



Mazatlan's Many Attributes Include the Longest Stretch of Beach & Affordable Retirement Housing

Written by Bea Broda (Travel Video News)

At the recent Tianguis Turistico tourism conference held in Acapulco, Mexico, the Mayor of Mazatlan, *Mayor Alejandro Higuera Osuna*, and Governor Mario Lopez of the State of Sinaloa, joined a number of reps from the Mazatlan and Sinaloa region to give information and statistics about the current state of tourism, and the outlook is very positive. There are 8000 to 9000 foreigners living in Mazatlan all year round who have activities to do with the city's notable historical center. The city's attributes have been able to capture people to retire there; it has the biggest seafont in Mexico and tourists can enjoy it without hotels obstructing the view. There is a natural lighthouse, and since 1840 there has been an influx of German people that helped to develop the city. (Keys to the city were just exchanged between Hanover and Mazatlan with the mayor of Hanover.)

A new government is starting in Sinaloa and the state has a new political force different from the traditional one. He hopes people will have the confidence that the people of Mazatlan will think they are citizens of Sinaloa.

There is an appetite for Mazatlan which the mayor says is due to the work of the airlines and tour wholesalers that want to go there. There are new flights being added in the US and in Canada. (Sunwing in Canada.) It is the goal to take Sinaloa to a new level.

Governor Lopez remarked that his state of Sinaloa, is a state that is tourist friendly. The president has declared 2011 as Tourist Year, and it's the second motor of the economy and represents 12 points of internal product. They want Mexico to do well, want to do business and are aware of the problems that exist.

They just make them try harder and to justify what the people there are really made of. There is extraordinary gastronomy, the best beer, good music and lovely people. They have the spirit of renovation now and have met with the foreign residents to ascertain the wishes of the people. From them, they heard what the main problems are and they feel legislation needs to be changed about only being able to have a property through a trust. It is an outmoded system from another century. There was so much empathy that they wanted the foreigners to be a part of their cabinet; a move to be closer to the tourists. They want to make Sinaloa a safe and happy destination – a place where they can live with Mazatlan as their second home.

Sinaloa is more than Mazatlan – it's the entrance to a canyon, a center for the railway system of Mexico too. Lopez appreciates the tourist promoters, hotel chains and all that are forming the team to renovate tourism in this area. He sees the tourists as the most important ally and he wants everyone to come back.

There are so many beautiful things in Sinaloa – he feels that other countries have far more crime but that reportage about crime in Mexico is accentuated. They are creating a huge team with the mayor, hotel associations, municipalities and visitors and want our confidence and want visitors to be in touch about anything. Higuera also invites us to ask the people that have lived there for 20 or 30 years about the change in the government, and that things are set to improve. The state is blessed by God with 720 miles of coast, developed agriculture that produces so much of what is consumed. You are welcome in Mazatlan and Sinaloa – a place for everybody.

Tourists are happy when they go there as the service industry is friendly and patient with visitors. The weather is amazing, and the prices are still very good for people seeking a retirement property. Many places are more dangerous, like Mexico City, for example, but all the attention is going to certain incidents. It's like anywhere else in the world, that possibly there is random crime; otherwise you have to be looking for trouble to find it.

Many new hotels are opening as well as condominiums – much construction is underway. It's possible to pay \$300 a month for an apartment in a nice area.