

2008 墨西哥旅途中報告

- 家寶 2.0 的旅遊日誌 -

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墨西哥旅途中報告（一）--家寶 2.0 的旅遊日誌



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早上離開太平洋濱的城市 Puerto Vallarta 的旅館，本來可以就搭乘計程車到長途客運中心。他們叫做 **Central de Autobus**。我就是不認輸，想試試看他們墨西哥本地人如果沒有那麼多錢，是怎麼活著的。所以我就問了如何搭市內公共汽車？到那裡去搭乘？

This morning I left the hotel in Puerto Vallarta, which is a city by the Pacific Ocean. Even though I could easily surrender to taking a taxi to reach the long-distance bus terminal—here referred to as “Central de Autobus”—I decided to try the local Mexican way in reaching the bus terminal, to see how the locals may survive without a relaxed budget. I inquired about the where and how of riding the municipal buses.

問清楚了後，就拖著兩個行李，加上一個手提袋，到兩個路口之外的車牌等車。幾個本地人也在那裡等車。看到我這個東方臉孔的旅人，都有一點好奇。我問他們那一班車可以到長途汽車站時，就有人自告奮勇的要幫忙。其實我覺得全世界的人都是一樣，好人比壞人多。偶爾會碰到壞人，那是運氣不好。

After I got my answers, I dragged my two suitcases, plus a handbag, and proceeded to the bus stop two blocks away to wait for the bus. Several locals were also waiting for the same bus. They appeared curious as they saw an Asian-looking traveler approach. As soon as I asked them which bus would reach the “Central de Autobus,” some of them already started volunteering their help. This again evidenced the fact that people are the same the world over, and that good people outnumber the bad. The occasional encounter of bad people on trips may only be attributed to bad luck.

如果搭計程車，大概要六十披索，約等於台幣一百八十元。但是搭公車，卻只要五點五披索。司機是兼收票員，如果給他六披索，除非你伸手等著他找你錢，否則他是不會找錢給你，就好像是把它當小費一樣。

To make this journey by taxi would cost about \$60 Pesos, which is roughly NT\$180. However, the bus would only cost \$5.5 Pesos. The bus driver is also the ticket vendor. If you pay \$6 Pesos, you will not get your change unless you stick out your hand waiting for the change. He would not voluntarily give your money back; and would rather treat it as a tip.

公車很破舊，沒有冷氣。好在現在三月天氣候，還不熱，不覺得怎麼樣。我想大熱天時一定不好受吧！

The bus was very broken and outdated; Luckily it is only March now, with the weather

still mild, therefore not too bothersome. I think it would have been quite an uncomfortable ride in hot weather!

雖說是舊車，走在石塊鋪設的路上，聲音更大。好歹也到了長途汽車站了。說真的，如果沒有錢，有的是時間的話，也沒什麼大不了的事，反正慢慢耗就是了。

Even though the bus was old and made tremendous noise driving on cobble stone-paved streets, eventually we did reach the Central de Autobus. In all honesty, if one did not have enough money but had ample time, it would not have been a big deal. One just kills time by making a slower journey.

我到的時候，剛好有一班最最豪華好的長途客車，是 ETN 公司的，正要開到 Guadalajara，但是沒有趕上。後來查了一下，有下一班 Pacifico 公司的班車，還有一個小時要開。我就買了它的票，並順便買了兩天後下一路程 ETN 公司從 Guadalajara 到 Guanajuato 的車票。

When I arrived at the bus terminal, there was a just-then departing long-haul Guadalajara-bound bus of the highest level of luxury, operated by a bus company by the name of ETN. However I did not make it. After researching a little more, there was another bus operated by Pacifico, another bus operator, leaving in an hour. I bought the ticket right away, as well as the ETN-bus tickets for my intended journey for two days later from Guadalajara to Guanajuato.

車子開出城後，一路上人煙非常稀少。墨西哥土地面積有 1,972,000 平方公里。是台灣的 55 倍大。人口只有台灣的四點五倍，可以想像到兩個國家不同的景象。到 Guadalajara 要五個小時程，路上風景也相當美，都是山與高原，海拔約一千七百公尺上下，陽光很強，但是溫度並不高，晚上會更冷。

After the bus left town, there were not many habitations on the way. spans an area of 1,972,000 square kilometers. It is 55 times the size of . The population is only 4.5 times that of ; one can imagine the different sceneries of the two countries. The trip to Guadalajara would take 5 hours. The scenery along the way was enjoyable, with mountains and plateaus in view. The altitude was about 1700 meters, with strong sunrays. However the temperature was not high, and would drop further in the evening.

五個半小時後，車開進了目的地的市內，一切都還好，也不會很髒。Guadalajara 是第二大城，有很多觀光景點，但是我只是路過，也只停兩天所以沒有辦法去太多地方觀光
Five and a half hours later, the bus entered into the city of destination. Everything was fine; the city looked relatively clean. Guadalajara is the second largest city in , and has many tourist spots. But I am only passing by and will be staying only two days, so I will not be able to visit too many tourist destinations.

從汽車站還要坐計程車（公定價格 Pesos 120 合臺幣 360）才能到所訂的旅館 Presidente Inter-Continental。這個旅館是我透過 Hotwire 訂的，確實很便宜。它普通要一個晚上約要美金 200 元，但是我只花了美金 92 元就訂到了，還包括了稅金 15%。不過也是有壞處，那就是用什麼都要再加錢：早餐 20 美元，網路每天 17 元。太貴了！我就什麼也不讓他賺。反正 PP Car 回台灣時所帶來的台灣泡麵與 Miso 湯都還沒用就送給我，我這就用啦！不上線也無所謂，要緊事都已經過去了，沒接到的電子郵件也沒大關係，觀光都沒時間了，那有時間上線？

I had to take a taxi to reach the reserved hotel, El Presidente Inter-Continental, from the bus terminal (market price for such a trip was \$120 Pesos, about NT\$360.) I used Hotwire to reserve this hotel and thought I got a good deal. Normally the charge per night would be about US\$200 dollars; but I only spent US\$92 dollars, which included 15% tax. However, the drawback is that everything else requires additional fees: breakfast was US\$20 dollars, and internet was US\$17 dollars per day. Too Expensive! I decided the hotel would not be getting any more out of me on this trip. This was just

the opportunity to enjoy the instant noodles and miso soup packs, courtesy of PP Car when he returned to ! It was also all right that I didn't have internet access. All important matters had been taken care of. It would be no big deal if I missed any emails. Since I hardly have time to do sightseeing, how could I possibly make time to go online?

第二天（三月七日星期六）我參加當地的旅遊節目去看墨西哥最大的湖泊，叫做Chapala Lake (Lago De Chapala) 它的命名是（一隻螳螂在水之上）“Chapalene suber agua” 這個湖海拔約 1700 公尺高，天氣非常好，氣溫卻不會很高，許多美國人退休後都到這裡來買房子過安靜的退休生活，生活費也很便宜。附近有一個村莊，是遊客很喜歡來的地方，叫做 Ajijic。有一些很有味道的藝品店與餐廳小旅館等，我都照了相片給大家一起欣賞。 Second day (March 7th, Saturday) I joined a local tour to visit the largest lake in , the Chapala Lake (Lago De Chapala.) Its namesake was “Chapalene suber agua” (a praying mantis above water.) The lake's altitude was about 1700 meters. The weather was superb, with moderate temperature. Many retired Americans came here and bought property to enjoy their retirement. The cost of living was also very inexpensive. There was a small village nearby, called Ajijic, which is frequented by the tourists. I have photographed many tasteful souvenir stores, eateries and inns, and will upload pictures for all to see.

帶我們去的車很豪華、舒適，導游英、西文都精通，但是全車只有九人。有兩個是美國來的中年人，來學西班牙文的。一個已經學了好幾次，另一個才來兩週，但是他們都根基比較好，所以已經會講了。我們就在一起。那天晚上回來後，我們決定晚上八點鐘一起去有 Mariachi (如果不懂什麼叫 Mariachi 可以上網打 Mariachi wiki 就會有資料出來告訴您們是什麼了) 的餐館吃飯。三個人連喝啤酒一共才用了 Pesos 455 元（乘以三等於台幣）。我們每人拿出 200 元，本來要找零再給小費，沒想到其中的一個美國朋友就告訴服務生說，不要找了。讓那個服務生高興的手舞足蹈，還過來與我們一起照相。

The coach we rode in was very luxurious and comfortable. The tour guide spoke fluent English and Spanish. But there were only 9 people in the bus. Two of them are middle-aged Americans here to learn Spanish. One of them had made several such trips; the other has only been here for two weeks. They had very good foundations and were already speaking quite a bit of Spanish. We three hanged out together. After we returned from the trip, we decided to go together for dinner at a Mariachi restaurant at 8pm that evening (if you don't know what Mariachi is, just type in “mariachi” and there will be Wikipedia entry with ample explanation.) The three of us enjoyed a meal with beer that cost us only \$455 Pesos (times 3, and you have the NT dollar amount.) We each paid \$200 Pesos. I was going to ask for change, but one of the American friends unexpectedly told the waiter to keep the change. That waiter was so happy he started dancing around. He even came over to take a photograph with us.

當天在 Ajijic 用中餐要時，有一個老太婆，看到了我是東方人，就過來與我閒聊。她以為我是日本人，就說她會講日文。我不太相信，就用日文與她試試看。結果勾起了她的興趣，還寫些中國字給我看。她說第二次世界大戰時，她在美軍當英日翻譯，監聽日本的無線電廣播。我猜她最少也有八十七歲了。我們出來後，她爲了要繼續跟我講話，應用力撐著很快的跟我們走上坡路，走得喘嘻嘻的，好可憐！我到現在才三天，已經接到她寄來的五封電子郵件了。

That day during the tour, while we were having lunch at Ajijic, we encountered an old lady, who saw that I was Asian and approached me to chat. She thought I was Japanese, and told me she spoke Japanese. I didn't believe her and engaged in conversation with her in Japanese. This piqued her interest and she even showed me that she could write a few Chinese characters. She said she was an English-Japanese translator during the Second World War and monitored the Japanese

radio for the American military. I guess she was at least 87 years old. After we left the restaurant, in order to continue talking with me, she gave all she had to climb a hill with us at pretty fast speed and was completely out of breath. Poor lady! I have only been here three days but have already received 5 emails from her.

