

Thrifty Traveler

Enjoy a shop-and-splash getaway on a waterfront

Hitting the shores for sun and waves is the ultimate frugal travel activity. Since soaking up rays and splashing in the surf cost you absolutely nothing once you arrive, plenty of pennies are still available to take advantage of reduced retail prices. Summer sales and sunny weather go together even better this season, according to a recent vacation data survey conducted by American Express Travel.

Those who want to experience a shop-and-splash getaway will find worthy options in these destinations.

Newport Beach, Calif: This is one of travel agent Darlene Mulkewich's favorite picks for this type of getaway. Newport Beach is one of the cleanest beaches in the U.S., she said, and boasts great waves for surfers along with some serious sand for the sunbathing and volleyball crowds. Active travelers will also appreciate the area's hiking and biking trails. For on-location shopping, Mulkewich recommends Fashion Island. "It has more than 60 designer boutiques and top department stores in a beautiful and relaxing setting," she said. "There's even a koi pond!"

Chicago: Mulkewich says serious shoppers will want to head to Chicago for a great shop-and-splash experience. With Lake Michigan and some great beaches nearby, travelers can pair cosmopolitan shopping with outdoor access to swimming. Her preferred area for outdoor enjoyment is North Avenue Beach, which has showers, a gym, bike rentals and a chess pavilion. However, Ohio Street Beach is also worthy. "It's often less crowded, and it's right next to Navy Pier if

you want to grab a bite or jump on a few rides!" she said. The real draw for shoppers, of course, is Chicago's Magnificent Mile. One of the world's top shopping destinations, it's home to several hundred stores, a notable number of restaurants and a wide variety of hotel accommodations.

Naples, Fla.: Karen Bartlett, travel editor of Gulfshore Life magazine, favors her home city of Naples along Florida's Paradise Coast. While Bartlett prefers shell seeking on the boat-accessible beaches of the barrier islands, she also hosts friends who enjoy the shopping scene. Her favorite picks are Fifth Avenue South and Third Street South. These allow her visitors to hit a few boutiques, stop for an olive-oil tasting and grab a light lunch before hitting the spa. She loves to show off area beaches to guests toward the end of the day. "At sunset we can dip our toes in the surf and watch for the magical green flash," she said.

North Florida: Sunshine stateshopping.com founder Sunshine Woodyard Baker enjoys combining shopping and beach access a bit farther north in Florida. Her top pick? Destin's Silver Sands Outlet Mall. It's so close to the beach you can smell the salt air, and according to Woodyard Baker, it houses a number of harder-to-find outlet stores such as Tumi, Michael Kors and Juicy Couture. When you're ready for a snack, she recommends the on-site San Gelato Cafe. "This chic little eatery serves delicious panini, salads and coffee drinks."

MYSCHA THERIAULT, MCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Mexico's Mazatlan is getting its mojo back

EXCITING BULLFIGHTS, FRIENDLY PEOPLE HELP REVIVE TOURISM



STEVE HAGGERTY - MCT

Mazatlan's cliff divers have performed for visitors since 1961.

BY ANNE Z. COOKE AND STEVE HAGGERTY
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

MAZATLAN, Mexico The atmosphere in the Plaza de Toros, hot in the afternoon sun, crackled like popcorn, leaving visitors wondering just how long the crowd, growing larger by the minute, would sit patiently and wait. But as late arrivals searched for the last free seats, their concerns melted away. Suntanned cowboys in big-brimmed hats spotted distant friends and waved. Vendors selling beer worked the aisles and ladies spread sunscreen on their children. Clean-shaven men, eyes hidden behind black Ray-Bans, shook hands and strangers compared notes on the afternoon's event, the Carnaval Week bull fight.

Weekly bullfights, a winter sport here in Mazatlan, on Mexico's Pacific Coast, run from Christmas through April. But the bullfight held during Carnaval, featuring world-famous "rejoneador" (bullfighter on horseback) Pablo Hermosa de Mendoza, is the spectacle that packs the arena. Challenging the bull, the charismatic Hermosa and his horse are superstars, leaping, dancing and spinning, melding the crowd into a cheering, gasping, groaning, clapping, handkerchief-waving mass.

