



Manzanillo SUN

coastal Mexico's lifestyle magazine

An artistic view of Manzanillo Centro
photo and art by Allan Yanitski



- Around Manzanillo
- Technology
- History and Mythology
- At the Movies
- RV Travel
- Nature's Wonders
- So Much to See
- Food and Drink
- Learn Spanish
- Path to Citizenship

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To send submissions for possible inclusion in the magazine, please send to the editor by 15th of each month. We are always looking for writers or ideas on what you would like us to see as topics for the magazine.

Article submissions:

- Preferred subjects are Manzanillo and Mexico
- All articles should be 1000 words or less or may be serialized or 500-750 words if accompanied by photos
- Pictures are welcome
- Comments, letters to the editor, articles, photos and advertisements are always welcome

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An Unexpected Double Storm Disaster

story by Suzanne A. Marshall

As the summer heat was upon us this season, we kept our eyes out to sea. This year, the weather experts are predicting more than the usual number of tropical storms. On the Pacific side, I have found that this number is typically less than on the Atlantic and gulf sides of Mexico. This year is no different from what we have experienced thus far over our time in Mexico.

In April, we watched hurricane Genevieve slowly move by our bay, out at sea, with gusts that peaked at 130 mph and lots of rain. As usual, the storms kicked up tremendous surfs and the windows of our condo rattled frequently as the huge surfs crashed on shore. But overall, it was not the 'stuff' of a hurricane Patricia or other major storms of the past. Praise be for that!!



A flooded area near La Boquita, a very popular Mexican beach filled with open air beach restaurants topped with various palm palapas.

So, of course, in late August, when Tropical Storm Hernan was heading our way, out at sea, we weren't too worried as it had yet to be categorized as a hurricane. What we were unaware of was that another storm was coming our way, over the mountains, at the same time. When the two storms merged, you might say that 'all hell broke loose'. In my thirteen years in Manzanillo, I have never seen so much water inundating the city.

The two systems ultimately dumped two feet of water in one day! What needs to be remembered here, is that we are sur-

rounded by the Sierra Madre mountain range. So, the rainwater pours down the mountain sides and hills, carrying earth and sand and, thus, finds its way to the flood canals and hopefully out to sea. Manzanillo had built these canals (arroyos) specifically to cope with rainy season flood waters.

But, alas, it wouldn't be that simple this time. The canals could not compete with the flowing tides pouring out of the mountains and ultimately overflowed by as much as six feet of water. So, you might imagine the runoff pouring into the streets mixed with mud and sand and filling entire neighbourhoods with several feet of water. It undated homes and destroyed vehicles as it spread like a plague.

As the days followed, after the storm, I read that some citizens had spoken to the municipal government about better systems for water drainage and the prevention of another such occurrence. Meanwhile, many people donated funds to help those in need. Some of our own condo staff were hit hard in the Santiago area. So, we all chipped in to assist with the purchase of household items, bedding, towels and auto repairs.

In the meantime, we have noticed, as we drove through some different areas, that backhoes are busy digging trenches and very large drainage piping lays in wait to be placed in the ground. One can only hope that this will be done in all needed areas and save the city all the terrible problems being experienced now as a result of this double storm assault on our beloved Manzanillo!

One only need watch the international news to see that the worlds' climate is giving many countries a taste of calamity; be it wild fires in California, Oregon and even Canada; to hurricanes hitting the southern USA from the Gulf of Mexico. This, of course, is unfolding in the middle of a 100 year pandemic; cause I think for all of us to do some serious thinking about what has to change.

... more pics follow

...An Unexpected Double Storm Disaster

These three photos demonstrate the flooding waters in an area called Santiago. Cars and homes were inundated with mucky rivers of filthy water.



In some gated communities, where water cannot easily escape, the entire layout of homes and garages were inundated.

A friend reported water in their home up to his calves; while another lost her car due to complete swamping.



...An Unexpected Double Storm Disaster



Above, right and below:
The rushing floodwaters literally took the streets away with them, leaving huge crevices and mud that would require heavy equipment and engineering to put things right again.



The bridge over this canal ended up with one lane collapsed and hampering traffic for days.

...An Unexpected Double Storm Disaster



This is another shot of La Boquita beach area on Miramar Bay. The open spaces leading to a few buildings was actually home to several open-air restaurants.

Thanks to the tremendous surfs that rose from the strength of the storm, a barrage of sea waste was left behind on most of the beaches including seaweed, and vegetation. The clean up was already beginning the following day.



A young girl helps with the beach cleanup. A formidable job.

...An Unexpected Double Storm Disaster



Heaps of beach debris begin to collect at various beach access locations.



These two photos depict the tragic mess that homes endured from the water and mud crashing down the roads.

This poor woman is working hard at cleaning up her home.
One can see that this will be a terrible struggle and take a long time before one can be comfortable again.

Such a sad sight.

Over the past couple of years, we have noticed little vehicles known as tuktuks. In Manzanillo they have provided inexpensive transport in the neighbourhoods.

This one didn't survive the storms.



...An Unexpected Double Storm Disaster



Left and below:
In the neighbourhoods all over
Manzanillo, many are left with
heaps of debris and ruined
furniture and
personal possessions.



The neighbours discuss the issues while
sharing much-needed clean water.

...An Unexpected Double Storm Disaster

This used to be El Caribe, a popular beachside restaurant frequented by many expats. The storm surge ate away at the base of the beach and eventually there was a tremendous collapse.

A sad situation.



Meanwhile, we give thanks again for our elevated property.

Though we received a lot of rain and the pool filled up quite quickly, the areas of Playa Salagua and Playa Azul seem to be somewhat elevated and the surrounding avenues did not receive the high water storm surge rolling in from the hills and mountains.

We were very grateful that Hernan remained a tropical storm and not a hurricane category. The winds were less but of course there was still a huge dump of rain.

...An Unexpected Double Storm Disaster

As an update, the following images show how quickly progress happens, a few days after the storm, thanks to the coordinated efforts of so many people and agencies.



See the cleanup in action on [this video](#).



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Living in the Times of COVID-19

story by Señor Tech

If you haven't heard, we are in the middle of a nasty pandemic! While there are numerous claims of remedies and treatments, it is hard to know which information is correct and which information is bogus. Unscrupulous individuals are trying to sell unproven and even dangerous products claiming to be cures for COVID-19 (the virus that causes the novel coronavirus disease); while others politicise social distancing and the wearing of masks as hoaxes. The only way to protect yourself against possibly getting infected or being scammed is knowledge and the truth. In this article, I will try to provide a number of resources, available online, to help keep you informed.

Over the past few months, there has been talk of many apps for Android and Apple phones that work to determine if people have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. At this time, these apps are battling issues with privacy and low adoption rates. So, I will not discuss these contact apps at this time, but will when the roadblocks are resolved. In order for these apps to be truly effective, at least 50% of the population will have to adopt them.



The website for the [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int), WHO, is a good starting point. They have a whole section dealing with COVID-19.

The section on "[Advice for the public](#)" addresses topics such as:

- ⇒ [Staying physically active](#)
- ⇒ [Healthy diet](#)
- ⇒ [Healthy parenting](#)
- ⇒ [Quitting tobacco](#)
- ⇒ [Mental health](#)

There are also numerous tips on laundry, proper handwashing, stopping the spread and advice -on a number of other topics.



The [Pan American Health Organization](https://www.paho.org), PAHO wears two institutional hats: it is the specialized health agency of the Inter-American System and also serves as Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (WHO), the specialized health agency of the United Nations.

The three countries of interest Canada, USA, and Mexico stats can be viewed by clicking on any of the three following links;

- ⇒ [Canada COVID-19 Situation](#)
- ⇒ [United States of America COVID-19 Situation](#)
- ⇒ [Situación de COVID-19 en México](#)

The site provides statistical information on cases and deaths to the state and provincial levels in each country. If you are into numbers, this is a great resource. PAHO also has information on these types of disasters;

- ⇒ [What to do in a storm](#)
- ⇒ [Volcanic eruptions](#)
- ⇒ [What to do before, during and after an earthquake](#)
- ⇒ [Heatwaves and their effects](#) **Note: highly recommended reading for life in Manzanillo**

Hurricanes, storms and forest fires, compounded by COVID-19 spread, has made necessary a new level of precautions in order to stay safe. The information provided can ensure you have the best plans for survival in the event of an emergency.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

Another resource in the USA is the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov). Like the WHO, the CDC has other resources such as;

- ⇒ [Symptoms](#)
- ⇒ [Self-check symptoms](#)
- ⇒ [When to get tested](#)
- ⇒ [If you are sick](#)
- ⇒ [When to quarantine](#)
- ⇒ [When you can be around others](#)
- ⇒ [How to protect yourself and others](#)



Also in the USA, [CoronaVirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov) is another site sponsored by FEMA, the Centres for Disease Controls and Prevention and the White House.



