

## Mexico Resort Real Estate Update .....

From the Settlement Company®

### ***Para leerlo en espanol, favor de abrir el anexo....***

Welcome to the Third Quarter, 2016 Newsletter. In this edition we highlight attractions near Uruapan, the avocado capital of the world. We are also able to report positive numbers for the Mexico's international tourism industry.

#### **Attractions near Uruapan...**

In the last edition, I wrote about places to see in Uruapan. Now I will list nearby places to go. With the exception of Morelia, these are a day trip away. Many visitors have come to Uruapan and hired a bi-lingual taxi driver to take in the local sights.. Compared to tariffs in Canada and the U.S., fares are lower here.

**Vasco de Quiroga** (1470-78 – March 14, 1565) was the first [bishop](#) of [Michoacán](#), [Mexico](#) and one of the judges ([oidores](#)) in the second [Audiencia](#) that governed [New Spain](#) from January 10, 1531 to April 16, 1535.

He employed a strategy of gathering together indigenous populations into congregated Hospital-towns called *Republicas de Indios*, organized after principles derived from [Thomas More's Utopia](#). The purpose of this policy was to make the dispersed indigenous populations easier to control and instruct in Christian values and lifestyles.

Because of his reputation as a protector of the Indians, Vasco de Quiroga is venerated as a saint in some communities in Michoacan to this day.

As bishop, he transferred the seat of the bishopric from [Tzintzuntzán](#) to [Pátzcuaro](#). In Pátzcuaro he founded the cathedral and the Seminary of San Nicolas. He worked to gather the Indians in large towns near [Lake Pátzcuaro](#); in the center of [Purépecha](#) territory. Using [Thomas More's Utopia](#) as a model, the Indians were to be taught religion, crafts and the fundamentals of self-government. Each town was to become the center of an industry. Each person worked six hours a day and contributed on an equal basis to the common welfare. Bishop Quiroga's efforts were very successful, and he was said to be greatly beloved by the members of his flock. He was known to them as Tata Vasco (Father Vasco).

**Paracho:**

Paracho de Verduzco (often called merely **Paracho**) is a small city located in [Michoacán, Mexico](#). It is an easy drive from Uruapan and has a population of about 16,000.

It is famous for the production of world class guitars and other musical instruments. The town is full of music shops that sell handmade stringed instruments. Some instruments that can be found in Paracho are: 10-string [mandolins](#), [armadillo](#)-backed guitars ([concheros](#)) and mandolins, and acoustic bass guitars, as well as regular classical guitars. Many of the stores and workshops allow visitors to watch the guitar-making process directly. A national music festival is held in Paracho once a year, usually the second week of August. Maestros such as John Williams teach master classes during the festival week.

### **Paricutin:**

**Parícutin** (or **Volcán de Parícutin**, also accented **Paricutín**) is a dormant [scoria-cone](#) volcano located in the Mexican state of [Michoacán](#), near the city of [Uruapan](#). The volcano surged suddenly from the cornfield of a local farmer, in 1943. This eruption presented the first occasion for modern science to document the full life cycle of an eruption of this type. During the 9-year life span of Parícutin, scientists sketched and mapped it, took samples as well as thousands of photographs of this volcano. By 1952, the volcano left a 424 meter high cone and significantly damaged a 233 km<sup>2</sup> area with the ejection of stone, ash and lava. Although the area still remains highly active volcanically, Parícutin itself is quiet and has become a tourist attraction, with people climbing the volcano itself and visiting the hardened-lava covered ruins of the San Juan Parangaricutiro Church. Parícutin is one of the [Seven Natural Wonders of the World](#) as assigned by [CNN](#). Small rustic cabins and a restaurant are located along with a look out. Many tourists rent horses and ride to the ruins of the church.

### **Lake Zirahuen:**

**Zirahuen is a pristine lake in the Colonial Highlands of Michoacan, with crystal clear, blue water and surrounded by hills, covered with pine and oak trees. Activities range from staring in awe at the lake, to mountain climbing, swimming, walking, kayaking, hiking, bicycling and horseback riding.**

The lake has been called "Mexico's Walden Pond." It is a deep "endorheic" lake with a muddy bottom. Surrounded by tall pine trees the pristine lake has cabins for rent on all sides. Among them are Zirahuen Forest Resort with 25 cabins and a restaurant. Perched on a hill is Hotel Tarinjandi Resort

## **Happy Planet Index measures 'sustainable well-being' and ranks Mexico as 2nd happiest country**

Source: Mexico News Daily

You won't find many countries happier than Mexico. In fact, there's just one and that's Costa Rica, according to the Happy Planet Index.

Mexico has been ranked No. 2 in the world by the index, described by its creator as a measurement of sustainable well-being.

