

MEXICO

BAJA CALIFORNIA

NORTE

ENGLISH VERSION

 **CONACULTA**



Instituto Nacional
de Antropología
e Historia

Mexicali



The name of this border city, capital of the state, is a contraction of the words Mexico and California. On the USA side, Calexico is the reverse acronym formed by this combination. Mexicali was founded in 1904, when the region already had a considerable population attracted by

its fertile valley. For a good part of the 20th century, its main activity was cotton production and, currently, it is a mayor automobile, aerospace, health and telecommunications center. Mexicali offers an ample range of cultural attractions, such as the **Regional Museum**, the **Sol del Niño Museum**, the **University of Baja California Museum**, the **State Arts Center**, the **Cultural Studies Center**, the **Museum of the University of Baja California (UABC)** and the **State Theater**. Other interesting points are the **Former Government Palace**, the **Colorado River Land Company Building**, the **Cachanilla Plaza**, the **Mexicali Brewery**, the **Calafia Bullfighting Ring** and the **City Zoo**. **Los Algodones** town and several interesting sites are also found in the area, including the **Guadalupe Canyon**, with its sulphur water springs, the **Salada Lake**, the **Morelos dunes**

PHOTO: SECTOR BAJA CALIFORNIA

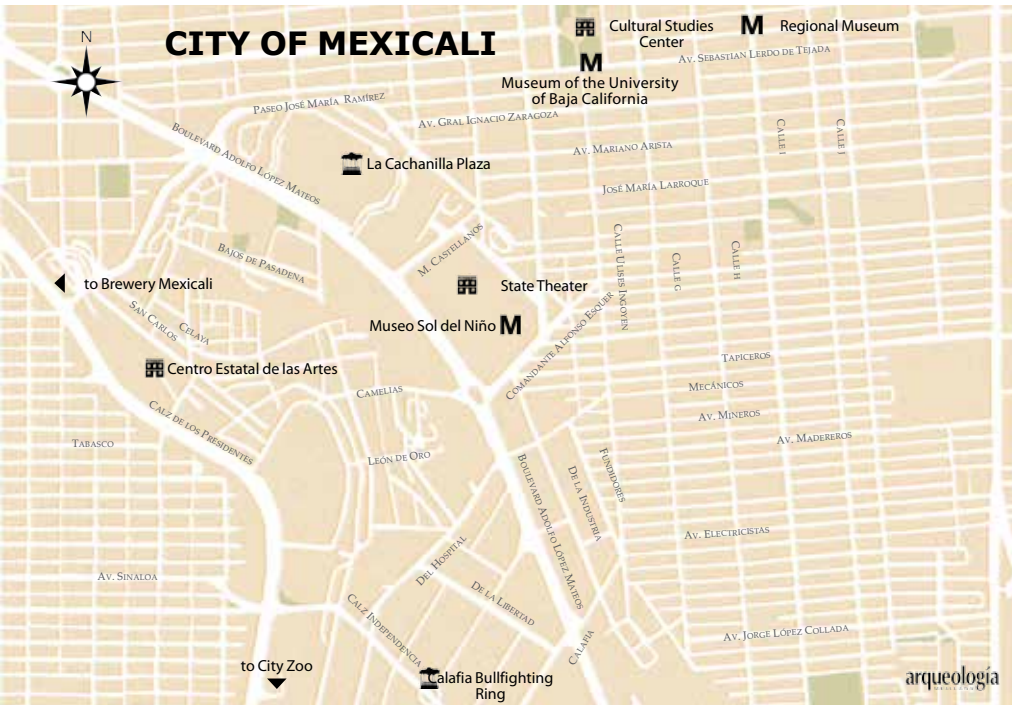
Guadalupe Canyon.

and **Dam**. It is worth mentioning that the **Cerro Prieto** geothermal plant is the largest in Latin America and the second largest worldwide.



Mexicali.

