

Mexico Resort Real Estate Update

From The Settlement Company®

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Welcome to our Third Quarter, 2019 newsletter

Three Mexican Cities Make Travel + Leisure List

When it comes to urban charms, *Travel + Leisure* readers just [can't get enough of Mexico](#). [San Miguel de Allende](#), which topped our list for the past two years, may have been unseated this time around — it now comes in second — but it still draws gushing admiration. One reader called it “a unique art community in the mountains, with a mix of rich history and amazing food.” Another fan of the city praised its architectural diversity: “Gorgeous, sumptuous modern interiors are mixed with 500-year-old façades. You never know what delights you’ll find behind one of the beautifully carved doors.” Another town with a long and complex history and vibrantly colored buildings, Oaxaca (No. 5), gets raves for its sublime food scene, as well as its cooking schools. Mexico City leaped up our chart — last year’s No. 11 is now No. 4: “One of the most exciting cities in North America,” wrote one reader. “I go at least once per year, and every time I do it’s a new and exciting experience.” Another voter added, “The restaurants were excellent, from the corner taquerias to the upscale places.”

Realtors® Convened in Boise Idaho

In addition to its monthly “call in” conferences and receptions at the two main National Association of Realtors®(NAR) AR events, AREA- Associated Realty of the Americas has a Retreat each year. This year’s event was in Boise Idaho;

Of the 153 current members of AREA, 78 attended including members from Hawaii, Washington State, Oregon, California, Arizona, Idaho, Utah, Montana, Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, Michigan, Ohio, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, (Rhode Island, Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana and all three members from Mexico, John Glaab and Linda Neil, from La Paz, and Jay West from Cabo San Lucas.

The Retreat opened with an inspirational speech delivered by Nathan Ogden. Although handicapped by breaking his neck twice, he refuses to give up. Nathan among other things is the Founder of “Chair the Hope.” Its major activity is providing wheel chairs for the less privileged In March 2018, Chair the Hope personally delivered 400 wheelchairs in Mexico after devastating earthquakes. In March 2019, Chair the Hope delivered 100 wheelchairs in Costa Rica.

Nathan’s presentation started the Retreat on the right foot. For the next two days attendees heard speeches and panels presented by successful and high-profile REALTORS. The Retreat took on a Mexican flavor during the Gala dinner and awards ceremony. John Glaab was asked to share some memorable moments from his twenty-eight years of living in Mexico. This was followed by a raffle of two weeks at John and his wife Linda’s historic home in Uruapan Michoacán, the couple came with an elegant hand-crafted copper vase from the village of San Juan de I Cobre. It was presented to AREEA who gave it to Nathan Lodge for a raffle with proceeds going to Wheels of Hip.

The 2020 Retreat will be held in Cleveland Ohio. In 2021 it will be in Nashville. The Mexican team is preparing a bid for the 2022 event. If successful it will be the first time that an AREEA Retreat will take place outside the U.S.A. Stay tuned

Celebrating Life on Day of the Dead in Mexico

One of Mexico's most important religious holidays is celebrated on November 1st and 2nd

by Mexperience



One of Mexico's most important religious holidays is celebrated on All Saint's Day (Nov 1) and All Soul's Day (Nov 2): *Dia de los Muertos* (sometimes called *Dia de los Fieles Difuntos*) – Day of the Dead. Traditionally, November 1st honors deceased children and November 2nd honors deceased adults.

Day of the Dead is celebrated passionately throughout Mexico, and especially so in smaller provincial towns and cities. November 2nd is an official [Public Holiday in Mexico](#).

Mexico's Day of Dead: a celebration of life

Far from being a morbid event, Day of Dead emphasizes remembrance of past lives and celebration of the continuity of life. This acknowledgement of life's continuity has roots which go back to some of Mexico's oldest civilizations including the Olmec, Zapotec, Maya, and Purépecha. The Aztecs also celebrated Day of the Dead, although earlier (August) on the current calendar.

Local festivities and traditions vary from place to place, although the *ofrendas* (see below) are the focal point of the celebrations and can be spotted everywhere during the festive period. Some towns and cities hold religious processions, and some of the participants may use face paint and costumes to emulate *Catrin*s (see below).

Although Halloween (October 31) and *Dia de los Muertos* (Nov 1 & 2) are, strictly speaking, two distinct events, in recent times the two festive dates have blended into each other illustrating how Mexico is very adept at [assimilating foreign things without losing its own identity](#) and often putting a particularly Mexican stamp on them.

