



PUNTA MITA, MEXICO

A safe vacation in Mexico means not only privacy and ample social distancing in a spot far from city crowds and tourists, it also means the peace of mind that a well-guarded gated community brings when safety is at top of mind. A vacation in Mexico is sweetly enhanced when it is an eight- or nine-room Mexico beach villa with a view of the Bay of Banderas, plenty of dedicated service and the sumptuous amenities that come with lodging in an exclusive resort community.

PUNTA MITA LOCATION

These villas and mansions in Mexico can be found on the peaceful peninsula of Punta Mita on the Riviera Nayarit just above Puerto Vallarta. The exclusive gated community of Punta Mita offers some of the most luxurious real estate in Mexico with two five-star resorts, two famous gold courses, several clubs, miles and miles of private beach and an array of special amenities to be tapped. Unlike other private estates and villas in other locations, the Mexico villa rentals in Punta Mita are not only exquisite in position and expanse, they are also located comfortably close to chic Puerto Vallarta to the south and the artsy, exploration-worthy backwater villages of Sayulita, Bucerias, San Pancho, San Francisco and San Blas nearby.

BEACHES IN PUNTA MITA

Punta Mita is surrounded by water on all sides, whether the breakers of the Pacific Ocean to the west, the coastline of Litibu to the north or the Bay or the Bay of Banderas to the south. There is no shortage of soft sand shoreline walks to take. For the active set, surfing Punta Mita can be a goal and a challenge. El Anclote along the southern flank of Punta Mita is a somewhat exposed reef break with excellent surf for surfing activity all year. According

to locals, when the waves are on, they create the longest right break in North America. Other top surf spots in Punta Mita to consider are “La Lancha” or “La Bahía,” both along the Bahía de Banderas and only accessible via a narrow trail through a jungle reserve or by boat – which keeps the waves free and the beaches quiet. Surfboard rental kiosks are in abundant supply in the villages.

THINGS TO DO IN PUNTA MITA

Beaches are only a bit of the story when it comes to the best things to do in Punta Mita. The Pacific Ocean around Nayarit is a sublime spot for whale watching in the winter months. On any given day from November through March it is possible to see humpbacks, Bryde's whale and minke whales, Orcas and other giants of the seas frolicking and feeding in the warm Pacific waters.

Snorkeling is also a favorite thing to do in Punta Mita, especially if you join a tour or rent a private boat and head to the nearby Marietas Islands – a marine sanctuary just off the peninsula. Watch noisy, officious blue-footed boobies nesting on the rocks and follow sea caves into mystical openings of quiet and wonderment.

Rent a car and follow uncrowded roads up the coast to lazy, artsy fishing and surfing villages for fun days of beachfront dining, souvenir hunting and swimming. Favorites include the bustling beach town of Sayulita, the artistic backwater of San Pancho and the Thursday crafts market in La Cruz. Head to San Blas for some gourmet dining, deserted beaches and a lively, if not authentic, village square.

GOLF IN PUNTA MITA

Within Punta Mita's 1,500-acre stingray-shaped outcropping can be found the Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita, St. Regis Punta Mita Resort, two Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Courses, and beach clubs that either overlook or abut Punta Mita's nearly ten miles of coastline.

The Pacifico Golf Course Punta Mita is a par-72 course known for its legendary “3b-style hole” —the only one in the world. Locally called the “whale's tale,” it is found on its own natural island some 199 yards from the tee and along the beach.

The course was designed by Jack Nicklaus and is joined by another notable course, the Punta Mita Bahía. As a second par-72 course, it is a challenge for golfers with 18 holes is distributed over hilly terrain and surrounded by exotic gardens. Find five par-threes, eight par-fours, and five par-fives on these green slopes that offer a deep bunker on the left side. Naturally, these courses

come with heavenly ocean surroundings and mild cooperating weather most of the year.

Both courses, as part of the Punta Mita Club de Golf, come with admittance privileges. Spa admittance and treatments at the St. Regis Punta Mita and Four Seasons Punta Mita are also available to many villa guests.

SHOPPING IN PUNTA MITA

Shopping in the villas and resort areas is not as much fun as the shopping to be found in Puerto Vallarta. Take a taxi (settle on price first and be VERY specific on the exact destination of drop off) or car into town – about 45 minutes away, to wander old, colonial stone streets of Puerto Vallarta. Galleries teem with the colorful folk art of the local Huichol people, who create boldly colored paper mâché animal fetishes and other artistic ornaments. Explore handmade furniture galleries, paintings, Talavera pottery shops, magnificent wraps and jewelry and often for a song, if you bargain well. There are crafts markets along the Cuale River that divides the town into the downtown area north of the river and the Romantic Zone (Old Vallarta) to the south.

RESTAURANTS IN PUNTA MITA

Dining in Punta Mita is best enjoyed at the clubs and hotels, for high-end treats and celebrations. Recommended: Sufito, a beachfront lunch spot offering ceviches and lobster specials. Tuna Blanca is a notable oceanfront fine dining venue, or make it Si Señor for fresh barefoot Mexican cuisine. Naturally, many of the villas and Mansions in this spot in Mexico come with private chefs for length of stay or on demand. Many Hollywood glitterati, from Vince Vaughn, Jennifer Aniston, Eva Longoria, Demi Moore, Orlando Bloom, Kim Kardashian and Selena Gomez have found this option a convenient solution for their Punta Mita vacations.

PUNTA MITA AIRPORT AND TRANSPORTATION

Travel to Punta Mita is easy considering it is a two-hour flight from Los Angeles to Puerto Vallarta and then a 45- to 60-minute scenic road trip north. Puerto Vallarta International Airport (PVR) is well-served by a variety of airlines and as actually closer to Punta Mita than to Vallarta. Ground transportation is available from the airport to Punta Mita or order up meet and greet VIP service from such companies as Aero Movil.