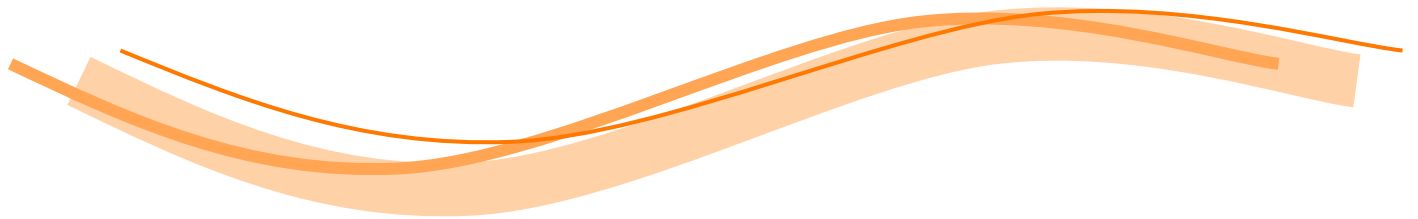




# RIVIERA NAYARIT, MEXICO





## RIVIERA NAYARIT

Vallarta-Nayarit, Mexico's Pacific paradise has endless choices and incredible value. This region is one of Mexico's most popular tourist destinations because of its great climate and incredible diversity. It's this boundless diversity that provides visitors with such a range of unique experiences - so many to describe that you have to LIVE IT TO BELIEVE IT.

Vallarta-Nayarit stretches over 300 kms along pristine Pacific coast framed by the majestic Sierra Madre Mountains and just ten minutes north of accessible Puerto Vallarta International Airport. The region extends along the entire coast of the Pacific state of Nayarit - including the resorts of Nuevo Vallarta, the historic colonial town of San Blas, exclusive Punta Mita, picturesque fishing villages, long stretches of serene beaches and spectacular Banderas Bay.

Famous for its glorious beaches you can also save a fortune as you discover the area's treasures - Vallarta-Nayarit offers countless affordable activities. The region attracts vacationers of all tastes and budgets with its wide range of accommodation including chic luxury resorts, eco-tourism boutique hotels, and quaint B&B inns.

This beautiful Mexican destination provides romantic resorts, spectacular beaches, superb cuisine and a special attention to all of the myriad details of organizing a wedding. Vallarta-Nayarit is ideal for a destination wedding or honeymoon because, in addition to beautiful wedding locations, there is so much to do for wedding guests and honeymooners.

There are currently six major golf courses in Vallarta-Nayarit, developed by high profile names such as Jack Nicklaus, Percy Clifford, Robert Von Hagge and Greg Norman. The area also offers many luxury spas. Boutiques span throughout the coast of Nayarit, offering crafts and popular souvenirs, fine jewelry and designer clothing from all over the world.

From charming beachfront restaurants in tiny fishing villages offering authentic Mexican seaside cuisine, to elegantly sophisticated gourmet restaurants with international chefs - the dining experience in Vallarta-Nayarit is a unique fusion of tradition, contemporary innovation and local products.

The main nightlife scene is focused on quaint and eclectic bars, pubs and cantinas as well as in the Resorts. Travelers looking to party all night long will surely also have a blast in neighboring Puerto Vallarta -

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famous for its high energy nightlife party scene at the Malecón/board walk or in the historic downtown of Puerto Vallarta.

Vallarta Adventures is Puerto Vallarta and Nuevo Vallarta's premier tour and activity operator. They offer a wide selection of adventure-based tours and excursions with things to do for people of all ages - from zip lines to swimming with dolphins, from whale watching to snorkeling, and from Jeep safaris in the Sierra Madre Mountains to an award winning dinner show. Vallarta Adventure's Dive Centre offers professional diving instructors and scuba lessons for every level of PADI Certification.

During the summer and fall months, travelers can visit Grupo Ecológico de la Costa Verde's marine turtle nursery, located in the San Francisco area of Vallarta-Nayarit. Turtle hatchlings are released just after sundown, and each Wednesday evening during the nesting season.

La Tovar National Park and mangrove eco-region in San Blas is a paradise for bird enthusiasts with a concentration of migratory birds and over 250 species altogether. The Crocodile Reserve in El Manantial of La Camelota allows visitors to see baby crocodiles and huge full-grown crocodiles.

Hundreds of Humpbacked whales visit Banderas Bay each year from November through April. Visitors can see these majestic giants who raise their calves in the protected waters of the Banderas Bay and Pacific coastline of Vallarta-Nayarit. Friendly wild dolphins inhabit these waters year-round and the ocean is also home to a plethora of majestic giant manta rays, sea turtles and exotic tropical fish.

Vallarta-Nayarit offers both authentic cultural heritage and a dynamic contemporary art scene. Mexican handicraft artisans and many contemporary Mexican and international artists are drawn to the area. Visitors can find their artwork in galleries, boutiques and open air markets.

The Huichol Indians of Vallarta-Nayarit are an indigenous ethnic group living high in the Sierra Madre Mountains who escaped both conquest by the Spaniards and being changed by Mexican culture. They are one of the last tribes of people in North America who still live as they did in pre-Colombian times, still maintaining their same rituals and beliefs.

You can take a full day excursion into the Sierra Madre to experience the wonders of the Huichol Indian Culture. You'll stop at an authentic fishing village before climbing 3,000 feet into the majestic Sierra Madre

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	<p>Mountains. In the Nueva Valley the small Huichol Indian village has a population of just 130 natives! Visit their temple, learn about their culture and experience their costumes, music and dance. You will be allowed to take "priceless photographs" and purchase authentic beaded artwork and handicrafts.</p> <p><a href="http://www.RivieraNayarit.com">www.RivieraNayarit.com</a></p>
<b>Location</b>	<p>Riviera Nayarit is on the Pacific coast of Mexico about half way between the US and Mexico's southern border. It is located in the state of Nayarit, just north of Puerto Vallarta International Airport. It extends from Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit's most developed area, north to the border of the state of Sinaloa. Key attractions include the exclusive Punta Mita luxury resort and residential area; a rich cultural tradition with pre-Hispanic and pre-Columbian history; and abundant and exotic species of protected wildlife, including sea turtles, humpback whales and tropical birds.</p>
<b>Geography</b>	<p>Nayarit is one of Mexico's 31 states and is located on the central west coast, bordering the Pacific Ocean. Nayarit is surrounded by the states of Sinaloa to the northwest, Durango to the north, Zacatecas to the northeast and Jalisco to the south with the Pacific Ocean bordering it to the west. Its capital is Tepic, which is located inland and south on the Tepic River. Nearby is the Sanganguey volcano and the crater lake.</p>
<b>Name</b>	<p>The Nayarit name means "Region whose people adore the god of battles".</p>
<b>Population</b>	<p>The State of Nayarit has a population of approximately 950,000.</p>
<b>Language</b>	<p>Spanish – but English is widely spoken in the coastal resort towns.</p>
<b>Currency</b>	<p>The Mexican Pesos – although the US Dollar is also widely accepted too. Currently (29 Nov 2013) \$1 Cdn = 12 Mexican Pesos.</p>
<b>Tippling</b>	<p>The average tip for service is 10-15% and one or two dollars per suitcase carried. Always check your bill first as tips may already be included.</p>
<b>Government</b>	<p>The United Mexican States are a federation whose government is representative, democratic and republican based on a presidential system. The President is Enrique Peña Nieto.</p>
<b>Documentation</b>	<p>Passports are required but no Visa is necessary for Canadians. Check for possible updates to requirements for children travelling to Mexico with adults other than their parents in 2013.</p>
<b>Time zone</b>	<p>Riviera Nayarit is on Mountain Time, two hours behind Montreal and Toronto. Note that just across the river in Puerto Vallarta, the time zone is Central, just one hour behind EST.</p>
<b>Health</b>	<p>There are no special health problems here and the hospital facilities are excellent.</p>
<b>Safety tips</b>	<p>In contrast to the sometimes lurid media accounts of the drug war in Mexico, this region – in common with most of the tourist regions of the country – is safe for vacationers. Just take the normal precautions that</p>

