

# e-Newsletter

FALL | SEPTEMBER 2023



# RAINTREE VACATION CLUB

# viva MÉXICO

Mexican Independence Day

## Overview & Celebrations

"Viva Mexico! Viva la Independencia!" These famous words, shouted by Father Miguel Hidalgo at a small church in the village of Dolores in the late hours of Sept. 15, 1810, rallied a diverse group of people against the Spanish Government. His words that night, known as 'El Grito de Dolores' (The Cry of Dolores), ultimately sparked an 11-year revolution that led to the birth of a new nation. While independence was not won immediately, that day—and its uprising—is typically considered the beginning of war that eventually brought the country independence in 1821. And the speech remains today a key part of Mexico's Independence Day celebrations, one of the largest holidays of the nation.

Every year, at 11 p.m. CST on Sept. 15, the President of Mexico and mayors of towns across the country recite *El Grito de Dolores* in front of passionate crowds. Along with the recitation of *El Grito de Dolores*, Independence Day celebrations typically include fireworks, parades, traditional dances, food, music, and plenty of red, white, and green flags.

This is a great day for the country and a time for people all over the nation to come together and enjoy typical traditions and foods from all the different regions. It's also a great opportunity for new Mexican citizens and visitors to learn about the rich history and traditions that makes up this beautiful land.

Those staying at one of our Club Regina resorts will be ideally located to experience one of these great celebrations, as all three of these cities put on lavish events, each including the traditional 'Grito' late at night on the 15th followed by more festivities and a parade on the 16th. For those visitors looking to partake in celebrations in a more comfortable environment with less crowds, you're in luck! – each of our Club Regina resorts will be having a Mexican Fiesta Dinner with traditional entertainment on September 15th!



So come join us at any of our Club Regina locations this September for a true immersion into Mexican culture and history. And if you can't make it this year or are looking for a little inspiration until your next trip to Mexico, the Independence Day celebration in Mexico City is broadcast annually on Univision and various online outlets!



To make a reservation at any of these resorts, please log into [raintreevacationclub.com](http://raintreevacationclub.com) or call a Raintree Vacation Guide at 317.805.9167 or 1.800.424.6532.

## Historical Facts

- While Father Hildago's speech was given in the late, overnight hours of September 15th, the official date for the national holiday is on September 16th, when schools, banks, and governments are closed, but celebrations often start the evening of the 15th.
- Mexico, once known as New Spain, was a colony ruled by the kingdom of Spain for over 300 years. The native population was oppressed, farmland and personal wealth were confiscated, and only Spaniards were allowed to hold political posts. The oppression became too much and a Catholic priest in the town of Dolores named [Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla](#) had enough.
- Though Father Hidalgo's attempt at a revolution was unsuccessful (he was captured and killed within the first year), it inspired another priest, [José María Morelos](#), to create a more cohesive, prepared fighting force with the same goal. With the help of [Agustín de Iturbide](#), a Mexican military leader who defected from Spain, the freedom fighters took Mexico City in February 1821 and declared national independence.
- Iturbide's [Plan de Iguala](#), established three key tenets of sovereign Mexico: Independence from Spain, equality for Spaniards and Creoles within the country, and a ban on all religions besides Roman Catholicism. Spanish Viceroy Juan de O'Donojú signed the Treaty of Cordoba on August 24, 1821, formally approving a plan for an independent Mexican monarchy.
- The first national flag was then established in 1821, using the same 3 colors it holds today. These colors were said to represent the 3 tenets of the Plan de Iguala: green for independence and birth of a nation; white for faith; and red for unity among the native and ethnic peoples.
- So, August 24 technically could be considered the real Mexican Independence Day, but because none of it would have been possible without "El Grito de Dolores," that date holds none of the cultural significance that September 16th does.

#myraintree   

## Member Insights: Mary Moore at Club Regina Los Cabos

### How long have you been a member?

Since 2013.

### What do you remember about your first visit to Club Regina Los Cabos?

The beauty! I remember it was in August and very hot. The Resort was amazing - looked like it had risen out of the rocks!

### Do you have a favorite time of year to go?

We generally go for a few weeks in October, the weather is wonderful! We love to bring several family members and we've celebrated many birthdays and anniversaries over the years.

### Do you have a favorite staff member?

Several are like family, I can't pick just one! Everyone's friendly, always willing to help.

### Where's your favorite spot in the resort and why?

I love pool C, the view is spectacular! We bring floating pool chairs and hook onto the wall of the lower pool. Plus, Jordy is great!

