

Mexico

Valle de Guadalupe / Tijuana / Ensenada

Day trip or overnight from San Diego | April 2-3, 2026

Based on your saves: Russian River, Martinelli, natural wine, farm-to-table, dive bars

Why Cross the Border

150+

WINERIES

Valle de Guadalupe alone

3

MICHELIN STARS

Animalon, Deckman's, more

50%

LESS THAN NAPA

same quality, half the price

2 hr

FROM SD

including border crossing

- No AVA rules. Winemakers plant what they want. Wild West energy.
- Farm-to-table + open-fire cooking is the default, not the exception.
- **Your Russian River / Martinelli saves mapped perfectly onto this region.**

Valle de Guadalupe: Where to Eat

75 mi south of SD | Mexico's answer to Napa | Reservations essential

FAUNA at Bruma

\$150+/pp

Best restaurant in Mexico (LATAM 50 Best). Seasonal tasting menu. On-site at Bruma resort.

Your Chez Panisse-level experience

MICHELIN

Deckman's En El Mogor

\$70/pp

Michelin-starred. Wood-grilled seafood, locally sourced. Open-air. Incredible value for the quality.

Your Occitania / A L'Ouest equivalent

MICHELIN

Animalon

\$70-150/pp

Michelin-starred. Sommelier won 2024 national award. Contemporary Mexican.

Your fine dining + natural wine sweet spot

MICHELIN

Lunario at La Lomita

\$100-150/pp

4-6 course tasting, changes with new moon. Inside winery. Chef Sheyla Alvarado.

Your seasonal tasting menu love

Finca Altozano

\$40-80/pp

Farm-to-table, open fire pit. THE iconic Valle restaurant. More casual, still exceptional.

A L'Ouest but outdoors + Mexican wine

Valle: Wine + Where to Stay

Top Wineries

Monte Xanic

\$30-80

Best for first-timers. Beautiful grounds.

Mogor Badan (El Mogor)

\$30

Sustainable. Hosts Deckman's restaurant.

La Lomita

Included w/ lunch

Houses Lunario restaurant. Small production.

Bruma on-site

Included w/ stay

Sip between the vines at your hotel.

Where to Stay

Bruma Wine Resort

\$160-264/nt

Design cabins in vineyard. FAUNA on-site. 2 pools. Best overall.

Encuentro Guadalupe

\$234-400/nt

Iconic architecture. Strong design focus. 2-night min weekends.

El Cielo Winery & Resort

\$165-595/nt

Full winery resort. Tastings included. Junior Suite to Villa.

Recommendation: Bruma. Best value, FAUNA on-site, design-forward, matches your vibe.

Tijuana: Food + Craft Beer

Walk across from SD in 15 min | Michelin-recognized restaurants | Booming craft scene

Restaurants

Mision 19

Michelin Guide. Contemporary Baja. 2nd floor sustainable building. \$80-150/pp.

Oryx Capital

Michelin Guide. Gastropub. Blvd. Agua Caliente. \$60-120/pp.

Telefonica Gastro Park

Multi-vendor food hall. Tacos, seafood, international. \$15-45/pp. Casual, trendy.

Craft Beer

Border Psycho Brewery

Family-run since 2012. Two locations. Avenida Revolucion cantina. Local following.

Mamut Brewery

IPAs, stouts, ambers. Pasaje Rodriguez arcade. Sleek tasting room with patio.

Insurgente

Xocoveza milk stout (cacao, coffee, chile). Multiple awards. Check current tap location.

Safety: Tourist zones (Av. Revolucion, Zona Rio) are safe. Stick to well-lit areas. Walk with purpose.

Ensenada: Seafood + History

30 min from Valle | Birthplace of the fish taco | Best street food on the planet

La Guerrerense

STREET FOOD

Corner of Alvarado & Lopez Mateos. Tostadas and ceviche (not tacos). Bourdain called it best street food on earth. 60+ years. \$8-15/pp. Arrive early for no line.

Your hole-in-the-wall / street food energy

Hussong's Cantina

DIVE BAR

Since 1892. Oldest bar in Baja. Claims birthplace of the margarita. \$5-10 cocktails. Live music some nights.

Your Latin American Club historical dive

Fish Taco Stands

STREET FOOD

Fish tacos originated here in the 1950s. Multiple stands along waterfront. \$2-5 per taco. Beer-battered, cabbage, crema.

Your City Tacos but the OG source

La Bufadora

NATURE

Natural blowhole 40 min south. Waves shoot 100+ ft. Best at high tide. Quick stop, souvenir market. \$3-5 entry.

Logistics: What You Need

Passport

Required. Book or card both work. Mexico visitor permit (FMM) is free for trips under 7 days.

Car Insurance

US insurance NOT valid in Mexico. Buy online before crossing. \$20-40/day. Baja Bound or AAA.

Border Crossing

San Ysidro: 1-1.5 hr avg. Cross early (7 AM) for shortest wait. Download Border Traffic app.

Cell Service

T-Mobile: included (5GB free). AT&T: \$10/day roaming. Good 4G in Valle, TJ, Ensenada.

Currency

Mexican Peso. USD widely accepted in tourist areas. ATMs at border. Tip 15-20% in cash pesos.

Tolls

Highway 1D toll road: ~\$6-8 USD total. Faster and safer than free road. Keep cash handy.

Two Ways to Do It

Option A: Valle Overnight

RECOMMENDED

- **Thu AM: Cross border early (7-8 AM)**
 - Drive to Valle (~2 hrs). Check into Bruma.
- **Thu PM: Monte Xanic tasting, afternoon pool**
 - Dinner: FAUNA tasting menu (reserve ahead)
- **Fri AM: Second winery. Brunch at resort.**
 - Fri PM: Lunch at Deckman's (\$70/pp). Drive to Ensenada.
 - La Guerrense tostada, Hussong's margarita.
- **Cross back to SD by evening. A L'Ouest dinner.**

Option B: TJ + Ensenada Day Trip

- **Thu AM: Walk across at San Ysidro (15 min)**
 - Grab tacos at Telefonica Gastro Park.
- **Thu PM: Brewery crawl**
 - Border Psycho, Mamut, Insurgente.
- **Dinner: Mision 19 (Michelin). Reserve ahead.**
 - Walk back to SD. Cab from border to hotel.
- **Fri: Drive to Ensenada (1.5 hr from SD)**
 - La Guerrense, fish tacos, La Bufadora, quick Valle stop.

The Call

Valle de Guadalupe overnight at Bruma is the move.

It's your Russian River + A L'Ouest + Martinelli combined, at half the price, in a completely different country.

FAUNA dinner alone justifies the border crossing.

Add Ensenada on the way back for Hussong's and La Guerrerense.

Total cost: ~\$500-700 for the overnight (hotel + 2 meals + wine + gas + insurance).