



# CONSULAR NEWSLETTER

ECONOMIC & TOURISM AFFAIRS

CONSULMEX PHOENIX | FEBRUARY 2021

## Together We Thrive

Welcome to the second edition of the Consular Newsletter of the Consulate General of Mexico in Phoenix. It is written for all relevant business and political players in Arizona and Mexico, as well as all friends of Mexico.

The success of the newsletter's inaugural edition in January 2021 makes me optimistic about our goal: to offer relevant and useful information related to economic and tourism issues for the business and political community on both sides of the Arizona-Mexico border.

The first edition included only two sections: **#ChooseMexico** and **#DiscoverMexico**. These sections offer pertinent information about business opportunities and tourism destinations in Mexico. In this second edition, I am pleased to announce a new section: **#ArizonaThrives**. In this section, we will provide Arizona's perspective on the economic, commercial and tourism issues that affect our cherished relationship with Mexico.

It is vital for the Mexican Consulate to have Arizona's point of view from its many players and friends of Mexico. In this issue, for example, we have Glenn Hamer's farewell letter to Arizona (p. 4). Hamer, who has been the head of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry since 2006, will become the President and CEO of the Texas Association of Business in Austin. We will miss him greatly and I thank him so much for considering the Consular Newsletter to say goodbye to so many relevant players in the Arizona-Mexico relationship.

U.S. Congressman Greg Stanton also offers his vision as an Arizonan and a longtime public servant who is deeply concerned about the Arizona-Mexico relationship (p.5). Likewise, David Luna, offers his perspective on behalf of the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) (p.6) and officials from the SkyBridge Arizona project outline their ambitious plans for the East Valley (p.7).

My heartfelt thanks to all the contributors who have made this edition of the Consular Newsletter a must read.

Your friend,

Jorge Mendoza Yescas  
Consul General of Mexico



## #ChooseMexico 🇲🇷



### Did You Know...

- In Mexico, an investor can open a business in 8.4 days after completing just eight procedures?
- The corporate tax rate as a percentage of profits is lower in Mexico vs. India, China and Brazil?
- Mexico is the world's largest silver producer?
- Fourteen of the 15 largest pharmaceutical companies have operations in Mexico?

## Restarting the Mexican Economy



To get the Mexican economy back on track, in mid-January 2021 the Ministry of Economy announced a strategy based on four important pillars: the internal market (employment and businesses); investment attraction; international commerce; and regionalization and sectors.

Furthermore, the Mexican Government's strategy is aligned to the National Development Plan (known as *Plan Nacional de Desarrollo*), that takes into account important factors such as inclusion, diversification and innovation. As part of this effort, women will play a key role in the economy's recovery and the Mexican Government is committed to support them as we move forward.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Digital Tianguis Turístico

**TOURISM FORUM**  
**March 23-24**

Virtual

Expo Manufactura  
**MANUFACTURING**  
**April 13-15**  
Monterrey and Virtual

FABTECH Mexico  
**METALWORKING TECHNOLOGY**  
**June 8-10**  
Monterrey

IHC Summit  
**INDUSTRIAL HUMAN CAPITAL**  
**July 7-8**  
Querétaro City

Automotive Meetings  
**BUSINESS FORUM**  
**July 7-9**  
Querétaro City



## Mexico's COVID-19 Vaccination Plan

To advance the country's National Plan, the Mexican Government has reached an agreement with several different pharmaceutical companies to purchase the COVID-19 vaccine.

On Jan. 22, 2021, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announced that companies and local governments in the country will be allowed to acquire the COVID-19 vaccine and use it. This decision was celebrated by Carlos Salazar Lomelin, president of the Business Coordinating Council, who offered the federal government council's help with the logistics of vaccine distribution and implementation of the National Vaccination Plan.

Here are the companies that have signed agreements with the Mexican Government:

### AstraZeneca

Mexico already has a pre-purchase contract for 77.4 million doses. After receiving two shipments from Argentina containing the active ingredient for the vaccine, Mexico will have the ability to generate 12 million doses.

### Covax (AstraZeneca)

Mexico has pre-purchased 51.5 million vaccines. Between February and March 2021, the country is expected to receive 1.6 million doses and up to a total of 10.9 million doses of the vaccine.

