ENSENADA MEXICO

DIY WATERFRONT + DOWNTOWN DAY

WALKING • FOOD • SHOPPING • LOCAL CULTURE • OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Amazing food
Beautiful views
Local markets
Famous fish tacos
La Bufadora
Wine country
Easy to explore!

PORT INFORMATION

- Ships dock directly at the Ensenada Cruise Port.
- No tender required.
- The waterfront, marina and downtown are close and walkable.
- You can easily explore on your own without an excursion.
- Always be aware of your all-aboard time.



GOOD TO KNOW

- The Malecón (Ventana al Mar) is a beautiful waterfront area with shops, restaurants and great photo spots.
- Ensenada is famous for fresh seafood and Baja-style fish tacos.
- La Bufadora (blowhole) and Valle de Guadalupe (wine country) are not walkable – transportation is required.
- Mexican pesos are the official currency, but U.S. dollars are widely accepted in tourist areas.
- Ensenada is a great port for a DIY day with or without an excursion.

Great food, beautiful views and a laid-back vibe make Ensenada a favorite cruise port!

DESTINATION IDEAS (AT A GLANCE)



Cruise terminal → waterfront + Calle Primera

Walk through the port exit before exploring downtown.



La Bufadora

South on Punta Banda; road excursion.



Valle de Guadalupe

Inland northeast; winery excursion.



Nearby beaches

Check official water-quality and closure notices.

POPULAR EXCURSIONS (from Ensenada)



La Bufadora (Natural Blowhole)



Valle de Guadalupe (Wine Tasting)



Baja Beaches (Playa Hermosa & more)



ATV & Off-Road Tours



Food & Taco Tours

1 CRUISE PORT



- Ships dock directly.
- Walk through the port exit before exploring downtown.
- Shops, restaurants and marina are right there.
- Easy to explore on foot.
- Beautiful harbor views.

2 VENTANA AL MAR (MALECÓN)



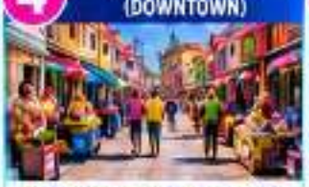
- Scenic waterfront promenade.
- Iconic Ensenada sign.
- Giant Mexican flag.
- Shops, restaurants, art and live music.
- Great place for photos.
- Free to explore.

3 SEAFOOD MARKET (MERCADO NEGRO)



- Fresh seafood, local vendors.
- Famous for fish tacos, shrimp and ceviche.
- Casual, authentic atmosphere.
- Great spot to grab lunch.
- Try Baja-style fish tacos!

4 CALLE PRIMERA (DOWNTOWN)



- Shops, souvenirs, local crafts.
- Restaurants, bars and cafés.
- Colorful buildings and murals.
- Artisan goods, jewelry, clothing and tequila.
- Easy walking from the marina.
- Great people-watching.

5 FISH TACOS & LOCAL FOOD



- Ensenada is famous for Baja-style fish tacos.
- Also try: shrimp tacos, ceviche, seafood tostadas.
- Local margaritas and beer.
- Lots of casual and sit-down options.
- Delicious and affordable!

6 LA BUFADORA (NATURAL BLOWHOLE)



- Famous marine blowhole.
- Allow substantial road travel each way; traffic varies.
- Great views, photo ops and local market.
- A must-see natural attraction!
- Not walkable – transportation required.

7 VALLE DE GUADALUPE (WINE COUNTRY)



- Baja California's famous wine region.
- Wineries, vineyards, great food.
- Allow substantial road travel each way; traffic varies.
- Best done by tour or private driver.
- Perfect for wine lovers!

8 BEACHES NEAR ENSENADA



- Playa Hermosa and other nearby beaches.
- Beach walks; swim only where official notices and conditions permit.
- Water sports, beach restaurants and loungers.
- Transportation is required (taxi, shuttle or excursion).
- Not as walkable as downtown.

9 HARBOR BOAT TOURS



- Check local operators, route, availability and return time.
- See Ensenada's harbor, marina and coastline.
- Great photo opportunities.
- La Bufadora is normally a road excursion.
- Compare prices and confirm what's included before booking.

10 MORE THINGS TO DO



- Riviera Cultural Center (museums & history).
- Art, murals and local culture.
- Shopping for crafts, tequila and souvenirs.
- Enjoy the marina.
- Take lots of photos.
- Relax and soak in the laid-back Baja vibe!

FREE THINGS TO DO

- Walk the Malecón (Ventana al Mar)
- See the giant Mexican flag
- Explore the marina
- Walk downtown (Calle Primera)
- Browse the seafood market
- Take photos of the harbor
- People-watch and enjoy the vibe

CHEAP THINGS TO DO

- Grab fish tacos
- Enjoy an agua fresca or local beer
- Walk the waterfront
- Shop local markets
- Take a harbor tour
- Buy a small souvenir
- Split a taxi with others to La Bufadora or a nearby beach



BEST FOR

- Families with kids
- Photo lovers
- Foodies
- Shoppers
- Wine lovers
- Adventure seekers

IMPORTANT TIPS

- Ships dock directly – no tender.
- Know your all-aboard time.
- Use sun protection and wear comfortable shoes.
- La Bufadora and Valle de Guadalupe require transportation.
- Pesos are the official currency (U.S. dollars are widely accepted).
- Give yourself extra time to get back to the ship.

Checked Oct 2026 – verify port route and beach advisories.