



Mazatlan--Just Another Day in Paradise...

expensive
Tues - Sat. All transportation is standardized so you do not have to negotiate a

75-80 degrees. During the winter, Dec. to May, the women may need a sweater in the evenings.

People wear hats for the sun, sunscreen, shorts, light clothing, swimsuits, and sandals. Casual dress is always appropriate. Most people bring a suitcase full of clothes and only wear a couple of things--those things that are the lightest and coolest. This is not a fancy place.

MAZATLAN MEXICO...

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Arriving & Departing

The Mazatlan airport is modern, with several flights daily. Fares are less

price to come or go to the airport. It costs about \$22 a couple either way. Sometimes if 4 can go in a taxi, it is \$22 for the taxi. You can take a taxi or the bus. The bus is about \$8 a person but takes a lot longer as they go to all the motels. The airport is about 20 miles from town so it takes 30+ minutes to get to the condo. Just give them the address and they will get you there.

Directions to Condo **Residencias Burgos Casa #3 esta ubicada en la esquina de Calle DON ALFONSO y la Calle La TIZONA, FRACC EL CID. (entrada acerca del Gigante y El Toreo)**

Just show the taxi driver that address and he will get you there. The number 3 is written on the condo. Stick the key in the lock, open and you are there.

WHAT DO I WEAR?

Mazatlan has two climates, very nice and very hot. During May to July it is air conditioner hot. Aug., Sept. and Oct. is a little bit hotter--humid type hot. From November to and including May it is very pleasant with temps.

Where are the Beaches?

The condos (Residencias Burgos) are located on the back portion of the EL Cid Mega Resort property. They are on the 14th green of the golf course in the back corner of the compound. They are 1.1 miles from the beach. **HOW DO I GET TO THE BEACH?** They have easy access to the beach by way of **taxi (ask a guard to get you a taxi)**, or a **trolley** (called the Shuttle) belonging to the EL Cid that comes up to the La Alhambra Condos on the 1/2 hour. You simply walk down to the trolley stop, and wait or call on the phones there to the EL Cid to let them know you are waiting. You can take a taxi back to the condo for \$3.00. (30 pesos) **Ask any security guard and he can call you a taxi.** They are always

standing outside the condo. You can also **WALK**. Once you know the way, it is only 3 fairways (7th, 12 & 18th or 7th, 8th and 9th—stay on the golf cart path) to the beach.

The **BEACHES** in Mazatlan are public. You can go on any beach. We usually go to the El Cid (if we have children) or The Inn at Mazatlan and hang out there. We use their pools and facilities and eat at their restaurants. You can play beach or water volleyball there. You are Not given a towel unless you are a guest, so that is the one thing you should take with you from the U.S. or use one of those we have in the condo. The hotels don't really know who is a guest and who is not.

About The Condo

Residencias Burgos #3 is the downstairs unit at the entry of a 34 unit condo at El Cid. The unit has 2 parking places, a common swimming pool, barbecue stand and a central landscaped area.

You can enter the enclosed 500 acre complex known as El Cid from the El Cid resort on the ocean or on the NE side at the Arco on Ave. Torreo, near our condo. It is secure, patrolled and private with limited access.

In the condo itself, there are 3 bedrooms (a king and 2 doubles, plus a 3 tier bunkbed) with two bathrooms, a kitchen with stove, microwave, refrigerator, service for 8, pans, and a washing machine in the corner. It has a bar and a dining

room eating area with a large front room. It is around 1,600 square feet and has a patio for drying clothes and keeping the water equipment. It is fully furnished, has fans and air conditioning and is ready to use. The cleaning lady comes once a week on **Wednesday**. Her name is **ROSA**. At the end of your stay it is nice to leave a note for her and about \$5-10 as a tip.

Eating in Mazatlan

The food in Mazatlan is safe to eat, inexpensive and great. Tourist restaurants have ultraviolet treatment of water and cater to American tastes and stomachs. For the less adventuresome, you can conveniently find one of two Subways, a McDonalds, 2 KFC's, TCBY, Dairy Queen, Dominos, Pizza Hut, Burger King & VIPS.

Another common practice is to go to a grocery store, i.e. La Ley, **Gigante**, El Commercial or other big and stock up on all the things you like to fix at the house. You can buy anything now that they have the Sam's Club. We eat cold cereal for breakfast and then go out for dinner. There is a nice little store within walking distance of the condo on the back entrance to El Cid. Find it and use it.

