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1 contributor

298 lines (237 sloc) | 14.1 KB

2022 Orphanage Trip Driving Instructions

Before We Start

This document assumes that you do NOT want to use [Google Maps](#) or [Apple Maps](#) for navigating to the orphanage but are relying on this document for your navigation.

It is also assuming that you will be keeping this page open in your browser until the trip is complete.

CAUTION

If your browser loses this page and you have to reload the page, this will require that your cell phone will need to use your cellular service. Which will only be available if you've enabled cellular coverage in Mexico.

If this is a concern for you, open the [PDF version](#) and store it on your cellular locally, or get the paper handout from Dianne as a backup.

Things You Need

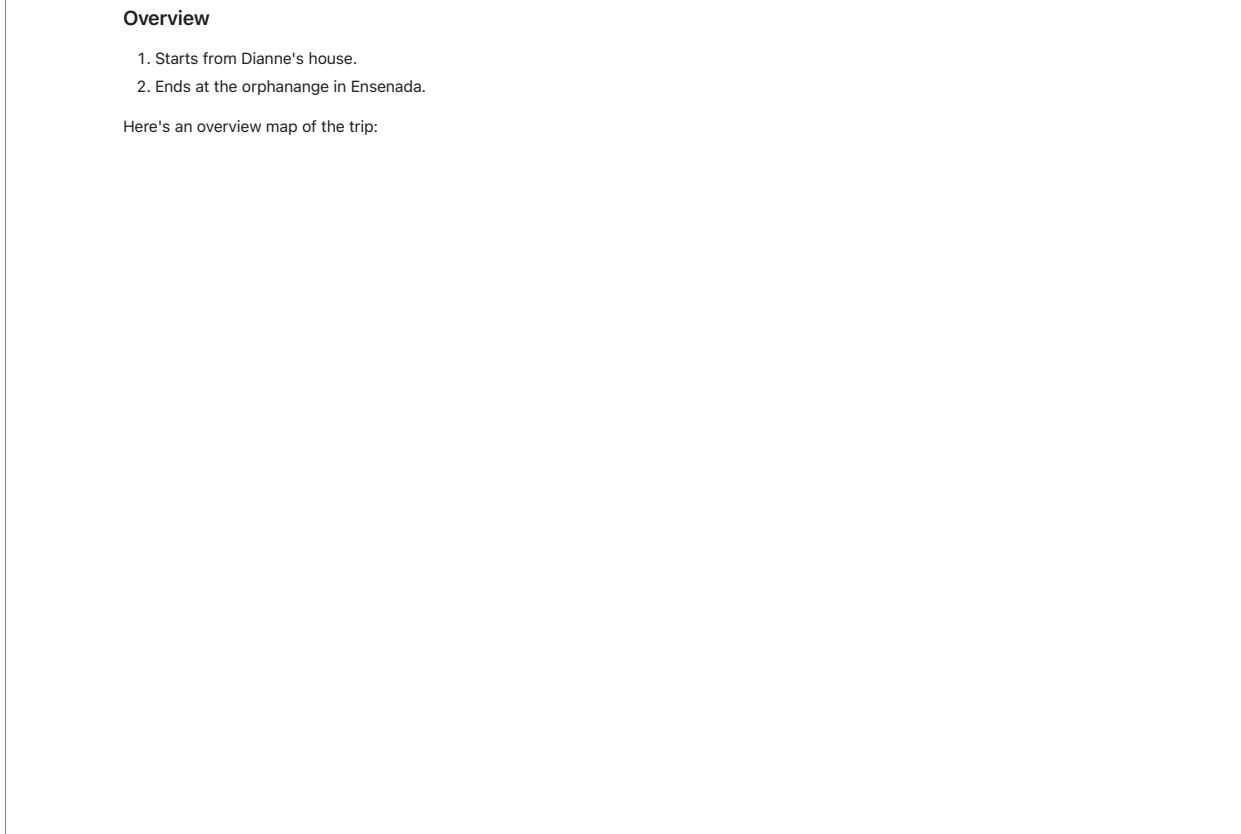
1. Does everyone in your party have a passport? If not, now is a good time to go retrieve it!
2. Do you have \$12 for tolls charged by the Ensenada Scenic Highway? \$12 covers the cost in both directions.
3. Be sure to buy Mexican insurance [online](#) before meeting up with the group on Saturday. Most people in our group buy it from Auto Club. It is highly recommended that you do not enter Mexico w/o Mexican insurance; if you are in an accident, it is likely that the Mexican authorities will not release you through the border until claims are solved.

