

DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2018 TO JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

Lomas La Jolla - San José de Cabo – Cabo San Lucas – **Blog 2**

---



This seems like such a funny holiday. Normally when we head out on one of our beautiful holidays, I write a blog every day - my journal of all that we have done on the trip. Well, because this vacation was meant to be one of relaxing, resting and reading we literally haven't done much else.

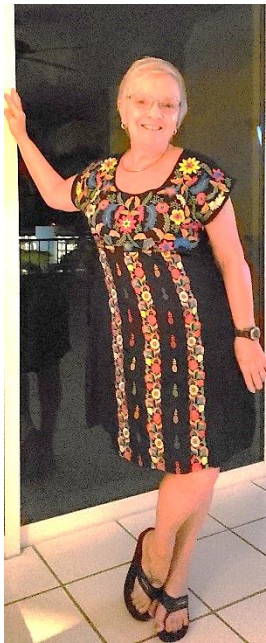
I think that I have enjoyed this vacation because of that. We didn't rent a car, we are not going out every day and becoming stressed while I navigate and Kevin tries to drive in an unfamiliar environment. We are doing exactly what we had planned on doing.

After a couple of weeks, I did figure out the best way to get to the grocery store and back to the condo. We have a way to get down to walk along the beach, we are enjoying our "infinity pool" and we are meeting a lot of Canadians who stay in this complex every year. I think that I would like to come back again next year but perhaps leave after Christmas and stay a little longer. We have a line on another condo in the same area, a two bedroom for roughly the same price.

I actually wouldn't mind staying down here a couple of weeks longer. With a 2-bedroom unit I could have a girl friend down and Kevin could head back for Robbie Burns. Oh well, it's a long way off.



Following the exciting and fun Christmas week and the lead up to New Year's Eve with the visit to Cabo San Lucas, we decided to get dressed up, share a bottle of Prosecco and bring in 2019 on our deck watching the fireworks. Now, these were fireworks like I have never seen. They lasted about 30 minutes and lit up the entire sky above the beach.



The display was incredible; however, it was very cold.

All the locals were wearing their parka's and toques. Of course, like all the other crazy Americans and Canadians we were in shorts, party dresses, no coats. I was even out there in my new Mexican dress/top. There was no way I was going to admit being cold. (Bloody freezing actually).

Guess what...someone got sick. Now Kevin had been sitting next to a young Mexican lad who was barking all the way back to Los Cabos on the bus. (He didn't know about using his elbow to cough into). I think Kevin picked up the bug from him and then of course add the cold 30 minutes on the roof deck

for dinner and Voila!



It turned into a terrible cold and for the better part of the next week I became Florence Nightingale and nursed him back to health. What a lucky man, waited on hand and foot. (He may not agree, but hey these are my blogs and I am sticking to my story). We certainly didn't go very far.



For me New Year's Day started very slowly. Priorities – reading on the deck and working on my tan.

Then I headed out on a great shopping adventure. I took the chicken bus all by myself to the Chaudraui (Super Store); used my limited Spanish and felt that I did very well. If I didn't, I will never know because I have absolutely no idea what everyone was saying back to me.

I also got the taxi hiring procedure down to a fine science and hence for the rest of our holidays – no long hill to climb for Kevin. It only costs 150 pesos and it is well worth it. \$10 Canadian.

Getting a bus here is so much fun. You stand on the side of the road, wave your arms and jump up and down and the bus stops and picks you up. There are bus stops but hey, if you are not by one, start waving your arms. It costs 15 pesos each to go to the grocery store. \$1.00



Now, there are 3 kinds of buses that I know about for sure. First there is this “modern” chicken bus. Runs north/south along the highway from San José de Cabo and Cabo San Lucas. This is the one that I take to the grocery store.

Everyone sits on this bus with their heads glued to their cell phones, their thumbs running races across the keys, or worse still they hold long conversations in raised voices.

If we want to go into San José, we can take the Urbano which are converted school buses that bounce along nicely, or we take the real chicken bus of old and hold on for dear life. The Urbano and the chicken bus will actually fit on the narrow streets

of San José and Cabo so they take you right into the downtown Central. It is all an exiting and fun experience. I love to get off at weird spots and then wind my way in a direction that I think I should be going in. Kevin is a little more nervous about doing this type of adventure, however after doing it a few times he became much more comfortable.

We have taken a few excursions. One was to walk over to the “World Mark Wyndham Resort” and “Mama Mia” Restaurant. The weather was so nice that day. Hot, but with a great breeze blowing up from the water.

