

Happy Easter to You All!

We're doing steaks on the grill - not very traditional, but, who says you have to do the usual and expected !?
And I'm making a family favorite - baklava - probably make that today, in fact. Takes forever to butter all those phyllo leaves ...but, everyone loves the results.



The name Mazatlan can be traced to 1602, to the village of San Juan Bautista de Mazatlan, 30 miles south of present day Mazatlan. In Aztec, Mazatlan means "Place of the Deer."

Before present day Mazatlan was settled, English and French pirates often used the hills as a hiding place to ambush the rich galleons that sailed the coast.

In 1821, Mexico gained its independence from Spain and Mazatlan began to prosper as a port city as well as the capital of the state of Sinaloa.

Before the Spanish conquered Mexico, Mazatlan
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I am going to do an update on grocery prices - I know - how boring, but I do want you all to be aware that some prices do change in Mexico - so, here it goes:

One gram equals approximately 1/1000 of a kilogram.

(Takes 1,000 grams to make a kilogram)

One kilogram equals approximately 2.20 U.S. pounds.

One liter equals approximately just over one quart.

Apples - 1 k - \$1.29	Pam - 141 gram - \$2.89
Coca Cola - 3 liter -\$1.52	Corn Pops - 620 gram - \$3.89
Sprite - 2 liter -\$1.00	Special K - 510 g - \$3.15
Jose Q tequila - 950 ml - \$21.	Cheerios - 425 g - \$3.00
Hair dryer - \$9 to \$35.	Jello - 100 g - (large box) .49
Dinette Set w 4 chairs - \$460.	Salt crackers - 528 g - \$1.60
The foam "noodle" swimmer toy \$3.59 (can get that cheaper here and there)	Ritz - 900 g - \$2.80
A medium suitcase with handle and wheels - \$19.	Baking soda - 227 g - .65
Gitano jeans - \$15 to \$20.	Smuckers grape jelly - 510 g - \$2.58
Auto Tires - (p185/65-14) - \$40 to \$100.	Cheaper brand of grape jelly - 1 k - \$1.89(the one I'll buy)
Cottonell TT - 12 rolls \$4.36	Peanut butter - 340 g - \$2.64
Cheaper TT - 12 roll \$2.39	Sugar 2 k - \$2.95
Bleach 3.75 - 1 l - \$1.95	Instant coffee - 200 g (7.5 oz) - \$3.60
Paper towels - 3/\$2.40	O.J. drink - 3.785 L - \$2.30
Tuna - 6 oz - .55	Potato chips - 350 g - \$3.30
Kraft Mayo - 850 gram - \$3.05 (which is over ¾ of a kilogram - which is around 2 pounds.)	Doritos - 300 g - \$1.60
Kraft Italian dressing - 16 ounce - \$2.50	Sour cream - 460 g - \$1.09
Pasta spaghetti - 7 ounce - .69 cents	Cream - 980 ml - \$3.89
Eggo waffles - 10 - \$2.98	Butter - 200 g - \$1.92
Frozen corn - 500 gram - \$1.75	1 gal milk - 3.78 L - \$3.86
Cooking oil - 1 l - \$1.80	Donut or muffin - .31 each (really gone up in price)
Rice - 1 k - .63	filled donut - .45
Tomato pure - 800 g - \$1.19	bread - 6 inch - .09
Salt - 1 k -.46	French break baguette - 24 inch - .50 and 16 inch - .25
Chicken broth, powdered - 45 g - 3.83	Bacon - 340 g - \$3.65
Water - 5 gallon - \$1.50	Cheese Gouda - 1 k - 5.69
Kaluha - 980 ml - \$9.90	Cream Cheese - 250 g - \$1.24
	Tecate Beer - 6/355 ml for \$4.30

Make sure you read the glowing testimonial from Jeff, on page 4. Another very happy soon-to-be resident in the beautiful city of Mazatlan!

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and the surrounding area were occupied by indigenous people known as Totorames. The Totorames survived as hunter/gathers and potters.

Unlike the Aztecs, the Totorames left no architectural structure such as pyramids. Their civilization disappeared about 200 years before the arrival of the Spaniards.

Other tribes survived such as the Chametla, occupying the area known as Sinoloa - about 50 miles south of Mazatlan.

Eventually the Spaniards would conquer the Chametla and other tribes in Mexico.

In 1521, Cortes conquered the Aztecs in the area of present day Mexico City. Cortes then dispatched his troupes to further explore and subjugate the country.

By 1531, Nuno Beltran de Guzman, an enemy of Cortes, burned his way through Sinoloa with his own private army. On this journey he founded the towns of Guadalajara, Tepic and Culiacan. Copala was founded in 1565 by another conquistador, Francisco Ibarra. The land eventually fell under the control of the Spanish and was soon subdivided among them.

