

Thursday, April 29, 1982 O&E

A resort with a village's charm

Puerto Vallarta: What Acapulco was 20 years ago

IN PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico, singles and couples mingle together in beach chairs around the pool, sipping cocktails from giant coconut shells and gazing through palms to the blue Pacific. The two middle-aged divorcees are not here this morning; they took the day trip to Yelapa.

Later, when the sunburned have ridden the hotel elevator to their rooms for a covering shirt, some of the men and women around the pool will drive to the village for a walk along the esplanade and a little shopping. Others prefer to watch the sunset alone.

There are married and mated couples here, of course, having just as much fun as anyone, but couples can go anywhere. Single travelers, whether they are single by choice, divorcee or the loss of a spouse, ask certain questions before they choose a destination. Will I feel comfortable alone there?



travel log
Iris Sanderson Jones
contributing travel editor

Will I have easy access to a group if I want it? Can I tour the area with another woman, or is this a strictly "couple" environment. Will there be other young, or older, people there?

The bay here, Bahía de Bandera, is shaped like a giant fluted shell; 25 miles across at the mouth and 100 miles across at the narrow end, each scallop a separate golden sand beach.

The village of Puerto Vallarta is at the center of the shell, a golden-crowned church, a square and two main streets of shops looking across cobblestone streets, through palm trees, to the bay.

THE RESORT accommodations spread out on either side along the bay, not in a riot of concrete like Acapulco, but gently zoned, each tucked in flowered gardens on its own curve of beach, backed by rock-ribbed hills.

Highway 200 leads north past a few high-rise in-town hotels, and the low-key elegance of Posada Vallarta, one of the first important resorts in the area, to the airport, and on 468 kilometers (290 miles) to Mazatlan.

It leads south around the bay, and across dry mountains 289 kilometers (173 miles) to Manzanillo. A new road is now open all the way south to Acapulco.

pulls.

Old-timers say that PV is what Acapulco was 20 years ago, before the concrete jungle took over, a fishing village still close enough to its roots to be very Mexican but polished enough to have first-class hotels, restaurants, and discos as well as good Mexican food and entertainment.

What do you do here? Sun, sand, swim in pool or sea, and drink exotic cocktails out of coconut shells, of course. Explore, and you will find parasailing, deep-sea fishing, donkey polo, horseback riding and boat tours to Mismaloya and Yelapa.

Mismaloya is the site, south around the bay, where Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor put this town on the map during the filming of "Night of the Iguana" in 1963. A two-hour day trip to Yelapa takes you into a hidden bay where Mexicans and Americans live happily without modern conveniences, their solitude paid for by the two hours of beach activity brought in by the tour boat every day.

WHEN THE TOUR boat returns at the end of the day, docking between the sailboats and whatever cruise ship is in town, most people gather at the esplanade in town to watch the sun go down.

The old man with the gold tooth sends his guitar music out the window of the old Oceano Hotel, where the bar looks into a picture-post-card twilight scene.



photos by IRIS AND MICKEY JONES

Lunch on the terrace of the Camino Real Hotel in Puerto Vallarta offers a refreshing view of the Pacific Ocean.

The sun is setting behind the strollers and the palm trees beside the curved sand beach. The grackles make their nightly bird-racket in the trees at the square beneath the cathedral topped by its golden crown.

There is a young girl in her first communion dress, older women selling religious objects on the steps of the church, and a group gathering for the religious fiesta to be held that night.

For most of us, single or mated, however, it's a perfect time of day to sip a cold drink, nurse our sunburn and watch the sun go down. The mean annual temperature here is 80 degrees, so you can sun burn year-round without collapsing from the heat except in July and August.

For information, contact the Mexican National Tourism Council, 875 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 60611.



An old guitar player provides appropriate Latin melodies for the picture-post-card backdrop of Puerto Vallarta.



Strolling along the esplanade in Puerto Vallarta is a popular activity for couples, and just about everybody in town gathers on the esplanade at dusk to watch the sun set on the ocean.



What do you do here? Sun, sand, swim in pool or sea, and drink exotic cocktails out of coconut shells, of course.

Although it is a resort area, Puerto Vallarta still has charming village scenes, such as that of this young woman (left) selling religious objects on the street.

one-of-a-kind traveler

Mike is 28, single and travels alone. He is a one-of-a-kind traveler, but not the only kind.

Jean is 38, divorced and travels with another woman. Chuck is a 65-year-old widower with two children. Betty is a married woman whose husband doesn't travel. Darlene, a 35-year-old school teacher, has a special interest: She scuba dives all over the world. Sheila is a senior citizen. Bill is handicapped.

All of these people are one-of-a-kind travelers. You may be one too. This feature is dedicated to those of you with such individual travel needs.

We don't say "single" because, as long as the world is divided into married or single (unmarried), the word has the connotation of young, swinging and unattached. That is based on old demograph-

ics in which single travelers are not married but will be or have been married, on a world in which singles always travel alone and marrieds never do.