### Do you have a favorite meal, drink, or activity at the resort?

Generally, breakfast is favorite meal of day, but we've had some spectacular evening meals! I like a great margarita. Pool activities are fun. We've done water aerobics, volleyball, bingo, etc.

### What are the "must see/do" things would you recommend for the area?

Todo Santos is really nice day trip. We generally stay on property, although my husband loves playing golf at the various courses.

### Do you have any other favorite Raintree destinations?

We pretty much stick to Club Regina Los Cabos, it's our second home! But we have utilized the alliance with RCI over the years. This year our granddaughter is getting married, and we gifted her a wonderful resort week over Christmas.

To make a reservation at Club Regina Los Cabos, please log into [raintreevacationclub.com](http://raintreevacationclub.com) or call a Raintree Vacation Guide at 317.805.9167 or 1.800.424.6532.



## Staff Spotlight

# Raquel Estrada

Pool Concierge at Club Regina Puerto Vallarta since 2014

**Some may not know what a Pool Concierge does, how would you describe your job?** I am 100% customer service and guest satisfaction. I start the day reading emails and taking care of the overnight requests. I make phone calls to guests who made requests, and if there's a celebration (birthday, anniversary, honeymoon, etc), we plan a special something with my team and the bakery department to decorate the room. I also stroll the beach and pool areas to greet the guests and make direct contact so they know I am there for anything they may need. I supervise rooms, and then in the afternoon I follow up with guests that I wasn't able to find in the morning.

**What do you like most about your job?** I really enjoy interacting with guests and that I get to spoil them! I also love the friendships I have made among coworkers.

**What's your favorite time of day, day of the week, or season at the resort, and why?** My favorite season is winter because we get to see the return of our regulars, the members who always come and whom we've gotten to know and consider friends. I am very fond of them and always enjoy our talks!



**What do you like most about living in Puerto Vallarta?** The beaches and its sunsets! We have some of the best sunsets at the resort, and I'm always thankful to take the time to enjoy them.

**What are some 'must do' things when visiting Puerto Vallarta? Any lesser-known places you'd recommend?** Definitely the boardwalk (El Malecón) and then explore all the beautiful beaches in Jalisco and Nayarit. Walking along the boardwalk day or night is unbelievable, the church is beautiful, and there are many restaurants, bars, and clubs. There's always a nighttime show at Malecon by the arches, or live music. The artisan's market is a must, and the snack stands with delicious food and desserts. As for a lesser-known place, there are tons of quieter beaches in Jalisco and Nayarit that are very beautiful and worth a trip. I'd also recommend 'La Bodeguita del Medio', it's the best place to go salsa dancing!

**We heard you lived in the US for many years, what was that like, and how is living in PV different?** Yes, I lived in California and Arizona for many years. It was a beautiful experience- I made lots of friends, I got to experience Disneyland and many other amazing places, I had good work and was able to support my parents. The best part is that I was able to learn the language, which is very useful for my position today! The biggest difference living in Vallarta, is that I have my family close by and I get to enjoy their company more often!

**Where would your ideal place to live be?** When I retire, I'd like to go back to my hometown where all my family is so I can share time with them and enjoy the beautiful countryside. The town is called Borbollón, it's about three hours from Puerto Vallarta and has a population of about 1000 people. We all know each other, I spent my entire childhood there, and I love it!



**How do you like to spend your free time?** I like to enjoy it as a family. We go to the countryside to spend the day, where my parents and some of my siblings live (Borbollón). We have a favorite spring nearby where we can enjoy being in the water while in the middle of the cane fields! And when I'm here in Vallarta, I'll go to the beach with my friends, or spend the day with my daughter. She's seven, and right now she's into cooking. I teach her how to make tortillas or cupcakes, but we also love going for ice cream in town!

**If someone wanted to get to know you better, what should they ask you about? What do you enjoy talking about?** I love talking to older people about how things were before, and how life was for them when they were little. If anyone wants to get to know me, they can ask anything, I am very open, direct, and sincere!

**If you weren't a concierge, what other career would you like to have, and why?** I would have liked to be a professional photographer; I love taking photos especially of sunsets and nature.