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	you would in your own town or city.
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<b>CLIMATE</b>	
<b>General climate</b>	<p>One of the chief considerations in planning a vacation is the weather, and it is the weather that makes Riviera Nayarit an excellent choice for anyone trying to escape the cold of a northern winter, or the heat of a southern summer. On the same latitude as Hawaii, Riviera Nayarit enjoys a mild tropical climate with an average temperature of a comfortable 25 °C. Those who find themselves snowbound in the winter months will find an escape to Riviera Nayarit for a tropical vacation just the thing to break up those long winter nights. Summer in Riviera Nayarit can be a bit warm for some, with average highs in the 30's, but the rainy season comes in June and lasts until November, bringing with it afternoon showers and relief from the summer heat. Occasional thunderstorms roll through in late summer providing an evening's entertainment without interfering with daytime activities.</p> <p>If you are looking for the right climate for outdoor activities like golf, deep sea fishing, sailing, or just sitting on the beach, Riviera Nayarit has what you're looking for.</p>
<b>Today's weather</b>	30 Centigrade and sunny as at 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2013 on the Riviera Nayarit
<b>Best time to visit</b>	In the winter months, Riviera Nayarit has the perfect antidote to northern snows and cold temperatures!

<b>GETTING AROUND</b>	
<b>Getting There</b>	<p><b>Puerto Vallarta International Airport (PVR)</b> is the nearest commercial air service to Nayarit - only 10 minutes south of Nuevo Vallarta and 40 minutes from Punta Mita.</p> <p>Flight time from Toronto to Puerto Vallarta is 5 hours.</p> <p>Fly to Puerto Vallarta with <b>Air Canada</b>, offering frequent scheduled service from Toronto and Montreal. Departing Montreal, Air Canada offers options for direct flights – plus convenient connections via Toronto. Departing from Toronto are frequent direct flights.</p> <p>The beauty of Air Canada is their strong network of connections from cities across Canada – which is a great advantage if you are meeting up with friends or family from other parts of the country. So, for example, there are weekly flights to Puerto Vallarta from Calgary and Vancouver as well. All this – and earn Aeroplan miles too!</p> <p><a href="http://www.aircanada.com">www.aircanada.com</a> .</p>
<b>Towns &amp; Cities</b>	<p><b>Nuevo Vallarta</b> – This was first major resort centre in the Riviera Nayarit and is just ten minutes north of the Puerto Vallarta airport, just across the state line...It features Resort Hotels, All-Inclusive vacation resorts, luxury spas, restaurant dining , an expansive beach on Banderas Bay, yacht club, marina, dolphin swim, golf courses, shopping</p>

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	<p>malls and excursion activities centre.</p> <p><b>Bucerias</b> - Minutes north of the heartbeat of Nuevo Vallarta, Bucerias straddles time... a town of cobblestone streets with charming shops, clubs and seaside restaurants overlooking its magnificent 4km long beach which is also 100 metres wide! This is an ideal place for enjoying the Pacific Ocean and activities such as snorkeling, banana rides, jet ski, ski boarding, surfing or simple strolls on the beach. Overall, Bucerias is the perfect setting for a Mexico beach vacation.</p> <p><b>Punta de Mita</b> - Located at the northern tip of Banderas Bay, this peninsula is surrounded by white beaches and calm waters. The area is well known as home to the Four Seasons Hotel, its Jack Nicklaus golf course and a fabulous vantage point from which to view the three month long winter migration of the humpback whales. Distinguished by its specialty cuisine restaurants featuring local fish and fresh seafood, spectacular fine golden sand beaches, clear warm waters, colorful coral reefs and excellent sport fishing, Punta de Mita is a dream beach vacation destination.</p> <p><b>Lo de Marcos</b> - This is a tranquil, relaxing seaside town that offers an exclusive selection of beach front villas and rentals, as well as some smaller luxury hotels. There is an authentic Mexican atmosphere here. The beauty of the mountains, beach and sea is really spectacular. Water sports and horseback riding are popular, as are the variety of shops and restaurants serving fresh seafood and local specialties.</p> <p><b>San Blas</b> - This coastal village is different from others in the Riviera Nayarit as it is an old city with a history of about 500 years. Several ruins and buildings still document at least the last 250 years of its history. Because of many small rivers and lagoons, a huge number of unique species populate the area. Miles of nearly virgin beaches make it the perfect choice for sea, sun, sand and ecotourism adventure, as well as seeking to explore some cultural, historical aspects of Mexico.</p>
<b>Distances</b>	The Riviera Nayarit stretches 300 kms from the state of Jalisco in the south to Sinaloa in the north.
<b>Ferries</b>	The muelle (cruise-ship pier), also called Terminal Marítima, is where excursion boats to Yelapa, Las Animas, Quimixto, and the Marietas Islands depart.
<b>Car Rental</b>	Rental cars are readily available at the airport, through travel agencies, and through the most popular U.S. car rental services.
<b>Buses</b>	City buses in nearby Puerto Vallarta, easy to navigate and inexpensive, will serve just about all your transportation needs. They run from the airport through the Hotel Zone along Morelos Street (1 block inland from

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	the malecón), across the Río Cuale, and inland on Vallarta, looping back through the downtown hotel and restaurant districts on Insurgentes and several other downtown streets.
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<b>ACCOMMODATION TYPES</b>	<p>From a quaint "Posada" hotel on a forgotten beach, to the ultra modern family travel oriented resorts in upscale Nuevo Vallarta and Flamingos, Riviera Nayarit has the kind of accommodations and services that will send you home refreshed and rejuvenated. If exclusive special category retreats are more your style, take a look at the elegant luxury embodied in the resorts of Punta Mita. I stayed in Riviera Nayarit: <b>Dreams Villamagna Nuevo Vallarta</b>.</p> <p>Check out our prize hotel on the Travel Show, <b>the Hard Rock Hotel</b> in Nuevo Vallarta – see details at the end of this section.</p>
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<b>LIFESTYLES</b>	
<b>Kids</b>	<p>The extensive beaches and great resorts with children’s facilities make this a very suitable destination for children. I vacationed here with my kids when they were 12 months and 6 years old – a perfect time for them.</p> <p><b>Dolphin encounters:</b> Vallarta Adventures have a special program tailor-made for kids aged 4 to 8 years so that they can interact and get closer to dolphins than they ever dreamed possible. Cost: \$75 US</p>
<b>Teens</b>	<p>With jeep excursions into the mountains, canopy tours, surfing and all kinds of activities at the many resorts, there’s plenty to keep old kids happy in this region too.</p> <p><b>Sea Lion Encounters:</b> Sea lions are one of the ocean's most fascinating creatures - and snorkeling with them adds another element of excitement and adventure to your day of fun-in-the-sun at Las Caletas, where on the Vallarta Adventures trip you'll also enjoy a superb buffet lunch, beverages, parrot encounters, nature walks, Paella cooking lessons, guided kayak tours, and lots of fun!</p>
<b>Romance</b>	<p>There’s a sense of fresh beginnings that saturates the pure and natural Riviera Nayarit, making it ripe for romance. Whether it’s a luxurious wedding or a beachside honeymoon straight out of a Hollywood movie, stoking the flames of passion here is a simple venture.</p> <p>Pamper yourself in the glow of a romantic Mexican sunset on a luxury yacht. There is nothing more peaceful and romantic than sailing across Banderas Bay as the crimson sun dips into the deep blue waters of the Pacific.</p>
<b>Honeymoons &amp; Weddings</b>	<p>Wedding packages may run from the bare basics to extravagant offerings that include reception dinners, room upgrades and his-and-hers massages. Many resorts in the Riviera Nayarit also</p>