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

The [Government of Canada](https://www.canada.ca) has a website devoted to COVID-19 that includes financial assistance programs for Canadians as well as health information dealing with COVID-19.

If you have doubts about information you receive on social media platforms, I would highly recommend checking the above sites to get the scientific confirmations. I would also recommend using a service like [Snopes.com](https://www.snopes.com) to debunk any questionable claims.

In addition to a quote by a famous Vulcan, "Live long and prosper", I would add "stay safe".

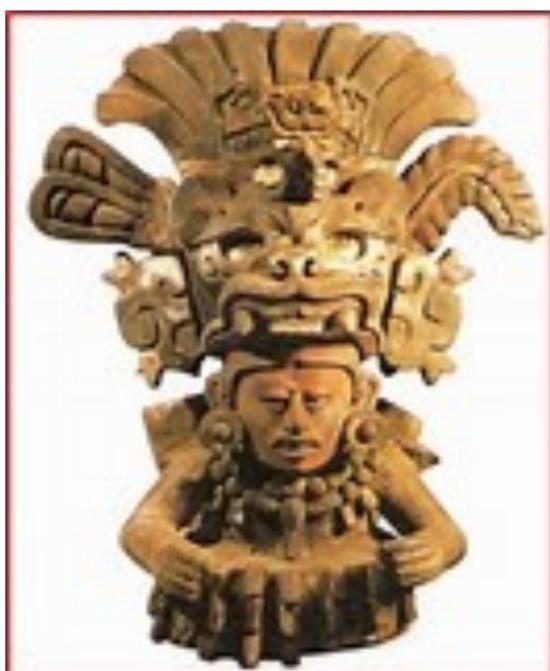
If you have questions and would like more information about technology topics in this article, email me at senortech@manzanillosun.com

Monkey Twins

story by Kirby Vickery

In the past, I've talked about the "Ball Game" and its importance to the Mayan and Aztec people. And, while looking back over the various issues of The Manzanillo Sun, I seem to be painting a rather bland and warlike picture of the Mesoamerican cultures and their lifestyles. I think they had good times, with humor thrown into their way of life.

One has to dig a little to find it sometimes. But it is there. World history tells us that when times are hard, and people are out intensely scrounging a living from their habitats, there isn't much else going on. History also reflects that when times get better, and living gets easier, humor surfaces and playtime ensues. This goes for all the earth's creatures and the higher the species in the ladder of evolution, with ease of living, the more humorous activities and just "fun" things are played and observed.



Mayan
Monkey
Twin

With mankind, it was the advent of agriculture which settled a lot of people. It happens within the animal world when the evolution of any species finds itself in a permanent environment of plenty and they find spare time where life can be enjoyed. One species that has really taken advantage of that on a day-to-day basis are the primates.

Within today's Central America, there are nine (or eight or three depending on which reference book you can get into)

types of monkeys. The ones that are frequented in Mexico are the Mantled Howler (*Alouatta palliata*), or Golden-Mantled Howling Monkey and the Geoffroy's Spider Monkey, also known as the Back-handed Spider Monkey.

Sadly, the Spider Monkey is endangered at this time. There are stories of these monkeys available for your reading pleasure as initially taken from the Popol Vuh. Which type of monkey they are talking about depends on which translation or interpretation you read. [Sometimes that's the fun of research – It's like learning about politicians. You get through all of it and then get to decide which story you want to believe.]

THE MONKEYS

The God of Fertility and of The Ballgame, Hun Hunahpu, ('Hun' is a title meaning 'One or One Lord'), is otherwise known as God 'S' for 'Sport'. He had twin sons named Hun-Batz and Hun-Chowen. They were also known as the Monkey Twins. But their mother, Hunahpu's wife, Xbaquiyalo, loved them anyway. These two were quick, intelligent, artistic, and full of life and very talented in everything they did. It was a very happy household until Dad introduced them to the "Ballgame."

This is the Mesoamerican game played with a solid rubber ball with hoops high up on the wall. The idea is to have your team drive the ball through the hoop more times than your opponent. Only thing is you can't use your hands, arms, or head. According to one version of this story, these brothers stopped everything for the sake of the game, similar to a modern-day teen locking himself in his room to play video games while talking on the phone, 24/7.



The Mesoamerican
Ballgame

...Monkey Twins

Hun Hunahpu decided to make the best of their newfound interest and take them to a real game and let them play. He took them into the underworld to take on Vucub Caquix, God of the underworld, and his team, in the finals of the match.



The Twins from a Mississippian fable

What happened during the game was pathetic, sort of like going to a modern soccer game against a team that only played Australian Rules Football.

The play got so rough that Vucub Caquix, who was playing goalie for his team, actually cut off Hun Hanahpu's head and didn't even draw a foul. Then Vucub Caquix bent the rules even further and hung it on a calabash tree.

[Here, the story splits into many different versions. So . . .] There was a nice-looking young lass, Xquic, walking through the underworld, and she happened upon that calabash bush. While picking some of its fruit, she saw and liked what was left of Hun Hunahpu's head. As she was picking it by mistake (?); game to the last, he managed to pass some sacred spittle into her hand. We did say he was wizard of the dribble. Xquic must have swallowed because she gave birth to Hunahpu and Xbalanque, otherwise known as the Hero Twins.

Xquic and her sons came up to the real world after that as she needed to be adopted by Xbaquiyalo for her son's sake. Later the Hero Twins lured the Monkey Twins to a particular tree and told them there was a nice collection of juicy birds up there. So, up they climbed expecting a dinnertime treat. But as they

climbed, the tree grew taller and taller. They couldn't get down; they could only go up. There was no escape.

"What can we do?" they cried. "Loosen your belts," suggested the Hero Twins, "and loop them around the tree to help you climb down." But this was a trick. The dangling belts became tails and Hun-Batz and Hun-Chowen discovered that they'd turned into monkeys. Howler monkeys to be precise. And you can still hear them from time to time. Because of their former skills, they were much venerated, and everyone tried not to laugh, but grandmother Xmucane got the giggles and they fled in embarrassment.



Same twins from Oklahoma?

So where are they now? We understand the Monkey Twins continue to sign autographs and are currently looking for a lucrative contract in sports commentary like all the other former professional Ballgame apes.

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sponsored



Goliath

movie review by Suzanne A. Marshall

Creators: David E. Kelley, Jonathon Shapiro for Amazon Prime Video

Starring: Billy Bob Thornton, Tania Raymonde, Nina Ariana, Diana Hopper, Ana de La Reguera, Amy Brenneman, William Hurt

"Billy McBride, a disgraced lawyer, now an ambulance 'chaser', agrees to take on a wrongful death lawsuit in hopes of getting revenge on the firm he helped create."

This series began in October of 2016, so allowed us some considerable 'binge' watching as we settled in to our new life of semi isolation and avoidance of COVID-19. This is an extremely well done, gritty, series about Billy and his considerably altered life after the fall out with a huge and wealthy law firm. He lives in less-than-desirable surroundings and chips away at survival. When a huge lawsuit drops in his lap, he decides to take it on and the drama really begins.

The series is chock full of great characters, and plenty of suspense, as Billy and his team of helpful ladies or friends give him support and try to help him out as he works his way through the legal mine fields. Thornton is really terrific in his role as are the whole cast. And, when William Hurt (Donald Cooperman) comes into the picture, an eerie character evolves that gives the series a real sense of tension and anticipation.

There is no love lost between these two ex-partners. I mustn't ignore the terrific role of Nina Arianda playing Patty Solis-Papagian, another lawyer looking to move up and who initially brings the wrongful death suit to Billy. They make an interesting pair battling it out against the prosecutors. The cinematography, music and pace of this series is riveting. Another highly recommended adventure.



The series has received seven Golden Globe nominations and won a Golden Globe for Best Actor. There are a number of other sources of awards such as Jupiter Awards, Satellite Awards and more. Enjoy!

IMDB rates the movie at 8.2/10 based on 31,422 viewers' comments.

