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Driving Instructions to Orphanage from Dianne's House

 [gistfile1.md](#)

Driving Instructions to Orphanage from Dianne's House

These instructions can be accessed two ways:

- As a paper handout; see Dianne.
- As a PDF file in your smart phone. The iPhone, for one, has *iBooks* which can hold a PDF file in your smart phone's memory and access it. Once loaded, you don't have to have a live Internet connection; this is handy when you want to turn off access in Mexico to avoid (expensive!) roaming charges.

Assumptions

1. Starts from Dianne's house.
2. Ends at the orphanage in Ensenada.
3. You should preferably have a navigator reading these instructions.

Okay, let's go.

Trip Instructions

I've broken this into two sections:

- The border (McDonalds).
- The drive in Mexico to the orphanage.

The border - McDonalds

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 **66 miles** until you encounter the **805/5 interchange**.
3. Continue onto the **805** freeway.
4. Continue driving approximately **26** miles until you see signs for the **CA 905**. Take this exit **east**.



(<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/21e0e4bdbf82be6d3da843504ef3ad52012577fd/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f3930355f66697273742e6a7067>)

5. Continue driving approximately **6** miles until you see Siempre Viva Road. Exit here.



(<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/657a9f95f1b3089dfed628d6416d0d15e949c8af/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f7369656d7072655f766976655f726f61642e6a7067>)

6. At the intersection, turn **right**:



(<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/9cf895e929d7894cefc664e6f79d9013915590b4/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f73696d7072655f766976655f696e74657273656374696f6e2e6a7067>)

7. As you cross over the **905** freeway below you, on the right you will notice **McDonalds**. That is where we are meeting.



(<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/d8be713ee87c3b8cc78ba10a78c715c7c555756c/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f4d6163646f6e616c64732e6a7067>) You get there by turning right on **Roll Drive** and turning into the parking lot.

You will see other members of the team parked there. Some things to consider:

1. Breakfast: There is time for you to get something from McDonald's and eat.
2. Restroom break: Use McDonald's.
3. If you haven't yet obtained Mexican auto insurance, you can do so on the other side of **Roll Drive**:



(<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/dbb02562ebbafec9758adfa51f84ba7500802b36/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f72068616e6167652f696e737572616e63652e6a7067>)

4. Buy gas 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.
5. Also, have about \$10 available for tolls on the beautiful Ensenada Scenic Road. They take US dollars.

Drive to Orphanage (Mexico here we come!)

If you haven't driven in Mexico 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 Mexico. 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 Mexico 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 Mexico; be courteous to them. I see much less reckless driving in Mexico than in the states.

Put your cellphone into Airplane Mode

Unless you have international roaming, you could be hit with a really nasty charge.

Besides, if you downloaded this document into your smartphone, you won't need internet connectivity anyways.

We're going to stop for customs first.

Ironically, we drive across the border 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.
2. Parking is crowded. If you can, pull in behind one of our cars to leave space for others. I'm amazed and heartened by how much everyone works together to provide space for everyone
3. Don't worry, we don't pay anything. You have been given papers that explain everything; provide it to a customs officer if he asks (I don't remember the last time we were asked).

Okay, here we go:

1. Turn **left** out of the **McDonald's** parking lot back onto **Roll Drive**.
2. Turn **right** onto **Siempre Viva Road** (you have no choice; **Siempre Viva Road** is one-way here).
3. Make a **U-turn** at your first opportunity.
4. Turn **left** to merge onto the **905** freeway toward **Otay Mesa Border Crossing**.
5. Proceed for approximately 0.4 miles where you will enter **Mexico**.



6. Here's where you enter:
<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/20fdbb11000a2ba23c34516c05a9d2a2b4287b60/687474703a2f2f777772e73616e6461672e6f72672f656e6577736c65747465722f61726368697665732f646563656d626572323031302f696d616765732f6d657869636f2d626f726465722e6a7067> Stay to your right in the "convoy"; you will pull right into the customs area.
7. Since customs can take up to 30 minutes or so, you can stretch your legs and walk around. *Let Dianne know if you'll want to "convoy" or go on your own.*
8. When the customs officials have finished processing (can take 30 minutes or so), we'll be permitted to leave.

