

Free map and self-guided 2017 walking tour of 18 Mazatlán Centro Histórico sightseeing attractions



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#1 Carpa Olivera Public Saltwater Swimming Pool

Refreshing public swimming at Olas Altas Beach since 1914!

La Carpa Olivera is the public saltwater swimming pool at the north end of Olas Altas Beach on the western edge of the Centro Historico. Carpa Olivera, has been a traditional beachfront destination for families in Mazatlan since the earliest days of World War One.

Once part of a larger beachfront development that was destroyed by hurricanes in the mid 1900s, Carpa Olivera has a bright future.

In early April 2014, the City of Mazatlan announced that the Carpa Olivera saltwater swimming pool will be entirely renovated! Work is scheduled to be completed by Summer, 2015.

Carpa Olivera is one of the least expensive -- bathroom and changing room access costs under 3 USD! -- and most fun places to take a dip in saltwater within a controlled environment. Definitely worth considering as a place to cool your feet at the end of your walking tour.

Location Paseo Claussen, just north of Olas Altas Beach

GPS N23°19'57" W106°42'60"

Hours Basically all day every day

Admission Bathroom and changing room access costs under 3 USD!

#2 Hotel Freeman

The Grand Dame of Centro Historico Hotels

The Freeman Hotel -- now the Posada Freeman Best Western -- is a Mazatlan Centro Historico landmark, and the perfect place to begin or end a walking tour of the Centro Historico!

This 12 story, built in 1944, was the first high-rise hotel built in northwest Mexico and its' Skybar bar and spectacular rooftop terrace provide commanding views of the Centro Historico and beyond.

The elevator -- you can view the beautifully maintained 1940's machinery when you reach the top -- whisks to to the bar and its panoramic windows, and stairs lead to the open rooftop terrace complete with pool for those sore feet after a day of walking.

Whether you start your walking tour at the Freeman -- or end it there with a refreshing beverage -- this view of the Centro Historico is not to be missed!

Location Olas Altas 79, at the south end of Olas Altas Beach

GPS N23°19'86" W106°42'75"

Telephone 669 981 2114

Hours All day every day

Admission Free!

#3 Museo de Arte / Fine Art Museum

Mazatlán Centro Histórico Fine Arts Museum

Mazatlans' fine arts museum is located in a beautifully restored Mazatlan Centro Historico building just one block off the Malecon at Olas Altas Beach The Museo de Arte is one of the most delightful, must-see, of Mazatlan tourist attractions.

The Mazatlan Art Museum is filled with outstanding examples of 20th and 21st century Mexican art. Operated by the *Instituto Sinaloense de Cultura* (Cultural Institute of Sinaloa), the Museo de Arte is an excellent example of the intelligent best-use of a Centro Historico vintage building.

A perennial Centro Historico walking tour favorite!

Location Sixto Osuna and Avenida Venustiano Carranza

GPS N23°19'85" W106°42'55"

Telephone 669 981 5592

Hours Open Tuesday - Sunday: 10am - 1pm and 4 - 7 pm

Admission Just a few pesos, donations welcome

#4 Museo Arqueológico / Archeology Museum

Visit our Centro Historico archeology museum to discover pre-Colonial Sinaloa!

The Museo Arqueológico de Mazatlán -- Mazatlans' archeology museum -- offers well-organized exhibits outlining pre-Hispanic Sinaloan history and culture and is a great Mazatlan Centro Historico walking tour stop.

The Mazatlan Archeology Museum is located within a beautifully restored building just four blocks from the Plaza Machado in the Mazatlan Centro Historico and directly across the street from the Museo De Arte.

An INAH (Instituto Nacional De Anthropologia E Historia) facility, the Archeology Museum displays include cases of human and animal figurines; pre-Hispanic burial artifacts and tokens; and ancient polychrome pottery from pre-Colonial Sinaloa.

A must-see on any Pearl of The Pacific Centro Historico cultural walking tour!