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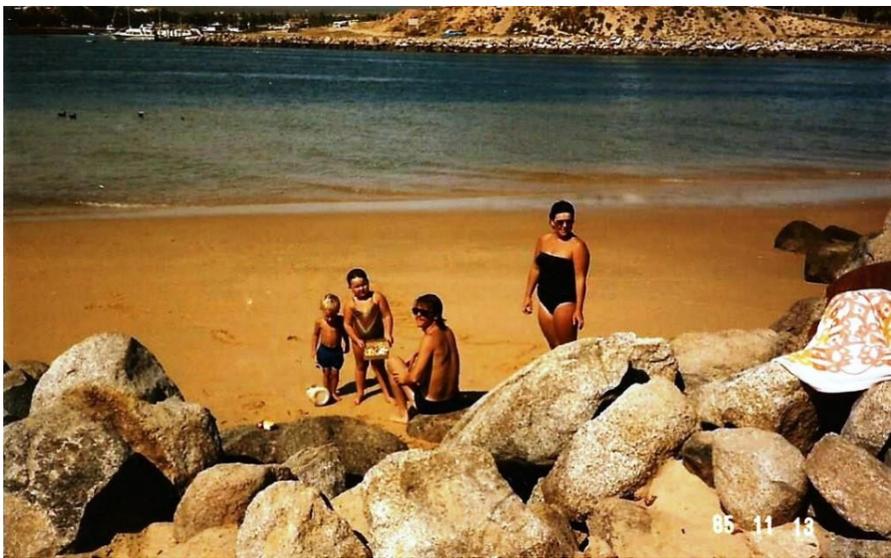
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Where Have all the Snowbird RVers Gone in Los Cabos?

by Dan and Lisa Goy

Since our first visit to Baja, in 1985, what remains constant is change, nowhere more apparent than the change we have witnessed in Los Cabos (San José del Cabo to Cabo San Lucas with a 30 km (18 mile) corridor running between them). At the time, the current four-lane highway between Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo had only commenced construction very near Cabo San Lucas. We still recall 2 or 3 workers with shovels, a couple of wheelbarrows and a mule and saying to each other "this could take a while!" There was literally nothing in between the two towns other than the several RV communities on the beach.



Cabo San Lucas harbour in 1985

The most popular of these were the El Tule Arroyo, also Playa Chileno (Shipwreck Beach), Playa Santa Maria and Playa Viudas (Widows' Beach), Playa Medano (known now as "The Office"). With the exception of El Tule, all were swimmable, some with coves and lots of snorkeling. There were groups of 25 or more RV communities settled in for the winter with many other beaches also hosting campers. You can still walk an old access road adjacent to the Villa Serena residential complex that takes you down to the beach where RVs once parked.



Kirsty and Ken on Shipwreck Beach in 1985

Within a few years, all the beach camping in this area was over and, with the completion of the 4-lane corridor, development truly took off. The last seashore camping in Los Cabos ended in 1991 with the closure of Shipwreck Beach to RVs (we camped here in 1985). Also popular at the time was the ferry service from Cabo San Lucas to Puerto Vallarta on the mainland. The terminal was out of town at a protected inner harbour. This service ended years ago, in 1989. This is now the Cabo San Lucas Marina.



Ferry from Cabo San Lucas to Puerto Vallarta

Sad news about all that great beach camping. The good news was all the RV parks and campgrounds that sprung up despite the relentless development in this newly found tourist paradise, supported by a world-class international airport.

The 1990s were the heydays of the Los Cabos campground lifestyle with no less than 12 parks opening for all those Baja-bound Snowbird RVers.

Fast forward to the present day and the current state of affairs for camping in this Mexican paradise is nothing short of abysmal. The last RV park that could accommodate any size of RV caravans, or size of RVs for that matter, closed in 2016. It was Villa Serena RV Park.

In fact, we had reservations for our 2016/2017 Baja Amigos season and were forced to scramble to make alternate arrangements after being notified in late September of the closure.

We thought now would be timely for a walk down memory lane, fondly recalling all RV parks and campgrounds, some still open, but only a shadow of their former selves.

...Where Have all the Snowbird RVers Gone in Los Cabos?

Cabo Glorieta RV Resort Park

This was probably the nicest RV park in Cabo San Lucas. Back in the day, their website boasted *"Welcome to our Corner of Paradise!!! After your adventurous drive down the Baja California Peninsula, come rest and relax at Cabo Glorieta RV Resort park in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. The RV lifestyle can be everything you have imagined at our uniquely and beautifully designed Park, Cabo Glorieta RV Resort offers nothing less than the absolute best."*



Cabo Glorieta RV Park sign

Designed as a giant traffic circle just 3 km north of Cabo San Lucas, this place was extremely popular and eventually the RVers built casitas or small homes on all the RV pads although there remain a few spaces for long-term RVs over the winter.



Cabo Glorieta RV Park

Paloma RV Village

This still exists today, on the north side of Hwy 1, up from the Corona Depository to the top of the hill, not far from Cabo Glorieta.

The RV park aspect of this "RV Village" has long since disappeared and again been replaced with well developed residences, sometime with the RVs buried inside.

Brisa del Mar RV Resort

Opened in 1991, this was very popular with RV Snowbirds and the only RV park on the beach located on the corridor, just southwest of San José del Cabo, in between km 29 and km 30. This park had 50 full-service sites, including 20 pull throughs, plus at least a dozen full-time residents including our friend Peter Cashmore who moved to Vagabundos and was a co-owner of the restaurant in that park.



Brisa del Mar RV Resort in 2005

We stayed there in 2005 and enjoyed the beach bar, pool and restaurant which included live entertainment. In 2007, the residents were told the park had been sold to developers and a condo project would start immediately. They were given 30 days to vacate. As of March 2017, the gates are locked, the site basically unchanged and the old sign still visible on the wall. We learned, as of the 2019/2020 season, work has finally begun on a hotel, 13 years after the residents were given 30 days' notice to vacate in 2007.



Enjoying Brisa del Mar Resort in 2005

El Arco Palapa RV Park

This park was located on the high side of the connector, at about the 5 km mark, north of Cabo San Lucas (near Costco), with a stunning view of the harbour and El Arco (the Arch). With 80 spaces, including 40 pull-through sites and many per-

...Where Have all the Snowbird RVers Gone in Los Cabos?

manent residents located near the back, this was also a very popular RV park back in the day. It is hard to say when this park closed, as it really just deteriorated from inattention and neglect. We can say with some certainty that we saw no RVs in the front part of the campground as of 2010 and the site was actively being demolished as of the fall of 2016.

San Vicente Trailer Park

This park opened in 1981, only 3 km north of Cabo San Lucas across the highway from Walmart, with 34 spaces. We were not surprised to learn that a hotel developer from Las Mochis purchased the property to build a 5-star resort on the site and the place closed in 2008. We are also not surprised that as of 2017 the hotel has yet to be built.

El Marlin RV Park

Located at the corner of Boulevard Paseo de La Marina and Calle Melchor Ocampo in Cabo San Lucas, this park was a great location for those that wanted to be close to all the action only a block away from the marina. This was a small campground with only 16 spaces and closed in 2000.

Cabo Cielo RV Park

With a palm tree at each site, and a view of El Arco, this park was located at Km 3 of the Los Cabos corridor. Basically, an open field with 25 sites, this park closed in 2001.

El Faro Viejo RV Park

Located a dozen blocks north of the Cabo San Lucas harbour, this park was originally on a dirt road, considered to be out of town. With 28 big spaces, hook-ups, good bathrooms, a restaurant, bar and gift shop, this was once a popular in-town park. We dropped by in 2008 and the restaurant was definitely a going concern, the campground not so much, although the hook ups were still there. Not sure if they worked.

Vagabundos del Mar Trailer Park

This RV park was originally opened in 1987 by the Mexican Travel Club of the same name and sold to José Arballo years later. We really liked the park, as did our guests in the early years of Baja Amigos. The park was opened with almost 100 sites, 30-amp services, 2 washrooms with showers, a great restaurant, laundry and pool located only 3 km from Cabo on the beach side of the corridor.

This was a first operation for sure however, in 2013, about a third of the park was sold to an auto dealership which eliminated all the RV snowbird traffic. All that remained was the restaurant, office, full-time residents at the back and washrooms. We continued to make a restaurant stop a highlight of our tours



Vagabundos del Mar Trailer Park

until we could no longer stay in Los Cabos. Sadly, the park was hit with a major flood in 2017 which wiped out the restaurant and all the permanent structures at the back. All that remains is a couple of spaces on the north wall between the office and the owner's residence.



Club Cabo Motel and Campground Resort

Located near Vagabundos, access is unfortunately from a narrow dirt road which can work for smaller RVs, not so much for bigger motorhomes. This is the last campground where RVers can stop in for a short stay, if they are not too large. With 15 spaces (more or less), it is important to review comments online about Club Cabo so you have some idea of what your experience will be. Last season, one of our competitors had reservations at Club Cabo for their 18 RV Baja caravan. This included several larger rigs.

In February of 2017, when we dropped into the San Lucas Plaza for our scheduled shopping and banking stop, we found several of the large RVs on this tour camping on a side street next to Walmart. Yikes! In September of 2017, a flood ripped through the motel and campground and demolished it. It will not be rebuilt.

...Where Have all the Snowbird RVers Gone in Los Cabos?

