



CONSULAR NEWSLETTER

ECONOMIC & TOURISM AFFAIRS

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Inside this Issue

CHOOSE MEXICO

- 1 Welcome Letter
Upcoming Events
- 2 Did You Know...
The Mexican Economy is Building Momentum
- 3 Mexico Holds Its First National Investment Dispute Prevention Week
Positive Agri-food Trade Balance for Mexico
- 4 Mining in Mexico
 - Competitiveness
 - Investment Opportunities
- 5 Cross-Border Vaccinations

ARIZONA THRIVES

- 6 Working Hard to Improve Lives On Both Sides of the Border
- 7 AZHCC Builds Cross-border Partnership with Puerto Peñasco
- 8 Avondale, AZ: NASCAR and So Much More
- 9 Global Ties Arizona: Growing Citizen Diplomacy Across Borders

DISCOVER MEXICO

- 10 Mérida, Yucatán: The White City
 - Hacienda Xcanatun: A Peek into Mexico's Colonial Past
 - Rommel Pacheco: Mérida's Hometown Olympic Hero
 - Tianguis Turístico 2021 Annual gathering in Mérida brings new optimism for tourism
- 14 Chiapas: Where All Your Senses Will Awaken
 - San Cristóbal de la Casas
 - Cañón del Sumidero National Park
 - Palenque
 - Unique Cuisine



We are very excited to welcome you to another issue of the Consular Newsletter on Economic

and Tourism Affairs. We strive with each issue to provide readers with relevant and useful information related to economic and tourism topics for the business and political community on both sides of the Arizona-Mexico border.

In this issue, the *#ChooseMexico* section offers valuable information about the mining

industry in Mexico. In addition, **José Antonio Larios Ponce**, the **Consul of Mexico in Yuma**, explains the collaboration between authorities in San Luis, Arizona, and in San Luis Río Colorado, Sonora, to organize free cross-border vaccination campaigns.

The *#ArizonaThrives* section includes the contribution of **U.S. Congressman Raúl Grijalva**, who describes the importance of the economic and cultural ties between Mexico and the United States. We also have an article from **Monica Villalobos**, **President and CEO of the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (AZHCC)**, and **Catalina Perez**, who talk about how the AZHCC has been working with the Chamber of Commerce in Peñasco to increase tourism and help business owners in the city thrive.

Also in this section, **Avondale Mayor Kenneth Weise** reveals the city's plan to attract more Mexican visitors, and, **Kristin Allen**, **Executive Director of Global Ties Arizona**, details all the opportunities available for international exchanges and provides a link so you can learn how to volunteer as a citizen diplomat.

In the *#DiscoverMexico* section, you will find out why the state of Chiapas should be on your travel bucket list, and, **Eva López**, **hotel manager at Hacienda Xcanatún by Angsana**, gives a short history and cultural tour of Merida, Yucatán, and takes you inside the marvelous Hacienda Xcanatún.

Please enjoy this latest edition and share it with your friends.



Jorge Mendoza Yescas
Consul General of Mexico



Upcoming Events

BUSINESS EVENTS

Expo Tecma Manufacturing
September 7–10, Mexico City and virtual

Expo Producción Manufacturing
November 17–19, Mexico City

The Logistics World Summit & Expo Logistics
November 24–25, Mexico City

TOURISM EVENTS

Mexico City Grand Prix Racing
October 29–31, Mexico City

World Romance Travel Conference Tourism
November 8–12, Riviera Maya

Tianguis Turístico 2021 Tourism
November 16–19, Merida



Did You Know...

- Mexico is the **third largest producer of asparagus** in the world?
- There are 9,547 species of reptiles in the world, of which **864 are found in Mexico**?
- In 2010, traditional **Mexican cuisine** was inscribed on the **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** by UNESCO?
- Mexico is the **largest exporter of goods in Latin America**?

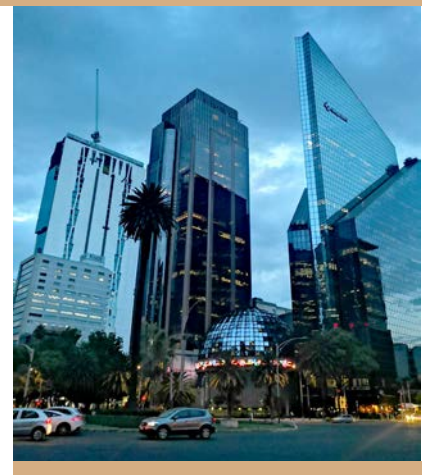
The Mexican Economy is Building Momentum

Mexico currently is one of the economies that has the best outlook for recovery within the group of emerging countries. The country's economy grew 14.7% in June 2021, compared to the same month in 2020, according to preliminary results from the National Institute of Geography and Statistics

(INEGI). A breakdown of the report shows that industrial activities were up 14.4% year-on-year and services sector activities increased by 14%.

In addition, during the month of June, there was an increase of 791,565 formal jobs, compared to the same month in 2020, according to another preliminary report.

