

Sanborn's Short Log

Sonoyta to Puerto Peñasco



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www.sanbornsinsurance.com

Mexico Entry Requirements



(If you plan to travel **ONLY** to Rocky Point or Baja California, no vehicle permit is required, but you will need a tourist card.)

1. Original or certified copy of your Birth Certificate or Passport must be presented to obtain your tourist card. A \$30 Dollar fee will be charged for each tourist card.
2. Vehicle Title or Registration Receipt. Owner is considered the NAME(S) on title only. For example: Wife cannot take car if the title is only in husband's name. If names of both husband and wife appear on title, either one may take the car.
3. Visa, MasterCard, Diner's, or American Express card with the SAME NAME as on title. An \$30 Dollar fee will be charged to your credit card for the vehicle permit. If you do not have a credit card you must post a bond (2-3% of the value of your vehicle) plus a \$150 Dollar deposit. (The deposit will be refunded when you return the vehicle.)
4. Valid Driver's License (with photo and same name as on title).
5. NOTARIZED letter of permission from the Bank or Lienholder is required on FINANCED CARS, RENTAL CARS, LEASED CARS, or COMPANY CARS (on company stationary).
6. No BORROWED CARS or BORROWED CREDIT CARDS are accepted.
7. You must sign an affidavit of promise to return vehicle back to the United States. You must turn in your vehicle permit before leaving Mexico. Failure to turn in your vehicle permit before the expiration date may result in very high fines and/or denial of entry on your next trip.

* This is subject to change without notice.


The U.S.-Mexico border is closed here at Sonoyta from midnight to 6 AM daily. There are no GAS stations between Sonoyta and Puerto Peñasco. However, there are several GAS stations at Puerto Peñasco and some good hotels and cafes. Remember, too, that this popular Gulf resort is absolutely loaded over Easter weekend with Arizonan fishermen and college kids. No vehicle permit papers are necessary to go to Puerto Peñasco if entering from Lukeville or Baja California.

Incidentally, the road from Lukeville, the border town in Arizona facing Sonoyta, to Puerto Peñasco was paved in early 1942 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Thinking that similar action might be taken on California's oil deposits and storage, Puerto Peñasco was chosen as an emergency escape route to the sea.

