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### How to Use Your Map Guide

Read our StreetSmart maps in the conventional manner, from left to right, beginning at the westernmost end of Lake Chapala's north shore (Jocotepec) and working eastward to Chapala and the area's satellite communities.

A regional map and map key precede the maps, with a street index by town following the maps. Use the Index below to access each map quickly.

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**ABOUT THE COVER:** Special thanks go to Bernd P. Sawatzki for his glorious aerial photo of the Lake Chapala northshore at sunset. Bernd is well known for capturing Mexico's beauty and character. His photography has been exhibited worldwide. Connect with Bernd on Facebook, or visit [berndseyeview.com](http://berndseyeview.com).

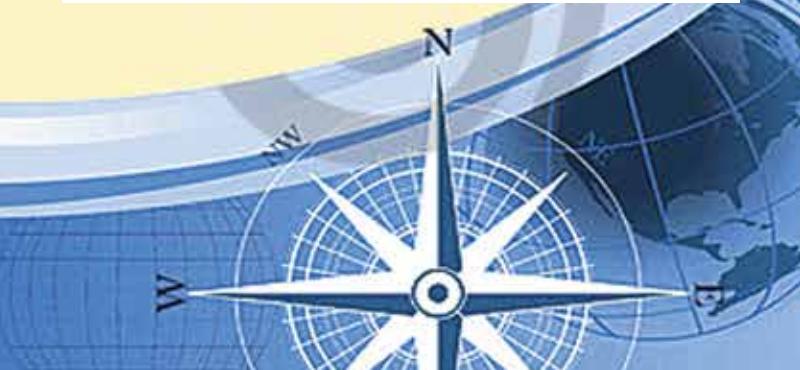
### A note from publisher Imagen

Most of Northshore Lakeside's towns were founded in the 1500s, when the streets only needed to accommodate burros, horses and pedestrians. But times have changed, and with those changes has come an explosion of new streets, businesses, housing developments, and modes of transportation.

The annual influx of "Snowbirds" who come to escape the frigid winters back home, creates a high season from approximately November-April. During these months, our narrow cobblestone streets barely accommodate the added traffic. In compensation, local businesses flourish, and special events reach a peak during this time.

With each printing, a team of StreetSmart workers spend a great deal of time identifying local streets and creating maps that are the most comprehensive and accurate available. We welcome your input, comments and suggestions. Contact us at:

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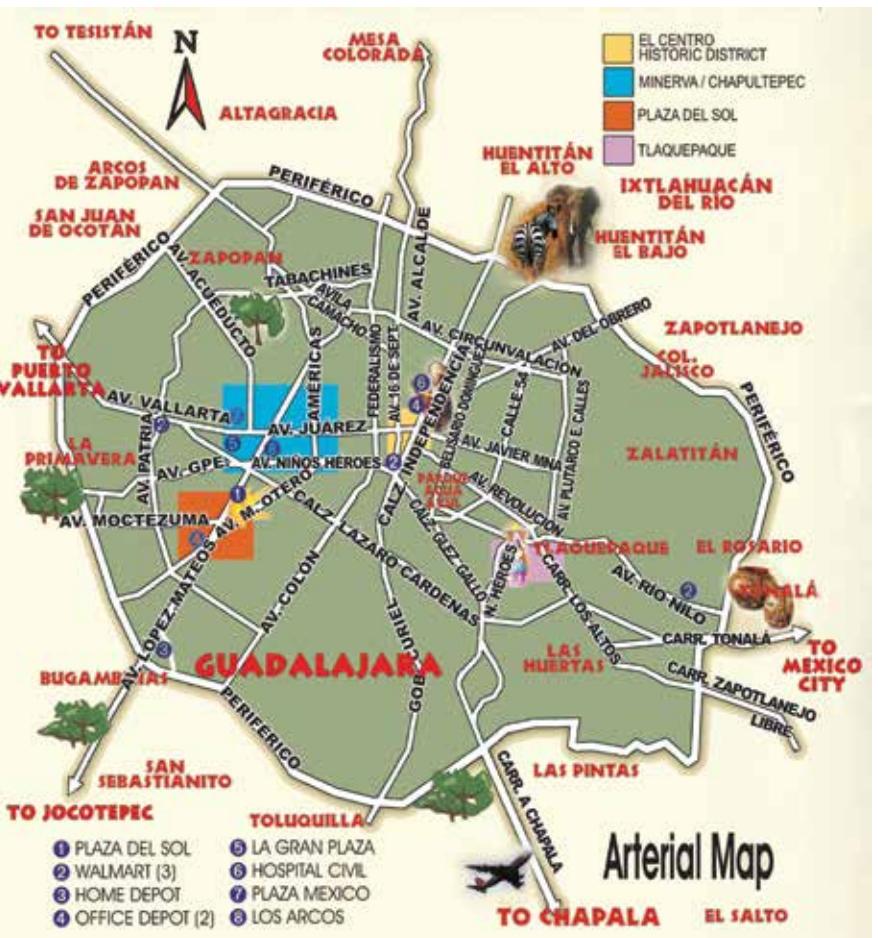
## Lakeside Chapala: Near the crowd but not in it!

Nestled in the Sierra Madre mountains of southwestern Mexico at an altitude of 1,525 meters (about a mile high), is Lake Chapala, the largest natural lake in México.

Protected by the surrounding mountains, the climate here is said to be one of the best in the world. Almost a million tourists visit the area annually, making it second only to Cancun in Mexico tourism.

Additionally, Lakeside is ideally located, providing easy highway access to many popular destinations in Mexico. About 30 minutes north of Lake Chapala lies Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city, population over six million.

Guadalajara offers a wealth of culture, entertainment, services and shopping, including many U.S. franchises.



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Sep 2017	6.44
Oct 2017	6.66
Nov 2017	6.35
Dec 2017	6.27
Jan 2018	6.63
Feb 2018	6.77
Mar 2018	5.59
Apr 2018	5.34
May 2018	5.04
Jun 2018	4.55

SOURCE: TRADITIONSCHEMISCHES - INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTADÍSTICA Y CENSOLOGÍA MEXICANA

## Mexico today is a stable and rapidly developing economic world power

Much of the world still has an outdated perception of today's Mexico. It's third-world country days are long over!

Mexico is considered a newly emerging power. Although the long-term results of the US Trump administration remain uncertain, it is predicted that by 2050, Mexico will be among the top seven largest economies in the world.

It is an upper-middle income country with a free market economy and a relatively low inflation rate and monetary stability. It is the 10th largest GDP by purchasing power in the world. According to the International Monetary Fund, Mexico had the second-highest Gross National Income per capita in Latin America.

Due to recent energy reform legislation that opened

up foreign investment in the oil industry, experts predict that Mexico can expect a 2 percent GDP boost by 2025, and about 2 million new jobs.

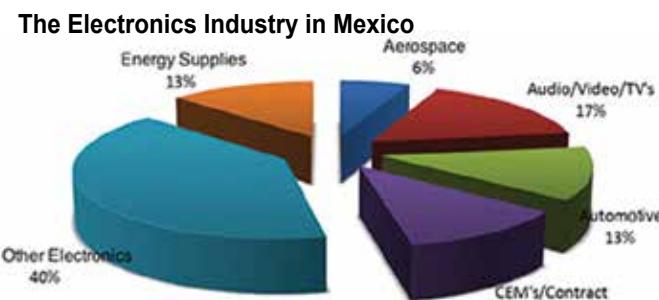
Mexico's electronics manufacturing industry is among the world's fastest growing. Mexico currently has the sixth largest electronics industry in the world.

Ranked 14th for aerospace manufacturing in the world, Mexico is the sixth-biggest exporter of aerospace parts. While still small, the industry is capitalizing an ideal location and a young, competitive labor force. OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) are finding the country an excellent base for growth.

Despite some recent cutbacks, Mexico remains the largest North American auto producing nation, surpassing the US and Canada. Ford, GM, Chrysler, VW, Nissan, Toyota, Honda, BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Mazda all operate plants here.

Mexico continues to climb the list of the world's most popular tourist and retirement destinations. Approximately one million foreigners reside in Mexico, with international visitors exceeding 22.5 million per year.

Clearly, although not without its problems, Mexico is rapidly advancing and evolving into a world power.



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## What lies behind this area's

Lake Chapala is often described as a magical place, an idyllic piece of paradise. Certainly no place is perfect, but, there is most certainly *something* special that draws people here by the thousands, many of whom never want to leave....except perhaps to visit friends and family.

So what is the big draw? If you ask expatriates who live here, they usually zero in on several things:

- **Climate & Natural Beauty** - Lake Chapala is surrounded by mountains, creating a semitropical "bubble" of moderate temperatures. With an average temp of about 23.34°C (74°F), it is never terribly hot or terribly cold.
- **Low Cost of Living** - If one is willing to forego imported goods and convenience foods in lieu of fresh, locally produced items, the cost of living still remains well below that north of the border.



- **Modern Conveniences** - With an estimated 20,000+ expatriates in residence at Lakeside, English-language activities and groups abound, and every conceivable

## tremendous appeal?



modern convenience is available.

- **Gracious Hosts** - Most will agree, our Mexican neighbors are both courteous and gracious, with few exceptions, sharing their country and culture with a smile.
- **Quality, Low-Cost Health Care** - With health care costs estimated to be 75% to 80% lower than in the U.S., it is no wonder that 21.5 million foreigners, mostly Americans and Canadians, come to Mexico every year. (See related stories on Mexican health care on pages 19 and 25.)

Whatever the reason, you too may never want to leave.

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## MexicoDriving: Follow the

By Lic. Spencer R. McMullen

Driving in Mexico isn't as bad as it is made out to be if you know the rules and how things work.

As crazy and aggressive as the driving sometimes seems, there appears to be relatively few accidents. But do make sure you have Mexican insurance -- mandatory here in Jalisco -- just in case! In the event of an accident, you will need to have an adjustor come to the accident site immediately.

### Federal, State and Municipal Police

Unlike the US where all law enforcement officers can enforce traffic regulations, that isn't the case in Mexico. In Jalisco, enforcement is generally only by State Traffic Police -- *Viales* or *Transitos* with red and yellow flashing lights (See photos at right for identification).

On federal highways traffic is regulated by the Federal Police, in dark blue cars saying Policia Federal. Municipal and regular state police do not enforce the traffic laws (exception in Puerto Vallarta), although they can stop you for traffic violations as an excuse to search you or question you.

Occasionally, a cop will try to intimidate you into paying a bribe. Usually this is a bluff. It is best to demand the ticket (bribery is illegal). If paid within 5 days, you are entitled to a 50% discount; 25% if paid in 11-29 days.

There are rare cases when the transit police or other police can impound your vehicle: if it was involved in an accident, used in a crime, has no license plates or fake plates, or you are driving under the influence.

Sometimes officers will also threaten to take your license or other document as security for payment of the fine. Jalisco State traffic officers are not authorized to do this; however, federal police are.

rules, recognize the vehicle ... and know your rights!



**FEDERAL POLICE** patrol federal highways and are typically called *federales*.



**STATE TRAFFIC POLICE (VIALES OR TRANSITOS)** enforce traffic laws and can issue tickets in populated areas.



**CHAPALA MUNICIPAL POLICE**, whose duties and actions are largely preventive and aimed at protection. Although they can stop you, they cannot issue traffic tickets.

