

Bienvenidos!

MEMBERS' EVENTS & NEWS SPLASHES

Fall 2025

OCHO CASCADAS



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President's Message

Dear Ocho Cascadas family,

I hope everyone has had a wonderful time at Ocho so far this year! With the holidays right around the corner we want to wish you all the happiness of the upcoming season!

It's been 45 years since my parents, Ed and Patricia Giddings, first opened the doors to Ocho Cascadas with their dear friend, Chela Nino, as the onsite manager.

They were working in the areas of Cochas Chinas and Amapas building custom homes for foreigners during the late 1960's and early 1970's when a client of my Dad's wanted him to design and build a home in the upper Cochas Chinas area, which was a new development at the time.

My Mom tells the story about the day they first went to that area to look at the property their client had purchased and how by the time they returned home that evening, my father had already spotted the lot he was interested in purchasing himself. It was then and there that the design and concept for Ocho was created within just a few days!


They then acquired lots 13,14 and 15. The creative juices were flowing and in 1977 my parents started building Ocho Cascadas one block, one brick and one day at a time until they completed the project and opened in 1980 as a hotel with great success.

In 1981 Ed and Patricia met with their friend and developer, Fernando Gonzales, at which time Fernando brought up the new idea of club membership. After their meeting my parents were on the phone with their attorney in Mexico City to find out what they needed to do to pursue this concept at Ocho.

By 1982 the Club Ocho Cascadas was formed and was instantly a huge success with our renters, family and friends! I'm proud to know the legacy continues for so many of us who are able to enjoy the unparalleled experience of Ocho!

It's been an honor and privilege to be the Board President, to represent my Mother and Father's legacy and to ensure we never lose sight of their original vision, architectural integrity and the joy for Mexico and its people.

Gracias,



Mark Giddings



Manager's Corner

Hola,

As autumn settles in and the days grow cozier, we're reminded of how much we have to be thankful for, especially to those who work here at Ocho, to make every day a little brighter.

This season, I celebrate gratitude, connection, and the simple joys that bring us together. Whether you're gathering around the table or taking a quiet moment to reflect, may your day be filled with warmth, laughter, and good memories.

Enjoy your Family and make time for what truly matters – great food, great company, and great moments.

Best regards

Rosario

How did Luisa Come to Puerto Vallarta!

(an autobiography)



Gene asked me to write a newsletter article on how I ended up living in PV and working at Ocho Cascadas. I couldn't imagine anyone would be interested. I think he just wanted to save our readers from another thrilling sales article from me. So here goes...

I first came to Puerto Vallarta in Sept 1995 for a one-week vacation with my best friends. We had a lot of fun in the sun at the Sheraton Buganvilias. I fell in love with the Malecón, Old Town (now called Zona Romántica), the beaches, culture, mostly the people.

That's a big Iguana and he was a bit flirty:



"Braids, Lady?"
Ok, why not??



Yummy. This might have been the start of some crazy ideas:



Meeting new friends at the Zoo Bar (back in the good 'ol days when it was quaint, fun, traditional, not the mega club it is today)



At the end of the week, I decided to extend my stay another week. My friends went home and left me to drink tequila alone and conjure up the crazy idea to move to PV. Nope, I had no place to live, no job, nada when I got here. Just a crazy idea to move to Mexico.

I flew home to Oregon on Sept 22 and started preparing for Louie and I to hit the road on Oct 12. Who's Louie??.... The love of my life...

"Mom, you want to do whaaaat?"



How did Luisa Come to Puerto Vallarta! *(Continued)*

On Oct 12, 1995 I told Louie to get in the car and buckle up, we're making a run for the border. With nervous excitement, we started out on our adventure. We had no GPS, and neither of us spoke Spanish. I just kept telling myself and Louie, "the road goes both ways."