9. Merge onto **Bvd garita de Otay** and stay in the right lane.
10. Take the **ramp** to turn **right** onto **Bvrd De Las Bellas Artes**.
11. In about 0.7 miles the road will end at a "tee" intersection.
12. At the tee, turn **left** onto highway **2**:



<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/510b195a81b68e9f6e43455a4a7eb2a32684e474/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f4d6578487779324c6566745475726e2e6a7067>

13. Stay on this road for about 0.8 miles where you will encounter a "freeway" intersection with a **bridge** you go over.
14. Go **over the bridge**, and stay on the main road to **Rosarito**:



<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/d9be503d187d9368e831663195615264cef1cb57/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f726f73617269746f2e6a7067>

15. In the same way, stay on the main highway, ignoring the left offramp 300 feet further down:



<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/912f66d6904b8ff0e5ccc78e0471184f75d36bff/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f69676e6f72654c6566744f666672616d702e6a7067>

16. Stay on **Highway 2** for approximately 2.7 miles.
17. Continue onto **Bulevar Rosas Magallon**:



(<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/e2aab3d45264862e35858ca57e385079674ba1b2/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f6d6167656c6c6f6e2e6a7067>)

18. Continue for approximately 3.8 mi and watch for this offramp sign:



(<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/03241174b74bec62ef5e6d126569ee09522c55f3/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f726f73617269746f5f656e73656e736164612e6a7067>)

19. 1000 feet further down the road you will see the offramp. Take it:



(<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/077ce2d93a34714b2708da131ecdaabc44007673/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f726f73617269746f5f656e73656e736164615f6f666672616d702e6a7067>)

Parts of the Ensenada Scenic Road are under construction

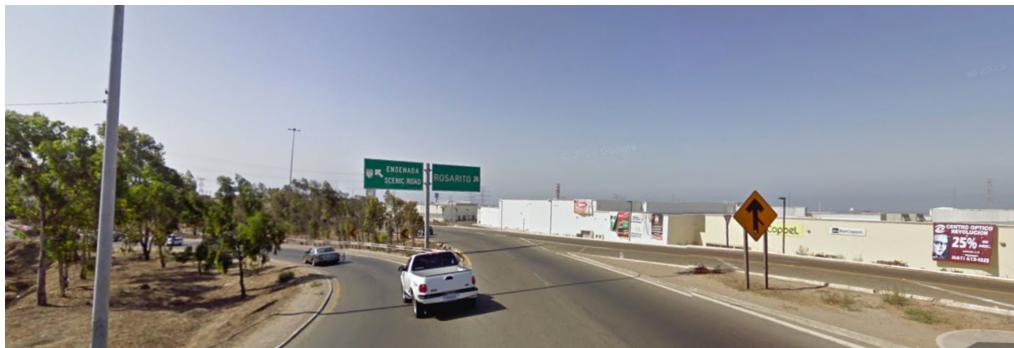
Those parts may be closed entirely. Hence, the instructions that follow provide for both scenarios:

- The section is closed
- The section is open

In general, when the toll road is closed, there is a "business route" that parallels that is free ("libre" in Spanish).

So, let's go on:

1. Continue for approximately 7.4 miles and, if you can, take the ramp on the left to **Ensenada/Scenic Road**:



(<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/c2f21c9cc2b74cd6393dfaead55f97e696ca749/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f656e73656e6164615f7363656e69632e6a7067>). Otherwise continue on the business route.

2. On the scenic road, drive for approximately 22 miles and take the exit toward **Rosarito=Ensenada/Transpeninsular Highway/Mexico 1**. On the free road drive the same distance.
3. If you are driving the toll road, then take the **Rosarito - Ensenada/Transpeninsular Highway/México 1** exit and then turn left on the free road .



(<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/898f37dca751f6ae3eb3da41795c9109d4aa9c8d/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f726f73617269746f5f7475726e6f66662e6a7067>)

This (probably) ends the "under construction" part of our trip.

1. Continue for 22 miles on the free (libre) road. This goes inland (away from the scenic road) and then comes back to it. Then merge onto **Highway 1** towards **Ensenada**.



