



*Beach Reads*

*News from Alma Libre Bookstore - Puerto Morelos, Mexico*

*Issue #5 - May 2003*

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**News From Puerto Morelos**

**Bookstore is Closing for the Season Soon!**



Hard to believe but the 2002/03 Alma Libre Season is almost over!

We'll be closing for the summer at the end of May until sometime in early October. This enables us to go back to Calgary and visit family & friends, and most importantly, collect some more books for the 2003/04 season!

This is a good opportunity for area residents to make any special orders that we can bring back from Canada & the US. You can also request that we look out for certain books for you, no deposit or obligation required.

A good time as well to stock up for those long, hot, lazy days of summer. Books seem to read quicker in a hammock!

Please note our hours have changed. We are now closed Sundays & Mondays. Our hours are now Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. If these hours do not work for you, please contact us and we'll try to work something out.

Joanne & I would like to thank you for a fun first year. We have learned a lot from you and we can't wait to come back for another busy winter. Hasta Pronto!



## Semana Santa

Semana Santa is Mexico's second most important holiday season of the year, behind only Christmas, and runs from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. Semana Santa, or Holy Week, celebrates the Christian holiday of Easter. Mexico is

nearly 90 percent Catholic, so this religious holiday takes on a special meaning that the entire community shares and participates in.

There are many religious events, such as the "Stations of The Cross" which takes place around the town.

It is also however, a chance for families to get together and enjoy a day at the beach. Mexican families arrive at the beach early and stay all day long, constructing shelters, eating several meals and inventing games to play in the sand. The whole family, from Grandmother to baby take part.

We had many customers who escaped the big city, Mexico City to enjoy a few days of the Puerto Morelos experience. (The hard part was getting them back on the plane, they all wanted to stay)

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## News Briefs

### Fishing Tournament

Get ready for The 14th Annual "Torneo de Pesca Deportiva" Fishing Tournament in Puerto Morelos. The activities run May 23 - 25, 2003.

Anglers will fish for Blue Marlin, Sailfish, Amberjack and Dorado (Mahi Mahi) as well as other game fish like Bonito and Barracuda. You can win cash prizes and trophies if you pull in the largest fish in your class.

If you're not a fisherman you can still enjoy the tournament. Puerto Morelos will host lots of activities including a dance in the park, food vendors, contests and more.

## Business Briefs

Puerto Web, a new Internet Cafe has opened across from the Church by the Secret Reef store. Puerto Morelos now has three internet cafes, the other two are Computips and at Marand Travel Agency.

La Neuva Luna Natural Restaurant has closed, they will be moving to Playa Del Carmen. In the same location watch for the opening of a new restaurant owned by locals Beatrice and Moses.

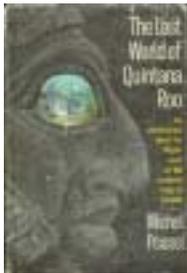
### Current Exchange Rates (In Puerto Morelos)

USA Dollar 9.80

CDN Dollar 6.30

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



### **The Lost World of Quintana Roo - Michel Peissel**

This is the story of a remarkable true adventure, Michel Peissel, a young Frenchman with an international background, was stranded on the coast of Quintana Roo, in eastern Yucatan, abandoned by boatmen he had engaged to take him southward. Not realizing what obstacles he would have to overcome, or the foolhardiness of his plan, he decided to continue his journey on foot. This book is out of print and rare. At 306 pages, illustrated with photographs, maps and charts, it is a must for every collector. We currently have a limited number in stock.



### **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.



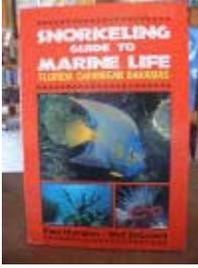
### **Maya Nature: An Introduction to the Ecosystems, Plants and Animals of the Maya World**

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!***



### **Maps!**

Guia Roji if you have spent any time in Mexico, you know how difficult it is to get a good map. We had been coming down here for four years before we found the Gui Roji Road Atlas. This 144 page atlas features detailed maps, city maps & detailed breakdowns of major routes. **It has just been updated for 2003!** It's now available in a smaller form. We are also carrying their new map of the Maya world of Mexico that includes information on the archeological sites.

**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!

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## Mexico Facts

Population of Mexico: 103,400,165 (July 2002 est.) The population of Mexico City seems to be unknown, best estimate is between 20 and 30 million.



Our state, Quintana Roo is pronounced **KIN-tan-ah row** (not roo) The name of the state dates from 1902, when the authorities of the Mexican Republic ordered that it be called **Quintana Roo**. It is named after **Andrés de Quintana Roo**, an illustrious lawyer born in the city of Mérida in 1787. Don Andrés married Doña Leona Vicario, with whom he fought for the Independence of Mexico.



Just a reminder that we are in our low season hours now. That is Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am until 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. We are closed Sunday & Monday.

Our hours are always posted on the front page of our website at [www.almalibrebooks.com](http://www.almalibrebooks.com).

**We will close the store May 31st, 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!

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

[www.almalibrebooks.com](http://www.almalibrebooks.com)

This is issue #5. May 2003. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact us.