The duty of the local Municipal Police is considered "preventive." They do not enforce traffic violations but they will arrive at accident scenes and will detain drivers if they have been drinking or if they caused injury accidents. The municipal police use traffic offenses as an excuse to pull drivers over and search them and their vehicle looking for drugs or weapons. So, although they can stop you, they cannot write you a traffic ticket.

There is much more to driving in Mexico. For related articles and discussion, go to [www.chapalalaw.com/blog/](http://www.chapalalaw.com/blog/).

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## Happy Motoring: Rules of the Road in Mexico

By Adelle Cordero

Knowing how to legally operate a car in Mexico is important and need not be daunting for foreign drivers. Here's how to avoid trouble with our Mexico borders.

- Possess a valid, current drivers license.** The Mexican government recognizes valid U.S. and other foreign drivers licenses as legal in Mexico.
- Be insured.** Insurance in some Mexico states is not mandatory, but in Jalisco, it *is!* U.S. or other foreign auto insurance is not valid in Mexico. Short-term insurance can be purchased at the border, online or at Lake Chapala .
- Follow driving rules.** Most driving regulations are very similar to those in the U.S., with a few exceptions. Passengers can drink alcohol while the vehicle is moving, although the driver cannot. Only the driver must wear a seat belt.
- Watch for road signs.** Road sign graphics differ drastically from U.S. signage, but are somewhat self-explanatory and don't require much Spanish.
- Carry photocopies (only) of documents related to entry, car registration, insurance, etc. in your vehicle.**
- In case of an accident or theft of the vehicle, the incident should be immediately reported to your insurance agent.**

### Tips & Warnings

- Watch for "topes,"** large speed bumps present in some areas that could cause damage to a vehicle's undercarriage.

### Traffic Signs

#### Most Commonly Seen in Mexico



- Watch for wandering animals** on thoroughfares, particularly after dark.
- Military checkpoints** are present throughout Mexico. Don't worry, these are focused on catching criminals, not ordinary residents or tourists. Proceed slowly and do as you're told.

### The "Mordida"

The *mordida*, or bribe in the local slang, is encountered less and less nowadays and Mexico is working to eliminate this practice. Do not by any means assume that the officer will let you off with a warning in exchange for some folding money. Keep in mind that many Mexican policeman are honest, and you may get in hot water for offering a bribe. As in most places, courtesy and respect are most important.

### Obtaining a Mexican License

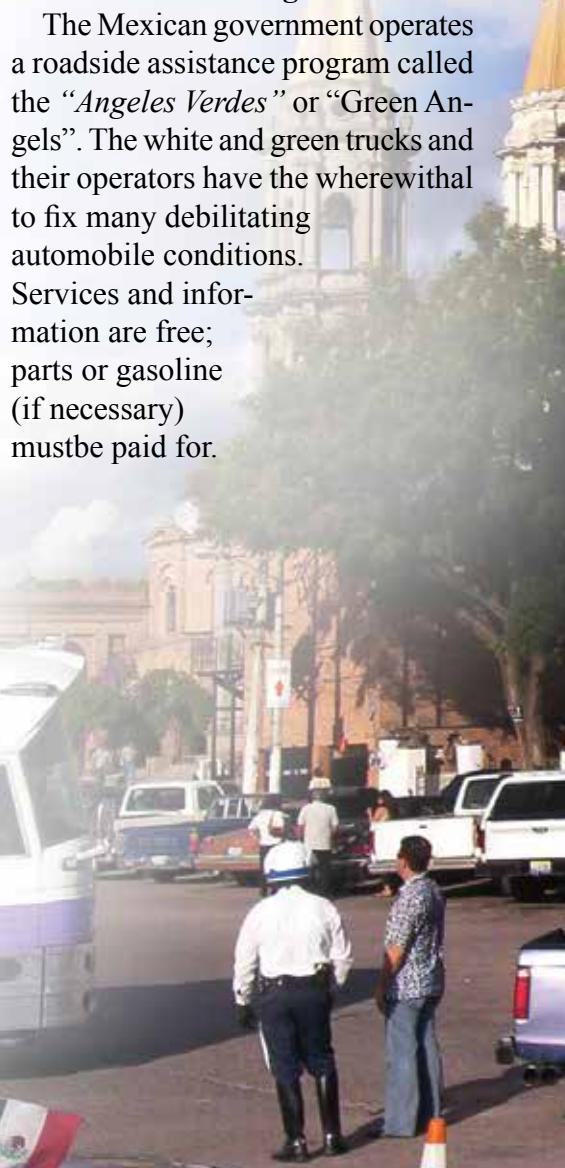
Chapala area residents can obtain Jalisco driving permits at the local

SVT traffic department headquarters. The SVT office is located at Hidalgo 92, on the south side of the Carretera (highway) in Riberas del Pilar, telephone 765-4747.

Interested parties should stop by the office in advance to obtain a complete list of document requirements, costs and other pertinent information. Service is offered Monday through Friday from 9-11 a.m. (first issuance) and 9 a.m.-2 p.m (renewals). Applicants who are not fluent in Spanish should take someone to act as an interpreter.

### Green Angels

The Mexican government operates a roadside assistance program called the "*Angeles Verdes*" or "Green Angels". The white and green trucks and their operators have the wherewithal to fix many debilitating automobile conditions. Services and information are free; parts or gasoline (if necessary) must be paid for.



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# Lakeside Chapala offers diversion galore

By Adelle Morgan-Cordero

When stateside friends ask Lakeside resident Karen McConaughey what she does to fill her retirement days in Mexico, she responds, "I don't know, but it takes me *all day* to do it!"

The perception of a scarcity of north-of-the-border style diversionary activities—at least in this area of Mexico—couldn't be farther from the truth. Instead there is something for everyone, be they sedate, active, social, philanthropic or intellectual.

Although a wealth of additional sights, expositions, festivals and activities exist just outside the area, this recap shows many (but definitely not all) of the many things to see and do without ever leaving the Lakeside area.

For a more complete list of activities, visit web sites such as [www.bestoflakechapala.com](http://www.bestoflakechapala.com), [www.ajijicnews.com](http://www.ajijicnews.com) and [www.theguadalajarareporter.com](http://www.theguadalajarareporter.com).

## ANNUAL EVENTS

### MEXICAN NATIONAL CHILI COOKOFF

This three-day event is one of the region's largest. It is held in Ajijic each February, and features a competition for chili cooks, salsa gurus and margarita makers along with a large variety of vendors, food and entertainment.

### CARNAVAL (MARDI GRAS)

The Chapala Carnival is held each February at or near the Chapala boardwalk. The event includes Mardi Gras-style activities such as parades, musical events, amusement park rides, exhibitors, boat rides, and gastronomical offerings of all types.

### FERIA MAESTROS DEL ARTE

This yearly event promotes the folk and indigenous art of Mexico. Buyers and collectors come here from around the world to purchase the highest quality Mexican folk art at the best prices available.

### NORTHERN LIGHTS MUSIC FESTIVAL

This annual fundraiser is held to recognize and help develop the musical talents of young Mexican artists. Sponsored by Scotiabank, Northern Lights features re-



Small launches at the Chapala pier take passengers to Scorpion and Mezcala Islands

knowned musicians helping raise funds for scholarships, workshops, free music lessons, etc.

### REGATTA DE GLOBOS (HOT AIR BALLOON FEST)

Held during the end of the rainy season at the Ajijic soccer field, this event is fun for the whole family as they watch the balloons made out of China paper rise to the sky.

### MEMBRILLO FESTIVAL

This event features concerts, amusement rides, vendors and more each August primarily in the town of Ixtlahuacan de los Membrillos

### DAY OF THE DEAD CELEBRATIONS

From Oct.31<sup>st</sup> - Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>, this event includes a wide assortment of festivities and, parades, and numerous activities to honor deceased loved ones. These include gatherings of families at cemeteries, preparation of special foods, the building of altars decorated with flowers, candles, pan de muerto, ceramic skulls, and most importantly pictures of loved ones.

### EASTER

The most important holiday in Mexican culture is the two-weeks of Semana Santa (Holy Week) beginning on Palm Sunday and ending the Saturday after Easter



Continued on next page

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**New Location:** Centro Laguna L7( Next to Casino)

## Diversion galore

(Pasqua). Festivities include parades and re-enactments of the crucifixion.

### CHUPINAYA RACE

Ajijic's grueling 13.8 km mountain race is held in July of each year. Around 500 runners tackle this daunting challenge, beginning in the Ajijic plaza. Competitors run and climb to the summit of Cerro La Chupinaya (2,400 meters / 7,875 feet above sea level) and back to the starting point.

### PATRON SAINTS FIESTAS

Each town has an annual celebration in honor of their particular patron saint. These "Fiestas Patronales" officially last ten days and often longer. The town plazas are usually blocked off as vendors, mechanical rides and attractions fill the area and are highlighted by concerts and dancing.

### **SEASONAL OR ONGOING DIVERSION**

### LIVE PRODUCTIONS

The Lakeside Little Theatre (LLT), located just north of the highway in San Antonio, offers six community theatre shows from October through April of each year.

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**SPECIAL EVENTS:**

- Wednesday is International Day
- Thursday Night enjoy Live Entertainment
- Friday Night is 2x1 Entrees
- Saturday Night is Cumbia Dance Night
- Sunday Morning Brunch
- Sunday Night is Chinese Night

## Cont. from previous page

Delighting audiences since 1965, the LLT also provides a variety of theatre workshops. Members of the community are invited to participate. For information about upcoming shows, visit [lakesidetlittletheatre.com](http://lakesidetlittletheatre.com)

Several other community theaters or venues for live productions exist. These include Lakeside Center stage, and New Circle Productions, offering special concerts, theater and shows of all kinds.

The Lakeside Auditorium, located on the highway in La Floresta (Ajijic East) is the site of musical events and shows of all types year 'round.

### LAKE CRUISES & RECREATION

Lake activities include boat launches to the islands, charter cruises on a 200-passenger triple-decker cruiser or a sailing, and rentals of kayaks and paddle boats. The launches and small recreational boats can be found near the piers in Ajijic, Chapala and Jocotepec.

The cruiser, called Batur, departs from the Piedra Barrera seafood restaurant district on the highway just east of San Juan Cosalá.

Yacht clubs for boat launching and storage are located in Ajijic at the south end of Paseo del Lago in La



Floresta subdivision, and in Chapala at the east end of the boardwalk (*malecón*) on Paseo Ramón Corona.

### WATER PARKS

A number of water parks and balnearios exist at Lake Chapala or nearby. These include Tobolandia Ajijic, Balneario San Juan Cosalá and Aqualand in La Capilla.

### DINING & DANCING

Just about any type of traditional Mexican or international cuisine can be found at Lakeside, at a price range to meet any budget. Thai, Chinese, East Indian, Cajun, Austrian, Italian, Arabic, Mediterranean, Fusion and many more types of cuisine are all available.

A large number of both visiting and in-residence musicians at Lakeside keep the area's restaurants, bars and night spots hopping with all genres of music, including jazz, R&B, country, rock, pop, Cuban, salsa, etc.

*Continued on next page*

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## Diversion galore

*Cont. from previous page*

### VUELO AVENTURA (ADVENTURE SPORTS)

Fly an ultralight plane over Lake Chapala and its surrounding mountains.

