

Tropical Tidbits

By Sue C Travel



Oaxaca Loves Canadians!

It had been a few years since I had been to the state of Oaxaca- (pronounced wah-haka), located in the deep south of Mexico bordering the Pacific, though I've not been to its capital yet- Oaxaca City in the interior- I have explored most of the newly touristic regions lining the sea including Huatulco and Puerto Escondido.

My first visit was to Secrets Huatulco, a gorgeous upscale adult-only all-inclusive, and at the time, I was one of the very few Canadians there. Most of the tourists and guests were Mexican, but on my most recent visit, I was very surprised to see how many Canadians had suddenly discovered this place! They were everywhere! In fact, the entrance to Dreams Huatulco now has a huge maple leaf "Welcome Canada" sign!

However, I wasn't that surprised that my visit to Vivo Resorts- just outside of the lovely little fishing village of Puerto Escondido- was chock full of "Canucks" because the owner – ex-Olympic gold medal skier Carey Mullen is from Calgary. The entire complex of beautiful seafront condo-type suites was awash with Canadians (see past issue for report on Vivo Resorts.) And everywhere else we went, there were also Canadian business owners like at "Fresh" a stellar little seaside restaurant cresting the lively bohemian beach of Zicatela. (One of the world's top 20 surfing spots!)

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Another reason for the region's recent popularity with snowbirds must be the new Sunwing and Air Transat direct flights to Huatulco from major Canadian gateways. It was so much easier to get there this time, no lengthy layover in Mexico City, and the newly imagined HUX airport there is fabulous.

Oaxaca is the most bio-diverse region in Mexico with tan sands hugging cobalt blue seas surrounded by craggy cliffs and waters chock full of marine life-big colorful fish, rays, dolphins, whales.... and so many sea turtles!

I had the opportunity to release a baby sea turtle to the sea as part of Vivo's protection program, and this area also has one of the few spots in the world where you might witness an "arribada" at their Playa Escobilla each year. That's when thousands of sea turtles storm the beaches all at once to nest. It's an amazing sight!

So start looking to book your trip to Oaxaca now because word is really getting out about Mexico's newest tourist hotspot.
www.visitmexico.com

More New in Aruba

The latest must check out things on "One Happy Island" lately are Delicious Restaurant right underneath the famous big red windmill for creative cuisine, the new big wooden sail boat for snorkeling called SailAway Tours, and the second annual Aruba Art Fair left so much new outdoor art and awesome murals throughout the tiny old refinery town of San Nicolas you must take make the trek out there to see it all. Visit www.arubaartfair.com

Nevis to be "Royal Honeymoon" Hideaway?

Rumour has it that Kate and Harry are looking closely at the tiny Caribbean island of Nevis as a possible honeymoon escape. Harry and his brother spent time there with their mother Princess Diana when they were young; they stayed at Montpelier Resort and had a wonderful time. Upscale luxury, privacy guaranteed, and a tropical vibe might be just what the soon-to-be newlyweds will be after, and Nevis can provide all of that and more! Visit: www.nevisisland.com

Award-winning travel journalist Sue Campbell is based in Montreal but makes it her business to be on top of everything cool, hot, and new under the sun throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. World Traveler welcomes her as a new regular columnist. Follow her on twitter @suectravel.