

DR. BARBARA KASTELEIN



Barbara Kastelein is a writer, reviewer, journalist and academic, who specializes in Mexico's culture and history of hospitality.

After gaining a PhD from the Contemporary Literature department at the University of Warwick, she moved from London to Mexico City in 1995. She first worked with the English language daily *The Mexico City Times*, editing the newspaper's arts and culture section, where she published her first travel column, "Travel Talk" (1997). Her subsequent ventures include working freelance for business and political publications; covering the region with the Canadian broadsheet, *The Toronto Star*, and specializing as an investigative reporter on Mexican environmental law. At the same time, she developed her interest in travel writing,

contributing to a series of books by *Fodor's* on Mexico, health travel and spas and beginning a monthly column on traveling with children for the magazine *BBMundo*.

Barbara's research into Acapulco's steamy past and interviews with local inhabitants have reached a wide international audience over the last three years, with broadcasts on the BBC, Discovery Channel and TV Globo, as well as Mexican and international radio. Barbara is currently working with photographer Rodrigo Vazquez on her own project, on the history of the world-famous cliff divers of La Quebrada.

To date, Barbara has published around 350 articles in more than 30 publications in Mexico and abroad, such as *Travesías* magazine, *National Geographic*, *El Sur*, *Voices of Mexico*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Times* (London), *The Observer*, *The Daily Express*, *The Houston Chronicle* and *The Scotsman*.

Barbara is author of the following books:

Holiday in México: Historical Perspectives on Tourism and Tourist Encounters (English, Duke University Press, USA, Jan 2010), chapter "The Beach and Beyond: Three Vignettes of Dreams, Decadence and Defense."

Las Brisas: Historia de un Ícono / History of an Icon (English / Spanish, a-editores México, May 2009)

Remembering the past, celebrating the present and embracing the future: The Hotel Pierre Marqués (English / Spanish, Fairmont Publications, July 2007)

Mexico Chic: hotels, haciendas, spas (Bolding Books, London, 2003; Grupo Océano, in Spanish, 2004; second edition, September 2007)

“Barbara is best known for her studies in the anthropological aspects of tourism and her interest in the growth of tourism in Mexico since the 1920s. Her writing is characterized by its lively and sometimes irreverent exploration of the complex, and often comical, relationship between guest and host. The focus of her articles, vignettes and books forefronts human relationships and the personal experience of the foreign traveler in the alien terrains of Mexico, as well as the Mexican hosts’ enthusiasm and ambivalence when confronted with an outsider.”

DR. BARBARA KASTELEIN

1990 – 1994: PhD “Popular/Post Feminism and Popular Culture,” Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of Warwick, Coventry, UK.

1985 – 1988: B.A Hons (First Class) English Literature and Language, Kings College, The Strand, London, UK.

1982 – 1984: Advanced levels GCSE in English, French, Spanish, Art History, Highworth School for Girls, Kent, UK.



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