The restaurant had been recommended to us by a couple who are staying in this complex. They are from Enderby (Sandy & Barry). Lovely couple.



We toured the complex and spoke to a few people about staying there. We then had lunch at Mama Mia. That was amazing. Delicious food. We plan on going back here on our last day here for happy hour and for dinner.

Once thing we have found is that the meals are very big down here and the food has lots of flavor. Every time we have gone out, I have been having my Chile rellenos (ray-an-ooohs). Gosh, I can't get enough of them.

While we were enjoying beer and margaritas, we watched all the beach vendors. They are not allowed into the complex but they parade back and forth just beyond the fence. They will try to get your attention and beckon you over but they aren't pushy. They wave, wait a few minutes and then move on. I saw one young man who was making the "name" bracelets and I wanted a couple more of them so, I had fun using my Spanish to negotiate a good price. I also bought a beautiful, small purse that will hold my phone and a few cards etc. Something light and pretty. You can see the vendors in the background of these two photos. These were taken at the restaurant.



The grounds of the complex were very nice. A person could enjoy themselves there for a few weeks each year. One couple told us they had been coming there for over 20 years, and every time they come down, they love it more. One of the things Sandy told me about was the “topiaries”

that were all over the property. What a lot of work and very beautiful.



There were several inviting pools around as well and lots of laughter. They even have an area where kids can do crafts while the parents relax and enjoy margaritas etc. Now who wouldn't enjoy this setting. Something to look into!





After our very leisurely lunch I finally made it to the beach. Neither of us are beach people as far as swimming and laying on it but I love to walk along in the water.

It was a little more difficult this year as my foot is still giving me a tiny bit of pain depending on what I am walking on, but oh gosh it felt so good to walk in the water.

A lot of the beaches down here can't be used for swimming because of very strong undertows, but you recognize them by the red flags that are put out. This beach was not one of them. It stretched as far as the eye could see and the water was like a bath tub.



was sorry that I hadn't worn my swimsuit. I did have the bottoms on under my Mexican dress so I wasn't worried about the splashing, but I didn't want to get my dress wet. As you can see by the photos below it was gorgeous.

We had such a wonderful day. Lots of fresh air and sea breezes.

We reluctantly left the beach and walked down to the grocery store. Chedraui. We pretty well know this store inside out now so it doesn't take us long to pick up the few things we needed and then to hire a taxi to take us back home.

It was, as I said, an amazing day.



I always have a bit of a chuckle when we go to the Chedraui when I see the wine dispenser. I am sure I put a photo in the first blog but have to do it again. Purchase a wine card, then all through your shopping you can taste all the wines in these dispensers. It is a smart way to try a variety of wines that you might not have otherwise sampled. You might even discover a new favorite.



Chedraui is a fairly new store in this area, and it is a Superstore with places to sit and enjoy a coffee and pastry as well as the “vino”. It has everything from soup to nuts. The deli section is amazing and they also have a Sushi bar that seems to be always filled with people and an area where you can sit and drink beer. I loved the cheese section. I don’t think you could ever sample all the goodies in that area.



You can see Kevin in the background looking around at all the delicious cheese choices. The handmade cheese of the Baja was sharp, and yummy.

Kevin really enjoyed the bakery area. You walk around with a huge tray and a pair of tongs and pile up the goodies; and believe me, he piled the tray high. I will be putting him on a no sweet regime when I get the little devil home.

Today, I actually called the taxi myself. My Spanish is not that great, but I have picked up a lot of vocabulary and the Mexicans really like it that I am trying and they are so nice to me.

The rest of the next week we pretty well stay at the complex and enjoyed the pool.



We went to view an open house in one of the condos and we fell in love with it. We looked into purchasing it, but after talking to our great financial adviser at home and with Neil we decided not to do it. If I win the lottery though I will be back in a shot to buy it.

We really liked unit P101 and could see ourselves coming down here for 4-5 weeks a couple of times a year and then renting it out to other vacationers then rest of the time. We came so close. We know that we made the right decision for this time of our lives but...



The experience introduced us to some great people. The real estate agent was lovely and the two owners of the unit, Darius and Alberto will remain friends and have promised to visit us in Penticton.

Here is a quick look at the home that was almost ours.



I have a feeling that we might regret not going forward with this purchase, however Darius and Alberto have told us that it is ours to rent if it doesn't sell. They own 2 of them and I think they

are only interested now in selling one of them, even though they are both for sale.