第三天（三月八日，星期日），我動身到Guanajuato。途中經過 Leon，是`一過非常美麗的都市，可惜沒有停留。不過我會再來。

Third day (Sunday March 8th) I came to Guanajuato. On the way I passed , which seemed a very beautiful city; it's a pity I did not make a stop. However I shall like to make another trip here.

到達 Guanajuato 時，差不多是下午三點半左右。我搭了計程車到接待家庭。這裡真的很美，我下一封信再慢慢說。

It was already about 3:30pm by the time I reached Guanajuato. I took a taxi to the host family. It is really beautiful here. I will give more description in my next letter.

附上一些照片到達 Guanajuato 以前的照片。因為經過縮小，所以不品質太好，不過過我會原尺寸再放上網站上去。

Attached are some pictures taken prior to reaching Guanajuato. They were shrunk so may not be very crisp looking; I will find a chance to post onto the website the images in their original sizes.



墨西哥旅途中報告 (二)

親愛的各位親朋好友們；

我前一封旅行中的信函發出以後，得到了一些家人與好朋友的鼓勵與回響，讓我感到更應該繼續寫一些旅行中的軼事，以免自己忘記，也可以與大家分享。我的三個女兒，英文也都還不錯，特別是那個英文最好的老二，還為我把它翻成英文，想讓我的那些看不懂中文的洋朋友們，也可以分享。然後，她又把它放上了我們『溫家堡』的網頁上。她的英文版比我的原文還有看頭。下面就是連結。上次沒有收到我信的朋友們，有興趣的話不妨上去逛一下：

[http://blog.yam.com/wunfamily543/article/14237610;](http://blog.yam.com/wunfamily543/article/14237610)

我從三月九日到這裡 (Guanajuato, Mexico中文發音讀成『瓜那華托』) 起算，已經呆在這個小山城有整整十天了。這十天裡，我幾乎天天都想給各位寫信，但是每天都忙得不可開交。 Since my arrival here on March 9th in Guanajuato, (pronounced “Gua-na-hua-to”) I have already spent 10 whole days in this small town on the hill. I have wanted to write a letter to you all each day; however each of my days have been fully occupied with various activities.

這個城非常的值得我向大家推薦與介紹。它於 1988 年被聯合國教科文組織(UNESCO)指定為人類文化遺產。就是說，像中國的『萬里長城』一樣啦！我初來的時候，覺得它像義大利的 Siena，又覺得它像 Florence，後來又覺得它都不像其他的任何地方。為什麼呢？因為它實在是一個很特別的地方。

The town of Guanajuato is worthy of special recommendation and introduction. It was designated a United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage in 1988. In other words, it shares similar status with the Great Walls of China! When I first got here, I felt it resembles Siena in , or maybe also Florence . Then, I realized it does not resemble anywhere else. Why? Simply, it is truly a special place.

現在資訊非常進步，想查什麼地方、有什麼特性、詳細情形，只要一上網搜尋一下，就都出來了。西班牙文看不懂，可以看英文；再看不懂，也有中文，實在也不值得我在這裡亂嘮叨。但是如果是我說起來，您們都會特別注意看或聽，也許也就會打算來此一遊也說不定。

With today's abundantly available information, any detailed and special facts about any place will appear on the internet as soon as one researches online. If one cannot read Spanish, there is information in English; or if English is still not ok, there is information in Chinese. My additional comments may not be completely necessary after all. However, maybe my mentioning of this place will cause you to especially read or listen, and might pique your interest in visiting this place in the future.

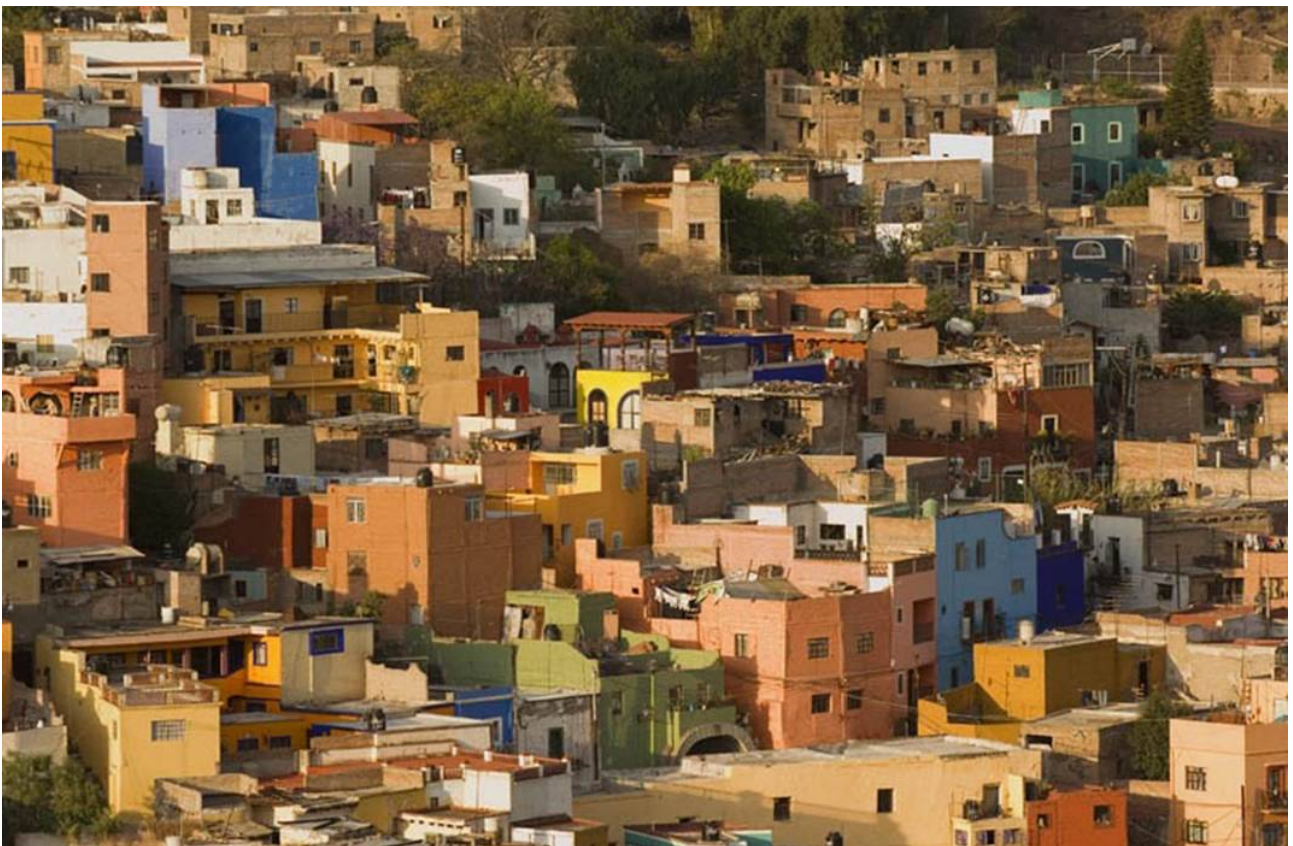
這個城有近五百年的歷史。它於 1557 年開始被發掘成一個採礦小鎮。它位於一個狹窄的山谷裡，過去的歷史與光華，跟現在的摩登，互相調諧地融合在一起。有幾分神秘，又有幾分迷人。

This city boasts over 500 years of history. Since 1557, it became a mining town with the commencement of mining activities. It is situated in a narrow valley where its past glory

and present modernity blend harmoniously together. One detects some mystique in the air, but also some charm.

走在 Guanajuato 的街上，真的是一種享受。每一個轉灣，每一個角落，您都會發現新的驚奇。它的房子像是有顏色的的方塊，疊合在一起，很像美麗的調色盤。初來的人很難想像，為何這地方會有那麼多古老又很雄偉、美麗、壯觀的教堂與建築物在這裡。殊不知，原來以前這裡是個富裕得不得了的銀礦區，有豐富的礦脈，好像取之不盡的財寶。後來採過了礦的坑道（不過礦還沒採完，現在還是世界有名的大銀礦。）與乾枯的河流，卻變成了汽車通行的馬路。人在上面走；車子在下面行；人車分道。世界上的任何地方，都看不到這種奇異的景觀。

Walking on the streets of Guanajuato is a treat in itself. You will discover new surprises at the turn of every corner. Its houses look like colored blocks, overlapping one another and forming a beautiful colorful palette. Newcomers often find it hard to imagine why ancient, majestic, beautiful, awesome churches seem to be everywhere in the small city. The reason lied in that this used to be a very wealthy silver mining region, with abundant, inexhaustible resources underground. The now-defunct mining tunnels and already dried-up river beds are now roads for automobiles. People walk above-ground, while cars drive underground; no mixing of cars and pedestrians. This is a unique sight not seen anywhere else in the world.