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	provide onsite wedding coordinators to help special days go off without a hitch – including the featured resort <b>Hard Rock Hotel in Nuevo Vallarta.</b>
<b>Seniors</b>	Many Canadian Seniors have holiday homes here. The beautiful sunsets over the Pacific, great climate year round and the excellent value of the region are all appealing. The price of long stay vacations in the winter months is also very appealing.

<b>UNIQUES</b>	Riviera Nayarit won the <b>Battle of the Destinations III</b> in 2012, a competition organized by travel website Travelocity in order to select the Best Luxury Beach Destination in Mexico.
<b>Surprising</b>	Nayarit has an unusual combination of both tropical and temperate ecosystems. About <b>300 species of orchids</b> can be found there.
<b>History</b>	<p>Although humans may have settled in Nayarit as early as 5,000 B.C, the first known civilization in the region, the Cora, appeared sometime around 400 A.D. Concentrated on the Nayar plateau of the Sierra Madre Occidental, Cora society reached its apex about 1200 A.D.; many of their descendants continue to live in the area. The Cora relied on agriculture, and cultivated beans, corn and amaranth.</p> <p>From the 9th to the 12th century, other tribes migrated into the region, including the Tepehuano, Totorano and Huichole. Over the next 300 years they were driven back by tribes from the Indian civilizations of Xalisco. These tribes were members of the Chimalhuacán Confederation.</p> <p>In 1523, Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés briefly visited Nayarit. He was followed five years later by Nuño Beltrán de Guzmán, infamous for his ruthlessness in overthrowing indigenous leaders. Beltrán de Guzmán conquered many villages in the region and founded the settlement of Espíritu Santo on the ruins of the indigenous city of Tepic. In 1531, Cortés returned and tried to take control of the area, but Beltrán de Guzmán appealed to the Spanish crown and was named governor of a province comprised of the territories he had conquered. Throughout most of the 16th and 17th centuries, Franciscan priests of the Roman Catholic Church sought to convert and pacify the Cora, who fiercely resisted Spanish occupation. Spanish control of the region was constantly threatened by indigenous revolts, such as the famous uprising led by Tenamxtli in the 1540s. Rebels in the Nayar mountain range continued to harass the Spanish until they were finally conquered in 1722.</p> <p>Mexico began its march toward independence in 1810 under the leadership of Miguel Hidalgo. In Nayarit, a local priest named José María Mercado took up the cause, occupying the capital city of Tepic without a battle in November 1810. By December he had also captured the port of San Blas, but his success was fleeting. Within a year, royalist</p>

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	forces had recaptured most of Nayarit. Even so, the larger revolution eventually succeeded, and Nayarit became a part of independent Mexico in 1821.
<b>Books</b>	<b>Frommer's Mexico</b> is the bible for travellers to Mexico.
<b>1000 Places to See Before You Die</b>	<b>El Dia de los Muertos</b> – Mexicans remember and celebrate their departed in this festival which normally takes place at the start of November each year.
<b>Must Sees</b>	<p><b>Marietas Islands</b></p> <p>It's every travelers dream to step into an adventure of discovering secret places, and trekking to the hidden beach of Las Marietas, located in Riviera Nayarit, is sure to surpass even the highest expectations. Visitors to the hidden beach will forever remember being transported to a mysterious escape filled with beauty, wildlife, and peaceful, private beaches.</p> <p>Only a short boat ride away from the coast, Las Marietas is a cluster of islands formed by volcanic activity and rumored to have once been a hideout to pirates and hunters. On the eastern most island, exploration minded travelers will discover a narrow tunnel ending with a rock arch which they must swim under to finally gain entry to a cave which then leads into the private cove.</p> <p>Coined <b>Playa del Amor</b>, or "Lover's Beach" by the locals, what makes this beach so impressive is the ring of rock that surrounds the open cove, forming a natural oculus to the blue skies above. The beauty doesn't end there; this is also home to a vast array of wildlife, including over ninety species of birds. White-Capped Marine Swallows, Band-Tailed Swallows, the largest population in the Pacific Ocean of the curious Laughing Sea Gull, and the extremely rare Blue-Footed Booby are among the birds that will draw ecotourists and bird watchers alike. Having the greatest abundance in the Bay of Banderas, Las Marietas is home to 103 of the 159 registered species of reef fish. Lastly, massive Humpback Whales migrate to the Bay of Banderas from Mid-December through early April. A visit to the Marietas during these months is almost guaranteed to yield up close and personal encounters with families of Humpbacks as they play in the warm waters of the bay, launching out of the water, and producing massive splashes when they land. Surely, these islands are a rich, more easily accessible alternative to the myriad of wildlife that travelers seek from the Galapagos Islands.</p> <p>The beauty of these islands relies on the fact that they are carefully preserved and guarded. The islands, a UNESCO Biosphere reserve now protected by the Mexican government, are uninhabited by man. Take note that only certain companies and organizations, such as Punta Mita Expeditions, are authorized to visit the islands and that local law enforcement agencies patrol the islands by boat, making sure that all visitors are wearing approved wrist bands. Under these protections,</p>

