

BEST BEACHES IN MEXICO

To help you find the ideal Mexican destination for parking in front of the waves, U.S. News & World Report considered factors like scenery, water clarity, soft sands, crowd congestion and nearby amenities. Expert insight and user votes were also taken into account to create this list of the country's best beaches from the Yucatán to Baja del Sur. Help us determine next year's ranking by casting your vote for the best Mexican beach below.



Tulum

Why go: One of the best beach experiences in all of Mexico can be found near the Tulum ruins. Come in the early morning or later in the evening to enjoy the sands beneath *El Castillo* — the old Mayan temple — without interruption.



Playa del Carmen

Why go: Playa del Carmen once had the ambiance of a sleepy European coastal town. But now these beaches are among the most popular along the Yucatán. They still remain hip and are no less crowded than those in Cancún, though beachcombers often come here to see and be seen.



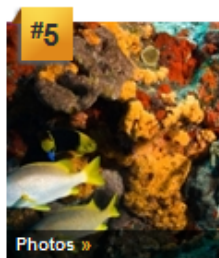
Puerto Vallarta

Why go: Despite its popularity as a tourist hotspot, Puerto Vallarta has managed to retain some of its small-town charm. PV attracts a more sophisticated crowd than some of Mexico's other popular oceanside retreats. Here, you'll find a beautiful boardwalk and upscale hotels.



Cancun

Why go: The beaches of Cancún are some of the most popular in Mexico, recognized for their vast sands and clear blue waters. And because this beach town is so well-liked by tourists, visitors can find plenty of restaurants, shops and a wide range of resorts when it's time to retreat from the sun.



Cozumel

Why go: Cozumel's beautiful shoreline comes with one downside: thick crowds. Swarms of tourists descend on the island every year. That said, Cozumel is home to a number of excellent beaches and stands as one of the premiere diving and snorkeling destinations in the world.



Acapulco

Why go: Back in the 1950s, Acapulco was the go-to vacation spot for many A-listers like Frank Sinatra, Elizabeth Taylor and Elvis Presley. After a long struggle with crime rates, this western Mexico city is making a comeback — the beaches are vast, the hotels are renovated and the prices are low.



Mazatlan

Why go: Sure, the sands may not be as coveted as those in Cancún or Puerto Vallarta, but Mazatlán's golden shoreline will surely satisfy the average sun-seeker, especially those on a budget. You can bypass the crowds by heading to Isla de la Piedra.



Cabo San Lucas

Why go: Cabo — and its sister city San Jose del Cabo — boasts an abundance of excellent beaches, so you won't have trouble finding a scenic spot. Recent visitors particularly recommend the classic Playa del Amor (Lover's Beach) at the picturesque Land's End rock formation.

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