The Mexican economy is showing strong momentum with four consecutive months



of growth, making it likely that the annual growth will be above 6.0 percent.



More Info:

[July 19 Reuters story](#)

[INEGI](#)

Positive Agri-food Trade Balance for Mexico

During the first five months of 2021, the value of agri-food exports reached a 29-year high, according to Mexico's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The value of the country's agri-food exports was US\$18.718 billion with a US\$4.230 billion surplus.

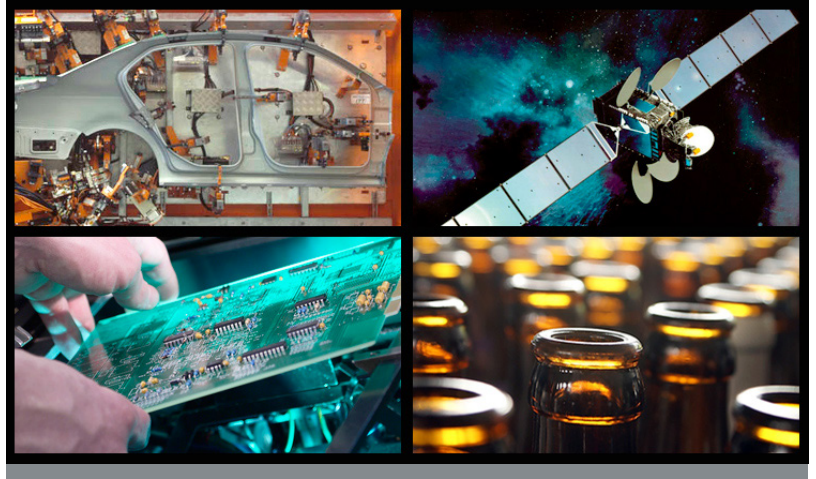
In terms of value, the products with the highest demand abroad were beer (US\$2.194 billion); avocados (US\$1.321 billion); tequila and mezcal (US\$1.146 billion); tomatoes (US\$1.115 billion); and bell peppers (US\$817 million). Compared to last year, the products that registered the most significant increase in sales were flowers (94%), natural honey (83%), tobacco (60%), citrus (57%), and grapes (55%). Mexico also registered a surplus of US\$39 million in sales of fishery products.



More Info:

[Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development](#)

Mexico Holds Its First National Investment Dispute Prevention Week



To provide certainty to foreign investors, the Ministry of Economy of Mexico celebrated the First National Investment Dispute Prevention Week July 12–16.

This initiative is positioning Mexico to be one of the main destinations for the flow of productive capital. During the week, the Secretariat of Economy announced four specific actions to protect foreign investments:

- The implementation of coordination agreements among federal institutions and entities to create a communications network for dispute prevention.
- The establishment of an early warning mechanism to detect and address situations

that have the potential to escalate to a dispute.

- The creation of training mechanisms for investment protection commitments.
- The creation of a prevention manual to explain the investment protection principles contained in the International Investment Agreements.

The Ministry of Economy will continue to emphasize that Mexico is a country that respects agreements and is a place with a legal framework that provides protections for foreign investors.



More Info:

[International Investment Agreements](#)

Mining in Mexico



Mexico is one of the most important countries in the world for mineral production, both in terms of the quantity and quality of mineral species, as well as for the abundance and the diversity of deposits throughout its territory.

Mexico's mining industry produces a total of 53 minerals, 11 metallic and 42 nonmetallic, and its geological diversity includes a large number of substances that can be used in this industry.

The country ranks in the top 10 worldwide for the extraction of 17 minerals, taking first place in silver, second place in fluorite and third place in celestite, sodium sulfate and wollastonite.

The states of Sonora, Chihuahua, Zacatecas, Durango and Guerrero are the main producers, together accounting for 82% of the total value of Mexico's mining production.

Competitiveness

One of Mexico's advantages in the mining industry is the cost efficiency, which is influenced by several factors: the quality of the deposits, the price of inputs and labor, the operating costs and the productivity. The country also has an important industrial sector that includes suppliers with a great capacity to provide the different types of goods and services required by a mining operation.

Most Mexican mines have some of the lowest operating costs among the different mining regions throughout the world. The low operating costs provide some certainty that mining projects can be profitable.

In Mexico, there are about 53 public institutions that offer degrees in earth sciences with an enrollment of 20,438 students, according to data from the National Association of Universities and Institutions of Higher Education. There are four areas of study for those who want to pursue a career in the earth sciences: geology, geophysics, mines and metallurgy. From these four areas, there are 18 disciplines at the professional level.

Investment Opportunities

In 2019, Mexico ranked second for its mining exploration budget in Latin America and fifth in the world, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Here are several ways to invest in the mining industry in Mexico:

- Initiate an exploration project by directly applying for a concession;
- Acquire projects in federal government bids;
- Obtain ownership of mining concessions by transfer of rights;
- Purchase projects in exploration;
- Purchase or associate with projects in production; or
- Purchase shares of companies in the stock market.

