MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE

Where are we two Centuries later?
Mexican Independence Two Centuries Later

Mexican Independence, celebrated proudly every year on September 16th, marked a pivotal milestone in the country’s history.

However, over two centuries after that call for freedom, Mexico faces sociocultural challenges that question the true freedom and progress of the nation. From persistent violence and drug trafficking to governmental corruption, analyzing how these issues have impacted the perception of independence and liberty in contemporary Mexican society is essential.

**Mexico’s Violence: From governmental corruption to drug trafficking hub.**

Governmental corruption has been a persistent cancer in Mexican modern history, eroding trust in institutions and undermining the ideals of independence. Lack of transparency and accountability has fueled distrust toward leaders and weakened the foundations of a true democracy. As corruption scandals come to light, the question of whether independence truly brought about complete and fair liberation resonates in the minds of many.

Despite efforts to attain independence and the subsequent formation of a sovereign state, Mexico has been plagued by episodes of violence and drug trafficking that cast a shadow over the achievements made. The drug cartels’ struggle for territorial control has escalated violence that has affected entire communities. This violence has cost lives and left scars on Mexico’s social and cultural fabric.

**National Identity and Social Fragmentation**

Mexico faces challenges in constructing and preserving a unified national identity two hundred-plus years after independence. The country’s ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity is a strength, but it can also be a source of fragmentation. Social and economic divisions are evident, and unequal access to education and resources has marginalized many. The question of whether we are truly free also involves the ability of all Mexicans to fully participate in the nation’s political, economic, and cultural life.

Several scenarios emerge from a sociological standpoint. If Mexico continues to grapple with violence, drug-related issues, and corruption, freedom and progress could become extremely limited. There is a need for more concerted efforts to tackle these challenges and lead to a more unified and equitable society. Investments in education and institutional transparency could contribute to a stronger sense of national identity and a brighter future.

**Seeking the true meaning of independence**

Whether Mexico is truly free two centuries after independence doesn’t have a simple answer. While significant strides have been made, the persistence of violence, drug trafficking, corruption, social divisions, and inequality raise doubts about the extent of true freedom. Independence must ultimately be viewed as a historical event and an ongoing process in which Mexican society strives to define and achieve genuine freedom in all aspects of national life. The future scenarios will depend on the nation’s ability to address these challenges and build a more just and inclusive society.

A question remains. Are we truly free and independent? Well... are we?
Mauricio Vila meets with Chinese Ambassador Zhan Run

In a meeting held on August 31st, Governor Mauricio Vila Dosal engaged in discussions with the Chinese Ambassador to Mexico, Zhan Run, focusing on the numerous advantages that the state of Yucatan offers to host Chinese companies. Vila Dosal emphasized the state’s strengths in commerce, industry, logistics, infrastructure, and human capital, highlighting the potential for attracting high-paying jobs for Yucatecans.

During the meeting, Vila Dosal and Ambassador Zhan discussed various topics, including the twinning between Yucatan and Zhejiang province, as well as opportunities to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between both regions. The governor extended an invitation for Ambassador Run to visit Yucatan to further explore these opportunities.

Governor Vila Dosal’s recent visit to China in July resulted in significant agreements, including the establishment of a 1,000-hectare industrial park in Umán for Holley Global and collaboration agreements with Chinese companies in the renewable energy and e-commerce sectors. These agreements aim to enhance collaboration and promote the presence of Yucatecan businesses in the global market. He also highlighted Yucatan’s crucial infrastructure projects and its commitment for sustainable energy, making it a destination for nearshoring initiatives. He emphasized the state’s commitment to upholding the Rule of Law, recognized by international organizations, and its dedication to fostering technology and enhancing human capital through training opportunities.

The governor’s efforts aim to attract foreign direct investment projects that create better employment opportunities for Yucatecan families while capitalizing on the benefits of nearshoring. Vila Dosal believes Yucatan has the potential to become a key gateway to the west coast of the United States, promoting increased trade with the region and boosting the competitiveness of Mexico’s southeast.

