

Acajutla, Sonsonate, El Salvador

El Salvador's main Pacific port punches above its industrial looks — a day here unlocks UNESCO ruins, volcanic hikes, and the vivid Ruta de las Flores coffee towns.

Docked at pier Typical call: 8-10 hrs USD (no exchange needed) Spanish Volcano & archaeology country

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Ships dock at Puerto de Acajutla, a commercial pier — no tendering

Best For: Pre-Columbian ruins, Ruta de las Flores colonial towns, volcanic landscapes

Walk to center: Acajutla town is ~10 min walk, but key sights are 45–90 min inland by bus or taxi

Don't Miss: Tazumal ruins or Joya de Cerén (UNESCO) — El Salvador's crown archaeological jewels

Getting around: **Taxi** \$30–60 USD (round trip)

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Tazumal Mayan Ruins** — One of El Salvador's most impressive pre-Columbian sites, Tazumal features stepped pyramid structures from the Classic Maya period (its main pyramid...
- **Joya de Cerén — Pompeii of the Americas** — UNESCO World Heritage site where a pre-Hispanic farming village was perfectly sealed under volcanic ash in 590 AD.
- **Ruta de las Flores** — A winding route through colonial highland towns — Juayúa, Ataco, Nahuizalco — known for colorful murals, artisan markets, coffee farms, and weekend...
- **Izalco Volcano & Cerro Verde National Park** — Hike through cloud-forest to the summit of Izalco, once called the 'Lighthouse of the Pacific' for its constant eruptions.
- **Los Cóbano Beach** — Closest decent beach to Acajutla — volcanic dark sand, warm Pacific water, diving on a fringing coral reef, and fresh seafood at beachside...

BEST WALKS

- **Acajutla Town Stroll** ~30 min • Flat • Low-key — A short walk from the port gate into central Acajutla gives a genuine slice of Salvadoran coastal life — a modest market, small shops, and the seaside malecón.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 5:46AM–6:12PM · Jun 5:32AM–6:27PM · Aug 5:46AM–6:20PM · Sep 5:48AM–6:00PM · Oct 5:50AM–5:39PM	
Apr	91°	79°	11d	USD (no exchange needed)	
Jun	86°	77°	24d		
Aug	87°	77°	23d		
Sep	86°	77°	26d		
Oct	85°	76°	23d		

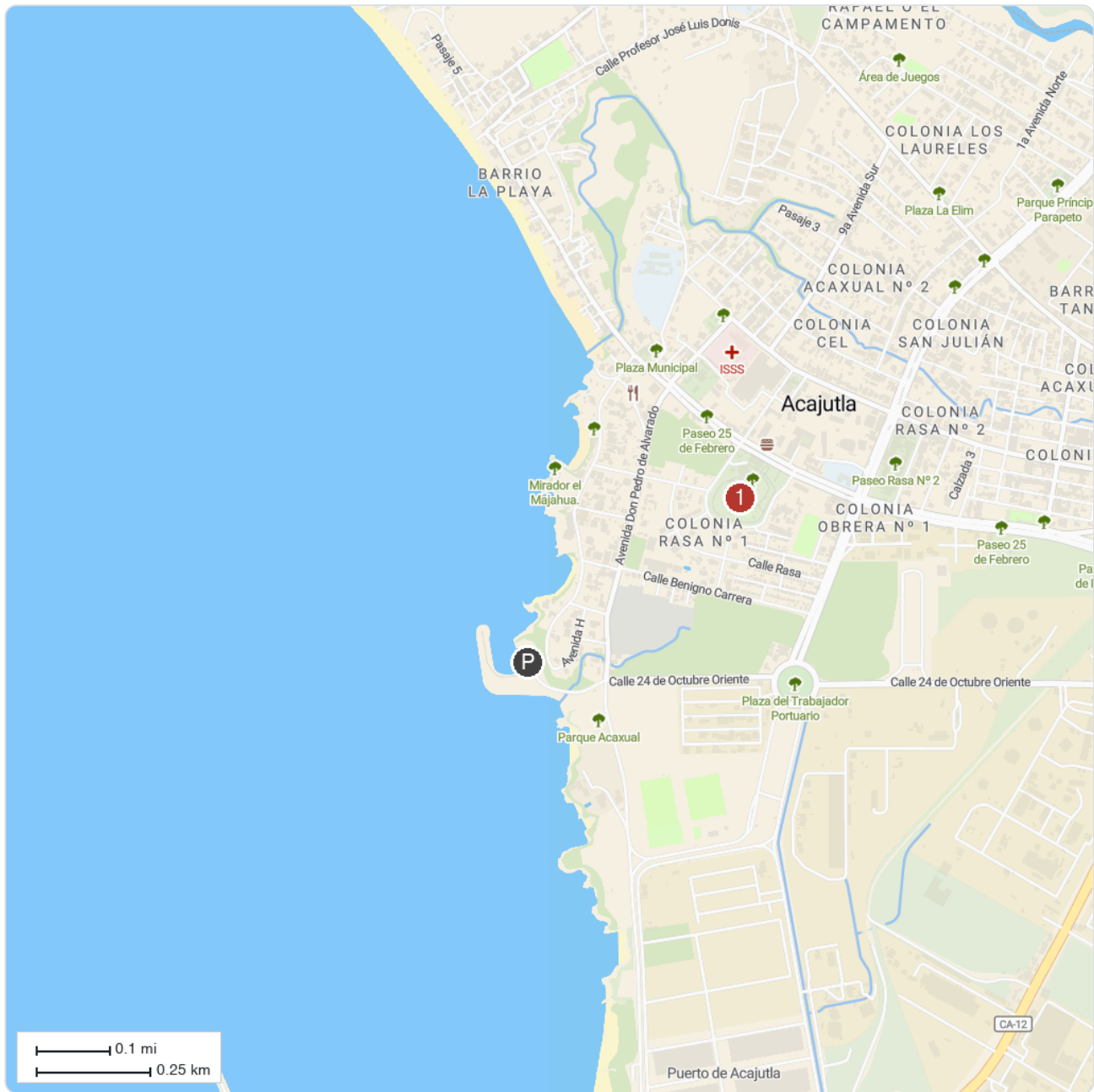
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- USD is the local currency — no exchange needed. ATMs exist in Sonsonate and larger towns, but bring enough cash from the ship.
- Negotiate taxis before you get in. There are no meters. Ask your ship or local operators for current fair rates to your destination.
- Inland sights take time. Tazumal or Joya de Cerén is a 3-hour round trip minimum — factor that into your all-aboard time carefully.
- It's hot and humid year-round — light clothes, a hat, and sunscreen are essential. The rainy season (May–Oct) brings afternoon downpours; pack a small poncho.
- English is limited outside tourist tours. A few Spanish phrases go a long way, or stick to cruise-line or licensed tour operators.
- Use reputable operators — El Salvador has improved significantly on safety but independent wandering in unfamiliar areas is not advised. Stick to busy tourist sites and recommended transport.

Acajutla, Sonsonate, El Salvador — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



1 Fuente De Flores
Parque Botánico

A beautiful botanical garden featuring a fountain of flowers.

P Cruise port / terminal