There are currently a significant number of mining projects in the prospecting and exploration phases, as well as mines in production that require capitalization to continue to develop and grow according to their potential.

Anyone interested in investing in the mining industry should contact the federal government to receive proper guidance on the investment options available.



More Info:

[Mining in Mexico](#)

CROSS-BORDER VACCINATIONS

Between Arizona and Sonora, MX

BY JOSÉ ANTONIO LARIOS PONCE

The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected the lives of so many people—and the US–Mexico cross-border community is no exception. Since the closure of the border March 21, 2020, economic activity on both sides of the border has been profoundly affected. At a macro level, total trade between Mexico and Arizona fluctuated between US\$16.6 billion in 2018 and US\$17.5 billion in 2019. During the pandemic, trade dropped to US\$16 billion dollars, a net decrease of 6.5%.

At a micro level, local businesses, restaurants, pharmacies, small businesses, pedestrian crossings, visitors and light vehicle traffic were all hit hard. Towns such as Yuma, Somerton, San Luis and Nogales heavily depend on the income generated by visitors from Sonora; it contributes up to 70% of the local revenue. Therefore, it is no surprise these towns urgently want to help speed up the reopening of the border by increasing the vaccination rates in the cross-border communities.

To get back to some normalcy, the Regional Center for Border Health; the U.S. Customs and Border Protection in San Luis, AZ; the Mexican Customs in San Luis Río Colorado (SLRC), Sonora; the SLRC mayor; and the Consulate of Mexico in Yuma partnered to organize free cross-border vaccination campaigns that have benefited several hundred Mexican workers who reside in SLRC and work in the U.S. agro-industrial, manufacturing and commercial sectors. The single dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine is being used because the single dose offers a logistical advantage. Vaccine recipients were transported by bus to the San Luis II commercial port of entry in the U.S., where vaccines were given to the Mexican workers right inside of the busses.

The SLRC municipal authorities, the National Chamber of Commerce (CANACO), the National Chamber of the Transformation Industry (CANACINTRA) and the Northwest Regional Agricultural Union helped coordinate the transportation of workers. As a preventive measure, the Mexican authorities provided ambulances and medical personnel to assist in case anyone experienced side effects from the vaccine, and the National Guard helped with security. The good news is that there were no setbacks, and no one had an adverse reaction to the vaccine.

Amanda Aguirre, president and CEO of the Regional Center for Border Health, which provided and administered the vaccines, helped to facilitate these cross-border vaccination campaigns in collaboration with U.S. and Mexican authorities such as John A. Schwamm, director of the San Luis II port of entry in Yuma County, AZ.

According to the latest information, 70% of the SLRC population older than 18 has already been vaccinated. Efforts to reach out to



José Antonio Larios Ponce
*Consul of Mexico
Yuma, AZ*

José Antonio Larios Ponce is Consul of Mexico in Yuma, AZ, and a career diplomat with the rank of Minister. During his career, he has been appointed to the Embassy of Mexico in Portugal; the Embassy of Mexico in Morocco; the Consulate General of Mexico in Los Angeles; the Consulate General of Mexico in New York; and the Consulate General of Mexico in San Antonio, TX. Larios Ponce was born in the city of Puebla, and studied law at the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla. He also did postgraduate study in law at the University of New Mexico.



More Info:

[Consul of Mexico in Yuma](#)

those who are unvaccinated remain part of the Mexican consular network goals in Arizona to help ease border restrictions and reignite the local economies on both sides of the border.

Working Hard to Improve Lives On Both Sides of the Border

BY RAÚL GRIJALVA

I want to thank the Consulate General of Mexico in Phoenix for supporting the families and individuals who need their services during this difficult time.



Raúl Grijalva
*U.S. Representative
for Arizona's 3rd
congressional district*

Raúl Grijalva is the U.S. Representative for Arizona's 3rd congressional district. He has served in that position since 2003. In 2018, Grijalva, who is a member of the Democratic Party, became Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee. He also serves on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, is the Chairman Emeritus of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and a long-standing member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

The economic and cultural ties between the United States and Mexico are vital to both of our countries, but the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in numerous restrictions on travel, commerce, visitation and tourism—all important components of our vibrant cross-border relationship.

I understand how important these ties are, and that's why I'm working with the Biden Administration to make economic development of the border region a priority. Although the border closures during the public health emergency were necessary to save lives, the time has come to begin the process of rebuilding our border businesses and reuniting friends and family members separated by these restrictions. To get to that point of safely reopening, I've called on the Biden Administration to send vaccines to border communities on the Mexican side of the border to facilitate a robust vaccination campaign. Getting our communities vaccinated is the best chance we have to revitalize our communities and revive the border economy.

