



Alma Libre Books
Puerto Morelos, Mexico



Beach Reads

News from Alma Libre Bookstore - Puerto Morelos, Mexico

Year #02 - Issue #5 - April 2004

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News From Puerto Morelos

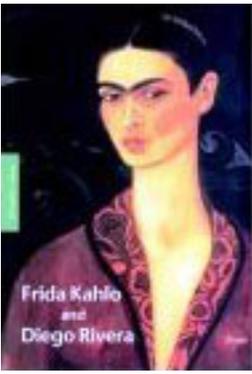


Spring Break!

What started as a week off for college kids to study has turned into a month better known for debauchery than cramming. Spring break is big in Mexico, but it's wild side lives strictly in Cancun. If you are thinking of giving yourself a little break, but would rather spend your time without the party

animals, then Puerto Morelos is for you.

We get a few more visitors during Spring Break, but they tend to be more interested in relaxation than revelry. Give yourself a break! Spring is a great time to come to Mexico. You don't have to be in college to take a Spring Break.



New Books!

Once again we arranged for a mid-season shipment from up North to refill our shelves. We used the opportunity to bring in a large supply of beautiful new books. Check out the New Books section of this newsletter to see some of the new stock. Many people ask when we are closing the bookstore for the season. It will be at the end of May.

We will be closed until mid October. We use this time to travel back to Calgary and get more books (and see more of Mexico).



House Renovation Update

This month was all about furniture. A friend told us about a small puebla near Valladolid that specializes in custom furniture. We had a sofa bed built for our loft and two chairs for our kitchen. The craftsmen built the sofa bed using only a picture we gave them from a catalogue. The kitchen chairs feature a custom carving of a Mayan sun. Adding the carving cost us only five dollars more for each chair. The same shop is

busy building new beach loungers for Ceiba del Mar.

Bookstore Kittens

Since we moved to Mexico, we have been feeding a few stray cats that live behind the bookstore. One our "regulars" recently brought a couple of extra mouths to feed. We would love to find real homes for these two. If you are looking for a little free companionship, contact us. They appear to be healthy, happy and ready to play.



Free Gift From Alma Libre



For those of you still stuck up North, bring a small piece of Puerto Morelos to your home or office with our new Puerto Morelos Wallpaper. Beautiful of course and practical too with a April and May Calendar built right in. This month's wallpaper is a view of the beach near Casita del Mar.

We'll have new pictures available for

download every month!

Pick your wallpaper size:

[1024 x 768](#) [800 x 600](#)

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News Briefs

Changes!



Yet another restaurant has opened in Puerto Morelos. **Don Chebo** is located on Ninos Heroes, about one block south of Mama's Bakery. The owners tell us that they make everything from scratch, including the tortillas. Prices are very reasonable.

A new small **grocery store** is being built behind the gift shop on the square.

Nito's Dive Shop has moved out of our plaza. At first we thought the popular **Cafe de Amancia** would expand into the space, but now we know it will be home to a new Lebanese restaurant. The talent behind **Fungo**

Noire say it will be open in about two months.

Fish Burger on Avenue Rojo Gomez has closed. A new **arts & crafts** centre (for all ages) has opened in its place.

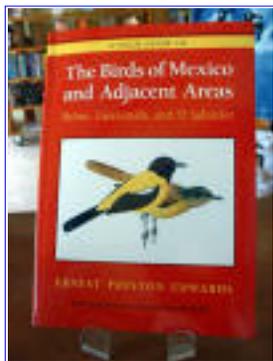
Playa del Carmen continues its explosive growth. A new Sam's Club store is under construction and we hear a new shopping mall will be built just off the highway.

Current Exchange Rates (In Puerto Morelos) USA Dollar 10.90 CDN Dollar 8.00

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This Just In! *New Books & Products at Alma Libre*

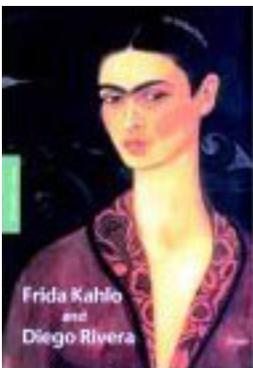
Books!



The Birds of Mexico and Adjacent Areas by Ernest Preston Edwards

Okay, we admit it is not a very catchy title for a book, but it is the best book to identify all the birds in the Yucatan.

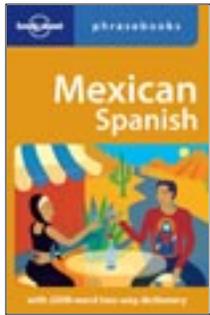
Features more than 850 species in a convenient, easy to carry guide. **We now have the hardcover edition of this book in stock for the same price as the paperback edition. You save \$8 off Amazon.com's hardcover price!**



Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera by Isabel Alcantara, Sandra Egnolff

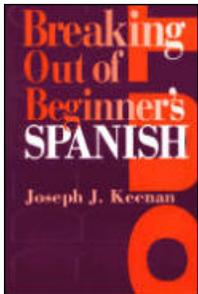
Frida Kahlo's stormy relationship with fellow artist Diego Rivera and how it affected her work is the subject of this fascinating study. Generously illustrated with works by both artists as well as contemporary photographs, this volume sheds new light on the life

and imagery of one of the twentieth century's greatest women artists. We chose this book because it gives an excellent overview of her life and the most pictures of her art.



