

# San Felipe

## Baja California

*Californians are flocking to San Felipe to retire, citing weather, cost of living, healthcare and infrastructure.*



*Barry Pitluk relaxes with N magazine on San Felipe's beach.*

On a dreary early spring day in Sacramento I decided to take some friends up on their offer to join them in one of the sunniest places on the planet, San Felipe, Mexico. Like the new health reform plan, the trip was not my dream plan but turned out as a great step forward!

About 2 hours from the California border, San

Felipe is located in a unique ecosystem where the desert meets the Sea of Cortez in Baja California. Amazingly, cacti grow to over 60 feet tall here! We flew to San Diego and took the scenic drive down to San Felipe

and crossed the border at Mexicali, which is a major agriculture and high-tech city and very safe area of Mexico.

This once sleepy fishing village has emerged as one

of Mexico's fastest growing resort towns. As a Californian, I was not used to seeing the ocean on the east side, but it made for a spectacular sunrise!

San Felipe's population of 25,000-plus residents swells on weekends with exciting activities through the year. In recent weeks, the Tequila festival and Baja 250 brought the crowds, and even Sandra Bullock could not resist the fun! Fortunately for me, I stumbled upon the Baja Blues and Arts Festival featuring some of the best blues artists from all over the world against the stunning background of the mountains.

As one of the N magazine Dining Dudes, I was thrilled to learn that the fish taco was invented in San Felipe. They are available on every street corner, and the locals directed me to the Taco Factory on the vibrant Malecon boardwalk. I hoped the waitress wasn't insulted by my "no onions" request, which resulted in a huge compartmentalized

tray of tasty condiments so I could do it my way. Locally caught sea bass was delicious. The slogan in San Felipe is "No Bad Days," and I fully understood after I devoured my tacos on the beach!

Californians are flocking to San Felipe to retire, citing weather, cost of living, health care and infrastructure. San Felipe is still basically undiscovered and you can own a house near the beach for a fraction of the cost in the U.S. or other Mexican resort cities.

Some communities are ahead of the green curve, and one, El Dorado Ranch, is the largest solar community in North America!

Hmm, maybe my next trip will be one way.



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