While the pandemic rages on, we cannot let the other issues that bind us together

fall by the wayside. We must continue robust investments in our ports of entry infrastructure on both sides of the border to facilitate the efficient movement of people and goods. We must continue pushing back on the anti-immigrant rhetoric that allows politicians to demonize the border for political gain while failing to offer real solutions to address the complex challenges faced by communities on both sides, such as the flow of illegal drugs and dangerous unregulated firearms. We must continue to view one another as important partners in the fight to address climate change and environmental concerns so that the border region continues to be a beautiful place to live and visit.

My own story reflects the unbreakable ties between our two countries. My father was born in Mexico and came to the United States as a bracero, a Mexican laborer allowed into the U.S. for a limited time to work as a seasonal agricultural worker. My father and mother worked hard to provide their children with opportunities and experiences they never had. As a member of the U.S. Congress and the child of immigrants, I have never forgotten the strong cultural ties between Mexico and the United States that shaped me into the person I am today. It is just one of the reasons why I always will work to continue strengthening the vibrant cultural and economic relationships that improve the lives of people on both sides of the border.



More Info:
[Congressman Grijalva Online](#)

AZHCC Builds Cross-border Partnership with Puerto Peñasco

BY MONICA VILLALOBOS AND CATALINA PEREZ

During the last year, the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (AZHCC) has actively engaged with various business organizations in Mexico.

Puerto Peñasco, a popular Mexican beach town known as Rocky Point to many Arizonans, is one good example of a successful cross-border partnership. The city has been expanding rapidly in recent years, in part because of its proximity to Phoenix. For many years, it has been one of the top spring break destinations for Arizonans. In fact, approximately 23,000 tourists visited Rocky Point during the first week of the 2021 spring break. As tourism increases, so has traffic at the border, which is just 40 minutes from Peñasco.

The AZHCC has been working closely with the Peñasco Chamber of Commerce to increase tourism and help businesses in the popular city grow and eventually expand their ventures into Arizona.

In collaboration with, and at the request of the Mar de Cortés International Airport, the AZHCC has been helping to promote direct flights from Phoenix to Puerto Peñasco. When the AZHCC surveyed its members to find out if they would consider flying rather than driving to Rocky Point from Phoenix if they could catch a direct flight, the majority of respondents said that they would definitely prefer to fly.

Since 2012, the number of Hispanic-owned businesses in Arizona has increased about 40%. Since 2009, Latino-owned businesses in the U.S. grew by 34%. Overall, though, all U.S. businesses grew by only by one percent and white-owned businesses actually decreased by one percent. Another important fact: Latino-owned companies have average revenues of \$1.2 million per year compared to \$2.3 million for non-Latino-owned U.S. firms. In addition, more than 40% of Hispanic-owned businesses that make more than \$1 million are immigrant-owned.

As the number of Hispanic-owned businesses continues to increase, the AZHCC is providing resources to help decrease the significant revenue disparity between Latino-owned and non-Latino-owned businesses. The AZHCC also is working to increase the number of Hispanic-owned businesses in Arizona and is helping them scale by cultivating more partnerships across the border. The AZHCC's efforts in Rocky Point are just one example of the partnerships the AZHCC is building with our neighbors across the border.



Monica S. Villalobos
President & CEO
Arizona Hispanic
Chamber of Commerce

Monica Villalobos is currently President & CEO of the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Villalobos previously served for seven years as Vice President and Foundation Executive Director. In her current role, she is responsible for the chamber's strategic growth initiatives. In addition, she has been the Editor-In-Chief for 18 research publications over the last eight years, including the annual DATOS: State of Arizona's Hispanic Market (2012-2019) and DATOS Tucson (2012-2015).



Catalina Perez is an Arizona native who studied Business Communications at Arizona State University. While at ASU, she interned at the AZHCC for two years and now manages market intelligence for the annual DATOS publications.



More Info:

[AZHCC](#)

[24th Annual DATOS: The State of Arizona's Hispanic Market \(2020\)](#)

[Puerto Peñasco Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)

Avondale, AZ: NASCAR and So Much More



Kenneth N. Weise
Mayor, Avondale, AZ

Kenneth N. Weise was first appointed mayor of Avondale in 2014 and won election and reelection in 2016 and 2020, respectively. Prior to his tenure as mayor, he had served since 2006 as a member of the City Council. He currently holds positions with the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Regional Council as Vice Chair, MAG Regional Council Executive Committee and the MAG Transportation Policy Committee, and also is a member of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council's Board of Directors. He and his wife, Shari, have two daughters and have called Avondale home since 1995.



More Info:

[Tres Rios Wetlands](#)

[Base and Meridian \(B&M\) Wildlife Area](#)

[Sierra Estrella Wilderness](#)

[Discover Avondale](#)

BY KENNETH WEISE

On behalf of the residents of Avondale, I would like to extend a warm invitation to visit our beautiful city as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary. Billy G. Moore, Avondale's founding father, first arrived in Arizona in the late 1860s and settled in the area in 1880, calling it Coldwater, AZ, after the Agua Fria River. The first post office was established in 1886 at Avondale Ranch, and the city of Avondale was finally incorporated in 1946.