墨西哥是一個共和國，有三十一個州。**Guanajuato** 也是其中的一個州的名稱，面積三萬多一點平方公里，比台灣小約百分之十五。『**Guanajuato** 市』也是這個州的州政府所在地，人口只有七萬多人，離首都墨西哥市約三百五十公里，約須三個半小時的車程。它位於墨西哥地

理位置的正中央，在墨西哥中央高地上，平均海拔高度約兩千公尺。所以雖然現在是乾季，每天天空都看不到一絲的雲采。太陽高照，像沙漠一般，但是總是讓人覺得暖酥酥的，很舒服。襯衫可以好幾天不換；澡也可以好幾天不洗（千萬不要讓我的接待家庭知道），身上都不會有異味。城裡人口雖少，遊客卻特別多。因為是觀光城，所以他們對所有的遊客都非常親切。三十元台幣也可以過一餐；要吃大餐也不過台幣四、五百元，還可以連酒、小費都一起包了。帶一部手提電腦到咖啡座去上線，搞個兩、三個鐘頭，花個五六十元台幣，他們也不會催你，還不斷地替你的咖啡續杯。晚上到了十一、二點，一個人獨自回家，都不需要耽什麼心，怕什麼鬼。

Mexico is a republic of 31 states. Guanajuato is one of them, with an area of just over 31,000 square kilometers, making it about 15% smaller than . The Guanajuato City is the locale of the state government, with a population of only 70,000. It is 350 kilometers from the Capital, Mexico City , which may be reached by car in 3.5 hours. It is in the geographic center of , on the central plateau, averaging 2000 meters in altitude. Even though it is the dry season, there is not a trace of cloud in the sky. The sun shines brightly, as if at a desert, but it leaves one feeling warm and comfortable. Even if you skip washing your shirt or taking baths several days in a row (definitely do not tell my host family this,) you will not detect body odor building on you. The city has a small population, but there are swarms of tourists. This is a tourist destination; therefore the locals treat tourists kindly. NT\$30 dollars can buy you a meal; even a more elaborate feast will not cost more than NT\$400 to 500 dollars, which would including wine and tip! Visiting a café with a laptop computer for a couple of hours will cost you only about NT\$50. Not only will you be left alone without hustling, you will receive continual refill of your coffee as well. Going home alone around midnight leaves you worry-free also as it is so safe here.

我有一天去買了一雙拖鞋（因為台灣帶來的爛貨壞了，上課都穿拖鞋的。），回來的時候又要吃飯，又要上課，怕來不及，所以就問人家，這裡有沒有公車到我要去的地方。他們告訴我，就在對面街上，還指著給我看那車子停的地方。我於是就過去了，問司機說：車子開到 Pastito 嗎？他點了點頭。我於是就上車了。

One day I went to buy a pair of sandals (because the junk I brought from already wore out, and I wear sandals to school every day.) On the way back, I was afraid I would not have ample time to take a meal and then go to class, therefore I asked passer-bys whether there is a bus to reach my destination. They told me the bus was just across the street, pointing to the place where the bus was resting. I went across the street, and asked the driver whether the car would take me to "Pastitos." He nodded, and I got on the bus.

車子開了以後，我卻覺得越來越不對，好像是向反方向走的樣子。後來我就取出了我的地圖，慢慢的看著、對著，又看看車窗外，是否有似曾相識的地方。這時一位老先生（搞不好我還比他老也說不定），用西班牙語問我說：『想到那裡去？』我就指著地圖上的位置給他看。他說，你要去的地方是叫 Pastita，不是 Pastito 這車子是要往 Pastito 開的，終點是在城的最西南邊；我住的家，卻是在城的最東北邊，很靠近學校。我只因為不知道鎮上還有一個叫 Pastito 社區的名稱，又說錯了一個字母，也就這樣的被送到與目的地完全相反的方向去。

After the bus started, I gradually felt something was wrong, and thought I might have been going in the opposite direction. Then, I took out my map, slowly compare the streets to the map and checked scenery outside the car windows to see whether I recall being there. At that time an elderly gentleman (there is no say that I wouldn't be older than him actually) asked me in Spanish: "donde vas?" I pointed at my map to show him where I was going. He said to me that my destination was Pastita, not Pastito. This bus was going to Pastito, and the bus route ends at the southwestern most end of the town; Where I am staying is at the northeastern most end of the town, close to my school. I was only one letter off, and I didn't know there was a community called Pastito. But I was sent to a place completely opposite from my intended destination.

後來這位老先生下車時，特別向司機說，我是外國客人，坐錯了車。要他免費的讓我再坐回去。本來走路也就只需要二十分鐘左右。這一來我卻搞掉了整整一個鐘頭在車上。不過，錯中也有對的地方，那公車一直是沿著所謂的 **Panoramic Highway** 走過去，然後又沿另一邊的 **Panoramic Highway** 走回來。剛好前一天是星期日，我背著相機想上那些高地去拍些照片。問了計程車司機說，如果讓他幫我在城四週的這些 **Highway** 上轉一圈，慢慢開的話，半個鐘頭左右大約要多少錢？他開口要一百五十披索，相當台幣四百五十元。我想了一想，覺得不划算，就謝了他，說不去了。沒想到第二天這麼一來，陰錯陽差，我只用了四披索，卻在那些 **Panoramic Highway** 上轉了一圈。

As this elderly gentleman was getting off the car, he especially advised the driver that I was a foreign visitor, and have taken the wrong car, that I should be given a free ride back. Originally the trip would have taken me 20 minutes by foot. Because I took the wrong way, I spent an entire hour riding in the bus. However, there was some right in the wrong that I made. That bus took the Panoramic Highway to reach Pastito. The return trip was along another section of the Panoramic Highway. Just the day before, on Sunday, I took my camera along and wanted to go to the plateau to take some pictures. I asked a taxi driver how much it would cost if I were to ask him to slowly drive on the brim of the plateau along the Panoramic Highway around town, for about 30 minutes? He told me that he would charge \$150 Pesos, which was about NT\$450. I thought for a while and decided it was not worth the price, so I thanked him and decided not to make such trip. Who would have known that the following day, quite outside of my plan, I would have made such a trip along the Panoramic Highway, and spent only \$4 Pesos!

上課時，有一位同學告訴我說，她前天花了六十披索，參加了一個旅遊，卻只有一個多鐘頭，是在上面那些景觀道路上逛的，但不怎麼樣。我告訴她說，我坐公車做了相同的遊覽，但只花了四披索。她覺得我好像很行的樣子。不過我沒告訴她，我是坐錯了車子。

When I went to class, a classmate told me that she spent \$60 Pesos and joined a local tour for only an hour, which was but a drive along the Panoramic Highway, and she thought the tour was unimpressive. I told her that I made the same trip on the local bus, and I only spent \$4 Pesos. She looked at me admiringly, as if she thought I was quite resourceful. Of course I didn't tell her that I took the wrong bus.

十天來，還有很多有趣的事。我再慢慢的向大家報告吧！

There are still many interesting stories that I experienced over the last 10 days. I will slowly write them down.



墨西哥旅途中報告 (三)

到了 Guanajuato 已經近兩星期了。我今天終於又有時間可以再寫一份報告給大家。
It has been nearly two weeks since my arrival in Guanajuato. Finally today I have time to write another report for everyone.

可能有人會覺得奇怪，說：我到底患了什麼神經病？自己一個人跑到墨西哥？人不生、地不熟的，住上一個月，還到學校去學西班牙文？這原因要從兩年前的一次旅行說起：
Some people may find it strange and think that I have gone temporarily insane to come all the way to Mexico by myself to stay for over a month, not knowing anyone here, and even enroll myself at a school for Spanish classes? The motivation of making such a trip stemmed from another trip made two years ago.

2006 年的十二月中，剛好在聖誕節前，我帶了全家大小，包括老婆、女兒們、女婿、孫子們、姪兒、姪女，一共十人，從洛杉磯搭乘十二萬五千噸的『鑽石公主』號郵輪，沿著太平洋東岸南下，共七天七夜，其間包括到了墨西哥太平洋東岸的三個旅遊勝地：Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, 及 Cabo San Lucas 做了蜻蜓點水式的停留。這次旅遊，讓我對墨西哥這個陌生的國家，留下了不算壞的印象。十二月天裡，那些地方的天氣，比夏威夷更讓人感覺到舒爽，人也親切，東西又不貴。

In December 2006, right before Christmas, I took my entire family, including my wife, daughters, son-in-laws, grand children, nephew and niece, totaling 10 people, aboard the 125,000-ton Diamond Princess from Los Angeles. We cruised down the Eastern Coast of Pacific Ocean for 7 days, and made brief stops at three Pacific-coast Mexican cities: Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan, and Cabo San Lucas. That trip to Mexico, a country foreign to me, left a fairly good impression. In December, the weather of the places we visited was even more comfortable than Hawaii. People were friendly, and prices were reasonable.

第一次下船前，船上曾替乘客們免費的安排了學習簡單西班牙語會話的課程，一個小時裡，讓旅客學一些如何在「血拼」的時候，可以討價還價、應付對談之類的簡單句子。我因為沒學過西班牙語，所以也去參加了。這時他們還發了一張講義，英、西對照，幾十個句子。我沒丟掉，把它帶回家。在遊覽 Puerto Vallarta 及 Mazatlan 的時候，我也到旅館裡，順手抓了一、兩本介紹當地旅遊據點的雜誌。看不懂！但是也順便的就把它帶回來了。

Before the cruise ship made the first stop, there was an hour-long free Spanish lesson given on the ship to the passengers, so that the passengers may learn to shop, bargain and carry out simple questions and answers while ashore. I have never studied Spanish, and went to the lesson. I was given a handout, listing a few dozen sentences in English and Spanish. I held onto it and brought it home. While in Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan, I also went into local hotels and grabbed some free local tourist magazines. Don't get a word of it! Anyhow, I brought the magazines back with me.

去年八、九月，我先是爲了想幫透過扶輪社來台的外籍交換學生可以方便學中文，常上網路上亂逛。有一次上了教育廣播電台去查了一下，卻發現有三個教授西班牙語的節目，而且所有的課程都用數位聲音檔案儲存在資料庫中，所有的人都可以免費的下載這些課程到電腦上，然後轉錄到 Ipod、或其他的隨身聽之類的電子設備，隨時聽講，方便極了。我試聽了一下，覺得果然不錯嘛！接著又到敦煌書局去，把課本也買來，就這樣斷續的聽了兩、三個月。

Fast forward to last August or September. I found myself frequently web surfing looking for Chinese language studying sites in order to help Rotary Youth Exchange Students. One day, I visited the Educational Broadcasting Station, and discovered three Spanish language courses on the radio station. Not only so, all of the lectures are available in digital voice files for all to freely download, and transfer to iPod or any

other type of MP3 players to listen as they wish. It is so convenient. I tried for a while and felt that the result was quite satisfactory! I even went to the bookstore and bought the text books for the programs. This round of efforts continued for about two or three months.