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	visitors to the area can enjoy pristine guided boat, snorkeling, or scuba excursions and rest assured that the local wildlife are indeed safe in their natural environment.
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<b>SPORTS ACTIVITIES</b>	<p>From the hotel developments in Nuevo Vallarta to the virgin beaches in the north, visitors can choose between dozens of activities: you can experience thrilling jungle adventures and enlightening nature excursions in unique and exotic locations, and an enticing variety of water activities on beaches that ranked first place in Mexico for certified clean beaches awarded by the federal government. The wide range of beaches that make up the Riviera Nayarit offers perfect environments for every possible water activity, from sailing and jet skis to snorkeling and diving.</p> <p><b>Surfers</b>, for instance, will enjoy the waters off of Destiladeras beach, San Pancho, Lo de Marcos, and especially Sayulita, which is the site of an annual surfing competition each March.</p> <p>There is also a <b>Riviera Nayarit Half Marathon</b> each November that has a scenic course along the coast and through El Tigre Golf Course.</p>
<b>Golf</b>	<p>For those who love the links, few locations compare with the impressive golf courses in Riviera Nayarit. The area has become known as a premier golfing destination in Mexico and one of the preferred destinations for golfers from around the world. The secret to these courses' success resides in the combination of magnificent surroundings including mountains, tropical forests and beaches, with the incredible design of masters such as Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman, Robert Von Hagge &amp; Baril, Jim Lipe and Percy Clifford. Riviera Nayarit has six world-class golf courses, each more surprising and challenging</p> <p><b>EL NAYAR VIDANTA GOLF COURSE</b>          Opened in 2001, this Jim Lipe design features a par of 71 and 7000 yards of challenging play. Located on the Grupo Vidanta property in Nuevo Vallarta, it provides impressive views of the Pacific Ocean, the Rio Ameca, and the surrounding Sierra Madre Mountains. Jim Lipe is Jack Nicklaus' head designer and this course reflects that heritage.</p> <p><b>EL TIGRE GOLF COURSE</b>          Opened in March of 2002, the El Tigre is one of the most challenging in the family of excellent golf courses in Riviera Nayarit. This course weighs in at 7,239 yards and par 72 and was created by designer Robert Von Hagge. An absolute must for golfer visiting Riviera Nayarit.</p> <p><b>FLAMINGOS GOLF COURSE</b>          Designed in 1970 by Percy Clifford (creator of some of Mexico's top courses) as a cornerstone of the Nuevo Vallarta &amp; Flamingos resort</p>

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	<p>development. The course today is fully mature and unlike any other in Riviera Nayarit making it one of the most popular due to its beautiful rolling hill terrain, lush tropical forest and natural lagoons and mangroves.</p> <p><b>LITIBU GOLF COURSE</b> Designed by the legendary golf player Greg Norman, Litibu Golf Course opened in early 2010 hosting the International Canadian Golf Tour Tournament. The unique feature of this par 72, 7,022 yard course is that it was built over a surface of 68.48 hectares, where 7 holes are a “link” style, 8 others are surrounded by virgin jungles, and the last 3 are run along the Pacific Ocean.</p> <p><b>PUNTA MITA PACIFICO GOLF COURSE</b> Punta Mita Pacífico course was opened in September of 1999 and plays out at par 72 and 7,014 yards of the most breathtaking golf course in Mexico (possibly in the world). A Jack Nicklaus Signature Course that offer extraordinary ocean views and world-play.</p> <p><b>PUNTA MITA BAHIA GOLF COURSE</b> The newest addition to Punta Mita's golfing achievement; the Punta Mita Bahía Course, opened in late 2009 and is as stunning as its sister course. Featuring six ocean holes and playing between 5,180 and 7,030 yards it's just one more stunning design by Jack Nicklaus.</p>
<b>Fishing</b>	<p>Riviera Nayarit is rapidly establishing itself as a major deep sea fishing destination, with world class catches of blue and black marlin, sailfish, yellow fin tuna and other species. Other season's feature wahoo and Dorado and coastal sport fishing. In addition to an extensive fishing fleet available for charter, Riviera Nayarit hosts the International Marlin &amp; Tuna Fishing Tournament each year in July.</p> <p>Fishing charters cost around \$120 per person, for one to eight people; or select from other options where the price varies with the size of the boat; a boat can be rented for 8 hours for \$450.</p>
<b>Surfing</b>	<p><b>Sayulita:</b> There are two main surf spots in Sayulita - the most popular is the break fronting the main beach in the village, which is a right longboard break. A faster, left break is found just north of the river mouth, in front of the campground. Surf instruction and board rentals are available at Lunazul Surf School (<a href="http://www.lunazulsurf.com">www.lunazulsurf.com</a>) located at Marlin #4, where this street ends at the beachfront. The 90-minute surf lessons cost \$40 for individual instruction, or \$30 for group instruction. They also offer 2-day weekend clinics for \$80 or weeklong clinics for \$200. Included in all lessons is the use of a surfboard and rashguard. Board rentals through Lunazul are \$20 for the day, or \$150 for the week. Lunazul also has a surf shop, where you can purchase surf gear</p>

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	ranging from wax to boards.
<b>Hiking</b>	Hiking options in Riviera Nayarit range from gentle strolls along the many beaches to strenuous treks in the mountains of the Sierra Madre: take your pick!
<b>Horse Riding</b>	Travel agents and local ranches can arrange guided horseback rides. Rancho Palma Real, Carretera Vallarta, Tepic 4766 (tel. 322/222-0501), has an office 5 minutes north of the airport; the ranch is in Las Palmas, 40 minutes northeast of Puerto Vallarta. It is by far the nicest horseback riding tour in the area. The horses are in excellent condition, and you enjoy a tour of local farms on your way to the ranch. The price (\$60) includes breakfast and lunch.
<b>Canopy Tours</b>	A popular Riviera Nayarit adventure activity is canopy tours. You glide from treetop to treetop, getting an up-close-and-personal look at a tropical rainforest canopy and the trails far below. Expert guides assist you to the special platforms, and you move from one to another using pulleys on horizontal traverse cables, while the guides explain the tropical flora surrounding you. They also offer assistance - and moral support - as you rappel back down to the forest floor. Tours depart from the Vallarta Adventures offices in both Marina Vallarta and Nuevo Vallarta at 8am, returning at 2pm. The price (\$79 for adults, \$69 for children 8-12) includes the tour, unlimited nonalcoholic beverages, and light snacks. Their Outdoor Adventure combines a ride on the canopy line with a day of adventure activities. You'll learn wilderness survival techniques while hiking through the Sierra Madre foothills, splashing through streams, rappelling down waterfalls, then taking a 300m zip line over jungle landscape. The 6 1/2 hour tour costs \$95, for those who are physically fit, ages 12 and older.
<b>Yachting</b>	There are four marinas that welcome visitors stopping by on yachts and each have boats available for fishing or leisurely excursions on the water: the Paradise Village Marina, the Nuevo Vallarta Marina, the San Blas Marina and the brand-new state-of-the-art Riviera Nayarit Marina at La Cruz de Huanacastle.
<b>Diving</b>	The warm, crystal-clear waters of Banderas Bay and the Mexican Pacific are home to a vast array of sea life making Puerto Vallarta one of Mexico's top diving destinations. At <b>Vallarta Adventure's</b> PADI 5 star IDC Dive Center, professional diving instructors combine their expertise with the utmost personal attention in scuba lessons for every level of PADI Certification. You may snorkel or dive at Los Arcos, a company owned site at Caletas Cove (where you'll dive in the company of sea lions), Quimixto Coves, the Marietas Islands, or the offshore La Corbeteña, Morro, and Chimo reefs. The company runs a full range of certification courses up to Instructor. <b>Chico's Dive Shop</b> , near Carlos O'Brian's offers similar diving and snorkeling trips and is also a PADI five-star dive centre. <a href="http://www.chicos-diveshop.com">www.chicos-diveshop.com</a> . Chico's is open daily

