Northbound Border Crossing Instructions

To cross the border, you must be on the Green Route (see large map). If you get off course, follow the directions until you return to the Green Route. The roads are confusing, so don’t get frustrated if you end up on the wrong street; you’re not the first person to do so, or the last. Just stay calm, and work your way back to the Green Route.

General Assumptions
1. The roads are not actually painted.
2. Follow all police instructions (if they’ve blocked off a road, don’t try to force your way in!).
3. When in doubt, follow signs to San Diego.
4. If there is a long line, you probably want to be in it.
5. Call or radio if you get off track and can’t find your way. We can help you!

Green Route Instructions (a.k.a. the way home)
1. You’ve already travelled north up the coast along Highways 1 & 3, and have just passed the third and final Toll Booth between Ensenada & the border. Travel approximately 1 mile till you reach the last bathroom stop (on your right) before the long border crossing line. The exit looks like this:

   ![Green Route Exit](image1)

2. From there, travel about 2 miles till you reach the intersection below.

   ![Intersection](image2)
3. Once you’re over the bridge, take the exit on the right towards Interstate 5, San Diego & Zona Rio.

![Image of highway with signs for San Diego and Zona Rio.]

4. When you reach the bottom of the loop, force your way left to continue on Interstate 5, San Diego & Zona Rio. Don’t go back towards Ensenada! The road looks like this:

![Image of highway with signs for San Diego and Zona Rio.]

5. Follow this road (which has three names: Segunda Benito Juarez, Ensenada-Tijuana Road, and Internacional) as it runs parallel to the border. You can see the United States on your left. As the road curves, prepare to exit to the right, following the signs for San Diego. Upon exiting, move to the far left lane and prepare to turn left at the stoplight. At the first stoplight, turn left. After you turn, you need to get into the second lane from the left.

6. This is where you want to be careful to stay on the Green Route. Make sure you are in Lane 2 (your best option) or Lane 1b (see below - this location & picture are also on the large map as Star 1). Lane 1b splits into 2 lanes (Lane 1a & 1b) and Lane 1a will take you off track, so it’s easiest to stay in Lane 2 if you can. This will be the starting point for all other Routes, as this is the most likely place to get off track. For now, we’ll follow the Green Route.
7. Stick in Lane 2 or 1b as it goes under a bridge and loops up to the right. By this time, you’ll likely be in traffic. Congratulations! You’re in line to cross the border. Be sure to stay as close as possible to your caravan as you inch closer to the U.S., and to try the churros!

**What happens if I’m not in Lane 2 or 1b?**

**Red Route: Lane 1a**

8. It is an easy mistake to move into Lane 1a, and thankfully it doesn’t take you too far off course. In fact, sometimes the police will force people from Lane 1b into Lane 1a to help with traffic flow. If you find yourself in Lane 1a, continue straight as Lane 1a forks to the left from Lanes 1b & 2 (see below, also indicated on the large map as Star 2). Lane 1a will immediately meet up with a lane on your left, and the two lanes will go under a bridge.
9. Past the bridge, a third lane will join you on your right. Merge into this right lane as soon as possible.

10. Continue under the bridge in front of you with the speed limit signs.

11. A side street will run parallel to the road you're currently on (Via Rapida Pte), with a barrier running between the main street & side street. After the bridge, take the first opportunity to move over to the side street through one of the openings in the barrier.

a. Technically speaking, you can go down this road for quite a while trying to get over to the side road if you need to, but every exit you miss is taking you further back in the border crossing line, so get over as quick as you can.
12. The side road will have 2 lanes. Get in the right lane and take your first opportunity to turn right.

b. Sometimes the police may block some opportunities to turn right. Continue straight & turn right at your first opportunity.

13. Go straight until you reach an intersection with a large road (depending on which road you turned left onto, this intersection may look different - some will be a T intersection like this and others will be a roundabout). Turn right onto this road (called Paseo de Los Heroes) and merge into one of the two middle lanes.

c. If you find yourself at a roundabout instead of a T-intersection, stick to the right when you get to the roundabout & take the first exit to head up Paseo de Los Heroes.

14. Once you’ve turned right, you’re now on Paseo de Los Heroes. Continue straight down this road in one of the two middle lanes. It may be tempting to get in the far right or far left lanes, but don’t do it! The far right lane will force you off track, and the far left (although it appears to follow the same road as the border crossing) will actually take you downtown.

15. As you approach a stoplight, the road widens to 6 lanes. As long as you were in one of the two middle lanes originally, just stay in that lane and continue straight. If you find yourself in any lane besides these two lanes, get over immediately!!
16. If you make it straight through the light and are either to the immediate left of the barrier, or in the center lane, congratulations! You will shortly meet up with the Green Route as they loop around to your right, and you’re back on track.

Blue Route: Lane 3
17. Lane 3 takes you around the same loop as the border line, but too far inside - follow the road as it takes you to the right of all those waiting in line to cross the border.
18. Stick to the right when the road forks just past the bridge (see below). The entrance to the left is reserved for ambulances.