Furthermore, Governor Vila Dosal highlighted Yucatan’s economic growth in 2021, which was historic, generating a record number of jobs and attracting substantial foreign investment. The state also received a high number of tourists and maintained low crime rates, earning recognition in the Peace Index. Additionally, tourism flourished, with increased visits to archaeological sites and the addition of five Magical Towns to attract more visitors.

Lastly, Mérida, the capital of Yucatan, received recognition as the most competitive city in Southeast Mexico and ranked fifth in the country in 2021, according to the Mexican Institute for Competitiveness (IMCO). These achievements underscore Yucatan’s rising prominence as a thriving and competitive region in Mexico.
Echoes of Independence: Uniting past and present

Every year, on the night of September 15th, as part of a civic ceremony popularly known as “El Grito,” Mexicans commemorate the movement that initiated their struggle for independence.

During this ceremony, the call made by Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, the priest of the town of Dolores, in the early hours of September 16, 1810, to rise up in arms and fight against the colonial government, is reenacted. This struggle evolved into a protracted war for independence, finally achieved on September 27, 1821, ending three centuries of colonial rule imposed by the Spanish Crown since the heroic defense of Cuauhtémoc in Tlatelolco on August 13, 1521, when it fell into the hands of Hernán Cortés.

The intellectual underpinnings of this movement lie in the influence of the Enlightenment and the revolutionary spirit of France. Miguel Hidalgo, an enlightened thinker, was inspired by French thought and the Revolution of 1789, leading him to take up arms against Spanish absolutism. This influence is evident in the foundational documents of the insurgency, from the “Sentimientos de la Nación” to the Constitution of 1814. While this perspective prevails in the media, it has been discarded in academic circles for at least three decades.

Comparing the independence movements of different countries, let’s take the examples of the United States and Mexico. Both shared the goal of independence but faced significant differences and obstacles. The American War of Independence saw relatively little bloody combat, with the British Crown quickly recognizing independence to focus on other territories. In contrast, Mexico’s struggle required over a decade of warfare, resulting in a high death toll, and Spain strongly resisted granting independence. Furthermore, while the early U.S. government thrived economically by selling land to settlers, the newly independent Mexican government faced financial troubles, debts, and a lack of resources. This was emphasized by historian Josefina Zoraida Vázquez in an academic event moderated by Javier García Diego at El Colegio Nacional, titled “Revolutions in Mexican History and Independence in the Americas.”

As we reflect on the significance of these historical events, it becomes evident that the legacy of independence is not just a celebration of a distant past but a continued source of inspiration for modern societies striving for self-governance and equality. The insights offered by historians like Josefina Zoraida Vázquez prompt us to critically examine our understanding of these movements and their enduring relevance. Ultimately, the annual commemoration of “El Grito” bridges the gap between past and present, fostering a deeper appreciation for the sacrifices made.
Misconceptions about the Mexican Independence

The most famous festival in Mexico, throughout the country, is El Grito de Independencia (the Cry of Independence), at 11 p.m. on September 15. It moves almost all Mexicans.

This national celebration fills squares and gathers families in front of the television; rivers of tequila flow, and tons of tacos are eaten. In every bar and restaurant across the country, there is a Mexican party going on.

The fact is that on Saturday, September 15, 1810, at 11 p.m., nothing happened. The viceroyalty slept peacefully and, for the most part, had a quiet Sunday, Sep.16th.

There was a group of conspirators in Guanajuato and Querétaro. But the priest of Dolores, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, did not ring the bell or call “to raise in arms” at 11 at night.

He sensibly called mass at seven or eight because it was Sunday, and many ranchers came from the vicinity to attend the religious service. Once the atrium was complete, the priest asked them to get some sticks, machetes, and whatever they could find. Thus began a revolt that lasted barely ten months and did not spread beyond the triangle formed by Querétaro, Guadalajara, and the outskirts of Mexico City.

The riot leaders had already been arrested a year after, excommunicated, shot, some beheaded, and their heads—especially of Miguel Hidalgo—displayed for people to see as an example in iron cages in the colonial city of Guanajuato.

Independence would not come until ten years later, on September 27, 1821, without firing a shot or spilling a drop of blood, by an agreement between the last of New Spain’s Viceroy, Juan O’Donojú, and the heads of the insurgent army, who had also allied themselves through an agreement, a negotiation, not because of the bloody defeat of one of the parties.

