

## EMBAMEX SWEDEN JANUARY NEWSLETTER

### STATE BY STATE: GUANAJUATO

Guanajuato is a state rich in culture, history, and cuisine, where all kinds of activities can be enjoyed.

The unusual geography of the state endows it with varied landscapes that change over the space of a few miles, from a lake in a volcanic crater to a natural reserve with over 150 bird species – perfect spots for camping and adventure sports; it also includes semi-arid areas where villages that experienced the silver rush in the 18th and 19th centuries remain as a surreal reminder of past glories.

Guanajuato is also home to one of the country's leading arts festivals, the Festival Internacional Cervantino, which has earned a worldwide reputation. Artists in all fields have lived in this state, which has a wealth of colonial architecture that surprises and inspires visitors from around the world.

The city of Guanajuato, capital of the state and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, offers a layout full of winding streets and unexpected turns, with a wealth of alleys just waiting to be explored. The center of the city is a perfect setting for the bohemian life, with a busy vibe around the cafés and bars.



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The state's rich history means one can also view places that witnessed key scenes leading to the nation's Independence. The Alhóndiga de Granaditas, the Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Dolores parish church and the house where independence hero and priest Don Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla lived are some of its leading attractions.

The town of San Miguel de Allende, meanwhile, is famous for the beauty of its architecture, and offers visitors enchanting surroundings in which to enjoy its tranquility, handicrafts, and cultural and culinary diversity.

A number of monasteries and missions are dotted all around the state, as well as archeological ruins from the earliest Mesoamerican peoples who settled in this region.

As for its gastronomical diversity, Guanajuato offers the world singular products with unrivalled flavors, such as *cajeta* (goat's milk caramel), products using the renown strawberries of Irapuato, as well as various traditional breads and sweets.

*Text source and photo: [www.visitmexico.com](http://www.visitmexico.com)*



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### MEXICO'S COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE: PRESIDENT PEÑA NIETO

On December 10th, President Enrique Peña Nieto participated in the ceremony of a joint declaration on Climate Change by the Presidents of the Pacific Alliance, expressing that in the case of Mexico, our commitment to tackling the problem is strong and growing. He added that “for the nations of the Pacific Alliance, fighting climate change is a commitment of the highest order. Today we confirm our broad-ranging political will to advance the search for common solutions to this global challenge; we are aware that this is a matter of the highest priority and an essential one for present and future generations.”

President Peña Nieto said Mexico has taken concrete and innovative measures through the General Law on Climate Change and the Special Climate Change Program and informed that we are one of the first countries to establish a consumption tax on carbon emissions, and the National Registry of Emissions will begin operating on January of 2015.

The President also mentioned that, with a view to the future, “in Chile, Colombia, Peru, and Mexico we promote sustainable development that simultaneously maintains growth, social inclusion and environmental preservation policies.”



*From left to right: President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos; President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet; President of Peru, Ollanta Humala; and President of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto.*

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### MEXICO STRENGTHENED DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH MIDDLE EASTERN NATIONS IN 2014

In 2014 Mexico successfully strengthened its bonds of friendship and cooperation with countries of the Middle East through the mutual exchange of high-level diplomatic visits and the opening of new embassies in the region.

Within this framework, King Abdullah II, Ruler of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, visited Mexico in February, and signed four agreements in various fields.

Also in April, the Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, visited Mexico in order to boost bilateral trade and investment.

Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Affairs, José Antonio Meade, made a working tour to the Persian Gulf countries (Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates) in March of this year in order to strengthen political and economic ties. The foreign minister also visited Jordan in July as a follow up to the agreements reached during King Abdullah II's visit to Mexico.



*King Abdullah II of Jordan with President Enrique Peña Nieto during the monarch's visit to Mexico. Photo: [www.milenio.com](http://www.milenio.com)*

Previously, during the month of January, Mexico participated in the Second International Conference on the situation in Syria and gave a million dollars to Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, respectively, to help address the Syrian refugee crisis in these countries.

Regarding Palestine, Mexico announced a voluntary contribution of \$ 1.1 million dollars to the United Nations' Relief Works Agency to assist in the reconstruction of Gaza.

Finally, in June this year, Mexico opened its embassy in Doha, Qatar.

### MEXICO WELCOMES RENEWAL OF CUBA– U.S. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

On December 17, Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Jose Antonio Meade, held a telephone conversation with his Cuban counterpart Bruno Rodriguez, to express Mexico's congratulations regarding the announcement of presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro of the restoration of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba, and the beginning of an open dialogue on a wide range of issues, including trade, democracy, and human rights.