### BOCA LAGUNA WAKEBOARD

Cable wakeboarding sessions are available in Chapala

### RECINTO MAYA KAY MARINE CENTER

Swim with the dolphins at this center specializing in dolphins and exotic birds. Other activities, such as kayaking, hiking, climbing, and Mezcal Tours, are arranged in association with Chapala Adventures.



### GOLFING

Lakeside Chapala offers two excellent golf courses, one in Vista del Lago and another in the San Antonio-Chula Vista.

### HORSEBACK RIDING

Horses for horseback riding excursions can be rented by the hour at a reasonable price. The horses are located in lower La Floresta at Camino Real and Paseo del Lago.

### FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Miscellaneous diversionary activities for families or children include video arcades, swimming and swimming classes, several excellent water parks, martial arts classes, and an enormous family park in Chapala.

### FITNESS

A wide variety of well-equipped fitness centers, as well as bike paths, hiking trails, and the Pachamama Climbing Center, can all be found at Lakeside Chapala.

### CINEMAS

Lakeside has two multiplex cinemas. By north-of-the-border standards, prices are extremely reasonable. Most movies are in English with Spanish subtitles.

### GALLERIES

The Lakeside area is famous for its selection of galleries, offering artisianas, jewelry and fine art at reasonable prices.



The old Chapala train depot is now a cultural center.

### CULTURAL SITES

The renovated train depot near Cristiana Park in Chapala spotlights area artists.

### CONCERTS & MUSICAL EVENTS

These include Los Cantantes del Lago, a community choir, and Viva La Musica, offering performances of music from diverse eras and cultures.

Musical events and shows, representing almost every type of music, can be found everywhere from the La Floresta Auditorium to the town plazas or cultural centers, to the streets and restaurants.

### CASINO

A local casino in Centro Laguna, offers a karaoke-sports bar, occasional live entertainment, blackjack tables and electronic slot machines.



### TOURS

All types of area shopping or discovery tours are available.

### CLUBS & SEMINARS

The number of clubs and organizations at Lakeside may well outnumber those offered in cities north of the border!

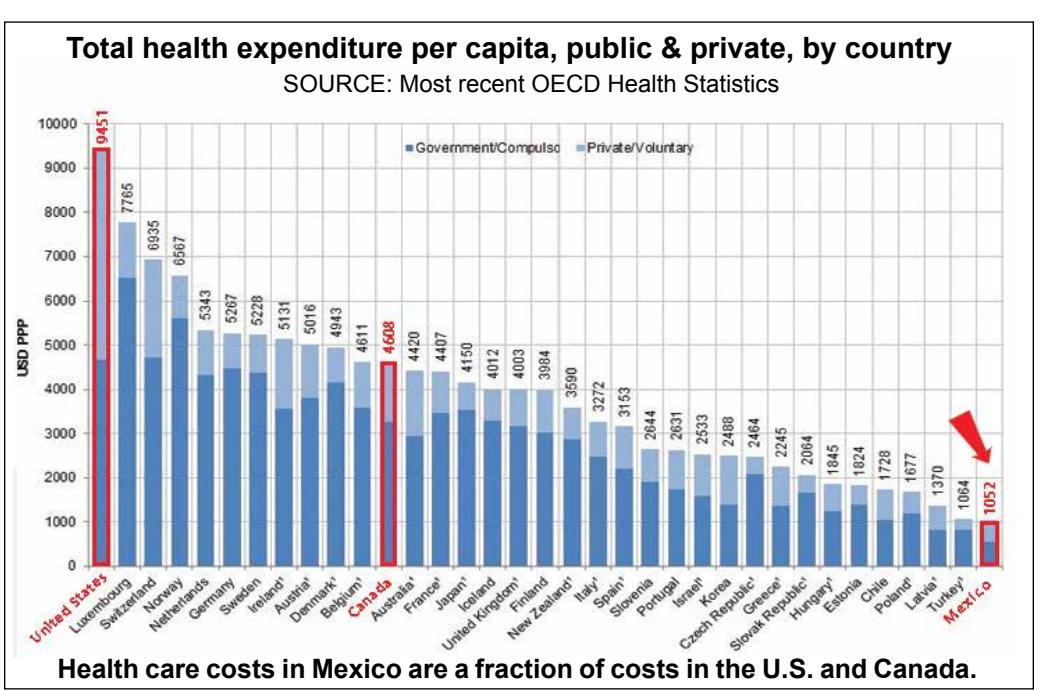
**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Look for announcements of events in the El Ojo del Lago (chapala.com), the GDL Reporter (theguadalajarareporter.net), area bulletin boards and web sites such as ajijicnews.com and bestoflakechapala.com.

## Mexico health care ranks first in top 5 worldwide

*High-quality care, modern facilities, low-costs attract new residents & tourists*

According to International Living, Mexico heads the 2018 list of the top five countries for the world's best health care. It offers clean, excellent hospitals, highly trained doctors, and very affordable care.

Around one million foreigners have pulled up stakes and settled in Mexico. Studies such as IL's Global Retirement Index say Mexico's high-quality, low-cost health care is one of the biggest reasons behind this enormous influx. In fact, only Costa Rica ranked higher than Mexico for 2018's top spot as "the world's best retirement haven."



Health care costs in Mexico are a fraction of costs in the U.S. and Canada.

free or almost free for those with no other insurance.

Additionally, a number of private plans exist which cost far less than what its neighbor to the north charges.

We have all legal registrations such as those regulated by civil protection and sanitation as well as qualified personnel in health services, first aid.

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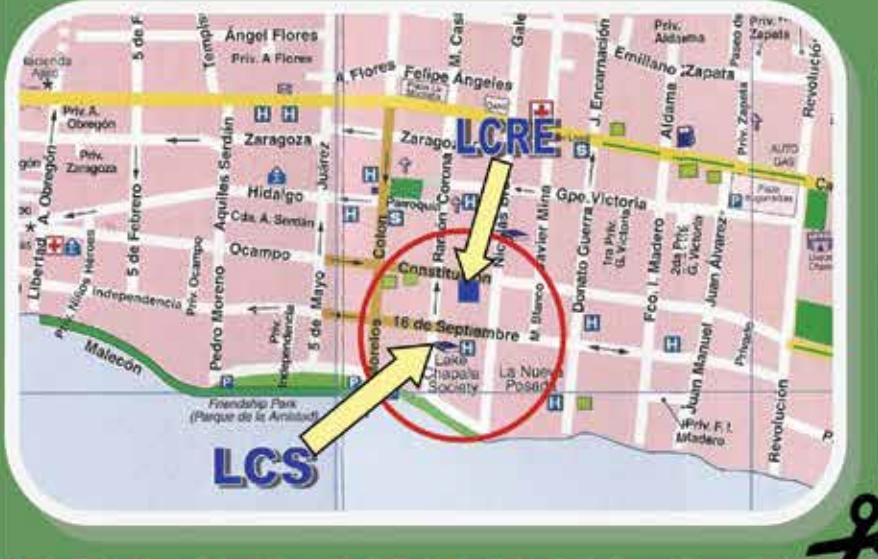


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## FAQs About Driving in Mexico

**Q. Do I need a Mexican driver's license to drive in Mexico?**

*A. No, but visitors to Mexico must have a valid driver's license in their possession, and must either drive or be inside their vehicle.*

**Q. How do I purchase Mexican car insurance online prior to coming to Mexico?**

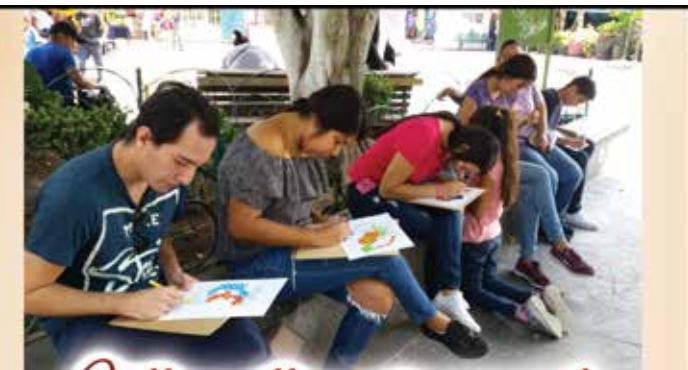
*A. Insurance valid in Mexico can be purchased at various locations near the border.*

**Q. What should I do in case of an accident?**

*A. Call the claims number provided to you by your insurer. In Mexico all reported incidents – however minor or major – are attended to by insurance adjusters, who assess the damage on-site and file reports on your behalf.*

**Q. Can I legally drive a golf cart on Lakeside streets?**

*A. Although subject to change, traveling along interior village streets is permitted for licensed drivers. Driving on the main highway or bike lanes is strictly prohibited.*



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# New roadways make jaunts to beach and

Two new highways connecting the Lake Chapala area to Guadalajara and the nearest beach destinations are now available.

## The Guadalajara Macrolibramiento

The 8.5-billion-peso macrolibramiento running from Tala to the Tepic highways opened in November 2017 and was officially inaugurated in January 2018. The four-lane toll road cuts a 111-km arc around the southern perimeter of Guadalajara. It intersects with the GDL-Chapala Carretera between La Capilla and Santa Rosa.

Private vehicles are charged \$203 pesos at three toll booths along the road, which intersects the Tepic, Colima and Mexico City highways. Drivers should be aware that services (gas stations,



bathrooms, eateries, etc.) are virtually non-existent along this corridor, so top off your gas tank before approaching the toll booths.

## The GDL-PV "Via Corta"

The first 54-km stage of the "Via Corta" running between the GDL-Tepic toll road at Jala to Compostela opened April 2017. The second 31-km section from Compostela to the coastal town of Las Varas was scheduled to have opened in December or early 2018 but is behind schedule as of this printing. The third 81-km stretch of the Via Corta from Las Varas to Bucerias will begin once environmental studies have been completed and the requisite permits obtained, according to the Communications

and Transportation Secretariat (SCT).

When finished, the driving time between GDL and Puerto Vallarta will be reduced to just three hours, the

# Even in unfamiliar territory, driving on Mexican

By Tara A. Spears

It's always a great time to cruise around on the Mexican highways. However, there are a couple of items that regular seasonal drivers might note:

- Watch for construction on toll roads.
- A nifty emergency system is being installed: These bright yellow call boxes are situated about ever 10 kms, and provide concrete benches to wait for help.

## Tips for Safer Driving

In addition to defensive driving here are a few other



tips to make your Mexican trip safer:

- When driving in Mexico don't rely solely on brake lights; a drooping arm out of the window without brake lights means the same thing.
- Mexican speed limits are stated in kilometers (1 mile = 1.6 kms), so adjust your speed accordingly.
- My personal nemesis: *topes*, the famous Mexican speed bumps. *Topes* are frequently unmarked and exist everywhere. Watch for signs or white lines across the road. Sometimes even a large rock beside the road painted white provides warning of a *tope*.

## Types of Mexican Roads

Unlike *cuotas* or toll roads, *libre* or regular highways are marked in red on a map. There is no charge to drive on the *Libre* roads; however, they usually are two lanes without a shoulder and poorly maintained.



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It is wise to avoid driving on any Mexican highway after dark. Livestock are (illegally) permitted to graze freely and may wander onto the road.