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	from 8am to 10pm, with branches at the Marriott, Las Palmas, Holiday Inn, Fiesta Americana, Krystal, San Marino, Villa del Palmar, Paradise Village, and Playa Los Arcos.
<b>CULTURE</b>	The Riviera Nayarit's cultural influences make it a wonderful area in which to indulge in some other popular pastimes. Four ethnic groups survived the Spanish conquest and still exist in the Riviera Nayarit today: the <b>Coras, Mexicaneros, Tepehuanos, and Huichol</b> peoples. The most coveted regional finds in the Riviera Nayarit come from the Huichol. They create colourful glass beads and wooden handicrafts, including jewelry, animal figurines and paintings. Many of their creations are found just as easily in open-air markets as they are in high-end hotel boutiques. San Blas, the northernmost town in the Riviera Nayarit, was the first port in the entire Pacific Coast of Mexico, is also rich in the area's colonial history. Nowadays is known as much for its pristine beaches as for its bird-watching options.
<b>Arts</b>	Centuries of history are featured in expeditions to pre-Hispanic and pre-Columbian cultural sites, mining towns, colonial San Blas and Mexcaltitlan. Visitors may join group tours or customize their own itineraries, with travel by air, land or boat. There are several traditional Huichol villages in the mountains and resort galleries display their colorful handicrafts, mostly animal figures made from beads pressed into wax.
<b>Films</b>	<b>The Night of the Iguana</b> (1963) - filmed on location at Mismaloya and other minor locations in the Puerto Vallarta area. The filming brought Richard Burton, Ava Gardner, Deborah Kerr, Tennessee Williams, and Elizabeth Taylor (who was not in the film). The off-screen activities of Burton and Taylor were reported in the tabloids and tabloid newsreels of the day. After filming was completed, John Huston decided to build a home in the vicinity, he built a home on remote Las Caletas beach and a house in town. John Huston's children Angelica and Danny are founders and supporters of the Puerto Vallarta Film Festival.
<b>Museums</b>	The most important museum in <b>Tepic</b> , the state capital, is the <b>Regional Museum of Anthropology and History</b> , which displays historical items. The Cuatro Pueblos Museum showcases the culture of the four main ethnic groups of Tepic: huicholes, coras, tepehuanos and mexicaneros. For artwork, go to the <b>Amado Nervo Museum</b> , which exhibits various personal items and the work of the famous Mexican poet, Amado Nervo.
<b>Festivals</b>	There are festivals throughout the year in this region: here are a few coming up in the next couple of months-  <b>Gourmet Festival</b> - November Every year better than the last, the Gourmet Festival includes the best

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	<p>restaurants in the Bay celebrating gastronomy. <a href="http://www.festivalgourmet.com">www.festivalgourmet.com</a></p> <p><b>Mexican Revolution Day, also Day of the Sports</b> - November 20 National holiday celebrating the 1910 Revolution, and the Day of the Sports with parades.</p> <p><b>Lady of Guadalupe Festivities</b> - December 1-12 Twelve days celebrating the lady of Guadalupe with processions and donned cars, each day with folkloric dances, pre Hispanic performers and military Bands. This takes place in Sayulita, Nayarit and Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco.</p> <p><b>Surf Classic in Sayulita</b> - December An event which every year brings surfers from all over the world into Sayulita, Nayarit, one of the most important surf destinations. <a href="http://www.sayulitalife.com">www.sayulitalife.com</a></p> <p><b>Joy Parade in the city of Tepic</b> - December 16 Colorful parade of picturesque donned cars.</p> <p><b>Christmas</b> - December 24-25 The Midnight Mass takes place on the 24th of December, followed by the great dinner and a presents exchange; this also takes place on the following day.</p>
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<b>ATTRACTIONS</b>	<p><b>Vallarta Adventures</b> Vallarta Adventures is Puerto Vallarta and Nuevo Vallarta's premier tour and activity operator. They offer a wide selection of adventure-based tours and excursions with things to do for people of all ages - from zip lines to swimming with dolphins, from whale watching to snorkeling, and from Jeep safaris in the Sierra Madre Mountains to an award winning dinner show. Vallarta Adventure's Dive Centre offers professional diving instructors and scuba lessons for every level of PADI Certification. Vallarta Adventures offer trips that are safe learning experiences - designed for people who want to have fun exploring and enjoying all that nature has to offer. They focus on sharing the culture, wildlife, biodiversity and natural beauty of Puerto Vallarta. Website: <a href="http://www.vallarta-adventures.com">http://www.vallarta-adventures.com</a></p> <p>Here are three of their tours to consider:</p> <p><b>Sierra Madre Expedition:</b> This is the ideal way to get off the beaten path and explore the real Mexico. Visit the remote, traditional villages of</p>
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	<p>the Mexican Outback and uncover the ecosystem and wildlife of the mountains and jungles of the Sierra Madre.</p> <p><b>Swim with the Dolphins:</b> Dolphins and humans have a natural affinity with one another, and this will be an unforgettable visit to the Dolphin Adventure Centre.</p> <p><b>Las Marietas Eco Discovery:</b> There is a vast array of marine life living in the Mexican Pacific and on the shores of Banderas Bay. A trip to the Marietas Islands offers the chance to spot whales and dolphins, but the ocean is also home to a majestic giant manta rays, sea turtles and exotic tropical fish. This eco tour will also encounter bird life.</p>
<p><b>Beaches</b></p>	<p>There are nearly 300km of beaches of exceptional natural beauty; here are a few suggestions:</p> <p><b>La Cruz de Huanacastle:</b> This tranquil beach resort town is located on the northern side of Banderas Bay and has 5 distinct beach areas that stretch for over 7kms! It's most famous, known for the calm waters found there, is a fabulous beach called La Manzanilla. This town is the home of the new, largest marina in the region and its plans for a malecon that will offer vacationers everything from all-inclusive resorts and hotels to a full range of restaurants, bars and shops.</p> <p><b>Rincon de Guayabitos:</b> The bay and its surrounding majestic mountains are extraordinarily beautiful and invite vacationers to enjoy beach vacations with real Mexican ambience and culture. The magnificent beaches which offer different experiences are the main attraction of the area. The main beach in the center of the bay, Guayabitos, is also known as the world's biggest pool for its tranquil waters and scarce waves. Small hotels and rentals are available as is the traditional nearby market which offers fresh local foods, handicrafts, clothes and jewelry.</p> <p><b>Sayulita:</b> This small picturesque surfer's Mecca is a seaside town like something out of a fairy tale and Hollywood movie at the same time. Full of contrasts from gourmet restaurants to beachside palapas and seaside stands, California ex-patriots, international surfers and local artisans combine with the incredible beach and blue Pacific Ocean to deliver an experience rich in colour, flavor and diversity.</p>
<p><b>Wildlife</b></p>	<p>The <b>Sierra Madre Occidental</b> supports some of the richest biodiversity found anywhere in North America, boasting a wide range of wildlife species including white-tailed deer, jaguar, pumas, wild boars, ocelots, jaguarundi, coati mundi, skunks, badgers, coyotes, margays, rabbits,</p>