Villa Serena RV Park

When we could no longer stay at Vagabundos, we made the move to Villa Serena which had 60 spaces, at Km 7, across from Home Depot. Very basic, lots of traffic noise from the corridor, it was easy in and out and worked for us and the other caravan companies. The restaurant on site by the same name was good for breakfast, pricey for anything else, but we were in Los Cabos where prices are expectedly higher. In the summer of 2016, we were notified that the park would not reopen for the 2016/2017 season and had been rezoned as a new Mega Shopping Centre. As of the 2019/2020 season the Villa Serena RV Park remained abandoned and looked much like it did in 2016.

The RV Snowbird Future in Los Cabos

Clearly you will never see RV parks or campgrounds built anywhere near the water or on the corridor between Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo again. This past season, the development on the connector was going stronger than we have ever seen before. At least ten large projects are on the go. However, there is hope (and not just the town east of Vancouver, BC—some will get that reference).

A new inland highway runs from San José del Cabo to North Cabo San Lucas, a total of 30 kilometers (18 miles) that will be connecting Highway 1 with Highway 19. This Cabo bypass is finished and drivable and, from what we know, the properties on the highway-frontage remain available.

Anywhere along this bypass would be a great location for a destination RV resort on the scale of anything we see in the southern US. When this happens, we are confident Los Cabos will again return to the glory days of the snowbird RV paradise of yesteryears.



Cabo bypass under construction



Pigs and not much else 20 minutes north of Cabo

History of Los Cabos

The indigenous Pericú names for San José del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas were Añiñi and Yencami, respectively, with the current names given by the colonizing Spanish. The name of San José was given by Nicolás Tamaral, in honor of José de la Fuente Peña y Castrejón, the Marquis of Villa Puente who sponsored the mission. The appendix of “de Los Cabos” is to distinguish it from San José de Comondú as well as its proximity to Cabo San Lucas. San José was also known as San Barnabé, as the nearby bay was named this.

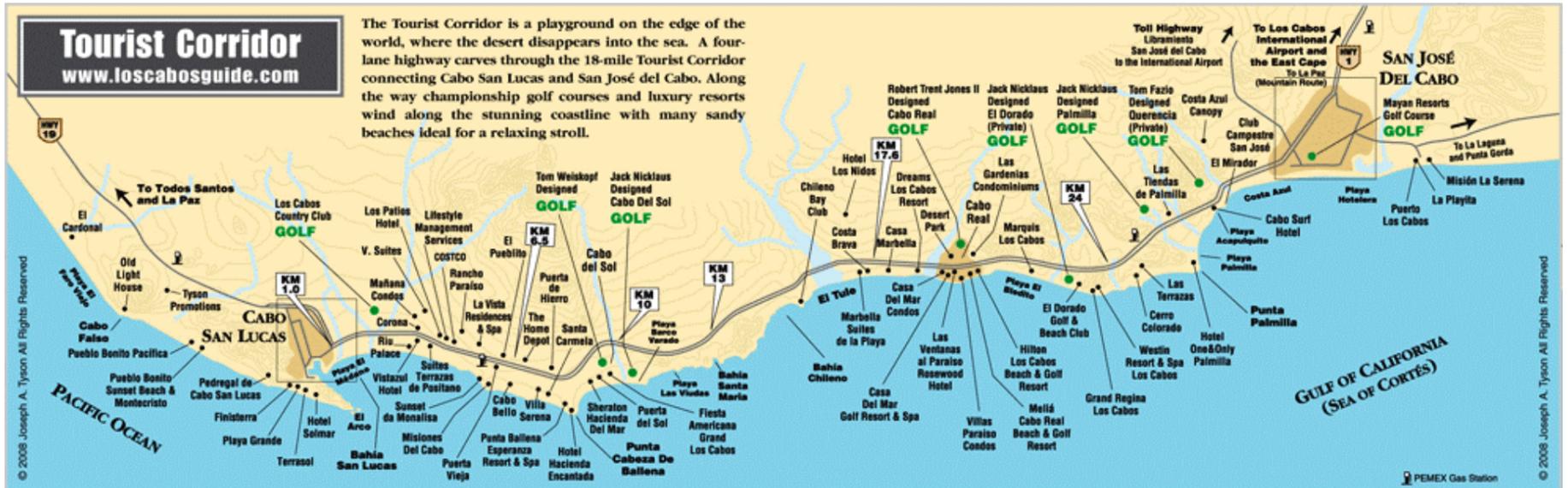
Pirate Thomas Cavendish called Cabo San Lucas “Safe Port” as he hid there from Spanish authorities. The seal for the municipality of Los Cabos (referring to the two cities) was approved by the state government in 1981.

When the Spanish arrived, the main indigenous group in the area was the Pericú, a hunter-gatherer culture with stone-age tools. It is possible that these people arrived in the region with a more evolved culture which later simplified to adapt to the harsh conditions.

Evidence of this includes the region's cave paintings as the peoples found by the Jesuits did not have an artistic tradition. The Pericú people and culture were distinct from other indigenous groups, first by being taller and second by being polygamous in a tribal organization. Their diet consisted of local seeds and fruits, as well as fish, reptiles, and small mammals. Men were in charge of large game hunting of deer.

Hernán Cortés himself arrived here in 1535 and named the Gulf of California the Sea of Cortés (Mar de Cortés) the name still used for it in Spanish. The harsh conditions impeded colonization by the Spanish, which did not begin in earnest until 1730, when Father José Echeverría and Father Nicolás Tamaral founded a mission in what is now San José del Cabo, in 1730. This date is considered the founding of the town, although a second ceremonial founding took place in 1822, when it was declared a town of the Baja California territory.

...Where Have all the Snowbird RVers Gone in Los Cabos?



Diseases brought by Europeans devastated indigenous groups here and, in 1768, more missionaries arrived. While colonization was slow, the area was important as a way station for the Manila Galleon and other ships which stopped here for fresh water as well as fruits and vegetables. However, its remoteness also made it a place for pirates to hide. The first pirate in the area was Francis Drake, in 1578, followed shortly after by Thomas Cavendish, both after the treasures from Spain's Asia trade. One major attack was that on the Santa Ana Galleon, whose looting caused the Spanish colonial government to explore and map the area around Cabo San Lucas at the very beginning of the 17th century.

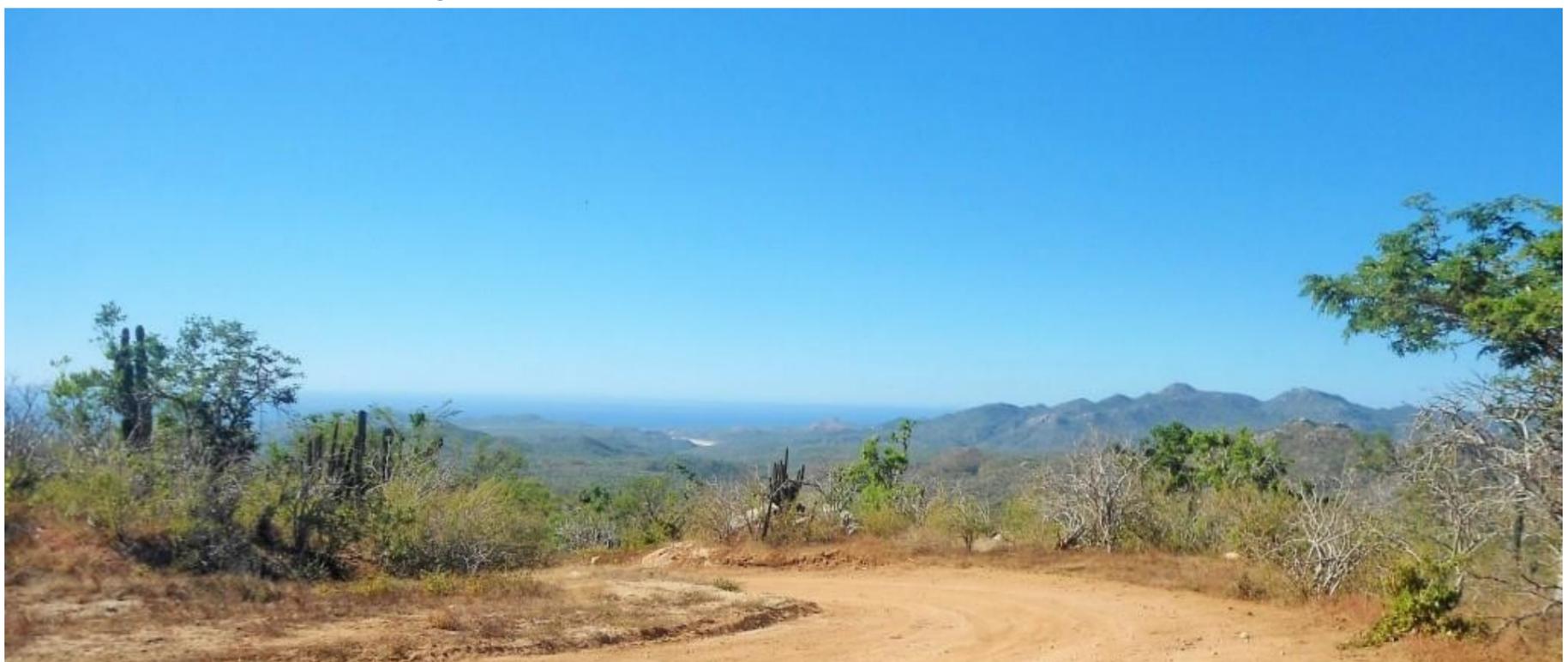
There were recommendations to establish a mission here, but this was rejected in favor of Loreto. This left Cabo San Lucas as a strategic hideout for English pirates until the 18th century. In 1709, pirate Woodes Rogers attacked the Nuestra Señora de la Encarnación y Desengaño. Hiding nearly a month in Cabo San Lucas, he also mapped the area and wrote detailed descriptions. He was followed by George Shelvocke, in 1721, who later published the oldest known drawings of the Pericú.