And what about El Grito, the founding fact Mexicans celebrate every year? It is simple: there was no such. Because of this, there is little enthusiasm and various opinions about it. A country that falsifies its birth certificate begins badly, very badly. Where do we get that national holiday, the most important in Mexico? Of two coincidences:

1. Porfirio Díaz’s birthday was on September 15. For that reason, he gave, on that date, during his long presidency, a tremendous nocturnal reception at the National Palace to the aristocracy and well-known people, the diplomatic corps, high clergy, and ministers. Downstairs, in the Zócalo, a festival was organized with many fireworks and tacos so that everyone could also celebrate their president’s birthday.

2. In 1896, Porfirio Díaz had the old bell from the church of Dolores rang by Miguel Hidalgo in 1810 to call mass on the morning of September 16.

The bell was brought and installed on the central balcony of the National Palace, where it remains to this day.

After the installation was finished on the 14, the party for the presidential birthday arrived on the 15, and Díaz, who went out every year to receive the acclaim of his good people, had the idea of ringing the historic bell, perhaps with the sole intention of indicating that it was there. But Díaz, of course, did not say a word. There was no “grito”. This is how, to this day, Mexicans no longer know precisely if their country’s independence is on September 15, when millions of people light up fireworks in the streets, or on the 16, when the military parade can be watched on TV.

The Yucatan Times
Newsroom
The Yucatecan act of independence from Spain

On a previous occasion, we pointed out that Yucatán did not have an active participation in the independence process, and we also said that the peninsula was not alien to the ideas of freedom and emancipation that existed in New Spain at that time and in the entire American continent.

Yucatecan writer Roldán Peniche Barrera points out in his book “Mérida, a Reflection of the History of Yucatán”, that the struggle for Independence in Yucatán was not distinguished by the bloody events in other parts of the country, but by the exchange of ideas and the dialogue. There were two clearly defined factions: the Ruñineros who opposed the independence ideas, and the Liberals who expressed solidarity with the movement started in 1810 by Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla.

Peniche Barrera points out that among the members of the Liberals, the group called San Juanistas stood out because they met in the parish church of San Juan Bautista. It was a liberal group, led by a priest, Vicente María Velázquez.

When the Plan of Iguala was proclaimed in 1821, the idea of independence from Spain gained a greater presence in Yucatan. The governor then convened in the city of Mérida, a public assembly in the town hall, which was attended by the Bishop of Yucatán, Pedro Agustín Estévez y Ugarte, the plenary session of the City Council, the main military and political leaders, among other people.

This public meeting was held on September 15, 1821, twelve days before the entry of the Triguarante Army into Mexico City, and the result was the proclamation of the independence of Yucatan from Spanish rule. For this purpose, a record was drafted with six paragraphs presented below.

1 That the province of Yucatán, united in affections and feelings to all those who aspire to happiness on American soil, knowing that its political independence is demanded by justice, required by necessity, and paid for by the desire of all its inhabitants; proclaims it under the assumption that the independence system is not in contradiction with civil liberty, hoping to do so solemnly after those in charge of establishing its bases, pronounce their agreement and the manner and time to bring it to due and punctual execution.

2 To more effectively strengthen the sacred rights of liberty, property, and legitimate security, elements that constitute public order and social happiness, they agreed that existing laws be observed without the slightest alteration, according to the constitutional order, and authorities are respected in all branches of the government currently established.

3 All the Americans and European Spaniards shall be recognized as brothers and friends, without disturbing the civil repose enjoyed by the entire province, which is desired to be preserved as a preferred object to communicate peacefully with its inhabitants, as well as all the businesses and transactions of civil life.

4 That the M.I. Campeche City Council, in agreement with the Lieutenant named by the King of Spain, and most trusted by him, to go to the province of Tabasco and manifest to the Commander that on behalf of the Imperial Army, sending the resolution taken, agreeing with the continuation and observance of the currently existing political and civil relations between Campeche and Tabasco.

5 That to prevent the irreparable damages that would result from the interruption of trade in Yucatan ports, its continuation is agreed in the same way under the rules, tariffs, and securities, currently established.