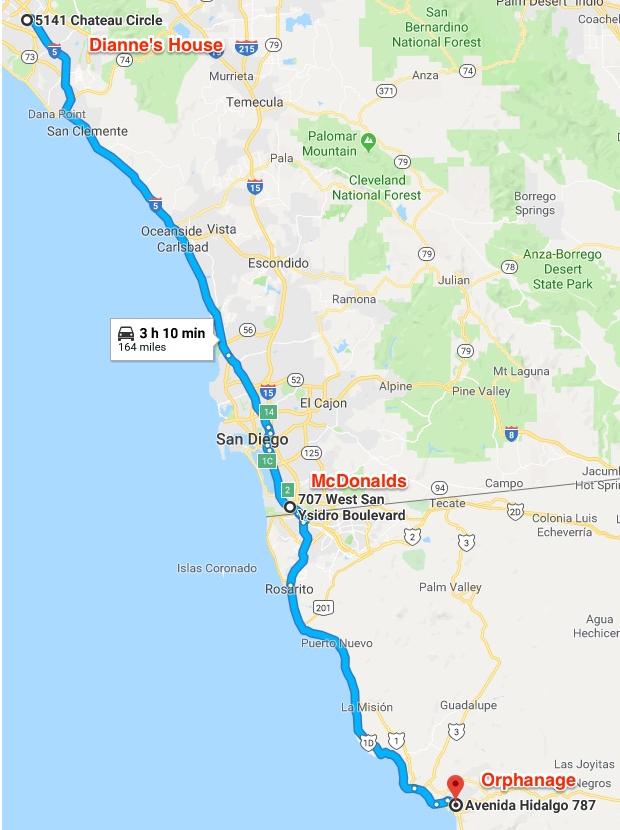
Driving Instructions to Orphanage from Dianne's House

Overview

1. Starts from Dianne's house.
2. Ends at the orphanage in Ensenada.

Here's an overview map of the trip:





You can see that I've broken this into two stretches:

- From Dianne's to almost the Border (McDonalds) at 707 W San Ysidro Blvd, San Ysidro.
- The drive in México to the orphanage.

Instructions to the Stop Before the Border - McDonalds/Mexican Insurance

Starting point is Dianne Lundquist's house, 5141 Chateau Circle, Irvine, CA 92604:

1. Use the ways you already know to head south towards **San Diego** (on the 5 or 405; doesn't matter).
2. After the **El Toro Y** (the confluence of the 5 and 405 freeways), continue for approximately **87 miles** on **Interstate 5**. Note: do NOT take the **805**; stay on the **5**.



3. Exit at **Dairy Mart Rd (Exit 2)**.

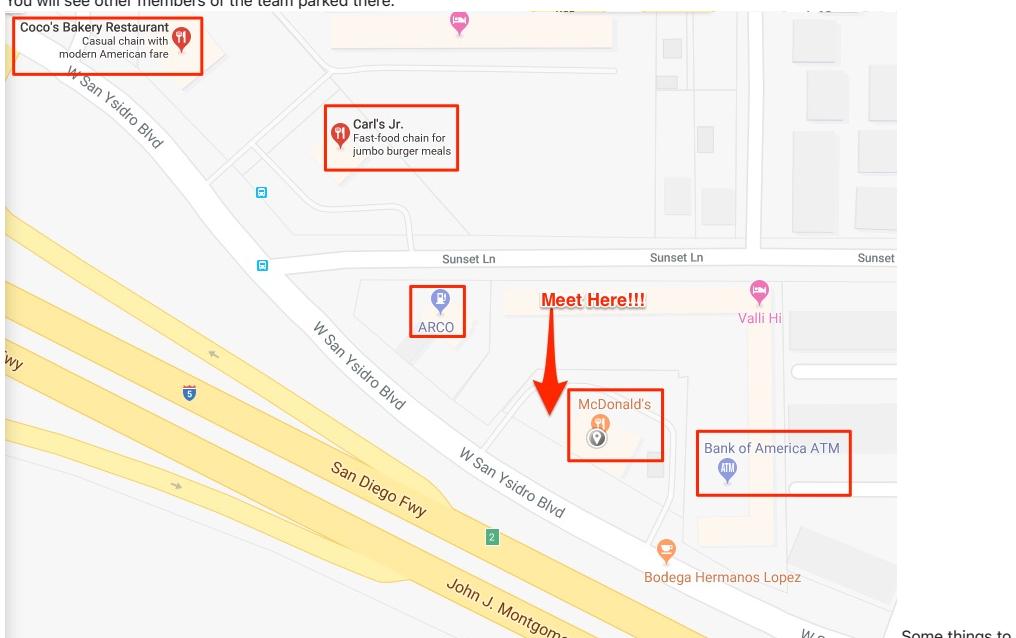
4. After exit, turn left at signal.
5. Cross over freeway, then turn right at signal at bottom of hill.



