



Nayarit

*Riviera Nayarit, Nayarit Colonial,
Lagunas Encantadas,
Sierra del Nayar*

Maps & Tourist Information

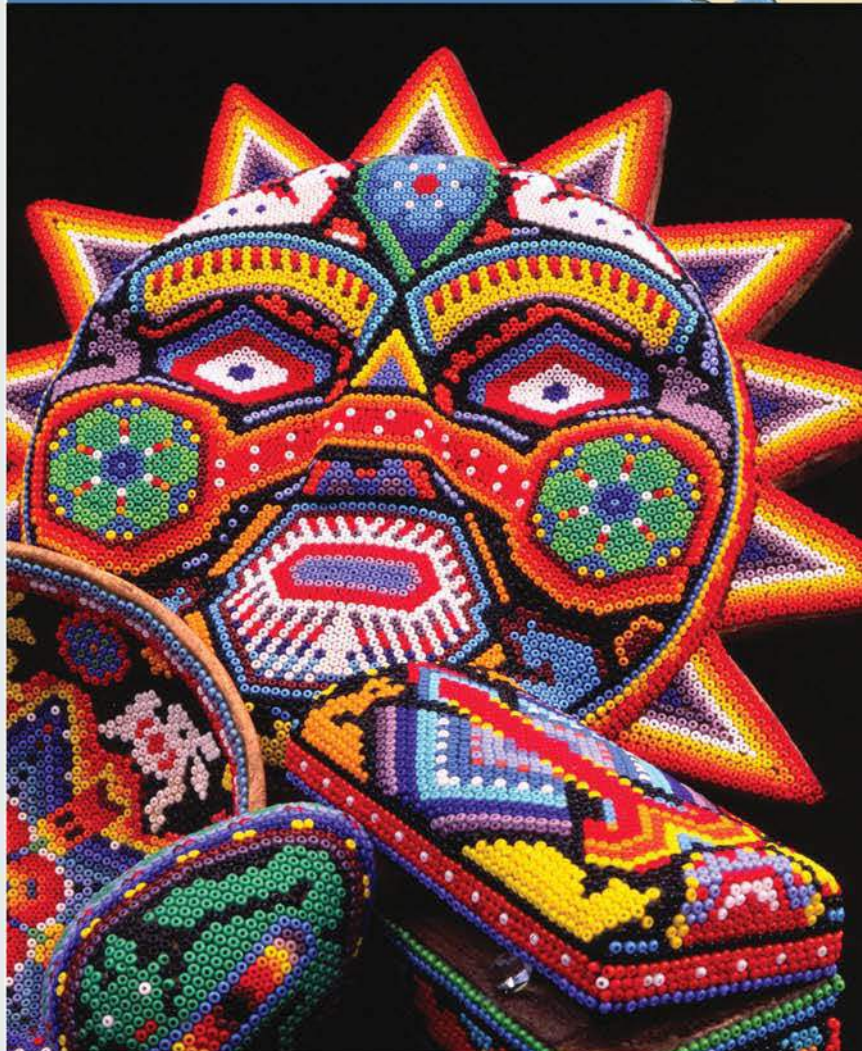


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IBEROSTAR Playa Mita, un mar de sensaciones por descubrir.



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Disfruta siendo una estrella



Nayarit, a land of unparalleled beauty,
with seas, rivers, lakes, mountains...



In Cora (local indigenous language) Nayarit means "Son of god which is in heaven and in the sun" and that's how you will feel after spending some time here, you will feel in heaven. Today, the coast of Nayarit has become the new destination of choice for celebrities and international visitors. However, you can also discover beautiful colonial cities, health resort, archaeological sites and a unique richness in culture and traditions.

It is not a coincidence that Nayarit is becoming a reference destination in the international tourist scene, and the host of major sporting events.

The state is a paradise that offers unique experiences.

Gastronomy

Nayarit is blessed with a unique geographic location, its fertile soil produces a great variety of vegetables and fruits, which along with the wide coast, result in a number of unique dishes of the region. Some of the most famous are: "Pescado Sarandeado", usually prepared with the pargo (sea bream), the fish is smoked over an manglar wood and palm frond fire and is previously marinated in a combination of lemon juice, soy sauce and chile; Chicken Ixtlan del Rio, fried chicken with potatoes,



zucchini and chopped lettuce all smothered with a tomato sauce prepared with plenty of oregano; the Tlaxtihuille, a dish with pre-Hispanic origins which consists of atole - a thick grumado from ground corn - powdered shrimp and chile; Charred fish, cooked over an open fire made of manglar wood; Shrimp paté, the shrimp is finely chopped and mixed with spices until it forms a paste then bathed with white wine or port; and of course the Salsa Huichol, made from a variety of chiles, spices, vinegar and salt.



Riviera Nayarit....

The Destination



Just north of Puerto Vallarta Mexico and spanning over 190 miles along the Pacific coast of Nayarit, Mexico's Riviera Nayarit extends from the northern border with Sinaloa, in the municipality of Tecuala, to the mouth of the Ameca River, on the boundary with Jalisco.

This exceptional destination holds magic picturesque towns, the Sierra de Vallejo Biosphere Reserve with coastal lagoons, mangroves and wetlands, home of crocodiles, sea turtles, and endemic birds; the Isabel Island and Marietas Islands, both National Parks; the archeological vestiges in Altavista; and allure beaches where sensational days of sun and water sports can be enjoyed.

The Riviera Nayarit has family tours, services and infrastructure for all kind of events, and a growing number of all inclusive and other resorts, from value-priced to luxury, excellent spas and world-class golf clubs.

The temperature here is warm and humid, with an annual average of 77°F, and the rainy season goes from June to October.

Along the Riviera Nayarit you may find the Huichol creations, famous for their brilliantly colorful artwork and crafts that are on display and cheerfully purchased in the marketplaces.

Along the Riviera Nayarit's golden coastline you can enjoy the verdant rainforest that covered the Sierra Madre Mountains contrasting with the deep blue of the Pacific Ocean.



The visitors can find the real Mexico in the picturesque villages with a traditional seaside lifestyle.

There are many reasons to be pleased with this magical destination. The destination safety, the clean beaches, as well as the quality of its services and facilities make that almost all of their visitors recommend the Riviera Nayarit.

Map of Riviera Nayarit

Symbols

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Camping | Bird Watching |
| Airport | Whale Watching |
| Colonial Buildings | Turtle Watching |
| Hadcrafts | Horseback Riding |
| Diving | Paragliding |
| Polo Club | Fishing |
| Biking | Main Plaza |
| Shopping | Attraction |
| ATV's | Rappel |
| Historic Building | Restaurant |
| Art Gallery | Trail Hiking |
| Golf | Snorkel |
| Hotel | Spa |
| Jet Ski | Surfing |
| Kayak | Zip Line |
| Kite Boarding | Theater |
| Marina | Bus Terminal |
| Museum | Sailing |
| Swimming with Dolphins | Trailer Park |
| Swimming | Windsurf |

Archeological Site





Beaches of the Riviera Nayarit

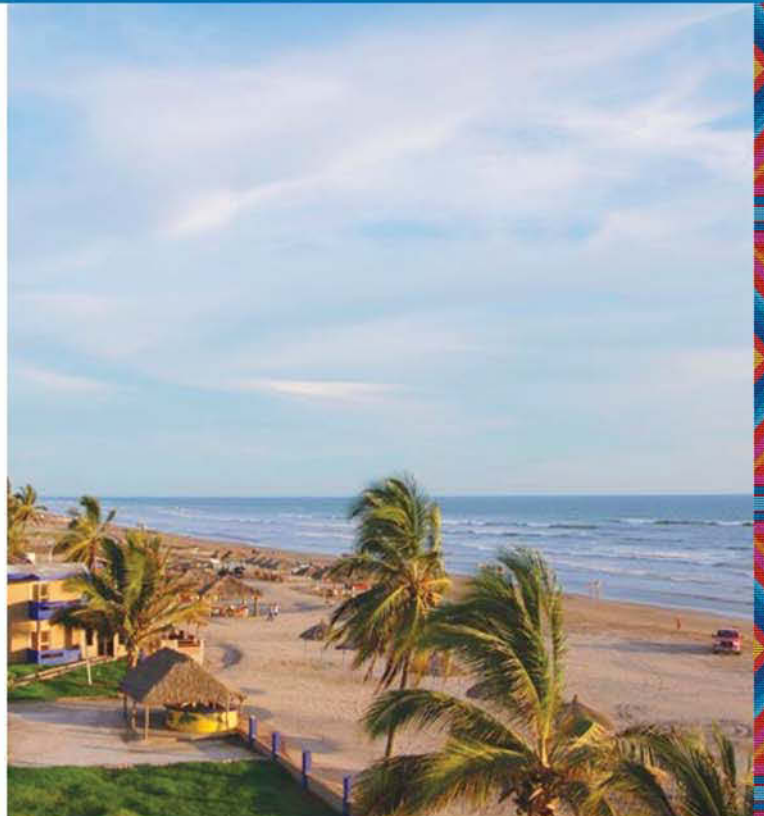
Riviera Nayarit is a unique destination that blends harmoniously with nature.

The Nayarit coast is a tropical wonder that offers incredible jungle scenery with beautiful golden beaches.

Nuevo Vallarta and Flamingos are the setting for the most complete and elegant hotel and recreation development. In contrast Bucerias, a colorful and charming Mexican town, offers an extensive beach where you can enjoy your dinner under a thatched palapa. La Cruz de Huanacastle is also a coastal village and is home of the most modern marina in the country. In Punta Mita, you'll experience the pinnacle of comfort and luxury in the ambiance of a picturesque village.

The beaches of Litibú and Higuera Blanca, offer an exclusive vacation complex and a rustic locality. Sayulita, has become a legendary surfing scene and the shores of San Francisco are a beautiful inspirations for artists. The quiet beach at Lo de Marcos is a real gem for families, as well as the beaches of Rincón de Guayabitos where the ocean waters are so calm here that it is known as "the largest swimming pool in the world."

In the Matanchen Bay, you will find nice beaches like Miramar, Los Cocos and Aticama in the way to the historic port of San Blas with wide beaches offering a variety of water sports.



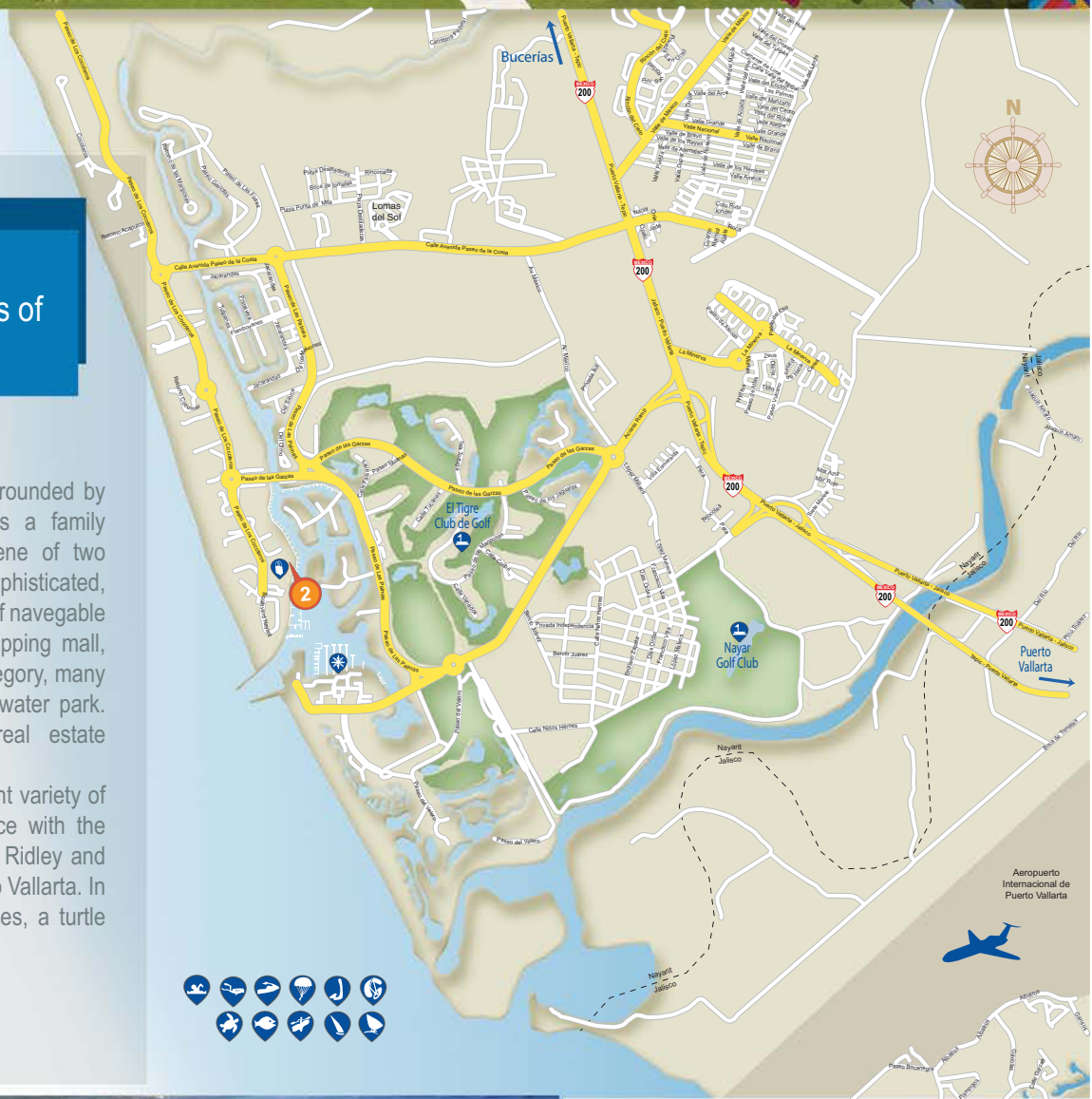
At the end of the destination, are the Marismas Nacionales wetlands with virgin beaches like Los Corchos, Sesteco, Boca de Camichin and Novillero.

Nuevo Vallarta

Nuevo Vallarta is home to the largest development of resorts of the region.

With three miles of fine golden sand surrounded by mangrove vegetation, Nuevo Vallarta is a family destination par excellence and the scene of two world-class golf courses, a pair of sophisticated, well-equipped marinas, more than 6 miles of navigable canals, an enclosed, air-conditioned shopping mall, hotels and resorts of the most deluxe category, many restaurants, two dolphin centers, and a water park. This is a destination with notable real estate developments.

The nature lovers can admire an important variety of flora and fauna of the region and rejoice with the arrival year after year of hawksbill, Olive Ridley and leatherback turtles on the shores of Nuevo Vallarta. In order to protect these endangered species, a turtle sanctuary has been established here.



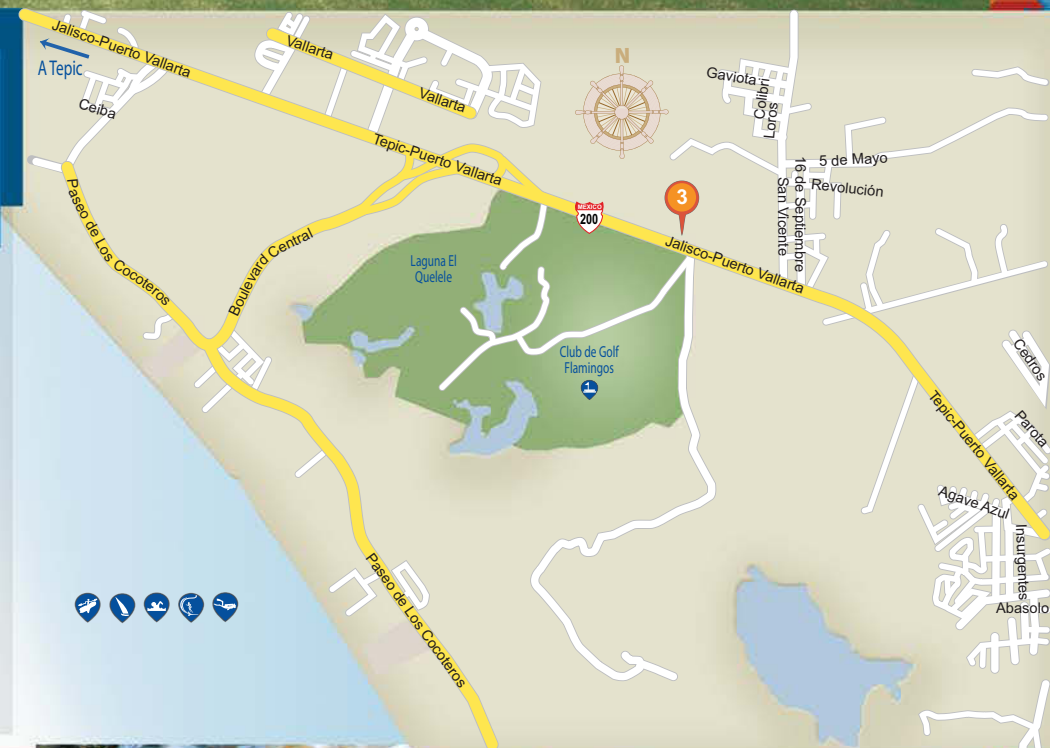
Both, in Flamingos and Nuevo Vallarta hotels, you can contact tour operators offering trips to islands to observe whales and dolphins in the winter season, or to explore the jungle in the nearby mountains.

Flamingos

This destination is a nice complement to Nuevo Vallarta, an ideal place to enjoy with your family or the ideal setting for a luscious romantic escape.

Founded on the area surrounding the famous Flamingos Golf Course, with 18 challenging holes spread across rolling hills, jungle vegetation and mangroves. It is a well-known tourist town with a number of hotels, resorts and real estate opportunities. There are three lakes in the area: La Vejiga Lake, El Quelele Lake (soon to be declared a Natural Protected Area), and La Cortada Lake, next to a crocodile habitat and a restaurant.

You can visit El CoraCrocodile Sanctuary and have some crocodile-style shrimp while observing the regional fauna in their natural habitat.





Bucerías

This village is known as the wind capital, you can see a lot of kiteboarders and windsurfers at the end of Spring.

Bucerías is a traditional Mexican charming town with cobblestone streets, brightly colored homes and an overall feeling of tranquility, warm hearted people.

In the Main Plaza there are numerous restaurants and you can watch Huichol artisans working beside in the kiosk. At the beach there are some dance clubs with various options such as jazz and flamenco, among others.

Bucerías offer the Regional Center for the Arts of the Riviera Nayarit with oil painting, puppetry, drawing and paper mache workshop imparted in both English and Spanish.

Its name is related with the word "divers", and it is known as the only place on Riviera Nayarit with its traditional Mexican Plaza facing the ocean. You can watch unparalleled sunset views from the "malecon".

Bucerías has a quaint local craft market and several art galleries with amazing artistic creations.





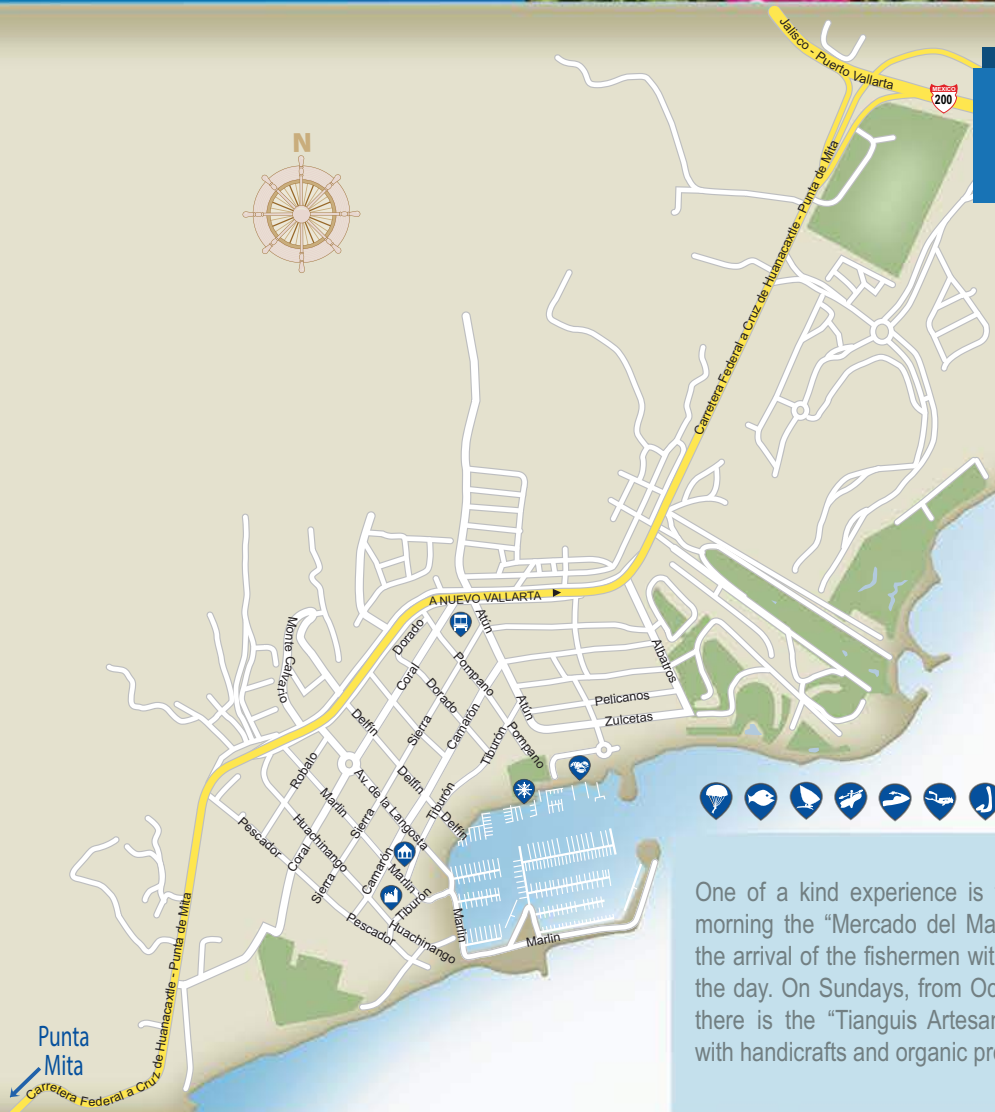
La Cruz de Huanacastle

This fishermen town is a tropical paradise.

La Cruz is the home of the most modern and luxurious marina on Mexico's Pacific coast, where you can find some restaurants. You can enjoy the typical dishes on the papala restaurants along the beaches of Manzanilla, Piedra Blanca and Arena Blanca, or in the restaurants in the town, where you can dine on dishes of freshly caught fish, creations that have been a culinary tradition of this town.

A few steps from the marina, is the main plaza, with its traditional kiosk, and you can stroll along the cobblestoned streets with clubs, cafes and a restaurant that is also a Huichol art gallery that supports indigenous communities.

The Festival of the Patron Saint of La Cruz take place every May 3rd, the whole town celebrates while the bells in the small church toll, and the streets are filled with stands that offer food and traditional games, and the sky is painted with the colors of fireworks.



One of a kind experience is to visit in the morning the "Mercado del Mar", and watch the arrival of the fishermen with the catch of the day. On Sundays, from October to April, there is the "Tianguis Artesanal" a market with handicrafts and organic products.



Punta Mita



Punta Mita, once a rustic fishing village, has been artfully developed as a luxury destination.

It is situated in an exotic environment made up of volcanic rock, and includes almost 10 kilometers (six miles) of virgin beaches, surrounded by green hills. With a unique beauty, the destination offers luxury hotels, world class restaurants, warm water beaches and two great 18 holes golf courses. One of this par-72 course is famous for its 3b-style hole known as "Tail of the Whale", the only natural island green in the world, the lava rock island is accessible only by a six-wheel, amphibious cart at low tide.

El Anclote beach is perfect for surfing, kayaking and stand up paddle, that is taking the water sports world by storm.

Very near are the Marieta Islands, a national ecological sanctuary well-known for the off-shore reefs that provide wonderful snorkeling and undersea diving. From November through March is the whale-watching season in Punta Mita, and you can experience the spectacular scene of humpback whales swimming along the coast.

Punta Mita has become the preferred choice among those looking for serenity and privacy.

Costa Banderas

Costa Banderas is a destination that combines elegance and exclusivity with beautiful natural landscapes and the tranquil sea. The eight kilometers (five miles) of fine sand beaches offers jungle landscape, rock formations and crystal-clear waters. It is the ideal place for many activities such as: horseback riding, kayaking, surfing and windsurfing. Home to elegant residences and luxurious hotels set among whimsical rock formations.





Litibú

Two kilometers of beach with calm waters ideal for swimming and surfing.

The village has a pleasant plaza and a kiosk. Just five minutes from town there is a residential-tourist development with luxury hotels like the exclusive Imanta. The Litibu Golf Course & Club is a Greg Norman-designed 18-hole has achieved perfect harmony between the location, land use and it's stunning panoramic views of the ocean with eight holes surrounded by jungle vegetation.

During the rainy season you can see thousands of crabs scuttling around the entire development and on the neighboring beaches and cliffs at Punta Negra and Careyeros.

It is a place that has retained its identity as agricultural-fishing village, and it is surrounded by lush green hills with rich flora and fauna.



The surrounding areas offer a wide variety of recreational activities, like: ecotourism safaries, whale watching and turtle r eleases.



Sayulita

The bohemian town features a number of restaurants and seaside bars. Its nice square is surrounded by cobblestone streets where you will find various art galleries and handicraft shops with beautiful objects made by the coras and the huicholes, since the art could not be overlooked in Sayulita. The destination offers numerous lodging options to choose from. You can stay in sophisticated boutique hotels, elegant villas, small and colorful hotels and bungalows with family-friendly ambiance, or for those adventurous visitors, even campsites on some of the land near the beach where you can pitch a tent and park RVs. There is a premier yoga resort, which has been rated by Yoga Journal, as one of the ten best yoga retreats in the world.



San Francisco

The town is an example of balance of ecology, recreation and culture.

The coastal Village has a polo club, where members can take private lessons and participate in national and international tournaments. And for those who do not play polo, the club includes restaurant, art gallery, concert hall, and organization services for private events.

San Pancho, as it is fondly known by its frequent visitors, has preserved its rural essence and the authenticity of a picturesque Mexican town, and invites to rest and relaxation.

Quiet cobblestone streets provide visitors and residents a safe haven in which to wander and discover the town, with delightful restaurants, skillful Huichol artisans, and an important art gallery.

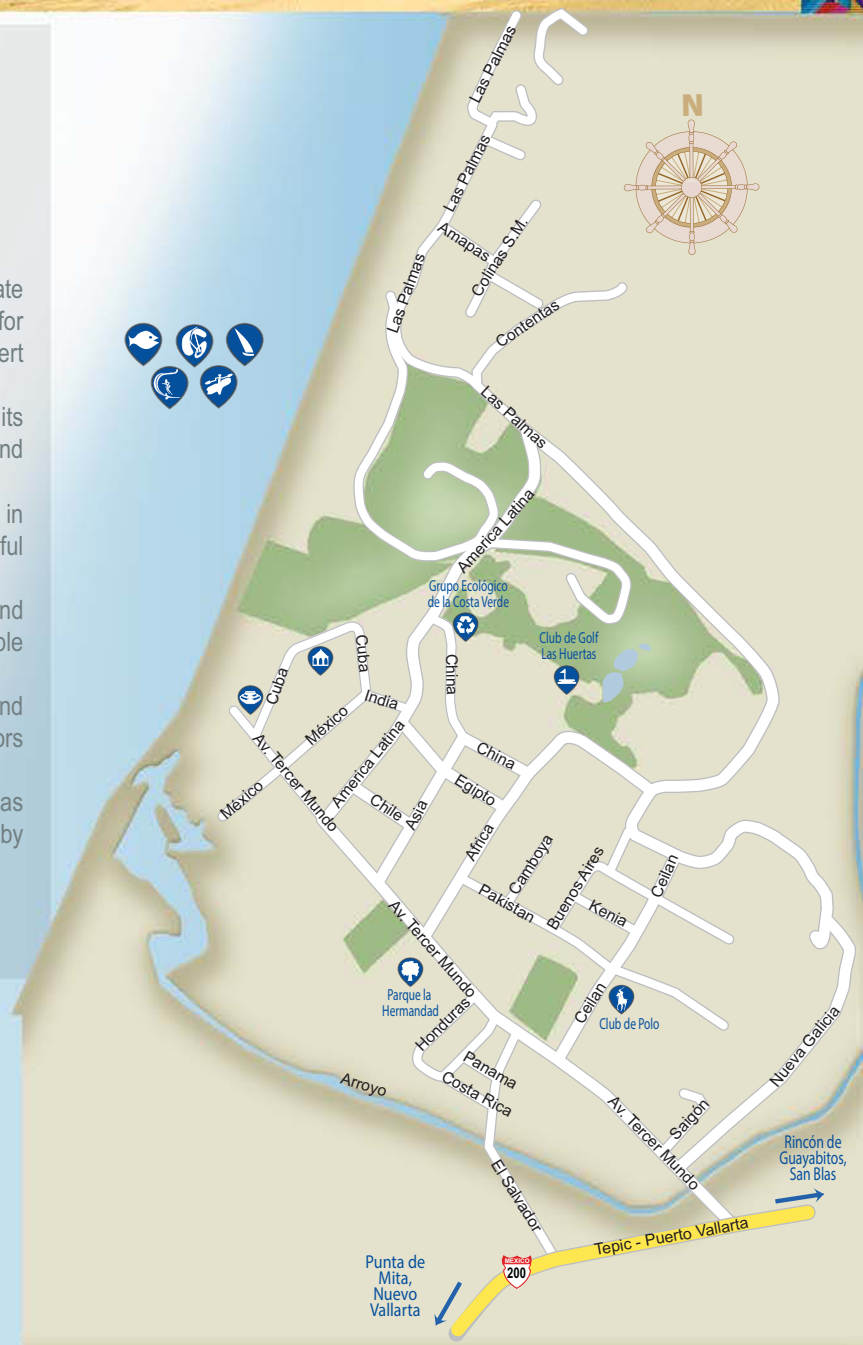
This is a great surfing location, beside it has a reputation for good food, and there are many restaurants where you can try a wide variety of delectable dishes.

This is a unique spot, where pristine white beaches meet jungle green, and old Mexico meets a new international fusion with the international visitors and residents.

Located walking distance from almost everywhere in San Pancho is Las Huertas Golf Club, a nine hole par 34 challenging course surrounded by gardens and fruit trees with amazing views.



Bird watching is a common practice in the area, but you have to be careful near the estuary, since it is also the habitat of alligators.



Lo de Marcos

The town has a very relaxed atmosphere and its beaches offer so many options, so much fun!

In Lo de Marcos, you will feel the essence of a true Mexican town. Calm streets, colorful flowering trees, and brilliantly painted façades. The small paradise offers hotels and villas. Its beaches, Los Venados, Las Minitas, El Atracadero and Lo de Marcos, are surrounded by green hills and whimsical rocks. You can ride the bay on a "banana" or in a kayak, and experience the excitement of surfing or snorkeling. Enjoy the beauty of the area and hire a boat to go fishing or to watch the whales during the winter season.

You can find the traditional Mexican bread sold on the beach and you may buy regional sweets like "tamarindos" a sweet and sour candy, and "cocada", made from coconut and sugar.



Lo de Marcos offers a beautiful kiosk, restaurants with home-style dishes, interesting craft shops and a friendly ambience.



Los Ayala y La Peñita

The destinations offer various recreational options, variety of lodging choices and unique traditional cuisine.

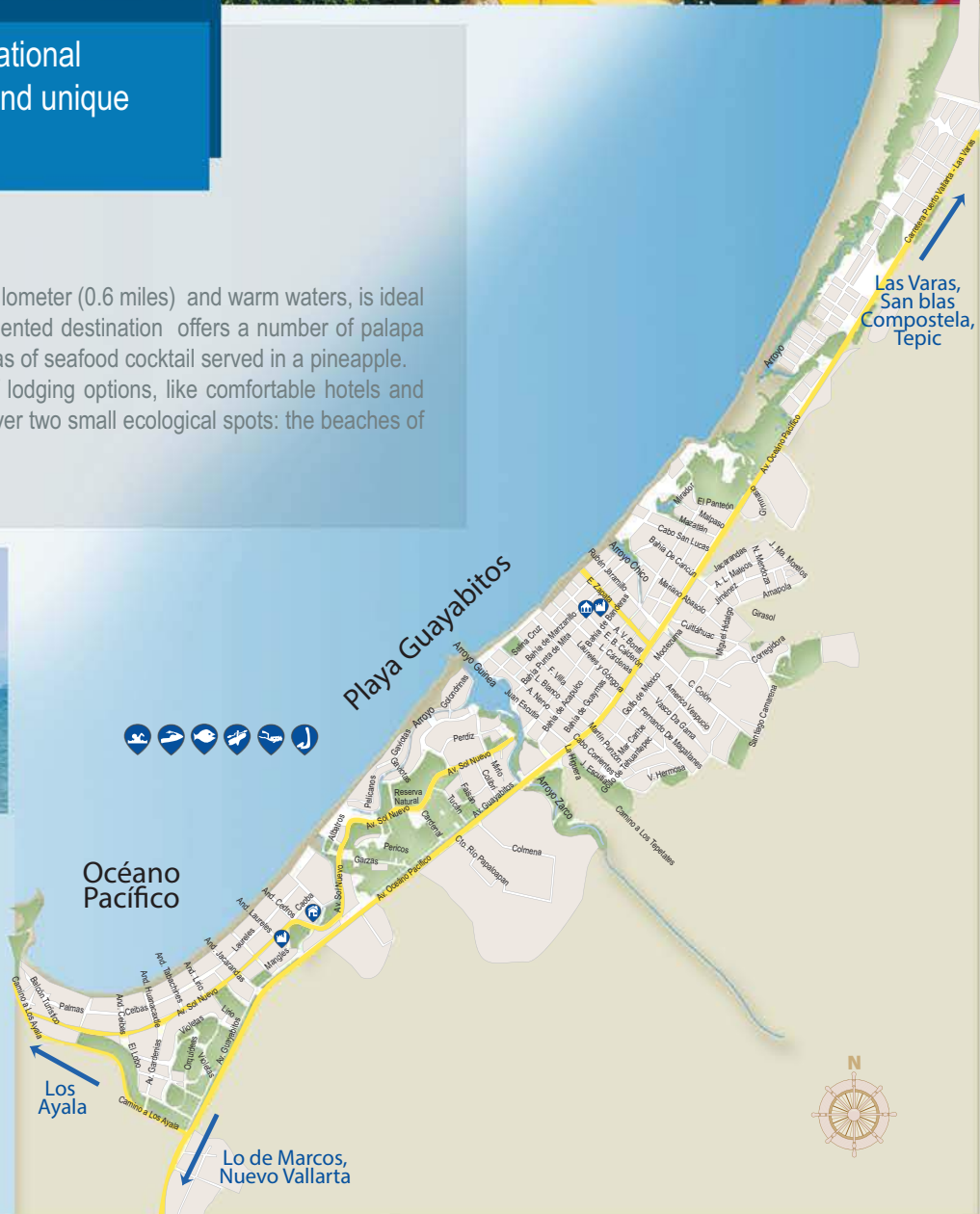
Los Ayala

With a golden-sand beach that stretches for one kilometer (0.6 miles) and warm waters, is ideal for a leisurely walk and swimming. This family-oriented destination offers a number of palapa restaurants with typical dishes like ceviche tostadas of seafood cocktail served in a pineapple. This small town has developed a wide variety of lodging options, like comfortable hotels and bungalows. In the west side of the hill you'll discover two small ecological spots: the beaches of Freideritas and Freideras.



La Peñita de Jaltemba

La Peñita, as it's commonly called, means "little rock". This coastal town with fairly calm waters and soft sand, offers seafood delicacies under a palapa on the beach. There is a "tianguis", outdoor market every Thursday along the streets of this fishermen's town, to offer handicrafts, silver jewelry and Mexican cuisine. El Naranjo Turtle Camp, located near La Peñita, invites all visitors to free ridley turtles during October and November.





Rincón de Guayabitos

During the winter season, you can take a kayak or a banana ride, or even hire a boat to see whales up close.

With a bay famous for resembling a giant swimming pool, fine sand beaches, the tropical vegetation and pleasant climate is the perfect place for various water sports and a premier family destination. There are a wide variety of accommodations. You can also enjoy an assortment of culinary delights such as coconut bread, shaved ices, fried bananas and dishes prepared with yaca, a tropical fruit typical of the region, and the traditional Crazy Pineapple, a delight which combines this fruit with chili powder and sweet syrup. In the town you can take a stroll along the main street where you will find a wide variety of souvenirs, handicrafts, jewelry, candy or “antojitos” (Mexican appetizers or snacks). It boasts three pristine beaches, ideal for fishing and scuba diving. Guayabitos Beach features a delightful parade of restaurants. You can visit Del Coral and Del Cangrejo Islands where you can admire beautiful natural landscapes close up and gaze upon a variety of birds or try scuba diving or snorkeling.





El Capomo, Chacala, Las Varas Boca de Chila, Punta de Custodio

Beaches that are a dream come reality and typical villages filled traditions.

El Capomo

Here the beaches wide, virgin, soft white sands surrounded by abundant vegetation and wetlands that comprise a protected natural area of 200 hectares (494 acres), home to a variety of birds and crocodiles. This destination is home to a nice campground.

Chacala

The picturesque village has narrow streets, craft shops and cozy restaurants. The main beaches of the destination are: Las Cuevas is known for its strong waves, Chacalilla is met with calmer waters and la Caleta is the ideal spot for surfers. The town offers charming ecological hotels. Chacala has been named a Gallery Town for its wide variety of birds.

Las Varas

Set in the heart of the Sierra de Vallejo, this is a town full of traditions. You can explore the Mataiza Lagoon, by either taking a boat ride or camping along its shore.

Palm Trees, lush green vegetation and beautiful surroundings as postcards of the Mexican countryside.

Boca de Chila

Before arriving in Boca de Chila, you will enjoy the watermelon and mango fields, as well as metal structures on which the enormous tobacco leaves are hung to dry.

The landscape is decorated with 7.5-kilometer (4.7-mile) white sand beach, lakes, springs and marshes. An excellent choice for camping, as well as turtle and whale watching. Ancient petroglyphs have been found here, and are on display in Zacualpan, a village 5 miles away. A region filled with mangrove swamps and home to a wide variety of birds, this destination offers true adventurers the opportunity to observe regional flora and fauna up close.

Punta el Custodio

Exuberant palm trees and the beautiful clear blue Pacific Ocean, are the landscape of this destination. La Tortuga and La Punta are ideal for surfing and kayak. Farther north you will come upon a small peninsula formed by whimsical rock formations known as Isla Bonita. And across from Punta El Custodio is Platanitos Beach, a great place to enjoy with the family. Many wonderful villas and condominiums of low ecological impact have been constructed in this destination, and it is home to one of the state's most important turtle sanctuaries.

A wide-angle photograph of a tropical coastal scene. In the foreground, a calm body of water with a blue-green hue reflects the clear sky. A small, rocky peninsula juts out into the water, topped with a cluster of tall palm trees and a small, light-colored building with a dark roof. To the left of the peninsula is a wide, sandy beach. The background shows a distant shoreline with more palm trees and low mountains under a bright, clear blue sky. A decorative vertical border with a colorful geometric pattern is visible on the right edge of the image. A blue banner with white text is overlaid on the bottom left corner.

Bahía de Matanchén
San Blas,

The main beach will satisfy the demands of surfers, water skiers, sailboat navigators and divers. Matanchén offers impressive palm trees, green hills, crystal-clear waters and Las Islitas, one of the icons of the bay. This formation of cliffs near the shore, are the perfect place for visitors seeking that memory photo. All along this beach you will find traditional thatched-roof huts serving up a variety of delicious traditional dishes such as fresh-prepared fish and seafood from the region.





San Blas

San Blas is known as the port where the Spanish priest Junípero Sierra, 'Father' of the California Missions, departed to California on 1768.

Visiting San Blas is like stepping back in time, a walk through these lovely streets will take you to a distant past. This town was founded by Nuño Beltrán de Guzmán in 1530, although King Charles III of Spain did not recognize it as a deep sea port until the second half of the 17th century. During these years, the port was constructed as a shipyard and in October of 1767 the first ships were put to sea. In San Blas, the first maritime customs house on the Pacific was established, and the town became the most important of the region during the Colonial period.

San Blas has many historic buildings and attractive places to visit as the main square, the parish and the neighboring temple ruins.

San Blas has many historic buildings and attractive places to visit. Near the pier is the Former Maritime Customs House built in the 19th century, currently used as the Culture House. In the San Basilio Hill is the "Contaduria" constructed in 1770 home to an historic museum. And just a few steps down the hill, are the ruins of the Nuestra Señora del Rosario Temple, built in 1769. From here, you can enjoy a spectacular view of the cliffs and the sea.

A visit to this historic town wouldn't be complete without enjoying all its beaches. El Borrego, a stretch of three kilometers (two miles) of fine golden sands, is one of the most frequented destinations among lovers of big waves. And after a quick boat ride, you can explore the wonders of Isla del Rey, a paradise of natural beauty where you can sample some of San Blas's culinary delights. Piedra Blanca is a small rock formation off the coast, where the image of the Nuestra Señora del Rosario Virgin —also known as La Marinera— is found and is also an important ceremonial center for the Huichol people.

Other natural wonders are the tropical marsh that includes the El Pozo estuary and the San Cristóbal River and, of course, the La Tovar National Park, with natural caves, a hatchery for conserving and reproducing crocodiles, and a natural spring that spouts crystal-clear water surrounded by small restaurants with regional cuisine. In La Tovar there is a tour where you can appreciate the variety of mangroves, birds, crocodiles and diverse wildlife, it last about three hours. Just one mile is Singayta, where you can rent horses, bikes or a boat to tour through the jungle and the mangrove swamps. The Isabel Island is 44 miles away, this is a volcanic island with cliffs and astonishing beaches, a refuge for thousands of birds.

You'll find lodging options to make your stay comfortable.



Mexcaltitán Island

It is a magical place between freshwater and the sea with a history full of legends.

A small island of floating mangroves and lowlands that is reputed to be the legendary Aztlan, birthplace and home city of the Aztec civilization. It is a unique place, since in its small area holds a well-developed urbana rea with streets that became navegable canal during rainy season, a central plaza, a church and an interesting museum with archeological pieces. It was decreed as a Historic Monuments Zone in 1986. You can try some of the local dishes like the Taxtihuil, made of shrimp and mole, of the tamales, shrimp tortillas and shrimp paté.



Your adventure begins with a boat ride to the island from the pier The Batanga. In your trip you will enjoy the journey through mangroves inhabited by a variety of birds.





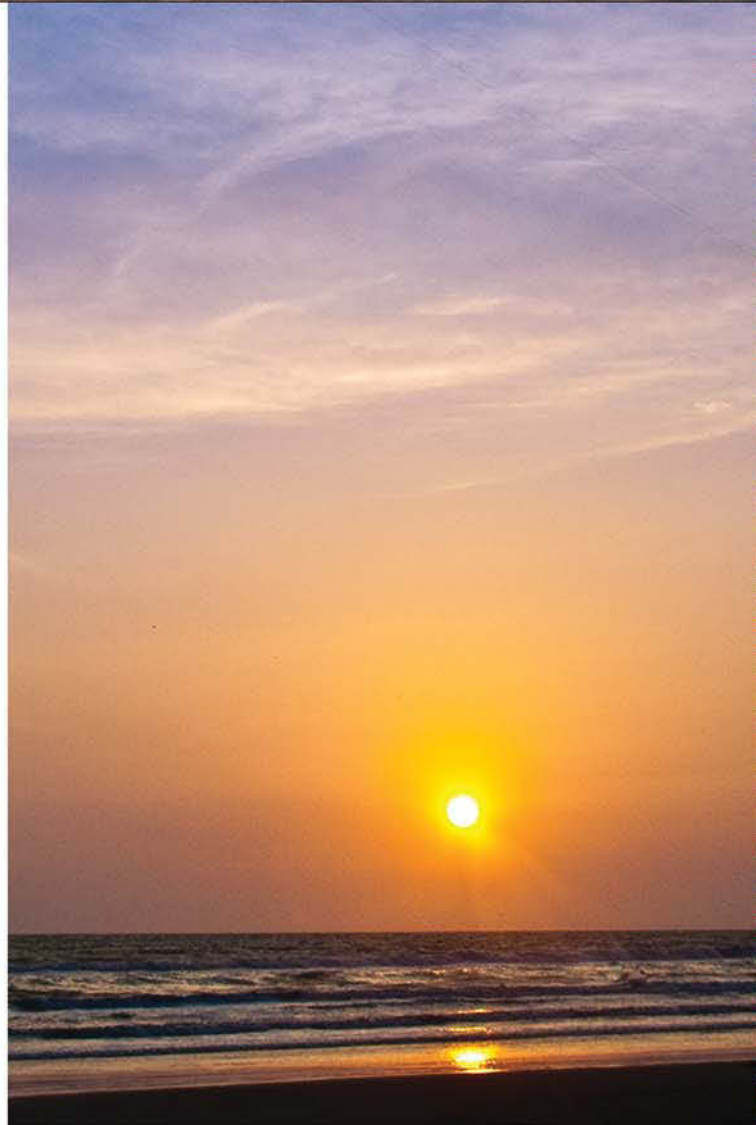
Costa Norte (North Coast)

The beaches in this region gives you the opportunity to experience nature at its most intimate level.

Santiago Ixcuintla, is a place that reflects the colors and essence of Mexico. Southeast of the town, there are some wonderful virgin beaches like Los Corchos, with calm blue water; Sesteo, with a turtle camp that protects the olive ridley turtle; and Boca de Camichín, where you can enjoy nature and ask the fishermen to show you their artisanal process of cultivating oysters. You can take a boat ride through the swamps to admire the great diversity of birds, and visit the Jaguar Island and spot some of these big cats. From here, you can also take a boat to get to Mextaltitan Island.

Novillero beach is the longest beach in Latin America stretching for almost 90 kilometers (56 miles) and measuring almost half a kilometer (a third of a mile) wide. The fine sands and the tranquil waves invites you to relax and surrender to its serenity.

There is still no formal lodging on these beaches.





Activities in Riviera Nayarit, Golf

There are 6 world-class golf courses in this destination and three more in project.

El Nayar Vindanta Golf Course is a Jim Lipe design course. Features a par of 71 and 7000 yards of challenging play. Includes seven magnificent lakes and 48 bunkers protecting fairways and green with impressive views of the Pacific Ocean, Ameca River and the surrounding Sierra Madre Mountains.

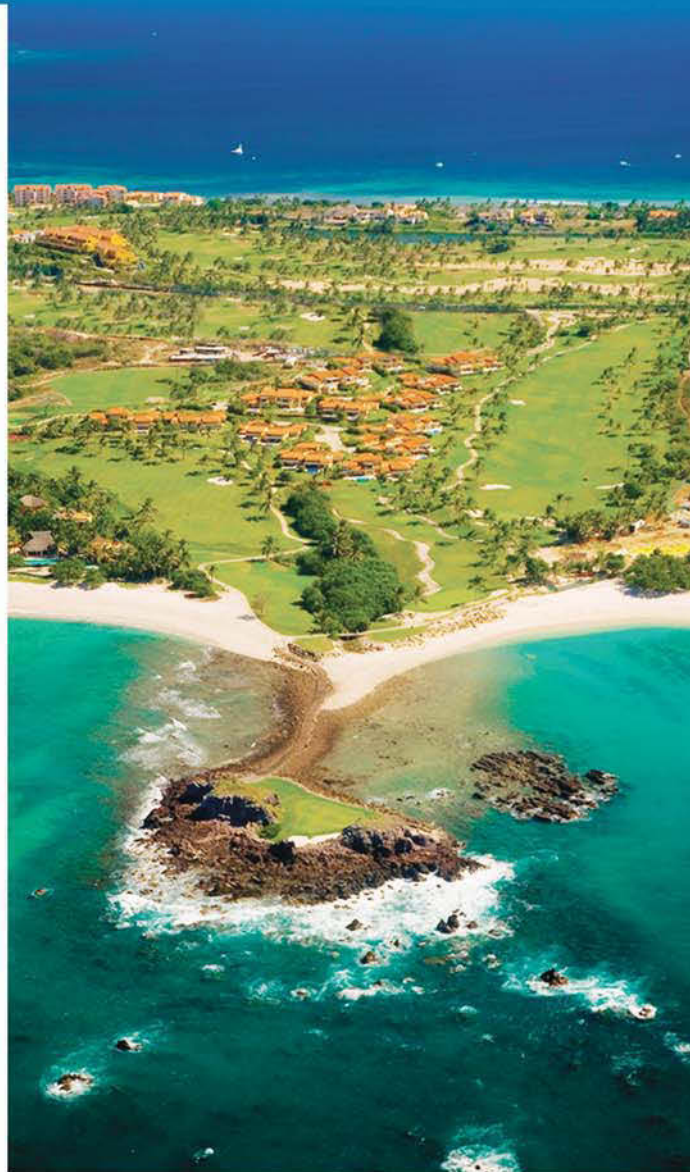
El Tigre Golf & Country Club, was created by designer Robert Von Hagge. This par 72 with 7,239 yards, is one of the most challenging in the family of excellent golf courses in Riviera Nayarit. It has 12 lakes and 3 beach sand bunkers.

Flamingosn Golf Course, designed by Percy Clifford. It is a par 71 with 6,982 yards. Golfers of all skill levels appreciate the course because it is challenging and fair. It is also set apart from others in the area due to its beautiful rolling hill terrain, lush tropical forest and natural lagoons and mangroves.















Litibú Golf Course, designed by Greg Norman. It is a par 72 with 7,022 yards. You will find a challenging course where 7 holes are a "link" style, 8 others are surrounded by virgin jungle, and the last 3 run along the Pacific Ocean with impressive views.

Pacifico Golf Course, designed by Jack Nicklaus. It is a par 72 with 7,014 yards. This course sprawls over 200 acres with a view of the ocean from each hole. The 3B hole, known as "Tail of the Whale", with its unique island green situated in what is perhaps the largest water hazard in the world.

Punta Mita Bahía Golf Club, designed by Jack Nicklaus. The course includes lush tropical landscaping with five holes that play along the ocean resulting even more spectacular from December to April when humpback whales can easily be spotted from shore.



FISHING

ESPECIE	ENE	FEB	MAR	ABR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AGO	SEP	OCT	NOV	DIC
 BLACK MARLIN	★★ ★★	★★★	*	*	★★	★★	★★★★	★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★
 BLUE MARLIN	★★★★	★★★★	*	*	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★
 STRIPED MARLIN	★★★★	*	*	*	*	★★	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
 SAILFISH	★★★★ ★★	★★ ★★	★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★
 AMBERJACK	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★ ★★	★★★★	*	*	*	*	★★★★
 DORADO MAHI-MAHI	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★ ★★	★★ ★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★
 GROUPE	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★ ★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
 COCONACO	★★★★	★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
 RED SNAPPER	★★★★	★★★★	★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★ ★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
 ROOSTERFISH	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★ ★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
 JACK CREVALLE	★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★ ★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
 SPANISH MACKEREL	★★★★	★★★★	★★ ★★	★★ ★★	★★ ★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★	★★	★★	★★	★★★★
 YELLOW FIN TUNA	★★	★★	★★	★★★★	★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★★★ ★★	★★ ★★	★★★★	★★★★
 WAHOO	★★★★ ★★	★★ ★★	★★★★	*	*	*	★★★★	★★ ★★	★★ ★★	★★ ★★	★★ ★★	★★★★

The destination is among the top sport-fishing spots in Mexico.

Two world fishing records have been established here in Mexico's Riviera Nayarit, one for wahoo, and one for a marlin weighing in at 709 pounds (322.2 kilos). The destination has been the host of important events like the International Sport Fishing Tournament in San Blas, this year is the 53rd edition with over 250 sport-fishing enthusiasts; and International Fishing Tournament at La Cruz de Huanacaxtle in its second edition. Fishing boats from beach rental pangas to large cruisers can be rented in Nuevo Vallarta, Bucerías, La Cruz, Punta Mita, Sayulita, Lo de Marcos and San Francisco. Some fishing charter services offering



Scuba Diving

The warm crystal waters with a rich marine life are a paradise for diving enthusiasts.

There are programs for both beginner and experienced divers. Among the best places are:

Las Marietas Islands Marine Reserve is part of an underwater mountain range. This site became famous worldwide after hosting dives and explorations by Jacques Cousteau during the 1970's. It is a great place for beginners, with depths of 25-75ft/7.5-23m and an average visibility of 39ft/12m.

El Morro is a diverse dive site suited to small groups of certified divers. The site is comprised of a series of rock pinnacles. Below the surface they provide a diverse mix of technical dive challenges including 150 foot depths, wall diving, caves and a 50 foot tunnel. The area is home to abundant marine life like tropical fish, lobsters, turtles, octopus, dolphins, sailfish, moray eels and manta rays, among others.

Los Anegados, it is a rock bank that provides a shallower dive filled with caves and interesting rock formations that begins at about 30 feet below the surface. This is a great spot for open water qualified divers to experience the generally gentle nurse sharks that are often sighted in this area. With a 30-80ft/9-25m depth and 30-90ft/9-28m visibility, these warm Pacific waters make for a great day of diving.



Snorkeling

There is a vast array of marine life and beautiful underwater scenery to delight snorkelers of all skill levels. Giant manta rays, sea turtles, exotic tropical fish and reefs with beautiful coral formations are plentiful in the bays and coastline. Organized snorkeling excursions often combine several activities including sailing or cruising to the snorkeling site, swimming, kayaking and keeping a watchful eye out for playful dolphins, whales and indigenous colorful tropical birds, a real tropical paradise experience.



Surf

The coast of the Riviera Nayarit has several beaches ideal for different levels of surfers.

Among the best places are:

The Cove & El Faro in Punta de Mita. The tide is high and gets shallow on low tide. Bottom is sandy with rock. The normal length is 50 to 150 m. Good waves off the beach near the end of the point in Banderas Bay.

El Anclote. Type, longboard, right reef-rocky. Good beginner break. Mellow pitch, slow, and long, usually 2-4 ft, right. On lower tides the inside section gets shallow. The direction is right and in the bottom there is coral and sharp rocks. The normal length is 50 to 150 m. La Lancha. Type, longboard, most rights some left. Good longboard wave. Best on incoming tide, then outgoing tide. Shallow on low tide. Watch out for Coral heads and sharp rocks, especially near the take off. The normal length is 150 to 300 m.

Punta Burros. Great, favorite break in the area. The high tide is best, but works on most anything. Left is steeper and throws a bit. Right is longer with a mellower pitch. Bottom is flat rocks with sand. The normal length is 50 to 150 m. Wave is consistent and fun. Good beginner/intermediate spot.

Sayulita. Decent wave that goes without much swell. Longboard, shortboard. Mostly rights. Right off the main beach is a consistent swell that's great for beginning surfers and long boarders.

Los Veneros or Dinosaurs. This is a classic reef break with a long right It is a great short board wave, but long boarders enjoy it too.

The Pools. This is a fast hollow right that pitches big time. The easiest way to get to the break is to simply paddle over to it. The bottom has coral and sharp rocks. This is a hollow fast wave that should only be tried by experienced surfers or spongers.

Punta Custodio. It is a Rivermouth. The direction is right and left. Bottom is sandy. The length is long, 150 to 3000 m.

La Caleta. This is a deep water peak that unwinds down a perfect left point. Long rides on steep and perfect walls follow a stimulating drop and bottom turn on the peak.

Matenchen Bay. Reputed to be the longest ride-able wave in the world, Matenchen Bay offers an excellent long right point over a cobblestone and sand bottom.

Stoners. Breaks more frequently and offers a wonderful right point with hollow sections.

Las Islitas was once famous for the longest wave in the world. The direction is right and left. The bottom is sandy with rock. The normal length is very long from 300 to 500 m. A great a place to beginners.



Playa El Borrego. Sometimes it break and is much more common right. The bottom is sandy with rock. The normal length goes from 300 to 500 m.

Lolas. An excellent left point, you will find a long and sometimes hollow left. The bottom has reef and sharp rocks. The normal length is 50 to 150 m. No crowds, remote jungle, regional class surf and barrels.



Sailing

Riviera Nayarit is recognized as one of the worlds' premier sailing destinations.

Sailing

With its beautiful coastline, Pacific waters, its prevailing currents and its friendly winds, it provides the perfect setting for all types of sailing excursions.

There are a variety of sailing tours for all tastes and levels of experience. You can try a small catamarans that provide wet thrilling rides. Or, you can set sail on a Luxury Sailing excursion aboard a sophisticated Beneteau sailboat and visit secluded bays and picture perfect beaches where you can just lay back or swim, snorkel and relax with great food and drink.

Canopy Zip Lining

Experiencing the beauty of the emerald mountain forest, combined with zip lining across the jungle canopy from treetop to treetop, is an unforgettable experience. Your exploration will take you on jungle paths, suspended walkways and platforms, up ladders and down via rappels. Your adrenaline will pump and you'll feel the rush while zip lining high above the jungle floor from platform to platform amidst giant tropical trees and an abundance of wild orchids and native birds. The Canopy Adventure Park with it's a half-day of short hikes on jungle paths and plenty of zip lining "whooshes", is a nice way to enjoy this thrilling experience.





Adventure

There are so many beautiful places to be experienced in Riviera Nayarit.

Horseback Riding

There are a variety of guided excursions available, for beginners or for experienced riders. And there are romantic Sunset Horseback riding options as well. You can head into the jungle and riding trails that have you traverse streams and rivers and even include stops for swimming in natural pools under waterfalls!

ATV Tour

Racing down trails into the jungle, splashing through rivers and kicking up the mud as you navigate across plantations and farmlands is an incredible way to enjoy adventure and the beauty of the countryside in Riviera Nayarit. There are a variety of ATV excursions available including one that combines canopy zip lining, and another that features an 8-wheel Amphibian ATV.

Rapel Adventure

This excursion has all kind of adventures: a wild rush across the treetops through the jungle, canopy on a diverse series of zip lines, rappelling down waterfalls, zipping across streams, and a splash down into natural river pools.





Ecotourism

One of the most amazing attractions in Riviera Nayarit is turtle releasing.

Turtle Release Program

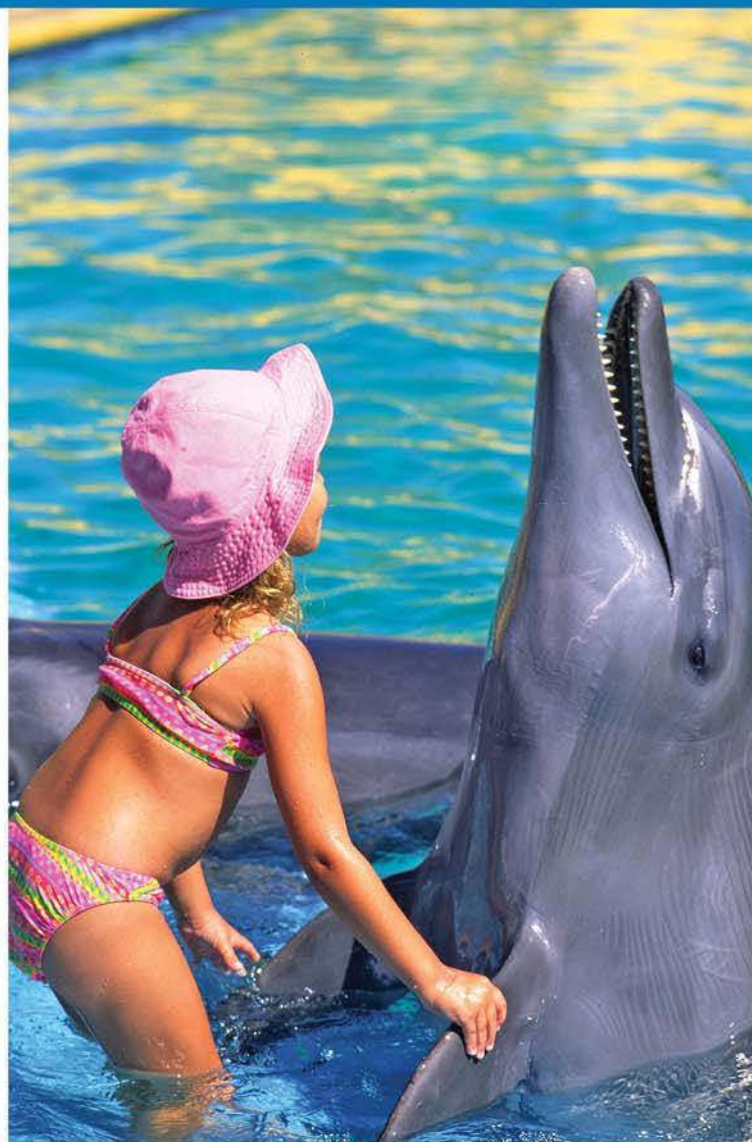
Thousands of Olive Ridley Turtles who were born on the region's beaches return every year to build nests and lay their egg. Turtle farms dedicated to the harvesting, hatching and releasing of baby sea turtles are a fascinating interactive attraction that delights visitors. There is a tour that combines a visit to "El Quelele", a marshy lagoon where crocodiles live in a protected environment.

Sea Lion Encounter

Sea lions are friendly, fun loving and provide an unforgettable nature encounter for adults and children alike. Getting nose to whisker and interacting with these energetic creatures is sure to be a unique experience.

Swimming With Dolphins

Along the coast of Riviera Nayarit you can often see Pacific bottlenose dolphins jumping, playing and even heard "laughing" in their natural ocean environment. There are several dolphin programs that are available so you are sure to find one that is perfect for every age group and activity level. Interacting with dolphins in Riviera Nayarit is sure to create memories that will last a lifetime.





Ecotourism

Riviera Nayarit is the perfect place to explore and discover birds.

Whale Watching

Every year, from mid-December to the end of March, vacationers to Riviera Nayarit can enjoy one of the most spectacular whale watching one can experience anywhere in the world. The popular whale-watching excursion takes you up close to see and photograph the action.

Bird Watching

Today there are around 350 species of birds in Riviera Nayarit's ecosystems. There are a variety of bird watching excursions available. You can visit mangroves, waterways, mountains and forests. A tour that includes exploring Quelele Lagoon Birds is a perfect way to enjoy a nature encounter and the beauty of a Purple Gallinule, an American Coot or a Green Heron. Near creeks and in forests, you may come across Vermilion Flycatcher, Rufous-backed Robin, Squirrel Cuckoo and even most likely see lots of Orange-fronted Parakeets. Very near San Blas, there are riverboat trips to La Tovar Mangroves where bird watchers are able to see Rufous-necked Wood-rail, Puarquees, Purple Gallinules, Bare-throated Tiger Heron, and Northern Potoo, Northern Jacanas, Mangrove Warbler and Vireo, the impressive Boat-billed Heron nesting and lots of Green Kingfishers.





Spas

Recover, Rejuvenation and Relieve tension.

The hotels and resorts in Riviera Nayarit feature sophisticated spas with rejuvenating luxurious treatments. Let yourself be pampered with a massage in the midst of natural beauty and listening the sound of waves, a real gift that allows the body, mind and soul to find refuge and rest.

Enjoy a lavish seaweed facial mask with honey and almonds. Soak in a hydro-massage bath or take in the breathtaking view of the Pacific Ocean as you receive a manicure. Experience herbal steam and eucalyptus therapy or rid your muscles of tension with hot stone treatments or a Shiatsu massage at the hands of a skilled specialist. Experience the spiritual temazcal, a pre- Hispanic tradition whose name means "house of steam." The treatment involves venturing into a small adobe chamber for a period of time, where the vapors of medicinal herbs slowly revitalize you as a Shaman guides your spiritual journey.





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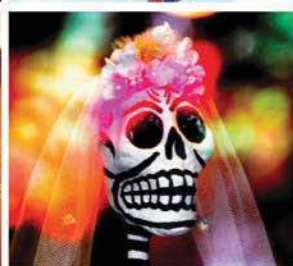
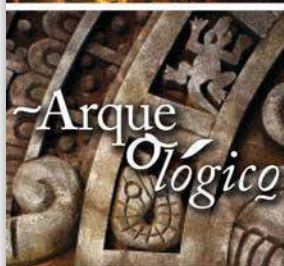


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In Colonial Nayarit

A place where time practically stands still, you should not be in a hurry...Nayarit.



The cultural legacy can be seen in the architecture, museums and traditions. The first colonial towns were established in the valleys between the mountain ranges and the coast of Nayarit. And in many of these towns magnificent estates and impressive churches were built. The inhabitants of these cities are naturally excellent hosts, and you can enjoy of this warm, relaxing atmosphere in the old houses converted to a comfortable hotels.

Tepic, the starting point for exploring many tourist attractions in Nayarit.

Tepic

Tepic was founded in 1531 by Nuño de Beltrán as Santiago de Galicia de Compostela, the capital of the Kingdom of New Galicia (a territory comprised of the states of Jalisco, Colima, Nayarit, Aguascalientes, Durango, Sinaloa and San Luis Potosí). Tepic combines its modern buildings and services with a rich historical legacy. In this city, you can delve into Nayarit's fascinating culture thanks to its many museums, historic buildings and variety of traditions.



Tepic

Tepic, capital of Nayarit, colonial city with modern services.

The best way to begin your tour of the capital of Nayarit is in the downtown, starting with the nice Plaza de Armas. Walk around a bit and admire the Neo-Gothic Purísima Concepción Cathedral, majestic building with its twin 40-meter high towers, built between 1804 and 1896. You will also find the Cruz del Zacate Temple; the Former Franciscan convent where Junipero Serra lived before his journey to Alta California; and the Government Palace constructed in the 19th century and housing murals of José Luis Soto.

You can continue your visit to Tepic by exploring the museums like: the Regional Museum of Anthropology where you will find numerous pieces from the original cultural groups that inhabited the western region of the state and works of the most outstanding artists of Nayarit.

The Juan Escutida House-Museum located in a building from the 18th century, birthplace of the national hero, exhibits guns, paintings, uniforms, flags and other objects of different battalions of Mexico.

The Amado Nervo House-Museum, construction of the 19th century where this renowned poet was born and which now houses documents, photographs and personal objects, and furniture from this acclaimed writer known as the First Poet of America. The Cinco Pueblos museum showcases handicrafts, traditions and cultural manifestations of ethnic groups such as the Huichol, Cora, Tepehuan and Mexicanero communities; it also exhibits arrows, gourds, hats and traditional clothing. The Emila Ortiz Museum, features a variety of visual art collections of various disciplines such as painting, photography, engraving and sculpture. The Interactive Museum of Science & Innovation Nayarit, a museum with an educative focus where people can experience science, technology and innovation through numerous interactive devices.

All the beaches of Nayarit are just 90 minutes away or less from Tepic.



Tepic

Haciendas old buildings, witnesses and protagonists in the history of Nayarit.

You can also visit the former haciendas like: San Cayetano built in the early 18th century, it was one of the most important in the region. The Bellavista textile factory, a historical treasure that dates back to the 19th century and is located seven kilometers (four miles) from Tepic. The Hacienda de Puga where was founded one of the most modern sugar mills of the 19th century. The Hacienda de Mora, built in the 17th century with a quarry façade with arches surrounded by courtyards and gardens.

Also be sure to visit the Ecological Park, a green escape where you will find playground equipment for the youngsters and a small zoo.





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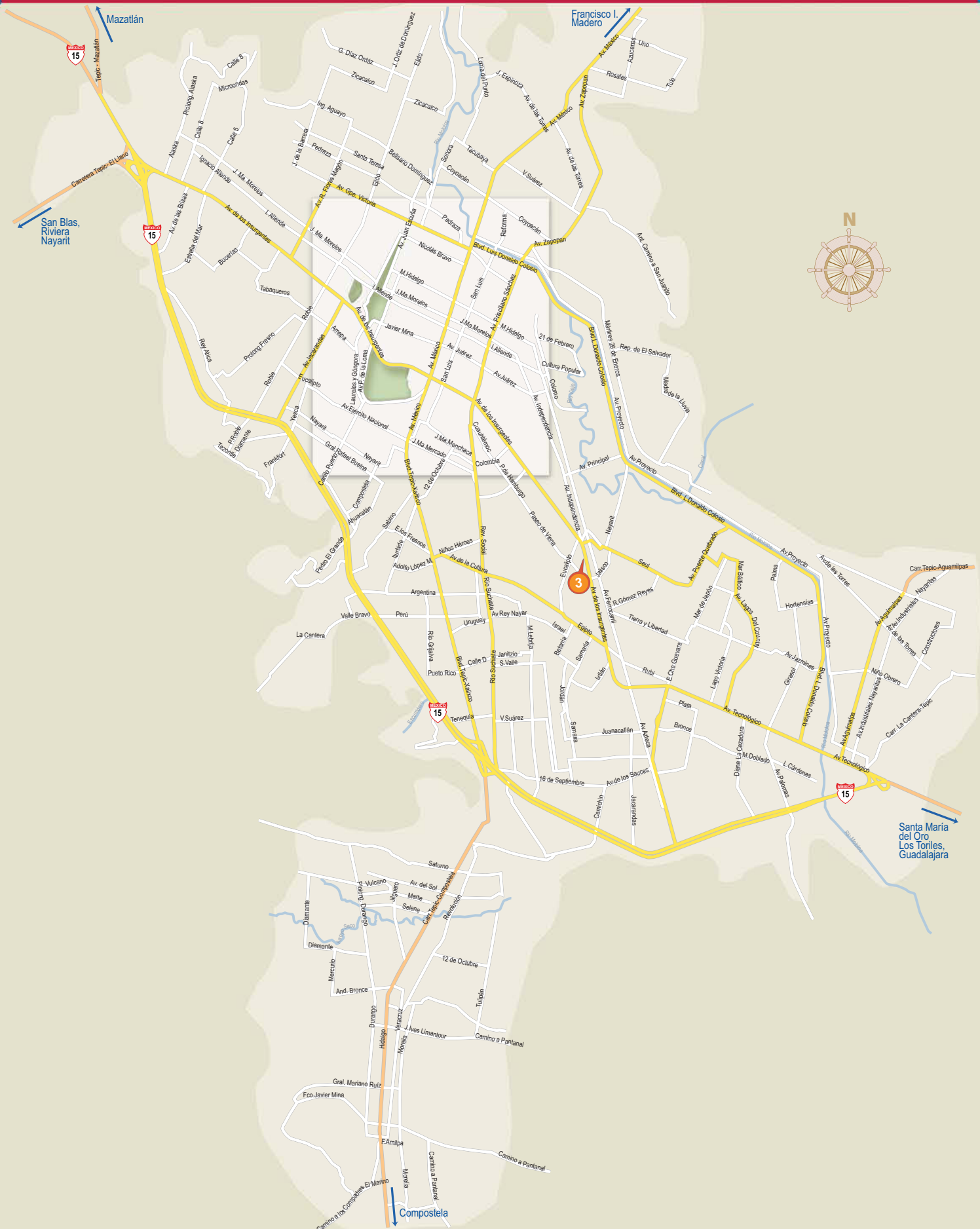
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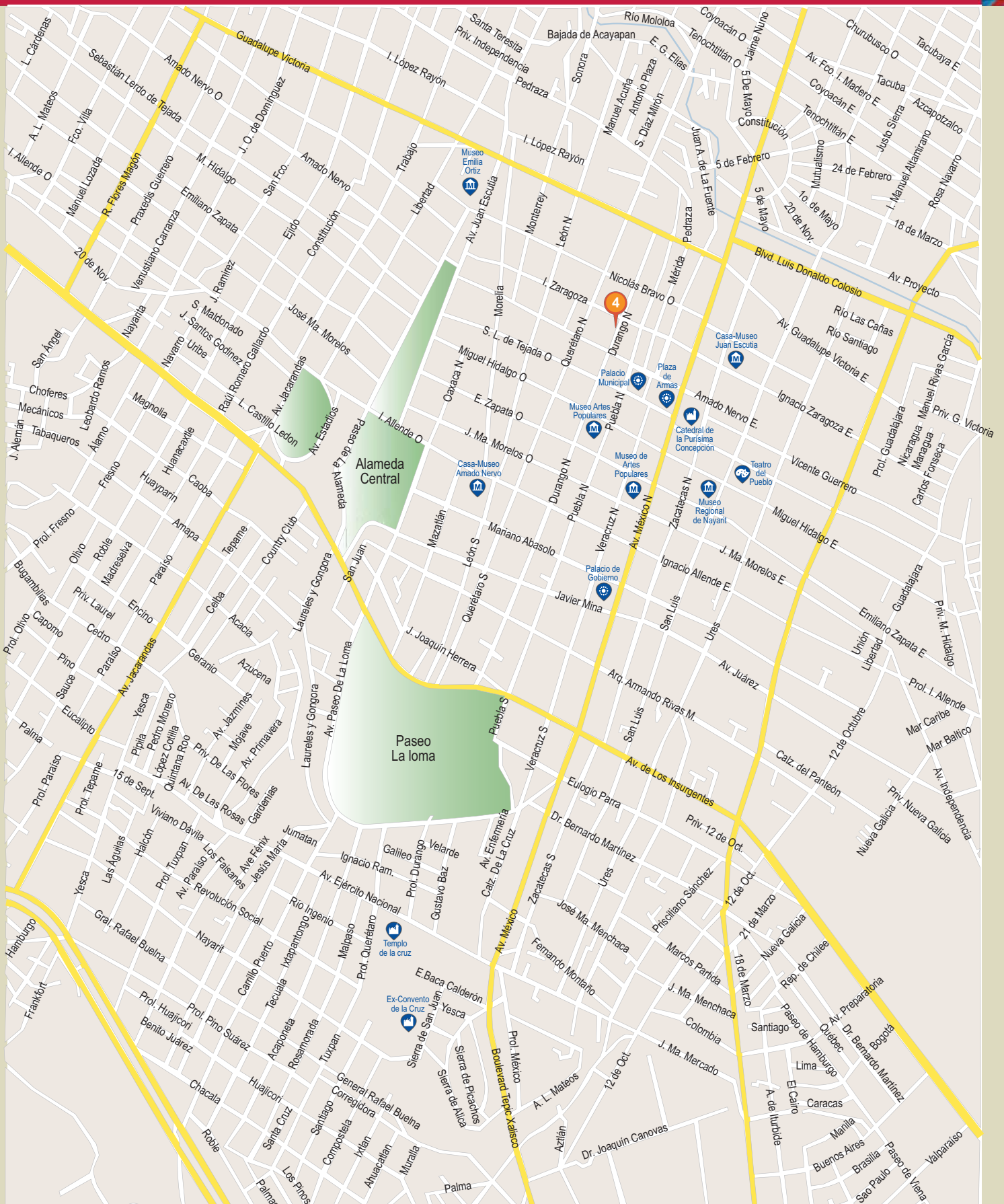
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Map of Tepic



