

Mexico Resort Real Estate Update
From The Settlement Company®
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Welcome to our First Quarter, 2015 newsletter. In this issue we report on the recovery in Los Cabos, growth in México's aerospace industry and health care in this country. As well as an article on Holy Week in Uruapan, Michoacán.

Do All Expats in Mexico Go To Fancy Hospitals?

Posted on [April 6, 2015](#) [April 6, 2015](#) by [jpdicecco](#)

So, the word is out; world-class, high-quality, top-of-the-line, state-of-the-art hospitals are available in many Mexican cities, and they cost a fraction of what similar hospitals do in the U.S. The logical conclusion; all expats – including those who couldn't afford such service back home – go to fancy space-age hospitals where they pamper you above and beyond what's necessary.

The impression is true to a certain extent – at least to the extent that pretty much any expat who wanted to could go to this kind of hospital. And plenty do ... when they feel they need it.

Reality is much more varied ...

This greatly oversimplifies the reality of health care in Mexico – even health care that's suitable for and really used by Americans and Canadians living here.

The reality is this: health care in Mexico offers a wide variety of options, many of which are suitable for expats at some point or another.

The “local” clinics

Think about this; would you feel it necessary to go to a world-class hospital with the best equipment to check out a cut for stitches or a cold that has been going on a little too long? Probably not. Even if the price is relatively low, it would just seem like overkill. And besides that, it might just be an unnecessary “trip.” Even if that hospital's only 20 minutes away in taxi, there might be a good local clinic right around the corner from your home that can do the same for even less money.

Consider this story from Glynna Prentice, a seasoned expat at International Living:

“I once needed to see a doctor when I was staying in the colonial city of Guanajuato, where I have a small house.

“I got recommendations for fancy doctors in Leon, a major city of about 1.7 million people less than an hour from Guanajuato. But in the end, for convenience, I chose to go to a small clinic in Guanajuato’s historiccentro, a short walk from my house.

“The clinic treated walk-in patients, many of whom clearly were not wealthy. The waiting area had plastic chairs and out-of-date magazines. But the doctor, whom friends had recommended to me, was a well-traveled, middle-aged woman with a bright smile and a very professional manner. She sorted me out in no time. And her bill? Just \$20.”

The Public Insurance Option

Besides the local doctor’s practices which can offer very good service, a growing number of expats are using Mexico’s public insurance (IMSS) for their regular needs. For a flat rate of about \$350 per year, it covers everything, including vitamins, eye glasses and sometimes even basic dental work. While their hospitals lack the state-of-the-art equipment of the private hospitals, they are clean and cover more than just the basics; the state-of-the-art private hospitals are always there for anything very major, and for everything else the costs are kept to a bare minimum.

Variety

I’ve given two examples of different options here. But the point is that you can find basic doctor’s offices that can offer a prescription for a minor infection, or do minor stitches; some that are small, but specialized in specific health issues; large public hospitals; large private state-of-the-art hospitals and a dozen other options, which you can choose from at any time according to your needs.

Of course, not all the clinics and hospitals are good. But the majority will deliver what they promise, and be honest when something is beyond their scope, usually quite willing to recommend the best place to seek the treatment you need. Asking around you can quickly find out which hospitals or doctors (of all budgets) are reputable.

Glynn Prentice finishes her article with this simple and important observation:

“In general, I continue to use Mexico’s high-tech hospitals and specialists for my check-ups and medical tests. But it’s comforting to know that in Mexico I have a range of options, depending on my needs. And all of it at wonderfully affordable prices.”

That’s the key – “I have a lot of options – at wonderfully

NAFTA WORKS

US–Mexico High Level Economic Dialogue Makes Progress

On January 6th, 2015, the second meeting of the US-Mexico High-Level Economic Dialogue (HLED) took place in Washington, DC. Created by mandates of President Obama and President Peña Nieto in May 2013, HLED aims to advance bilateral economic priorities, foster growth, create jobs, and improve competitiveness.

National Infrastructure Program, Unleashing Mexico’s Potential

On April 29, 2014, Mexico published the National Infrastructure Program 2014-2018 (NIP) which provides the basis for ensuring the implementation of the main infrastructure projects that will contribute to the economic and social development of the country.

