

# PUERTO VALLARTA

SPRING & SUMMER GUIDE 2010



The best places to eat, sleep and play  
in Puerto Vallarta this spring and summer

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planning a snap for the 32 million travelers visiting our site each month.



# INTRODUCTION

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TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 32 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com).



You'll find reviews for more than 479,000 hotels, 93,000 attractions and 580,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



## PACKING TIPS

1. "Bring a couple of extra **sarongs** (pareos) that you can use as beach cover-ups, and also as a window curtain, dresser scarf, chair cover, whatever."—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle, Wash.
2. "Pack **comfortable shoes**" or "you'll regret it on the cobblestones. And leave the platforms or super spiked heels in your closet. The streets and sidewalks are not conducive to either."— TripAdvisor Member, Alberta
3. Take "**more than one swimsuit**. Nothing is worse than trying to wiggle into a damp, cold suit."— TripAdvisor Member, Alberta

## Inside

# PUERTO VALLARTA

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Puerto Vallarta sits on the stunning Bay of Banderas on Mexico's Pacific Coast. Ecotourism flourishes, and visitors can explore palm and pine jungles in the surrounding Sierra Madre foothills. Or take to the water and whale watch, kayak or dive with manta rays in the area's two marine parks, Los Arcos and the Marieta Islands. Those not wanting to get out of their depth can bask on 26 miles of beaches, discover pristine coves only accessible by boat, stroll the lively boardwalk or sample some of the more than 250 restaurants.

A bevy of luxury hotels and shopping malls have sprouted around the original town, in places like Nuevo Vallarta. But the area still retains the charms of a colonial Mexican village.

Whether you want to catch the perfect thirty-pounder, the perfect sunset or the perfect wave, plot a course for Puerto Vallarta.

# Top VIEWS



## PUERTO VALLARTA'S BEST VIEWS

"For a fabulous view of the city and a 5-star dinner, go to **El Panorama Restaurant**, located on a hill overlooking the bay."—TripAdvisor Member

**El Panorama, Hotel La Siesta, Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez y Miramar, 322 222 1818**

Watch "people and birds (pelicans, frigates, and gulls) fishing, and the sun sinking into the Bay" from the wall in front of the Vista Del Sol apartments (at the north end of **Los Muertos beach**).—TripAdvisor Member, Burnaby, British Columbia

**Los Muertos Beach, Banderas Bay**

Gaze out from the "serene setting of **Chez Elena**, where you can get spectacular photos at sunset."—TripAdvisor Member, New York

**Chez Elena, Los Cuatros Viejos, Matamoros 520, 322 222 0161**

## Where to PLAY

### TOP 10 Attractions

1. Canopy & Outdoor Adventures, Edificio Marina Golf Local I3-C, Calle Mastil, 322 297 1212
2. Canopy Tours de Los Veranos, 322 223 0504
3. Wildlife Connection, Francia No. 140, Departamento 7 Col. Versailles, 322 225 3621
4. Diana's Tours, Los Muertos Beach Pier
5. Ocean Friendly Whale Watching Tours, 322 225 3774
6. Puerto Vallarta Tours, 322 222 4935
7. Vallarta Adventures, 322 297 1212
8. Vallarta Discovery, 322 293 1733
9. Unique ATV Tours, 429-B Basilio, Badillo, 322 223 3516
10. Miralo, Francisco I Madero #267, 322 222 6810



## FAMILIES

The **Pirate Ship** tour "was totally AWESOME! You will be entertained from the time you board the ship until you pull back into port."—TripAdvisor Member, Rock Falls, Ill.

**Marigalante Pirate Ship, Paseo Diaz Ordaz 770-21, 322 223 0309**

"My family of four had the time of our lives with **Wildlife Connection**. Not only was our dolphin swim educational, it was fun, exhilarating and truly one of a kind."—TripAdvisor Member

**Wildlife Connection, Francia No. 140, Departamento 7 Col. Versailles, 322 225 3621**

Take "an all day trip to Marieta Island with **Pegaso Charters**. We saw sea turtles on the way out. It was really cool!"—TripAdvisor Member, Milwaukee, Wis.