Secretary Meade recognized the importance of the elimination of financial constraints between the two countries, the opportunity for US citizens to open bank accounts, the use of credit cards, among other

measures, that represent a *Foreign Affairs Secretary José Antonio Meade*.

renewal of bilateral relations. *Photo credit: [www.protocolo.com.mx](http://www.protocolo.com.mx)*



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### MEXICO GREW CLOSER TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN 2014

During 2014, the government of Mexico furthered its relationship with various nations of the African continent, which presents opportunities to diversify diplomatic relations as well as to increase trade and investment exchanges in different fields.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Jose Antonio Meade, visited South Africa in October, where he met with President Jacob Zuma and spoke with business leaders about investments in Mexico.

In addition, Secretary Meade made the first visit by a Mexican foreign minister to Angola in October of this year. Political relations with that country were further strengthened with two cooperation agreements signed and the official announcement of the opening of a Mexican embassy in Luanda in 2015.

During November, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Carlos de Icaza, participated as head of the Mexican delegation to the XV Summit of la Francophonie, held in Dakar, Senegal, where he held bilateral meetings with the foreign ministers of Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, Senegal, and Tunisia.

With the aim of promoting political dialogue and trade, the government of Mexico has proposed to increase the number of diplomatic missions in the African continent. Thus Mexico opened an embassy in Ghana and also plans to open embassies in Angola and Côte d'Ivoire.

Mexico's government also announced a financial contribution, made through the World Health Organization, to support Cuban brigades deployed in West African countries to combat the spread of the Ebola virus.

The Foreign Ministry recognizes the significant potential of many of the African economies and the need to strengthen their actions in economic development. One result of this effort has been the recent opening of the Trade Promotion Office of ProMéxico in Casablanca, Morocco, which is the first on the African continent.

Mexico is aware of the promising future of Africa and works to achieve a closer relationship with these countries in order to enhance cooperation, trade, and investment with them.



*Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Affairs José Antonio Meade and International Relations and Cooperation Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane of South Africa.*

*Photo credit: [www.thediplomaticsociety.co.za](http://www.thediplomaticsociety.co.za)*

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### XXIV IBEROAMERICAN SUMMIT IN VERACRUZ, MEXICO



The XXIV Iberoamerican Summit was held in Mexico on December of 2014. This summit began 23 years ago in Guadalajara as a forum for cooperation and dialogue in the region and has traditionally promoted a host of common values and economic cooperation.

This edition of the Iberoamerican Summit was inaugurated on December 9 in Boca del Río, in the Mexican city of Veracruz, under the slogan “Education, Culture and Innovation.” Leaders of Latin America, Spain and Portugal were present to inaugurate the proceedings.

One of the clearest objectives of the Iberoamerican Forum is the “Latin American Erasmus,” which has two components: the recognition of degrees across the region and the promotion of youth scholarships in Latin America. Within this framework, a consortium of some of the largest financial companies in Latin America announced a donation of 700 million Euros for this purpose.

After an introductory session, the summit began with the intervention of the new Secretary General (SEGIB), Rebeca Grynspan, who thanked the Government of Mexico for its work in strengthening ties among Latin American countries and also welcomed Spain’s King Philip VI, underlining the monarch’s extensive links with Latin America.

As he presided over the summit, Mexican president Enrique Peña Nieto said that “the encouragement of science, technology and innovation is fundamental to the progress of each of our countries, and the entire Latin American region as a whole.”

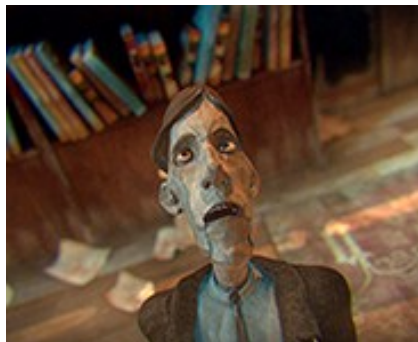
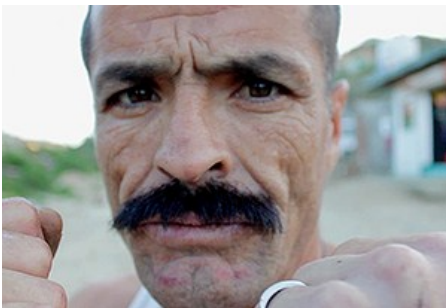
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### GOTHENBURG FILM FESTIVAL



The Göteborg Film Festival takes place in the Swedish city of Gothenburg from January to February. Every year, a variety of prestigious international films are screened for the public. For the 2015 edition, five of the participating films are either Mexican or Mexican co-productions: [Sand Dollars](#), directed by Laura Amelia Guzmán and Israel Cárdenas; [Pickman's Model](#), directed by

Pablo Ángeles; [Güeros](#), directed by Alonso Ruizpalacios; [Navajazo](#), directed by Ricardo Silva; and [Jauja](#), directed by Lisandro Alonso.



Top, left to right: *Navajazo*, *Jauja*, *Sand Dollars*.

Bottom, left to right: *Güeros*, *Pickman's Model*.

For more information on the festival and to purchase tickets, please visit the festival [website](#).

Tickets are 90 SEK each.

