This picture Is of me working at my computer, and checking out locations.

This is where I do my writing, and as usual, Dick took the picture.

I'm constantly asked how much it takes to live in Mexico - well, I got these email a little while ago. It all depends on your needs and desires - but, these sound really fantastic! And they are by no means the only responses like this that I receive. They all agree, you can live better for less...in Mexico.

Hello,

I did take a trip to Mazatlan in December and I like the city very much. I enjoyed the Gran Plaza and the Sam's Club actually had cheddar cheese for sale. The Waldo store also had a lot of American products, many changes from my previous visits.

I have a girlfriend there, Angelica XXXXXX. She works as a schoolteacher. I looked at two apartments and found one for 1500 pesos/month. It had two bedrooms but no off street parking for my car. I plan to return in February and locate something then. I like the Playa Sur region very much and hope to live there someday. Dave

Happy New Year to both of you! We will be arriving in La Paz in late July. We have just returned from there and saw a couple of rentals...one we liked was kind of funky. $500 pesos a month, utilities except electric....2 bedroom, 1 bath. So I am satisfied that we will find a lot more rentals in July at that price range....Cheers, Maria

and...

...Hi Barbie:

Well I think I have read almost all there is to read on moving to Mexico and I have to say your information has been extremely helpful. Every area of the country (Mexico) is as different as the circumstances of each person who contemplates the move. Hot weather is not my thing but the beautiful country, the friendly people and the economy can"t be beat.

I have rented a three bedroom , two bath home, with a maid's casita and bath, garage, patio and nice yard about 30 miles south of Ajijic on the other side of the lake for $200 a month. I lived in Ajijic while looking for a permanent place and paid the Ajijic prices for everything and out here it is about half. Even the food, and pharmacies are cheaper because it seems that here everything is priced for the economy of the town. A few months with the Gringos in Ajijic and it was an easy decision . I couldn't be happier. It wasn't an economic move but being away from the Gringos who do drive the prices up where ever they go, it certainly turned out that way.

I'm sure you remember the article in AARP magazine that offered Lake Chapala at $800 a month. Well, the Gringos drove it up to an easy $1200 to $1400 a month. Well I am here to tell you that if you don't desire the hubub of the crowd and you don't mind a 25 or 30 minute drive to the larger towns tell your folks that $800 a month is a breeze.

You know the climate and beauty here, the people in the country, like in the US, are more friendly and helpful than city folks and the only thing we don't have out here is the noise of the city.

My advice to a prospective person coming to Mexico is rent for a few months and look around for what fits their economic and social desires. The is something here for every one. In my community I don't spend or act like a Gringo and I am accepted as a member of the community. I will start teaching English next month and no I am not proficient in Spanish. They laugh at my mistakes but appreciate my effort to try and communicate in their language.

Thanks for your book and follow-up information It has been very helpful.

Charlie

So, you see, there is a place for everyone in Mexico. In Mazatlan also, there are places to rent, that most people can afford. There is no question, your money goes further in Mexico than in the States. But, again, I stress - if you enjoy only going to 5-star restaurants, buying exclusive, expensive "stuff", and are still trying to keep up with the Joneses...then, retirement - unless you're getting big bucks from the company you worked for, and most of us aren't - can be a real disappointment. Dick and I count every penny, and then count again. We are enjoying everyday of our retirement - hey - call us cheap, thrifty or frugal - it works for us!

Construction is going to look different than it does in the States - but it works!

I am getting more and more email concerning Americans and Canadians buying homes in Mexico..

Everyone has certain worries about buying in another country, finding someone whom you can put your trust in to show you homes, whether the home will actually be theirs, etc, etc.

While my book Retire In Luxury tells everything you need to know to make the move… about FM3's, passports, how to take your furniture across the border - and whether you really want to do that, how to take your pets, how to get prepared for retirement originally, and a whole lot more, I understand your need to find someone in real estate in Mazatlan whom you can rely on.

For me, that's an easy answer -I can let you know who, if you ask. The realtor I would suggest keeps me informed on what they are doing and what's new in the housing market in Maz.

I want you to know there are very nice areas in Mazatlan being developed, in case you are still thinking about Maz for retirement or a vacation spot.

If you are interested in speaking with a realtor, about homes in the Mazatlan area, let me know, and I'll ask them to contact you, asap.

You should also go to www.retireinluxuryhomes.com for more info and make sure you download my Free Real Estate Report - it's offered at the top and bottom of my site, www.retireinluxury.com.

No, I'm not a realtor, nor do I have a home for sale - but I know how scary it can be to buy in another country, so I just offer the knowledge I have and hope it helps make the transition easier for you. And if you've already gotten your villa, let me know how you're enjoying life!