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	<p>armadillos and iguanas.</p> <p>From mid-December to the end of March, Banderas Bay offers some of the world's most spectacular <b>whale watching</b> opportunities anywhere. And as Vallarta Adventures is the only tour company in the Banderas Bay area with a spotter plane, they can get you closer than you ever thought possible to witness these awesome creatures in action. Their light aircraft is in constant radio contact with each boat captain and reports sightings immediately from all over the bay. No matter which of their four exciting tours you choose, they all deliver an exhilarating and life changing insight into whales and their habitat.</p>
<b>Parks</b>	<p><b>La Tovara National Park</b> – A sanctuary for birds in a natural mangrove forest fed by the Pacific Ocean. Motor boats take you through the mangroves where you have the opportunity to see many of the native birds of the region, as well as crocodiles, swamp turtles, and other creatures. Continue up the estuary, where a freshwater spring changes the terrain and brings new varieties of flora and fauna.</p>
<b>Ecotourism</b>	<p>Riviera Nayarit is a nature lovers paradise. In summer and fall, visit <b>Grupo Ecológico de la Costa Verde's</b> marine turtle nursery and see Turtle hatchlings released.</p> <p><b>La Tovara National Park</b> and mangrove eco-region in San Blas is a paradise for bird enthusiasts. See baby and huge full-grown crocodiles at The Crocodile Reserve in El Manantial of La Camelota.</p> <p>Hundreds of <b>Humpbacked whales visit Banderas Bay each year from November through April</b>. Friendly wild dolphins, giant manta rays, sea turtles and exotic tropical fish also inhabit these waters.</p>
<b>Historical Sites</b>	<p><b>San Sebastien:</b> With its charming cobblestone plaza, elegant snow-white buildings, classic Porfirian bandstand, an 18th century church dedicated to San Sebastián and a wealth of 18th century Haciendas, you'll enjoy a privileged glimpse into colonial Mexico, untouched by time in this little known treasure. Originally settled in 1605, this secluded 17th century mining town reached its peak of prosperity in the 1700s, when over 30,000 people inhabited the area. Over the years, the town's population fluctuated wildly as gold and silver were mined intermittently between the 1600's and the 1930's.</p>

<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Shopping</b>	<p>Day or night there is always time for shopping, an entertainment form of its own. You'll find treasures everywhere – one-of-a-kind hand-made items of pottery, jewelry, textiles, leather, silver, paintings and the list goes on....You can treat yourself to brand name designer goods that may be calling your name as well.</p> <p>My top recommendation for a memento of your visit is to purchase a sample of <b>Huichol art</b>. Huichol Art dates back millennia. During spiritual rituals Shaman have visions which are then transcribed into carvings,</p>

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	<p>yarn art, and have evolved into t-shirts, boxed note cards, framed art and downloadable animations. Each image has spiritual meaning. Huichol art is personal and captivating, with intricate designs, vibrant colours and sacred symbols. It is an expression of deeply held spiritual beliefs. In the Huichol culture, art and religion are inextricable. The shaman links the community with the spirit world, from where their creativity pours forth as a gift from their deified ancestors - to be given back as offerings to the gods.</p>
<b>Markets</b>	<p>Just across the state boundary, <b>Puerto Vallarta's municipal market</b> is just north of the Río Cuale, where Libertad and A. Rodríguez meet. The mercado sells clothes, jewelery, serapes, shawls, leather accessories and suitcases, papier-mâché parrots, stuffed frogs and armadillos, and, of course, T-shirts. Be sure to comparison-shop, and definitely bargain before buying. The market is open daily from 9am to 7pm. Upstairs, a food market serves inexpensive Mexican meals - for more adventurous diners, it's probably the best value and most authentic dining experience in Vallarta. An outdoor market is along Río Cuale Island, between the two bridges. Stalls sell crafts, gifts, folk art, and clothing.</p>
<b>Nightlife</b>	<p>The main nightlife scene is focused on quaint and eclectic bars, pubs and cantinas as well as the resorts. Travellers looking to party all night long will also have a blast in neighboring Puerto Vallarta - famous for its high energy nightlife party scene at the Malecón/board walk or in the historic downtown of Puerto Vallarta.</p>
<b>Spas</b>	<p>Luxury resort spas of world class status such as The Spa at Grand Velas, the Remède Spa at St. Regis Resort and Residences, Playa del Sol, Apuane Spa at Four Seasons and The Villa del Palmar Tatewari Spa. Most of the luxury resorts also offer spa services and massage. I enjoyed a relaxing spa experience at the Dreams Villamagna Hotel in Nuevo Vallarta.</p>
<b>Casinos</b>	<p>Real casinos have yet to make it to Mexico, although the federal legislature has been debating the issue for some years.</p>

<b>CUISINE</b>	
<b>Food</b>	<p>The biggest and most pleasant surprise of my last visit to the region was the quality and variety of the cuisine available here. Riviera Nayarit offers many fine dining restaurants as well as intimate cafes and lively bars. Visitors enjoy the fresh seafood, authentic Mexican cuisine and top quality international restaurants. The most famous dish in the region is <b>Huachinango Saradeado</b>, marinated red snapper grilled over coals usually near the beach. The region holds an annual gastronomy festival that takes place in November.</p>
<b>Drink</b>	<p><b>Tequila</b> is produced in Nayarit and is a great buy here. In Mexico, tequila is often drunk straight. It is popular in some regions to drink fine</p>

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	<p>tequila with a side of sangrita—a sweet, sour and spicy drink typically made from orange juice, grenadine (or tomato juice) and hot chilies. Equal-sized shots of tequila and sangrita are sipped alternately, without salt or lime.</p>
<p><b>Restaurants</b></p>	<p>There are approximately <b>500 restaurants</b> in the Vallarta area. Every flavour, style, nationality and ambiance is available with a wide range of pricing. The following are a few select samples of the wide variety of choices available.</p> <p><b>Nuevo Vallarta</b></p> <p>Angelo's  Specialty: Italian cuisine and steaks  Website: <a href="http://www.angelospv.com">www.angelospv.com</a>  Address: Paradise Plaza L-J2, 3, 4, Nuevo Vallarta  Telephone: (322) 297-6130</p> <p>Il Pescatore at The Paradise Village Resort, Nuevo Vallarta  Specialty: Italian cuisine/seafood dishes  Address: Paradise Village Resort, Paseo de los Cocoteros # 1 local 16 int 7,  Nuevo Vallarta, Nayarit, 63731  Telephone: (322) 226-6770</p> <p>La Portena  Specialty: Quality steaks like the “vacío” a tender Argentinian steak. Also serves seafood, and home made pasta dishes  Address: Boulevard Nayarit, PTE 250, Nuevo Vallarta  Telephone: (322) 297-4950</p> <p>Tino's La Laguna  Specialty: Seafood  Website: <a href="http://www.tinosvallarta.com">www.tinosvallarta.com</a>  Address: Km 1,2 on the 2nd entrance to Nuevo Vallarta  Telephone: (322) 297-0221</p> <p><b>Bucerias</b></p> <p>Adauto's On The Beach  Specialty: Seafood (lobster, jumbo shrimps, red snapper, langoustines)  Address: Av. Del Pacifico # 11A, Bucerias, Riviera Nayarit  Telephone: (329) 298 2790</p> <p>El Chivero Restaurant &amp; Bar</p>

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Specialty: Mexican cuisine - Seaside establishment offers breakfast, lunch and dinner

Address: Av. Pacifico No. 9, Centro Bucerias, Riviera Nayarit

Telephone: (329) 29-806-12

Ecole de Cuisine LeFort

Specialty: French cuisine with and is reputed to have one of the largest wine cellars in the area

Website: [www.lefort.com.mx](http://www.lefort.com.mx)

Address: Lázaro Cardenas No. 71-A, Bucerías, Riviera Nayarit

Telephone: (329) 298.1532

Marks Bar & Grill

Specialty: Mediterranean with a touch of Asian-inspired flavors

Website: [www.marksbucerias.com](http://www.marksbucerias.com)

Address: Lazaro Cardenas 56, Bucerias, Bahia de Banderas, Riviera Nayarit

Telephone: (329) 298-0303

MezzoGiorno

Specialty: Italian cuisine - Beachfront restaurant and two bars.