While we waited for the first bull to enter the ring, I overheard a conversation behind me, a couple discussing their new house on the hill overlooking the beach. Immigrants heading south, instead of Mexicans coming north?

A favored beach retreat since the 1940s, Mazatlan has been shunned lately, tarred by the same brush that paints the country as crime-ridden and unsafe. But this couple seemed to be ignoring conventional wisdom.

"Are you living here permanently?" I asked, turning around to introduce myself. "Maybe you've met my friends. They live in that neighborhood, too, up on the hill."

"Vacation for now, but permanently soon," said Edward Klop, a company

SEE MAZATLAN, PAGE 12D

We go to the coast every day.

Out of town doesn't have to mean out of touch. So when you're at the coast, look for The News & Observer at the locations listed here. If you're leaving town for a while, you can donate your home-delivered papers to our News In Education program. Local students and teachers would appreciate your donation. Just call 1-800-522-4205 or visit newsobserver.com/myaccount.

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- A Place at the Beach
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- Bojangles'
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- BP Kangaroo
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- Dunescape 2
- Dunescape 3
- Dunescape 4
- Dunescape 5
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- Island Cove C Store
- Island Inn
- Oceanana Pier
- Peppertree Resort
- Post Office
- Sands Resort Grill
- Scotchman
- Shark Shack
- Sheraton
- Triple S Marina
- White Sands Mini Mart
- ATLANTIC**
- Cruise Mart II (Sunday only)
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- Charlie's Restaurant
- Exxon
- BEAUFORT**
- Beaufort Square
- BP, Hwy. 101 and U.S. 70
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- Front Street and Craven
- Front Street and Pollock
- Front Street and Turner
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- Taylor's Creek Grocery
- Wilco Hess Station
- Zingo Express BP
- CALABASH**
- Calabash Citgo
- PJ's Beverage Citgo
- Sunrise Pancake House
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- Cedar Point BP Convenience
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- Kangaroo
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- Food Lion
- Gulf Stream Restaurant
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- Emerald Isle Hess
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- Emerald Isle Mini Mart
- Food Lion
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- K & V Plaza
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- Village Market
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- Piggly Wiggly
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- 7-11 (Sunday only)
- Kangaroo BP Third Street (Sunday only)
- Kangaroo Colington Light (Sunday only)
- Stop N Shop (Sunday only)
- WilcoHess (Sunday only)
- KITTY HAWK**
- 7-11 (Sunday only)
- Wink's (Sunday only)
- KURE BEACH**
- Island Mart
- Kure Beach Pier
- Post Office
- LELAND**
- Buy & Go
- Harris Teeter
- LONG BEACH/OAK ISLAND/YAUPON**
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- Captain Stanley's Restaurant
- CJ's Corner Store
- Doodle's
- Flying Pig
- Jiffy Bait & Tackle
- Jolly Rogers
- Kangaroo Pantry #3167
- Oak Island Restaurant
- Russell's Place Restaurant
- MANN'S HARBOR**
- White's Shopping Center
- MANTEO**
- 7-11
- Food-A-Rama
- Hatchell's
- Poor Richard's Sandwich Shop



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- MARSHALLBERG**
- The Korner (Sunday only)
- MINNESOTT**
- Ferry Landing
- MOREHEAD CITY**
- 20th Street Grocery
- Big Lots
- Bojangles'
- BP Gas Station
- Brandy's Pancake House
- Captain's Table
- Carteret General Hospital
- Chick-Fil-A
- City News
- Coffee Affair
- Cox's Restaurant
- Crystal Clean Laundromat
- Dunkin Donuts
- Food Lion
- G&M Citco
- Golden Corral
- Handy House
- Handy Mart
- Hardee's
- Jim Dandy
- Kangaroo
- Kountry Kitchen
- Lowe's Food Store
- Panera Bread
- Pancake House
- Pete's Diner
- Sanitary Restaurant
- Save More
- Shell Station
- Town & Country Grocery, Hwy. 24
- Walgreen's
- WilcoHess, 4th Street
- MURRAYVILLE**
- BP Convenience
- Kangaroo
- Sand Box
- NAGS HEAD**
- 7-11
- Cahoon's Store
- Dollar Tree

