



The Cheapest Beach Destinations in Mexico

Written by Glynn Prentice, *International Living*, 2011

With nearly 6,000 miles of coastline, Mexico has plenty of beaches—and beach resorts where you can lie in the lap of luxury. But what if you're on a budget? No worries... Mexico still has some very affordable beach destinations. Whether you're looking for someplace to live fulltime—or just a tranquil beach where you can chill out for a while—here are three of your cheapest Mexico beach options.

1. Yucatán Gulf Coast: Some of the best beachfront bargains in Mexico

This 50-mile stretch of coast, running north and east of Mérida in the Yucatán Peninsula, offers some of the best beachfront bargains in Mexico. Merida's Mexican population has been vacationing on this coast for several generations, and these days expats have joined the trend. On this coast you'll find everything from small, 30-year-old beach houses in established communities to empty beach lots waiting for development. Due to the area's increased popularity, prices are rising (...) but compared with many other beach areas in Mexico, this coast is very affordable.



2. Mazatlán: Mexico's most affordable beach resort



This Pacific coast city, Mexico's oldest international beach resort, is making a comeback. Originally popular in the late 19th century, it faded from glory when the newer resorts of Puerto Vallarta and Acapulco were developed in the mid-20th century. But about 15 years ago, locals who loved the city began a series of urban renewal projects—spiffing up Mazatlán's historic opera house and mainsquare, for instance, and opening chic new restaurants.

Today Mazatlán is arguably Mexico's most affordable beach resort. The city has miles of beachfront, an international airport, and plenty of casual restaurants. It also has a World Heritage *centro histórico*, with a beautifully-restored opera house and blocks of neoclassical buildings, many of which have been restored as homes or condos.

Mazatlán is very popular with snowbirds, with expat numbers swelling to as high as 9,000 during the winter. (Many of these snowbirds are loyal fans of Mazatlán, returning year after year.) But many expats also live here full-time in small gated communities or in houses in neighborhoods a few miles from the ocean(...).

Manzanillo

Also on the Pacific coast, Manzanillo is a busy port city that also happens to have miles of beach. *Two* five-mile bays lined with beaches, to be exact. Manzanillo has a cheerful, casual atmosphere, plenty of seaside restaurants, a raffish downtown, and an international airport with direct flights to the U.S. This city feels very Mexican—yet you can find plenty of locals who speak English (...)

