

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Puerto Vallarta has 3 berths for cruise ships. The port is located “uptown”, with the tourist area 3 miles south, less than 10 mins by taxi. In the port area, there’s a small shopping mall and cafe. Across the street is a Walmart, Sam’s Club and McDonalds.

History

Officially settled in 1851, the area has been inhabited on and off since at least 1510. Puerto Vallarta became a popular resort destination in the 1980s, and has grown rapidly since. This area is unique for its “real estate tourism”, with prices set in US dollars, 60% of the homes owned are purchased by foreign retirees and/or as second homes.

Unique Foods

- Fish tacos - Fried or grilled fish with shredded cabbage, salsa, and lime served in a tortilla.
- Local beverages - Raicilla (a distilled spirit similar to mezcal and tequila made from the Maguey Plant)
- Pescado zarandeado: Whole fish, often red snapper or marlin, marinated in smoky chile paste and grilled over open flames, traditionally on the beach.
- Ceviche: Raw fish or shrimp marinated in lime juice with chile, cilantro, and red onion, served on tostadas.
- Marlin burritas: Flour tortillas filled with smoked marlin, cheese, lettuce, tomato, and red onion, then toasted on a griddle; often a street food.
- Aguachile: Spicy seasoned shrimp, served raw with lime and fresh chiles.
- Birria: Slow-cooked goat or lamb in a spicy sauce, served with tortillas, onions and lime.
- Tortas ahogadas: Crispy bread stuffed with pork and topped in spicy tomato sauce.
- Pozole - Soup with pork or chicken, seasoned with chili and served with lettuce, radishes, and tostada.



Unique Animals

Rich in sealife it’s possible to see; gray whales, sperm whales, blue whales, humpback whales, orcas, finback whales, blue & black marlins, sailfish, seabass, tuna, and a variety of turtles, such as the red snapper.

On land you may see: White Tailed Deer, Wild Boar, Armadillo, Badger, Coyote, Skunk and Rabbit. There are a variety of cats including the legendary Jaguar, Jaguarondi, Puma, Ocelots, and the smaller Margays. Yellow-winged Caciques, Black-Throated Magpie Jays, Amazon Parrots, Tropical Kingbirds, Great Kiskadees, and Blue-footed Boobies.



Unique Plants



With abundant sun and high humidity, Puerto Vallarta has thick lush jungle vegetation throughout the region. Local trees include: Amapa, Chilte, and Palo de Brasil. Exotic fruits include coconut, pineapple, macho banana, guava, guamuchil, mango, jacka fruit, watermelon, and avocado.

Language

Spanish is the official language of Mexico. English is spoken exclusively in the port area.

Currency

Is the Peso. 1 US Dollar = \$20.39 in Pesos. Vendors near the port will take US dollars and handle the conversion math. Major credit cards accepted in many locations.

Cell Service

Widespread 4G coverage.

Internet

Free wifi in many public spaces and tourist beaches. Available at most cafes and pubs with your purchase.

Excursions

Authentic Local Experience in Quimixed Boat Tour and Waterfall

Relaxing and amazing local experience in an authentic local village among the mountains on the south coast of Puerto Vallarta where we will visit walking its beautiful waterfall to swim, take pictures, jump or just relax. Experience a day of waterfall adventure, beach and boat trip with an authentic biologist guide.

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Puerto-Vallarta/Authentic-Local-Experience-in-Quimixed-Boat-Tour-and-Waterfall/d630-5571809P12?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086¤cy=USD>

Full-Day Puerto Vallarta City Highlights Tour

See the highlights of Puerto Vallarta on a full-day tour that explores downtown, Los Arcos, and Mismaloya Beach. With an expert guide to lead the way, you'll stroll the Malecón, see gorgeous coastal scenery, and visit a tequila distillery for a tour and tasting. This Puerto Vallarta tour is a great choice for first-time visitors, and it includes pickup and drop-off at local hotels.

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Puerto-Vallarta/Puerto-Vallarta-City-Highlights-Tour/d630-33070P5?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086¤cy=USD>

City tour express, Butterfly, tequila, river and beach

For anyone interested in butterflies, a trip to Mariposario del Drago is a must—but many excursions are geared toward families with children. Enjoy a quieter experience on this adults-only day trip, which includes round-trip transfers from Puerto Vallarta, an hour-long stop at the secluded, gold-sand Playa Mismaloya, and a tasting of local tequila.

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Puerto-Vallarta/Private-Tour-to-Playa-Mismaloya-with-Entrance-to-the-Butterfly-Garden/d630-434292P1?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086¤cy=USD>

Tour to the Arches, Madagascar Beach, the Animas, with Snorkeling and more

Enjoy an all-inclusive paradise tour, where you can explore three stunning destinations: Los Arcos de Mismaloya, Playa las Ánimas, Quimixto Waterfall and Playa Madagascar. Our package includes continental breakfast, Las Ánimas beach food and national open bar on board the boat. In Los Arcos, practice snorkeling and observe marine life in its natural habitat.

<https://www.viator.com/tours/Puerto-Vallarta/8-hour-All-Inclusive-Tour-in-Catamaran-Arcos-Animas-Quimixto/d630-311079P5?pid=P00002881&uid=U00204439&mcid=58086¤cy=USD>

Exploring on your own

- Walk or take a cab to Playa de Oro (beach) and the hotel zone.



PUERTO VALLARTA POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Photographers from around the world come to Puerto Vallarta's famed landmark cathedral, **La Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**, to capture its breathtaking beauty and trademark ornate crown supported by a circle of angels. The cathedral took a total of 33 years to be built, from 1918 to 1955.

2 **El Malecón Pedestrian Bridge and Walkway** is an extension of the famed boardwalk that runs the length of downtown and allows beach strollers to reach Isla Cuale, Viejo Vallarta, Playa de los Muertos, and several other beaches. Visitors can enjoy public displays of art while taking in the various sculptures adorning this boardwalk.

3 **Mismaloya**, is a small bayside village that was changed forever when Hollywood director John Huston chose to make the movie *Night of the Iguana* here in 1964. It is still a quaint beach location where the Mismaloya creek meets the sea.

4 **Museo de Cuale**, is a tiny yet fascinating museum with exhibits of archaeological artifacts from the Puerto Vallarta area and displays general information on the history, art and culture of Mesoamerica.

5 **El Centro**, is the heart of Puerto Vallarta, where the Malecón (the boardwalk) can be found welcoming visitors into the center of town. There are historic buildings, beautiful cathedrals, shops, galleries, beaches, and restaurants galore.

6 **Los Arcos**, is an amphitheatre that faces the sea, hosts live performances and musical festivals throughout the year and is situated across from the Main Plaza, just two minutes away from the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

7 Unquestionably one of Puerto Vallarta's best beaches, **Playa de los Muertos** is a long stretch of golden sand that lines Puerto Vallarta's coast, it's easy to understand why this beach is so popular and has such a magnetic appeal. Its unusual name comes from a battle fought long ago. Whether you'd like to parasail, have a leisurely lunch, relax and swim, enjoy a tropical drink from under your own umbrella or simply sunbathe, this beach of constant activity has it all.

8 **Downtown South** is also known as **Los Muertos Beach**, consisting of the main streets of Olas Altas and Basilio Badillo. Restaurants, bars, trendy boutiques and abundant nightlife line the streets.