Louie was a 100 lb. English Shepherd/Airedale so there wasn't a lot of room in the car to bring much. I brought Spanish books because I knew I wanted to learn the language. We needed CDs so I could listen to music. Every good road trip needs good music. 2 songs that I listened to a lot on the road that I remember to this day:

WAYLON JENNINGS

"I've always been Crazy but it's kept me from goin' insane."

and:

PAM TILLIS

"Mi Vida Loca"



We spent the night at a Super 8 in Nogalas, Az. Not exactly Ocho Cascadas but Louie loved the bed and thought it was 5 star.

At the crack of dawn, we crossed the border. This is where I learned that my cell phone (my safety net and lifeline to my world I just left) would NOT work in Mexico... AT&T lied. My front bumper was in Mexico and back bumper in the USA when the call went dead. Now we were truly on our own. I asked myself and Louie, are we being stupid? Should we turn around? Louie said NO WAY! I had promised him a ride in the car, a beach, and tacos. No phoning a friend now.....except there's Pam Tillis again.... If you're comin' with me you need nerves of steel. Cuz I take corners on two wheels, and it's a never-ending circus ride. Faint of heart need not apply. Mi vida loca over and over.

We drove all day and spent the first night at a hotel in Navojoa, Sonora, Mx. I chose this hotel because I could park my new car, a red GMC Jimmy, inside an enclosed courtyard and also because you could order food from a rotary phone and they would deliver it through a little secret window that slid open in your room. Very cool. I felt very safe. I think Louie and I ordered tacos. No way he

was going back now. I later learned that it was a "hotel de paso" a discreet hotel, often called a "love motel," that provides private rooms and secret parking for a few hours at a time. Louie and I must have been the talk of the town! We paid for the whole night!

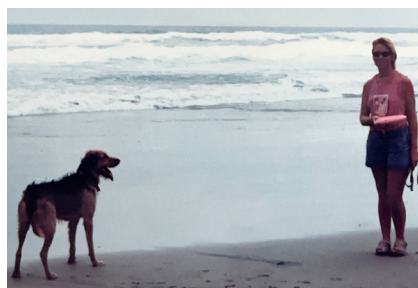
I was told by people back in Oregon that it was dangerous for a blue eyed blond to be driving alone through Mexico. Guess they were right:



Second stop, Mazatlan. I get to speak English again instead of using sign language:



Next stop Puerto Vallarta! Louie felt at home on the beach with a frisbee. What more did we need? Oh yeah, a job and a place to live!



Oops!! Is that a Coati?? No, I didn't drop him off at Ocho! Although, I do have to admit that he does resemble one of those adult (30ish year old) Coatis that visit the Ocho villas at night:



How did Luisa Come to Puerto Vallarta! *(Continued)*

My version of a piña colada:



Oct 22, 1995 Louie and I pulled into PV to begin our life in paradise. I proudly call this day my Mexican birthday.

I just celebrated my 30th!

Thirty years later, 22-Oct-2025, celebrating my life in Puerto Vallarta at Cuates y Cuetes on Los Muertos Beach.



Over the last 30 years, I had a business and then worked in PV, Huatulco, and the Dominican Republic in the timeshare industry. For the last 9 years I've had the great fortune to be working with Dave, the incredible Ocho team, and to have made friends with so many wonderful Ocho Members and guests.

Louie was 1 year old when we started out on our adventure together. I was by his side when he passed away at 13 years old. He loved his life in PV. We spent most days on the beach playing Frisbee and swimming in the ocean. I don't think I could have made that journey without him. He was my loyal companion, guardian, and I am certain that I would have turned around in Nogales if he hadn't given me that look to keep going.

By the way, there is a spicy version of this story but you will have to invite me out for a margarita if you want to get it out of me.

Salud! Luisa

Real (or Reel) Adventure

Most of the time when we're in our beautiful villa at Ocho Cascadas, we're happy to just chill and relax. That view! That pool! Cooking, eating, playing games, listening to music, watching the birds soar overhead. Did I mention the view???

But sometimes, we feel the urge to go out and about.

A few years ago, we had that restless urge. In the past, some of us took the bus to Boca and hired a small boat to get out on the water. That sounded like a fun thing to do again, so the five of us risked our sore knees and goat stepped our way down the steep cobblestone streets to the bus stop.

