

# PLAYA MIA

## Directions from San Diego:

Take Interstate 8 East to Gilla Bend, Arizona, where, If you're planning to bring fish or shrimp back with you, Mills Ice House is a good place to get block ice. They're about 1 mile into town on the left and are open at 11:00 a.m.

Continue through Gilla Bend and Turn Right just before McDonald's at the sign marked "Mexico and SR 85 South". Continue South on SR 85 to Ajo. The largest town between Phoenix and Mexico, this is a good place to stop for any last minute items and to purchase your MEXICAN AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE. There's also an ATM located at Bank One, at the only intersection in town with a traffic light, right across from the Town Square.

Continue South on SR 85 to the town of Why, Arizona. Gas in Mexico is inconsistent with U.S. grades, and Why is a good place to top off your tank. The price of gas there is the lowest between Phoenix and the border, and the Chevron Station has an ATM.

Continue South on SR 85 through Organ Pipe National Monument to Lukeville, Arizona, and the Border of Mexico. Called "Gringo Pass", Lukeville also has a Duty Free Store where you can make last minute tax-free purchases.

## Crossing the Border:

Pay attention to the Border Security Officers. Most people are waved right through. No Visa or Passport are required to visit Puerto Peñasco because it's a Mexican "Free Zone". However, if you're stopped, simply answer their questions, usually regarding your destination or length of visit, and you'll be on your way. **IMPORTANT:** Do not bring firearms into Mexico without first obtaining the proper permit(s).

**UPON RETURNING:** No Fireworks, Beef, Fruits or Plants.

Upon entering Sonoita, Mexico, note that speed limits are slower, and drive defensively. Head South out of town about 2 miles to a 3-Way and take the PTO PENASCO turn, which puts you on Mexican Hwy 8. ( If you passed "Vasquez's Curios" on your left, you've made the correct turns and you're on your way! )

Heading South and West on Hwy 8, you will pass through about 50 miles of open range. Obey the Speed Limits and watch for livestock on the road. It is strongly advised that you not commute at night as this stretch of Hwy 8 is not lit, making the animals difficult to see until it's too late!

When you reach the Puerto Peñasco city limit, you'll Turn Right at the junction to Laguna Del Mar and drive for 2.5 miles to an ALTO sign at railroad tracks. Turn Right immediately after crossing the tracks and you'll come to a split. Bear to the left for about 25 yards and you're on the new coastal highway. Take it about 5 miles to the Playa Mia entrance, on the Left, and head West for about a mile to the Gulf of California and the Sea of Cortez. We'll see you there!