後來有一天，我把上次船上留下來得的那張西班牙語講義拿出來，看了一下；又把墨西哥帶回來的兩本雜誌看了一下，卻發現那張講義上的資料，都已經會了；而且那雜誌上的文章，也可以半猜半懂的看了！只是還沒辦法開口講。這時我想：如果我能到講西班牙語的國家去住他個把月，一方面遊覽，順便也學西語，豈不是一舉兩得？

Since then, one day I took out the handout from the one-hour Spanish lesson while on the cruise; I also flipped through the magazines I brought back from Mexico. I realized that I already have mastered all the information on the handout, and could even spot words that I understood in the magazine! I just couldn't speak Spanish as of yet. This made me think that if I spent a month or so in a Spanish speaking place to tour but also to learn Spanish, would it not be killing two birds with one stone?

我於是先在網路上搜尋，然後發出函件，向一些教授西班牙語的學校索取目錄，一共收到了幾家。經過連絡後，發現一家在西班牙 **Salamanca** 的語言學校，叫做 **Don Quijote**（中文翻成：唐吉訶德）的，不但在西班牙有好幾間分校，在中南美洲好多個國家及墨西哥各地，也都有分校或伙伴學校。他們鼓勵學生在各個不同的國家及分校輪流讀幾個星期，然後轉到同系統的其他地方或其他國家的學校。他們的學生都是國外來的，從最年青的十七歲開始，到最老的八十二歲都有。經過我試探性的請他們報價以後，發現學費、住宿也都不貴，尤其是在中南美洲國家的分校中，更是合理。

I started searching on the internet, and sent emails to some Spanish language schools for catalogs. I received some. After some further contacting, I found a language school based in Salamanca, Spain, called Don Quijote, with multiple branches throughout Spain, but also several branches or affiliate schools throughout Central and South America. This school system encourages students to study at different countries for weeks at a time, and then transfer to other places. Their students are quite international, and ranged in age from 17 through 82 years old. After some tentative quote requests, I discovered that tuition and boarding costs are quite reasonable, especially at central and south American locations.

後來因為考慮到二月底，台灣 YEP 多地區組織要派我到美國內華達州參加扶輪青年交換的國際性會議，我就想：不如趁這個機會，於開會後，到墨西哥 **Guanajuato** 及 **Puerto Vallarta** 的分校去各讀兩個星期看看。經過連絡後，他們也很積極，報價又很合理，服務又親切，還可以還價：他們甚至把我在兩個學校的註冊各美金各一百元也減免了。我選了密集班，每天有四個小時，加上請他們介紹包括食、宿的接待家庭。我要求要個人獨自一間房，一共四個星期，這樣一共連學費不到美金兩千元。你們說：我該不該來？

I knew at the time that I would be sent by Taiwan's YEP multi-district organization to Nevada, USA for Rotary Youth Exchange Program's International Conference at the end of February. I thought I would use this opportunity to study at the language school's branches in Guanajuato and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. I contacted them, and met with very proactive and personable services, and reasonable quotes on prices; I even bargained with them a little bit: they deducted the USD\$100 registration fee required for each school. I chose the intensive course, with four hours of classes each day, and asked for the school to refer host families that would take care of room and board. I asked for a single room as my accommodation. The total cost of all of this for four weeks, including tuition, came to less than US\$2000 dollars! Wouldn't you say that I should make the trip?

我還沒從台灣出發以前，他們就用電子郵件，送來所有的資料，包括：寄宿家庭的詳細情形、電話、地址以及學校的地址、電話，當地的名勝、古蹟、旅遊據點等等，非常詳細。

因此，我就來了。

Before I even departed Taiwan, the school has sent me via email all the relevant information, including the host family's detailed information, telephone and address, the schools' addresses and telephones, local sightseeing spots, travel information, and such. It was very informative, indeed. Then, I embarked on the trip.

我在 Guanajuato 的接待家庭，離學校走路才五分鐘，位於城的東北邊，是個比較好的社區。主人瑪麗亞有三個小孩，兩男一女。長女是瑪莉沙，年二十六，在 Leon 城市的公車處當會計。Leon 離這裡車程約一個小時，所以她兩個星期才回來一次。這次在三月廿日（星期四）全國放春假時回來。長男正在大學念書，所以也不住在家裡。只有最小的男孩 Rodrigo 還在高中念書，住家中。瑪麗亞年五十一，她先生也差不多年齡，但是在我寄宿的兩個星期之間沒看到他。據瑪麗亞說，他先生在靠近首都墨西哥附近上班，因為路程太遠，所以兩個月才回家一次。她與他先生兩人都是建築師。

My host family in Guanajuato is located but 5 minutes from the school by foot, to the northeastern side of the city, in a relatively upscale neighborhood. The hostess Maria has three children, two boys and a girl. The eldest girl is Marissa, 26 years old, who works as an accounting staff at the city bus administration in the city of Leon. Leon is about 1 hour by car from here, so she comes home every other week. This time she came home on Thursday March 20th, during the national spring break. The elder boy is a college student and does not live at home. The youngest boy Rodrigo is still a high school student and lives at home. Maria is 51 years old, and her husband is about the same age; however during the two weeks of my stay with them, I never met the husband. Maria says that her husband works near Mexico City, the capital. Because it is a long way away, he comes home once every other month. She and her husband are both architects.

我到的那天是三月九日，星期日，大約下午三點半左右。我見到瑪麗亞的時候，不覺得她有什麼吸引我的特點。她看起來要比台灣五十左右的女人老一些。因為臉上有一塊紅斑，眼睛大，鼻子尖，又瘦，很像典型的中南美洲的原住民。她女兒則皮膚很白。我問她說，家族裡祖先是否有白人血統？她說可能有，要不然瑪莉莎皮膚不會那麼白。兩個兒子經常很安靜，長得也很好看，濃眉大眼的，又長得高，也不黑。但是我跟他們生活的兩星期當中，也沒看到他們在家讀書或溫習課業。只有一天到晚在電視機前打電動玩具而已。媽媽對此種情況，從不講說他們一句話。真的不像臺灣，非要逼著小孩讀書步可！

I arrived on Sunday March 9th, around 3:30pm. When I met Maria, I did not find her particularly attractive. She appears more aged compared to a typical Taiwanese lady around 50 years of age. There's a red birth mark on her face; she has large eyes and a tall narrow nose, very thin, and struck me of having typical features of central or South American aboriginal population. Her daughter on the other hand is very fair-skinned. I asked if there may be Caucasian ancestry in the family. She said yes; because otherwise Marissa may not be so fair. Her two sons are very quiet and good looking; with thick brows and large eyes, tall, and fair. During my two weeks with them, I never saw them read or study for school. They spent all their time playing games in front of the television. Their mother never lectured them once. This was most different from Taiwan, where parents always nagged their children to study!

我到的時候，瑪麗亞不會講英文，他兒子 Rodrigo 會講一兩句，所以就由他帶我出去看看學校週遭的環境、附近的商店、以及 internet Café 在何處，等等。因為她家也沒有網路連線。

When I arrived, I found Maria speaking no English, and her son Rodrigo speaking a few sentences. He was therefore charged with showing me around the school, shops nearby, and the internet café, and so on. Their home does not have internet connection.

她家除了我以外，還接待一個幾位其他的學生：一位德州來的小女孩，Marian，與澳洲來的一個年輕女孩同住一個房間。另一間房，則接待挪威來的兩個女孩。他們都是到 Don Quixote 學西班牙文的學生，也都是學校介紹來住在這裡的。我來的時候，那兩個挪威的女孩子剛好去古巴旅行一星期，所以一直到兩天前她們回來後才互相碰面。那個澳洲來的，西班牙文跟我差不多一般爛。但是那位德州來的小女孩可就不一樣了。她去年才高中畢業，因為暫時沒有升學，也還在猶豫著到底該做什麼才好。後來在九月中到這裡來學西班牙文，到現在才半年，已經在高級班了。電視、電影都可看得懂，可以很流利得聽、講，但是寫得如何則不知道。她第一天就權充翻譯，幫著我跟瑪麗亞溝通。

At the host family, there are a few other students: Marion, a young girl from Texas, shares a room with another young girl from Australia. Another room houses two girls from Norway. They are all Spanish students at Don Quixote, and all came here at the introduction made by the school. When I arrived, the two Norwegian girls happened to be making a week-long trip to Cuba, so I only met them just a few days ago. The Australian girl's Spanish was about as bad as mine. However, the girl from Texas is quite not the same. She just graduated from high school and did not go to college. She was still trying to figure out what she wanted to do. In September she came here to study Spanish. It's only been half a year and she was already in the advanced class. Not only could she understand movies and television programs, she could listen and speak very fluently. Nevertheless I have no insight into her writing ability. On the first day, she acted as my interpreter so I could communicate with Maria.

我的住宿是單獨一間房，浴廁在外面。一天早、中兩餐包括在內。這裡墨西哥的生活方式與台灣非常的不一樣。中餐是下午三點鐘才吃，晚餐則幾乎不吃。如果吃的話，也只是一點點。瑪麗亞家的食物一點都不油膩，加上在這個小城裡，經常要爬坡上下。我兩個星期下來，最少瘦了兩、三公斤。沒有過磅不知道，但是腰帶可以縮緊兩個洞倒是真的。瑪麗亞聽到了，嚇一跳。我告訴她說，這正是我求之不得的，沒關係。

I have a single room, but I share the bathroom and toilet with others. My breakfast and lunch are included here. The lifestyle in Mexico is quite different from Taiwan. Lunch is served at 3pm, and dinner is hardly had; if at all, very little food is consumed. Maria serves meals that are almost free of oil. In this small town, I do a lot of walking and climbing up and down the hills. After two weeks, I lost at least 2-3 kilos. I don't have a scale, so I don't know for sure; but I know I have tightened my belt buckles by two holes at least. When Maria heard, she was shocked. I told her this was better result than I could have asked for, and was perfectly all right with me.