6 To make this determination more noticeable and effective, Mr. Juan Rivas Vértiz and Mr. Francisco Antonio Tarrazo are commissioned to communicate to the superior Chiefs or provisional government they have agreed to establish in N.E. so that as soon as possible and with the most complete instruction, they inform this province of their defined resolutions.

In this way, without firing a single shot, Yucatan became independent from Spain and expressed its interest in joining the new Mexican nation.

Indalecio Cardeña Vázquez
Merida, Yucatan, August 29, 2023

Source: meridadeyucatan.com
Come to Campeche and celebrate “El Grito de Independencia” 2023

In Campeche, Mexico’s independence will also be celebrated to the maximum. They are already counting the hours to commemorate the Grito de Independencia 2023.

In the Plaza de la República, a special edition is being prepared to commemorate one more year of the Grito de Dolores, when the priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla - at the sound of the bells of the parish of Dolores Hidalgo who, according to the official history - which is not the real one - incited the population to take up arms against the New Spain, and thus initiate the movement that gave homeland and freedom to the Mexican nation.

Campeche will celebrate the CCXIII Anniversary of the Beginning of the Fight for Independence and will also remember the illustrious characters that forged with their struggle the most crucial passage in the history of our country.

The State of Campeche is located in the Yucatan Peninsula in the southeastern region of the country, bordering to the north and northeast with Yucatan, to the east with Quintana Roo, to the south with Guatemala and Belize, to the west with the Gulf of Mexico and the southwest with Tabasco.

The history of Campeche properly begins in the first half of the 16th century. Before that, the territory that today is called Campeche and, in general, the Yucatan Peninsula was a territorial redoubt in which the Mayan people and culture developed for more than a millennium and which was called by the Mayas “the Mayab,” which means “The land of the few.”

Campeche, officially called San Francisco de Campeche, is the state capital. It is a historic fortified city located on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico in the Yucatan Peninsula. It is famous for being one of the few walled cities in the Americas. It preserves its historical heritage in excellent condition, one of the reasons why it was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999.

As in most of the country’s public squares, city halls, or esplanades, September 15 will be full of patriotism, joy, and family fun. During the afternoon, you can enjoy the traditional verbena popular, with Mexican snacks, crafts, games of skill, traditional sweets, folkloric ballet, and local artists, then will give way to the Civic Ceremony around 11 pm.

An event of such importance could not be celebrated in any other way than with a program of events that reflects the endearing traditions of Mexican popular culture. Mexican artist Espinoza Paz will perform in Campeche’s Fiestas Patrias 2023. The singer-songwriter began his career as a composer at a young age when he created his first title, “La Artista de la Escuela.” Espinoza Paz was 11 when he wrote his first song. By the time he was 13, he had written 20 pieces; however, it wasn’t until his father sent him money from the U.S. to buy his first guitar. In 1996, he migrated to Sacramento, California, and several months later, he decided to return to Mexico, where he became a famous musician.

Don’t miss Espinoza Paz on Friday, Sep. 15th! See you at the Plaza de la República at 6 pm!

Viva Campeche... Viva Mexico!

TYT Newsroom
The essential steps for your own Mexican Independence Fiesta!

The Yucatan Times brings you a list of things you’ll need to make your own authentic ‘Noche Mexicana’ or Mexican Independence Fiesta for this month of September. Viva México!

Step 1: Set the date and venue
Choose a date around Mexican Independence Day, which falls on September 16th. Decide on a suitable venue, whether it’s a backyard, a community center, or a rented event space.

Step 2: Decorations & Theme
Select a theme for your fiesta, such as “Viva México”. Decorate the venue with vibrant colors and the colors of the Mexican Flag green, white, and red. Lots of “papel picado” (colorful paper banners), and mariachi-themed items.

Step 3: The Food and drinks
Plan a menu featuring authentic Mexican cuisine. Include favorites like tacos de carne asada, tamales, guacamole, plenty of hot salsas, refried beans and Mexican street corn called “esquites”.

Step 4: Party Favors
Prepare party favors that align with the fiesta theme. Mini sombreros, maracas, or small bags of Mexican candies can be delightful giveaways for your guests. You can find those in Amazon.