México is the most populous Spanish-speaking country in the world. According to statistics, México's total population is over 99 million. Mestizos, (of Indian and Spanish blood), make up 60% of the population, followed by indigenous peoples (30%), whites (9%), and other ethnic minorities (1%).



Early morning on the Baja of Mexico

Before I go back to listing my prices - I just had to give you a pretty picture and share parts of an email I just received - I have edited where necessary to protect privacy:..no prices nor pertinent info have been altered:

vende = sale

"Max and I just returned from 10 days in Guadalajara."

"Thanks for putting me in touch with Charlie. Max and I met him at XXXX Restaurant and had some fresh squeezed orange juice last Tuesday morning. Delicious"

"He showed us around his town on the "other side of Lake Chapala" and we were impressed with his 3 bdrm, 2 bath, LR w/fireplace etc. for \$200 a month rent."

"He has high speed internet, cable TV and voice over the internet for all his calls to friends and family in the US and other places for just a penny a minute. He told us his fixed expenses run about \$500 a month. Food and gasoline are extra. Actually gas is cheaper down there right now than in the states."

"But here was the surprising story. We met a neighbor of his, a woman who couldn't live on her Social Security in the states. She only clears about \$430 a month. "

"Her uncle invited her to Mexico to rent one of his apartments for \$175 a month. con't on page 3

Correction:

In a newsletter, I stated that Mazatlan is the capital of Sinaloa - that's not true - it is the largest city in Sinaloa - and at one time, actually was the capital. Guess I haven't really recuperated from my excitement of Mardi Gras. Mardi Gras in Maz next year, it will be: 31 February - 4 January .

con't from page two

"But just two towns further on around, and it is a larger town actually, a Mexican friend helped her find an apartment for \$100 a month. Incredible!"

"She is delighted, especially because she will only be about 3 blocks from her church and other people that she had become acquainted with."

"She says she doesn't eat out but rarely but she is single and maybe 62-65 yrs old, (my guestimate) attractive, and determined to learn Spanish and teaches English as a second language, for free, to help Charlie."

"She has only been in Mexico a few months. We certainly admired her independence and determination."

"So there's a story for you. It really can be done, but probably not in Chapala, Ajijic, or Guadalajara. Although I'm betting there are areas in Guadalajara that would be almost as inexpensive if you took the time to really look around. It all depends on what your needs are. I emphasize needs. We learned the minimum pay in Mexico is 49 pesos a day."

"If a person worked 30 days at 49 pesos per day he would only earn 1470 pesos or about \$147 US. Now, try and live on that."

Needless to say, I was thrilled to receive this email - 'cause - yep - it can be done - in Maz as well - you just have to come down, make some connections and check things out - and while I truly think it's an absolute shame people have been put in situations where they must leave the U.S. in order to get by, THANK GOODNESS for Mexico!!!

Just a few more prices - hang in there.

I stress again, buy things in season - buy where the locals buy - you'll find your dollars will stretch and stretch! You will notice some duplications - These prices come from different stores - so prices do vary. And in the central markets - well, that's usually the place to get the best buys.

Flat screen 21" tv = \$350
23 inch Fan - oscillating - \$60, wind tower - \$50
Water base interior paint - 18 L - \$58.
Door mirror - \$7.00
Whirlpool washer - \$400
White paper towels - 2/\$1.58
Hamburger - 1 K - \$6.50
Chicken Brest - 1 K - \$3.80
Smoked pork chops - 1 K - \$5.30
Whole Chicken - 1 K - \$2.15
Fresh salmon - 1 K - \$12.40
Fresh crab - 1 K - \$4.50
Fresh shrimp - 1 K - \$13.20
Butter - 225 g - .95
Cream - 1 quart - \$3.41
Yogurt with fruit - 950 g - \$1.60
Milk - 1.89 L - \$1.80
Eggs - 30 count - \$3.31

A
grocery
store
in
Mexicali,
Mexico



Hurricane Season - June through November. But - as I keep saying - the Baja protects Mazatlan...usually.

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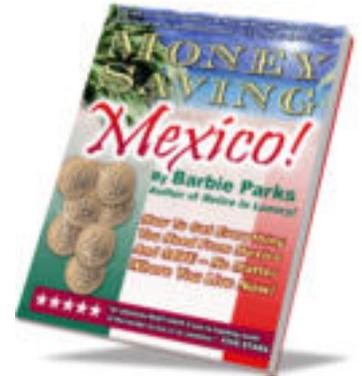
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Barbie and Dick