

# Things to Do & See in La Paz

Following are a few of our favorite things to do in La Paz. This list is by no means complete, and businesses here come and go, so it's always best to check first to confirm hours and location.

## Exploring & Shopping:

- Stroll the malecón in the morning or at sunset for great people-watching and souvenir shopping. Enjoy the local street food scene. Check out fish tacos, street corn layered with crema and chilies, tostilocos - a local treat with chips or tortillas smothered in salsa and cheese, gorditas both sweet and savory varieties, or a street hot dog. Stop by La Fuente for local ice cream or Giuletta y Romeo for some delicious gelato.
- Shop for souvenirs all along the Malecón and at the Artesenales area on the corner of Rosales. Don't miss the Tequila selection at [La Cayetana](#), beside Taco Fish at the other end of the malecón.
- Visit the [farmer's market](#) on Tuesday and Saturday mornings, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., just off the malecón, on Antonio Rosales between Ignacio Allende and Nicolas Bravo. The Sunday market also features many local artisans selling their wares, but no produce.
- Stop in at one of the [Doce Cuarenta](#) coffee shop locations such as the one on Calle Madero for organic fresh ground coffee and pastries, and browse the "Got Baja" shop for t-shirts and souvenirs. Free WiFi available and courtyard patio with tables in back.
- "Go local" by visiting the [Mercado Madero](#) (corner of Revolución y Degollado) or Mercado Bravo (Nicolas Bravo and Guillermo Prieto) markets to find everything from fresh fish, steak, poultry, organic veggies, pottery and even leather shoes.
- Visit [Galerías La Paz](#), an outdoor shopping mall across from Sam's Club/Walmart on Olachéa, with a high-end department store (Liverpool), a Mac store, clothing and shoe stores, and more. There is also a Starbucks there.
- Go bargain hunting at the segundas (second hand stores) in Chametla (on the Trans-peninsular highway just past the turnoff for the La Paz airport).
- Shop at Casa Parra (right across the street from the Cathedral) for authentic Mexican art and decor from artists all over Mexico.
- Browse the stores in the shopping district around 16 de Septiembre between the malecón and Madero.
- Visit [Ibarra's](#) pottery to shop and (if you're lucky) watch them make pottery.





Parque Piedras y Pajaros with its life-size chess board.

- Enjoy the some of the lovely parks in el Centro including el Parque de Piedras y Pajaros (Rocks and Birds) on Constitución, the Parque Postal on the corner of Revolución and Constitución, the Velasco Gardens between the Cathedral and the art Museum on Cinco de Mayo, the Skate Park on the Malecón, and of course, the Esplanad de Malecón which runs along the water front for 5 km.

## Culture

- Download the app for iPhone and explore the many statues and hand painted street murals on the side streets just off the malecón.
- Visit the historic Cathedral of Nuestra Señora de La Paz (on the corner of Revolución & Independencia) and the newly constructed Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe (5 de Febrero between Revolución de 1910 and Aquiles Serdan).
- Tour the [Anthropology Museum](#) at Altamirano and Cinco de Mayo.
- Visit the Art Museum ([Museo de Arte de Baja California Sur](#)) on Cinco de Mayo.
- Checkout the [Museo de la Ballena y Ciencias del Mar \(Whale Museum\)](#) on Navarro s/n entre Altamirano y Gómez Farías.
- Check out the [Serpentario de La Paz](#), a local wildlife rehabilitation and education center(near Hotel La Posada).
- Visit [Perlas de La Paz](#), located at the Pichilingue port. Book the tour and learn about the history of pearls in La Paz and how pearls are farmed today as well as their efforts to reinvigorate the coral beds

in the area. Buy some jewelry made from locally grown pearls.

- Sign up for Spanish classes at [El Nopal Spanish Academy](#), or hire one of they many local tutors to teach you while you are here.
- Attend a Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos) celebration in November at Teatro de la Ciudad La Paz. [Get the details on our blog here.](#)
- Enjoy the Christmas decorations in downtown La Paz along the malecón during December. Weather permitting, there is also a Christmas boat parade. Check local event schedules for details and times.
- Attend a [Lucha Libre](#) (professional wrestling) event.
- Take a local cooking class from Hilda and Bernardo at Mi Cosina, to learn about local food and spices.
- If you come in the spring (mid-March), be sure to check out the El Triunfo Annual Artisan Festival where you can find a wide range of art and souvenirs, but you can also experience the impressive Bailar Folklorico (traditional dance demonstrations in authentic costume with music from all regions of Mexico).



Dancers performing one of the many traditional dances as part of the bailar folklorico at the El Triunfo Artesan Festival.