Step 5: Entertainment
Arrange for entertainment that celebrates Mexican culture. If possible, include a piñata for both kids and adults to enjoy! We’ve also prepared a special selection of music for your Mexican party over at our Spotify!

Step 6: “El Grito” – The Independence Ceremony
Exactly at midnight. You have to wave a Mexican flag and scream from the top of your lungs: Viva México Viva nuestra patria Viva México… Viva México!!!!
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$350

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Gerardo Reynoso, tenor
Enrique Angiolles, tenor
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NOCHE MEXICANA
José Areán, Artistic Director
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Triunfo
Manuel Espinosa
Danza No. 2
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Mariachi

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Fernando Sant Martín, Piano

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November
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Ludwig van Beethoven
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José Areán, Artistic Director
Fernando Domínguez, Clarinet

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Palacio de la Música
$300

Guido Maria Guida, Guest Director

October
FRI 6 / 8 P.M.
SUN 8 / 12 P.M.
Palacio de la Música
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Overture "The Marriage of Figaro"
Ludwig van Beethoven
Symphony No. 4
Symphony No. 4
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Some sources indicate that chiles en nogada date from 1821 when Agustín de Iturbide signed the Act of Independence of Mexico and the Treaties of Córdoba. According to this version, the Augustinian nuns from the Convent of Santa Mónica in Puebla, who, knowing that Don Agustín would be in that city to celebrate his birthday (August 27), decided to make a dish that recalled the colors of Iturbide’s army flag, with which he entered Mexico City triumphantly.

Therefore, the nuns opted for green, white, and red. In addition, being precisely the month in which people harvest walnuts and pomegranates in that state, it occurred to them, after much thought, to make this wonderful dish.

The nuns took some poblano peppers, roasted them, peeled them, and cleaned them well inside. Then, they filled them with a hash rich in ingredients and flavors based on pork, tomato, onion, garlic, seasonal fruits, walnuts, almonds, pine nuts, and various spices.

All that remained was to prepare the sauce to cover the peppers. And what better than making a very original one based on fresh Castilla nuts? They got to work and the first thing they did was peel them perfectly.

Subsequently, they ground the nuts with fresh cheese and a little sugar. Once well ground, they mixed it with milk, added a bit of sherry and it was ready. That is, neither too thick nor too watery, with the perfect point to cover the peppers.

Now all that was left was to finish the dish. So they weathered the chiles with beaten eggs. Then, they fried them and arranged them on two separate plates. Finally, the peppers were bathed with the sauce and decorated with red pomegranate seeds and parsley leaves, thus achieving the flag’s colors.

There is another origin version. According to the writer Artemio del Valle Arizpe, in Don Agustín’s regiment, there were three soldiers who had girlfriends in Puebla. They wanted to receive them with a dish decorated with the colors of their uniform, and the Mexican flag.

For the same reason, each woman looked for the ingredient that had one of the flag’s colors. The girls did not want to resort to any recipe book. They prayed to the Virgen del Rosario and San Pascual Bailón to enlighten them. Then they started cooking and the result was what we know today.

Nowadays, in some restaurants you can ask for the chili without the weathering. In the end, each person is free to prepare and taste it as they please, but always keeping in mind that what they are eating is a modern variant.

The fame of chiles en nogada has spread, allowing them to be consumed outside of Puebla and all over the year. It is considered a seasonal dish because ingredients such as walnut and pomegranate used to decorate it can only be obtained during the last days of July and until September.

The Yucatan Times Newsroom
The Ecotel Quinta Regia has 110 beautifully decorated rooms with a Mexican colonial style, including standard rooms, executive rooms, junior suites, and master suites with jacuzzi.

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Celebrating Mexico’s fashion diversity

The notion of a specific Mexican gown has captured the imagination of many across the globe, each interpretation shaped by cultural perspectives and stereotypes.

Amongst the diverse perceptions, some envision this attire as a fusion of boots and a sombrero, emblematic of the country’s ranching heritage. Meanwhile, others associate it with the iconic “China Poblana” gown, a vibrant blend of indigenous and Spanish influences, reflecting Mexico’s rich history. Interestingly, even within Mexico, there exists a spectrum of opinions, with some locals also subscribing to these notions. This collective fascination showcases the power of cultural symbols to transcend borders and highlight the complexity of identity in a globalized world.