Location Sixto Osuna 76 / Centro Historico

GPS N23°19'66" W106°42'57"

Telephone 669 981 1455

Hours Open Tuesday - Sunday from 10am-1pm and 4pm-7pm

Admission Under 50 pesos, free on Sunday

#5 Museo Que Viva Sinaloa

A museum dedicated to the history of Sinaloa State

The brainchild of Arturo Santamaría, a noted Mazatlan history teacher, Museo Que Viva Sinaloa is dedicated to presenting information about the history of Sinaloa and the accomplishments of its citizens.

Located in a beautifully restored classic Centro Historico building, the museum contains paintings, photographs, videos and displays that pay homage to the best of Sinaloa including Sinaloans who have excelled nationally and internationally in art, science and sport. Re-focus your Mazatlan Centro Historico walking tour and learn about the history and people of the State of Sinaloa!

Location Liberty and Heriberto Frias

Admission Under 3 USD

#6 Ángela Peralta Theater & Municipal Cultural Center

Teatro Ángela Peralta and the Mazatlan Municipal Cultural Center

The restored Angela Peralta Theater in Mazatlan (Teatro Ángela Peralta) is truly one of Mazatlans' most important cultural treasures, and has played important role in the revitalization of the Centro Historico.

Located just off the Plaza Machado in Mazatlans' Centro Historico, the Angela Peralta Theater is one of the most important Mazatlan tourist attractions; hosts our most sophisticated theater and musical performances; consistently draws internationally known artists; and is considered one of the premier performance venues in all of Mexico.

At a bit over 800 seats, the Angela Peralta is a substantial performance space that retains an intimate feel, and the highly sophisticated design of its beautiful Italianate mezzanine and balconies provide excellent sight lines from even the least expensive seats in this theater!

Beyond its' role as one of the premier performance spaces in Mexico, the Angela Peralta has become an important center for cultural development that is home to a municipal cultural center, art galleries and an internationally-acclaimed fine arts school that are important resources for Sinaloa State and all of Mexico.

Our Mazatlan City Guide cannot too highly recommend a visit to the Angela Peralta Theater -- whatever the performance, the building itself is worth the price of admission -- and no Centro Historico walking tour should overlook it!

Location Carnival 1024 / Centro Historico just south of the Plaza Machado

GPS N23°19'80" W106°42'24"

Admission Varies by performance

#7 Plaza Machado

Plazuela Machado: The Heart of the Mazatlan Centro Historico

One of the most highly recommended destinations in the Mazatlan City Guide, the Plaza is the heart of the Mazatlan Centro Historico, and one of the loveliest plazas in all of Mexico. Plaza Machado has long been one of the most popular Pearl of The Pacific tourist attractions, and is a great place pause your Centro Historico walking tour, sit down and just people-watch!

The plaza was once a marsh area -- sort of a mini estuary -- fed by the ocean, but in 1832 a sea wall was constructed along Olas Altas beach, drying the area and making it suitable for construction of larger buildings. The Plazuela Machado that we know today was originally constructed in 1837 and is the oldest plaza in Mazatlan.

Financed by wealthy international trader Don Juan Nepomuceno Machado it was certainly not designed as a tourist attraction -- The Pearl of The Pacific had no tourists at that time -- Plaza Machado was designed to reflect growing wealth and commercial power, and serve as the heart of the Mazatlan Centro Historico which was, at that time, simply Centro.

Once referred to as Paseo de las Naranjas (Orange Tree Walk) because of the orange trees that surrounded the space, the plaza quickly became a focal point for the community, and a place where Mazatlecos of all social classes gathered. The beautiful iron gazebo in the center of the square was built in 1870, serving as a platform for performers and further cementing the plaza as a central public space.

The restored Plaza Machado is at the heart of the culture-rich Mazatlan Centro Historico renewal, and the focal point of a massive revitalization that has taken place in recent years.

The Pearl of The Pacific -- in creative partnership with private capital -- has restored and supported the restoration of the beautiful buildings surrounding the Plaza Machado, and upgrading the infrastructure that supports it.

The Plaza Machado and surrounding Centro Historico feature architecture influenced by the French and Spanish, and the Plaza Machado brings back an era when Mazatlecos spent leisurely afternoons and evenings around these public spaces.

