

The 8 Best Day Trips from Tijuana, Mexico

Written by
CARRIE BELL

Updated 11/02/20



Jorge Malo Photography/Getty Images

Sure, the city life in Tijuana is bustling and vibrant with its all-night clubs, soccer games, zonkeys, Lucha Libre matches, cultural museums, and taco alleys. But Baja California Norte has so much more to offer within a three-hour radius.

Round out your vacation with these eight exciting day trips (well, technically seven day trips and one worthwhile multi-day add-on) that will take you from the tip-tops of mountains with panoramic views to the depths of the great white shark-infested Pacific. Along the way, sip world-class wines, dive into decadent lobster dinners, relax with massages or retail therapy, try your hand at surfing and sandboarding down steep dunes, and take in the natural beauty of coastal enclaves like Ensenada and Rosarito Beach or the rustic countryside of Valle de Guadalupe and Tecate. You can even walk to another country.

03 Tecate: Cervezas, Carbs, and Climbing

of 08



Victor Yee/Getty Images

The only border town to earn the country's Pueblo Magico (magical city) status enchants with bucolic splendor, sprawling historic ranchos ([Rancho La Puerta](#) is consistently ranked among the best wellness/weight-loss retreats in the world), rustic restaurants, and a slow-paced way of life. The wine route begins here and thus vineyards add more eye candy and opportunities for tasting (Vinos Bichi, Vinos Veramendi, and Rosa de Castilla). It affords ancient and outdoorsy experiences aplenty including hiking at El Carrizo Dam or up Montaña Sagrada del Cuchuma (where the Kumiai still carry out devotional rituals to mountain spirits), studying cave paintings at El Vallecito, and rock scrambling or rappelling at the geological oddity La Rumorosa.

Getting There: Tecate is 31 miles east using Mexico 2D and 3. It'll take about 45 minutes and there are tolls.

Travel Tip: Refuel and reward yourself with two of the city's specialties: bread and beer, the making of which often lends a very yeasty intoxicating scent to the air. International brand Tecate was born here in 1944 and while it's still the king of beers here, it now has competition from up-and-coming craft breweries like Cervecería Santería.