Mexican clothing is a testament to the intricate interplay between colonial traditions and indigenous heritage, forming a tapestry that beautifully encapsulates the nation’s diverse culture. The colonial era introduced European garments like ruffled dresses and suits, which intertwined with the intricate craftsmanship of indigenous textiles and designs. These textiles, rooted in centuries-old techniques and symbols, infuse the clothing with a deep sense of history and cultural significance. From the intricate embroidery of Oaxacan huipils to the vivid patterns of Mayan textiles, every piece of Mexican attire is a living testament to the fusion of cultures that have shaped the country over centuries. This harmonious blend serves as a reminder of the enduring legacy of both indigenous roots and colonial influences, which together compose the vibrant mosaic of Mexican identity.

The “China Poblana” gown holds a significant place in Mexican cultural imagery, often portrayed as a representative dress that embodies the nation’s history and identity. This attire is characterized by its vivid colors, intricate embroidery, and the fusion of indigenous and Spanish influences. Legend has it that a woman named Catarina de San Juan, who arrived in Mexico as a slave from India or the Philippines, became known as “La China Poblana.” She is said to have adopted local customs and integrated them with her own culture, creating a unique blend that eventually manifested in the gown. While the “China Poblana” gown is undoubtedly a captivating symbol of Mexico’s rich cultural heritage, it’s important to recognize that Mexico’s diverse regions boast an array of traditional garments, each with its own historical and cultural significance. Therefore, while the “China Poblana” gown has gained prominence as an emblematic attire, it is just one thread in the intricate fabric of Mexico’s sartorial tapestry.

Beyond the iconic “China Poblana” gown, Mexico’s cultural wardrobe encompasses a rich array of indigenous-inspired attire that proudly reflects the nation’s diversity. The Tehuana Oaxacan dress, with its bold colors and intricate embroidery, is a testament to the strength and resilience of the women of Oaxaca. Jalisco’s charros and escaramuzas outfits encapsulate the enduring spirit of Mexican ranching culture, characterized by their elegant yet practical attire. Meanwhile, the Yucatecan huipil stands as a testament to the Mayan heritage, with its intricate weavings and vibrant patterns telling stories of ancient traditions. Each of these garments is a vibrant thread woven into the fabric of Mexican history, illustrating the vast spectrum of indigenous groups that have enriched the nation’s culture throughout its evolution. Together, these diverse garments form a tapestry that celebrates the profound and enduring essence of Mexico’s cultural mosaics.
Remodeled House for Sale in Centro de Merida

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Equipment
It has a very large lot with a large pool, which is not common in downtown houses. It preserves the original floors and high ceilings. Built on one floor, entrance hall, living room, covered terrace with tile roof, interior patio with fountain, kitchen with dining area, living room, one bedroom with closet, bathroom. Covered terrace, secondary bedroom with full bathroom, laundry room, large backyard, high tank type pool. The house is completely remodeled and furnished the living room and bedrooms. Air conditioners in the living room and both bedrooms. Stationary gas, hydro-pneumatic, washer and dryer.

Beachfront villa for sale in Telchac Puerto

Price: MXN $ 7,800,000.00

Beautiful beachfront villa in Telchac Puerto, with large beach, swimming pool, terrace and sandbox. Fully furnished and equipped.

Description
- Land: 172 m²
- Construction: 127 m²
- Bedrooms: 3
- Bathrooms: 3

Equipment
Two-car garage, entrance hall, bedroom with full bathroom, living room, dining room, equipped kitchen, storage room with installation for laundry center, covered terrace, swimming pool, wooden deck with roof. Large beach and sandbox in front of the sea. Upstairs. Two bedrooms each with bathroom and closet, the master bedroom with balcony overlooking the sea. The house is equipped with air conditioners, fans, curtains, stove, refrigerator, electric heater, drinking water. Fully furnished and equipped.
Check out the "Mexican Fiesta" playlist we've made for you on Spotify!