



Playa El Camaron Coast



Old Mazatlan

Mazatlan

A brand new \$70-million convention facility, historic city centre and breathtaking natural landscape make this Mexican city the pearl of the Pacific and a must-see meeting destination.

written by **CHRISTINE OTSUKA**

> fast facts

Recommended Website: GoMazatlan.com

Average Hotel Room Rate: \$110-\$140, five-star hotel (varies seasonally)

Getting There: WestJet offers year-round non-stop service to Mazatlan from Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Winnipeg. westjet.ca

Convention Facilities: Mazatlan International Center debuted in November, 2009, with more than 150,000 sq. ft. of indoor and outdoor meeting space for groups up to 5,000. The \$70-million complex borders a new marina and championship golf course and is minutes from the Golden Zone's beachfront resorts, spas, dining and nightlife. mazatlaninternationalcenter.com

> pillow talk

The 716-room **Hotel Riu Emerald Bay** features a conference centre with 10,000 sq. ft. of meeting space spread across four rooms, including the 5,100-sq.-ft. Grand Ballroom. riu.com

Mazatlan's only AA Four Diamond resort, **Pueblo Bonito Emerald Bay** offers 345 suites on 20 acres of land. The resort features 7,000 sq. ft. of meeting space, a full-service spa and two outdoor pools. pueblobonitoemeraldby.com

Set on a world-class marina, **El Cid Marina Beach Hotel** features 204 newly renovated guestrooms, 10,000 sq. ft. of state-of-the-art meeting space and a private beach, with access to championship golf, tennis courts, spa, water sports and fitness facilities. elcid.com



El Quelite Church

> attractions + distractions

The colonial district of Old Mazatlan is home to 479 national historic buildings, including the 135-year-old **Angela Peralta Theatre**, where groups can enjoy opera, ballet and contemporary dance performances by the Delfos Contemporanian dance company. mazatlan.com.mx/cultural/angelateather.htm

Travel between 12 treetop platforms by zipline during the **Huana Coa Canopy Tour**, in the foothills of the Sierra Madre mountains, 45 minutes from Mazatlan. huanacoa.com

Play 18 holes parallel to 3.5 miles of pristine beach in the gated community of **Estrella del Mar**. Afterwards, release just-hatched sea turtles into the ocean, care of the largest private turtle preserve in Mexico. estrelladelmar.com



Immaculate Conception Cathedral

> à la carte

Across the street from the Angela Peralta Theatre, in Old Mazatlan, **Pedro y Lola** serves up inspired renditions of regional dishes. An outdoor patio seats 160 and faces Plaza Machado (the Machado square). restaurantpedroylola.com

Señor Frog's is known all over the world, but the Mazatlan location is where it all started. Guests are in for a wild ride and a memorable time, courtesy of the notoriously fun-loving staff. The restaurant seats 400. senorfrogs.com/mazatlan

Los Arcos is renowned by locals as one of Mazatlan's top seafood eateries. Octopus is grilled to perfection and mariachi bands serenade guests as they eat. The restaurant holds up to 200. restaurantlosarcos.com.mx



Rick MacSwain

> programme ideas

Itinerary for the UNIGLOBE Geo Travel 2011 Mazatlan Charity Golf Classic to be held in November, 2011, planned by Rick MacSwain, partner, general manager leisure and groups, UNIGLOBE Geo Travel.

DAY 1

Afternoon. Arrive in Mazatlan. Private transfers from airport to El Cid Marina Beach Hotel and El Cid Castilla Beach Hotel. Check-in.

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Welcome cocktail reception at hotel. Open bar with a sampling of Mazatlan's famous shrimp.

DAY 2

6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. Buffet breakfast at La Marina Restaurant at El Cid Marina Beach Hotel. Transfers begin at 6:45 a.m. at front lobby.

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Golf tournament at El Cid Golf & Country Club. Food and beverages are available on the course.

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch at La Alhambra Restaurant, at El Cid Castilla Beach Hotel. Afternoon at leisure.

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Group dinner includes authentic Mexican cuisine at La Cascada, which provides an atmosphere of Old Mexico and the natural music of a nearby waterfall.

DAY 3

6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. Buffet breakfast at La Marina Restaurant. Shuttle leaves at 8:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Optional golf at Estrella Del Mar Golf Resort.

Evening. Activities at leisure.

DAY 4

6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. Buffet breakfast at La Marina Restaurant.

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Golf tournament at El Cid Golf & Country Club.

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Lunch at leisure at La Alhambra Restaurant.

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Optional sunset cruise, departing from El Cid Marina Beach Hotel and El Cid Castilla Beach Hotel.

DAY 5

6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. Buffet breakfast at La Marina Restaurant.

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Golf tournament at El Cid Golf & Country Club.

2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch at leisure at La Alhambra Restaurant.

5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Optional group excursion includes a city tour, Mexican dinner and shopping along the Malecon.

DAY 6

6:30 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. Buffet breakfast at La Marina Restaurant.

9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Optional golf at Estrella Del Mar Golf Resort.

6:00 p.m. Gala dinner at the El Cid Golf and Country Club. Someone will win a trip for two to next year's tournament. Open bar.

DAY 7

8:00 a.m. Breakfast at La Marina Restaurant.

10:00 a.m. Shuttle departs for airport and flights home.