After Independence, the Baja Peninsula was part of the California province, but Cabo San Lucas was named head of a municipality. Its remoteness kept the area out of active participation of most of Mexico's 19th and early 20th century tumultuous history. One exception was the Mexican American War. Resistance to US forces was organized in the small community of Santa Anita, near San José, headed by José Matías Moreno, Vicente Mejía and José Antonio Mijares, who was in charge of the marina at Cabo San Lucas.

One of the main streets in the town is now named after Mijares who died defending the town. The major political players during the Mexican Revolution were Manuel González and Pedro Orozco, along with Félix Ortega. In 1915, Ildefonso Green Ceseña, head of forces loyal to Venustiano Carranza, drove those of Francisco Villa out of the southern part of the peninsula.

Some development of the area began after the Mexican Revolution, with a lighthouse at Cabo Falso, as early as 1905, just southwest of Cabo San Lucas, in part to remind US ships in the waters here that the territory remained Mexican.

40 minutes north of Cabo, looking at the Pacific ocean



...Where Have all the Snowbird RVers Gone in Los Cabos?



Cabo San Lucas waterfront

Today, it is known as the "Faro Viejo" (Old Lighthouse) and is a historic monument. In 1917, a US company began tuna fishing operations here and had a floating processing plant.

In 1927, the Compañía de Productos Marinos based its operations in Cabo San Lucas and helped develop the port to make it open to tourism later. In the 1920s, the first road connecting San José del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas was begun, but not completely finished until 1970.



Land's End from the connector

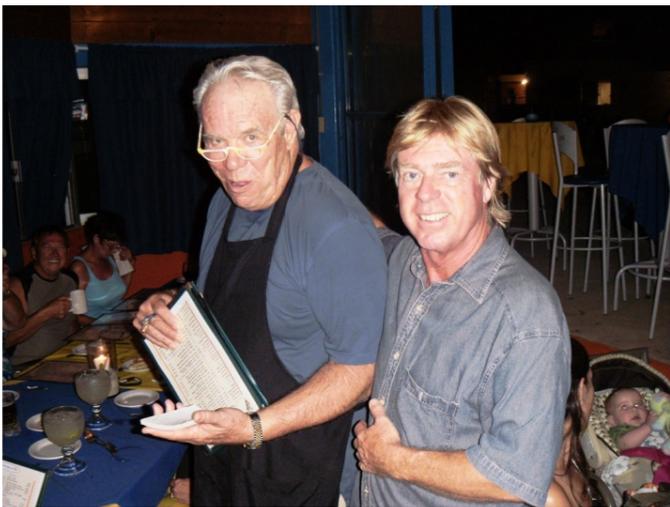
Many newcomers to Los Cabos confuse the area's history with its development as a tourist destination, so that the WWII-era pilots and businessmen who built the first hotels, and capitalized on the tremendous regional sportfishing, are sometimes lionized as "founding fathers." This mistaken emphasis is not confined to tourists and transplants. Plaza Pioneros (in English, "Pioneer Plaza") in Cabo San Lucas, for instance, is dedicated to these mid to late 20th century builders: men like Don Luis Bulnes, Luis Cópola and William Matt "Bud" Parr.

Certainly, all three deserve to be honored - as does Abelardo "Rod" Rodríguez - for their immense contributions to the growth of Los Cabos. However, the area remained rural and undeveloped until the latter 20th century, when the federal agency, Fonatur, began to develop a tourism industry here.

Development began with Cabo San Lucas for vacationers but then spread to San José del Cabo, with a different direction including more art galleries and promotion of its traditional Mexican character. The current municipality of Los Cabos was created in 1981, separated from the municipality of La Paz, with the seat at San José del Cabo. The town had previously been a municipal seat of a town of the same name in 1917 but lost this in a political reorganization in 1972. We first arrived in Los Cabos just as the 4 lane "connector" between Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo was starting construction.

... more pics follow

...Where Have all the Snowbird RVers Gone in Los Cabos?



Our friends, Joe and Peter, at Vagabundos (restaurant owners)



Vagabundos RV Park



Vagabundos RV Park

Above (left), Vagabundo's after the flood
Right, Dan and Lisa enjoying the pool at Vagabundo's
Below, Joe and Peter outside their Vagabundo's restaurant



...Where Have all the Snowbird RVers Gone in Los Cabos?



Above, Cabo Glorieta
Right, Dan in Cabo San Lucas



Happy Hour on Médano Beach



Looking towards San José del Cabo on the bypass



Los Cabos airport bypass

...Where Have all the Snowbird RVers Gone in Los Cabos?



45-day tour group



New inland highway in Los Cabos



Not much traffic here except for the cows



Suburbs of Cabo San Lucas in 1985



San José del Cabo seaside

...Where Have all the Snowbird RVers Gone in Los Cabos?



View of Land's End



Playa Médano
AKA The Office



Playa Médano today



RVs at
Villa Serena

...Where Have all the Snowbird RVers Gone in Los Cabos?



Playa Santa María

Shipwreck Beach
1985



RV parking in
Cabo San Lucas

Submitted by
Dan and Lisa Goy
Baja Amigos RV Caravan Tours
www.BajaAmigos.net



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by Tommy Clarkson

Arrowhead Philodendron *Syngonium podophyllum*

Family *Araceae*

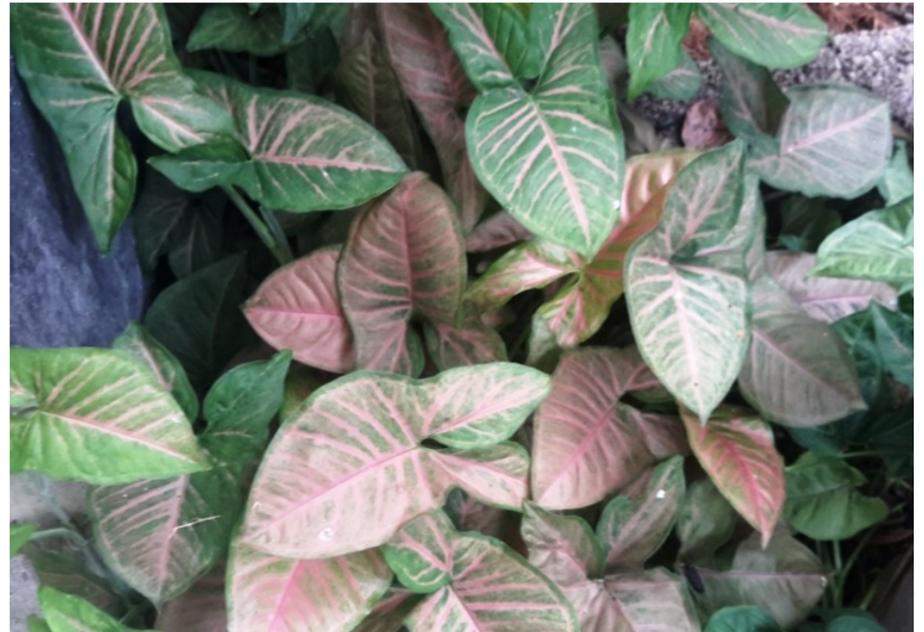
Also known as Arrowhead Plant, Arrowhead Vine, Goosefoot, African Evergreen or American evergreen, Tri-Leaf Wonder, Nephthytis or Five-fingers

(In Volume II of this series, I wrote about the Arrowhead Vine (Syngonium podophyllum). For all intents and purposes, this is the very same plant . . . but different! Here, I have chosen to call it by one of its "Also known as" names, in order to differentiate this particular variant from the more vining (and traditional) sort as described and shown in Book Two.)