We apparently are not quiet people, because as we talked amongst ourselves about going to Boca to get a boat, we caught somebody's attention.

A local guy in the seat behind us said "hey, you want to go out on a boat? I have a brand-new boat in Mismoloya." He gave us his business card. We exchanged looks, shrugged our shoulders and thought, why not? We're up for adventure!

In the past 12 years since that bus ride, we've gone out on Adrian's boat. We sightsee, drool over the amazing homes perched on the shoreline. We see whales. Adrian cuts the engine and we just float alongside the whales as they spout and splash. We fish. I caught a mahi mahi-mahi almost as long as I am tall! (I'm 5'3", which I still think is an impressive-sized fish.)

We snorkel in coves with rainbow colored fish, no tourist boats in sight. We float behind manna rays as they jump out of the water and splash and jump again. We are followed by dolphins. We squeal in glee as we go through a wave-filled tunnel in the rocks.

As part of our annual adventure with Adrian (his company can be found on Facebook – Reel Adventures), we stop at Los Animas for lunch at one of the many beachfront restaurants. Our personal favorite is Abelardo's. The food is fresh, delicious, affordable (the shrimp burrito is crave-worthy!). The staff can set you up with lounge chairs and umbrellas on the beach if you choose to linger. There are a few beach vendors, but they aren't obnoxious.

There are many available options in Mismoloya and Boca, as well as in town. We just happened to get lucky when we took a chance on Adrian. Sometimes it pays to tear ourselves away from our gorgeous villa and look for adventure.

Barb MacGregor

(Barb is a long-time member of the O.C. Communications Committee)

Barb about to go through the cave at Mismaloya.



Ryan and Tyler (Barb's sons) having fun on their first trip with Adrian



Some Fav Restaurants

Hello fellow Ocho Members!

There are so many wonderful places to eat in Puerto Vallarta and the variety is part of what makes PV so special. As a new member of the Communications Committee, I'd like to share a few of our favorite places to dine.

1. El Palomar de los González

We discovered El Palomar on our very first visit to Ocho Cascadas. Nestled in the hills above old town you may think your taxi got lost getting there. Once you are there and enter the restaurant you immediately feel at home. They offer a wide array of food so there's something to please everyone's palate. Whether you prefer steak, chicken or seafood they've got you covered. They even have some vegetarian options. El Palomar is a more intimate setting and quieter with less hustle and bustle so it is a very nice option.

A family-owned restaurant in business since 1987, the food is excellent but what makes this place special is the view of the town. We are also especially fond of the after-dinner flaming coffee. It's really something you need to see and it is quite the show (and tasty)! If you are a tequila drinker, they make their own Almond Tequila that is very smooth and tasty. Open for dinner daily from 6-11 (they do close during the off-season).

2. La Palapa

La Palapa is right on the beach near the Los Muertos Beach Pier in Zona Romantica. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner you can't go wrong with La Palapa. If you want to have a meal literally on the beach, they have tables set up in the sand! While these tables are first come, first served, you can request a table on the beach and they'll do what they can. For dinner, I do recommend making a reservation.

La Palapa serves a Tropical Mexican Cuisine and has gluten-free and vegetarian options. This is one of my favorite places to get lobster. It is fresh, well-cooked and BIG. I even had a full 1 POUND lobster on one visit that consumed the entire plate! If you are able to get a table in the sand, don't be surprised if a sand crab comes and tickles your feet. They are harmless but can startle you if you aren't expecting them. La Palapa is a little louder and there is more activity as they are right on the beach.

3. River Café

We consider River Café one of the hidden gems of Puerto Vallarta. Tucked in right on the river on the edge of Zona Romantica it has a lot to offer and is also open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. During the day you can often see Iguanas lounging in the sun or trees and when the river is full the sound of the water is very relaxing. River Café serves a wide variety of food so no matter what your taste buds are in the mood for they likely have you covered. The food is well prepared and the portions are good sized. I had a shrimp dinner on our last visit and had what was probably the largest shrimps I've ever eaten. The service has always been top notch, the food excellent and the margaritas are very tasty as well. We haven't made Sunday brunch yet but I hear it is amazing. We're definitely going to try it on our next visit. Due to its location, we will often stop here on our way to or from our shopping trips to the Malecon.