Today the restored Plaza Machado and its' 19th century historic buildings are populated with sightseeing and tourist attractions like chic cafes; bars; art galleries; the Angela Peralta Theater; and other Mazatlan Centro Historico cultural attractions.

The Plaza Machado is a Mazatlan City Guide favorite and a great place to relax, eat and drink after a day of walking tour sightseeing and shopping in the Centro Historico. Many of our most delightful Centro Historico restaurants -- like La Tramoya, Pedro y Lola, Casa Canobbio and El Presidio -- are immediately on the Plaza Machado, and many others are just minutes walk from it.

Location Between Constitucion (north side) and Sixto Osuna (south side) / Carnaval (east side) and Heriberto Frias (west side)

GPS N23°19'83" W106°42'32"

Admission Free!

#8 Juarez Building and Lizarraga House

Two of the most beautiful Centro Historico landmark buildings

Located just north of the Plaza Machado on Constitucion, the Juarez Building and Lizarraga House represent some of the best examples of 19th and early 20th century Centro Historico landmark architecture -- and walking tour must-stops right at the Plazuela Machado!

The Juarez Building -- now the location of the renowned Centro Historico restaurant Pedro y Lola -- is the older of the two buildings, dating from the mid-1800's. This gorgeous building has a spectacular wrap-around second floor balcony with lovely ironwork.

Designed by Spaniard Federico Imana, the Juarez Building was designed to house both businesses and provide space for recreational activities. Many Mazatlan organizations like La Gran Sociedad, the German Club, the Benito Juarez Group and the Lions Club held meetings on the second floor while a hardware store, medical offices, a pharmacy and a publishing firm occupied offices at street level.

Notably, the first film ever screened in Sinaloa State was was projected in a space within the Juarez Building through a Lumiere Brothers projector -- in 1897!

This same side of the Plaza Machado -- the north side bounded by Constitucion -- is also home to several other fine restaurants including the delicious La Tramoya.

Lizarraga House -- beautifully restored and a lovely pale yellow -- is located just north of the Juarez Building on Carnaval. Lizarraga House was built in 1910 and features exquisite ironwork and architectural details.

Location Constitucion and Carnaval, just north of the Plaza Machado

GPS N23°19'86" W106°42'29"

Admission The buildings can be viewed from the exterior

#9 Casa Garcia / The Garcia Mansion

Mazatlan Centro Historico Tropical Style architecture at its best!

This beautiful example of Mazatlan Classical Tropical Style architecture was constructed in 1876, and has been a focal point within the Centro Historico ever since.

The house has been owned by a number of families over the past 135+ years, and is now owned by Chef Diego Becerra, whose grandmother lived in the home long ago. The structure has been beautifully restored and now is home to El Presidio, one of the Centro Historico's most elegant restaurants.

Take a pause on your Centro Historico walking tour and check out the spectacular Casa Garcia courtyard where fig, laurel and banyan trees reach upward to the sky!

Location At the corner of Ninos Heroes and Mariano Escobedo

GPS N23°19'88" W106°42'51"

Restaurant Hours 6pm - midnight, Monday - Saturday

#10 Plaza Hidalgo / Plazuela de los Leones

Home to the Benjamin Franklin Library and the Mazatlan Municipal Library

Named after the father of Mexican independence, Miguel Hidalgo, Plaza Hidalgo is the second oldest square in the city -- after Plaza Machado -- and was the original site of the Mazatlan central market. The plaza is often referred to as Plazuela de los Leones because of the two lion sculptures that flank the entrance to the library.

The square has been an important meeting place in the Centro Historico since the mid-1800's and, until 1899 had a large statue of Miguel Hidalgo at its center.

Now Plazuela de los Leones is dominated by the Ben Franklin Library (Biblioteca Benjamin Franklin) and the Mazatlan Municipal Library that house collections of Spanish books, texts and documents relating to Mazatlan and the history of Mexico, as well as some English language reading materials.

