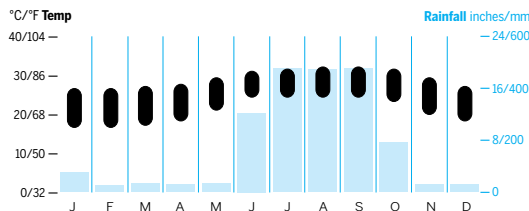
Gigantic aquamarine waves provide the backdrop and pulsating rhythm to any visit to Mexico's central Pacific coast, a land of stunning beaches and giant sunsets. You can indulge in all the tropical clichés here: eating sublime seafood under simple palm-frond roofs, drinking chilled coconut water while lounging in a hammock, enjoying poolside cocktails at an upmarket resort. The nightlife is great and there's a beach for everyone, whether you prefer yours backed by high-rise hotels or tumbledown cabins.

There's even more going on in the ocean, where you can surf world-class breaks and spot humpback whales breaching on the horizon, battalions of mother turtles arriving to lay their eggs, pelicans flying in formation or pods of dolphins rising from the waves.

Whether your thing is a cushy week of beachside pampering or a budget quest for the perfect wave, the Pacific coast has it covered.

When to Go

Puerto Vallarta



Feb Perfect beach weather. Carnival reigns in Mazatlán.

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

Nov & Dec Puerto Vallarta celebrates everything from sportfishing to mariachis to gay pride.

Central Pacific Coast Highlights

1 Hanging out in the beautifully restored center of **Mazatlán** (p493), watching sunsets with a cold Pacifico beer.

2 Exploring the curious island village of **Mexcaltitan** (p506), crunching its shrimp and wondering at its history.

3 People-watching on the beautiful *malecón* (beach promenade) in **Puerto Vallarta** (p518).

4 Surfing aggressive barrel swells in **Boca de Pascuales** (p542).

5 Thrilling at the fearless finesse of **Clavistas de la Quebrada** (cliff divers, p563) in nightlife-rich **Acapulco** (p562).

6 Soaking up the party vibe along the sands and streets of **Sayulita** (p515).

7 Enjoying the easy tempo and local hospitality in charming **Zihuatanejo** (p550).

8 Chowing down on seafood on the long beach at paradisiacal **Barra de Potosí** (p559).

9 Exploring surf beaches and traditional settlements on the **Michoacán coast** (p543).

10 Browsing the excellent collection of indigenous art at **Museo Regional de Nayarit** (p511) in Tepic.

