

## Animal carvings on Janitzio Island

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Several wooden carvings in the shape of animals sit in a stone courtyard. The bell tower of a colonial church rises beyond a red-tile roofed building. Janitzio Island is the largest island on Lake Pátzcuaro. The island is known for its community of Tarascan Indians who fish the lake with their signature "butterfly nets." The island also is home to a tall statue of a hero from Mexico's movement for independence: Jose Maria Morelos.

Pátzcuaro is a small town in the highlands of Mexico in the state of Michoacán. The town predates the arrival of the Spaniards; the Purepecha people have lived in the area since at least 1324. Conquistadors claimed the area for Spain in 1540. The town is well-known for its indigenous heritage, expressed through traditional dances and handcrafted goods.



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