**Pegaso Charters, Paseo de la Marina Sur 215, Opequimar Marina, Marina Vallarta, 322 290 0705**

"Truly one of a kind!"



## ROMANCE

The **Rhythms of the Night** dinner cruise is "an event to be shared with your partner. As you arrive, you will follow a torch-lit path to an amphitheater under a star-studded sky," followed by a show and a candlelit meal.—TripAdvisor Member

**Rhythms of the Night, Vallarta Adventure, Av. Las Palmas 39, Nuevo Vallarta, 322 297 1212**

At **El Anclote**, "the sand is much whiter, and the water much bluer, compared to the southern parts of the Bay of Banderas." And it's isolated: "There are very few tourists this far north."—TripAdvisor Member, United States

**El Anclote Beach, Punta de Mita (25 miles north of Puerto Vallarta)**

**El Faro Lighthouse Bar** is "beautiful, especially at night. We had a few drinks and saw fireworks going off in the bay. Very cool!"—TripAdvisor Member, Salt Lake City, Utah

**El Faro Lighthouse Bar, Paseo de la Marina 245, 322 221 0541**

# Where to **PLAY**



## BUDGET

Swim, relax or go for a ride on horseback at **Playa Las Animas**. “The waters there are more beautiful than anywhere else in the bay area of Puerto Vallarta.”—TripAdvisor Member, Long Branch, N.J.

**Playa Las Animas, Highway 200, South Shores**

“The combination of the water and the leisurely pace of both the locals and the visitors makes the **Malecon** a must see!”—TripAdvisor Member, New Berlin, Wis.

**Malecon**

“Next to **El Eden** is another lovely waterfall, as well as what remains of Arnold Schwarzenegger’s helicopter from the movie ‘Predator.’ It’s free to visit.”—TripAdvisor Member, United States

**El Eden, Mismaloya**

“I felt like I was on an episode of ‘MacGyver’”



## ADVENTURE

“We did the Jungle Trek **dune buggy tour** and it was the single high point of the vacation.”—TripAdvisor Member, Rogers, Ark.

**Puerto Vallarta Tours, 532 Miramar, Marina Vallarta, 322 222 4935**

Zip along 14 cables at 30 miles per hour through the treetops high above the beautiful Orquidias River on **Canopy Tours de los Veranos**. “If you are a rush junkie this is the tour for you. I felt like I was on an episode of ‘MacGyver.’”—TripAdvisor Member, Garland, Texas

**Canopy Tours de los Veranos, Las Juntas de los Veranos, 322 223 0504**

A “day trip to **Las Caletas** provides adventure and relaxation. Explore the many pathways meandering throughout the jungle landscape, visit with the animals, go scuba diving or simply enjoy the romance of the place.”—TripAdvisor Member, Toronto, Ontario

**Las Caletas**

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 3,000,000 photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It’s almost like being there!



## EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

**Museo del Cuale** has a small collection with local handicrafts, art and regional folklore.

**Museo del Cuale, Isla de Rio Cuale**

The trademark crown of angels adorns **La Iglesia de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe**, which has been “completely restored and cleaned.”—TripAdvisor Member, Louisiana

**La Iglesia de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe (The Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe), Calle Hidalgo #370, 322 222 1326**

With Vallarta Adventure’s **Cultural Encounters**, you can visit Huichol Indians or see the mining town of San Sebastian.

**Vallarta Adventures, Edificio Marina Golf, Local 13-C, Calle Mástil, Marina Vallarta, 322 297 1212**

“...meandering pathways through the jungle”



## RELAXATION

There’s “lots to see if you’re diving off **Los Arcos**. I was in the water only about 10 minutes before I saw a giant turtle. Tons of wild life.”—TripAdvisor Member, San Francisco, Calif.

