

Hi Everyone,

Dick and I hope you're all surviving the summer. Some places have been so extremely hot and dry and other places in the states have certainly had more than their fair share of rain! Just try to remember all the beautiful days that will soon be coming your way and those days that you've already enjoyed, and hang in there ...good weather will be coming soon.

A recent correspondence I sent out was a photo album with some pictures of Mexico. My hope is, that in doing so, you will become familiar with Mexico and feel comfortable when you visit. After all, as I have said, it is a foreign country - different than the States in so many ways.

The first thing that may seem a bit scary is the border crossing itself. Don't let it be intimidating. It's not there to keep good people out or to cause problems.



This is the crossing from Arizona's route 85, through Gila Bend and Ajo, into Mexico, onto route 8. This is an easy way to drive from the States to Puerto Penasco, usually called Rocky Point. It's the closest beach that Arizona has! And It's only a 60 mile drive, once you cross the border.



This is the type of scenery you're going to encounter driving, from the States to Puerto Penasco. Although Rocky Point is a fun place to visit and spend some vacation time, it's not my idea of a place to live - maybe in time it will become more of a community. And I have to say, seafood there is just wonderful! But, it's just a bit touristy for my taste. If you have read much of my writings, you already know, I prefer real towns, with conveniences. But, different strokes for different folks ..and we have friends who love it there.

The mountains are beautiful and the cactus and flora is so diverse, that it's always a great ride. As you can tell, there's usually not a lot of traffic - that's true on a lot of Mexico's roads. So, make sure you keep your gas tank full, and your car in good running condition.

Wouldn't hurt to keep a cooler with drinks and snacks in the car with you too. Sometimes in Mexico, it's a long distance between places you want to stop.

Do be careful because while Dick and I have never had any problems, and I always think when talking of traveling in Mexico, of the couple who motorcycled all over Mexico and enjoyed every day, you must be aware of your surroundings, study your maps. Don't be foolish and go exploring on deserted side roads all by yourself.



On the right is a grocery store we passed when traveling in Mexicali. Looks pretty much like any grocery store.

We didn't stop in, but I'm pretty sure we'd have been the only non-natives shopping there. Don't let that stop you when you want to go in and pick up some groceries or snacks. Believe me, you will be treated with courtesy and consideration.

Shopping for groceries is one time when you may want to learn the Spanish phrase for "where will I find..." And you should also learn your numbers in Spanish, at least up to 20. You should also have a good grasp on converting pesos to dollars.



This is during a trip we took to San Felipe, on the Baja Peninsula. By the way, baja translated to English means "low".

This was taken early in the morning, on the main street of San Felipe. There are a lot of eateries and a few drug stores mainly along with the usual souvenir shops.

The ocean and beach with boats heading out to catch the day's fish, is just to Dick's left.

The proprietors of the shops had been out washing down the sidewalks, sweeping, and cleaning, in preparation for their customers.

Below is the beautiful historic district of Mazatlan. I consider this area the center of town. You can get a lovely meal in this area, and do some shopping, or just sit around and enjoy the day.

The edifice below is part of the theatre downtown. We love to walk in this area, and some of our friends live in this area of Mazatlan .



A perk of being over 55: Speed limits are no longer a challenge!





I love this picture because of everything that was captured! The beautiful tile in the foreground, the beach, the ocean waves, the hill in the background with all the aerials, and the islands. Didn't realize how much I was shooting when I took this. Taken in Mazatlan, at one of our favorite places to eat, after a wonderful fish dinner, I just thought the sun on the wood was beautiful. Sometimes you really do win!

This is going to be so familiar to a lot of you: I try to remember to tell all of you who are coming to Mexico to test the waters. That you should not just hang around the beautiful resorts. Go shopping where the locals shop. Go to eat where the locals do ...and this is one great eating place! I mentioned it before in my writings. The prices are reasonable, and the atmosphere is just delightful!

Information for you, regarding a non-immigrant Visa... The FM3... For retirees:

If you have decided you want to retire in Mexico, and your expenses will be covered by income brought to Mexico from a foreign country, or income resulting from investments, either in Mexico or abroad, then you can apply for a Nonimmigrant Visa (FM3) for retirees.

The Consulate is only empowered to issue the Nonimmigrant Visa for multiple entries (FM3) to those who wish to make trips of limited duration. (And the duration can be a long time.) The requirements for a Nonimmigrant Visa (FM3) (we've always called this a visa for a "permanent tourist") for multiple entries are: Fill out the Visa Application form, (available at the Consulate website for downloading).

Appearance in person at the Consulate with a valid passport; and one photocopy of the pages containing personal information; photograph of bearer and expiration date; two (2) front view passport size photos; proof of economic solvency: Applicant must prove a monthly income of \$1,000.00 USD dollars, or equivalent in Mexican currency. If the applicant will be accompanied by members of his immediate family, the minimum income required will be \$500.00 additionally per month for each member 15 years of age or older. The documents accepted as a proof are: Bank statement, Social Security or Pension Receipts. These documents must be notarized and bear the apostille issued by the Secretary of State of the State where the documents were notarized. And of course, the all important: Payment of the Consular Fee. Your FM3 will be ready the next business day after applying for it.

My books have information that is essential to anyone thinking about making Mexico their new home, during their retirement years, and for those who are thinking of vacationing for a while and then eventually moving to Mexico at a later time. Just go to:

<http://www.retireinluxury.com>

or

<http://www.moneysavingmexico.com>

and you can be reading my information on your computer immediately. Enjoy!



The picture above is of the Bull Fighting Ring in Mazatlan. I will probably never see the inside of this facility. Completely against my perception of entertainment.

However - remember that Mexico is a different country, with different traditions and different customs than we are familiar with. While you may never want to see this spectacle either, you should respect the long years of tradition that makes this an important event to many Mexicans.

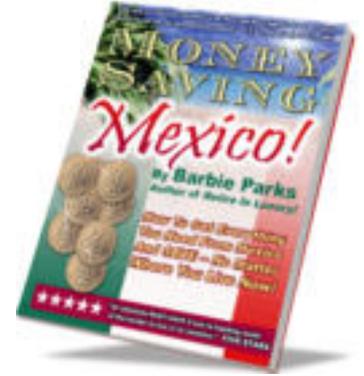
Barbie



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Save the files on your computer in a special folder so you can access them at your leisure.

It's easy to print the books off too, and put them in your retirement file.

Enjoy! Wishing the best of the good life to you and yours!

Barbie and Dick