## Outdoor Adventures

- Rent bicycles at TIM Rent-A-Bike or Adso & Nara (just off the malecón) and tour the city.
- Swim and snorkel with whale sharks, La Paz's most famous attraction and an unforgettable experience. Tours are available right from the La Paz malecón and the whale sharks are just a 15 minute boat ride away. Tours start in November and go through March.
- Snorkel with sea lions at Isla Espiritu Santo. Tours available from the La Paz malecón or from Tecolote beach. We recommend [www.espiritubaja.com.mx](http://www.espiritubaja.com.mx) and [www.redtravelmexico.com](http://www.redtravelmexico.com).
- Go snorkeling right off the beach from dozens of locations from right in town to driving up to an hour to locations like Punta Arena or Pichilingue. Or go scuba diving in the Sea of Cortez, "The World's Aquarium." Ask a local dive shop for recommendations, or contact [The Cortez Club](#).
- Go hiking or mountain bike riding in the hills overlooking La Paz, or in El Centenario. La Paz trails can be found at <https://www.wikiloc.com/trails/hiking/mexico/baja-california-sur/misiones-de-la-paz>. The [Cerro de la Calavera](#) is a wonderful, short hike with breathtaking views.
- Rent stand-up paddle boards (SUPs) or kayaks at [Harker Board](#) on the malecón, or at Hotel La Posada, Hotel La Concha, or el Tesoro beach.
- Go deep sea fishing for tuna, dorado and marlin with one of the many local fishing charters, such as [Baja Rancheros](#).
- Go sailing: rent a sailboat and crew, and sail the Sea of Cortez for the day with [Dream Chaser Charters](#).
- Go whale watching during the gray whale season from December through March to see baby whales and their mamas in Puerto Chale, a 2 hour drive from La Paz. See our [blog for details](#).
- Go surfing or boogie boarding or take [surfing lessons](#) at Los Cerritos beach (on the Pacific side, just south of Todos Santos, about 1.5 hours away).
- Play golf at [Puerta Cortez golf club](#) or at [Paraiso del Mar](#) on the Mogote peninsula.
- Rent an ATV and explore the desert around La Paz. Or for something new, try dune boarding in the dunes on El Mogote with [4XFour Tours](#) or [Onboard Baja](#).
- Go horseback riding on the beach and visit a real Mexican ranch at [Rancho San Lorenzo](#).
- Take kite boarding or wind surfing lessons at La Ventana beach, a 30 minute drive from La Paz.
- Play Tennis, Pickleball or Paddel at many different locations in and around La Paz.
- Play tennis, pickleball or paddel at several locations in La Paz. Check out [San Juan Club Deportivo](#) in Chametla for free pickleball lessons.

## Beaches

- **Balandra:** 25 minutes from downtown La Paz, rent a car or take the bus. Voted one of the top beaches in Mexico, Balandra has shallow, very clear water and white sand. Very popular and limited capacity, so go early to get a spot. There is a fee for entry. Bring



your own food/beverage, there are no restrooms or facilities here. Paddle or kayak around the corner to the right to the next beach for good snorkeling and to see the famous "Mushroom Rock."

- **Tecolote:** Just 2 minutes past Balandra, 30 minutes from downtown La Paz. There are several full-service restaurants (lunch starts around 1:00 p.m.) with restrooms available. There is usually a small fee to use the chairs and tables in front of the restaurants.
- **Pichilingue:** Small beautiful beach near the ferry terminal on the way to Balandra. Two restaurants on site. SUP and kayak rentals available.
- **Playa Coromuel:** the city beach just north of downtown La Paz. The water slides are not operational.
- **El Tesoro:** Small beach next to the highway on the way to Balandra, with restaurant, restrooms and SUP/kayak rentals. Very nice beach with crystal clear water for paddle-boarding and kayaking.
- **La Concha beach hotel:** quick taxi or Uber ride from downtown. Beautiful private beach with food, kayak and SUP rentals, and bar. You can purchase a day pass to use the beach club.
- **La Posada:** right in front of Hotel La Posada. Services include kayak and SUP rentals, but the water is not great for swimming here. Dog-friendly, lots of local residents walk their dogs here.
- **El Mogote:** Very close to El Centenario, yet secluded, especially during the week. Great place to bring your dogs. You can often see dolphins and whale sharks from shore, be sure to keep a safe distance from wildlife. Park up on the dirt road and walk down, vehicles get easily stuck in the sand here.
- **El Saltito:** a little further drive, but beautiful and secluded. No services, so bring your own food, beverages, and shade. Good snorkeling over by the rocks on either side, or kayak out to the island offshore.
- **Punta Arena:** beautiful white sand beach and clear water, great for swimming, just past La Ventana. Stay to the left off the light house for calm water, head to the right side for great snorkeling and diving.
- **Los Cerritos:** a great surfing beach on the Pacific side, just South of Todos Santos. Park to the right, just under the cliff with the big yellow hotel above it. Experienced swimmers only, this beach has strong currents and waves.
- **La Ventana:** a beautiful small beach town 45 minutes from La Paz. It gets very windy in winter, and is popular with kite boarders and wind surfers.