The Plaza itself is packed with palm trees and wrought iron benches -- a great place to pause your Centro Historico walking tour, relax, catch your breath and read!

Location Between Campana and Angel Flores at Ninos Heroes

GPS N23°19'98" W106°42'50"

#11 The German Notions Store Building

The most important 1800's Mazatlan Centro Historico department store

The German Notions Store was founded in the 1840's and remained in operation for over 100 years. The building that you see was constructed in 1904.

This mainstay of high-line Mazatlan shopping was filled with a very wide range of types of dry goods including watches, jewelry, furniture, paintings and musical instruments, as well as more mundane necessities like typewriters, hardware, tiles and farm and mining tools.

During WWII -- because of his German heritage -- the owner was forced to close the store and leave Mexico.

Location Corner of Mariano Escobedo and Belisario Dominguez

GPS N23°19'90" W106°42'42"

Hours The building can only be view from the exterior

#12 The Reynaud Building

A Mazatlan Centro Historico commercial center since 1847!

The spectacular yellow and white Reynaud Building has served many purposes in its long lifetime, and is still a vibrant part of the Centro Historico.

The original structure was built in 1847 and used as a store selling French fabrics operated by German Baston. In the late 1800's a fire and subsequent bankruptcy enabled Baston's partner, Louis Reynaud, to buy the building.

Reynaud was a wealthy merchant who was also the French consul in Mazatlan, and he completely re-built the structure, finishing in the early 1900's.

The facade of the Reynaud building is adorned with stone imported from France, and cobalt blue and yellow tiles imported from Spain were used on both the exterior and interior. The building features many fine architectural details including tiled window frames and -- unusual in the Centro Historico -- wooden balconies.

The building served as home to several stores that sold European goods, and later as a railway station and as the first airline ticket office in Mazatlan.

The Reynaud Building was once again rehabbed and re-purposed in 2010, becoming a vibrant Centro Historico home for new Mazatlan businesses like our delicious Culinary Market and the sumptuous Athina Spa. A great place to take a break from your Centro Historico walking tour and pick up a bite to eat!

Location Belisario Dominguez 1604

GPS 23.1993114,-106.424234

#13 Mazatlan City Hall / Palacio Municipal

The seat of municipal government in Mazatlan

The Mazatlan City Hall is over 140 years old. Now primarily offices, if you walk inside you can view two interesting large murals painted by Aaron Zamudio.

The first depicts Mazatlan's bicentennial in 2010; the other is a symbolic portrayal of the revolution packed with images of war, generals, political icons and religious symbols.

Location Angel Flores

GPS N23°20'01" W106°42'26"

Hours 9am - 5pm, Monday - Friday

#14 Plaza de la Republicá

The central Centro Historico plazuela

Plaza Republicá faces the magnificent Basilica de la Inmaculada Concepción, Mazatlan's largest Catholic church, and the Mazatlan City Hall.

Originally constructed in 1870, at the center of Plaza de la Republica you will find a lovely ironwork Porfirian bandstand that was constructed in 1909. The plaza now has large palm trees that provide shade and verdant foliage that give the entire space a tropical feel.

There are numerous vendors of many types and a distinct concentration of shoe shine and shoe repair stalls. No Centro Historico walking tour is complete without a visit to Plaza Republica!

Location Angel Flores and Benito Juarez

GPS N23°20'03" W106°42'19"

#15 Basílica de la Inmaculada Concepción

The central Catholic Cathedral in Mazatlan

In the view of the Mazatlan City Guide, no day spent walking and sightseeing in the Centro Historico is complete without visiting the Basilica de la Inmaculada Concepcion -- the very heart of the Centro Historico and The Pearl of The Pacific.

Begun by the Bishop Pedro Loza y Pardave in 1856, the central Mazatlan Cathedral was built on the site of an ancient Indian temple. Mazatlan's turbulent history delayed the completion of the church until 1899. In 1937 -- after additional work -- the church was elevated to the status of a "basilica", a Roman Catholic church or cathedral given special ceremonial privileges by the Pope.