## News & Noteworthy

### Room Renovations Continue in Cabo and Puerto Vallarta!

In 2022, we launched the beginning of our Club Regina Room Update project, and 35 rooms across our Club Regina resorts in Los Cabos and Puerto Vallarta received a major cosmetic face lift! Featured updates included reupholstered sofa beds, new sitting chairs, 55" Smart TVs, new duvets and shams, new headboards, new storage consoles, refurbished tables and lamps, new bathroom countertops, hardware, and mirrors, and overall new décor throughout these Club and Grand suites.



We are proud to announce that the 2023 renovations have been approved and are underway. By the first week in December, another 17 units in Puerto Vallarta and 10 units in Cabo are scheduled to have their makeovers complete!

### New Sea Turtle Regulations for Club Regina Cancun

The local government has issued and is strictly enforcing new regulations surrounding the prestigious Sea Turtle Conservation Program. Here's how visitors to Club Regina Cancun can continue to support our efforts to keep the Sea Turtles thriving:

#### New Rules for our Guests:

- Guests are no longer permitted to touch the hatchlings
- Guests are no longer permitted to photograph the nests or turtles. Only our certified staff is permitted to take photographs, and all flash photography is strictly prohibited.
- Please stay at least 1 meter back from any nest or pen
- Do not use any lights aimed toward the nesting beach or that could cause a glow behind the coastal vegetation
- After 9:00 p.m., activities on the nesting beaches are prohibited, such as photographs, events with sound and lights, or the use of motorized equipment and vehicles. The ecology authorities will be patrolling the beach at night, **and violations are punishable according to the law**.
- If you find any turtles spawning, please inform the Club staff and stay at least 10 meters away, taking care not to interrupt the process (through lighting, flash, or sounds).
- If turtle births occur during the day, the collection of the specimens performed by our crew can be observed by guests. Our staff will always mark the permitted distance. Again, we reiterate that direct contact is not allowed.

Thank you for your support. Your greatest contribution is to spread the message of conservation!

### Concord, Raintree's billing company, is now mobile friendly!

When you click on 'Pay Your Maintenance Fee' in the Member Portal, you are taken to [raintreevacationclub.myaccountinfo.com](http://raintreevacationclub.myaccountinfo.com) - a site run by our billing partner, Concord.

Concord is proud to announce that in addition to desktop screens, the site is now optimized for mobile and tablet screens! That means you can easily access your Raintree account, make payments, and perform essential tasks on the go, empowering you to stay connected to your financial information wherever you are.

Raintree is always looking for ways to make vacationing better, so we are very happy to bring you this user experience upgrade from Concord!

# You're Invited!

Next time you vacation at any of our Club Regina properties, please join us for our festive **Welcome Parties** we've arranged especially for you! Enjoy a variety of music and entertainment, and an opportunity to meet other guests and our fun staff.



*And please remember,*

We offer a wide range of free activities for our guests to enjoy. From coffee & tequila tastings to city tours and karaoke, there's something for everyone. Our fun, knowledgeable staff is always on hand to help you plan your day and make the most of your stay. So, come and take advantage of all the fun and excitement that awaits you at Club Regina!

MEMBER LOGIN

## Speak to a Raintree Vacation Guide

**1.800.424.6532**

From the United States or Canada

**01.800.667.2711**

From Mexico

**317.805.9167**

For International Calls to the United States

**52.55.5283.0848**

For International Calls to Mexico

**9 am - 8 pm CST**

Monday through Friday

**9 am - 5 pm CST**

Saturday

[www.raintreevacationclub.com](http://www.raintreevacationclub.com)



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**RAINTREE**  
VACATION CLUB

## Send an e-Mail

If you need to contact our corporate office, we encourage you to communicate first by email. Here are the contact emails for our corporate office departments:

### MEMBER SERVICES

[memberservices@raintreeclub.com](mailto:memberservices@raintreeclub.com)

Information regarding Membership, use of Points, or issues signing in to the Member Area.

### CONTRACTS

[contracts@raintreeclub.com](mailto:contracts@raintreeclub.com)

Request a copy of contract (there may be fees associated with these services).

### MAINTENANCE FEES

[maintenancefee@raintreeclub.com](mailto:maintenancefee@raintreeclub.com)

Questions about payments or maintenance fee, issues with billing, payment plans and options.

### RAINTREE BLUE

[raintreeblue@raintreeclub.com](mailto:raintreeblue@raintreeclub.com)

Information and assistance regarding this Membership type.

### TRANSFERS

[transfers@raintreeclub.com](mailto:transfers@raintreeclub.com)

Add or remove beneficiaries/other Members due to death or divorce or transfer Membership to a third party.