Lastly, our absolute favorite place is dinner in Villa 3. The floating chef is always a great option and we have at least a couple of meals prepared by the floating chef on every visit. The food is served "family style" so all guests decide on the same meal. The food is superbly prepared and all the cooking and cleanup is done for you. They will even wrap up the leftovers and place them in the fridge. The cost of the floating chef

Some Fav Restaurants *(Continued)*

is probably less than you would pay at most restaurants, plus you don't have to take a taxi and it is a short distance to the couch or pool once you have stuffed yourself!

As I previously mentioned, there are so many great choices in town (and at your own villa). I hope this has been informative and maybe you just found another place to add to your "must visit" list for your next trip to our "happy place".

(by Chris Leachman, who recently volunteered as a member of the O.C. Communications Committee)

Dia de los Muertos in PV

This celebration in Mexico is a very long-held, cultural festival: remembering those family and friends who have passed. But, not in a sad frame of mind. This is a CELEBRATION of memories.

If you'd like a rich explanation of why this festival is so important in Mexican culture, watch the Pixar movie "Coco"! By the end of the movie you will understand the cultural underpinnings of the celebration and appreciate how different it is to the US or Canadian tradition.

Here is a link to a short YouTube video that beautifully captures the spirit of this festival:

Día de Muertos 2024

The event is held every Nov. 2. But the celebration encompasses Halloween and the entire week prior to Nov. 2nd.

Here are some pictures from Halloween and Dia de los Muertos, 2025:

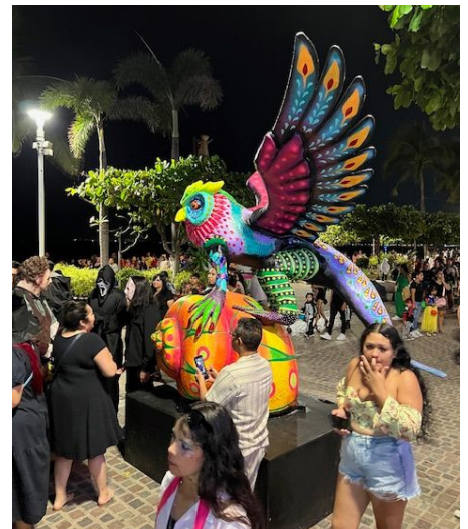
An 8' tall ghost handing out candy to children on Halloween.



The Malacon on Halloween evening!



Art on the Malacon.



Dia de los Muertos in PV *(Continued)*

The Dia de los Muertos Parade on Sunday evening.



Dozens of Katerinas of all sizes and shape!



And the most impressive...



The tallest Katrina in the world, with her dog! She's 92' tall!"



NOTE: Should seeing "Coco," the video above, and these pictures motivate you to attend Dia de los Muertos next year, contact Luisa NOW to secure an Ocho Cascadas villa for the week!



Iconic Puerto Vallarta Pirate Ship “Marigalante” Sinks After 30 Years at Sea

Puerto Vallarta has lost one of its most beloved seaside symbols. The Marigalante, a full-scale replica of Christopher Columbus’s Santa María and the city’s signature “pirate ship,” sank in Bahía de Banderas on October 10, 2025.

According to early reports from local media and maritime authorities, the wooden vessel began taking on water as it returned to port near the Buenaventura Hotel, near Mismaloya. The ship’s bilge-pump system failed, allowing seawater to flood the lower decks. Despite the crew’s efforts to stabilize the ship, rough seas caused it to list and eventually sink approximately three kilometers offshore.

Fortunately, no tourists were on board—only maintenance and technical staff, all of whom were rescued safely. Authorities have confirmed there were no injuries or environmental spills associated with the incident.