This attractive foliage plant is a juvenile variation of an aroid and may be grown as an indoor houseplant. All told, there are some thirty different species in the *Syngonium* genus, with various different cultivars of the *Syngonium podophyllum*.

It is my understanding that, with age, they all develop multiple lobes and turn fully green. *(But, then again, do we not all change quite markedly with the passage of time? However, what say you that we avoid the green stage, OK?)* That said, there are several variegated cultivars such as this one.

The main difference between all of these is the position and amount of the cream, white or pink markings. In fact, some have leaves that are almost entirely white, pink or yellow. To add a bit to the confusion, their color and markings will change throughout the lifespan of the leaf. One may but look at the accompanying pictures to see such as that!



Are they pink with green or green with pink?

Furthermore, as they mature, they attain the arrowhead shape that gives them their common name. As the plant and its leaves further age, they grow from about five to fourteen inches (12.7 – 35.56 cm) long.

Ours thrive, in the dappled shade, at the base of a highly endangered Spindle Palm (*Hyophorbe verschaffeltii*) from Rodrigues Island of the Mascarene Islands. The original species of *Syngonium podophyllum* - from whence this featured variety was derived - is native to a wide region of Latin America ranging from Mexico to Bolivia.

They can be propagated by cuttings, placed in water or planted directly into potting compost, with both methods having a high degree of success - providing the right part of the plant is cut, from the tops of the shoots being the easiest for sprouting. In turn, the hardest would be to cut from the bottom part of the stem.

It is highly unusual for this plant to produce flowers indoors. Out of doors may be a wholly different thing however, with flowers appearing as greenish-white blooms, somewhat in appearance to Peace Lily blooms, but with a thicker spadex (that would be the central shaft bearing the flowers and berries). Its tiny flowers will evolve into brownish-black or red berries.

...Arrowhead Philodendron



Ours thrive at the base of a Spindle Palm

At the sake of somewhat repeating myself, these plants do well in low-to-medium light settings and thrive in bright, indirect light. They do not like exposure to hot, direct sunlight. So, if unable to provide the desired light conditions, one might wish to consider one of the deeper green varieties as they tend to do better in shaded conditions.

The soil in which you have planted your *Syngonium podophyllum* should be kept lightly moist. Do not allow it to become completely dry. Otherwise, they are undemanding, water-wise, but remember, they prefer high humidity. Accordingly, if potted (*the plant, not you!*), it's a good idea to place container plants on a bed of wet pebbles and, if in a hanging basket, mist it frequently.

As to its soil, use a rich mix that has good draining and aerating qualities. Regarding its "food", use a balanced liquid houseplant food on a regular basis.



Yes, it looks pretty "arrowheady" to me!

They are quite hardy and have no pests or disease problems (*operative words follow*) when cared for properly. So, maintain an appropriate watering schedule and, by doing so, you will avoid all of the following which are the result of over-watering: root rot; bacterial leaf spot; colonies of spider mites; scale; aphids and sap-sucking mealybugs.

So as to maintain a compact and bushy plant, you may wish to pinch off new growth on a regular basis. When doing so, you may wish to wear gloves as - though we've not noted such - I have read that its sap can cause skin irritation for some folks.

Lastly, while we regularly munch away on not few parts of various of our tropical plants, the *Syngonium podophyllum* is not a plant for vegans, with all parts being poisonous and a darned sure guarantee of severe mouth pain if eaten!

Get your copy of The Civilized Jungle: Tropical Plants Facts and Fun From Ola Brisa Gardens [Volume I](#), and now [Volume II](#) is here!!

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you can reach Tommy Clarkson at tommy@manzanillosun.com

Tlaxcala

places the editors have been and recommend you visit



Mexicans sometimes joke that the much-ignored state of Tlaxcala doesn't really exist, but is an imaginary realm like Middle Earth or Narnia. Yet the tiny central Mexican region is actually home to some of the most beautiful sights in the country. Here's a rundown of the some things to see and do here.

Centro Histórico de Tlaxcala

Tlaxcala state's capital, which shares its name, has a leafy and elegant historic center that is well worth a visit. The city once hosted the Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés, who formed an alliance with the locals to bring down the Aztec Empire. The compact colonial center contains several important historic sites, including one of the oldest churches to be found in the country, La Catedral de Nuestra Señora de La Asunción (the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption).

Tlaxcala's Government Palace (El Palacio de Gobierno de Tlaxcala) boasts a number of spectacular, well-preserved murals. Local muralist Desiderio Hernández Xochitiotzin is behind the works, and although he is not as well known as Diego Rivera, his artwork provides a fascinating and detailed outline of the history of Tlaxcala.

Museo de Arte de Tlaxcala

Another art-lovers' destination in Tlaxcala is the regional art museum, which boasts an impressive collection of early Frida Kahlo paintings. The elegant colonial building is filled with exciting temporary exhibits showcasing some of the best modern Mexican art.

Huamantla

The tiny colonial city of Huamantla is one of Tlaxcala's two Pueblo Mágicos, or magic towns – destinations that are highlighted by the Mexican government as important cultural landmarks.

Each year, the town pays homage to an image of the Virgin Mary with a stunning month-long festival. On the night of August 14, which is known as "the night when no one sleeps," residents prepare a decorative four-mile (six-kilometer) carpet made from flowers, sawdust, and fabric.

Find these suggestions and others in Stephen Woodman's full article and beautiful photos of Tlaxcala on [The Culture Trip](#)
Original article published March 1, 2018, The Culture Trip



by Tommy Clarkson

Curiosity Plant *Cereus hildmannianus v. monstrose*

Family *Cactaceae*

Also known as *Cereus monstrose* (For more, read on!)

Curious and concerned about the health and well-being of various - *like me, aging* - family and friends, I recently took off from Manzanillo, embarking upon a nearly six week driving trip of some 11,400 miles. All told, this bottom-numbing trek took me through central and northern Mexico and nine US states.

Sojourn finally complete, I'd received but only one speeding ticket! However, I got back to a refrigerator that had stopped working, no water pressure in the house, my truck having been in a wreck with my senior gardener at the wheel, two prized palms killed by the Palm Borer Beetle and at the tail end of two hurricanes which had raised havoc with "my babies." (*Welcome Home Tommy!*)

Planted in my seat for that long, following so much driving, my physical - and mental - condition was, shall we say, a bit gnarly! Hence, while walking the terraces of "The Civilized Jungle," this character caught my eye and I could but only think, "by name and appearance, how apropos!"

But first, a brief discussion of the genus: it derived its name and was early on described by Philip Miller in the fourth edition of *Gardener's Dictionary*, in 1754. Plants of this genus are generally quite large, ribbed and columnar growing. However, there are also species that are epiphytic.

Contorted and deformed in appearance, this particular sun-loving cactus equivalent of Quasimodo sports edible, brownish-red fruit and white flowers. Native to eastern South America and, perhaps, the West Indies, they can rise up to fifteen feet (4.57 meters) tall and ten feet (3.05 meters) wide. They grow rather fast - potentially up to four feet (1.22 meters) a year.



Containerized, this young plant is still rather small.

Now, as I understand it, this is a variant of the *Cereus hildmannianus* - a species of cactus from around the Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina areas. However, a bit of further confusion lies with some (include me in there) as to its relationship with the *Cereus peruvianus monstrose*.

It, too, is beautiful and ideal for use in a large cactus or succulent garden. With its twisting, irregular and undulating pattern on its stem ribs, is it the same - or close kin?

Other names by which this is known include: Monstrose Apple Cactus, Andes Organ Pipe, Hedge Cactus, Queen of the Night and Hildmann's Cereus. But, now, don't get these confused with the basic, apple-like, red fruited *Cereus peruvianus*! (*If my task was to muddle and confuse, I've done a pretty darned good job, right?*)

...Curiosity Plant



While some aspects of the Curiosity Plant look rather normal . . .



...others do not!

But, in a modicum of self-defense, I'm not alone in my befuddlement. One of the authors I consulted stated, "The species... in (this) genus all have certain characteristics only known to *Cereus*."

Other species have been moved (from it) to several other genera. (Another) author wrote, 'inclusion by lack of exclusion has made for a very messy and unsatisfactory group.'" In fact, the picture he shows of his specimen - extremely similar in appearance to mine - that he has labeled as a *Cereus forbesii* f. *monstrose* 'Ming Thing.' However, he does acknowledge that such a designation "isn't even an accepted name".

Staying with my common and Latin designations, the Curiosity Plant has a very high heat tolerance and needs partial to full sun. But, specimens started in lower light levels should be given time to acclimate to all day, bright sun in order to avoid sunburn.

