

Tourist Zones Up To 26 Times Safer In Mexico Than U.S.A.

Riviera Maya, Mexico, Tuesday, April 15, 2009. For Immediate Release.

New homicide rate research released today by Mexican real estate agency, RE/MAX Investment Properties, indicates that major tourist zones in Mexico are up to 26 times safer than some tourist zones in the U.S.A.

- The Mexican state of Baja California Sur location of tourist zones Los Cabos, La Paz and Loreto - has a homicide rate 26 times lower than Orlando, 18 times lower than Miami, 17 times lower than West Palm Beach, 12 times lower than Tampa and half that of Honolulu.
- The Mexican state of Quintana Roo location of tourist zones Cancun and the Riviera Maya - has a homicide rate 14 times lower than Orlando, 10 times lower than Miami, 9 times lower than West Palm Beach, 6 times lower than Tampa and lower than that of Honolulu.

The study looks at homicide rates for the first 3 months of 2009 in 15 Mexican states and compares them with the average 3 month homicide rates for 18 cities in the U.S.A. and 9 cities in Canada in 2007 and 2008.

The figures also show that Mexican tourist zones are even safer when the homicide rate is compared with major cities in the U.S.A. and Canada, where many tourists to Mexico have their homes.

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For example, Baja California Sur has a homicide rate 39 times lower than Washington D.C., 19 times lower than Houston, 17 times lower than Dallas, 7 times lower than the city of New York and 3 times lower than Vancouver.

Gary Almedal, Broker at RE/MAX Investment Properties, said, "We knew Mexico's tourist areas were safe, but our homicide rate research really put things in perspective. Many tourists are probably safer on vacation in Mexico than when on vacation or living at home."

Ahead of President Obama's visit to Mexico tomorrow, RE/MAX Investment Properties hopes that the research will help overcome the recent representation in some media of Mexico as a violent country all over.

The new study shows most violence in Mexico is restricted to isolated zones in Chihuahua, Guerrero and U.S. border areas. Mexico's biggest tourist areas remain a paradise for vacationers.

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Notes to Editors:

- The research used the most recent official government statistics available for the USA and Canada and recent national newspaper statistics for Mexico.
- The number of homicides per million population for the 3 months January to March 2009 in Mexico was compared with the average number of homicides per million population per 3 months in 2008* in the U.S. and 2007 in Canada. (* *Except Washington D.C. where 2007 figures were* used due to unavailability of comparable data for 2008.)

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 RE/MAX Investment Properties is an independently owned and operated real estate agency in the Riviera Maya, Mexico. They specialize in finding unique investment property opportunities in Mexico.

Statistical Limitations:

- Since the Mexican data relies on newspaper reports it may underestimate the number of homicides. Even taking this into account, the Mexican tourist zone homicide rates are still considerably lower than those in many tourist zone and cities in the USA.
- The study only looked at homicide rates, not other forms of violent crime, so only represents one measure of safety for any given area.
- Crime statistics are often better indicators of prevalence of law enforcement and willingness to report crime, than actual prevalence.
- The population statistics for the USA and Canada are for 2007 and for Mexico for 2005. Differences in the years and changes in population may have an effect on homicide rates.
- See the Appendix below for full statistics.

Data Sources:

USAFBIwww.fbi.govMexicoExcelsior Newspaperwww.exonline.com.mxCanadaStatistics Canadawww.statcan.gc.caPopulations for Mexico for 2005. Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografíawww.inegi.org.mx

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Appendix

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Area	Population	Murders 3 month average	Per Milion People	Compared with Baja California Sur	Compared with Quintana Roo
Chihuahua	3,241,444	572.0	176.46	90.38	50.09
Washington D.C.	588,292	45.3	76.92	39.39	21.83
Guerrero	3,115,202	173.0	55.53	28.44	15.76
Orlando	224,417	11.5	51.24	26.25	14.54
Atlanta	497,290	25.0	50.27	25.75	14.27
Chicago	2,824,434	114.5	40.54	20.76	11.51
Baja California	2,844,469	107.0	37.62	19.27	10.68
Houston	2,169,544	81.5	37.57	19.24	10.66
Miami	410,252	15.0	36.56	18.73	10.38
Dallas	1,239,104	43.0	34.70	17.77	9.85
West Palm Beach	101,322	3.5	34.54	17.69	9.80
Charleston	109,382	3.5	32.00	16.39	9.08
Los Angeles	3,870,487	98.0	25.32	12.97	7.19
Boston	591,855	14.5	24.50	12.55	6.95
Tampa	337,220	8.0	23.72	12.15	6.73
Fort Lauderdale	187,995	4.0	21.28	10.90	6.04
Long Beach	473,959	9.5	20.04	10.27	5.69
Coahuila	2,495,200	39.0	15.63	8.01	4.44
New York	8,220,196	126.0	15.33	7.85	4.35
Clearwater	107,501	1.5	13.95	7.15	3.96
Denver	573,387	8.0	13.95	7.15	3.96
Sonora	2,394,861	32.0	13.36	6.84	3.79
Michoacan	3,966,073	47.0	11.85	6.07	3.36
Colima	567,996	6.0	10.56	5.41	3.00
Winnipeg	732,048	6.5	8.88	4.55	2.52
Edmonton	1,095,968	9.0	8.21	4.21	2.33
Calgary	1,145,924	9.0	7.85	4.02	2.23
Vancouver	2,286,517	13.8	6.01	3.08	1.71
Toronto	5,510,424	27.8	5.04	2.58	1.43
Honalulu	905,903	4.0	4.42	2.26	1.25
Jalisco	6,752,113	27.0	4.00	2.05	1.13
Montréal	3,729,820	14.8	3.95	2.03	1.12
Ottawa	890,013	3.5	3.93	2.01	1.12
Hamilton	707,333	2.8	3.89	1.99	1.10
Quintana Roo	1,135,309	4.0	3.52	1.80	1.00
Tamaulipas	3,024,238	8.0	2.65	1.35	0.75
Nuevo Leon	4,199,292	10.0	2.38	1.22	0.68
Baja California Sur	512,170	1.0	1.95	1.00	0.55
Yucatan	1,818,948	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Campeche	754,730	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nayarit	949,684	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Québec	732,452	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00

Mexican states in italics. Data Sources and Statistical Limitations above.