

Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo, Guerrero, Mexico

Two worlds in one port day: Zihuatanejo is the bohemian fishing village Andy Dufresne escaped to at the end of Shawshank Redemption; Ixtapa is the polished resort zone three miles down the road. Your tender drops you right in the middle of the real thing.

- Tender port (no pier)
- Typical call: 8–10 hrs
- USD accepted, MXN preferred
- Spanish (English in tourist zones)

MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

- Docking:** Tender — ships anchor in Zihuatanejo Bay; 10–15 min tender ride to Muelle Municipal
- Walk to Center:** 0 min — tender pier lands in downtown Zihuatanejo
- Best For:** Beach days, fresh seafood, artisan shopping, snorkeling at Las Gatas
- Don't Miss:** Tiritas de pescado (local raw-fish dish) and Playa La Ropa

Getting around: Taxi ✓ MXN 30–80 (~USD 2–4) · Rideshare ✗ not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Playa La Ropa Beach Day** — The bay's best swimming beach — a mile of palm-shaded sand with calm water, palapas, and open-air restaurants serving fresh fish.
- Snorkeling at Playa Las Gatas** — A short water-taxi hop from the pier (\$5–8 USD round-trip) reaches a sheltered cove with a pre-Hispanic stone reef barrier that keeps waves out.
- Xihuacan Archaeological Site** — About 45 minutes south, Xihuacan holds a clay-brick pyramid, ancient ball court, and museum of Cuitlateca artifacts — a seldom-visited site far from...
- Ixtapa Crocodile Sanctuary & Bike Path** — Cycle Ixtapa's 5-mile jungle path (rental bikes ~\$5), then visit the Aztlán Park sanctuary at Playa Linda where wild crocs, iguanas, and roseate...
- Bay Catamaran Sail & Snorkel** — Catamarans depart from the Zihuatanejo pier for half-day sails around the bay with snorkeling stops at secluded coves including Playa Manzanillo.

BEST WALKS

- Paseo del Pescador Waterfront Walk** 1 km · Flat · 20 min — Start at the Muelle Municipal tender pier and follow the pedestrian boardwalk past morning fish markets, beach volleyball courts, and the basketball court (a local...
- El Centro Artisan Market Loop** 0.5 km · Flat · 30 min browsing — From the pier, duck into the Mercado de Artesanías for silver jewelry, ceramics, and woven goods, then loop through the cobblestone streets of El Centro.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		86°	73°	0d
Jun		87°	77°	16d
Aug		87°	78°	19d
Sep		85°	77°	21d
Oct		85°	77°	19d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:29AM–7:02PM · Jun 6:11AM–7:22PM · Aug 6:29AM–7:11PM · Sep 6:34AM–6:47PM · Oct 6:39AM–6:23PM

