



## Things You Should Know About Mexico's Beautiful City of Mazatlán

Known as “The Pearl of the Pacific”, Mazatlán is a thriving cultural destination in southwest Mexico. Located in the Mexican state of Sinaloa, the city of Mazatlán has been a destination for both national and international celebrities—from Mexican opera star Angela Peralta to American film star John Wayne—since the mid-1980s. Today, Mazatlán continues to be a popular destination and cultural epicenter for locals and foreigners alike. At the heart of Mazatlán lies Centro Historico, a district that represents a renaissance of national heritage and entrepreneurial endeavors.

Each year, artists from all over the world travel to Mazatlán to take part in Temporado Primavera, the city's high culture season.

### *History*

Mazatlán is the second-largest city in Sinaloa; founded in 1531 by an army of Spaniards and Indian settlers who made a living by using the natural harbor to ship out gold from the region. By the mid-19th century, trade connections between Mazatlán and Germany enabled a wave of German immigration. These new citizens helped develop Mazatlán into a thriving commercial seaport. Despite its success, Mazatlán witnessed turbulent times during this period and was abandoned twice to foreign invaders. Mazatlán also played a role during the Gold Rush, as fortune hunters from the United States East Coast sailed from Atlantic ports to Mexican ports in the Gulf of Mexico. Upon their arrival, these aspiring miners would travel overland for weeks to Mazatlán, where they would embark from the port to arrive in San Francisco. Today, Mazatlán has been rediscovered by newcomers and locals alike, spurring a new era of tourism and growth.

### *Tourism*

Set at the foot of the Sierra Madre Mountains on a peninsula that extends into the Pacific Ocean, Mazatlán is one of the Mexican Riviera's premier resort areas. Its remarkable scenic beauty is complemented by a delightful festive atmosphere and a wealth of exciting activities.

Although Mazatlán is one of Mexico's most popular vacation destinations, it has another identity as the largest port in Mexico, with a bustling economy independent of the tourism industry. The City is concentrated in two areas: In the north, there is the Zona Dorada (Golden Zone) where the majority of hotels and restaurants are located. In the south there is El Centro (downtown) where the heart of the city is. These two centers are linked by Avenue Del Mar, also known as the Malecon, which is a scenic beachfront avenue that bridges the gap between the two areas.

Whether you choose to be pampered in Mazatlán's luxury hotels and resorts, visit its active seaport and historical attractions or enjoy hiking, bird-watching or aquatic sports, Mazatlán offers the perfect vacation for any traveler.

## **Culture**

### • **Centro Historico**

Centro Historico is the heart of all culture in Mazatlán. Ideal for gathering with friends, this historical center offers a festive atmosphere, rich with tradition and culture. Inhabited by art, literature and old-age architecture, Centro Historico allows visitors to discover both the past and present of this truly unique city.

### • **Plazuela Machado in El Centro**

Built in 1837, Plazuela Machado is one of the oldest plazas in Mazatlán. Featuring architecture influenced by the French and Spanish, the recently restored 18th century buildings include sidewalk cafes, theaters, museums and hotels.

### • **Mazatlán International Center**

The Mazatlán International Center is a world-class convention center, contributing to the development of business in Mazatlán and the sustainability of the region. The building's design includes exceptional architectural shapes that symbolize the natural elements of the city, including the sun, wind and marine breeze. Lined with the works of local artists, the hallways of the International Center transmit the rich culture of this unique Mexican city.

### • **Museo Arqueologia**

Museo Arqueologia is a small archaeological museum located in Centro Historico. The museum features pre-Hispanic artifacts and includes a contemporary art exhibit, which outlines pre-Hispanic Sinaloan history and culture.

### • **Museo de Arte**

This art museum is located in a beautifully restored building in the heart of Centro Historico. Filled with outstanding examples of 20th and 21st century Mexican art, Museo de Arte features both local artists and the work of artists from all over Mexico.

### • **Malecon**

Considered the heart and life of Mazatlán, this four-mile waterfront street stretches along the coast from the Golden Zone all the way to Old Town. As you walk, you'll discover several beachfront restaurants, discos and night clubs. Further south, Malecon offers you the opportunity to relax while dining on fresh seafood under a palapa on the beach or viewing one of several artistic monuments.

### • **Olas Atlas**

Mazatlán's first resort beach, Olas Altas became a popular tourist destination in the 1950's. Once a frequent vacation spot for actors like John Wayne and Gregory Peck, Olas Altas has become a popular destination for surfers and families alike. Located within walking distance of Plaza Machado, this beach makes it easy to combine sunbathing with dozens of other activities.

### • **Angela Peralta Theater**

Founded in 1874, Angela Peralta Theater was originally known as the Teatro Rubio. Known as one of Mazatlán's crown jewels, the theater was later named in memory of Angela Peralta, a distinguished Mexican soprano and one of the best operatic voices of her time. Since its reconstruction a decade ago, Angela Peralta Theater has become an important center for cultural development in Sinaloa.

### • **El Faro Lighthouse**

El Faro is the highest lighthouse in the Americas, located 523 feet above high tide, at the peak of Cerro del Creston. After casting its first light in 1879, El Faro's beacon can be seen for 30 nautical miles and is the second-highest operating lighthouse in the world.

### • **Gastronomy**

The city and port of Mazatlán offers a variety of seafood, Mexican food and international food restaurants for all kind of visitors. Known as the 'shrimp capital', you can enjoy an assortment of dishes prepared with it, including shrimp ceviche, shrimp stuffed with bacon and cheese, shrimp with tequila, shrimp prepared with beer and shrimp soup, among other delights.

Visitors can also enjoy non-seafood dishes, including chilorio, Sinaloa-style grilled chicken and mochomo.

• **Chilorio**—A Mazatlán specialty prepared with shredded pork meat seasoned with chili sauce and spices that can be enjoyed for breakfast.

- **Sinaloa-style grilled chicken**—Popular for its great taste, not only in Mazatlan, but in various other locations in Mexico.

- **Mochomo**—A popular dish made with cured, smoked meat.

Mazatlán also has plenty of treats for those with a sweet tooth. Visitors can enjoy *jamoncillo* (bars made with milk, sugar and nuts); *pepitorias* (candies with sesame, pumpkin seeds or peanuts and *piloncillo* honey); *torrejas* (similar to French toast); *cocadas* (coconut candies); rice pudding and mango preserves.