The city recently developed a strategic plan to attract more tourists, especially visitors from Mexico. More than half of our population is of Latino descent, and we are proud of our strong Mexican heritage and ties to the rich and colorful culture of our southern neighbors.

As part of the burgeoning Phoenix metro area, Avondale has much to offer. With two NASCAR races at the Phoenix Raceway annually, our city attracts tens of thousands of race fans who come to town for the thrilling experience of watching racing champions be crowned. The city is situated less than 20 miles from Sky Harbor International Airport, and is close to many major sports amenities, including several Major League Baseball spring training facilities, a National Football League stadium, and a National

AVONDALE EVENTS

OCT 14-17

Billy Moore Days

Old Town Avondale
Carnival rides, live entertainment, saloon and food vendors, a historic parade and much more

DEC 4

2021 Winterfest

Avondale Civic Center Complex
Live holiday entertainment, winter snow zone, tree lighting ceremony and more

Hockey League arena, making it a mecca for sports enthusiasts of all kinds.

Avondale also has a robust youth and amateur sports program. As a young, family-oriented community, the city welcomes families from out of town who participate in regional sports tournaments year-round at our regional indoor sports complex and acres of outdoor fields. Since the weather forecast calls for sunshine for 320+ days a year, Avondale is an ideal locale for winter escapes, golf excursions or just hanging out by a hotel pool.

Nature lovers who visit Avondale will be delighted by the Base and Meridian (B&M) Wildlife Area (also known as Tres Rios). The area has miles of hiking trails and waterways for kayaking and canoeing. In addition, the city is nestled against the beautiful backdrop of the Sierra Estrella Mountains, which guarantees gorgeous views year-round.

While you are here, check out our dining guide and visit the many wonderful eateries in Avondale. We have many local favorites and plenty of options in Old Town Avondale, where you will find an eclectic mix of culinary delights including amazing, authentic Mexican restaurants.

GLOBAL TIES ARIZONA

Growing Citizen Diplomacy Across Borders

BY KRISTIN ALLEN

Global Ties Arizona (GTAZ), as part of the largest and oldest citizen diplomacy network in the United States, has been a leader in international exchange in the state of Arizona for nearly 70 years. GTAZ works to build bridges between people and nations to bolster soft diplomacy efforts and advance the global leadership and foreign policy priorities of the United States, and specifically Arizona, as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the U.S. State Department's foundational international exchange program. Many world-renowned leaders, including former Mexican President Felipe Calderón, are IVLP alumni.

Prior to the start of the pandemic in 2019, GTAZ welcomed more than 280 international young leaders from more than 70 countries, fostering discourse on 35 diverse topics and generating more than \$1.5M in local revenue through lodging, hospitality and tourism.

In 2021, GTAZ has continued to connect local business, education, nonprofit and government leaders with emerging foreign leaders across computer screens and time zones. In April, for example, GTAZ virtually hosted 20 women entrepreneurs from Mexico and Latin America, connecting them with the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University to learn about the resources available to women who are small business owners in emerging markets, and to develop the skills necessary to start and grow their businesses. They also engaged in a virtual home hospitality event with Spanish-speaking, Phoenix-based female professionals to discuss the evolving role of women in the home and workplace, and how these roles might differ between countries.

Beyond IVLP, GTAZ offers additional opportunities for global learning, both locally and at large. In June, GTAZ launched its Destination Series, a one-hour virtual tour that features the sights, sounds and flavors of a different international destination each month. On August 26, the series featured Baja California.

Just last month, addressing more than 300 students from the Technological University of Hermosillo and the Polytechnic University of Querétaro, GTAZ took part in a virtual panel to share how learning a second or even multiple languages is critical to understand other cultures and will open career doors.

If the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it's that our relationships with nations around the world are more important than ever. International exchange and education initiatives like those championed by GTAZ enhance such relationships and positively impact our local communities by advancing knowledge and global competencies. GTAZ looks forward to growing its community programs to connect the citizens of Arizona and Mexico to nurture the next generation of global leaders.



Kristin Allen
*Executive Director
Global Ties Arizona*

Kristin Allen is Executive Director of Global Ties Arizona. Allen has worked across international borders for more than 14 years in the U.S. and abroad. During the last eight years, her work has primarily focused on U.S.–Mexico cross-border relations and higher education partnerships and professional exchanges with Mexico and Latin America. Allen speaks fluent Spanish and has a bachelor's degree (Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA, 2017) and a master's degree (New York University, 2011) in Spanish Language and Cultures.



More Info:

[Global Ties Arizona](#)

[GTAZ Destination Series: Baja California](#)

[Global Ties US](#)

[International Visitor Leadership Program \(IVLP\)](#)

[Volunteer as a Citizen Diplomat](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

Mérida, Yucatán: The White City

BY EVA LOPEZ

Mérida was the first city to be named a Cultural Capital of the Americas and the only one to win the designation twice (in 2000 and 2017) for its wide encouragement of cultural activities. The city, which is the cultural and financial capital of the Yucatán Peninsula and the capital city of the state of Yucatán, was built on the site of the ancient Mayan city of T'hó (which means five in Mayan). It is one of the oldest, continually occupied cities in the Americas.



