

Manzanillo: Open Your Eyes To A Dream

Close your eyes and let your imagination wander. Does it go to a place filled with warm tranquil days spent aside the gentile sea, full of warm smiles and incredible cuisine? If this is your dream, you may be envisioning Manzanillo. This serene port city is an incredible destination in the heart of the Mexican Riviera. 170 miles south of Puerto Vallarta and 417 miles north of Acapulco, Manzanillo has everything to offer.

Upon landing in Manzanillo, one is overcome by its uncharted beauty. Miles of untouched beaches lay between warm ocean and beautifully canopied land. An immediate feeling of calmness registers as one steps off of the plane and is engulfed by the sweet tropics.

Located on a similar longitude to the Hawaiian Islands, Manzanillo mirrors Hawaii's warm climate, tropical vegetation, and unsurpassed beauty. It centers around two enormous bays: Bahia de Manzanillo and Bahia de Santiago. Separated by Santiago Peninsula, each bay boasts five miles of pristine beach. Easy to discover on an adventure boat tour, one may opt to absorb the scenery from the panoramic view of Manzanillo's many upscale resorts.

While the population of Manzanillo is approximately 100,000, heralding it the largest city in Colima state, there is a small town feel that weaves throughout the community. Welcoming to tourists, Manzanillo is not a trap. Encounters with pushy vendors and salespeople do not exist. An afternoon downtown is a relaxing walk through safe, clean, vibrant streets greeted with warm smiles. Polite vendors proudly display

handmade craftworks, dried natural herbs, hand-embroidered clothing, snacks and colorful fruit juices, all ready for purchase by locals and tourists alike.

Paralleling the downtown sector of Manzanillo is a two mile boardwalk. It encircles the famous sailfish sculpture and lovely topiary gardens. Charles Shultz, resident of sister city St. Paul, created a Snoopy “Gone Sailfishing” sculpture that happily resides next to the waterfront. It is here that the largest port in Mexico sits, harboring the Mexican Pacific Naval Fleet and Mexican Army. Large scale cruise liners frequent the port as do international container ships.

A short car ride outside of Manzanillo town is a trip to excitement, enchantment and relaxation. An afternoon spent scuba-diving, golfing, taking in the active volcano and natural waterfalls, surfing, hiking, jet skiing, windsurfing, horseback riding, bird watching or deep sea fishing is the avid adventurer’s dream come true.

A brief jaunt outside of Manzanillo affords a day of culture and information. Touring the capitol city of Colima is a step back in time. Museums feature pre-Columbian artifacts found locally around the area. The tombs and pyramids are fascinating intriguing sites. A boat ride to Isla de Navidad is an afternoon spent surrounded by incredible landscape enjoying coffee at a quaint café or wandering through the colorful artesian streets. Guadalajara is a journey into both the past and present. Old colonial architecture stands among a modern skyline. Regardless of the destination, Manzanillo and its surrounding areas are incredible. A step outside into the open warrants a visual journey through densely covered hillsides, vibrant open skies and heartfelt sunrises and sunsets.

For those seeking relaxation, Manzanillo offers world class resorts and hotels with spectacular views, private beaches, creatively designed swimming pools, helpful pleasant staff members and incredible margaritas!

Manzanillo's culinary circle is continually progressing. Incorporating local products and international flair, Manzanillo continues to push the culinary envelope, receiving acclaim and recognition. Throughout the city one may enjoy multiple styles of delectable ceviche, succulent beef carpaccio, beautifully presented antipasto bars and creative desserts constructed of local ingredients. The cuisine is fresh, flavorful and artistic. It continues to grow and evolve much like Manzanillo.

Surrounded by the Sierra Madre Mountains, Manzanillo is a shining jewel. Environmentally conscious, it is converting its crude oil power plant into a natural gas facility. Many sport fishing boats practice "catch and release" programs and the indigenous sea turtles are a studied and protected species.

A town boasting low crime and low unemployment, locals and tourists enjoy the casual manner of everyday life. Two new hospitals and two new major supermarket department stores have been created supplying more options and employment opportunities to citizens.

Production of the many coconut, coffee and banana plantations, lime orchards, melon, organic sea salt farms and iron mines allow Manzanillo to be a self sufficient community. Due to the conscious and content nature of its society Manzanillo enjoys the sisterhood of many cities internationally. Sister city to San Pablo and Hermosa Beach California, Flagstaff Arizona, Kansas City Missouri, St. Paul Minnesota, Houston Texas and Shanghai China this city has much to represent and be proud of.

As strong and illustrious as the tree it is named after, Manzanillo is a traveler's paradise. A safe tranquil community offering adventure and relaxation, Manzanillo truly has something for everyone. Whether on a family vacation or honeymoon this destination offers both relaxation and adventure. A lesson in history and ecoculture requires only a casual glance in any direction. Surrounded by gem colored mountainsides and azure sea, Manzanillo is perfect picture in every blink of an eye. Manzanillo continues to grow and progress but proudly holds onto its grasp of the small town feel. This contentment radiates from its society and is passed onto its visitors. Opening your eyes to a dream is as simple as stepping off the plane and experiencing Manzanillo.