They are extremely drought tolerant but want heavy watering every two weeks but can take more frequent drinks if planted in fast-draining soil and during warm weather. But note that if

containerized, they may require more frequent watering. As to meals, apply a diluted fertilizer in the spring. However, when working around them, keep in mind that they do have a few spines so take care.

As with most cacti/succulents, root and stem rot can become a problem if planted in poor draining soil and given too much water in damp, cool weather. It also is susceptible to scale and mealybugs. However, these can be taken care of through use of a water spray or gentle application of horticultural oil.

Great for usage in a large pot, some gardeners employ them as a striking centerpiece in a sunny, showy locale. They can be rather easily grown from seed or stem cuttings but, if the latter, allow the stem cuttings to callus over before planting in - yep, you remembered - well-draining soil!

For back issues of "Roots", gardening tips, tropical plant book reviews and videos of numerous, highly unique eco/adventure/nature tours, as well as memorable "Ultimate Experiences" such as Tropical Garden Brunches

Visit us



you can reach Tommy Clarkson at tommy@manzanillosun.com

Homemade Salsa

Ingredients

- ✓ 1/4 cup chopped onion (white, brown or yellow)
- ✓ 1 tbsp jalapeño pepper, seeds removed, roughly chopped (fresh best, canned ok)
- ✓ 400g / 14 oz canned crushed tomato, best quality
- ✓ 4 oz / 120g canned diced green chiles
- ✓ 1/4 cup (packed) cilantro/coriander, roughly chopped
- ✓ 1/2 tbsp lime juice
- ✓ 1 clove garlic, minced
- ✓ 1/2 tsp sugar
- ✓ 1/2 tsp salt
- ✓ 1/4 tsp black pepper
- ✓ 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin

Directions

1. Place onion and jalapeno in the food processor first, then add remaining ingredients (start with 1/2 tbsp lime juice).
2. Blitz to desired consistency.
3. Taste test with corn chip for salt and lime. Adjust if necessary.
4. Refrigerate 1 hour before serving with corn chips, or other dippers.

<https://www.recipetineats.com/salsa-super-easy-restaurant-style/>

Recipe video above. Just like what you get at your favourite restaurant and those jars sold alongside corn chips at the grocery store... but it's better, healthier and cheaper! The fresh flavour is so, so good. Make it chunkier or smoother, to your taste.



Source [Recipe Tin Eats](https://www.recipetineats.com/salsa-super-easy-restaurant-style/)



House for Rent

Golfers, take note!

Beautiful furnished home for rent, well situated in Real del Country next to the golf course.



The home has 3 bedrooms (each with air conditioning), 2 full, large bathrooms. One of the bedrooms is on the main (lower) floor and adjoins the downstairs bathroom. It comes with a fully equipped kitchen, a washer and dryer.



In addition to 2 patios, and an amazing view of hole 3 of the golf course, a third terraced deck overlooks the social area of the complex that offers a pool, tennis court and a palapa for your enjoyment.

This home comes with 24-hour security, wifi, cable TV and includes water, maintenance fee and covered, off-street parking for 1 car.

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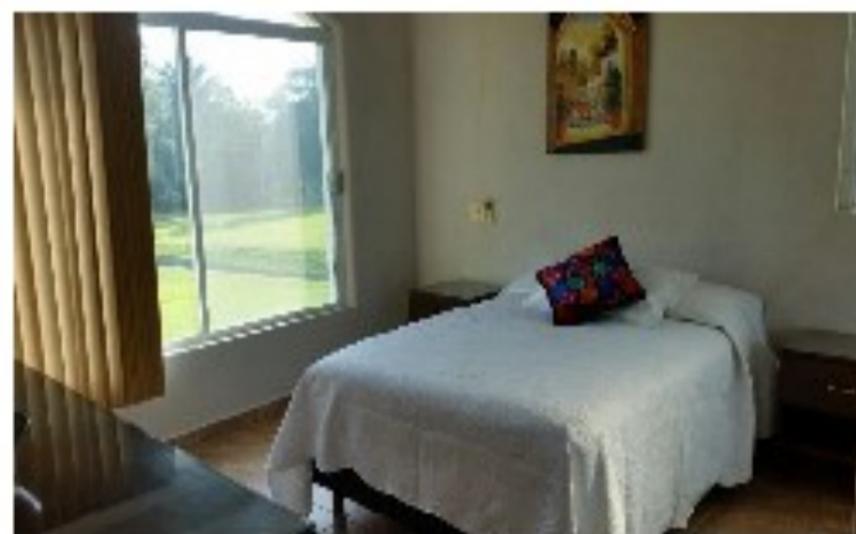
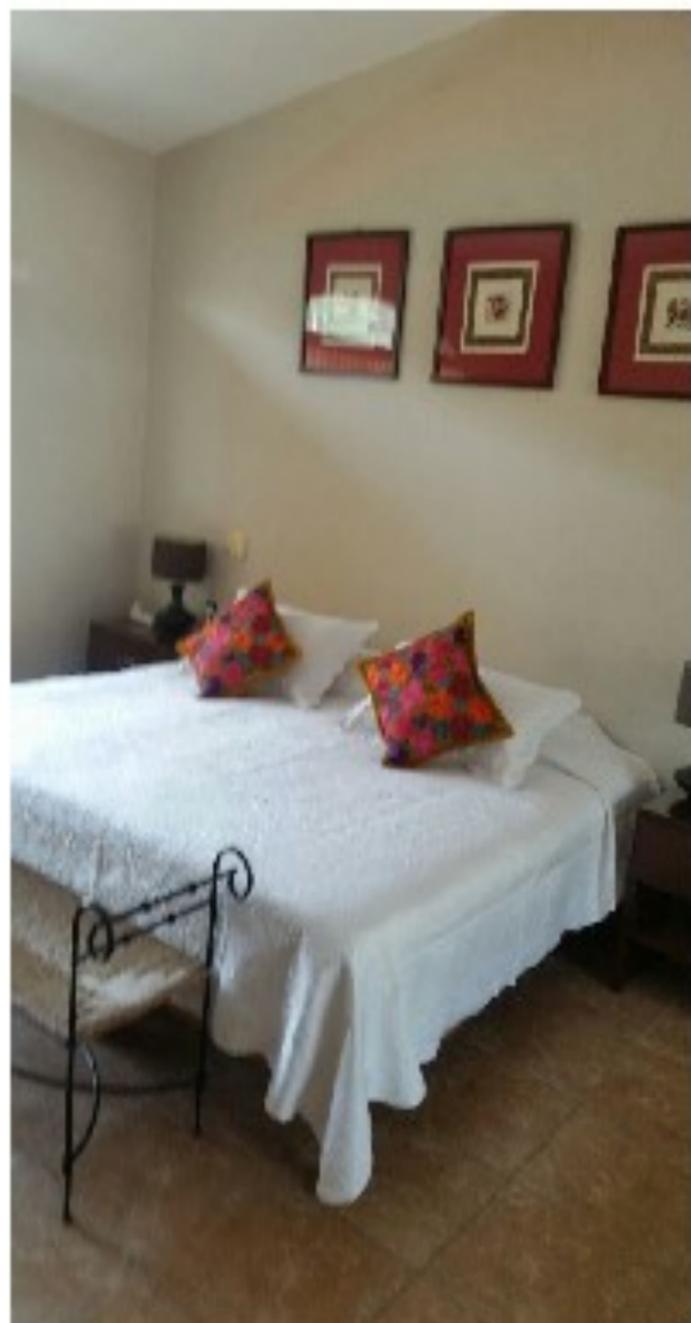
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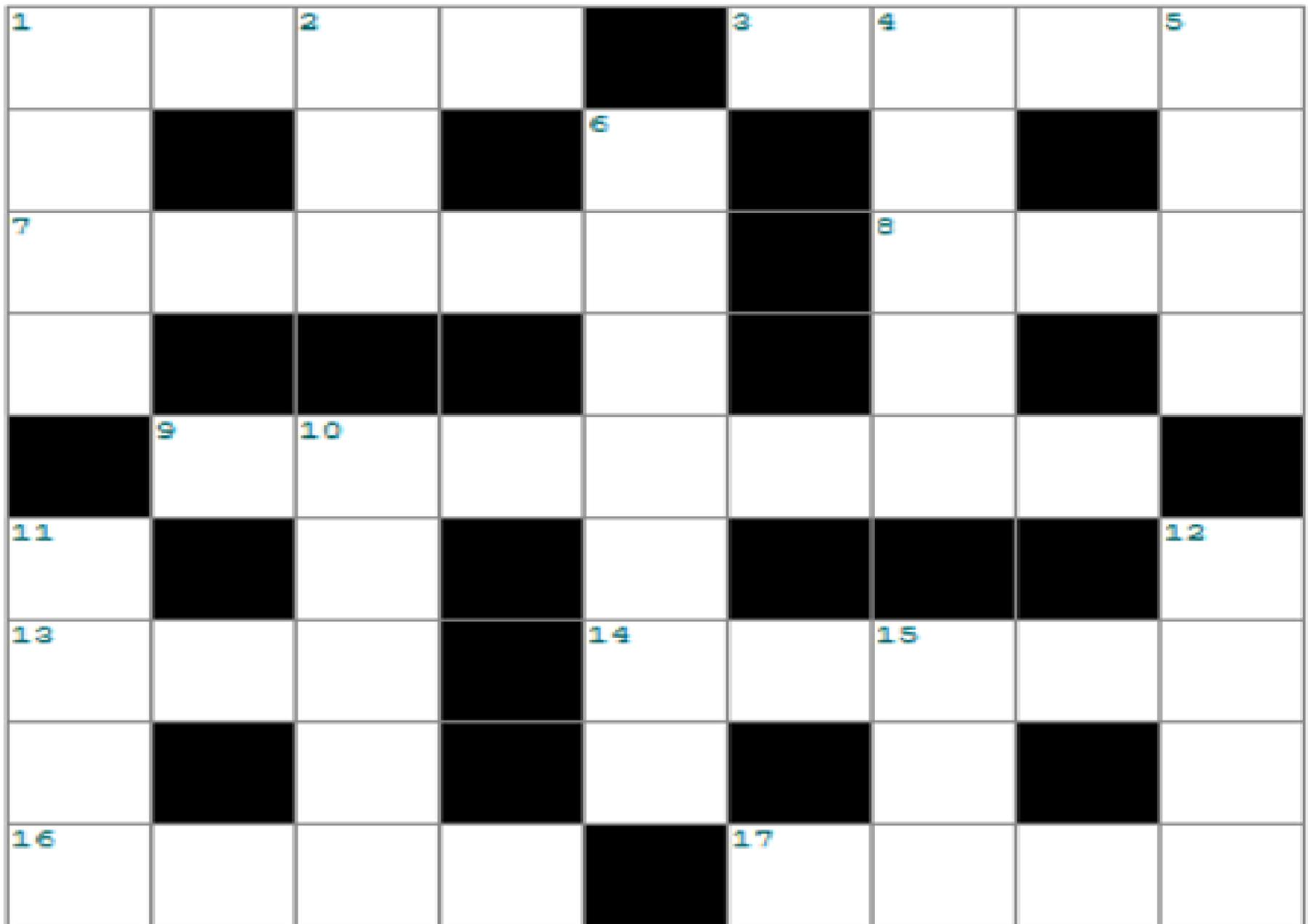
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Crossword