6. Drive just past McDonald's on the left, then turn left.



You will see other members of the team parked there.



consider:

1. Breakfast: McDonalds, Carl's Jr, or Coco's.
2. Restroom break: any of the above.
3. Buy gas (Arco) if you don't have enough to get back w/o filling up. I've filled up in Ensenada, and I didn't observe any adverse effects to my car, but if you're worried about it, buy gas here.
4. Also, have about \$12 available for tolls on the beautiful Ensenada Scenic Road. They take US dollars. Checkout B of A ATM if you forgot.

Crossing the Border

If you haven't driven in México before

Relax. It's not that hard. The biggest fear I've seen in newcomers is getting lost. Fortunately, there are not that many turns to make on this phase of the trip, and this document makes a huge effort to make sure you make the turns you need to make.

Other observations:

1. People drive much slower in México. Unlike the United States where we try to make the roads as safe as possible (and drivers get so bored they talk on their cellphones and cause accidents), roads in México are more primitive and you HAVE to pay attention (which is a GOOD thing). Fortunately, we're driving in daytime, and the landmarks you need to see are not hard to spot.
2. Drivers are courteous in México; be courteous to them. I see much less reckless driving in México than in the states.

We're going to stop for customs first

We'll drive across the border following the orphanage's red and white van and, in a hundred feet or so, will pull into a parking area and stop.

1. *We will go over as a group because Mexican customs wants to see us as a group. Don't go off on your own yet!*
2. *Important:* Follow the nuns' instructions here. They have a plan to get us in and out of Mexican customs quickly.

Starting the Border Crossing - Inspection (Customs)

1. Follow the nun's van for this section.
2. Start going through the border:



3. Use autos only lanes:



4. Make a sharp right turn:

5. Move over into the right lanes to be ready for the Playas turn off:



6. The van will pull over to a large open area to the right of the sharp left curve in the road. *Follow the van.* The van will pull into a structure designated for travelers having something to declare. Pull into a parking spot in the structure and turn off your engine.

While in the structure

You can walk around, visit (kibbutz). Inside the building they have plenty of public restrooms. At some point, a customs inspector will ask to see the contents of your car; go ahead and help them do so.

Eventually, everyone will again line up behind the van and again follow it into the next facility which is the customs area. So you will quickly park in a new spot. This won't take long at all; basically customs will inspect the cars missed at the previous facility.

At the end of this phase, you are free to travel on your own to the orphanage. You can follow the van if you want, but you are not "required to". These instructions should be sufficient to guide you the rest of the way.

Driving the Mexican Portion

- When you leave the customs area, you will quickly encounter the Rosarito Ensenada exit sign; follow it:



- This will put you on the highway running along the international border. Continue for about 2.5 miles. Along the way you will drive up a steep hill, the road will turn to the left, and you will go down almost as steeply. Watch for the Ensenada turn-off and take the exit:



- Drive about 58 miles on the beautiful Ensenada Scenic Highway. You will go through all 3 toll booths; here's the last one:



- At this point, the Scenic Highway ends and becomes a 4-lane highway with signals. We're on the outskirts of Ensenada now; here's an overview map for the remainder of the trip:



Continue with the *remaining* instructions:

