

The Best Beaches in Mexico — From Quiet Paradises to Surfing and Party Hot Spots

The best beaches in Mexico run the spectrum from all-inclusive havens to pristine, wild paradises.

By Meagan Drillinger | November 05, 2021



Mexico is so much more than a sun and sand destination. We know this. The food, art, culture, and design are famous all around the world. Still, the country has long been a world-renowned beach getaway — and for good reason. The beaches in Mexico are among the best in the world, and provide a little something for everyone. Whether you're looking for the ultimate escape with white sand and crystalline water, an adrenaline-pumping surf spot, a golden-hued stretch with more sea turtles than people, or a barefoot party destination, Mexico has a beach to match.

Though there are countless sandy stretches along the country's 5,800-mile coastline, here are 21 of the best beaches in Mexico to help you start planning your next getaway.

Playa Mayto, Jalisco



CREDIT: GETTY IMAGES

Playa Mayto may not be a name you know right now, but give it a year or two and that will likely change. One of the most remote beaches in Mexico, Playa Mayto also happens to be one of the largest, located on a secluded bay on the Pacific coast, roughly two hours south of Puerto Vallarta along what is known as Cabo Corrientes. The area is attracting a lot of development attention and things will likely look different over the next couple of years. But what will remain is this gorgeous, rugged beach surrounded by a ring of mountains and thick groves of palm trees. To reach the beach, travelers must brave a dusty, dirt road that branches off from the small town of El Tuito. But new developments, like the prospect of a Zodiac-themed hotel, will bring infrastructure, and chances are this secret spot will be one of the country's most sought-after before long.

Costalegre, Jalisco



CREDIT: DOUGLAS PEEBLES/GETTY IMAGES

To clarify, the Costalegre is much more than one beach — it is an entire stretch of coast along southern Jalisco, near the border of the state of Colima. But each beach here is worthy of this list, thanks to the sheer wild, rugged beauty. These days, most travelers come to this part of the state, south of Puerto Vallarta, to stay at luxury enclaves like Cuixmala and Careyes. But with the promise of a new airport, better highway, and many luxury hotels, this is an area of Mexico that could soon be on a Los Cabos level of luxury. It's easy to see why — craggy cliffs spill down to pristine, golden-hued beaches, while green peaks climb in the distance. Palm trees and sea turtles outnumber tourists, and often you'll only hear Spanish being spoken at the beachfront seafood shacks.