The Marigalante was built in Veracruz, Mexico, in the late 1980s to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus’s voyage. Since arriving in Puerto Vallarta in 1992, it had become a fixture of the city’s waterfront, hosting daytime, kid-friendly, adventure outings and evening dinner cruises, with fireworks, and live pirate shows enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

Representatives of the operating company, Naviera Juan de la Cosa S.A. de C.V., confirmed that full refunds will be issued for scheduled cruises. And that a sister ship, the Jolly Rodger, is already being prepared to carry on the tradition, perhaps as early as mid-December. City officials have described the sinking as a “significant cultural and tourism loss,” noting that the silhouette of the pirate ship had long been part of Puerto Vallarta’s sunset skyline.



As of mid-October, the vessel remains submerged in the bay while authorities assess salvage and environmental options. Divers have reported that the ship rests mostly intact under shallow water, though no official recovery plan has yet been announced.

The Marigalante’s final voyage marks the end of a 30-year chapter in Puerto Vallarta’s maritime history—but local tour operators hope its spirit of adventure will soon sail again.

Misc. Topics of Interest:

The favored walking path into town:

Calle Santa Barbara remains closed to traffic, including pedestrians, due to the condominium construction project. There has been little, if any, progress on the condominium project since the last newsletter. Here are a couple pictures:



Calle Santa Barbara is very securely blocked.

The foreign exchange rate:

The “street bank” exchange rate between \$US and Pesos in late Oct. and early Nov. was at about 18:1.

PV History:

Interested in some of the important historical sites or features of Puerto Vallarta? Here is a link to very interesting summary of 7 of the most historical sites or places in Puerto Vallarta: <https://mexlife.com/puerto-vallarta/7-puerto-vallarta-historical-places/>

Saturday “Olas Atlas Farmer’s Market,” Plaza Lazaro Cardenzas

If your O.C. stay(s) fall between November 1 to April 3rd, there is a wonderful “farmers market” held every Saturday morning, 9:00 to 2:00pm. It is really more an “art and food” event, with handmade jewelry, clothes, art of all varieties (paintings, brass sculpture, underwater photography), fresh baked breads and pastries, freshly prepared food, ready to eat, of all varieties. There is also live music at the west end of the park. Here are a few pictures from 11/8/25:

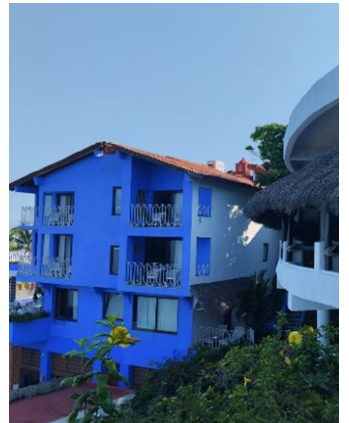
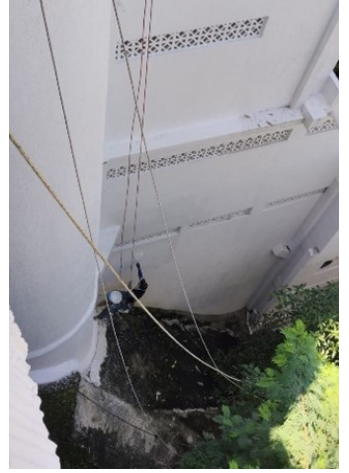
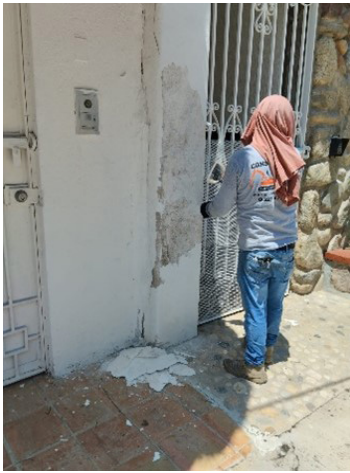


September Maintenance Period: 2025

Have you every pondered where and how your Annual Maintenance Dues are spent? Ever wondered what it takes to maintain a 45-year-old, ocean-front building? Below is a pictorial summary of the September Maintenance Period (SMP) at our facility in 2025. It is during the SMP every year that all of the “heavy” maintenance is performed at O.C., maintenance that can’t be done while Members are using their villas. These photos are organized by area of the facility and by each Villa. In many cases there are both “before” and “after” photos. And look towards the end for pictures of several projects performed to each villa, as well as some staff training pictures.