**NOTE:** Covax is a platform led by the World Health Organization (WHO).

### CanSino

Mexico has already pre-purchased 35 million doses. Between February and March 2021, Mexico will receive approximately 8 million doses.

### Pfizer and BioNTech

More than 700,000 vaccines have been received. Mexico already has a pre-purchase contract for 34.4 million doses.

### Sputnik V

Mexico signed a deal with Russia for 24 million doses and the first shipment is expected to arrive soon from Moscow.

*Last updated Feb. 10, 2021*

## Strengthening Relationships with the Private Sector

On Nov. 30, 2020, the Mexican Government and the Business Coordinating Council announced a second package of 29 infrastructure projects in three important sectors: energy, communications and transportation and water and the environment. The projects represent a cumulative investment of 228 billion MXN (approximately \$14.5 billion US).

A total of 68 projects are contemplated between the first and second investment packages with an estimated value of 525 billion MXN (\$26.3 billion US). According to data from the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, up to 400,000 jobs could be created, which would recover many of the jobs lost during the pandemic.

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## Working from Home? Know the Rules

On Jan. 12, 2021, the Federal Labor Law in Mexico regarding teleworking became law. Both employers and employees must now comply with a host of obligations. The law recognizes the performance of remunerated activities in places other than an employer's establishment, which means that an employee's physical presence at an employer's place of business is not required.

The law applies to work done more than 40% of the time in an employee's home or at another location chosen by the employee.

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# Manufacturing in Mexico

## Four Options to Manufacture in Mexico

There are four frequently used models for companies that want to manufacture in Mexico: wholly owned subsidiary, contract manufacturing, shelter program and joint venture.

A **wholly owned subsidiary** is an independent entity in Mexico that allows the business to control everything, from the hiring process to operations.

In the **contract manufacturing model**, a company opts to manufacture in Mexico without starting a new business and decides that it will outsource production to a third-party contract manufacturing company.

In a **shelter program**, a foreign company that lacks the knowledge needed to start and operate a plant in Mexico looks for a “shelter” that has the necessary knowledge to operate the plant directly. The shelter then receives the materials and equipment from abroad.

In the **joint venture model**, a foreign company partners with a Mexican manufacturer to expand its network and improve both its market value and competitive advantage. In this mutually beneficial partnership, each party contributes to achieve a common goal.

A fifth, but less common, option for foreign investors is to merge with or acquire an established Mexican manufacturer.

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## What Are the Benefits?

According to a study conducted by PwC (legally known as PricewaterhouseCoopers), U.S. manufacturers could cut operating costs an average of 23% if they shift production from China to Mexico. In recent years, China's labor costs have surpassed Mexico's, while Mexico remains competitive among emerging countries.

Here are just three of the many benefits U.S. manufacturers will get operating in Mexico:

- low logistics costs;
- greater flexibility in terms of delivery times; and
- faster response to disruptions.

In the face of an adverse outlook for trade between China and the United States, Mexico provides greater trade stability by having low or nonexistent tariffs compared to China and other Asian countries.

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## USMCA: Relocating Supply Chains

The United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) represents an opportunity for the three member countries to restructure their supply chains in response to the risks highlighted by the recent pandemic-driven economic crisis. Mexico provides creative economic and political policies to attract U.S. companies that are trying to relocate their supply chains outside China.

Mexico is using the USMCA to increase the country's attractiveness as a destination for global supply chains and investment. The USMCA is a great opportunity for North America to emerge as a competitive regional economic bloc.

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# My Experience in Arizona: Building Ties with Mexico

BY GLENN HAMER



I recently accepted an offer to be the next president and CEO of the Texas Association of Business, which means the Hamer family will soon be relocating to Austin, Texas.

I'm excited about the opportunity, but the decision to leave Arizona hasn't been an easy one. I love this state and its people. Part of what makes Arizona such a rich and vibrant place is its proximity to Mexico and the way our two cultures are so deeply intertwined.

Working on public policy issues affecting Arizona, Mexico and our shared border has been one of the most enjoyable parts of my career.

I've been proud of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry's work on issues like trade, including last year's passage and implementation of USMCA, tourism, immigration, e-commerce and education. All of these victories have been a win for the people of both countries.