我住在她家，什麼都很好，就是有兩點不方便。第一個不方便就是無法網路連線。所以我一定要帶電腦到學校去上線，或者到網咖上線；第二個不方便就是因為浴廁不在我的房間裡，現在年紀大了，晚上需上廁所兩、三次是正常的。這裡白天氣溫好得不得了，但是早晚溫差很大，晚上氣溫常常只有五、六度。睡在被窩裡很暖和，沒關係。但是要上廁所就比較討厭了，要穿長褲，還要經過一個起居室。還好我有點小聰明。我就偷偷的把一個一公升大，裝水的空塑膠瓶，用我隨身攜帶的瑞士刀，把瓶口的部份割下一、兩寸，變成了一個大容器，晚上就當我的尿壺。到了早上起來，才用塑膠袋遮著，偷偷的帶到廁所倒掉，洗一洗，第二天再用。兩個星期來總算圓滿的解決了我的一大問題。如果住醫院的二等病房，不也就是跟我一樣嗎？瑪麗亞到現在還不知道我在她家耍這種把戲。

Everything about my stay at her home was great, except for two inconveniences. The first was I had no internet connection. As such, I had to bring my computer to school every day, or I had to visit an internet café. The second inconvenience was the bathroom situation. At my age, it's quite normal to be visiting the bathroom several times each night. It is very warm here during the day; but the day-night temperature different was quite tremendous; the temperature nightly was usually 5-6 degrees Celsius. When one was lying down in bed, under a comforter, it was very warm and

comfortable. But, when it came time to go to the bathroom, I had to put my trousers on and travel through the living room, which was a great nuisance to me. Fortunately I was clever in some ways. Using my Swiss knife, I secretly cut an inch or two off of the top of an emptied one-liter plastic container, and converted it into my bedpan. In the morning, I took it with me in a plastic bag to the bathroom, dumped, washed and reused it the next day. This has helped me resolve my big problem throughout the last two weeks. Doesn't it seem about the same as if I were hospitalized at a second-class hospital quarter? So far Maria still doesn't know about my trick played at her home.

我到的第二天，三月十日（星期一），是我應該上課的第一天。我早上八點鐘就到學校。先是測驗新學生們的能力，每人給一張試驗題，題目從很容易到很困難都有。連題目都是用西班牙文寫。如果沒有一些根基的話，那是什麼都無法答出來的。交了卷以後，他們又一個個的與學生用西班牙文對話，問些學習的經過，為何要來學西班牙文等等。反正也是在測試學生們的聽講的能力。之後，他們把學生請到一間教室，講解學校的設施、規定，與上課的情形。這時另一些教員也正利用時間，在替新生們評鑑到底該分到那一班級上課。
Monday March 10th, the day after my arrival was the first day of class. I arrived at 8am at school. First, there was the ability test for new students. Everyone was given a sheet with testing questions. The questions went from simple ones to very difficult ones. Even the questions themselves were in Spanish. If one had no foundation at all in Spanish, it is possible that one would not be able to answer any questions. After the test was completed, there was individual Spanish conversation test with each student. After that, all the students were gathered in a class room, and were given explanations on the facility and rules of the school and classes. Meanwhile, some staff was trying to place each student into the appropriate class.

不到一小時，老師就來點名叫名字，然後一小群、小群的帶開去上課。我那班只有六個學生，一班的人數最多也只能六個，因為這是他們開出來的條件。班上只有我是男生，其他都是女生。老師來了以後，給了我們每人一本課本、一本筆記本、與一支原子筆。就是說，你可以什麼都不帶，空著手來上課就得了。

Within an hour, the teacher came around to call rolls, and then students were divided in small groups and were taken to their respective classes. There are only six students in my class. In fact, each class has no more than 6 students, because that is one of the conditions promised by the school. I am the only male in my class; the other students are female. The teacher came and gave us each a text book, a note book, and a ball point pen. In other words, you may come to class with absolutely nothing in your hands.

一上課，老師就教我們翻到課本第五十二頁。然後就一直講下去了。上課都是用西班牙文講，完全都不用英文。不管你前一個晚上睡得好不好，在課堂上是不可能打瞌睡的。因為除了講解外，老師一直在向學生們發問，或請學生到講台上向其他同學口述，或互相一對一練習等等。

Once the class started, our teacher asked us to turn to page 52, and then the lecture started. The entire class was conducted in Spanish, with no English allowed or used. Whether you slept well the night before, dosing off is not an option; Other than lecturing, the teacher is constantly asking the students questions, or is asking the students to come the podium to speak to the others in class; or is asking the students to practice one-on-one conversations.

兩個星期來，我的班一共來了三位老師：兩男一女，都教得非常好，也很認真，對同學們也非常的客氣。同學也每人都很認真的學習。每天都有作業，第二天要上台報告。偶爾有錯，或甚至有人沒做作業，老師也不會讓學生難堪，反而很有耐心的一一教導。我對學校與老師都覺得非常的滿意。

Over the last two weeks, there were three teachers who taught my class—two male and

one female. They were all excellent teachers, very serious in teaching but also very courteous to the students. Each student also took their studying quite seriously. Every day we were given homework and had to give report in class. Occasionally there were mistakes or at times someone might have an assignment. The teachers never caused any embarrassment in the student; on the contrary, they extended even more patience to teach the students individually. I am very satisfied with the school, or the teachers themselves.

除了每天四堂課的 **Intensive Course** 以外，還可以另外請老師一對一的教授，要學文法、或要學會話，都隨你便。就好像到麵攤子，要吃牛肉麵、雜醬麵、陽春麵、乾麵、濕麵，通通有。反正都要付錢就是了。

In addition to the four lessons of intensive course, one-on-one lessons may be arranged, and may cover any topic of choice, such as grammar or conversation. It is as if you were at a noodle stand—they have everything you possible could want, whether it were beef noodles, chop sui noodles, noodles with no toppings, dried noodles, soup noodles...so long as you pay.

除了上課以外，星期一及星期二的晚上七點鐘到八點鐘，另外有一個小時的「文化課程」，專門講些西班牙語系國家的文化、宗教，墨西哥的歷史 . . 等等。我第一堂課簡直是像『鴉子聽雷』一樣，什麼都聽不懂。到了第四次，就好像可以聽懂百分之三、四十左右了。Other than the lessons, every Monday and Tuesday evening from 7pm to 8pm, there is an hour of cultural lesson, which covers the history of Mexico, or culture and religion of Spanish speaking countries. I did not understand a thing during my first class and my blanking may be aptly described by a Taiwanese saying: “the duck listening to the thunder.” However, by the fourth such lesson, I could understand about 30-40% of what’s going on.

星期三晚上，請老師來教跳 **Salsa**。一個小時下來，舞學得如何不管他，倒是西文的前、後、左、右、上、下、向前、向後等等的用語，以前在課本上覺得很難記，現在都記住了。Wednesday evenings, we have salsa dancing lessons. After one hour, never mind how well I danced, I sure knew I remembered terms such as front, back, left, right, up, down, forward, backward in Spanish. It was really hard to remember them just looking at the text book; but now I remembered them all.

星期四晚上，可以參加 **Café Social** 的活動，學生們可以天南地北，無所不可以談，就是不能用西班牙語以外的語言。

Thursday nights are **Café Social** hours. The students could chat up the storm about anything under the sun—but may not use any language but Spanish.

星期五晚上學做菜，要另外交費。我沒參加。

Friday nights there are cooking lessons which charges extra. I have not been going.

我剛到的那一天，一共有大約三十個新學生同時到達，各種程度都有。有些人已經學了七、八年了，現在上課都不用課本，只是看電影、看報紙、雜誌，或練習演講，與老師對話。新生則從字母開始。我碰到波士頓來的一位 **Peter Barrett**，約五十多歲，因為留絡鬚子，所以年齡看起來與我比較接近，我們也互相比較有話談。他是商人，也是鋼鐵雕刻藝術家，已經學西班牙文很多年了。

When I arrived, there were 30 other students who also just arrived, speaking varying levels of Spanish. Some have been taking lessons for 7 to 8 years, and do not use text books during their lessons. They use movies, newspapers, or magazines as their class materials; they practice public speaking, or conversations with the teacher. On the other hand, there are new students who start with the alphabets. I ran into a Peter Barrett from Boston, who is in his fifties. He has a beard, and therefore looks closer to

age than me. We also have more in common to talk about. He is a business man, and also a metal artist, who has been studying Spanish for many years.

第一天上完文化課後，新生們都一起到一家餐廳吃飯，算是學校對我們新生們的歡迎，是學校請客。同時告訴學生們一些墨西哥菜的名稱。

After the first cultural class, all new students visited a restaurant together. The meal was paid for by school, as a welcome party to new students. It was also a good opportunity to learn the names of Mexican dishes.

學校的建築物很古老，也很可愛，我很喜歡。它與台灣非常的不同，所有的地方都用鮮明對比與強烈的顏色。二樓外面有個陽台，休息時間白種人學生很喜歡到陽台上曬太陽。The school buildings are old and quaint. I like them very much. The style is very different from Taiwan. One sees bright colors and contrasts everywhere. There is a patio on 2nd floor. During the breaks, Caucasian students like to sunbathe outside.

全校只有我跟另外一個年輕的韓國籍學生是東方人。

There are only two Asians at the school, who are me, and a young Korean student.

兩個星期來，每天都非常忙碌，有做不完的事，也要上線收發 Email 跟搜尋資料。有一天老師給我們的作業，是第二天要每個人上台，介紹一個南美洲國家的首都，任何國家都行。天阿！南美洲！我一次都沒去過，很多國家連名稱、位置都不知道，何況首都！後來我就上網查了一下，把玻利維亞的首都 La Paz 的資料查得一清二楚，然後七拼八湊，做了一份報告。第二天上台念，也沒什麼錯誤。老師連聲讚好。在大學裡拿碩士、博士的論文，不也就是這樣的拷過來，貼過去的嗎？

Over the last two weeks I have been keeping busy every day with endless tasks; I also went online to read and send emails, as well as to research for homework. One day the assignment from our teacher was to give a report in front of class the following day about any capital of any country in South America. My goodness! South America! I have never even been there. I don't know many of the countries' names and locations, much less their capitals! So I went online to research, and got down to the nitty gritty of La Paz, the capital of Bolivia. Then, I gathered all my information and shoved together a report. The following day, I read my report on stage, and did not commit major errors. The teacher praised me continuously. I wonder if such copying and pasting would be similar to writing a thesis for a masters degree or doctoral degree at a university?

