



Beach Reads

News from Alma Libre Bookstore - Puerto Morelos, Mexico

Issue #4 - April 2003

[Click here to go to our website: www.almalibrebooks.com](http://www.almalibrebooks.com)

In this issue:

News from Puerto Morelos

News Briefs

New Books at Alma Libre

Mexico Facts

Other Stuff

News From Puerto Morelos



Wish You Were Here?

The "high season" is coming to an end in Puerto Morelos, which means you should be looking at booking your trip! After Easter you'll find the beaches, restaurants and attractions less crowded. You may be able to save yourself some money on airfare & accommodation. You can try writing to several hotels and ask if they are offering any specials.

We used to always vacation in Mexico in the spring. The weather is

great and we like seeing the sights without the crowds.

This year, the post-Easter season will be quieter than normal due to world events. You can't pick a better place on the planet to relax and enjoy a simpler life. Give yourself a Spring Break in Puerto Morelos!



Carnival on the Mayan Riviera

I love a good fair, and there was not shortage of Carnival celebrations this year.

We ran into Carnival last year in Cancun when the sudden appearance of a parade meant we couldn't get our car out of the parking lot! There was no way our car was going anywhere, so we followed the parade and ended up at Carnival.

If you have never been to a Mexican fair, I can't recommend it enough.

They are similar to the fair in your hometown, but with some big differences. For example, there are the typical carnival games, like where you throw a baseball and try to knock over some heavy milk bottles. The difference is if you win at a Mexican carnival, your prize may be a six-pack of beer or (gasp) a pack of smokes!

Everything seems a little more chaotic and noisy and there is plenty of entertainment. A big favourite is a large stand where a man, closely attached to a microphone, shouts at the top of his lungs what kind of bargains he is offering. Usually he sells blankets and pillows in sets, or dishes and kitchen gadgets. Put up your hand and the deal is yours!

After Cancun the Carnival pops up in the following weeks in the smaller centres. Puerto Morelos had a big carousel and many games. There was constant entertainment on the stage, and most importantly to this reporter, a churro stand!

News Briefs

Chips Bar has now moved into the Hacienda Hotel (where Johnny Cairo's used to be) and is now Chip's Bar & Bistro. Open for breakfast and dinner, plus Chip is bringing back the popular Sunday BBQ!

The hotel featured in last months issue, Cabanas Puerto Morelos, has sold. Rancho Libertad has also changed hands.

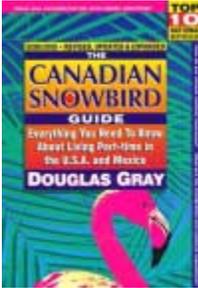
Come by the store to pick up your free issue of Sac-Be, a new newspaper out of Akumal published by the good folks at beachtrash.com. Look for our ad!

This Just In! New Books & Products at Alma Libre Books!



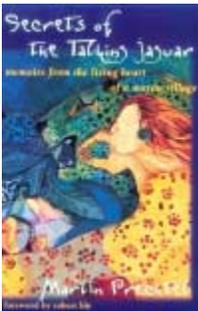
Adapter Kit: Mexico - Ken Luboff

If you are thinking about living in Mexico, read this book. Author Ken Luboff discusses Mexico's fascinating history, economic issues, cuisine, and culture, describes a broad array of destinations, from colonial towns to beachfront cities, and offers advice on topics like medical care and starting a business.



Canadian Snowbird Guide - Douglas Gray

Goin' South eh? The Snowbird Guide covers everything a Canadian needs to know about living in Mexico, Costa Rica or the United States. This book was the best source we found for information on uniquely Canadian issues like banking, taxes and health care. Does not include information on how you can watch the Playoffs on the beach. Darn.



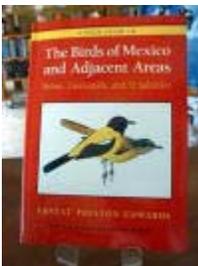
Secrets of the Talking Jaguar - Martin Prechtel

This is the story of the author's physical and spiritual journey from the southwestern US to the highlands of Central America. There he becomes apprenticed to a local shaman who teaches Prechtel much about indigenous Mayan life, and about life in general.



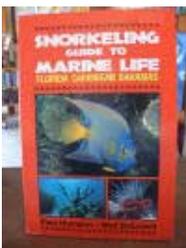
Maya Nature: An Introduction to the Ecosystems, Plants and Animals of the Maya World

At last we have found a book that covers the unique life that you will find only in the Maya world. Featuring 196 color photographs of the flowers, birds, invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians, and mammals found in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Many are on the endangered species list. The photographer & author, Thor Janson, has taken almost impossible shots of various animals. An absolutely beautiful book we are proud to have in the shop. Excellent souvenir & keepsake of your trip.



The Birds of Mexico and Adjacent Areas by Ernest Preston Edwards

Okay, we admit it is not a very catchy title for a book, but it is the best book to identify all the birds in the Yucatan. Features more than 850 species in a convenient, easy to carry guide.



Snorkeling Guide to Marine Life by Paul Humann & Ned DeLoach

The best guide to identify what lives in the Caribbean Sea. Features 280 colour photographs of everything you might see on your next snorkeling trip including fish, coral and plants. Also includes valuable tips about which plants and animals should be approached with caution, how to treat stings, and other interesting facts. We also now have a mini version that is waterproof, so you can take it with you underwater!

Postcards! We have the largest selection of postcards of Puerto Morelos, and they are all exclusive to Alma Libre. We know because we make 'em!



Mexico Facts

Do you like the look of the new Volkswagen Beetle? It was made in Mexico! Volkswagen's big plant in Puebla is the only plant in the world making the new Beetle. It is also the only plant still making the old bug. There are 70,000 Bug Taxis in Mexico City alone. This one is our "town crier".

Minimum wage in Mexico varies between 43.65 and 40.30 pesos a day, depending on the part of the country. About 20% of

Mexico's workforce makes minimum wage. (\$4.08 - \$3.77 USD) (\$5.94 - \$5.48 CAD)

Source: Lloyd Mexican Economic Report, February 2003



Just a reminder that we are in our seasonal hours now. That is Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am until 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm and Sunday 4:00 to 9:00.

Starting on April 27th, Alma Libre will close on Sundays, so our closed days will be Sunday & Monday. Our hours will then be a simple Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Our hours are always posted on the front page of our website at www.almalibrebooks.com.

We will close the store in early June, returning in October.

We take trades every day, so our selection is constantly changing. If you are planning a trip down, why not bring some recent bestsellers to trade and check out our store.

We look forward to seeing you in Puerto Morelos!

Beach Reads is the official newsletter of Alma Libre Bookstore in Puerto Morelos Mexico.

www.almalibrebooks.com

This is issue #4. April 2003

If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact us.

Retransmission & Redistribution of this newsletter without express written consent is just fine by us!