Eva López
*Hotel Manager
Hacienda Xcanatún
by Angsana*

Eva López is the hotel manager at Hacienda Xcanatún by Angsana. Between 2018 and 2019, she served as rooms division manager for Chablé Resort Yucatán. From 2015 to 2018, López was the front office manager for Banyan Tree Mayakoba. She holds a bachelor's degree in tourism business management from the Universidad Veracruzana.

In 1542, the city was named Mérida by Francisco de Montejo, one of the Spanish conquistadors, after the city of Mérida in Extremadura, Spain. It is often called the White City, but it seems there are two explanations for the nickname: the large amount of limestone used in the construction of the city's buildings and/or because of the city's cleanliness.

The sober architecture style seen throughout this vibrant colonial city has a square pattern in the central area, with streets traced as a chess board. It is the perfect getaway to immerse yourself in Mexico's Mayan culture by walking down the historical streets, eating at a local market, swimming in the nearby natural sink holes known as cenotes or buying a beautiful guayabera or locally made hammock.

Visiting the majestic mansions that line the Paseo Montejo is a must during any visit. The 16th century avenue was inspired by the Avenue des Champs-Élysées in Paris and is a stunning passage framed by beautiful red-flowered local trees. It is a place where you will find many boutiques, coffee shops and restaurants.

Mérida's Plaza Grande is the city's center and the location of the Cathedral of San Ildefonso, which

was built in 1598 and is the first cathedral constructed in Latin America. Seasonal cultural events regularly take place at this beautiful plaza, where local crafters showcase their wares and you might experience la vaquería, which begins with a mass and ends with the typical rhythmic dance of Yucatán called the jarana.

The historic culinary flavors of Yucatán are the soul of the state. The wonderful, unique dishes take you back to the Mayan roots of the area, from the traditional cochinita pibil and the panuchos, to the motuleños eggs and kastakan. It is food that reminds us all to always enjoy life at its best.

The large rural estates known as haciendas were the epicenter of Mexico's economic and social life for more than three centuries during the colonial period. They were a symbol of economic grandeur, cultural splendor and architectural worth. They operated autonomously to such an extent that they even minted their own currency and housed their own educational and health services.

In Yucatán, haciendas flourished thanks to the "green gold of sisal" (named after the port of Sisal), and called *henequén* in Spanish and *kij* in Mayan: It is the fiber of the maguey plant native to the region that became the mainstay of fabrics, cords and textiles worldwide between the mid-19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries.



More Info:

[Visit Mexico](#)

[Lonely Planet Guide: Mérida](#)

LOCAL HIGHLIGHT

Hacienda Xcanatun: Peek into Mexico's Colonial Past

Hacienda Xcanatun is a living testament to the historic and cultural wealth of Mexico. Built in 1789 as a livestock hacienda (specializing in horse breeding and raising pack mules), it soon became a prosperous henequén hacienda, given its strategic location outside Mérida's city limits on the road to the port of Sisal, where the "green gold" began its journey to the international markets. The hacienda has always kept its original Mayan name: Xcanatún, which means "tall stone house."

Hacienda Xcanatun by Angsana is a current and contemporary reinterpretation of the legendary sisal haciendas and of the Mayan culture itself. Not even the slightest detail has been overlooked, as the project was based on a profound study of the typology, proportions, colors, rhythm and common language of the renowned Yucatán haciendas.

The enchantment of Hacienda Xcanatun also lies in its exteriors, where the guest services team will guide you on a tour of the varied flora and fauna in the hacienda's gardens. Before the garden tour begins, guests will experience a welcoming ritual that includes something special: a refreshing beverage of sour orange, ginger and chaya (or tree spinach), a highly nutritious and medicinal plant of the Mayan culture.