就在我教室的外面，有一個賣飲料點心的小 Café 攤位，是為服務學生們的。我第一次叫了一份紅蘿蔔汁，覺得非常好喝。它不加糖，原汁卻很甜，跟台灣的很不一樣。後來我就天天都叫一杯。幾天後，都不需要叫，只要一下課，就看他們已經替我準備好了。我現在這個單字記得最熟 --- Zanahoria。

Right outside my classroom, there is a small Café stand that carried snacks and drinks for students. The first day I ordered a carrot juice drink, and found it very tasty. There was no sugar added to the juice, but it was very sweet, quite different from the ones I had in Taiwan. From then on I ordered the same thing each day. After a few days, I didn't need to order anymore; the juice was prepared for me as soon as my class ended. Now the name of the juice was firmly committed to my memory—Zanahoria.

就在今天(3/21)，我碰到了兩週以來所看到的第三個東方人。是個台灣來的年輕小姐，她的名字叫做蔡薇環，是台中嶺東技術學院廣告設計科的畢業生。我是在網咖出來時碰到她的。我用西語問她是從那裡來？她告訴我來自台灣。然後我們就開始用國語對談起來。這是我兩週以來，除了電話以外，用華語說話的第一次。她是去年應她在 Guadalajara 做生意的表哥的邀請，來在此幫忙的，已經來一年了，趁春假一個人跑到 Guanajuato 來玩。我們相談甚歡。我請她吃了一頓很便宜的午餐，然後互相道別。

On 3/21, I ran into the third Asian since arrival two weeks ago. She is a young lady by

the name of Tsai Wei-jing from Taiwan, and is a graduate of the commercial and graphic design department at Ling-Tung Technical College in Taichung. I met her at the Internet Café. I asked her in Spanish where she came from; and she told me she was from Taiwan. The rest of our conversation was made in Mandarin. This was the first time in two weeks that I spoke Chinese, except for talking on the phone. She came to Mexico last year at the invitation of her cousin who does business in Guadalajara; and has been here for about a year now. She used her spring vacation to come to Guanajuato to travel around. We had a very pleasant conversation, and I treated her to a very inexpensive lunch before bidding farewell.

教跳 Salsa 的老師，是一位很年輕的墨西哥青年，叫做 Mauricio，就住在我家前面。有一天無意中碰到，彼此打招呼寒暄。他問起我那裡來，我就告訴他。他說他很喜歡台灣。我把隨身帶的介紹台灣的光碟借給了他看。過了幾天，他請我到他家去坐了一下，聊起了他的身世。他原籍墨西哥市，是職業拉丁舞教練，曾到過德國、英國去教過拉丁舞，有一位女朋友，也是舞伴，長得相當漂亮。他與媽媽住在一起。她媽媽年青時是一位歌者，也蠻有名氣的。有一次汽車意外，他爸爸撞死了，她媽媽也因此殘廢不能走路，必須坐輪椅。那天他介紹他媽媽與我見面，非常客氣，她五十幾歲，看起來比台灣的六十多歲的女人老很多。我回台灣以後想要請 3490 總監 Weber，看能否可以請台灣舞者與他合作，讓他有機會來此教舞，順便一遊。

Our salsa dancing teacher is a very young Mexican by the name of Mauricio, who lives right near my place. One day we ran into each other and struck up a conversation. He asked me where I came from; I told him, and he said he liked Taiwan very much. I showed him my DVD on Taiwan that I had with me. A few days later, he invited me to visit his home, and we spoke about his life. He was originally from Mexico City, and is a professional Latin dancing coach with teaching experiences in Germany and the UK. His girlfriend is also her dancing partner, and is very beautiful. He lives with his mother, who, when she was young, was a rather famous singer. A car accident killed his father, and left his mother paralyzed and reliant on the wheelchair, unable to walk anymore. He introduced his mother to me that day. She was an extremely kind lady in her fifties, but appeared quite a bit older looking than women in Taiwan in their 60s. I have in mind to ask District Governor Weber of District 3490 to invite him to Taiwan for a trip, and perhaps for him to work with dancers in Taiwan.

這是我上課跟住在 Guanajuato 兩週來一些拉拉雜雜的瑣事，記下來留念，也順便與親朋好友分享一下。我也於星期週末到了別的地方遊覽，情行再另文報告。

These are some of the tidbits of my life and studying over the last two weeks in Guanajuato. I am writing them for my memories, and to share with my friends and family. I also visited some other places during the past few weekends, which I will write about separately.

Henry at Puerto Vallarta

後記: 因為照片非常多，如果與信文一起送，恐怕造成大家的麻煩與不便，所以我就把它們選了一下，送上網頁上去。有興趣的話，不訪上去看看。選用 Slide Show Full Screen 會效果比較好些：<http://henrywun.shutterfly.com/action/>

P.S: I have put the photos on the following web link, to have a better view, please use Slide Show Full Screen.

<http://henrywun.shutterfly.com/action/>



墨西哥旅途中報告（四）

三月十六日（星期日），在到達 Guanajuato 的一星期後，我獨自一人，利用了學過一星期的簡單西班牙語，跑到附近的兩個小城去參觀遊覽。這兩座城規模雖小，但名氣卻非常大。

March 16 (Sunday), after a week's stay in Guanajuato, armed with my Spanish language skills acquired over the last week, I went by myself to two nearby towns for sightseeing. These two towns are small in scale, but they enjoy great fame.



首先讓我來介紹第一個城，它叫做 Dolores De Hidalgo。它是為了紀念一位為墨西哥獨立而犧牲生命的民族英雄 Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla 而改名的城市。現在幾乎所有的墨西哥民眾，都會想到來這裡朝聖，瞻仰這位英雄的事蹟。

Firstly, let me introduce the city of Dolores De Hidalgo, named after 's national hero Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, who lost his life to achieve 's independence. Almost all Mexicans will want to come here to pay tribute to the hero, and to learn of his story.

Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla 生於 1753 年。他在 San Nicolas Obispo 學院畢業後，也在那所學院教授神學、哲學、以及倫理學，後來也成為學院院長。1792 年他被授與神職，在一些教區做牧師，最後在 Dolores 這個城的教區任職。他在這個牧區，很受居民們的愛戴。因為他用他各方面的智慧，不僅是在心靈上與精神上領導他們，也在經濟上以及工作上多方教導與幫忙他牧區的人民。

Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla was born in 1753. After graduating from Colegio San Nicolás Obispo, he taught theology, philosophy, and civics at the school, and eventually served as the President of the college. In 1792, he was ordained as a priest and served the parish of Dolores. He was well loved by the people in his parish, because he not only was their leaders spiritually and mentally, he also provided wise guidance and help in many ways to help those in his parish become better economically endowed.

懷著自由開放的思想，他於 1810 年參加了一群愛國者的組織，密謀促成墨西哥從西班牙殖民主義政治獨立出來，並計劃於當（1810）年的十月份，採取軍事行動。但事機洩露，成員們有多人被捕。後來接獲密報，就與幾位獨立運動的重要成員如 Aldama, Allende, Abasolo 等等，決定於 1810 年的 9 月 16 日揭竿起義。這就是為何墨西哥的獨立紀念日，定在這一天的緣故。Dolores 城裡的一些居民，如製陶業者、木匠、鐵匠、農民們，都紛紛響應 Hidalgo y Costilla 神父的號召，而開始參加了獨立運動的鬥爭。因此這個城市，成為了墨西哥獨立運動的發祥地。

Harboring ideologies of liberty and openness, he joined a group of patriots in 1810 to secretly facilitate Mexico's political independence from Spain's colonization. They planned to take military action in October of 1810; however, the plan was leaked and many of the members were captured. He then received information to ally with other important pre-independence members including Aldama, Allende, and Abasolo. They decided to stage the revolution on September 16, 1810. This was the reason behind the date of the Mexican Independence Day. The residents in the city of Dolores including potters, carpenters, blacksmiths and farmers answered to the calling of Father Hidalgo y Costilla and joined the independence movement. This city became the birthplace of Mexican independence.

在最初，僅兩個星期，義軍就連連勝利，從 Dolores 開始攻克 Atotonilco, San Miguel el Grande (現在也改名為 San Miguel de Allende，來紀念另外一位獨立運動的領袖，它也是我要介紹得第二個城市), Chamuchero, Celaya (在這個地方 Miguel Hidalgo 獲得總司令的頭銜，而 Ignacio Allende 則任副總司令), Salamanca, Irapuato 與 Silao，然後直抵 Guanajuato。

In the first two weeks of the independence movement, the revolutionary force won victories after victories from Dolores to Atotonilco, to San Miguel el Grande (whose name was changed to San Miguel de Allende to commemorate the another independence leader. This is also the second city that I visited and will introduce;) Camulcero, Celaya (it was here that Miguel Hidalgo was given the title of the General; and Ignacio Allende was made the Deputy General,) Salamanca, Irapuato, and Silao, finally Guanajuato.

