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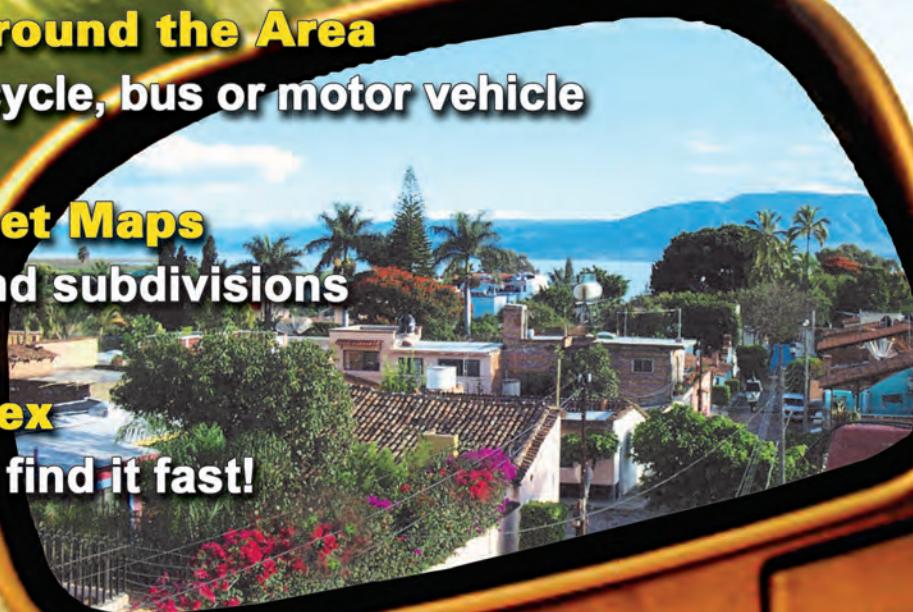
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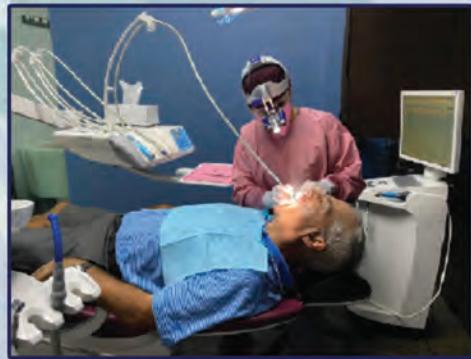
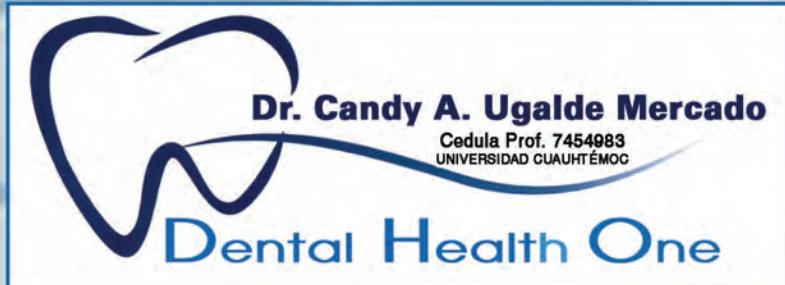
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Ajijic granted prestigious Pueblos Mágicos status

The Lakeside Chapala town of Ajijic was recently named one of nine Pueblos Mágicos (Magical Towns) in the state of Jalisco and one of 131 across Mexico. The Pueblos Mágicos program seeks to spotlight, promote and improve the country's brightest and most unique destinations for national and foreign visitors.

The announcement was made in Mexico City on Dec. 1, 2020, by the federal Tourism Secretariat following a third try by Ajijic to obtain the coveted designation.

The Pueblos Mágicos designation brings access to funds for infrastructure improvements and promotion of tourism events and venues.



Acceptance into the Pueblos Mágicos program is based on evaluations of a town's role in the nation's history, its architecture, culture and traditions, festivals, gastronomy, natural beauty, hospitality of its people and its contribution to ecotourism.





The north shore's most complete and up-to-date guide for residents and visitors
— 7th Edition / 2025 —

How to Use Your Map Guide

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



A symbol appears in each ad to help you locate that business. The symbol (example shown at left) indicates the corresponding map page and quadrant. A street index by town follows the maps.

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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. Ongoing construction and the influx of tourists and newcomers has seen a steady increase.

As of this printing in the winter of 2024-2025, Lakeside offers an impressive auditorium, two multiplex cinemas, a casino, shopping centers and numerous well-known international franchises and discount outlets, with others located within easy driving distance.

Prior to printing, a team of StreetSmart workers seek to create maps that are the most comprehensive and accurate available. We welcome your input, comments and suggestions. Contact us at:

ImagenMxPublicidad@gmail.com



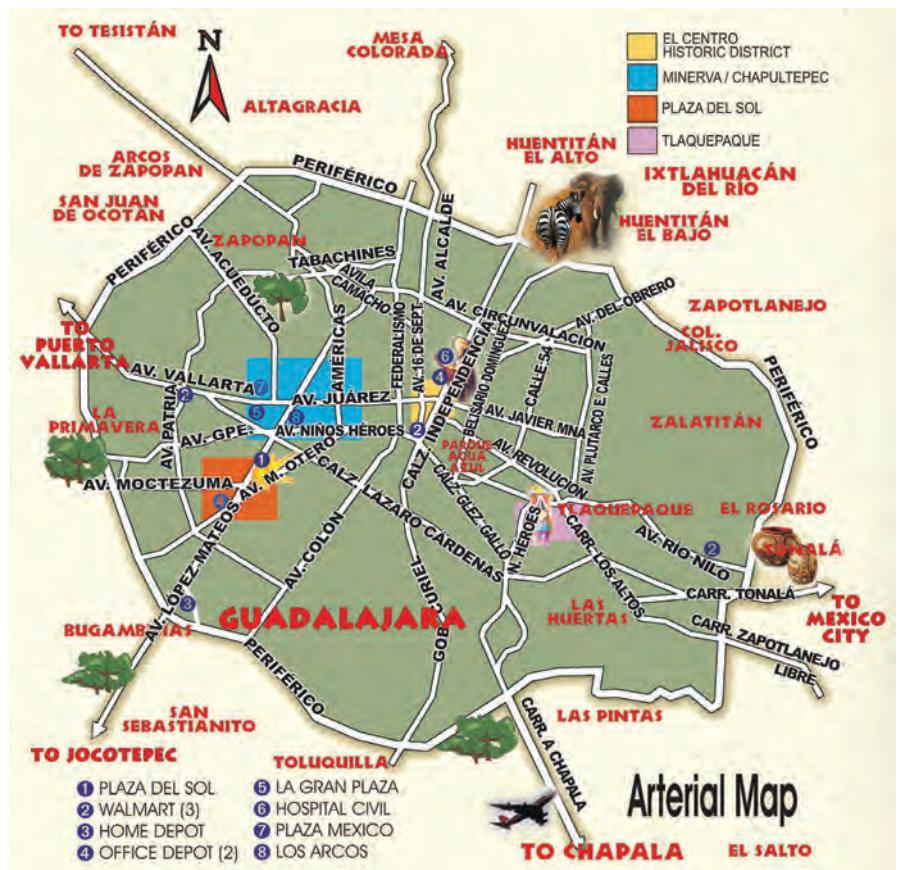
Lakeside Chapala: Near the crowd but not in it!