Hi Barbie,
Our greatest fear is the language barrier. We just don't want to come unless we are fluent in Spanish. We don't know how to make that happen. We have bought self study tapes, but, that just doesn't do it. We just don't know how to learn the language.
Thanks, Gary

Hi Gary,
No, no - don't worry about that. Dick and I will never be fluent in Spanish. In Mazatlan, and in other towns, there are other expats - Americans and Canadians - and the natives know enough English to at least make a good guess as to what you are trying to say. And...you will be surprised at how fast you will pick up on Spanish, when you are surrounded by it! No worry. Do download my free newsletters - a couple of them have some important words and phrases you need - but - don't worry about the proper verb... noun... combination and things like that... you'll do fine.
Barbie

I'm a walking storeroom of facts. I just sometimes momentarily misplace the key to the storeroom door.

Penny-Saving Tip

Disinfectant Cleaner:

Mix equal amounts household ammonia and rubbing alcohol in a container. You can use a spray bottle. This is strong, so wear gloves and have good ventilation when you use.

I am a big bleach user, but just be careful and don't mix chlorine bleach with things like vinegar, and toilet-bowl cleaner, ammonia, lye or other alkaline substances. It can be lethal if you're in an air tight enclosure – be careful – use wisely.

Neighborhood Areas in Mazatlan

(Alphabetically Listed)

Cerritos, north of the bridge and 10-15 minutes from the Golden Zone. Multi-cultural neighborhood.

Cerro de la Neveria
The Icebox Hill area. Wonderful views of the water, and the town. Seems these homes go from one generation to another and seldom do you see a home for sale here. This is the hill with all the antenna.

Cerro del Vigia
The hill that overlooks the fishing fleets, the lighthouse... and the water treatment plant. Again, the homes here are usually passed from one family member to another and seldom are offered for sale.

Delfin
Mazatlan, north. There are some preowned homes and condos here.

El Toreo
The Gigante supermarket and bullring are the landmarks for this section, and possible flooding in the summer months.

El Cid
Security wall and offers golf course and marina - lots are available here for new construction.

El Dorado
Located beside El Cid.

Estadio
This section is near Mazatlan's ballpark. Again, flooding can occur during summer rains.

Ferrocarrilera
This section is nearer the center of town, and the landmark is the Hotel Hacienda.

Las Gaviotas[top]
Located next to El Dorado. Dairy Queen is the landmark here. Near the beach and not far from the Golden Zone. K-12 school, Ceg, and a pre-school Britanico, and a day care center, Doe.

Lomas
Location is approximately from Vanentinos to the Dairy Queen - next to Las Goviotas. K-12 school, Anglo Moderno, two preschools, Instituto Lomas and Gabriela Mistral.

Los Pinos / Paseo Claussen
Near the Ferrocarrilera area and in general, older homes.

Marina Mazatlan
Offers golf and water access. New area.

Olas Altas
Usually called Old Mazatlan and includes the area from the Cathedral to the beach area. We call it the Historic District. The Angela Peralta Theatre, the Casa de La Cultura, and especially around the Plazuela Machado, there are nice restaurants and cafes.

Playa Sur
Near the dock where the cruise ships dock and also the ferry to La Paz. Good restaurants near the docks.

Sabalo Country
Near the Holiday Inn. Multi-national neighborhood. Montessori School and Liceo Mazatlan School are in this area. Be warned of possible summer flooding.

One perk of being over 50 is there isn't much left to learn the hard way!

One entrance to El Cid

So...there are lots of choices - lots of different price points - something for everyone. I'm sure I've missed some areas, but Mazatlan is growing! And these will show you there is a huge variety of living styles available in the Mazatlan Area.

I can introduce you to someone who can offer the complete gamut of homes to you, from new to pre-owned, and from gated six-unit condos to over 4,000 square foot free-standing mansions. You can choose from a variety of beach, marina, and golf course locations. And this realtor will take the worry off your shoulders are far as making sure the legalities of purchasing which ever you decided upon, are done properly.

Mexico's top three legal sources of income:
Oil,
Remittances from migrants in the United States,
Tourism.

2007, Barbara E Parks, RetireInLuxury.com.
The material provided is offered for informational purposes only; it is not offered as and does not constitute legal, financial, tax, investment, or other professional advice or services. The author will not be liable for any direct, special, indirect, incidental, consequential, or punitive damages or any other damages whatsoever, whether in an action based upon a statute, contract, tort, or otherwise relating to the use of this information. Emails reproduced in this publication have had their email address removed for privacy and may have had the sender's name changed, and to conserve space, portions may have been deleted. Original emails on file.