# other nearby destinations quicker, easier



SCT estimates. Puerto Vallarta is Mexico's second most popular vacation destination behind Cancun, attracting more than four million visitors a year.

## Area Highway Repairs

In 2018, the State of Jalisco is upgrading 21 kilometers of the Chapala-Guadalajara roadway between the north entrance to Chapala and Santa Rosa, near the Macro-libramiento exit and overpass. As of this printing,

construction is already underway. Watch for lane closures and construction signs.

The remaining 25 kms are part of the federal highway system. Although some parts of that road surface are heavily damaged and in need of repair, funding for major roadwork is pending and awaiting approval.



# roads can be a breeze

Occasionally, drivers may encounter police or military checkpoints. Always simply remain calm and cooperative. As a warning, be aware that as little as one or two alcoholic drinks can cause you to fail a breathalyzer test. A night in jail and a towed vehicle can result.



A great free service provided by the Mexico government is a roaming teams of *Angeles Verdes* (Green Angels). The *Angeles Verdes* provide mechanical or medical aid to any stranded motorist. This rescue group operates seven days a week from dawn until sunset. They can be summoned by calling 078 from any Mexico phone line. Request a bilingual operator if needed.

Should you wish to find toll fees in advance of a trip, visit <http://www.capufe.gob.mx>, a government agency which has lots of valuable information (mostly in Spanish) for travelers.

\* \* \*

The above article has been reprinted courtesy of the author and [www.SolMexicoNews.com](http://www.SolMexicoNews.com).

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As of 2019, Imagen's Chapala Directory is in its 19th year of publication. It offers 250+ color pages of area information, street maps, yellow pages, residential listings and much more. Personal and basic business listings (name and contact number) are free. To add or correct a listing, please contact Imagen at the email or phone numbers shown below. And access the periodically updated Chapala Directory online at [www.ImagenMx.com](http://www.ImagenMx.com)

**STREET SMART**  
lake chapala

We always sell out within two years of every printing of our Streetsmart map guide. This Fall 2018 printing is our 5th edition, with distribution at the beginning of the fall-winter high season. StreetSmart goes beyond even Google maps in being accurate and up-to-date. It even includes a street index. Access online at [www.ImagenMx.com](http://www.ImagenMx.com)

**best of lake chapala**

Winners of the 2018 Peoples Choice Awards appear online and in the annual Chapala Directory. Also, look for the winner's emblem in ads. Nominate and VOTE for your favorites online at [www.BestofLakeChapala.com](http://www.BestofLakeChapala.com)

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# Study reveals expats' opinions on healthcare in Mexico

By Chuck Bolotin

*Best Places in the World to Retire*

Best Places In The World To Retire has announced the release of its third research study of 1,129 expats currently living in Mexico, "Healthcare In Mexico."

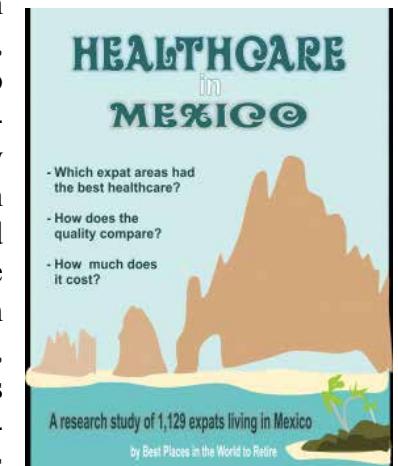
The more surprising findings included:

- Respondents reported that access to quality healthcare in Mexico was almost four times better than in their home country, and they state why.
- 31.6% of respondents reported that their healthcare costs were less than a quarter of what they were in the US or Canada.
- What is "The 78.8% Satisfaction Quotient" and why is it so high?
- Expat respondents in the Lake Chapala area were most satisfied with their healthcare.

The research study, "Healthcare in Mexico" is available for download at <https://bestplacesintheworldtoretire.com/download-free-ebooks>.

"Without access to high quality, reasonably priced healthcare, a very low percentage of people in general (and an even lower percentage of retirees) would consider moving to Mexico. That's why we did this research study: to find out what expats already living in Mexico thought of the quality, access, and cost of the healthcare they received," said Chuck Bolotin, Vice President of Business Development. "Lots of people who read the study will be very surprised by the results."

Alan Alexander, Chairman of the Best Places Advisory Board added, "Just like with our other studies, we designed this study on healthcare in Mexico to give realistic, actionable information to those considering moving to Mexico, so they could make up their own minds. We also designed our study as a resource for journalists. For both audiences, the top-line, most interesting findings are highlighted in the introduction; there are lots of clear, interesting, and surprising graphs and charts; and there is commentary to help to explain it all, not only by the study's authors, but also by hundreds of expats, who provide a very human,



# opinions on healthcare in Mexico



firsthand perspective to the numbers."

"It used to be that one of the main reasons not to move to Mexico was the perception that the healthcare was substandard," said Bolotin. "As this study shows,

Expectations, Worries...and How it All Turned Out."

\* \* \*

Author Chuck Bolotin can be reached at [Chuck.Bolotin@BestPlacesintheWorldtoRetire.com](mailto:Chuck.Bolotin@BestPlacesintheWorldtoRetire.com).

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"I wasted so much time and money on other doctors, should have gone to Dr. Sam first. He probably saved my life. Great diagnostic skills." — M.M., Ajijic

"Dr. Sam is an excellent doctor who really listens, and treats the whole person." — T.B., Chapala

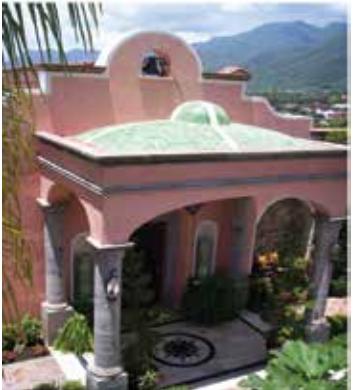
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that issue has now been flipped completely on its head, as more and more expats, mainly from the US and Canada, move to Mexico specifically because of the better access to healthcare in Mexico as compared to their home country," said Bolotin. "This study is a 'must read' for anyone considering moving to Mexico or anyone interested in those who are."

Visit the web site <https://best-placesintheworldtoretire.com/> to read or download additional articles, research studies, etc. Studies include "Is It Cheaper to Live in Mexico" and "Expats in Mexico:



# Lakeside area developments and communities offer all modern conveniences

Lake Chapala holds an abundance of *pueblos*, subdivisions and developments, many of them North American-style. Whether large or small, these developed neighborhoods often offer homes with every modern convenience, with terms to suit almost any budget.

To view more detailed maps, see the Map Section, beginning on page 26. Subdivisions, communities and developed areas — from Jocotepec eastward to Mezcala — include:

**JOCOTEPEC: Pg 36-37**

- Altamira
- Camino Real
- El Camichin
- La Loma
- Los Arcos
- Nestipac
- Roca Azul

**JOCOTEPEC → TO SAN JUAN COSALÁ: Pg 36-37**

- El Chante
- El Limon
- Jaltepec
- Las Fuentes
- Lomas del Chante
- Rancho Alegre
- Rancho San Jorge
- Senderos del Lago
- Tlaloc
- Vista del Angel

**SAN JUAN COSALÁ: Pg 36-37**

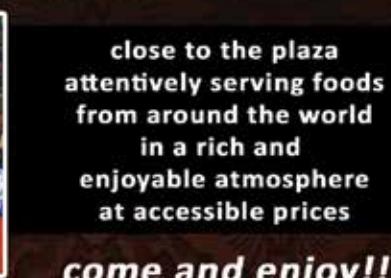
- El Tempisque
- Linda Vista
- Raquet Club
- San Pablo
- Santa Maria de la Ribera

**SAN JUAN → TO AJIJIC WEST: Pages 38-39**

- Alseseca
- Arroyo Alto
- El Bajío
- El Colorín
- El Eden
- El Guayabo
- Hacienda La Canacinta
- La Canacinta
- La Cristina
- La Huerta
- La Reserva
- Lago Encantado
- Puerta Arroyo
- Rancho del Oro
- Rancho La Salud
- San Miguel de la Ribera
- Tio Domingo
- Tres Cañadas
- Villa Lucerna
- Villas de San Pablo
- Villas San Andres

- Laguna Vista
- Las Arrayanes
- Las Bugambilias
- Las Catarinas
- Las Palmas
- Las Primaveras
- Las Quintas
- Lomas Chapinaya
- Los Arroyos Norte
- Los Arroyos Sur
- Los Charales
- Los Mesquites
- Los Sabinos
- Puerita Arroyo
- Rancho del Lago
- Rancho La Salud
- San Miguel de la Ribera
- Tio Domingo
- Tres Cañadas
- Villa Lucerna
- Villas de San Pablo
- Villas San Andres

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friday & saturday 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.


**AJIJIC: Pages 40-41**

- Buena Vista
- El Palmer
- La Floresta
- La Huerta
- La Villita
- Lago Escondido
- Las Salvias
- Lomas de Ajijic
- Lomas del Lago
- Los Lirios
- Los Olivos
- Lower Ajijic
- Mision del Lago
- Rancho del Oro
- Riviera Alta
- San Miguel
- San Sebastian

**SAN ANTONIO TLAY. → TO RIBERAS DEL PILAR: Pg 42-43**

- Arroyo Grande
- Birds of Paradise
- Casa Pericos
- Chula Vista
- Chula Vista Norte
- El Dorado
- El Parque
- Hamacas Country Villas
- Hacienda Guadalupe
- Las Terrazas
- Los Lirios

**CHAPALA: Pg 44-45**

- Jardines de Monte Carlo
- Las Redes
- Lourdes
- Nuevo Chapala
- Upper Chapala

**CHAPALA NORTH: Pg 46**

- Brisas de Chapala

**CHAPALA → TO MEZCALA: Pg 46**

- Los Galapagos
- Mezcala
- San Juan Tecomatlán
- San Nicolas de Ibarra
- Santa Cruz de la Sol.
- Tlachichilco
- Vista del Lago

**IXTLAHUACAN DLM: Pg 47**

- Agua Escondida
- Huerta Vieja
- Las Aguillillas
- Paraíso Escondido
- Villas de Ixtlahuacán



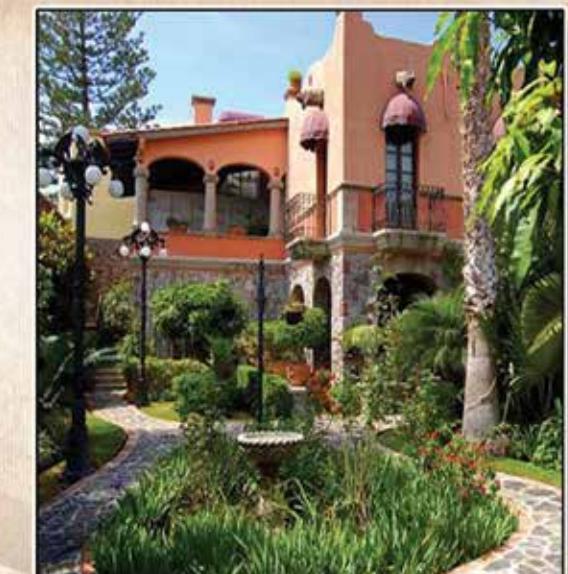
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**42 / A-2 Casa Zoe Retirement Center**  
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**41 / F-4 Estrellitas Inn**  
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**41 / G-4 Villa Eucaliptos B&B**  
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**7 (Ad) Easy Rent**  
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**45 / D-3 Rent a Bug - And Save**  
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**PG / GRID DENTAL**