PHOTO: © CPTM / RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO



Ensenada



Known as the "Pacific's Cinderella", Ensenada includes several interesting sites, such as the **State Arts Center**, the **City Theater**, the **Regional History Museum**, the **Community Museum**, the **Rivera Social, Civic and Cultural Center**, the **Former Rivera Pacific Casino**; the traditional **Husson's Cantina**, founded in 1892, was the first canteen to be established in the California states. In 1888, the first Mexican winery, the **Bodegas de Santo Tomás**, started operations in the city. Other attractions include the **Revolución Park**, the **Tijuana-Ensenada Panoramic Highway** observation point and the international **regattas**. It also offers beautiful natural areas, such as the **Isla de Guadalupe Biosphere Reserve**; **La Bufadora**, a sea-geyser with a water-jet reaching up to 18 meters high; the **Constitución de 1857 National Park**, **Hanson Lake** is located inside; the **Island and Bay Todos Santos**, an excellent location for observing and sighting gray whales, and **San Miguel, El Faro, Baja** and **Estero beaches**. Ensenada ranks second worldwide as destination port for international cruisers.

Sierra of San Pedro Mártir National park

With its 63 000 hectares, it possesses almost vertical walls and cliffs descending to the San Felipe Desert. It is the highest mountain sierra in the peninsula and its highest summit is the

PHOTO: © CPTM / RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO



Ensenada.

Picacho del Diablo, reaching 3 100 meters msl. It is a place with ideal conditions for astronomical observation, it hosts the **National Astronomical Observatory**, one of the three best observatories worldwide.

Valle de Guadalupe

A region famous for its ample vineyards, the basis for the production of world-quality wines, which accounts for 90% of the total na-

tional production of table wines. The valley is also rich in olive and orange orchards.

Constitución de 1857 National Park

It covers a surface of 5 009 hectares and is one of the few green areas of Baja California. It possesses pine and oak forests growing over granite rocks. It is located at the heart of the **Sierra of Juarez**. The main attraction is **Hanson Lake**.



PHOTO: © CPTM / RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

Vineyards, Valle de Guadalupe.



PHOTO: © CPTM/RICARDO ESPINOSA-REC

Bahía de los Ángeles.

San Felipe



This town, called “the shrimp capital” is a mayor commercial and fishing port. The **“Juan García Aldama” Cucapá Community Museum** and **boardwalk** are located in this town. Among it is many natural attractions the most outstanding are the **Valle de los Gigantes**, the habitat of enormous plants called “cirios” (candle lights); the **Sierra of San Pedro Mártir**, the tallest in the peninsula; **San Luis Gonzaga Bay** and **Punta Estrella, Puertecitos, Alfonsina, Punta Calama-jué** and **Estero Percebú** beaches.

Bahía de los Ángeles



One of the main beach destinations in the region, this bay is surrounded by **La Libertad** and **Sierra of Las Ánimas** mountain ranges, with their “cirios”-covered slopes, the emblem plant of the region; the **Valle de los Cirios** protected area is located nearby. It is recommended not to miss visiting the **“Nature and Culture” Museum**, the **Punta La Gringa, Punta Arena, Brisa Marina Beaches**; the Bays of **San Rafael** and **las Ánimas**, and **Rasa** and **Ángel de la Guarda Islands**, the latter being the biggest in the Gulf of California.

Valle de los Cirios Flora and Fauna National Park



Bounding with the Vizcaíno Desert, it covers 194 hectares and is an area rich in fossils. “Cirios”, the gigantic columnar cactuses in this area, reach up to 15 meters height. Other plant species abounding in this National Park are the agaves “cardón” and “torote blanco”.

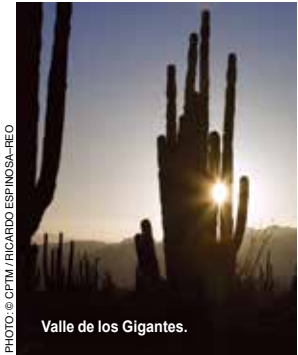


PHOTO: © CPTM/RICARDO ESPINOSA-REC

Valle de los Gigantes.

BAJA CALIFORNIA



Tecate



Some of its main attractions are the **Galería del icbc**, the **Tecate Brewery**, the **Government Palace**, the **Los Encinos**, **Hidalgo and Ojai-Koa Parks**; the **San José** and **La Puerta Ranches**, and **La Rumorosa**. Travelling on board the **Tijuana-Tecate Tourist Train** is a must.

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La Rumorosa, Tecate.

El Vallecito



Located in the area formerly occupied by the Kumiai Indians, one of the four Indian groups that inhabited the peninsula in Pre-Hispanic times. They were mostly hunters and collectors who used to establish temporary camps depending on the seasons of the year and carried out magic rituals to favor success in hunting, painting diverse symbolic motifs related to their rituals in caves and other rocky shelters. Several cave paintings, such as “the shark”, the “little devil or solstice”, the “rooted man” and the “Indian cave” have been located in El Vallecito.



