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

With more than 60 million reviews and opinions, TripAdvisor makes travel planning a snap for more than 50 million travelers visiting our site each month.
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.
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

VIEWS

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Puerto Vallarta Boardwalk
2. Old Vallarta
3. The Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe (La Iglesia de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe), Calle Hidalgo, 322 222 1326
4. Bay of Banderas
5. Las Caletas
6. Puerto Vallarta Botanical Gardens, Carretera a Barra de Navidad, Km. 24, 322 105 7217
7. Playa de los Muertos, El Centro (Off Calle Olas Atlas)
8. Playa Las Animas, South Shores
9. Bucerias, Highway 200, Km. 13
10. Punta De Mita, North of Puerto Vallarta

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. Versalles, 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

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**

**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."

**Las Caletas**

**EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL**

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

**Museo del Cuale, Isla de Rio Cuale, 322 223 2424**

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 Mastil, Marina Vallarta, 322 297 1212**

**RELAXATION**

**Metamorphosis Day Spa** was "a relaxing and lovely treat! My husband and I both had massages that we will remember for a long time to come. They left us feeling like wet noodles for the rest of the day!"—TripAdvisor Member, Miami, Fla.

**Metamorphosis Day Spa, Francisca Rodriguez 159, Old Town, 322 222 6162**

"...meandering pathways through the jungle"

"I felt like I was on an episode of ‘MacGyver’"

"...meandering pathways through the jungle"

**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**

Call an Expedia Travel Specialist now 877 633 3716
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

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

“...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

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

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, Naranjo 320

“The food at Dianita was excellent. We had the Comida Corrida lunch. There was a choice of 8 different main courses, which all came with rice, beans, tortillas and a large jar of Agua Frescos for under $5.”—TripAdvisor Member

Dianita, Francisco Madero 243

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.

Call an Expedia Travel Specialist now 877 633 3716
**WHERE to eat**

**HEALTH-CONSCIOUS**

“If you are a vegetarian and interested in tasting something different (not just the usual burritos), then a trip to Red Cabbage Cafe is a must!”—TripAdvisor Member, Washington, D.C.

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

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, 322 223 0373

“We fell in love with Casa Melissa. The seafood was as fresh as can be and the portions served were quite large, all at a very reasonable price.”—TripAdvisor Member, Madison, Wis.

Casa Melissa, Josefa O. De Dominguez, No. 223-A, 322 223 0766

**HIDDEN GEMS**

“We were so thrilled to find El Mole de Jovita. The chicken mole was out of this world and the service was incredible. It was like having a meal in someone’s home.”—TripAdvisor Member, Seattle, Wash.

El Mole de Jovita, Basilio Badillo 220, 322 223 3065

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 & Matamoros, 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 they discuss the art they have for sale and 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**

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 6)

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

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 honoree is the Canadian province of Quebec. (May 11 - 27)

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

Riviera Nayarit is one of the newest tourist destinations in Mexico, featuring beautiful coastline, golf courses, resorts, and prime surfing spots. It also hosts the International Marlin and Tuna Fishing Tournament, where participants compete for up to $10,000 in prizes for the best catch. (July 12 - 14)

**International Marlin and Tuna Fishing Tournament, Bahia de Banderas Fishing Club, 156 Humburgo St., Colonia Versalles, 322 225 5467**

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, Bahia 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 1, 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

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

“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

“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

“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

BUDGET

Hotel Yazmin, 168 Basilio Badillo, 322 222 0087

“Hotel Yazmin 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, Phoenix, Ariz.

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

“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 1, Nuevo Vallarta, 322 226 6770

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

“Hotel Yazmin 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, Phoenix, Ariz.

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

“Hotel Yazmin 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, Phoenix, Ariz.

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

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, Bahia de Banderas, Punta de Mita, 329 298 4114

“Casa De Mita, Playa Careyero, Bahia de Banderas, Punta de Mita, 329 298 4114

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

“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

“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

“Hotel Yazmin 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

“Hotel Yazmin 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, Phoenix, Ariz.

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

“Hotel Yazmin 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, Phoenix, Ariz.

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

“Hotel Yazmin 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, Phoenix, Ariz.

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

Call an Expedia Travel Specialist now 877 633 3716
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.”

About TRIPADVISOR

TripAdvisor is the largest travel community in the world with more than 50 million monthly visitors and featuring more than 60 million reviews and opinions of 930,000 hotels, vacation rentals and attractions. TripAdvisor.com is the most trusted source for travel recommendations about where to go, where to stay and how to play for 100,000 destinations around the world. TripAdvisor.com also provides easy access to the major online travel sites to make booking your next vacation, your best vacation, easier than ever.

Edited/compiled by Aefa Mulholland, Michelle Schwartz and Kris Horton

This brochure and its contents are copyright © 2012, TripAdvisor, Inc., all rights reserved. TRIPADVISOR, the owl logo and all other marks displayed herein are registered and/or common law trademarks of TripAdvisor and/or third parties. Representations made in this brochure are current as of its publication date. This brochure contains reviews, comments, photographs and other content regarding destinations, accommodations, airlines and other travel products and services submitted by users of tripadvisor.com. Reviews and ratings represent the opinions of such users. TripAdvisor does not sponsor or endorse any user content and therefore is not liable for any statements, representations or other information contained in such user content.

Further, reference to any products, services, processes or other information of any third party does not constitute or imply endorsement, sponsorship or recommendation of or affiliation with, such third party by TripAdvisor. Such third parties are owned and operated by independent retailers or service providers, and TripAdvisor cannot ensure that you will be satisfied with their products, services, business practices or provided information. TripAdvisor recommends that you pursue any and all investigation you feel necessary or appropriate before transacting with any third party.

Call an Expedia Travel Specialist now 877 633 3716

tripadvisor.com 8