

EMBAMEX SUECIA SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

STATE BY STATE: COAHUILA

At first glance, the Coahuila territory seems rugged and arid, with a desert dominating the horizon. A closer look, however, will reveal rich green oases. The water is sheltered by the looming mountains of the Sierra Madre Oriental, a mountain range that crosses the whole state. The heat of the desert swiftly becomes cold as one climbs the mountains.

Coahuila's main cities bustle with culture and entertainment. Saltillo is the capital and a cultural center. Several beautiful museums explore the geological, biological, and cultural history of the state. Another city, Torreón, is a hub of industry and a regional economic pillar. Northern cities like Piedras Negras and Ciudad Acuña border the U.S. and engage in extensive trade with their neighbor. These cities are popular among both locals and foreigners for their entertainment.

Industry is becoming increasingly important in Coahuila. In the coal regions and central desert, the land is rugged, dry and unproductive, while the sub-soil is rich in minerals. In Sabinas, for example, coal is an abundant resource, but it would not be so if there were no iron hidden underground. Steel and coal exist in such vast amounts that recently, a project was set into action, which comprises a large set of steel lines and mines with state-of-the-art technology designed to boost oil production. The mining sector is dominated by Peñoles, which has extracting operations for various minerals, and is Mexico's largest silver producer.

Coahuila's northern region, by contrast, is a livestock producer, with cowboys riding through the fields, taking cows from ranch to ranch. This tradition is well reflected in Coahuila's cuisine, which is characterized by all kinds of meat dishes, with each region boasting its own particular seasoning; examples include roast pork and *discadas*, which is a meat stew cooked on a round metal griddle, as well as rice dishes such as *arroz huérfano* (orphan rice) and *arroz kikapú*.

Although Coahuila is the gateway to the north of Mexico, it has barely been explored or promoted despite its wide range of attractions. Coahuila boasts a rich history and a friendly, open population. There is also ecotourism available in the highlands, where one can go kayaking in the streams or climb through



IMPORTANT DATES

September 16th
Mexican Independence Day

dunes or mountains. At every stop, one can find places to stay and plenty of tourist attractions and local food to enjoy.

Text source: Discover Coahuila Magazine
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SECONDARY ENERGY REFORM LAWS ENACTED

This past August 25th, the President of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto, enacted the secondary legislation of the Energy Reform. During the ceremony to mark this occasion, he stated that “thanks to the unity of purposes, in months we overcame decades of immobility; the barriers that prevented Mexico from growing in an accelerated and sustained manner have been knocked down.” He also noted that “with this Reform we can extract deepwater oil and more effectively use our great shale deposit to obtain gas that allows us to generate electricity at a lower cost. The country will reduce its dependency on foreign supplies and will guarantee its energy security.”

After acknowledging federal lawmakers, President Peña Nieto said that these changes will translate into concrete benefits for families, both in the city and in the countryside, as well as businesses, especially small and medium enterprises. He also noted that the Energy Reform is “also a green reform because it promotes the use of cleaner fuels such as gas, which pollutes 70 per cent less than oil. It will also allow the production of energy based on renewable sources like solar, wind power, and geothermal energy.”

The President furthermore announced ten concrete actions, both in the short and medium terms, to put the Energy Reform into action so that all Mexicans can receive the benefits derived from this landmark reform.

For more information, please visit our website: www.embamex.se



Photo credits: www.presidencia.gob.mx

AMBASSADOR GASCA PLIEGO VISITS GOTHENBURG

At the invitation of the Honorary Consul in Gothenburg, Hilda Ivarsson, Ambassador Augustín Gasca Pliego attended a meeting in this city on the 9th of August. During this encounter, the Ambassador and the Honorary Consul had the chance to discuss, along with around 120 Swedish manufacturers and intellectuals, topics related to the present and the future of Mexico.



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CALAKMUL IS NAMED A WORLD HERITAGE SITE BY UNESCO

The ancient Mayan city of Calakmul and its surrounding tropical forests, located in the Mexican state of Campeche, were included to the World Heritage List of UNESCO on June 22nd. On August 4th, the Government of Mexico received an official document which certifies it. This area is considered the second largest area of tropical forest in the Americas and the best preserved in the region, encompassing a total of 723 thousand hectares.

The Calakmul Biosphere Reserve houses around 86 species of mammals (jaguar, puma, ocelot, other felines, anteater, spider monkeys, howler monkeys, tapir, among others), some 282 species of birds, 50 species of reptiles, 400 kinds of butterflies, and varieties of wild orchids.



Photo credits: www.culturacampeche.com

Inserted into the jungle itself up between the tops of the trees are the remains of the Ancient Maya City of Calakmul; it is the former capital of one of the largest and most influential kingdoms of Mesoamerica.

As this region was one of the most densely populated in the Mayan era, the architectural legacy of this civilization can be admired everywhere in places like Becan, a city surrounded by a single ditch defense, as well as Chicana, Rio Bec, Hormiguero, Balamkú, and Xpujil. The information contained in this series of sites is vital to the world's understanding of culture and its evolution.

AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH UPPSALA'S INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY

Martin Brozek, International Secretary and Protocol Manager of Uppsala county, kindly visited Ambassador Gasca Pliego to discuss regional and local government structure in Sweden, particularly concerning the city of Uppsala, which is the seat of the oldest university in Sweden, where lots of Mexican students come every year in academic exchange.

