



**A refreshing trip to
El Salto waterfall**
photo and art by
Allan Yanitski

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

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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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Orchids Everywhere!

story and photos (unless otherwise noted) by Ken Waldie



Fidel Maza of Viveplants
photo by Len Mallette

Just north of Manzanillo, in the Ejido El Central, just off the highway, you can find an orchid farm. And this was our next stop on our Colima tour.

Viveplants, mainly orchids, if you're Canadian the pronunciation is easy; Veev – aye ... as in 'How you doin', eh?' is the creation of Fidel Maza Selvas, a world renowned agronomist.

Fidel has studied orchids most of his life and was waiting for us in his parking area, having set aside time in his busy day to give us a personal tour, as Tommy does at Olas Brisa Gardens.

We passed a group of trees that birthed orchids in their branches above and grew down to the ground to root. They were beautiful. From there, we moved on to acres of nurseries holding an ocean of color. Splendid, delicate, small, huge, with such variety - I got an orchid education that day.

All these plants are protected with acres of overhead cover, with acres of water lines above and below ground, and a dedicated well and proportionate reservoir (the thing was huge).

I'm embarrassed to admit that I killed the Phalaenopsis or 'Moth Orchid' that my mother gave me, in very short order, but I felt somewhat vindicated after seeing the place where orchids are happy. I decided that, when I move to Mexico permanently,

I'll let go of my indigenous garden of devil's club, horse tail, huckleberry and western red cedar, all of which would instantly perish in the Manzanillo climate.

Fidel knows his orchids and loves what he does so much that there was a glow about him as he shared his world with us and, having walked among the orchids, he then showed us the Vive production building.

We entered walk-in coolers where cut flowers are bundled and assembled for shipment worldwide. One of Fidel's main outlets is a kiosk in the Punto Bahía Mall, in Manzanillo.

On leaving the production area, we were invited to a splendidly decorated table where we were served coffee and deserts. The table was beautifully laden with varieties of orchids. While we enjoyed our repast, our host demonstrated how he starts seedlings and the stages that are involved in growing orchids for production. There's a lot to it.

Orchids are beautiful, intricate delicate wonders of nature. Brassia, Brassavola, Catasetum, Cattleya, Cymbidium, Cypripedium - all orchid names, don't begin to convey how attractive these flowers are or what it's like to see a field of them amassed. This experience I leave to you.

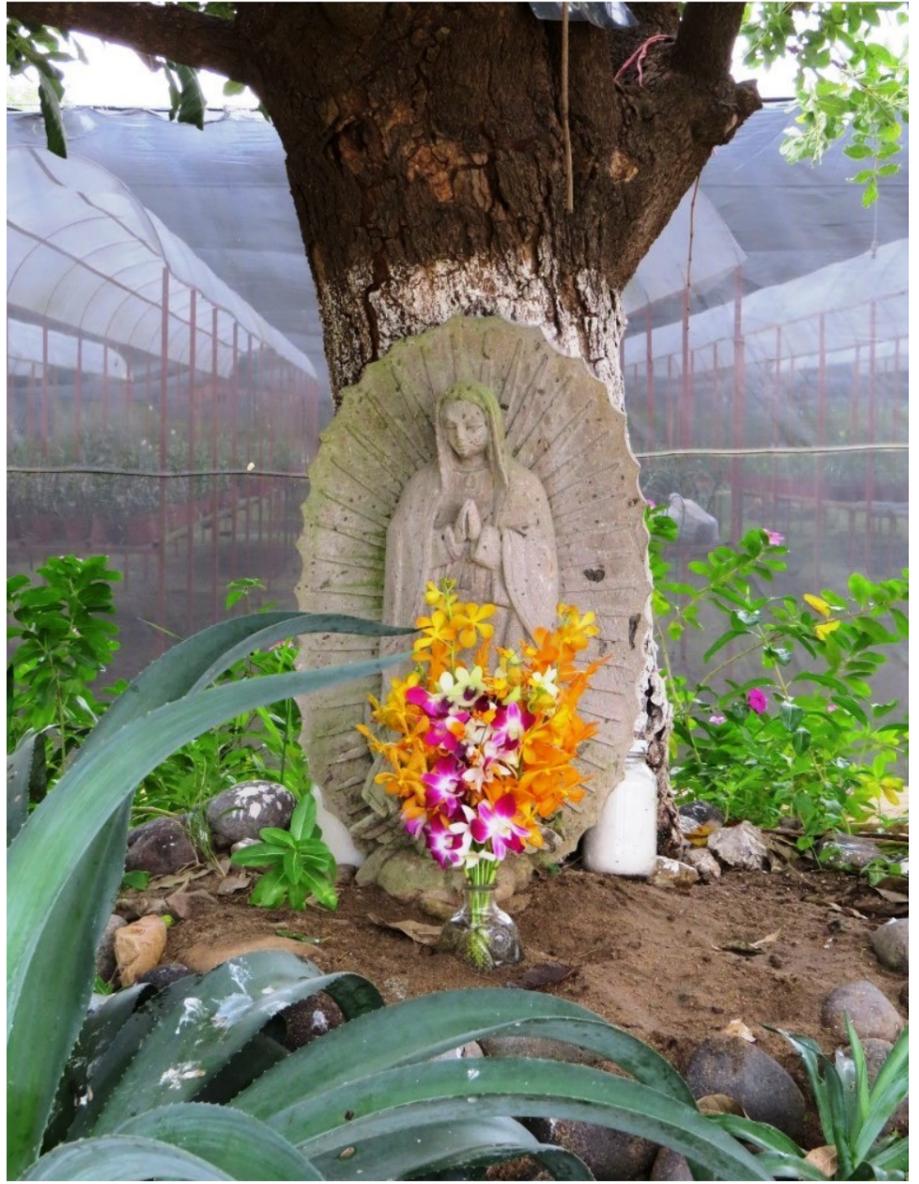
When you have a half day, head north toward the airport, go find Fidel at Viveplants and see for yourself!

You can book the tour by contacting Viveplants through their [web site](#) or [Facebook](#).

you can reach Ken Waldie at ken@manzanillosun.com

... more pics follow

...Orchids Everywhere!



...Orchids Everywhere!



...Orchids Everywhere!



...Orchids Everywhere!



...Orchids Everywhere!



...Orchids Everywhere!



...Orchids Everywhere!



Helping, in your community...

Local charities and associations are in need, as much this time of year as any, and as much this year as any. Even though many will not be able to visit Manzanillo and area this year, opportunities still exist to participate at the local level and make a difference. Contact any of the organizers to find out how you can contribute.

donate | spread the word | volunteer | create awareness

This is a brief list of groups you can reach out to. For information on these and other local efforts, get in touch with them directly or find them via their web sites and social media. Most are very responsive on WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger.



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The Children's Foundation International and the Casa Hogar Los Angelitos provide education and a place to call home for many local children





**la
FUNDACIÓN
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The Santiago Foundation supports education and trade training for young people and adults to expand their skills and opportunities



**Casa Hogar para Menores
Liborio Espinoza**

Casa Liborio Espinoza provides a home, food and opportunities for children at risk for of being abandoned and accept donations in kind, gifts and monetary contributions

The Toltecs

story by Kirby Vickery

If you get into Mesoamerican history, you'll find a time rich in folklore and sociological color. You will also find lots of warring, fighting, sacrifice, both animal and human, and a continuation of mythological beliefs that carry from one dominant society to the next.

There is an area just north and west of today's Mexico City that hosts the remains of the Chichimec tribes. They were a semi-nomadic people who didn't wear much (according to some sites on the internet) and were warlike. Their diet would have been very similar to what you and I can find as Mexican Street Food or served along the Jardín de Salagua in Manzanillo on weekends today.

They grew to power in the 12 and 13th century C.E. and were mostly known for assisting in tearing down the Mayan empire only to lose it to the Toltecs at about the same time. As with the Olmecs, there isn't that much data on them, primarily because the Aztecs who came to be in power after about four hundred years were a little more warlike and savage than the Chichimec and the Toltec. They destroyed what would thrill archeologists today.

We do know a great deal about the Toltec, though, because they were in power and were growing throughout Mexico and the northern parts of Central America during their four-hundred year stand. [I found it odd that several web sites have the Chichimec ending the Toltec hegemony when it was the other way around.]

The Toltec way of life was similar to the rest of the Mesoamerican world. It was family-based, with a father as head of the household. Most male children were removed from the household at around ten years old or so. They went for training in the military as warriors or into the priesthood. Some of the girl children were treated in a similar manner. Most of the girls stayed with the family until they moved out to support their own families.



Giants of Tula

It is believed that there was a strong middle class of artisans, farmers and craftsmen, with the military riding high in the social world. The highest of the high was the priesthood, while the women cooked, cleaned house, and kept everybody in good clothing. Like the Maya, the Toltec were thought to have an extensive trade system made up from the places they fought and won, rather than making slaves out of everyone.

The main city of the Toltec was Teotihuacán. It rose as a new religious center in the Mexican highland around the lifetime of Christ (roughly 30 AD), about 25 miles north and east of the present day city of Mexico City. The city grew and became one of the largest and most populated cities in the new world.

