



'Don't get lost' means something on a road like this. It's all part of . . .

The Mexican Porsche Prance

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Passport, visas, plenty of time on hand, inoculations . . . forget the whole bit. One needs none of that to travel to a foreign country if the country is Mexico, or more specifically, Baja California. Here is a section of our continent that is close and convenient, especially to us southern Californians, but it is still a foreign land in every respect. Here is a foreign country one can always visit without the usual limitations of time and lots of cash. Best of all however, you can drive all the way . . . in a Porsche of course.

The two principle points of interest in northern Baja California are the cities of Tijuana and Ensenada. Tijuana is a border town and as such is both blessed and cursed with all the typical modifications seen in all border towns. Ensenada, on the other hand, is about 60 miles down the coast from Tijuana and has a decidedly different flavor. Getting into Baja California is no problem at all. The border crossing is made with a minimum of difficulty with only the length of the line of cars ahead determining the degree of difficulty involved. Travel is unrestricted and a visa is not needed until you drive south of Ensenada. From that

point south visas must be obtained.

There are many interesting things to do in Tijuana. This is no usual place nor is it a small village. Tijuana is a city of over 170,000 people and is one of the major Mexican border cities. Its primary source of income is from U.S. tourists. Among the principal attractions are horse racing, dog racing, bullfights, and, the jai alai games. For those who would rather do than see there are hundreds of curio shops to visit. They are well stocked with leather goods, pottery, baskets, Mexican silver—all manufactured for the tourist trade. You may say, "What's different about shopping?" Rest assured that you have never shopped until you have done so in Tijuana. It is truly a full blown production number set to full chorus and orchestra. It goes about like this. You stroll through the many shaded arcades lined with stalls filled with articles for barter until you see something you are interested in. A sharp-eyed clerk will be at your side quickly and the process begins. Prices are set, on both sides, and the bartering begins, but with one difference. It is always carried out with full gusto and relish, on both sides. One price drops down rapidly to meet the other until finally a stalemate is reached. At this point

you are expected to walk away with a sense of disgust. You will not get very far however until a friendly tug at your sleeve tells you that the negotiations are open once more. A price is finally agreed upon, the purchase is made, and all parties involved beam over the little by-play.

A second place to visit, and it can be done over a weekend, is Ensenada. This city has become a favorite place to visit for a number of sport car clubs in southern California. The drive from Tijuana to Ensenada is a very sporty road. It is an excellent "Porsche" type road all the way with beautiful views, sweeping grades, and sharp curves. You approach Ensenada from the Chapultepec Heights. From the Heights can be seen the entire bay upon which is placed the city. Directly below the Heights can be seen the sweeping panorama of Ensenada, a port of call for ocean liners. Jutting out into the bay is a huge new docking complex, loaded with countless bales of cotton, for Ensenada is a cotton-growing center.

As for the city, it is more agricultural than business in nature. Generally speaking, a truer picture of authentic Mexican life can be obtained here. There are still a large number of shops in town, however, with all the usual items to sell. There are a few excellent motels in town, well worth the stay.

Ensenada is situated on the northern end of a huge bay. About thirty miles south on the other end of the bay lies Punta Banda. This point of land stretches far out into the blue Pacific. From this vantage point one can easily view the parade of whales as they migrate south during the winter months. On this point too there is found a rare species of yucca trees, found nowhere else in the world. If you are lucky you might be there when



'Secondary road' on route

the trees are in bloom. Tall and straight they cover complete mountainsides and are all crowned with a vividly colored bloom the size of a large balloon. Still another item of interest is a local attraction called the "Blow Hole" by the natives. On the point the rocky cliffs bear right down into the sea. Up the side of the cliff about at the water line there is a large opening in the rock. The water is swept into the cavity compressing the air ahead of it. After enough pressure is built up it is released with a magnificent roar and a huge curtain of water in the form of a fine mist that reaches 100 feet or more up the side of the rock.

There are a few basic things to keep in mind when driving below the border. The very fact that the country is so available often causes one to lose sight of the fact that you are truly in a foreign country. A knowledge of the language is an asset but not a must since most of the people you will come in contact with have an excellent knowledge of English. However, a little homework should be done since all the highway signs are in Spanish rather than the pictorial method so often used in Europe. One should never forget that the way of life is different as well as their sense of values, especially in the area of legal justice.

A full weekend south of the border does not really end until the return crossing is finally made. The actual crossing can be fun. There are always long lines of cars waiting to be cleared through the minimum amount of inspection needed to get back into California. As you inch forward you are accosted by countless street vendors each one giving you a rapid sales pitch for whatever he might have to sell.

Your car finally gets across the checkpoint. You have declared the purchases you have made so you are moved ahead. With a startling suddenness you are quickly into another world and a more normal way of life as we know it to be. You have truly made an overseas trip and it was short, sweet, and dry, and, in your Porsche all the way.

SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL SECTIONS FOR 'PANORAMA'

November	Metropolitan New York
December	Orange Coast
January 1965	Hawaii
February	Sacramento
March	Jersey Shore
April	10th Parade Preview
May	Sebring Report
June	Wichita
July	Germany
August	10th Parade Report
September	San Joaquin
October	Central Iowa
November	San Diego
December	Pennsylvania-Ohio
January 1966	Connecticut Valley
February	Carolinas