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**PG / GRID DENTAL (CONT.)**

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**43 / I-6 Dr. Alberto Don Olivera  
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**PG / GRID GALLERY / ART**

**41 / G-2 Alfredo's Galeria**  
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**40 / B-3 Aztec Studios**  
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**43 / G-5 Bazar & Galeria de Arte del Lago**  
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**40 / F-3 Diane Pearl Colecciones**  
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**40 / E-3 Sol Mexicano**  
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**42 / A-4 Hilda Worldwide**

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**PG / GRID GOODS & SERVICES**

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**24 (Ad) Publishers - Imagen Publicidad**  
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**PG / GRID** **GOODS & SERVICES**
**42 / B-4** **Tony's Plus Meat Market**

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**PG / GRID** **HOME & GARDEN**
**21 (Ad)** **Comfort Solutions**

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**40 / F-3** **Electrodomesticos Camarena**

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**PG / GRID** **HOME & GARDEN**
**42 / B-4** **Fosas Septicas**

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**PG / GRID** **LEGAL & FINANCIAL**
**43 / H-5** **Parker Insurance Services**

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**PG / GRID** **LEGAL & FINANCIAL**
**45 / D-6** **Chapala Law, Spencer McMullen**

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**PG / GRID** **MEDICAL / HEALTH**
**42 / E-5** **Alta Retina Ophthalmic Center**

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**9 (Ad)** **Lakeside Tax Service**

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**45 / D-3** **Chapala Medical Supply**

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**45 / D-3** **Dr. Sam Thelin, General Medicine**

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**43 / I-6** **GoLab Diagnostic Laboratory**

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**PG / GRID** **MEDICAL / HEALTH**
**45 / E-7** **Red Cross (Cruz Roja)**

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**41 / F-4** **Lake Chapala Real Estate**

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**40 / A-4** **Lloyd Real Estate Ajijic**

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**45 / D-6** **Bettina Bering, Coldwell Banker**

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**41 / G-4** **Mark Eager Realty Team**

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**PG / GRID** **REAL ESTATE**
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**PG / GRID** **RESTAURANT**
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# 32 RESOURCE LOCATOR

PG / GRID	RESTAURANT	PG / GRID	RESTAURANT	PG / GRID	VETERINARY		
41 / F-3	<b>Go Bistro Restaurant and Boutique Hotel</b> An Ajijic favorite! Beautiful surroundings. Eat indoors or on garden patio. International cuisine served. Marcos Castellanos #31 Ajijic. Cel 333-502-6555	40 / D-3	<b>Roberto's Restaurant</b> International cuisine, live entertainment. Dine indoors or on our beautiful terrace. Daily specials. Carr. #35, Ajijic West Tel (376) 766-1616 <a href="http://www.robertosrestaurante.com">www.robertosrestaurante.com</a>	43 / G-5	<b>Drs. Ladron de Guevara</b> Full-service vet clinic, on-site lab. Av. Hidalgo 210, Riberas del Pilar Tel 765-5940 / Cel 331-007-0524 <a href="http://www.drladrondeguevara.com">www.drladrondeguevara.com</a>		
45 / E-7	<b>Mariscos Guicho</b> Fresh seafood & fine meat cuts. Located on the east end of the malecón. Paseo Ramon Corona #20, Chapala Tel (376) 765-3232	40 / A-3	<b>Southern Sisters Restaurant</b> Serving all your favorite down-home, southern-style comfort foods. Made like mom did. Carr. Poniente #510 Ajijic Tel (376) 688-1525 Cel 331-329-8748	45 / D-6	<b>Dr. Erik Sanabria, The Little Dr</b> Vet services (including X-rays), pet foods, accessories, etc. Juarez #549, Chapala Tel 765-3951, Cel 331-520-2641	42 / B-3	<b>Pet Place Animal Hospital</b> In-house diagnostics, surgery, etc. Plaza Interlago #15, San Antonio Tlay. Cel 333-196-4150



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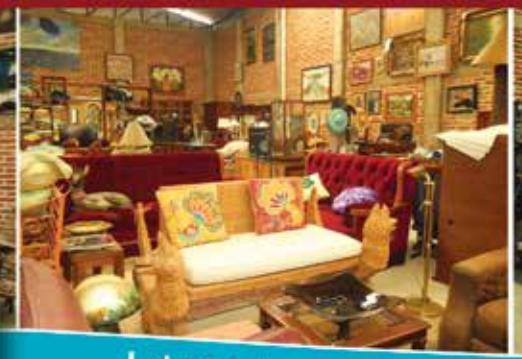
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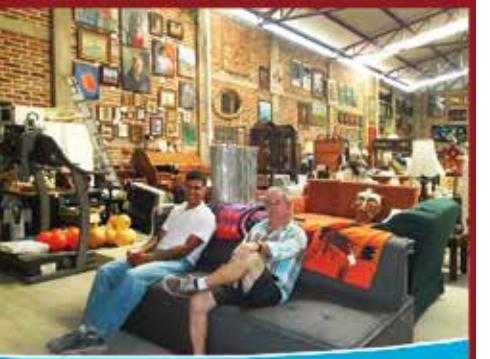


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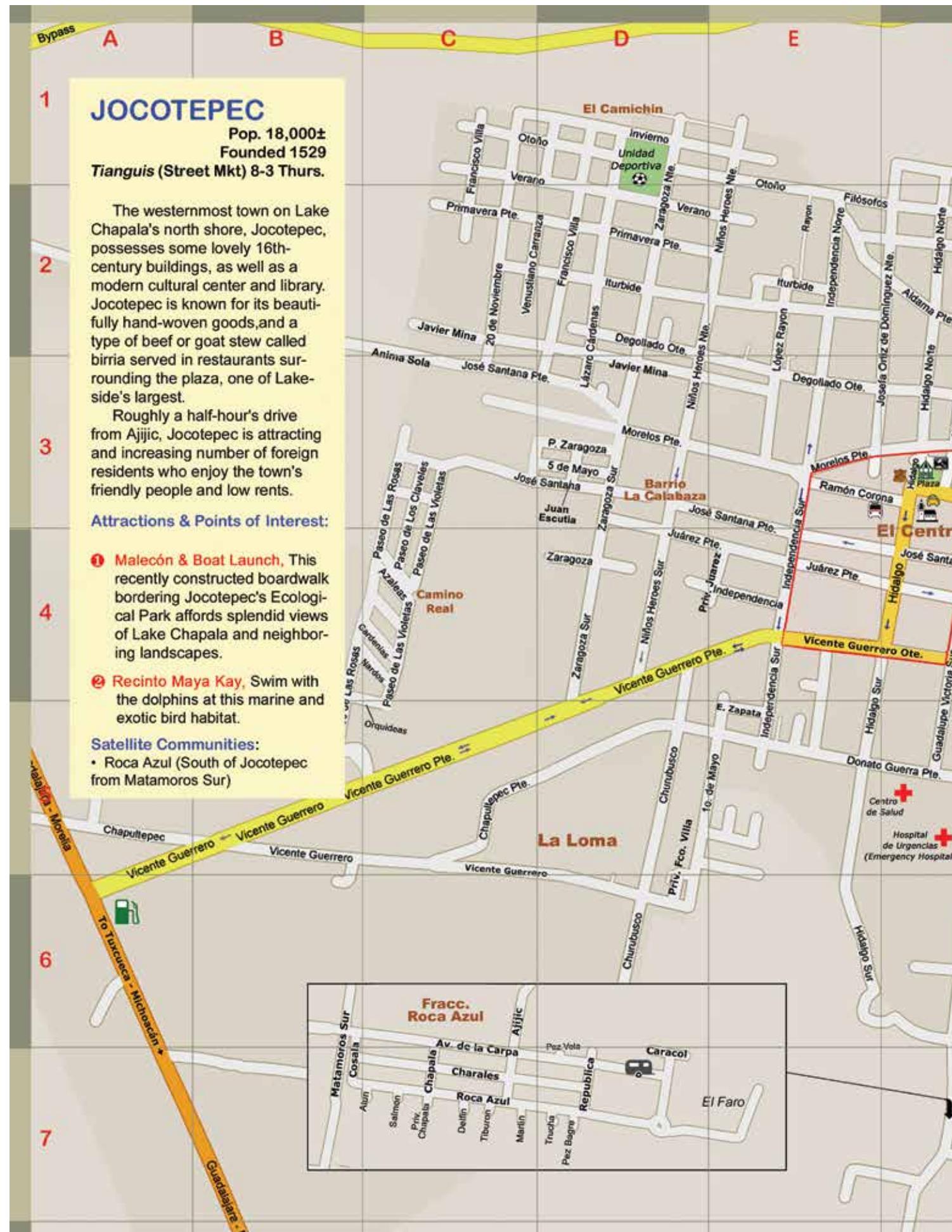
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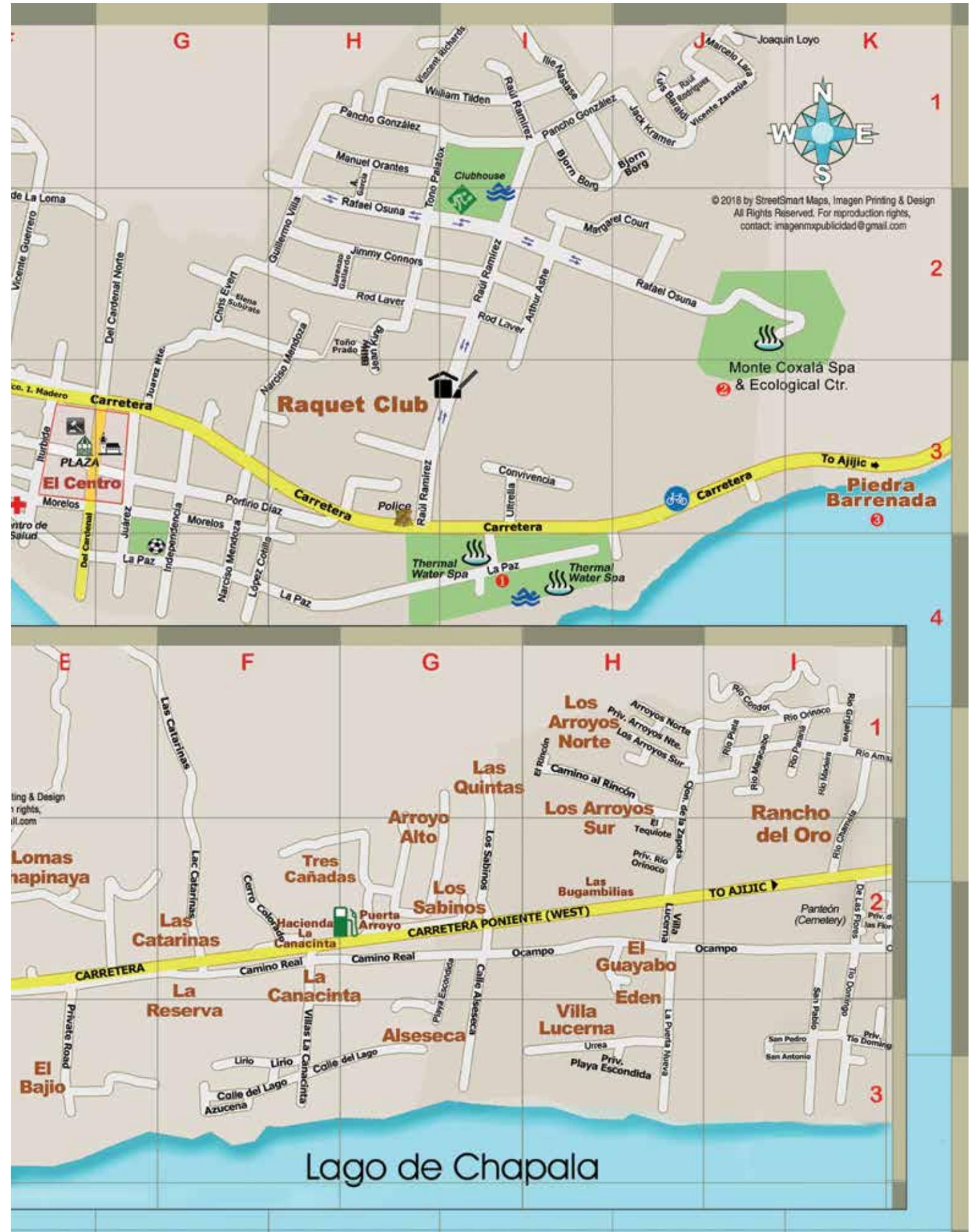