It was well-being, along with life expectancy, where Mexico scored high. Data gathered by the research firm Gallup measured how satisfied citizens felt with life overall, on a scale of one to 10, and gave Mexico 7.3 for well-being, 11<sup>th</sup> out of 140 countries.

Life expectancy of 76.4 years put Mexico in 39<sup>th</sup> place in that category.

Another factor was "inequality of outcomes," which takes into account inequality within a country in terms of how long people live and how happy they feel based on the distribution of life expectancy and well-being data.

Mexico didn't fare so well here, coming in 60<sup>th</sup> out of the 140 countries measured.

A fourth factor was ecological footprint, measuring the average impact each resident places on the environment. Mexico placed 77<sup>th</sup>.

The study, conducted by the think tank New Economics Foundation, points out that well-being in Mexico is higher than in the United States, despite having an economy that is five times smaller, and an ecological footprint that is one-third that of its neighbor.

The index cites the 2012 introduction of universal health coverage and the 2014 soft drink tax as two examples of "what's working well in Mexico." It also mentions the growing political attention being given to environmental sustainability, which has been seen in legislating long-term climate targets and steps to conserve forests and protect biodiversity.

But the index points out that economic inequality is "a massive problem," saying the top 20% of the population earns more than 13 times as much as the bottom 20%. That and high poverty rates among indigenous peoples and human rights violations represent "significant challenges."

It also mentions the multi-party agreement called the Pact for Mexico, signed in December 2012, as having been an important step for the country's future.

Other [Happy Planet Index](#) rankings put the U.S. in 108<sup>th</sup> place and Canada 85<sup>th</sup>.

Colombia, Vanuatu and Vietnam placed third, fourth and fifth while Togo, Luxembourg and Chad were at the bottom of the list.

The New Economics Foundation describes itself as the United Kingdom's leading think tank promoting social, economic and environmental justice, and says its goal is to transform the economy so it "works for people and the planet."

Another happiness index ranked Mexico in 14<sup>th</sup> place last year. [The World Happiness Report](#), prepared by a United Nations agency, examined income, life expectancy, generosity, social support, freedom and corruption among 158 countries. Switzerland placed first and Togo last.

*Mexico News Daily*

### **Over 15% growth in tourist for Cabo in first half of 2016**

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Author: [iTravel Cabo](#)



Encouraging figures have been released this week showing over 15% of an increase in tourism in both Los Cabos and La Paz in the first 6 months of 2016.

This includes both domestic and foreign tourists. And is reflected in higher hotel occupancy, busier airports and new flight routes. Check out our recent articles over below – we have been covering all this stuff over the last few months.

Ironically this good news comes in the same week as the tropical storm Javier – which had the potential to wreak havoc on the tourist scene of Cabo. Fortunately, unlike Odile in 2014, Javier did not develop into a hurricane.

Cabo's tourism Minister proudly pointed out that – “operations of the tourism sector in the municipalities of La Paz and Los Cabos, did not suffer any effect by the passage of the tropical storm Javier. The rains did not affect the infrastructure of tourist services, or the integrity of tourists.”

Over 27 000 tourists in Cabo were kept safe and secure throughout the storm. And huge efforts were made to reopen the port, clean up the beaches and get things back to normal as quickly as possible.

With a record like that, here's hoping tourism in Cabo grows another 15% in the next 6 months of the year.

Right now tourist related activities generate more than 70% of the state GDP and employ over 250 000 people in the middle peninsula. So a 15% growth in tourism translates into massive social and economic benefits for the local community. And this, of course, can only be a good thing for Cabo.

Mexico's aerospace industry is thriving During the period 2011-2015, investments were made in 44 companies to fund 51 projects Following are numbers from other countries; U.S. 98 projects in 71 companies, United Kingdom 68 projects in 41 companies, United Arab Emirates 39 projects in 35 companies, India 41 projects in 31 companies Singapore 39 projects in 32 companies, France 35 projects in 28 companies 21 projects Brazil 29 projects in 26 companies and Canada 21 projects in 17 companies.

The state of Guanajuato is the leader in Mexico and there will soon be a new industrial park opening. Named “Sky Plus”, construction started back on April. It will be located in Silao, next to the Bajio International Airport.

The Governor, Miguel Marquez Marquez, during his fourth government report, announced the construction of this new cluster in the month of March, with a 6 million pesos investment.

Turned into one of the main stages of Guanajuato's industrial boom, Puerto Interior has received investments for 2,458 million dollars during the past 6 years. Up until now, the automobile sector has marked its predominance in this logistical complex, by representing 59% of the investments.

After starting a few years ago attracting aeronautic investments to San Miguel de Allende, near [Queretaro](#) (where this sector has expanded the most in the last years in the country), Guanajuato will focus on consolidating as a maintenance center for aircrafts and in the long run, a manufacturer of airplane parts.