But as satisfying as accomplishments in those areas have been, I've most enjoyed getting to know some wonderful people in Mexico and getting to call them my friends.

Participating in several trade missions with Gov. **Doug**

**Ducey**, former Phoenix Mayor and now Congressman **Greg Stanton** and state legislative leaders have been real highlights. I've gotten to know colleagues and better understand the unique aspects of places like Mexico City, Guadalajara, Hermosillo, Culiacán, Guanajuato and more. Former Speaker of the House and Director of the Department of Administration **Andy Tobin** had the vision to call for an Arizona office in Mexico. Former state Rep. **Tony Rivero** expanded that vision and Arizona now has trade offices in several areas in Mexico overseen by our Arizona Commerce Authority, run by the superb **Sandra Watson**.

I've walked away from each visit with a renewed appreciation for Mexico's people, business ingenuity, culture and a deep gratitude that we in Arizona can call Mexico our neighbor. I'll admit I've enjoyed a few tequilas, mezcal and bacanoras along the way.

I recall the announcement in 2016 when Gov. **Doug Ducey** and Sonora Gov. **Claudia Pavlovich** stood together in front of the state Capitol and announced the arrival Lucid Motors to Casa Grande. One of the deciding factors for the company's investment was the strong working relationship between the two governors and the integrated cross-border automotive supply chain between the two states.

I expect more success stories like these. **SkyBridge** in Mesa makes it possible to ship pre-customs-cleared air cargo to Mexico, perfectly positioning the state to take advantage of USMCA's friendlier rules allowing small businesses to reach customers in Mexico

without complicated customs paperwork. And I look forward to the increased use of the TN Visa class, which allows professionals in Mexico to ply their trade in the U.S. more easily.

I'll continue to advocate for a better relationship with Mexico from my new post in Texas and my work will always be informed by the many lessons I've learned in Arizona.

I know I'm leaving many people out who helped along the way, but please allow me to mention some who have put so much into my understanding of the Arizona-Mexico relationship. Serving on the board of directors of the Arizona-Mexico Commission under great leaders like **Jessica Pacheco**, **Juan Ciscomani** and **Luis Ramírez** has been an honor. Promoting cross-border tourism with the likes of **Kim Sabow** of the Arizona Lodging and Tourism Association, **Maria Lourdes Delgado** of Visit Phoenix and **Jaime Molera** and **Ruben Alvarez** and the entire team at Molera Alvarez was as enjoyable as it was enlightening. My last trade trip before the world was put on pause was with the Arizona Hispanic Chamber with its president **Monica Villalobos** and graphic design artist extraordinaire **Carmen Martinez**. **Ruth Soberanes**, now at the U.S. Department of Commerce, has also played an invaluable role. Finally, my first political mentor in Arizona, former Congressman **Jim Kolbe**, critical to the passage of NAFTA, remains a trusted advisor.

*Hasta luego*, Arizona. I look forward to watching your vital relationship with Mexico continue to grow even stronger.

*Glenn Hamer is the former President and CEO of the Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry. He will become the president and CEO of the Texas Association of Business in March.*



# New Trade Measures Will Help Bring Mexico and Arizona Closer Together

BY GREG STANTON  
U.S. Representative  
AZ-District 9

Maintaining a close-knit relationship with Mexico is essential to the fabric of Arizona's economy. That's why, throughout my time as the mayor of Phoenix and now as a member of the U.S. Congress, I've made it a top priority to push common-sense policies that strengthen our ties with Mexico and promote trade.

The Arizona-Mexico trade relationship supports tens of thousands of jobs. In 2018, two-way trade reached \$16.6 billion. And more than 25 million people, 396,000 trucks and 9 million cars crossed the border, bringing critical investments into local communities.

During my first term in Congress, I strongly urged the House to pass the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) to set a better standard for our 21st century partnership. When it

passed, we showed that even in divided times, Congress can still come together in a bipartisan way to deliver real results. Most recently, I also led a bipartisan effort to expand tourism from Mexico through a pilot program that could generate millions for Arizona's economy.

Each year, our state welcomes thousands of short-term visitors traveling from Mexico. Until now, pre-cleared travelers couldn't go further into the U.S. than Tucson or Yuma. Under a new initiative, tourists with valid Border Crossing Cards will be able to travel anywhere in our state and also in New Mexico, opening new opportunities for local businesses, hotels, national parks and other attractions to welcome new visitors.