Let the pictures speak for themselves!

FACADES





LOBBY



PH



New Wood base for PH umbrella.



One new guayabillo wood



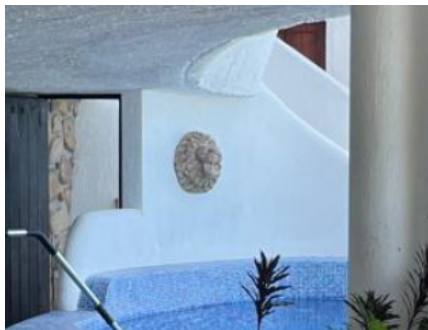
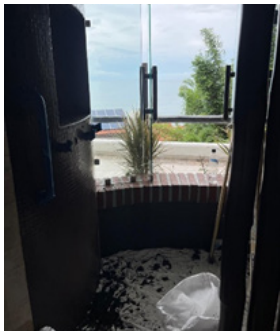
V9



New leather chairs



Master V8



New leather chairs and lounge chair cushions



V7

Master



New air conditioner in
V7 junior bedroom



New leather chairs,
umbrella and lounge
chair cushions

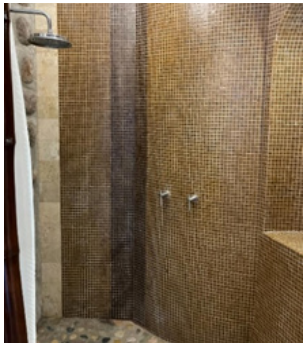


V6

Master



V6 junior SMP2025

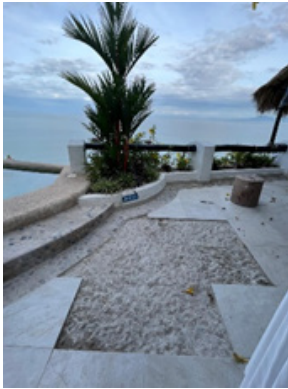


New leather chairs, umbrella and
lounge chair cushions



V5

The kitchen pipe was clogged, plumber found sand, concrete, and grease.