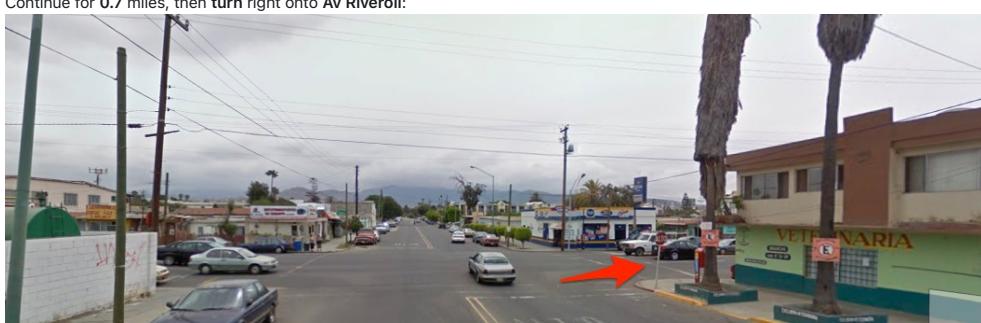
- Continue for about 4.5 miles and bear left onto Bahía de La Paz:



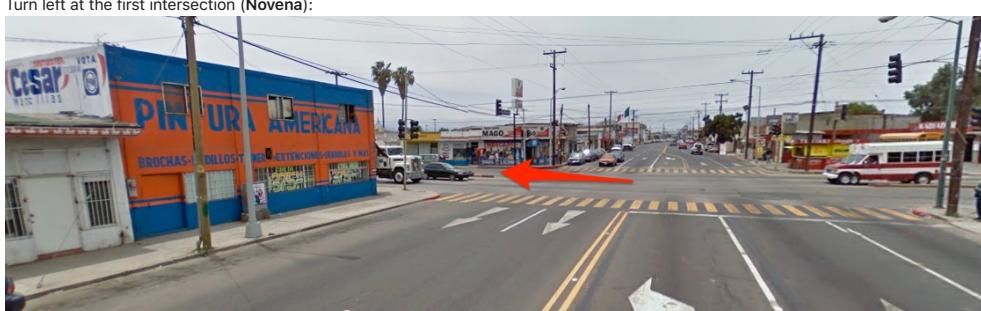
2. Continue for 2 miles and **merge** onto Calle Diez:



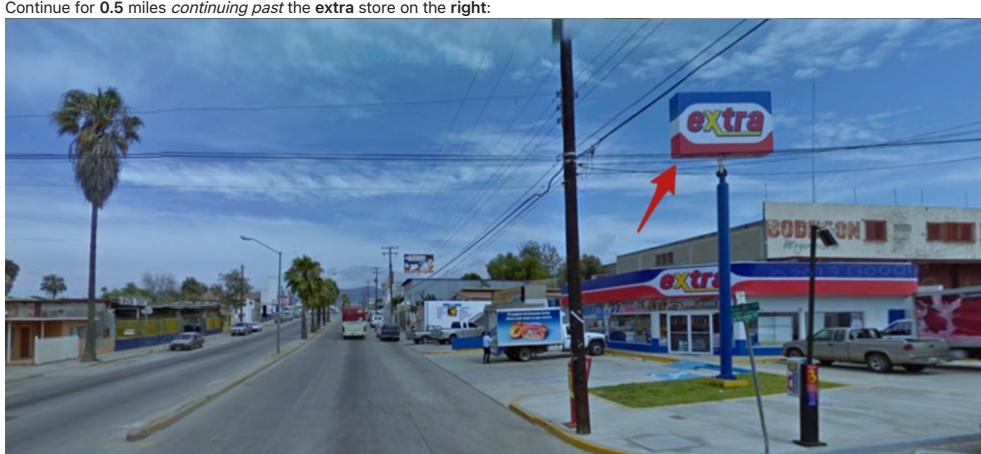
3. Continue for 0.7 miles, then **turn** right onto Av Riveroll:



4. Turn left at the first intersection (Novena):



5. Continue for 0.5 miles *continuing past* the extra store on the right:



6. Keep going straight. At the end of the block, turn right (Av Hidalgo):



7. Continue past one block, then the orphanage is on the right:



The black metal gate will be open and you can drive into the courtyard.

The orphanage address is

Colegio Guadalupe Victoria
Av Hidalgo 787, Obrera
22830 Ensenada
B.C., Mexico

Congratulations, you have arrived!