Shrimp is about \$5.00 a lb. there and it is any size you wish and plentiful. (7-9:00 am at beach entrance to The Inn at Mazatlan)

Restaurants that I like the best:

No Name Cafe: In the gold zone. It is a sports place with several t.v.'s on so you can watch a game while eating. They have great ribs, onion rings, beans, fries and chicken.

Sr. Frog's: On the downtown beach. You just about have to go there. It is loud, raucous, and unruly, but it has great old music, ribs, fish, Mexican food, & bread. Everything on the menu is excellent. Go early. It gets wild late.

EL Sheik: Upstairs at Valentino's on the main drag. It is a fancy place with fish ponds, soft music, stained glass, and great food. The pepper steak, filet mignon, and fish. A little more expensive.

Papaguayo: This is the hotel restaurant at The Inn at Mazatlan. It is first class, good, safe, and has good recognizable food.

Panchos: On the beach across from Shell City is excellent food. You can watch them cook your food--the kitchen has a window open to the mall walkway. They have great Mexican Plates, & Filet Mignon. Most people's favorite.

Angelos at Pueblo Bonito, very classy Italian food.

Vida Pura: This is a juice & natural food & fruit drinks place in the gold zone.

Ernie Tomato's: The former proprietor of Sr. Frog's just started this great place in the gold zone. Rolls, pasta, ribs, steaks & fish, with great music and not so loud.

Mango's: Next building by Panchos, on the beach, across from Sea Shell City. Excellent sandwiches, clean, less expensive with same owners as Ernies. Try the coconut shrimp.

Here is a list of other restaurants:

1. **El Bambu (between Sam's Club & The Gran Plaza) has fantastic Arrachera (flank steak)** My new favorite place to eat.
2. Mr. A's or Ace's
3. Casa Club- El Cid golf club house (pepito sandwiches) are a must
4. The Place
5. Los Arcos-lobster
6. Alfredo's (Italian) at Pueblo Bonito. (Long pants required)
7. The DUGOUT-has the best coco shrimp in town.

Things To Do

Country Tour: 6-7 hour tour to Concordia and Copala mining towns with stops at a tortilla bakery, furniture making shop, pottery factory and Michaels, where you eat great banana cream pie.

Golfing: Go to a time share presentation at El Cid or El Cid Marina and you can golf one round free.

Otherwise, it is expensive at the El Cid Course (\$65 to \$70). Estrella Del Mar is a Robert Trent Jones designed course run by Scottsdale Az people about 6 miles from the airport.

Take a taxi. The ocean and the course are gorgeous together there. It is \$82.00+ for 18 holes and a cart (plus the ride out there** you have to go from the Inn at Mazatlan on Thursdays—each hotel has a special discount day. Find the day you want and then find which hotel features it that day). There is a public course called El Campestre which is about \$20 for 18 holes. You have to want to golf pretty bad to go there, but I would still go.

City Tour: Contact any hotel for this 3 hour tour of the city.

Jungle Tour: This includes lunch, a day on the shrimp bayou, beaches, horses, and wildlife.

Harbor tour or Antelope or Deer Island tour: These are water tours of about 3 hours with food and the sights from the water. Do

not take the Stone Island tour.

Water Sports: Parasailing over the water, banana boats, jet skis, snorkeling, trip to island, beaches, water volleyball, beach volleyball, reading & sunbathing.

Markets: In the Gold Zone there are lots of shops. The beach vendors will come to you on the beach. You can go up the tourist streets for good deals. You can take the **Cerritos-Juarez bus to LA GRAN PLAZA** which is a big mall with lots of good shops, American movies (\$1 to \$2 bucks on Weds., \$3.20 otherwise) with Spanish subtitles, manicures, pedicures, haircuts, or good food.

You can go to **Sam's Club on the same Cerritos-Juarez bus** if you have a membership and you can take the Sabalo-Centro bus to the central market.

Bullfights: From Dec. to May there is a bullfight in the El Toreo on Sundays in the afternoon.

Dancing: About 9:00 every night you can go dancing at Valentinos, or at

the Ei Cid Caracol or the Bora Bora at Valentinos or Joe's Oyster Bar at Playa Mazatlan.

What we do: We swim in the ocean, then the pool, then the hot tub, then the pool. We rest, read, shop, rest, read and enjoy the gentle breezes, colorful sunsets, fantastic restaurants, laid back atmosphere, and good company of friends and family.

Money & Credit

You can use your credit cards or change cash or traveler's checks at kiosks on just about any corner. They post the rates, and no commission is charged. You can pay in pesos, dollars or with a card. They do have cash (atm) machines.