Website: [www.mezzogiorno.com.mx](http://www.mezzogiorno.com.mx)

Address: Av. Del Pacifico 33, Bucerias, Riviera Nayarit

Telephone: (329) 298-0350

### **La Cruz de Huanacaxtle**

Marina Riviera Nayarit

Specialty: International cuisine

Address: La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, Riviera Nayarit

Tel: 52 (329) 29-555-26

Sky Bar

Specialty: Bar with light snacks overlooking Banderas Bay

Address: La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, Riviera Nayarit

Tel: 52 (329) 29-555-26

Aki Samurai House

Specialty: Japanese – Restaurant has a third floor palapa offering unimpeded views of the bay

Address: Coral 156 Oriente, La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, Riviera Nayarit

Tel: (329) 295-5880

Black Forest Restaurant

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Specialty: German cuisine  
Web Page: [www.blackforestpv.com](http://www.blackforestpv.com)  
Address: Marlin 16 La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, Riviera Nayarit  
Phone number: (329) 295-5203

Frascati Ristorante  
Specialty: Italian and Mediterranean cuisine - The owner also owns a charming and sophisticated bed & breakfast in town called Villa Bella  
Website: [www.frascativallarta.com](http://www.frascativallarta.com)  
Address: Av. Langosta No. 10, esq. Coral, La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, Riviera Nayarit  
Telephone: (329) 295 61 85

La Glorieta  
Specialty: Seafood, Fish Tacos and chilaquiles  
Address: Coral 26, La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, Riviera Nayarit  
Telephone/Cell: 044 (322) 278-3292

Philo's  
Specialty: BBQ ribs and hamburgers  
Address: Calle Delfin 15, La Cruz de Huanacaxtle  
Telephone: (329) 295-5068

Taco Stands - El Güero De Sinaloa  
Address: Huachinango, La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, Riviera Nayarit  
Specialty: Sinaloa style meat tacos and quesadillas

Rey Bombon  
Specialty: Seafood  
Address: Coral 31 esq. Delfin  
Telephone:(329) 295-5204

Hikuri Cafe  
Specialty: International/Mexican cuisine  
Website: [www.hikuri.com](http://www.hikuri.com)  
Address: Coral 66, La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, Riviera Nayarit  
Telephone: 01 (329) 295-5071

Columba  
Specialty: Seafood  
Address: Marlin 14, La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, Riviera Nayarit  
Telephone: (329) 295-5055

Britannia Bar

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Specialty: Drinks and bar snacks  
Address: Coral 68, La Cruz de Huanacastle, Riviera Nayarit

Miramar  
Specialty: Seafood (i.e. sarandeado fish Mexican style grilled fish; whole fish, marinated with lime & chilies then grilled over charcoal)  
Address: La Manzanilla Beach, La Cruz de Huanacastle, Riviera Nayarit

Don Emerio  
Specialty: Seafood  
Address: La Manzanilla Beach, La Cruz de Huanacastle, Riviera Nayarit

Vista Hermosa  
Specialty: Seafood  
Address: La Manzanilla Beach, La Cruz de Huanacastle, Riviera Nayarit

### **Punta Mita**

Sufi Restaurant  
Specialty: "Mexiterranean" Fusion of Mexican and Mediterranean ingredients  
Address: Inside the gates of Punta Mita, across from the St. Regis  
Telephone: (329) 291-6990

Café des Artistes del Mar  
Specialty: French/Mediterranean with emphasis on using fresh local seafood  
Website: <http://cafedesartistes.com/delmar/index.htm>  
Address: Av. Anclote Lote 5, Block 19 at The Hotel Des Artistes del Mar, Punta de Mita, Riviera Nayarit 63734  
Telephone: +52 3292915145

Margarita's  
Specialty: Seafood/Mexican  
Address: El Anclote, Punta de Mita

Tino's  
Specialty: Seafood/Mexican  
Address: Punta de Mita  
Telephone: (322) 224-55-84/ (322) 224-55-84

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### **Sayulita**

Don Pedro's

Specialty: Mediterranean style cuisine with Mexican/Californian influences

Website: [www.donpedros.com](http://www.donpedros.com)

Address: Marlin 2, Sayulita

Telephone: 52 (329) 291 3090

Si Hay Olitos

Specialty: Mexican cuisine

Website: <http://www.sayulitalife.com/business/sihayolitas.htm>

Address: Just over the bridge on your left

Phone: 52-329-291-3203

Rollie's

Specialty: Mexican/Continental

Address: Av. Revolución, 2 blocks west of the main square, Sayulita, Riviera Nayarit

Telephone: (329) 291-3053

Sayulita Fish Tacos

Specialty: Mexican (Signature dish is the Baja style fish tacos)

Website: <http://www.sayulitafishtaco.com>

Address: Calle Jose Mariscal, Sayulita, Riviera Nayarit

Telephone:(329) 291-3271

### **San Blas**

El Delfin Restaurant at the Hotel Garza Canela

Specialty: French with Mexican influences and ingredients

Website: [www.garzacanela.com](http://www.garzacanela.com)

Address: Paredes #106 Sur, San Blas, Riviera Nayarit 63740

Telephone: (323) 285-0112

### **San Francisco**

Mar Plata

Specialty: Seafood and steak

Address: Calle de Palmas 30, Col. Costa Azul, San Francisco, Riviera Nayarit

Tel: 52-311-258-4425

Café del Mar

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	Specialty: International cuisine Address: Café del Mar, China no. 9, San Francisco, Riviera Nayarit Tel: 52-311-258-4251
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<b>MORE INFO</b>	
<b>Brochures</b>	Pick up a copy of the <b>Air Canada Vacations Sun Collection 2013-2014</b> from your local travel agent to see their selection of resorts and vacations in Riviera Nayarit.
<b>Websites</b>	<a href="http://www.rivieranayarit.com">www.rivieranayarit.com</a> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/rivieranayarit.mex">http://www.facebook.com/rivieranayarit.mex</a> <a href="http://www.twitter.com/riv_nayarit">www.twitter.com/riv_nayarit</a>