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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So...what lies behind this region's tremendous appeal?

Lake Chapala, located just south of Guadalajara, is often described as a magical place. In fact it was named one of Mexico's *Pueblos Mágicos* (See information on page 4). 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 climate "bubble." With an average annual 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 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 Dental & 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 story on page 19.)

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



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No third world country, Mexico now a

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

As with countries worldwide, Covid-19 resulted in a large decline in output. But those days are behind Mexico. Today it continues to be an emerging power, and it is predicted that by 2050, Mexico will be among the top seven largest economies in the world, some predictions even say it has the potential of becoming a world superpower.

With a strong peso and a newly elected president, Claudia Sheinbaum, a scientist and former mayor of Mexico City, a number of factors reveal a robust future for Mexico.

The CIIT Interoceanic Project

A multi-stage train and canal project called the Isthmus of Tehuantepec Interoceanic Corridor (CIIT) is revitalising Mexico's infrastructure in connecting the Gulf of Mexico port city of Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, with the Pacific port of Salina Cruz, Oaxaca.

When completed, this ambitious project, valued at around 12.9 billion USD, will allow cheaper and faster transport via train and ship as an alternative to the Panama Canal, which is said to be saturated.



The CIIT railway and canal would connect Veracruz and Oaxaca as an alternative to the Panama Canal.

The first train segment to include passenger and cargo transport was launched in late 2003 by former Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador. The initiative is one of the government's flagship developments in modernising the Mexico's industry.

A Robust Economy

Mexico's economy is often described as stable and booming. It has the 15th largest economy in the world, and is predicted to be the 7th largest economy by 2050. It has a steadily growing GDP, relatively low inflation, monetary



stability, and free trade agreements with 50 countries. .

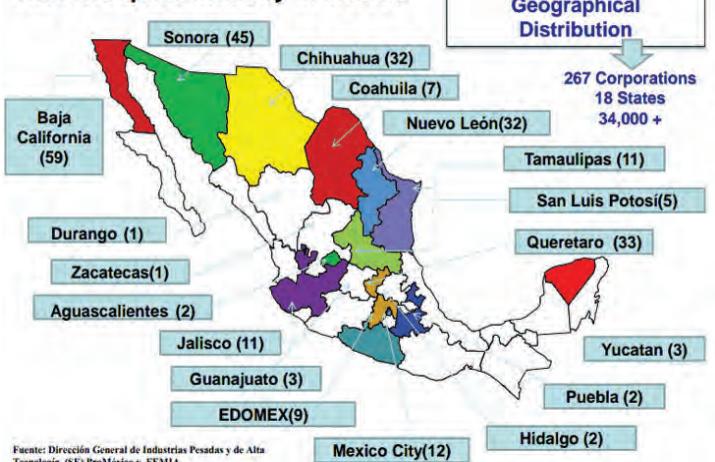
Add to this the fact that Mexico possesses the world's 9th largest lithium reserve, a vast gold-copper-silver deposit, and significant crude oil and natural gas reserves. Due to energy reform legislation that opened up foreign investment in the oil industry, experts predict that Mexico can expect a 2 percent GDP boost by 2025, and about 2 million new jobs.

Technological Manufacturing

Mexico's electronics manufacturing industry is among the world's fastest growing, already with the sixth largest electronics industry in the world.

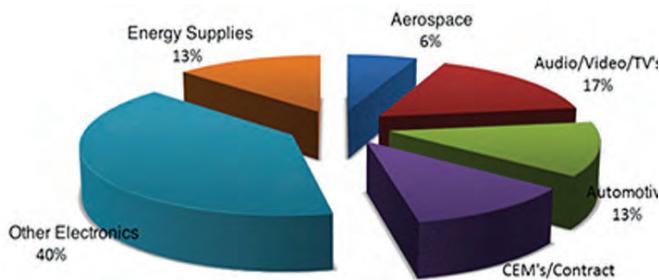
Ranked 14th for aerospace manufacturing in the world, Mexico is the sixth-biggest exporter of aerospace parts. While still small, the industry is capitalizing an ideal location and a young, competitive labor force. OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers that produce parts

The Aerospace Industry in Mexico



stable, rapidly developing world power

The Electronics Industry in Mexico



and equipment for other companies) are finding Mexico an excellent base for growth.

Automotive Production

Despite some recent cutbacks, over 40 car manufacturers operate in Mexico, making it the largest North American auto producing nation, surpassing the US and Canada. Ford, GM, Chrysler, VW, Nissan, Toyota, Honda, BMW, Porsche, Ferrari, Hyundai/Kia, Mercedes-Benz and Mazda all operate plants here. Recently, Chinese EV producer BYD confirmed plans to produce 150,000 vehicles in Mexico.

As of this writing, Mexico is rated the world's 6th

largest automobile producer, producing over 4,100,000 vehicles in 2024. The Mexican Automotive Industry Association (AMIA) estimates that Mexico will become the 5th largest global vehicle producer by 2025.

Tourism Continues to Grow

Mexico continues to climb the list of the world's most popular tourist and retirement destinations. Approximately 1.2 million foreigners reside in Mexico and approximately 35 million international visitors travel to Mexico each year.

World-Class Cuisine

One more interesting note: According to UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), Mexican food is designated a Global Cultural Treasure.



* * *

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



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Basic Mexico driving info:

By Lic. Spencer R. McMullen

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

As crazy as people perceive the driving to be, there seem to be fewer accidents for such a different—and at times aggressive—style of driving. Also, unlike the US where any law enforcement officer can enforce traffic regulations, that isn't the case in Mexico.

Who Can Enforce Traffic Laws

In the State of Jalisco traffic regulations are generally enforced only by:

- **Municipal Traffic Police** on municipal roads on motorcycles or in white trucks with red and blue or orange flashing lights, black lettering and the municipio decal.
- **State Traffic Police (Viales or Transitos)** patrol state roads and drive white trucks with red or blue or yellow lettering.
- **National Guard (Guardia Nacional)** on Federal highways has all white vehicles and they are the new version of the defunct Policia Federal. They patrol federal highways and can arrest people as well as issue traffic citations.

The tax agency SAT also has some enforcement vehicles who would have jurisdiction over foreign plated vehicles but they are rarely seen on the streets of Jalisco.

What Rights Do They Have

Viales or Transitos enforce traffic laws and can issue tickets in populated area.

Unlike the Viales or Transitos, **municipal and regular state police** do not typically enforce traffic laws. However, they *can* stop you for traffic violations as an excuse to search you or question you. They can also arrest you for drunk driving, drugs, weapons charges, destruction of public property or other offenses.

Should You Be Stopped

It is probably a good idea to have your license out and ready when you are pulled over so as not to allow the officer to see how much money you are carrying. You must show your original driver license and not a copy, foreign licenses are just as valid as Mexican ones. Color copies can be considered forgeries and some people have gotten themselves in hot water by trying to use them. Jalisco now has digital licenses and you can download the ap on your phone so if you have your phone, you will always have your license with you. <https://www.jalisco.gob.mx/es/prensa/noticias/161638>

Be aware that you may also be asked to show annual registration document and proof of insurance, which is required in Mexico. Also, if driving in the Guadalajara metropolitan area you will need to show that you have done the smog check.