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ONLINE GUIDE TO THE CHAPALA RIVIERA

From **IMAGEN**, Publishers of the Chapala Directory & StreetSmart map guide









## Locate our Advertisers

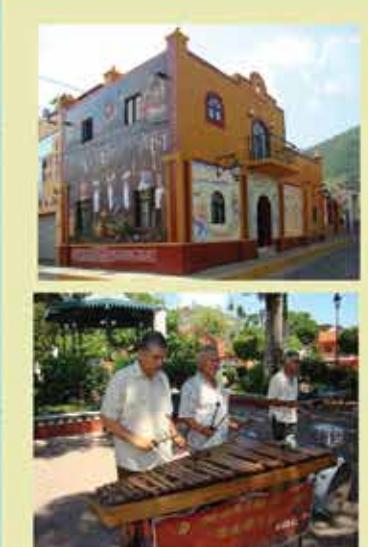
For additional information, see their ad or consult our Resource Listings by Category on Pages 28-32.

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- ① Aztec Studios
  - ② Appliances Camarena
  - ③ Casa Tres Leones
  - ④ Dental Express
  - ⑤ Diane Pearl Colecciones
  - ⑥ Roberto's Restaurant
  - ⑦ Sol Mexicano Gallery
  - ⑧ Strom-White Movers
  - ⑨ Suthern Sisters Rest.

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- ① Alfredo's Gallería
  - ② Charter Club
  - ③ Estrellitas Inn
  - ④ Go Bistro
  - ⑤ Lake Chapala Real Estate
  - ⑥ Lakeside Hearing Servides (LCS)
  - ⑦ Mark Eager Real Estate
  - ⑧ Raul Gonzalez, Ajijic Real Estate
  - ⑨ Villa Eucaliptos B&B



AJIJIC

Ajijic is the Lakeside town most heavily influenced by the area's foreign community, most of whom live here. As a result, English is frequently spoken, and the town offers a wide variety of beautiful, North American-style homes, along with familiar imported goods, high-speed, wireless internet service, cyber cafes, shopping centers, cable TV, etc.

The Lake Chapala Society, founded in 1955, is located in Ajijic and offers numerous services and facilities to a very large membership of English-speakers.

With all these amenities, those in the foreign community have made their lives here as active or tranquil as desired.

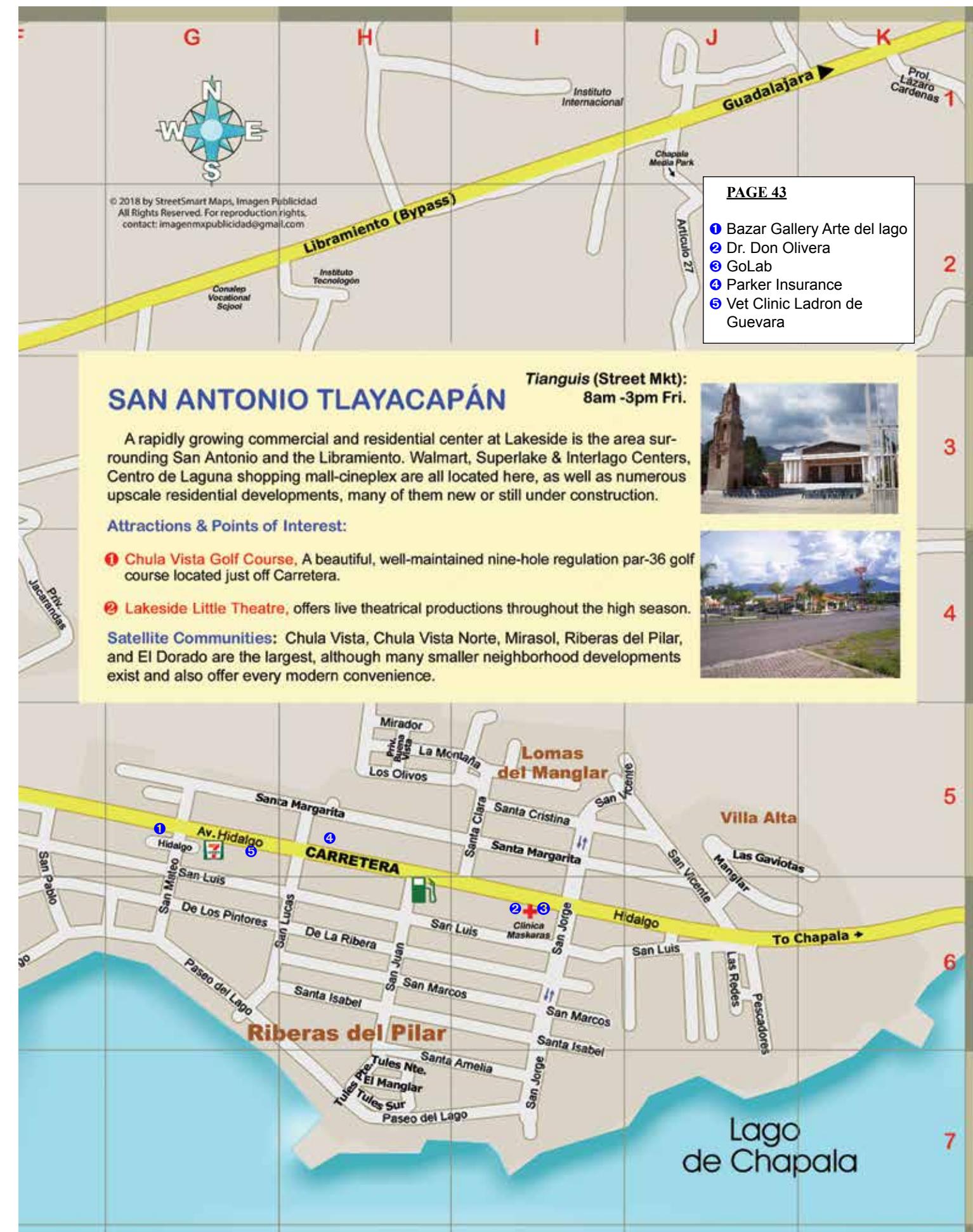
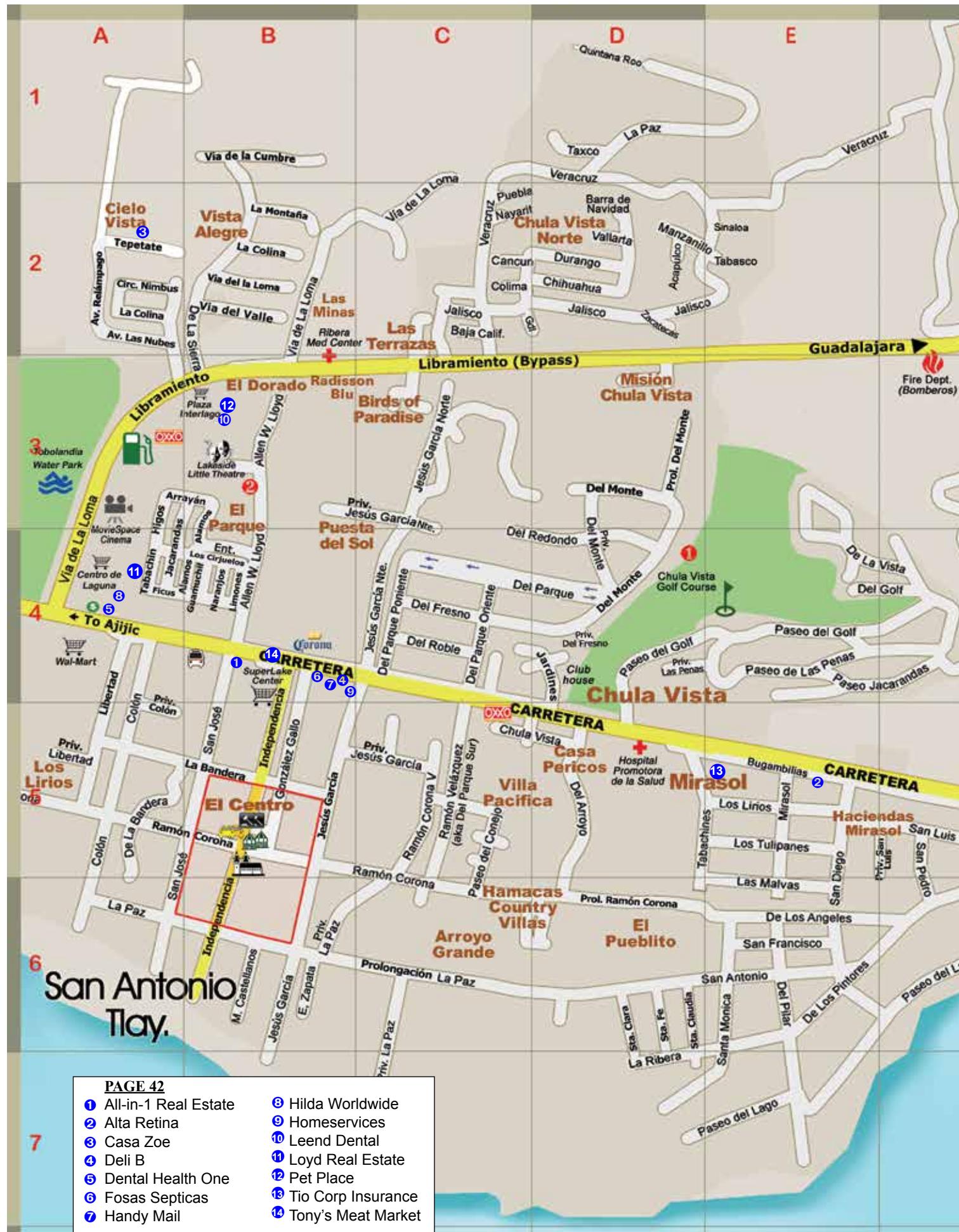
### **Attractions & Points of Interest:**

The town of Ajijic, with its large foreign community, offers amazingly diverse activities. It is home to an auditorium, world-class entertainment, horseback riding along the lakeshore, hiking

paths, and a wide variety events and gathering places. Sites of special interest include:

- ❶ **Tobolandia Water Park**, Located just off the intersection of the Libramiento and the Carretera, the park offers heated pools, water slides, family areas and concessions.
  - ❷ **El Tépaló**, A hiking path leading to the scenic El Tépaló waterfall.
  - ❸ **Capilla de la Virgen del Rosario**, (Chapel of the Virgin of Rosario), built in 1643 and located on the north side of the plaza. Also of interest is the town's catholic temple, built in 1769, just east of the plaza.
  - ❹ **Parque de Amistad**, at the pier entrance

**Satellite Communities:** Numerous developments exist in and around Ajijic, most notably La Floresta, a very large, well-established subdivision on the east side of Ajijic.