V5 junior SMP 2026



V4



V4 junior



V3

New Bar Palapa



V3 master



V2



V2 master 2

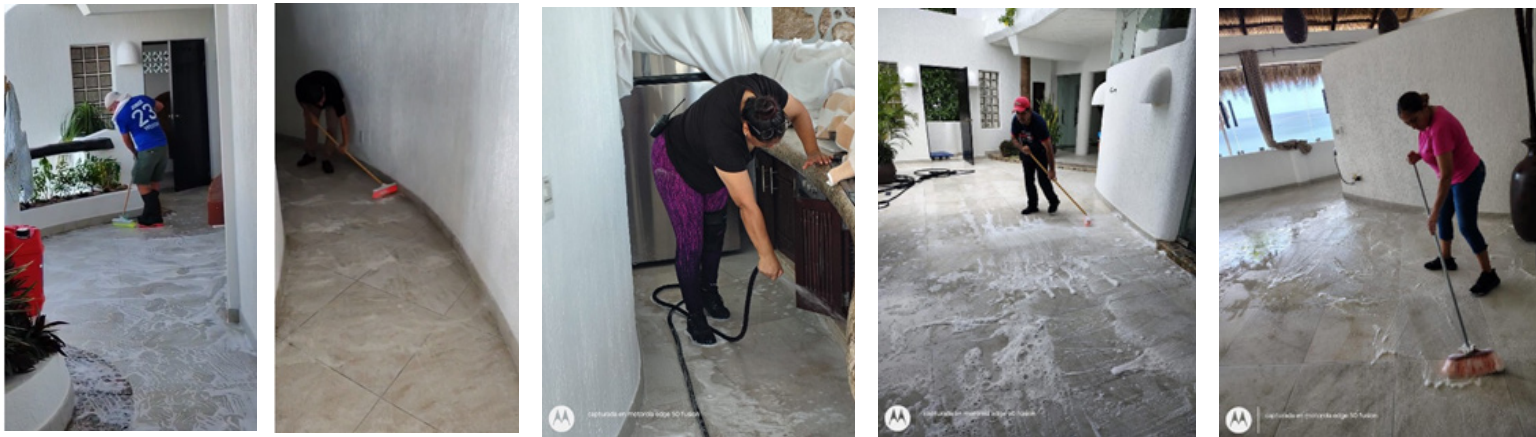


V2 junior



All Villas:

Washing floors



Water Filters

WC Flush system

Villas 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8: New Chaise Lounge & Umbrellas



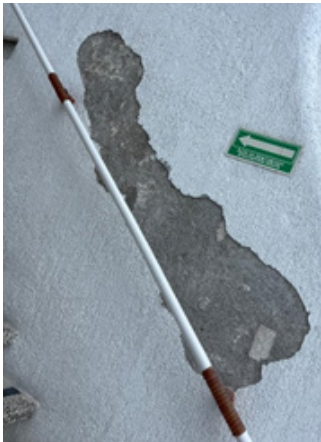
INTERNET WIRE: The cable on all cameras was replaced.



TREE TRIMMING



Stairs:



PLUMBING

New and bigger water drains in all villas



TRAINING

September 3rd



From left to right: Adrian, Angie, David, Florencio (driver), Marina, Rosa, Vicky, Yolanda, Jorge FD, Gaby, Eduardo Lalo, Alejandro (nightwatchman), Rosario, Victor, Irma.

September Maintenance Period: 2025 (Continued)

September 10th



September 17th



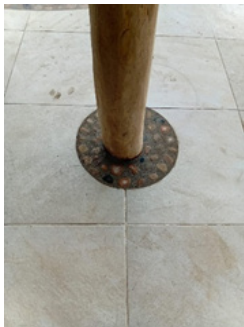
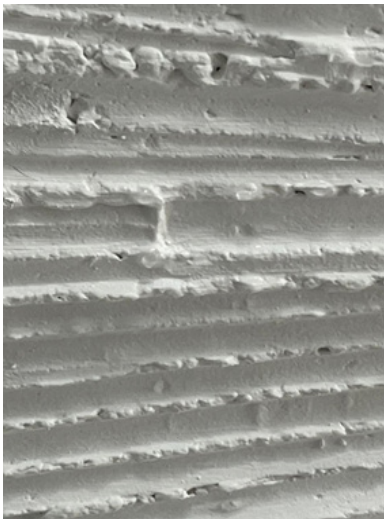
September 24th – Class September 2025



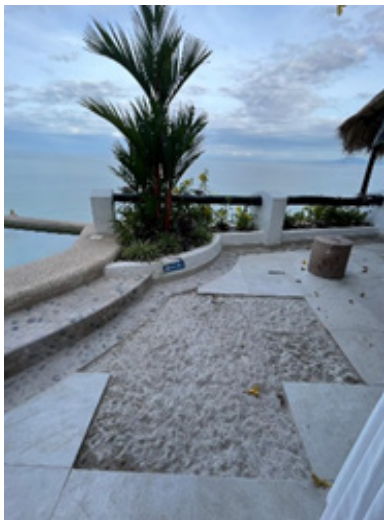
Labor Law Training:
Saturdays: 9/13, 20, 27.



Last minute issues:
V2 Leaking from V3



V5 Floor



September Maintenance Period: 2025 (Continued)

PH - V9 Pool Leaking



Elevator buttons



Water
We had no water from the city the opening day



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