In you are involved in a collision, your insurer is the first person to call and besides the policy they will want to see the receipt to prove it has been paid.

The traffic fines in Mexico are much less than in the US. A speed-

Learn the laws, recognize the vehicle, know your rights!

ing ticket might run around \$30US from a state traffic officer and \$60US if it is from the National Guard.

It is important to pay traffic fines promptly, with discounts of up to 50% if paid within a 5-10 day period. Traffic fines can be paid at your nearest *Recaudadora* office or in Chapala at Degollado 306 (behind Cristiania Park, near the *malecón*) between 8:30-2:30 or at City Hall for municipal traffic police. Be sure to keep your receipt with your vehicle documentation. There are red light cameras and speed cameras in the Guadalajara metropolitan area, here you can see if you were caught: <https://gobiernoen-linea1.jalisco.gob.mx/serviciosVehiculares/adeudos>

Paying a Bribe Not Recommended

It is best to demand the ticket as bribery is illegal and the vast majority of the time the cops are bluffing and trying to intimidate you into paying a bribe that would cost more than the ticket itself.

Know Your Rights and Theirs

A common intimidation tactic is to threaten to impound your vehicle.

There are rare cases when the transit police or other police can impound your vehicle. These are times when it was in an accident, used in a crime, missing one or both license plates or has fake plates, you have no license nor registration or you are driving under the influence.

Many times 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, although Federal Police (as well as municipal police in Puerto Vallarta) ARE authorized to do so. With the Jalisco license phone app you always have your valid license and they cannot take it as it is on your phone.

Roadside Check Points

It is fairly common for traffic officers to run operations where they pull cars over for the infraction of the day, whether it be speeding, drinking, smog check, failure to use seat belts or something else.

Generally they are at the side of the road and pull over people driving in the far right or slow lane. All the more reason to drive in the fast lane. Also here in Mexico the far left lane is for passing only.

There is much more to driving in Mexico, I've compiled a list of the most common issues in a booklet you may want to print and keep in your car. I've included all the laws in both English and Spanish, it is a few years old and fines have risen but other info is good. It is a few years old but the info is still valid except the fine amounts rise annually. <http://www.chapalalaw.com/Driving.pdf>

MUNICIPAL TRAFFIC POLICE



Municipal Police, traffic police can write traffic citations but do not make arrests except for DUI.



JALISCO STATE TRAFFIC POLICE



Jalisco State Police (Viales or Transitos) can stop you for a traffic violation as an excuse to search your vehicle, and they can issue a ticket.

FEDERAL POLICE & NATIONAL GUARD

Guardia Nacional, who patrol federal highways, can issue traffic citations, and are commonly called *federales*.



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Happy Motoring: Rules of the Road in Mexico

By Adelle Morgan-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 black-and-white photocopies** 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 License

Chapala area residents can obtain

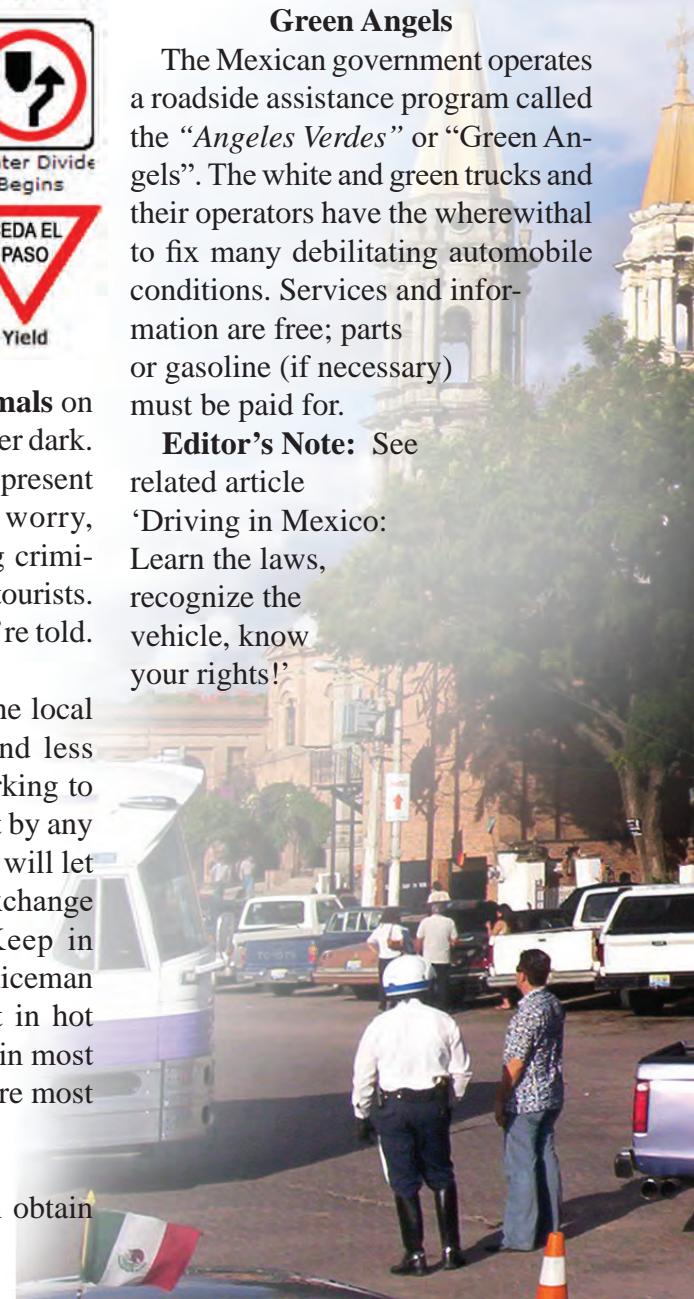
Jalisco driving permits at the local SVT traffic department headquarters. The SVT office is located at Degollado 306 (behind Cristiania Park), near the malecón in Chapala.

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 8:30-2:30. 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.

Editor's Note: See related article 'Driving in Mexico: Learn the laws, recognize the vehicle, know your rights!'



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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 as of this writing the Covid pandemic has curtailed Lakeside's diversion and entertainment to varying degrees, things do seem to be gradually returning to normal. For a more complete list of up-to-date activities, visit facebook or web sites such as www.ajijicnews.com. and www.theguadalajarareporter.com.

ANNUAL EVENTS

CARNAVAL (MARDI GRAS)



CARNAVAL PHOTO BY ROGER SIMERLY

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, exhibi-

tors, boat ridea 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 Mexical 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, Northlern Lights reatures reknowned musians helping raise funds for scholarships, workshops, free music lessons, etc.

REGATTA DE GLOBOS (HOT AIR BALLOONS)

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.



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

REGATTA DE GLOBOS (HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL)

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.31st - Nov. 2nd, this event includes a wide assortment of festivities and, parades, and numerous activities to honor deceased loved ones. Such acitivities include but are not limited to de 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

Diversion galore

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

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, highlighted by concerts and dancing.

SEASONAL OR ONGOING DIVERSION

LIVE PRODUCTIONS

Delighting audiences since 1965, 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.

For information, visit lakesidelittletheatre.com

Several other community theaters or venues for live productions exist. These include Bare Stage Theatre and Bravo! Theatre. The Lakeside Auditorium, located on the highway in La Floresta (Ajijic East) is the site of musical events such as Viva La Musica and shows of all types.

aking, 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 one in the San Antonio-Chula Vista.