- Dunes Restaurant
- Grits Grill
- NEWPORT**
- Bojangles'
- BP Station
- Food Lion
- Gil's Market & Pub
- Handy House Shell Station
- Handy Mart (Hwy. 70)
- IGA Grocery (Hwy. 24 & Hibbs)
- Shell Station (Hwy. 24 & Hibbs)
- Town & Country IGA
- WilcoHess (Hwy. 24)
- WilcoHess (Hwy. 70)
- WilcoHess Trade Mart
- NORTH TOPSAIL**
- Topsail Dunes
- Water Tower
- OCEAN ISLE BEACH**
- Big Nell's Pit Stop
- Citgo, Ocean Isle Beach
- Ocean Isle Water Tower
- Sheffield's Variety Store
- Splash Car Wash
- OGDEN**
- Food Lion
- Gordon Road Kangaroo
- Gordon Road Wilco Hess
- Harris Teeter
- Ogden BP
- Pop Store
- ORIENTAL**
- Brantley's Restaurant
- Dollar General
- IGA
- The Bean Coffee Shop
- OTWAY**
- Outer Island (Sunday only)
- PINE KNOLL SHORES**
- Beach Walk Condos
- Bogue Shore Condos
- Clamdigger Inn
- Colony By The Sea
- Dunescape 1
- Dunescape 2
- Dunescape 3
- Dunescape 5

- Island Convenience Store
- Ocean Sands Resort
- Pine Knolls Towns
- Whaler Inn
- White Sands Mini-Mart
- Windward Dunes
- PORTER'S NECK**
- Exxon
- Food Lion (1 location)
- Port City Java
- Yacht Club
- REELSBORO**
- Pinedale Food Mart
- SALTER PATH**
- Beach Outfitters
- Frost Seafood Restaurant
- Sav-A-Stop
- Summerwinds
- SEA LEVEL**
- Cruz Mart (Sunday only)
- Snug Harbor (Sunday only)
- SHALLOTTE**
- Bojangles'
- Hill's Grocery
- Kangaroo (near hospital)
- Scotchman
- Sunrise Pancake House
- SMYRNA**
- Handy House (Sunday only)
- SOUTHERN SHORES**
- Bagels to Beef Cafe
- Crown Station
- SOUTHPORT**
- Bald Head Ferry Landing
- Bald Head Maritime Market
- Citgo Coastal Car Wash
- Erik's Restaurant
- Family Dollar
- Kangaroo Pantry #467
- Lowe's
- Minuteman
- Port City Java
- SUNSET BEACH**
- Bagel Shop on the Green
- Citgo, Sunset Beach
- Dollar General
- Food Lion, Sunset Beach
- Kangaroo (2 locations)
- Market Express
- Subway
- Sunset Beach Condos
- SURF CITY**
- Batson's Galley
- Batt's Grill
- BP Station
- Food Lion
- Friendly Mart
- IGA
- New York Grill
- Surf City ABC
- SUPPLY**
- Post Office
- Kangaroo
- SWANSBORO**
- Handy Mart (Hwy. 24)
- Kangaroo
- Piggly Wiggly

- Swansboro Post Office
- Wendy's
- WilcoHess (Hwy. 24)
- TOPSAIL ISLAND**
- Beach Shop
- Godwin's Exxon
- Jolly Roger's Pier
- U.S. Post Office
- WHALEBONE**
- 7-11
- WILLISTON**
- Handy House (Sunday only)
- WILMINGTON**
- BP (3 locations)
- Barnes & Noble, Mayfaire
- Books-A-Million
- BP Pinevalley
- Buy & Go Gas Exxon
- Dunkin Donuts
- Food Lion, Landfall
- General Store
- Harris Teeter at Longleaf
- K&W Cafeteria
- Kangaroo, Landfall
- Kangaroo (near hospital)
- Lowe's Foods (2 locations)
- Port City Java, Market Street
- Post Office, Front Street
- WilcoHess, Oleander Jimbo's
- WINNABOW**
- Handee Hugo's (Hwy. corner of 87 & 17)
- WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH**
- Blockade Runner
- BP Food Shop (1 location)
- Causeway Cafe
- Johnnie Mercer Pier
- Middle of Isle
- Oceanic Motel
- Robert's Grocery
- Sandbox
- Shell Station
- Sun Spree Resort
- Sweet and Savory
- Wings
- SOUTH CAROLINA**
- MYRTLE BEACH - Below 22 By-Pass**
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- Kroger (Sunday only)
- Murphys (Sunday only)
- Sands Ocean Club (Sunday only)
- Wings/Dunkin Donuts (Sun. only)
- WINDY HILL - NORTH MYRTLE**
- 46th Street
- Beach Cove
- McDonalds/Kangaroo
- Ocean Creek North
- Ocean Creek South



