

Puerto Vallarta, State of Jalisco, Mexico

Puerto Vallarta was discovered in 1541 by the Spanish conquistador Don Pedro de Alvarado. Its bay surrounded by mountains and jungle caused it to be rarely used for nearly 300 years. Some archeologists believe that habitation of the region may have gone back to 580 BC.

During the 19th century, the Sierra Madre Mountains brought more people to the area to mine silver. However, salt was lacking to process the silver.

The port of Puerto Las Peñas de Santa Maria de Guadalupe (Puerto Vallarta) became a means to transport salt to the mines to process the silver.

In 1918 it officially became Puerto Vallarta in honor of the governor of the State of Jalisco, Don Ignacio L. Vallarta, but it remained a village primarily based on fishing and agriculture until the 1930s. During that decade, people discovered Puerto Vallarta as a place for vacationing. In 1964 it became a worldwide famous place to be in when the film "The Night of the Iguana" was filmed there. It also developed a reputation as the media became attracted to the public adulterous affair between Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton.



Foreign investors became attracted to Puerto Vallarta during the 1970s and tourism took over as the prime industry of the region. It is estimated that more than four million visitors come to Puerto Vallarta each year.

The Malecon is the visitor's center of Puerto Vallarta. It is Vallarta's boardwalk along the ocean without boards. A city with 300,000 residents has turned the Malecon into a pedestrian-friendly place. <personal tour/<various sources on history>

This photo program is an overview of our experience that included both the city, but also its outskirts.



Rafael Zamarripa's "The Boy on the Seahorse"
Puerto Vallarta's famous statue on the Malecón





The Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe), the locals call it their Cathedral, commemorates a miracle. It was an apparition of the Virgin of Guadalupe to Juan Diego, an Indian peasant on December 12th, 1531. We visited the Church on Easter Sunday. Construction began 1920s, its building including the Cristero War between church and state. The Church as it stands today was completed in 1965. The crown of the church can be seen for many miles. It was a replica of one worn by Carlota, empress of Mexico. In 1995 an earthquake damaged the crown. Sculptor Octavio Gonzales created a replacement. December 1 to 12 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It includes a street procession, food and music.





A tour of the city of Puerto Vallarta



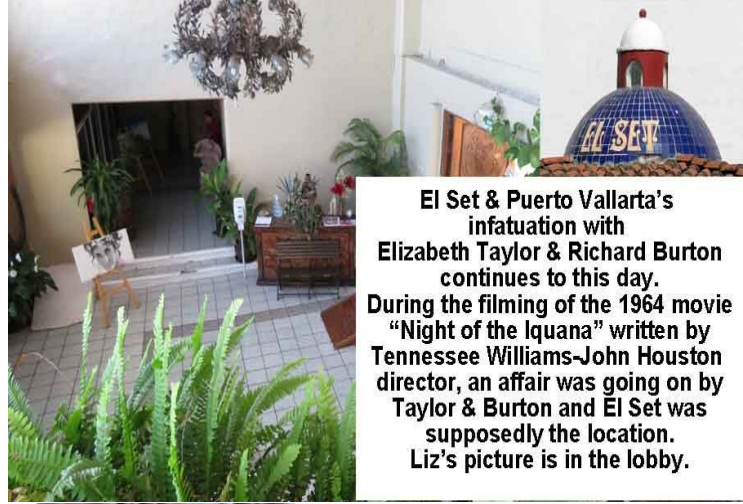
Guide explains that during rainy season May to September the streets flood at times



\$4.12/US Gallon

Shell Super Regular	20.55
V-Power Premium	21.99
Shell V-Power	





El Set & Puerto Vallarta's infatuation with Elizabeth Taylor & Richard Burton continues to this day. During the filming of the 1964 movie "Night of the Iguana" written by Tennessee Williams-John Houston director, an affair was going on by Taylor & Burton and El Set was supposedly the location. Liz's picture is in the lobby.





The next part of our tour was to leave the city and travel into the countryside. The change was evident as we left an urban setting into a rural and a poorer economic lifestyle. Our guide discussed education and living issues facing the residents.







After traveling many miles, we finally came to the end of a dirt road to a Tequila vendor, Rio Bendito. This distilled beverage comes from the blue agave plant grown primarily in the high mountains of the central western state of Jalisco, Mexico. As noted by our speaker, Tequila is drunk as a fresh alcoholic drink and even better enjoyed as it is aged. The tour to this location included sampling, eating and music. There are many types of Tequila, this one did not have the worm in it.







On the way back from Rio Bendito, we took another route and viewed a different part of the city.





Puerto Vallarta is a diverse city that depends on tourism and wants to improve the quality of life for its people.

Mexico's GDP per capita \$8,910: Low income \$788, Lower Middle income \$2,209, Middle Income \$5,182, Upper Middle income \$8,610, High income \$41,352 <data.worldbank.org>

Sources: Tour guide in Puerto Vallarta, "Best of Puerto Vallarta," Puerto Vallarta Port Guide, <http://pvangels.com/puerto-vallarta/history>, <https://www.cheapair.com/miles-away/learn-more-about-puerto-vallartas-history-and-culture/>, http://www.world-guides.com/north-america/mexico/jalisco/puerto-vallarta/puerto_vallarta_history.html, https://www.puertovallarta.net/what_to_do/statues-puerto-vallarta-malecon, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/destinations/2016/02/09/puerto-vallarta-malecon/80046326/>, https://www.puertovallarta.net/what_to_do/our-lady-of-guadalupe-church, <https://www.garzablancaresort.com/blog/puerto-vallarta/our-lady-of-guadalupe-church-in-downtown-puerto-vallarta>, <http://www.banderasnews.com/1001/nb-guadalupechurch.htm>, <http://www.vidatequila.com/the-process>, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=MX> and <https://vinepair.com/explore/category-type/tequila/>.

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