By the fourth century, the influence of Teotihuacán was felt throughout most parts of Mesoamerica, as it was a place of religion, culture and art. The city was the sixth largest city in the world during its zenith, having an estimated population of 200,000 people.

The city functioned for centuries. It grew and developed as a place of influence until its unexpected and mysterious collapse in the seventh century AD. If you haven't been to see it, yet you should make plans and go.

...The Toltecs

The centrally located 'Avenue of the Dead' is the main street in the city. It divided the city in half. The road is about two and a half kilometers long. At the north end, there is the Pyramid of the Moon. This complex was constructed as the main monument for the Plaza of the Moon. The structure faces south towards the Rio San Juan.



Temple Pyramid at Tula

On the eastern side of the Avenue of the Dead, but in the center of the city, there is the larger Pyramid of the Sun. A cave is located under the pyramid. Some scholars believe the cave was used for ritual activities, probably surrounding religion. The pyramid consisted of four steep platforms and a temple. Little is known about the temple itself, though, as the upper part of the pyramid has been destroyed. The Feathered Serpent Pyramid was dedicated to Quetzlcoatl and was built in the Ciudadela or 'Citadel'.

The Toltec religion was focused around two major gods. The first was Quetzlcoatl, the plumed serpent god. The Aztecs put an 'a' in the word after the 'z'. Quetzlcoatl represented many ideas, including, but not limited to, learning, fertility, holiness, gentility, culture, philosophy, as well as good. Quetzlcoatl means "Precious serpent" or "Quetzal-feathered Serpent". In the 17th century, Ixtlilxóchitl, a surviving descendant of Aztec royalty, wrote, "Quetzlcoatl, in its literal sense, means 'serpent of precious feathers', but in the allegorical sense, 'wisest of men'." The second god in the religion was Tezcatlipoca, the smoked mirror. Tezcatlipoca was the opposite of Quetzlcoatl, as he represented war, tyranny, and evil.

Tezcatlipoca became the central deity in Aztec religion and his main festival was the Toxcatl ceremony celebrated in the month of May. One of the four sons of Ometecuhtli and Omecihuatl, he is associated with a wide range of concepts, including the night sky, the night winds, hurricanes, the north, the earth, obsidian, enmity, discord, rulership, divination, temptation, jaguars, sorcery, beauty, war and strife.

His name in the Nahuatl language is often translated as "Smoking Mirror" and alludes to his connection to obsidian, the material from which mirrors were made in Mesoamerica and which were used for shamanic rituals and prophecy.

In addition to Quetzlcoatl and Tezactlipoca, the Toltecs had many other gods, though little is known of what their names were and what they represented. Their religion thus was polytheistic. It is possible that some of their gods were later adopted by the Aztecs, though this is only speculation. Their religion focused on human sacrifice to appease the gods.

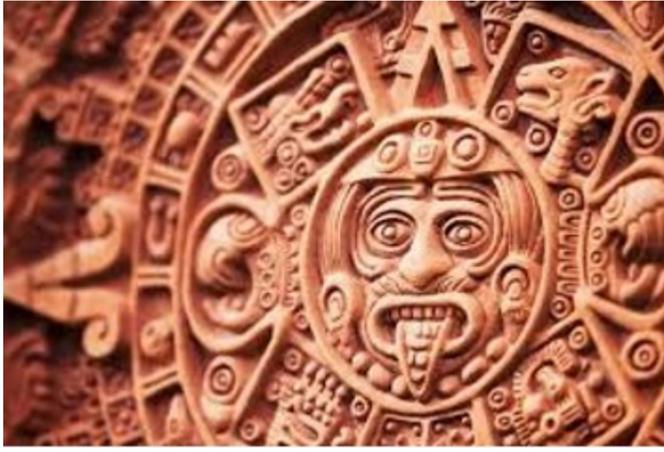


Pyramid of the Moon

Human sacrifice was a very painful process for the person being sacrificed, as their heart would be cut out of their body while it still was beating. In addition to sacrifice, the religion included a game called Tlatchli or "The Game."

The game was very popular with other cultures such as the Maya and the Aztec. Think of the glory of having the entire losing team being sacrificed to the Feathered Dragon.

...The Toltecs



Teotihuacán



A Toltec

The Toltec people left no evidence of their creation myths or of their belief of life after death. There is little evidence, although some speculate that the Toltec peoples' idea of death was freedom from this world.

One idea was that man became a god upon death. Another thought regarding their beliefs was a unification of souls after death. Toward this end, they didn't focus on the afterlife in life because all souls went together. My thought is that because they practiced human sacrifice as a gift to the gods which would mean a higher level of afterlife for those sacrificed.

If that were true, then there was a hierarchy in death so what the Aztecs and the Maya practiced also held for the Toltec. Carrying this thought one step further, the Toltec mythology was just transferred to and called Aztec Mythology by Aztecs.

They copied most everything else from their predecessors. This means that should you want to read any Toltec mythology then you can turn your book to the Aztec pages.

you can reach Kirby at kirby.vickery@manzanillosun.com

sponsored



Baja Cave Paintings

by Dan and Lisa Goy



Gigantic deer and humans.

Baja Pictographs and Petroglyphs

A regular stop on our Baja tours are Cave paintings near Catavina, which are easily accessible, and a short drive from where we camp for our overnight stay. There are over 350 archaeological pictographs and petroglyph sites across the Baja peninsula, more than any other location in the Americas. The vast majority of these sites are hidden and thousands of years old. Though Europe has the well-known Cave of Altamira in Spain and France's Lascaux caves and the Chauvet-Pont-d'Arc Cave, all of which have more modern prestige, Baja's cave paintings are both larger and more numerous than those in Europe. However, much like the peninsula itself that went largely unexplored and unsettled until the 19th century, the mural art, hidden away within the peninsula's sierras, went unrecognized and unstudied, for the most part, until the mid-20th century.

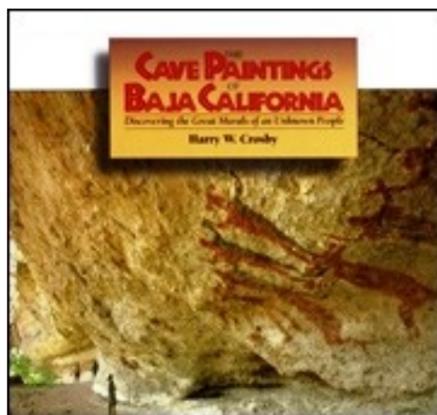
Although the cave paintings did not draw much modern attention until the 20th century, Spanish missionaries knew of the large murals and discussed them in their records.

The first recording of the wall paintings, as yet discovered, can be found in Francisco Javier Clavigero's *Historia de la Antigua Baja California*, written in 1789. Clavigero describes the paintings discovered on the rock shelters, found between the San Ignacio Mission and the Mission Santa Gertrudis. Originally, the paintings were thought to be somewhere around 2,000 years old. However, more recent carbon dating tests have suggested that some of the paintings may have been created 7,500 to 10,000 years ago.

Many of these sites were often described as "**Great Murals** (Pictographs) and were also noted by Jesuit missionaries José Mariano Rotea and Francisco Escalante in the eighteenth century. The first scientific studies were made between 1889 and 1913 by a French naturalist, Léon Diguët. Mexican journalist Fernando Jordan and archaeologists Barbro Dahlgren and Javier Romero reported on Great Mural sites in the early 1950s.

...Baja Cave Paintings

The Great Murals came to popular attention in the United States through a 1962 Life magazine article by mystery writer **Erle Stanley Gardner**. The exploration led to an article in Life and the publication of Gardner's **The Hidden Heart of Mexico**. Since then, numerous investigators have documented and analyzed the sites. Garner's funded exploration led to photographer **Harry Crosby**'s more involved, mule-mounted exploration led to the publication of **The Cave Paintings of Baja California: Discovering the Great Murals of an Unknown People**. Another notable individual was Eve Ewing who has been studying the art for 50 years and has made over a hundred trips to view the different paintings. Other notables who have made extensive contributions on this subject are Clement W. Meighan, Campbell Grant, Enrique Hambleton, Justin R. Hyland, and María de la Luz Gutiérrez.



Overall, the art consists of prehistoric paintings of humans and other animals, often larger than life-size, on the walls and ceilings of natural rock shelters in the mountains of northern Baja California Sur and southern Baja California, Mexico. The rock art may be either monochrome or polychrome. Red and black were the colors most frequently used, but white, pink, orange, and green also occur. The most common figures are humans and deer, but a variety of other animals, such as rabbits, big-horn sheep, birds, fish, and snakes are also represented. The human images often include stylized headdresses. A minority of human and animal images are overlain with depictions of projectiles.



The images are essentially silhouettes, without representational details inside their outlines. Overpainting of earlier by later images is very common. Some murals seem to show intentional composition in their arrangements of multiple images but, in many cases, the figures seem to have been painted individually, without regard to other nearby (or underlying) images.

Much like other early cave paintings, their meaning and cultural significance remain ambiguous and involve some conjecture. Many archeologists and anthropologists believe that the Baja rock paintings suggest a culture heavily dependent on hunting, or a mystical hunting magic, as the majority of animals are shown as being struck by arrows.