At a time when our tourism and recreation industries have taken a catastrophic hit, we must be creative when we think about how we can help those sectors rebuild and reach new audiences. This pilot program is a good first step—and it's projected to bring \$181 million to our state's tourism sector in the first year alone.

It is just one of many smart measures that can



bring Arizona and Mexico closer together economically and culturally. I remain committed to working as a strong partner with Mexico and supporting policies that will continue to grow this important relationship.

*Greg Stanton is the U.S. Representative for Arizona's 9th Congressional District. From 2012 to 2018, he served as mayor of Phoenix. Under his leadership, Phoenix created thousands of quality jobs and recently saw the highest wage growth in the nation. Before that, Stanton served nine years on the Phoenix City Council (2000–2009) and also was Arizona's Deputy Attorney General. He attended Marquette University in Milwaukee on the Harry S. Truman Scholarship and earned a law degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.*

[CONTACT REP. STANTON](#)

# The Maricopa Association of Governments Promotes Binational Relations with Mexico

BY DAVID LUNA

MAG Economic Development Committee Chair  
Mesa City Council Councilmember (District 5)



With more than \$17 billion in trade boosting the economies of both Arizona and Mexico in 2019, binational relations are a big priority for the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). MAG is a regional planning agency made up of local governments in the greater Phoenix region. MAG conducts planning and makes policy decisions in a number of core areas, including those that strengthen cross-border economic development.

MAG's key policy group for this purpose is the Economic Development Committee (EDC), which includes local elected officials, business representatives and the Arizona Department of Transportation.

Among the initiatives pursued by the EDC are regional economic missions. MAG hosted one such mission to Mexico City in February 2019, when a delegation of elected officials visited Mexico City. The goal was to continue to stimulate economic development with Arizona's top trading partner while also building stronger relationships and contacts.

MAG recently reached a significant milestone to facilitate Mexican travel and tourism. The federal appropriations bill passed in December 2020 contains language that encourages U.S. Customs and Border Protection to create a pilot program that would allow any Mexican visitor who holds a Border Crossing Card (a United States B1/B2 visitor's visa), to travel throughout Arizona and New Mexico for tourism and business purposes.

MAG also coordinates the Ari-Son Megaregion Council, a binational council of local elected officials from Arizona and Sonora who work with stakeholders from the government and business community to increase di-

alogue and strengthen relations. In fact, on March 26 at 1pm MST, I am moderating an Ari-Son Megaregion Council webinar that will include an elected official panel discussion on the effects of COVID-19 on the Ari-Son region and a report on Arizona's tourism and trade with North America. I hope you'll join us.

[REGISTER](#)

QUESTIONS?

Elsa Beljean

[ebeljean@azmag.gov](mailto:ebeljean@azmag.gov)

*The first Hispanic to serve on the Mesa City Council, David Luna was appointed to fill the vacant District 5 seat in September of 2013 before winning election for a full term in August of 2014. He was named the Vice Mayor on January 23, 2017 and served in that role until Jan. 28, 2019. Luna was re-elected to a second term representing District 5 in August of 2018. His second term on the Mesa City Council runs until January 2023.*



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[MAG](#)

[Border Crossing Card](#)



## SkyBridge Arizona: A New Trade Standard for the US and Mexico



(l-r) SkyBridge Arizona Founder Marco Lopez & Consul General of Mexico Jorge Mendoza Yescas



SkyBridge Arizona CEO Ariel Picker at the SkyPlus Hotels Break Ground in Mesa, AZ with local dignitaries.

SkyBridge Arizona, a first-of-its-kind aerospace park that streamlines the shipping of goods across borders through a joint U.S.–Mexico customs processing operation (UCP), takes the commercial relationship between Mexico and the United States to the next century. Located on 440 acres at the Phoenix–Mesa Gateway Airport in Mesa, Skybridge AZ is a game-changing multiuse development consisting of multifaceted modern facilities that include offices, warehouses and logistics centers, as well as loading docks, commercial spaces and executive-level lodging.