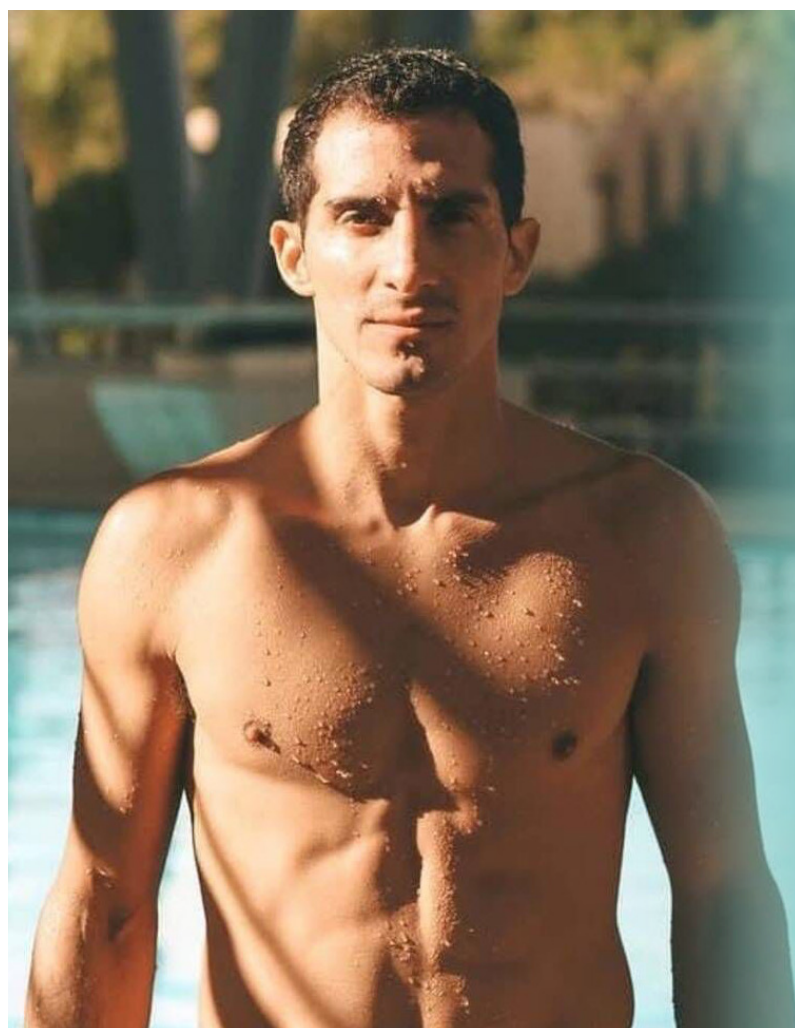
Casa de Piedra (House of Stone) is a Mérida landmark and the signature restaurant at the hacienda. The cuisine of Zacatecan Chef Reyna García is defined as "regional and spontaneous" on the hacienda's website and is noted for its "explosion of flavors that catches everyone by surprise." Chef García, who loves to entertain diners with colorful anecdotes from the kitchen, uses fresh, local ingredients every day to create her memorable dishes.



More Info:

[Hacienda Xcanatun
by Angsana](#)





Rommel Pacheco: Mérida's Hometown Olympic Hero

Rommel Aghmed Pacheco Marrufo devoted his entire life to becoming a diver—and is considered one of the most successful divers from Mexico. He began his sports career at the age of three and later moved to Mexico City to start his professional training at the Mexican Olympic Sports Center.

The 35-year-old Olympian was born in July 12, 1986, in Mérida, Yucatán. His first big international success was in 2003 when he won

the gold medal in the Pan American Games. In 2005, he received the National Sport Award, a distinction granted by the Mexican federal government.

Since then, he has been a Pan American champion twice and participated in four Olympic Games. In 2016, he won the world championship (gold medal) in the three-meter individual springboard event at the Diving World Cup held in Rio de Janeiro. His retirement from

diving came at Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (2021). His impressive career has not been limited to just his athletic achievements. Pacheco's perseverance and preparation also has led him to complete a bachelor's degree in business administration and a postgraduate degree in human capital, both from the Universidad Anáhuac. He actively participates in multiple altruistic initiatives for children with disabilities and cancer in Mexico. In addition, he also runs a real estate company and a healthcare business with his family in Mérida.



More Info:

[Olympic Athlete Profile: Rommel Pacheco Marrufo](#)

[Five Things to Know About Olympic Diver Rommel Pacheco](#)

TIANGUIS TURÍSTICO 2021

Annual gathering in Mérida brings new optimism for tourism

The 45th *Tianguis Turístico* (or Touristic Market) will be held Nov. 16–19 in Mérida, the capital of the state of Yucatán.

The event is an opportunity for major suppliers and customers to meet and discuss a variety of tourism services and products. Tour operators, wholesalers, travel agents, tourist associations and event organizers from all the Mexican states will gather to promote their products and tourism destinations with a special showcase highlighting the rich diversity of Mexico. Customers will have the opportunity to directly interact with vendors and will receive special prices on many products.

More than 600 exhibitors will meet at the Siglo XXI Convention Center, which is conveniently located

approximately 30 minutes from Mérida's Manuel Crescencio Rejón International Airport and the city's downtown.

Because of the current pandemic, sanitary measures will be taken and adjustments have been made in the schedule and in the total number of attendees allowed to make this event the safest and most successful.

Positive signs of economic recovery in both Mexico and the U.S. as well as progress in vaccination rates are attracting both international and domestic customers to attend the event.

This will be the first time *Tianguis Turístico* will be held in Mérida. In the final session of the 2019 event, Miguel Torruco, secretary of tourism of Mexico, led the ceremony that moved the event from its former host city of Acapulco to Mérida. The 2019 event closed with 47,738 business appointments, 44 foreign countries present and 1,344 buyers.