El Vallecito.

PHOTO: © CPTM / RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

Tijuana



It is considered Mexico's border city by excellence. It borders San Diego, California, and is the most frequently crossed immigration control post in the world. Among the main attractions of the city, it is worth mentioning the **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Cathedral**; the **Revolución Avenue**, the oldest street of the city; **Las Californias Museum**; the **Tijuana State Arts Center**; the **Wax Museum**; the **Tijuana Cultural Center (cecut)**; the **El Cubo**; the **Culture Palace**; the **Torre de Agua Caliente**, built in 1929; the **Palacio de Frontón Jai Alai**; the **Agua Caliente Horse Track**; the **Tijuana Bullfighting Ring**; the **José María Morelos y Pavón State Park**; **Caesar's Hotel**, cradle of the famous Caesar's Salad; the **L.A. Cetto winery**, the largest in Baja California, and the **Popo Market**.

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Tijuana Cultural Center.

Ejido Ignacio Zaragoza



A place linked to the hunter-gatherers who inhabited Baja California in Pre-Hispanic time, about 9 000 years ago. A considerable number of stone tools and artifacts were discovered in the area, including scrapers and arrow heads. A local museum displaying these pieces can be visited in the site.

Rosarito



Attractions to visit in Rosarito include the **Misión de San Miguel Arcángel**, the “**Wa Kuatay**” **Community Museum**, the **El Rosario Community Museum**, and the **Calafia Hotel** –with the small museum rooms depicting the history of the state–, the **Popotla Crafts Corridor** and the **Rosarito Beach Boulevard** (former Benito Juárez Boulevard). The most visited beaches are those extending from **Punta Descanso** to **Punta Mezquite**, as well as the **Ala Delta** and **Popotla** beaches. Other interesting sites are the **Rosarito Canyon**, the **Primo Tapia** and **Ejido Mazatlán Dunes**, and the **Baja Cinema Studios**.

San Quintín



Known as the “clam capital”, San Quintín hosts the **Bahía Falsa**, where seven extinct volcanoes can be admired and kayaking can be practiced. Other interesting sites are the **San Quintín**, **Colonet**, **Camalú**, **San Ramón** and **Santa María Bays**. The **Misión de Santo Domingo de la Frontera** and the **Muelle Viejo** are also worth visiting.

Camino Real Misionero



Since the end of the 17th Century and up to the 19th Century, Jesuit, Dominican and Franciscan friars trying to convert natives in the region founded several missions. Among the most important are: **San Miguel Arcángel de la Frontera**, **San Vicente Ferrer**, **Santo Domingo de la Frontera**, **Nuestra Señora del Santísimo Rosario de Viñadaco**, **San Fernando de Velicatá**, **San Francisco de Borja Adac** and **Santa Gertrudis La Magna**.



Misión de San Francisco de Borja Adac.

PHOTO: © CPTM / RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO



Fauna in the Gulf of California Islands.

PHOTO: SECTOR BAJA CALIFORNIA



Bahía San Quintín.

Isla of Guadalupe Biosphere Reserve



A volcanic island with heights reaching 1 300 meters, its importance is due to the abundance of marine mammals, such as Northern Sea elephant seal, the fine Guadalupe sea wolf, the common seal and otter. It is also home to sea and land mollusks, birds and a great variety of fish.

Islands and protected areas of the Gulf of California



Considered as a World Heritage Reserve, it covers 934,756 hectares, embracing zones pertaining to Baja California, Baja California Sur, and Sonora. The habitat of endangered animal species, such as the sea cow, it is also the home of several marine ecosystems of major relevance for the region as well as of wetlands, mangroves, and mountain and desert ecosystems.

FOLK ART



Baja California possesses a varied craft tradition. Objects manufactured with sea materials stand out, such as the **shells and winkles frames** of San Felipe, and those made by Indian groups, including baskets manufactured with **woven cachanilla**, **willow and wicker**. Tecate **flower pots** and other **red-clay ceramic objects** are also remarkable.

CUISINE



Baja California is a state famous for its ample number of Mexican and International restaurants, offering Japanese, Chinese and French Cuisines. Among the local dishes stand out the **machaca La Mesa style**, the **Caesar's salad**, **Puerto Nuevo lobster**, **garlic duck**, **shrimps** in several presentations and the **Tecate bread**. Traditional beverages include **beer** and **table wines**, produced in the local vineyards, as well as the **pitahaya** and **mesquite bean waters** and the **acorn tea**.