Similarly, as many human figures were painted over those of animals, scholars suggest that the culture believed in human dominance over the animals. Lastly, the rock paintings' locations themselves have drawn some interest.



...Baja Cave Paintings

Their remote, usually inaccessible, locations indicate that the precise location was closely considered before painting. Further, whereas some paintings were done on walls and ceilings easy to reach, some are located in places that would require scaffolding to reach. Scholars such as Meighan believe that this demonstrates the significance of the location and the act of painting rather than focusing on the painting itself. The prehistoric people responsible for creating the art were most likely ancestors of the Guachimi and Cochimi Indians, the indigenous inhabitants of the area when the Spanish arrived. The motives for the primitive art remain unknown and subject to speculation.



Baja California's Sierra de San Francisco is nature's canvas, and the region is the heart of Baja's prominent archeological sites. This group of monuments are included on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Cueva del Ratón (Cave of the Mouse) is more of an overhang than a cave, but the rock mural is located at the highest elevation of any mural within the **Sierra de San Francisco** as it overlooks **Cerro de la Laguna**. The mural is about 40 feet long and depicts a human with a black face patch, deer, rabbits, sheep, and a mountain lion. Humans painted with a black face patch can only be found at four other sites in Baja, and the body colored by fine vertical stripes is also a distinguishing feature.

Cueva de la Soledad (Cave of Loneliness) is appropriately named for its remote perch high on the plateau. Cueva de la Soledad is actually one of many cavities on the rock face, but it's the largest one.

The images are painted on the cavity's roof, and the mural includes large images of human figures, referred to as "monos," overlaying images of animals. The cacophony of images may be static, but they suggest a frantic surge of movement through its mayhem. A colored checkerboard, created by yellow-lined boxes filed in alternating red and black, is depicted on an adjacent wall.

Cueva de las Flechas (Cave of the Arrows) is one of Baja's more renowned caves. This cave received its name from the distinctive use of arrows that are portrayed as being in the human figures rather than the animals.

One figure even has ten arrows within it. While the incorporation of arrows within the rock paintings of Baja are common, they are primarily painted as part of the hunting culture and, as such, are jutting out of animals.

Cueva La Pintada (Painted Cave) remains Baja California's largest collection of murals as it spans 500 feet across the base of the cavern at its opening. The well-preserved murals lie in the central portion of **Arroyo de San Pablo**, and many speculate that the rock's good condition, with little erosion, also helped preserve the paintings.



Cueva Pintada features a variety of wildlife with distinctly homogeneously sized figures. The mural portrays images of monos, birds with wings in flight, sheep, deer, and marine life such as whales and sea lions.

The paintings' immense size have caused many to suggest that the painters fashioned platforms and scaffolds from the neighboring palm groves that enabled them to reach the high surfaces.

...Baja Cave Paintings

Cueva de la Serpiente (Cave of the Serpent) lies within Baja's central sierras and is known for its depiction of the two distinct deer-headed serpents. The right serpent remains complete today, and its ears and antlers follow into a body banded with black lines and culminated into a bifurcated tail. The left snake has not survived the years as well and, while the head remains, the serpent's body has faded away with fallen rock. The mural itself is rather large at almost eight meters and over fifty animal and human figures appear to frolic along the two serpents' encompassing bodies. This rock mural is unique in that the animals are fanciful, and scholars have suggested the serpents represent renewal and creation for all creatures rather than a more mundane depiction of life.



Entrance to the Catavina cave paintings

With their arms outstretched, the human figures appear to be celebrating in joy. Of course, with abstract art of a lost people such as this, much of the meaning is speculation. Baja's cave paintings contain a vocabulary of symbols we have yet to fully decipher.



Boca de San Julio can be found nearby **Cueva Pintada**. This cave painting portrays a uniquely dynamic rendition of a leaping buck and a deer linked in motion. **Los Músicos** also lies in this neighboring cluster of caves. Los Músicos was named for its abstract style that is reminiscent of musical notes. The painting shows humans dancing upon a grid of white lines resembling a score.



Catavina cave paintings



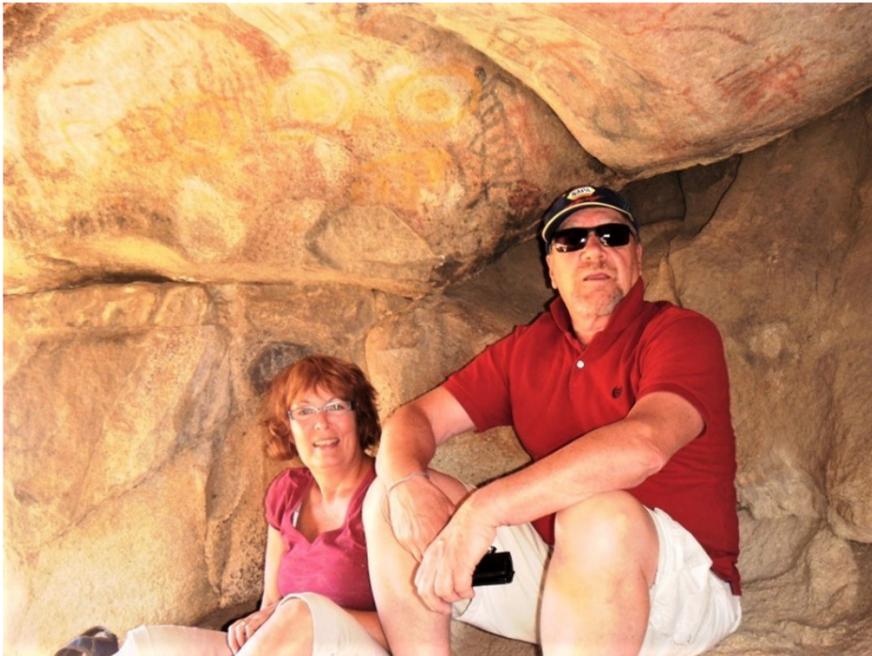
Above Galerías de Santa Teresa

Control of these archeological sites is under the guidance of Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH). All visitors to the cave paintings must purchase a special permit and must be accompanied by a registered guide which are readily available and inexpensive.

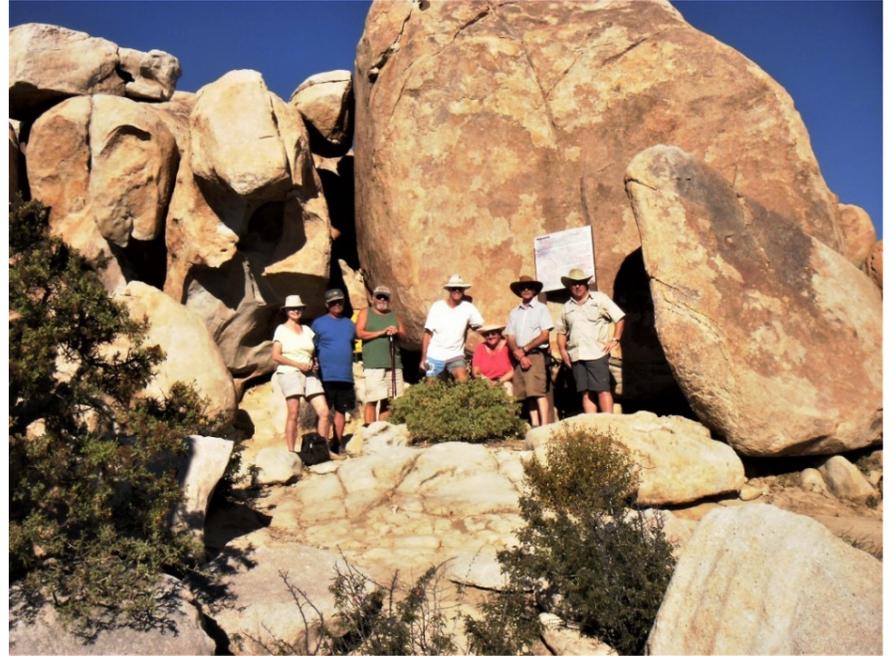
We have found, over the years, the best communities to organize and plan excursions to these various archeological sites are Bahía de los Ángeles, Guerrero Negro, Vizcaino, San Ignacio, Múlege and Loreto. For those keen on more adventure, we recommend to add any one of these stops to your travel plans.

