



A Shangri-La for the Easy-Going Glider

*Nayarit,
Mexico*

Occupying a small chunk of Mexico's Pacific coast, the state of Nayarit is host to a bonanza of mellow setups, including point breaks, river mouths, and offshore island peaks.

Surfers have been visiting since the 1960s, historically fixated on the long rights of Matanchen Bay and Punta Mita, known as the Mexican Malibu. More recently, the region's heart has moved to Sayulita, where cobblestone streets lined with colorful houses lead down to a playful beach-reef setup. Most days you'll find local luminary Lola Mignot there, dancing elegantly down the line on her log.

Raised on a sailboat traversing the globe, her family settled in the town in 2002 and opened one of its first boutique hotels soon after. Since then, the mix of easy rollers and laid-back living has seen Sayulita become a favorite with traveling longboarders, who flock throughout the dry season, but especially during the annual Mexi Log Fest.

The event is the brainchild of Israel Preciado, a surfer from Mexico City. As a teenager, he aspired to compete internationally but, after being denied a U.S. visa, he resolved instead to bring the longboarding world to him. In 2015, he auctioned off his quiver of surfboards to raise the funds needed to hold his first Log Fest in Sayulita. The goal was to share the unique surf culture of his homeland with the global community while providing inspiration for the next generation of local surfers. The rootsy feel resonated, and the event has grown steadily over the years, routinely attracting the globe's best male and female loggers, who compete for equal prize money alongside the talented local crop. After a few years down the coast at La Saladita, the event is back in its birthplace for 2022, where it's plain to see Preciado's founding vision has come thoroughly to fruition. Once the heats are wrapped, attendees can be found throughout the town sharing beers, exchanging ideas, and reveling in the sky-high vibes long into the night. ~