Grab a raft, bike or fishing pole for fun with the family



JEFF BARNARD - AP

Float through 40 miles of southwestern Oregon on the Rogue River and explore the rugged country that drew Native Americans, trappers and prospectors.

No matter what interests your family, there is plenty of summer fun to be had. Here are five ideas:

1 Cyclers in Ireland: See the Emerald Isle on two wheels. Pedal past castles, through charming villages and alongside dramatic cliffs on a self-guided tour offered by Pure Adventures. Families can choose their pace and style of lodging.

Add golf, sea kayaking, horseback riding or a Dublin tour to round out the adventure.

Contact: 800-960-2221 or pure-adventures.com.

2 Boaters in the Bahamas: Make your way to the Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour Marina, 165 miles off the Florida coast and on the Sea of Abaco. You can access the full-service marina to explore nearby islands, historic villages and barrier reefs. Head out for sport fishing, sailing or snorkeling. Then

Family Travel Lynn O'Rourke Hayes

go ashore to picnic on a secluded island.

Kids can learn to catch, clean and cook fish, crack a conch and debark a fresh coconut as part of the Bahama Buddies program. Ask about special packages.

Contact: 800-468-4799 or abacobeachresort.com.

3 Theme park fans: Make your way to Universal Orlando, where an intergalactic war is raging. Climb aboard Transformers: The Ride-3D, billed as a next-generation thrill ride. You'll feel like you're part of the skirmish, as Optimus Prime and Bumblebee attempt to keep the Allspark from falling to the enemies.

Contact: 407-363-8000 or universallorlando.com.