19. The road curves around to the left and merges with 2 additional roads. Once merged, there will be 4 lanes heading towards a stop sign (ALTO) & roundabout. Stay in the far left lane (which is the same lane that took you along the border crossing line).

20. At the stop sign, flip a U-turn.
21. After the U-turn, get in the right lane. After 350 feet, turn right at the stop sign.

22. Immediately after that (300 feet or so), the road will fork twice. Stick to the right the first time, and then to the left. You should be going under a bridge, to the right of a lane divider.

23. After going under the bridge, go straight at the stop sign. Continue on this road for half a mile, passing through 1 roundabout (go straight through the roundabout, which is the same as taking the second exit). Stay in the right lane.

24. At the second roundabout, be in the far right lane, and take the first exit.
25. This road will also fork. Stick to the left, so you’re headed up over a bridge. Once you’re past the fork, make sure you’re in the rightmost lane going over the bridge.

26. As the bridge ends, it connects with another road to your right. Merge right as soon as you can. You’ll be turning right at the roundabout with the “Las Tijeras”/Scissors art.

27. Once you’ve turned right, you’re now on Paseo de Los Heroes. Continue straight down this road in one of the two middle lanes. It may be tempting to get in the far right or far left lanes, but don’t do it! The far right lane will force you off track, and the far left (although it appears to follow the same road as the border crossing) will actually take you downtown.

28. As you approach a stoplight, the road widens to 6 lanes. As long as you were originally in one of the two middle lanes, just stay in that lane and continue straight. If you find yourself in any lane besides these two lanes, get over immediately!!

29. If you make it straight through the light and are either to the immediate left of the barrier, or in the center lane, congratulations! You will shortly meet up with the Green Route as it loops around to your right, and you’re back on track.
Teal Route: Lanes 4 & 5

30. If you find yourself in Lanes 4 or 5, continue in the lane you're in as the road curves. When the road straightens out, it's joined by a lane on the right and 2 lanes on the left. You'll also pass by a Costco on your right. You're now on Paseo de Los Heroes headed southeast. Your goal is to be on the same road going the opposite direction.

31. The lanes will merge so there are only four. Move into the lane second from the left. You'll shortly reach a stoplight. Continue straight (don't try to turn left or flip a U-turn—it's illegal!).

32. Travel 0.3 miles past the stoplight till you reach a roundabout. Make sure you're in the lane second from the left at this point!
33. The roundabout is confusing, which is why you want to be in the lane second from the left as you enter it. Look at the roundabout from the air. At every quarter of the circle, traffic is controlled with a stoplight, and some lanes go straight & some turn/follow the circle left. If you’re in the lane second from the left, you can turn left or go straight—exactly what you need. At the first and second quarters of the roundabout, you’re going to turn left, keeping the “Las Tijeras”/Scissors art to your left. At the third quarter, you need to go straight to head northwest up Paseo de Los Heroes.

34. Once you’ve gone straight at the third quarter (or stoplight) in the roundabout, you’re now back on Paseo de Los Heroes. Continue straight down this road in one of the two middle lanes. It may be tempting to get in the far right or far left lanes, but don’t do it! The far right lane will force you off track, and the far left (although it appears to follow the same road as the border crossing) will actually take you downtown.

35. As you approach a stoplight, the road widens to 6 lanes. As long as you were in one of the two middle lanes originally, just stay in that lane and continue straight. If you find yourself in any lane besides these two lanes, get over immediately!!
36. If you make it straight through the light and are either to the immediate left of the barrier, or in the center lane, congratulations! You will shortly meet up with the Green Route as they loop around to your right, and you’re back on track.

Pink Route: Lane 6
37. To get to Lane 6, you’ll first have gone to Lanes 4 or 5. The benefit to taking Lane 6 is that it gives you the quickest second chance to get onto the Green Route. If you’re in Lanes 4 or 5, merge to the right as quickly as you can. You’ll be taking the road that forks to the right off Lanes 4 & 5. Turn right onto this road.

38. This unnamed road will shortly meet up with a larger, five lane road named Carrillo Puerto. Turn right onto Carrillo Puerto & stay in the far right lane.

39. Go straight through the first light you come to. This road is Av. Melchor Ocampo- the same road you were on before. The police have been known to block this side of the intersection from entering the border line, so it’s best to go to the next intersection. Plus, it’s difficult to merge into the correct border crossing line from this intersection, so just keep going!
40. At the second intersection (or your next opportunity, if intersections are blocked), turn right.

41. Go to the end of the block, and turn right onto Benito Juarez y/o Segunda. The street signs may just say Juarez.

42. Merge into the lane second from the left, beneath the sign that says “Interstate 5 San Diego”. The road may have “USA” painted on it.
43. Stick in this lane as you approach the intersection with Av. Melchor Ocampo. This lane will turn into Lane 2- your best option to cross the border! Congratulations, you're back on track!