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India

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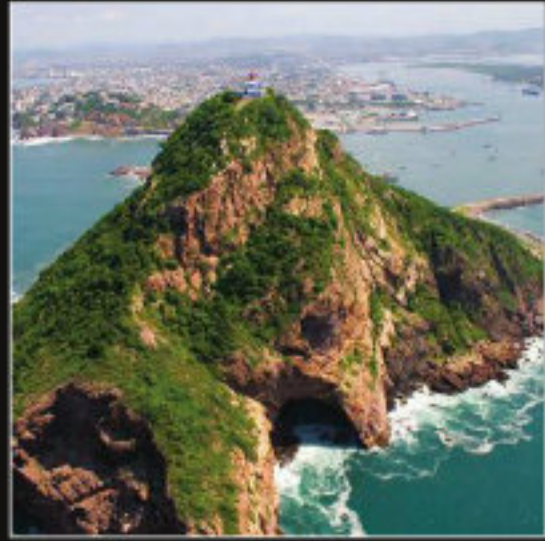
Caribbean Jewel

West Edmonton Mall

Indonesia

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Talk Travel Visits Malaysia & Mazatlan



When I first arrived in Mazatlan I could sense that this resort destination was different from the other areas of Mexico. Canadian snowbirds have now discovered Mazatlan and they keep coming back year after year with many making it their permanent home.

It was exciting to run into a fellow British Columbian who has made Mazatlan his permanent home and is now the owner of a local restaurant.

My recent stay there started with the big celebration of the Day of the Dead in October. We joined the parade through Old Town or Viejo Mexico visiting altars and mingling with the locals. It is always fun to return to Mazatlan...there is just so much to do, great theatre, music, art, restaurants and attractions including the 1856 brogue cathedral, the Mercado Central with handicrafts from all over Mexico. The list goes on and on... flower markets, shrimp markets, museums of art and archeology as well as the world's highest natural lighthouse. When ever you need a break from the beach there is baseball, bullfights, sailing, kayaking, golfing, health and wellness spas and lots of shopping.

A new \$3 million tourism corridor between the Port of Mazatlan and the city's historic center will now make it easier and safer for cruiseship visitors to reach the heart of Mazatlan. Holland America's Venndam returned to Mazatlan in November and other cruise lines are following.

The Plaza Machado is symbolic of old time Mazatlan... where the magic endures beyond beaches and beer. The plaza is like a classical European town square with walkways, small inns and cafes where you can take a stroll and chat with friends or enjoy a concert in the evening. It is the cultural center of the town enjoyed by Mazatlecos and visiting tourists. From the Zona Dorada (Golden Zone) take the bus to the historic district or hail a taxi or experience Mazatlan's own open air "Pulmonia" cabs to the plaza.

Mazatlan is a fascinating city and embraces tourism with a zest, but Mazatlan is more than just a resort destination. Mazatlan could survive without tourism. The tourism industry in Mazatlan, while important, is not necessarily the most important item on this city's agenda. And it is for this reason that the city possesses a more kicked back attitude toward tourism and why I immediately fell in love with the place. This can be a big plus for tourists. Much of the hype and constant pressure from timeshare companies and other tourist sectors in general for the tourist dollar is much more sedate here. This equates to a more relaxed vacation to the average tourist and why I would recommend you plan your next Mexican vacation in Mazatlan.

When I first heard that Mazatlan is known as the "Pearl of the Pacific" I was disappointed to find out that there are no pearls there but is a nickname given to it because of its

beautiful beaches and its abundant marine life. It is a gracious compliment to this very friendly Pacific resort destination.

Mazatlan is home to the Pacifico brewery, which makes one of Mexico's most popular beers. The local shrimp fleet is the largest in Mexico, there is a large commercial fishing fleet as well as Mazatlan is also home to numerous other industries. If you stay where most tourists stay, Zona Dorada, you would never know Mazatlan was such an industrious city. So Mazatlan is a little different than most resorts. Mazatlan is also a city with an incredible history.

What makes Mazatlan unique?

By Gina Hansen

When you visit Mazatlan, you should prepare yourself for an active vacation. Mazatlan has great beaches, many attractions, a variety of interesting historical sites and many interesting monuments spread out all over the city. Just visiting the monuments and statues could take up an entire day. Of course, if all you want to do is enjoy the surf and sun, this is OK too. The beach and the water activities associated with resort vacations is what vacations are all about for many travelers. Mazatlan offers you many different choices for your vacation, kicked back - full

relaxation, active - adventurous, ecological - exploratory. You may come to Mazatlan to relax but the lure of exploration is a constant possibility if you happen to venture very far away from your hotel.

Mazatlan has been known for years to big game fisherman worldwide for the excellent sport fishing here, as evidenced by the number of sport fishing fleets. Mazatlan is also a base for nearby freshwater bass fishing tours. Excellent dove, duck and quail hunting is readily available in the outlying areas.

Mazatlan is home to one of the world's greatest parties, Carnival. Mazatlan during Carnival is an unforgettable experience. Carnival is a 100 year old Mazatlan tradition and it captures the seaside city and holds it hostage for five days and nights. The expertise that goes into the planning of this event is evident everywhere during Carnival. This is truly one of the great celebrations in the world.

Don't forget to visit the Best Western Posada Freeman, located in the heart of Old Mazatlan and close to

the historic buildings of the 19th and 20th century. It is a landmark built in 1944 being the first high rise (12 floors) in the northwest region of Mexico. Go to the 12th floor around 6pm and enjoy great views of the beaches and the city during sunset and Happy Hour!

One trip to Mazatlan and you will surely return. I'm definitely going back!

