

CELEBRITY TRAVEL

# Favorite vacation includes beach

By Jae-Ha Kim  
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After starring as Estela Garcia in "Real Women Have Curves" at the American Repertory Theater in 2023, Florencia Cuenca made her Broadway debut in April.

"I feel so honored to play this role that has been played by many outstanding Latina actresses," Cuenca said in an interview from New York City, where she resides. "In this particular iteration of the material, you will get to know Estela more by learning about her dreams and goals. I feel connected and related with this character, being a curvy Mexican immigrant with an accent, pursuing my dreams."

This interview with Cuenca has been edited for clarity and length.

**Q: What does it mean to you getting to star in a Broadway show?**  
**A:** I feel beyond grateful and honored to represent the Mexican, immigrant and curvy community on this stage. Growing up, I never saw someone like myself on Broadway. The first time I felt actually represented was with Sara Ramirez in "Spamalot." I remember watching their videos on YouTube and saying: "They are Mexican. They look like me." They inspired me a lot but even then the dream felt impossible. My family didn't have the money for me to come to New York City. It took me some time, but I am grateful that my journey finally brought me here. I hope the younger



Broadway star Florencia Cuenca says that her top travel destination is her native Mexico. **STEPHANIE DIANI**

generation feels inspired to pursue their dreams when they watch me perform on Broadway and they see themselves on stage. It's definitely a big responsibility. But it was about time this happened. I hope this can open the door to many more immigrants to have the opportunity to originate roles on Broadway. Representation matters.

**Q: Have you visited places for work that were so nice you traveled back there later for a personal trip?**  
**A:** I've been able to travel to amazing cities such as Buenos Aires and Paris. They are definitely on my list to visit again.

**Q: What is your favorite vacation destination?**  
**A:** It is always Mexico. I feel my country has everything you could ask for. And my personal favorite vacation includes a beach. There's nothing like the motherland. I'm always longing to visit my family and friends, and eat delicious food. Because of my Broadway commitment right now, I don't think we are going to be able to make that trip anytime soon.

**Q: How do you separate work from vacation trips?**  
**A:** I feel the only time I've been able to fully disconnect from work is every time we take a family trip to Disney. My husband and I love seeing our little one's face light up throughout

our trips there. It's truly magical. It reminds us to find that inner child, keep dreaming and use our imagination.

**Q: What untapped destination should people know about?**  
**A:** Mexico's Pueblos Mágicos. They are called that because of the magic in the food, rich history and legends. Some beautiful and magical little towns such as Santiago, Nuevo León or Sayulita (Nayarit).

**Q: What was a trip you took as a child that stands out?**  
**A:** My last trip with my dad before he passed away. I was only 8 years old, but I still remember it vividly. We went to Cancun and we had the most amazing time there.

**Q: What are your favorite cities?**  
**A:** Definitely the top two are New York City and Mexico City. I am divided between those two as my favorites. After that, I really love getting to know new cities. I love Buenos Aires, Paris, Los Angeles and Miami as well.

**Q: Where would you like to go that you have never been to before?**  
**A:** There are many places on my bucket list. Definitely London and Madrid are on my list.

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