Skybridge's joint U.S.–Mexico customs inspections facility will allow U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents and Mexican Customs officers to work side by side under one roof to clear and expedite the customs clearance of goods traveling to Mexico from the U.S. Essentially, goods that depart from Skybridge headed to Mexico will have already cleared Mexican Customs, which will allow cargo to be delivered the same day. In the past, air cargo headed to Mexico from Arizona could take as many as 14 days to clear customs.

As a globally connected trade hub, Skybridge AZ is strategically positioned to capture a sizeable portion of the Latin American e-commerce trade, which is expected to become an \$87.1 billion market by 2022. It also will set the bar for innovation for the \$182.7 billion U.S. export to Mexico market. Similarly, the hub will increase air freight trade between Arizona and Mexico, which is expected to expand to \$650 million by 2025.

This project will revolutionize third-party logistics, dramatically improving the distribution of products from the U.S. to Mexico. Moreover, Skybridge will operate synergistically with the U.S.–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA,) which simplified customs and shipping procedures for small- and medium-sized businesses. Prior to the USMCA, it was difficult for smaller retailers to adhere to rigorous customs formalities. As a result, many small business owners disregarded opportunities to engage in transborder commerce.

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## Mexico: An Attractive Destination for Arizona Residents

Mexico is the perfect tourist destination for residents of Arizona who want to get away. Its proximity is a huge advantage: There are multiple daily flights to many of Mexico's most attractive destinations. It also is an easy drive across the Arizona–Mexico border to beach destinations like Puerto Peñasco, commonly known as Rocky Point by Arizonans.

Recent announcements by two of the top U.S. airlines highlight the importance of good connectivity between Mexico and Arizona. In 2020, Southwest Airlines established its new international hub in Phoenix, providing direct service from Sky Harbor to Puerto Vallarta and Los Cabos. In addition, American Airlines started offering direct service from Phoenix to La Paz and Loreto. And, next month, Southwest Airlines will start offering a new route between Phoenix and Cancún, one of the most popular Mexican beaches located on the Yucatan Peninsula.

Moreover, as of July 2020, a total of 98 Mexican destinations (66 beaches, three marinas and 29 boats) have been recognized with a Blue Flag, a voluntary award from the Foundation for Environmental Education's Blue Flag Program for beaches, marinas and sustainable boating tourism. The destinations awarded the Blue Flag must meet a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety and accessibility criteria that now includes a protocol for action regarding new measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

GET MORE INFORMATION

[Blue Flag Program](#)




TIANGUIS  
TURÍSTICO  
digital  
MÉXICO  
2021



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MARCH 23 – 24 2021**  
#TTD2021

## Digital Business Forum for the Tourism Industry

The Ministry of Tourism of Mexico will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Digital Tianguis Turístico on March 23–24. This virtual event, which promotes a wide variety of Mexican tourist destinations and products, is the most important event of its kind in Latin America. Exhibitors at the event include independent hotels and hotel chains, airlines, ground transportation companies and tourism authorities from the 32 states of Mexico.

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# State of Guanajuato: So Many Reasons to Visit

BY JUAN JOSÉ ÁLVAREZ BRUNEL

Secretary of Tourism of Guanajuato



The state of Guanajuato is a stunningly beautiful, historic tourist destination in central Mexico that is home to many interesting archeological sites, six of Mexico's officially designated *pueblos mágicos*, such as Dolores Hidalgo and Salvatierra and two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: San Miguel de Allende and Guanajuato City.

## Culture

Guanajuato is the perfect destination for tourists who want to experience authentic Mexican culture. In Guanajuato City, you can visit historic places such as *Alhóndiga de Granaditas* (The Regional Museum of Guanajuato) where you can find exhibits and art honoring heroes of the Mexican War of Independence and the magnificent *Teatro Juárez*, one of Guanajuato's most architecturally impressive buildings. It was inaugurated on Oct. 27, 1903 and, since 1972, has been the focal point for the Festival Internacional Cervantino, usually a several-week festival of the arts that features music, dance, theater, street spectacles, visual arts, film and literature. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event, planned for OCT. 14–18, will be virtual.

## Gastronomy

The state of Guanajuato is famous for its milk and milk products, so look for delicious sorbets made of incredible flavors such as *cajeta*, a type of *dulce de leche* made of sweetened and caramelized goat's milk. Some traditional local dishes include *ancas de rana lampreadas* (frog legs prepared with wine and sour gravy) and *fiambre estilo* (a cold meat dish from San Miguel de Allende).