HORSEBACK RIDING

Horses for 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, water parks, martial arts, and an enormous family park in Chapala.

FITNESS

A wide variety of well-equipped fitness centers, as well as bike paths, hiking trails, and a climbing center, can all be found at Lakeside Chapala.

With one easy click ... view Lakeside's Complete Entertainment Lineup

UPDATED WEEKLY

www.bestoflakechapala.com

Cont. from previous page

Several tennis and pickleball courts are also available.

CINEMAS

Lakeside has two multiplex cinemas, Cine+Lago in Ajijic's Plaza Bugambilias, and Cinematic Ajijic in Centro Laguna at the intersection of the Carretera and Libramiento.

By north-of-the-border standards, prices are extremely reasonable. Most movies are in English with Spanish subtitles. Check web sites for schedules and times.

GALLERIES

The Lakeside area is famous for its selection of galleries, offering artesanías, jewelry and fine art.

CULTURAL SITES

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

MUSICAL EVENTS

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 casino in Centro Laguna, offers a sports bar, enter-

tainment, blackjack tables and electronic slot machines.

TOURS

All types of regional and 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, social media such as Facebook, and web sites such as ajijicnews.com and bestoflakechapala.com (see the Keep It Live at Lakeside entertainment newsletter ad below left.)

For a truly special event check out

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Mexico dental tourism a popular alternative

According to numerous sources, Mexico is #1 for offering convenient, high-quality dental care at prices significantly lower than in the U.S. and Canada.

The country's reputation for skilled dentists, modern facilities, and cost-effective procedures has made it a popular destination for individuals looking to save money without compromising the quality of care. Tens of thousands of American and Canadian patients travel to Mexico annually to save around 70% on dental procedures.

Many dental clinics in Mexico offer modern facilities with state-of-the-art equipment and experienced dentists trained in the United States. It is important to note that Mexican dentists must pass the same rigorous training and licensing exams as American dentists.

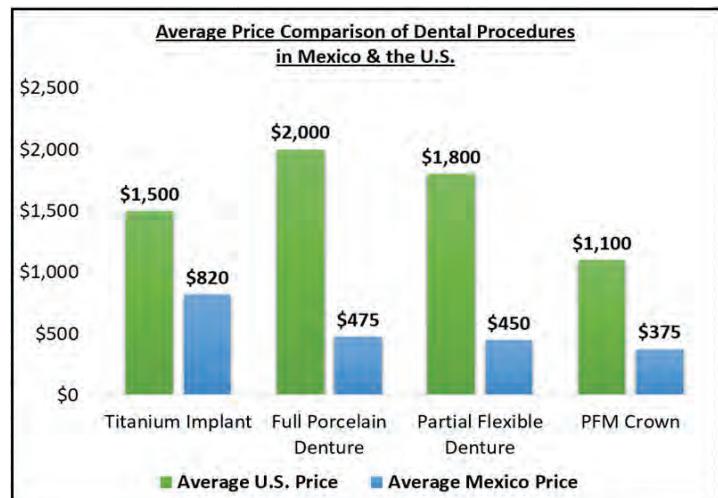


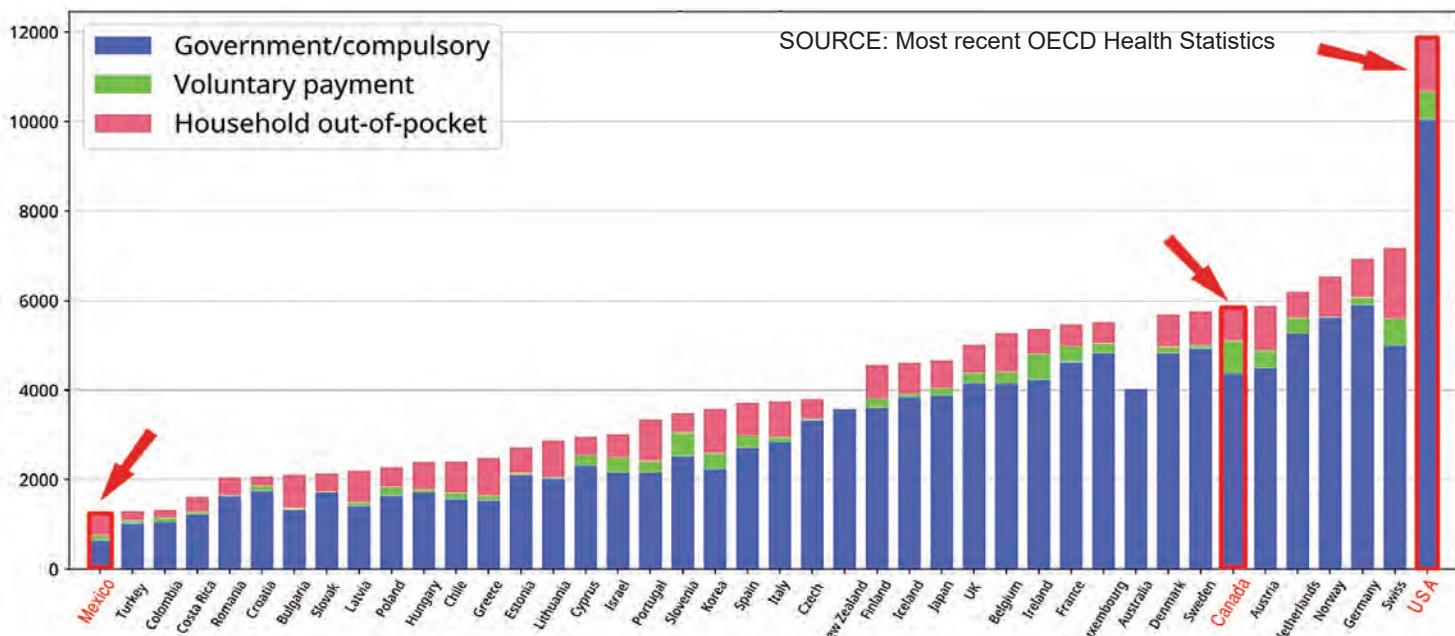
Mexico has its regulatory bodies, including the Federal Commission for Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS), which is responsible for ensuring that all dental clinics in the country adhere to strict guidelines for safety and hygiene.

Moreover, many dental clinics in Mexico seek accreditation from international organizations. These organizations ensure that dental clinics meet or exceed the same standards of care expected of American dental clinics.

Additionally, many doctors and dental staff in Mexico speak English, so communication with patients is seldom an issue.

All of these factors contribute to the growing popularity of foreigners seeking dental care in Mexico.





Total health expenditure costs per capita in Mexico are a fraction of costs in the US and Canada.

Called one of world's best retirement destinations Foreigners come for excellent, affordable health care

In 2024, Forbes, International Living and numerous other print and online publications listed Mexico as one of “the world’s best” retirement spots.

Around 1.5 million foreigners from the U.S. and Canada have pulled up stakes and settled in Mexico. Studies show that Mexico’s high-quality, low-cost health care is one of the biggest reasons behind this enormous influx.

Medical Tourism

Medical tourism in Mexico continues to grow. Millions of foreigners (mostly Americans and Canadians) visit Mexico every year to obtain significant savings on medical treatment, procedures and prescription drugs.

