

La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico

Jacques Cousteau called the Sea of Cortez the 'Aquarium of the World' — La Paz is your front door to it. Swim with whale sharks, snorkel with sea lions, or simply stroll the sculpture-lined Malecón as the desert sun sets over the bay.

Pier (Pichilingue, ~18 km from town)

Typical call: 7-10 hrs

Mexican Peso (USD widely accepted)

Spanish (English at tourist areas)

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier at Puerto de Pichilingue, ~18 km (11 mi) north of downtown

Walk to center: Not walkable — taxi 20-25 min (\$20-25 USD) or cruise shuttle

Best For: Whale sharks, snorkeling, eco-tours, pristine beaches

Don't Miss: Playa Balandra — consistently voted Mexico's most beautiful beach

Getting around: **Taxi** \$40 one-way (up to 4 passengers) · **Rideshare** Uber, DiDi

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Swim with Whale Sharks** — One of the world's best whale shark encounters, right in La Paz Bay.
 - Isla Espíritu Santo Sea Lion Snorkel** — This UNESCO biosphere island hosts a colony of playful California sea lions.
 - Playa Balandra Day** — Mexico's most photographed beach: a sheltered, waist-deep cove of turquoise water framed by the iconic mushroom rock.
- La Paz Malecón & City Walk** — The 5 km waterfront boardwalk is lined with bronze sculptures (including a giant pearl and a Jacques Cousteau tribute), palm trees, and stunning bay...
 - Kayaking & Snorkeling near La Paz Bay** — Guided kayak and snorkel tours combine paddling the sheltered bays near Pichilingue with snorkeling over reefs rich with tropical fish, rays, and sea...

BEST WALKS

- Malecón Boardwalk to Cathedral** 2-3 km | Easy | 45-75 min — Start at the shuttle drop-off near the Malecón's north end and walk south along the waterfront past bronze sculptures and bay panoramas.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		87°	63°	0d
Jun		95°	71°	1d
Aug		96°	79°	8d
Sep		93°	78°	8d
Oct		90°	73°	3d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:59AM–6:43PM · Jun 5:33AM–7:10PM · Aug 5:56AM–6:54PM · Sep 6:07AM–6:24PM · Oct 6:19AM–5:54PM

Mexican Peso (USD widely accepted)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Watch the clock: Pichilingue is 20-25 min from town and 10 min from the beaches. Long excursions (Espíritu Santo) should be booked through the ship — the operator won't let the ship leave without you.
- Balandra timed entry: Entry is divided into two shifts (8am–noon and 1–5pm). Arrive at the start of a shift — the beach fills its capacity limit quickly on busy days.
- Pay in pesos when you can: USD is widely accepted but you'll lose 10-15% to unfavorable exchange. ATMs are available downtown; Playa Tecolote restaurants prefer cash.
- Whale sharks are seasonal: October through April only. Outside that window, shift focus to sea lions and Balandra — both are year-round and just as impressive.
- Sun is intense: Bring reef-safe sunscreen (required for whale shark permits), a hat, and a water bottle. Shade at Balandra is limited.
- Eat on the Malecón: Bismark-cito is the classic open-air fish taco spot. Try chocolata clams — local, sweet, served raw with lime and hot sauce — a La Paz specialty.

La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico — Port Map

cruiseports.org

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



1 Kiosco del Malecón Iconic bandstand on the waterfront promenade, a popular meeting spot.

2 Nuestra Señora de La Paz The historic Cathedral of La Paz, a beautiful religious landmark.

P Cruise port / terminal