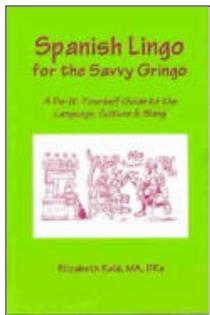
Mexican Spanish Phrasebook

A completely new phrasebook by the travel experts at Lonely Planet. This book is specifically written for visitors to Mexico, not Spain. This extremely useful phrase book comes with a 2000 word two-way dictionary. Learn how to tell your hairdresser "No deberia haberme cortado con usted!" (I should never have let you near me!)



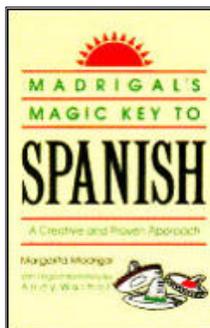
Breaking Out of Beginner's Spanish by Joseph J Keenan

Many language books are boring, this one is not. Written by a native English speaker who learned Spanish the hard way; by trying to talk to Spanish-speaking people, it offers English speakers with a basic knowledge of Spanish hundreds of tips for using the language more fluently and colloquially, with fewer obvious "gringo" errors



Spanish Lingo for the Savvy Gringo by M. F. Jones-Reid

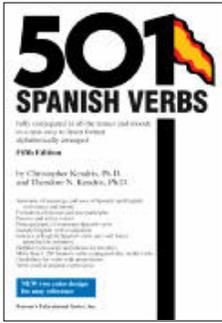
Focusing on the Spanish that is spoken in Mexico, and most frequently in the United States, this book teaches the language and provides insights into Mexican culture and its customs.



Madrigal's Magic Key to Spanish by Margarita Madrigal

Anyone can read, write, and speak Spanish in only a few short weeks with this unique and proven method, which completely eliminates rote memorization and boring drills. Features illustrations by Andy Warhol. We know a lot of people who learned to speak Spanish well

using this book.

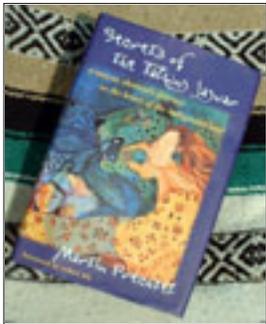


501 Spanish Verbs by Christopher Kendris

With over one million copies in print, this is the book you want if you are serious about speaking Spanish. Those who have learned the language call this book "the bible".

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Book Review: Secrets of the Talking Jaguar by Martin Prechtel



Escape on a wonderful, magical journey of the Maya World with Martin Prechtel as he explores the inner life of this ancient culture. Entertaining and revealing, “Secrets of the Talking Jaguar: A Mayan Shaman's Journey to the Heart of the Indigenous Soul” takes you on a fascinating trip through Mexico and Guatemala. Prechtel uncovers the secrets of the Mayan world armed only with his guitar and paints. Through both heart-warming and humorous tales, he reveals to the reader very poignant observations of how the Mayan people live within nature, their hierarchy, their culture, and their love of life. Prechtel also uncovers the Maya’s slow victimization by modern man.

What starts out as a journey to find a meaning in his own life, after his mother’s death becomes a destiny that changes his life forever. Beginning in Mexico, travelling by bus with only a few pesos in his pocket, he is guided by people, dreams and seeming coincidences. He arrives on the shores of Lake Atitlan in Guatemala where he is, unknown to him, expected by the village of Tzutujil Mayan. Here, after many sleepless nights and starving days he is given a bed, food and told that he is going to become a shaman. Prechtel begins his insightful journey apprenticing to become a powerful, ancient shaman and ten years later a village chief.

Many books have been written about the ancient Mayans, but this one takes you inside the complex culture of Mayan village life, a culture that is fast disappearing. It reveals the hardships of everyday living and the compassion of these historic people. It also brings to light the question of what impact modern society is having on the indigenous tribes and what their future may hold.

(This review was written by Joanne and appeared in the Miami Herald - Cancun Edition recently!)

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Mexico Facts

Know Your Mexican Drinking Establishments

Antro - (*an-tro*) a bar or nightclub, formerly used to describe a dive

Bar - (*bar*) a place for drinking and talking, rather than dancing or listening to live music

Cantina - (*kan-tee-na*) a uniquely Mexican establishment, often with wild-west style swinging doors. Some are for men only, while others are more relaxed.

Pena - (*pen-ya*) a place to go for either a drink or a meal, usually with live romantic Mexican music.



Source: Lonely Planet Mexican Spanish Phrasebook

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Just a reminder that we are in our high season hours now. That is Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am until 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Sunday we are open 4:00 to 9:00.

Our hours are always posted on the front page of our website at www.almalibrebooks.com.

We take trades every day, so our selection is constantly changing. If you are planning a trip down, why not bring some recent bestsellers to trade and check out our store.

For you locals, remember we are always bringing in Special Orders. Contact us for details. Amazon can't touch us!

We look forward to seeing you in Puerto Morelos!

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Beach Reads is the official newsletter of Alma Libre Bookstore in Puerto Morelos Mexico. It is mailed directly to your mailbox if you request it. Beach Reads is published on a sporadic, seemingly random basis...but it is supposed to be approximately monthly during the season at Puerto Morelos. The season is November until after Easter. We do our best to publish it regularly...but the beach is so pretty...

Our website is located at www.almalibrebooks.com Our store hours are always on the home page.

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This is Year #2, Issue #5. April 2004.

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