For example, prescription medications in Mexico (except controlled substances) are usually available over-the-counter at about 40%-50% less than one would expect to pay north of the border. Generic equivalents are often available for even less. And, a cost comparison of some common procedures shows Mexico overall health care costs to be 75%-80% lower than in the US.

Quality of Care

Medical training in Mexico is equal to that north of the border, with the same amount of schooling required. In fact, many physicians have attended U.S. or European medical schools. The vast majority of residents and medical tourists rate the quality of care “as good or better” than that in their native country.

Health Care Coverage

Mexico offers excellent, low-cost services to anyone within Mexico’s borders, including expatriates. Mexico has two national healthcare systems, IMSS and the relatively new INSABI, in addition to private insurance or facilities.

- IMSS is part of Mexico’s Social Security program. Any employee or legal resident of Mexico – whether temporary or permanent -- can apply. Premiums start at about \$63 USD and cover most treatments and medications free of charge, although there may be a required waiting period for certain pre-existing conditions.

- INSABI (Instituto del Salud para el Bienestar) is free coverage for any legal Mexican or expat resident not participating in the IMSS program. It covers pre-existing conditions, diagnosis, hospitalization, surgery, medications, etc. Anyone can seek INSASBI treatment at any time by simply presenting an ID, A CURP and proof of address in Mexico.

- Private Insurance is also an option, often at a cost far less than north of the border, but benefits may be limited. With the exception of Medicare Advantage, U.S. Medicare is not accepted in Mexico.

Many immigrants choose low-cost, private healthcare for everyday medical treatment, often supplemented by insurance covering only major, catastrophic events.

Country	Per Capita Costs 2022 (USD)
United States	\$12,555
Canada	\$6,319
Mexico	\$1,181



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Jalisco implements new regulations for real estate practices

By Kristina Morgan

Licensed Broker

Until the proposal and coming implementation of NOM-247-SE-2021, there was minimal oversight in real estate transactions across Jalisco, including the Lake Chapala area. While many agencies followed ethical guidelines, formal licensure wasn't required, leading to inconsistent practices.

The release of NOM 247 on March 22, 2022, was a pivotal moment for the region, marking the beginning of standardized, government-regulated real estate operations. The collaboration between Jalisco authorities and PROFECO (Mexico's Consumer Protection Agency), with final implementation in 2025, ensures that consumers are better protected, and real estate transactions adhere to consistent legal standards.

One of the most notable changes is the introduction of upcoming mandatory certification for agents and brokers. Certification and continuing education will be required to maintain this status. Agents' creden-



The Jalisco state government has partnered with PROFECO to protect consumer interests.

tials are now easily verifiable through a QR code system, offering transparency and accountability to clients.

Moreover, all contracts must comply with PROFECO regulations, and marketing materials are subject to stricter scrutiny to ensure accuracy and proper disclosures. This shift has raised the bar for professionalism, benefiting both the industry and its clients.

Foreign agents must also meet additional requirements, including holding a valid Temporary or Permanent Resident Visa and complying with local tax and immigration laws.



Classes (in English) to prepare area agents and brokers for the accreditation examinations began in early 2024, held in the large training center above Lake Chapala Real Estate in Ajijic.

As licensure becomes mandatory, it is important and appropriate for clients to inquire about their agent's licensure status and request to view their credentials.

These reforms represent a significant step forward for Jalisco's real estate industry, improving standards and creating a more transparent, accountable environment for buyers and sellers alike.

FAQs: Getting around on foot, bicycle or motorized vehicle

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 or at Lakeside.

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.

Q. Do I need an emissions sticker on my vehicle?

As of August 2021, Jalisco-plated vehicles in Guadalajara will need a smog test and annual sticker showing proof of compliance. The smog sticker costs \$500 pesos.

Several testing centers are located in Guadalajara, and test dates for cars with specific license numbers can be found at <https://verificacionresponsable.jalisco.gob.mx>

Until testing centers become widely available, it is considered doubtful that drivers outside of Guadalajara will be scrutinized.

Q. Who can use the Ciclopista?

The construction on Lakeside's ciclopista (bike path) from Chapala to Jocotepec is nearing completion.

This \$300-million-peso project creates a safe zone for pedestrians and bicyclists. It features asphalt walking/running or biking surfaces, concrete lane dividers, trees and lighting.

At the time of publication, the first two stages of the ciclopista are complete, with work now being focused on the third section between San Juan Cosalá and Jocotepec.

Improved roadways

Improved roadways connecting the Lake Chapala area to Guadalajara and the nearest beach destinations are reducing travel time.

The Guadalajara Macrolibramiento

A four-lane macrolibramiento running from Tala to the Tepic highways was officially inaugurated in 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-Puerto Vallarta "Via Corta"

Begun in 2011 is the 3-stage project called Via Corta (Short Route) between Guadalajara and the Riviera Nayarit/Puerto Vallarta area to the west. Initially, the project was to have been completed by 2014, but because of various delays and complications, the estimated com-

make jaunts to beach quicker and easier



pletion date has been repeatedly updated.

The newest, 29-km section of the Guadalajara–Puerto Vallarta highway, which stretches from Compostela to Las Varas, bypassing a particularly dangerous section of Route 200 that has been the site of numerous accidents.

This bypass opened in early 2024, following periodic closures due to heavy seasonal rains and subsequent landslides. This section shortened the journey between the two Nayarit cities by about 50 minutes.

The third—and most complicated part of the Via Corta—is the stretch from Las Varas to Bucerías. 2-kilometer section remains to be finished.

When completed, the Via Corta should make it possible to reach Puerto Vallarta from Guadalajara in just over 2½ hours, reduced from approximately five hours initially. Estimated toll road fees will be around \$1500 each way, or \$3000 round-trip.

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

The GDL-Colima Highway

The highway between Guadalajara and Colima/Manzanillo has undergone extensive improvements in recent years.



Since Colima borders Jalisco to the south, its beach destinations, especially Manzanillo, are popular with individuals in Jalisco who want to explore outside the state.

To reach Manzanillo from Guadalajara by car, the distance is 293 kilometers and takes approximately 4 hours, with toll roads costing \$362 pesos.



Many parts of the highway are quite scenic, including the section called Autopista Volcánico, which spans one of the largest gorges in the region.



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COMPARISON OF WIDELY USED DISINFECTANTS

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Main ingredient / Ingrediente	HOCl	C ₂ H ₅ OH	NaOCl	UV-C	H ₂ O ₂	O ₃
Disinfects common bacteria Disinfecta las bacterias comunes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Broad spectrum / Amplio espectro	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Kills other bacteria like Bacillus Mata otras bacterias como Bacillus	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Non-irritant to skin / No irrita la piel	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Non-irritant to eyes or mouth No irrita los ojos y boca	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Can be used for air disinfection Puede usarse para aire desinfección	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
No residue / Sin residuos	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Helps to eliminate odors Ayuda a eliminar hedor	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
Non-flammable / No es inflamable	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗

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Northshore developments, communities and towns offer every available convenience

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 26-27

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

JOCOTEPEC → TO SAN JUAN COSALÁ: Pg 26-27

- 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 28-29

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

SAN JUAN → TO AJIJIC

WEST: Pages 28-29

- Alseseca
- Arroyo Alto
- El Bajio
- El Colorin
- El Eden
- El Guayabo
- Hacienda La Canacinta
- La Canacinta
- La Cristina
- La Huerta