- **El Sargento:** just north of La Ventana, look for the beach with the palapas. It's rocky as you wade in just off shore, great spot for snorkeling.

### Day Trips:

- **Todos Santos:** About an hour from La Paz, great shopping and art galleries. Stop for lunch at one of many excellent restaurants. Visit the [Hotel California](#) for lunch, excellent margaritas and souvenirs. During the winter season, hit Las Tunas beach before sunset to watch [turtle hatchlings get released](#) into the Pacific Ocean. Or drive a short way out of town to [El Mirador](#) for a cocktail and enjoy the sunset there.
- **Pescadero:** Go to Los Cerritos beach to surf, boogie board, or just hang out. Visit the nearby Blanket Factory for Mexican rugs and blankets. Head to [Hierbabuena](#), a local farm to table restaurant set amongst the property's own gardens. Visit the [Baja Beans](#) farmers market on Sunday mornings to shop the local vendors for organic produce, fresh caught fish, handmade jewelry, artisan clothing, live music and coffee.



The sampler platter at El Minero with housemade sausages





A guest drummer at Open Mic Night at Capuchinos.

- **El Triunfo:** Visit the mining museum, go for a hike or go mountain biking on the trails around town. Have coffee or lunch at [El Triunfo cafe](#). Be sure to pick up a loaf of their amazing bread. For dinner, try [El Minero](#), for the house-made sausage, or go on Sundays for the paella, cooked on the patio in a huge iron skillet. If you like museums, check out the world class [Ruta de Plata museum](#) and the [Museum of Cowboy Culture](#). Or, if music is your thing, be sure to see the Piano Museum. And don't forget the Cactus Sanctuary just outside of town and the Victorian Teahouse [Margery's Tea Room](#), next to El Minero.
- **Los Barriles**, a small beach town around 2 hours from La Paz. Go shopping in town, relax on the beach, and have lunch at one of the beach-front restaurants. Drive a little further on highway 1 toward San Jose del Cabo, and stop at the Tropic of Cancer monument (the southern most point on the globe where the sun can still be directly overhead).

#### Entertainment:

- Cheer on one of La Paz's local professional sports teams including soccer, baseball or basketball at one of the stadiums downtown, or at a sports bar with local fans.
- Attend one of the music festivals during the winter season at Marea La Paz on the beach.
- Hang out at TRIBU on the malecón for music, drinks, and dancing.
- Visit the [Cinépolis](#) movie theater at The Shoppes at Liverpool, across from Walmart/Sam's Club, for movies in English with Spanish subtitles.

- Eat dinner downtown, and pay one of the wandering local musicians to play at your table. See our Restaurant Guide for recommendations.
- Go for drinks at [Harker](#), [Seis Uno Dos](#), or the [Baja Club](#) for happy hour and watch the sunset.
- Go to [Mucho Gusto Tacos and Mezcal](#) for a mezcal tasting. Join them on Wednesdays for their Trivia Night and live music or Tuesdays for the [Spanglish conversation group](#).
- Go to [La Costa Restaurant](#) on Wednesday night, have dinner and enjoy music and dancing.
- Go to [Tecolote Beach](#) late afternoon for live music on Sundays.
- Attend or even participate in one of the many local talent nights such as Open Mic - Dive Bar Edition at [Bar de Cortez](#), Open Mic at Bermejo Casa de Cerveza, and Open Stage at [Capuchinos](#) where locals and expats share their diverse talents.
- Check out Shooter Ford's country music at [Tail Hunters](#) every Sunday from 7-9 pm
- Sing along to Captain Wayne's Jimmy Buffet style music at [Estrella del Mar](#) on Friday evenings, from 7-9 p.m.
- In Centenario, check out [Tiki Todd's](#) for sporting events on the big screen TVs, the Full Moon Dinners with special guest performers, or the many musical groups the management brings in from La Paz and further a field.
- If you're in Chametla, be sure to check out the calendar for [Merken, the Chilean Barbecue](#) restaurant for their schedule of live music performances.

**Whatever you decide to do, we know that you will have a great time and will come to see what it is that we love about his special place.**