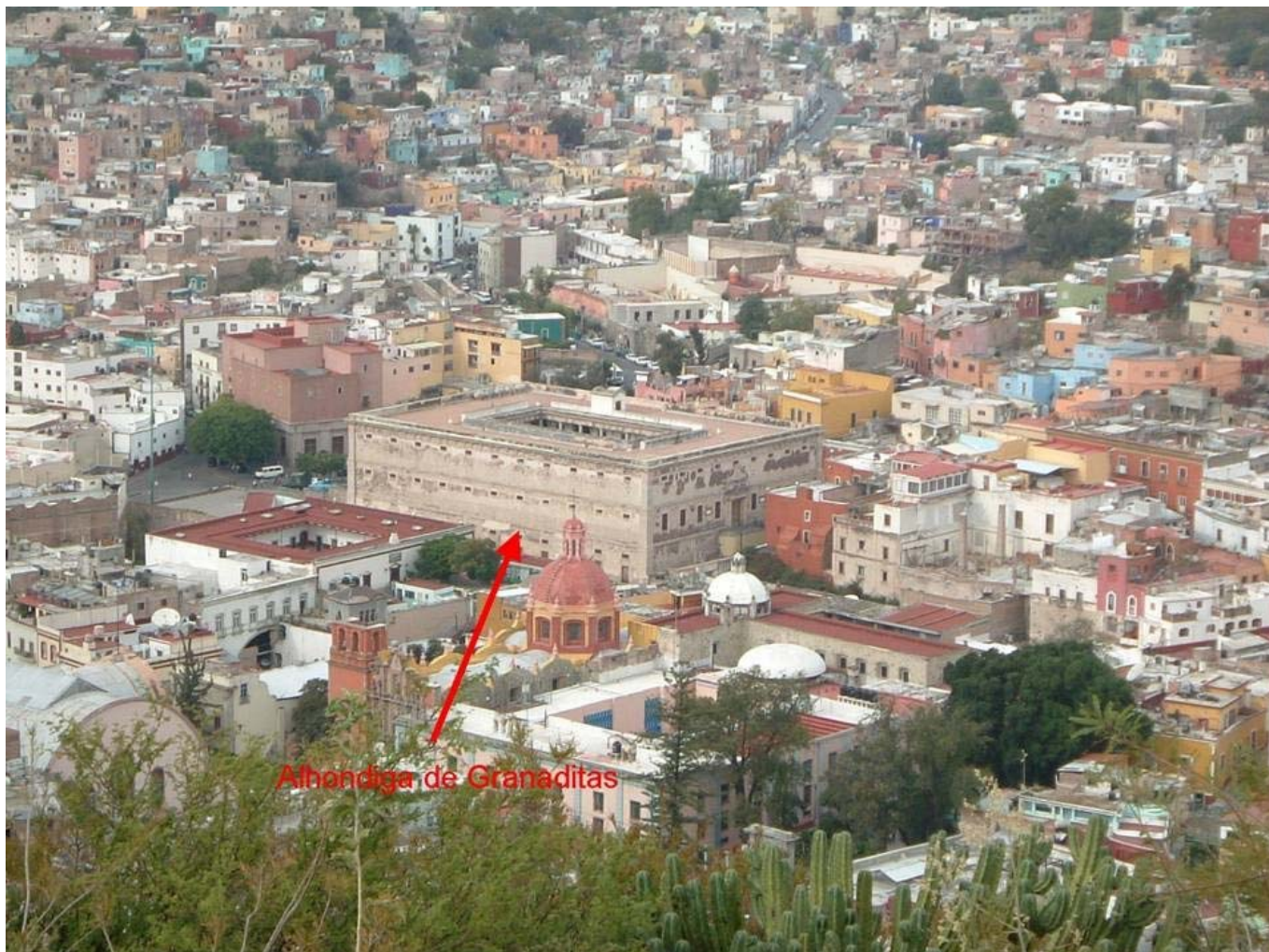
面對著起義的軍隊，西班牙人帶著家小財物，匆匆逃到 Guanajuato 城裡，躲進了儲存穀物的 Alhondiga de Granaditas 碉堡裡（現在已改成為國家博物館。到 Guanajuato 一定要去參觀。）可是經過一場血鬥，憤怒的群眾攻下了這座碉堡，屠殺了所有投降的西班牙人。

The Spaniards took their families and possessions and hurriedly escaped to Guanajuato, hiding in the Alhondiga de Granaditas, which was a fortress used as a granary. (This is now a regional museum and is a must-see for Guanajuato visitors.) However after a bloody fight, the angry mob took the fortress and slaughtered all the surrendered Spanish people.

攻下這座碉堡的經過，還有一個故事。這座建築長寬為 71 X 68 公尺，高 23 公尺，總建築面積為 4,828 平方公尺（約等於台灣的 1,460 坪）。由兩側傍山而建，外觀奇怪，類似城堡。當時逃到裡面的西班牙人，相信這碉堡堅固，可以保護他們守住，而抵制叛軍。但是不久，起義軍就圍住了這座建築物，開始向裡面丟擲石塊。而西班牙人的首領，就這樣被打死了。起義軍後來決定要打破兩座門中比較小的東側門。他們派了一個勇士，是一位非常勇猛的礦工，名叫 Juan José Martínez，小名暱稱叫 El Pipila 的人，他背著一大塊平板石在背上，以免被上面西班牙人用石塊攻擊而受傷，然後慢慢的接近到東側門，用石油放火燒了這門，然後義軍隨他蜂擁而入。裡面的西班牙人大部份都死

光了。當先下午，他們埋葬了數百具屍體。

There was another story during the takeover of the fortress. This structure is 71 by 68 by 23 meters, which makes a total area of 4,828 square meters (which is about 1,460 Taiwanese *ping* in area measurement.) The fortress was built against the hill, with two sides surrounded by the hill. With a strange exterior that resembles a fortress, the Spaniards who escaped to seek shelter here believed this fortress was solidly built and could protect them from the revolutionary army. However, not long after, the insurgents surrounded the building and started throwing rocks into the fortress. The leader of the Spaniards was stoned to death.



現在Guanajuato的小山上，纜車的上方，高高的聳立著Pipila的銅雕，供人瞻仰。有興趣知道得更詳細的情形，或想看那些美麗的圖片，請點連結：

<http://www.guanajuatocapital.com/ingles/Apipila.htm>

The revolutionaries decided to break the eastern gate which was the smaller of the two gates. They sent a brave man, who was a fierce and well built miner, named Juan Jose Martinez, or known also by his nickname "El Pipila." He bore a large flat piece of rock on his back, to fend against any attacks by the Spaniards' rocks from above. Slowly he approached the eastern gate, and burned it with petroleum. The revolutionaries followed him and entered the castle. Most Spaniards were dead by then. That same afternoon, they buried several hundred bodies. On the hill of Guanajuato, above the cable car, there stood the statue of Pipila, for all to see and admire. <http://www.guanajuatocapital.com/ingles/Apipila.htm>

不過這一批起義的軍隊，後來還是失敗了。首腦人物共四人 Miguel Hidalgo, Ignacio Allende, Juan Aldama, Jose Mariano Jimenez 都被捕而遭處決。他們的頭被砍下來，四個首級分別被掛在這座 Alhondiga de Granaditas 碉堡的四個角落上，來遏阻其他的獨立運動者。這些首級被掛在那

裡有十年之久，直到獨立運動成功後，它們才被送到首都墨西哥市的獨立紀念碑 El Angel de la Independencia 去安息。這個紀念碑與柏林的勝利紀念碑極其相似，很有可看的。我在 Dolores de Hidalgo 只逗留了約兩、三個小時，去參觀了 Hidalgo 的居所，現在已經改成國家紀念博物館。 However this revolution attempt finally failed. The four leaders, Miguel Hidalgo, Ignacio Allende, Juan Aldama, and Jose Mariano Jimenez, were captured and executed. They were beheaded, and their severed heads hung on the four corners of the fortress Alhondiga de Granaditas, to deter other revolutionary attempts. The heads remained there for 10 years, and were only put to rest at the El Angel de la Independencia—the independence memorial in the capital, Mexico City —after the independence was finally attained. The memorial looks quite similar to the Berlin's Victory Column, and is worthy of a visit. I only stopped in Dolores de Hidalgo for two-to-three hours, and visited Hidalgo's residence, which now has been converted to a national museum.



Angel de Independence en
Ciudad de Mexico
墨西哥市的獨立紀念碑
Hidalgo 等人遺體安放處所

第二個我要介紹的是 San Miguel de Allende，也是不大，但是美的無法形容。很多國際有名的雜誌刊物，對它不斷的給與很高的評價，甚至把它列入世界上十大最美的城市之一，與巴黎、佛羅倫司等名城齊名。我看過之後，並不覺得有過份之詞。這個城市可愛、清爽。可惜明天要上課，我無法做一晚的停留。但是我決定要再來。

The second city that I would like to introduce is San Miguel de Allende, which is not a large city, but is beautiful beyond belief. Many international magazines give it high praises, even listing it as one of the ten most beautiful cities, sharing such ranking with Paris and Florence. I thought such high praises were well deserved after my visit to this city. It is a lovely and refreshing place to visit. Too bad I have classes tomorrow and cannot stay the night here. But I have decided to visit again.

這兩個城市與周圍的地方，因為都是高原，海拔約在 1,800 到 2,000 公尺之間，而且雨量很少，現在又是乾季，所以看起來所有的地方都是乾枯枯的，樹木草地也都是黃黃的。可是它的優點卻是涼爽舒適，四季如春，很適合居住。所以有很多的美國與加拿大的退休人士，都跑到這兒安居。

These two cities and surrounding places are on a plateau, and are about 1800 to 2000 meters in altitude. It is now the dry season, with very little rain fall, causing the scenery to be quite dry looking, with trees and grass quite yellow in color. However, it is cool and pleasant here, with weather nice as spring time all year round, making it a very habitable place. Many Americans and Canadians come here to retire.

一個星期日就這樣的很愉快的過去了。我搭車於晚上十點半回到了 Guanajuato 暫時的家中。

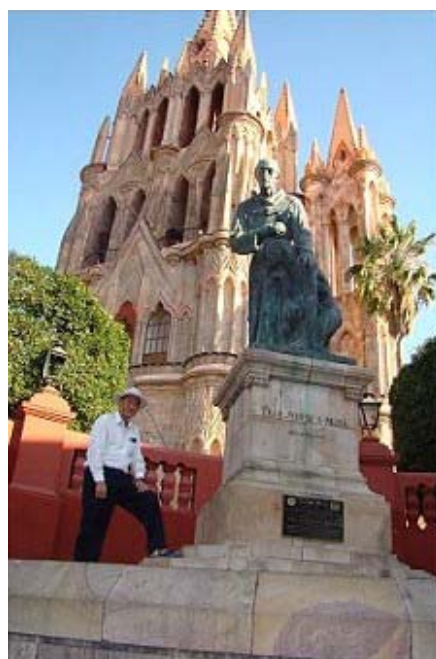
This was how I pleasantly spent my Sunday, I took a bus and returned to my temporary dwelling in Guanajuato by 10:30pm.