### TRAVEL CONCIERGE

[travelconcierge@raintreeclub.com](mailto:travelconcierge@raintreeclub.com)

Transportation to and from the resort, requests for a special occasion, or general questions about one of our resorts or destinations.



## REDISCOVER THESE BELOVED U.S. BEACH SPOTS

If you chose an all-star lineup of beach vacation destinations in the U.S., it would be hard to beat this starting five. Representing the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf Coasts, these spots have attracted generations of visitors. But even if you've been to one or all of them, they will still surprise you with new attractions — or ones you missed before. Rediscovering familiar places is a joy of traveling.



### FLORIDA PANHANDLE U.S. BEACH SPOTS

Stretching from Pensacola to Panama City, the Emerald Coast is famous for its dazzling blue-green water and stunning white beaches. Picturesque seascapes provide inviting backdrops for outdoor adventures, family fun, and wildlife watching. At Grayton Beach State Park and T.H. Stone Memorial St. Joseph Peninsula State Park, you can lie on lauded beaches, canoe or kayak on a lake, and take a scenic hike. Kids love the Panhandle's many water parks and aquariums. And history buffs can explore coastal forts and Pensacola's National Naval Aviation Museum. While in Pensacola, check out the city's charming downtown and lively boardwalk on Pensacola Beach for shopping and dining options.



### MYRTLE BEACH U.S. BEACH SPOTS

Nearly 20 million people per year come to relax on the Grand Strand's 60 miles of sandy beach and explore 14 distinct communities. Get a good overview by strolling a 1.2-mile boardwalk to the 187-foot-high SkyWheel Myrtle Beach, the highest structure of its kind on the East Coast. Or keep your feet on the ground while playing any of the 90 golf courses. Dine at more than 2,000 restaurants and shop hundreds of boutiques at Broadway at the Beach, The Market Common, and more. The area's natural wonders go beyond the ocean and the sand. Brookgreen Gardens offers 9,000 acres of annuals, perennials, shrubs, and a zoo. See more flora and fauna on Murrells Inlet MarshWalk, a half-mile boardwalk by a natural saltwater estuary.



### VIRGINIA BEACH U.S. BEACH SPOTS

Where Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean meet, frolic on 38 miles of sand and surf hugged by shops, restaurants, and attractions. Much of the action takes place along the Virginia Beach Boardwalk, lined with benches, Colonial-style streetlamps, and additional paths for biking and walking. Beyond the boardwalk beckon natural wonders like Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, where miles of marshland attract sea turtles and migrating birds, and False Cape State Park, which lures adventurers with 15 miles of hiking and biking trails. History buffs appreciate the significance of First Landing State Park, the arrival spot of Jamestown colonists in 1607 (see the memorial cross they planted), and Cape Henry Lighthouse, the first lighthouse authorized by Congress (you can climb to the top).



### CAPE COD U.S. BEACH SPOTS

The Pilgrims landed on the tip of this Massachusetts peninsula in 1620, and today's travelers continue to make pilgrimages. It's the idyllic New England they imagine — red-striped lighthouses, white-winged sailboats, and lots of lobster rolls. Visitors can take to the Atlantic for whale-watching tours or navigate Cape Cod's tidal rivers by kayak and pedal boat. Even for the not-so-nautical-minded, there's much to love. The Cape Cod Rail Trail takes bicyclists on a 26-mile paved ride through diverse ecosystems. Cape Cod National Seashore is a 40-mile stretch of coast that includes some of the Cape's best beaches. History lovers can visit the John F. Kennedy Hyannis Museum and journey to Provincetown, where the Mayflower landed and Pilgrim Monument towers as the country's tallest all-granite structure.



### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST U.S. BEACH SPOTS

Mild temps and dramatic coastal landscapes have long been SoCal's big draws, but there's so much more in this alluring area. Los Angeles and San Diego bookend the region with a bevy of attractions. Along the Pacific, L.A. has Venice Beach and Santa Monica Beach. Inland institutions include Griffith Observatory and the iconic Hollywood Walk of Fame. San Diego's surf scene gives way to hipster neighborhoods, celebrity-chef restaurants, and the renowned San Diego Zoo. And the two cities anchor a string of legendary theme parks, such as Disneyland, Universal Studios Hollywood, and SeaWorld San Diego. That same corridor holds California Highway 1, aka the Pacific Coast Highway, one of the world's most scenic drives that connects classic beach towns like Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, and Laguna Beach.