TIANGUIS
TURÍSTICO
México
Mérida
2021



More Info:

[Tianguis Turístico
2021](#)

Chiapas: Where All Your Senses Will Awaken

Chiapas is a welcoming state in the southeastern part of Mexico bordering Guatemala. It is worth visiting for its rich biodiversity, incredible adventure travel options and historic urban centers.

Although San Cristóbal de la Casas and Cañón del Sumidero are probably the top two reasons tourists visit this Mexican state, there are many other interesting locations to visit, including Palenque, the most famous of the local Mayan archaeological sites.

San Cristóbal de la Casas

San Cristóbal de las Casas, one of Mexico's designated *Pueblos Mágicos*, is located just 36 miles from Tuxtla Gutiérrez, the capital of the state of Chiapas. Visitors are charmed by this romantic colonial city with its lively people, colorful houses and enticing local markets. The architecture of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries found throughout the city is remarkable. The Santo Domingo Church, with its golden sculpted details and elaborate altar pieces, is a good example of Mexican Baroque architecture.

Near the local market downtown, you will meet the indigenous *Tzeltal* and *Tzotzil* people wearing their traditional colored garments. At the market, be sure to sample some of the exotic fruits such as *huaya* or *papause* and the culinary delicacies *molotitos de plátano* and *chalupas*.

At the Jade Museum, you will find rich collections of arts and crafts, peculiar daily life objects and jewels related to eight of the main cultures of the Mesoamerican area: Mocaya, Olmeca, Teotihuacan, Mixteca, Zapotec, Maya, Toltec and Aztec. Jade was—and still is—a favorite symbolic cultural gemstone used in rituals and was a valuable asset on ancient trading routes.

Cañón del Sumidero National Park

Located four miles north of the capital of Tuxtla Gutierrez, this unique national park is a natural gem that is home to the Grijalva River, a 480 km long (19 miles) river surrounded by high cliffs and stone formations. The canyon nests in the midst of imposing cliffs that rise above the river. Its walls, which can reach more than 3280 ft. in height, are one of the most impressive landscapes in Mexico.

There are a number of different park tours available. If you are



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lucky, you will see some of the 34 endemic species that live in the park, such as the Mexican *cuija* (gecko) or the vividly colored *Canelo Chupaflor* (cinnamon hummingbird). People who take one of the park tours usually get to see spider monkeys and river crocodiles.

The city of Chiapa de Corzo, which is approximately nine miles from the state capital and is the oldest Spanish settlement in the area, has four piers where you can catch one of the boat tours of the park: *Malecón*, *Unidad Deportiva*, *Cahuaré* and *Belisario Domínguez*.

Palenque

Palenque is 180 miles away from Tuxtla Gutiérrez and 136 miles from San Cristóbal de las Casas. As soon as you arrive at this famous archeological site, you will feel the mystical atmosphere. You might even get in touch with the natural surroundings and interact with some of the interesting local creatures that might emerge from the middle of the jungle.

The Mayan buildings in Palenque are from the classical period, from between 400 and 700 B.C. *Palacio Templo del Sol* is the most famous of the buildings and one of the best-preserved.

If you have the time when you are in the area, be sure to visit *Cascadas Agua Azul*, just 42 miles from Palenque and home to natural outdoor pools formed by beautiful turquoise waters. After a day exploring and immersing yourself in the local Mayan culture, take a dip in the crystalline waters to let your body recharge and rest.

Unique Cuisine

Tamales are famous in Chiapas and throughout Mexico. The base of a *tamal* is corn flour dough mixed with different ingredients such as coconut, pineapple, chili or chicken. Corn is a local magical nutritious cereal full of antioxidants. Try *tamal de bola*, *tamal de coco* or *tamal de chipilín*.

You also should sample *Tescalate*, the traditional beverage from Chiapas that dates from pre-Hispanic times: It is a refreshing soft and spicy beverage prepared with corn, cocoa, sugar, cinnamon and achiote. You can enjoy it in local markets like *Mercado de los Ancianos* or *Mercado Díaz Ordaz* in Tuxtla Gutiérrez.

To really delight your taste buds, the best option is to visit Chiapas during the Gastronomic Fair called *Flor de Cuchunuc*, which is celebrated between February and March at *Jardín de la Marimba* in Tuxtla Gutiérrez. During the festival, everyone is invited to taste the edible *Cuchunuc* flower, which is included in all kinds of culinary dishes and is a traditional ingredient in the *Zoque* culture.

For candy lovers, the *Mercado de Dulces y Artesanías* in San Cristóbal de las Casas is a must. This market specializes in traditional candies, reviving antique recipes passed from generation to generation through food artisans. Last, but not least, coffee lovers should not miss the *Finca Argovia* resort and coffee plantation in Tapachula. The area's tropical jungle climate offers the perfect growing conditions for coffee, making this area a coffee drinker's dream vacation spot.



More Info:

[Visit Chiapas](#)

[12 Reasons Why You Should Visit Chiapas Before Everyone Else Does](#) (from culturetrip.com)

[Sumidero Canyon National Park tours](#)

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