4 Rafting on the Rogue: Float through 40 miles of scenic southwestern

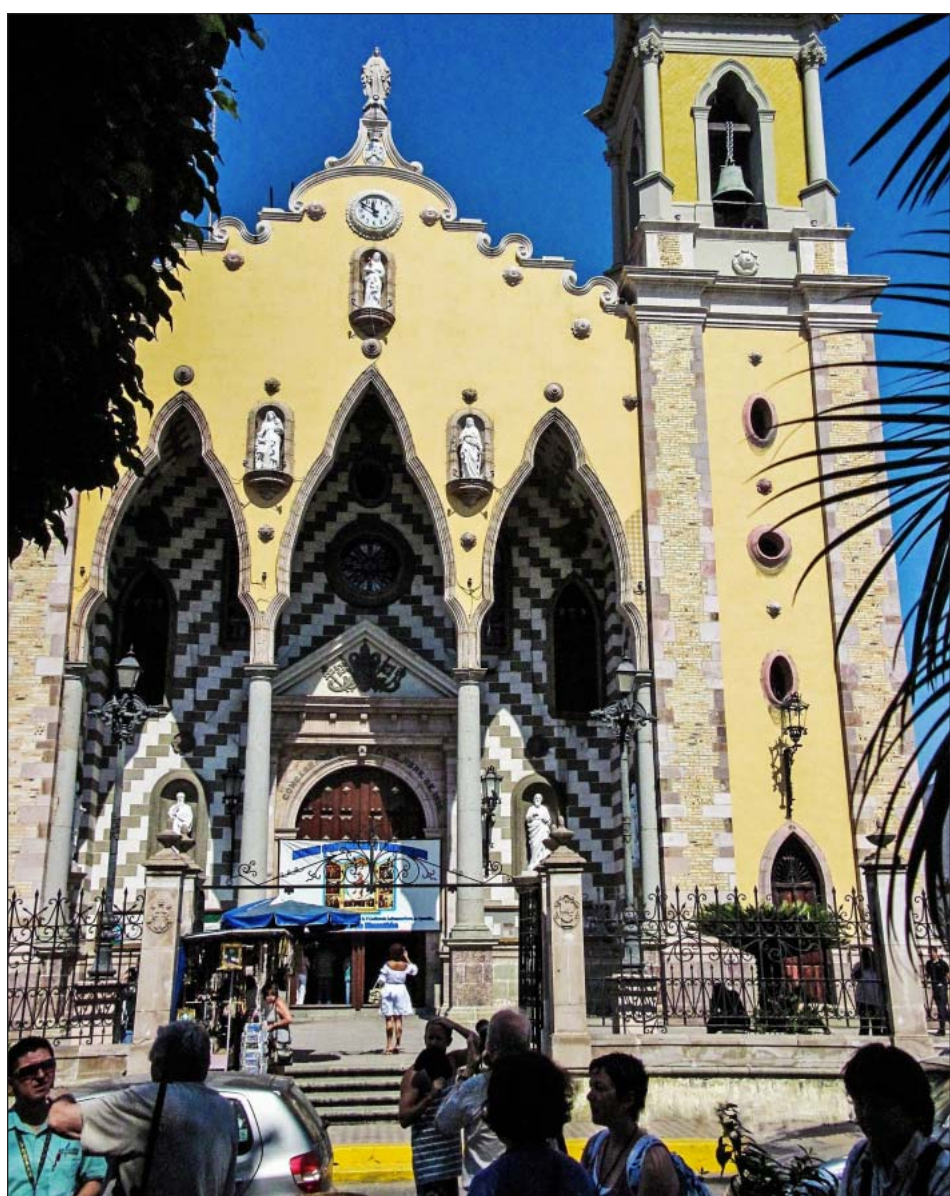
Oregon and explore the rugged country that drew Native Americans, trappers and prospectors. Stay in the raft or up the adrenaline ante by running the rapids in an inflatable kayak. This designated wilderness will take you through the Siskiyou Mountains and the Rogue River National Forest.

Contact: 800-346-6277 or oars.com.

5 Art lovers: From art classes and kid-focused camps to clever create-and-takes, the Denver Art Museum has made a grand effort to welcome families to its galleries. Museum activities encourage families to get comfortable and create. Family backpacks full of art supplies, games and puzzles are available for use during visits.

Contact: 720-865-5000 or denverartmuseum.org.

DALLAS MORNING NEWS



PHOTOS BY STEVE HAGGERTY - MCT

The cathedral in the Plaza de Republic, in Mazatlan's historic district.

MAZATLAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11D

owner from British Columbia, smiling and leaning over to shake hands. "Why? Because people here are so decent. Look at this crowd. I've never seen so much beer drunk by so many people who are so good-natured. You don't find that very often. You've heard of the Vancouver riot, after the Stanley Cup match? People got drunk, turned over cars, broke store windows, looted merchandise. That doesn't happen here."

"Mexicans are family people," added Yvonne Klop. "They take their kids when they go out to eat or to a concert. The kind of restaurants we'd like to eat at in Vancouver or San Francisco or New York don't allow kids. If there's a bar or they serve alcohol, it's illegal."

Right about then, the crowd broke into cheers and Hermosa cantered into the ring mounted on a white Lusitano stallion. Whether you condone bullfighting, it's impossible not to watch Hermosa as he gets down to business, teasing the bull until it charges, then wheeling away, leaning and turning, whirling and circling the ring with the bull in hot pursuit, staying just inches away from the bull's horns. At the conclusion, Hermosa took a victory lap and the ladies tossed red roses. The fight committee awarded prizes and the crowd collected their things and filed peacefully away to the parking lot.

The Klops, when they do move, won't be outliers, but part of a settled expat com-



A matador uses his cape to goad the bull into a useless charge at the Plaza de Toros in Mazatlan, Mexico.

Details

- For more information, visit gomazatlan.com and mazatlanoday.net.
- To book a cruise, visit Holland America Cruises at hollandamerica.com or Norwegian Cruise Line at norwegiancruise.com.

munity, people that bring time, energy and expertise to the town.

