

First impressions of Mazatlan

This is my first visit to Mazatlan, I've been to almost every resort area of Mexico so the thought of visiting someplace different in Mexico was exciting. It did not disappoint.

First of all like most areas of Mexico, it's easy to get here. It's a quick 4 hour direct flight from Calgary. But unlike some of the other resort areas of Mexico, Cancun for example, Mazatlan's history dates back to the 1800's. It's that history and charm, the combination of old and new that takes a hold of you and gives a different view of Mexican Culture.



For once my wife and I decided to divert from our typical trend of beach and pool lounging and get out and tour the area. Thanks to the folks at Pronotours and the El Cid Marina we were treated to a couple of fantastic tours of the city itself and the surrounding countryside.

I've never been one to do a lot of organized tours but if it's your first time to a destination and you really want to learn a bit of the history and culture I highly recommend them. I learned a lot from our tour guides. Like the fact that what is now a good portion of Mazatlan was at one time underwater. The funny story behind their trademark open air taxis known as Pulmonias, where traditional taxi drivers discouraged patrons by telling them that they could catch pneumonia riding in one.

Mazatlan is home to cliff divers and one the longest boardwalks in North America. Not to mention its home to Pacifico Beer



Venture into the countryside and you'll learn more about the area and the culture. One of the highlights was visiting the historic town of Concordia founded in 1565 by the Spanish Grandee, Francisco de Ibarra. Among the sites is the Colonial Church of Saint Sebastian, built in the 18th Century. Nestled in the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains is the sleepy village of Copala, an ancient mining town with cobblestone streets where time seems to have stood still.

Along the way we got to admire the making of handmade furniture, pottery and brick factories, plus sample goodies from a local bakery.

This trip to Mexico is different that most of my previous visits. This time the pool and beach side lounging (yes there is plenty of time for that) was complimented by a vibrant cultural and historic backdrop. All in all, our first visit to Mazatlan is an enriching experience, one that's different from your typical Mexican vacation.

To see a few of the photos from our visit to Mazatlan see our new photo page at:
<http://www.am770chqr.com/PhotoPages/Photos.aspx?AlbumID=106482>

Safe Travels,
Randy
10/03/2010

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