Success Stories

- GM Announced 2013-2018 Investment Plan in Mexico
- Banco Santander to Expand Investments in Mexico
- AT&T to Buy Nextel Mexico’s Wireless Assets
- Ronal Breaks Ground for Mexico Wheel Plant
- Regal Springs will Expand its Capability in Mexico

Breaking News: Mexico’s aerospace industry continues to grow and be promoted. With Quebec company Bombardier as the centre piece eleven companies from Mexico participated at the international Aeromart Expo in Montreal. Meanwhile in 2015 the Mexican automotive industry broke production records. Numbers will get larger as Ford and Toyota have announced major investments in this country. To celebrate its ninetieth year of doing business in Mexico, Ford has announced a \$2.5 billion investment with two new plants, one in Chihuahua and the other in Guanajuato.

(SEE MORE IN FOLLOING ARTICLE...)

Aerospace Manufacturing, Manufacturing in Mexico

Mexico is home to a variety of industrial clusters that produce high quality goods that are then exported to locations across the globe. The companies that produce these items are drawn to the country for a variety of reasons. The most significant of these is the fact that Mexico boasts a labor force that possesses the technical proficiency to produce products as tiny as medical devices, and as large as automobiles and critical components used in the aerospace industry.

While Mexico's vehicle production industry has propelled the country into its current status as one of the world's fastest growing economies, the aerospace sector is a key contributor as well.

According to Quarterly Americas, in 2011 Mexico [exported \\$4.3 billion in aerospace goods](#). This number represented a 40 percent increase over figures recorded just four years prior. Analysts predict that this number could double again this year and by 2020 Mexico's aerospace exports could be valued at roughly \$12 billion.

Much of this growth will be spurred by the sector's growing workforce and capital investments being made by foreign companies looking to take advantage of all that Mexico has to offer when it comes to producing aerospace components.

Mexico's aerospace cluster is just as important to the country's economy as its automobile production industry.

OMEGA Engineering establishes a presence in Mexico

There seems to be no end to the number of companies that have either already completed the process or are making plans to expand. With its ability to manufacture goods inside the country and then ship them out to other countries as part of the North American Free Trade Agreement, this is seen as being a highly attractive option for foreign organizations looking to capitalize on the low-cost, high-quality manufacturing activity taking place in the country.

One of these companies is OMEGA Engineering. According to an Aerospace Manufacturing and Design report, as part of its plan to expand into a truly multinational corporation, OMEGA recently christened its new operation in [San Pedro Garza Garcia, Mexico](#). Located in the state of Nuevo León, the city is part of the Monterrey metropolitan area, which is also home to one of the country's largest aerospace clusters.

ProMexicoGlobal wrote that the region is [home to 24 companies](#) that employ more than 3,000 people. In addition, Monterrey boasts as many as five universities and a research and innovation center that specializes in aerospace engineering.

"Of Mexico's 31 individual states, 16 of them have factories specializing in aerospace manufacturing."

Aerospace Meetings Guadalajara reported that since 2004, this industry sector has [grown 20 percent on an annual basis](#). This is due in large part to vast numbers of students graduating with degrees in both technology and engineering. Many of these

individuals take these courses to secure jobs in the aerospace and automobile industries.

In addition, Quarterly Americas wrote that the Mexican government is increasingly committed to creating training programs at the university level and trade schools that will groom the next generation of aerospace workers, essentially making the industry stronger and securing a foothold as a major industry hub.

At present, of Mexico's 31 individual states, 16 of them have factories specializing in aerospace manufacturing. While Baja California and Querétaro are considered to be the epicenters of the Mexican aerospace industries, between 2008 and 2013, as many as 36 aerospace factories were established in Chihuahua City alone.

In a report from The Daily Transcript, the website wrote that between 2004 and 2014, the number of aerospace manufacturing facilities has grown from [100 foreign companies to more than 300](#). Companies operating in this sector should begin taking a hard look at the country and creating plans on how to set up operations to capitalize on Mexico's workforce proficiency and significantly lower labor costs.

Global Mexico is in Its Second Successful Year

Global Mexico Real Estate Institute, A.C. (IIGM) was founded in 2014 to “Deliver International Real Estate Education at Its Best.” It is now in its second year of providing high quality international education in Mexico. During 2014 several National Association of Realtors® (NAR) designation classes were presented in Cabo San Lucas.

In addition the Certified Negotiation Expert Class (CNE) was given. (*The Real Estate Negotiation Institute RENI has given Global Mexico exclusive rights to present its classes in Mexico*). In 2015 Global will deliver classes and professional designations are available in places such as La Paz, San Miguel de Allende, Guadalajara, Puerto Vallarta, Playa del Carmen and Merida. The CIPS Institute to be held June 8 to 12 in Cabo San Lucas will feature instructor stars David Michonski and Linda Jones Neil and will include networking social events and real estate tours. A contingent of REALTORS® from the Pacific Northwest is expected to attend as well as Realtors from other parts of the U.S. and Canada. Global Mexico will also present the Certified Negotiation Expert course a second time on May 28 and 29. For more information please see www.globalmexico.org

Semana Santo in Uruapan Michoacán

For 55 years the artisans of Michoacán have come to Uruapan for the largest event of its kind in Mexico. This year more than 300 came from forty seven pueblos.