<b>HOTEL PRIZE PARTNER</b>	<p><b>Hard Rock Hotel Vallarta</b>          Address: Paseo de los Cocoteros No. 19, Villa 8 Nuevo Vallarta, Bahía de Banderas, Riviera Nayarit, Mexico CP:63732          Tel: 52-322-226-8470          Website: <a href="http://www.hrhvallarta.com">www.hrhvallarta.com</a></p> <p>Explore the lifestyle of a rock n' roll star, with all the very best at your fingertips. Escape to the legendary beaches and azure waters of Bahia de Banderas in the heart of Riviera Nayarit, Mexico. Hard Rock Hotel Vallarta is a luxury, all-inclusive resort 20 minutes from the excitement of Nuevo Vallarta that indulges your senses. Feel your spirit soar as you experience a Nuevo Vallarta resort destination where you are free to relax, play, eat, love and explore. With a gorgeous beachfront setting, mesmerizing views, and a fusion of traditional and modern design, the Hard Rock Hotel Vallarta is the essence of coastal luxury and tranquility.</p>
<b>Location</b>	Situated on the beach on the Bay of Banderas, 21 Km north of downtown Puerto Vallarta and 11 Km from the airport.
<b>Facilities</b>	Amenities here include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ATM</li> <li>• Beach With Cabana &amp; Lounge Chairs</li> <li>• Concierge</li> <li>• Complimentary Internet Access &amp; WiFi</li> <li>• Bars &amp; Swimup Bar</li> <li>• Gift Shop</li> <li>• 5 Restaurants</li> <li>• Outdoor Covered Amphitheater for Shows</li> <li>• 24-hour Room Service</li> <li>• 2 Swimming Pools &amp; Kid's Pool</li> <li>• 2 Outdoor Hot Tubs</li> <li>• Fitness Centre</li> <li>• Sauna &amp; Steam Rooms</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rock Spa &amp; Salon with 9 Treatment Rooms</li> <li>• Wedding &amp; Honeymoon Packages</li> <li>• Kid's Club</li> <li>• Golf Packages</li> </ul>
<b>Spa</b>	<p>Rejuvenate your body and soul with holistic spa rituals at Rock Spa®. Relax by two sparkling tropical pools, soak in the bubbling hot tubs and get energized in the Body Rock® fitness center. When night falls over Hard Rock Hotel Vallarta, the entertainment heats up with live music, concerts, entertainment and parties that put you in the mood for anything!</p>
<b>Accommodation</b>	<p>Relax and rejuvenate in decadent, modern rooms and suites designed with colonial Mexican décor, original art, and spectacular views of Banderas Bay. Boasting an idyllic beachfront ambiance, Hard Rock Hotel Vallarta's accommodations feature jaw-dropping suites and modern vacation amenities, including WiFi, hydro spa tub, 32" flat-screen, Sony alarm clocks with mp3 connections and all-day room service. Enjoy breathtaking ocean and resort views from your private balcony.</p>
<b>Activities</b>	<p>Edging the jaw-dropping sand beaches of Vallarta, a charming Colonial fishing village and the Sierra Madre Mountains, this Nuevo Vallarta resort is the place to play and enjoy incredible golf courses, deep-sea fishing, scuba diving, snorkeling, sailing, horseback riding and shopping. Dive into the clear blue waters of the bay and relax on the idyllic white sand beach. Enjoy activities - from kayaking to beach volleyball - and the Kid's Club for the ultimate family vacation.</p> <p>Activities at the resort include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities &amp; Water Sports Hut</li> <li>• Bicycles</li> <li>• Beach Volleyball Court</li> <li>• Half Basketball Court</li> <li>• 6-hole Putt Putt Golf Course</li> <li>• Billiards &amp; Ping Pong Tables</li> <li>• Steam &amp; Sauna Rooms</li> </ul>
<b>Children</b>	<p>The resort welcomes the little ones!</p> <p>With different activities by the pool, entertainment and amusing sports such as water polo, volleyball, beach soccer and games, they will make the most of this trip.</p> <p>Designed for kids between 4- 12 years old, the Kid's Club provides playful and safe activities so that the entire family finds their paradise in Nuevo Vallarta.</p>
<b>Restaurants</b>	<p>Indulge your senses with tantalizing world cuisines made with fresh, exotic ingredients and bold flavors. Hard Rock Hotel Vallarta offers six distinctive restaurants with sumptuous international cuisines, including Italian, Asian, Mexican, Brazilian and more fused flavors for your Riviera</p>

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	Nayarit dining adventures that feed your soul. Enjoy refreshing drinks, light fare, music and entertainment at ultra-cool bars and lounges that will leave you wanting a culinary encore.
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<b>AIR PRIZE PARTNER</b>	Air Canada <a href="http://www.aircanada.com">www.aircanada.com</a>
<b>Flight Details</b>	Fly to Puerto Vallarta with Air Canada, offering frequent scheduled service from Toronto and Montreal. Departing Montreal, Air Canada offers options for direct flights – plus convenient connections via Toronto. Departing from Toronto are frequent direct flights. The beauty of Air Canada is their strong network of connections from cities across Canada – which is a great advantage if you are meeting up with friends or family from other parts of the country. So, for example, there are weekly flights to Puerto Vallarta from Calgary and Vancouver as well. All this – and earn Aeroplan miles too! <a href="http://www.aircanada.com">www.aircanada.com</a>

<b>CURRENT DEAL NOV 2013</b>	<b>Hard Rock Hotel</b> has a special deal available for this resort for bookings until 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2013: 30% of their rate and \$1,800 in resort credits – go to <a href="http://www.hrhvallarta.com/">http://www.hrhvallarta.com/</a>
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<b>PERSONAL EXPERIENCES</b>	<p>I recently broadcast the Travel Show on location from Nayarit and had the chance to see some of the sights: see my Travel Blog at <a href="http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/Blog/tabid/400/EntryId/52/Riviera-Nayarit-Mexico.aspx">http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/Blog/tabid/400/EntryId/52/Riviera-Nayarit-Mexico.aspx</a></p> <p>And see my Pinterest board at: <a href="http://www.pinterest.com/TravelShow/riviera-nayarit/">http://www.pinterest.com/TravelShow/riviera-nayarit/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dreams Villamagna</b> Hotel and Spa treatment</li> <li>- <b>Lo de Marcos</b>: A small town with a friendly atmosphere and outstanding beaches and beachfront restaurant serving authentic local food.</li> <li>- <b>Rincón de Guayabitos</b>: Described as the “Hidden Pearl” among the beaches of Nayarit, Rincon features all the conveniences of modern life in a relaxing, traditional setting; an excellent option for fishing and diving.</li> <li>- <b>El Tigre</b> golf course and the tiger habitat</li> <li>- <b>Tino’s La Laguna</b> in Nuevo Vallarta for the local specialty, pescado sarandado (situated by a lagoon, Tino’s serves up the mouthwatering dish which is grilled fish marinated in spices, chilis and lime)</li> <li>- <b>Bucerias</b>: This tiny fishing town has grown into a popular spot for dining and shopping near the resorts of Nuevo Vallarta. It retains its authentic Mexican charm with cobblestone streets, Main Square, tiny</li> </ul>
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shops and numerous seafood restaurants and beach clubs. Each January it is the setting for a popular annual festival celebrating the “Virgen de la Paz” which includes the blessing of the fishing fleet.

- **Vallarta Adventures** for tour and learn more about the opportunities to experience Riviera Nayarit nature. Following, experience Swimming with the Dolphins.
- **Sayulita:** Internationally recognized for its outstanding surfing, Sayulita is a somewhat bohemian art colony with a thriving expat community. There are also several beachfront restaurants and cafes, luxurious villas and spas. Wandered around in this charming eclectic town and enjoyed browsing the fine art galleries and stylish colourful shops with clothing, handicrafts, decorative items, handmade cosmetics and jewelry. I took my first surfing lesson here!
- **La Cruz de Huanacastle:** A traditional fishing village with an elegant new marina accommodating yachts to 400 feet. Rapidly growing, the town has new boutique hotels, restaurants and shops.
- **Hotel Des Artistes del Mar** and dinner at the Cafe Des Artistes del Mar.

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