我在兩個城市都拍了些照片。爲了不造成大家的不方便，我把它們送上了我的照片網頁。有興趣的話，可以用以下的連結去欣賞：

for henry's photo link, please see
www.henrywun.shutterfly.com

Dolores de Hidalgo:

San Miguel de Allende:



墨西哥旅途中報告（五）

重回Puerto Vallarta



我在三月二十二日離開 Guanajuato，重回 Puerto Vallarta，到今天已經快要兩個星期了。再過幾天，就要離開墨西哥回國了，我不得不趕快利用時間來做最後的一次的介紹。今天要介紹位於墨西哥西岸，也是在太平洋的東邊的一個港灣都市，名叫 Puerto Vallarta。翻遍資料，找不到中文要怎麼翻譯這個地名，姑且就叫它做「瓦雅爾塔港」吧！

我這次是第三次到此地。第一次是 2006 年的聖誕前幾天，乘著十二萬五千噸的「鑽石公主」號豪華郵輪來的，在這裡逗留不到一天，談不上有什麼印象。我們一上岸，就找了部可以裝十個人的中型車，把全家大小，通通裝上了車，然後請司機帶我們去看一些他覺得值得看的地方。只記得有很多的大飯店，豪宅，渡假區，海灘，還有游人如織的舊城中心區，沿著海岸邊，有連續不斷的商家店舖，好不熱烈。

第二次只是過境，休息了一個晚上，也談不上有何瞭解。

這第三次可住久了，前後一共會停留十七天。有兩星期會在這裡上課，還替自己預留了幾天，可以耍一耍，所以我的觀察就應該比較深入了。



這個太平洋濱的城市，給我很深的印象。它並不大，人口只有二十幾萬人，但是每年來此的遊客，單是國外來的，就有數百萬之多。從北美洲加拿大與美國許多城市，都有直接的班機來這裡。每班飛機，都載滿了觀光客來，又載滿了觀光客回去。

瓦港位於 旗幟灣 (Bahia Banderas) 的中心點。這個「旗幟灣」確實帶給了墨西哥人民很多的好處。這個半月形的大海灣，從北到南，拉一條直線是四十二公里長。但是如果是沿著它的半圓形海岸線計算，則有六十八公里的長度，海灣處處是美麗的沙灘。從最北邊的 Punta Mita 開始，全世界有名的「四季飯店」，房間費一個晚上要價一千美元，就蓋在這裡。從那兒一直往南，經過「新瓦雅爾塔港」的新開發區，北邊的海港區(Marina Vallarta)及城北旅館區，城中心的舊城區，城南的「羅曼蒂克區」，再延伸到南邊 Mismaloya 的海灘，都蓋滿了或大或小的渡假飯店，加上沒靠近海邊的其他大小飯店，旅館飯店總數共一千多家。其中不少飯店，房間數多達五、六百間的。

墨西哥飯店的等級共分爲從一星級到五星級，再加上特別豪華的 Grand Turismo 級的特級豪華飯店。單是 Grand Turismo 就有十幾、二十家；四星及五星的一共有約五十家之多。加上其他等級和 B&B 之類（類似民宿）的，真可說不計其數。有些專出租給人渡假用的豪華別墅，一晚就要價近一萬美元的超級豪華別墅也有，並不稀奇。很多好萊塢的大明星，就喜歡來此，找個什麼人都碰不到的地方去渡假。我在此的這段期間，看到港區停了一艘非常美麗的私人遊艇，靠在碼頭邊，就聽到有人指著說，”比爾蓋之”現在人在這裡渡假，因爲他的私人遊艇在港邊停靠著。許多好萊塢的大導演，也在此買豪宅。漂亮的海邊渡假屋，一棟棟的往上直蓋。到處充滿著房地產商，向遊客兜售別墅。



早在 1964 年「李查波頓」與「戴伯拉寇兒」及「愛娃嘉特那」來此拍美國名作家「田那西·威廉」寫的 "The Night of Iguana" 一片時，就看上這裡的美麗與氣候，先買了一棟 Villa 給他老婆 Susan 當禮物。之後與伊麗沙白泰勒傳出戀情，又買了一棟 Villa，與麗莎的 Villa 隔鄰相對，然後跨著小巷，搭了一座小天橋，把兩間房子連接起來，到現在還是觀光景點。後來他給老婆的這棟房子被買去，變成了一個名叫 Hacienda de San Angel 的 Boutique Hotel 的部份。這旅館一共也只有幾間客房。但是一間客房一個晚上要價五、六百美元。我不信邪，偏要去看一下，到底是什麼天堂！看了一下，果然名不虛傳，真可以說好像住在天堂裡一般。我去讀西班牙文的學校，在學校的簡介上用 "Learn Spanish in Paradise" 的一句話，在做宣傳。可見這裡的美麗。

在瓦港，每天總有一兩艘大郵輪來停靠。每艘船帶來了三、四千人，晚上又被它們帶走了。

我在二月二十六日，由台灣飛舊金山的聯合航空班機上，看到機上二月號 Hemisphere 雜誌上，有一篇 "Three Perfect Days in Puerto Vallarta" 的文章，特別專文介紹如何可以三天完美的遊覽此城，文中也提及我剛才講過的 Hacienda San Angel 的旅館。這篇文章將會被收入到聯合航空 Hemisphere 雜誌網站上的資料庫。誰有興趣，以後可以去下載，來仔細閱讀欣賞。



這裡有適合各種旅客的居住場所，也有適合任何預算的食物與娛樂。每天黃昏，夕陽西下，將入海平面的那些時光，不論在那裡，都可以免費的享受最美的景色。舊城南側 Los Arcos 的那附近，每天都有免費的表演，來娛樂遊客；沙灘上也經常有不同的沙雕，來供人欣賞，以求博得遊客的一點

賞錢。到處都有藝人、樂隊來演奏助興，讓您享用美食時能更愉快些。我以前年輕的時候，非常喜歡美國作曲家柯普蘭(Copland) 的作品「墨西哥沙龍」，覺得它百聽不厭，但是因為沒來過墨西哥，也體會不出什麼名堂來。這次在這裡，總算能夠揣摩出作曲家的心靈想像了。

在瓦港，如果您有錢，不妨去住一間四、五十坪的豪華飯店客房，每天花它五百、一千美元的，好好過過癮；但如果沒有寬裕的預算的話，也可以過得很好。兩塊錢美金就可以吃飽一餐飯，而且保證不會瀉肚子。我在此的寓所，是學校幫我找的。一星期是一百九十美元，每天包括早、晚兩餐，獨自一個房間。起先我只預定了一星期，住進去以後，覺得環境還不錯，就跟我的接待家庭商量，到期再續住一星期，結果直接接洽更便宜，每天只要二十二美元，也是自己有單獨的房間，又有一個客廳，可以看書工作，外加無線上網，每週還有佣人來打掃、換床單、毛斤兩次。真的是方便極了。每天搭公車，上課、下課、回家、吃飯、出門、遊玩，真是好像這裡就是我的家一樣。

這裡的學校比前一個還小，學生不多，只有二十多位。有來自挪威的，瑞士的，美國的，加拿大的，德國的。算年齡的話，我還是最小，但是看起來並不是最老的。有幾個學生，是準備要去南美洲周遊列國，因為不懂西班牙文，所以來學。有一位年輕漂亮的小妞，與我同班，來自猶他州鹽湖城，是大學裡攻讀英國文學的學生，來了七、八個星期了。她是因為學校有承認這裡進修的學分才來此上課的。我來了一星期後，我住的地方也來了一位加拿大來的扶輪社友。我問他為何來學西班牙語，他回答說，因為準備與他老婆去南美洲一些西班牙系的國家做義工，所以來學習。

除了遊覽行樂之外，也有很多給仕女們享樂的玩意兒，只要有錢就行。每家豪華的大飯店，都有 **Spas** 專區，專備各種療程伺候。只怕預算不夠，不怕沒有苗頭。我也不甘落後，去了 **Dream Spa & Resort** 經驗一番，確實也不便宜，大約跟台灣的五星級飯店要價相同。替我做的是一位白人年輕小姐，一問之下，是來自巴塞隆納的西班牙姑娘。我起先心力裡還在嫌她的力道不夠，沒多久，我竟然在她纖纖十指的輕揉下睡著了，直到她告訴我說：「先生！您的時間已經到了。」我真想躺在那裡不動，讓她再幫我揉個兩、三小時。

從三月六日抵達墨西哥到今天，已經有一個月了。我心裡暗自檢討盤算，在這一個月當中，我有沒有碰到過壞人，想要占我便宜？有沒有碰到不如意的事情？有沒有碰到不好的天氣？刮風？下雨？有沒有身體不舒服過？細想之下，好像甚麼不如意事都沒有。這真是一次寫意的旅行。現在不管到那裡，也可以現幾句西班牙語與人對談。很多人還驚訝，這個東方人怎會講西語？

我在 **Puerto Vallarta** 拍了無數的照片。有豪華大飯店的一些設備、場景、餐廳；有海邊的美景，海上的夕陽餘暉、、、因為太多了，而無法隨這封報告奉上給各位。但我已經把它們上載到存有我照片簿的網頁上。有興趣的話可以上

www.henrywun.shutterfly.com 要瀏覽這裡的照片，請點選 --- (**Back to PVR**)。

這段時間雖然旅行在外每天都很忙，但是為了留下一些旅遊痕跡，我還是抽時間寫了五個報告，除了與親朋好友有分享外，也留下了一些痕跡。謝謝大家給我的鼓勵與回響。