La Ofrenda: an altar of remembrance

Local families will plan for Day of the Dead celebrations days, weeks, or perhaps even a whole year in advance. A focal point of the remembrance ritual is families creating *ofrendas*—altars with offerings to the deceased—which are set-up in homes or public spaces like parks or plazas, and also at local cemeteries where family members are buried.

[These colorful altars](#), which are also an art form and personal expression of love towards one's family members now passed, are not for worshiping but instead for the purpose of remembrance and celebration of a life lived.

They are usually layered: the uppermost layer contains a picture or pictures of the remembered deceased as well as religious statues or symbols, especially that of [La Virgen Guadalupe](#); the second layer will contain the *ofrendas*: toys are usually offered for deceased children, and bottles of *tequila*, *mezcal*, or *atole* for deceased adults. Personal ornaments, and/or the deceased's favorite food or confection will also be present here, as will *Pan de Muerto* (see below). The third, or lowest, tier will feature lit candles, and some might also have a washbasin and a towel so that the spirits of the deceased may refresh themselves upon arrival at the altar.

Every altar will feature [calaveras](#) – decorated candied skulls made from sugar – as well as the [bright orange marigolds or cempazuchitl](#) – sometimes called *flor de muerto* (“Flower of the Dead”) – one of the iconic symbols seen during Day of the Dead celebrations throughout Mexico.

During the celebratory period, it's traditional for families to visit the cemeteries where their loved ones are buried, to clean and to decorate the graves with the similar offerings to those included in the home's altar.

*Catrin*as: artistic symbol of Day of the Dead celebrations

The character on which *La Calavera Catrina* — “The elegant skull” — is based was conceived by Mexican engraver José Guadalupe Posada. The original *Catrina* was titled *La Calavera Garbancera*: in the form of an artistic etching in zinc, composed for use as political satire around 1910, intended to poke fun at a certain social class of Mexicans who the artist portrayed as having European-aristocratic aspirations—thus the *Catrina's* archetypal grandiose plumed hat of a style which passed through a period of high fashion in Europe during that age. This [related article](#) explains the history and culture of *Catrin*as in Mexico.

Pan de Muerto and hot chocolate: omnipresent partners during this time of year

One of the culinary highlights of the season is *Pan de Muerto* — Bread of the Dead — which is a semi-sweet sugar-dusted bread made from eggs and infused with natural citrus fruit flavors. It's traditionally taken with [hot chocolate](#) that has been mixed with cinnamon and whisked, and makes for a flavorful and warming blend on a chilly November evening. Learn how to best [enjoy *Pan de Muerto* in Mexico](#).

Pátzcuaro and Oaxaca: Popular towns to celebrate, with plenty of color elsewhere too

Day of the Dead is a holiday that attracts a certain fascination for visitors from abroad, and enjoyed by foreign residents who witness the unfolding of local festivities in their adopted towns and villages each year. Celebrations in the colonial city of [Oaxaca](#) and the ancient highland town of [Pátzcuaro](#) are particularly well attended by foreign visitors, and an early booking for local accommodations is vital if you want to experience Day of the Dead at either of these places.

Even if you can't get to Oaxaca or Pátzcuaro, you'll discover that towns and villages across Mexico compose their own interpretations of the event to celebrate Day of the Dead, and so wherever you are in Mexico this time of year, you'll have an opportunity to experience this distinctive celebration—one of the most colorful, poignant and atmospheric Mexico offers.

The precise ceremonies, offerings, and customs for Day of the Dead celebrations vary by region and town, but the essential traditions described here are an integral part of the event which is echoed all over Mexico. A visit to a local cemetery, where family graves are dressed with color and decorations, [a local park or plaza where *ofrendas* have been gathered](#), or a glimpse into one or more of the local homes which are opened-up to visitors during this period and where the lives of those past are lovingly

remembered by those present, is a rewarding and worthwhile cultural experience to behold.

Paying Taxes on Rental Property and Staying Legal

Income from Mexican rental property whether received in Mexico or outside creates a tax obligation. Failure to pay can lead to serious consequences and possible forfeiture of the property. More and more officials in the three NAFTA countries including Mexican immigration are becoming involved in watching out for tax evasion..

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The Settlement Company® and Community Service

During its twenty-eight-year history in Mexico, The Settlement Company® has continually provided community service. This has taken the form of being dedicated to the education and professionalism and education of the real estate industry and the public at large. In October, company founder Linda Neil will present three days of “mini classes.” The main objective will be to help prepare new agents for completing smooth and successful transactions with their clients.

The company wishes to thank Keller Williams Cabo Paradise for hosting the classes and the use of their meeting room. A special thanks to Patty Soto for helping to organize the classes.

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