Inside the Basilica, the image of the city's patron saint, the Virgen de la Purisima Concepcion (Virgin of the Immaculate Conception) floats over the gilded, baroque main altar. Overhead, soaring rounded Renaissance domes and gilded Gothic arches create an airy and spiritual space.

The Basilica also has a unique architectural feature: each of its 28 stained glass windows incorporates a Star of David which were installed in gratitude for the donation of construction funds by a wealthy Mazatlan Jewish family.

The Catedral Basilica de Mazatlan also has a majestic organ built in Paris by Aristide Cavaille-Coll, widely considered one of the greatest organ builders of the nineteenth century.

The Basilica *is* the heart of Old Mazatlan -- no walking tour should miss it.

Location Avenida Benito Juarez and Calle 21 de Marzo facing Plaza de la Republica
GPS N23°20'10" W106°42'19"

#16 Mercado Pino Suárez / Mazatlan Central Market

Visit our nearly 120 year old classic Mazatlan Centro Historico market!

Imagine a market being listed as one of the Mazatlan City Guide most highly recommended Centro Historico walking tour attractions? Well it is, and we cannot too highly recommend a visit to our central market, the Mercado Pino Suarez. Located at Aquiles Serdan and Melchor Ocampo in the Centro Historico since 1900, Mazatlan's Mercado Jose María Pino Suarez market is a great shopping experience that has been a recommended tourist attraction for many years!

The Pino Suarez Market is divided in sections by food types. You'll find aisles with fresh seafood; chickens; beef; and pork -- and miles of aisles of fresh fruits and vegetables. The Central Mercado also has cheese vendors -- featuring some delicious locally produced farmers cheeses -- as well as herb and spice shops. Beyond food, the Mazatlan Mercado has numerous shops and vendors of tourist items, like t-shirts, hats, and all sorts of souvenirs of your day of sightseeing in the Centro Historico.

Often overlooked, stairs at the Mazatlan Mercado Pino Suarez lead to an upper level that has numerous small restaurants, many with a balcony view over the delightfully active street scene surrounding the outer stores and street carts. Mercado restaurants make for a wonderful -- and inexpensive -- place to take a break from walking tour sightseeing and have some fresh seafood or delicious carne asada!

Don't miss the Mercado on your walking tour of the Centro Historico!

Location Aquiles Serdan and Melchor Ocampo

GPS N23°20'22" W106°42'11"

Hours 6am to 6pm Monday thru Saturday, 6am to 2pm Sundays

#17 1800's Municipal Water Supply Cistern

One of the most unusual restaurant spaces anywhere in the world!

One of the benchmarks of urban development in the 1800's -- anywhere in the world -- was the establishment of municipal water systems, and in the mid 1800's Mazatlan had three massive cisterns to supply fresh water to its rapidly expanding population.

One of these -- located at Constitucion 710 in the Centro Historico -- survives, and has now been re-purposed as the highly eclectic El Aljibe de S. Pedro restaurant.

Poke your head in and see what owner Jose Perez has done with this enormous vaulted 1800's cistern! You might even want to stay for drinks or a meal...

Location Constitucion 710 between Aquiles Serdan and Benito Juarez

#18 Pedro Infante Museum

Visit El Rincon de Pedro Infante and learn about this Mexican film legend

Whether you are a huge Pedro Infante fan or barely aware of his work, a visit to the Pedro Infante Museum in Mazatlan will open your eyes to one of the great film and music stars of the mid 20th century.

Born in Mazatlan on November 18, 1917, Pedro Infante -- formally Pedro Infante Cruz -- is arguably the most important star of the Golden Age of Mexican Cinema, a period that is generally defined as starting in the mid 1930s and lasting to the late 1960's.

Pedro Infante made an astounding 62 films in his 18 year career, nearly all of which he starred in. Extremely versatile, his performances encompass dramatic roles to slapstick comedy -- and everything in between.

Infante's career as a singer was as prolific as was his acting career. In just 13 years -- 1943 to 1956 -- Infante recorded a remarkable 366 songs, many of which are classics.

Location Constitucion 1108

Hours 10am to 6pm every day except Sunday