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# VOYAGE HOME

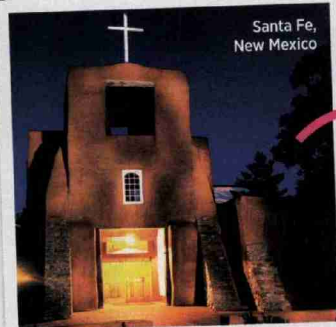
A getaway becomes a journey when you rediscover your roots.

By ROBYN MORENO

**T**ravellers are looking for more than beaches and beer towns on their big vacays; now we want to discover a pocket of our own *cultura* along the way. Dig into that family tree and make your next *viaje* pack a bigger punch, whether you're traversing *la tierra patria* or your own backyard.



Escape to the beaches of Veracruz, Mexico.



Santa Fe, New Mexico

## Santa Fe or Veracruz

**Stay Local:** Enjoy Spanish-influenced arts and eats in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**THE STORY** Founded by the Spanish in 1610, Santa Fe is the second oldest city in the country. You can spot the *influencia española* in the mix of Spanish colonial and adobe architectures of the main plaza, where the settlers first set foot.

**ENJOY** Stroll through the Native American Artists Market, a daily gathering of local artisans selling their jewelry and crafts under the portal of the Palace of the Governors, the original seat of the Spanish government.

**EAT** Feast on red chile dusted scallops and anchos rellenos at Fuego, in La Posada de Santa Fe.

**REST** Stay at the kitschy and charming El Rey Inn, a cool hodge-podge of suites that boast rustic wood-beamed ceilings and kiva fireplaces.

**Go Abroad:** If you love the colonial vibe of Sante Fe, stroll the streets of Veracruz, Mexico.

**THE STORY** The first municipality founded by Spain on the mainland, and Cortés' base as he took over the Aztec empire, Veracruz is a port town with a mix of Spanish, Caribbean, indigenous, and African vibes.

**DON'T MISS** Take *danzón* classes at Instituto Veracruzano de la Cultura to experience a rich part of the culture. Wander the town of Tlacotalpan for colonial architecture.

**EAT** Enjoy a *cafecito* and *comida veracruzana* at Gran Café de la Parroquia.

**STAY** at hotel Azúcar, on the beach, for a balance to downtown.

## Kissimmee or Cabo Rojo

**Stay Local:** Kiss a Puerto Rican in Kissimmee, Florida.

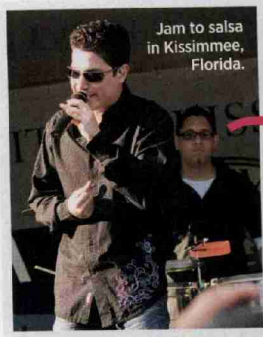
**THE STORY** The Puerto Rican population in this central region of Florida, south of Orlando, has more than doubled in the last ten years, creating a vibrant Boricua community.

**EAT** Try the mofongo at Melao Bakery. This fave boasts 13 different types of mofongo (mashed plantain-based dish). If you're *loca*, for local, go for the "trifongo," which has green plantains, sweet plantains, and yuca.

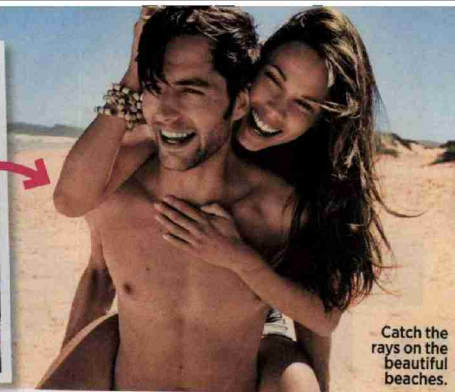
**ENJOY** Hear the sounds and dance the night away with a hottie at Salsa Latina nightclub—live bands and DJs nightly.

**STAY** Bohemian Hotel Celebration is an understated, and surprisingly sophisticated, waterside stay. You can enjoy a mojito on its deck overlooking Lake Rianhard after a long day of shopping.

(SANTA FE): CHRIS CORRIE (VERACRUZ): GRUPO HABITA. FOR INFO VISIT WWW.SANTAFE.ORG. VISITMEXICO.COM.



Jam to salsa in Kissimmee, Florida.



Catch the rays on the beautiful beaches.

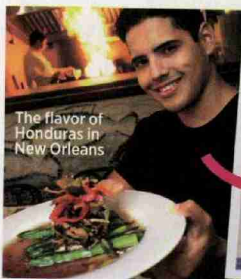
**Go Abroad:** Inspired by the laid-back vibe of Kissimmee? Try sunbathing in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico.

**THE STORY** Located on the southwest part of the island, Cabo Rojo is a chill beach community with rich wildlife and arguably the best seafood on the island.

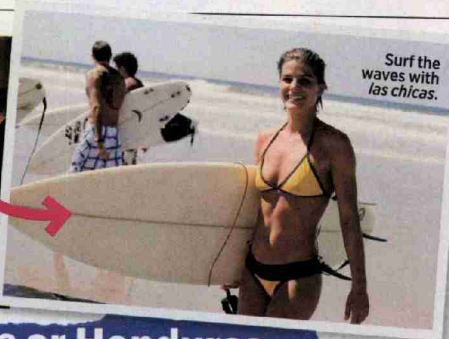
**EAT** Anywhere along the “Milla del Buen Comer,” aka the Golden Mile of Eating. With the sea as their backyard, these restaurants are *sabrosos*. Try the *chillo frito* at Mao’s Seafood, in Joyuda Beach. Enjoy hand-crafted *cerveza* from local Boquerón Brewing Co.

**DON’T MISS** The Faro Los Morillos lighthouse, built by the Spanish in 1882, still operates today. Cabo Rojo is called the “Red Cove” because of the reddish tint of the sea-side cliffs. Pack a picnic and take in the view at sunset.

**STAY** Full of local flavor, Perichi’s Hotel is affordable and close to the action.



The flavor of Honduras in New Orleans



Surf the waves with las chicas.

**New Orleans or Honduras**

**Stay Local:** Party with the *Hondureños* in the Crescent City, New Orleans.

**THE STORY** New Orleans has a vibrant Honduran community due to the boom in fruit shipping by The Standard Fruit Company (now Dole), at the start of the 20th century.

**DON’T MISS** Head to Mayas Nuevo Latino for their signature Honduran *nacatamal* filled with pork.

**STAY** Hotel Le Marais is a block away from bustling Bourbon Street. Rooms start at \$109—and they give you a cocktail at check-in. *¡Salud!*

**BRING BACK** Buy a CD from Los Hombres Calientes, a local Grammy-nominated Latin Jazz band.

**Go Abroad:** If you prefer a more sensual Central American flair, kick back and cozy up in Honduras.

**THE STORY** With more modern resort offerings by the minute, this Central American gem has become the go-to spot for both surfers and socialites. Flanked by the Caribbean and Pacific, it’s also a snorkeling hotspot.

**STAY & PLAY** The luxe Lodge at Pico Bonito, on the base of Pico Bonito National Park, offers whitewater rafting and bird hikes.

**BRING BACK** Get souvenirs from Rain Forest, a store featuring a large selection of local crafts and artisan work, in Colonia El Naranjal.

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