- La Reserva
- Lago Encantado
- 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
- 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

AJIJIC: Pages 30-31

- Buena Vista
- El Palmar
- 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

CHAPALA: Pg 34-35

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

CHAPALA NORTH: Pg 36

- Brisas de Chapala
- Chapala Haciendas

IXTLAHUACÁN DLM: Pg 37

- Agua Escondida

SAN ANTONIO TLAY. → TO RIBERAS DEL PILAR:

Pg 32-33

- 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
- Lomas del Manglar
- Mirasol
- Misión Chula Vista
- Puesta del Sol
- Riberas del Pilar
- Upper Chula Vista
- Villa Pacifica
- Vista Alegre



- Huerta Vieja
- Las Aguilillas
- Paraíso Escondido
- Villas de Ixtlahuacán

CHAPALA → TO MEZCALA: Pg 36

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



Jocotepec eastward to Mezcala ➤



STREET Smart Map Key

Pool or Water Park	Gas Station	Basketball
Public Tennis	Excursion Boarding	Fire Department
Picnic Area	Outdoor Market	Cinema
Horseback Riding	Thermal Spa	Plaza
Pier	Scenic Overlook	Police
Yacht Club/Boat Launch	Playground	Gate Guard
Landmark Church	Bike Path	Post Office
Medical Facility	Municipal Center (Presidencia)	Landmark Statue
Public Bus	Bull Ring	Bank/Financial Institution
Taxi	Soccer Field	RV Park
Shopping Center	Tennis	Hiking Path

Read your 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 street index in alphabetical order by town follows the maps.

A digital version of this book can be downloaded at: www.imagenmx.com

DISTANCE CHART

FROM CHAPALA TO:	KMS	MILES
LOCAL		
Guadalajara	50	31
GDL International Airport	42	25
Ajijic	9	5½
Jocotepec	38	24
NATIONAL		
Acapulco	984	611
Barra de Navidad	267	166
Manzanillo	259	161
Mexico City	596	370
Puerto Vallarta	408	254

1 JOCOTEPEC
Pop. 18,000±
Founded 1529
Tianguis (Street Mkt) 8-3 Thurs.

The westernmost town on Lake Chapala's north shore, Jocotepec, possesses some lovely 16th-century buildings, as well as a modern cultural center and library. Jocotepec is known for its beautifully hand-woven goods, and a type of beef or goat stew called birria served in restaurants surrounding the plaza, one of Lake-side's largest.

Roughly a half-hour's drive from Ajijic, Jocotepec is attracting and increasing number of foreign residents who enjoy the town's friendly people and low rents.

Attractions & Points of Interest:

- ① **Malecón & Boat Launch**, This recently constructed boardwalk bordering Jocotepec's Ecological Park affords splendid views of Lake Chapala and neighboring landscapes.
- ② **Recinto Maya Kay**, Swim with the dolphins at this marine and exotic bird habitat.

Satellite Communities:

- Roca Azul (South of Jocotepec from Matamoros Sur)

Jocotepec



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Nestipac



Lago
de Chapala

El Chante

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Las
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El Chante

Lago
de Chapala



A **B** **C** **D** **E** **F**

1 **2** **3** **4** **5** **6** **7**

SAN JUAN COSALÁ

Pop. 6,600±
Founded 1525±

San Juan Cosalá lies roughly midway between Ajijic and Jocotepec, and is largely known for its Healthful thermal water spas. A large number of American and Canadian retirees living in a development known as the Raquet Club, offering spectacular panoramic views from almost any point.

Attractions & Points of Interest:

- ① **San Juan Hotel**, Located on the east side of San Juan, features a hotel, restaurant, hot-water pools and jacuzzi, this has long been a favorite with tourists and locals.
- ② **Monte Coxalá Eco Spa**, this complex offers accommodations, massage and beauty treatments, a temascal-spa, and fine dining in an enormous palapa in an impressive pre-Hispanic atmosphere.
- ③ **Piedra Barrenada**, a strip of lakefront seafood restaurants on the highway just east of San Juan Cosalá. The triple-tiered Batur, offering sunset cruises and private events, launches from this area.

San Juan Cosalá

Lago de Chapala

Ajijic West to San Juan Cosalá

Carretera

Private Drive

North

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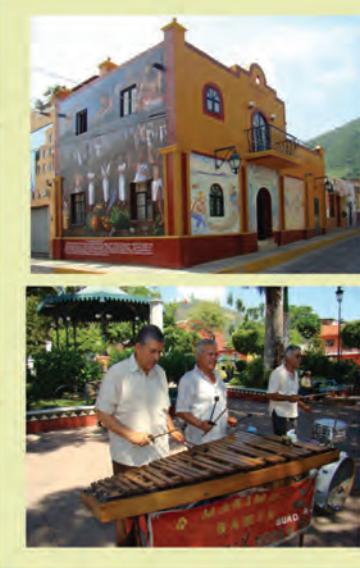