## Accessibility

Guanajuato is located in central Mexico, just a 3.5- to 4-hour drive from Mexico City. Tourist destinations within the state are less than one hour apart. In addition, Bajío International Airport (BJX) offers connections with several national airports such as Cancún, Puerto Vallarta, Los Cabos and Tijuana. There also are many flights between Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX) and BJX. The airport is conveniently located just outside of Guanajuato City and serves both León and Guanajuato City.

## Activities

Guanajuato has many different activities for all ages and tastes. In Guanajuato City, for example, you can experience a relaxing evening listening to the harmonizing sounds of several music groups. In the unique, charming city of San Miguel de Allende, you will find amazing architecture, art galleries on almost every corner and beautiful vistas everywhere you look. San Miguel was named Best Small City in the World in *Condé Nast Traveler's* 2020 Readers' Choice Awards and in *Travel and Leisure's* 2020 Top 25 Cities in the World, San Miguel was No. 2, behind Oaxaca.

Further off the beaten path, there are two of the *pueblos mágicos* villages: Yuriria and Mineral de Pozos. In Yuriria, walk the cobbled streets and visit some of its historic religious facilities such as *Templo y Convento de San Pablo*, an Augustinian temple that opened in 1559. For those looking for extreme adventure, in the old mining town of Mineral de Pozos you might be able to rappel a quarry.

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[Festival Internacional Cervantino](#)

[The Top 25 Cities in the World](#)  
*Travel and Leisure* magazine

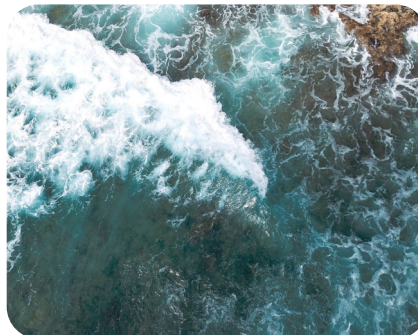
[33rd Readers' Choice Awards](#)  
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**Guanajuato**  
Live Great Stories  
Secretary of Tourism

# Best Snorkeling Beaches in the Riviera Maya

BY THE INMEXICO STAFF



If you are planning to visit the Riviera Maya, we recommend these spots for an amazing experience snorkeling in the deep turquoise sea.

## Cenote Jardín del Edén

Located on the highway between Playa del Carmen and Tulum, this clear water lagoon is surrounded by a lush jungle. Cenote Jardín del Edén has underwater caves ideal for scuba diving and snorkeling. Another great thing about this cenote is that it is not underground; instead, it is out in the open exposed to the sun and air, which is ideal for those who get claustrophobic.

## Cenote and Lagoon Yal-kú Akumal

Akumal means “place of turtles” in Mayan and is located just 62 miles south of Cancún.

It is easy to spot one of the turtles and all the many different fish swimming next to you while snorkeling in the crystalline water in this cenote. There also are beautiful corals here.

## Isla Mujeres/MUSA

Just 22 miles off the coast of Cancún, this paradise island with white sand beaches and turquoise sea is a great option if you love to snorkel. The small community on the island offers local dishes, high-end restaurants and the perfect way to spend the day after snorkeling.

Located underwater between Cancún and Isla Mujeres is the Museo de Arte Subacuático (MUSA), which has more than 500 sculptures used to promote coral life. In addition to snorkeling tours, you can also dive or take a glass bottom boat tour.

## Tulum

Tulum is known for amazing hotels and the cool vibe of a young modern beach. The Tulum ruins, however, have been there for a while, with the earliest inscription from AD 564. It is a beautiful location for snorkeling in the blue waters next to the ruins.

*InMexico is a digital platform that broadcasts the best in tourism, culture, gastronomy, art, design, architecture and real estate in Mexico, as well as introducing various entrepreneur brands and socially conscious projects. It is designed for U.S. residents who value the Mexican culture and who just love to travel and explore.*

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# Health Tourism in Baja California



COMITE DE TURISMO  
Y CONVENCIONES  
DE TIJUANA

Baja California in recent years has become an important international destination for health and wellness tourism. It is recognized for the excellence and warmth of its doctors. In 2019 alone, more than 2.8 million patients and companions traveled to the area in

search of affordable, quality medical care. Most visitors come from the southern U.S. states, but the area also has patients from other parts of the world, including Canada, the U.K., India and Malaysia. In Baja California, medical tourists will find all the medical specialties they seek, including plastic surgery, bariatric surgery and dental services.