New demographics show that only 17 percent of households are now traditional nuclear families — husband, work-at-home wife and two children. More and more households are childless, single or have two working spouses who sometimes travel separately.

You may be male or female, younger or older, married or unmarried, but you have one thing in common with other one-of-a-kind travelers. You plan alone for a trip that only needs to satisfy you, not spouse nor children.

You may or may not travel alone. You may be a teen-ager or a young working

adult, you may be widowed or divorced, or you may be married to a spouse who doesn't travel. You may even be a father traveling alone with a son, or a mother with a daughter.

You probably want to plan in advance for a trip you want to budget in advance, to have the choice of being with other people and to travel in a situation that makes you feel comfortable. You may not want to travel alone or go on a regular guided tour, but you may sometimes want others to look after or give guidance to the eating and sleeping details.

If you have a particular kind of travel situation that you would like us to cover, please write to Iris Sanderson Jones, Observer-Eccentric, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

COME TO OUR ISLAND
PAY 7 - STAY 11
4 DAYS FREE
 (SUPER VALUE AT HARBOR ISLAND SPA)
 Let us pamper you morning to night.
 YOUR ROOM RATE INCLUDES: 3 Supervised Meals
 Daily Breakfast — MASSAGE — SPA — For Men and Women — Water Exercise and Yoga Classes — Nightclub Entertainment — Tennis, Golf & more — Month, Enter, Payment — Dancing — Shows — Bags — Makeup and Much More! Special Group Rates Available.
 Larry Paskow
 Call Toll Free for a Brochure
1-800-327-7510
 Larry Paskow's
Harbor Island Spa Florida
 On Biscayne Bay Miami Beach

CANADA'S WONDERLAND PASSPORTS AND BLUE JAYS TICKETS AVAILABLE
Weekend Oasis
 There's an island of calm, away from the hustle and bustle, where you'll enjoy a weekend just the way you want it... at the Bristol Place.
 For \$59 per night (Canadian funds, sales tax extra) enjoy 2 nights' deluxe accommodation, with children under 13 sharing their parents' room at no extra cost. Spend a relaxing weekend around our indoor pool. Enjoy our sauna and health club. Complimentary admission to our nightsport, Dr. Livingstone's. For the children there's baby sitting available.
 Come in any 2 nights on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday. The parking's free.
 We have 24-hour room service, and in-room movies for a nominal charge.
 Your perfect weekend oasis...
 the Bristol Place.
The Bristol Place Hotel
 Affiliated with The Best Country
 Preferred Co. Restaurants
 Not available to groups. Subject to availability. Must be confirmed in advance. Member of HRI
 950 DIXON RD, TORONTO, CANADA G7S-9M4 • WATS LINE (CANADA ONLY) (800) 268-4927
 U.S. (800) 828-7491 N.Y. STATE ONLY (800) 462-7330
 or see your travel agent

YOU ARE INVITED
 to
The Motor City Office Products Show
Tuesday, May 4, 1982
12 Noon-7 PM
Roma Hall - Livonia
27777 Schoolcraft Rd.

- Over 200 manufacturers presenting cost saving ideas for your office.
- All the latest innovations for the modern office.
- Factory representative will be present to answer all questions and help solve daily office problems.

For ticket information, contact any of these participating office supply dealers:

Able Office Supply - 398-4500
 Arrow Office Supply - 272-9700
 Art O Craft - 463-4546
 Beverly's Office Supply - 731-5480
 Birmingham Office Supply - 644-6636
 BPL Office Products - 931-1200
 Buckland Van Waid Inc. - 963-2113
 Business Resources - 971-9750
 Completa Office Supply - 368-2866
 Davida Office Supply & Furniture Co., Inc. - 332-6100
 J.M.I. Industries, Inc. - 585-1490
 Executive Office Supply, Inc. - 476-1324
 Galt's General Office Supply Co. - 962-7383
 Gregory & Leonard Inc. - 969-0520
 Gregory Mayer & Thom Co. - 496-1200
 Lincoln Office Supply Co. - 382-6900
 Macaulays Inc. - 967-0300
 Madison - Troy Office Supply - 585-6210
 Maple Office Supplies - 559-3811
 McMillan Bros., Inc. - 875-9375
 Midwest Office Supply - 422-5400
 Mid West Paper Products Co. - 758-6700
 Miles Fox Office Products - 268-5400
 Modern Office, Inc. - 642-5600
 Northwest Blueprint, Inc. - 525-1990
 The Office Resource - 589-2710
 Palmer Office Supply, Inc. - L05-7303
 Plymouth Office Supply Inc. - 453-3590
 Redford Office Supply, Inc. - 522-8650
 Silver's Inc. - 883-4410
 Standard Office Supply Co. - 517-546-2568
 Suburban Office Services, Inc. - 651-1500
 Sy Draft, Inc. - 968-2820
 Thom Office Supply - 365-5550
 Unique Office & School Supply Co. - 774-5270
 Wayne State University Bookstore - 577-2436

**This show is not affiliated with Office Expo '82, being held May 25, 26 and 27 at Cobo Hall.*