... more pics follow

...Baja Cave Paintings



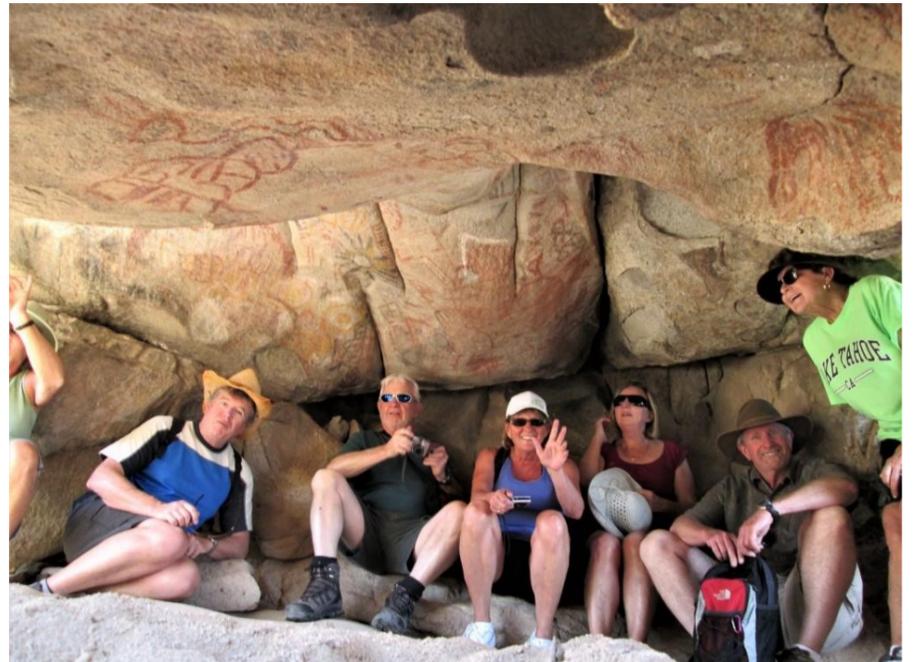
Bob and Melanie visit the cave paintings



Catavina cave painting



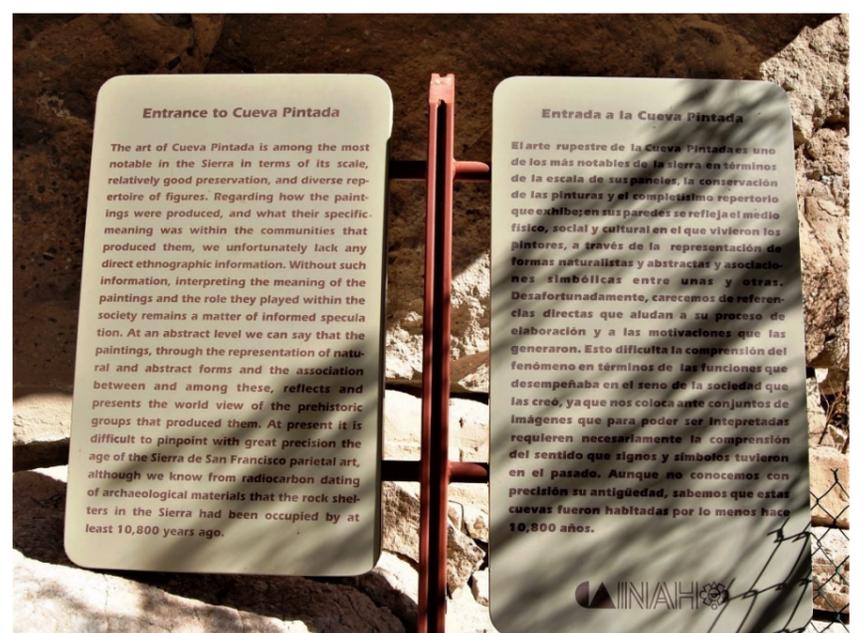
Cave paintings near San Borja



Dom and Diane's group visit Catavina



Cave details

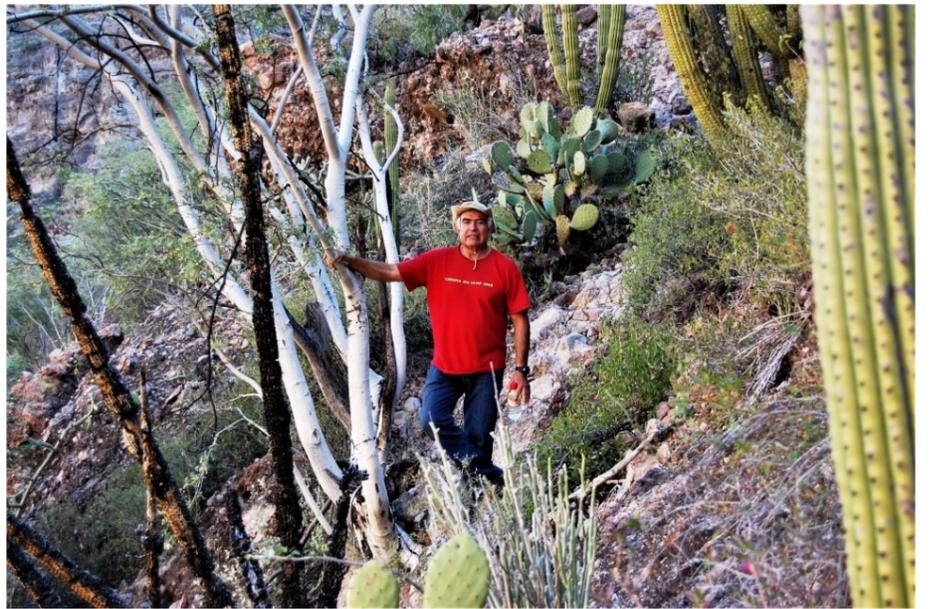


Cueva entrance

...Baja Cave Paintings



Family painting on cave ceiling



Lead organizer for this adventure - Antonio Resendiz



Good gravel road to San Francisco de la Sierra



Múlege cave painting



Descending to see the caves

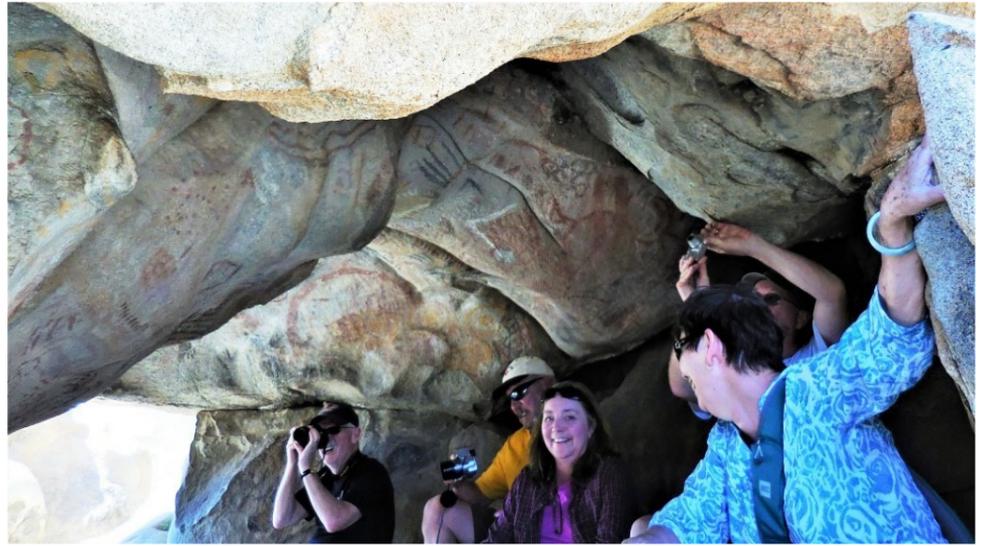


Overhead paintings - Santa Teresa Galería

...Baja Cave Paintings



Antonio Resendiz's group at the paintings



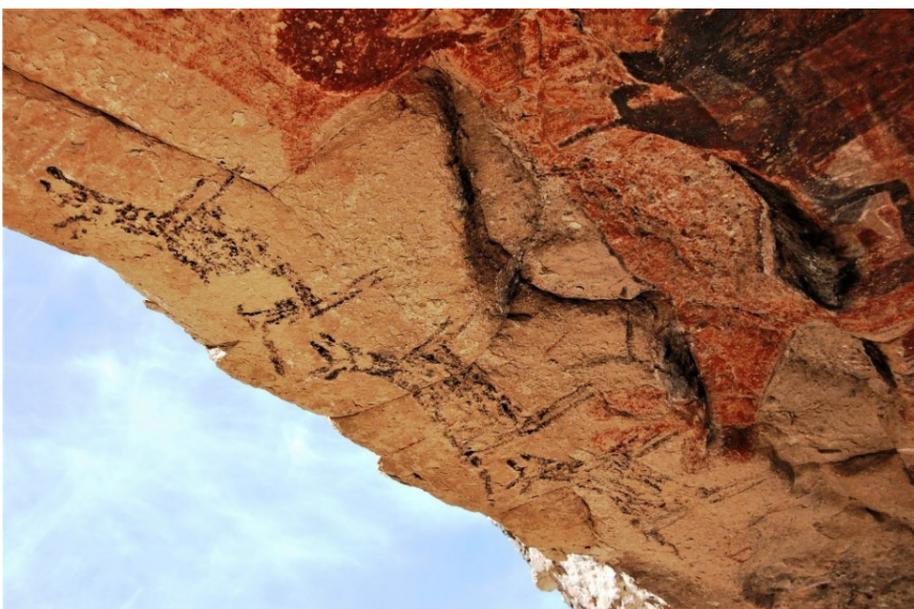
Mark and Kathy and excursion group at Catavina paintings



Small and large creatures - Santa Teresa Galería



The bottom of San Francisco de la Sierra is stunning



Wolves of the run



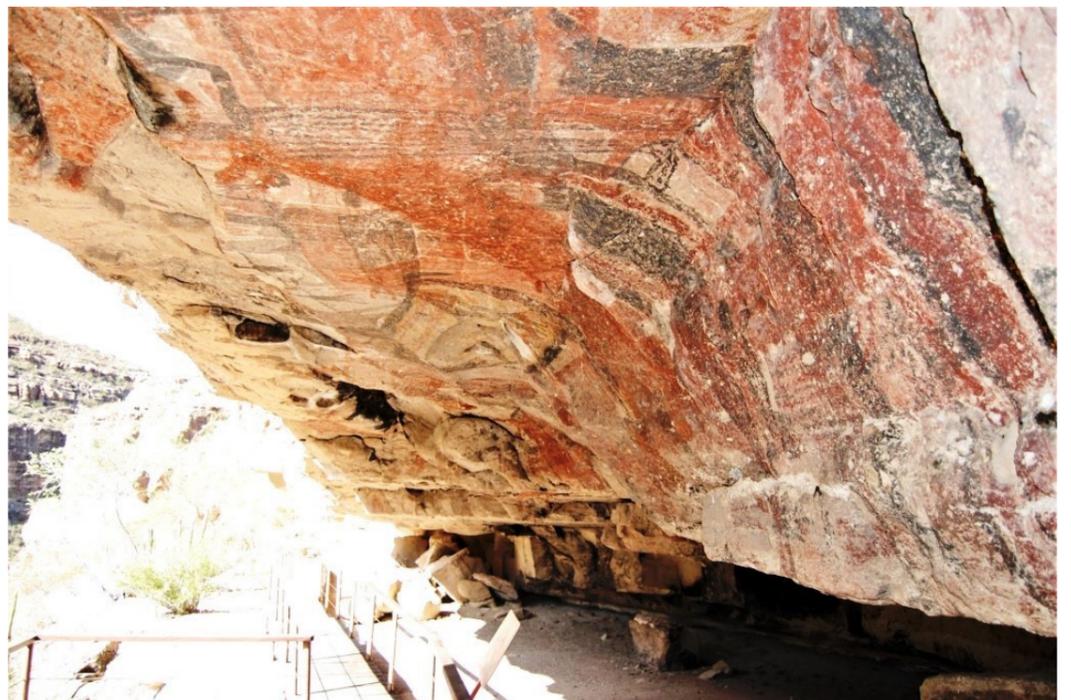
Water and life abound at the bottom

...Baja Cave Paintings



Transport of choice for San Francisco de la Sierra

Very large figures on cave roof at Santa Teresa Galería



Pictographs in Baja Sur

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



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by Tommy Clarkson

Christmas Cactus *Schlumbergera bridgessii*

Family *Cactaceae*

Also known as Thanksgiving Cactus, Easter Cactus, Holiday Cactus or Crab Cactus

*(Once again, I am reminded that the mind is a terrible thing to lose—but, then again, that's taking the premise that I ever really started out with much of one in the beginning! Yesterday, February 22nd, José – my senior gardener - was most pleased to point out to me this blooming beauty – a Christmas Cactus, which hung on one of our lower terraces under a Mexican Palmetto. [Apparently, botanically, as regards this specimen, the Christmas holiday comes a bit later in Ola Brisa Gardens! But, then again, consider those "Also known as" names and, beyond that, is the fact that, in Brazil, the genus-whole is referred to as Flor de Maio (May Flower)!] At first blush, my faltering "rememberer" couldn't recall if, when or where I had written about it. Then, something clicked, and I recalled that it was in Volume II of "The Civilized Jungle" wherein I described the Christmas Cactus (*Zygocactys truncate*) – also identified as *Ephyllum truncate* or *Schlumbergera Truncata*.)*

Now, with memory triggered, I pondered whether or not to write about this attractive cultivar character and decided, why not? In no few areas, arenas and aspects, sharing a common name is, actually, a rather cool thing! Take, for example, father and son leaders of the United States of America, U.S. presidents, John Adams (the second U.S. president) and John Quincy Adams (the sixth) who shared common names, as did George H. Bush (the 41st) and George W. Bush (the 42nd .) Beyond them, in France, that there were two Napoleons - the first ruled from 1804 to 1814 and again in 1815 and the second, Napoleon III (the nephew of the 1st) from 1852 to 1870. However, all were unique and wholly individual entities.



The *Schlumbergera bridgessii* is hybridized from the South American *Schlumbergera Truncata*.

So why not give these two plant species their own individual attention? At the base of it all, what is in a simple designation, term or appellation? To rather germanely (*I believe I'm coining a word there*) quote Robert Frost as regards what is in a name, "The rose is a rose, and was always a rose. However, the theory now goes that the apple's a rose, and the pear is, and so's the plum, I suppose. The dear only knows what will next prove a rose." (*Hey, who needs higher academia? You can get a bit of class, couth, culture and - of course – colloquial cactus conversation, all right here!*)

This particular beauty - the *Schlumbergera bridgessii* - stems (*no plant pun necessarily intended*) and is hybridized from the earlier mentioned species which is native to South America where it grows in the mountains of Brazil. And, as to specifics, this cactus produces small, flat stem segments which are somewhat roundish with minor serrations on both sides.

The flowers - the Cactus's defining feature - appear from the ends of these segments. These are in the form of a tube-shaped "double flower," with the outer portion being formed by shorter leaves that curl back near the flower's base, with the inner part being further up, near the stamen.

...Christmas Cactus

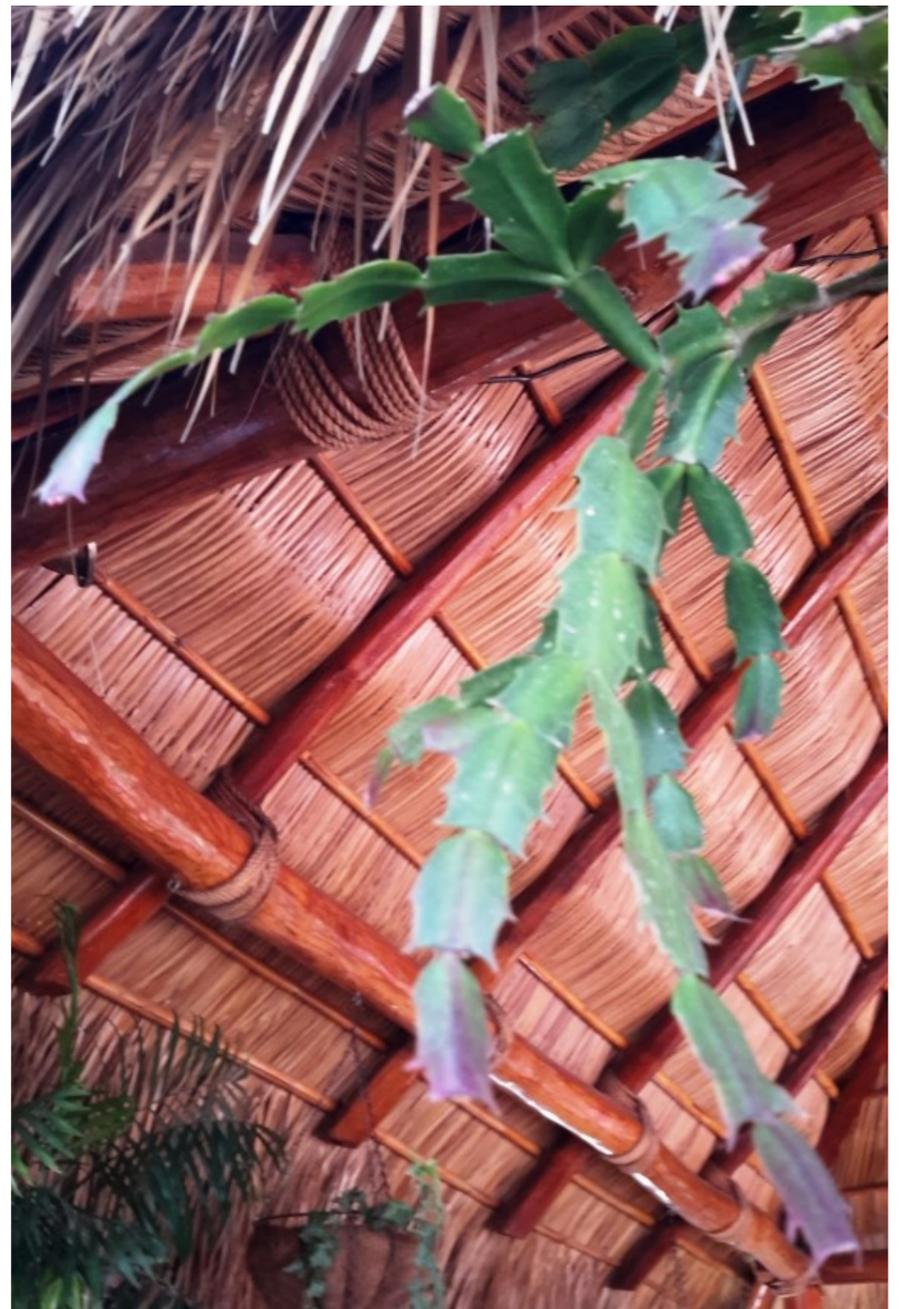


Its flora are in the form of a tube-shaped double flower.

Though called a "cactus," this plant thrives in cool temperatures and needs to be kept away from heat sources. As regards its watering needs: In a dry climate, outdoors, do so every two to three days when warm and sunny; in more humid environs, where cool or indoors, water weekly; and during the colder months, give it water less frequently. As to whether or not – as some folks assert - it likes coffee grounds, it depends on its soil. If your dirt is sparsely basic, to get it to a good pH balance, one can use diluted black coffee grounds (but ensure there's no cream or sugar therein as it will bring on the bugs).

If, however, the soil is already acidic, don't add coffee. If you've the means to check it, the Christmas Cactus prefers a pH between 5.5 to 6.2.

At the sake of downright promotion of commercial agricultural products, I suggest that, after it blooms, your *Schlumbergera bridgessii* will like some Miracle-Gro® Succulent Plant Food.



The Christmas Cactus produces small, flat stem segments which are somewhat roundish with minor serrations on both sides.

Christmas Cacti are also greatly appreciative of extra magnesium. As a result, mix one teaspoon of Epsom Salts (magnesium sulfate) per gallon of water with every other watering – but not at the same time as fertilizing.

As an aside, Christmas Cactus 'Aspen,' a *Schlumbergera* hybrid, is a rather rare as a result of its frilly-edged white flowers.

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you can reach Tommy Clarkson at tommy@manzanillosun.com



HELPING ANIMALS AND THE COMMUNITIES THEY LIVE IN

We hope that everyone is staying safe during these crazy times that we are facing! As you can imagine, COVID-19 has greatly affected **Friends of Mexican Animal Welfare** from a funding standpoint. In the past, our annual Bocce Ball Tournament and Silent Auction has provided revenue to continue the operations of our non-profit sterilization clinic, **Alianza Animal**, and our street animal outreach program, **Animal Angels**.

Last year we were able to raise \$25,000 that allowed these programs to continue. Some of the highlights of this year through November include:

- 525 animals sterilized by Animal Angels at a cost of \$13,125
- 134 doses of chemo for TVT (transmissible venereal tumor)
- \$11,450 spent on veterinary care for injured and sick animals
- \$1,130 spent on feeding programs
- Free vaccination and educational campaigns held in El Naranjo and Miramar

We want to put the health and safety of our participants first, so our annual fundraiser will probably be a much smaller event or even cancelled. Many of our supporters will not be returning to Manzanillo this winter. We depend on the proceeds from this event and you, our supporters, to help us provide for our work with the animals of Manzanillo each year. We hope that we can count on your continued support this year and ask you to consider a donation in lieu of your participation.

Please click on the links below for more information and whether you can sponsor! You can also contact Laurie Taylor for more information at laurie.taylor88@gmail.com.

Friends of Mexican Animal Welfare (fomaw.org)

Animal Angels of Manzanillo (<https://www.facebook.com/Animal-Angels-of-Manzanillo-MX-377309612470836>)

Alianza Animal (<https://www.facebook.com/AlianzaAnimalManzanillo>)

Your support speaks volumes for those that have no voice! Thank You!



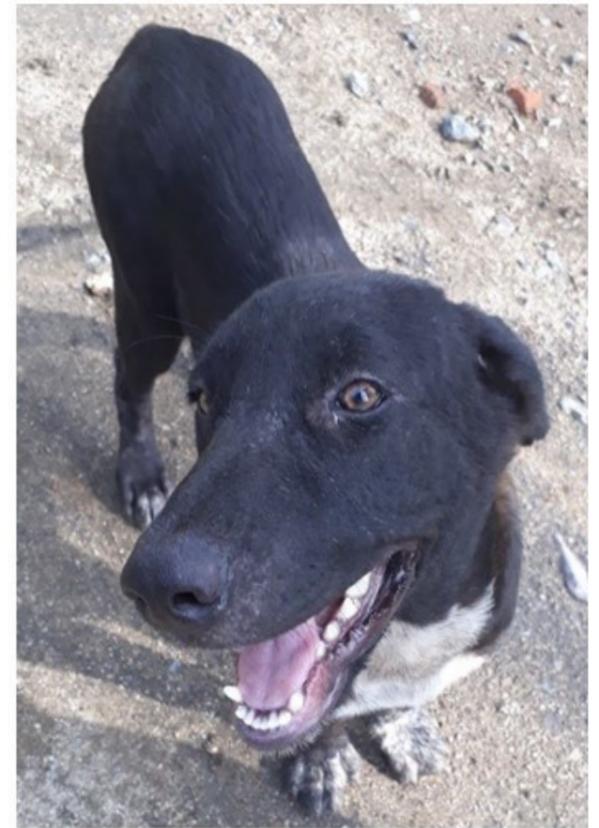
These Are Just a Few of the Hundreds of Animals You Have Helped!



Lucho was brought to our doorstep for help. He had lice, fleas and ticks and also heartworm. After 8 months of vet care and nurturing, Lucho went to a forever loving home and is thriving.



We met Tito, a young pup in Miramar with a severe case of mange. When we did a follow up check on him one month later, we were astounded. Tito lives in a good home now and is happy and healthy!



Marshall was rescued from a neglected home where he was tied up on a short rope. He was infested with fleas, ticks and had ehrlichia. He's living the good life now and is known as Prince Marshall!



San Sebastián del Oeste

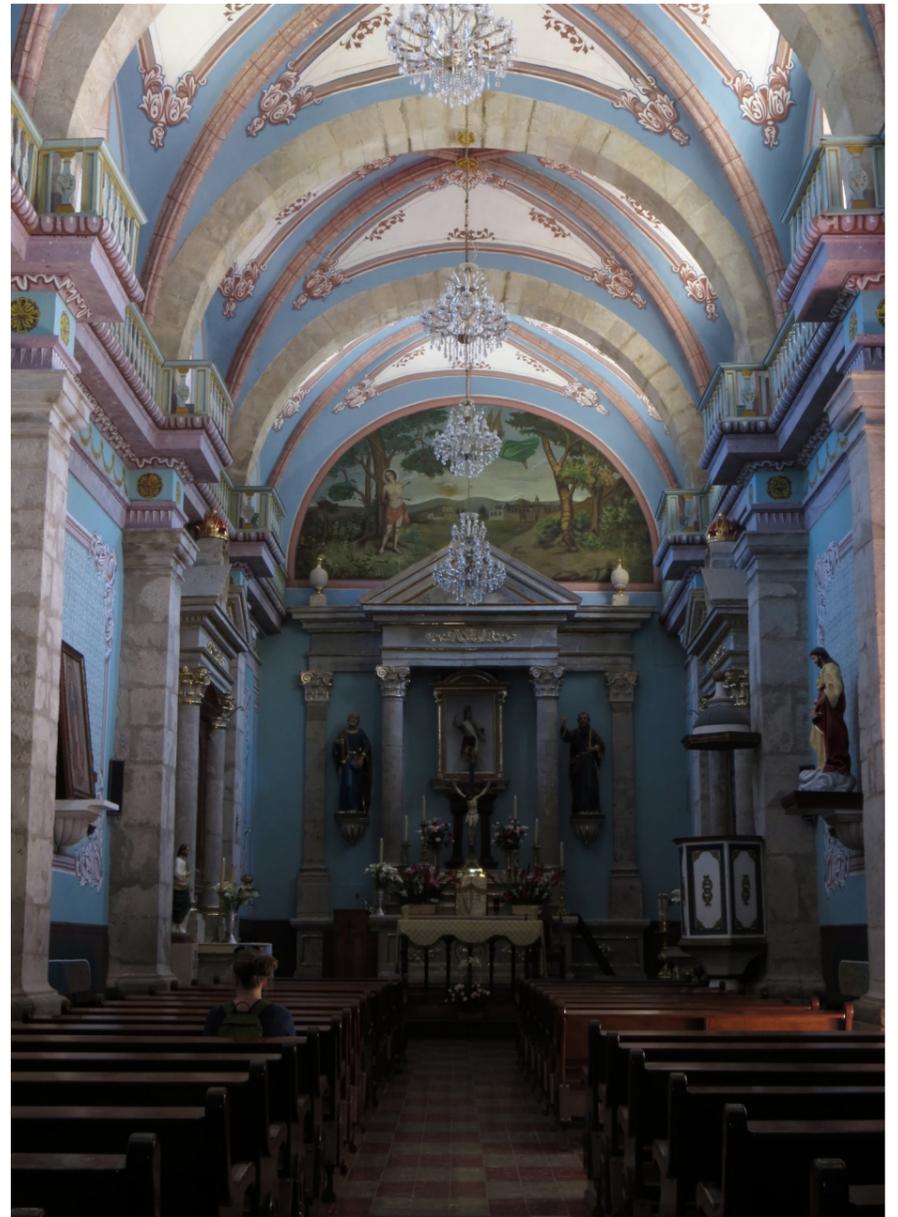
places the editors have been and recommend you visit

article and image by [Wikimedia](#)

San Sebastián del Oeste (Saint Sebastian of the West) is a *Pueblo Mágico*, one of the towns designated as maintaining their historical character and promoted by the federal government as tourism destinations. It also receives tourists visiting nearby Puerto Vallarta on the coast to the west. Recent road improvements reduced transit time from Puerto Vallarta to less than 2 hours.

The Church of Saint Sebastian, whose original construction was in 1608, was designed in the Colonial Spanish Baroque style. It has notable architectural details, including Corinthian columns and ceiling vault frescos.

Many structures in the city and municipality were built of cut stone and/or adobe in the 19th and earlier centuries, and remain unchanged. Some old haciendas in the municipality have been purchased and restored in recent decades.



Church in San Sebastián, Melikamp, CC BY-SA 3.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0> via Wikimedia Commons



Ruins of a foundry (Gold and Silver reduction) hacienda in San Sebastián, Mexico. P. Alejandro Diaz, CC BY-SA 3.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>

Fiestas

The town is known for its fiestas for religious holidays

January 20 - a fiesta in honor of Saint Sebastian.

August 15 - a fiesta dedicated to the Virgin of the Asunción.

October 7 - a fiesta for the Virgin of the Rosary.

December 12 - the Virgin of Guadalupe is venerated at the small town of Los Reyes, near San Sebastian del Oeste city in the municipality. The Fiesta of Guadalupe occurs throughout Mexico on this date.



by Tommy Clarkson

Narrow-Leaf Chalksticks *Senecio vitalis*

Family *Asteraceae*

Also known as Blue Chalk Fingers or Senecio

(Right now, I am sorely dismayed, displeased and disgusted with a specific species of the insect world. How, why, what and where so? Well, to be specific, it is one particularly horned and ugly S.O.B. [son of a bug] in the Coleoptera family - the, nearly two and on-half inch (6.35 cm) long Dinapate wrighti! You see, upon returning from a six-week visit back up north in Gringolandia with family and friends, I found that this beetle manifestation of all that is insect evil, the Palm Borer, had successfully killed four of our most precious and prized palms: a Desert Fan Palm (Washingtonia filifera), a Sugar Date Palm (Phoenix sylvestris) and about which I had yet to fully photograph and write a piece on, a Betel Nut Palm (Areca catechu) the species being of "Bloody Mary" fame from the musical "South Pacific" and our absolute pride and joy, a huge, male Medjool Date Palm - this being the son of a palm that grew next to one of Saddam Hussein's palaces in Iraq! This quadruple botanical homicide—OK, OK, I tend to be a bit dramatic - is as if we have lost dear family members to a vicious killer [from the largest order of animals on planet earth] which appears to fly amok through the garden killing randomly!)

OK, that now out of my system, mark my anger and angst down - right there, beside all manner of other emotional turbulence - to my getting older, more crotchety and curmudgeonesque. For instance, bringing this all back to the subject, what with my forgetfulness, for the life of me, I am unable to remember where I found this neat and nifty succulent!

Rooting around in my tropical plant books, I determined that it is native to the east cape of South Africa . . . but, to the best of my dwindling remembrance, I haven't been there. No problem, I'll probably figure it out sooner or later.



Perhaps this is the plant world's "green" answer to porcupines!

In the meantime, I'll content myself with what the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche sagely observed, "The advantage of a bad memory is that one enjoys several times the same good things for the first time."

But, beyond that I was not even sure "what it was!" It took sending a picture to Dr. Mark Olson who was doing research, ironically working in South Africa at the time, to get a lead on it! (Like fellow tropical botanical pals Art Whistler and Anders Lindstrom, he has saved my proverbial bacon no few times!)

That all said, based on my time attending it and reading what others have experienced/said about it from my library, a picture began to form of this oddly named plant. A spreading, ever-green succulent, it sports long, succulent foliage that extends from its main stem, rather reminiscent of fingers. To my eye, it is most attractive and endearing in appearance. Simply observed, with landscaping objectivity, it provides a unique form and texture to one's garden. While outdoors it prefers hot, dry conditions, it also makes a superlative specimen for inclusion indoors - indoors, of course, a fully sunny location.

Placed outdoors, it is drought tolerant, liking sandy soil with dry-to-medium moisture, in well-draining soil, while basking in full sun to light shade. In four seasonal climes, it is a bit of an anomaly in that it, purportedly, grows in the winter and is dormant in the summer! That asserted, although succulents are generally thought to be slow growers, and in spite of what my secondary research tells me, mine has grown rather rapidly over this past summer!

...Narrow-Leaf Chalksticks



This healthy specimen is ready for transplanting to a more permanent space in which to grow!

In description, it has slightly upcurved leaves of three to five inches (7.62 – 12.70 cm) reaching a height of twelve to eighteen inches (30.48 – 45.72 cm) with a spread of eight to eighteen inches (20.32 - 45.72cm).

Narrow-Leaf Chalksticks can be propagated via either leaf or stem cuttings. Merely cut a leaf at a length of some six inches (15.24 cm), dip it in to a rooting hormone and then plant it in sandy, loose and well- draining soil. Keep this planting medium moist, but not overly wet.

For those with an eye to combining species, good, attractive, companion plants to be considered might be Candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*), Lavender (Plants of the *Lavandula* or mint family), or Echeveria (of the more than one hundred species of succulents in the *Crassulaceae* family).



A spreading, evergreen succulent, it sports long, succulent foliage that extends from its main stem, rather reminiscent of fingers.

All the preceding babble aside, this might be a fun addition for your garden!



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Ensalada de Noche Buena | Christmas Eve Salad

Servings 35

Ingredients

- ✓ 2 medium beets
- ✓ 1/4 kilogram dry jamaica (hibiscus) flowers (slightly more than 1/2 lb)
- ✓ 3 cups of sugar, divided
- ✓ 15 guavas
- ✓ 4 apples
- ✓ 45 tejocotes
- ✓ 1 medium jícama
- ✓ 4 oranges
- ✓ 4 mandarin oranges
- ✓ 4 limas (looks like a combo between a lemon and a lime, but is different and the flavor)
- ✓ 1 pound of shelled roasted (unsalted) peanuts

Instructions

1. Make this salad one day in advance to allow all the flavors to combine.
2. Peel beets. Put them in a pot. Cover with water (approx 1.5–2 quarts) and add a cup of sugar.
3. Cook them over medium-high heat for approx. 30 minutes or until they are soft
4. In a big pot, cook the jamaica flowers with 4 liters (approx 4 quarts) of water and 1 1/2 - 2 cups of sugar.
5. Cook over high heat and stir until the sugar is dissolved.
6. Bring to boil and then lower the heat and let it simmer for 10 minutes.
7. Allow both the beets and jamaica to cool down.
8. Keep them overnight in the fridge.
9. The next morning, take the beets out of the water and chop them into small square pieces and put them in a big bowl. Reserve the juice.
10. Cut guavas in small pieces. Peel and cut in small pieces apples, tejocotes and jícama.
11. Peel oranges, mandarin oranges and limas, remove the membrane and divide each wedge in half and add to the salad bowl.
12. Strain the beet juice over the fruit and then carefully strain the jamaica water over the top of the fruits as well.
13. Finally, add the peanuts (they should be peeled completely).
14. Mix everything and let it rest for at least 8 hours before serving.

Source [MamaLatina](#)



©mamalatinatips.com

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.

Rates:

\$2,100 USD monthly (3-6 months)

\$1,800 USD per month (7-12 months)

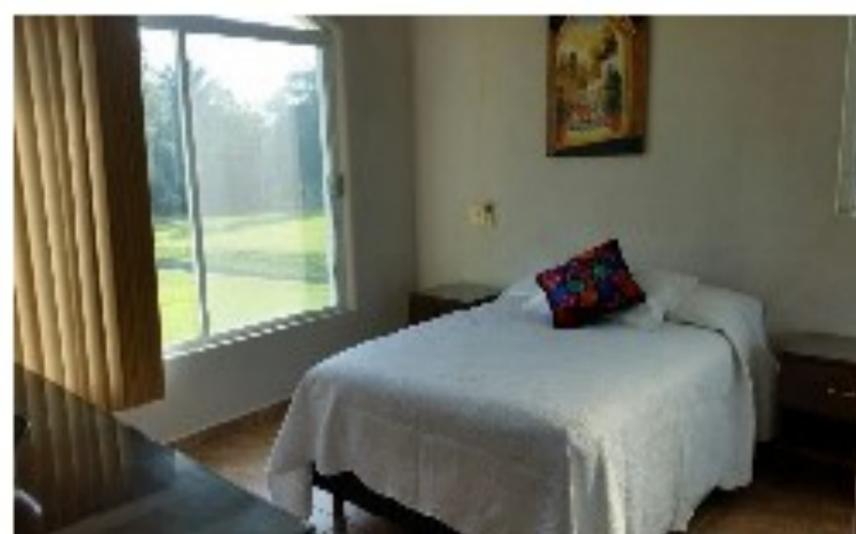
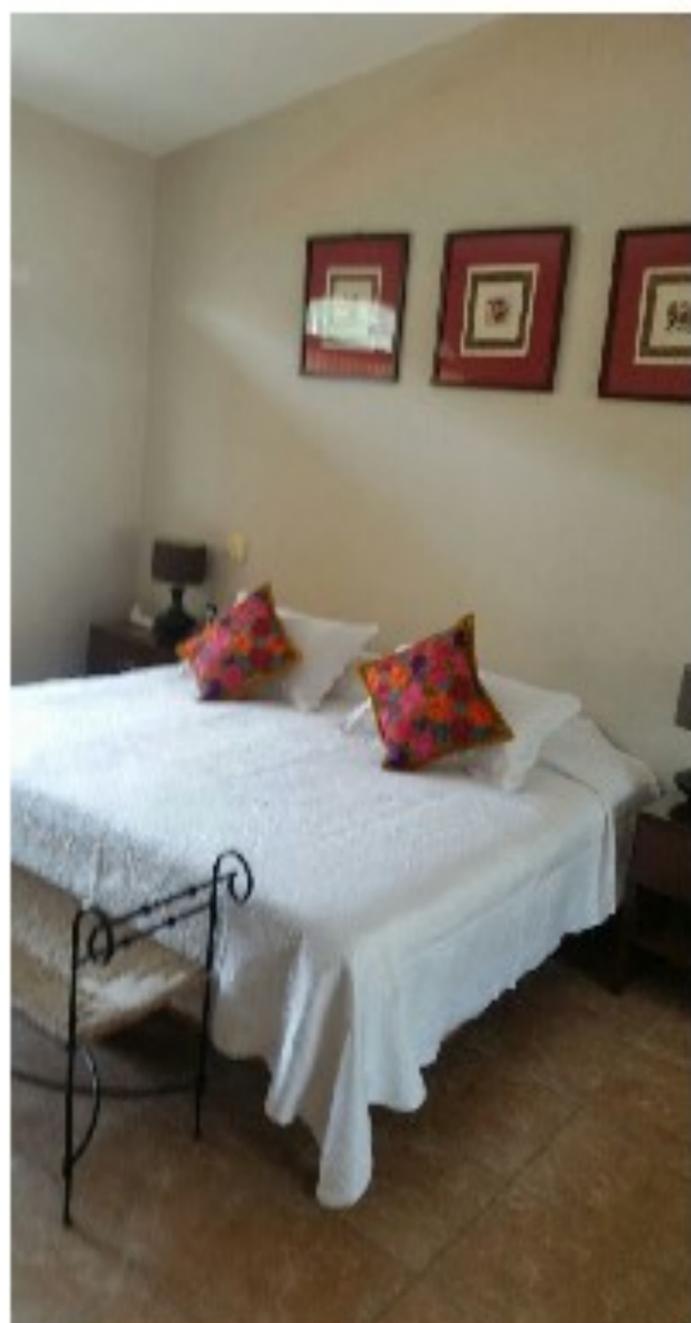
Ask about our rates for other lengths of stay.

Contact Yamil Achcar

yamil.achcar@gmail.com

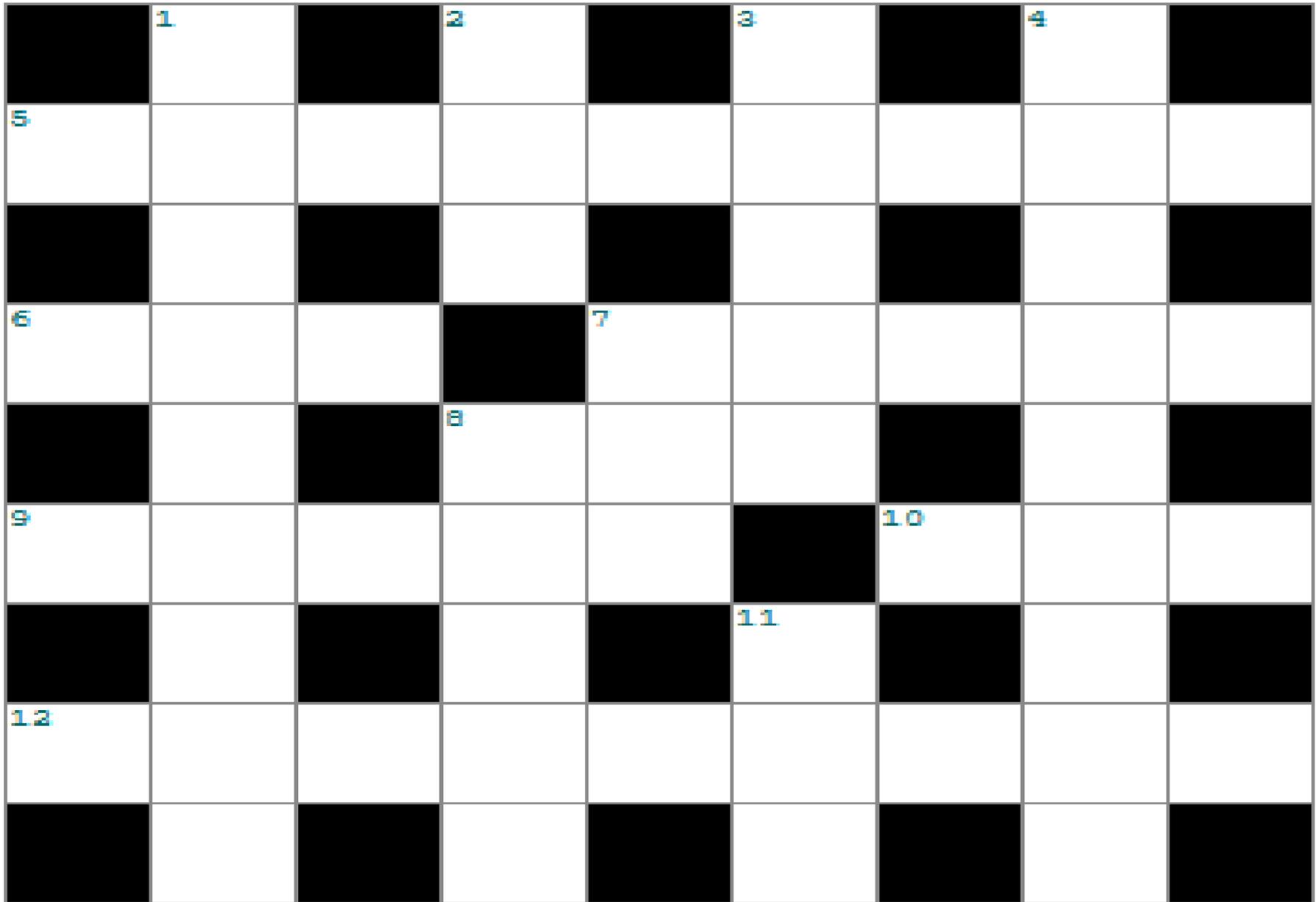
Phone or Whatsapp (+521) 314 102 4355, (+521) 314 106 0392

Landline (+52) 314 138 2725



Crossword

solution posted in next month's edition



Across

- 5 (you/vosotros) hide
- 6 bear
- 7 father; parent
- 8 sea
- 9 (they) know
- 10 gold, the metal
- 12 candy(ies)

Down

- 1 (we) scare
- 2 sun
- 3 to hate
- 4 bookshops
- 7 bread
- 8 better
- 11 end

Last month's crossword solution:



lexisrex.com

Ejidos

from the Path to Citizenship series

An ejido (pronounced eh he do) is an area of communal land used for agriculture in which community members have usufruct rights rather than ownership rights to land, which in Mexico is held by the Mexican state. People awarded ejidos in the modern era farm them individually in parcels and collectively maintain communal holdings with government oversight.

Although the system of ejidos was based on an understanding of the preconquest Aztec *calpulli* and the medieval Spanish *ejido*, in the twentieth century, ejidos are government controlled. After the Mexican Revolution, ejidos were created by the Mexican state to grant lands to peasant communities as a means to stem social unrest.

The awarding of ejidos made peasants dependent on the government, with the creation of a bureaucracy to register and regulate them through the National Agrarian Registry (*Registro Agrario Nacional*). As Mexico prepared to enter the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1991, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari declared the end of awarding ejidos and allowed existing ejidos to be rented or sold, ending land reform in Mexico.

The typical procedure for the establishment of an ejido involved the following steps:

1. landless farmers who leased lands from wealthy landlords would petition the federal government for the creation of an ejido in their general area;
2. the federal government would consult with the landlord;
3. the land would be expropriated from the landlords if the government approved the ejido; and
4. an ejido would be established and the original petitioners would be designated as *ejidatarios* with certain cultivation/use rights.

Ejidatarios do not actually own the land but are allowed to use their allotted parcels indefinitely as long as they do not fail to use the land for more than two years. They can pass their rights on to their children.

article and images from [Wikimedia](#)



By Eduardo Robles Pacheco from Tapachula, Chiapas., México - En el ejido Cuauhtémoc (28), CC BY 2.0 <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=38271769>