USD accepted, MXN preferred

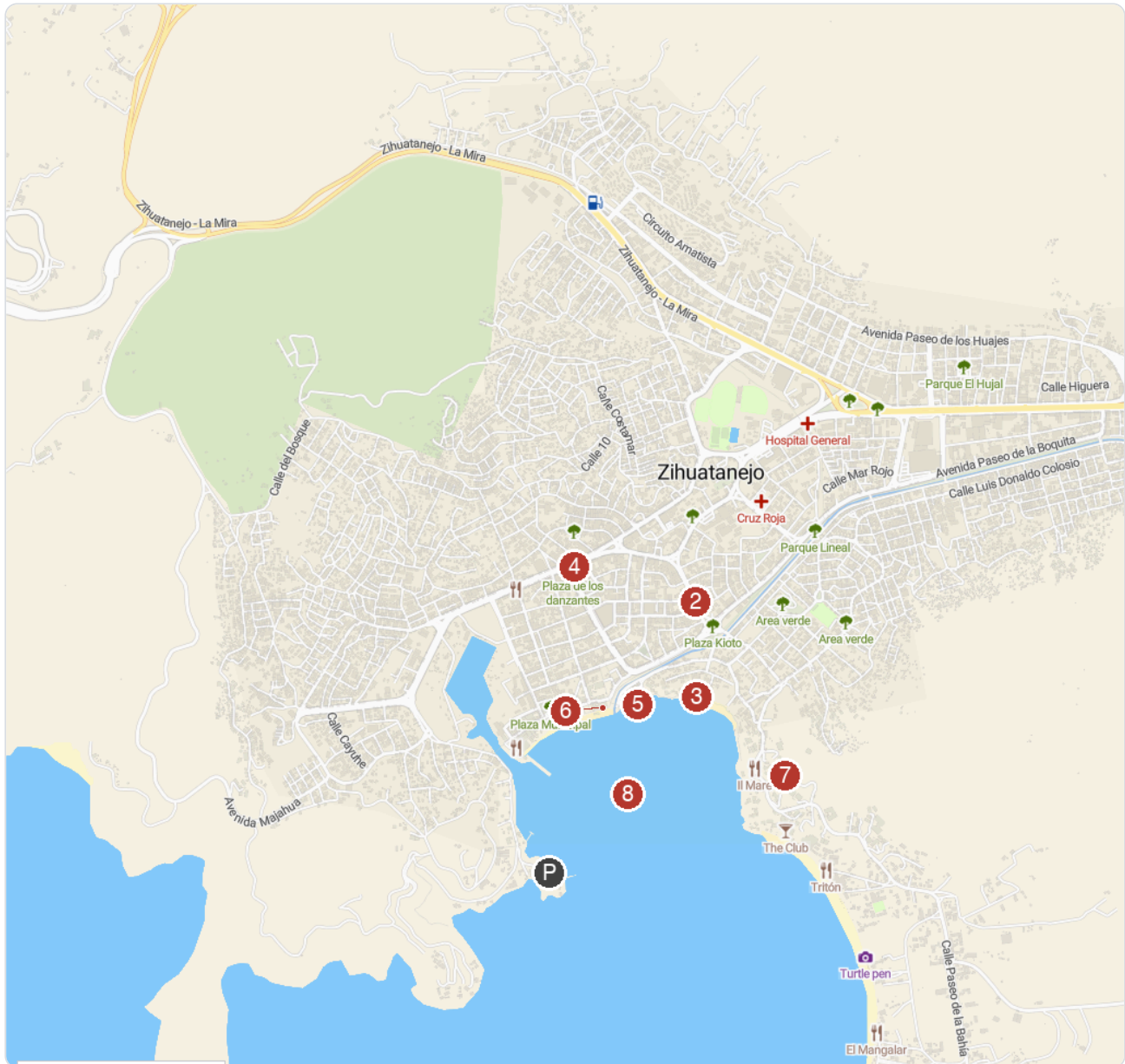
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Use pesos for better value. USD are accepted but you'll get better deals — and correct change — paying in MXN. ATMs are near the market and pier area.
- Always agree the taxi fare before you get in. Taxis are unmetered. Pier to Playa La Ropa: ~70 MXN. Pier to Ixtapa: ~175 MXN. Firm but friendly negotiation is normal.
- Give yourself 45 minutes to reboard. Tender queues build up fast near all-aboard time. If you're in Ixtapa, budget travel time back plus the wait.
- Eat tiritas before you leave. This local raw-fish preparation (think ceviche, but thinner strips, more heat) is unique to Zihuatanejo. Get it fresh from a market stall or La Perla on Playa La Ropa.
- Playa El Palmar (Ixtapa) has serious surf. Beautiful to walk but the Pacific rip currents make casual swimming risky. Stick to the bay beaches — La Ropa or Las Gatas — for swimming.
- Yes, this is the Shawshank beach. Zihuatanejo Bay is the real Zihuatanejo Andy Dufresne imagined throughout the film — it's as beautiful as advertised.

Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo, Guerrero, Mexico — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



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|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 1 Picante Cruises | Offers sunset, snorkeling, and party boat cruises. | 2 Zihuatanejo | Charming fishing village with beaches, shops, and restaurants. |
| 3 Playa la Madera | A calm, family-friendly beach near Zihuatanejo town. | 4 Los Bailarines | Iconic bronze sculpture of dancing figures on the waterfront. |
| 5 Malecón Zihuatanejo | Scenic waterfront promenade for strolling, dining, and people-watching. | 6 Museo Arqueológico de la Costa Grande | Museum showcasing pre-Hispanic artifacts from the Costa Grande region. |
| 7 PARTENON ZIHUATANEJO | An infamous, unfinished mansion overlooking Zihuatanejo Bay. | 8 Bahía de Zihuatanejo | Beautiful, sheltered bay perfect for swimming and water activities. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |