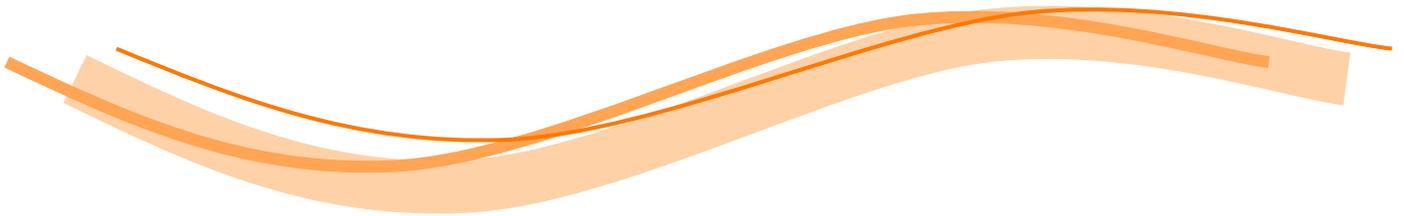




RIVIERA NAYARIT, MEXICO





<p>RIVIERA NAYARIT</p>	<p>The Riviera Nayarit is Mexico's new Pacific paradise with endless choices and incredible value. Riviera Nayarit, stretches along 300kms of pristine Pacific coast framed by the majestic Sierra Madre Mountains just ten minutes north of accessible Puerto Vallarta International Airport.</p> <p>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, miles of serene beaches and spectacular Banderas Bay.</p> <p>Famous for its glorious beaches you can also save a fortune as you discover the area's treasures - Riviera Nayarit offers countless affordable activities. There are PGA golf courses and luxury spas plus enjoy International and local cuisine.</p> <p>There are countless activities for the adventurous such as whale watching, turtle release, zip lining, surfing, record deep sea fishing and bird watching. And you can also discover the history and culture of the area or shop for local artwork and traditional Huichol handicrafts.</p> <p>The region attracts vacationers of all tastes and budgets with its wide range of accommodations including chic luxury resorts, eco-tourism boutique hotels, and quaint B&B inns.</p>
<p>Location</p>	<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>
<p>Geography</p>	<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>
<p>Name</p>	<p>The Nayarit name means "Region whose people adore the god of battles".</p>
<p>Population</p>	<p>The State of Nayarit has a population of approximately 950,000.</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>Spanish – but English is widely spoken in the coastal resort towns.</p>

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Currency	The Mexican Pesos – although the US Dollar is also widely accepted too. Currently (1 Nov 2009) \$1 Cdn = 12.3 Mexican Pesos.
Tipping	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.
Government	Democracy
Documentation	Passports are required but no Visa is necessary for Canadians.
Time zone	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.
Health	There are no special health problems here and the hospital facilities are excellent.
Safety tips	Car break-ins are just about the only frequent crime here.

CLIMATE	
General climate	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. 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.
Today's weather	32 Centigrade and sunny as at 7 November 2009
Best time to visit	In the winter months, Riviera Nayarit has the perfect antidote to northern snows and cold temperatures!

GETTING AROUND	
Getting There	Puerto Vallarta International Airport (PVR) is the nearest commercial air service to Nayarit - only 10 minutes south of Nuevo Vallarta and 40 minutes from Punta Mita. Carriers that serve the destination, most with flights daily, include: Aero Mexico, Air Canada, Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Continental, Delta, Frontier, Mexicana, Transat, United Airlines, and US Airways.

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	Charter flights are available from Canada with Transat, Sunquest, Signature and Sunwing.
Towns & Cities	<p>Nuevo Vallarta - The first major resort center in the Riviera Nayarit...ten minutes north of the Puerto Vallarta airport, just across the state line...Resort Hotels, All-Inclusive vacation resorts, luxury spas, restaurant dining , an expansive beach on Banderas Bay, yacht club, marina, dolphin swim, golf courses, shopping malls and excursion activities centre.</p> <p>Bucerias - 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>Punta de Mita - 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>Lo de Marcos - 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>San Blas - 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>
Distances	The Riviera Nayarit stretches 300 kms from Jalisco in the south to Sinaloa in the north.
Ferries	The muelle (cruise-ship pier), also called Terminal Marítima, is where

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	excursion boats to Yelapa, Las Animas, Quimixto, and the Marietas Islands depart.
Car Rental	Rental cars are readily available at the airport, through travel agencies, and through the most popular U.S. car rental services.
Buses	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 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.

ACCOMMODATION TYPES	<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.</p> <p>And check out the all inclusive resort where I stayed in Riviera Nayarit: Dreams Villamagna Nuevo Vallarta. Full details are below.</p>
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LIFESTYLES	
Kids	<p>The extensive beaches and great resorts with childrens 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>Dolphin encounters: 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>
Teens	<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>Sea Lion Encounters: 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 yhe 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>
Romance	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.
Honeymoons &	Many of the larger resorts in Riviera Nayarit will organize destination

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Weddings	weddings – including the featured resort Dreams Villamagna Nuevo Vallarta.
Seniors	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.

UNIQUES	
Surprising	Nayarit has an unusual combination of both tropical and temperate ecosystems. About 300 species of orchids can be found there.
History	<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 Tenamaxtli 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 forces had recaptured most of Nayarit. Even so, the larger revolution eventually succeeded, and Nayarit became a part of independent Mexico in 1821.</p>
Books	Frommer's Mexico 2010 is the bible for travellers to Mexico.

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<p>1000 Places to See Before You Die</p>	<p>El Dia de los Muertos – Mexicans remember and celebrate their departed in this festival which normally takes place at the start of November</p>
<p>Must Sees</p>	<p>Marietas Islands: You can also hire a panga (small motorized boat) at Playa Anclote from the fisherman's cooperative on the beach. Ask the captain to take you to the Marietas Islands just offshore. These uninhabited islands are a great place for bird-watching, diving, snorkeling, or just exploring. Blue-footed booby birds (found only here and in the Galapagos) dawdle along the islands' rocky coast, and giant mantas, sea turtles, and colorful tropical fish swim among the coral cliffs. The islands are honeycombed with caves and hidden beaches - including the stunning Playa de Amor (Beach of Love) that only appears at low tide. You enter a shallow passageway to access this semicircular stretch of sand. A cave 12m (40 ft.) below the surface has an air pocket in which divers can remove their regulators and have an underwater conversation. Humpback whales congregate around these islands during the winter months, and pangas can be rented for a do-it-yourself whale-watching excursion. Trips cost about \$35 per hour. You can also visit these islands aboard one of the numerous day cruises that depart from the cruise-ship terminal in Puerto Vallarta.</p>

<p>SPORTS ACTIVITIES</p>	
<p>Golf</p>	<p>There are currently eight major golf courses in the region including five in Riviera Nayarit. Among the high profile names associated with the development of championship golf in Riviera Nayarit are: Jack Nicklaus (2 courses in Punta Mita), Percy Clifford (Flamingos Golf Club), Robert Von Hagge (El Tigre, Nuevo Vallarta), Jim Lipe (Mayan Golf Resort Vallarta, currently under renovation). A course designed by Greg Norman is currently under development in Litibu.</p> <p>There are now two breathtaking Jack Nicklaus Signature courses at the Punta Mita Golf Club (tel. 329/291-6000), with the newest addition opening in October 2008. The original "Pacifico" course features 8 oceanfront holes and an ocean view from every hole. Its hallmark is the 3rd hole, the "Tail of the Whale," with a long drive to a green on a natural island - the only natural-island green in the Americas. It requires an amphibious cart to take you over when the tide is high, and there's an alternate hole for when the ocean or tides are not accommodating.</p> <p>The second Jack Nicklaus Signature course, "Bahia," intertwines with the original course, and also affords stunning seaside holes; its finishing hole is adjacent to the new St. Regis Resort. The courses are open only to members or guests staying in the Punta Mita resorts, or to other golf club members with a letter of introduction from their pro. Greens fees</p>

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	are \$244 for 18 holes and \$156 for 9 holes, including cart, with (Calloway) club rentals for \$63. Lessons are also available.
Fishing	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 & Tuna Fishing Tournament each year in July. Fishing charters cost \$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.
Surfing	Sayulita: 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 (www.lunazulsurf.com) 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 ranging from wax to boards.
Hiking	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!
Horse Riding	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.
Canopy Tours	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

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	<p>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 (984-ft.) zip line over jungle landscape. The 6 1/2 hour tour costs \$95, for those who are physically fit, ages 12 and older.</p>
Diving	<p>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 Vallarta Adventure's 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.</p> <p>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). Chico's Dive Shop, Díaz Ordaz 772-5, near Carlos O'Brian's (www.chicos-diveshop.com), offers similar diving and snorkeling trips and is also a PADI five-star dive center. Chico's is open daily 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.</p>

CULTURE	<p>Nayarit's cultural heritage encompasses four separate ethnic groups: Huicholes, Coras, Tepehuanos, and Mexicaneros. This heritage has led to a destination rich in traditional culinary traditions reflected in a wide variety of restaurants as well as popular cultural events and festivals, folklore and, of special importance to visitors, excellent shopping for traditional handicrafts and art.</p>
Arts	<p>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.</p>
Films	<p>The Night of the Iguana (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.</p>

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<p>Museums</p>	<p>The most important museum in Tepic, the state capital, is the Regional Museum of Anthropology and History, 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 Amado Nervo Museum, which exhibits various personal items and the work of the famous Mexican poet, Amado Nervo.</p>
<p>Festivals</p>	<p>There are festivals throughout the year in this region: here are a few coming up in the next couple of months-</p> <p>XIV Gourmet Festival - November 13-23 This year better than ever, the Gourmet Festival includes the best restaurants in the Bay celebrating gastronomy. www.festivalgourmet.com</p> <p>Mexican Revolution Day, also Day of the Sports - November 20 National holiday celebrating the 1910 Revolution, and the Day of the Sports with parades.</p> <p>Lady of Guadalupe Festivities - 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>Surf Classic in Sayulita - December An event which every year brings surfers from all over the world into Sayulita, Nayarit, one of the most important surf destinations. www.sayulitalife.com</p> <p>Joy Parade in the city of Tepic - December 16 Colorful parade of picturesque donned cars.</p> <p>Christmas - 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>

<p>ATTRACTIONS</p>	<p>Vallarta Adventures 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. Tel: 888.526.2238</p>
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	<p>Website: http://www.vallarta-adventures.com Here are three of their tours to consider:</p> <p>Sierra Madre Expedition: This is the ideal way to get off the beaten path and explore the real Mexico. Visit the remote, traditional villages of the Mexican Outback and uncover the ecosystem and wildlife of the mountains and jungles of the Sierra Madre.</p> <p>Swim with the Dolphins: Dolphins and humans have a natural affinity with one another, and this will be an unforgettable visit to the Dolphin Adventure Centre.</p> <p>Las Marietas Eco Discovery: 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>Beaches</p>	<p>There are nearly 300km of beaches of exceptional natural beauty; here are a few suggestions:</p> <p>La Cruz de Huanacastle: 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>Rincon de Guayabitos: 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>Sayulita: 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 color, flavor and diversity.</p>

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<p>Wildlife</p>	<p>The Sierra Madre Occidental 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, armadillos and iguanas.</p> <p>From mid-December to the end of March, Banderas Bay offers some of the world's most spectacular whale watching 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>
<p>Parks</p>	<p>La Tovar National Park – 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>
<p>Ecotourism</p>	<p>A wide variety of activities ranging from whale watching, swimming with dolphins and adventures with seals to bird watching, excursions in the Sierra Madre mountains and canopy tours in subtropical jungles high above the ground. Throughout the year, there are also opportunities to participate in sea turtle protection programs.</p>
<p>Historical Sites</p>	<p>San Sebastien: 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>

<p>OTHER ACTIVITIES</p>	
<p>Shopping</p>	<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....Naturally, you can treat yourself to brand name designer goods that may be calling your name as well. Either way, you are sure to take home as much as your heart desires.</p>

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Markets	Just across the state boundary, Puerto Vallarta's municipal market is just north of the Río Cuale, where Libertad and A. Rodríguez meet. The mercado sells clothes, jewelry, 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.
Nightlife	When the sun goes down in Nayarit, the day is far from over - unless of course you want it to be. This diverse paradise is perfect for escaping from the world's crazy pace and just taking a moonlit stroll on the beach before settling in for a peaceful night's rest. Then again, you may find the local entertainment equally beneficial for the soul. Nightly entertainment at the all-inclusive resorts is rounded out with innumerable lounges and music as varied in style as their numbers. Sing along at a piano or karaoke bar, enjoy specialty after dinner drinks, a smooth hand-rolled cigar or head out to local seaside pubs and cantinas. And, of course, nearby Puerto Vallarta, its famous river walk, clubs and cobblestone streets are within easy reach for an entertaining night to remember.
Spas	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.
Casinos	Real casinos have yet to make it to Mexico, although the federal legislature has been debating the issue for some years.

CUISINE	
Food	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 Huachinango Saradeado, marinated red snapper grilled over coals usually near the beach. The region holds an annual gastronomy festival that takes place in November.
Wine	Tequila 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 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.
Restaurants	There are approximately 500 restaurants in the Vallarta area. Every flavor, style, nationality and ambiance is available with a wide range of

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pricing. The following are a few select samples of the wide variety of choices available.

Nuevo Vallarta

Angelo's

Specialty: Italian cuisine and steaks

Website: www.angelospv.com

Address: Paradise Plaza L-J2, 3, 4, Nuevo Vallarta

Telephone: (322) 297-6130

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

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

Tino's La Laguna

Specialty: Seafood

Website: www.tinosvallarta.com

Address: Km 1,2 on the 2nd entrance to Nuevo Vallarta

Telephone: (322) 297-0221

Bucerias

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

El Chivero Restaurant & Bar

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

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

Website: 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

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

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

Specialty: German cuisine

Web Page: www.blackforestpv.com

Address: Marlin 16 La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, Riviera Nayarit

Phone number: (329) 295-5203

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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

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

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

Specialty: Drinks and bar snacks

Address: Coral 68, La Cruz de Huanacaxtle, Riviera Nayarit

Miramar

Specialty: Seafood (i.e. sarandeado fish Mexican style grilled fish;

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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

Sayulita

Don Pedro's
Specialty: Mediterranean style cuisine with Mexican/Californian influences

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Website: 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
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
Specialty: International cuisine
Address: Café del Mar, China no. 9, San Francisco, Riviera Nayarit
Tel: 52-311-258-4251

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MORE INFO	
Brochures	Pick up a copy of the Air Canada Vacations Sun Collection 2009-2010 from your local travel agent to see their selection of resorts and vacations in Riviera Nayarit.
Websites	www.rivieranayarit.com www.twitter.com/riv_nayarit

HOTEL PRIZE PARTNER	Dreams Villamagna Nuevo Vallarta The Dreams Villamagna Nuevo Vallarta is all new, all luxury resort located on spectacular Banderas Bay. This AAA Four Diamond, Pacific oceanfront hideaway has spectacular views of the Sierra Madre mountains. The resort is designed for families, couples, singles and friends – and everything is included. Amongst the resort facilities are several large swimming pools, multiple international restaurants bars and lounges serving gourmet fare and unlimited premium brand beverages, and a fitness centre. There are day and evening activities plus a supervised Kids Club for youngsters 3-12 years old. And don't miss the World Class Dreams Spa by Pevonia.
Location	Located directly on the beach in Riviera Nayarit, just a 20 minute drive from Puerto Vallarta Airport.
Facilities	Five bars: 2 Pool bars, a Lobby bar, a Beach bar and a Sky bar Three pools: children's Pool, Family pool, Infinity pool Modern fully equipped Fitness Center offers a full range of cardio, lifting and stretching equipment. Featuring: Treadmills Stair step machines Stationary bikes Cardio and other training machines Free weights Boutiques Supervised children's activities Gift shop Water sports centre Internet station Car rental desk Spa Laundry services
Spa	The full-service spa resort at this spa offers an endless variety of treatments for body and soul. The Spa at Dreams Villamagna offers a sublime atmosphere of pure indulgence that combines hydrotherapy and indigenous treatments creating a refreshing, invigorating and peaceful experience. Swiss showers, saunas, steam rooms, private showers and a relaxing lounge are here for you to enjoy. Massages, body treatments, facials, manicures, pedicures and a full service beauty salon are all available to you.
Accommodation	Junior suite, tropical view with Jacuzzi: King size or two double beds 1 full bathroom

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	<p>Furnished patio or balcony with a Jacuzzi for two Daily refreshed mini bar with beer, juice, soft drinks and bottled water Satellite TV DVD/CD player Internet access Alarm clock with MP3 player docking station Coffee maker Bath with shower and luxury personal amenities Robes and slippers Hair dryer Iron and board Roll away beds and cribs available on request Air conditioning with individual control Twice-daily maid service Direct dial phone Electronic safe box and Electronic keys 24-hour room and concierge services Secrets box for private room service delivery Maximum occupancy of 4, one being a child.</p>
Activities	<p>Snorkeling, volleyball, kayaking, nearby golf, evening entertainment, water sports centre.</p>
Children	<p>If you are looking for a special place for your next family vacation, this resort is a great choice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kids stay free. Applies to all children 2 and under - Special all-inclusive rate. Applies to all children 3-12 when sharing with 2 full paying adults - Mini-Club is included for children from 3 to 12 years old - Mini-clubs includes Supervised Explorer's Club keeps your kids totally entertained with exciting games, adventure and exploration. The Explorer's Club, included in your Unlimited-Luxury® privileges, is wonderful not only for kids - who have the time of their lives — but for parents who finally get time of their own. Created especially for youngsters 3-12 years old, all Explorer's Clubs are fully and professionally supervised and filled with adventures kids will really enjoy and treasure. The Explorer's Club provides: Sand castle contests Story telling and music Treasure hunts Arts and crafts Indoor game room Video games Big screen movies under the stars; Even a weekly tent camp out on the beach or at the club (with parent's approval)and other great adventures! - Babysitting is available for a fee
Restaurants	<p>There are six restaurants, including a buffet and 5 à la carte restaurants (seaside grill, seafood, Mexican, Italian, Sushi bar) There's also 24-hour room service available.</p>

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<p>PRIZE PARTNER</p>	<p>Air Canada Vacations Air Canada Vacations offers you incomparable value and choice. You benefit from the extensive network of scheduled flights aboard Air Canada and convenient connecting flights from over 65 Canadian cities. Enjoy unparalleled customer care and exclusive privileges such as free advance seat selection, early check-in and late check-out, concierge service and rooms close to the beach or in preferred locations.</p> <p>Air Canada Vacations offers non-stop flights from Toronto to Puerto Vallarta International Airport every Saturday, plus daily flights begin December 20, 2009 for the winter season. And Air Canada Vacations offer 18 hotels & resorts to choose from for 7 night, 8 day vacations in the Puerto Vallarta / Riviera Nayarit Region - visit www.aircanadavacations.com or contact your local travel agent for more details.</p>
<p>Flight details</p>	<p>Air Canada Vacations offers: Non stop flights from Toronto to Puerto Vallarta every Saturday, plus daily flights begin December 20 for the winter season and Non stop flights from Montreal to Puerto Vallarta begin Friday December 25.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Air Canada Vacations offers: 18 hotels & resorts to choose from. - Visit www.aircanadavacations.com or contact your local travel agent

<p>CURRENT DEALS</p>	<p>Air Canada Vacations have the Dreams Villamagna Nuevo Vallarta on sale for December 12-19 2009 for 7 nights all inclusive with flights from Toronto and taxes inclusive for just \$1707 currently and for \$1703 with flights from Montreal (Nov 1st 2009).</p> <p>Air Canada Vacations Early Booking Deals at Dreams Villamagna Nuevo Vallarta:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Book and pay by November 15, 2009 and save up to \$1000 CAD per couple per week. Valid for travel dates between January 1, 2010 and April 30, 2010 2. Book and pay by December 1, 2009 and save up to \$760.00 CAD per couple per week. Valid for travel dates between May 1, 2010 and August 27, 2010
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<p>PERSONAL EXPERIENCES</p>	<p>I am broadcasting on location from Nayarit for the radio shows this week. Here are some of the things I will be seeing and doing during the week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dreams Villa Magna Hotel
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- Spa treatment at the hotel Villa Magna
- Lo de Marcos: A small town with a friendly atmosphere and outstanding beaches, RV park and beachfront restaurant serving authentic local food.
- Rincón de Guayabitos: 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.
- El Tigre golf course and visit the tiger habitat
- Lunch at Tino’s La Laguna in Nuevo Vallarta for the local specialty, pescado sarandeado (situated by a lagoon, Tino’s serves up the mouthwatering dish which is grilled fish marinated in spices, chiles and lime)
- Bucerias: 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 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. You will have free time to wander around in this charming eclectic town. Enjoy browsing the fine art galleries and stylish colorful shops with clothing, handicrafts, decorative items, handmade cosmetics and jewelry.
- Lunch at Sayulita Fish Taco
- Canopy tour adventure at Rancho Mi Chaparrita
- Sunset horseback riding tour at Rancho Mi Chaparrita
- Tour the town and check-out the shops in Sayulita or schedule a surfing lesson with a pro
- Dinner at Don Pedro’s
- La Cruz de Huanacastle: A traditional fishing village with an elegant new marina accommodating yachts to 400 feet. Rapidly growing, the town will soon have new boutique hotels, restaurants and shops. Drive by new development sites
- Site inspection of the Hotel Des Artistes del Mar and dinner at the Cafe Des Artistes del Mar.

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