"There are more than 10,000 Americans and Canadians in Mazatlan," said Francisco (Frank) Cordova, secretary of tourism for Sinaloa. "They rent apartments and some even own houses. Now, if it wasn't safe, why would they be here?"

Safety in Golden Zone

Drug cartel murders are a fact, he conceded. They are, he said, the federal government's most pressing internal security issue. But most violence occurs far beyond the Golden Zone (the town's designated tourism area), in the mountains or along the U.S. border.

"There isn't any crime in the Golden Zone, not that we've heard about," agreed Paul Petty, a 12-year resident. "Nothing violent, no drive-bys, no school shootings like we had at home. We feel a lot safer than we did when we lived in Los Angeles."

It could be the bounce-back effect, but 2013 is shaping up as the town's best year in a decade. Carlos Berdegue, head of Mazatlan's four El Cid hotels, said \$6 million has been allocated for tourism from the U.S. and Canada, a promotion that's already filling the town's 12,000 beds.

Cruise lines returning

"Our group and convention programs have been very successful, the cruise lines are returning and the airlines are looking at creating more capacity," he said.

The cruise industry, often the first to fold up and run when bad news hits the wires, agrees. After pulling out abruptly 18 months ago, Holland America and Norwegian Cruise Lines are returning to Mazatlan, adding 10 port stops to their Mexican Riviera route this year (in November and December) and 35 more during the 2014 season.

"We'll be ready for them," Cordova said. "I've got a

tourism budget of 400 million pesos (U.S. \$32.5 million), half for the new cruise port and the rest for restoration and improvements in the historic city center."

The cruise port and passenger terminal, a contemporary stunner designed for comfort, has docking room for eight large passenger ships. Adjacent tour bus parking will allow passengers taking shore tours to board the buses without much walking. Travelers who'd rather stay on the ship or at the port will have shops, a restaurant, a tourist information center and gift stores.

Shore tours in Third World ports, often the bête noire of cruise passengers, haven't been forgotten. "Funds are set aside to train tour guides to make sure every tour is unforgettable," Yordova said. The adjoining neighborhood has also gotten a facelift. Seedy shacks are gone, cracked stucco was painted and vacant lots were turned into gardens.

Strolling the plazas

Shore tours will visit several nearby 16th and 17th century-era villages and ancient pictographs on the shoreline. But visitors who opt for a stroll through the historic center's narrow streets and shaded plazas, dating to 1837, won't be sorry. In these plazas the first colonists gathered and much of the time's social and civic life played out. This is where people still meet to walk, talk, work, eat out or sit and watch the world go by. Wander around and you'll find the Plaza Machado, the Cathedral, the elegantly restored Angel Peralta Opera House and the art museum.

The Central Market, humming from early morning to late afternoon, is where homemakers shop for food, teenagers for purses and jewelry and travelers take photos. Covering a city block, the two-story iron structure houses hundreds of stalls.

If the past is prologue, the outcome is already written. Some cruise passengers will make a beeline for the beach, sample real Mexican cuisine at Pancho's and take the sightseeing boat to Deer Island. On the second trip they'll dine by candlelight at Pedro & Lola's, sit on the Plaza Machado, meet expats from home and play golf. On the third visit, they'll check out the bullfights.

After that, who knows?

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Puzzle Solutions

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31	7	9	26	39	10	16	24	39	
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Kakuro

JUMBLE

Answer :

BITTER BENIGN BESIDE
AMBUSH MORALE COBALD
Even though he didn't have a brain, the scarecrow had —

A LOT ON HIS MIND

Jumble

CLAP	MACS	STUBS	SALTS
HULA	ARIA	NONOS	OPART
ANON	GIRL	APRON	CASAS
RIATTPACIK	PAESKITT	STUD	TO
SATIL	EBBOAT	NAH	
ASSURE	SHREW	LILYPAD	
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EOS	LAPPS	EURD	
JUMBO	JETTIT	CATTY	SHOW
SUGAR	ADLET	ABOUT	TIRE
ANGLO	RINSO	REDO	ALES
MOSET	TNOTE	STEN	FLOOT

Crossword