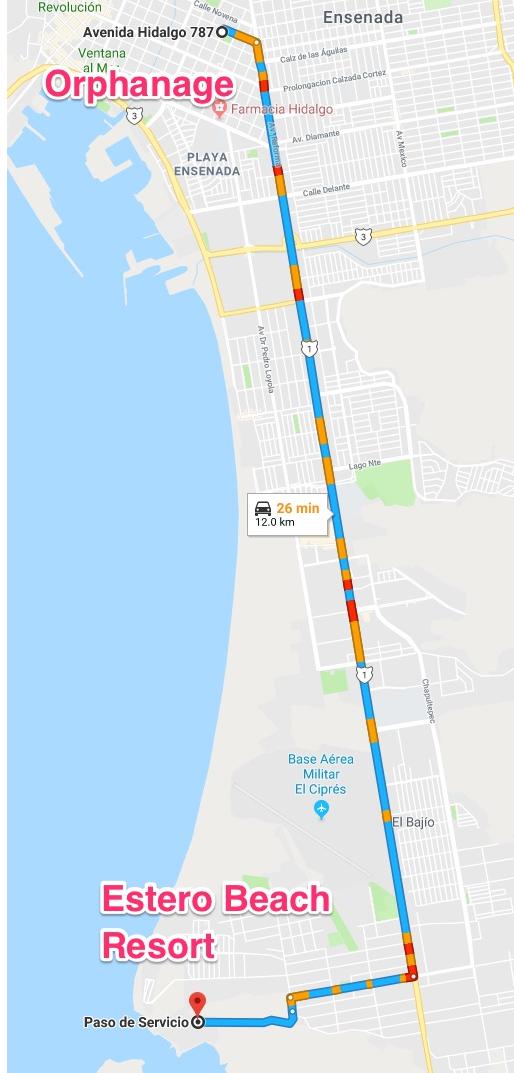
Are You Staying at the Estero Beach Resort

Reasons to Do So

1. Beautiful night stay at a reasonable rate.
2. Excellent on-premises restaurant.
 - Even though the nuns feed us lunch and dinner, it's fun to get together for a meal with the others.
 - The same restaurant offers an outdoor Sunday brunch right on the beach/bay. I consider this the highlight of the trip; if you haven't done this, consider sitting watching the waves and the pelicans in the warm sun with a hot cup of coffee in your hands to be a *mandatory* bucket list event.
3. As important as the above are, an even more important reason is that you get a **Fast Pass** certificate. This enables you to cross the border going back in a small fraction of the time you would otherwise take. Last year it only took 20 minutes from when we arrived at the gate where they process the certificate to when we drove past the border agent and were driving on US highways again. Without the pass, it will take hours to get across.

Driving Instructions from Orphanage to Estero Beach Resort

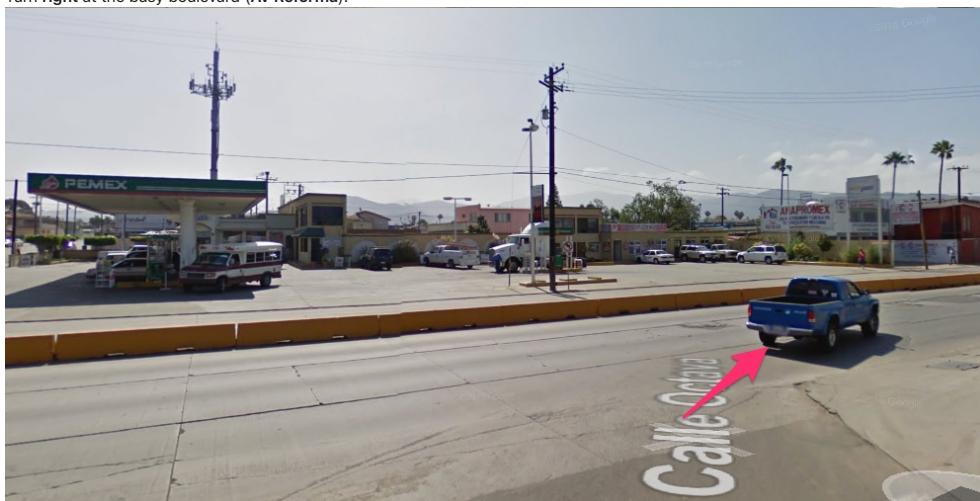
Here's an overview map of the trip to Estero Beach:



1. It leaves from the orphanage.
2. It drops you off right next to the Estero Beach hotel's office.

Route Instructions

1. Pull out of the court yard and turn left onto the street in front of the orphanage (Av Hildago)
2. Turn right at the first street you come to (Calle Octava)
3. Turn right at the busy boulevard (Av Reforma):



4. Drive virtually straight for 5.5 miles. It turns into Highway 1 so you know you're on the right route.
5. Look for the Estero Beach Resort sign on the right:



6. Turn right at the next street (Av Gral Lazaro Cardenas). After turning, it should look like this:



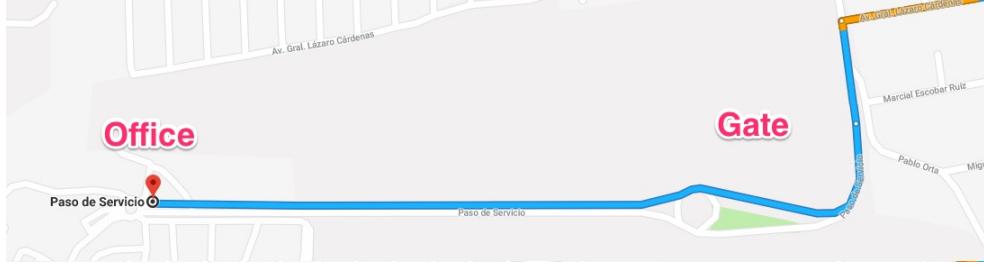
7. Drive to the end of the street where it "tee's" into California y o Tercera:



8. Turn left, and drive until you get to the Estero Beach Restort entry gate:



9. Inform the **gate keeper** that you are a guest at the hotel. He will permit you to proceed. Follow this map to parking and then go into the office:



- After arranging your visit, the staff will direct you to your room. Be sure to inquire about acquiring a **Fast Pass** that will substantially reduce your time to cross the border when you return.

It is a beautiful place. Walk around a bit; find your room and then go to the restaurant where the "old-timers" will be waiting to greet you.

Return Trip for Fast Pass Holders

Fast Border Return

If you stayed Saturday night at **Estero Beach Resort** or ate at a nice Mexican restaurant, be sure to ask for a "fast pass" certificate during checkout. You can use this to cut your border crossing time from >3 hours to 20 minutes; well worth it.

Drive to the US Border from Estero Beach Resort

- Exit the **Estero Beach Resort** by driving out past the guard gate.
- Turn right onto **Av. Lázaro Cárdenas**.
- Left at the signal (Highway 1).
- Drive straight up Highway 1 for 4.0 miles.
- You will drive upon a bridge which you'll recognize by the **yellow railing** on the right as shown in the picture. Take the right offramp at the end of the bridge. In the picture, you can see the cloverleaf descending down to the road below:



- Go straight through the first cross street (Av_dr_Pedro_loyola):



- Turn right at the next cross street onto **Highway 3**. Note it is probably not marked.



8. Stay on **Highway 3** as it goes through the Ensenada seaport and then runs along the beach. You will drive several miles until you reach a tiny freeway intersection. Bear left towards Tijuana:



9. Drive until you come to a fork where you choose to drive the scenic toll road or the free libre road. Bear left onto the scenic toll road:



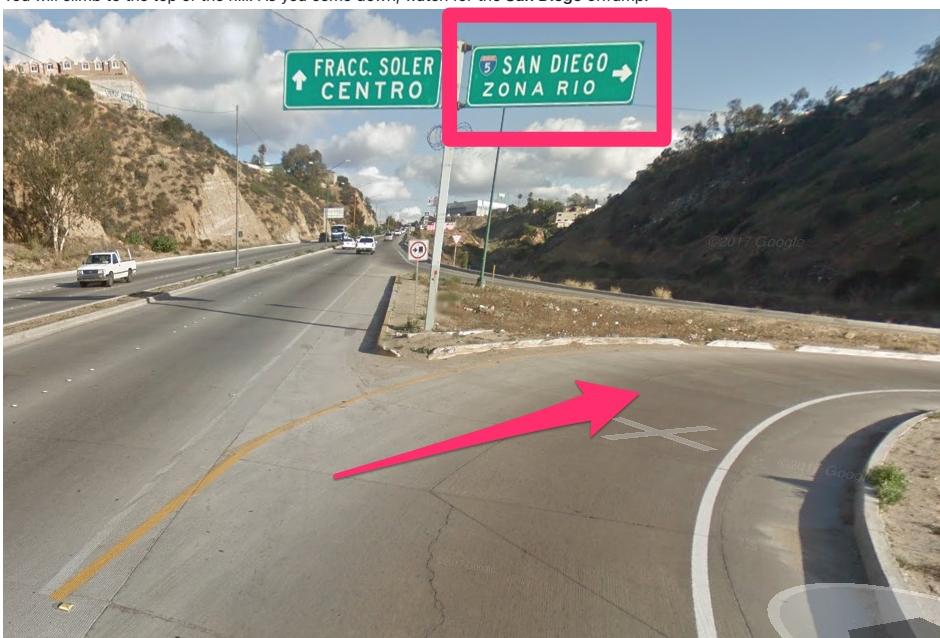
10. You will arrive at the first toll booth. Pay and proceed.

| Enjoy the scenic road. When you are past the last (**3rd**) toll booth, it will be time to pay attention to the driving instructions again.

1. After the last toll booth, in a few miles you will notice you are climbing up a hill next to the **US border fence**:



2. You will climb to the top of the hill. As you come down, watch for the San Diego offramp:



3. You will go up a steep hill again, and then notice you are driving parallel to the **US border** (again):



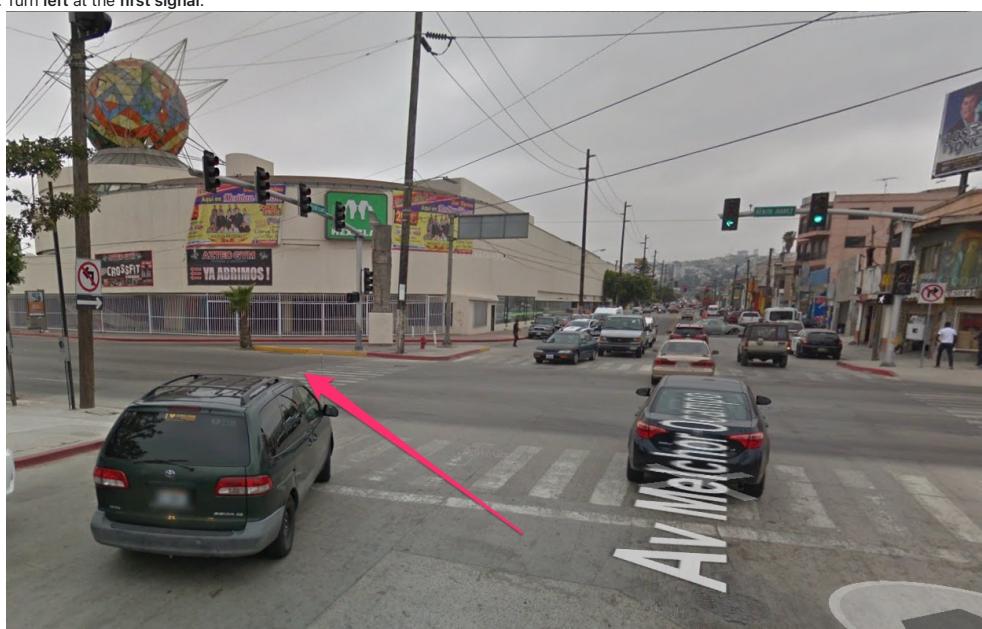
4. Drive 2 miles or so **straight ahead** until the highway starts curving to the right:



5. *Important!*: Turn right on the street where you can see the Smart & Final sign: (there is also a San Diego exit sign to help you out)



6. Turn left at the first signal:



7. *Important!*: You will quickly encounter 5 signs and 3 roads to choose from. Just take the middle one (Col. Federal):



8. You will make a long 360 degree circling up onto a bridge. Keep going until you can bear left to a gate as shown here:



9. There an official will process your **fast pass**. It takes less than a minute to process; then he will open the gate for you, and your wait to cross the border will be cut by around 70% (or more).

Enjoy the goings-on as you wait to cross the border. Be sure you have your **passports** ready to hand over to the US border agents.

Merry Christmas! See you next year.