The Baja Health Cluster was founded Oct. 4, 2011, in Tijuana, Baja California, to strengthen the health and wellness tourism industry, promote professional development, strategic alliances and lobby for public policies that help the sector grow and be competitive. The Cluster's mission is to facilitate access to healthy lifestyles by creating a comprehensive health system with the most advanced offerings at the best cost, guaranteeing both high quality and safe care.

When visiting Baja California in search of quality medical care, tourists should take a little time to also enjoy the gastronomy of the region and its unique Baja Med cuisine, which is a combination of three cuisines: Mexican, Mediterranean and Oriental. Don't forget to also taste some of the region's award-winning wines from the Valle de Guadalupe or the craft beers in Tijuana, several of which have also won international recognition.

Medical tourists have a wide range of hotels that offer the necessary facilities to assist guests, whether in post-operative recovery or simply spending a few extra days exploring the Baja. What have you got to lose?

*Information provided by Tijuana's Convention and Tourism Committee*

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[Tijuana's Convention and Tourism Committee](#)  
[Baja Health Cluster](#)



## The State of Oaxaca: Mole and Mezcal—and Much More

Oaxaca is an exceptional destination with an incredible mix of culture, traditions, gastronomy and natural beauty. Oaxaca is known worldwide for its exceptional gastronomy, particular its seven varieties of mole. But there's a lot more to Oaxaca: It has magnificent archaeological zones, breathtaking natural landscapes and a rich cultural heritage. The historic center of its capital, Oaxaca de Juárez, is considered a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the city was just recognized by *Travel and Leisure* magazine in its 2020 Top 25 Cities in the World as *número uno*.

Here are just a few reasons that make Oaxaca a one-of-a-kind destination:

### Hierve el Agua

Hierve el Agua, Oaxaca's 655-ft.-tall calcified mineral waterfalls, are just 42 miles southwest of Oaxaca de Juárez. In this magical place, you can enjoy a relaxing bath in crystal clear water pools. The area also offers a spectacular view of the valley that is perfect for photography buffs.

### Mezcal

In addition to Oaxaca's vibrant food scene, the state also is the capital of mezcal, which, like tequila, is made from the agave plant. Distillers distill the already-fermented juice from any of several types of agave. If you want to learn more about the process, there are several places in the area, some of which offer visits to plantations and tasting sessions.

### Monte Albán

Monte Albán is one of the most important archeological sites in Oaxaca. The Zapotecs, an indigenous pre-Columbian civilization, settled in Monte Albán, one of the first major cities in Mesoamerica. The current archeological site is another one of Mexico's UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It is divided in 10 main areas and even includes an I-shaped ball court sunken into the hillside.

# MÉXICO

CONSULADO GENERAL EN PHOENIX



320 E. McDowell Rd. Ste. 320  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
(602) 688-3692  
[consulmex.sre.gob.mx/phoenix/](http://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/phoenix/)

#### Economic Affairs | Tourism Affairs

**Jorge Mendoza Yescas**  
Consul General of Mexico  
[jmendozay@sre.gob.mx](mailto:jmendozay@sre.gob.mx)

**Joel Ostos Chávez**  
Political Affairs Advisor  
[politicospho@sre.gob.mx](mailto:politicospho@sre.gob.mx)

**Ximena Sotres Brito**  
Consul for Political, Economic  
and Tourist Affairs  
[xsotres@sre.gob.mx](mailto:xsotres@sre.gob.mx)

**Ricardo Reyes Pesqueira**  
Economic Affairs Advisor  
[economicospho@sre.gob.mx](mailto:economicospho@sre.gob.mx)

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CREDITS: Jorge Mendoza Yescas, Ximena Sotres Brito, Ricardo Reyes Pesqueira, Joel Ostos Chávez, Carmen G. Martínez, Karen Murphy, Luigi Alán Gonzalez & Daniela Zambrano.