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MONEY'S WORTH

Real Estate

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More than a million Americans own second homes in Mexico, reports the National Association of Realtors. Growing interest in the area has prompted the NAR to offer a course on doing business in Mexico.



PLACE/PRICE: Loreto Bay, Mexico / \$380,000

FEES*: \$2,100 per year

THE PROPERTY: 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,515 square feet

DESCRIPTION: This 2-story house with courtyard reflects the Spanish Colonial architecture of the region. There are tile floors and arched entry ways. The buyer can choose a furniture package for an additional cost.

NOTABLE: Loreto Bay has 3 miles of beaches and is located two-thirds of the way down the Baja peninsula. The Villages of Loreto Bay, an eco-friendly community, has a spa and a 5,000-acre natural preserve. Each of its neighborhoods has shops near the homes.



PLACE/PRICE: Ixtapa, Mexico / \$800,000

FEES*: \$2,319 per year

THE PROPERTY: 6 bedrooms, 7 baths, 5,875 square feet

DESCRIPTION: The master suite has a wet bar, sitting room, laundry chute and a bidet. There is a covered patio with a grill area and a pool with a Jacuzzi. There are maids' quarters and central air conditioning.

NOTABLE: This furnished home in a government-planned tourist resort, overlooks the Palma Real

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Golf course. Sister city to fishing town Zihuatanejo, Ixtapa forms part of Guerrero's Sun Triangle, together with Acapulco and Taxco. It is along the Mexican Riviera.

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PLACE/PRICE: Punta Mita, Mexico/\$1.3 million

FEES*: \$18,500 per year

THE PROPERTY: 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3,916 square feet

DESCRIPTION: The kitchen has granite slab countertops with backsplash. Off the living room is a covered patio with a wet bar, stainless steel grill and an infinity-edge heated pool. The master has a sitting area and terrace.

NOTABLE: Punta Mita is a 1,500-acre peninsula with 9 1/2 miles of beaches. The Las Palmas resort sits adjacent to two Jack Nicklaus golf courses and buyers receive membership in the Four Seasons Golf Club and its tennis club and a fitness center.

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