

# Mexico City

## el segundo viaje

After just one taste of  
this extraordinary city  
you'll be coming  
back for more.

BY JOVIM LAICO

August 1999. Mexico City revisited.  
For me, there is still a lot more to see and  
experience.

LET'S TALK ABOUT FOOD (A TOPIC  
I MAJOR IN):

Have you tried *Tamales* ... for break-  
fast? Yup, every morning the "Tamale  
Guy" peddles up and down the street  
with a megaphone yelling, "*Tamales –  
Tamales – Calientes !!*" at exactly 8  
AM, like clockwork.

Have you tried Mexican Pizza? NO!!!  
Not Taco Bell!!! ('specially that annoying  
little chihuahua!) I'm talking about a  
pizza style found on the menu board at  
the Domino's Pizza in Mexico. Yes!!  
Hey, we have Hawaiian Pizza here in the  
States – it's quite logical that they came  
up with their own over there.

*BARABACOA!!!!*... Nope, not barbe-  
cue!!! It's the counterpart of our tradi-  
tional *lechón* (roasted pig), but it's  
cooked with the heat of the earth – six  
feet underground. Oh, did I mention this  
is a goat? My experience: this stuff  
tastes awesome!!! but I had to break out  
the Pepto Bismol later (weak stomach).

LET'S TALK ABOUT SIGHTS (I'M  
also a videographer by (yeh) right):

Acrobats, daredevils?!!! No way.  
Four guys, each dangling by one foot, on  
four ropes, spinning from a 200 foot pole  
without any safety net is actually a ritual  
by the *Los Boladores de Papantla*.  
Awesome!!

We visited the Caverns. This was a  
mile deep cave hike with rock formations  
of Homer and Marge Simpson, Beer  
Bottles, Poodles, Ice Cream Sundaes, and  
a lot more weird and interesting stuff.  
Oh yeh ... the way out was also the way  
in, just like tequila ...

Taxco. Nope, it's not a tax company,  
but a mining town three hours south of  
the city. Red tile roofs atop white col-  
ored homes and hotels located on a  
mountainside make up a picturesque  
scene as you approach. Sandra had a  
ball!! It's JEWELRY CITY!!!

Centro is located in the heart of  
Mexico City. This is the gigantic square  
where the Cathedral, House of Senate,  
President's Office, and tons of Spanish  
styled architecture are found. Around it,  
you will find a mob of people and every-  
thing on sale (like Divisoria, Quiapo, and  
Baclaran combined... including the  
shoulders and elbows that find their way  
to your face).

OK, everyone knows what a  
Volkswagen is. Mexico City is  
"Volkswagen Nirvana"!! For every five  
cars in the city, four of them are  
Volkswagens!! Have you ever seen a  
VW parts aisle in a grocery store?!! The  
taxicabs are Bugs, while the VW Kombis  
(MicroBus) are the counterpart to the  
Philippine Jeepney.

Talking about sights and experiences  
... Have you ever awakened with a scor-  
pion on your bed?!!! GOOD MORN-  
ING!!! Quote from Gregory, "...Hey!!!  
Why'd 'ya kill it ????..."

LASTLY, YES, *FIVE LONG YEARS* OF  
marriage vows renewed!! Sandra's  
grandpa is the town's pastor. We had the  
honor of receiving the blessings from  
him. Unfortunately, the ceremony turned  
short and simple due to his weakened  
health and timely stroke that just  
occurred on our second day there. He is  
currently receiving proper care and love  
from his wife and children. Mariachi  
music played as we celebrated our lun-  
cheon with all her family. On the menu:  
*BARBACOA!!*

I ALWAYS ENJOY MY VISITS TO  
Mexico. The city presents itself like a  
timewarp to my days in Manila. It  
accepts me as much as I accept it as

another home that I hold dear to my  
heart. Mexico City throbs with life,  
just like the people who energize it.  
The people, the sights, and the great  
variety of foods spice up my every  
Mexico Experience!!

LL