(<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/3c06d89199abc0921dcd3ae8460c0fd590915af1/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f7265636f6e6e6563745f6877795f312e6a7067>)

2. We're on the outskirts of **Ensenada** now. Continue for about 4.5 miles and bear left onto **Bahía de La Paz**:



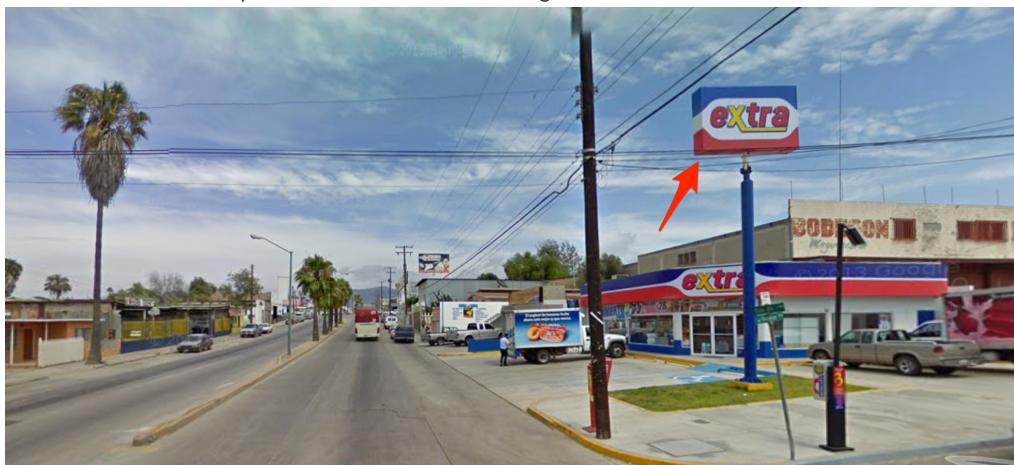
(<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/14e0d852f8eb75edd582240d82748976fb7e0706/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f62616869615f64655f6c615f70617a2e6a7067>)

3. Continue for almost 2 miles and bear right onto **Novena**:



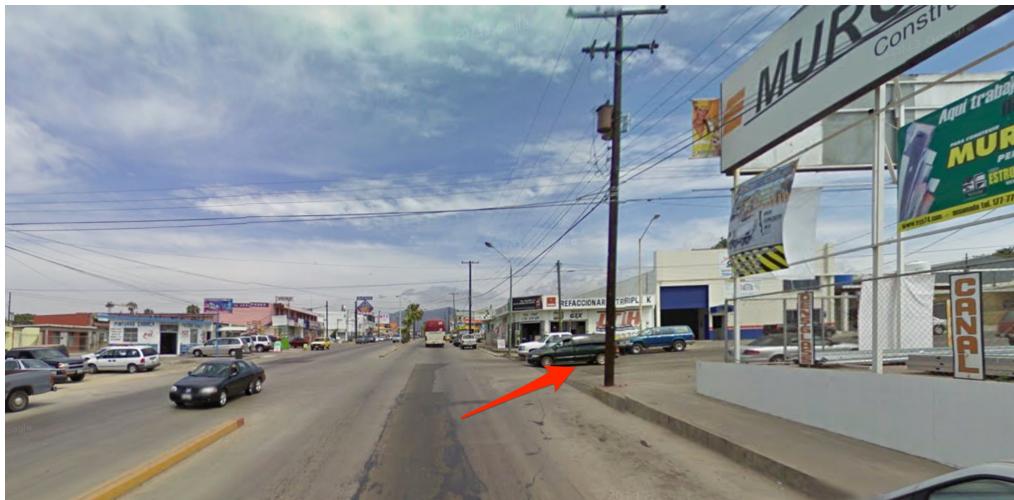
(<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/21fc72fd1766abeeb853e91e6afea8f3e1d6fb92/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f6e6f76656e612e6a7067>)

4. Continue for 1.4 miles past the **extra** store on the right:



(<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/f12a708bb1810bb63ec77d73b789a045b40d8442/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f65787472612e6a7067>)

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



(<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/9544e92f00769c6bc8f4645ccb2f0ebca4e405df/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f686964616c676f2e6a7067>)

6. Continue for **one block**, then the orphanage is on the right:



<https://camo.githubusercontent.com/381183433c47a71b2fb9ed3c6267b05ffd9ad6ed/68747470733a2f2f646c2e64726f70626f7875736572636f6e74656e742e636f6d2f752f3931333231392f6f727068616e6167652f6f727068616e6167652e6a7067> The black metal gate will be open and you can drive into the courtyard.

Congratulations! Now, wasn't that fun?



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