Downtown Map of Tepic





Ahuatlán, Ixtlán del Río, Amatlán de Cañas

In Ahuacatlán you should try the traditional mango caramel.

Ahuatlán

The historic center is a quiet area famous for warm and friendly atmosphere. You can visit the churches of San Francisco de Asis and the Inmaculada Concepcion, the City Hall and the Culture House. The region has a good climate and several swimming spas like: Acatique, Las Tinajas and La Cueva del Jaguar, among others.

Amatlán de Cañas

In this town it seems that time has stopped, and life is lived more gently. Amatlán is nestled in a valley surrounded by mountains and steep rocky canyons with unique natural features and landscapes. You can visit: the Temple of Jesús Nazareno and the Temple of San Juan Bautista. los templos de Jesús Nazareno y de San Juan Bautista. Although, the hot springs spas are the main attractions in the area. El Manto is a hot spring spa with natural pools and three beautiful waterfalls.

It has all the amenities of a city, and the traditions and customs of a small town.

Ixtlán del Río

It has all the amenities of a city, and the traditions and customs of a small town.

The best way to enjoy Ixtlán del Río is to simply wander around and see in detail every corner and ancient buildings as the Temple of San Juan Apostol and the Regional Anthropology Museums, one of them located in the City Hall.

During your visit you can enjoy a traditional ice cream or the typical sweets in the main plaza.

You can also visit the Los Toriles archaeological site, located only 9 kilometers (4 miles) from the town. This important site, is one of the leading exponents of architecture during the Postclassic period. It has 93 structures, but the highlight of this complex is the circular pyramid known as a Quetzalcoatl or Ehécatl temple.



Xalisco, Jala, Compostela



Compostela has narrow streets and ancient houses

Magical town with picturesque cobblestone streets and old adobe houses with red tiles roofs.

Compostela

It is located 36 km (22 miles) from Tepic. You can visit the Temple of Señor de la Misericordia built in the 16th century, one of the oldest in Nayarit; and the Museum of History and Anthropology which exhibits interesting pieces found in the archaeological sites of the region and the history of colonial and independence periods.

Xalisco

It is part of the metropolitan area of Tepic. You can visit the Miguel Hidalgo Plaza, the Community Museum, and the springs of the area.

Jala

Jala is located at the foot of the giant volcano Ceboruco, from which you can enjoy a splendid view of all nearby villages. Also, you can walk to the main crater and enjoy the incredible scenery surrounded by solidified volcanic rock that resembles a lunar landscape.

In the heart of the village stands the “Basílica Lateranense de Nuestra Señora de la Asunción” with a mixture of Roman and Gothic styles and beautiful stained-glass windows. In the main plaza you can enjoy a tejuino, (a cold beverage made from fermented corn and sugar) and freshly baked “gordita” (a flat bread made from corn flour and stuffed with cheese, meat or other fillings).

In this town there is the ancient tradition of the “healers”, harmonizing imbalances whether emotional, spiritual or physical, so if you want to learn more about this tradition, Jala is an excellent choice.



Majestic space surrounded by important mountain ranges



Several indigenous groups like the Coras, Huicholes, Tepehuanos and Mexicaneros settled in this area, and have preserved their ancestral customs and traditions. Many communities are engaged in making beautiful handicrafts. The area has tourist services provided through indigenous communities.

Acaponeta

It is the gateway to the Sierra del Nayar. It is known as the "Athens of Nayarit", for its cultural tradition, but it is also called the "City of Gardenias", since it is full of colourful flowers because a privileged location near a river of the same name.

It has an attractive museum dedicated to the great indigenous artist Vladimir Cora, and the Ali Chumacero House of Culture, a 19th century mansion that houses an exhibit of archaeological pieces, paintings and sculptures. You can also visit the Temple of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción built in the 16th century with a Plateresque style, the City Hall, a building from the early 20th century and the Sanctuary of the Virgin of Guadalupe. You can also have a stroll along the city aboard the Train 038.

Rosamorada

It has a large area of marshes and you can take time to explore the area. Visitors will notice Pimientillo with the nice Agua Brava Lagoon that provides habitat to a wide variety of birds.

Do not miss the opportunity to taste a typical dish made with freshly caught shrimp.

Ruíz

You can visit the Temple of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe and the old Railway Station dating from the early 20th century. During the rainy season you can have fun in the natural water parks such as El Salto, The Malpaso, The Tenamache and The Pozolillo. You can also visit old mining towns like Real Mineral del Zopilote.

Tuxpan

Nestled along the banks of the San Pedro River is a nice boardwalk where you can enjoy the landscape. You can visit the San Miguel Arcangel Parish and the Community Museum. The local cuisine is based on fish and seafood. Four kilometers from the municipal seat is the archeological zone of Coamiles rich with petroglyphs and with several structures made out of stucco. There is also an Archeological Museum with an interesting collection of pieces found in the region. For those who enjoy nature is the Palapar Ecological Reserve consisting of lagoons and an maze of mangroves home to a rich biodiversity.



El Nayar, La Yesca, Huajicori

Natural beauty and ancient indigenous culture.

El Nayar

The main ethnic groups in the area are the Cora and the Huichol. One of the greatest cultural expression in the area takes place during the Holy Week. This tradition is considered an Intangible World Heritage by UNESCO and merges indigenous tradition and animistic beliefs with the Christian dogma. Hundreds of wildly running men painted all over with their semi-naked bodies, fighting ritual battles with wooden swords and dancing crazily.

There are some other interesting towns in the region like: Jesús María, Mesa del Nayar, Santa Teresa de Jesús, Huaynamota and Potrero de la Palmita, where you can buy traditional crafts. You can also visit the Franciscan mission of La Mesa del Nayar.

There is Wixarika Community called Ethno tourism group Kawí mana Kau that are focused on the preservation of Wixárika Huichol culture. Here you can find typical dishes based on traditional recipes. Beside you will find community museums where you can learn about the history of this culture and a small craft market. There are guided eco-tours where you can learn about the flora and fauna of the rainforest of Zapote de Picacho. You can also have a boat ride in the Aguamilpa Dam or enjoy the nature in special camping areas.

Another Ethno tourism group called Tawexikta "Place of the Sun" offers 4 ecological cabins and a restaurant with typical regional food. There are tours to admire the flora and fauna as well as a center for selling handmade Wixárika crafts.

La Yesca

La Yesca is characterised by an impressive mountain landscape that remind us the scenery of central Europe. The attractive town has an 18th century church. The forest surroundings provide an ideal place for ecotourism. Nearby is Huajimic, where you can buy delicious variety of fresh cheeses, unique in the entire state.

huajicori

The main ethnic groups in the area are the tepehuanes and mexicaneras. Huajicori church is the only Baroque style building in Nayarit. There are a series of petroglyphs in the community of El Faizan commonly known as La Pila de los Monos (Monkey stack).



Lagunas Encantadas, (Enchanted Lagoons)

Dozens of volcanoes and water mirrors, a perfect combination of nature.



This region is located in the center of the state of Nayarit, and the volcanic craters have been transformed into a breathtakingly beautiful lagoons. Here you will find small boutique hotels offering good services. The lagoons are ideal for any kind of water sports, including sport fishing.

San Pedro Lagunillas

The lagoon in San Pedro is a great place to go fishing, here you will find a lot of tilapia and bass. You can find a number of restaurants along the lagoon where you can enjoy a wonderful fish prepare in many different ways. The area is ideal for mountain biking, camping and canoeing. In the town you can buy delicious homemade cheese on one side of the City Hall and visit the Temple of Apóstol San Pedro, the Community Museum, los Terebintos Garden, or the Main Square.

An extinct volcanic crater crowned by a beautiful lagoon.

Santa María del Oro

Their sulphurous waters with an average temperature of 25°C (77°F), are ideal for swimming, boating, and year round fishing. Few minutes before arriving at the lagoon, is the village of the same name where you can visit the Temple of Señor de la Ascención. At the edge of the lagoon there are several luxury boutique hotels and restaurants offering typical dishes of the region like: fish chicharrones (deep fried meat), the "cuachala" (chicken or shredded pork in tomato broth, chilies and corn) and baked "capirotada" (toast bread with banana chips, raisins, nuts and peanuts covered with brown sugar syrup and cheese). Here you can enjoy all water sports, such as kayaking, skiing, skateboarding, etc..

The mountainous surroundings are ideal for mountain biking, trekking and bird watching.

In Real de Acuitapilco, there is a recreation center with luxury cabins among waterfalls, springs and the ruins of an old hacienda.

Map of Nayarit



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