Michoacán handicrafts and folk art is a [Mexican regional tradition](#) centered in the state of [Michoacán](#), in central/western Mexico. Its origins traced back to the [Tarascan \(Purepecha\) Empire](#), and later to the efforts to organize and promote trades and crafts by [Vasco de Quiroga](#) in what is now the north and northeast of the state. The state has a wide variety of over thirty crafts, with the most important being the working of wood, ceramics, and textiles. A number are more particular to the state, such as the creation of religious images from corn stalk paste, and a type of mosaic made from dyed wheat straw on a waxed board. Though there is support for artisans in the way of contests, fairs, and collective trademarks for certain wares (to protect against imitations), Michoacán handicrafts lack access to markets, especially those catering to tourists.

During the festivities there are several parades. Most noteworthy are the Desfile (parade) de los Artisans and the Danza de los Aguadores. In the latter more than 500 Purepecha women walk from the Rio de Cupititzio carrying clay jugs of water. Attired in traditional costume they walk through the city to the Templo Inmaculada. (church) There, the water is blessed. Those in the procession are from the nine barrios of Uruapan. (Santo Santiago, La Magdalena, San Miguel, San Pedro, San Juan Bautista, Los Santos Reyes, San Francisco and , La Bautista Trinidad. Watching the parade I counted fifteen "bandas" as I watched the sun hitting the golden tubas as they walked along the main street of Uruapan. A banda is a 10 to 12 member unit with trombones clarinets a tuba, snare and bass drums and of course trumpets. The sounds were of Purepecha music with a very special rhythm.

Two other popular events are the judging and show casing of the winning pieces from the tianguis at the main plaza. This is in the sixteen century Casa de La Cultura and is one of the oldest buildings. The other is the fiesta gastronómica. The Purepecha people set up their food stands at the Plaza Ranita. (At the corner of our street, Corregidora) Here, cooking over wood fires they prepare tasty dishes some that are pre-Hispanic. Always a popular event, people lining up waiting for a seat.

In total there are 90 cultural events at what is the oldest and largest expo of its type in Latin America.

WHERE to STAY: Should you decide to attend in 2016, please check out www.casasernity1.com

Los Cabos Bounces Back and Increased Air Travel to Mexico

Hurricane Odile arrived in Los Cabos on September 14, 2015. It did severe damage to properties along the area's 8- or 9-mile stretch of beach. Hardest hit were resort hotels and the in the community of San Jose del Cabo.

Many hotels either never closed or have reopened since the September storm rampaged ashore with winds up to 125 mph. Of the roughly 14,000 hotel rooms in the area stretching from Cabo San Lucas to San Jose del Cabo (collectively known as Los Cabos), hotels with a capacity of about 10,000 are now taking bookings

The Hyatt Place in San Jose was all but a shell. The hurricane turned red roofing tiles to rubble atop the Dreams Los Cabos resort.

Two new golf courses that debuted in December: a spectacular Jack Nicklaus Signature course built within Quivira, a 1,850-acre residential community along the Pacific coastline, and Mexico's first Tiger Woods-designed course in Mexico, at Diamante, another oceanfront development were quick to open in December. There are now fifteen courses open in Los Cabos with two more on the drawing boards.

Hurricane repairs continued into 2015 with hotels gradually reopening. The hurricane struck during a period when resorts would normally be doing seasonal repairs. Some hotels used that budget plus insurance money to upgrade facilities. The venerable and iconic One and Only, an historic landmark has added two restaurants and a "gentleman's spa". In Cabo San Lucas, the Hyatt Ziva now features 21 luxury- two bedroom suites. A new Thompson Group " The Cape" is opening at medano beach. A Ritz Carlton hotel will open at Puerto Los Cabos| Several new flights have been added including a direct flight from Washington D.C.

Many have worked hard and with determination to successfully put Los Cabos back together again. Kudos must go to CFE (electrical commission) At one time a convoy of CFE trucks was sighted coming from the ferry terminal at Pichilingue. (La Paz) Crews worked long hours seven days a week to restore electrical service.

\ Bottom line... Los Cabos s open for business.

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