**Los Arcos, Los Arcos National Marine Park**

**Yelapa** is “a laid-back Mexican village with lots to explore. There are no cars here, just meandering pathways through the jungle or stone walkways through town.”—TripAdvisor Member

**Yelapa, 30 miles south of Puerto Vallarta**

The 18-hole course at **Club de Golf Los Flamingos** “was very beautiful. Not the easiest to play, but not the hardest either.”—TripAdvisor Member, Barrie, Ontario

**Club de Golf Los Flamingos, Carretera a Tepic-Vallarta No. 145, Bucerias, 329 296 5006**

# What's the **TOUR**

## How to Get Around



Puerto Vallarta's **bus system** is "very efficient if not luxurious. Buses of all shapes, sizes and decoration cover all of PV and are very inexpensive."—TripAdvisor Member

"**Taxis** are not metered but there are government set fares by zone. Fares to various places are posted outside most hotels and resorts, so travelers should do their homework and insist on the set fare."—TripAdvisor Member

The airport has "two **booths** clearly marked 'TAXI' near the exit door. They accept both USD and peso."—TripAdvisor Member

Want more information on Puerto Vallarta? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Puerto Vallarta or any other destination you choose.



# WHERE to eat

## FAMILIES

**Pipi's** is "fun for kids of all ages. For the older 'kids,' gigantic margaritas you could swim in! For the younger kids, they flame food right at your table. The prices are inexpensive to moderate, and it's always a blast."—TripAdvisor, San Pancho, Mexico

**Pipi's, Guadalupe Sánchez 804, 322 223 2767**

"You can just tell that the staff are truly friendly at **Cafe Roma**. Great fun and food, comfortable, light, airy, family-friendly atmosphere. You shouldn't miss it!"—TripAdvisor Member, Sonoma County, Calif.

**Cafe Roma, Encino #287, Col. Centro, 322 222 7378**

"...it's always a blast."

## ROMANCE

"**Café Des Artistes** may be on the expensive side, but it is fabulous. Especially nice is the Thierry Blouet room, perfect for an anniversary dinner."—TripAdvisor Member

**Café Des Artistes, Guadalupe Sanchez 740, 322 222 3228**

"How does a nice table on the sand surrounded by torches sound? Throw in great food, cocktails and some live entertainment, and you have a winner" in **La Palapa**—TripAdvisor Member

**La Palapa, Pulpito 103, 322 222 5225**

"A hands-down favorite is **Le Kliff**," an open-air restaurant built on levels "jutting out from the cliff, with the most breathtaking views."—TripAdvisor Member

**Le Kliff, Carretera a Barra de Navidad, Km. 17, 322 228 0666**

## BUDGET

For smoked marlin tacos and ceviche, try **Marisma Fish Taco**, "probably the cleanest and best-run stand in all of Vallarta."—TripAdvisor Member, Puerto Vallarta

**Marisma Fish Taco, Naranja 320**

On top of serving all-you-can-eat feasts, **Asaderos'** owner "buses, cooks, runs, chats and then drops everything and plays music on occasion!"—TripAdvisor Member, San Francisco, Calif.

**Asaderos, Basillio Badillo 223, 322 222 1955**

**El Arrayan** is the "home of the most delicious pork carnitas I have ever had in my life. Try the Arrayan margarita; it is fantastic."—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles, Calif.

**El Arrayan, Allende 344, 322 222 7195**

# WHERE to eat



## HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

For “homemade gourmet pizza by the slice, cold roasted vegetable salad, whole grain rolls, cold drinks” and more, deli-style **AgroGourmet** is the answer.—TripAdvisor Member

**AgroGourmet, Basilio Badillo 222, 322 222 5357**

**Planeta Vegetariano**’s “buffet is excellent. And it’s on a fun street that is totally overgrown with vegetation and no longer drivable.”—TripAdvisor Member, Arlington, Va.