## CHAPALA

Pop. 45,000±  
Founded 1538

Tianguis (Street Mkt) 8am-3pm Mon.

When approaching Lake Chapala from the airport or Guadalajara, Chapala is the first lakeshore town entered. Founded in the early 1500's, Chapala is the administrative hub for the towns of Ajijic, San Antonio, and Chapala proper.

Known for its wide streets, its boardwalk lined with an endless array of hand-crafted items, seafood restaurants, pier and boat launch, Chapala is the epitome of picturesque Mexico. On the weekends, the boardwalk or Malecón is filled with tourists and Guadalajaranos (called Tapatios).

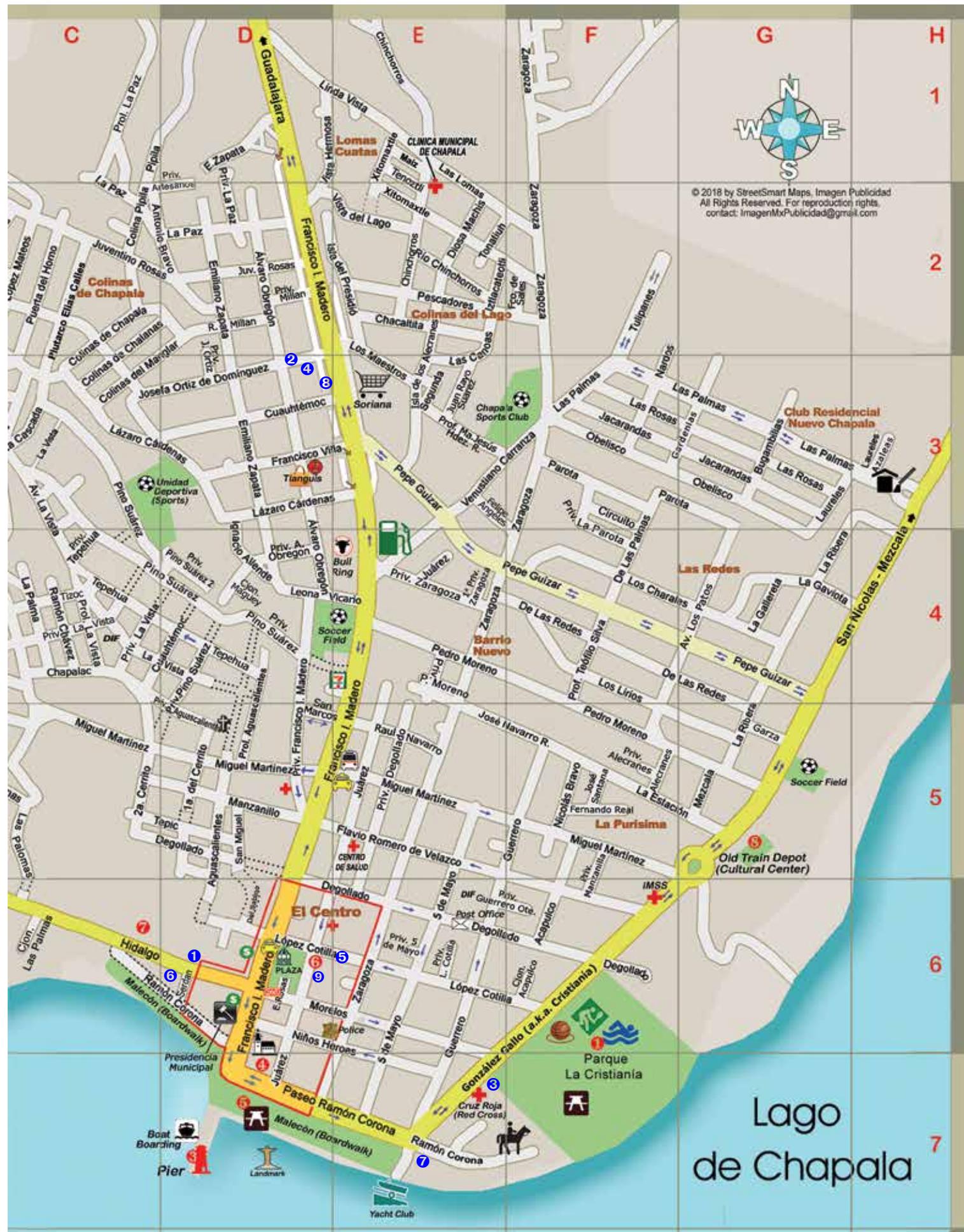
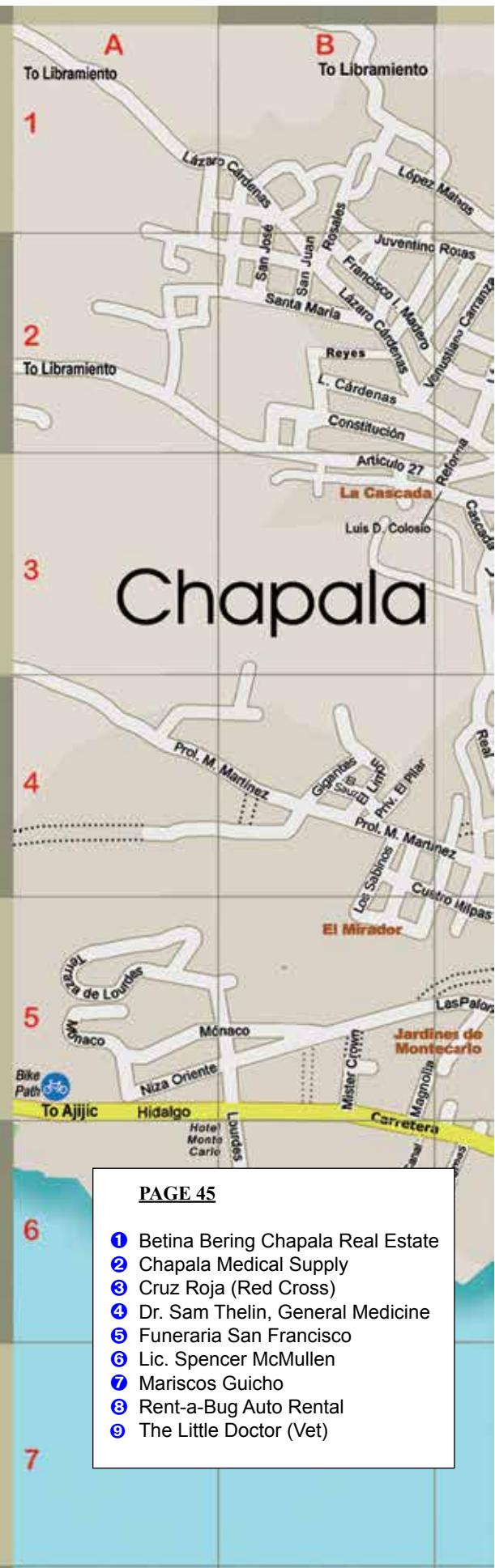
### Attractions & Points of Interest:

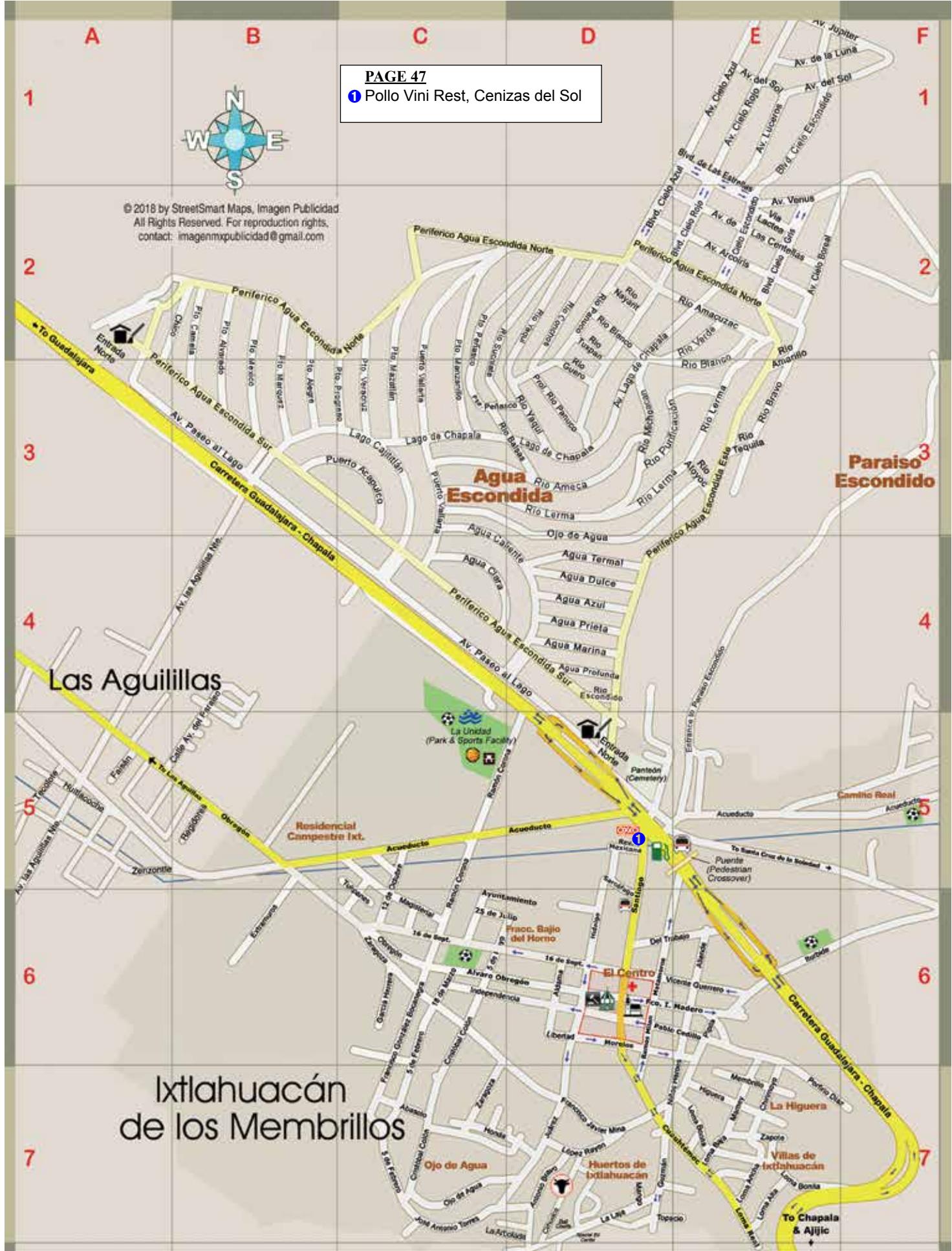
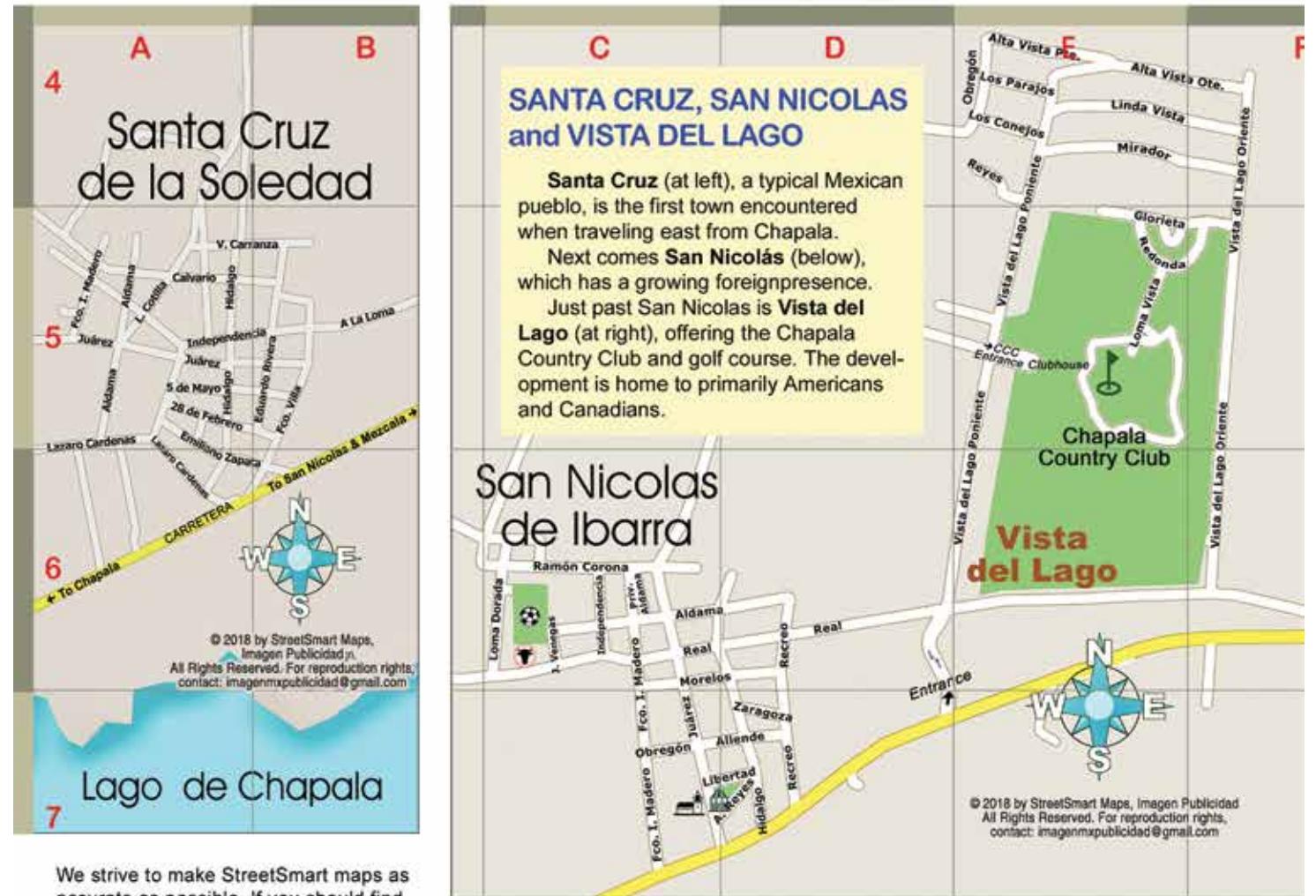
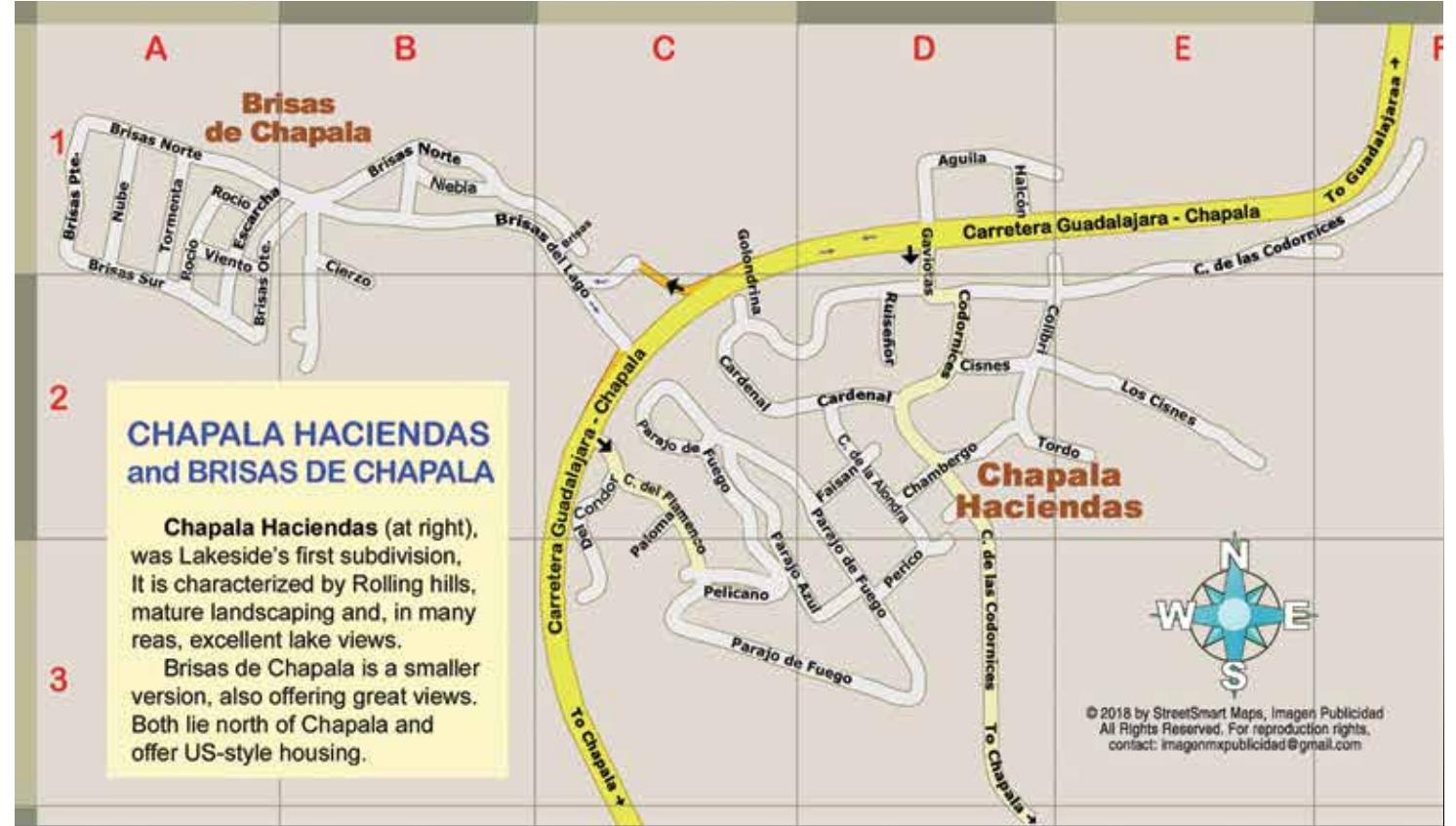
- ① **Cristiania Park**, offering 18 acres of well-tended public green areas with tennis courts, swimming pool, children's train and playground, pavilions, an amphitheatre and more.
- ② **The Chapala Tianguis**, the largest outdoor market in the Lakeside area, offering almost everything imaginable.
- ③ **Boat Launches** 30- or 60-minute excursions to the Islands, available from the Chapala pier all week long.
- ④ **The Braniff Mansion**, once the home of the Braniff family of aviation fame, now converted to a restaurant.
- ⑤ **Chapala Malecón (Boardwalk)** attracts national and international tourists, with a large variety of handcrafted items and souvenirs.
- ⑥ **The Chapala Plaza** (or town square), with its central kiosko bandstand, is a gathering place for special events — especially on bustling weekends and holidays.
- ⑦ **Outdoor Mural** by local artist Javier Zaragoza. The 55-meter long mural depicts the area's history from pre-Hispanic era to present.
- ⑧ **The Old Train Depot**, now restored as a museum-cultural center.

### Satellite Communities:

See Map Pg.

- Riberas del Pilar (west of Chapala) ..... 43
- Chapala Haciendas - Brisas de Chapala (north of Chapala) ..... 46
- San Nicolas (east of Chapala) ..... 46
- Santa Cruz - Vista del Lago (east of Chapala) ..... 46
- Agua Escondida - Paraiso Escondido (north of Chapala) ..... 47





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**Voted BEST VETERINARIAN OR VET CLINIC 2018**

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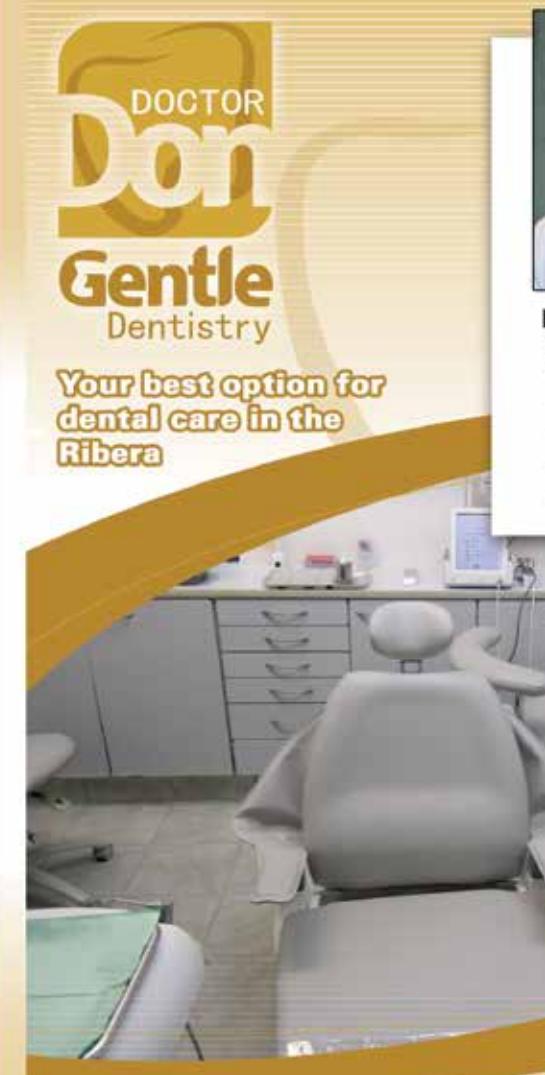
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