In an 80 hectare extension, it'll be home for leading companies in airplane maintenance and helicopters as well as other pieces fabrics. In the same space, a logistics platform will be established, it is expected to be the most complete and dynamic one in the country.

This way, the state, which will become the number one in [automotive vehicles](#) in 2020, will seize their potential in the aeronautic sector. Around 1,600 direct jobs will be generated, as well as 4 thousand indirect ones.

Also, a bonded warehouse will be prepared to facilitate the transportation of air cargo.

The Governor also announces the economic growth of 7.5%, the arrival of 8 thousand million dollars in foreign investments, the installation of 164 foreign companies and the generation of 139 thousand new formal [jobs](#), as well as the installation of 10 new industrial parks.

Meanwhile there has been an increase of visitors on the national level. During the first half of 2016, an uptick was registered for international tourists coming to Mexico. Here are the numbers: by AIR- +10.7%, arriving at the Border + 2.9% and by cruise ship + 0.2% In Mexico City...

## **New Aeroméxico flights are believed to have given visitor numbers a boost**

Mexico News Daily | Wednesday, August 24, 2016

Greater numbers of Canadians are traveling to Mexico City, according to data compiled by that city's Tourism Secretariat.

During the first six months of the year, the number of Canadian visitors soared 34% over the same period last year, for a total of 71,000. And the figures for all of 2015 were up 17%, to 111,000, over the previous year.

Tourism Secretary Miguel Torruco Marqués said Canada is the sixth most important source of tourists for the city after the U.S., Colombia, Spain, Brazil and Argentina. They stay for an average of five nights and spend US \$895 each.

The surge in Canadian visitors was attributed to Aeroméxico's new flights to Toronto and Vancouver.

Torruco Marqués reported on the number of visits while on a tour of Canada and the United States to promote Mexico City's Mis Raíces (My Roots) program, designed to encourage Mexicans who live in the U.S. and Canada to visit the country of their birth.

It is targeting an estimated 35.4 million Mexicans in the U.S. and 96,000 in Canada.

Source: [\*El Sol de México\*](#) (sp)

## **VIVA Mexico**

Canada has its First of July and the U.S. has the Glorious Fourth. Here in Mexico we have "mes patria" ( Month of the Fatherland) The celebration starts on September 1st and lasts all month.

This morning, coming home from my early walk I passed the monument de bandera. (Flag monument.) The flag was already up the pole and the intersection was full of dignitaries and politicians. I also noted several civil defense vehicles and fire trucks. Earlier in the week mobile stands started to spring up on corners. They are selling flags, banners, hats and all kinds of red white and green decorations.

Each morning students from a different school pick up the large flag at the library down the street from us. Led by a *banda guerra* (drum and bugle band) they proceed to the bottom of the monument. Following a civic ceremony the flag is raised with great ceremony. At the end of the day the *bomberos* ( fire fighters) will come along with their band and honor guard. The guard does not carry weapons, rather shovels panted red are on their shoulders, The flag is lowered, folded, placed in a glass case and paraded back to the the library.

The big event of the month is the "*Grito*" That is a reenactment of the shout for patriotism by Farther Miguel Hidalgo that took place on September 16, 1810 from the bell tower of his church.. On the 15th in the evening, the President of the Republic appears on the balcony at the National Palace. He will do the "shout" as will Mayors of all cities across Mexico

While we will not be in Uruapan or Mexico on the 15th. We will go to the capital for two nights next week. We have a reservation at the venerable old Hotel Majestic. It is located across the road from the plaza in front of the National Palace. The decorations on the buildings around the plaza are truly spectacular. We have been there more than once in September. One year we walked alongside the military parade that left from the Angel of Independence, along the Paseo Reforma.

(The Champs Elysee of Mexico) Of course there were infantry types, but also a variety of other units... For example a large contingent of military nurses in white, cadets in classic uniforms from another era, soldiers with falcons on shoulders and large contingent of military vehicles.

A trip to D.F. in September would not be complete without a visit to the Hosteria de Santo Domingo. This famous restaurant, in a sixteenth century building serves *chiles en nogada*, a patriotic red white and green dish. Stupendous!

**For information:**

[John.glaab@settlement-co.com](mailto:John.glaab@settlement-co.com)

[www.settlement-co.com](http://www.settlement-co.com)

**John K. Glaab, CIPS**  
Vice President, International Marketing  
International Realtor of the Year, 2012  
Founding Member AMPI Los Cabos  
Director, Global Mexico  
[www.settlement-co.com](http://www.settlement-co.com)  
[www.globalmexico.org](http://www.globalmexico.org)  
cel: 612 157 7903