**Planeta Vegetariano, Iturbide 270, 322 222 3073**

“**Caio Tres** has a cool and kitschy vibe. The people in our party had vegetarian, seafood and meat dishes, and we loved them all!”—TripAdvisor Member, Palm Springs, Fla.

**Caio Tres, Morelos 726, 322 222 6789**

...like “coming to a private party”

## HIDDEN GEMS

“Be adventurous: Go off the standard tourist track and you won’t regret going to **The Red Cabbage!** The menu is super-creative and exceptionally tasty.”—TripAdvisor Member

**The Red Cabbage, Calle Rivera del Rio 204 a, 322 223 0411**

Entering **Vista Grill** from the street feels like “coming to a private party in a very upscale villa, impressively decorated in contemporary Mexican style.”—TripAdvisor Member

**Vista Grill, Pulpito 377, 322 222 3570**

Climbing the seventy steps to **Barcelona Tapas** “is well worth it and of course, much easier going down.”—TripAdvisor Member

**Barcelona Tapas, 31 de Octubre & Matamoras, 322 223 0831**

## SPECIAL EVENTS



Thursday and Sunday evenings, the **Puerto Vallarta Municipal Band** puts on their uniforms and picks up their instruments for free concerts at the gazebo in the town’s main square. People-watch as the sun goes down or get up and dance to the music. (Ongoing)

**Bi-Weekly Municipal Band Concerts, Plaza Principal**

On Wednesdays, from 6:00 to 10:00 PM during the high season, several of the art galleries in the Old Town hold free cocktail receptions where the artists themselves often make appearances. Pick up a free brochure and use the included map to find all the galleries included in the **Old Town Art Walk**. (Ongoing through May)

**Old Town Art Walk, Various venues, Old Vallarta**

The **Festival Cultural de Mayo** is an annual celebration of music, art and dance held by the state of Jalisco. Each year, the state honors the cultural contributions of a different foreign country. This year, the visiting countries are Colombia, Argentina and Chile, and events will celebrate the Bicentennial of Independence. (May)

**May Cultural Festival, Various venues, <http://www.festivaldemayo.org>**

This year, the Sheraton will be hosting the **17th Sidral Aga International Sports Classic**, three exciting days of professional and amateur sports. Join in the fun and games or just cheer from the sidelines during basketball, bowling, soccer and races of up to 10 kilometers. (May 7 – 9)

**17th Sidral Aga International Sports Classic, Hotel Sheraton Resort and Towers, Boulevard Francisco Medina Ascencio 999, 322 226 0404**

Every year, the Puerto Vallarta Altruism Festival educates both residents and visitors on the needs of local charities. The festival features live music, dancing and food provided by top area restaurants, with all proceeds donated to the participating non-profit organizations. (May 25)

**Puerto Vallarta Altruism Festival, Marriott CasaMagna Resort Hotel, Av. Paseo De La Marina No. 5, Marina Vallarta, 322 226 0000**

Head to one of the local bars or restaurants to celebrate **Independence Day** with mariachi bands and dancing, or just wander the streets, watching out for military parades and fireworks. At 11:00 PM on the 15th, join the locals in the traditional cry of “Viva Mexico!” (September 15 – 16)

**Independence Day Celebrations, Various venues**

# Where to STAY



## FAMILIES

The **Four Seasons** has “all the features and amenities of a luxury resort while being the most kid-focused, family-friendly hotel I’ve ever stayed at.”—TripAdvisor Member, San Francisco, Calif.

**Four Seasons Punta Mita, Bahía de Banderas, Punta de Mita, 329 291 6000**

**Paradise Village** “has more things to do for kids than other upscale suites hotels, which tend to appeal more to adults. They’ve got a wildlife park, big pools with slides and an active kids’ program.”—TripAdvisor Member, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

**Paradise Village, Paseo de los Cocoteros I, Nuevo Vallarta, 322 226 6770**

Popular with families, couples and honeymooners, the **Melia Resort’s** “grounds are like visiting paradise.”—TripAdvisor Member, La Ronge, Saskatchewan

**Melia Puerto Vallarta All Inclusive Beach Resort, Paseo de la Marina Sur 7, Marina Vallarta, 322 226 3000**

“The colors were beyond anything Crayola could have created.”