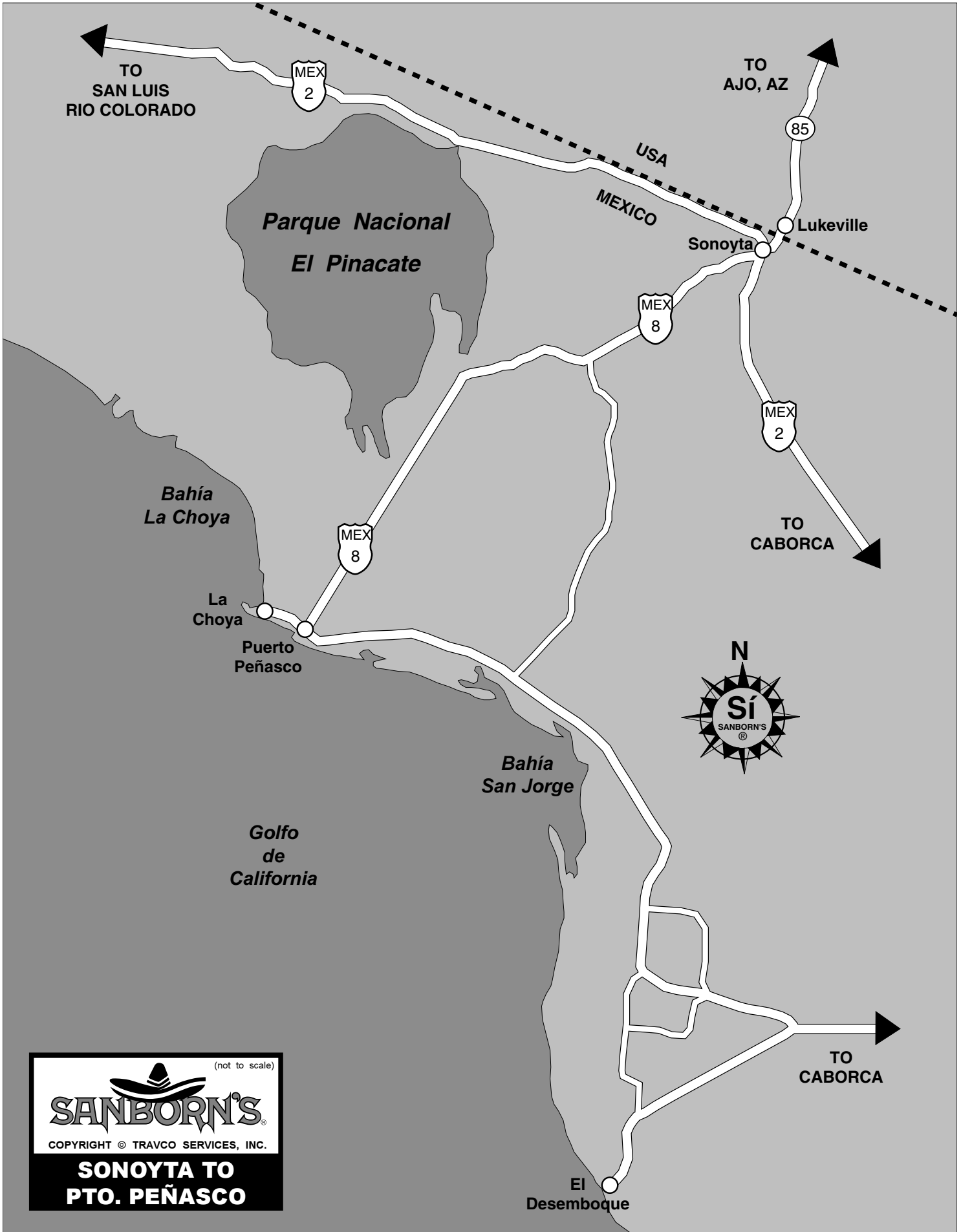
MI	KM	
0.0		In Sonoyta (population: 15,000), after passing customs and immigration, right, proceed ahead.
1.3		Curve right uphill past a basketball court on left then wind down hill.
1.9		Left to statue of Plutarco Calles, educator.
2.1		 Over bridge and pass GAS station on left.
2.2		Then veer right onto Hwy #8 (straight, Hwy #2, goes to Caborca) past Motel San Antonio at right.
2.3		Pass Motel Sol del Desierto (clean, color TV) at left.
2.6		Pass telegraph office on right.
2.8	1	Pass new Palacio Municipal (City Hall).
3.7		Over a vado (dip). Then fairly sharp curve left and over another vado. You'll go over lots of vados on this road, but you can easily cross them at 50-55 mph.
8.2	9	Slow a little for poorly banked right curve and then a left curve.
10.1	12	Pass side road (left) to Rojillo microwave station.
11.8	15	Note rugged El Encantado (The Haunted) Mountain up at left.
14.0	19	Watch for precaution sign.
15.6	21	Slow for poorly banked right curve.
16.2		Begin long straight stretch of 6 miles.
24.3	34	Pass side road (right) to rancho El Pich.
25.7	36	Rest area (<i>area de descanso</i>), no restrooms, only a table and BBQ pit.
25.8		Slow for bump in road.
26.6	38	End vado zone.
28.1		Note microwave tower of San Pedro off to right on mountaintop.
30.0	44	Curve right.
30.4		Pass Ejido Puerto Peñasco.
34.4	51	Over a couple of bridges over usually bone-dry Río Sonoyta. Then thru Ejido Nayarit and pass trail right to El Pinacate Natural Park.
31.8		Rest area (no restrooms).
47.5	72	Ah, trees — and wide spot of El Oasis. It's pretty thru here.
55.6	85	Thru Ejido Las Lágrimas.
61.5	94	Airport at right. Then Motel Mar y Sol at left.
62.6	96	 GAS. Pass side road (right) to Cholla Bay where there's a fishing club whose membership is mostly from Phoenix and Tucson. Then enter Puerto Peñasco, also known as Rocky Point to Arizonans. School at right and athletic field at left.

Reckon we better explain "vados" also called "topes." They are dips in the road that allow rain water to run off. When the rains are heavy, they become dangerous torrents. If you see standing water in the road and no traffic going through, stop. Use a pole or tree limb to measure the depth, unless there is a marker already there. Be alert during rains, because a flash flood could come roaring through to carry your car away.

An *ejido* is a government-sponsored community agriculture project. There are about 30,000 *ejidos* throughout Mexico. They usually have fancy names, like famous revolutionary heroes, ex-presidents or historical dates. The concept of some land for every Mexican was one of the tenets of the Revolutionary struggle in Mexico. The *ejido* system has been eliminated in modern times, but the names and signs live on.

- 62.7 Pass Motel Parada del Leon on left.
- 62.8 Pass **GAS** station at left. Then pass little plaza at left.
- 63.4  **GAS** on left. Pick up railroad at right (Mexicali branch line). Then come to side street left that leads to Motel Villa Granada, two short blocks.
- 63.6 96 Now, one long block past power station, turn right on paved street and over railroad and ahead toward beach.
- 63.8 Stoplight. Right is to beach hotel, Playa Bonita.
- 63.9 Motel Señorial at left. Then a block later is Posada Colonial at left.
- 64.1 Turn left at Gulf waterfront onto grounds of Playa Hermosa Resort Hotel and RV Park.
- 64.2 Come to Freemont road, also known as Las Conchas road. Palacio Municipal ahead on left. A left turn here goes to Las Conchas development. Then left if to several RV parks and hotels. See Puerto Peñasco map.
- 64.5 98 Curve right, then left, to go to hotels Costa Brava and Viña del Mar.

See Puerto Peñasco Eat & Stays for accommodations.



(not to scale)

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**SONOYTA TO
 PTO. PEÑASCO**

(not to scale)



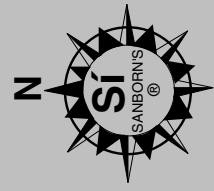
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PTO. PEÑASCO (ROCKY POINT)

TO SONOYTA



Cholla Bay Road



TO CHOLLA BAY

TO CABORCA

MAR DE CORTÉS (Gulf of California)

PLAYA ENCANTO