Coming into our final week here we decided to make another trip into San José del Cabo. San José is another good option for a place to stay. It is a vacation destination rather than a snowbird type location. It is a lovely Mexican town and you really can feel the ambiance of old Mexico here. You would not need a car here as everything is within walking distance. There is a great feeling down in the old town. Lots to do and great restaurants all within walking distance and on the beach side of the road. Of course, on this excursion I left my phone home so no photos.

The old bus dropped us off just down a few stops Walmart. It confused us a bit because the last time they dropped us further down the highway and the street we walked down ended in the town center. This street took us on a very interesting stroll through the residential area.... Barbed wire, falling down fences mixed with

squawking chickens and crowing roosters. Lots of uneven streets, boarded up buildings, brand new condos. A real plethora of accommodations. It was rather exciting at the same time as being a bit unnerving given that we didn't really know where we were. One man stopped us to see if we needed directions. His parting comment was "It's not a very big place, you can't get lost. Just keep walking downhill." Talk about the nice Mexican people. The reason he stopped was that he saw my "insect repellent bracelet" fall off my wrist. He stopped his car, got out to pick it up and then drove down the hill to return it to me. These people are so lovely.

We worked up very big thirst walking all this way and ended up stopping at an cool restaurant.



"Chato's? An organic restaurant, with great Mexican food. If you go fishing and catch something, they will even prepare it for you. They had \$1 beer and 2 for 1 margaritas.

We didn't stay thirsty long.

After lunch we

walked all around the town square. Kevin bought me a beautiful silver whale's tail and silver neck band from one of the local jeweler stores. It is so beautiful and I love it. I found a pair of earrings to complement the pendant. Kevin told me that this was a gift for me doing all the house work, cooking and waiting on him hand and foot for 6 weeks.



It is a lot easier doing this work down here in Mexico, the patio door wide open, the sun shining and a lawn chair beckoning when you are finished. I told Kevin it would not be the same when I got home. Oh heck, I just remembered I haven't given the condo a big cleaning since I broke my foot. Darn, I know what I will be doing the first couple of days.



After window shopping for a bit (seriously), we went on the art walk. This is a weekly event where all the artisans bring their work to exhibit and sell. It starts around four and goes until 9 – 9:30 at night. We purchased a very small acrylic painting of “The Arches” by Victor Carvajal. It will be a nice addition to our travel wall.

Around 5 o’clock we headed back to the restaurant we loved so much the last time we came into San José – Jazmin’s. It was Tuesday night so there was not only



the Mexican Troubadours who are there all day long, but also live entertainment. The entertainment that night was a couple who played duets on a massive Xylophone. They were very talented. I have no idea how that did it. Mesmorizing!

We had the Troubadors sing Una Paloma Blanca for us and they also played a Mexican love song “Amor” which I enjoyed very much. Not everyone tips the entertainers and I think that is a shame. The guys are friendly, speak some English, are awesome entertainers and are not pushy.



The restaurant had a little gift shop and their things were lovely. I purchase a table runner that was exquisite. Another neat touch, or at least I thought it was is that they take pictures of all their guests. I wasn't sure what it was for until the end of the night. We did not plan on bringing back any alcohol but Neil asked us for some Tequila, so his wish will come true. This is a little gift for him.

Around 8:30 we decided that it was time to head home. Another wonderful day. We took a cab back to the condo and it cost us about \$17 Canada. Well worth it to be dropped at the door.

To say we were quite happy when we hit the condo would pretty well describe us. Maybe a little tipsy. Not bad for the first time in 6 weeks.

Wednesday and Thursday, we worked on our tans, read our books and made one final trip to Chedraui. We have done our packing except for essentials and tomorrow Friday we hope to have one final day of tanning and then plan to head over to Mama Mias for happy hour and dinner on the beach.

### **Friday – our final day:**

Well, unless the cloud cover rolls away we will not be working on our tans today. Kevin said it is probably good as we don't want to go home looking like Nova Scotia lobsters. It has been a lovely vacation, an exciting one and a new experience for us. We have put lots of memories into our bank and have discovered a new place to visit.

Here are some of our memories.

**THE KILLER HILL!**



**WHITE SAND AND WAVES.  
BEAUTIFUL BEACHES THAT  
STRETCH FOR MILES.**

**AMAZING CONDOS ALONG THE BEACH FRONTS**



**The pool at Lomas La Jolla**

**Yes, it has been an amazing trip.**

**Judi**