PHOTO: © CPTM / RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO



Shrimps.

And don't miss ...

- Touring the City of Tijuana
- Sighting gray whales
- Visiting the Gulf of California Reserve
- Visiting Mexicali
- Admiring the El Vallecito cave art
- Going to Ensenada
- Enjoying a good table wine or a beer
- Taking a tour the missions
- Admiring the natural zones
- Knowing the Valle de Guadalupe vineyards

Tourist information

www.descubrebajacalifornia.com

Tijuana

Secretary of Tourism Information Module: Calle Juan Ruiz de Alarcón no.1572, Zona Río, C.P. 22320, Tijuana, B.C., 664-682-3367

Ensenada

Tourism Delegation Offices: Blvd. Lázaro Cárdenas and Calle las Rocas no. 1477, Zona Centro, C.P. 22800, 646-172-5444

Tourist Information Module

Plaza Cívica, Blvd. Costero and Macheros, Zona Centro, C.P. 22800, 646-178-3070, info@proturismoensenada.org.mx

Mexicali

Tourism Delegation Offices: Blvd. Benito Juárez, no. 1, and L. Montejano, Col. Cantú, C.P. 21260, 686-566-1277

San Quintín

Tourism Sub-Delegation Offices: Santa Fe, km 178.3, Carretera Transpeninsular no. 1, road Ensenada-San Quintín, C.P. 22920, 616-165-3645

Rosarito Beaches

Tourism Delegation Offices: Blvd. Benito Juárez, no. 907, local 29, Centro Comercial Oceana Plaza, Zona Centro, C.P. 22710, 661-612-5222 y 612-5127

Tecate

Tourism Delegation Offices: Andador Libertad no. 1305, Zona Centro, C.P. 21400, 665-654 1095, Tourist help: 078

San Felipe

Tourism Sub-Delegation Offices: Ave. Mar de Cortés and Calz. Chetumal no. 101, local 2, C.P. 21850, 686-577-1865

Tijuana Tourism and Conventions Committee: Paseo de los Héroes no. 9365-201, Zona Río, C.P. 22320, 664-684-0537, exts. 105, 106 and 107, www.ocvtijuana.org

Public Trust for the Tourism Promotion of Ensenada: Blvd. Lázaro Cárdenas no. 609.5, Edif. Hotel Santo Tomás, Zona Centro, C.P. 22800, 646-178-8588

Mexicali Tourism and Conventions Committee: Blvd. López Mateos no #. esq. Av. de las Camelias, Col. Bella Vista, C.P. 21150, 686-551-9800 y 551-9801

Playas de Rosarito Tourism and Conventions Committee: Blvd. Benito Juárez, no. 907, local 14, Centro Comercial Oceana Plaza, Zona Centro, C.P. 22710, 661-612 3078

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PORTADA: VIÑEDO, VALLE DE GUADALUPE. FOTO: SECTOR BAJA CALIFORNIA. CONTRAPORTADA: LA RUMOROSA. FOTO: ©CPTM / RICARDO ESPINOSA-REO

National Chamber of Restaurants and Spiced Food Industry (CANIRAC) Tijuana: Av. Nezahualcóyotl, núm. 1650, Zona Río, C.P. 22320, 664-682-8744 y 682-8745, info@caniractijuana.com.mx, www.caniractijuana.com.mx

CANIRAC Ensenada: Calle 4a. and Obregón, no. 527, local 8, Zona Centro, C.P. 22800, 646-174-0603 y 174-0448, gerencia@caniracensenada.com; gerencia@caniracensenada.org, www.caniracensenada.com.mx

CANIRAC Mexicali: Calle G, no. 1501, local 7, between Calle Zaragoza and Mariano Arista, Col. Nueva, C.P. 21100, 686-554 3285, presidencia@caniracmexicali.com, caniracmexicali@hotmail.com

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Baja California

Emergency: 066

Mexicali

Civil Protections:

686-557 2850

Federal Highway Patrol:

686-554-29-09

Tijuana

Civil Protections:

664-634 9360

Federal Highway Patrol:

664-682 5285

Ensenada

Federal Highway Patrol:

646-176 1311