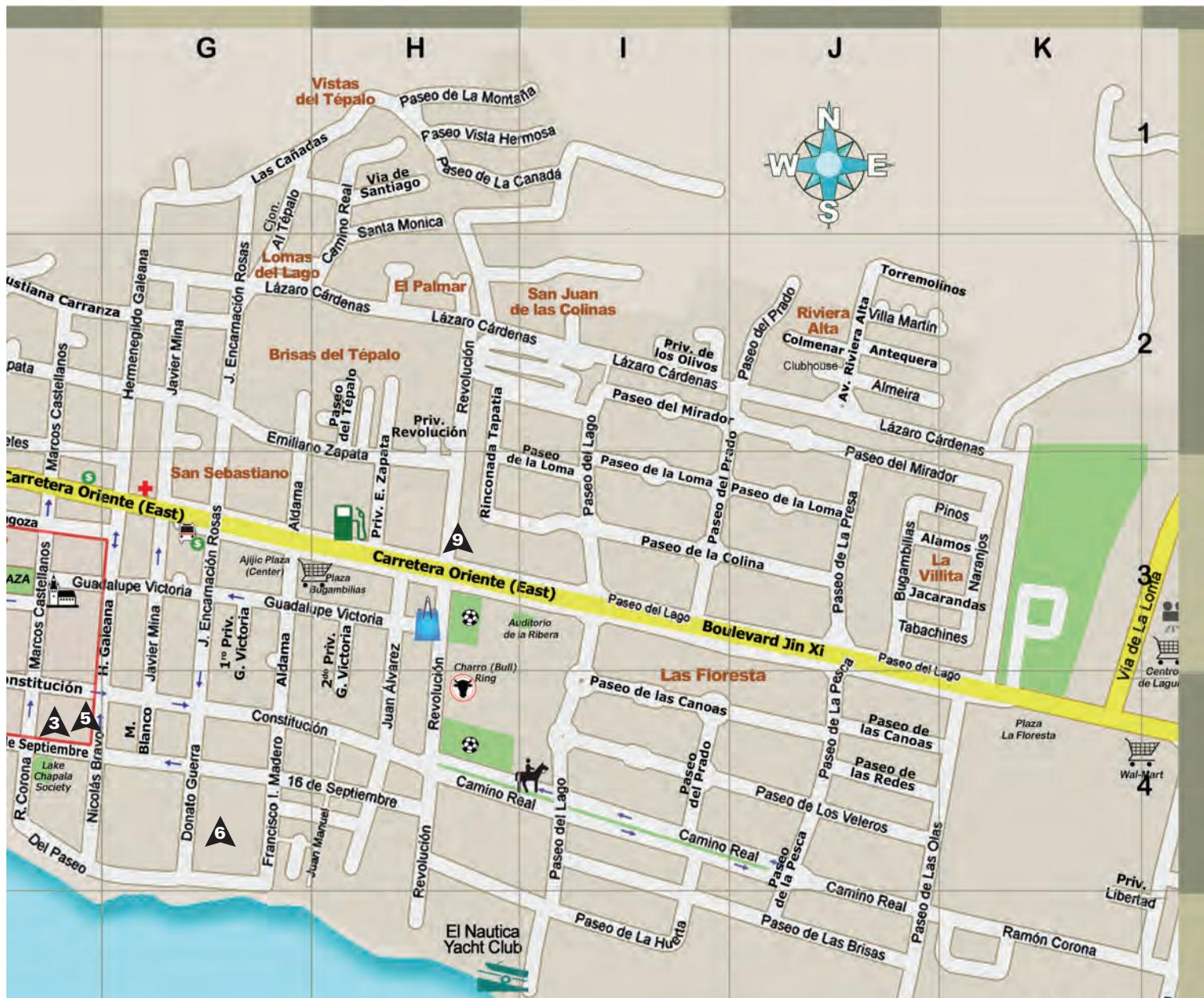


Locate an Advertiser

For additional information, see their ad on page noted.

- 1** Ajijic Real Estate - See ad on back cover (page 46)
- 2** Continental Real Estate-Ajijic Rentals - See ad page 14
- 3** Dental Express - See ad page 18
- 4** Taxis Ribera de Chapala - See ad page 40
- 5** Lake Chapala Real Estate - See ad page 20
- 6** Mark Eager, Eager Real Estate - See ad page 2
- 7** Strom-White Movers - See ad page 2
- 8** Farmacia Maskaras - See ad page 24
- 9** Maskotas Lake Veterinary - See ad page 12





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:

- ① **Auditorio de la Ribera**, A newly renovated and greatly enhanced facility, this air-conditioned site serves as a focal point for local, regional, national and international entertainment.
- ② **El Tépaloo**, A hiking path leading to the scenic El Tépaloo waterfall.
- ③ **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.
- ④ **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.

Pop. 15,000±
Founded 1400±
Tianguis (Street Mkt) 8am-3pm Wed





H

I

J

K

G

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7

Locate an Advertiser

For additional information, see their ad on page noted.

- 1** Diane Pearl Gallery & Activities Center - See ad page 23
- 2** GoLab Diagnostics - See ad page 14
- 3** Parker Insurance Services - See ad page 5

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Libramiento (Bypass)

Instituto
Tecnológico

Conalep
Vocational
School

Carretera 27

SAN ANTONIO TLAYACAPÁN

Tianguis (Street Mkt):
8am -3pm Fri.



A rapidly growing commercial and residential center at Lakeside is the area surrounding San Antonio and the Libramiento. Walmart, Superlake & Interlago Centers, Centro de Laguna shopping mall-cineplex are all located here, as well as numerous upscale residential developments, many of them new or still under construction.

Attractions & Points of Interest:

- 1** Chula Vista Golf Course, A beautiful, well-maintained nine-hole regulation par-36 golf course located just off Carretera.
- 2** Lakeside Little Theatre, offers live theatrical productions throughout the high season.



Satellite Communities: Chula Vista, Chula Vista Norte, Mirasol, Riberas del Pilar, and El Dorado are the largest, although many smaller neighborhood developments exist and also offer every modern convenience.





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 Guadalajarans (called *Tapatios*).

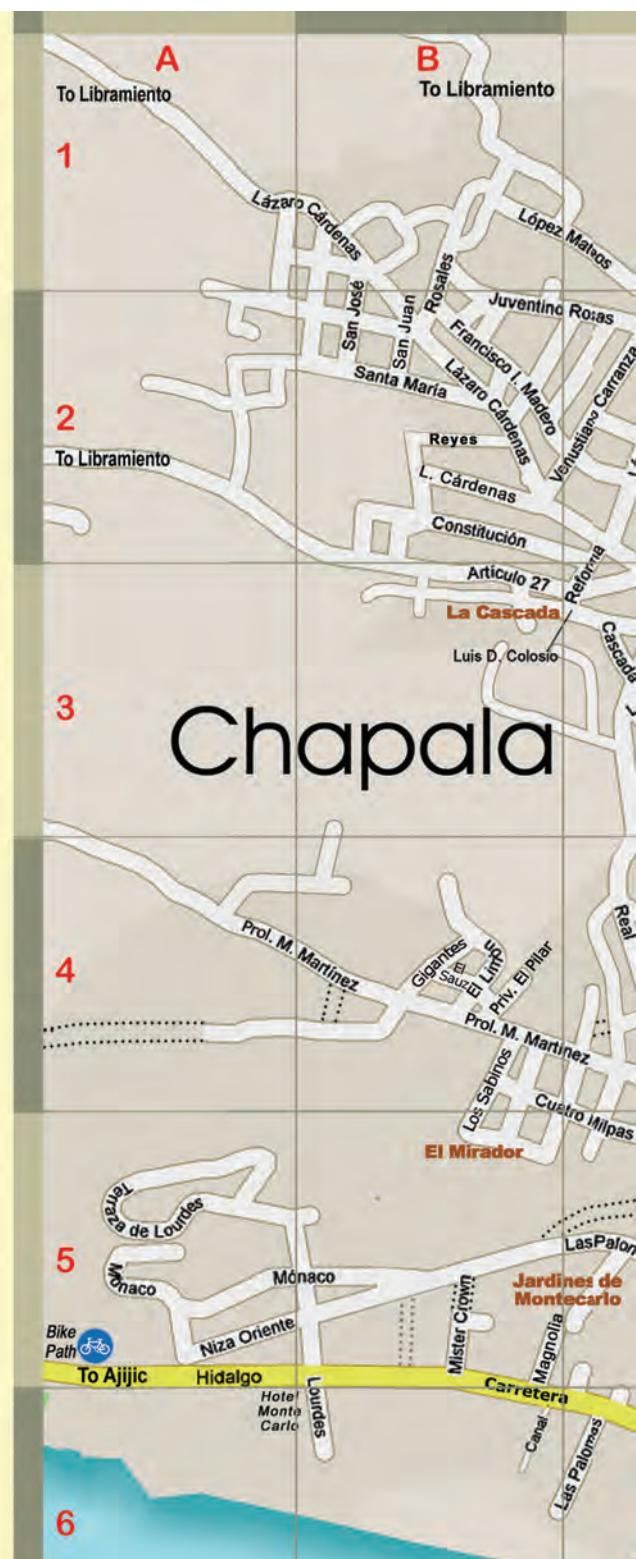
Attractions & Points of Interest :

- 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



Locate an Advertiser

For additional information, see their ad.



Chapala Law, Spencer MacMullen -
- See ad page 10

7



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Lago
de Chapala

1 Brisas Pte. Brisas Norte, Nube, Tormenta, Rocio, Viento, Escarcha, Cierzo, Brisas Ote.

2 CHAPALA HACIENDAS and BRISAS DE CHAPALA

Chapala Haciendas (at right), was Lakeside's first subdivision, It is characterized by Rolling hills, mature landscaping and, in many reas, excellent lake views.