solution posted in next month's edition



Across

- 1 nails
- 3 pure
- 7 (l) attack
- 8 (l) love
- 9 snail
- 13 to hear
- 14 fingers
- 16 other; another
- 17 cup

Down

- 1 to use
- 2 handle
- 4 used
- 5 odour
- 6 coward
- 10 to open
- 11 just, only, merely; alone, by oneself
- 12 island
- 15 day, period of 24 hours

Last month's crossword solution:



lexisrex.com

Colima Earthquake

October 9, 1995

from the Path to Citizenship series

Big Quake Kills 34 On Mexican Coast; Resort Is Hard Hit

Extract from *The New York Times*

The quake, which struck at 9:40 A.M. local time, measured 7.6 on the open-ended Richter scale. The epicenter was 15 miles south-east of Manzanillo, in the state of Colima, said Bruce Presgrave, a geophysicist at the United States Geological Survey's Earthquake Read the full article here: <https://www.nytimes.com/1995/10/10/world/big-quake-kills-34-on-mexican-coast-resort-is-hard-hit.html>

And for a far more scientific view of the region's tectonic activity, and the event of October 9, 1995, see the [Science Direct](#) and [Elsevier](#)'s articles. An excerpt follows...

A model of the seismic source of the October 9, 1995 Jalisco-Colima tsunami is obtained using the numerical modeling of the tsunami as constrained by field survey reports of tsunami run-up and the extent of flooding, by considering an earthquake ($M_w \sim 8.0$) with rupture area $A = 9000 \text{ km}^2$, $L = 150 \text{ km}$, $W = 60 \text{ km}$, with two different coseismic dislocation patches: 1 m the dislocation of the first 60 km along the fault plane starting from its NW edge, offshore Chalacatepec and Chamela, and 3 m the dislocation of the next 90 km; offshore Tenacatita, Navidad and Manzanillo. As expected, the seismic source obtained in this study is a simplified model in comparison of the seismic source obtained by inverting seismic and GPS data. However, the fact that this simplified model reproduces adequately the location of the rupture area and its coseismic dislocation is still important in order to provide some degree of certainty for the tsunami source of those historical tsunamis for which no seismic nor tide records are available, and only testimonies and vague relates of its effects are documented.

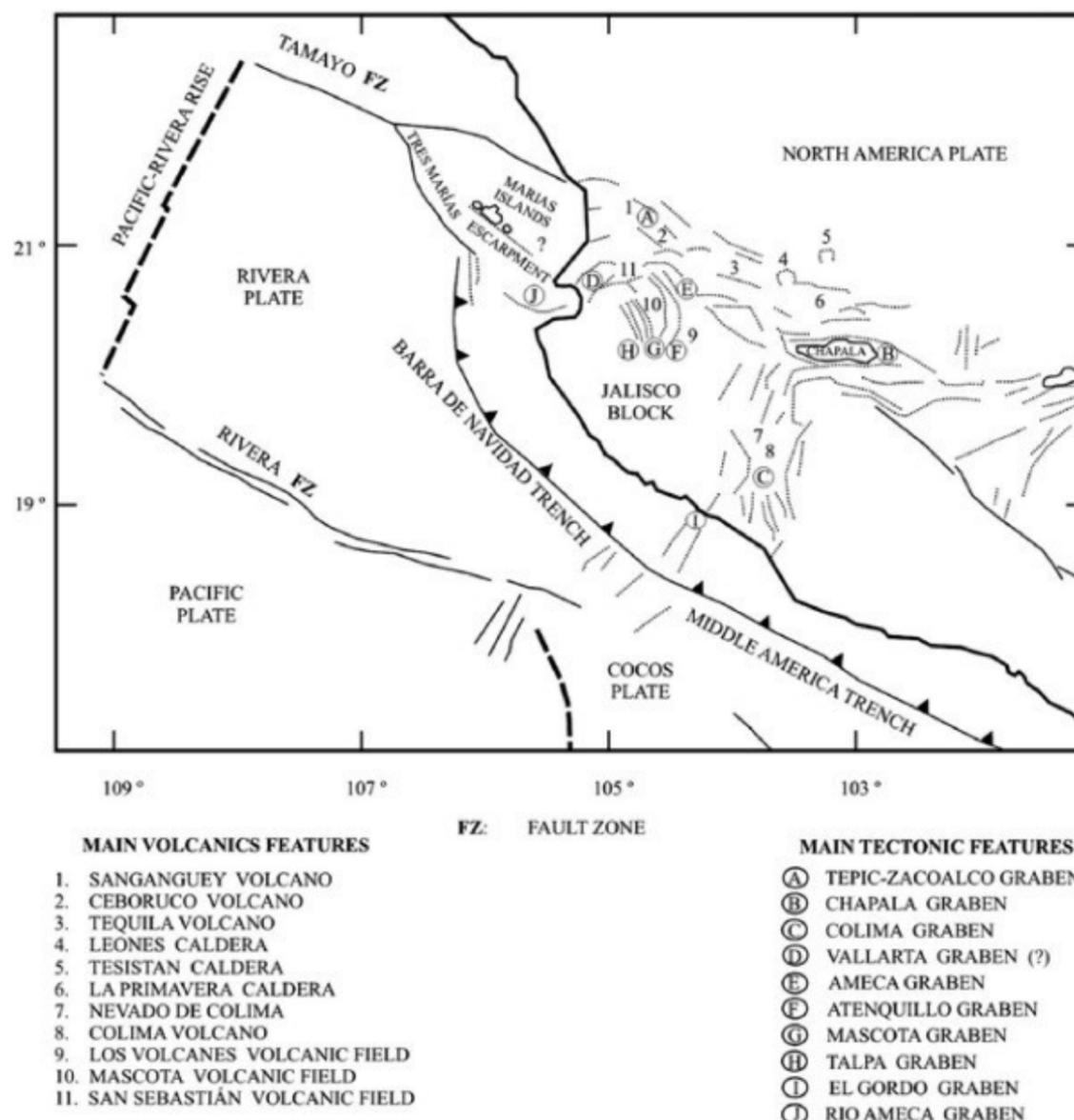


Image source: Science Direct