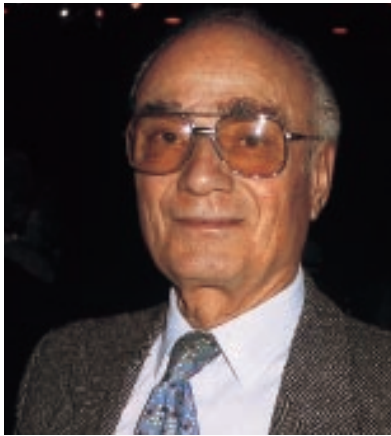




Mexico - Puerto Vallarta



If you would like to enjoy a warm and sunny holiday, there are many places in Mexico you can choose for a break from Canadian winters.

Audrey and I have been going to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico for the last five

years for our winter holidays. We go there every year simply because the winter months, especially January and February are very pleasant. The day temperatures in those two months hardly exceeds 30 degrees day time. At night you seldom need to turn the air conditioning on. The ocean is warm and suitable for swimming. Also, it is the dry season and therefore you hardly see any rainfall. There are no mosquitoes or flies to bother you. Puerto Vallarta, a city of 25 000 population is situated at the Bay of Banderas. The city and the surrounding areas are saturated with tourists during the winter months. You rub shoulders with Canadian and American tourists from across the continent. Most of the holidaying people stay there for three weeks or a month. We have seen however, people staying there even for three months each winter. Last winter our next door neighbors were from Alaska going there each year to get away from the arctic cold.

The Bay of Banderas is extraordinary for its exotic land and marine life from bats and birds found in only a couple of other places in the world, coyotes and tucans to endangered whales, and sea turtles, dolphins, fish of all kinds and more.

Hotel and motel rates vary and there is a wide range of prices to choose from which may be suitable to your budget. One way to find a place you like to go next time is to buy a week or two weeks holiday all inclusive and look around when you are there for a place to stay longer next winter. Once you have a place you like, then reserve it before going back home, leaving a small deposit. Usually that deposit is \$100.00 American. Middle range hotels and motels are full of mostly Americans going there year after year to their reserved places. We do the same thing. You can even leave your summer clothes and other belongings which you may like to have with you when you holiday. Once Canadian dollar was 6.30 pesos this past winter. The banks and exchange booths (cambios) are everywhere to conveniently cash your travelers cheques. Bottled water is free or delivered to you for a reasonable charge.

This year we decided to spend our winter holiday in a small village called Bucerias, near Puerto Vallarta. It is quieter than Puerto Vallarta. The village is about 12 kilometers from the airport. There is a frequent bus service in the area and the fares are very reasonable. A small suite with a kitchen and on or two bedrooms in a motel will cost you between \$40 to 70 US a day in Bucerias, if you rent it for a month or longer. Bucerias has many miles of fine sandy beaches which are excellent for walking and swimming. Motels have their swimming pools too. Puerto Vallarta is almost equal distance from the East and West Coast. Tourists got here from everywhere in Canada.

Wouldn't be nice to spend some winter days in Puerto Vallarta area and visit Turkey summer time. Think about it.

Salih Zeki Çınar , Vancouver Island