3 Brisas de Chapala is a smaller version, also offering great views. Both lie north of Chapala and offer US-style housing.

C Brisas del Lago, Golondrina, Cardenal, Ruisenor, Aguila, Halcon, Codornices, Cisnes, Collie, Los Cisnes, Carretera Guadalajara - Chapala, C. de las Codornices, To Guadalajara ↑, To Chapala ↘, To Chapala ↗, Parajo de Fuego, C. del Flamenco, Palomar, Pelicano, Perico, Parojo Azul, Parajo de Fuego, C. de las Codornices, To Chapala ↘

E Carretera Guadalajara - Chapala, C. de las Codornices, To Guadalajara ↑

F To Guadalajara ↑

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A Fco. I. Madero, Alidama, Calvario, Hidalgo, V. Carranza, L. Colina, Independencia, Juárez, 5 de Mayo, 28 de Febrero, Hidalgo, Eduardo Rivera, A La Loma

B Juárez, Alidama, Lázaro Cárdenas, Lázaro Cárdenas, Emiliano Zapata, Fco. Villa

C CARRETERA To San Nicolás & Mezcalá ↗, To Chapala ↙

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E Lago de Chapala

C Alta Vista Pte., Obregón, Los Parajes, Linda Vista, Los Conejos, Mirador, Reyes, Vista del Lago Poniente, Glorieta Redonda, Loma Vista, CCC Entrance Clubhouse, Vista del Lago Poniente, Vista del Lago Oriente, Vista del Lago Oriente, Chapala Country Club, Vista del Lago

D Santa Cruz (at left), a typical Mexican pueblo, is the first town encountered when traveling east from Chapala.

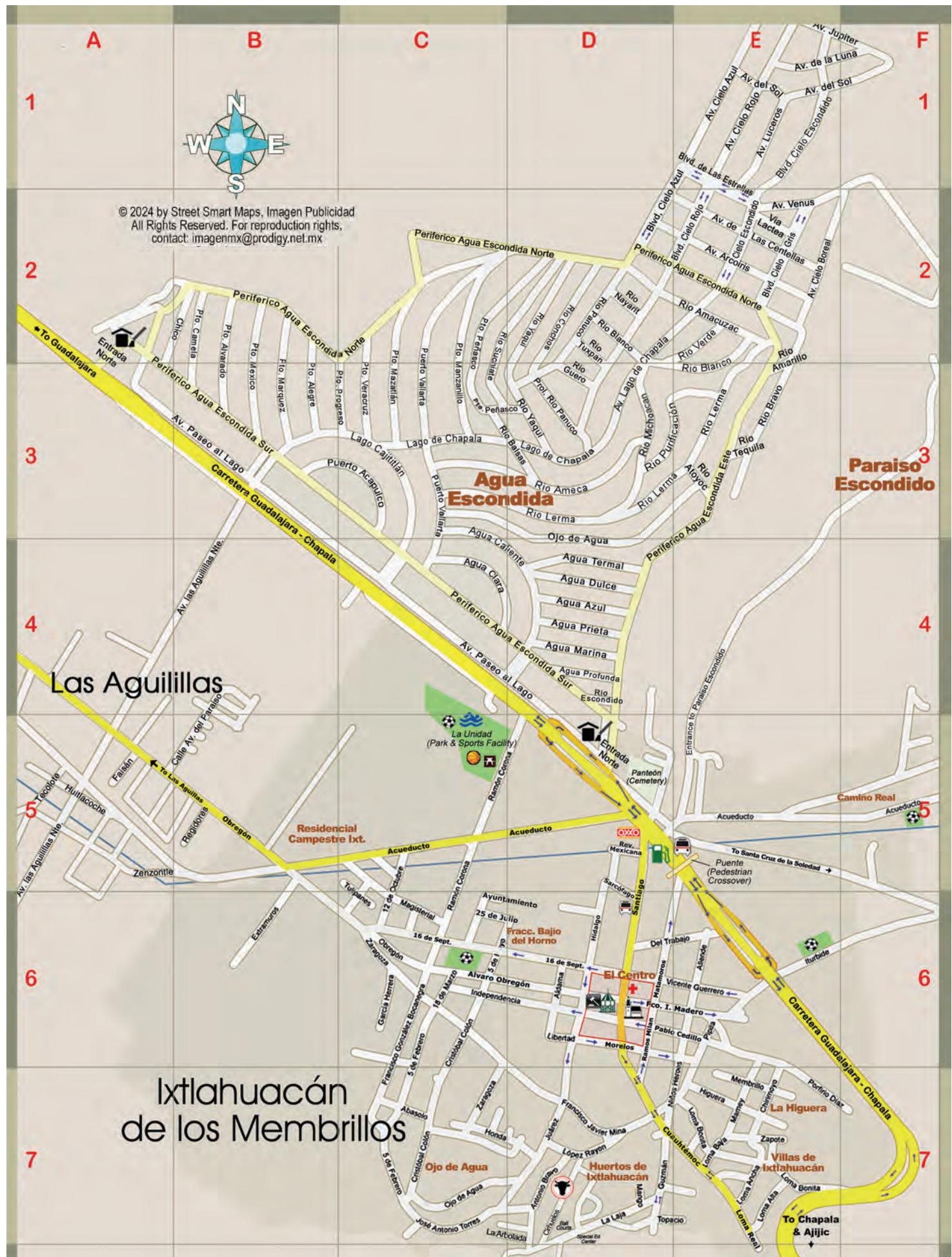
Next comes **San Nicolás** (below), which has a growing foreign presence.

Just past San Nicolás is **Vista del Lago** (at right), offering the Chapala Country Club and golf course. The development is home to primarily Americans and Canadians.

E San Nicolás de Ibarra

F Loma Dorada, J. Vergas, Ramón Corona, Prv. Alidama, Aldama, Real, Morelos, Recreo, Zaragoza, Fco. I. Madero, Juárez, Zaragoza, Allende, Libertad, P. Reyes, Hidalgo, Recreo, Entrada, Vista del Lago Poniente, Vista del Lago Oriente, Vista del Lago Oriente, CCC Entrance Clubhouse, Vista del Lago Poniente, Vista del Lago Oriente, Vista del Lago Oriente, Chapala Country Club, Vista del Lago, Entrada, Vista del Lago Poniente, Vista del Lago Oriente, Vista del Lago Oriente

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Official TAXI
RIBERA DE CHAPALA

**LAKE CHAPALA
FARES & INFO**
CENTRAL DISPATCH
333-227-8181

AJIJIC PLAZA
376 766 0674

AJIJIC GASOLINERA
376 688 3309

CHAPALA PLAZA
376 765 3511

CENTRAL CHAPALA
376 765 4697

- Service throughout Lakeside Chapala (Mezcalá to Jocotepec), Airport and Guadalajara Metro Areas.
- Other destinations based on distance
- Competitive Prices
- After hours (8pm-6am) service is 30% extra



Taxi Ribera de Chapala



Chapala Municipio

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Jocotepec Municipio

SAN JUAN

Cosalá

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Ajijic.....	766 1888
Chapala.....	765 6809

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Chapala.....	765 4697
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Ajijic.....	766 0674
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