Local Contacts:

Medical: IF YOU FEEL STOMACH CRAMPS, go to the pharmacy and get BACTRIM FORTE. Take one at that time and every 12 hours thereafter until you are better. It is a sulfa and will fight infection. If you need a doctor, go to The Inn at Mazatlan and tell the receptionist. They

will help. Also you can go to any FARMACIA and they will put you in contact with a physician. If you will use the Bactrim forte at the first sign of stomach discomfort, you will be fine.

To **Call** U.S. make sure you are on an AT & T line or you might get a big surprise. You can go to the lobby of The Inn at Mazatlan and they will connect you for 15 pesos. Otherwise use the internet cafes.

To Call Maz ring 011-52-69 plus the number. Some good numbers to know:

Ei Cid 13-33-33
The Inn 13-41-51
Costa de Oro 13-53-44

Internet: They have internet cafes' everywhere and they are inexpensive to do email etc. They are fun to use.

For the **LDS Church** which starts at 9:00 and 11:00 for Sacrament meeting, take Sabalo Centro bus towards city center and get off at corner past Aguamarina Hotel, go away from beach 3 blocks and you run into it. The new one is located about 3 blocks from the Bull Fighting ring (el toreo)

on Rafael Buelna. Grab a cab. Also at 9 and 11:00 am.

Driving to Mazatlan

It is about 725 miles from Nogales AZ to Maz by car. You take the Quota roads which are tolls road and you can go about 70+ miles per hour. The tolls are about \$55 each way. Everything is right on the freeway, from food (Jack in the Box, KFC etc.) to gas. You can pay in pesos or dollars. Gas is about the same as here.

Once you are across the border, you will be stopped about 12 miles in to present your papers, car registration and there you will get a temporary license for the car. It takes about 20 minutes and costs about \$12.00. Then you just stay on the freeway to Maz, passing in order Hermosillo, Guaymas, Ciudad Obregon, Navojoa, Los Mochis, Guasave, Culiacan and then Mazatlan.

Driving in Maz is the same as in the US. If you take a bus, it is about 3 pesos (30 cents) and taxis are about 25-30 pesos to just about anywhere. (\$2.50-3.00)

Owner & Keys

The owners are Doug & Connie Earl, 1334 S. Pioneer Way, Moses Lake, Wa. 98837. 509 765 5847 (home) 765 1705 (work) and fax 765 6488. E Mail dearl1@yahoo.com.

Questions & Procedures:

1. **Walking:** We usually walk down to the beach, camp out at the El Cid pool and then ride the El Cid trolley back to Villas Alahambras—walk to the condos. If you walk to the beach, go down the street Don Alfonso, cut across on to the golf fairway and follow the sidewalk past 3 holes and you are there.

2. **Gas:** If the propane gas runs out, have the guard call Gaspassa to fill it for Casa 3.

3. **Stove:** Lift up the face of the stove panel, turn on the gas and light the pilot. Don't forget to turn it off when you leave. If you are not going to use the stove to much, leave it turned off until you need it. Sometimes you get an odor if you leave it on.

4. **Hot Water:** The first thing to do is to turn on the gas line on the hot water

heater in the patio. Turn the red nob until the indentation lines up with the plunger. Open the door, light a match and put it near the pilot, push down the red nob and HOLD IT DOWN until the pilot is running good. Leave it a couple of minutes, then turn the red nob so the indentation is 90 degrees to the left.

5. Drinking Water:

Several water companies come each morning selling bottled water. When a bottle is empty, put it out front and the man will bring a new bottle. You pay him 15 pesos for the bottle. Keep them filled.

6. **TV:** It only has local channels right now. It does have a VCR and DVD.

7. **Sick?** At the first sign of stomach problems, get bactrim forte from the farmacia and take it.

8. **Repairs:** If you need something repaired, just ask the neighbors and they can get someone to come in.

9. **Trash:** Put it in bags and carry outside at either entrance to the cans. They come and empty the big cans everyday.

10. Checklist for Leaving:

- a. Turn off the propane/stove
- b. Turn off propane to water heater.
- c. Make sure no water is running.
- d. Turn off all electricity.
- e. Hang up all towels, and sheets, on the patio clothesline, that you have washed and leave them for Rosa to put away when they are dry.
- f. Make a list of anything broken or in need of repair.
- g. Lock all the doors and windows.
- h. Send the keys back to Doug

Cost: We ask for a contribution to the maintenance fund of \$175.00 per week or \$700 per month (with prior arrangements). If that is too much, then let me know and we will do it at whatever you can afford.