Have questions about Puerto Vallarta? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.



## ROMANCE

“**Las Alamandas** exceeded our wildest dreams. The colors were beyond anything Crayola could have created. It was as if whatever you wished for, you could just close your eyes and it was granted.”—TripAdvisor Member, Orange County, Calif.

**Las Alamandas, Km. 83, Carretera Federal 200, 322 285 5500**

“My wife and I wanted an elegant, quiet, romantic hotel and what we got was just that” at **Villa Premiere**.—TripAdvisor Member, Phoenix, Ariz.

**Villa Premiere Hotel and Spa, San Salvador 117, 322 226 7040**

**Casa Velas** was a “honeymooners’ paradise,” “the perfect resort for our honeymoon. We were waited on hand and foot.”—TripAdvisor Member, Richmond, Va.

**Casa Velas, Pelicanos 311, Marina Vallarta, 322 226 6688**

“We were waited on hand and foot.”

## BUDGET

“The room at the **Tropicana Hotel** was very basic but very clean. The amazing ocean/beach view is worth more than I paid!”—TripAdvisor Member, Denver, Colo.

**Tropicana Hotel, Amapas 214, Col. Emiliano Zapata, 322 222 0829**

**Hotel Hortencia** is a “wonderful little hotel in the center of town. Very, very cheap and very clean and near all of the fantastic taco stands in town!”—TripAdvisor Member, Austin, Texas

**Hotel Hortencia, Francisco I. Madero #336 Col. Emiliano Zapata, 322 222 2484**

“**Casa Anita** is close to Old Town, where you can eat, shop, drink or just wander. There is plenty to do at your fingertips. Or you can do absolutely nothing! This is a great place to do just that. Relax and unwind.”—TripAdvisor Member, Victoria, British Columbia

**Casa Anita y Corona Del Mar, Carretera Barra De Navidad 601, 322 222 0018**

“...mystical ambiance”

## LUXURY

At **Casa De Mita**, “it was like my rich uncle handed me the keys to his beautiful home, located on an amazing beach with a full staff, and told me to enjoy.”—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

**Casa De Mita, Playa Careyero, Bahía de Banderas, Punta de Mita, 329 298 4114**

“There may be other scenic places to stay in Puerto Vallarta, but they would be hard-pressed to match the mystical ambiance and wonderful hospitality of **Hacienda San Angel**. I’ll be back.”—TripAdvisor Member, New York, N.Y.

**Hacienda San Angel, Miramar 336, 322 222 2692**

“The **Marriott CasaMagna** never disappoints. The hotel and grounds are well-kept, and the management and staff bend over backwards for your every request.”—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle, Wash.

**CasaMagna Marriott Puerto Vallarta Resort, Av. Paseo De La Marina No. 5, Marina Vallarta, 322 226 0000**

# Where to **STAY**



## HIDDEN GEMS

“If you’re looking for sleeping, relaxing, swimming, sunning and eating, **Majahuitas** is absolutely the place to go. If you’re looking for the Puerto Vallarta party scene, look elsewhere. “—TripAdvisor Member, Los Angeles, Calif.

**Majahuitas, Playa Majahuitas, Banderas Bay, 322 293 4506**

Going through the main gate of solar-powered **Hotelito Desconocido** “was like discovering a Mexican Eden.”— TripAdvisor Member, San Francisco, Calif.

**Hotelito Desconocido, Playón de Mismaloya 479, Mismaloya, 322 281 4010**

“**Dulce Vida** is a gorgeous historic house straight out of a travel magazine. The best part of our vacation was the spectacular view of the bay from our terrace.”— TripAdvisor Member, Portland, Ore.

**Dulce Vida, Calle Aldama 295, 322 222 1008**

“...a Mexican Eden.”

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