



ACAPULCO: "LA PERLA DEL PACIFICO" IS BACK...

It is no secret that, like a movie star past her prime, "La Perla del Pacifico" (Pearl of the Pacific) had lost some of her luster. Named the "Top Jet Set Resort" by *Life* magazine in 1967, she had gone from an exclusive Hollywood playground to a spring break destination. Even the famed cliff divers had become a bit of a cliché. Today, thanks to a US\$1 billion investment in the city's infrastructure, a new Acapulco has begun to rise. The result is legendary resorts restored to their former glory. Sumptuous new restaurants and glittering nightlife. Laid-back Mexico with a contemporary flair. "La Perla" is back...



NEW: HOTEL BOCA CHICA (ACAPULCO)

In the 1950s, the Hotel Boca Chica was where it all happened. After many years of neglect, this architectural gem with its famous stone front (photo) has just been reopened by Mexican hotel group Habita. Luckily many original features and even furniture had survived the years, and design team Frida Escobedo and Jose Rojas, with antique curator Claudia Fernandez, hunted down more vintage furniture and fittings. The boutique hotel is located on a small peninsula adjacent to Caletilla beach, surrounded by quiet and clear waters ideal for scuba diving, snorkelling or just swimming. Boca Chica features 36 rooms with lava-rock floors, pool, gym, spa, sushi restaurant and bar. Please ask us for rates. [Hotel website](#)



FAMILY HOTEL: FAIRMONT PIERRE MARQUES (ACAPULCO)

Originally built as a private retreat for oil tycoon J. Paul Getty, the Fairmont Pierre Marques opened its doors in 1957. Back then it was named one of the 10 best hotels in the world. The hotel's 229 rooms - surrounded by acres of palm, mango and lime trees - have been extensively renovated. The bungalows and 2-storey buildings (no lifts needed), as well as the three swimming pools, playground, endless gardens, wide beach, and generous open-air areas throughout, make this the perfect family hotel (as can be attested by our Director, Gabriela Dornheim, who was at the Pierre Marques with her 2-year old). The hotel also offers tennis courts, gym, golf course, and spa. Please find the rates in our Green Book of Confidential Tariffs. [Hotel website](#)



CACAHUAMILPA CAVES (ROUTE MEXICO CITY - ACAPULCO)

A great stop on the drive from Mexico City to Acapulco is the beautiful silvertown of Taxco. But another stop - one that will take your breath away - is Cacahuamilpa. The sheer scale of these caves is hard to conceive, with vast chambers up to 82m high leading 1.2km beneath the mountainside, and containing stalactites and stalagmites that will leave you in awe. Please ask us for day-tours Cacahuamilpa/Taxco/Hacienda Vista Hermosa from Mexico City, or to include them in your next tailor-made itinerary Mexico City - Acapulco.



6-DAY ITINERARY MEXICO CITY AND ACAPULCO

The Autopista del Sol (photo) is a modern highway linking Mexico City and Acapulco in under 4 hours. This itinerary, although only 6 days long, includes pyramids, colonial towns, natural monuments, haciendas, and the ocean, ideal when short of time or budget (since no internal flights needed). Day 1: Arrival Mexico City. Transfer to hotel. Day 2: Visit of historic city center, Aztec pyramids of Teotihuacan, and Guadalupe shrine. Dinner at typical restaurant. Day 3: Drive to the colonial silvertown of Taxco. Lunch with views of beautiful church Santa Prisca and silver shopping. Visit of the impressive caves of Cacahuamilpa. Overnight at the former home of conqueror Hernan Cortes, Hacienda Vista Hermosa. Day 4: Drive to the Pacific coast, to Acapulco. Afternoon at leisure to enjoy the beach. Sunset cocktail while viewing the famous cliff divers. Day 5: Morning visit of old Acapulco. Afternoon at leisure to enjoy the Spa, play golf, or swim with dolphins. Special farewell dinner at Pampano with the best views of Acapulco Bay. Day 6: Drive back to Mexico City. Lunch in Cuernavaca. Drop-off at airport for international flight.



NEW: COOKING LESSON IN XOCHIMILCO (MEXICO CITY)

This new excursion takes us to the floating gardens of Xochimilco for a Mexican cooking lesson. 9am: Transfer to Xochimilco to Doña Lupita's place. Light breakfast with *cafe de olla* (typical Mexican coffee with a touch of cinnamon). Then visit of Xochimilco market (photo) to buy all the ingredients for our cooking lesson. 11:30am: The lesson with Doña Lupita starts. Preparation of a delicious Mexican menu. 14:30: Enjoy our own Mexican meal on a *trajinera* (flower-decorated boat) in the canals of Xochimilco. During lunch, Mariachis play us some songs.



NEW: DANCING LESSON AT PLAZA DEL DANZON (MEXICO CITY)

We will learn how to dance one of Mexico's most popular dances, the *Danzon*, in the *Plaza del Danzon* (square of the Danzon) in the heart of Mexico City. Our private *maestra* will teach us all the moves, in this afternoon full of music and fun. 3pm: Transfer from hotel to the Mexican handicraft market 'Ciudadela'. 4pm: Just behind the market, on the Plaza del Danzon, our dancing lesson with the *maestra* (teacher) begins. The local couples coming here every day will help us too! 6pm: After the lesson, we

will drive to a traditional Mexican dancing hall with live music, where we can show what we have learned. 10pm: Transfer back to hotel.



LITTLE KNOWN RUINS: MAYAPAN (YUCATAN)

The ruins of Mayapan, located 50km southeast of Merida, might be less dramatic than other Maya sites, but they are historically significant, becoming the Maya capital in the north of Yucatan after the fall of Chichen-Itza. Abandoned in the mid-15th century, Mayapan's most remarkable surviving feature is the pyramid of Kukulcan, which is built on nine levels and topped with a temple. The pyramid can be climbed, and usually visitors have the place to themselves!



AMAZING EXCURSION: SIAN KA'AN BIOSPHERE RESERVE (YUCATAN)

In the Maya language, Sian Ka'an means 'Origin of the Sky'. Located on the east coast of the Yucatan peninsula, south of the Riviera Maya, this biosphere reserve contains 5300 sq km of tropical forests, mangroves and marshes, as well as a large marine section intersected by a 110 km barrier reef. It provides a habitat for a remarkably rich flora and a fauna comprising more than 300 species of birds, as well as a large number of the region's characteristic terrestrial vertebrates. Sian Ka'an is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Please ask us for excursions into the biosphere reserve, which can be done when visiting the Riviera Maya. [UNESCO video](#)



MEET US

We would like to introduce to you Odra Galan, Senior Consultant. Odra studied tourism in Mexico City, and she has been working in the travel industry for the last seven years. She loves books, cinema and theater, but mostly she loves any type of adrenaline sport! (as can be seen on the photo; Odra is on the top left with white t-shirt). On her to-do list is visiting Africa and flying a plane.



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